



FFA's

New Era



February 2020

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National FFA Names South Dakota Member Star in Agricultural Placement

For **Andrew Streff**, an interest in agriculture is all in the family. "Growing up, my brothers and I had this sandbox out back of our house. We'd go outside—supposed to be playing in the sandbox—and then go running off to the shed to hang out with Dad to work on equipment," Streff said. "So, the passion has been there, right from the beginning."

Streff, from the McCook Central FFA Chapter, started his supervised agricultural experience (SAE) on the family farm, tending to 1,500 acres of corn and soybeans with his father. "I was driving a tractor on my own since I was 10 years old, and that really transitioned well into my FFA career once I got into that during high school," he said.

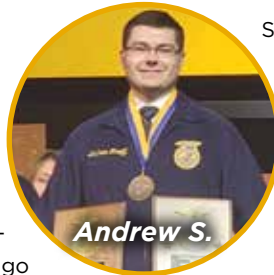
He added on to his SAE by completing two internships. His first internship was in 2017 with the Central Farmers Cooperative as a crop scout intern. In that role, Streff surveyed thousands of acres of crops and reported their status to local farmers. Then, he crossed state lines to work as an agriculture technology specialist intern at Winfield United in Ohio, running test plot trials and helping crop producers troubleshoot issues.

Streff said a person can never know too much about agriculture, and continuing to get an education is key. "Every day is a learning experience, and FFA really emphasized that you can take advantage of a learning experience in a work environment," he said. "You don't have to sit in a classroom to learn."

Each year at the National FFA Convention, four FFA members are honored with American Star Awards (Star Farmer, Star in Agribusiness, Star in Agricultural Placement and Star in Agriscience) for outstanding accomplishments in FFA and agricultural education. Stars demonstrate outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through completion of an SAE. Other requirements to achieve the award include demonstrating top management skills; completing key agricultural education, scholastic and leadership requirements; and earning an American FFA Degree, the organization's highest level of student accomplishment. Stars received cash awards totaling \$4,000.

National Convention Recap!

Students flooded the city of Indianapolis this past October as they attended workshops, competed in different events and heard great messages from key-note speakers. SD FFA members and agricultural educators represented our state with class, integrity and passion for agriculture, and were recognized for months of hard work and preparation as the convention proceedings finished up in Indianapolis. A few highlights to note:



Andrew S.

National Winner American Star in Agricultural Placement -
Andrew Streff, McCook Central



John L.

National Proficiency Finalist -
John Loudenburg, McCook Central



Ella S.

National Winner -
Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central, Agriscience Fair - Animal Systems, Division 3



Brode D.



Landon R.

National Winner - Landon Roling and Brode Dennis, McCook Central, Agriscience Fair - Power, Structural and Technical Systems, Division 2



Matea G.

National Winner- Matea Gordon, Sturgis, Agriscience Fair - Social Systems, Division 3



Carter R.

RunnerUp - Carter Randall, McCook Central, Agriscience Fair - Food Products and Processing Systems, Division 1



Hunter E.

3rdPlace - Hunter Eide, Gettysburg, Agriscience Fair - Environmental Services/ Natural Resource Systems, Division 5

Honorary American Degree recipients -
Eugene and Julie Streff, Salem



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Chapter Chatter

Doland FFA chapter teamed up with the Spink Area Support Network to host a screening of Silo at the school and offer a community education presentation on farm safety and mental health! Our FFA and FCCLA chapters worked together to package 10,000 meals through Meals of Hope for FFA and FCCLA Weeks! Meals will be donated to local churches and the food pantry.

Madison FFA members who successfully sold \$900 of fruit or more took a trip to Air Madness and went out to supper to celebrate their success. It was truly a blast!

McCook Central FFA is partnering with one of its members to create an event entitled "Let's Talk: Learn How to Identify Stress & Support Our Producers," which was held February 3rd. The night included booths from places such as Avera or Southeastern Behavioral Health with free resources for attendees, a meal, and an address given by Karl Oehlke from the Avera Rural Mental Health Hotline. The chapter is also working hard to prepare for another successful FFA week including our annual FFA Pancake Feed.

Parker had a rewarding time working with the local bread giveaway to unload all the food that was given away during the holiday season. This was a great experience for many of our members and we have started a partnership with this program to help unload this every month.

Viborg-Hurley is planning a partnership with NuGen to farm 135 acres as a chapter. Members will be responsible for everything from buying the seed through harvesting the crops.

Wall FFA is currently working to create state-wide Beef to School curriculum for schools to use in South Dakota. Wall was the first school in SD to serve local beef as a part of their school lunches, and the FFA was instrumental in implementing that program.

Webster FFA had 29 agricultural education students from the Webster Area school toured the Watertown ethanol bio refinery. Students learned about water quality, corn moisture content, enzymes, emulsifiers, pH controls and that each plant has its own recipe to make the alcohol. The plant is getting about 2.95 gallons of alcohol per bushel of corn. The plant takes in nearly 200,000 bushels/day. The plant then markets its alcohol, dried distillers grain, corn syrup and corn oil.

Winner FFA parliamentary procedure team got to showcase their skills and do a demonstration for 4-H Leaders in their county in early January. They got to use their contest skills in a very real way.

AFNR Teacher Winter Professional Development



Current and future agriculture educators from across the state came together in Brookings, South Dakota to improve their skills, share their knowledge, network with other teachers and bring something new back to their home chapter. This was the fifth year for the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Winter Professional Development Conference. Attendees had the opportunity to choose from 20 different sessions and 10 different lab stations to fill their specific needs, covering a variety of topics relating to each of the three components of the three-circle model of agricultural education – classroom/laboratory, Supervised Agricultural Experience (work-based learning) and FFA (career and technical student organization). Michelle Nelson brought post-secondary instructors from SDSU and industry professionals to facilitate current and relevant professional development, as well as current secondary agriculture instructors to present their specialties and share their knowledge. As Brianna Larson, advisor for the Sturgis FFA Chapter, shared, “The teacher-led workshops were very insightful and helpful in spicing up our programs and an invaluable opportunity to find engaging content for our students.”

Participants gained a wide variety of knowledge to utilize in their local programs including new skills, curriculum resources and hands-on activities to enhance each of the three components of the three-circle model of agricultural education. As Ms. Larson also mentioned, “It was a great opportunity to network with advisors from across the state,” which will definitely serve as an indispensable resource for the future.

Thank you to our state level STAR Program sponsor, the SD Ethanol Association, and our national State Teach Ag Results (STAR) Program sponsors - CHS Foundation, Corteva, Growth Energy, and BASF.

State Officers Visit over 60 Ag Classrooms

The state officers were welcomed into the agricultural classrooms of over sixty schools throughout South Dakota this past fall. During these chapter visits the members of South Dakota FFA gained the opportunity to participate in workshops, created to not only help them grow in FFA but grow as leaders, speakers and individuals. Workshop topics included professionalism, strengths, goal setting, motivation, action planning and more. A fan favorite throughout the state was the workshop entitled “FFA Opportunities.” This workshop incorporated engaging activities, including “FFA BINGO” and an exciting scavenger hunt to help members learn more about FFA and what they can accomplish through this amazing organization. These chapter visits also gave the State Officers the opportunity to meet and connect with FFA members from across the state. Chapter visits wrapped up in November, but the memories made and lessons learned will last much longer.

Mission Feature

IN MEMORY OF JEFF HOFFMAN



FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership. **FFA's mission matters and impacts lives long term:**

Name: Jeff Hoffman
Home FFA Chapter: Bridgewater FFA
Year Graduated High School: 1984
College: South Dakota State University

Recent Positions: Jeff was the Agriculture Education teacher/FFA advisor at Artesian High School two years, then moved home to Bridgewater where he taught 18 years. He was also an agronomist at Hefty Seed in Baltic and Ed's Fertilizer in Emery. From 2008-2019, Jeff taught agriculture education in Mitchell. He served as the 2003-2004 South Dakota Association of Agriculture Educator's President and the 2006 South Dakota Association of Career and Technical Education President.

What did he enjoy most about FFA? Jeff loved the opportunities FFA gave students. He thought of it as a great way for students to break out of their shell and explore unique opportunities, and even explore potential career paths. Jeff loved then students came back from events talking about new friends they made. Students networking and making connections were his favorite things.

How did FFA experiences contribute to his leadership development? Jeff served as chapter president and as state sentinel in '84. His high school FFA experience ultimately impacted his desire to be an Agricultural Educator. He wanted students to have the same great experiences he had.

What was his greatest success and why? Knowing Jeff, he would say his family, as that was the most important thing to him. But as his family, we would say it's the thousands of people he impacted. His hard work inspired so many people across the state and beyond. Jeff had such a caring attitude and hard work ethic.

What advice would he give today's FFA members? He would say “Push yourself to try new things.” He was passionate about providing students an amazing Ag and FFA experience, and he loved it when students without an ag background graduated and explored a career in agriculture. He knew great experiences and opportunities would come from trying something new, and would encourage everyone around him.



State Officers Reflect on Business and Industry Tours

Last August, the state officer team embarked on the annual Business and Industry Tours, visiting 54 businesses in and around the Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Brandon, Baltic, Madison, Colman, Wentworth, Brookings, Volga and Aurora areas. Each year, the state officer team splits up into teams of two to visit several businesses in a region of the state, with the tour region rotating every year. Members from nearby chapters are also invited to accompany the team to learn more about the businesses in their own communities.

Through these visits, the state officer team engages in conversations with businesses about current topics in the agriculture industry, the company's values and mission and how the FFA is preparing students for the career force. Through such conversations, businesses gain valuable, personal insight of members' experiences with FFA and the importance of the organization to help develop today's agricultural leaders. The knowledge gained by the state officer team is then communicated to members, teachers and the association regarding different perspectives of the agriculture industry, and opportunities for students to develop their future career aspirations.

"Business and industry visits were a great opportunity to interact with the business professionals who run our industry every day. As state officers, we have the chance to interact with so many students in a classroom setting, and being able to go out and experience the agriculture industry and businesses within it allows us to bring that information back to FFA members, which is unlike any other opportunity I have had. The amount of knowledge about the industry that we are able to gain from this experience is insurmountable," State Secretary Tori Rasmussen said.

The state officer team would like to thank the businesses and representatives who took the time to visit with them during their tour in August!



Want to do more after High School? Here's the next step



The South Dakota FFA Association is on the hunt for the next group of dedicated State FFA Officers and Ambassadors. They will be elected at the upcoming 92nd South Dakota FFA Convention. These dynamic people will dedicate a year of service to the South Dakota FFA, making a positive impact on the organization and creating life-long memories. This is an experience that requires hard work and dedication, but it comes with a rewarding opportunity to be apart of something bigger than yourself.

Throughout the year, state officers serve most of their time at leadership events and retreats, the State Fair, business and industry visits, chapter visits, conventions and many more places behind the scenes. They lead workshops, talk with sponsors, members and a variety of other people from all over the nation. State Ambassadors also assist with the State Fair, Leadership Retreats, State Convention and so much more. These caring individuals play a large role in the organization and coordination of events run by our Association.

If you are ready to take the next step and lead others, make a lasting impact and serve this organization, we encourage you to reach out to current State Officers and Ambassadors or visit sdaged.org for more information on how to apply!

Proud to help
build a better
tomorrow.

Citi recognizes the work of
the South Dakota FFA and
those who work together
to build a better tomorrow.



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Past State Officers Gain Insight into Ag Practices Abroad



Culture erupted as Marie Robbins and Sarah Kroeger attended the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers (ILSSO) in Spain and Portugal this past January. Robbins and Kroeger, along with 73 other past and present state FFA officers from around the country, learned about agriculture practices used in Spain and Portugal. ILSSO is a program organized by the National FFA Organization that gives state officers the opportunity to gain knowledge about agriculture on an international scale.

"ILSSO was one of the most memorable experiences I've had as an FFA member. Traveling internationally really opens your eyes to a whole new world of customs and traditions," said Kroeger.

During the 10-day trip, they had the opportunity to visit a cattle feedlot, greenhouses, olive, citrus and cork farms, meet with young agriculturists in Spain, the U.S. Ambassador to Portugal, George Glass and the USDA Agricultural Attaché, Jennifer Clever.

Robbins and Kroeger had the chance to visit a 5,000 head Rugian Feedlot that raises Limousine and Charolais bulls for consumption. Cattle are left intact so the animal experiences the most stress-free life possible.

"To see that although they do things differently, it all still works the same and makes them a profit, was incredible," said Kroeger.

Robbins and Kroeger also learned of some of the challenges that Spanish producers face. European Union regulations are stricter than the regulations of the U.S. and other countries. For example, in Spain they can't use pesticides on crops, or hormones and feed additives in cattle and gene editing. At a meeting with young agriculturalists,

producers highlighted that access to technology is one of the challenges of farming in their country. Many producers feel that with access to gene editing they would be more competitive on a global scale, which would also help boost the economy.

The current inconsistency in Spain's government is also creating challenges for farmers. When talking with the young agriculturalists, Robbins learned that there is no one for them to go to with issues because the system has been changing so frequently in the last few years.

In the southern part of Spain known as Costa del Sol or the Coast of the Sun, over 30,000 hectares of greenhouses are located. Each greenhouse lies right next to one another, creating what looks like a sea of recycled plastic. Most greenhouses are owned by first- or second-generation farmers who operate 5-7 hectares. The greenhouses were first used here almost 60 years ago to protect the plants from the winds coming off the ocean. Peppers, melons, tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans and watermelons are just a few of the plants grown in these greenhouses. Instead of using herbicides and pesticides, the enclosed greenhouse has allowed for effective use of sticky traps and pheromone emitting traps to get rid of harmful pests. Introducing friendly pests like ladybugs and spider mites has also helped to protect the plants.

"In the greenhouse where tomatoes were growing, they used cocoa nut husks as soil. Instead of growing out of the ground, each plant was in 12 x 24 x 6-inch box raised about four inches off the ground and filled with cocoa nut husks," said Kroeger.

The experience was life changing for both Robbins and Kroeger.

"I would travel abroad again in a heartbeat. I always thought I had an understanding of other cultures but until you actually have first-hand experience in a different culture, you can't fully appreciate its customs and traditions," said Robbins.

State FFA Champions Named in Leadership Events

Nearly 500 FFA members from across South Dakota met in Pierre December 8th for the State FFA Leadership Development Events (LDEs). Students qualified through district competitions, advancing the top two teams and top three individuals from each of the seven FFA districts in South Dakota. While waiting for competitive events, students had the opportunity to interact with agriculture industry leaders, who are SD FFA Star Partners, at the Career Carnival. Additionally, Pioneer representatives presented two workshops titled "Uncovering Value," which engaged members in stretching their leadership skills. FFA members and chapters were recognized for their success in 11 leadership areas at the awards banquet. The banquet was sponsored by SD Midwest Dairy Association and SD FFA Star Partners: ADM Grain Tulare, Agtegra, BankWest, CHS Foundation, Bayer, Butler Machinery Company and Twin City Region Northland Ford Dealers. State-winning teams and individuals now advance to the National FFA Leadership Development Events in Indianapolis next fall.

Parliamentary Procedure teams, consisting of six members per team, demonstrate an FFA business meeting. Our state sponsor is South Dakota Farmers Union. The state level team travel scholarship is sponsored by South Dakota Farmers Union, Monte and Ruth Mason, and Brett and Tracy Kaltvedt. The team's results are as follows:

1. Willow Lake (pictured back row left to right): Kasey Michalski, Grace Peterson, Trinity Peterson, Saylor Burke, Advisor Dan Tonak, (pictured front row left to right): Gwyneth Warkenthien, Morgan Burke, Maggie Hovde and Jaycie Forbes
2. Highmore
3. McCook Central
4. Milbank
5. Gettysburg



The **All-State Parliamentary Procedure** Team is comprised of the top individual officer from each position in the Parliamentary Procedure CDE. These competitors are the best-of-the-best in their respective positions. These awards are sponsored by Skinner Financial Services. Those selected are (pictured left to right):

President - Saylor Burke, Willow Lake
 Members At Large:
 Dylan McDonnell, Highmore
 Kayle Lauck, McCook Central
 Trinity Peterson, Willow Lake
 Grace Peterson, Willow Lake
 Blake Farstveet, Highmore



In **Prepared Public Speaking**, each contestant presents a 6-8 minute agriculture-oriented speech and answers five minutes of related questions. The event and travel scholarship are sponsored by Ag PhD. The results were (pictured left to right 1st, 2nd, 3rd):

1. Kayle Lauck, McCook Central
2. Kestlyn Willert, Brookings
3. Matea Gordon, Sturgis
4. Bailey Feistner, Sanborn Central/ Woonsocket
5. Ella Steifvater, McCook Central
6. Jessica Boekelheide, Northwestern
7. Hunter Eide, Gettysburg
8. Drew Pederson, Garretson
9. Trevor Johnson, Beresford
10. Emma Jackson, Tri-Valley



In **Extemporaneous Public Speaking**, an unrehearsed 4-6 minute speech is written and presented onsite. Each contestant is allowed only 30 minutes to prepare. Our state level and travel scholarship sponsor is South Dakota Farmers Union. Results were as follows (pictured left to right 1st, 2nd & 3rd):

1. Caleb Weiland, Beresford
2. Danika Gordon, Sturgis
3. Mitchell VanderWal, Northwestern
4. Carter Linke, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket
5. Gavin Bautista, Beresford
6. Madeline Lowe, Lennox Sundstrom
7. Hunter Eide, Gettysburg
8. John Piroutek, Philip
9. Kayle Lauck, McCook Central
10. Bobbi Kammerer, Philip



Employment Skills challenges FFA members to complete a job application, write a letter of application and resume, participate in an actual interview and compose a follow-up letter. Our sponsor is the South Dakota Department of Agriculture. The travel scholarships are sponsored by Kindra Gordon and Lance, Shirley, Jordanne, and Dalton Howe. The results were (pictured left to right Sponsor Jordanne Howe 1st, 2nd, 3rd & SD Secretary of Agriculture Kim Vanneman):

1. Megan Nash, Northwestern
2. Matea Gordon, Sturgis
3. Liberty Thompson, Brookings
4. Tessa Erdmann, Groton
5. Logan Schlim, Howard
6. Korbin Leddy, Milbank
7. Grace Digiovanni, McCook Central
8. Christine Stoltenburg, Northwestern
9. Caycee Schneider, Doland
10. Katie Schmit, Sanborn Central/ Woonsocket



Ag Sales team members work together to develop a strategy for selling pre-determined products to specific customer scenarios. Participants also practice their individual sales skills by selling an agricultural product to a customer. This event is sponsored by Wilbur Ellis. The state travel scholarships are sponsored by Wilbur Ellis, Dacotah Diamond Auction and Kevin and Amber Blagg. The results were:

1. Watertown Area (pictured left to right): Samantha Thyen, Allison Endres, Samantha Jenc and Josi Solsaa. Advisor is Ashley Wiekamp.
2. Brookings
3. Sully Buttes
4. Garretson
5. Wessington Springs



The **Conduct of Chapter Meetings** event is designed for high school freshmen to present a mock FFA meeting. This event and travel scholarship are sponsored by Gary Bachman. The team results were:

1. Highmore (pictured left to right): Colby Aasby, Tucker McCauley, Bryce Bourk, Treyton Knox, Jeff Zeigler, Gunner Brueggeman, Tate Hoffman, and Advisor Ken Jones. Alternate Dawson Hale is in the front.
2. Lennox Sundstrom
3. Willow Lake
4. Menno
5. McCook Central



Creed Speaking participants recite the FFA Creed and answer questions posed by the judges. This event and travel scholarship is sponsored by Craig and Bonnie Dybedahl and Jeremy and Laura Nettifee. The results were (pictured left to right 1st, 2nd, 3rd):

1. Colton Trooien, Deubrook
2. Mason Bottum, Hitchcock-Tulare
3. Morgan Mackaben, Belle Fourche
4. Ali Zacharies, West Central
5. Cody Peterson, Lennox Sundstrom
6. Gretta Larson, Lake Preston
7. Gabrielle Rebelein, Sioux Valley
8. Emily Knodel, Freeman
9. Elsie Seffrood, Milbank
10. Mya Dissing, Tri-valley



In **Marketing Plan**, teams of students determine a local community need and create a complete strategy for marketing a new agricultural product or company to fill that need. The sponsor is Legend Seeds, Inc., and the state winning team travel scholarship is sponsored by Hurley and Associates. The results are:

1. Lennox Sundstrom (pictured left to right): Autumn Wittstruck, Maddie Luuvas, and Kaylee Bosma. Advisor is Jim Wilson.
2. Parker
3. McCook Central
4. Garretson
5. West Central



In **Ag Issues**, a team of 3-7 students discuss the pros and cons of a major agricultural issue facing their area. The sponsor is South Dakota Farmers Union and the state winning team travel scholarship is sponsored by South Dakota Farmers Union, Farm Forum, and Dakota Risk Management. The results were:

1. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket (pictured back row left to right): Aiden Wormstadt, Carter Linke, Megan Linke and Devyn Senska, (pictured front row left to right): Josie Weber, Katie Schmit, Samantha Dean, and Advisor Jessica Ronning.
2. Parker
3. Beresford
4. Hot Springs
5. Iroquois



In **Ag Broadcasting/Journalism**, students have 30 minutes to prepare a five-minute agricultural radio newscast and then "air" it. This event is sponsored by Ludens Implement. Results were (pictured left to right 1st, 2nd & 3rd):

1. Mason Mansfield, Philip
2. Ashton Olivier, Chester Area
3. Trevor Johnson, Beresford
4. Bailey Feistner, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket
5. Kayleigh Thill, Lennox Sundstrom
6. Morgan Anderson, Watertown Area
7. Madison Hofer, Freeman
8. Lydia Hill, Sully Buttes
9. Logan Tlam, Mitchell
10. Lydia Street, Milbank



In **Ag Communications**, teams of students play the role of communications consultants to develop and present a media plan for an assigned scenario. Members also complete Editing and Communications tests. This event is sponsored by the South Dakota Broadcasters Association. The winning travel scholarship is sponsored by Dakota Farm Talk. Results were:

1. West Central (pictured left to right): Epiphany Hammer, Grace Harden, Josslin Jarding, Bennett Sebert, and Advisor Linda Petersen.
2. Wall
3. McCook Central
4. Deubrook
5. Harrisburg



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Foundation Feature

Be the difference! Raise your voice; advocate for agriculture & agriculture education! FFA is stepping up to the challenge, preparing youth to be tomorrow's employees in the science, business, technology and production of our food, and also equipping them to advocate for agriculture and how we raise our food. **Join the SD FFA Foundation is building the next generation of agriculture leadership.**

As JUST ONE sponsor, parent, alumni member or friend of agriculture, you can:


1. Visit the **SD FFA Foundation website** regularly at www.sdffaoundation.org
2. Like South Dakota FFA Foundation on **Facebook** and share **what we're doing with your friends.**
3. Help **judge an event** - contact gerri@sdffaoundation.org to
4. Celebrate National FFA Week, February 22-29 - take your jacket to work or hang in your car window, share the Ag Ed message with coworkers, or donate to the SD FFA Foundation.
5. **Be a sponsor** - State Degree recipients, proficiencies, CDE's or summer leadership retreat all need support.
6. **Attend South Dakota's State FFA Convention in Brookings on April 19-21!**

At Convention you can see **SD FFA members grow through experiences, workshops, competitions, awards, and scholarships to build leadership for a lifetime. They'll grow in agricultural career skills** through fourteen Career Development Events, a Career Carnival, service projects and agricultural leadership workshops. **Experience the excitement** of the State Proficiency Award Ceremony and State Stars Pageant. Cheer on FFA members receiving their State FFA Degrees. **Raise your voice and strengthen agriculture by investing in FFA - the future of agriculture!**



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8 ways to GET INVOLVED

SOUTH DAKOTA FFA

1

Volunteer

We are always **looking for judges** for leadership and career development events, state fair, proficiency awards, agriscience fair, silent auction items, help at our state conventions and more. **Don't forget** chapters can use coaches and chaperones too!



5

Become a Star Partner

South Dakota's **most prestigious sponsor category**. Sponsor levels start at only \$3,000. Contact Gerri for more information at Gerri@sdfoundation.org.



2

Donate Online

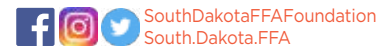
Whether it's \$5 or \$500, **everything helps**. Visit sdfoundation.org to donate now.



6

Follow the SD FFA Foundation & SD FFA Association on Social Media

The easiest way to **keep in touch with us** and see what students and members are doing.



3

Sponsor a Blue Corduroy Jacket for an FFA member

Welcome a new member into the fabric of FFA, **giving them their own FFA jacket**, carrying forward that long-standing tradition of pride, dignity and honor. Contact Gerri.



7

Send us a photo of you in your Blue Corduroy



Did you sport the Blue & Gold? **Send us a photo** for our archives and to feature in our publications and online media! Share a testimonial on how FFA impacted your career or life direction. Email Gerri@sdfoundation.org.

4

Join a Local Alumni Chapter

FFA Alumni chapters exist in small towns and big cities all across South Dakota. **Find a local chapter** to join. You don't have to have been an FFA member to join the SD FFA Alumni and Supporters. All alumni and friends are welcome to join!



8

Give a Scholarship

Support an FFA member's college education. **Send students** to Leadership Retreat, Washington Leadership Conference, or National FFA Convention.

SD FFA Hosts Legislators



South Dakota Legislators met with District and State FFA Officers at the 2020 South Dakota FFA Legislative Breakfast Thursday, Jan. 16 in Fort Pierre, S.D. The purpose of the event was to promote the FFA's mission of premiere leadership, personal growth and career success by bringing together South Dakota's governmental leaders with leaders of the South Dakota FFA. The State FFA Officers conducted a breakfast program focusing on the three-part model of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources education which includes: classroom instruction, Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects and FFA. District FFA officers and advisors took advantage of the opportunity to visit one-on-one with legislators, sharing how local agriculture education programs and FFA provide hands-on, career-relevant experience for students. Nearly 30 legislators, plus special guests Paul Beran, Board of Regents Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Kristie Fiegen, SD Public Utilities Commissioner, Jason Simmons, Policy Advisor, Chris Nelson, Vice-Chairman Public Utilities Commissioner, Kim Vanneman, Secretary of Agriculture, Larry Rhoden, Lieutenant Governor and Tiffany Sanderson, Senior Policy Advisor, attended.

In addition to the breakfast, the State FFA Officer team facilitated leadership training workshops for the 49 district officers on leadership, agricultural advocacy, Career and Technical Education and FFA. This gave our District FFA Officer teams from our seven districts a chance

to get to know each other while attaining valuable leadership skills. "It was a very fun event that helped me develop my leadership and communication abilities. I also made some new friends and had a blast," district officer Buster Reis from the Chamberlain FFA Chapter said. Kayla Jacobson from the Brandon Valley FFA Chapter added, "DOT has taught me how to apply my strengths and weaknesses to leadership and how to be a better leader." The state officer team enjoyed every moment of getting to work with the students and speak with the legislators and special guests.

The South Dakota FFA Legislative Breakfast and District Officer Training is sponsored by Citibank N.A. Fund, SD Association of Cooperatives, SD Bankers Association, SD Farmers Union, SD Wheat Commission, SD Association of Agricultural Educators, SD Crop Improvement Association and our SD FFA Star Partners: Twin Cities Region Northland Ford Dealers, Agtegra, Bayer, Pioneer, CHS Foundation, ADM Grain Tulare, BankWest, AT&T/GA Group, PC, BASF, Butler Machinery Company, C&B Operations, U.S. Army/Army ROTC, Croplan by Winfield United, Dacotah Bank, East River Electric Cooperative, Farm Credit Services of America, Hanson & Associates, LLC, Midwest Ag & Veterinary Service, RDO Equipment Co., SD Corn Utilization Council, GrainBridge, Riverview, LLP, RDO Equipment Co., LG Seeds, Titan Machinery, Citi, The First National Bank in Sioux Falls.

The Time is Now!



Time. As defined by the Oxford Dictionary, time is "the indefinite continued progress of existence and events in the past, present and future regarded as a whole." The FFA Organization prepares students to be the leaders of today while relying on past generations of agriculturalists to find solutions to support the future. As members continually work to progress in their education, they also direct their efforts to serving others and pushing themselves in competition while bettering themselves, their chapters and their communities. Now is the best time to take action in our communities, our state and our nation to bring change to a world in need. Now is the time to continue progress. The Time Is Now.

As thousands of FFA members from across the state prepare for the 92nd South Dakota FFA Convention, members' experiences and dedication to their agricultural education careers will be showcased in Brookings on April 19-21, 2020.

Highlights include:

- Members exhibiting their knowledge and testing their skills in fifteen different Career Development Events, vying for the champion team title and qualification to represent South Dakota at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis next October.
- Recognition of recipients of the State Degree, the highest award a state association can bestow.
- Star Farmer, Star in Placement, Star in Agribusiness and Star in Agriscience finalists will interview for the top award given for outstanding Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects.
- American Degree recipients from 2019 will be recognized for their significant accomplishments in their SAEs and demonstrating the highest level of commitment to FFA.
- Scholarships will be awarded to outstanding high school seniors and college students pursuing degrees in agriculture.
- Students with exceptional SAEs within their project areas will vie for proficiency awards
- Honoring selected supporters of South Dakota FFA through presentation of the Honorary State Degree and Distinguished Service Awards.
- Recognition of top chapters for their local activities within the National Chapter Award in three areas: Building Leadership, Growing Communities and Strengthening Agriculture.
- Packaging meals for those in need through the "Living to Serve" project.
- Leadership workshops and the Career Carnival will showcase opportunities for members.
- The state officer team will deliver each of their retiring addresses and pass the gavel to the 2020-2021 team.

The time is now, to put the 92nd South Dakota FFA State Convention in your calendar as members showcase the time they have taken out of their year to dedicate to the FFA and the future of agriculture. See you there!

What does ammonia smell like?

what's an rops?

What does CPR Stand for?

COMPETE FOR BRAGGING RIGHTS!



WIN CASH PRIZES!

South Dakota Farmers Union is sponsoring the 11th annual 'Team up to Safety' quiz bowl competition

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2020

During the State FFA Convention in Brookings



THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN?

FFA Advisers should contact Rocky Forman 605-352-6761 ext 117 or RForman@sdfu.org for details on competing in this year's QUIZ BOWL!



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Gear up for National FFA Week!

National FFA Week will take place February 22-29th, 2020, the week of George Washington's birthday. FFA members and communities from across the nation celebrate National FFA Week by planning activities and service projects. We've asked SD chapters to share with us their top event ideas!

1. Teacher Appreciation Breakfast - Members get to school early to fix a buffet style breakfast to thank their teachers - or deliver them a cupcake and a coke at the end of the school day, with a thank you note for everything they do for students.

2. Greenhand Night - 1st year FFA members are invited to a night filled with games, leadership activities and helpful FFA hints to make the most out of their years ahead in the blue jacket.

3. Sponsor recognition - In official dress, members deliver baked goods and thank you letters to chapter sponsors and supporters in their community.

4. FFA Emblem Scavenger Hunt - What better way to celebrate FFA week, than to get the whole school involved? At the beginning of the week, chapter officers hide FFA emblems around the school. Anyone who finds an emblem can bring it to the ag classroom and be entered to win a prize.

5. Speak Loud and Proud - Schedule newspaper, radio or T.V. interviews to share our FFA values and mission. Also, share ag education facts on social

media to spread the word about FFA and ag education to others. Members talk on why they started and stayed in FFA, and the opportunities they have had as members.

6. Package it up! - What better way to follow the FFA motto of "Living to Serve" than packaging meals for those in need in your community.

7. Jackets at work - Ask alumni to take their old FFA jackets to work, hang on their chair and start conversations about how FFA impacted their career.

8. Display FFA emblems and facts around town - whether it's the SD FFA placemats, table tents with FFA facts or the FFA emblem - ask local cafes to share the message with everyone in town, and local businesses to set up a display showcasing things your ag classes are working on.

9. Host an Ag Olympics Challenge - Get the whole school involved with competitions of bale tossing, roping, soil digging, saw horse riding, etc. between all the grade levels.

10. Wear FFA attire - sport your FFA t-shirts, whether they are from Leadership Retreat, the State Fair, State or National Convention or District Officer Training, wear an FFA shirt every day to show off your pride in the organization, and encourage other students to ask questions about FFA!