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News Release

2018 Stars Over Iowa Winners Announced

AMES, IOWA—The 2018 Stars Over Iowa Winners were announced at the 90th Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference at Hilton Coliseum on April 24, 2018. A Star Over Iowa was selected in each of the four different areas: Agricultural Placement, Agribusiness, Agriscience, and Agricultural Production.

The 2018 Star in Ag Placement Winner is Emma Fryauf of the West Branch FFA Chapter. For her SAE, Emma has been working with the West Branch Animal Clinic. For the past three years, she has learned many valuable skills in the Veterinary Medicine field. By 2017, Emma has invested nearly 1600 hours and earned approximately \$15,000 in her Placement SAE. She is currently serving as the West Branch FFA Chapter Treasurer and she has been named the 3rd runner up for the Iowa FFA State Veterinary Science Proficiency Award. After graduation, Emma plans to attend Iowa State University to study Pre-Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science. Her Chapter Advisor is Renee Thompson, High School Principal is Shannon Bucknell and her Superintendent is Kevin Hatfield.

Tristan Travis of the Creston FFA Chapter is the Star in Ag Production winner. He is a 4th generation farmer and cattle rancher. His SAE consist of owning and managing a commercial cow operation of 23 head, co-owning a baling business with his younger brother. He plans to grow his herd to 100 head of commercial cows, introduce new genetics through artificial insemination, purchase a new herd bull, and increase hay sales through Travis Brothers Baling Company. After graduation, he plans to attend Southwestern Community College and major in Agriculture Business, as well as become a full time operator of his family farm. His chapter advisor is Mrs. Kelsey Bailey. His high school principal is Mr. Bill Messerole, and his superintendent is Mr. Steve McDermott.

Ashley Kurt of the Cascade FFA Chapter is the 2018 Star in Agribusiness winner. Ashley's SAE is managing a custom bale wrapping business. Her business has grown from wrapping 10,000 bales a season to 12,000 bales a season, with plans of expansion in the future. Ashley is currently serving as her FFA Chapter Vice President. After graduation, Ashley plans to pursue a degree in Ag Business from a 4-year University. Her Chapter Advisor is Milt Luckstead, her High School Principal is Greg Vander Lugt, and Superintendent is Rick Colpitts.

The Star in Agriscience Winner is Shelby Westhoff of the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi. Her SAE consists of completing research in the area of Food Products and Processing. She is currently researching the Implications of Container Material on Bovine Milk Quality and Shelf Life. She became interested in Agriscience after seeing the impact she could contribute back to the agriculture industry by spreading her research. Through her research, she learned about proper communication skills with consumers, how to process scientific data, and proper laboratory techniques. After graduation, she plans to attend Iowa State University to major in an agricultural field. Her chapter advisor is Mrs. Dawn Mausser, and her high school principal is Mr. Pat Meade.

The Stars Over Iowa program is made possible with support from Beck's Hybrids through the Iowa FFA Foundation. The National FFA Foundation sponsors cash awards for the three overall star winners.

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of over 15,300 student members as part of 235 local FFA chapters across Iowa. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The Iowa FFA Association was organized by delegates from 23 schools at Iowa State College on May 17, 1929 and is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The Iowa Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to local agricultural education programs. For more, visit the Iowa FFA Association online at IowaFFA.com, on Facebook, and Twitter.