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News Release

2019 National FFA Convention and Expo, October 30th – November 2nd

INDIANAPOLIS, IN--The 92nd National FFA Convention & Expo celebrated its fourth year of a 16-year commitment in Indianapolis beginning October 30th. More than 69,000 FFA members and guests from throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands attended this year's event, which concluded November 2nd.

The convention and expo kicked off in Indianapolis, Indiana on Wednesday, October 30th. Eight general sessions were held at Lucas Oil Stadium. On the morning of Saturday, November 2nd, the seventh general session was held where American FFA Degrees, the highest degree for an FFA member, were bestowed upon more than 4,000 members.

The Iowa FFA Association had representation from more than 3,000 attendees involved in all facets of the event. The following is a summary of results and accomplishments of Iowa FFA members in the respective national events.

Agriscience Fair

The Agriscience Fair is for FFA members who are interested in the science and technology of agriculture. Students can compete in 36 divisions across 6 systems areas: Animal; Environmental & Natural Resources; Food Products & Processing; Plant; Power, Structural, & Technical; and Social. Divisions are set based on junior (grades 7-8), intermediate (grades 9-10) and senior (grades 10-12) projects and whether the project is conducted by an individual or a pair.

- Animal Systems Div. 1 Silver: John Paul Grebner, Beckman Catholic FFA
- Animal Systems Div. 3 Bronze: Taylor Kelly, Algona FFA
- Animal Systems Div. 5 4th Place Overall, Gold: Shelby Westhoff, Beckman Catholic FFA
- Animal Systems Div. 6 Bronze: Marixsa Landeros and Abby Padilla, Des Moines FFA
- Environmental Services/Natural Resources Systems Div. 1 4th Place Overall, Gold: Grace Helle, Beckman Catholic FFA
- Environmental Services/Natural Resources Systems Div. 3 Bronze: Claire Wills, Central Lee FFA
- Environmental Services/Natural Resources Systems Div. 5 6th Place Overall, Gold: Sean Kluesner, Beckman Catholic FFA
- Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 1 6th Place Overall, Gold: Jarrett McClain, Clay Central Everly FFA
- Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 2 4nd Place Overall, Gold: Lauren Cherne and Leah Their, Beckman Catholic FFA
- Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 3 5th Place Overall, Silver: Laina Marbach, Beckman Catholic FFA
- Plant Systems Div. 1 4th Place Overall, Gold: Tyson Tessum, Clay Central Everly FFA
- Plant Systems Div. 2 Bronze: Austin Betts and Patrick Brown, Grundy Center
- Plant Systems Div. 3 Bronze: Kayla Livesay Van Buren Harmony FFA
- Plant Systems Div. 4 Bronze: Brynn Jones and Rachael VanMaanen, MMCRU FFA
- Plant Systems Div. 5 Bronze: Evan Schlarmann, Beckman Catholic FFA
- Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 1 National Winner, Gold: Tessa Tauke, Beckman Catholic FFA
- Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 5 Bronze: Lauren Beckman, Danville FFA
- Social Systems Div. 1 Gold: Jordan Thier, Beckman Catholic FFA
- Social Systems Div. 3 Bronze: Ella Hommel, Grundy Center FFA

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National Chapter Award

The National Chapter Award program recognizes FFA chapters that successfully complete an annual Program of Activities (POA), which includes a series of activities designed to encourage its members to grow as individuals, to work as part of a team and to serve others.

Benton Community FFA, Three Star
Brokaw FFA, Three Star
Carroll Area FFA, Two Star
Decorah FFA, Two Star
DeWitt Central, Three Star
Griswold FFA, Three Star
Harlan FFA, Two Star
Independence FFA, Three Star
La Porte-Dysart FFA, Two Star
Little Switzerland FFA, Three Star
Marengo FFA, Two Star
North Fayette Valley FFA, Three Star

North Scott FFA, Three Star
Oelwein FFA, Three Star
Panorama FFA, Two Star
Red Oak FFA, Three Star
Sibley-Ocheyedan FFA, Three Star
Southeast Warren FFA, Two Star
Vinton-Shellsburg FFA, Two Star
Wapsie Valley FFA, Three Star
Waverly-Shell Rock FFA, One Star
Webster City FFA, Two Star
West Liberty FFA, Three Star

DeWitt Central National Chapter National Finalist

The national level also recognizes the top chapters with innovative activities in each of the three divisions: growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture. The top ten chapters in each division receive a National FFA Premier Chapter Award plaque. Of the top ten in each division, a top premier chapter was chosen in each division. Only 3-star chapters are eligible for premier chapter awards. DeWitt Central FFA competed in the Premier Chapter: Growing Leaders category.

Proficiency Awards

The Agricultural Proficiency Awards honor FFA members who, through their SAEs, have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers. Four "National Finalists" are selected for each of the award areas and will go on to compete for a national proficiency award. National Agricultural Proficiency Award winners are announced onstage during the National FFA Convention.

- Agriscience Research – Plant Systems: Chase Krug, Linn-Mar FFA
- Ag Mechanics Repair & Maintenance – Entrepreneurship: Spencer Paysen, DeWitt Central FFA
- Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production: Hunter Holdgrafer, Easton Valley FFA
- Food Science and Technology: Megan Van Wyhe, West Lyon FFA

National FFA Band, Chorus, and Talent

Every year, members from across the nation audition to be involved in the National FFA Band, Chorus, and Talent. National FFA Band and Chorus members have various rehearsals and perform on stage at National FFA Convention. Talent has the opportunity to perform on stage at one of the General Sessions. One of the Talent acts is selected after multiple competition rounds as top talent at the end of convention.

--National Band:

Megan Buyert, Pella FFA
Mikayla Fjeld, Iowa Falls-Alden FFA
Dawson Hirl, Anamosa FFA
Ivan Lambertsen, Anamosa FFA
Maddy Stevenson, Roland-Story FFA

--National Chorus:

Austin Cook, East Buchanan FFA
Adam Knoblock, West Lyon FFA
Ryleigh Schipper, AGWSR FFA
Max Weesner, Adel Desoto Minburn FFA

--National Talent:

Harmony Helkenn, Carroll Area FFA

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Career Development Events

Career opportunities abound within today's agriculture industry. Career Development Events (CDEs) help students develop the abilities to think critically, communicate clearly and perform effectively in a competitive job market. CDEs cover a variety of job skills in everything from communications to mechanics. Some events allow students to compete as individuals, while others allow them to compete in teams.

- Agricultural Communications – Ballard FFA, Silver, Team Members: Morgan Catron, Caleb Hartsook, Jenna Hernadez, and Joseph Jordan
- Agricultural Issues Forum – West Liberty FFA, Silver, Team Members: Austin McMichael, Morgan Peterson, Haylee Lehman, Austyn Crees, Taylor VanDusen, Alexis Partida and Madison McIntosh
- Agricultural Sales – Wapello FFA, Silver, Team Members: James Wykert, Daniel Hemphill, Tate Boysen and Lydia Fisher
- Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems – West Lyon FFA, 7th Place Gold, Team Members: Tyren Ulmer, Gabe Knobloch, Lucas Moser and Blake Meyer
- Agronomy – Wapello FFA, Silver, Team Members: Kabe Boysen, Jacob Ewart, Christopher Ewart and Bryant Lanz
- Conduct of Chapter Meetings – Brokaw FFA, Silver, Team Members: Hailee Knight, Aubrey Herzberg, Colbie Wilmes, Jason Wright, Jadynd Sunderman, Logan Green and Grant Jobe
- Creed Speaking – Bronze, Tyler Loudon, Creston FFA
- Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management – Maquoketa Valley FFA, 6th Place Gold, Team Members: Mason Kruse, Sarah Goedken, Tara Goedken and Amber Engelken
- Dairy Cattle Handlers' Activity – Bronze, Courtney Goedken, Maquoketa Valley FFA
- Employment Skills – Gold, Brett Schoenherr, Midland FFA
- Environmental and Natural Resources – Southwest Valley FFA, Silver, Team Members: Brooklyn Sonntag, Rose Nippert, Kayla Mitchell and Rebecca Inman
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking – Bronze, Shelby McCasland, Martensdale-St. Marys FFA
- Farm Business Management – Montezuma FFA, 3rd Place Gold, Team Members: Maddy McKeag, Carissa Vanzee, Mikayla Henry and Madelyn DeJong
- Floriculture – Muscatine FFA, 8th Place Gold, Team Members: Dailyn Garrett, Belinda Brain, McKenna Riess-2nd Place Individual and Allen Tian
- Food Science and Technology – Diamond Trail FFA, Silver, Team Members: Blake Van Der Kamp, Morgan DeHaai, Alexis Dross and Arthur VanWyk
- Forestry – Louisa-Muscatine FFA, Silver, Team Members: Addison Randall, Wylie Jacobs, Morgan Nowak and Bryar Runnells
- Horse Evaluation – West Dubuque FFA, National Winner, Team Members: Trenton Hammerand, Grace Strief, Regan Demmer and Madison Strief
- Livestock Evaluation – Bellevue FFA, 10th Place Gold, Team Members: Jebadiah Schwager, Brooklynn Moore, Nick Deppe and Miranda Peters
- Marketing Plan – Ballard FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Emma Kielsmeier, Mattison Hill and Elizabeth Hyman
- Meats Evaluation and Technology – South O'Brien FFA, Silver, Team Members: Dante Johnson, Bryce Rasmussen and Grant Wagner
- Milk Quality and Products – Belle Plaine FFA, Silver, Team Members: Carson Adams, Zach Brecht, Laura Toennies and Jared Ward
- Nursery/Landscape – Louisa-Muscatine FFA, Silver, Team Members: Maisy Howell, Jeremy Neiswonger, Gage Connor and Jayden Seefeldt
- Parliamentary Procedure – North Fayette Valley FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Isaiah Corbin, Kailee Ginger, Brynn Gamm, Peyton Halverson, Breanna Baumler and Cody Duehring
- Poultry Evaluation – Muscatine FFA, Silver, Team Members: Hope Reichert, Alli Youngbauer, Alexis Donath and Riley Webber
- Prepared Public Speaking – Bronze, Averie Hascall, Red Oak FFA

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--Veterinary Science – Cherokee FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Maggie VandLune, Malorie VandLune, Avrey Knipper and Noah Bouchard

American FFA Degree

The American FFA Degree is awarded at the National FFA Convention & Expo each year to less than 1% of FFA members making it one of the organization's highest honors. In addition to their degree, each recipient receives a gold American FFA Degree key. There were 136 American Degree recipients from Iowa.

Bryce R Clark, AC-GC FFA
Maggie Maas, AC-GC FFA
Maggie Vogl, AC-GC FFA
CD Brinegar, Agri-Power FFA
Caleb Steven Bartling, AGWSR FFA
Alexis Berte, Algona FFA
Cole Eden, Algona FFA
Kassi Marie Rice, Aplington-Parkersburg FFA
Collin Michael Johnson, Aplington-Parkersburg FFA
Cole Thomas Jipsen, Atlantic FFA
Cody James McCreedy, Atlantic FFA
Emily Isabelle Saeugling, Atlantic FFA
Dana Edleman, Ballard FFA
Emily Elizabeth Zahurones, Baxter FFA
Justin D. Wessel, Beckman Catholic FFA
Katelyn Rene Ward, Belle Plaine FFA
Natalee Ann Dippel, Belmont-Klemme FFA
Chase Kusel, Benton Community FFA
Josh Haerther, Benton Community FFA
Shelby Karr, Benton Community FFA
Blaine Justin Volesky, Benton Community FFA
Carl Henry Gerhold IV, Benton Community FFA
Brice Charles Hodnefield, Benton Community FFA
Carly Anne Selken, Benton Community FFA
Janna Diercks, Calamus-Wheatland FFA
Jenna Diercks, Calamus-Wheatland FFA
Sarah Marie Garland, Calamus-Wheatland FFA
Jacob John Looney, Calamus-Wheatland FFA
Emma Anne Dorsey, CAM FFA
Mariah Rose Murphy, CAM FFA
Mitchell Redmond, Cascade FFA
John Trumm, Cascade FFA
Nicholas John Welter, Cascade FFA
Terrance Ray Fox, Central Trail FFA
Jacob Greenzweig, Charles City FFA
Nathan Lasher, Charles City FFA
Mason Meyer, Charles City FFA
Drew Mitchell, Charles City FFA

McKenzie White, Charles City FFA
Laura Jean Mincks, Columbus FFA
Caitlin Schultes, Coon Rapids-Bayard FFA
Brittany Rae Orman, Davis County FFA
Hailey Nierling, Decorah FFA
Ashley Michelle Schwartzhoff, Decorah FFA
Jodie L Mausser, East Buchanan FFA
Benjamin Lloyd Kolbe, East Sac FFA
Casey Kay Allen, East Union FFA
Kohl Moser, Edgewood-Colesburg FFA
Shayne Francis Hoeft, Forest City FFA
Montanna Christine Krogman, Northeast FFA
Cole Robert Reiman, Graettinger-Terril FFA
Tristan Haag, Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn FFA
Nicholas Ford, Hawkeye FFA
Luke Dean Nielsen, Hawkeye FFA
Dexter Denton Knobloch, Hawkeye FFA
Cody Allen Krichau, Humboldt FFA
Alexandria Eileen Logan, Indianola FFA
Madison Kay Scharlau, Indianola FFA
Brooke Nicole Beinhart, Indianola FFA
Garrett Michael Jolliff, Indianola FFA
Lindsey Kay Meyers, Indianola FFA
Kennady Carole Makay Moffitt, Indianola FFA
Morgan Marie Robinson, Indianola FFA
Collin James Clayton, Jesup FFA
Joshua Paul Sommerfelt, Jesup FFA
Danielle L. Youngblut, Jesup FFA
Cole Brady Moody, LaPorte Dysart FFA
Cameron Michael Thorpe, Lamoni FFA
Payton E Sash, LaPorte Dysart
Danielle Marie Stock, Little Switzerland FFA
Peyton Schmitt, Lone Tree FFA
Spencer Dean Arnold, Lone Tree FFA
DAPHNE HACKERT, Lynnville-Sully FFA
Ashlee Grady, Manson Northwest Webster FFA
Blair Kristine Bennis, Maquoketa FFA
Cassi Westhoff, Maquoketa Valley FFA

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Byron Wayne Hahn, Mediapolis FFA
Garrett Nietert, Monticello FFA
Baylee Head, Mormon Trail FFA
Eian Charles Adams, Mount Ayr FFA
Cauy William Bickel, Mount Ayr FFA
Adelyda Ebersole, Mount Ayr FFA
Hunter Britton, Muscatine FFA
John Andrew Brooks, Muscatine FFA
Chelsi Meghan Mae Bailey, Nashua Plainfield FFA
Hannah Heit, New Hampton FFA
Taylor R Kuehn, New Hampton FFA
Samantha Reicks, New Hampton FFA
Coltin Jarrett Schachtner, Newell-Fonda FFA
Maxwell Alan Kuhns, Nodaway Valley FFA
Michala Stull, Nodaway Valley FFA
Kaitlyn Sue Blazek, Nodaway Valley FFA
Maria G Kerr, North Fayette Valley FFA
Dillon Cletus Lee, North Fayette Valley FFA
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Kiersten Bean, North Linn FFA
Olivia J Hanlon, North Polk FFA
Rachel Paustian, North Scott FFA

Jake Dakota Hlas, North Tama FFA
Ryland McCormick, Pleasantville FFA
Daniel Levi DeBoer, Sibley-Ocheyedan FFA
Brooke Ann Galema, Sibley-Ocheyedan FFA
Austin Jeffery Knight, Southeast Polk FFA
Kaleb Lee Miller, Southeast Warren FFA
Justin Reid Dillon, Sumner Fredericksburg FFA
Jessica Schmitt, Turkey Valley FFA
Jessica Alderson, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA
Colton Evans, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA
Ethan Horak, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA
Jakob Long, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA
Sidney Noel Schnor, Wapsie Valley FFA
Sean Banger, Wapsie Valley FFA
Britney M Hershey, Wapsie Valley FFA
Erika Kay Jeanes, Wapsie Valley FFA
Jacob Joerger, Wapsie Valley FFA
Landen T Kuhlmann, Wapsie Valley FFA
Megan Jane Lahmann, Wapsie Valley FFA
Austin Schares, Wapsie Valley FFA
Carson Woods, Wapsie Valley FFA
Macy A Janssen, Waverly-Shell Rock FFA
Jenna Kay Steffen, Waverly-Shell Rock FFA
Macey Goretska, Wayne FFA
Justin Horton, Wayne FFA
Ryan McConahay, Wayne FFA
Mason Studer, West Bend-Mallard FFA
Natalie Ruth Pins, West Dubuque FFA
Madelynn Green, West Marshall FFA

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of over 15,600 student members as part of 242 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.