



Iowa FFA Association

The FFA Mission

*FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.*

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NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

2010 Stars Over Iowa Winners 82nd Iowa FFA Leadership Conference

The 2010 Stars Over Iowa were announced at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Des Moines, on Friday, April 16, 2010. Eighteen finalists were introduced in three different areas: Agricultural Placement, Agribusiness, and Agricultural Production. The members were selected as a result of receiving the Iowa FFA Degree. The Iowa FFA Degree is the highest honor that can be bestowed on an FFA member by the state association. Five hundred twenty-six members received the Iowa FFA Degree in 2010 and eighteen of those members were selected for outstanding recognition in the Stars Over Iowa ceremony.

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., through the Iowa FFA Foundation, sponsors plaques for each of the twenty-four finalists and for each area winner. The Iowa Farmer Today, through the Iowa FFA Foundation, sponsored cash awards for each of the Star finalists.

Stars in Ag Placement Finalists

- Bradley Byers – Southeast Warren FFA Chapter at Liberty Center
- Angie Folkmann – Marengo FFA Chapter
- Chelsey Klindt – Atlantic FFA Chapter
- Tyler Rosonke – New Hampton FFA Chapter
- Erin Sears – LaPorte-Dysart FFA Chapter at LaPorte City
- Chelsie Thompson – Waverly-Shell Rock FFA Chapter at Waverly

The 2010 winner in Ag Placement was Chelsie Thompson of the Waverly-Shell Rock FFA Chapter. Thompson has a very diverse Supervised Agricultural Experience in Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management. Thompson began with an interest in outdoor sports such as hunting, archery, and trap shooting. Since that time Thompson has expanded her knowledge by gaining experience in hiking, kayaking, natural resources management, conservation methods, and wildlife management. Thompson has worked at Crawdaddy Outdoors helping customers select the right equipment to make their outdoor adventures enjoyable and successful. She also worked with the Bremer and Chickasaw County Conservation Boards presenting programs about the environment. Her current position as a Naturalist at Hartman Nature Reserve allows her to share her knowledge of the outdoors with people of all ages. Thompson is currently a student at the University of Northern Iowa pursuing a degree in Environmental Science, while continuing her position as a Naturalist.

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Stars in Ag Production Finalists

- Brad Arthur – Oelwein FFA Chapter
- Angie Breuer – LeMars FFA Chapter
- Chelsey Fagle – North Fayette FFA Chapter at West Union
- Clayton Hester – North Mahaska FFA Chapter at New Sharon
- Janell Johnson – Preston/East Central FFA Chapter at Preston
- Kyle Ruth – Lone Tree FFA Chapter

The 2010 winner in the area of Ag Production was Janell Johnson from the Preston/East Central FFA Chapter. As a freshman, Johnson established a Beef Production enterprise as her main Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project. Johnson started her herd with six cows and three feeder calves. Since that time, she has increased the size of her herd to thirteen cows, three breeding heifers, and nine feeder calves. Johnson has gained knowledge about selecting heifers for replacements, determining proper nutrition, determining market readiness for fat cattle, as well as proper herd health management. In addition to her Beef Production enterprise, Johnson also completed a Beef Placement SAE. This project required Johnson to help on the family farm assisting with harvesting, raking hay, working with the family's cow herd and feedlot operation. Johnson has worked a total of 2,400 hours the past three years. Upon graduation, Johnson plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Platteville to major in Ag Business.

Stars in Agribusiness Finalists

- Luke Applegate – Riverside FFA Chapter at Oakland
- Logan Kennedy – DeWitt Central FFA Chapter at DeWitt
- Karl Kerns – Mount Ayr FFA Chapter
- Brian Sexton – Rockwell City-Lytton FFA Chapter
- Jake Tanner – Atlantic FFA Chapter
- Kellie Walters – Tri-Star FFA Chapter

The 2010 winner in the area of Agribusiness is Karl Kerns of the Mount Ayr FFA Chapter. As a freshman, Kerns established a small kennel, from which he sold puppies across the U.S. and around the world. Since that time, he has started his own online business, www.classicpoos.com, and has grown the size of his breeding stock to include additional breeds. Kerns has gained extensive knowledge about managing a small kennel, including nutrition, health, mating, artificial insemination, and selection as well as how to market puppies online with search engine optimization techniques, Google Ads, and various puppy ad websites. In addition to his puppy enterprise, Kerns also completed a swine production project and an agriscience project involving a transgenic sow with the human blood clotting gene prothrombin. The scientific abstract will be published later this spring with a researcher at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Upon graduation, Kerns plans to attend Iowa State University to major in molecular reproductive physiology.

The Iowa FFA Association has 226 local chapters with over 12,000 FFA members. FFA is a national organization of more than 500,000 members preparing for leadership and careers in science, business and technology of agriculture. Local, state and national programs provide opportunities for students to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom. FFA's 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.

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