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News Release

2015 Iowa FFA Proficiency Award Results

ANKENY, Iowa--100% of all FFA members have proficiencies as part of the agricultural program and the FFA. These proficiencies range in the areas of Agricultural Communications to Home and/or Community Development and from Diversified Agricultural Production to Swine Production. Proficiency Award winners have excelled in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Programs. These awards encourage members to develop specialized skills that will apply toward a future career.

State winners will advance to the National FFA competition where they will compete against winners from the other State FFA Associations. The four national finalists that are selected from each area will be recognized at the National FFA Convention and Expo in October.

The Iowa FFA Proficiency Awards program is possible with support from the many partners of the Iowa FFA Foundation. The specific partner for each area is identified in our summary of results.

Listed below are the results from the 2015 Iowa Proficiency Awards program.

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of over 14,600 student members as part of 225 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.

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Proficiency Area: **Agricultural Communications - Entrepreneurship/Placement**
State Winner: Eric Visscher
FFA Chapter: Boyden-Hull FFA Chapter, Hull
Description: Eric Visscher of the Boyden-Hull FFA Chapter at Hull is the winner in the area of Ag Communications. After high school Visscher plans to attend a university and study engineering. Working over 100 hours, earning him \$1,200, Visscher was able to hone his writing and typing skills.

The second place winner is Kassidy Kuhlman of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter at Fairbank.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Communications Proficiency Award is Iowa Farmer Today through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: **Agricultural Education - Entrepreneurship/Placement**
State Winner: Emily Samuelson
FFA Chapter: LaPorte-Dysart FFA Chapter
Description: Emily Samuelson of the LaPorte-Dysart FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Agricultural Education. Samuelson has accumulated 528 unpaid hours by working at the FFA museum in LaPorte City and working in the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Office. She has learned to embrace educationally and culturally diverse audiences to better be able to spread agriculture's message. Emily is currently at Iowa State University majoring in Agricultural Communications and minoring in Animal Science.

The second place winner is Alana Platte of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter at Fairbank.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Education Proficiency Award is the Department of Agricultural Education and Studies at Iowa State University through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: **Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication-
Entrepreneurship/Placement**
State Winner: Dylan Riedemann
FFA Chapter: South O'Brien FFA Chapter
Description: In the area of Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication, our winner is Dylan Riedemann of the South O'Brien FFA Chapter. Riedemann has invested over 960 hours of paid labor working for C-S Asgrow Service. He gained experience in the construction of grain bin floors and the installation of electrical fans and stirators. Dylan is attending Iowa State University majoring in Agricultural Engineering.

Dylan Salow from the Maquoketa Valley FFA at Delhi received second.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication Proficiency Award is Hardi North America, Inc. through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: **Agricultural Mechanics Energy Systems - Entrepreneurship/Placement**
State Winner: Micheal Walvatne
FFA Chapter: North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter
Description: In the area of Agricultural Mechanics Energy Systems, our winner is Micheal Walvatne of the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union. Walvatne has accumulated more than 3000 paid hours working for Walvatne Electric Inc. During his employment, he has learned how to properly read and understand wiring diagrams and schematics along with bending EmT conduit to the proper angle for wiring inside of buildings. Walvatne plans to further his education a community college to become an electrician.

Logan Klingson from Central Plains FFA at Gowrie received second.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Mechanics Energy Systems Proficiency Award is CF Industries through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Entrepreneurship**State Winner:** Garrett Hagenow**FFA Chapter:** Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter**Description:** In the area of Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance Entrepreneurship, our winner is Garrett Hagenow of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter at Fairbank. Hagenow spent over 500 hours restoring a John Deere 4320 and IH 560 tractors. Through these restorations, he was able to gain personal time management skills, and the mechanical skills that he accumulated will be useful in repair and maintenance for the rest of his life. Garrett is attending Iowa State University studying Agricultural Systems Technology.

Parker Kray from the Monticello FFA Chapter received second.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Van Wall through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Placement**State Winner:** Kellie Einck**FFA Chapter:** South O'Brien FFA Chapter**Description:** Kellie Einck of the South O'Brien FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. Einck has logged over 1700 hours, earning her a gross profit of \$19,500. She was able to overcome challenges, develop a great work ethic, and with gaining custom service and communication skills. After high school Kellie plans to work full time for ICON Ag & Turf while pursuing an accounting degree.

The second place winner is Casey Karsten of the IKM-Manning FFA Chapter at Manning.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance-Placement Proficiency Award is Kuhn North America, Inc. through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Processing - Placement**State Winner:** Jared Kerr**FFA Chapter:** North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter, West Union**Description:** The winner in the area of Ag Processing is Jared Kerr of the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter. Over the past two years, Jared has worked over 350 years and earning over \$6000 at his position at Fassbinder Apiaries. Through his project, he has gained skilled in analyzing situations and executing them appropriately, as well as preparing the step-by-step production of the bees. Kerr plans to attend the University of Iowa studying Body Anatomy, with plans to become a physical therapist.

Tessa Meyer from the Sumner Fredericksburg FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Processing Proficiency Award is MinnTex Citrus, Inc. through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Sales Placement**State Winner:** Sara Williamson**FFA Chapter:** Brokaw FFA Chapter, Clarinda**Description:** In the area of Agricultural Sales Placement, our winner is Sara Williamson of the Brokaw FFA Chapter at Clarinda. Over the past two years, Williamson has accumulated over 1,000 hours working at Fareway Food Stores, earning her over \$8,000. She gained valuable customer service skills and has been training new employees for Fareway. Sara plans to attend Northwest Missouri State University and study Technical Theater.

Alexis Potter from the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood received second.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Sales Placement Proficiency Award is Dakin Ag Equipment through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Services

State Winner: Derek Dubbelde

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: In the area of Agricultural Service, our winner is Derek Dubbelde of the West Lyon FFA Chapter. Dubbelde established a custom hog confinement washing service. He properly maintained tools for maximum efficiency in building cleaning and kept accurate business records. Derek plans to stay involved in agriculture and mechanics and hopes to one day return to the family farm.

The second place winner in the area of Agricultural Services is Morgan McEnany from the Colo-NESCO FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Services Proficiency Award is Farmers Cooperative Co. through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research – Animal Systems

State Winner: Ashton Lee Nyman

School: Algona FFA Chapter

Description: Ashton Lee Nyman of the Algona FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Integrated AgriScience Research. Nyman has spent 22 hours of research in 2014, and has learned how to formulate feed rations to meet the nutritional needs of an animal, as well as learned how to design housing, equipment, and facilities. After high school, Nyman plans to attend community college and transfer to a 4 year college to major in Ag Business.

The sponsor of the Agriscience Research – Integrated Systems Proficiency Award is Animal Health International through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research - Plant Systems

State Winner: Eric Koehlmoos

School: South O'Brien FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Agriscience Research - Plant Systems is Eric Koehlmoos of the South O'Brien FFA Chapter. Koehlmoos has received \$18,100 in research awards and trips for his recorded 851 research hours. Through his project, he has learned which types of grasses will produce more ethanol than corn, as well as what types of land will produce best. Koehlmoos plans to attend Kansas State University studying Animal Science and Ag Education.

Adam Stecklein from the Cascade FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Agriscience Research – Integrated Systems Proficiency Award is the Mid-Prairie FFA Chapter through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Jacob Bierschenk

FFA Chapter: Benton Community FFA Chapter, Van Horne

Description: In the area of Beef Production Entrepreneurship the winner is Jacob Bierschenk of the Benton Community FFA Chapter at Van Horne. Bierschenk's operation includes 9 purebred heifers and 15 cows and embryo collection. Utilizing embryo collection helped to improve the overall quality of his herd. The improvements he made to his cattle operation allowed for the placement and selling of two bulls at the Iowa Bull Test Sale. Jacob is currently attending Kirkwood Community College and is enrolled in the CAD and Mechanical Engineering Technology Program.

Garrett Moeller from Northeast FFA Chapter at Goose Lake received second.

The sponsor of the Beef Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Placement**State Winner:** JP Crowley**FFA Chapter:** Maquoketa FFA Chapter**Description:** The winner in the area of Beef Production Placement, sponsored by the Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation through the Iowa FFA Foundation, is JP Crowley of the Maquoketa FFA Chapter. JP has worked 1770 hours gaining time management skills and an understanding of selection, breeding, and nutrition practices. After high school, Crowley plans on taking over his family farming operation.

Natalie Johnson from the Interstate 35 FFA Chapter at Truro is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Beef Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Entrepreneurship**State Winner:** Levi Banowetz**FFA Chapter:** Northeast FFA Chapter, Goose Lake**Description:** The winner in the area of Dairy Production Entrepreneurship is Levi Banowetz of the Northeast FFA Chapter. Over the past four years, Banowetz has grown his dairy herd to 19 head, comprising of 9 milk cows and 10 replacement heifers. He has learned how to properly select replacement heifers for his operation and how to change the feed ration depending upon cattle age. Levi plans to attend the University of Wisconsin to study Dairy Production.

Michael Carroll from the West Delaware FFA Chapter at Manchester is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Dairy Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Accelerated Genetics through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Placement**State Winner:** Caleb Monroe**FFA Chapter:** South Winneshiek FFA Chapter, Calmar**Description:** The winner in the area of Dairy Production is Caleb Monroe of the South Winneshiek FFA Chapter. Monroe gained management skills of milking and maintaining herd health, including making decisions on feed nutrition along with equipment repair through his 5,463 paid hours working at the Linderidge Dairy Farms, earning him over \$35,000. Caleb is currently attending Northeast Iowa Community College and is studying in the John Deere Tech Program.

Nathan Arthur from the Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Dairy Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Big Gain, Inc. through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Agricultural Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement**State Winner:** Cody Kleitsch**FFA Chapter:** Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter, Fairbank**Description:** The winner in the area of Diversified Agricultural Production is Cody Kleitsch of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter at Fairbank. Over the last 5 years, Kleitsch has accumulated over 16,000 hours which has grossed him over \$98,000. He also owns 7 cows, 2 bulls, and a tractor and baler for a custom baling business. He has excelled at harvesting, handling, and storing crops. Through a developed production and operational plan, he has maintained strong financial management. He is currently enrolled in Hawkeye Community College studying Agricultural Business and Beef Science and plans to return to the family farm after graduation.

Kyle Henkle from the Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Diversified Agricultural Production Proficiency Award is Hertz Farm Management through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Crop Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Reed Burres

FFA Chapter: Humboldt FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Diversified Crop Production Entrepreneurship is Reed Burres of the Humboldt FFA Chapter. Burres started out with 2.2 acres of corn and has grown his operation to 126 acres of corn this past year. Through accurate record keeping, he was able to negotiate lower rents from his land owner. Reed is proud of the way that his careful crop scouting greatly lowered his management costs. He attends Iowa State University and is studying Agricultural Business and hopes to return to the family farm.

Kaitlin Westendorf from the Tripoli FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Diversified Crop Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is the Iowa State University Agronomy Club through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Crop Production - Placement

State Winner: Tyler McDermott

FFA Chapter: Cascade FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Diversified Crop Production, sponsored by Legend Seeds, Incorporated through the Iowa FFA Foundation, is Tyler McDermott of the Cascade FFA Chapter. In his first year, McDermott logged over 1000 hours on a 540 acre corn, soybean and alfalfa operation. Through his involvement, he has learned how to harvest crops and then handle them post harvest. Tyler also has experience in determining the influence of environment factors on plant growth and development. McDermott plans to attend Kirkwood Community College studying Forage Production.

Christopher Swanton from the Northeast FFA Chapter at Goose Lake is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Diversified Crop Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Legend Seed through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Horticulture – Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Amy Knobloch

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: Amy Knobloch of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood is the winner in the area of Diversified Horticulture Production, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. Having worked nearly 2,000 hours at Knobloch's Greenhouse and produce, Amy was able to earn over \$10,000 in four years. In her experience she learned how to properly package produce to help increase sales. She also was able to arrange the store to help maximize space and more effectively showcase produce. After high school Amy plans to attend S.E. Technical Institute and then return to employment at Knobloch's G/H & Produce.

The second place winner is Carolyn Trumm of the Cascade FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Diversified Horticulture Proficiency Award is the Ron and Mary Beth Zelle Family through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: **Diversified Livestock Production**

State Winner: Peyton Schares

FFA Chapter: Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter, Fairbank

Description: Peyton Schares of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Diversified Livestock Production, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. Peyton has owned a variety of livestock throughout her SAE including beef and horses. Peyton is proud of her ability to recognize desirable traits in her livestock. She uses these skills when preparing feed rations and making nutritional decisions. After high school Peyton plans to pursue a career as a veterinarian focusing on equine.

The second place winner is Justin Swanton of the Northeast FFA Chapter at Goose Lake.

The sponsor of the Diversified Livestock Production Proficiency Award is Kent Nutrition Group through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: **Emerging Agricultural Technology - Entrepreneurship/Placement**

State Winner: Logan Brincks

FFA Chapter: South Winneshiek FFA Chapter, Calmar

Description: In the area of Emerging Agricultural Technology, our winner is Logan Brincks of the South Winneshiek FFA Chapter at Calmar. Brincks has worked 267 hours to gain knowledge of Geographic Information Systems and how they relate to agriculture. He also learned how to manipulate and use software on agricultural equipment. Logan plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Platteville to major in software Engineering.

Jordan Flick from the New Hampton FFA chapter received second.

The sponsor of the Emerging Agricultural Technology Proficiency Award is Iowa Corn through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: **Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management - Entrepreneurship/Placement**

State Winner: Nicholas Althouse

FFA Chapter: South Winneshiek, Calmar

Description: Nicholas Althouse of the South Winneshiek FFA Chapter at Calmar is the winner in the area of Environmental Science and Natural Resource Management. Althouse has spent 2205 unpaid hours learning to operate equipment needed to work in natural resource management, as well as communicating about natural resources with the public. After high school Althouse plans to attend Hawkeye Community College for Heavy Equipment Operations.

The second place winner is Cody Baumler of the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union.

The sponsor of the Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management Proficiency Award is Barker Lemar through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Equine Science - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Brooke Thelen

FFA Chapter: Creston FFA Chapter

Description: Brooke Thelen of the Creston FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Equine Science Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. After high school, Thelen plans to pursue a degree in animal science to eventually have a career in equine physical therapy and rehabilitation. During her project, she accumulated 7 horses, has logged 3,725 hours of work, and has earned over \$12,000 from her business. Through her experience, Brooke has been able to network with professionals, which has helped her choose her future career path.

The second place winner is Dayton Wittenburg of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter at Fairbank.

The sponsor of the Equine Science-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is the Iowa State University Block and Bridle Club through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Equine Science - Placement

State Winner: Garrett Nietert

School: Monticello FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Equine Science Placement sponsored by the Iowa Horse Council through the Iowa FFA Foundation, our winner is Garrett Nietert of the Monticello FFA Chapter. Over the past two years, Nietert has worked over 1,000 hours and has earned over \$6,000 at his placement at Nietert Equine Services. He has gained skills in communications, farm and ranch management, and equine training and science. He also learned how to successfully maintain and interpret financial information while maintaining the health and safety of his horses. Garrett plans to attend Iowa State University where he will study Farm and Ranch Management along with equine science.

Mia Konchalski from Southeast Polk FFA at Pleasant Hill received second.

The sponsor of the Equine Science-Placement Proficiency Award is Iowa Horse Council through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Bryce Scott

FFA Chapter: Central Plains FFA Chapter, Gowrie

Description: The winner in the area of Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production is Bryce Scott of the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie. Scott worked 52 paid and unpaid hours and in 2014 rented 45 acres that were used for soybeans. He learned how to do the work on his own, including maintenance of machinery and management decisions. Scott learned the business side as well, which includes negotiating a lease, FSA programs, banking, and insurance. Scott plans to attend Kirkwood Community College and later transfer to Iowa State University.

The sponsor of the Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production Proficiency Award is the Iowa Soybean Association through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Food Science and Technology - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Addie Meyer

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: The winner in the area of Food Science and Technology is Addie Meyer of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood. Over the past year Meyer has worked over 200 hours and earned almost \$2,000 at her placement at Lyon Manor. She has gained skills in food safety, as well as sanitation and adding value to foods. She has also gained communication skills with the residents and co workers. Meyer plans to attend college studying physical therapy.

Mikaela Gehl from the Cascade FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Food Science and Technology Proficiency Award is Hy-Vee, Inc. through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Forage Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Nashua Lansing

FFA Chapter: North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter, West Union

Description: The winner in the area of Forage Production is Nashua Lansing of the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union. Lansing operates 9 acres of alfalfa ground. Natasha learned when to properly cut, rake, and bale his hay. Lansing also learned that improved record keeping can assist his management decisions. Lansing plans to attend DMACC studying Diesel Mechanics and welding.

David Trumm from the Cascade FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Forage Production Award is Caterpillar Dealers of Iowa through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Forest Management and Products - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Lance Miller

FFA Chapter: Maquoketa FFA

Description: The winner in the area of Forest Management is Lance Miller of the Maquoketa FFA Chapter. Miller worked 2,002 hours, planted and cared for 7,200 trees, as well as managing 63 acres. Miller improved timber stand and quality, gaining natural resource knowledge and skills. Miller plans to attend college and pursue a degree and career in agriculture.

Jarod Bodensteiner from the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter at Fairbank is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Forest Management and Products Proficiency Award is Minntex Citrus, Inc. through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Fruit Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Rebecca Van Reganmorter

School: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: The winner in the area of Fruit Production is Rebecca Van Reganmorter of the West Lyon FFA Chapter. Van Reganmorter manages 18 grape vines. She has learned how to properly prune grape vines to get maximum production, as well as learning management skills needed to operate, manage, and run a grape vineyard. Van Reganmorter plans to study Accounting or Agricultural Business.

The sponsor of the Fruit Production Proficiency Award is 4 Seasons Fundraising through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Goat Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Trevor Clemens

School: Tri-County Community FFA Chapter, Thornburg

Description: The winner in the area of Goat Production is Trevor Clemens of the Tri-County Community FFA Chapter at Thornburg. Clemens worked 558 hours earning \$5,928 with a 12 head operation. Clemens noticed all of the opportunities created for him which gave him career aspirations. Clemens plans to attend Angelo State University studying Animal Science, Agricultural Education, and Sheep/Goat reproduction.

Payton Sash from the LaPorte-Dysart FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Goat Production Proficiency Award is the Iowa Meat Goat Association through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Grain Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Alex Scott

FFA Chapter: Marengo FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Grain Production Entrepreneurship is Alex Scott of the Marengo FFA Chapter. Scott managed 69 acres of corn after starting with 10 acres of soybeans with a net gain of almost \$15,000. He learned how to understand planting to harvesting. Scott also gained marketing strategies and knowledge of agricultural production and decision making. Scott plans to attend Kirkwood Community College to study Diesel Mechanics.

Russell Pleggenkuhle from the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Grain Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Iowa Crop Improvement Association through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Grain Production - Placement

State Winner: Clayton Taylor

FFA Chapter: Central Plains FFA Chapter, Gowrie

Description: The winner in the area of Grain Production is Clayton Taylor of the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie. Taylor put in over 1,000 hours and has a gross earning of \$3,300. He researched yield potentials to decide what variety would produce maximum yield and profit. Taylor also learned record keeping by filing receipts and invoices for future reference. Taylor is currently a freshman at Iowa Central Community College studying Pre-engineering. He plans to transfer to a four year university for Agricultural Engineering.

Isiah Brandt from the Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Grain Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Heartland Co-op through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Home and/or Community Development - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Kooper Brimm

FFA Chapter: Osceola Big Chief FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Home and Community Development is Kooper Brimm of the Osceola Big Chief FFA Chapter. Brimm raised over \$5,000 and provided over 560 hours in providing services to orphans in Haiti. Brimm feels that raising money to travel and to donate supplies to the orphans was his most important accomplishment. Also, Brimm felt that an important skill was educating his community with the economic and personal challenges of Haitians. Brimm plans to attend the University of California-Davis studying International Agriculture.

Madison Markmann from the Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Home and/or Community Development Proficiency Award is Monsanto through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Landscape Management - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Kenneth White

FFA Chapter: Audubon FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Landscape Management is Kenneth White of the Audubon FFA Chapter. White worked over 2,450 hours for a local landscaper earning over \$28,000. White learned important supervisory skills, as well as information about landscaping relating both to plant care and landscape design. White plans to attend NW Missouri State University studying Agricultural Education.

Rylee Andresen from the Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Landscape Management Proficiency Award is the North Linn FFA Chapter through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Nursery Operations - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Carl Wendland

FFA Chapter: Manson Northwest Webster FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Nursery Operations is Carl Wendland of the Manson Northwest Webster FFA Chapter. Wendland worked 325 paid hours in 2014. He learned how to determine the influence of environmental factors on plant growth and how to prepare growing media for use in plant systems. Wendland plans to attend Iowa Central Community College for 2 years and then transfer to Iowa State University.

The sponsor of the Nursery Operations Proficiency Award is Milton J. Luckstead through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Organic Agriculture

State Winner: Joclyn Bushman

FFA Chapter: South Winneshiek FFA Chapter, Calmar

Description: The winner in the area of Organic Agriculture is Joclyn Bushman of the South Winneshiek FFA Chapter. Bushman has worked a total of 489 hours earning \$5,064 at her placement on her family farm. Bushman gained skills in caring for poultry and marketing skills. Bushman plans to attend college to study Animal Science.

Madeline Fisher from the North-Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Organic Agriculture Award is J. Ward Organics LLC through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Outdoor Recreation - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Evan Havick

FFA Chapter: Chariton FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Outdoor Recreation is Evan Havick of the Chariton FFA Chapter. Havick worked 1,511 hours guiding hunts and maintaining timber for hunting. Havick became more business savvy at Coal Camp Outfitters, and learned skills for relating with people. He learned proper natural resource management skills including decision making for animal and timber health. Havick plans to attend college and attain skills to design and create products for the hunting industry.

Brett Ruggeberg from the Cascade FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Outdoor Recreation Proficiency Award is Iowa Trappers Association through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Poultry Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Emily Martins

FFA Chapter: Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter, Fairbank

Description: The winner in the area of Poultry Production is Emily Martins of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter. Martins operation consist of 48 laying hens and 100 broilers. Her project has earned her a net income of over \$3,500 and has continued to invest in her flock and project. Martins developed her skills in identifying the appropriate feed to maximize performance. She values the benefits of proper bird handling for the birds well being and showmanship.

Cassidy Simmons from the Guthrie Center FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Poultry Production Proficiency Award is the Iowa Poultry Association through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Sheep Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Derek Henningsen

FFA Chapter: DeWitt Central FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Sheep Production is Derek Henningsen of the DeWitt Central FFA Chapter. Henningsen worked a total of 1,190 unpaid hours and raised 16 ewes over two years. He was able to sell his lambs to 4-H members and assisted with their growth. Henningsen also gained communication skills to negotiate pricing of animals to sell at a premium price. Henningsen plans to attend Iowa State University studying Veterinary Medicine and Agricultural Business.

Katelin Pagel from the Sumner-Fredricksburg FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Sheep Production Proficiency Award is the Iowa Club Lamb Association through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Small Animal Production and Care – Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Ashley Dilley

FFA Chapter: Webster City FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Small Animal Production and Care is Ashley Dilley of the Webster City FFA Chapter. Dilley currently owns 6 purebred rabbits of three different breeds. She has learned how to raise healthy purebred rabbits in an appropriate environment, also she has become a more outgoing person through her rabbit showing experience. She is now the Junior leader at her county fair, helping other learn how to raise and show rabbits. Dilley plans to attend Iowa State University studying Animal Science.

Molly Fisher from the Nashua-Plainfield FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Small Animal Production and Care Proficiency Award is Heska through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Specialty Animal Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Bethany Pillard

FFA Chapter: North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills

Description: The winner in the area of Speciality Animal Production is Bethany Pillard of the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills. Pillard worked a total of 632 unpaid hours. She learned how to design animal housing, equipment, and handling facilities for speciality animals. Pillard also learned how to prescribe and implement a prevention and treatment program for diseases and parasites. Pillard plans to attend Kirkwood Community College to study Physical Therapy.

Thomas Johnson from the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Specialty Animal Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement Proficiency Award is Sonny Deke through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Specialty Crop Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: David Turnis

FFA Chapter: Cascade FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Specialty Crop Production is David Turnis of the Cascade FFA Chapter. Turnis learned how to harvest and handle gourds for superior quality and marketing. He applied principles and practices of sustainable agriculture such as crop rotation and nutrient management. Turnis plans to attend Iowa State University studying Agronomy and Agricultural Studies.

The sponsor of the Specialty Crop Production Proficiency Award is the DeWitt Central FFA Alumni through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Parker Trumm

FFA Chapter: Cascade FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Swine Entrepreneurship is Parker Trumm of the Cascade FFA Chapter. Trumm started with 46 gilts and ended with 53 gilts, 47 sows and 5 boars. He learned to prescribe and implement a prevention and treatment program, as well as evaluate animals for breeding readiness and soundness. Trumm plans to attend Iowa State University for Agriculture Studies.

Austin Hofman from the Sioux Center FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Swine Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Iowa Pork Producers Association through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Placement

State Winner: Kelwin Knobloch

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: The winner in the area of Swine Production Placement is Kelwin Knobloch of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood. Knobloch went from 997 paid hours in 2013 to 1,546 paid hours in 2014, working for the Fly'N K Berkshires. Knobloch learned to improve his pigs for show, going from not making the show auction 2 years ago to having his gilt get first in its class. He also learned to manage his time between his responsibilities on his farm, his school work, and sports. Knobloch plans to attend Iowa State University or a 2 year technical school with a purebred swine herd. His career plans are to own and operate his own purebred swine operation and crop farm.

Chase Fuhrman from the South O'Brien FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Swine Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Hog Slat – Midwest Division through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Turf Grass Management – Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Curt Castenson

FFA Chapter: Central Plains FFA Chapter, Gowrie

Description: The winner in the area of turf grass management is Curt Castenson of the Central Plain FFA Chapter at Gowrie. Castenson worked over 527 hours mowing and maintaining turf on four different properties. Castenson learned proper turf maintenance such as proper mower height, grass type, and weed identification. He also learned about fertilizer and pesticide applications using soil tests as a guide. Castenson plans to attend Simpson College studying Business Administration.

Robby Droeszler from the Cascade FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Turf Grass Management Proficiency Award is Calcium Products, Incorporated through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Vegetable Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Trey McCoy

FFA Chapter: Centerville FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Vegetable Production is Trey McCoy of the Centerville FFA Chapter. McCoy has planted an acre of sweet corn the past two years. McCoy has become confident in his oral and written skills, and how to be flexible. McCoy plans to attend Iowa State University studying Agricultural Education or Agricultural Business.

Erica Baier from the Earlham FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Vegetable Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement Proficiency Award is 4 Seasons Fundraising through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Veterinary Science – Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Samantha Cutts

FFA Chapter: Newton FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Veterinary Science is Samantha Cutts of the Newton FFA Chapter. Cutts worked 440 hours earning \$3,339. Cutts most important skill gained would be responsibility. Cutts also learned a good work ethic. Cutts plans to attend college to become a Vet Tech.

Heather Moser from the West Lyon FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Veterinary Science - Entrepreneurship/Placement Proficiency Award is the Iowa State University Block and Bridle Club through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Wildlife Production and Management – Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Cain Johanns

School: Brokaw FFA Chapter, Clarinda

Description: The winner in the area of Wildlife Production and Management is Cain Johanns of the Brokaw FFA Chapter at Clarinda. Johanns worked 267 hours thinning and improving trees stand. He applied knowledge and management to natural resources and their improvement. Johanns planted and cared for 28,000 trees to rebuild wildlife habitat. Johanns plans to obtain an Associate's degree in HVAC and pursue a career in the HVAC and plumbing field.

Lane Stahlberg from the Monticello FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Wildlife Production and Management Proficiency Award is the Iowa Division Izaak Walton League through the Iowa FFA Foundation.
