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News Release

2017 Stars Over Iowa Winners Announced

AMES, IOWA—The 2017 Stars Over Iowa Winners were announced at the 89th Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference at Hilton Coliseum on April 11, 2017. A Star Over Iowa was selected in each of the three different areas: Agricultural Placement, Agribusiness, and Agricultural Production.

The Star in Ag Placement Winner is Chase Janss of Benton Community FFA Chapter at Van Horne. Throughout the past five years, Chase's SAE has included everything from servicing equipment to side dressing corn and from mowing and chiseling cornstalks to transporting grain. His growth in the grain hauling and custom farming parts of his SAE impressed the judges. He plans to return to the family farm in the future. Janss is the son of Josh and Darci Janss. His chapter advisors are Mrs. Krystal Wright and Mr. Evan Brehm. His high school principal is Dr. James Bieschke, and his Superintendent is Mr. Gary Zittergruen.

Drake Hook of the Wayne FFA Chapter at Corydon is the Star in Ag Production winner. Through his swine SAE program, Drake has consistently improved his operation by developing a successful show pig business. Starting his SAE with two sows, he has expanded his herd to 28 sows while also working on his family's family operation. Through FFA, he has participated in numerous activities including livestock judging, exhibiting at the Iowa State Fair and participating in career development events. After graduation, he plans to return home and continue his show pig operation. He is the son of Brad and Shawn Hook. His chapter advisor is Mr. Daniel May. His high school principal is Mrs. Stacy Snyder, and his superintendent is Mr. Dave Daughton.

Keaton Minnick of the Central Trail FFA Chapter at Leon is the Star in Agribusiness. His SAE focuses on his woodworking business, Minnick Red Cedar Works. Keaton learned this trade from his grandfather and his skills acquired continue to grow with each year of his SAE. Not only has Keaton developed lifelong skills, he has also created value added products from trees that many people consider a nuisance. In the future, he plans to attend Iowa State University majoring in Kinesiology where he will pursue a career as an orthopedic surgeon. He will continue to operate and expand Minnick Red Cedar Works. He is the son of Tim and Kristi Minnick. His chapter advisor is Ms. Rosa Sondag. His high school principal is Mr. Rudy Evertsen and his Superintendent Mr. Chris Coffelt.

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 14,800 student members as part of 232 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.