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News Release

2019 Iowa FFA Proficiency Award Results

ANKENY, Iowa--100% of 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 2019 Iowa Proficiency Awards program.

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of over 15,400 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.

Iowa FFA Association - 2

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Communications

State Winner: Skylar Bloom

FFA Chapter: Central Dewitt FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Agricultural Communications, the winner is Skylar Bloom of the Central DeWitt FFA Chapter. Skylar learned through her SAE that communication happens through different mediums such as newsletters, billboards, and websites. She even painted a mural in her high school. While attending Iowa State, Skylar manages over 250 University webpages while studying Agriculture Education. Receiving second place in this category is Kelsey Holdgrafer from the Northeast Goose Lake FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Agricultural Communications Proficiency Award is Iowa Farmer Today.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Education

State Winner: Hannah Miller

FFA Chapter: Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter, Fairbank

Description: The winner of the Agricultural Education area is Hannah Miller of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter. Hannah has invested nearly 500 hours as the Wapsie Valley Agricultural Education Classroom Assistant. Hannah emphasized skills including communication to all ages, strategic thinking, and personal management. After high school, Hannah plans to attend Northeast Iowa Community College for her Associate's Degree before transferring to Iowa State University for her bachelors and masters in the veterinary science field. The second place winner is Laela Ragsdale of the Tall Corn FFA Chapter at Hampton. The sponsor of the Agricultural Education Proficiency Award is the Iowa State University Department of Agricultural Education and Studies.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication

State Winner: Reece Annee

FFA Chapter: Newton FFA Chapter

Description: Reece Annee of the Newton FFA Chapter is the winner of the area of Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication. Annee has worked for Van Maanen Electric for five years. Reece started by doing simple shop tasks but has grown with the company and now works on projects such as ground box banks. Reece is often complimented for his work ethic and his growth within the company has shown just this. The second place winner is Jensen Orr of the Midland FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication Proficiency Award is CF Industries.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Spencer Paysen

FFA Chapter: DeWitt Central FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance Entrepreneurship the winner is Spencer Paysen of the DeWitt Central FFA Chapter. Spencer began working on small engines when he was only 10 years old and since then has worked with many rare small engines. He also has exhibited his restored John Deere 316 at the Iowa State Fair. When Spencer isn't working on engines, he is sharing his experiences with youth. The second place winner in this category is Charles Bruns of the Cascade FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Van Wall.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Placement

State Winner: Nick Ford

FFA Chapter: Hawkeye FFA Chapter, West Bend

Description: The winner in the area of Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Placement is Nick Ford of the Hawkeye FFA Chapter at West Bend. When working on his project, Nick has learned to run diagnostics on many different pieces of equipment along with ways to fix equipment efficiently. The biggest transition for Nick was working from a farm hand setting to a mechanic shop setting. The second place winner is Ryan Jondle from the Central Plains FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Placement Proficiency Award is Kuhn North America, Inc.

Iowa FFA Association - 3

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Processing

State Winner: Lydia Lee

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: Lydia Lee of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood is the winner in the area of Agricultural Processing. Lydia is the founder and owner of Abundant Life Soy Candles. She produces and markets her candles along with donating 10% of her profits to job creation missions and schools in Haiti. Lee plans to study music education and open her own music studio. Danielle Stock from the Little Switzerland FFA Chapter at Waukon is the second place winner in this area. The sponsor of the Agricultural Processing Proficiency Award is Iowa Corn.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Sales - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Zach Oolman

FFA Chapter: Unity Christian FFA Chapter, Orange City

Description: In the area of Agricultural Sales – Entrepreneurship, the winner is Zach Oolman of the Unity Christian FFA Chapter. Oolman purchases and refurbishes fuel tanks and pumps for resale. Zach started with nine tanks and has increased to fourteen tanks this past year. Oolman works through local consignment auctions for the purchase of items and craigslist to market and sell his finished tanks. The second place winner in the area of Agricultural Sales Entrepreneurship is Collin Knipper from the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville. The sponsor of the Agricultural Sales - Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Sales - Placement

State Winner: Brooke Gifford

FFA Chapter: Newton FFA Chapter, Newton

Description: The winner in the area of Agricultural Sales - Placement, is Brooke Gifford of the Newton FFA Chapter. Brooke Gifford from the Newton FFA Chapter at Newton. Gifford has invested nearly 1,000 hours in working for her family farm toy sale business. Brooke's responsibilities include advertising, inventory of products, processing online orders, shipping product, and arranging products at toy shows. Upon graduation, Gifford plans to attend DMACC to major in Agricultural Business. The second place winner in the area of Agricultural Sales – Placement is Payton Lehmann of the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union. The sponsor of the Agricultural Sales - Placement Proficiency Award is the Iowa FFA Foundation

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Services

State Winner: Will Kiesewetter

FFA Chapter: Muscatine FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of agricultural services, the winner is Will Kiesewetter of the Louisa Muscatine FFA Chapter. Kiesewetter was able to build his own custom baling business as a high school freshman. He increased sales prior to selling his company in 2018 due to his family moving. He plans to attend Des Moines Area Community College with the profits from the sale of his business. Fallon Finnegan of the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills receives second in this category. The sponsor of the Agricultural Services Proficiency Award is Landus Cooperative.

Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research - Animal Systems

State Winner: Lauren Goldsmith

School: Beckman FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: Lauren Goldsmith FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Agriscience Research- Animal Systems. Goldsmith has invested over 135 hours developing and carrying out sound research experiments. Her most recent study sought to optimize her family's dairy herd health and production. She did this by researching and evaluating the variability of a fresh mix ration and the relationship to a cow's refusal. She has learned to analyze the nutritional needs of animals, analyze feed rations and assess if they meet the nutritional needs of the animals, and utilize the industry tools to make animal nutrition decisions. Goldsmith knows these skills will help her in her future career plans and endeavors. The sponsor of the Agriscience Research – Animal Systems Proficiency Award is the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Iowa FFA Association - 4

Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research – Integrated Systems

State Winner: Avery Tauke

FFA Chapter: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: The winner in the area of Agriscience Research- Integrated Systems is Avery Tauke of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter. Tauke has invested over 110 hours researching the effects of iron oxide on the structural properties of fasteners and the implication of metal condition on weld quality and strength. He applies physical science principles to metal fabrication using a variety of welding and cutting processes. After graduation, Tauke will be pursuing a career in welding. The second place winner is Jaxon Mullinnix from the Lone Tree FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Agriscience Research – Integrated Systems is Milt Luckstead Sr.

Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research – Plant Systems

State Winner: Chase Krug

School: Linn-Mar FFA Chapter, Marion

Description: Chase Krug of the Linn-Mar FFA Chapter at Marion is the winner in the area of Agriscience Research- Plant Science. Krug has invested over 1,953 hours conducting plant science research at the local, national, and international levels. He has conducted research into drought tolerance that is induced by epigenetics and gained understanding on how plants adapt to environmental factors. His plant breeding projects have strengthened his interest in plant genetics and the plant breeding process which led to his majoring in Agronomy at Iowa State University. His experience in India as a 2018 World Food Prize Borlaug-Ruan intern inspired him to consider international graduate level schooling. The second place winner is Nicole Shilling of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville. The sponsor of the Agriscience Research – Plant Systems is MinnTex Citrus

Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Blake Frascht

FFA Chapter: Charles City FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Beef Production Entrepreneurship is Blake Frascht of the Charles City FFA Chapter. Frascht has doubled the size of his cattle herd in the last three years. The herd has also boasts a 100% calving percentage and hold a 3.5 pounds per day rate of gain for feeder calves. Blake is always implementing progressive management practices to increase the efficiency and success of his herd. The runner up is Tristian Travis of the Creston FFA chapter. The sponsor of the Beef Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Iowa Cattleman's Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Placement

State Winner: Shane Duffy

FFA Chapter: Sumner- Fredericksburg FFA Chapter, Sumner

Description: Shane Duffy of the Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Beef Production Placement. Shane has invested over 3800 hours at Duffy Farms cow-calf and feedlot operation. He has managed the feedlot himself while employers were away for over 3 months performing duties such as feeding, animal care, and decision making. Each year, Shane's duties increased as well as his hours. After graduation, Shane plans to attend either Kirkwood Community College or Iowa State University to major in Production Agriculture or Animal Science. The second place winner is Tate Boysen from the Wapello FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Beef Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Iowa Cattleman's Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Grace Howe

FFA Chapter: Little Switzerland FFA Chapter, Waukon

Description: In the area of Dairy Production Entrepreneurship the winner is Grace Howe of the Little Switzerland FFA Chapter at Waukon. Howe currently owns 16 head of Jersey dairy cattle. Through proper nutrition, genetic selection, and record keeping, Howe has increased the average 305 dairy milk production per cow by 2,527 pounds. Upon graduation, Howe plans to continue expanding her herd as she prepares for her future in the dairy industry. The runner up in this area is Bryce Huitink of the Unity Christian FFA Chapter at Orange City. The sponsor of the Dairy Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Koopman Hay and Forage.

Iowa FFA Association - 5

Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Placement

State Winner:

Kaylee Gibbs

FFA Chapter:

Little Switzerland, Waukon

Description:

The winner in the area of Dairy Production Placement sponsored by Koopman Hay and Forage is Kaylee Gibbs of the Little Switzerland FFA Chapter at Waukon. Kaylee is involved in the family's dairy operation which includes milking 400 head of Holsteins. Here she has invested over 400 hours. The skills she has learned include vaccinations of cattle, disease control, and cattle evaluation. Upon graduation she plans to study dairy science and genetics with the hopes of securing a job with a genetics company or going back to the farm. The runner up in Dairy Production Placement is Amber Engelken of the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Dairy Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Koopman Hay and Forage.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Agricultural Production

State Winner:

Gabe Knobloch

FFA Chapter:

West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description:

Gabe Knobloch of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood is the winner in the area of Diversified Agricultural Production. Knobloch has invested over 3300 hours managing a swine operation, cattle herd, feed mill, and crop production enterprise. He batches feed, maintains farm equipment, feeds and maintains swine and cattle health, and breeds sows on the farm. Knobloch is excited to pursue a career towards agriculture related aviation. Upon graduation, Knobloch plans to attend Lake Area Tech to study Aviation Maintenance Technology and obtain his Agriculture Plane License. Adam Cheney of the Montezuma FFA Chapter placed second. The sponsor of the Diversified Agricultural Production Proficiency Award is Hertz Farm Management.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Crop Production – Entrepreneurship

State Winner:

Eric Henkle

FFA Chapter:

Vinton- Shellsburg FFA Chapter.

Description:

The winner in the area of Diversified Crop Production Entrepreneurship is Eric Henkle of Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter. Eric runs a crop share operation with his Grandfather and farms corn and soybeans. His profitability from the 80 acres will provide funds for him to continue studying agriculture at Hawkeye community college. Jordan Balderston, of Alburnett received second. The sponsor of the Diversified Crop Production-Placement Proficiency Award is the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Crop Production - Placement

State Winner:

Tristen Liebe

FFA Chapter:

North Linn FFA Chapter

Description:

In the area of Diversified Crop Production Placement, the winner is Tristen Liebe of the North Linn FFA Chapter. Liebe currently works on a large family run farming operation that specializes in corn and soybeans. He has vast experience crop scouting, operating and maintaining machinery, and learning about the financial aspects of operating a farm. Liebe plans on eventually taking over the family farm. The second place winner is Breyton Cline of the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie. The sponsor of the Diversified Crop Production-Placement Proficiency Award is the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Horticulture

State Winner:

Morgan Castenson

FFA Chapter:

Central Plains FFA Chapter, Gowrie

Description:

The winner in the area of Diversified Horticulture is Morgan Castenson from the Central Plains FFA Chapter in Gowrie. Morgan works at home for her family doing different jobs such as mowing, landscaping, mower maintenance, and weed control. She has learned about design and communication while staying focused on operating equipment safely. After graduation, she plans to become an elementary teacher. The runner up is Dalton Hanenburg from the North Scott FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Diversified Horticulture Proficiency Award is the Mid-Prairie FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: **Diversified Livestock Production**

State Winner:

Carla Edleman

FFA Chapter:

Ballard FFA Chapter, Huxley

Description:

Carla Edleman of the Ballard FFA Chapter at Huxley is the winner in the Diversified Livestock Production. Edleman manages a diversified program raising feeder lambs and pigs. She markets them as locally raised lamb and pork. Edleman also shows her livestock and state and national shows. The second place winner is Benjamin Carlson of the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie. The sponsor of the Diversified Livestock Production Proficiency Award is the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: **Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management**

State Winner:

Sean Kluesner

FFA Chapter:

Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description:

The winner in the area of Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management, is Sean Kluesner of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville. Kluesner has logged 120 hours investigating the effects of wax and wire worms on the reduction of plastics and styrofoam waste. In addition he has designed UV light systems to study the reduction of micro-organism colony counts in wastewater. Kluesner is currently a junior and is interested in engineering after graduation. The sponsor of the Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management Proficiency Award is Easten Lovelace.

Proficiency Area: **Equine Science - Entrepreneurship**

State Winner:

Marissa Fuerstenberg

FFA Chapter:

Nashua-Plainfield FFA Chapter.

Description:

The winner in the area of Equine Science Entrepreneurship, sponsored by Iowa State University Block and Bridle Club, is Marissa Fuerstenberg of the Nashua-Plainfield FFA Chapter. Fuerstenberg's SAE consists of raising and training three horses of her own. She cites progress as her greatest accomplishment. She sees her horses start with limited skills and can see how amazing they are today. She shows her horses at open shows, county fair, state fair, and takes them on trail rides. She takes care of her own vaccinations. Fuerstenberg is studying Animal Science-Equine and minoring in Agriculture Business at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. She is hoping to continue to vet school at Iowa State University. The runner up for Equine Entrepreneurship is Caitlin Sanderman of the Waverly-Shell Rock chapter. The sponsor of the Equine Science-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is the Iowa State University Block and Bridle Club.

Proficiency Area: **Equine Science - Placement**

State Winner:

Douglas Wiese

School:

Wilton FFA Chapter

Description:

Douglas Wiese of the Wilton FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Equine Science Placement. Douglas worked as a stable boy for Banta Performance and has worked his way up the ranks. His daily duties range from helping with the care of the breeding stock, working with clients, ordering supplies, and identifying health issues. He hopes to continue growing his knowledge and using it in the horse industry after graduation. The second place winner is Bianca Sponseller of the Nevada FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Equine Science-Placement Proficiency Award is Iowa Horse Council.

Proficiency Area: Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production

State Winner: Hunter Holdgrafer

FFA Chapter: Easton Valley FFA, Preston

Description: Hunter Holdgrafer of the Easton Valley FFA Chapter at Preston is the first place winner in the area of Fiber/Oil Crop Production. Holdgrafer has increased his acres of soybeans from 17 acres in 2016 to 36 hours in 2018. He has increased his yields from 66.7 to 69.2 bushels per acre and his marketing skills have increased his average price record per bushel from 9.84 to 10.83 in 2018. After high school, Holdgrafer plans to attend Iowa State University to major in Agriculture Studies. Following graduation he plans to return to the home farm and raise corn, soybeans, and cattle. The second place winner is Luke Harington of the Nashua-Plainfield FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production Proficiency Award is the Iowa Soybean Association and the Soybean Checkoff.

Proficiency Area: Food Science and Technology

State Winner: Megan Van Wyne

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: Megan Van Wyne of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood is the first place winner in the area of Food Science and Technology. Van Wyne has invested 275 working hours at Dutchland Frozen Food and Whyne's Choice Fundraising with her family. Megan taste tests products provides feedback on how to improve flavor appearance, and researches how to develop new products that are gluten free. After graduation, Megan plans to attend South Dakota State University to pursue a degree in nursing or animal science. The runner up in this area is Whitney Clemens of the Cascade FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Food Science and Technology Proficiency Award is Hy-Vee, Inc.

Proficiency Area: Forage Production

State Winner: Michael Droeszler

FFA Chapter: Cascade FFA Chapter

Description: Michael Droeszler of the Cascade FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Forage Production. For his SAE, Michael, works on his family's custom forage chopping operation. Michael focuses on the harvesting, transporting, and storing of forages as well as equipment maintenance and field preparations. After high school Michael's goal is to enter the CNC machining field and plans to return to the family operation. The second place winner is Carson Lambert of the Central Plains FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Forage Production Proficiency Award is the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Forest Management and Products

State Winner: Brendan Lovstuen

FFA Chapter: Decorah FFA Chapter.

Description: In the area of Forest Management & Products, the winner is Brendan Lovstuen of the Decorah FFA Chapter. Lovstuen owns and operates Back Country Firewood Business. He has supplied his community and two local campgrounds with firewood. Following high school Brendan wants to continue and expand his business' customers and quality. Levi Lauer of the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter received second. The sponsor of the Forest Management and Products Proficiency Award MinnTex Citrus, Inc. Minnesota.

Proficiency Area: Fruit Production

State Winner: Emily Van Regenmorter

School: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: Emily Van Regenmorter of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood is the winner in the area of Fruit Production. Emily rents 18 grape vines from her father to raise three different types of grapes. Van Regenmorter attributes her increased yield on proper pruning, adequate fertilization, and controlling fungus and insects. After graduation, Emily plans to attend college and use her knowledge of Fruit production as a pastry chef. The sponsor of the Fruit Production Proficiency Award is 4 Seasons Fundraising.

Proficiency Area: Goat Production

State Winner: Anna Beckman

School: Mediapolis FFA Chapter

Description: Anna Beckman of the Mediapolis FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Goat Production. Beckman has 73 goats that she raises, shows, and sells. She has earned \$7,749 from her goat production which is a 36 percent profit margin. She attributes her SAE for her skills in animal husbandry and performance. Beckman has taken her SAE to its fullest extent by herself. After high school, Beckman plans to continue her education. The second place winner is Lydia Martins of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter at Fairbank. The sponsor of the Goat Production Proficiency Award is the Iowa Meat Goat Association.

Proficiency Area: Grain Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Kiah Thiessen

FFA Chapter: Central Plains FFA Chapter

Description: Our winner in the area of Grain Production Entrepreneurship is Kiah Thiessen of the Central Plains FFA Chapter. Kiah's project involved the production of corn that she developed into an eight acre test plot for Kruger Seed. Kiah demonstrated exceptional skills such as record keeping, communication, and accountability. Austin Koch from the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter received second. The sponsor of the Grain Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Iowa Crop Improvement Association.

Proficiency Area: Grain Production - Placement

State Winner: Caron Brinks

FFA Chapter: South Winneshiek FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Grain Production Placement, the winner is Carson Brinks from the South Winneshiek FFA Chapter. Carson put in over 4,000 hours on his family farm throughout his project. Brinks also serves as his chapter president and has taken many leadership roles in high school. He plans to attend the University of Wisconsin Platteville to study mechanical engineering with an end goal of taking over the family farm. The runner up is Blake Meyer of the West Lyon FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Grain Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Heartland Co-op.

Proficiency Area: Home and/or Community Development

State Winner: Korie Jack

FFA Chapter: Newton FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Grain Production Placement the winner is Korie Jack from Newton FFA Chapter. Korie's SAE of volunteering as an EMT has pushed her to pursue a career in the medical field. With the skills she has "Learned to do", she is better able to "Live to Serve" later on in life. The runner up is Allison Bethel of the Central Plains FFA. The sponsor of the Home and/or Community Development Proficiency Award is the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Landscape Management

State Winner: Brady Williams

FFA Chapter: Brokaw FFA Chapter, Clarinda

Description: Brady Williams of the Brokaw FFA Chapter at Clarinda is the winner of Landscape Management. Williams has invested over 738 hours managing the city park and the local baseball fields. Brady has obtained skills such as time management, record keeping, and communication. Brady plans to attend Southwest Community College majoring in Agricultural Engineering and plans to transfer to Iowa State. The runner up in this area Erica Meyer of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood. The sponsor of the Landscape Management Proficiency Award is the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Iowa FFA Association - 9

Proficiency Area: Organic Agriculture

State Winner: Faith Palmer
FFA Chapter: Little Switzerland FFA Chapter, Waukon
Description: Faith Palmer from the Little Switzerland FFA at Waukon is the winner in the area of Organic Agriculture. Palmer put nearly 2,500 hours of work into the project and had growth in revenue from year to year. Faith has gained skills in record keeping, facility maintenance, and health and safety. Second place in this category goes to Michael Holub from the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills. The sponsor of the Organic Agriculture Award is J. Ward Organics LLC.

Proficiency Area: Outdoor Recreation

State Winner: Lane Arrowood
FFA Chapter: Newton FFA Chapter
Description: The winner in the area of Outdoor Recreation is Lane Arrowood from the Newton FFA Chapter. Lane's proficiency explained his learning and working at the Jasper County Gun Club. His duties there were, learning of safety rules and his role was promoting gun safety. All of this has led to consider his interest in future employment as a Game Warden of DNR officers. Lane is a sophomore at Newton high school. William Roling from Cascade is the runner up in this area. The sponsor of Outdoor Recreation award is Iowa Trappers Association.

Proficiency Area: Poultry Production

State Winner: Brett Schoenherr
FFA Chapter: Midland FFA Chapter, Wyoming
Description: In the area of Poultry Production, the winner is Brett Schoenherr of the Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming. Schoenherr has increased his flock size over 50% and has diversified his production operation with each year. He performs care, maintenance, breeding, and egg production duties. His future plans are to attend the University of Wisconsin- Platteville and major in Animal Science. The runner up in this area is Chloe Engelbrecht of the North Scott FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Poultry Production Proficiency Award is the Iowa Poultry Association.

Proficiency Area: Sheep Production

State Winner: Lydia Johnson
FFA Chapter: Southeast Polk FFA Chapter, Pleasant Hill
Description: The winner in the area of the Sheep Production is Lydia Johnson from the Southeast Polk FFA Chapter. Johnson has invested over 2,000 hours in managing and caring for her commercial ewe flock. She cares for flock by feeding, bedding, shearing, and vaccinating them. Each year Johnson raises and shows a portion of her lambing crop. Her future plans are to continue growing the size of her flock. The runner up in this area is Hannah Rees from the Central Plains FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Sheep Production Proficiency Award is the Iowa Club Lamb Association.

Proficiency Area: Small Animal Production and Care

State Winner: Alicia Westering
FFA Chapter: Manson Northwest Webster, Manson
Description: Alicia Westering of the Manson NW Webster FFA Chapter at Manson is the winner in the area of Small Animal Production and Care. Westering is dedicated to raising, breeding, and showing rabbits. She started just one year ago and expanded her herd to 68 head of rabbits. Alicia has researched ways to tattoo rabbits and found using a tattoo gun gentler for her rabbits. She has also conducted research to learn more about disease control and proper precautions for handling rabbits. The second place winner is Will Lapke of the Maquoketa FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Small Animal Production and Care Proficiency Award is Diamond Animal Health.

Iowa FFA Association - 10

Proficiency Area: Specialty Animal Production

State Winner: Grace Long
FFA Chapter: Ballard FFA Chapter
Description: In the area of Specialty Animal Production sponsored by DeWitt Central FFA Alumni our winner is Grace Long of the Ballard FFA Chapter. Long began her project in 2015 by receiving a scholarship from Iowa Honey Producers Association. She received a hive, 3 pounds of bees, and protective equipment. From that investment, she has expanded to four hives and markets her honey to businesses in her local community. Her plans after high school are to pursue a career in agriculture. Anna-Britt Lien of the South Winneshiek FFA Chapter placed second. The sponsor of the Specialty Animal Production Proficiency Award is DeWitt Central FFA Alumni.

Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Emily Harold
FFA Chapter: West Branch FFA Chapter
Description: Emily Harold of the West Branch FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Swine Entrepreneurship. Harold has developed niche markets for acorn fed Berkshire pork. She sells her pork in three states around the country. Emily's plans include attending Iowa State University double majoring in Agriculture Business and Agriculture Communications. The second place winner is Kabe Boysen of the Wapello FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Swine Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is the Iowa Pork Producers Association.

Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Placement

State Winner: Taila Knoblock
FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood
Description: Taila Knoblock of the West Lyon Chapter at Inwood is the winner in the area of Swine Production Placement. Taila learned some of her skills by working with Pig Hill West, a farrow to finish operation. Her 700 hours of experience included taking on increasing amounts of responsibilities in piglet care, and developing and applying aspects of animal welfare into her position. Taila plans to continue her education at a two year college where she will study agriculture. Gabe Kooiker from the Central Lyon FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area. The sponsor of the Swine Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Hog Slat – Midwest Division.

Proficiency Area: Turfgrass Management

State Winner: Megan Osborn
FFA Chapter: Boone A&M FFA Chapter
Description: In the area of Turfgrass Management, the winner is Megan Osborn of the Boone A&M FFA Chapter. Osborn began her program at the ISU Dairy Farm and then began working for the ISU Horticulture Research Station in 2017. She conducts mowing, assists with research projects by prepping research knowledge of turf management on both scientific and practical applications. Osborn has been collecting data, record keeping, working with confidential information, and budgeting since she first started. After high school, she plans to attend Kirkwood Community College, major in Animal Science, and play Volleyball. She then plans to transfer to Iowa State University to complete an Animal Science major. The runner-up is Garrett Hansen from the Audubon FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Turf Grass Management Proficiency Award is Iowa Turfgrass Institute.

Proficiency Area: Vegetable Production

State Winner: Grant David
FFA Chapter: Pilot Creek FFA Chapter
Description: The winner in the area of Vegetable Production is Grant David of the Pilot Creek FFA Chapter. Evans has a combined placement experience and entrepreneurship with sweet corn. He has a variety of skills obtained during this project including field scouting, pest control, soil fertilization, and cover crop usage to improve soil conditions. Kristen Baier from the ADM FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area. The sponsor of the Vegetable Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement Proficiency Award is 4 Seasons Fundraising.

Iowa FFA Association - 11

Proficiency Area: Veterinary Science

State Winner: Molly Brodahl

FFA Chapter: Little Switzerland, Waukon
Description: Molly Brodahl of the Little Switzerland FFA chapter at Waukon is the winner in the area of Veterinary Science. Brodahl worked 2,354 unpaid hours at Brodahl Veterinary Service in all phases of the family business. Her experiences include working with clients in both the large and small animal area. Brodahl plans to attend Iowa State University to major in Animal Science with the goal of becoming a Veterinarian after fulfilling her degree requirements. Our runner up is Hannah Whitten of the Red Oak FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Veterinary Science - Entrepreneurship/Placement Proficiency Award is the Iowa State University Pre-Vet Club.

Proficiency Area: Wildlife Production and Management

State Winner: Allison Wood

School: Diamond Trail FFA Chapter, Monroe

Description: In the area of Wildlife Production & Management, our winner is Allison Wood of the Diamond Trail FFA Chapter at Monroe. Allison has invested over 600 hours working at the Neil Smith Wildlife Refuge. She has improved her communication skills, tracked wildlife, and learned how to care for seeds to insure high quality production. Allison plans to become a nurse after graduation. Our runner up is Joseph Lauer of the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union. The sponsor of the Wildlife Production and Management Proficiency Award is the Iowa Division Izaak Walton League.