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News Release

2016 Stars Over Iowa Winners Announced

AMES, IOWA—The 2016 Stars Over Iowa Winners were announced at the 88th Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference at Hilton Coliseum on April 19, 2016. A Star Over Iowa was selected in each of the four different areas: Agricultural Placement, Agriscience, Agribusiness, and Agricultural Production.

The Star in Ag Placement Winner is Justin Bartling of AGWSR FFA Chapter at Ackley. Bartling's SAE project consists of working on his family farm that includes a farrow-to-finish operation, a cow-calf herd, and row crops. Bartling invested over 3,000 hours into his SAE project and has gained many responsibilities, which allow him to assist in the day-to-day operations of the farm. He does daily chores, processes pigs, and vaccinates, sorts, and loads both hogs and cattle. He also participates in all operations of his family's corn, soybean, and forage crops. Skills that he has gained will help him pursue a degree in agriculture and transition back into the family operation. Bartling served as a North Central District officer for two years and was also named the state first place Swine Production Proficiency award winner. After graduation, Bartling plans on attending Kirkwood Community College and majoring in Ag Production with an emphasis in swine. He hopes to return to the family farm upon graduation of college. Bartling is the son of Steve and Michelle Bartling. His chapter advisor is Mr. James Abbas and his high school principal and Superintendent is Mr. Marty Jimmerson.

Kaitlyn Boyer of the Osceola Big Chief FFA Chapter at Osceola is the Star in Ag Production winner. Her SAE focuses on raising high quality registered Limousin cattle from pasture to plate. At the age of 11, she purchased her first Limousin heifer and has now grown her herd to 32 head. She strives to meet the demands of a niche market for natural beef. Boyer's market cattle are used in her family's beef stick business. She sells the beef sticks directly to the public at the Harvest Barn and the Des Moines Farmer's Market. Her breeding stock are sold at the Iowa Beef Expo, as well as private treaty sales. She analyzes EPDs and utilizes embryo transfer along with other advanced reproductive practices. Managing the farm website, Facebook page, and creating advertisements are all important aspects of Boyer's SAE. She also advocates for the beef industry by speaking at events like the Iowa Cattlemen's Convention. Boyer has served as a South Central District Officer and has competed at state for job interview. After graduation, she plans to attend Iowa State University with a major in Animal Science and later work towards a Master's Degree in Business. Boyer is the daughter of Jason and Amy Boyer. Her chapter advisor is Mrs. Brandi Boyd. Her high school principal is Mr. Shane Stephens, and her superintendent is Mr. Steve Seid.

The Star in Agriscience is Trygve Lien of the South Winneshiek FFA Chapter at Calmar. His SAE project consists of four components that include bee production, agronomic work and research, community service, and custom harvest. Lien works on his own agriscience test plot where he researches plant systems and free soil testing services. He has learned about the importance of plant nutrition and the use of biological products. Through blogs and independent field days, Lien shares his findings to benefit growers around him. He has held various officer and chair positions during his time in FFA, and also received first place for this Agriscience Plant Systems Proficiency this year. After graduation, Lien plans to attend Iowa State University to major in Agronomy with a minor in Climatology. He is the son of Kelly and Sandra Lien. His chapter advisor is Ms. Melissa Brincks, his principal is Mr. Kris Einck (Eye-nck), and his superintendent is Mr. Clark Goltz.



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David Trumm of the Cascade FFA Chapter is the Star in Agribusiness. Trumm's SAE consists of owning and operating Trumm Family Custom with his dad and two brothers. They formed the LLC in August of 2013 when they purchased a new JD 569 round baler. To date, Trumm has made 6,000 of the total 8,500 bales made by his family business. Trumm Family Custom has purchased five new pieces of equip, including a John Deere 4255 he purchased and plans to restore and use on the round baler. Trumm currently serves as Chapter Treasurer and his proficiency in Forage Production Entrepreneurship earned first place at the state level. After graduation, Trumm plans to attend Iowa State University, majoring in Ag Studies with a minor in Ag Systems Technology. He is the son of Joe and Sara Trumm. His chapter advisor is Mr. Milt Luckstead (luck-sted) Jr. His high school principal is Mr. Greg Vander Lugt and his superintendent is Mr. Rick Colpitts.

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 four 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 226 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.