



CONTACT

Scott Johnson
Executive Director
Iowa FFA Association
scott.johnson@iowaffa.com
515-965-7376
www.iowaffa.com

News Release

2022 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 Service Learning 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 2022 Iowa Proficiency Awards program.

#

About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of more than 18,300 student members as part of 252 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: Megan Clark

FFA Chapter: DeWitt Central FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Agricultural Communications, sponsored by the Iowa Farmer Today, the winner is Megan Clark from the DeWitt Central FFA Chapter. Clark has worked with the CAC Media group. Through CAC she had the opportunity to interview the Governor of Iowa and the Secretary of Agriculture, as well as make promotional videos throughout the US. Megan developed skills in sharing stories with producers and producing coherent and reasoned information to large groups. Upon graduation, Clark plans to pursue a career in ag communications and ag policy. Kylee Miller from the Central Lyon FFA Chapter at Rock Rapids is the runner-up in this area.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Education

State Winner: Ashley Henneman

FFA Chapter: Stanton FFA Chapter

Description: Ashley Henneman, of the Stanton FFA Chapter, is the winner in the area of Agricultural Education, sponsored by Iowa State University College of Agriculture & Life Sciences. Ashley has invested over 400 hours supporting and leading educational opportunities within the district. Through her advocacy of ag, she was able to influence her district leadership to support the hiring of an ag instructor. After graduation, Henneman plans to pursue an ag education degree. The runner-up in this area is Jackie Miller of the Maquoketa FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication

State Winner: Tyconder Ellis

FFA Chapter: ACGC FFA Chapter

Description: Tyconder Ellis of the ACGC FFA Chapter @ Guthrie Center is the winner in the area of Agricultural Mechanics- Design and Fabrication, sponsored by CF Industries. He has an internship at an operating pioneer museum where he has spent over 1200 hours learning to make wood-jointed furniture using hand tools similar to those used without electricity in the late 1800s. Ellis has had the opportunity to learn every aspect of the business to successfully produce a sufficient number of show pieces. In the future, Ellis plans to use his skills to open his own woodworking business. The runner-up in this area is Adam Pratt of the Nevada FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Konrad Boyer

FFA Chapter: Osceola Big Chief FFA Chapter, Osceola

Description: Konrad Boyer of the Osceola Big Chief FFA Chapter is the first place winner in the area of Agricultural Mechanics-Repair and Maintenance Entrepreneurship, sponsored by Titan Machinery. Boyer has learned skills in engine reservation and overhaul. He designs his own equipment and created a strawberry picker that he used to improve efficiency in his strawberry production SAE. He hopes to continue with his restoration and design business after high school.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Placement

State Winner: Sawyer Tindle

FFA Chapter: Montezuma FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance Placement, sponsored by Kreg Tool, is Sawyer Tindle of the Montezuma FFA Chapter. Throughout his SAE, Sawyer worked at Glens Tractor Repair and VanWall Equipment where he would maintain tractors, planters, combines, balers, and tillage equipment. Tindle gained skills in problem-solving with electronic control systems, equipment, and a power source system while performing preventative maintenance. Upon graduation, Sawyer plans to attend North East Iowa Community College to become an Agricultural Technician at VanWall. The runner-up in this area is Lucas Jondle from the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie.

Iowa FFA Association - 3

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Processing

State Winner: John Driscoll

FFA Chapter: Williamsburg FFA Chapter

Description: John Driscoll of the Williamsburg FFA Chapter, is the winner in the area of Agricultural Processing, which is sponsored by Iowa Corn. John has worked 374 hours in his organic seed cleaning business alongside his grandfather. He has designed and built a seed cleaning mechanism for the family operation. While selling organic seed and services, John has had to learn marketing and communication skills. Upon graduation, John plans to attend Iowa State University and then return to his family's organic operation. The runner-up in this category is Jessica Kroeger from the North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Sales - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Bryan York

FFA Chapter: Atlantic FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Agricultural Sales Entrepreneurship, sponsored by Titan Machinery, the winner is Bryan York, from the Atlantic FFA Chapter. York has grown his SAE from 90 square feet of garden space to over 4,000 square feet yielding 1,800 pounds of produce. He had marketed his produce to the school kitchen, foods classes and ag classes. He has also donated large amounts of produce to the Mobile Food pantry. York has gained knowledge in soil health, plant management and weed management. After high school, York plans to pursue a career in Computer Engineering.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Sales - Placement

State Winner: Hailey Bechtel

FFA Chapter: Little Switzerland FFA Chapter, Waukon

Description: The winner in the area of Agricultural Sales Placement, sponsored by Titan Machinery, is Hailey Bechtel from the Little Switzerland FFA Chapter at Waukon. Bechtel has invested over 900 hours in her family's rock quarry business, Rainbow Quarry. She assists in the office completing bookwork, including producing invoices, making deposits, and providing customer service. In the future, she hopes to continue working for her family business. The runner-up is Nathaniel Miller from the Marengo FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Services

State Winner: Diana Davison

FFA Chapter: Little Switzerland FFA Chapter, Waukon

Description: Diana Davison from the Little Switzerland FFA Chapter at Waukon is the first place winner in the area of Ag Services, sponsored by Landus Cooperative. Davison has grown her interest in agricultural photography from a hobby to a business, serving her customers by providing senior picture sessions, livestock landscapes and FFA-themed photoshoots. She has learned accounting, marketing and customer service skills, officially registering Diana Coral as an LLC in 2021. Davison's future plans are to continue her education at Hawkeye Community College while studying professional photography in hopes of growing her photography business. The runner-up in this area is Sam Finnegan from the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills.

Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research - Animal Systems

State Winner: Grace Helle

School: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: Grace Helle, of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville, is the winner in the area of Agriscience Research-Animal Systems sponsored by Christensen Farms. Helle investigated the impact of using sunflower seeds as a resource for a protein supplement, using mealworms in conducting her research. She studied several variations of organic and traditionally grown sunflower seeds as part of her feed rations. Through this project, Helle has gained public speaking skills and knowledge in the field of animal science. Helle plans to continue her research and education at Beckman Catholic High School during her senior year in the fall.

Iowa FFA Association - 4

Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research – Integrated Systems

State Winner: Taylor Mayhue

FFA Chapter: North Scott FFA Chapter, Eldridge

Description: The state winner in the area of Agriscience Research - Integrated Systems, sponsored by CHS Foundation, is Taylor Mayhue, of the North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge. Mayhue's SAE research project was to discover the best fuel sources for a bee hive smoker. Taylor was able to learn and use Labquest and Safety Data Sheets to conduct her research. Libby Knipper of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville is the runner-up.

Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research – Plant Systems

State Winner: Tessa Tauke

School: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: Tessa Tauke, of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville is the first place winner in the area of Agriscience Research-Plant Systems, which is sponsored by MinnTex Citrus. Tauke did research on Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) toxicity and its relation on germination and RGB analysis of plant tissues. Tauke selected and used new technologies, tools and equipment to maximize productivity in the workplace. Tauke will be a Senior next fall at Beckman Catholic High School.

Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Brady Frascht

FFA Chapter: Charles City FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Beef Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation, the winner is Brady Frascht of the Charles City FFA Chapter. Frascht began his SAE with a small cow/calf herd and grew it to 18 head of breeding beef along with 31 cow/calf pairs. For his market beef program, he increased the Rate of Gain from 3.10 to 3.49 pounds per day. The runner-up in this area was Drew Stock from the Little Switzerland FFA Chapter at Waukon.

Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Placement

State Winner: Collin Grove

FFA Chapter: OABCIG FFA Chapter, Ida Grove

Description: Collin Grove of the OABCIG FFA Chapter at Ida Grove, is first place in the area of Beef Production-Placement, sponsored by Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation. Grove has invested over 1,800 hours into his project. He was able to gain skills like vaccine administration, artificial insemination certification, and balancing feed rations. Collin plans to use the money earned from this project for college as he hopes to advance his animal science skills. The runner-up in this area is Lauren Zaabel from the Newton FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Noah Richards

FFA Chapter: Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter, Fairbank

Description: The winner in the area of Dairy Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa State University Dairy Science Club, is Noah Richards from the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter at Fairbank. Noah currently owns 19 head of Holstein cattle. He has developed skills in balancing rations, identifying and treating illnesses, as well as monitoring milk quality. Richards selects bulls based on the traits needed to be improved in individual cows and uses management practices to ensure animal welfare. Tara Knapp from West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood was the runner-up in this category.

Iowa FFA Association - 5

Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Placement

State Winner: Cassidy Gibbs

FFA Chapter: Little Switzerland FFA Chapter, Waukon

Description: The winner in the area of Dairy Production Placement, sponsored by the Iowa State University Dairy Science Club, is Cassidy Gibbs of the Little Switzerland FFA Chapter at Waukon. Gibbs has invested over 1,700 hours on her family dairy farm, Gibbs LLC., where 480 Holsteins are milked three times a day. Through her SAE project, Cassidy has learned how to keep accurate records on the dairy herd to ensure safety and productivity. Upon graduation, Gibbs hopes to pursue a career as an agricultural loan officer while helping on the family operation. The runner-up in this area is the late Dalton Hemesath from the Decorah FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Agricultural Production

State Winner: Evan Mogler

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: Evan Mogler of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood is the first place winner in the area of Diversified Agricultural Production, endowed by Hertz Farm Management. Mogler worked a total of 1,765 hours on Mogler Farms with the enterprises of beef, crops, and swine production. Through his SAE project, Evan has learned a wide variety of skills. The runner-up in this area is Drew Staudt from the Charles City FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Crop Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Kesley Holdgrafer

FFA Chapter: Northeast FFA Chapter, Goose Lake

Description: The winner in the area of Diversified Crop Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa Crop Improvement Association, is Kesley Holdgrafer from the Northeast FFA Chapter at Goose Lake. Her SAE consists of crop sharing land with her younger brother and a neighbor, raising corn, soybeans, and alfalfa. She began her crop share partnership in 2020 with a total of 64 acres of corn. It has now expanded to a total of 148 acres consisting of 80 acres of corn, 56 acres of soybeans, and 12 acres of alfalfa. She has successfully learned to develop and implement a management plan for her crop production SAE. Kesley is currently a Freshman at Iowa State majoring in Ag Communications.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Crop Production - Placement

State Winner: Cole Thilges

FFA Chapter: Hawkeye FFA Chapter, West Bend

Description: Cole Thilges of the Hawkeye FFA Chapter at West Bend is the winner in the Diversified Crop Production Placement Proficiency Award Area which is sponsored by CHS Foundation. His SAE consists of over 1300 paid hours using varying striptil versus minimum tillage practice for best soil drainage and fuel savages. Improving soil fertility has steadily improved his corn and bean yields each year. The runner-up in this category is Evelyn Bauer of the North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Horticulture

State Winner: Connor Darr

FFA Chapter: Manson-Northwest Webster FFA Chapter, Manson

Description: Your first place winner in the area of Diversified Horticulture, sponsored through the Iowa FFA Foundation, is Connor Darr of the Manson-Northwest Webster FFA Chapter at Manson. Darr's entrepreneurship SAE program is his lawn and landscaping business, which he has done for the past 4 years. Connor started with 12 lawn customers and now has over 54 customers. He is involved with all maintenance and billing for his business. Darr plans to attend Iowa Central Community College in the fall for lawn and turf management.

Iowa FFA Association - 6

Proficiency Area: Diversified Livestock Production

State Winner: Grace Schuckert

FFA Chapter: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: The winner in Diversified Livestock Production, endowed by Milt Luckstead Sr, is Grace Shucket of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville. Grace has invested over 2000 hours over the last 3 years on her family's swine and cattle operation. She spends her time managing animal health, using her knowledge of genetics to select animals for breeding, and routine care of animals and facilities. The runner-up in the area is Kaitlyn Burken from the DeWitt Central FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management

State Winner: Joseph Schneider

FFA Chapter: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: Joseph Schneider of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville is the first place winner in the area of Environmental Science and Natural Resource Management, which is sponsored by Iowa Division Izaak Walton League. Schneider has invested over 360 hours working as a field assistant and laborer for Schneider Land Survey and Land Planning. Schneider also completed a research project on Monoammonium Phosphate. Through his project, Schneider learned how to use GPS to do preliminary survey finding. Then it is transferred into an auto CAD system to share land information with customers. He plans to continue working with the family business and continue his environmental research project.

Proficiency Area: Equine Science - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Osten Blevins

FFA Chapter: Osceola Big Chief FFA Chapter

Description: Osten Blevins, of the Osceola Big Chief FFA Chapter, is the first place winner in the area of Equine Science Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa State University Block and Bridle Club. Blevins shows and trains horses on the state and national level, while also finding success in horse sales. He has been actively involved with learning about breeding and selecting animals that best fit his program. He has 8 horses in inventory, as well as a donkey. The runner-up in this category is Lilly Henry of the Central Lyon FFA Chapter at Rock Rapids.

Proficiency Area: Equine Science - Placement

State Winner: Callie Lynch

School: Cascade FFA Chapter

Description: Callie Lynch of the Cascade FFA Chapter, is the first place winner in the area of Equine Science Placement, which is sponsored by the Iowa Horse Council. Lynch worked nearly 500 hours at Inspiration Stables. In her role at the stables, she aided special needs kids with therapeutic riding, assisted in horse training, and executed day-to-day animal husbandry tasks. In preparation for each class, she evaluated the temperament of the horses to match each of the students. She made certain to understand the needs of each participant. The runner-up in this area is Kent Sponseller from the Nevada FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Forage Production

State Winner: Hayden Holdgrafer

FFA Chapter: Easton Valley FFA Chapter, Preston

Description: Hayden Holdgrafer of the Easton Valley FFA Chapter at Preston is the winner in the area of Forage Production, sponsored by Agzaga. Over two years, Holdgrafer has doubled his hay ground acres and diversified his products to include high quality alfalfa for dairy farmers and grass waterway bales for feedlot producers. Holdgrafer has learned the best management practices for forage production and has used his skills to expand his operation, while increasing his yield by 33%. Holdgrafer plans to continue his education at Easton Valley High School in 2022. The runner-up in this area is Cody Felt of the Adel DeSoto Minburn FFA Chapter at Adel.

Iowa FFA Association - 7

Proficiency Area: Fruit Production

State Winner: Brady Van Meeteren

School: Sheldon FFA Chapter

Description: Sponsored by 4 Seasons Fundraising, Brady Van Meeteren of the Sheldon FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of fruit production. Brady has invested nearly 1200 hours in his SAE. He works at a local farm caring for a 19-acre strawberry patch. Brady has learned an immense amount through his experiences of picking strawberries, weeding the field, operating irrigation, and working with customers. Brady is a senior at Sheldon High School. The runner-up in this area is Trenton Iburg of the Williamsburg FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Goat Production

State Winner: Hanna Bedwell

School: Interstate 35 FFA Chapter, Truro

Description: Hanna Bedwell of the Interstate 35 FFA Chapter at Truro is the winner in the area of Goat Production, sponsored by the Iowa Meat Goat Association. Since 2003, Bedwell has been involved with Myotonic Meat goats, and has taken her interests and applied them to her own SAE. Now, she raises over 35 head in her herd. She manages herd health and is active in developing the best genetics and breeding practices. With her operation, "Hanna's Upside Down Goats," she uses her skills and experiences to advocate and educate about the Myotonia goat breed. Our runner-up is Danielle Rawson from the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills.

Proficiency Area: Grain Production

State Winner: Luke Holdgrafer

FFA Chapter: Northeast FFA Chapter, Goose Lake

Description: Luke Holdgrafer of the Northeast FFA Chapter at Goose Lake is the winner in the area of Grain Production, which is sponsored by Heartland Co-op. For the past 3 years Luke has worked over 3,000 hours on his family's farm, acquiring a wealth of skills. In 2020, Luke progressed his SAE by obtaining his very own land through a crop share partnership with his sister and local neighbor. This 80-acre crop share partnership has enabled Luke to gain numerous connections, understand crop inputs and expenses first hand, and gain an immense amount of knowledge as he inspires to be a grain farmer in the future. Luke is a junior at Northeast High School and plans to attend Iowa State University after graduation. The runner-up in this category is Jared Kruger from the Sibley-Ocheyedan FFA Chapter at Sibley.

Proficiency Area: Landscape Management

State Winner: Logan Evans

FFA Chapter: Griswold FFA Chapter

Description: Logan Evans of the Griswold FFA Chapter is the winner of Landscape Management, sponsored through the Iowa FFA Foundation. Evans works for the Wyman Lawn Service with a plan to own his own business. He has learned proper equipment maintenance, customer service, job pricing, and designing skills as he has acquired 760 hours of work in the past 2 years. Carter Hasselmann of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood is the runner-up in this area.

Proficiency Area: Nursery Operations

State Winner: Issabelle Rozeboom

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: In the area of Nursery Operations, sponsored through the Iowa FFA Foundation, our winner is Issabelle Rozeboom of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood. Rozeboom has invested nearly 200 hours working at the local greenhouse. Her responsibilities include care and maintenance of nursery plants and working with customer relations. Issabelle will continue her high school education. The runner-up in this area was Katrina Hageman of the South Winneshiek FFA Chapter at Calmar.

Iowa FFA Association - 8

Proficiency Area: **Organic Agriculture**

State Winner: Dylan Dudley

FFA Chapter: North Linn FFA Chapter, Troy Mills

Description: Dylan Dudley of the North Linn FFA Chapter of Troy Mills is the winner in the area of Organic Agriculture, sponsored by J. Ward Organics LLC. Dudley worked over 140 hours in researching and developing aeroponics in organic production. He developed skills within integrated pest management, transplanting, and harvesting produce. The runner-up in this area is John Driscoll from the Williamsburg FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: **Outdoor Recreation**

State Winner: Spencer Rea

FFA Chapter: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: In the area of Outdoor Recreation, sponsored by the Iowa Trappers Association, our winner is Spencer Rea from the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville. Spencer is employed at the Sundown Ski Resort as a skiing instructor. Rea assisted skiers with safety and demonstrated communication skills when working with clients. He had over 142 unpaid hours in the past three years. The runner-up in this area is Emily Harris of the Central Lyon FFA Chapter at Rock Rapids.

Proficiency Area: **Poultry Production**

State Winner: Holly Schmitt

FFA Chapter: South Winneshiek FFA Chapter, Calmar

Description: Sponsored by Rose Acre Farms, our winner in the area of Poultry Production is Holly Schmitt of the South Winneshiek FFA Chapter at Calmar. Holly's SAE started in 2020 with 6 ducks. However, her passion for the poultry industry began at a very young age. She has now grown her operation to consist of 13 ducks. Holly sells, donates, and uses the eggs produced. She has gained various skills through raising, exhibiting, and breeding her flock. Holly is a Senior in high school and her future plans involve attending Iowa State University and majoring in agricultural education and event management. The runner-up in this area is Katie Brenner from the MVAO FFA Chapter at Mapleton.

Proficiency Area: **Sheep Production**

State Winner: Jarrett McClain

FFA Chapter: ACGC FFA Chapter, Guthrie Center

Description: Jarrett McClain of the AC-GC FFA Chapter at Guthrie Center is the 1st place winner of Sheep Production, which is sponsored by the Iowa Club Lamb Association. Jarrett has increased his flock size from 5 head to 26 head over the last 4 years. He also has a profit margin of 62%. McClain has extensively expanded his artificial insemination program. The 2nd place individual in this category is Ellie Karr of the Benton Community FFA Chapter at Van Horne.

Proficiency Area: **Small Animal Production and Care**

State Winner: Kynsly Gehling

FFA Chapter: North Polk FFA Chapter, Alleman

Description: The first-place winner in the area of Small Animal Production and Care, sponsored through the Iowa FFA Foundation, is Kynsly Gehling of the North Polk FFA Chapter at Alleman. Gehling's SAE is working with dogs that she trains to serve as support animals for war veterans. Kynsly enjoys the interaction with the dogs in their training and development. She admits that the dogs' accomplishments are her accomplishments. The runner-up in this area is Caelan Engelbrecht of the North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge.

Iowa FFA Association - 9

Proficiency Area: Specialty Animal Production

State Winner: Rebecca Beaman

FFA Chapter: ADM FFA Chapter, Adel

Description: The first-place winner in the area of Specialty Animal Production, sponsored through the Iowa FFA Foundation, is Rebecca Beaman of the Adel DeSoto Minburn FFA Chapter. Rebecca has grown her project to 10 hives with minimal loss. Beaman initially produced 60 pounds of honey in the first year, but now produces over 340 pounds. She plans to continue advocating and spreading awareness for honey bees at the Iowa State Fair and other events. The runner-up in this area is Jesse Wulf of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood.

Proficiency Area: Specialty Crop Production

State Winner: Adam Knepper

FFA Chapter: Cascade FFA Chapter

Description: Adam Knepper of the Cascade FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Specialty Crop Production, sponsored by Ag Processing Inc. Adam's SAE consists of growing gourds and pumpkins on a ¾ acre plot on the family farm. He markets his products through wholesale agreement with area retailers. Adam has learned to successfully grow a healthy crop and how to work with customers when selling his product. Adam is a Junior and attends Cascade High School.

Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Nathaniel Gaul

FFA Chapter: Edgewood-Colesburg FFA Chapter, Edgewood

Description: Nathaniel Gaul from the Edgewood-Colesburg FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Swine Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa Pork Producers Association. Nathaniel has invested his time building his Poland China Swine operation since 2018. He is active in all facets of the operation, especially reproductive selection. Gaul demonstrates an overall understanding of what it means to be a herdsman and entrepreneur. Olivia Menson from the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville was the runner-up in this category.

Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Placement

State Winner: Kortlin Knoblock

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: The winner in Swine Production Placement, which is sponsored by Hog Slat-Midwest Division, is Kortlin Knoblock of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood. Kortlin has invested over 305 hours in his Swine Placement SAE helping finish and manage 6,000 hogs. He performs a variety of skills including vaccinations, and livestock sorting, as well as washing and disinfecting. Over the years of his project, his responsibilities have evolved to include a larger role in the hog operation. This fall he will continue to attend West Lyon High School. The runner-up is Keaton Funk from the Central Lyon FFA Chapter at Rock Rapids.

Proficiency Area: Turfgrass Management

State Winner: Justin Heyer

FFA Chapter: Charles City FFA Chapter, Winthrop

Description: In the area of Turfgrass Management sponsored through the Iowa FFA Foundation, the winner is Justin Heyer from the Charles City FFA Chapter. Justin's project includes his services to over 40 customers through his own company Heyer Lawn Care. Justin worked to grow his company utilizing social media as well as apparel and advertising materials. His largest project included a complete renovation of a customer's lawn. Justin graduated from Charles City High School in 2021 and plans to continue and expand his SAE. The 2nd place individual in this area is Colby Carlson from the Brokaw FFA Chapter at Clarinda.

Iowa FFA Association - 10

Proficiency Area: **Vegetable Production**

State Winner: Christopher Ewart

FFA Chapter: Wapello FFA Chapter

Description: Christopher Ewart, of the Wapello FFA Chapter, is the first place winner in the area of Vegetable Production, which is sponsored by 4 Seasons Fundraising. Christopher works for Mairet Farms where he moved from general labor to managing a work crew of 10. He also managed the maintenance of equipment, delivering produce, and selecting additional produce to buy as needed. Time management, people skills, plant management, and proper harvesting are among the many skills learned by Ewart. The runner-up in this area is Chyann Hicks from the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie.

Proficiency Area: **Veterinary Science**

State Winner: Bria Schwind

FFA Chapter: Boone A&M FFA Chapter, Boone

Description: Bria Schwind from the Boone A&M FFA Chapter at Boone is the winner in the Vet Science area, sponsored through the Iowa FFA Foundation. Bria has 80 combined hours at Swiss Farms Veterinary and Fairview Veterinary. Schwind has learned skills like vaccinating, ultrasounding, chute work, suturing, and assisting veterinarians. She has not yet specified her future plans. Our runner-up is Kaia Franzen from the Decorah FFA Chapter.