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News Release

NEWTON FFA WINS 2023 IOWA FFA AGRONOMY CDE

The Newton FFA Chapter located in Newton was named the Iowa Champion FFA Agronomy Team in the 2023 Iowa FFA Agronomy Career Development Event held at Ames on June 8, 2023. Team members included: Madelyn Adkison, Breanna Leaming, Austin Storm, and Lauren VanManen. Their agriculture education instructors and FFA advisors are Mr. James Horn and Mr. Jarret Horn. The champion team will compete in the National FFA Agronomy Career Development Event during the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this October. The Reserve Champion Team in Agronomy was the Little Switzerland FFA Chapter located in Waukon. Team members included: Alaina Gebel, Sarah Stock, Caleb Helgerson, and Olivia Marti. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Ms. Jessica O'Connor. Colton Zupke from Sumner was the High Overall Individual in the competition.

FFA teams including 81 individuals from 22 chapters participated in this year's Career Development Event designed to provide students an opportunity to display their agricultural knowledge and skills in the area of Agronomy. Activities included demonstration of skills and problem solving in Agronomy, including crop, weed, insect and seed identification; crop and seed judging and evaluation; and grain grading. A written examination was included along with a team problem solving competition.

The Iowa FFA Agronomy Career Development Event was coordinated and conducted by faculty and staff with the Agronomy Department at Iowa State University in Ames. The Iowa State University Department of Agronomy hosted the event and provided T-shirts to all participants. The top individual receives a \$500 scholarship from the Iowa State University Department of Agronomy if the student chooses to major in Agronomy at Iowa State University.

The Iowa FFA Agronomy Career Development Event was made possible with support from Pivot Bio through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Listed below are the top teams and individuals in the various parts of the career development event.

Top 10 Teams

- 1 Newton FFA, Newton
- 2 Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon
- 3 Central Community FFA, Elkader
- 4 Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction
- 5 Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA
- 6 North Scott FFA at Eldridge
- 7 North Butler FFA, Greene
- 8 Diamond Trail FFA, Monroe
- 9 Southwest Valley FFA, Corning
- 10 Wilton FFA, Wilton

Top 10 Individuals

- Colton Zupke, Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA
- Lauren VanManen, Newton FFA, Newton
- Alaina Gebel, Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon
- Keaton Klingman, Central Community FFA, Elkader
- Wyatt Anderson, North Butler FFA, Greene
- Rebecca Suhr, Central Community FFA, Elkader
- Breanna Leaming, Newton FFA, Newton
- Matthew Smith, Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction
- Tanner Tlusty, Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction
- Henry Reimer, Central Community FFA, Elkader

Specialty Areas -- Top Team/ Top Individual:

Identification of Nutrient Deficiencies, Diseases and Insects

Team: Newton FFA, Newton **Individual:** Austin Storm, Newton FFA, Newton

Identification of Seeds, Plants and Equipment

Team: Newton FFA, Newton **Individual:** Lauren VanManen, Newton FFA, Newton

General Knowledge Exam

Team: Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction **Individual:** Colton Zupke, Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA

Team Event

Team: Newton FFA, Newton

Below is a list of chapters participating by medal group.

Gold Teams (7)

Score Range (1930 to 1535)

Newton FFA, Newton
Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon
Central Community FFA, Elkader
Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction
Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA
North Scott FFA at Eldridge
North Butler FFA, Greene

Bronze Teams (2)

Score Range (900 to 485)

Vinton-Shellsburg FFA, Vinton
Sioux Center FFA, Sioux Center

Silver Teams (13)

Score Range (1435 to 1040)

Diamond Trail FFA, Monroe
Southwest Valley FFA, Corning
Wilton FFA, Wilton
Denison FFA, Denison
Albia FFA Chapter, Albia
Sioux Central FFA at Sioux Rapids
Independence FFA, Independence
Highland FFA, Riverside
Benton Community FFA, Van Horne
Westwood FFA, Sloan
GTRA FFA at Graettinger
Belle Plaine FFA
North Polk FFA, Alleman

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of over 19,200 student members as part of 260 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.