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News Release

MUSCATINE FFA CHAPTER WINS 2023 STATE FFA FLORICULTURE CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

The Muscatine FFA Chapter was named the Champion Team in the annual Iowa FFA Floriculture Career Development Event held at Kirkwood Community College on June 13, 2023. Members of the first place team included: Rhynn Maree Miller, Myla Halloran, Chelsea Carlson, and Jacob Murillo-Keener. Their agriculture education instructors and FFA advisors are Mr. Sam Paul, Mr. Dave Tometich, Ms. Ashley Wiebe, and Mrs. Alexa Coobs. They will represent Iowa at the National Floriculture Career Development Event at Indianapolis, Indiana, in October. The Montezuma FFA Chapter was named the Reserve Champion Team. Members of the second place team included: Ellen Cook, Bryson Stockman, Vivian Cook, and Rylee Wolford. Their agriculture education instructors and FFA advisors are Mr. Rick Swenson and Ms Hannah Garland. Chelsea Carlson, Muscatine FFA Chapter, was named the High Individual Overall in the competition.

FFA teams from 42 chapters including 149 individuals 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 Floriculture. The event consisted of a general knowledge exam, problem solving and decision making, plant identification, floral design, pesticide use and application, floral production, and a team activity.

The Iowa FFA Floriculture Career Development Event was coordinated and conducted by Bob Smith, Hannah Dunlap and the faculty and staff at Kirkwood Community College. Kirkwood Community College also provided a lunch to all participants. Official judges of the floral design components of the event include Karen Garrett, Dailyn Garrett and Zach Sperstad from Flowers on the Avenue as well as Jill Kinsinger, former graduate of the Floral Careers program at Kirkwood.

The Iowa FFA Floriculture Career Development Event was made possible with support from Iowa FFA Foundation Gold Standard Donors.

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

Top 10 Teams

- 1 Muscatine FFA Chapter
- 2 Montezuma FFA Chapter
- 3 Louisa-Muscatine FFA Chapter at Letts
- 4 West Liberty FFA Chapter
- 5 Williamsburg FFA Chapter
- 6 North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge
- 7 Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming
- 8 Maquoketa FFA Chapter
- 9 Central Community FFA Chapter at Elkader
- 10 Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter

Top 10 Individuals

- 1 Chelsea Carlson, Muscatine FFA Chapter
- 2 Jacob Murillo-Keener, Muscatine FFA Chapter
- 3 Bryson Stockman, Montezuma FFA Chapter
- 4 Ellen Cook, Montezuma FFA Chapter
- 5 Paris Salais, West Liberty FFA Chapter
- 6 Miley Ossian, Louisa-Muscatine FFA Chapter at Letts
- 7 Clara Sinclair, Williamsburg FFA Chapter
- 8 Ashton Coder, Louisa-Muscatine FFA Chapter at Letts
- 9 Emma Lamp, Louisa-Muscatine FFA Chapter at Letts
- 10 Betsy Bejarano, West Liberty FFA Chapter

Specialty Areas -- Top Team/ Top Individual:

General Knowledge

Team: West Liberty FFA Chapter **Individual:** Ellen Cook, Montezuma FFA Chapter

Problem Solving

Team: Montezuma FFA Chapter **Individual:** Ellen Cook, Montezuma FFA Chapter

Identification of Plant Material

Team: Muscatine FFA Chapter **Individual:** Bryson Stockman , Montezuma FFA Chapter

Floral Design

Team: Muscatine FFA Chapter **Individual:** Myla Halloran, Muscatine FFA Chapter

Floral Production

Team: Montezuma FFA Chapter **Individual:** Ellen Cook, Montezuma FFA Chapter

Team Activity

Team: Little Switzerland FFA Chapter at Waukon

Below is a list of chapters participating by medal group.

Gold Teams (14)

Score Range (1077.5 to 810.5)

Muscatine FFA Chapter
Montezuma FFA Chapter
Louisa-Muscatine FFA Chapter at Letts
West Liberty FFA Chapter
Williamsburg FFA Chapter
North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge
Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming
Maquoketa FFA Chapter
Central Community FFA Chapter at Elkader
Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter
MVAO FFA Chapter at Mapleton
Easton Valley FFA Chapter at Preston
West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood
Dike-New Hartford FFA Chapter

Silver Teams (16)

Score Range (794 to 600)

Clear Creek Amana FFA Chapter at Tiffin
Denison FFA Chapter
Ames FFA Chapter
Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville
Little Switzerland FFA Chapter at Waukon
Decorah FFA Chapter
Albia FFA Chapter
New Hampton FFA Chapter
GMG FFA Chapter at Garwin
Turkey Valley FFA Chapter at Jackson Junction
Sioux Central FFA Chapter
Belle Plaine FFA Chapter
Central Lyon FFA Chapter at Rock Rapids
Charles City FFA Chapter
Bondurant-Farrar FFA Chapter
Storm Lake FFA Chapter

Bronze Teams (12)

Score Range (594 to 285.5)

Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi
Adel DeSoto Minburn FFA Chapter
St. Ansgar FFA Chapter
Benton Community FFA Chapter at Van Horne
Glidden-Ralston FFA Chapter
Des Moines FFA Chapter

East Sac FFA Chapter
Independence FFA Chapter
La Porte-Dysart FFA Chapter at LaPorte City
Nevada FFA Chapter
Lenox FFA Chapter
Pella FFA Chapter

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of more 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 and on social media.