



## CONTACT

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## News Release

# 2023 National FFA Convention and Expo, November 1 – 4

INDIANAPOLIS, IN--The 96<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention & Expo held its annual in-person convention beginning November 1<sup>st</sup> and concluded on November 4<sup>th</sup>. More than 70,000 FFA members and guests from throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands attended this year's event.

The convention and expo kicked off in Indianapolis, Indiana on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Seven general sessions were held at Lucas Oil Stadium. A special ceremony was held on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> where American FFA Degrees, the highest degree for an FFA member, were bestowed upon more than 4,000 members.

The Iowa FFA Association had representation from more than 3,000 attendees involved in all facets of the event. The following is a summary of results and accomplishments of Iowa FFA members in their respective national events.

### **Kanyon Huntington is National FFA Central Region Vice President**

Students from Michigan, Missouri, Florida, Iowa, Ohio and New Mexico have been elected by delegates throughout the United States to serve on the 2023-24 National FFA Officer team. Kanyon Huntington, a Political Science major at Iowa State University and FFA member from the East Union FFA chapter, was elected national central region vice president. National officers commit to a year of service to the National FFA Organization. Each officer travels more than 100,000 national and international miles to interact with business and industry leaders, thousands of FFA members and teachers, corporate sponsors, government and education officials, state FFA leaders, the general public, and more. The team will lead personal growth and leadership training conferences for FFA members throughout the country and help set policies that will guide the future of FFA and promote agricultural literacy. Huntington is the fourth FFA member from Iowa to be elected to National Office since 2013 and served the Iowa FFA Association as the 2021-22 State Reporter. The previous three National FFA Officers from Iowa were Erica Baier-Richardson (2015-16 South Central State Vice President), Abrah Meyer-Wright (2014-15 Iowa FFA President) and Steven Brockshus (2012-13 Iowa FFA President).

### **American Star Finalists**

Each year at the National FFA Convention & Expo, four FFA members are honored with American Star Awards for outstanding accomplishments in FFA and agricultural education.

The American Star Awards, including American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience, are presented to FFA members who demonstrate outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through completion of an SAE. A required activity in FFA, an SAE allows students to learn by doing, by either owning or operating an agricultural business, working or serving an internship at an agriculture-based business or conducting an agriculture-based scientific experiment and reporting results.

Sixteen American Star Award finalists from throughout the U.S. are nominated by a panel of judges who then interview the finalists during the national convention and expo. Four are named winners and receive cash awards totaling \$4,000.

--Jasmyn Hoeger of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter was selected as an American Star Agriscience Finalist.

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### Agriscience Fair National Finalists

The Agriscience Fair is for FFA members who are interested in the science and technology of agriculture. Students can compete in 36 divisions across 6 systems areas: Animal; Environmental & Natural Resources; Food Products & Processing; Plant; Power, Structural, & Technical; and Social. Divisions are set based on junior (grades 7-8), intermediate (grades 9-10) and senior (grades 11-12) projects and whether the project is conducted by an individual or a pair.

- Animal Systems Div. 5: Tessa Tauke, Beckman Catholic FFA, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Overall
- Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems Div. 1: Alaina Thier, Beckman Catholic FFA, 9<sup>th</sup> Place Overall
- Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems Div. 2: Isabel Kluesner & Chloe Their, Beckman Catholic FFA, National Winner
- Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems Div. 4: Gavin Sieren & Reese Conrad, Keota FFA, 7<sup>th</sup> Place Overall
- Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 1: Allison Knipper, Beckman Catholic FFA, 4<sup>th</sup> Place Overall
- Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 2: Ashley Schilling & Annabelle Zahradnik, Beckman Catholic FFA, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Overall
- Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 5: Trey Voeller, Diamond Trail FFA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Overall
- Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 6: Sydney Groene & Cole Wessel, North Scott FFA, 4<sup>th</sup> Place Overall
- Plant Systems Div. 1: Natalie Besler, Beckman Catholic FFA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Overall
- Plant Systems Div. 3: Alexander Kerper, Beckman Catholic FFA, 7<sup>th</sup> Place Overall
- Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 1: Kenneth Helle, Beckman Catholic FFA, 7<sup>th</sup> Place Overall
- Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 4: Marlayna Cockshoot & Cael Mess, North Scott FFA, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Overall
- Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 6: Benjamin Schuckert & Noah Gaul, Beckman Catholic FFA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Overall
- Social Science Div. 1: Owen Boge, Beckman Catholic FFA, 9<sup>th</sup> Place Overall

### National Chapter Award

The National Chapter Award program recognizes FFA chapters that successfully complete an annual Program of Activities (POA), which includes a series of activities designed to encourage its members to grow as individuals, to work as part of a team and to serve others.

Algona FFA, Two Star	North Linn FFA, Three Star
Beckman Catholic FFA, Two Star	North Scott Middle FFA, Three Star
Belle Plaine FFA, Two Star	North Scott FFA, Three Star
Benton Community FFA, Two Star	Rockford FFA, Two Star
Brokaw FFA, Two Star	Sibley-Ocheyedan FFA, Two Star
Central Lyon FFA, Three Star	Sioux Central FFA, Two Star
Central Trail FFA, One Star	South Hamilton FFA, One Star
Charles City FFA, Three Star	Southeast Warren FFA, Two Star
DeWitt Central FFA, Two Star	Stanton FFA, Three Star
East Buchanan FFA, Three Star	Vinton-Shellsburg FFA, Two Star
LaPorte-Dysart FFA, Two Star	Webster City FFA, One Star
Little Switzerland at Waukon FFA, Two Star	West Liberty FFA, Three Star
Marengo FFA, Two Star	Western Christian FFA, Two Star

### Charles City, North Scott Middle School - National Chapter National Finalist

The national level recognizes the top chapters with innovative activities in each of the three divisions: growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture. The top ten chapters in each division receive a National FFA Premier Chapter Award plaque. Of the top ten in each division, a top premier chapter will be chosen in each division. Charles City FFA competed in the Premier Chapter: Building Communities. North Scott Middle School FFA is a finalist in Middle School Model of Excellence.

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### Proficiency Awards National Finalists

The Agricultural Proficiency Awards honor FFA members who, through their SAEs, have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers. Four National Finalists are selected for each of the award areas and will go on to compete for a national proficiency award. National Agricultural Proficiency Award winners are announced onstage during the National FFA Convention.

- Agricultural Education National Finalist: Fayeth Henningsen, DeWitt Central FFA
- Diversified Crop Production – Entrepreneurship National Winner: Hayden Holdgrafer, Easton Valley FFA
- Outdoor Recreation National Winner: Morgan Hodge, West Liberty FFA
- Wildlife Production and Management National Finalist: Blaze Maas, West Liberty FFA

### National FFA Band, Chorus, and Talent

Every year, members from across the nation audition to be involved in the National FFA Band, Chorus, and Talent. National FFA Band and Chorus members have various rehearsals and perform on stage at National FFA Convention. Talent has the opportunity to perform on stage at one of the General Sessions. One of the Talent acts is selected after multiple competition rounds as top talent at the end of convention.

--National Band:

Lily Moeller, Holland FFA	Aaron Lee, Le Mars FFA
Rachel Rollinger, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA	Charles Moeller, Holland FFA
Isabelle Rouse, ACGC FFA	Zayden Reffitt, Boyer Valley FFA
	Clark Spencer, Stanton FFA

--National Chorus:

Lane Converse, Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA  
Brayden Doty, MVAO FFA  
Anden Hall, Central Trail FFA

--National Talent:

Samuel Roberts, Williamsburg FFA  
Kaitlynn Smith, Diamond Trail FFA

### Career and Leadership Development Events

Career opportunities abound within today's agriculture industry. Career Development Events (CDEs) and Leadership Development Events (LDEs) help students develop the abilities to think critically, communicate clearly and perform effectively in a competitive job market. CDEs and LDEs cover a variety of job skills in everything from communications to mechanics. Some events allow students to compete as individuals, while others allow them to compete in teams.

- Agricultural Communications –Ogden FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Riley Lerdal, Ella Pfiffner, Cohl Burdette and Qyra Garrison
- Agricultural Issues Forum – West Liberty FFA, Gold, 4<sup>th</sup> Place Overall, Team Members: Mya Elizondo, Paige Werling, Addyson Lehman, Nellie Stagg, David Mahoney, Amerie Alvarado and Dominic Hernandez
- Agricultural Sales – Muscatine FFA, Silver, Team Members: Elsie Diane Lewis, Chale Lewis, Emily King and Dakota Dahlke
- Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems – Newton FFA, Gold, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Overall, Team Members: Colin Cummins, Tyler Guy, Wesley McElroy and Landon Menninga
- Agronomy – Newton FFA, Gold, 8<sup>th</sup> Place Overall, Team Members: Lauren Van Manen, Breanna Leaming, Austin Storm and Madelyn Adkison
- Conduct of Chapter Meetings – Montezuma FFA, Silver, Team Members: Claire Erselius, Peyton Tindle, Brady Boulton, Broox Stockman, Luke Brennan, Luke Erselius and Krista Cheney
- Creed Speaking –Zoey Hamilton, Central Trail FFA, Bronze
- Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management – South Winneshiek FFA, Silver, Team Members: Kelsey Timp, Mitchell Vagts, Katrina Hageman and Hanna Vagts
- Dairy Cattle Handlers' Activity – Alayna Hageman, South Winneshiek FFA, Silver
- Employment Skills – Josie Boyle, West Dubuque FFA, National Winner
- Environmental & Natural Resources – Muscatine FFA, Silver, Team Members: William Noll, Addison Karen Weggen, Joseph Fowler and Madeline Wallace
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking – Kyler Rieken, Riverside FFA, Bronze

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- Farm Business Management – Montezuma FFA, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Gold, Team Members: Camryn Brennan (2<sup>nd</sup> Place Individual), Makenna Johannes (7<sup>th</sup> Place Individual), Madison Van Zee and Cruz DeJong
- Floriculture – Muscatine FFA, Silver, Team Members: Chelsea Carlson, Jacob Murillo-Keener, Myla Halloran and Rhynn Maree Miller
- Food Science and Technology – Sioux Center FFA, Silver, Team Members: Gabriella Oteri, Izabella Klein, Kolby Oldenkamp and Delanie Roland
- Forestry – Louisa-Muscatine FFA, Silver, Team Members: William Hoopes, Benjamin Coder, Skyler Beck and Mason Zaehring
- Horse Evaluation – Davis County FFA, Silver, Team Members: Melana Followwill, Laney Weimerskirch, Cooper McCarty and Kaison Heemsbergen
- Livestock Evaluation – Silver, Calamus-Wheatland FFA, Team Members: Delaney Engler, Ryan Olson, Hadley Jacobi and Kalloway Whitman
- Marketing Plan – Hudson FFA, Gold, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Overall, Team Members: Nora Mitchell, Chloe Utsler and Addyson Engel
- Meats Evaluation and Technology – South O'Brien FFA, Silver, Team Members: Brett Evans, Bensen Rohwer, Gabe Moermond and BreLee Rasmussen
- Milk Quality and Products – Little Switzerland Waukon FFA, Silver, Team Members: Ethan Gibbs, Kendra Gibbs, Caleb Helgerson and Olivia Marti
- Nursery/Landscape –Muscatine FFA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Gold. Team Members: Caleb Teed (6<sup>th</sup> Place Individual), Jenna Lovstad (10<sup>th</sup> Place Individual), Kale Wiebel and Parker Green
- Parliamentary Procedure – Brokaw FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Callie King, Emma Hanson, Paige McCoy, Kaylee Smith, Riley Nothwehr and Madison Stalder
- Poultry Evaluation – South O'Brien FFA, Silver, Team Members: Leo Sells, Hudson Oolman, Dain Moermond and Dante Johnson
- Prepared Public Speaking – Tucker Rohrig, Creston FFA, Bronze
- Veterinary Science – Des Moines FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Trinity Barth, Rubi Padilla-Vazquez, Liliann Tjaden and Leslie Cisneros

## American FFA Degree

The American FFA Degree is awarded at the National FFA Convention & Expo each year to less than 1% of FFA members making it one of the organization's highest honors. In addition to their degree, each recipient receives a gold American FFA Degree key. There were 109 American Degree recipients from Iowa.

Justin Agnitsch, Midland FFA  
Clayton Allen, Osceola Big Chief FFA  
Shira Alley, Central Trail FFA  
Emma Arnold, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA  
Alivia Lauren Bakley, Osceola Big Chief FFA  
Emma Bartling, Iowa Falls-Alden FFA  
Mallory Behnken, CAM FFA  
James Beran, Riceville FFA  
Brady Bickel, Mount Ayr FFA  
Kayla Ann Bonert, Beckman Catholic FFA  
Kacey Warren Boyer, Osceola Big Chief FFA  
Konrad William Boyer, Osceola Big Chief FFA  
Allison Britton, Indianola FFA  
Jordan Buscher, Algona FFA  
Cole Carlson, Denison FFA

Chloe Church, Murray FFA  
Curtis Dean Clark, Albia FFA  
Megan Clark, Dewitt Central FFA  
Lauren Connell, Charles City FFA  
Davan Crooker, North Fayette Valley FFA  
Nathan Crooker, North Fayette Valley FFA  
Marissa Daniels, Charles City FFA  
Ashlee David, Lenox FFA  
Jairus William Davis, Osceola Big Chief FFA  
Diana Davison, Little Switzerland at Waukon FFA  
Caleb Jon Degner, East Sac FFA  
Devin Christopher DeVore, Osceola Big Chief FFA  
Abe Dieleman, GMG FFA  
Aidin Dittmer, Southeast Warren FFA  
Kaylee Eggerichs, New Hampton FFA

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Dylan Ford, Panorama FFA  
Emily Frazier, Denison FFA  
Sadie Fredricks, Indianola FFA  
Emily Freese, Carroll Area FFA  
Dailyn Garrett, Muscatine FFA  
Brian Michael Graves, Wilton FFA  
Renee Grimm, IKM-Manning FFA  
Olivia Grooters, Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn FFA  
Collin Grove, OABCIG FFA  
Trey Haag, Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn FFA  
Tessa J Halverson, North Fayette Valley FFA  
Luke Harrington, Nashua Plainfield FFA  
Kimberly Hendricks, Dewitt Central FFA  
James Hodges, ACGC FFA  
Jasmyn Mary Hoeger, Beckman Catholic FFA  
Ella Hommel, Grundy Center FFA  
Taylor Howell, Columbus FFA  
Paige Melissa Jensen, CAM FFA  
Sarah Kastner, Panorama FFA  
Lexi Marie Knapp, Davis County FFA  
Nathan Knapp West Lyon FFA  
Ben Kremer, Independence FFA  
Alexis Krogmann, Starmont FFA  
Melia Kruse, Decorah FFA  
Kollyn Lentz, Nashua Plainfield FFA  
Tyler Loudon, Creston FFA  
Jacob Ludeking, Benton Community FFA  
George Martin, Davis-Rodgers FFA  
Kelli Elizabeth McAfee, Osceola Big Chief FFA  
Haley McClue, Carroll Area FFA  
Hannah Mescher, Carroll Area FFA  
Bram Mess, North Scott FFA  
Sarah Mitchell, Charles City FFA  
Guinevere Grace Mozak, Southeast Warren FFA  
Ellie Neil, Wapsie Valley FFA  
Molly Ann Niewoehner, Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA  
Jensen Orr, Midland FFA  
Hannah Paschke, Murray FFA  
Callie Petersen, Midland FFA  
Sam Philips, Akron-Westfield FFA

Amber Reams, Rockford FFA  
Ethan Reed, MVAO FFA  
Tyler Resor, Waverly-Shell Rock FFA  
Ryleigh Jordyn Rinnels, Waverly-Shell Rock FFA  
Ethan Rollinger, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA  
Hailey Rossmiller, North Scott FFA  
Cael Ruzicka, Charles City FFA  
Madison Marie Sandel, Osceola Big Chief FFA  
Hope Saroka, Midland FFA  
Chloe Saville, Mount Ayr FFA  
Kate Schaefer, Adel-Desoto-Minburn FFA  
Elliot Scheaffer, Sheldon FFA  
Kenny Schlosser, Colfax-Mingo FFA  
William R. Schmidt, Benton Community FFA  
Logan Mae Schmitt, Van Buren County FFA  
Zachary Schoelerman, Spencer FFA  
Breanna Rae Selsor, Osceola Big Chief FFA  
Emily Sindt, Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn FFA  
Drew Staudt, Charles City FFA  
Javin Stevenson, Lamoni FFA  
Maddy Stevenson, Roland-Story FFA  
Michael Stille, Nashua Plainfield FFA  
Kaydee Swartz, Central Trail FFA  
Owen Thomas, Monticello FFA  
Ashley Lynn Toppin, East Union FFA  
Cheyanne Troendle, Lansing FFA  
Jamie Vande Weerd, Central Lyon FFA  
Kyle VanderHeiden, Calamus-Wheatland FFA  
Kathryn VanManen, Newton FFA  
Ali Elizabeth Wadle, Southeast Warren FFA  
Ashley Lynn Warren, Hawkeye FFA  
Alexis Wertz, New Hampton FFA  
Davin Wickman, Monticello FFA  
Emma Wiley, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA  
Collin L. Witte, West Fork FFA  
Ryan Wolf, West Dubuque FFA  
Brycen Wookey, Murray FFA  
Jesse Wulf, West Lyon FFA  
Lauren Zaabel, Newton FFA

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## **About Iowa FFA Association**

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of more than 19,200 student members as part of 262 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.