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News Release

Fairfield FFA Wins 2023 Iowa FFA Soils Career Development Event

The Fairfield FFA Chapter from Fairfield was named the Champion Team in the annual Iowa FFA Soils Evaluation Career Development Event held at Iowa State University on October 21, 2023. Members of the first place team included: Briana Steele, Wyatt Lovelady, Natalie Steele, and Carson Lovelady. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Ms. Ashlynn Lingle. The Louisa-Muscatine FFA Chapter from Letts was named the Reserve Champion Team. Members of the second place team included: William Hoopes, Skyler Beck, Haley Wakeland, and Cecil Bremner. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Mr. Adam Crews. William Hoopes, Louisa-Muscatine FFA, was named the High Individual Overall in the competition. The top five teams will represent Iowa at the National Land Judging Event in May of 2024 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. South O'Brien FFA; Brokaw FFA, Clarinda; and Keota FFA will join the top two teams in Oklahoma.

FFA teams including from 30 chapters, including 117 individuals participated in this year's Career Development Event designed to provide the student an opportunity to display their agricultural knowledge and skills in the area of Soils Evaluation. The Soils Evaluation Career Development Event included the evaluation of four soil pits, plus a written exam about soils in Iowa. The score card used to judge the soil pits is divided into five parts: Surface Features, Soil Features – The Profile, Land Capability Classification and Productivity Potential, Evaluation of Management Practices, and Sustainability of Soils for Non-Agricultural Uses.

The Iowa FFA Soils Evaluation Career Development Event was made possible with support from Heartland Co-op through the Iowa FFA Foundation. The Iowa State University Department of Agronomy and the Iowa State AEA Farm served as the host site for the event. Mike Fiscus, the AEA farm manager was host for the event. The Iowa State University Soils Judging Team and several PhD students in Soil Science served as pit monitors. Amber Anderson of Iowa State University coordinated the event. The official judges were Neil Sass, Rich Pope, Dr. Lee Burras, Adam Subora and Amber Anderson.

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

Top 10 Teams

- 1 Fairfield FFA, Fairfield
- 2 Louisa-Muscatine FFA
- 3 South O'Brien FFA
- 4 Brokaw FFA, Clarinda
- 5 Keota FFA
- 6 Stanton
- 7 Davis County FFA, Bloomfield
- 8 Adel DeSoto Minburn FFA
- 9 Harlan FFA, Harlan
- 10 Southwest Valley FFA, Corning

Top 10 Individuals

- William Hoopes, Louisa-Muscatine FFA
Abby Woodall, South O'Brien FFA
Briana Steele, Fairfield FFA, Fairfield
Wyatt Lovelady, Fairfield FFA, Fairfield
BreLee Rasmussen, South O'Brien FFA
Aiden Anderson, Central Plains FFA, Gowrie
Brody Greiner, Keota FFA
Ryan Entriken, Adel DeSoto Minburn FFA
Ethan James, Southwest Valley FFA, Corning
Skyler Beck, Louisa-Muscatine FFA

Specialty Areas -- Top Team/ Top Individual:

General Knowledge Examination

Team: Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction

Individual: William Hoopes, Louisa-Muscatine FFA

Pit Evaluation

Team: Fairfield FFA, Fairfield

Individual: Abby Woodall, South O'Brien FFA

Below is a list of chapters participating by medal group.

Gold Teams (13)

Score Range (486 to 440)

Fairfield FFA, Fairfield

Louisa-Muscatine FFA

South O'Brien FFA

Brokaw FFA, Clarinda

Keota FFA

Stanton

Davis County FFA, Bloomfield

Adel DeSoto Minburn FFA

Harlan FFA, Harlan

Southwest Valley FFA, Corning

Grinnell FFA

Sigourney FFA, Sigourney

East Union FFA, Afton

Silver Teams (11)

Score Range (436 to 397)

Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction

Algona FFA, Algona

Sioux Center FFA, Sioux Center

Audubon FFA, Audubon

Unity Christian FFA

AGWSR FFA, Ackley

Holland FFA, Orange City

MVAO FFA

Vinton-Shellsburg FFA, Vinton

Central Plains FFA, Gowrie

Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA

Bronze Teams (6)

Score Range (392 to 247)

Hawkeye FFA, West Bend

Central Community FFA, Elkader

Iowa River FFA, Garner

Southeast Warren FFA, Liberty Center

Central Trail FFA, Leon

North Tama FFA

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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 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.