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News Release

2024 Stars Over Iowa Winners Announced

AMES, IOWA—The 2024 Stars Over Iowa Winners were announced at the 96th Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference at Iowa State University on April 16, 2024. A Star Over Iowa was selected in each of the four different areas: Agricultural Placement, Agribusiness, Agriscience, and Agricultural Production.

The 2024 Star in Ag Placement Winner is Mathias Knoblock of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood. Mathias works on his family farm, JRT Focus Farm, raising swine and beef. He has invested 4,324 hours into his SAE. Some responsibilities he has at his workplace include choring finishers, vaccinating piglets, and loading market hogs. One skill he has learned that will contribute to his future career is being able to recognize sick pigs before their health immensely declines and treat them accordingly.

In FFA, he is the state second place Swine Placement Proficiency award winner, and is receiving his state degree this year.

After graduation, Mathias plans on attending Lake Area Technical College for Agricultural Precision Technology. He is the son of Thadd and Wendy Knoblock. His chapter advisors are Katherine Newhouse and Shauna Steiner. His high school principal is Doug Jiskoot, and his Superintendent is Shawn Kreman.

Jeremiah Rediske of the Decorah FFA Chapter is the 2024 Star in Ag Production winner. He operates a beef production operation where he has 60 head of registered and commercial cattle. Jeremiah produces market and breeding stock animals to both grow his herd and make a profit. He currently has 44 breeding cows and heifers, 2 bulls, and 14 commercial feeder calves. He has also been able to buy some of his own equipment to better his operation. He has been buying different minerals and feeds to make his cattle more efficient. Jeremiah's future plans for this operation is to grow enough to turn it into a full-time occupation. He would also like to expand his feedlot and potentially buy more cattle to fill it. He would also like to get more breeding stock and calve in more cows.

In FFA, Jeremiah competed at the state level in job interview and got 3rd at state with my conduct of the meetings team his freshman year.

After graduation, he will be attending Buena Vista University to study agriculture business and animal science as well as playing soccer at the collegiate level.

Jeremiah is the son of James and Amy Rediske. His chapter advisor is Ms. Joni Bruvold. His high school principal is Mr. Brad Hurst, his activities director is Mr. Adam Riley, and his Superintendent is Dr. Tim Cronin.

Jordan Everitt of the Central Community FFA Chapter at Elkader is the 2024 Star in Agribusiness winner. Jordan buys and sells farm equipment as part of his business called Jordan's Sales. He started his business at the age of fifteen after his FFA advisor recommended him to start one due to his extensive knowledge of farm equipment. Jordan started out operating his business by purchasing one piece of equipment which was a NEW IDEA manure spreader. Now, he has over seventy-five pieces of equipment in his inventory to resell. Time management, communication, and cooperation with customers have contributed to all the success of his business. Jordan is currently serving as the Central Community FFA Treasurer and won the state proficiency area of Ag Services.

After graduation, Jordan plans on attending Hawkeye Community College to accomplish a degree in business along with growing his business, Jordan's Sales.

Jordan is the son of Joel and Shannon Everitt. His advisor is Mrs. Meghan Bond, his high school principal is Mr. Aaron Reinhart, and his superintendent is Mr. Nick Trenkamp.

The Star in Agriscience Winner is Cole Wessel of the North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge. Over the past three years, Cole has actively participated in various research projects, conducting scientific experiments in the categories of Food Products and Processing, and Social Science. His first two projects focused on addressing food waste issues within the agriculture industry. This year, Cole's social science project aimed to assess job



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stress among dairy farmers. His interest in agriscience sparked during his sophomore year when my agriculture teacher introduced him to participating in a science fair as a competition. Through my research projects over the past two years, he immersed himself in the research process, learning valuable skills such as scientific research, procedure, scheduling, teamwork, and unbiased analysis. In both of Cole's completed projects, the main beneficiaries were the food science industry, with the first project applying to the retail sector and the second benefiting consumers.

This past year, Cole had the privilege of serving as the Iowa FFA State Officer Nomination Committee Chair. Additionally, he earned 4th place and gold twice through the National Agriscience Fair in the category of Food Products and Processing Systems.

After graduation, Cole plans on attending Iowa State University and majoring in Agronomy with a minor in Agricultural Business. Cole is the son of Brian and Heather Wessel. His chapter advisors are Mr. Jacob Hunter, Ms. Emily Kruse, and Ms. Courtney Wiedenmann. His high school principal is Mr. Shane Knoche, and his Superintendent is Mr. Joe Stutting.

The Stars Over Iowa program is made possible with support from Beck's Hybrids through the Iowa FFA Foundation. The National FFA Foundation sponsors cash awards for the overall star winners.

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of more than 19,800 student members as part of 263 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.