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News Release

TURKEY VALLEY FFA WINS 2025 IOWA FFA AGRONOMY CDE

The Turkey Valley FFA Chapter located in Jackson Junction was named the Iowa Champion FFA Agromomy Team in the 2025 Iowa FFA Agronomy Career Development Event was held at Ames on May 20th, 2025. Team members included: Hunter Kruse, Trae Kaeel, Parker Reicks, and Dominick Reicks. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Mr. Steve Pfaffle. 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 New Hampton FFA Chapter located in New Hampton. Team members included: Ben Douglas, Nolan Swehla, Beth Pickar, and Kelly Thronson. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Ms. Rachel Bauler. Aiden Anderson from Gowrie was the High Overall Individual in the competition.

FFA teams including 107 individuals from 30 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 CF Industries Foundation 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 Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction
- 2 New Hampton FFA, New Hampton
- 3 Newton FFA Chapter
- 4 Sioux Center FFA, Sioux Center
- 5 Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon
- 6 West Dubuque FFA, Epworth
- 7 Osage FFA, Osage
- 8 Lansing FFA Chapter
- 9 Central Plains FFA, Gowrie
- 10 Nodaway Valley FFA, Greenfield

Top 10 Individuals

Aiden Anderson, Central Plains FFA, Gowrie
Hunter Kruse, Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction
Beth Pickar, New Hampton FFA, New Hampton
Trae Kaeel, Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction
Adam Gaul, Beckman Catholic @ Dyersville
Ben Douglas, New Hampton FFA, New Hampton
Nolan Swehla, New Hampton FFA, New Hampton
Alyssa Machin, Newton FFA Chapter
Dominick Reicks, Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction
Sophia Palmer, Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon

Specialty Areas -- Top Team/ Top Individual:

Identification of Nutrient Deficiencies, Diseases and Insects

Team: Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction **Individual:** Beth Pickar, New Hampton FFA, New Hampton

Identification of Seeds, Plants and Equipment

Team: Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction **Individual:** Hunter Kruse, Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction

General Knowledge Exam

Team: New Hampton FFA, New Hampton **Individual:** Aiden Anderson, Central Plains FFA, Gowrie

Team Event

Team: Maquoketa Valley FFA

Below is a list of chapters participating by medal group.

Gold Teams (13)

Score Range (1880 to 1320)

Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction
New Hampton FFA, New Hampton
Newton FFA Chapter
Sioux Center FFA, Sioux Center
Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon
West Dubuque FFA, Epworth
Osage FFA, Osage
Lansing FFA Chapter
Central Plains FFA, Gowrie
Nodaway Valley FFA, Greenfield
Belle Plaine FFA
Sioux Central FFA at Sioux Rapids
Clear Lake FFA

Bronze Teams (4)

Score Range (900 to 725)

Essex FFA
Panorama FFA, Panora
Wayne FFA, Corydon
Beckman Catholic @ Dyersville

Silver Teams (13)

Score Range (1240 to 1020)

Maquoketa Valley FFA
Central Community FFA, Elkader
Central Springs
Benton Community FFA, Van Horne
Riceville FFA, Riceville
Southeast Warren FFA, Liberty Center
Agri-Power FFA, Eddyville
Diamond Trail FFA, Monroe
Independence FFA, Independence
Vinton-Shellsburg FFA, Vinton
Carroll Area FFA, Carroll
Bellevue FFA, Bellevue
Holland FFA, Orange City

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of over 20,400 student members as part of 270 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.