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News Release

North Fayette Valley FFA Wins 2025 Iowa FFA Dairy Cattle CDE

The 2025 Iowa FFA Dairy Cattle Career Development Event was held in conjunction with the Youth Dairy Classic in Manchester on Friday, September 5, 2025. Thirty-five teams and 134 individuals participated in this year's Career Development Event designed to provide students an opportunity to display their knowledge and skills in the area of dairy cattle selection and management.

The North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter located in West Union was named the Iowa Champion FFA Dairy Cattle Team. Team members included: Brock Soppe, Lily Holthaus, Lila Moore, and Kyson Moss. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Mr. Ryan Holthaus. The champion team will compete in the National FFA Dairy Cattle Career Development Event during the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this October.

The Reserve Champion Team in Dairy Judging was the West Dubuque FFA Chapter located in Epworth. Team members included: Madalynn Arnold, Ana Rauen, Alex Lawler, and Keaton Junk. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Mr. Matt Lansing. Brock Soppe from West Union was the Champion Individual. Braden Ronnebaum from Delhi was the Reserve Champion Individual.

The Iowa FFA Dairy Cattle Career Development Event was made possible with support from Crystal Farms through the Iowa FFA Foundation and the Youth Dairy Classic Exhibitors.

Dave Lawstuend, Nick Bagge, Nathan Arthur and Rico Schulte were the official judges for the placing classes. They also acted as reasons judges.

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

Top 10 Teams

- 1 North Fayette Valley FFA, West Union
- 2 West Dubuque FFA, Epworth
- 3 Maquoketa Valley FFA
- 4 Newton FFA Chapter
- 5 Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon
- 6 Beckman Catholic @ Dyersville
- 7 West Delaware FFA, Manchester
- 8 Central Community FFA, Elkader
- 9 DeWitt Central FFA
- 10 Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction

Top 10 Individuals

Brock Soppe, North Fayette Valley FFA, West Union
Braden Ronnebaum, Maquoketa Valley FFA
Lily Holthaus, North Fayette Valley FFA, West Union
Blake Hunt, Central Community FFA, Elkader
Sophia Palmer, Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon
Grace Guy, Newton FFA Chapter
Holly Gudenkauf, West Delaware FFA, Manchester
Madalynn Arnold, West Dubuque FFA, Epworth
Kyson Moss, North Fayette Valley FFA, West Union
Keaton Junk, West Dubuque FFA, Epworth

Specialty Areas -- Top Team/ Top Individual:**Dairy Cow and Heifer Placing Classes**

Team: North Fayette Valley FFA, West Union

Individual: Holly Gudenkauf, West Delaware FFA, Manchester

Oral Reasons

Team: Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon

Individual: Braden Ronnebaum, Maquoketa Valley FFA

Dairy Production and Management Test

Team: North Fayette Valley FFA, West Union

Individual: Brock Soppe, North Fayette Valley FFA, West Union

Herd Data Evaluation

Team: Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon

Individual:

Below is a list of chapters participating by medal group.**Gold Teams (13)**

Score Range (1542.5 to 1331.5)

North Fayette Valley FFA, West Union

West Dubuque FFA, Epworth

Maquoketa Valley FFA

Newton FFA Chapter

Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon

Beckman Catholic @ Dyersville

West Delaware FFA, Manchester

Central Community FFA, Elkader

DeWitt Central FFA

Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction

Lansing FFA Chapter

West Central

Northeast FFA, Goose Lake

Bronze Teams (5)

Score Range (1163.5 to 1107.5)

Central City FFA, Central City

La Porte-Dysart FFA, La Porte City

Central Trail FFA, Leon

Riceville FFA, Riceville

New Hampton FFA, New Hampton

Silver Teams (17)

Score Range (1311 to 1201.5)

Decorah FFA, Decorah

Monticello FFA

Ridge View FFA, Holstein

Central Springs

Vinton-Shellsburg FFA, Vinton

Independence FFA, Independence

Grundy Center FFA, Grundy Center

AGWSR FFA, Ackley

Edgewood-Colesburg FFA, Edgewood

Western Christian FFA, Hull

Agri-Power FFA

Postville FFA

Dike-New Hartford FFA

Belmond-Klemme FFA, Belmond

Clayton Ridge FFA

Denver FFA

Maquoketa FFA, Maquoketa

The following FFA Members served as show persons during the event and were ranked as follows:**Gold Awards (3)**

Tate Shemak, West Dubuque FFA, Epworth

Avery Fette, Central Community FFA, Elkader

Hallie Meyer, North Fayette Valley FFA, West Union

Silver Awards (6)

Cael Cannon, West Dubuque FFA, Epworth

Lauren White, Postville FFA

Caden Fette, Central Community FFA, Elkader

Chase Cannon, West Dubuque FFA, Epworth

Clara Bilden, North Fayette Valley FFA, West Union

Vayda Schulte, Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon

Bronze Awards (2)

Ashley Zweibohmer, Postville FFA

Olivia Guese, Postville FFA

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of over 20,600 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, on Facebook, and Twitter.