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News Release

PELLA FFA CHAPTER WINS 2025 STATE FFA HORSE CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

The Pella FFA Chapter was named the Champion Team in the annual Iowa FFA Horse Career Development Event held at Kirkwood Community College on June 10, 2025. Members of the first place team included: Lyndon Norton, Katelyn Meyer, Abbey Votava, and Caitlyn Cronin. Their agriculture education instructors and FFA advisors are Mr. Jacob Bowers and Ms. Codi DeBruin. The Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi was named the Reserve Champion Team. Members of the second place team included: Kayla Hoeger, Lacy Reth, and Tracy Reth. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Ms. Haylee Lau. Maleigha McDaniel, Belmond-Klemme FFA Chapter, was named the High Individual Overall in the competition.

FFA teams from 34 chapters 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 Equine Science. The 104 individual contestants evaluated halter and performance classes. They also answered questions over the classes and gave oral reasons to explain their placings. A written examination was included along with a team problem solving competition.

The Iowa FFA Horse Career Development Event was made possible with support through the Iowa FFA Foundation Gold Standard Partners. The Horse Career Development Event was coordinated and held at the Iowa Equestrian Center in Cedar Rapids. Kirkwood Community College also provided lunch to all participants. The official judge was Nikki Ferwerda from Grand Junction.

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

Top 10 Teams

- 1 Pella FFA Chapter
- 2 Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi
- 3 Grinnell FFA Chapter
- 4 Brokaw FFA Chapter at Clarinda
- 5 Hinton FFA Chapter
- 6 Boone A&M FFA Chapter
- 7 North Polk FFA Chapter at Alleman
- 8 Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming
- 9 Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie
- 10 Sioux Central FFA Chapter

Top 10 Individuals

- Maleigha McDaniel, Belmond-Klemme FFA Chapter
- Katelyn Meyer, Pella FFA Chapter
- Lacy Reth, Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi
- Azalea Verhulst, West Dubuque FFA Chapter at Epworth
- Halie Shepley, Starmont FFA Chapter at Arlington
- Grace Merriam, Boone A&M FFA Chapter
- Gracie Kaufman, Grinnell FFA Chapter
- Tracy Reth, Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi
- Isabell Hodgson, Hinton FFA Chapter
- Jillian Dammann, Brokaw FFA Chapter at Clarinda

Specialty Areas -- Top Team/ Top Individual:

Halter Classes

Team: Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie

Individual: Ella Vanthournout, HLV FFA Chapter at Victor

Performance Classes

Team: Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie

Individual: Shelby Greving, Carroll Area FFA Chapter

Oral Reasons and Questions

Team: Pella FFA Chapter

Individual: Maleigha McDaniel, Belmond-Klemme FFA Chapter

Problem Solving

Team: Pella FFA Chapter

Below is a list of chapters participating by medal group.

Gold Teams (12)

Score Range (1416 to 1246)

Pella FFA Chapter

Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi

Grinnell FFA Chapter

Brokaw FFA Chapter at Clarinda

Hinton FFA Chapter

Boone A&M FFA Chapter

North Polk FFA Chapter at Alleman

Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming

Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie

Sioux Central FFA Chapter

New Hampton FFA Chapter

Little Switzerland FFA Chapter at Waukon

Bronze Teams (8)

Score Range (943 to 462)

West Dubuque FFA Chapter at Epworth

Holland FFA Chapter at Orange City

Belmond-Klemme FFA Chapter

Hudson FFA Chapter

Agri-Power FFA Chapter at Eddyville

North Mahaska FFA Chapter at New Sharon

Bellevue FFA Chapter

Mount Ayr FFA Chapter

Silver Teams (14)

Score Range (1225 to 1019)

Central Trail FFA Chapter at Leon

Carroll Area FFA Chapter

Starmont FFA Chapter at Arlington

Adel DeSoto Minburn FFA Chapter

Cedar Rapids Prairie FFA Chapter

Newton FFA Chapter

Webster City FFA Chapter

Muscatine FFA Chapter

Clear Creek Amana FFA Chapter at Tiffin

Atlantic FFA Chapter

East Sac FFA Chapter

La Porte-Dysart FFA Chapter at LaPorte City

HLV FFA Chapter at Victor

Dike-New Hartford FFA Chapter

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of more than 20,500 student members as part of 271 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.