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News Release

2025 National FFA Convention and Expo, October 29 – November 1

INDIANAPOLIS, IN--The 98th National FFA Convention & Expo celebrated its annual convention beginning October 29th and concluded on November 1st. More than 73,000 FFA members and guests from throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands attended this year's event. The in-person National Convention & Expo was held in Indianapolis this year as part of the organization's long-term hosting partnership with Indianapolis that will run through 2040.

The convention and expo kicked off in Indianapolis, Indiana on Wednesday, October 29th. Seven general sessions were held at Lucas Oil Stadium. On the morning of Saturday, November 1st, a special ceremony was held where American FFA Degrees, the highest degree for an FFA member, was bestowed upon more than 5,100 members.

The Iowa FFA Association had representation from more than 3,000 attendees involved in all facets of the event. The following is a summary of results and accomplishments of Iowa FFA members in the respective national events.

American Star Finalists

Each year at the National FFA Convention & Expo, four FFA members are honored with American Star Awards for outstanding accomplishments in FFA and agricultural education.

The American Star Awards, including American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience, are presented to FFA members who demonstrate outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through completion of an SAE. A required activity in FFA, an SAE allows students to learn by doing, by either owning or operating an agricultural business, working or serving an internship at an agriculture-based business or conducting an agriculture-based scientific experiment and reporting results.

Sixteen American Star Award finalists from throughout the U.S. are nominated by a panel of judges who then interview the finalists during the national convention and expo. Four are named winners and receive cash awards totaling \$4,000.

--Brady Frascht of the Charles City FFA Chapter was selected as an American Star Farmer Finalist.

Agriscience Fair National Finalists

The Agriscience Fair is for FFA members who are interested in the science and technology of agriculture. Students can compete in 36 divisions across 6 systems areas: Animal; Environmental & Natural Resources; Food Products & Processing; Plant; Power, Structural, & Technical; and Social. Divisions are set based on junior (grades 7-8), intermediate (grades 9-10) and senior (grades 11-12) projects and whether the project is conducted by an individual or a pair.

--Animal Systems Div. 5: Valerie Rahe, Beckman Catholic FFA, 5th Place Gold

--Animal Systems Div. 6: Ellie Hartman & Kayla Burkle, Beckman Catholic FFA, 8th Place Silver

--Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems Div. 2: Devin Schlichte & Collin Recker, Beckman Catholic FFA, 10th Place Silver

--Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems Div. 4: Allison Knipper & Andrea Schneider, Beckman Catholic FFA, 7th Place Silver

--Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 4: Ashley Schilling & Annabelle Zahradnik, Beckman Catholic FFA, 2nd Place Gold

--Plant Systems Div. 3: Autumn Domeyer, Beckman Catholic FFA, 10th Place Silver

--Plant Systems Div. 5: Alexander Kerper, Beckman Catholic FFA, 5th Place Gold

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--Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 1: Lizeth Cortes, Beckman Catholic FFA, 10th Place
--Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 3: Natalie Besler, Beckman Catholic FFA, 2nd Place Gold

National Chapter Award

The National Chapter Award program recognizes FFA chapters that successfully complete an annual Program of Activities (POA), which includes a series of activities designed to encourage its members to grow as individuals, to work as part of a team and to serve others.

Anamosa FFA, Three Star
Bellevue FFA, Three Star
Belmond-Klemme FFA, Two Star
Benton Community FFA, Three Star
Brokaw FFA, Three Star
Carroll Area FFA, Three Star
Central Trail FFA, Two Star
Charles City FFA, Three Star
DeWitt Central FFA, Two Star
East Buchanan FFA, Three Star
IKM-Manning FFA, Two Star
Interstate 35 FFA, Two Star
Maple Valley-Anthon Oto FFA, Two Star
Marengo FFA, Two Star

New Hampton FFA, Three Star
North Scott FFA, Three Star
North Scott Middle FFA, Three Star
North Linn FFA, Two Star
Postville FFA, One Star
Sibley-Ocheyedan FFA, Two Star
Sioux Center FFA, Two Star
Sioux Central FFA, Two Star
South Hamilton FFA, Two Star
Southwest Valley FFA, Two Star
Vinton-Shellsburg FFA, Three Star
Webster City FFA, Two Star
West Liberty FFA, Three Star

Proficiency Awards National Finalists

The Agricultural Proficiency Awards honor FFA members who, through their SAEs, have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers. Four National Finalists are selected for each of the award areas and will go on to compete for a national proficiency award. National Agricultural Proficiency Award winners are announced onstage during the National FFA Convention.

--Agriscience Research – Plant Systems: Alexander Kerper, Beckman Catholic FFA
--Poultry Production: ****National Champion**** Cael Daufeldt, West Liberty FFA
--Turf and Landscape Management: Cole Daufeldt, West Liberty FFA
--Vegetable Production: Lauren Schroeder, Calamus-Wheatland FFA

National FFA Band, Chorus, and Talent

Every year, members from across the nation audition to be involved in the National FFA Band, Chorus, and Talent. National FFA Band and Chorus members have various rehearsals and perform on stage at National FFA Convention. Talent has the opportunity to perform on stage at one of the General Sessions. One of the Talent acts is selected after multiple competition rounds as top talent at the end of convention.

--National Band:

Anna Aswegen, Aplington-Parkersburg FFA

--National Talent:

Riah Schrage, Grundy Center FFA

--National Chorus:

Kyler Rieken, Riverside FFA
Hannah Walvatne, Center Point-Urbana FFA
Even Keppy, North Scott FFA
Chris Long, North Mahaska FFA
Aubree Boender, Boyden-Hull FFA

Career and Leadership Development Events

Career opportunities abound within today's agriculture industry. Career Development Events (CDEs) and Leadership Development Events (LDEs) help students develop the abilities to think critically, communicate clearly and perform effectively in a competitive job market. CDEs and LDEs cover a variety of job skills in everything from communications to mechanics. Some events allow students to compete as individuals, while others allow them to compete in teams.

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- Agricultural Communications – Montezuma FFA, National Champions, Team Members: Vivian Cook, Leah Urfer, Gracie Wilson, Rylee Thompson
- Agricultural Issues Forum – Clear Lake FFA, Silver, Team Members: Lydia Brattrud, Eleanor Ebeling, Lauren Englin, MJ Otto, Gracey Smith, Madelyn Tarr and Walker Williams
- Agricultural Sales – Osage FFA, Silver, Team Members: Melanie Bruesewitz, Ethan Peterson, Kara Theis and KaRena Herrick
- Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems – Unity Christian FFA, 10th Place Gold, Team Members: Bryce Fedders, Dekker Mulder, Cade Oolman and Lane Scholten
- Agronomy – Turkey Valley FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Hunter Kruse, Dominick Reicks, Parker Reicks and Trae Kaeel
- Conduct of Chapter Meetings – Montezuma FFA, Gold, Team Members: Olivia Latcham, Sophia Semprini, Abbi Henkle, Isaiah Wilson, Emma Snook, Alexa Rose and Hayden Sutherland
- Creed Speaking – Colton Netolicky, Cedar Rapids Prairie FFA, Bronze
- Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management – North Fayette Valley FFA, 7th Place Gold, Team Members: Lily Holthaus (4th Place Individual), Brock Sopper, Kyson Moss and Lila Moore
- Employment Skills – Alia Schmidt, Easton Valley FFA, Silver
- Environmental & Natural Resources – Nashua Plainfield FFA, Silver, Team Members: Easton Richards, Nicholas Brase, Braeden Mitchell and Grace Dietz
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking – Luke Boyle, West Dubuque FFA, 4th Place Gold
- Farm Business Management – Montezuma FFA, National Champions, Members: Broox Stockman (3rd Place Individual), Brady Boulton (7th Place Individual), Peyton Tindle and Claire Erselius
- Floriculture – Louisa-Muscatine FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Kurtis Corbin, Jacob Downey, Lillian Bishop and Owen Hayburn
- Food Science and Technology – Benton Community FFA, Silver, Team Members: Nova Selck, Payton Armstrong, Brianna Gahring and Katelyn Covington
- Forestry – Forest City FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Max Aitchison, Olivia Eastvold, Aubrey Olson and Teagan Langerud
- Horse Evaluation – Pella FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Lyndon Norton, Abbey Votava, Cameron Knouse and Kaleb Nunnikhoven
- Livestock Evaluation – Grinnell FFA, 3rd Place Gold, Team Members: Aden Wolfe, Kolton Kline (5th Place Individual), Tristan Graff (9th Place Individual) and Maggie Dayton
- Marketing Plan – Bellevue FFA, Silver, Team Members: Anthony Sprank, Jalyne Heim and Bel Sieverding
- Meats Evaluation and Technology – South O'Brien FFA, Silver, Team Members: Austin Negus, William Stout, Jasper Johnson and John Puhmann
- Milk Quality and Products – Postville FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Isabelle White, Madelyn Connell, Fernanda Hernandez and Nayeli Palafox-Schultz
- Nursery/Landscape – Louisa-Muscatine FFA, Silver, Team Members: Benjamin Coder, Aidan Moreno, Sedric Lamb and Keely Williams
- Parliamentary Procedure – Holland FFA, Silver, Team Members: Kienna Lassen, Marnie Croatt, Addison Den Ouder, Rebecca Bos, Alyson Leusink and Allison Heller
- Poultry Evaluation – Muscatine FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Chale Lewis, Elsie Diane Lewis, Eladise Gaucin and Kaden Miller
- Prepared Public Speaking – Lily Moeller, Holland FFA, 3rd Place Gold
- Veterinary Science – Pella FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Caitlyn Cronin, Kiarrah Lehman, Caiden Tuel and Rachel VanderWilt

National Spanish Creed Invitational

The National Spanish Creed Invitational Committee and the National FFA Organization have announced an agreement to provide a competitive event for high school agricultural education students. The event is an opportunity to deliver the FFA Creed in Spanish. Participating in this invitational allows students to develop their public speaking skills and promote self-growth. It also reinforces the organization's values and beliefs, as the Creed outlines the FFA vision for agriculture and its members.

- Spanish Creed Invitational - Renata Herrera Acosta, Osceola Big Chief, National Champion

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American FFA Degree

The American FFA Degree is awarded at the National FFA Convention & Expo each year to less than 1% of FFA members making it one of the organization's highest honors. In addition to their degree, each recipient receives a gold American FFA Degree key. There were 126 American Degree recipients from Iowa.

Connor Adam, Postville FFA
Trell Amoss, Albia FFA
Khryssa Anderson, Newton FFA
Wyatt Anderson, North Butler FFA
Kevin Arambula, Hartley-Melvin- Sanborn FFA
Kolbey Bailey, Creston FFA
Kaitlyn Ballard, Benton Community FFA
Alyssa Bassett, Lynnville-Sully FFA
August Bauer, North Scott FFA
Tristan Becker, CAM FFA
Natalie Behnken, CAM FFA
Owen Bentley, Postville FFA
Annaliese Bloom, Sioux Central FFA
Hollie Blum, IKM-Manning FFA
Matthew Bookmeier, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA
Brooklynn Booth, IKM-Manning FFA
Blake Borchers, GTRA FFA
Aiden Bottjen, MVAO FFA
Grant Boyd, Central Trail FFA
Alexis Brinkman, North Butler FFA
Emilia Broich, Roland-Story FFA
Raina Brown, Alburnett FFA
Lillian Bru, GMG FFA
Elly Cain, Northeast FFA
Tucker Carroll, AC-GC FFA
Janelle Clark, Albia FFA
Andrew Crawford, Belmond-Klemme FFA
Mikaela Downing, Creston FFA
Jacob Driskill, East Union FFA
Brennan Duffy, Sumner- Fredericksburg FFA
Makinley Edwards, Nodaway Valley FFA
Sarah Eiler, New Hampton FFA
Nolan Engelbrecht, North Scott FFA
Jack Englin, Clear Lake FFA
Brady Frascht, Charles City FFA
Jaxson Frye, Independence FFA
Benjamin Gamm, North Fayette Valley FFA

Noah Gaul, Beckman Catholic FFA
Emma Goll, Iowa River FFA
Tyler Guy, Newton FFA
Elizabeth Hadley, East Union FFA
Lizabeth Hamann, MVAO FFA
Olivia Hanson, La Porte-Dysart FFA
Kyle Harold, West Branch FFA
Fayeth Henningsen, Dewitt Central FFA
Lilly Henry, Central Lyon FFA
Kody Hoeger, Maquoketa Valley FFA
Jorja Holliday, Nodaway Valley FFA
Ethan Hosek, Springville-Lisbon FFA
Ryan Hosek, North Tama FFA
Lindsey Hospodarsky, Alburnett FFA
Alexa Huber, Mid-Prairie FFA
Molly Hulshof, West Sioux FFA
Emma Humphreys, Columbus FFA
Keenan Ihde, North Fayette Valley FFA
Isaiah Ihrig, Central Plains FFA
Ethan James, Southwest Valley FFA
Garrett Jansen, Lynnville-Sully FFA
Tommy Janssen, Aplington-Parkersburg FFA
Josephine Kelly, Nevada FFA
Cejay Kent, Murray FFA
Kelsey Klassen, New Hampton FFA
Meghan Klemme, Easton Valley FFA
Kaya Knipper, Maquoketa Valley FFA
Lainey Knipper, Maquoketa Valley FFA
Lucas Knipper, Maquoketa Valley FFA
Jessica Kroeger, North Scott FFA
Abigail Krogmann, Starmont FFA
Makayla Krogmann, Starmont FFA
Parker Lansing, Postville FFA
Seth Lauer, North Fayette Valley FFA
Hannah Lechtenberg, Nashua Plainfield FFA
Ethan Lee, Le Mars FFA
Madeline Lenz, Carroll Area FFA

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Mitch Mahoney, Cedar Rapids Prairie FFA
Kelly Marshek, Lone Tree FFA
Riggs Martin, Alburnett FFA
Molly Matthiesen, Easton Valley FFA
Taylor Mayhue, North Scott FFA
Kristin McClellan, Iowa Falls-Alden FFA
Grayce McClintock, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA
Clayton McKenna, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA
Jestine Megchelsen, Marengo FFA
Leah Merten, St Ansgar FFA
Mya Meyer, Benton Community FFA
Jalen Michaelson, AC-GC FFA
Cole Miller, Boyer Valley FFA
Harlie Miller, Postville FFA
Chloe Moeller, Postville FFA
Harold Mohr, Maquoketa Valley FFA
Eliza Patchin, Southeast Polk FFA
Callee Pellett, Atlantic FFA
Claire Pellett, Atlantic FFA
Emaleigh Pierschbacher, Lamoni FFA
Owen Pietig, Carroll Area FFA
Olivia Prunty, Southeast Polk FFA
Brayton Quade, Charles City FFA
Jeramiah Rediske, Decorah FFA
Kyler Rieken, Riverside FFA
Will Rogers, Dike-New Hartford FFA
Tucker Rohrig, Creston FFA
Isabelle Rouse, AC-GC FFA
Devyn Sander, IKM-Manning FFA
Michael Schilling, Beckman Catholic FFA
Ashley Schleisman, South Central Calhoun FFA

Holly Schmitt, South Winneshiek FFA
Kayden Schnuelle, Postville FFA
Benjamin Schuckert, Beckman Catholic FFA
Grace Schuckert, Beckman Catholic FFA
Bella Sessler, Aplington-Parkersburg FFA
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Emily Timp, Postville FFA
Abby Tlach, Indianola FFA
Sarah Vacura, Le Mars FFA
Ethan Van Regenmorter, West Lyon FFA
Elle Voy, Wapsie Valley FFA
Cheyenne Wallace, Southeast Warren FFA
Cole Wessel, North Scott FFA
Abram Wessels, Belmond-Klemme FFA
Natalie White, Charles City FFA
Autumn Wild, Ames FFA
Joshua Wiley, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA
Connor Wilson, Edgewood-Colesburg FFA
Emily Winkel, George-Little Rock FFA
Brett Witte, West Fork FFA
Marshall Zeien, New Hampton FFA
Chloe Zittergruen, Tri-County Community FFA
Colton C Zupke, Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of more than 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.