



CONTACT

Scott Johnson
Executive Director
Iowa FFA Association
scott.johnson@iowaffa.com
515-965-7376
www.iowaffa.com

News Release

SOUTH O'BRIEN FFA CHAPTER WINS 2025 STATE FFA MEATS CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

The South O'Brien FFA Chapter was named the Champion Team in the annual Iowa FFA Meats Career Development Event held by Iowa State University on August 23, 2025. Members of the first place team included: Austin Negus, William Stout, Jasper Johnson, and Ethan Schwarz. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Mr. Eric Kumm. The Sioux Center FFA Chapter was named the Reserve Champion Team. Members of the second place team included: Jacob Haverhals, Izabella Klein, Gabriella Oteri, and Jacob Boogerd. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Mr. Eric Koehlmoos. Ethan Schwarz, South O'Brien FFA Chapter, was named the High Individual Overall in the competition.

The FFA Meats Evaluation Career Development Event provides an opportunity for FFA members to display their agricultural knowledge and skills in the area of Meat Evaluation. Activities included: placing carcass classes of beef, pork, and lamb; placing classes of wholesale and retail meat cuts; quality and yield grading beef carcasses; identifying retail meat cuts, and a problem solving activity. There were 57 members participating from 17 chapters.

The Iowa FFA Meats Evaluation Career Development Event was made possible with support by Iowa Pork Producers Association. The Meats Evaluation and Technology Career Development Event was coordinated and conducted Caroline Downey, Jacob Manternach, and the Iowa State University Meats Judging Team along with faculty in the Meat Science Department of the Animal Science Department at Iowa State University.

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

Top 10 Teams

- 1 South O'Brien FFA Chapter
- 2 Sioux Center FFA Chapter
- 3 Easton Valley FFA Chapter at Preston
- 4 North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge
- 5 Muscatine FFA Chapter
- 6 MFL MarMac FFA Chapter at Monona
- 7 Westwood FFA Chapter at Sloan
- 8 Independence FFA Chapter
- 9 Manson Northwest Webster FFA Chapter
- 10 Nevada FFA Chapter

Top 10 Individuals

- Ethan Schwarz, South O'Brien FFA Chapter
Jacob Haverhals, Sioux Center FFA Chapter
Izabella Klein, Sioux Center FFA Chapter
Austin Negus, South O'Brien FFA Chapter
William Stout, South O'Brien FFA Chapter
Kelsie Thompson, Easton Valley FFA Chapter at Preston
Jacob Boogerd, Sioux Center FFA Chapter
Jasper Johnson, South O'Brien FFA Chapter
Gabriella Oteri, Sioux Center FFA Chapter
Hailey Dondlinger, Easton Valley FFA Chapter at Preston

Specialty Areas -- Top Team/ Top Individual:

Placing Carcass Classes

Team: Easton Valley FFA Chapter at Preston

Individual: Hailey Dondlinger, Easton Valley FFA Chapter at Preston

Placing Wholesale and Retail Cuts

Team: South O'Brien FFA Chapter

Individual: Ethan Schwarz, South O'Brien FFA Chapter

Beef Quality and Yield Grading

Team: South O'Brien FFA Chapter

Individual: Austin Negus, South O'Brien FFA Chapter

Retail Cut Identification

Team: Sioux Center FFA Chapter

Individual: Jacob Haverhals, Sioux Center FFA Chapter

Problem Solving Activity

Team: South O'Brien FFA Chapter

Individual: Ethan Schwarz, South O'Brien FFA Chapter

Below is a list of chapters participating by medal group.

Gold Teams (5)

Score Range (1668 to 1429)

South O'Brien FFA Chapter

Sioux Center FFA Chapter

Easton Valley FFA Chapter at Preston

North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge

Muscatine FFA Chapter

Silver Teams (6)

Score Range (1278 to 1180)

MFL MarMac FFA Chapter at Monona

Westwood FFA Chapter at Sloan

Independence FFA Chapter

Manson Northwest Webster FFA Chapter

Nevada FFA Chapter

Brokaw FFA Chapter at Clarinda

Bronze Teams (5)

Score Range (1171 to 397)

Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter

Colfax-Mingo FFA Chapter

Carroll Area FFA Chapter

Grundy Center FFA Chapter

Winterset FFA Chapter

###

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.