



CONTACT

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

News Release

Brokaw FFA Wins 2025 Iowa FFA Soils Career Development Event

The Brokaw FFA Chapter from Clarinda was named the Champion Team in the annual Iowa FFA Soils Evaluation Career Development Event held at Iowa State University on October 9, 2025. Members of the first place team included: Elaina Hesse, Alayna Shepherd, Noah Wellhausen, and Haidyn Garrett. Their agriculture education instructors and FFA advisors are Mr. Andrew Johnson, Mrs. Logan Henry, and Mrs. Emma Cutler. The Colo-NESCO FFA Chapter from Colo was named the Reserve Champion Team. Members of the second place team included: Emma Lennie, Blake Obrecht, Gavin Larsen, and Audrey Campbell. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Mr. Todd Frohwein. Haley Smith, AGWSR FFA, Ackley, was named the High Individual Overall in the competition. The top five teams will represent Iowa at the National Land Judging Event in May in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Harlan FFA, Harlan; Sioux Center FFA, Sioux Center; and Grinnell FFA will join the top two teams in Oklahoma.

FFA teams including from 30 chapters, including 117 individuals 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 Soils Evaluation. The Soils Evaluation Career Development Event included the evaluation of four soil pits, plus a written exam about soils in Iowa. The score card used to judge the soil pits is divided into five parts: Surface Features, Soil Features – The Profile, Land Capability Classification and Productivity Potential, Evaluation of Management Practices, and Sustainability of Soils for Non-Agricultural Uses.

The Iowa FFA Soils Evaluation Career Development Event was made possible with support from Heartland Co-op through the Iowa FFA Foundation. The Iowa State University Department of Agronomy and the Iowa State Worle Farm served as the host site for the event. Tim Youngquist farm specialist with the ISU strips project and Karl Nicolaus with ISU farms, hosted the event. The Iowa State University Soils Judging Team and several PhD students in Soil Science served as pit monitors. Amber Anderson of Iowa State University coordinated the event. The official judges were Rich Pope, Lee Burras and Amber Anderson.

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

Top 10 Teams

- 1 Brokaw FFA, Clarinda
- 2 Colo-Nesco FFA, Colo
- 3 Harlan FFA, Harlan
- 4 Sioux Center FFA, Sioux Center
- 5 Grinnell FFA
- 6 AGWSR FFA, Ackley
- 7 South O'Brien FFA
- 8 Davis County FFA, Bloomfield
- 9 Nodaway Valley FFA, Greenfield
- 10 DeWitt Central FFA

Top 10 Individuals

Haley Smith, AGWSR FFA, Ackley
Elaina Hesse, Brokaw FFA, Clarinda
Edie Mae Kaufmann, Harlan FFA, Harlan
Nicolas Bernhard, Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction
Blake Obrecht, Colo-Nesco FFA, Colo
Gabriella Oteri, Sioux Center FFA, Sioux Center
Audrey Campbell, Colo-Nesco FFA, Colo
Noah Wellhausen, Brokaw FFA, Clarinda
Gavin Larsen, Colo-Nesco FFA, Colo
Keaton Iverson, Grinnell FFA

Specialty Areas -- Top Team/ Top Individual:

General Knowledge Examination

Team: Brokaw FFA, Clarinda

Individual: Edie Mae Kaufmann, Harlan FFA, Harlan

Pit Evaluation

Team: Colo-Nesco FFA, Colo **Individual:** Haley Smith, AGWSR FFA, Ackley

Below is a list of chapters participating by medal group.

Gold Teams (16)

Score Range (468 to 416)

Brokaw FFA, Clarinda
Colo-Nesco FFA, Colo
Harlan FFA, Harlan
Sioux Center FFA, Sioux Center
Grinnell FFA
AGWSR FFA, Ackley
South O'Brien FFA
Davis County FFA, Bloomfield
Nodaway Valley FFA, Greenfield
DeWitt Central FFA
Sigourney FFA, Sigourney
Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction
English Valleys FFA, North English
East Union FFA, Afton
Williamsburg FFA, Williamsburg
Algona FFA, Algona

Bronze Teams (4)

Score Range (341 to 234)

Southeast Warren FFA, Liberty Center
Independence FFA, Independence
Knoxville FFA, Knoxville
New Hampton FFA, New Hampton

Silver Teams (10)

Score Range (408 to 354)

Pilot Creek FFA, Pocahontas
Adel DeSoto Minburn FFA
Manson-Northwest Webster FFA, Manson
West Fork FFA
Audubon FFA, Audubon
Central Community FFA, Elkader
Hawkeye FFA, West Bend
Pleasantville FFA, Pleasantville
Central Springs
Vinton-Shellsburg FFA, Vinton

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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 and on social media.