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News Release

LITTLE SWITZERLAND FFA WINS 2026 IOWA FFA AGRONOMY CDE

The Little Switzerland FFA Chapter located in Waukon was named the Iowa Champion FFA Agronomy Team in the 2026 Iowa FFA Agronomy Career Development Event held at Ames on May 19, 2026. Team members included: Marcus Gebel, Norah Palmer, Sophia Palmer, and Tegan Dahlstrom. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Mr. Adam Sacquitne. The champion team will compete in the National FFA Agronomy Career Development Event during the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this October. The Reserve Champion Team in Agronomy was the Newton FFA Chapter located in Newton. Team members included: Grace Guy, Alyssa Machin, Bentley Burtlow, and Colter Shaw. Their agriculture education instructors and FFA advisors are Mr. James Horn and Ms. Nicole Craig. Alyssa Machin from Newton was the High Overall Individual in the competition.

FFA teams including 128 individuals from 37 chapters participated in this year's Career Development Event designed to provide students an opportunity to display their agricultural knowledge and skills in the area of Agronomy. Activities included demonstration of skills and problem solving in Agronomy, including crop, weed, insect and seed identification; crop and seed judging and evaluation; and grain grading. A written examination was included along with a team problem solving competition.

The Iowa FFA Agronomy Career Development Event was coordinated and conducted by faculty and staff with the Agronomy Department at Iowa State University in Ames. The Iowa State University Department of Agronomy hosted the event and provided T-shirts to all participants. The top individual receives a \$500 scholarship from the Iowa State University Department of Agronomy if the student chooses to major in Agronomy at Iowa State University.

The Iowa FFA Agronomy Career Development Event was made possible with support from the Iowa FFA Foundation Gold Standard Partners.

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

Top 10 Teams

- 1 Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon
- 2 Newton FFA Chapter
- 3 Osage FFA, Osage
- 4 Sioux Center FFA, Sioux Center
- 5 Central Community FFA, Elkader
- 6 West Dubuque FFA, Epworth
- 7 Lynnville-Sully FFA
- 8 Beckman Catholic @ Dyersville
- 9 Mid-Prairie FFA, Wellman
- 10 Maquoketa Valley FFA

Top 10 Individuals

- Alyssa Machin, Newton FFA Chapter
Adam Gaul, Beckman Catholic @ Dyersville
Renaee Newton, Osage FFA, Osage
Sophia Palmer, Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon
Taylor Hirschman, Sioux Center FFA, Sioux Center
Norah Palmer, Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon
Jack Gaul, West Dubuque FFA, Epworth
Allie Whetstine, Mid-Prairie FFA, Wellman
Tyler Hoeger, Maquoketa Valley FFA
Blake Hunt, Central Community FFA, Elkader

Specialty Areas -- Top Team/ Top Individual:

Identification of Nutrient Deficiencies, Diseases and Insects

Team: Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon **Individual:** Norah Palmer, Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon

Identification of Seeds, Plants and Equipment

Team: Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon **Individual:** Renae Newton, Osage FFA, Osage

General Knowledge Exam

Team: Osage FFA, Osage **Individual:** Tyler Hoeger, Maquoketa Valley FFA

Team Event

Team: Maquoketa Valley FFA

Below is a list of chapters participating by medal group.

Gold Teams (12)

Score Range (1653 to 1256)

Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon
Newton FFA Chapter
Osage FFA, Osage
Sioux Center FFA, Sioux Center
Central Community FFA, Elkader
West Dubuque FFA, Epworth
Lynnville-Sully FFA
Beckman Catholic @ Dyersville
Mid-Prairie FFA, Wellman
Maquoketa Valley FFA
North Fayette Valley FFA, West Union
Nodaway Valley FFA, Greenfield

Bronze Teams (16)

Score Range (963 to 305)

Fairfield FFA, Fairfield
Lake Mills FFA, Lake Mills
Glidden-Ralston FFA, Glidden
Agri-Power FFA
North Cedar FFA, Clarence
South Winneshiek FFA, Calmar
Riceville FFA, Riceville
Mediapolis FFA, Mediapolis
Central Plains FFA, Gowrie

Silver Teams (9)

Score Range (1104 to 1009)

North Union FFA, Armstrong
Central Springs
Benton Community FFA, Van Horne
Indianola FFA, Indianola
Nashua Plainfield FFA, Nashua
Holland FFA, Orange City
Carroll Area FFA, Carroll
Wayne FFA, Corydon
Hudson FFA Chapter, Hudson

Independence FFA, Independence
Nevada FFA, Nevada
Charles City FFA, Charles City
Colfax-Mingo FFA, Colfax
Belmond-Klemme FFA, Belmond
Gladbrook-Reinbeck FFA
Le Mars FFA Chapter, Le Mars

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of over 20,800 student members as part of 273 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.