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News Release

Maquoketa Valley FFA Wins 2026 Iowa FFA Dairy Cattle CDE

The 2026 Iowa FFA Dairy Cattle Career Development Event was held in conjunction with the Youth Dairy Classic in Calmar on Friday, May 8, 2026. Thirty-four teams and 123 individuals participated in this year's Career Development Event designed to provide students an opportunity to display their knowledge and skills in the area of dairy cattle selection and management.

The Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter located in Delhi was named the Iowa Champion FFA Dairy Cattle Team. Team members included: Karl Zumbach, Braden Ronnebaum, Alison Schulte, and Cooper Schulte. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Ms. Haylee Lau. The champion team will compete in the National FFA Dairy Cattle Career Development Event during the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this October.

The Reserve Champion Team in Dairy Judging was the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter located in Dyersville. Team members included: Aden Kruse, Adam Gaul, Claire Gaul, and Natalie Besler. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Mrs. Dawn Mausser. Braden Ronnebaum from Delhi was the Champion Individual. Sophia Palmer from Waukon was the Reserve Champion Individual.

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

Contest support and coordinators includes David Lawstuen (NICC), Gina Mashek (NICC), and Gail Carpenter (ISU).

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

Top 10 Teams

- 1 Maquoketa Valley FFA
- 2 Beckman Catholic @ Dyersville
- 3 West Dubuque FFA, Epworth
- 4 Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon
- 5 Central DeWitt FFA
- 6 Lansing FFA
- 7 Newton FFA Chapter
- 8 Central Community FFA, Elkader
- 9 North Fayette Valley FFA, West Union
- 10 West Delaware FFA, Manchester

Top 10 Individuals

- 1 Braden Ronnebaum, Maquoketa Valley FFA
- 2 Sophia Palmer, Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon
- 3 Madalynn Arnold, West Dubuque FFA, Epworth
- 4 Aden Kruse, Beckman Catholic @ Dyersville
- 5 Brielle Gavin, Lansing FFA
- 6 Cooper Schulte, Maquoketa Valley FFA
- 7 Adley Rahe, Monticello FFA
- 8 Ana Rauen, West Dubuque FFA, Epworth
- 9 Adam Gaul, Beckman Catholic @ Dyersville
- 10 Blake Hunt, Central Community FFA, Elkader

Specialty Areas -- Top Team/ Top Individual:

Dairy Cow and Heifer Placing Classes

Team: Maquoketa Valley FFA

Individual: Aden Kruse, Beckman Catholic @ Dyersville

Oral Reasons

Team: Maquoketa Valley FFA

Individual: Aden Kruse, Beckman Catholic @ Dyersville

Dairy Production and Management Test

Team: Maquoketa Valley FFA

Individual: Braden Ronnebaum, Maquoketa Valley FFA

Herd Data Evaluation

Team: Beckman Catholic @ Dyersville

Individual:

Below is a list of chapters participating by medal group.

Gold Teams (13)

Score Range (1648 to 1429)

Maquoketa Valley FFA

Beckman Catholic @ Dyersville

West Dubuque FFA, Epworth

Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon

Central DeWitt FFA

Lansing FFA

Newton FFA Chapter

Central Community FFA, Elkader

North Fayette Valley FFA, West Union

West Delaware FFA, Manchester

Decorah FFA, Decorah

Vinton-Shellsburg FFA, Vinton

Monticello FFA

Bronze Teams (7)

Score Range (1237 to 862.5)

Agri-Power FFA

Grundy Center FFA, Grundy Center

Nashua Plainfield FFA, Nashua

Riceville FFA, Riceville

Belmond-Klemme FFA, Belmond

West Central

Jesup FFA, Jesup

Silver Teams (14)

Score Range (1387.5 to 1290)

Independence FFA, Independence

South Winneshiek FFA, Calmar

Northeast FFA, Goose Lake

Charles City FFA, Charles City

New Hampton FFA, New Hampton

Alta-Aurelia FFA

MFL MarMac FFA, Monona

Maquoketa FFA, Maquoketa

North Union FFA, Armstrong

Ridge View FFA, Holstein

East Sac FFA, Lake View

Osage FFA, Osage

Crestwood FFA, Cresco

Edgewood-Colesburg FFA, Edgewood

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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, on Facebook, and Twitter.