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News Release

2026 IOWA FFA EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENT

98th Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference

AMES, IA - The Iowa FFA Extemporaneous Speaking Leadership Development Event (LDE) was held at the Iowa State Center, Ames, on Monday, April 20, 2026. 12 individuals participated in this year's LDE. The first place individual for the event was Rebekah Lower from the Northeast FFA Chapter at Goose Lake. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Ms. Jen Westphal. The second place individual for the event was Karlee Vander Hamm from the West Sioux FFA Chapter at Hawarden. Their agriculture education instructors and FFA advisors are Mrs. Kaylea Hansmann and Mr. Matt Debrick.

The Extemporaneous Speaking event requires participants to deliver a speech on one of the four agricultural topics after given 30 minutes to prepare a four-to-six minute speech. This event is designed to encourage the development of FFA members in the ability to speak, to think and to answer questions readily before an audience. The Iowa FFA Extemporaneous Speaking LDE is made possible with support from the Iowa FFA Foundation Gold Standard Partners.

The results from the Extemporaneous Speaking LDE are listed below.

Place	FFA Member Name(s)	Chapter P. O.	Rating
1	Rebekah Lower	Goose Lake	Gold
2	Karlee Vander Hamm	Hawarden	Gold
3	Meredith Sturm	Carroll	Gold
	Camryn Allsbrook	Clear Lake	Silver
	Jenna Bahe	Oelwein	Silver
	Makayla Allen	Pleasant Hill	Silver
	Kolby Oldenkamp	Sioux Center	Silver
	Jackson Walker	State Center	Silver
	Raine Wheeler	Vinton	Silver
	Matthew Brakhane	Winterset	Silver
	Zoey Hamilton	Leon	Bronze
	Beatrice Anderson	Wayland	Bronze

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of more than 20,500 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.