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News Release

WEST LIBERTY FFA CHAPTER WINS 2026 STATE FFA FLORICULTURE CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

The West Liberty FFA Chapter was named the Champion Team in the annual Iowa FFA Floriculture Career Development Event held at Kirkwood Community College on June 9, 2026. Members of the first place team included: Elle Iske, Alice Thrasher, Avalynn Miller, and Georgia Clark. Their agriculture education instructors and FFA advisors are Mr. Zach Morris, Ms. Elyse Buysse, and Ms. Michele McMichael. They will represent Iowa at the National Floriculture Career Development Event at Indianapolis, Indiana, in October. The Muscatine FFA Chapter was named the Reserve Champion Team. Members of the second place team included: Kensley Paul, Eladiee Gaucin, Lila Wall, and Ari Lee. Their agriculture education instructors and FFA advisors are Mr. Sam Paul, Ms. Ashley Wiebe, Mr. Josh Day, Mrs. Alexa Coobs, and Ms. Dailyn Garrett. Avalynn Miller, West Liberty FFA Chapter, was named the High Individual Overall in the competition.

FFA teams from 51 chapters including 180 individuals 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 Floriculture. The event consisted of a general knowledge exam, problem solving and decision making, plant identification, floral design, pesticide use and application, floral production, and a team activity.

The Iowa FFA Floriculture Career Development Event was coordinated and conducted by Bob Smith, Hannah Dunlap and the faculty and staff at Kirkwood Community College. Kirkwood Community College also provided a lunch to all participants. Official judges of the floral design components of the event include Karen Garrett, Angela Woodhouse and Stacie Hoag from Flowers on the Avenue as well as Jill Kinsinger, former graduate of the Floral Careers program at Kirkwood.

The Iowa FFA Floriculture Career Development Event was made possible with support from Iowa FFA Foundation Gold Standard Donors.

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

Top 10 Teams

- 1 West Liberty FFA Chapter
- 2 Muscatine FFA Chapter
- 3 Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville
- 4 Williamsburg FFA Chapter
- 5 Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming
- 6 Central Community FFA Chapter at Elkader
- 7 Center Point-Urbana FFA Chapter
- 8 Central DeWitt FFA Chapter at DeWitt
- 9 Maquoketa FFA Chapter

Top 10 Individuals

- 1 Avalynn Miller, West Liberty FFA Chapter
- 2 Alice Thrasher, West Liberty FFA Chapter
- 3 Elle Iske, West Liberty FFA Chapter
- 4 Blair Scherf, Central Community FFA Chapter at Elkader
- 5 Josey Syhlman, Dike-New Hartford FFA Chapter
- 6 Georgia Clark, West Liberty FFA Chapter
- 7 Sophia Hunter, Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming
- 8 Allison Knipper, Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville
- 9 Clara Todd, Ridge View FFA Chapter

Specialty Areas -- Top Team/ Top Individual:**General Knowledge****Team:** West Liberty FFA Chapter **Individual:** Alice Thrasher, West Liberty FFA Chapter**Problem Solving****Team:** West Liberty FFA Chapter **Individual:** Avalynn Miller, West Liberty FFA Chapter**Identification of Plant Material****Team:** West Liberty FFA Chapter **Individual:** Elle Iske, West Liberty FFA Chapter**Floral Design****Team:** Muscatine FFA Chapter **Individual:** Kensley Paul, Muscatine FFA Chapter**Floral Production****Team:** West Liberty FFA Chapter **Individual:** Avalynn Miller, West Liberty FFA Chapter**Team Activity****Team:** Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville**Below is a list of chapters participating by medal group.****Gold Teams (13)**Score Range (1054.5 to 709.5)

West Liberty FFA Chapter
 Muscatine FFA Chapter
 Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville
 Williamsburg FFA Chapter
 Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming
 Central Community FFA Chapter at Elkader
 Center Point-Urbana FFA Chapter
 Central DeWitt FFA Chapter at DeWitt
 Maquoketa FFA Chapter
 Cedar Rapids Prairie FFA Chapter
 Western Christian FFA Chapter at Hull
 Algona FFA Chapter
 Dike-New Hartford FFA Chapter

Bronze Teams (16)Score Range (484 to 261)

Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie
 Marengo FFA Chapter
 Glidden-Ralston FFA Chapter
 Winterset FFA Chapter
 OABCIG FFA Chapter
 Boone A&M FFA Chapter
 Belmond-Klemme FFA Chapter

Silver Teams (20)Score Range (700 to 505.5)

Clear Creek Amana FFA Chapter at Tiffin
 Ridge View FFA Chapter
 MVAO FFA Chapter at Mapleton
 Charles City FFA Chapter
 Agri-Power FFA Chapter at Eddyville
 North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge
 West Dubuque FFA Chapter at Epworth
 Easton Valley FFA Chapter at Preston
 Hudson FFA Chapter
 Tri-County FFA Chapter at Thornburg
 Northeast FFA Chapter at Goose Lake
 Nashua Plainfield FFA Chapter
 Benton Community FFA Chapter at Van Horne
 South Tama County FFA Chapter at Tama
 Waterloo FFA Chapter
 GMG FFA Chapter at Garwin
 Turkey Valley FFA Chapter at Jackson Junction
 New Hampton FFA Chapter
 Ottumwa FFA FFA Chapter
 North Polk FFA Chapter at Alleman

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of more 20,900 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.