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News Release

GRINNELL FFA CHAPTER WINS 2026 STATE FFA HORSE CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

The Grinnell FFA Chapter was named the Champion Team in the annual Iowa FFA Horse Career Development Event held at Kirkwood Community College on June 9, 2026. Members of the first place team included: Gracie Kaufman, Rylee Mauss, Isabel Rubendall, and Breckyn Brand. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Mrs. Ashley Wolfe. The Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi was named the Reserve Champion Team. Members of the second place team included: Kayla Hoeger, Anna Feldmann, and Tracy Reth. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Ms. Haylee Lau. Kayla Hoeger, Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi, was named the High Individual Overall in the competition.

FFA teams from 34 chapters 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 Equine Science. The 98 individual contestants evaluated halter and performance classes. They also answered questions over the classes and gave oral reasons to explain their placings. A written examination was included along with a team problem solving competition.

The Iowa FFA Horse Career Development Event was made possible with support through the Iowa FFA Foundation Gold Standard Partners. The Horse Career Development Event was coordinated and held at the Iowa Equestrian Center in Cedar Rapids. Kirkwood Community College also provided lunch to all participants. The official judge was Shianne Votava from Ames. Horses were provided by Doug Bogart Reining and Ranch Horses, Hockensen Quarter Horses and Renee Price.

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

Top 10 Teams

- 1 Grinnell FFA Chapter
- 2 Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi
- 3 Monticello FFA Chapter
- 4 Hinton FFA Chapter
- 5 Boone A&M FFA Chapter
- 6 Wayne FFA Chapter at Corydon
- 7 Central Trail FFA Chapter at Leon
- 8 Little Switzerland FFA Chapter at Waukon
- 9 Edgewood-Colesburg FFA Chapter
- 10 North Polk FFA Chapter at Alleman

Top 10 Individuals

- Kayla Hoeger, Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi
Isabell Hodgson, Hinton FFA Chapter
Peytin Schultz, Monticello FFA Chapter
Isabel Rubendall, Grinnell FFA Chapter
Emersyn Zehner, Boone A&M FFA Chapter
Rylee Mauss, Grinnell FFA Chapter
Savannah Finley, Muscatine FFA Chapter
Destiny Brown, Wayne FFA Chapter at Corydon
Rachael Weber, West Dubuque FFA Chapter at Epworth
Breckyn Brand, Grinnell FFA Chapter

Specialty Areas -- Top Team/ Top Individual:

Halter Classes

Team: Monticello FFA Chapter

Individual: Kayla Hoeger, Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi

Performance Classes

Team: Grinnell FFA Chapter

Individual: Destiny Brown, Wayne FFA Chapter at Corydon

Oral Reasons and Questions

Team: Grinnell FFA Chapter

Individual: Bella Battin, Edgewood-Colesburg FFA Chapter

Problem Solving

Team: Grinnell FFA Chapter

Below is a list of chapters participating by medal group.

Gold Teams (16)

Score Range (1450 to 1245)

Grinnell FFA Chapter

Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi

Monticello FFA Chapter

Hinton FFA Chapter

Boone A&M FFA Chapter

Wayne FFA Chapter at Corydon

Central Trail FFA Chapter at Leon

Little Switzerland FFA Chapter at Waukon

Edgewood-Colesburg FFA Chapter

North Polk FFA Chapter at Alleman

Wilton FFA Chapter

Davis County FFA Chapter at Bloomfield

Newton FFA Chapter

Dike-New Hartford FFA Chapter

Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming

Muscatine FFA Chapter

Bronze Teams (5)

Score Range (553 to 407)

North Butler FFA Chapter at Greene

Glidden-Ralston FFA Chapter

Mount Ayr FFA Chapter

WACO FFA Chapter at Wayland

North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge

Muscatine FFA Chapter

Silver Teams (13)

Score Range (1234 to 785)

Indianola FFA Chapter

Atlantic FFA Chapter

Agri-Power FFA Chapter at Eddyville

Cascade FFA Chapter

Independence FFA Chapter

Panorama FFA Chapter

Louisa-Muscatine FFA Chapter at Letts

Nashua Plainfield FFA Chapter

West Dubuque FFA Chapter at Epworth

Adel DeSoto Minburn FFA Chapter

Charles City FFA Chapter

Bondurant-Farrar FFA Chapter

Clear Creek Amana FFA Chapter at Tiffin

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About Iowa FFA Association

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