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News Release

2026 National FFA Convention and Expo, October 21-24

INDIANAPOLIS, IN--The 99th National FFA Convention & Expo will hold its annual in-person convention beginning October 21st and concluding on October 24th. More than 73,000 FFA members and guests from throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are expected to be in attendance at this year's event.

The convention and expo will kick off in Indianapolis, Indiana on Wednesday, October 21st. Seven general sessions will be held at Lucas Oil Stadium. On the morning of Saturday, October 24th, a special ceremony will be held where American FFA Degrees, the highest degree for an FFA member, will be bestowed upon more than 5,800 members.

The Iowa FFA Association is expecting representation from more than 3,000 attendees involved in all facets of the event. The following is a summary of results and accomplishments of Iowa FFA members in the respective national events.

Chloe Zittergruen is Iowa's National Officer Candidate

Chloe Zittergruen, an Agricultural Communication major at Iowa State University and FFA member from the Tri-County FFA Chapter, is Iowa's National Officer Candidate. National officers commit to a year of service to the National FFA Organization. Each officer travels more than 100,000 national and international miles to interact with business and industry leaders, thousands of FFA members and teachers, corporate sponsors, government and education officials, state FFA leaders, the general public, and more. The team will lead personal growth and leadership training conferences for FFA members throughout the country and help set policies that will guide the future of FFA and promote agricultural literacy. The 2025-2026 National Officer team will be announced at the end of the Seventh General Session on Saturday, October 24th. Zittergruen previously served the Iowa FFA Association as the 2024-25 State Secretary and 2025-26 State President.

American Star Finalists

Each year at the National FFA Convention & Expo, four FFA members are honored with American Star Awards for outstanding accomplishments in FFA and agricultural education.

The American Star Awards, including American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience, are presented to FFA members who demonstrate outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through completion of an SAE. A required activity in FFA, an SAE allows students to learn by doing, by either owning or operating an agricultural business, working or serving an internship at an agriculture-based business or conducting an agriculture-based scientific experiment and reporting results.

Sixteen American Star Award finalists from throughout the U.S. are nominated by a panel of judges who then interview the finalists during the national convention and expo. Four are named winners and receive cash awards totaling \$4,000.

--Tessa Tauke of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter was selected as an American Star in Agriscience Finalist.

Agriscience Fair National Finalists

The Agriscience Fair is for FFA members who are interested in the science and technology of agriculture.

Students can compete in 36 divisions across 6 systems areas: Animal; Environmental & Natural Resources; Food Products & Processing; Plant; Power, Structural, & Technical; and Social. Divisions are set based on junior (grades 7-8), intermediate (grades 9-10) and senior (grades 11-12) projects and whether the project is conducted by an individual or a pair.

--Animal Systems Div. 3: Hayden Ocheltree, North Polk FFA

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--Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems Div. 2: Taytem Snedden & Brooklyn Schlarmann, Beckman Catholic FFA
--Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems Div. 3: Oscar Herbers, Beckman Catholic FFA
--Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 5: Owen Boge, Beckman Catholic FFA
--Plant Systems Div. 4: Brock Burlage & Brynn Burlage, Beckman Catholic FFA
--Plant Systems Div. 6: Andrea Schneider & Allison Knipper, Beckman Catholic FFA
--Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 2: William Zahradnik & Jackson Thier, Beckman Catholic FFA
--Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 5: Hannah Taylor, Beckman Catholic FFA
--Social Science Div. 2: Braden Smalley & Liam Lynch, Nevada FFA

National Chapter Award

The National Chapter Award program recognizes FFA chapters that successfully complete an annual Program of Activities (POA), which includes a series of activities designed to encourage its members to grow as individuals, to work as part of a team and to serve others.

AC/GC FFA, Two Star
AGWSR FFA, Two Star
Algona FFA, Three Star
Anamosa FFA, Three Star
Bellevue FFA, Three Star
Benton Community FFA, Three Star
Brokaw FFA, Two Star
Carroll Area FFA, Three Star
Cedar Rapids Prairie FFA, Three Star
Charles City FFA, Three Star
Clear Lake FFA, Three Star
Decorah FFA, Two Star
Dike-New Hartford FFA, Two Star
East Buchanan FFA, Three Star

Forest City FFA, Three Star
Glidden-Ralston FFA, Two Star
IKM-Manning FFA, Two Star
Interstate 35 FFA, Two Star
Marengo FFA, Two Star
North Fayette Valley FFA, Two Star
North Scott FFA, Two Star
North Scott Middle FFA, Three Star
South Hamilton FFA, Two Star
Southeast Warren FFA, Two Star
Vinton-Shellsburg FFA, Two Star
Webster City FFA, Three Star
West Delaware FFA, Two Star
West Liberty FFA, Three Star

Proficiency Awards National Finalists

The Agricultural Proficiency Awards honor FFA members who, through their SAEs, have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers. Four National Finalists are selected for each of the award areas and will go on to compete for a national proficiency award. National Agricultural Proficiency Award winners are announced onstage during the National FFA Convention.

-- Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production: Houston Holdgrafer, Easton Valley FFA

National FFA Band, Chorus, and Talent

Every year, members from across the nation audition to be involved in the National FFA Band, Chorus, and Talent. National FFA Band and Chorus members have various rehearsals and perform on stage at National FFA Convention. Talent has the opportunity to perform on stage at one of the General Sessions. One of the Talent acts is selected after multiple competition rounds as top talent at the end of convention.

--National Band:

Isabelle Ness, Roland-Story FFA
Brodie Howell, Mount Ayr FFA

--National Chorus:

Aubree Boender, Boyden-Hull FFA

--National Talent:

Madyn Albert, Clear Creek Amana FFA
Braxton Stauffer, Mya Donaldson, Ada Davison, Kylie Miller, Bren Graber and Addy Leichty, WACO FFA

Career and Leadership Development Events

Career opportunities abound within today's agriculture industry. Career Development Events (CDEs) and Leadership Development Events (LDEs) help students develop the abilities to think critically, communicate clearly and perform effectively in a competitive job market. CDEs and LDEs cover a variety of job skills in

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everything from communications to mechanics. Some events allow students to compete as individuals, while others allow them to compete in teams.

- Agricultural Communications – Montezuma FFA, Team Members: Olivia Latcham, Alexa Rose, Emma Snook and Abigail Bos
- Agricultural Issues Forum – Holland FFA, Team Members: Lily Moeller, Allison Heller and Marnie Croatt
- Agricultural Sales – Muscatine FFA, Team Members: Kensley Paul, Mallory Bruhn, Coen Navarro and Abigail Schell
- Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems – Beckman Catholic FFA, Team Members: Will Deutmeyer, Levi Reiter, Roman Schuster and Isaac Geistkemper
- Agronomy – Little Switzerland FFA, Team Members: Sophia Palmer, Marcus Gebel, Tegan Dahlstrom and Norah Palmer
- Conduct of Chapter Meetings – East Buchanan FFA, Team Members: Kading Kress, Tucker Erickson, Evelyn Cook, Claire Reiling, Ella Rosburg, Leah Kleve and Kaleb Saunders
- Creed Speaking – Lauren Van Hauen, Ames FFA
- Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management – Maquoketa Valley FFA, Team Members: Braden Ronnebaum, Alison Schulte, Cooper Schulte and Karl Zumbach
- Employment Skills – Jillian Hanson, La Porte-Dysart FFA
- Environmental & Natural Resources – Madrid FFA, Team Members: Morgan Christensen, Breanna Schlieman, Juniper Englund and Abby Williams
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking – Rebekah Lower, Northeast-Goose Lake FFA
- Farm Business Management – Montezuma FFA, Team Members: Rett Pargeon, Vivian Cook, Gracie Wilson and Easton Hudnut
- Floriculture – West Liberty FFA, Team Members: Avalynn Miller, Alice Thrasher, Elle Iske and Georgia Clark
- Food Science and Technology – Beckman Catholic FFA, Team Members: Ava Oberbroeckling, Owen Boge, Brianna Pirc and Ashley Schilling
- Forestry – Beckman Catholic FFA, Team Members: Andrea Schneider, Allison Knipper, Natalie Besler and Hannah Taylor
- Horse Evaluation – Grinnell FFA, Team Members: Rylee Mauss, Gracie Kaufman, Isabel Rubendall and Breckyn Brand
- Livestock Evaluation – Aplington-Parkersburg FFA, Team Members: Caylee Harken, Kamie Helmke, Sam Janssen and Owen Price
- Marketing Plan – Osage FFA, Team Members: Abby Rachut, Ivy Christensen and Kolton Olson
- Meats Evaluation and Technology – Sioux Center FFA, Team Members: Jacob Boogerd, Jacob Haverhals, Taylor Hirschman and Gabryella Prins
- Milk Quality and Products – Lansing FFA, Team Members: Brielle Gavin, Ronny Escobar-Lopez, Maddie Mauss and Alexis Rowan
- Nursery/Landscape – Muscatine FFA, Team Members: Dylan Randel, Chevelle Rider and Sam Potter
- Parliamentary Procedure – Brokaw FFA, Team Members: Noah Wellhausen, Kelsey Stephens, Ellie Carter, Lucy Morrison, Jaelyn Gray and Chandy Nothwehr
- Poultry Evaluation – Muscatine FFA, Team Members: Madyson Wyatt, Lily Barnard, carter Houseman and Preston Schroeder
- Prepared Public Speaking – Caleigh Lewis, Center Point-Urbana FFA
- Veterinary Science – Ogden FFA, Team Members: Addyson Hicks, Brylie Hicks, Rylee Ferwerda and Meredith Garman

Agricultural Education Invitational

The National Agricultural Education Invitational enables FFA members to explore the career field of Agricultural Education. Members are provided an opportunity to practice teaching skills, comprehend methods and teaching behaviors, follow a lesson plan, provide feedback to members, foster leadership and communication skills, and promote agricultural education.

- Agricultural Education Invitational – Amelia Bunce, North Scott

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National Spanish Creed Invitational

The National Spanish Creed Invitational Committee and the National FFA Organization have announced an agreement to provide a competitive event for high school agricultural education students. The event is an opportunity to deliver the FFA Creed in Spanish. Participating in this invitational allows students to develop their public speaking skills and promote self-growth. It also reinforces the organization's values and beliefs, as the Creed outlines the FFA vision for agriculture and its members.

--Spanish Creed Invitational – Amahia Rodriguez Hernandez, Belmond-Klemme and Flolangel Dessin, Marshalltown

American FFA Degree

The American FFA Degree is awarded at the National FFA Convention & Expo each year to less than 1% of FFA members making it one of the organization's highest honors. In addition to their degree, each recipient receives a gold American FFA Degree key. There were 126 American Degree recipients from Iowa.

Jason Ahern, Crestwood FFA
Brady Allan, Le Mars FFA
Aiden Anderson, Central Plains FFA
Seth Axsom, West Liberty FFA
Prestyn Bahr, Postville FFA
Blake Barkela, Belmond-Klemme FFA
Leah Bean, Sioux Central FFA
Claire Behrens, IKM-Manning FFA
Josette Benning, Charles City FFA
Blair L Berends, Ridge VIEW FFA
Sheyenne Bergmann, Nashua Plainfield FFA
Reese Berns, Central Community FFA
Caroline Bill, Clear Lake FFA
Elli Blackford, Osceola Big Chief FFA
Chloe Bloker, Denver FFA
Linnea Bloom, Sioux Central FFA
Logan Boehm, North Fayette Valley FFA
Montana Boline, Wapello FFA
Brenna Bowman, Glidden-Ralston FFA
Emma Bradley, Winterset FFA
Lydia Brattrud, Clear Lake FFA
Jaydee Bremer, Sibley-Ocheyedan FFA
Maya Bruening, Charles City FFA
Ethan Bunting, Starmont FFA
Sawyer Burken, Maquoketa FFA
Kannadi Butikofer, North Fayette Valley FFA
Autumn Campbell, Indianola FFA
Madelyn Carstens, Panorama FFA

Zachary Chambers, Charles City FFA
Harley Charlson, Clarion-Goldfield-Dows FFA
Kylee Chesterman, West Central Valley FFA
Rachel Clark, Central DeWitt FFA
Katie Clark, Jesup FFA
Madison Collison, South Central Calhoun FFA
Mary Connolly, Alta-Aurelia FFA
Lane W Converse, Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA
Haley Copenhagen, Hinton FFA
Jacob Cornwell, GMG FFA
Cael Daufeldt, West Liberty FFA
Preston Daufeldt, West Liberty FFA
Sarah Dean, North Fayette Valley FFA
Taylor Desloover, Turkey Valley FFA
Lyndon Dohlman, Riceville FFA
Erin Driscoll, Williamsburg FFA
Caitlyn Druecker, Central Community FFA
Keagan Echard, MFL MarMac FFA
Hogan Eden, Lone Tree FFA
Kennedy Eischeid, IKM-Manning FFA
Delaney Engler, Calamus-Wheatland FFA
Delanie Erwin, Southeast Warren FFA
Lauren Eslick, Central Plains FFA
Logan Evans, Mormon Trail FFA
Jordan Everitt, Central Community FFA
Grant Farnham, Central Plains FFA
Jagger Ferrie, South Hamilton FFA
Jackie Finnegan, Independence FFA



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Evelyn Geisinger, Sioux Central FFA
Kolter Good, Interstate 35 FFA
Justin Goodale, Osage FFA
Isac Groeteke, Dowling Catholic FFA
Hannah Gross, Clear Creek Amana FFA
Landon Guese, Postville FFA
Summer Hackert, Lynnville-Sully FFA
Libby Hageman, Beckman Catholic FFA
Katrina Hageman, South Winneshiek FFA
Ella Hansel, Waverly-Shell Rock FFA
Sydney Hansel, Waverly-Shell Rock FFA
Damion Hansen, Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn FFA
Ethan Harms, Webster City FFA
Kaleigh Harvey, Southeast Warren FFA
Isabella Hayes, Indianola FFA
Kristen Haynes, Starmont FFA
Hayden Heim, Tri-Center FFA
Shelby Heisler, Clear Creek Amana FFA
Paul Herger, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA
Moises Hernandez, Postville FFA
Hanna Hicks, Central Plains FFA
Kelsey Hoeger, Maquoketa Valley FFA
Rydder Hogan, Lenox FFA
Morgan Hollingshead, Midland FFA
Trenton Iburg, Williamsburg FFA
Ella Johnson, Red Oak FFA
Andrew Johnston, Murray FFA
Katie Johson, Independence FFA
Claire Jonas, Roland-Story FFA
Jadyn Joyce, GTRA FFA
William Kading, AC-GC FFA
Ashley Kearney, Knoxville FFA
Alyssa Kent, Osceola Big Chief FFA
Cheyenne Kepley, West Bend-Mallard FFA
Kenny Kerr, North Fayette Valley FFA
Adam Kirkestue, Postville FFA
Brody Knapp, Akron-Westfield FFA

Aiden Knusdtson, Sioux Central FFA
Claire Koester, North Fayette Valley FFA
Emma Koester, Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA
Elizabeth Kremer, Independence FFA
William Kroneman, Benton Community FFA
Charlie Lane, Easton Valley FFA
Laci Lauer, North Fayette Valley FFA
Caden Laughlin, West Liberty FFA
Carsten Lensing, North Fayette Valley FFA
Caleb Lentz, Nashua Plainfield FFA
Nadia Lightner, South Central Calhoun FFA
Emma Lihs, Bondurant-Farrar FFA
Rosemarie Long, Mediapolis FFA
Devon Lotts, Dike-New Hartford FFA
Reid Louwagie, Algona FFA
Leif Lucas, Dike-New Hartford FFA
Lauren Lukavsky, Washington FFA
Samantha Lundvall, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA
Jada Maas, West Liberty FFA
Olivia Marti, Little Switzerland Waukon FFA
Carter Martin, Monticello FFA
Annabelle McCollough, East Sac FFA
Adam McCrea, Cedar Rapids Prairie FFA
Savannah Meinert, Wilton FFA
Calvin Mellmann, Osage FFA
Ariana Menne, Postville FFA
Cody Messer, Mediapolis FFA
Wesley Meyer, Anamosa FFA
Braelyn Meyer, North Fayette Valley FFA
Kade Meyer, North Fayette Valley FFA
Madison Miller, Riceville FFA
Corrinne Moffatt, Akron-Westfield FFA
Mallory Mohn, Lansing FFA
Tyson Mohr, Williamsburg FFA
Kenzi Mongar, Murray FFA
Emmalynne Mozak, Southeast Warren FFA
Adam Nelson, Ames FFA
Isabelle Netolicky, Cedar Rapids Prairie FFA
Ava Newton, Humboldt FFA
Annabelle Newton, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA
Douglas Nilles, Sheldon Golden Corn FFA



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Beth Pickar, New Hampton FFA
Taylor Quade, Charles City FFA
Leah Reicher, Maquoketa Valley FFA
Blake Reynolds, Earlham FFA
Jake Roberts, Newell-Fonda FFA
Ben Roberts, Williamsburg FFA
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Jade Sheetz, Washington FFA
Sawyer Simmons, Panorama FFA
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Gavin Smead, Lynnville-Sully FFA
Shelby Sorenson, Central Plains FFA
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Laura Steinkamp, Carroll Area FFA
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Emma Wedeking, North Butler FFA
Kyle Wessels, East Buchanan FFA
Ryan Wicklein, Central Plains FFA
Joel Winters, Nashua Plainfield FFA
Maranda Wood, Maquoketa FFA
Morgan Wright, Ridge VIEW FFA
Caleb Zweibohmer, Riceville FFA

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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 277 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.