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News Release

SIoux CENTER FFA CHAPTER WINS 2026 STATE FFA MEATS CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

The Sioux Center FFA Chapter was named the Champion Team in the annual Iowa FFA Meats Career Development Event held by Iowa State University on May 19, 2026. Members of the first place team included: Jacob Boogerd, Jacob Haverhals, Izabella Klein, and Gabriella Oteri. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Mr. Eric Koehlmoos. The South O'Brien FFA Chapter was named the Reserve Champion Team. Members of the second place team included: Kate Dau, Brennan Negus, Brooks Billick, and Noah Wittrock. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Mr. Eric Kumm. Gabriella Oteri, Sioux Center FFA Chapter, was named the High Individual Overall in the competition.

The FFA Meats Evaluation Career Development Event provides an opportunity for FFA members to display their agricultural knowledge and skills in the area of Meat Evaluation. Activities included: placing carcass classes of beef, pork, and lamb; placing classes of wholesale and retail meat cuts; quality and yield grading beef carcasses; identifying retail meat cuts, and a problem solving activity. There were 131 members participating from 37 chapters.

The Iowa FFA Meats Evaluation Career Development Event was made possible with support by Iowa Pork Producers Association through the Iowa FFA Foundation. The Meats Evaluation and Technology Career Development Event was coordinated and conducted Caroline Downey, Jacob Manternach, and the Iowa State University Meats Judging Team along with faculty in the Meat Science Department of the Animal Science Department at Iowa State University.

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

Top 10 Teams

- 1 Sioux Center FFA Chapter
- 2 South O'Brien FFA Chapter
- 3 Muscatine FFA Chapter
- 4 Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter
- 5 North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge
- 6 Edgewood-Colesburg FFA Chapter
- 7 South Hamilton FFA Chapter at Jewell
- 8 Webster City FFA Chapter
- 9 Van Meter FFA Chapter
- 10 Grundy Center FFA Chapter

Top 10 Individuals

- Gabriella Oteri, Sioux Center FFA Chapter
- Izabella Klein, Sioux Center FFA Chapter
- Jacob Haverhals, Sioux Center FFA Chapter
- Noah Wittrock, South O'Brien FFA Chapter
- Coen Navarro, Muscatine FFA Chapter
- Evan Keppy, North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge
- Brennan Negus, South O'Brien FFA Chapter
- Lucas Radke, Van Meter FFA Chapter
- Jacob Boogerd, Sioux Center FFA Chapter
- Carson Schroeder, Muscatine FFA Chapter

Specialty Areas -- Top Team/ Top Individual:

Placing Carcass Classes

Team: Sioux Center FFA Chapter

Individual: Gabriella Oteri, Sioux Center FFA Chapter

Placing Wholesale and Retail Cuts

Team: Sioux Center FFA Chapter

Individual: Lucas Radke, Van Meter FFA Chapter

Beef Quality and Yield Grading

Team: North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge

Individual: Evan Keppy, North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge

Retail Cut Identification

Team: Sioux Center FFA Chapter

Individual: Jacob Haverhals, Sioux Center FFA Chapter

Problem Solving Activity

Team: South O'Brien FFA Chapter

Individual: Gabriella Oteri, Sioux Center FFA Chapter

Below is a list of chapters participating by medal group.

Gold Teams (13)

Score Range (1654 to 1211)

Sioux Center FFA Chapter
South O'Brien FFA Chapter
Muscatine FFA Chapter
Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter
North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge
Edgewood-Colesburg FFA Chapter
South Hamilton FFA Chapter at Jewell
Webster City FFA Chapter
Van Meter FFA Chapter
Grundy Center FFA Chapter
Postville FFA Chapter
Murray FFA Chapter
West Dubuque FFA Chapter at Epworth

Bronze Teams (10)

Score Range (995 to 409)

Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie
LeMars FFA Chapter
Agri-Power FFA Chapter at Eddyville
Ames FFA Chapter
Bondurant-Farrar FFA Chapter

Silver Teams (14)

Score Range (1199 to 1009)

Carroll Area FFA Chapter
Southeast Warren FFA Chapter at Liberty Center
Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi
Jesup FFA Chapter
Nodaway Valley FFA Chapter
Ridge View FFA Chapter
Interstate 35 FFA Chapter at Truro
Nevada FFA Chapter
Central Springs FFA Chapter at Manly
Boone A&M FFA Chapter
Bedford FFA Chapter
Independence FFA Chapter
Waverly-Shell Rock FFA Chapter
Newell-Fonda FFA Chapter

Panorama FFA Chapter
OABCIG FFA Chapter
Colfax-Mingo FFA Chapter
LaSalle Catholic Middle FFA Chapter at Cedar Rapids
Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of more than 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 and on social media.