



CONTACT

Scott Johnson
Executive Director
Iowa FFA Association
scott.johnson@iowaffa.com
515-965-7376
www.iowaffa.com

News Release

2026 IOWA FFA PUBLIC SPEAKING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENT

98th Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference

AMES, IA - The Iowa FFA Public 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 Caleigh Lewis from the Center Point-Urbana FFA Chapter. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Ms. Cassie Hosek. The second place individual for the event was Luke Steinkamp from the East Sac FFA Chapter. Their agriculture education instructors and FFA advisors are Mr. Nelson Findling and Ms. Amber Hoefling.

This event is designed to develop rural and agricultural leadership, to provide for member participation in agricultural public speaking activities and to stimulate interest along such lines. The prepared public speaking event requires participants to write and deliver a six-to-eight minute speech in front of a panel of judges. Scoring is based on the written manuscript, the delivery of the speech and the answers to questions. The Iowa FFA Public Speaking LDE was made possible with support from the Iowa Soybean Association through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

The results from the Public Speaking LDE are listed below.

Place	FFA Member Name(s)	Chapter P. O.	Rating
1	Caleigh Lewis	Center Point	Gold
2	Luke Steinkamp	Lake View	Gold
3	Jillian Dammann	Clarinda	Gold
	Hayden Ocheltree	Alleman	Gold
	Will McKenna	Vinton	Gold
	Ashlyn Lovig	Boone	Silver
	Kysa Neddermeyer	Denison	Silver
	Taylor Houser	DeWitt	Silver
	Gabe Gibson	Indianola	Silver
	Ella Buttjer	Parkersburg	Silver
	Taylor Larsen	Armstrong	Bronze
	Cally Leenerts	Keokuk	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.