



Iowa FFA Association

The FFA Mission

*FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.*

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NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Iowa FFA Association Recognizes Proficiency Award Winners

AMES, IA - The Iowa FFA Association recognized 52 proficiency award winners at the 86th Iowa FFA Leadership Conference at Hilton Coliseum in Ames, Iowa on Tuesday, April 29th. FFA members are involved in proficiencies as part of the agricultural program and the FFA. These proficiencies range in the areas of Agricultural Communications to Agricultural Mechanics and from Dairy Production to Wildlife Management. Proficiency Award winners have excelled in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Programs. These awards encourage members to develop specialized skills that will apply toward a future career. State winners advance to the National FFA Conference in October.

Support for the Iowa FFA proficiency award program is made possible by the Iowa FFA Foundation with support from the sponsors listed in each area.

The Iowa FFA Association has 219 local chapters with over 14,200 FFA members. FFA is a national organization of nearly 580,000 members preparing for leadership and careers in science, business, and technology of agriculture. Local, state and national programs provide opportunities for students to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom. FFA's 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.

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Listed below are the results for the Proficiency Area Awards.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Communications - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Tyler Swenson

School: Montezuma FFA

Description: Tyler Swenson of the Montezuma FFA Chapter is the first place winner in Agricultural Communications Swenson increased his family's show pig genetics business by becoming a full time communications employee. Swenson modernized and improved the business with online sales advertising, and creating a boar stud catalog. Through his SAE, Swenson has broadened his skills with photography, online sales, production selection, and website development. He plans to attend Iowa State University and major in Ag Business and Animal Science.

The second place winner is Alex Schmitz from the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Agricultural Communications Proficiency Award is the Iowa Farmer Today through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Education - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Katie Meyers

School: West Liberty FFA

Description: In the area of agricultural education the winner is Katie Meyers of the West Liberty FFA chapter. Meyers started her SAE in agricultural education because of her passion for agriculture and desire to teach others. Meyers set goals to invest more than 450 hours and recruit at least 15 new FFA members, and she exceeded both goals. She participated in the Farm to School Program and City Ag Appreciation Day to develop agriculture awareness in her community. In her FFA chapter, she also assisted with CDE development and grant writing. Meyers plans to attend Iowa State University and major in Family Consumer Science Education.

The second place winner in the area of Ag Education is Celina Young from the Waverly-Shell Rock FFA. The sponsor of the Agricultural Education Proficiency Award is Iowa State University Department of Agricultural Education and Studies through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication- Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Sawyer Wise

School: Decorah FFA

Description: Sawyer Wise of the Decorah FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrications Entrepreneurship. Wise started his own steel and aluminum fabrication business in 2011. He started with fabricating hay feeders and has expanded into after-market steel truck bumpers. Wise has experience with computer drafting plasma tables, press breaks, painting, and marketing. After high school, he plans to complete a two-year John Deere technology program at NICC.

The second place winner in the area of Ag Mechanics Design and Fabrication, is Amanda Kieffer of the Easton Valley FFA chapter at Preston. The sponsor of the Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication Proficiency Award is Hardi North America, Inc. through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Energy Systems - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Matt Goode

School: North Linn FFA, Troy Mills

Description: Matt Goode, of the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills, is the first place winner in the area of Agricultural Mechanics Energy Systems. Goode has invested more than 1,400 hours in alternative transportation. He has constructed an electrical jeep that utilizes regenerative braking for higher efficiency. Goode currently attends Iowa State University and is studying mechanical engineering.

The second place winner in the area of Agricultural Mechanics Energy Systems is Michael Walvante from the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union. The sponsor of the Agricultural Mechanics Energy Systems Proficiency Award is CF Industries through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Cassidy Simmons

School: Guthrie Center FFA

Description: Cassidy Simmons, of the Guthrie Center FFA chapter, is the first place winner in the area of Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance-Entrepreneurship. Simmons has invested in and completely restored her own machinery. She has performed engine overhaul, transmission restoration, soda blasting, and painting as well as exhibiting the completed project at the Iowa State Fair.

The second place winner in the area of Ag. Mechanics Repair and Maintenance-Entrepreneurship is Garrett Hagenow of Wapsie Valley FFA at Fairbank. The sponsor of the Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is VanWall through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Placement

State Winner: Logan Klingson

School: Prairie Valley FFA, Gowrie

Description: Logan Klingson, of the Prairie Valley FFA Chapter at Gowrie, is the first place winner in the area of Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance-Placement. Klingson has worked more than 1,600 hours at Harcourt Equipment. He has learned how to replace and adjust clutches, pull transmissions, change oil, repair water pumps, and inspect for general maintenance. After High School, Klingson plans on attending Whyotech in Wyoming for Diesel Technology.

The second place winner in the area of Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance Placement is John Lauer from North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union. The sponsor of the Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance-Placement Proficiency Award is Kuhn North America, Inc. through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Processing - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Lindsey Johnson

School: Humboldt FFA

Description: Lindsey Johnson, of the Humboldt FFA, is the first place winner in the area of Agricultural Processing-Entrepreneurship. Johnson works in a Hy-Vee grocery store produce department. She has earned \$2,500 and worked more than 350 hours. Johnson gained specific skills in produce handling, food safety, and communications skills while working with customers.

The second place winner in the area of Agricultural Processing is Trygve Lien of the South Winneshiek FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Agricultural Processing Proficiency Award is MinnTex Citrus-Iowa through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Sales - Placement

State Winner: Darin Hatfield

School: Creston FFA

Description: Darin Hatfield, of the Creston FFA chapter, is the first place winner in the area of Agricultural Sales-Placement. Hatfield worked in the produce department at Fareway Foods Store. Through his SAE, he learned proper store management skills, including care and cleaning, preparing, and packaging of fresh produce, inventory, and customer service. Hatfield worked more than 400 hours. After graduating from Creston High School, he plans on attending Southwestern Community College to study agriculture.

The second place winner in the area of Ag Sales-Placement is Lauren Ambrosy of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter at Fairbank. The sponsor of the Agricultural Sales-Placement Proficiency Award is Dakin Ag-Equipment through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Services - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Kelly Puhrmann

School: South O'Brien FFA, Paullina

Description: Kelly Puhrmann, of the South O'Brien FFA Chapter at Paulina, is the first place winner in the area of Agricultural Services. Puhrmann has worked approximately 3,100 hours for Puhrmann Excavating. Puhrmann has helped manage their screening and crushing plant, operated excavators and bulldozers, and performed equipment repairs. Through his SAE, he has gained a greater understanding of how to operate a wide variety of equipment used in constructing waterways and laying drainage tile.

The second place winner in the area of Agricultural Services Cari Moser from the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood. The sponsor of the Agricultural Services Proficiency Award is Heartland Co-op through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research – Integrated Systems

State Winner: Eric Koehlmoos

School: South O'Brien FFA, Paullina

Description: Eric Koehlmoos, of the South O'Brien FFA Chapter at Paulina, is the first place winner in the area of Agriscience Research-Integrated Systems. Koehlmoos is currently a junior in high school. His greatest accomplishment with his SAE was researching and finding a source of biofuels with switch grass and prairie grass that does not compete with our food supply and is energy efficient.

The sponsor of the Agriscience Research Award is the University of Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Katie Friederichs

School: Muscatine FFA

Description: Katie Friederichs, of the Muscatine FFA Chapter, is the first place winner in Beef Production-Entrepreneurship. Friederichs has several registered show heifers that she has shown over the years and developed into KMF livestock. Her herd size has increased to 18 head. After high school she plans to attend Oklahoma State University and double major in animal science and agricultural communications.

The second place winner in the area of Beef Production-Entrepreneurship is Karyee Buch from the Brokaw FFA chapter at Clarinda. The sponsor of the Beef Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is the Iowa Cattleman's Foundation through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Placement

State Winner: Reed Shockley

School: Central Lee FFA, Donnellson

Description: Reed Shockley, of the Central Lee FFA Chapter at Donnellson, is the first place winner in the area of Beef Production-Placement. Shockley has worked 2,500 hours over the past three years at the Scheetz Cattle Company. He started as a member of the pipe fence painting and sale cattle crew, and his responsibilities have increased to complete management of the sale cattle crew this past summer and fall. Shockley is involved in all aspects of the operation from heat detection, artificial insemination, embryo transfer, feeding practices, and herd health. He plans to attend Iowa State University and pursue a degree in agricultural education. He plans to own and expand to a 50 cow purebred beef cattle farming operation.

The second place winner in the area of Beef Production Placement is Ty Lauritsen of the Audubon FFA. The sponsor of the Beef Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Skylar Hosch

School: Cascade FFA

Description: Skylar Hosch, of the Cascade FFA Chapter, is the first place winner in the area of Dairy Science Entrepreneurship. Skylar started with three cows, six spring heifers, and three young heifers. She has since increased her herd size to 12 cows, eight heifers, and five calves. In her three years, she has learned how to AI cattle, calculate feed rations, and how to treat sick cattle. Hosch is currently attending Iowa State University majoring in animal science.

The second place winner in the area of Dairy Science-Entrepreneurship is Levi Banowetz of the Northeast FFA at Goose Lake. The sponsor of the Dairy Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Accelerated Genetics through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Placement

State Winner: Dustin Schanbacher

School: Benton Community FFA, Van Horne

Description: Dustin Schanbacher, of the Benton Community FFA Chapter at Van Horne, is the first place winner in the area of Dairy Production-Placement. Schanbacher is a 5th generation dairy farmer and has worked more than 5,000 hours in his supervised agricultural experience. Through his SAE, he has learned effective teat care and sanitation processes for milk equipment. This has led to lower somatic cell count and increased milk production. He has also learned how to artificially inseminate cows and the embryo transfer process. After graduation, Schanbacher plans to attend Kirkwood Community College for Diesel Ag Mechanics and eventually return to the farm.

The second place winner in the area of Dairy Production-Placement is Jonathan Van Veldhuizen of the West Lyon FFA chapter at Inwood. The sponsor of the Dairy Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Milt Luckstead Sr. through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Agricultural Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Sarah Striegel

School: Tri-County FFA, Thornburg

Description: Sarah Striegel, of the Tri-County FFA Chapter, is the first place winner in the area of Diversified Agricultural Production. Sarah has increased her livestock operation head count by more than 200% since her beginning. Her operation of sweet corn enterprise and working as a farmhand has earned her enough to attend Iowa State University without the need for student loans where she is a student in Agricultural Education.

The second place winner in the area of Diversified Agricultural Production is Dalton Johnson from the Indianola FFA chapter. The sponsor of the Diversified Agricultural Production Proficiency Award is Hertz Farm Management through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Crop Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Kyle Henkle

School: Vinton-Shellsburg FFA

Description: Kyle Henkle, of the Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter, is the first place winner in Diversified Crop Production-Entrepreneurship. Henkle first started producing crops when his grandpa gifted him four acres of land for a test plot with DuPont Pioneer. Through his SAE, he has learned the importance of crop scouting, seed selection, and tillage systems. After graduation, Henkle plans to attend Kirkwood Community College in Ag Production Management and transfer to Iowa State University to earn a four-year degree.

The second place winner in the area of Diversified Crop Production-Entrepreneurship is Derek Finnegan from the Guthrie Center FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Diversified Crop Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Iowa State University Agronomy Club through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Crop Production - Placement

State Winner: Damon Knobloch

School: West Lyon FFA, Inwood

Description: Damon Knobloch, of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood, is the first place winner in the area of Diversified Crop Production-Placement. Knobloch has been helping his dad on the farm since he was 5 years old. Over the past two years, he has worked approximately 1,800 hours from cultivating and disking in the fields to repairs and maintenance on equipment. He has gained valuable knowledge involving chemical selection and application and manure management. Knobloch plans to attend college after graduation to major in Agricultural Business or aviation.

In second place in the area of Diversified Crop Production-Placement is Jacob Droeszler of the Cascade FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Diversified Crop Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Legend Seeds, Inc. through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Horticulture – Placement/Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Trey Kehoe

School: Prairie Valley FFA, Gowrie

Description: Trey Kehoe, of the Prairie Valley FFA Chapter at Gowrie, is the first place winner in the area of Diversified Horticulture. Kehoe worked more than 750 hours in a variety of areas including turf grass management, landscaping, and designing and implementing several landscape beds. Kehoe demonstrated the importance of safety and communications each step of the way, while saving 60% of his earnings for college. He currently attends Iowa Central Community College for criminal justice.

The second place winner in the area of Diversified Horticulture is Amy Knobloch of West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood. The sponsor of the Diversified Horticulture-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Ron and Mary Beth Zelle family through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Livestock Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Reagan Meyer

School: West Lyon FFA, Inwood

Description: Reagan Meyer, of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood, is the first place winner in the area of Diversified Livestock Production-Entrepreneurship. Meyer has a feeder to finish cattle and swine. His scope has expanded from one beef steer in 2010 to 294 head of finished hogs and eight head of finished beef in 2013. During that time, Meyer has greatly increased his profitability. Meyer plans to pursue a degree in electrical construction or animal science upon graduating high school.

The second place winner in the area of Diversified Livestock Production-Entrepreneurship is Zach Peppmeier of the Creston FFA chapter. The sponsor of the Diversified Livestock Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Kent Nutrition Group through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Livestock Production - Placement

State Winner: Lucas Brincks

School: South Winneshick FFA, Calmar

Description: Lucas Brincks, of the South Winneshick FFA Chapter at Calmar, is the first place winner in the area of Diversified Livestock Production-Placement. Brincks has invested more than 3,100 hours assisting his parents' farrow-to-finish hog operation, beef operation, and egg layer operation. Brincks learned various skills in general care of all livestock species. He plans to attend Northwest Iowa Community College in Calmar for John Deere Technology.

The second place winner in the area of Diversified Livestock Production-Placement is Wade Gelach from the Maquoketa FFA. The sponsor of the Diversified Livestock Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Augustine and Sons, Inc. through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Emerging Agricultural Technology - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Jonathan Boss

School: North Linn FFA, Troy Mills

Description: Jonathan Boss, of the North Linn FFA at Troy Mills, is the first place winner in the area of Emerging Ag. Technology. Boss is currently a high school senior with plans to enroll at Iowa State University majoring in Agriculture Studies. In 2013, he worked 142 hours as the hydroponic and aeroponic manager at the school greenhouse facility. One important skill he learned involved designing and implementing an integrated pest management system to improve overall production and efficiency of the hydroponics and aquaculture systems.

The sponsor of the Emerging Agricultural Technology Proficiency Award is Farmers Cooperative Co. through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Darcy Sunderman

School: Brokaw FFA, Clarinda

Description: Darcy Sunderman, of Brokaw FFA Chapter at Clarinda, is the first place winner in the area of Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management. Sunderman owns a terrace surveying and seeding business. She works to ensure better soil conservation and eliminate erosion. She has been able to maintain a steady business for the past three years averaging seven to ten customers a year with a net income of more than \$6,000. Sunderman has learned how to properly operate lasers and terrace surveying equipment. She plans to attend Northwest Missouri State University to major in physical therapy and minor in coaching.

The second place winner in the area of Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management is Joe Mohlis from the North Fayette Valley FFA at West Union. The sponsor of the Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management Proficiency Award is Agri Drain Corporation through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Equine Science - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Taylor Van Roekel

School: Central Lyon FFA, Rock Rapids

Description: Taylor Van Roekel, of the Central Lyon FFA Chapter at Rock Rapids, is the first place winner in the area of Equine Science-Entrepreneurship. In March 2005, Taylor was given two miniature horses in exchange for labor at Chainlink Paints. In 2009, Taylor started high school with five miniature horses and continued to improve Lazy Creek Miniatures into the proficient SAE it is today. To date, she has worked 6,692 hours with her Equine Entrepreneurship SAE. After high school, Taylor plans to earn a degree in Agronomy and continue to grow her business.

The second place winner in the area of Equine Science-Entrepreneurship is Morgan Quick of the Mount Ayr FFA. The sponsor of the Equine Science-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is the Iowa State University Block and Bridle Club through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Equine Science - Placement

State Winner: Jessica Ackerson

School: Indianola FFA

Description: Jessica Ackerson, of the Indianola FFA Chapter, is the first place winner in the area of Equine Science-Placement. Ackerson has worked more than 2,000 unpaid hours per year. She has learned about equine health care, injuries, show competition, breeding management, and exercising. Ackerson plans to attend Iowa State University for animal science pre-vet.

The second place winner in the area of Equine Science-Placement is Karissa Meitner from the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union. The sponsor of the Equine Science-Placement Proficiency Award is the Iowa Horse Council through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Reed Burres

School: Humboldt FFA

Description: Reed Burres of the Humboldt FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Fiber/Oil Crop production sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. He farms 19 acres of soybeans in partnership with his parents. Through his efforts he has achieved an average yield of 71 bushels per acre. He markets his crops through the local co-op. Burres plans to attend Iowa State University and major in Agronomy.

The sponsor of the Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production Proficiency Award is the Iowa Soybean Association through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Food Science and Technology - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Megan McEnany

School: Colo-NESCO FFA

Description: Megan McEnany of the Colo-NESCO FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Food Science and Technology. McEnany was involved with the World Food Prize as an intern. Currently, she is working with the plant transformation facility at Iowa State University as a researcher. McEnany is a freshman at Iowa State University majoring in agronomy.

The sponsor of the Food Science and Technology Proficiency Award is sponsored by Hy-Vee through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Forage Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Jacob Beyer

School: Pella FFA Chapter

Description: Jacob Beyer of the Pella FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Forage Production. Beyer started his forage production SAE with 13 acres and building it up to 138.9 acres. Beyer actively markets his hay through Craigslist and other contacts. He caters to his customers needs to maximize his income.

In second place in the area of Forage Production is Josh Carlson of the Prairie Valley FFA Chapter at Gowrie.

Proficiency Area: Forest Management - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Molly Mormann

School: West Delaware FFA Chapter, Manchester

Description: The winner in the area of Forest Management is Molly Mormann of the West Delaware FFA Chapter at Manchester. Mormann replenished and replanted the windbreak on the family farm. She helped removed old damaged trees, clean up the area, and replanted the area using new seedlings. Mormann plans to attend Iowa State University to study animal science.

The second place winner in the area of Forest Management is Collin Bryan from the Southeast Polk FFA Chapter at Pleasant Hill. The sponsor of the Forest Management Proficiency Award is the MinnTex Citrus - Iowa through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Fruit Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Crystal Kleitsch

School: Wapsie Valley FFA, Fairbank

Description: Crystal Kleitsch of the Wapsie Valley FFA at Fairbank is the first place winner in Fruit Production. Kleitsch invested 238 paid hours at the Bagge Strawberry Patch where she mastered numerous skills in customer relations and salesmanship. She performs many aspects of day-to-day operations from the picking, weighing, and transportation of customers in a pick yourself operation. Upon Graduation, Kleitsch plans to study business at Loras College.

The second place winner in the area of Fruit Production is Tarah Meyer from the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood. The sponsor of the Fruit Production Proficiency Award is 4 Seasons Fund Raising through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Goat Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Benjamin Feucht

School: West Lyon FFA, Inwood

Description: In the area of Goat Production our winner is Benjamin Feucht of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood. Feucht has 10 head of nannies and currently has an additional 22 head of market goats. He has learned skills in disease identification, vaccination programs, and developing food rations. Feucht has a working knowledge of genetics and has developed marketing skills. Upon graduation, he plans to attend college and major in biotechnology.

The second place winner in the area of Goat Production is Timothy Schmitt from the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union. The sponsor of the Goat Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Iowa Meat Goat Association through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Grain Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Samantha Urmie

School: North Scott FFA Chapter, Eldridge

Description: In the area of Grain Production Entrepreneurship the winner is Samantha Urmie of the North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge. Urmie's involvement in grain production has been the operation and management of 70 acres of cropland in a corn and soybean rotation. Through her SAE program, Urmie has been involved with the planting, fertility, harvesting, and marketing of her crops. She is currently a student at Muscatine Community College in the Agribusiness and Technology program.

The second place winner in the area of Grain Production-Entrepreneurship is Andrew Richter of the South O'Brien FFA Chapter at Paullina. The sponsor of the Grain Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Iowa Crop Improvement Association through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Grain Production - Placement

State Winner: Tristan Dittmer

School: Oelwein FFA Chapter

Description: Tristan Dittmer of the Oelwein FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Grain Production Placement. Tristan had 1,480 total work hours that were used to meet his goals and skills on an efficient family farm. Tristan became very proficient in his work and was driven to meet the goals of his proficiency application. Upon graduation Tristan plans to attend Iowa State University and major ag business and/or engineering. Clayton Taylor from the Prairie Valley FFA chapter at Gowrie received second.

The second place winner in the area of Grain Production-Placement is Clayton Taylor from the Prairie Valley FFA Chapter at Gowrie. The sponsor of the Grain Production-Placement Proficiency Award is the Heartland Co-op through Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Home and/or Community Development-Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Jordan Bayliss

School: Sioux Central FFA Chapter, Sioux Rapids

Description: Jordan Bayliss of the Sioux Central FFA Chapter at Sioux Rapids is the winner in the area of Home and Community Development. Bayliss has dedicated over 400 hours raising funds and organizing logistics for building Sukup Safe-T-Homes in Haiti. Bayliss has taken the lead in her chapter by developing connections with Global Compassion International and traveling to Haiti to construct three homes as well as working with Haitians in an orphanage. Upon graduation, Bayliss will further her education in veterinarian medicine.

The second place winner in the area of Home and/or Community Development is Shannon Michelson from the Sibley-Ocheyedan FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Home and/or Community Development Proficiency Award is the Iowa Farmer Today through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Landscape Management - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Isiah Brandt

School: Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA Chapter

Description: Isiah Brandt of the Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Landscape Management. Isiah worked over 200 hours for a landscape management company establishing and maintaining lawns, planting landscape, and learning how to use the equipment associated with that work. After graduation, Isiah would like to attend Iowa State University in engineering and eventually own and operate his family farm.

The second place winner in the area of Landscape Management is Hope Bosler from the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood. The sponsor of the Landscape Management Proficiency Award is the North Linn FFA Chapter through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Organic Agriculture Award

State Winner: Zachary Ericson

School: North Linn FFA Chapter, Troy Mills

Description: The Organic Agriculture Award winner is Zachary Ericson of the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills. Zachary used greenhouse space at his high school and designed and constructed an organic garden using hydroponics. In 250 hours of unpaid labor, he developed practices and tested theories that increased yields consistently over the course of a few months. He plans to enter Kirkwood Community College this fall and major in Agriculture Geospatial Technology.

The sponsor of the Organic Agriculture Award is J. Ward Organics LLC through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Outdoor Recreation - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Lane Driver

School: Boone A&M FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Outdoor Recreation the winner is Lane Driver from the Boone A&M FFA Chapter. Lane is part of a family run organization that teaches campers the proper skills needed to ride a horse safely. He has spent many hours caring for horses and tries to maintain the herd for many to enjoy trail rides and learn how the various things that go with equine.

The second place winner is Evan Havik from the Chariton FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Outdoor Recreation Proficiency Award is Iowa Trappers Association through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Poultry Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Garrett Radintz

School: Sioux Central FFA Chapter, Sioux Rapids

Description: In the area of Poultry our winner is Garrett Radintz of the Sioux Central FFA Chapter at Sioux Rapids. Radintz has invested over 300 hours in working for Double R Farms poultry business. He performs daily maintenance of buildings and helps keep the birds disease free. Blood samples are key in determining if an animal is safe for consumption; Radintz helps with taking these every four weeks. Radintz plans to attend Des Moines Area Community College and major in Automotive Services.

The second place winner in the area of Poultry Production is Emily Meerdink from the Akron-Westfield FFA. The sponsor of the Poultry Production Proficiency Award is the Iowa Poultry Association through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Sheep Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Adam Moehle

School: Mediapolis FFA Chapter

Description: Adam Moehle of the Mediapolis FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Sheep production. Moehle has doubled his flock size in two years from 43 to 85 breeding ewes. He has gained skills in herd health, record keeping, and showmanship techniques. Moehle has helped with the addition of two new lambing barns to allow flock expansion. He plans on continuing to work with his family in their sheep enterprise.

The second place winner in the area of Sheep Production is Rebecca White of the Clay Central Everly FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Sheep Production Proficiency Award is Iowa Club Lamb Association through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Small Animal Production and Care - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Sara Eddie

School: Sioux Central FFA Chapter, Sioux Rapids

Description: Sara Eddie of the Sioux Central FFA Chapter at Sioux Rapids is the winner in the area of Small Animal Production and Care Entrepreneurship. Eddie raises 25 New Zealand and mini Rex Rabbits. She has learned about breeding for strong traits, importance of tattooing, and health care of rabbits. After high school Eddie plans to attend Iowa State University for Agricultural Communications.

The second place winner in the area of Small Animal Production and Care-Entrepreneurship is Nina Morris of the Collins-Maxwell FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Small Animal Production and Care-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Heska through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Small Animal Production and Care - Placement

State Winner: Aimee Byerly

School: Oelwein FFA Chapter

Description: Aimee Byerly of the Oelwein FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Small Animal Productions and Care-Placement. Byerly has learned how to provide and work towards using necessary skills for her future. The skills she obtained through her SAE include grooming, weaning, and marketing puppies. She plans to attend upper Iowa University in Elementary Education while she continues working with dogs.

The second place winner in the area of Small Animal Production and Care-Placement is Annette Payne of the Southeast Polk FFA Chapter at Pleasant Hill. The sponsor of the Small Animal Production and Care-Placement Proficiency Award is Elanco through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Specialty Animal Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Justin Voss

School: North Linn FFA Chapter, Troy Mills

Description: The winner in the area of Specialty Animal Production is Justin Voss of the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills. Voss has invested 350 hours working as the aquatic manager of the North Linn high school aquaculture facility. He works directly with the Giant Malaysian Freshwater Prawn, of which he increased the population from 500 to 3,500 fish, as well as working with three American Alligators. Voss works with all aspects of the animal's from cleaning enclosures, water quality tests, and educating youth and adults about prawn and alligator production. He plans to attend a major university in Iowa upon graduation.

The second place winner in the area of Specialty Animal Production is Dalton Frick from the Sibley-Ocheyedan FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Specialty Animal Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement Proficiency Award is Sonny Deke through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Specialty Crop Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Natalie Hanson

School: LaPorte-Dysart FFA

Description: Natalie Hanson, of the LaPorte-Dysart FFA Chapter, is the first place winner in the area of Specialty Crop Production. Hanson has raised and sold gourds and mums for the local farmers market. She is a freshman at Iowa State University majoring in Biological Systems Engineering.

The second place winner in the area of Specialty Crop Production is David Turnis from the Cascade FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Specialty Crop Production Proficiency Award is the DeWitt Central FFA through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Kale Boysen

School: Wapello FFA

Description: In the area of swine production – entrepreneurship is Kale Boysen from the Wapello FFA Chapter. Boysen has enjoyed working with hogs on his families farm since age 6. After showing pigs, he was motivated to raise and market high quality show pigs of his own. He contributes his successful stock of 13 gilts to diligent care and attention to his animals. Boysen plans to grow his operation as he gains more knowledge and experience. Boysen plans to attend a four year university and study animal science.

The second place winner in the area of Swine Production-Entrepreneurship is Cory Knepper of the Cascade FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Swine Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Iowa Pork Producers Association through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Placement

State Winner: Spencer Pech

School: Starmont FFA Chapter, Arlington

Description: In the area of Swine Production-Placement our first place winner is Spencer Pech of the Starmont FFA Chapter at Arlington. Pech has 1,000 paid hours managing a swine farm, with a focus on the farrowing complex. Pech has continued to gain more responsibilities and skills related to farrowing, gestation, and processing care of newborn pigs. Upon graduation, Pech plans to pursue an engineering career by attending MIT or another IVY League School.

The second place winner in the area of Swine Production-Placement is Chase Fuhrman South O'Brien FFA Chapter at Paullina. The sponsor of the Swine Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Iowa Hog Slat – Midwest Division through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Turf Grass Management - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Logan Street

School: Agri-Power FFA Chapter, Eddyville

Description: The winner in the area of Turf Grass Management-Entrepreneurship is Logan Street from the Agri-Power FFA at Eddyville. Street began by mowing his family's yard and has expanded to mowing the local church. Logan plans to pursue education in diesel mechanics in the future.

The second place winner in the area of Turf Grass Management-Entrepreneurship is Colton Schlemme from the Cascade FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Turf Grass Management-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Calcium Products Inc. through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Turf Grass Management - Placement

State Winner: Jack Reiter

School: Cascade FFA

Description: Jack Reiter of the Cascade FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Turf Grass Management-Placement. Jack has devoted 700 hours into working at Thunder Hills Country Club in Peosta, Iowa. He helped maintain the 50 acre estate through mowing, weed management, edging/trimming, irrigation, and tiling. Through his SAE he has developed responsibility and attention to detail. Reiter plans to attend a community college upon graduation.

The second place winner in Turf Grass Management-Placement is Anna Den Herder of the Sioux Center FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Turf Grass Management-Placement Proficiency Award is Iowa Cubs Sports Turf Management through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Vegetable Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Talon Meyer

School: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: Talon Meyer of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood is the winner in the area of Vegetable Production. Talon has become involved with his family's tradition of growing and marketing pumpkins. Each year, Myer has made a considerable increase in revenue in his entrepreneur venture. Talon's future plans include pursuing a degree in business.

The second place winner in the area of Vegetable Production is Krista Moellers of the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union. The sponsor of the Vegetable Production Proficiency Award is 4 Seasons Fundraising through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Veterinary Science – Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Morgan Rosenberger

School: Indianola FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Veterinary Science is Morgan Rosengerger of the Indianola FFA Chapter. Morgan has worked over 800 hours for Indianola Vet Clinic. She helps with both large and small animals and has learned numerous skills during the past two years at the clinic. Rosenburger now has a greater respect for what Vets do on a daily basis. After graduation Rosenberger plans to attend Iowa State University and major in Animal Science and then attend Veterinary School.

The second place winner in the area of Veterinary Science is Kacey Reynolds of the Earlham FFA Chapter. The sponsor of the Veterinary Science Proficiency Award is Iowa State University Block and Bridle through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Wildlife Production and Management - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: T.J. Tittle

School: Cascade FFA Chapter

Description: T.J. Tittle of the Cascade FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Wildlife Production and Management Entrepreneurship. T.J. has spent many hours learning about trapping and how to be more efficient with his time. This past year he caught 66 animals and sold the fur by learning new techniques and gaining experience that he could implement in his SAE project.

The second place winner in the area of Wildlife Production and Management-Entrepreneurship is Tristan Petersen of the Prairie Valley FFA Chapter at Gowrie. The sponsor of the Wildlife Production and Management-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Iowa Division Izaak Walton League through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Wildlife Production and Management - Placement

State Winner: Allyson Schultes

School: Coon Rapids - Bayard FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Wildlife Production and Management Placement our winner is Allyson Schultes of the Coon Rapids-Bayard FFA Chapter. Schultes has spent many hours working with raptors that are in need of medical attention. She has learned many things about bird care and lead poisoning. She plans to continue her work with SOAR to gain more skills. After graduating from high school Allyson plans on attending a two-year college in order to transfer to university to major in animal science and ag business.

The second place winner in the area of Wildlife Production and Management-Placement is Cody Baumler from the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union. The sponsor of the Wildlife Production and Management-Placement Proficiency Award is Bass Pro Shop through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

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