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News Release

Ballard FFA Wins Iowa FFA Ag Communications CDE

AMES, IA--The Ballard FFA Chapter from Huxley was named the Champion Team in the annual Iowa FFA Agricultural Communications Career Development Event (CDE) held at Iowa State University in Ames on April 11, 2017. Members of the first place team included: Caitlin Peterson, Jim Chism, Grace Long, and Ashley Kahler. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Ms. Jenny Lichty. They will represent Iowa at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana in October. The Unity Christian FFA Chapter from Orange City was named the Reserve Champion Team. Members of the second place team included: Adri Tilstra, Erin Miedema, Kirsten Buiter, and Nicole Van Roekel. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Mr. Dennis Benson.

FFA members from 13 chapters participated in this year's career development event. The event provided students the opportunity to display their agricultural knowledge and skills in the area of agricultural communications. The 51 individuals who participated in the event completed several activities including demonstration of skills and problem solving in web design, video production, journalistic writing, and opinion writing, as well as presenting a team media plan. High individual for the web design practicum was Rachel Findling, Clay Central/Everly FFA, Everly. Lauren Carleton, Mediapolis FFA, Mediapolis was named the high individual for the video production practicum. Top journalistic writing practicum winner was Grace Long, Ballard FFA, Huxley. Blair Bennis, Maquoketa FFA, Maquoketa won the opinion writing practicum. Each practicum winner was awarded with a plaque.

The Iowa FFA Agricultural Communications CDE was made possible with support from Iowa Soybean Association and the Soybean Checkoff and Iowa Farmer Today through the Iowa FFA Foundation. Champion and reserve champion teams were presented with plaques and rosettes. Plaques were also presented to the champion practicum team, top written plan and top presentation. Plaques were also presented to the champion practicum team, top written plan team and top presentation team. Other top ten teams were also presented with rosettes.

Top 10 Teams

- 1 Ballard FFA, Huxley
- 2 Unity Christian FFA
- 3 DeWitt Central FFA, DeWitt
- 4 Mediapolis FFA, Mediapolis
- 5 Maquoketa FFA, Maquoketa
- 6 MMCRU FFA Chapter at Marcus
- 7 North Fayette Valley FFA, West Union
- 8 Clay Central/Everly FFA, Everly
- 9 West Lyon FFA, Inwood
- 10 Boone A&M FFA, Boone

Specialty Areas -- Top Team/ Top Individual:

- Team Project Proposal
Ballard FFA, Huxley
- Team Presentation
Ballard FFA, Huxley
- Team Practicums
Ballard FFA, Huxley
- Web Design Practicum
Rachel Findling, Clay Central/Everly FFA, Everly
- Video Producer Media Practicum
Lauren Carleton, Mediapolis FFA, Mediapolis
- Journalistic Writer Practicum
Grace Long, Ballard FFA, Huxley
- Opinion Writer Practicum
Blair Bennis, Maquoketa FFA, Maquoketa

Below is a list of chapters participating by medal group.

Gold Teams (3)

Score Range

- Ballard FFA, Huxley
- Unity Christian FFA
- DeWitt Central FFA, DeWitt

Bronze Teams (4)

Score Range (523 to

- Boone A&M FFA, Boone
- Washington FFA, Washington
- Cascade FFA
- Alburnett FFA, Alburnett

Silver Teams (6)

Score Range

- Mediapolis FFA, Mediapolis
- Maquoketa FFA, Maquoketa
- MMCRU FFA Chapter at Marcus
- North Fayette Valley FFA, West Union
- Clay Central/Everly FFA, Everly
- West Lyon FFA, Inwood

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of over 14,800 student members as part of 232 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.