



## CONTACT

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

## **News Release**

# 2020 Iowa FFA Proficiency Award Results

ANKENY, Iowa--100% of FFA members have proficiencies as part of the agricultural program and the FFA. These proficiencies range in the areas of Agricultural Communications to Service Learning and from Diversified Agricultural Production to Swine Production. 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 will advance to the National FFA competition where they will compete against winners from the other State FFA Associations. The four national finalists that are selected from each area will be recognized at the National FFA Convention and Expo in October.

The Iowa FFA Proficiency Awards program is possible with support from the many partners of the Iowa FFA Foundation. The specific partner for each area is identified in our summary of results.

Listed below are the results from the 2020 Iowa Proficiency Awards program.

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## **About Iowa FFA Association**

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of more than 16,000 student members as part of 246 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](http://IowaFFA.com), on Facebook and Twitter.

## **Iowa FFA Association - 2**

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### **Proficiency Area: Agricultural Communications**

**State Winner:** Kesley Holdgrafer

**FFA Chapter:** Northeast FFA Chapter, Goose Lake

**Description:** In the area of Agricultural Communications, sponsored by Iowa Farmer today, the winner is Kesley Holdgrafer of the Northeast FFA Chapter at Goose Lake. Kesley is a member of the Current Ag Concerns media group where she is part of a weekly live ag radio show and hosts live interviews at conferences and events across the country. Kesley also writes weekly articles for the Clinton County Farm Bureau Spokesman. Her plans after high school are to advocate for agricultural communications. The runner up in this area is Grace Bjustrom of the North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge.

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### **Proficiency Area: Agricultural Education**

**State Winner:** Kaitlyn Bean

**FFA Chapter:** North Linn FFA Chapter, Troy Mills

**Description:** Kaitlyn Bean of the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills is the first place winner in the area of Agricultural Education, sponsored by Iowa State University Agricultural Education and Studies. Kaitlyn has invested over 1,000 hours educating the public about agricultural issues in Linn county. Through this project, she supervises the agricultural education tent at the Linn County Fair. These responsibilities include creating a budget, organizing volunteers, and providing hands-on learning activities. The runner up in this area is Madelaine Altenhofen of the Lone Tree FFA Chapter.

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### **Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication**

**State Winner:** Carly Palmer

**FFA Chapter:** Little Switzerland FFA Chapter, Waukon

**Description:** Carly Palmer of the Little Switzerland FFA Chapter at Waukon is the first place winner in the area of Agricultural Mechanics- Design and Fabrication, sponsored by CF Industries. Palmer has invested nearly 1,300 hours in repairs on customers' equipment, as well as manufacturing new products while working for Palmer Repair and Fabrication. Upon graduation, Palmer plans to attend Northeast Iowa Community College to study agricultural sales and agricultural business, which would help her to someday take over the family business. The runner up in this area is Brayden Beinhart of the Indianola FFA Chapter.

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### **Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Entrepreneurship**

**State Winner:** Austin Jaeger

**FFA Chapter:** Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

**Description:** Austin Jaeger of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville is the first place winner in the area of Agricultural Mechanics-Repair and Maintenance Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. In just a short amount of time, Austin has expanded his business to have a customer base across five states. His services include the detailing and polishing of trucks. Jaeger is currently a senior at Beckman Catholic High School.

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### **Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Placement**

**State Winner:** Lane Mellencamp

**FFA Chapter:** Browkaw FFA Chapter, Clarinda

**Description:** The winner in the area of Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance Placement, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation, is Lane Mellencamp of the Brokaw FFA Chapter at Clarinda. Mellencamp has invested over 1800 hours working Schmitt Farm Trucking where he performs all aspects of truck and trailer maintenance and service. After graduation, Mellencamp plans to attend Des Moines Area Community College to continue his education in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning. The runner up is Jacob White of the Charles City FFA Chapter.

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### Iowa FFA Association - 3

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**Proficiency Area: Agricultural Processing**

State Winner: Chad Bishop

FFA Chapter: West Delaware FFA Chapter, Manchester

Description: The winner in the area of Ag Processing, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation, is Chad Bishop of the West Delaware FFA Chapter at Manchester. Bishop has invested over 1400 hours assisting in the day to day operations at Edgewood Locker. He was involved in processing over 3500 hogs and over 1500 beef last year and just over 150 deer per day. The runner up is Taylor Williams of the IKM-Manning FFA Chapter.

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**Proficiency Area: Agricultural Sales - Entrepreneurship**

State Winner: Collin Knipper

FFA Chapter: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: In the area of Agricultural Sales Entrepreneurship, sponsored by Wyffels Hybrids, the winner is Collin Knipper of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter. Knipper owns Farm Toys 4 You and has increased his sales from 255 items to 1,200 farm tractors, pickups, implements, and buildings. He has tripled his income during his time in FFA. Knipper plans to use his SAE and FFA experience to pursue a career in agricultural business.

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**Proficiency Area: Agricultural Sales - Placement**

State Winner: Payten Lehmann

FFA Chapter: North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter, West Union

Description: The winner in the area of Agricultural Sales Placement, sponsored by Wyffels Hybrids, is Payton Lehmann from the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union. Lehmann works for her father who owns Lehmann Rock and Line Services. During this time, she has improved the business's billing and invoicing and has found other ways to market the business. Lehmann has developed skills in assembly, designing, implementing reports, equipment and marketing strategies. Her future plan is to attend college to become a dental hygienist. The runner up is Bryna Knoblock of West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood.

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**Proficiency Area: Agricultural Services**

State Winner: Kirk Moser

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: The winner in the area of Agricultural Services, sponsored by Landus Cooperative, is Kirk Moser of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood. Moser has vaccinated over 6500 pigs throughout his time managing and operating his business. His responsibilities include the scheduling and hiring of employees, mixing and administering vaccines, as well as the managing of supply, maintenance, and biosecurity. He is also tasked with record keeping and other financial duties. Through his SAE, Moser has learned how to communicate with his customers, manage finances and keep proper vaccine records. Upon graduation, Moser plans to attend South Dakota State University to pursue a degree in Ag Science, Ag Business or Animal Science. The runner up in this area is Fallon Finnegan of the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills.

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**Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research - Animal Systems**

State Winner: Kaitlyn Goedken

School: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: Kaitlyn Goedken, of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville, is the winner in the area of Agriscience Research-Animal Systems, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. Goedken has invested 36 hours in her research of the impact of primary nutritional sources on the neonatal growth rate of a dairy calf. Through her research Goedken has learned how to collect and manage data, maintain accurate research data, manage proper biosecurity measures, and present her research to professional groups.

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## **Iowa FFA Association - 4**

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### **Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research – Integrated Systems**

**State Winner:** Sean Kluesner

**FFA Chapter:** Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

**Description:** Sean Kluesner, of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville, is the winner in the area of Agriscience Research- Integrated Systems sponsored by Milt Luckstead Sr. Kluesner has invested 45 hours in his research. He studied the use of worms in reducing plastic waste and determined the possibility of using gravity powered light for ultraviolet light sanitation in remote areas. The runner up is Dylan Peterson of the Pilot Creek FFA Chapter at Pocahontas.

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### **Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research – Plant Systems**

**State Winner:** Nicole Schilling

**School:** Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

**Description:** Nicole Schilling of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville, is the winner in the area of Agriscience Research-Plant Systems sponsored by MinnTex Citrus. Schilling has dedicated 3 years and invested 375 hours to research in plant systems. She created a new antimicrobial agent using hops, which could eventually be used to help protect crops against gray/white molds and other microbes that affect plant development. Upon graduation, Schilling plans to pursue a nursing degree.

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### **Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Entrepreneurship**

**State Winner:** Ty Schoelerman

**FFA Chapter:** Spencer FFA Chapter

**Description:** In the area of Beef Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation, the winner is Ty Schoelerman of the Spencer FFA Chapter. Ty has developed his project from eleven head, to 66 feeder cattle. He has widened his scope of managing not only the production aspect, but also the marketing and financial components. The runner up in this area is Bradlie Wilmes of the Brokaw FFA Chapter at Clarinda.

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### **Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Placement**

**State Winner:** Jordan Klarenbeek

**FFA Chapter:** West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

**Description:** Jordan Klarenbeek of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood is the first place winner in the area of Beef Production Placement, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. Jordan has invested over 3,700 hours at Bat-K Cattle, where he has profited \$54,000. During his time at the feedlot, Jordan has treated sick cattle, run the field finisher, and gained the respect of his older co-workers with his consistently positive attitude while on the job. Upon graduation, Jordan plans to continue to work at Bar-K and gain more insight on the operations of the feedlot. The runner up in this area is Coryn Wilson of the North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge.

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### **Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Entrepreneurship**

**State Winner:** Faith Palmer

**FFA Chapter:** Little Switzerland FFA Chapter, Waukon

**Description:** The winner in the area of Dairy Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation, is Faith Palmer of the Little Switzerland FFA Chapter at Waukon. Palmer has increased her organic herd of dairy cattle from two to nine. She has learned to manage her herd through identifying health issues, as well as developing quality rations. Maintaining organic status and increasing milk components have also been a large part of her responsibilities as she has increased the average herd butterfat production from 4.1% to 4.4%. In the future, Palmer plans to become a veterinarian and continue her involvement in the family dairy. The runner up in this area is Anna Richards from the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter at Fairbank.

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## **Iowa FFA Association - 5**

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### **Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Placement**

**State Winner:** Amber Engelken

**FFA Chapter:** Maquoketa Valley, Delhi

**Description:** The winner in the area of Dairy Production Placement, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation, Amber Engelken of the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi. Amber has developed a strong placement program in dairy production as an employee of Delta Acres Dairy. During the time she has been employed, she has worked 3,430 hours. Her experiences include working with the 220 milk cows on a twice daily milking schedule, as well as reviewing herd health protocols and sanitation protocols for the milking facilities. Engelken is also experienced in selecting bulls for the dairy's Holstein-Jersey crossbreds. In this selection, she looks to increase the milk components which in turn increases the value of milk sold. Amber plans to attend Iowa State University and maintain her involvement in the dairy industry. The runner up is Hunter Thompson of the Edgewood-Colesburg FFA.

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### **Proficiency Area: Diversified Agricultural Production**

**State Winner:** Blake Frascht

**FFA Chapter:** Charles City FFA Chapter

**Description:** Blake Frascht of the Charles City FFA Chapter is the first place winner in the area of Diversified Agricultural Production, sponsored by Hertz Farm Management. Blake has grown his diversified entrepreneurship from one heifer and two feeder cattle to 420 acres of row crops, 238, head of feeder cattle, and 49 acres of forage production. Blake uses a performance beef analytical program, Cattle Krush, a broker, and a nutritionist to track performance, profitability, and to reduce risk. Blake utilizes conservation practices of feeding cattle under roof to eliminate runoff, no-till, GPS shut off on his sprayer to reduce overlap, and grassed waterways to prevent nutrient runoff and erosion. The runner up in this area is Hunter Holdgrafer of the Easton Valley FFA Chapter at Preston.

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### **Proficiency Area: Diversified Crop Production – Entrepreneurship**

**State Winner:** Jordan Balderston

**FFA Chapter:** Alburnett FFA Chapter.

**Description:** The winner in the area of Diversified Crop Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa Crop Improvement Association, is Jordan Balderston of the Alburnett FFA Chapter. His SAE consists of renting land and raising corn and soybeans. He began with 16.7 acres of corn in 2017 and eventually expanded this to 80.7 acres of corn and soybeans. Jordan utilizes an online bookkeeping software. He has experimented with forward contracting, which has allowed him to sell his grain for a higher price than the market. Jordan has learned to successfully operate a grain production business from start to finish. The runner up is Faith Riensche from the Jesup FFA Chapter.

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### **Proficiency Area: Diversified Crop Production - Placement**

**State Winner:** Nathan Kroeger

**FFA Chapter:** Carroll Area FFA Chapter

**Description:** The winner in the area of Diversified Crop Production Placement, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation, is Nathan Kroeger of the Carroll Area FFA Chapter. Nathan has spent over 3,500 hours working for his family's corn and soybean operation. He possesses an internal drive for productivity and efficiency on the farm. Nathan plans to obtain a college degree in agribusiness then return home to the family farm. The runner up is Kyle Voy of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter at Fairbank.

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### **Proficiency Area: Diversified Horticulture**

**State Winner:** Dalton Hanenburg

**FFA Chapter:** North Scott FFA Chapter, Eldridge

**Description:** The winner in the area of Diversified Horticulture, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation, is Dalton Hanenburg of the North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge. Hanenburg has invested over 950 hours in Nursery and Greenhouse operations, as well as turf grass management. He performs plant propagation and fertilization, in addition to harvesting fruits and using sustainable practices in his SAE area. Each year, Hanenburg improved salesmanship and knowledge of plants to prepare for his future career. Hanenburg is currently attending Iowa State University majoring in Agronomy and minoring in Entrepreneurial Studies. The runner up in this area is Brennan Imoehl of the North Fayette FFA Chapter at West Union.

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## **Iowa FFA Association - 6**

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### **Proficiency Area: Diversified Livestock Production**

State Winner: Zachary Schoelerman

FFA Chapter: Spencer FFA Chapter

Description: Zachary Schoelerman of the Spencer FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Diversified Livestock Production, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. Schoelerman manages a diversified program raising breeding sheep and feeder cattle. He has increased his ewe stock from having only 7 head in 2015 to ending 2019 with 50 head. The runner up in this area is Kyle Lund of the Wilton FFA Chapter.

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### **Proficiency Area: Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management**

State Winner: Kayla Bonert

FFA Chapter: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: The winner in the area of Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation, is Kayla Bonert of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville. Bonert has spent over 650 hours researching the effects of organic Corn Gluten meal on the germination of wild cucumber seeds, as well as the effectiveness of grass waterways on water erosion in fields. She plans to be involved in land conservation in the future. The runner up is Will Jorgensen of the IKM-Manning FFA Chapter.

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### **Proficiency Area: Equine Science - Entrepreneurship**

State Winner: Taylor McCreedy

FFA Chapter: Atlantic FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Equine Science Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa State University Block and Bridle Club, is Taylor McCreedy from the Atlantic FFA Chapter. McCreedy is active in owning, training, and boarding horses as well as supplementing her income with the sales of tack and other supplies. Her future plans include expanding her involvement in the equine operation. The runner up is Katelyn Cook of the Belle Plaine FFA Chapter.

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### **Proficiency Area: Equine Science - Placement**

State Winner: Bianca Sponseller

School: Nevada FFA Chapter

Description: Bianca Sponseller of the Nevada FFA Chapter is the first place winner in the area of Equine Science Placement, sponsored by the Iowa Horse Council. She holds strong involvement in her family's business, which includes her assuming the responsibility of raising, breeding, and selling a foal. Upon graduation, Bianca hopes to pursue a career as either a doctor or an equine vet. The runner up in this area is Madison Spencer of the Grinnell FFA Chapter

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### **Proficiency Area: Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production**

State Winner: Tristen Liebe

FFA Chapter: North Linn FFA Chapter, Troy Mills

Description: Tristen Liebe of the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills is the first place winner in the area of Fiber/Oil Production, sponsored by Iowa Soybean Association and the Soybean Checkoff. He has worked over 1,200 hours as an assistant farm manager on Marke Liebe Farms. He assists in planting, fertilizing, spraying, and harvesting 2,500 acres of soybeans each year. Upon graduation, Liebe plans to eventually take over the family operation. The runner up in this area is Joel Lambert of the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie.

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### **Proficiency Area: Forage Production**

State Winner: Andrew Van Nice

FFA Chapter: Muscatine FFA Chapter

Description: Andrew Van Nice of the Muscatine FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Forage Production, sponsored by Triple "A" Seeds. Andrew rents eight acres of ground on which he grows alfalfa. In 2019, he produced over 900 bales using these crops. Andrew has learned how to incorporate pest management plans, as well as how to maintain his equipment. He plans to attend Iowa State University to major in Agricultural Studies. The runner up in this area is Carson Lambert of the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie.

## **Iowa FFA Association - 7**

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### **Proficiency Area: Forest Management and Products**

State Winner: Levi Lauer

FFA Chapter: North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter, West Union

Description: The winner in the area of Forest Management and Products, sponsored by MinnTex Citrus, Inc. Minnesota, is Levi Lauer of the North Fayette Valley at West Union FFA Chapter. Lauer has over 1550 hours of labor removing trees and harvesting the wood for firewood and livestock bedding. He has learned how to safely operate all machinery used in the process. Lauer plans to attend college after graduation and return home to help farm and run the tree harvesting business. Our runner up is Hope Hartman from the West Fork FFA Chapter at Sheffield.

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### **Proficiency Area: Fruit Production**

State Winner: Carson Brinks

School: South Winneshiek FFA Chapter, Calmar

Description: The winner in the area of Fruit Production, sponsored by 4 Seasons Fundraising, is Carson Brinks from the South Winneshiek FFA Chapter at Calmar. Brinks has spent over 300 hours on production, harvesting, and processing of the family's fruit production enterprise. Brinks is involved in the nutrient program of the enterprise and is involved in a variety of areas of processing his raw product. Brinks plans to attend junior college after high school and eventually return to the family farm.

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### **Proficiency Area: Goat Production**

State Winner: Kayla Beyer

School: Pella FFA Chapter

Description: Kayla Beyer of the Pella FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Goat Production, sponsored by Iowa Meat Goat Association. Beyer knew in 6th grade that she wanted to follow her brother and raise goats. Always willing to accept wisdom and knowledge from others, she sought her parents help with decisions. She has found goat production is a rewarding achievement. Her experiences have prepared her for a future farm life. Our runner up is Zane Arnold from the Lone Tree FFA Chapter.

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### **Proficiency Area: Grain Production**

State Winner: Blake Meyer

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: Blake Meyer of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood is the winner in the area of Grain Production sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. Blake logged 2,499 hours of placement experience on his family's farm, acquiring a wealth of skills which demonstrate a progression of experience and responsibility. This has carved a niche for him on the family grain and livestock farm. Blake plans to continue his education in agricultural mechanics and continue to assist on the family farm. The runner up in this area is Grant Kuehnast of the Humboldt FFA Chapter.

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### **Proficiency Area: Landscape Management**

State Winner: Collin Witte

FFA Chapter: West Fork FFA Chapter, Sheffield

Description: Collin Witte of the West Fork FFA Chapter is the winner of Landscape Management, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. Witte operates Collin's Lawn Care where he has grown his business from 7 residential properties to 16 residential properties and many commercial properties. Witte has taken on snow removal as well, and volunteers his time and equipment to remove snow for his church. He owns and maintains a small fleet of lawn and snow removal equipment. Witte says his customers trust him to do a good job at a fair price. He plans to attend community college in agriculture, then transfer to a university and pursue a career in production ag or ag conservation and continue his landscaping business. Ethan Herzberg of the Brokaw FFA Chapter at Clarinda is the runner-up in this area.

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## **Iowa FFA Association - 8**

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### **Proficiency Area: Nursery Operations**

State Winner: Talin Knobloch

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: In the area of Nursery Operations sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation, our winner is Talin Knobloch of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood. Knobloch has invested over 200 hours at Knobloch's Greenhouses assisting with preparing and selling plants in retail. He also performs general maintenance and repair around the greenhouses and retail areas. The runner up is Garrett Heater of the Grinnell FFA Chapter.

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### **Proficiency Area: Organic Agriculture**

State Winner: Abigail Welter

FFA Chapter: Cascade FFA Chapter

Description: Abigail Welter of the Cascade FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Organic Agriculture, sponsored by J.Ward Organics LLC. Abigail assists in the processing of organic seeds for Welter Seed and Honey. Welter is responsible for mixing the seeds and inoculants according to MOSA certification. Abigail is also tasked with the clean-out process that happens before mixing, the proper labeling, and proper storage of organic seeds. Welter plans to attend Iowa State University or Dordt University to further her education in Animal Science.

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### **Proficiency Area: Outdoor Recreation**

State Winner: Katherine Grebner

FFA Chapter: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: Katherine Grebner of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville is the first place winner in the area of Outdoor Recreation, sponsored by the Iowa Trappers Association. Grebner worked as an outdoor activities guide and counselor at a summer camp. While there, she managed outdoor activities for children of a wide range of ages while maintaining their safety. The runner up in this area is Emily Harris of the Central Lyon FFA Chapter at Rock Rapids.

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### **Proficiency Area: Poultry Production**

State Winner: Abbigail Bean

FFA Chapter: Sioux Central FFA Chapter at Sioux Rapids

Description: Abbigail Bean of the Sioux Central FFA Chapter at Sioux Rapids is the first place winner in the area of Poultry Production, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. Throughout her four years of working at the Bean family farm, Abbigail has logged over 1,000 paid hours. Her poultry project has sparked her interest in feed science. Due to this interest, Abbigail plans to attend Kansas State University to major in Feed Science. The runner up in this area is John Steffen of the Waverly-Shell Rock FFA Chapter.

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### **Proficiency Area: Service Learning**

State Winner: Kristina Agnitsch

FFA Chapter: Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming

Description: Kristina Agnitsch of the Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming is the winner in the area of Small Animal Production and Care, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. Kristina has invested over 200 hours in 2 years and raised \$30,000 for a new handicap accessible playground at the Wyoming fairgrounds. She identified a community need and worked together with the Wyoming Fair Association to develop a plan to meet this need. Our runner up is Abigail Buckman from the Lone Tree FFA Chapter.

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## **Iowa FFA Association - 9**

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### **Proficiency Area: Sheep Production**

**State Winner:** Theresa Crawford

**FFA Chapter:** Grinnell FFA Chapter

**Description:** The winner in the area of the Sheep Production, sponsored by the Iowa Club Lamb Association, is Theresa Crawford of the Grinnell FFA Chapter. Crawford assists her family with their 12 ewe flock. She feeds, vaccinates, lambs, and keeps breeding records. She averages 150 hours per year and is very proud of achieving a goal of zero death loss in 2019. She says the biggest lesson she's learned while working with sheep is the importance of patience. Theresa plans to attend college and hopes to receive a degree in chemistry and possibly a master's in education. After college she wants to be a high school science teacher. Our runner up is Ashley Auderer from the West Dubuque FFA Chapter at Epworth.

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### **Proficiency Area: Small Animal Production and Care**

**State Winner:** Kristi Bries

**FFA Chapter:** Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

**Description:** The first place winner in the area of Small Animal Production and Care, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation, is Kristi Bries of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville. Bries SAE includes the breeding, raising, and care of her rabbits. Kristi has eight different breeds of rabbits under her care that she also sees to their reproduction. Bries has been successful in increasing her herd each year. The runner up in this area is Sadie Feucht of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood.

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### **Proficiency Area: Specialty Animal Production**

**State Winner:** Joshua Hefflefinger

**FFA Chapter:** Grinnell FFA Chapter

**Description:** Joshua Hefflefinger of the Grinnell FFA Chapter is the first place winner in the area of Specialty Animal Production, sponsored by DeWitt Central FFA Alumni. Joshua has grown his operation from one fish tank to twelve, as well as from one species to twelve. He conducted his own fish auction and to this day, he has sold 700 fish. Upon graduation, he wants to pursue a job as a DNR officer and expand his SAE into his own aquatic store. The runner up in this area is Rebecca Beaman of the Adel DeSoto Minburn FFA Chapter at Adel.

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### **Proficiency Area: Specialty Crop Production**

**State Winner:** Abigail Welter

**FFA Chapter:** Cascade FFA Chapter

**Description:** Abigail Welter of the Cascade FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Specialty Crop Production, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. Abigail works for Welter Seed and Honey, assisting in warehouse and plant maintenance operations. Welter helps in producing over 60 organic products which include small grains, corn, legumes, grasses, and mixed seeds. Abigail plans to attend either Iowa State University or Dordt University to pursue a major in Animal Science.

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### **Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Entrepreneurship**

**State Winner:** Kabe Boysen

**FFA Chapter:** Wapello FFA Chapter

**Description:** Kabe Boysen of the Wapello FFA Chapter is the winner in Swine Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored by Iowa Pork Producers Association. His partnership with his two brothers has proven strong through his project with 24 gilts/sows and one boar. Some of his accomplishments include the purchase of an additional farrowing house in 2016, and selling a boar to a boar stud for \$10,000. Kabe is currently attending Iowa State University majoring in ag business. Our runner up is Brooklyn Kucera of the Northeast FFA Chapter at Goose Lake.

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## **Iowa FFA Association - 10**

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### **Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Placement**

State Winner: Gabe Kooiker

FFA Chapter: Central Lyon FFA Chapter, Rock Rapids

Description: Gabe Kooiker of the Central Lyon FFA Chapter at Rock Rapids is the first place winner in the area of Swine Production- Placement, sponsored by Hog Slat- Midwest Division. Over the past two years, Kooiker has invested nearly 1,800 hours in the management and labor of his family's swine production enterprise. He is also involved in the care and daily operation for 24,000 pigs throughout the year. In addition to his SAE, Kooiker is highly involved in his school by participating in several musicals, plays, large group speech, and several FFA activities. Upon graduation, Kooiker plans to further his education in swine production. The runner up in this area is Aaron Knipper of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville.

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### **Proficiency Area: Turfgrass Management**

State Winner: Brady Gehl

FFA Chapter: Cascade FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Turfgrass Management, sponsored by the Iowa Turfgrass Institute, the winner is Brady Gehl from the Cascade FFA Chapter. Brady works for Gehl Lawn Service where he fertilizes, sprays, seeds, and aerifies yard and golf greens for over 1,400 customers in Cascade and the surrounding 10 SAE. He has learned how to correctly identify weeds and the correct chemicals to use. After graduation, Brady plans to attend Iowa State University to pursue a degree in Veterinary Medicine. Our runner up is Trey Johnson from East Buchanan FFA at Winthrop.

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### **Proficiency Area: Vegetable Production**

State Winner: Corbin Wolfe

FFA Chapter: Red Oak FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Vegetable Production, sponsored by 4 Seasons Fundraising, is Corbin Wolfe of the Red Oak FFA Chapter. Wolfe expanded his tomato production operation from a few pots to a full high tunnel with over 100 plants a year. He has continued to invest in his operation by implementing rainwater catchment and reinforcing the high tunnel's strength with a double poly cover. Upon graduation, Wolfe plans to attend Iowa State University to major in Ag Business. Our runner up is Trey Vande Kop of Central Lyon FFA at Rock Rapids.

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### **Proficiency Area: Veterinary Science**

State Winner: Conner Becker

FFA Chapter: Maquoketa FFA Chapter

Description: Conner Becker from the Maquoketa FFA Chapter is the winner in the Veterinary Science area, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. Becker has developed a strong placement experience working 1,230 hours as an assistant with the Becker Veterinary Clinic in Maquoketa. He has gained practical experience in this mixed animal practice developing his knowledge about veterinary science, medical terminology, medications, equipment and customer service. He plans to get a degree in veterinary medicine and join the family business. Kathryn VanManen of the Newton FFA Chapter is the runner-up in this area.

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### **Proficiency Area: Wildlife Production and Management**

State Winner: Hunter Cummings

School: North Fayette FFA Chapter, West Union

Description: In the area of Wildlife Production & Management, sponsored by the Iowa Division Izaak Walton League, our winner is Hunter Cummings of North Fayette Valley FFA at West Union. He transformed land from pasture to thick forest and created 300 acres of farmland to 25 acres of food plots and 275 acres of CRP ground. Throughout his SAE project he has worked baling hay and developing throughout his three years a total of 461 hours. He wants to eventually get a job in the local co-op or equipment sales and inventory, while still managing and growing his wildlife area and habitat. Our runner up is Mya Nelson from IKM-Manning FFA.