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News Release

2021 National FFA Convention and Expo, October 27 – 30

INDIANAPOLIS, IN--The 94th National FFA Convention & Expo celebrated its annual in-person convention beginning October 27th and concluded on October 30th. More than 60,000 FFA members and guests from throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands attended this year's event. In 2020, the organization canceled the in-person event due to the COVID-19 pandemic and instead offered a virtual experience. The in-person National Convention & Expo returned to Indianapolis this year as part of the organization's long-term hosting partnership with Indianapolis that will run through 2033.

The convention and expo kicked off in Indianapolis, Indiana on Wednesday, October 27th. Seven general sessions were held at Lucas Oil Stadium. On the morning of Saturday, October 30th, a special ceremony was held where American FFA Degrees, the highest degree for an FFA member, was bestowed upon 3,863 members.

The Iowa FFA Association had representation from more than 3,000 attendees involved in all facets of the event. The following is a summary of results and accomplishments of Iowa FFA members in the respective national events.

Chase Krug is American Star in Agriscience Winner

Each year at the National FFA Convention & Expo, four FFA members are honored with American Star Awards for outstanding accomplishments in FFA and agricultural education.

The American Star Awards, including American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience, are presented to FFA members who demonstrate outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through completion of an SAE. A required activity in FFA, an SAE allows students to learn by doing, by either owning or operating an agricultural business, working or serving an internship at an agriculture-based business or conducting an agriculture-based scientific experiment and reporting results.

Out of sixteen American Star Award finalists from throughout the U.S., four are named winners and receive cash awards totaling \$4,000. Chase Krug of the Linn-Mar FFA Chapter was named 2021 Star in Agriscience.

Agriscience Fair National Finalists

The Agriscience Fair is for FFA members who are interested in the science and technology of agriculture. Students can compete in 36 divisions across 6 systems areas: Animal; Environmental & Natural Resources; Food Products & Processing; Plant; Power, Structural, & Technical; and Social. Divisions are set based on junior (grades 7-8), intermediate (grades 9-10) and senior (grades 11-12) projects and whether the project is conducted by an individual or a pair.

--Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems Div. 3: National Finalist, Gold, Carlea Beckman, Danville FFA

--Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 1: National Finalist, Gold, Sarah Dean, North Fayette Valley FFA

--Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 3: National Winner, Libby Knipper, Beckman Catholic FFA

--Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 6: National Finalist, Gold, Hailey Rossmiller and Bram Mess, North Scott FFA

--Plant Systems Div. 3: National Finalist, Gold, Tessa Tauke, Beckman Catholic FFA

--Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 3: National Finalist, 3rd Place Gold, Joseph Schneider, Beckman Catholic FFA

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--Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 3: National Finalist, Gold, John Paul Grebner and Jake Hoefler, Beckman Catholic FFA

--Social Science Div. 1: National Finalist, Gold, Clark Spencer, Stanton FFA

National Chapter Award

The National Chapter Award program recognizes FFA chapters that successfully complete an annual Program of Activities (POA), which includes a series of activities designed to encourage its members to grow as individuals, to work as part of a team and to serve others.

Agri-Power FFA, Two Star

Algona FFA, Two Star

Anamosa FFA, Two Star

Benton Community FFA, Three Star

Brokaw FFA, Two Star

Carroll Area FFA, Two Star

Charles City FFA, Three Star

Decorah FFA, Two Star

East Buchanan FFA, Three Star

La Porte-Dysart FFA, Two Star

Lone Tree FFA, Two Star

Midland FFA, Three Star

Newton FFA, Two Star

North Fayette Valley FFA, Two Star

North Scott FFA, Three Star

Red Oak FFA, Three Star

Sibley-Ocheyedan FFA, Two Star

Southeast Warren FFA, Three Star

Starmont FFA, Two Star

Vinton-Shellsburg FFA, Two Star

Wapsie Valley FFA, Two Star

Webster City FFA, Two Star

West Dubuque FFA, Two Star

West Liberty FFA, Three Star

West Lyon FFA, Two Star

Charles City National Chapter National Finalist

The national level also recognizes the top chapters with innovative activities in each of the three divisions: growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture. The top ten chapters in each division receive a National FFA Premier Chapter Award plaque. Of the top ten in each division, a top premier chapter will be chosen in each division. Only 3-star chapters are eligible for premier chapter awards. Charles City FFA competed in the Premier Chapter: Strengthening Agriculture.

Proficiency Awards National Finalists

The Agricultural Proficiency Awards honor FFA members who, through their SAEs, have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers. Four National Finalists are selected for each of the award areas and will go on to compete for a national proficiency award. National Agricultural Proficiency Award winners are announced onstage during the National FFA Convention.

--Agriscience Research – Animal Systems: National Finalist, Jasmyn Hoeger, Beckman Catholic FFA

--Diversified Agricultural Production: ****National Winner**** Hunter Holdgrafer, Easton Valley FFA

--Nursery Operations: National Finalist, Lindsey Laughlin, West Liberty FFA

--Sheep Production: National Finalist, Zachary Schoelerman, Spencer FFA

National FFA Band, Chorus, and Talent

Every year, members from across the nation audition to be involved in the National FFA Band, Chorus, and Talent. National FFA Band and Chorus members have various rehearsals and perform on stage at National FFA Convention. Talent has the opportunity to perform on stage at one of the General Sessions. One of the Talent acts is selected after multiple competition rounds as top talent at the end of convention.

--National Band:

Maren Hettinga, Holland FFA

Ridge Kunkel, Lawton-Bronson FFA

Charles Moeller, Holland FFA

Kjersten Ouerson, Clear Lake FFA

Bryan York, Atlantic FFA

--National Chorus:

Zayden Reffitt, Dunlap FFA

--National Talent:

Emma Carlson, Belmont-Klemme FFA

Chiara Dusanek, Midland FFA

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Career Development Events

Career opportunities abound within today's agriculture industry. Career Development Events (CDEs) help students develop the abilities to think critically, communicate clearly and perform effectively in a competitive job market. CDEs cover a variety of job skills in everything from communications to mechanics. Some events allow students to compete as individuals, while others allow them to compete in teams.

- Agricultural Communications – Montezuma FFA, 4th Place Gold, Team Members: Mia Boulton, Madison Johannes, Abby Pope and Kallie Robison. 1st Place Gold Individual – Mia Boulton, 9th Place Gold Individual – Madison Johannes. Silver Individuals – Abby Pope and Kallie Robison.
- Agricultural Issues Forum – Midland FFA, 4th Place Gold Team Members: Kole Michaud, Chiara Dusanek, Trenton Rickels, Hannah Fishwild, Alivia Smith and Isabelle Ricketts
- Agricultural Sales –Muscatine FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Dailyn Garrett, Nicholas Petersen, Jacob Draves and Grant Van Nice. Silver Individuals – Dailyn Garrett and Nicholas Petersen. Bronze Individuals – Jacob Draves and Grant Van Nice.
- Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems –West Lyon FFA, Silver, Team Members: Isaac Knobloch, Talin Knobloch, Kirk Moser and Lane Knobloch. Gold Individuals – Isaac Knobloch and Lane Knobloch. Silver Individuals – Talin Knobloch and Kirk Moser.
- Agronomy –Midland FFA, Silver, Team Members: Hope Saroka, Coy Petersen, Justin Agnitsch and Jared Crock. Gold Individual – Hope Saroka. Silver Individuals – Justin Agnitsch, Jared Crock and Coy Petersen.
- Conduct of Chapter Meetings – Ridgeview FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Kierstin Volkert, Jacob Schimmer, Kenna Wiese, Tatum Shepherd, Morgan Wright, Daynia Brenner and Donnie Crandell
- Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management – Maquoketa Valley FFA, 3rd Place Gold, Team Members: Haley Ronnebaum, Lane Domeyer, Alia Domeyer and Courtney Goedken. 8th Place Gold Individual – Lane Domeyer. Gold Individuals – Alia Domeyer, Courtney Goedken and Haley Ronnebaum.
- Dairy Cattle Handlers' Activity – Silver, Dannielle Burkle, Maquoketa Valley FFA
- Employment Skills – 2nd Place Gold, Ayva Bohr, Cedar Rapids Prairie FFA
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking – Bronze, Kari VanNostrand, Brokaw FFA
- Farm Business Management – Montezuma FFA, 1st Place, Gold. Team Members: Brayden Stockman, Haylie Moore, Mathew Ranfeld and Jaemi Hartman. 1st Place Gold Individual – Brayden Stockman. 2nd Place Gold Individual – Haylie Moore. 3rd Place Gold Individual – Mathew Ranfeld. 9th Place Gold Individual – Jaemi Hartman.
- Floriculture – Montezuma FFA, 6th Place Gold, Team Members: Makenna Johannes, Camryn Brennan, Alivia Cline and Madison Van Zee. Gold Individuals – Camryn Brennan, Alivia Cline and Makenna Johannes. Silver Individual – Madison Van Zee.
- Food Science and Technology – Gilbert FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Abby Dies, Elizebeth Fierce, Hadley Boshart and Josie Baggs. Silver Individual – Hadley Boshart. Bronze Individuals – Josie Baggs, Abby Dies and Elizabeth Fierce
- Forestry – Diamond Trail FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Carson Porter, Turner Sloan, Trey Voeller and Rose Tuttle. All team members were Bronze Individuals.
- Horse Evaluation – Gilbert FFA, 7th Place Gold. Team Members: Jordan Rydl, Makayla Britcher, Jaden Rydl and Piper Soma. Gold Individuals – Makayla Britcher and Jaden Rydl. Silver Individuals – Jordan Rydl and Piper Soma.
- Livestock Evaluation –Southwest Valley FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Alyssa Birt, Ethan James, Jake Oathoudt and Vicente Butcher. Silver Individual – Ethan James. Bronze Individuals – Alyssa Birt, Vicente Butcher and Jake Oathoudt.
- Marketing Plan – Highland FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Mackinze Hora, Jamison Kasperek and Katelyn Waters
- Meats Evaluation and Technology – South O'Brien FFA, Silver, Team Members: Kyan Kruse, Hudson Oolman, Leo Sells and Claire Wagner. Gold Individual – Hudson Oolman. Silver Individuals – Kyan Kruse, Leo Sells and Claire Wagner.
- Milk Quality and Products – North Scott FFA, Silver, Team Members: Taylor Mayhue, Jessica Kroeger, Corbin Suiter and Emma Gravert. Silver Individuals – Emma Gravert, Jessica Kroeger and Taylor Mayhue. Bronze Individual – Corbin Suiter.

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- Nursery/Landscape –Muscatine FFA, 3rd Place Gold, Team Members: James Sprague, Belinda Brain, McKenna Riess and Logan Rinnert. 1st Place Gold Individual – Belinda Brain. Gold Individuals – McKenna Riess, Logan Rinnert and James Sprague.
- Parliamentary Procedure – East Buchanan FFA, Silver, Team Members: Kirby Cook, Keeley Kehrli, Charli Sherman, Samuel Cook, Lauren Beyer and Ella Cook
- Poultry Evaluation –Muscatine FFA, Silver, Team Members: Aurdrey Seibel, Emily King, Robert Carver and Danika Garrett. Gold Individual – Aurdrey Seibel. Silver Individuals – Robert Carver, Danika Garrett and Emily King.
- Prepared Public Speaking – Silver, Gabe Hanson, La Porte-Dysart FFA
- Veterinary Science –Clear Lake FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Ashlyn Fread, Emma Pingel, Kjersten Oувerson and Maycee Wilkie. Silver Individual – Kjersten Oувerson. Bronze Individuals – Ashlyn Fread, Emma Pingel and Maycee Wilkie

American FFA Degree

The American FFA Degree is awarded at the National FFA Convention & Expo each year to less than 1% of FFA members making it one of the organization's highest honors. In addition to their degree, each recipient receives a gold American FFA Degree key. There were 117 American Degree recipients from Iowa.

Keely Vasey, AC-GC FFA
Haley Bakker, AGWSR FFA
Sawyer Heitland, AGWSR FFA
Tate Edward Hornung Den Beste, Atlantic FFA
Carla Edleman, Ballard FFA
Grace Long, Ballard FFA
Jacob Besler, Beckman Catholic FFA
Lauren Goldsmith, Beckman Catholic FFA
Abby Klostermann, Beckman Catholic FFA
Sean Kluesner, Beckman Catholic FFA
Aaron Knipper, Beckman Catholic FFA
Tyler Arens, Belle Plaine FFA
Brock Balvin, Belle Plaine FFA
Hope Brecht, Belle Plaine FFA
Keegan Ealy, Belle Plaine FFA
John Kolash, Belle Plaine FFA
Danielle Montgomery, Belle Plaine FFA
Alyssa Bierschenk, Benton Community FFA
Makayla Bueltel, Carroll Area FFA
Elizabeth Huyser, Central Lyon FFA
Dana Kruse, Central Lyon FFA
Ben Carlson, Central Plains FFA
Paige M Burgett, Chariton FFA
Caleb Hejna, Charles City FFA
Lee Hoeft, Charles City FFA

Madelyn Tjaden, Charles City FFA
Jacob White, Charles City FFA
Jordan Wulff, Charles City FFA
Madison Schultes, Coon Rapids-Bayard FFA
Anna Pion, Dallas Center-Grimes FFA
Skylar Sue Bloom, DeWitt Central FFA
Brady North, Diamond Trail FFA
Blake Van Der Kamp, Diamond Trail FFA
Brittany Woods, Dowling Catholic FFA
Taylor Nicole Miller, East Union FFA
Alissa Weinkoetz, East Union FFA
Hunter Holdgrafer, Easton Valley FFA
Eric Christopher Davis, Gilbert FFA
Breckin Bomgaars, Holland FFA
Grant Kuehnast, Humboldt FFA
Jacob Fjeld, Iowa Falls-Alden FFA
Elizabeth Thiesen, Iowa Falls-Alden FFA
Faith R. Riensche, Jesup FFA
Matthew Douglas Burton, Lamoni FFA
Charles Stendel, Lansing FFA
Kaleb Koerselman, Le Mars FFA
Camden Schroeder, Le Mars FFA
Chase James Krug, Linn-Mar FFA
Shara Cota, Little Switzerland Waukon FFA
Faith Palmer, Little Switzerland Waukon FFA

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Karli Burr, Lone Tree FFA
Payton Lorack, Lone Tree FFA
Kailee Marie Marshek, Lone Tree FFA
Kristy Thomann, Lone Tree FFA
Roy Gerlach, Maquoketa FFA
Anna Beckman, Mediapolis FFA
Macie Clara Weigand, MFL MarMac FFA
Kristina A. Agnitsch, Midland FFA
Griffin Gravel, Midland FFA
Brett Schoenherr, Midland FFA
Quinn R. Schmidt, Mid-Prairie FFA
Garrett L. Sexton, Mid-Prairie FFA
Samantha Black, Nevada FFA
Rachel Grober, New Hampton FFA
Bethany Erin Greenfield, Newell-Fonda FFA
Trenton Eilander, Newton FFA
Brooke Gifford, Newton FFA
Jenna Smith, Newton FFA
Breanna Jo Duehring, North Fayette Valley FFA
Rebecca Ann Fettkether, North Fayette Valley FFA
Brennan A. Imoehl, North Fayette Valley FFA
Miranda Leigh Johansen, North Fayette Valley FFA
Austin Allan Koch, North Fayette Valley FFA
Payten Rose Lehmann, North Fayette Valley FFA
Stryker Alexander Long, North Fayette Valley FFA
Cassandra Jo Moss, North Fayette Valley FFA
Collin Costello, North Scott FFA
Dalton Hanenburg, North Scott FFA
Katie Seeman, North Scott FFA
Molly Simmons, Panorama FFA
Elisa Adams, Southeast Warren FFA
Gabe Jacob Hammond, Southeast Warren FFA
Alex Hommer, Southeast Warren FFA
Katie Kelso, Southeast Warren FFA
Brock Kyner, Southeast Warren FFA

Justice Taylor Rowe, Southeast Warren FFA
Dalton James Weeks, Southeast Warren FFA
Kayla Burke, Turkey Valley FFA
Nathan Malven, Turkey Valley FFA
Eli M. Raines, Unity Christian FFA
George Haefner, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA
Shelby McDonald, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA
Madeline Moen, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA
Isaac Wiley, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA
Kabe Boysen, Wapello FFA
Brendon Jeremy Brown, Wapsie Valley FFA
John David Ebaugh, Wapsie Valley FFA
Jason Anthony Harks, Wapsie Valley FFA
Hannah Michelle Miller, Wapsie Valley FFA
Cole Anthony Neil, Wapsie Valley FFA
Kennadi Lynn Neil, Wapsie Valley FFA
Adrianna Michelle Richards, Wapsie Valley FFA
Reily Ann Richards, Wapsie Valley FFA
Samantha Marie Schnor, Wapsie Valley FFA
Kyle Thomas Voy, Wapsie Valley FFA
Sophie Bell, Washington FFA
Chloe Goretska, Wayne FFA
Amber Kelly, Wayne FFA
Seth Sheriff, Wayne FFA
Joelle Renae Grubbs, West Central Valley FFA
Elizabeth Wilhelm, West Dubuque FFA
Brady J. Barkela, West Fork FFA
Keaton Mather, West Liberty FFA
Kayla Reece Maurer, West Liberty FFA
Austin Coy McMichael, West Liberty FFA
Taylor De VanDusen, West Liberty FFA
Parker Werling, West Liberty FFA

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of more than 16,500 student members as part of 248 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.