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News Release

2021 National FFA Convention and Expo, October 27 – 30

INDIANAPOLIS, IN--The 94th National FFA Convention & Expo will hold its annual in-person convention beginning October 27th and concluding on October 30th. This event traditionally brings more than 65,000 FFA members and guests from throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. 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 returns to Indianapolis this year as part of the organization's long-term hosting partnership with Indianapolis that will run through 2033. An estimated 55,000 attendees will take part in the 2021 event.

The convention and expo will kick off in Indianapolis, Indiana on Wednesday, October 27th. Seven general sessions will be held at Lucas Oil Stadium. On the morning of Saturday, October 30th, a special ceremony will be held where American FFA Degrees, the highest degree for an FFA member, will be bestowed upon more than 4,000 members.

The Iowa FFA Association is expecting 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.

Kabe Boysen is Iowa's National Officer Candidate

Kabe Boysen, an Agricultural Business major at Iowa State University and FFA member from the Wapello FFA Chapter, is Iowa's National Officer Candidate. National officers commit to a year of service to the National FFA Organization. Each officer travels more than 100,000 national and international miles to interact with business and industry leaders, thousands of FFA members and teachers, corporate sponsors, government and education officials, state FFA leaders, the general public, and more. The team will lead personal growth and leadership training conferences for FFA members throughout the country and help set policies that will guide the future of FFA and promote agricultural literacy. The 2021-2022 National Officer team will be announced at the end of the Seventh General Session on Saturday, October 30th. Boysen previously served the Iowa FFA Association as the 2020-21 Southeast State Vice President.

American Star Finalists

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.

Sixteen American Star Award finalists from throughout the U.S. are nominated by a panel of judges who then interview the finalists during the national convention and expo. Four are named winners and receive cash awards totaling \$4,000.

--Chase Krug of the Linn-Mar FFA Chapter was selected as an American Star Finalist in Agriscience.

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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.

- Animal Systems Div. 2: Isaac Burlage and Luke Wessel, Beckman Catholic FFA (Bronze)
- Animal Systems Div. 3: Grace Helle, Beckman Catholic FFA **National Finalist****
- Animal Systems Div. 5: Jasmyn Hoeger, Beckman Catholic FFA **National Finalist****
- Animal Systems Div. 6: Danielle Lonsdale and Idania Carrillo, Des Moines FFA (Bronze)
- Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems Div. 3: Carlea Beckman, Danville FFA **National Finalist****
- Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems Div. 5: Aryn Glew, Oelwein FFA (Bronze)
- Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 1: Sarah Dean, North Fayette Valley FFA **National Finalist****
- Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 3: Libby Knipper, Beckman Catholic FFA **National Finalist****
- Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 6: Hailey Rossmiller and Bram Mess, North Scott FFA **National Finalist****
- Plant Systems Div. 1: Madelyn Reiter, Beckman Catholic FFA (Bronze)
- Plant Systems Div. 3: Tessa Tauke, Beckman Catholic FFA **National Finalist****
- Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 3: Joseph Schneider, Beckman Catholic FFA **National Finalist****
- Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 3: John Paul Grebner and Jake Hoefler, Beckman Catholic FFA **National Finalist****
- Social Science Div. 1: Clark Spencer, Stanton FFA **National Finalist****
- Social Science Div. 3: Olivia Freund, North Scott FFA (Bronze)
- Social Science Div. 5: Grace Fuhrman, South O'Brien FFA (Bronze)

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	North Fayette Valley FFA, Two Star
Algona FFA, Two Star	North Scott FFA, Three Star
Anamosa FFA, Two Star	Red Oak FFA, Three Star
Benton Community FFA, Three Star	Sibley-Ocheyedan FFA, Two Star
Brokaw FFA, Two Star	Southeast Warren FFA, Three Star
Carroll Area FFA, Two Star	Starmont FFA, Two Star
Charles City FFA, Three Star	Vinton-Shellsburg FFA, Two Star
Decorah FFA, Two Star	Wapsie Valley FFA, Two Star
East Buchanan FFA, Three Star	Webster City FFA, Two Star
La Porte-Dysart FFA, Two Star	West Dubuque FFA, Two Star
Lone Tree FFA, Two Star	West Liberty FFA, Three Star
Midland FFA, Two Star	West Lyon FFA, Two Star
Newton 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 will compete in the Premier Chapter: Strengthening Agriculture.

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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: Jasmyn Hoeger, Beckman Catholic FFA
- Diversified Agricultural Production: Hunter Holdgrafer, Easton Valley FFA
- Nursery Operations: Lindsey Laughlin, West Liberty FFA
- Sheep Production: 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.

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| --National Band: | --National Chorus: |
| Maren Hettinga, Holland FFA | Zayden Reffitt, Dunlap FFA |
| Ridge Kunkel, Lawton-Bronson FFA | |
| Charles Moeller, Holland FFA | --National Talent: |
| Kjersten Ouverson, Clear Lake FFA | Emma Carlson, Belmont-Klemme FFA |
| Bryan York, Atlantic FFA | Chiara Dusanek, Midland FFA |

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, Team Members: Mia Boulton, Madison Johannes, Abby Pope and Kallie Robison
- Agricultural Issues Forum – Midland FFA, Team Members: Chiara Dusanek, Hannah Fishwild, Kole Michaund and Alivia Smith
- Agricultural Sales – Muscatine FFA, Team Members: Dailyn Garrett, Nicholas Petersen, Jacob Draves and Grant Van Nice
- Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems – West Lyon FFA, Team Members: Isaac Knobloch, Talin Knobloch, Kirk Moser and Lane Knobloch
- Agronomy – Midland FFA, Team Members: Hope Saroka, Coy Petersen, Justin Agnitsch and Jared Crock
- Conduct of Chapter Meetings – Ridgeview FFA, Team Members: Kierstin Volkert, Jacob Schimmer, Kenna Wiese, Tatum Shepherd, Morgan Wright, Daynia Brenner and Donnie Crandell
- Creed Speaking – Tucker Rohrig, Creston FFA
- Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management – Maquoketa Valley FFA, Team Members: Haley Ronnebaum, Lane Domeyer, Alia Domeyer and Courtney Goedken
- Dairy Cattle Handlers' Activity – Dannielle Burkle, Maquoketa Valley FFA
- Employment Skills – Ayva, Cedar Rapids Prairie FFA
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking – Kari VanNostrand, Brokaw FFA
- Farm Business Management – Montezuma FFA, Team Members: Brayden Stockman, Haylie Moore, Mathew Ranfeld and Jaemi Hartman
- Floriculture – Montezuma FFA, Team Members: Makenna Johannes, Camryn Brennan, Alivia Cline and Madison Van Zee

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- Food Science and Technology – Gilbert FFA, Team Members: Abby Dies, Elizebeth Fierce, Hadley Boshart and Josie Baggs
- Forestry – Diamond Trail FFA, Team Members: Carson Porter, Turner Sloan, Trey Voeller and Rose Tuttle
- Horse Evaluation – Gilbert FFA, Team Members: Jordan Rydl, Makayla Britcher, Jaden Rydl and Piper Soma
- Livestock Evaluation – Southwest Valley FFA, Team Members: Alyssa Birt, Ethan James, Jake Oathoudt and Vicente Butcher
- Marketing Plan – Highland FFA, Team Members: Mackinze Hora, Jamison Kasperek and Katelyn Waters
- Meats Evaluation and Technology – South O'Brien FFA, Team Members: Kyan Kruse, Hudson Oolman, Leo Sells and Claire Wagner
- Milk Quality and Products – North Scott FFA, Team Members: Taylor Mayhue, Jessica Kroeger, Corbin Suiter and Emma Gravert
- Nursery/Landscape –Muscatine FFA, Team Members: James Sprague, Belinda Brain, McKenna Riess and Logan Rinnert
- Parliamentary Procedure – East Buchanan FFA, Team Members: Kirby Cook, Keeley Kehrli, Charli Sherman, Samuel Cook, Lauren Beyer and Ella Cook
- Poultry Evaluation –Muscatine FFA, Team Members: Aurdrey Seibel, Emily King, Robert Carver and Danika Garrett
- Prepared Public Speaking – Gabe Hanson, La Porte-Dysart FFA
- Veterinary Science – Clear Lake FFA, Team Members: Ashlyn Fread, Emma Pingel, Kjersten Ouverson 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	Dana Kruse, Central Lyon FFA
Haley Bakker, AGWSR FFA	Ben Carlson, Central Plains FFA
Sawyer Heitland, AGWSR FFA	Paige M Burgett, Chariton FFA
Tate Edward Hornung Den Beste, Atlantic FFA	Caleb Hejna, Charles City FFA
Carla Edleman, Ballard FFA	Lee Hoeft, Charles City FFA
Grace Long, Ballard FFA	Madelyn Tjaden, Charles City FFA
Jacob Besler, Beckman Catholic FFA	Jacob White, Charles City FFA
Lauren Goldsmith, Beckman Catholic FFA	Jordan Wulff, Charles City FFA
Abby Klostermann, Beckman Catholic FFA	Madison Schultes, Coon Rapids-Bayard FFA
Sean Kluesner, Beckman Catholic FFA	Anna Pion, Dallas Center-Grimes FFA
Aaron Knipper, Beckman Catholic FFA	Skylar Sue Bloom, DeWitt Central FFA
Tyler Arens, Belle Plaine FFA	Brady North, Diamond Trail FFA
Brock Balvin, Belle Plaine FFA	Blake Van Der Kamp, Diamond Trail FFA
Hope Brecht, Belle Plaine FFA	Brittany Woods, Dowling Catholic FFA
Keegan Ealy, Belle Plaine FFA	Taylor Nicole Miller, East Union FFA
John Kolash, Belle Plaine FFA	Alissa Weinkoetz, East Union FFA
Danielle Montgomery, Belle Plaine FFA	Hunter Holdgrafer, Easton Valley FFA
Alyssa Bierschenk, Benton Community FFA	Eric Christopher Davis, Gilbert FFA
Makayla Bueltel, Carroll Area FFA	Breckin Bomgaars, Holland FFA
Elizabeth Huyser, Central Lyon FFA	Grant Kuehnast, Humboldt FFA

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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
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 Fettekether, 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
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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.