



## CONTACT

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

## **News Release**

# **2021 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 2021 Iowa Proficiency Awards program.

**# # #**

## **About Iowa FFA Association**

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of more than 16,300 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.

## **Iowa FFA Association - 2**

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

**State Winner:** Heather Cernek

**FFA Chapter:** DeWitt Central FFA Chapter

**Description:** In the area of Agricultural Communications, sponsored by the Iowa Farmer Today, our winner is Heather Cernek from the DeWitt Central FFA Chapter. Cernek started promoting agriculture and FFA by working on her chapter's website. Over the years, she has expanded her communication outlets to include multiple presentations, social media accounts, *New Horizons* submissions, and interviewing on RFD-TV. Heather is currently attending Des Moines Area Community College. Beth Lamp from the Northeast FFA Chapter at Goose Lake is the runner-up in this area.

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

**State Winner:** Courtney Schmitz

**FFA Chapter:** Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter, Fairbank

**Description:** Courtney Schmitz of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter at Fairbank is the winner in the area of Agricultural Education, sponsored by Iowa State University Department of Agricultural Education and Studies. For three years, Schmitz has dedicated more than 180 hours while serving as an Ag Assistant in the Wapsie Valley Ag Ed Department. After graduation, Schmitz plans to attend Hawkeye Community College to study Dental Hygiene. The runner up in this area is Kyella Frieden of the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union.

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

**State Winner:** Michael DeJong

**FFA Chapter:** Montezuma FFA Chapter

**Description:** Michael DeJong of the Montezuma FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Agricultural Mechanics-Design and Fabrication, sponsored by CF Industries- Spencer & Garner Terminals. DeJong has invested over four years working for DeJong Manufacturing. He has diversified into various areas from laser cutting to welding. In total, they have earned over \$6,500 across 450 hours utilizing technologies. Upon graduation, DeJong plans to attend Iowa State University majoring in industrial engineering and business analytics with hopes to come home and operate the family business. The runner up in this area is Luke Holdgrafer of the Northeast FFA Chapter at Goose Lake.

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

**State Winner:** Kaleb King

**FFA Chapter:** Clarion-Goldfield-Dows FFA Chapter, Clarion

**Description:** The winner in the area of Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance Placement, sponsored by Kreg Tool, is Kaleb King of the Clarion-Goldfield-Dows FFA Chapter. King has worked over 1,500 hours at Hanson and Sons Tire and Auto in Clarion performing tire and equipment maintenance. King has also learned how to operate heavy equipment to safely move tires. King is currently a sophomore in high school and plans to pursue a future in the Career and Technical Industry. The runner-up in this area is Ethan Blomme from Nodaway Valley FFA at Greenfield.

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### **Proficiency Area: Agricultural Processing**

**State Winner:** Hannah Koch

**FFA Chapter:** Osage FFA Chapter

**Description:** The winner in the area of Ag Processing, sponsored by Iowa Corn, is Hannah Koch of the Osage FFA Chapter. Hannah has invested 876 hours in her work at S & S Locker. She performs proper safety procedures when handling and processing food products, uses new technologies to keep track of pre-orders, and has become more knowledgeable with cuts of meat. Upon graduation, Hannah plans to attend Iowa State University and major in Agricultural Studies. The runner up in this category is Laina Marbach from the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville.

### Iowa FFA Association - 3

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**Proficiency Area: Agricultural Sales - Entrepreneurship**

State Winner: Trenton Rickels

FFA Chapter: Midland FFA Chapter, Wyoming

Description: In the area of Agricultural Sales Entrepreneurship, sponsored by Titan Machinery, the winner is Trenton Rickels from Midland FFA at Wyoming. Rickels created his own t-shirt company "Trickels Tees" after noticing a need for custom shirts within his community and school. He utilizes an iron to secure vinyl to the shirts to make custom orders for sports teams, school clubs, and other community groups. After high school, he plans to attend a 4-year school to major in radiology, along with continuing his business.

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**Proficiency Area: Agricultural Sales - Placement**

State Winner: Elise Boulon

FFA Chapter: Montezuma FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Agricultural Sales Placement, sponsored by Titan Machinery, is Elise Boulton from the Montezuma FFA Chapter. Elise is the manager of her chapter's greenhouse and has helped increase sales by 15% for the past four years. She also pioneered an online ordering system in 2020 that was responsible for 65% of the chapter's gross sales. Elise assists with floor sales, marketing, and training other employees utilizing her leadership skills. Her plans following graduation include attending Simpson College to major in marketing and sports administration. The runner up is Dayton Knoblock from the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood.

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**Proficiency Area: Agricultural Services**

State Winner: Fallon Finnegan

FFA Chapter: North Linn FFA Chapter, Troy Mills

Description: Fallon Finnegan from the North-Linn FFA Chapter is the 1st place winner in the area of Ag Service, sponsored by Landus Cooperative. Finnegan has invested over 1,400 hours assisting the Walker Sale Barn. Her duties include clerking at sales, working with livestock, and managing multiple platforms of communication for the business. Fallon's future plans include attending Kirkwood Communication College to pursue a degree in Agricultural Business. The runner-up in this area is Payton Lehman from the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union.

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

State Winner: Jasmyn Hoeger

School: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: Jasmyn Hoeger, of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville, is the winner in the area of Agriscience Research-Animal Systems sponsored by Christensen Farms. Hoeger has invested over 300 hours on her research projects in animal systems. She investigated ultraviolet radiation's ability to halt the mitosis process in the effort to find an alternative for disbudding and dehorning. Jasmyn has worked alongside professors at the University of Dubuque, which has opened up several opportunities for her future research plans.

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

State Winner: Tessa Tauke

FFA Chapter: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: Tessa Tauke, of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville, is the winner in the area of Agriscience Research- Integrated Systems sponsored by CHS Foundation. Tauke has invested countless hours in her research project. She tested how temperature and surface variability impacted the adhesive qualities of tape. Through this project, Tessa discovered the chemical compounds of the adhesive varied based on temperature and texture of the object it was applied to. She also tested efficiency of non-traditional cleaners on corrosions found on 6-way plugs. By corroding the connector plugs, Tessa was able to use the cleaners to repair the connectivity of the plugs. Tessa plans to attend college following high school and major in an undecided agricultural field. Bryce Rasmussen of the South O'Brien FFA chapter at Paullina was the runner up.

## Iowa FFA Association - 4

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**Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research – Plant Systems****State Winner:**

Grace Helle

**School:**

Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

**Description:**

Grace Helle, of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville is the first place winner in the area of Agriscience Research-Plant Systems, which is sponsored by MinnTex Citrus. Helle has invested over 800 hours in her Agriscience Research Project that studied the impacts of road de-icers on the environment. She specifically researched how salt and brine applications affect seed germination and plant growth. She applied statistical analysis to validate her findings. Helle plans to use her skills gained to conduct future agricultural research projects.

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**Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Entrepreneurship****State Winner:**

Cole Neil

**FFA Chapter:**

Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter, Fairbank

**Description:**

In the area of Beef Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation, the winner is Cole Neil of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter at Fairbank. Cole began his SAE with 5 head and has expanded it to 20 head at the end of 2020. Through his SAE, Cole has learned how to AI and enhance overall herd health. Following high school, he plans to attend Iowa State University to major in Animal Science. The runner-up in this area was Jenna Tlach from the Indianola FFA Chapter.

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**Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Placement****State Winner:**

Shayla Smith

**FFA Chapter:**

Decorah FFA Chapter

**Description:**

Shayla Smith of Decorah FFA, is first place in the area of Beef Production-Placement, sponsored by Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation. Smith has invested over 1300 hours to her project raising breeding cattle while advocating for the industry. After graduation, Shayla plans to attend a local community college for beef science before transferring to Iowa State University. The runner up in this area is Lauren Zaabel from the Newton FFA Chapter.

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**Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Entrepreneurship****State Winner:**

Nathan Knapp

**FFA Chapter:**

West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

**Description:**

The winner in the area of Dairy Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa State University Dairy Science Club, is Nathan Knapp from the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood. His dairy herd has grown from 5 to 9 head, and he balances the responsibilities of both his herd and his family's operation. Time management, sire selection, nutritional skills, and sanitation practices have been value added skills for Nathan. He plans on continuing with the farm while pursuing a career as a diesel mechanic. Anna Richards from Wapsie Valley FFA at Fairbank was the runner-up in this category.

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**Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Placement****State Winner:**

Hunter Thompson

**FFA Chapter:**

Edgewood-Colesburg FFA Chapter, Edgewood

**Description:**

Thompson has over 4400 hours of experience working for Whittle Farms, LLC from milking and chores to his current position of parlor manager. Upon graduation, he plans to enter the John Deere Tech Program at Northeast Iowa Community College. The runner-up in this area was Jessica Koedam from the Unity Christian FFA Chapter at Orange City.

## Iowa FFA Association - 5

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**Proficiency Area: Diversified Agricultural Production**

State Winner: Hunter Holdgrafer

FFA Chapter: Easton Valley FFA Chapter, Preston

Description: The winner of the Diversified Ag Production award, endowed by Hertz Farm Management, is Hunter Holdgrafer of the Easton Valley FFA Chapter at Preston. Holdgrafer started his SAE with 8 cows and a desire to learn about row crop production. Over the next four years, he grew his enterprise to 34 head of cattle and 160 acres of corn and soybeans along with 75 acres of hay. With revenue of over \$600,000 and an operating income of over \$230,000, he has certainly learned about row crop production. Congratulations to Hunter Holdgrafer, our 2021 Diversified Ag Production winner from the Easton Valley FFA Chapter at Preston. The runner up in this area is Garrett Coffland from the Benton Community FFA Chapter at Van Horne.

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

State Winner: Brian Graves

FFA Chapter: Wilton FFA Chapter

Description: Brian Graves of the Wilton FFA Chapter is the winner in the Diversified Crop Production Placement Proficiency Award Area which is sponsored by CHS Foundation. Brian's SAE involves him using GPS farm equipment to ensure that he is utilizing the best tillage practices available. He has learned to control and operate drying and storage facilities located at various sites. Brian's project experiences are properly preparing him to become a successful farmer. Brian plans to attend Iowa State University with a projected degree in Agronomy. The runner up in this area is Breyton Cline from the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie.

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**Proficiency Area: Diversified Horticulture**

State Winner: Maddie Jo VanSickle

FFA Chapter: Central Plains FFA Chapter, Gowrie

Description: Maddie Jo VanSickle of the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie is the first place winner in the area of Diversified Horticulture, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. Vansickle's SAE includes many landscape tasks such as mowing, mixing pesticides, purchasing and planting flowers and trees and applying mulch. She has worked for a total of 81 hours and earned \$270. VanSickle plans to continue her project and graduate from Southeast Valley High School in 2023.

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**Proficiency Area: Diversified Livestock Production**

State Winner: Taylor McCreedy

FFA Chapter: Atlantic FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in Diversified Livestock Production, endowed by Milt Luckstead Sr, is Taylor McCreedy of the Atlantic FFA Chapter. Taylor started DSB Ranch where she trains and boards 3 horses, raises high quality beef cattle and raises dairy goats. In the midst of COVID, Taylor came up with the idea to make and sell goat milk soap to overcome profit deficits. Taylor hopes to continue and improve genetics within her operation and build her brand. The runner up in the area is Raven McCabe from the North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge.

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

State Winner: Hunter Cummings

FFA Chapter: North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter, West Union

Description: Hunter Cummings of the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union is the first place winner in the area of Environmental Science and Natural Resource Management, which is sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. Cummings has invested over 1300 hours managing and enhancing the land and waterways. Working towards good soil health and water quality are important to Cummings and his farm operation. The runner up in this area is Joseph Schneider from the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville.

## Iowa FFA Association - 6

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**Proficiency Area: Equine Science - Entrepreneurship**

State Winner: Ellie Anderson

FFA Chapter: Indianola FFA Chapter

Description: Ellie Anderson, of the Indianola FFA Chapter is the first place winner in the area of Equine Science Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. Ellie started her business in 7th grade. She gives horseback riding lessons to kids and adults. She currently has 35 clients. In addition to giving lessons, she also trains horses. The runner up in this category is Macie Putz of the West Delaware FFA Chapter at Manchester.

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**Proficiency Area: Equine Science - Placement**

State Winner: Jenna Leuthold

School: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: Jenna Leuthold of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood, is the first place winner in the area of Equine Science Placement, which is sponsored by the Iowa Horse Council. Leuthold has dedicated countless hours to improving her horsewoman skills. Through her SAE, Jenna has learned to take on more responsibilities, expand her work ethic, and have a great deal of patience. Leuthold is currently undecided on a school and major, but is considering going into occupational therapy. The runner up in this area is Emily Armstrong from the Alburnett FFA Chapter.

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**Proficiency Area: Forage Production**

State Winner: Carson Lambert

FFA Chapter: Central Plains FFA Chapter, Gowrie

Description: Carson Lambert of the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie is the winner in the area of Forage Production, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. Lambert's daily duties include chopping silage, raking, baling, and transporting bales within his family's farm. Over his several years invested in this SAE, his role has greatly diversified and has led him to become a more central part in the farm operation. Carson currently plans to attend Iowa State University majoring in Agricultural Technology or Engineering. The runner up in this area is Mason Nolte of the Wilton FFA Chapter.

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**Proficiency Area: Forest Management and Products**

State Winner: Elliot Scheaffer

FFA Chapter: Sheldon FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Forest Management and Products, sponsored by Minntex Citrus Minnesota, is Elliot Scheaffer of the Sheldon FFA Chapter. Elliot has over-invested over \$6,700 in his custom firewood business. He has developed skills in chainsaw sharpening, building his customer base, and is now efficient with delivery and investments. Upon graduation, Scheaffer will attend Northeast Iowa Community College to seek degree in welding. Our runner-up is Kanon Ketchum from the Belmont-Klemme FFA Chapter.

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**Proficiency Area: Fruit Production**

State Winner: Andraya Bahnnon

School: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: Sponsored by 4 Seasons Fundraising, Andraya Bahnnon of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood is the winner in the area of fruit production. Bahnnon has invested nearly 230 hours working at the Calico Skies Vineyard. For her SAE, Andraya prunes, fertilizes, combs, and thins the vines as they grow. Upon graduation, Bahnnon plans to attend South Dakota State University and major in Biology.

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## Iowa FFA Association - 7

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**Proficiency Area: Goat Production**

State Winner: Darci Rawson

School: North Linn FFA Chapter, Troy Mills

Description: Darci Rawson of the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills is the winner in the area of Goat Production, sponsored by the Iowa Meat Goat Association. Darci has invested over 4,634 hours working at D & E Dairy, which milks 1,000 head of goats. Darci's SAE consisted of milking goats, packaging colostrum for kid use, giving vaccines, and caring for overall herd health. Darci's future plans are to enter the healthcare field as a labor and delivery nurse. Our runner up is Brea Jacobs from the Mediapolis FFA Chapter.

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**Proficiency Area: Grain Production**

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 winner in the area of Grain Production, which is sponsored by Heartland Co-op. Gabe worked approximately 272 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 college and then come back to work on his family farm. The runner up in this area is Austin Koch from the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union.

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**Proficiency Area: Landscape Management**

State Winner: Justin Heyer

FFA Chapter: Charles City FFA Chapter

Description: Justin Heyer of the Charles City FFA Chapter is the winner of Landscape Management, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. Heyer's operation has developed from a project guided by his father to a diversified landscaping operation with an extensive social media presence. In total, Justin has had a net income of over \$10,000 derived from his SAE. His future plans include developing their knowledge within the field of business administration and acquiring certification in the area of aviation. Jackson Oberbroeckling of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville is the runner-up in this area.

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**Proficiency Area: Nursery Operations**

State Winner: Lindsey Laughlin

FFA Chapter: West Liberty FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Nursery Operations sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation, our winner is Lindsey Laughlin from the West Liberty FFA chapter. Lindsey started her SAE project through working with her family on landscaping projects and shadowing the senior greenhouse manager from her chapter. She then became the chapter greenhouse manager. During the pandemic, Laughlin worked with school personnel to ensure that the plants survived the lockdown and set up an online plant sale. After high school, she hopes to pursue a career in agribusiness or horticulture. The runner-up in this area was Trenton Van't Hul from the Rock Valley FFA Chapter.

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**Proficiency Area: Organic Agriculture**

State Winner: Evelyn Bauer

FFA Chapter: North Scott FFA Chapter, Eldridge

Description: Evelyn Bauer of the North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge is the winner in the area of Organic Agriculture, sponsored by J. Ward Organics LLC. As part of her SAE, Evelyn took care of a variety of herbs, vegetables, fruits, and flowers at both Tuckaway Blueberry Farm in Georgia and Small Frye Farm. She has worked a total of 1141 hours and earned a total of \$13,096. Evelyn will graduate from North Scott High School this spring. The runner up in this area is Libby Lansing from the West Dubuque FFA Chapter at Epworth.

## Iowa FFA Association - 8

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**Proficiency Area: Outdoor Recreation****State Winner:**

Kylie Dietz

**FFA Chapter:**

Nashua Plainfield FFA Chapter, Nashua

**Description:**

In the area of Outdoor Recreation, sponsored by the Iowa Trappers Association, our winner, Kylie Dietz from the Nashua Plainfield Chapter, works as a spotter on the waterhawks water ski team. She has worked 493 hours for the ski team. She has learned how to roll ropes correctly, improved her communication skills with her team, and is responsible for the safety of her teammates. She is undecided about her future plans and hopes to try out many new things in high school to help her find what careers are out there. The runner up in this area is Spencer Rea from the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville.

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**Proficiency Area: Poultry Production****State Winner:**

Jennifer Holliday

**FFA Chapter:**

Nodaway Valley FFA Chapter, Greenfield

**Description:**

Sponsored by Rose Acre Farms, our winner in the area of Poultry Production is Jennifer Holiday of the Nodaway Valley FFA Chapter at Greenfield. Jennifer started her SAE with a small flock of hens that quickly turned into a large scale system of purchasing 125 chicks every 6-7 weeks. Through this project, she was able to learn marketing techniques, proper poultry care, and how to run her own business. After graduating, she plans to go into the Ag communications field in hopes of landing a job traveling nationally to advocate for agricultural beliefs. The runner up in this area is Chloe Engelbrecht from the North Scott FFA Chapter at Eldridge.

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**Proficiency Area: Service Learning****State Winner:**

Mackenzey Ruff

**FFA Chapter:**

MFL Mar Mac FFA Chapter at Monona

**Description:**

Mackenzey Ruff of the MFL Mar Mac FFA Chapter at Monona is the winner in the area of Service Learning, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. Ruff has invested more than 400 hours in her volunteer project at the Clayton County FoodShelf. She assists with organizing and checking the quality of donated food. Her responsibilities have grown throughout her four years at the food shelf. After graduation Mackenzey plans to continue her passion within the agricultural industry. Our runner up is Lauren Connell from the Charles City FFA Chapter.

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**Proficiency Area: Sheep Production****State Winner:**

Zachary Schoelerman

**FFA Chapter:**

Spencer FFA Chapter

**Description:**

Zachary Schoelerman representing the Spencer FFA Chapter is the 1st place winner of Sheep Production, which is sponsored by the Iowa Club Lamb Association. In 2020, Schoelerman oversaw a flock of 72 head of southdown sheep. He manages the breeding program by utilizing technology such as artificial insemination, ultrasounds, and in-vitro fertilization. This includes his certification as a National Sheep Improvement program ultrasound technician. A well-developed marketing plan has allowed him to sell lambs in 15 states. Zachary's future involves promoting the sheep industry and continuing premium care for his animals. The 2nd place individual in the category is Ashley Auderer of the West Dubuque FFA Chapter at Epworth.

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**Proficiency Area: Small Animal Production and Care****State Winner:**

Avery Knipper

**FFA Chapter:**

Cherokee FFA Chapter

**Description:**

The first-place winner in the area of Small Animal Production and Care, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation, is Avery Knipper of the Cherokee FFA Chapter. Knipper's SAE spans over 530 hours at Bow Wow Boutique in Cherokee. Avery performs many duties from dog bathing, differentiating care to board dogs, and inputting client information in the business database. After graduation, Knipper hopes to become an OBGYN. The runner-up in this area is Jenna Bos of the Unity Christian FFA Chapter at Orange City.

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**Proficiency Area: Specialty Animal Production**

State Winner: Dana Kruse

FFA Chapter: Central Lyon FFA Chapter, Rock Rapids

Description: The first place winner in the area of Specialty Animal Production is Dana Kruse of the Central Lyon FFA Chapter at Rock Rapids. Dana has productively invested over 260 hours in her beekeeping placement project on her FFA Chapter's school farm. Through her SAE, she has learned about pollinator education, genetics, nutritional needs while expanding from two to three hives. Upon graduation, she plans to study within the field of nursing. The runner up in this area is Cassidy Baker of the Coon Rapids-Bayard FFA Chapter.

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**Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Entrepreneurship**

State Winner: Brooklyn Kucera

FFA Chapter: Northeast FFA Chapter, Goose Lake

Description: Brooklyn Kucera from the Northeast FFA Chapter at Goose Lake is the winner in the area of Swine Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa Pork Producers Association. Brooklyn custom farrows 12 litters and farrows 9 sows of her own. She has learned to collect semen from boars and artificially inseminate. She has also learned how to clip needle teeth, doc tails, give shots, ear notch, castrate, grind and mix feed, select sires, and market animals. Upon graduation, Kucera plans to attend Iowa State University for animal science, while she expands her swine operation. Nathaniel Gaul from Edgewood-Colesburg FFA Chapter was the runner-up in this category.

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**Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Placement**

State Winner: Lane Knoblock

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: The winner in Swine Production placement, which is sponsored by Hog Slat-Midwest Division, is Lane Knoblock of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood. Lane has invested over 400 hours in his Swine Placement SAE. He performs a variety of skills including marketing selection, vaccinations, building maintenance, as well as washing and disinfecting. Over the years of his project, his responsibilities have evolved to include managing sites for growers. After graduation, he plans to attend a tech school for diesel mechanics. The runner-up is Lincoln Miller from the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie.

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**Proficiency Area: Turfgrass Management**

State Winner: Trey Johnson

FFA Chapter: East Buchanan FFA Chapter, Winthrop

Description: In the area of Turfgrass Management sponsored by the Iowa Turfgrass Institute, the winner is Trey Johnson from the East Buchanan FFA Chapter at Winthrop. Johnson works as an assistant groundskeeper at the Buffalo Creek Country Club. He waters, mows, fertilizes, and maintains the golf course. He also plays a role in supporting the ecosystems that are a part of the golf course. Trey plans to attend the University of Northern Iowa after high school to pursue a career in the business field. The runner-up in this area was Caden Larson from the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie.

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**Proficiency Area: Vegetable Production**

State Winner: Bryan York

FFA Chapter: Red Oak FFA Chapter

Description: Bryan York, of the Red Oak FFA Chapter is the first place winner in the area of Vegetable Production, which is sponsored by 4 Seasons Fundraising. Bryan runs his school's garden and this past year, he harvested 1,285 pounds of produce. This was all distributed to his school system, community members, and his local food pantry. Due to COVID-19, Bryan couldn't start his plants in the school greenhouse, so he started his 278 plants in his house. The runner up in this area is Christopher Ewart from the Wapello FFA Chapter.

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

**State Winner:**      Haylee Pennock

**FFA Chapter:**      Griswold FFA Chapter

**Description:**      Haylee Pennock from the Griswold FFA Chapter is the winner in the Vet Science area, sponsored by the Iowa FFA Foundation. Haylee has invested 422 hours working for the Atlantic Animal Health Center. She started as a kennel tech and has recently been promoted to veterinary assistant. Haylee has learned to handle animals, feed, administer oral medications, and care for various animals through her time at the vet's office. Upon graduation, Haylee hopes to pursue a career in Veterinary Medicine. Our runner up is Kaia Franzen from the Decorah FFA Chapter.