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News Release

2023 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 November.

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 2023 Iowa Proficiency Awards program.

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of more than 19,000 student members as part of 260 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.

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Proficiency Area: Agricultural Communications

State Winner: Katrina Hageman

FFA Chapter: South Winneshiek FFA Chapter, Calmar

Description: In the area of Agricultural Communications, sponsored by Iowa Soybean Association, the winner is Katrina Hageman from the South Winneshiek FFA Chapter at Calmar. After noticing how uninformed the school, members, and community were about her FFA chapter activities and the ag industry, Katrina decided to become an ag advocate. Serving as chapter reporter for two years, she developed a chapter website, updated social media platforms, and created FFA vlogs. Logging 368 hours with this SAE, and becoming an advocate in her community, Katrina has increased her knowledge in design content, editing, and promotion of her FFA chapter. Grace Schminke of the Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter is the runner-up in the Ag Communications Area.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Education

State Winner: Fayeth Henningsen

FFA Chapter: DeWitt Central FFA Chapter

Description: Fayeth Henningsen, of the DeWitt Central FFA Chapter, is the winner in the area of Agricultural Education, endowed by the Jim Hamilton Memorial. Henningsen works as an Ag in the Classroom intern to implement ways to educate the public about various topics within agriculture. She has done this for three years and plans to pursue a career in elementary education in the near future. The runner-up in this area is Annabelle Newton of the Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication

State Winner: Maguire De Jong

FFA Chapter: Montezuma FFA Chapter

Description: Maguire De Jong of the Montezuma FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Agricultural Mechanics- Design and Fabrication, sponsored by CF Industries Garner & Spencer Terminals. Maguire has spent almost 600 hours working in Metal Manufacturing and Production by learning to do powder coating, plate burning, welding, laser cutting and much more. De Jong is producing metal parts of machinery produced by several large Ag Manufacturing companies, all on his own. He has learned to safely operate and use a number of machines for DeJong Manufacturing. De Jong plans to pursue a career in industrial engineering in the future. The runner-up in this area is Breckin Willemsen of the Rock Valley FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Jacob Nabb

FFA Chapter: Maquoketa FFA Chapter

Description: Jacob Nabb of the Maquoketa FFA Chapter is the state winner in Ag Mechanics and Repair Entrepreneurship, sponsored by US Army ROTC. His SAE involves selling outboard motor parts on Ebay. He has learned how to disassemble outboard engines, research part numbers and then sell them on Ebay. This past year he sold over \$6,000 worth of used parts off of used engines. He has been able to keep accurate records, identify engine parts, develop skills using Ebay, and develop customer service relationships. He plans to continue this SAE program in the near future. The runner-up in this area is Kendric Langreck of the South Winneshiek FFA chapter at Calmar.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Placement

State Winner: Landon Luft

FFA Chapter: Charles City FFA Chapter

Description: Landon Luft from the Charles City FFA Chapter is the first-place winner in Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance Placement, sponsored by Iowa FFA Gold Standard Partners. Landon put in nearly 2000 hours and earned over \$28,000 at Swartzrock Implement. Landon quickly advanced from maintenance of the grounds to maintenance of multiple lines of equipment and the lead assembler for many of the dealership brands. Upon high school graduation, Landon will become a full-time technician at Swartzrock Implement. The runner-up is Mason Parks of the Sheldon FFA Chapter.

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Proficiency Area: Agricultural Processing

State Winner: Lauren Cherne

FFA Chapter: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: The winner in the area of Ag Processing, sponsored by Iowa FFA Gold Standard Partners, is Lauren Cherne of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville. She has invested over 475 hours at her position at her local meat locker. She has gained skills in food safety, meat processing, and product development. After graduation, Cherne plans on continuing her career in meat production. The runner-up is Jayda Thomsen from the Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Sales - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Laina Sangwin

FFA Chapter: Sioux Central FFA Chapter, Sioux Rapids

Description: In the area of Agricultural Sales Entrepreneurship, sponsored by Titan Machinery, the winner is Laina Sangwin of the Sioux Central FFA chapter at Sioux Rapids. Sangwin's SAE project consists of designing and selling Christmas wreaths and decorations. She has sold more than 120 designs to over 100 customers in the last two years. Sangwin plans to continue this business and learn more about floral design. The runner-up in this area is Robbyn Feucht from the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Sales - Placement

State Winner: Nathaniel Miller

FFA Chapter: Marengo FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Agricultural Sales Placement, sponsored by Titan Machinery, is Nathaniel Miller of the Marengo FFA Chapter. Miller has worked at Marengo Farm and Home as a sales associate. Miller has worked in all areas of the business, including marketing, advertising, and inventory. Through his SAE project, Miller has improved his record keeping skills. Second place in this area is Mia Boulton of the Montezuma FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Services

State Winner: Abbie Gahring

FFA Chapter: Williamsburg FFA Chapter

Description: Abbie Gahring of the Williamsburg FFA Chapter is the first-place winner in the Area of Agricultural Services, sponsored by Landus. Gahring is a part time owner to Maxx Boarding, a business established to care for show animals. In her over three years of business, she has grown it from 6 animals, to 31 animals and expanded to include a milking parlor. Gahring will be attending Iowa State University next semester. The runner-up in this area is Allyson Coates of the Maquoketa FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research – Integrated Systems

State Winner: Libby Knipper

FFA Chapter: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: The state winner in the area of Agriscience Research - Integrated Systems, sponsored by CHS Foundation, is Libby Knipper of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville. Over the last two years, Libby has spent over 200 hours researching and evaluating various starch-based films for use in food storage systems. Libby's research has been featured at nine different research fairs and conventions. She has also received numerous awards, and scholarships, and grants for her research.

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Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research – Plant Systems

State Winner: Macia Kruse

School: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: Macia Kruse, of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville, is the first-place winner in the area of AgriScience Research - Plant Systems sponsored by MinnTex Citrus, Inc. Using previously reported research and skills learned from previous research projects for in class projects that Kruse designed and implemented. This independent research project was about evaluating the effects of adding Eisenia Fetida also known as Red Wiggle Worms to continue growing tomatoes and bush beans grown in either controlled greenhouse conditions or in field settings. Throughout the project, Kruse has developed her ability to present and analyze her research results and strives to continue her research endeavors in the future.

Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Hannah Fishwild

FFA Chapter: Midland FFA Chapter, Wyoming

Description: Hannah Fishwild of the Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming, placed first in Beef Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa Cattlemen’s Foundation. Her beef production herd consists of continuously growing breeding and market stock, along with purchasing her own equipment. Her knowledge is shown through her SAE with herdsmanhip and business management qualities. The runner-up is Hayden Benson from the Tri-Center FFA Chapter at Neola.

Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Placement

State Winner: Shealin Wiemann

FFA Chapter: Maquoketa FFA Chapter

Description: Shealin Wiemann of Maquoketa FFA, is the winner in the area of Beef Production Placement, which is sponsored by Iowa Cattlemen’s Foundation. She has worked close to 3,000 hours with her grandpa on his Cow-Calf operation. Wiemann helps with feeding, genetic selection, overall health, and maintenance on the farm. Each year she adds experience responsibilities. In the future, Weimann hopes to apply the skills she has learned to her own cattle herd. The second-place winner is Breckyn Betenbender from the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills.

Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Dillion Sparrgrove

FFA Chapter: North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter, West Union

Description: Dillion Sparrgrove from North Fayette Valley at West Union is the winner in Dairy Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored by Iowa State University Dairy Science Club. His herd of Holstein and jersey cows include 4 milk cows and 5 heifers. Dillion optimizes his success by purposeful budgeting, international health practices, and improved breeding program. He has also enjoyed competing at the National FFA Dairy Judging contest. The runner up is Tara Knapp from the West Lyon FFA chapter at Inwood.

Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Placement

State Winner: Kiersten Gibbs

FFA Chapter: Little Switzerland FFA Chapter, Waukon

Description: In the area of Dairy Production Placement, sponsored by Iowa State University Dairy Science Club, first place goes to Kiersten Gibbs of the Little Switzerland FFA Chapter at Waukon. Gibbs has spent over 2300 hours developing skills to feed, treat and grow dairy calves into healthy cattle. She treats and feeds calves; keeps records, seems machinery that feeds cattle and assets with milking dairy cows. She has a vast knowledge of herd health. She intends to enroll at Iowa State University to study Animal Science. The second-place winner is Haley Ronnebaum from the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi.

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Proficiency Area: Diversified Agricultural Production

State Winner: Luke Holdgrafer

FFA Chapter: Northeast FFA Chapter, Goose Lake

Description: Luke Holdgrafer of the Northeast FFA Chapter at Goose Lake, is the first-place winner in the area of Diversified Agricultural Production, sponsored by Hertz Farm Management. Luke has invested over 6,000 hours managing his beef, grain, hay, and forages operation. He invested additional hay ground to provide more forage for his cattle. Upon graduation, Holdgrafer plans to return to the family farm. The runner-up is Brevin Coston from the Brokaw FFA Chapter at Clarinda.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Crop Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Hayden Holdgrafer

FFA Chapter: Easton Valley FFA Chapter, Preston

Description: Hayden Holdgrafer of the Easton Valley FFA Chapter at Preston, is the first-place winner in the area of Diversified Crop Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored by Pivot Bio. Holdgrafer has increased his forage profitability from \$75/ acres to \$361 per acre. He made management changes to raise soybean yields by 17 bushels per acre and corn yield by 27 bushels per acre. Holdgrafer reinvests in both his and his family's operation and plans to return to the farm after graduating from Iowa State University with a degree in Ag Studies.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Crop Production - Placement

State Winner: Grant Farnham

FFA Chapter: Central Plains FFA Chapter, Gowrie

Description: Grant Farnham of the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie is this year's winner in the area of Diversified Crop Production - Placement, sponsored by CHS Foundation. Grant has learned to operate a variety of farm equipment. He has been using technology to increase efficiencies on their farm, and the value of preservative maintenance to keep equipment in top operating condition. They have incorporated cover crops into their farming operation to prevent erosion and help with weed control. Grant plans to farm after graduation. The runner-up in this area is Merrik Van Grootheest of the Rock Valley FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Horticulture

State Winner: Dacey Henneman

FFA Chapter: Stanton FFA Chapter

Description: Dacey Henneman of the Stanton FFA chapter, is the first-place winner in the area of Diversified Horticulture sponsored by Iowa FFA Gold Standard Partners. Henneman has over 375 hours of employment at Earl May. She has worked with nursery operations and mums as well as floral design. Henneman has efficiently operated nursery equipment and increased her skill development. Jestine Megchelsen from the Marengo FFA Chapter is the runner-up in this area.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Livestock Production

State Winner: Elli Blackford

FFA Chapter: Osceola Big Chief FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in Diversified Livestock Production, endowed by Milt Luckstead Sr., is Elli Blackford of the Osceola Big Chief FFA Chapter. Blackford has invested thousands of hours working at Ruby Cattle Company and with their goat herd. She has worked as a farmhand and herdsman with a wide array of responsibilities. She also raises her own herd of Maintainers, Angus, and Simmental cows. Through this SAE Blackford has learned how to create a nutritional plan, the scientific principles in breeding livestock, and most importantly hard work and dedication. Elli is currently a junior at Osceola high school. The runner up in this area is Kody Hoeger from the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi.

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Proficiency Area: Equine Science - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Cadence Horn

FFA Chapter: Newton FFA Chapter

Description: Cadence Horn of the Newton FFA chapter is the first-place winner in the area of equine science entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa State University Block and Bridle Club. Horn began to provide horse related services to clients after working with her own horses. She has also expanded her skills by selling a pony that she had trained. Her SAE helped develop her equine skills, lesson teaching skills, and has fed her passion for the equine industry. The second-place winner is Josie Fuerstenberg from the New Hampton FFA chapter.

Proficiency Area: Equine Science - Placement

State Winner: Tori Bearman

School: New Hampton FFA Chapter

Description: Tori Bearman of the New Hampton FFA chapter is the winner in Equine Science Placement sponsored by the Iowa Horse Council. Bearman began her SAE in September of 2020, and through Bearman Performance horses she assisted with the breeding, handling, and training of 25-30 foals yearly, with a total of 2,300 hours dedicated to her SAE. A major accomplishment Tori has had is the elimination of contracted foal syndrome from the herd. The runner-up in this area is Kent Sponseller from the Nevada FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Fruit Production

State Winner: Trenton Iburg

School: Williamsburg FFA Chapter

Description: Sponsored by 4 Seasons Fundraising, Trenton Iburg of the Williamsburg FFA Chapter is the state winner in the area of Fruit Production. Iburg has worked for three years on his family's strawberry farm, investing nearly 1,300 hours of time. His tasks include pest management, soil preparation, harvesting, and storage. Following graduation, Iburg plans to take over the strawberry operation.

Proficiency Area: Goat Production

State Winner: Danielle Rawson

School: North Linn FFA Chapter, Troy Mills

Description: Danielle Rawson of the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills is the first-place winner in the area of Goat Production, sponsored by Iowa Meat Goat Association. Rawson has over 4,903 hours invested in D&E dairy, where they milk over 1,000 dairy goats. She is involved in all aspects of the operation including breeding, kidding, milking, feed sanitation, and marketing of a variety of milk and specialty products. Her future plans are to pursue education and a career as a registered nurse. The runner-up in this area is Dominick Clayton from the Grinnell FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Grain Production

State Winner: Landon Theissen

FFA Chapter: Central Lyon FFA Chapter, Rock Rapids

Description: In the area of Grain Production, sponsored by Heartland Co-op, our winner is Landon Theissen from the Central Lyon FFA Chapter at Rock Rapids. In 2022, in his third year in this proficiency area, Landon demonstrated good and consistent growth of the scope in Grain Production working on his family's 1,130 acres farm. Besides learning seed selection, crop nutrient needs, herbicide and pesticide selection. He learned a lot about crop production and handling operation and maintenance. Coming in second in this area is Jackson Von Ahsen from the Williamsburg FFA Chapter.

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Proficiency Area: Landscape Management

State Winner: Carter Hasselman

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: Carter Hasselman of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood is the winner of Landscape Management, sponsored by Iowa FFA Gold Standard Partners. Carter had 529 unpaid hours within his SAE. Carter improved his chainsaw operation and maintenance skills, as well as identifying weed and pests in fruit production. Marshall Zeien of the New Hampton FFA Chapter is the runner-up in this area.

Proficiency Area: Organic Agriculture

State Winner: Jake VanEtten

FFA Chapter: North Linn FFA Chapter, Troy Mills

Description: Jake VanEtten of the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills is the State Winner in the area of Organic Agriculture, sponsored by J. Ward Organics. VanEtten designs, builds, tests, and sells hydroponic systems. The hydroponic systems utilize organic fertilizer. He also composts materials from the chapter greenhouse to improve soil health. Van Etten plans to continue working with the school's hydroponic systems.

Proficiency Area: Outdoor Recreation

State Winner: Morgan Hodge

FFA Chapter: West Liberty FFA Chapter

Description: Morgan Hodge of the West Liberty FFA chapter is the winner in Outdoor Recreation, sponsored by Iowa Trappers Association. Morgan has worked extensively in the shooting sports area. She works at the Izaack Walton League Gun Club and has helped increase membership by 10%. She has completed training and received her Range Safety Officer Certification. She has helped increase the number of events held at the trap club by 200%. Her future plans include coaching for the Scholastic City Target Program. The runner-up in this area is Olivia Hanson from Laporte-Dysart FFA.

Proficiency Area: Poultry Production

State Winner: Josie Boyle

FFA Chapter: West Dubuque FFA Chapter, Epworth

Description: Sponsored by Rose Acre Farms, Josie Boyle of the West Dubuque FFA Chapter at Epworth, is the first-place winner in the area of Poultry Production. She raised broilers for members of her community. During the eight-week production cycle she feeds and waters her birds daily. Skills related to processing, marketing, and food safety were obtained. Upon graduation, Boyle plans to attend the University of Iowa to major in English. Claire Jones of the Roland-Story FFA Chapter at Story City was the runner-up in this area.

Proficiency Area: Service Learning

State Winner: Cheyenne Wallace

FFA Chapter: Southeast Warren FFA Chapter, Liberty Center

Description: Cheyenne Wallace from the Southeast Warren FFA Chapter at Liberty Center is the winner in the area of Service Learning, sponsored by DeWitt FFA Alumni. Wallace developed skills in planning, supervising, and administering community service events. She created relationships with the Master Gardener to facilitate community service with the park in Milo. Her economic impact is over \$7,000. She has managed over 75 volunteer hours while completing projects. She organized a toy tractor show to raise money for the Southeast Warren Dollar for Scholar Program.

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Proficiency Area: Sheep Production

State Winner: Brooklyn Booth

FFA Chapter: IKM-Manning FFA Chapter, Manning

Description: Brooklyn Booth from the IKM-Manning FFA Chapter is a third-generation sheep producer and the winner in Sheep Production, which is sponsored by the Iowa Club Lamb Association. Brooklyn raises, produces, purchases, and shows lambs. In addition to having her own flock, Brooklyn works with her father and grandfather's commercial flock. Having both market and breeding sheep, Brooklyn currently has 25 head. She hopes to keep growing her flock in the future. Ireland Sebetka, from the Grinnell FFA Chapter is the runner-up in this category.

Proficiency Area: Small Animal Production and Care

State Winner: Selena Killham

FFA Chapter: Linn-Mar FFA Chapter, Marion

Description: The first-place winner in the area of Small Animal Production and Care, sponsored by Iowa FFA Gold Standard Partners, is Selena Killham from the Linn-Mar FFA Chapter at Marion. Selena has invested many hours in numerous aspects of the rabbit industry involving showing, breeding, and judging. She has decreased her vet expenses by doing treatments in house. She has also found ways to cut her footprint down by finding use for rabbit waste. Selena plans to continue to show, judge, and expand her breeding. The second-place winner is Jaden Speat from the Algona FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Specialty Animal Production

State Winner: Jessica Kroeger

FFA Chapter: North Scott FFA Chapter, Eldridge

Description: The first-place winner in the area of Specialty Animal Production, sponsored by Iowa FFA Gold Standard Partners, is Jessica Kroeger of the North Scott FFA at Eldridge. Kroeger has raised bees since her freshman year. She has sold hives to others over the years from her own stock. Kroeger also completed an Agriscience Research project based on her bee hives. She is a 2022 graduate of North Scott High School. Runner up in this division is Madelynn Riibe of Central Lyon at Rock Rapids.

Proficiency Area: Specialty Crop Production

State Winner: Ellen Roemen

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: The winner in the area of Specialty Crop Production, sponsored by Ag Processing Inc., is Ellen Roemen of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood. Roemen has a half-acre grown where she raises a variety of gourds that she sells and donates to other organizations in the fall. She has developed skills in weed and insect identification and methods of control. She plans to continue raising gourds and hopes to expand her customer base.

Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Olivia Mensen

FFA Chapter: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: In the area of Swine Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored by Iowa Pork Producers Association, the winner is Olivia Mensen from the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter. Mensen serves as a steward for her herd's health by prioritizing and implementing biosecurity practices. She plays an active role in the breeding program as she selects the mating genetics and aids in the farrowing process. Molly Matthiesen from the Easton Valley FFA Chapter at Preston is the runner-up.

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Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Placement

State Winner: Keaton Funk

FFA Chapter: Central Lyon FFA Chapter, Rock Rapids

Description: The winner in Swine Production Placement, which is sponsored by Hog Slat-Midwest Division, is Keaton Funk, of the Central Lyon FFA Chapter at Rock Rapids. Keaton has 1,234 hours for Funk Farms. In this role, he managed 1,100 head finishing barn, achieving less than 1% death loss. He achieved this by implementing strict biosecurity and preventative disease measures. Keaton is a junior at Central Lyon High School and plans to pursue a career in the swine industry. The runner-up is Mathias Knoblock of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood.

Proficiency Area: Turfgrass Management

State Winner: Caden Larson

FFA Chapter: Central Plains FFA Chapter, Gowrie

Description: Caden Larson of the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie is the 1st place winner of Turfgrass Management, sponsored by Iowa Turfgrass Management. He has over 694 paid and unpaid hours in his Turfgrass Management SAE. His skills include servicing lawn mowers, monitoring soil pH levels, and safely operating turfgrass equipment. He is a freshman at Iowa State University and will maintain his SAE while interning at Landus Cooperative. Megan Forret of the Calmus-Wheatland FFA Chapter is the runner-up in this area.

Proficiency Area: Vegetable Production

State Winner: Paul Herger

FFA Chapter: Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter

Description: Paul Herger, of the Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter, is the first-place winner in the area of Vegetable Production, which is sponsored by 4 Seasons Fundraising. Paul has invested over 700 unpaid hours in his chapter's Farm to School program. In 2022 alone, Paul harvested and donated 15,600 lbs of produce to surrounding non-profit groups. Paul has developed career and personal skills which he plans to use in a future career of horticulture. Deontez Williams of the Pilot Creek FFA Chapter at Pocahontas is the runner-up in Vegetable Production.

Proficiency Area: Veterinary Science

State Winner: Isabelle Rouse

FFA Chapter: ACGC FFA Chapter, Guthrie Center

Description: Isabelle Rouse from the ACGC FFA Chapter at Guthrie Center is the winner in the Veterinary Science area, sponsored by Christensen Farms. Isabelle has invested over 450 hours at Guthrie County Veterubart Services where she assists with surgeries, pre-and post-operative care, kennel management, and inventory management. She has learned to monitor animal behavior, administer medication, and perform diagnostic tests and communicate results to clinic staff. The runner-up in this category is Nina Walton from the Grinnell FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Wildlife Production & Management

State Winner: Blase Maas

FFA Chapter: West Liberty FFA Chapter

Description: Blase Maas of the West Liberty FFA chapter is this year's winner in the area of Wildlife Production and Management sponsored by Iowa FFA Gold Standard Partners. Blaze has planted food plots and raised and released pheasants. He has increased food plot acreage from 50 acres to 105 acres. They have expanded CRP acres from 1980 acres to 2550 acres. He requires his clients to harvest bucks that are 4 years old or older to maintain a good deer population. He works for Broken Bow Outfitters where he has worked 1412 hours and earned over \$22,000. Blaze plans to attend Kirkwood community and major in Agri-Business. The runner-up is Aden Jepsen from the Central Plains FFA chapter at Gowrie.