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News Release

2024 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 2024 Iowa Proficiency Awards program.

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of more than 19,700 student members as part of 263 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 Education

State Winner: Molly Freese

FFA Chapter: Carroll Area FFA Chapter

Description: Molly Freese, of the Carroll Area FFA Chapter, is the winner in the area of Agricultural Education, endowed by the Jim Hamilton Memorial. Freese has spent many hours coaching middle school FFA events, helping her advisor engage middle school members, and volunteering at various county fair education events. After high school, Molly plans to attend Iowa State University to major in Ag Communications with a minor in events management and an emphasis in Ag Ed. The runner-up in this area is Hope Griebel of the Bellevue FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication

State Winner: Breckin Willemsen

FFA Chapter: Rock Valley FFA Chapter

Description: Breckin Willemsen of the Rock Valley FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Agricultural Mechanics- Design and Fabrication sponsored by CF Industries. Willemsen has spent over 600 hours working on construction sites. He has learned time management, improved his communication, how to operate tools, and much more. The runner-up in this area is Kamryn Linder of the Nevada FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Maverick Scheckel

FFA Chapter: Bellevue FFA Chapter

Description: Maverick Scheckel from the Bellevue FFA chapter is the state winner in Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance Entrepreneurship, sponsored by U.S. Army ROTC. His SAE involves owning and operating Scheckel Repair, which restores and repairs equipment that he then advertises and sells for profit. Scheckel has a gross revenue of over \$41,000 and a profit of \$26,000. 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: Justice Frerk

FFA Chapter: South O'Brien FFA Chapter, Paullina

Description: Justice Frerk of the South O'Brien FFA Chapter is the first-place winner in Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance placement, sponsored through the Iowa FFA Foundation Gold Standard Partners. Justice has put in over 1,100 hours as a diesel technician for John Deere Agrivision in Paullina. He began his SAE in the wash bay and has since worked his way up to performing maintenance on nearly every piece of equipment that comes into the shop. Upon graduation, Frerk will attend the John Deere Diesel Technician program. The runner-up is Wesley McElroy of the Newton FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Processing

State Winner: Katelyn Schaul

FFA Chapter: Central City-Springville FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Ag Processing, sponsored through the Iowa FFA Foundation Gold Standard Partners, is Katelyn Schaul of the Central City-Springville FFA Chapter. Katelyn owns and operates her own baking business called Katelyn's Creations. She has expanded her product base from two to four products that she serves at vendor shows. The runner-up is Justin Loseke of the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Sales - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Andrew Pingnot

FFA Chapter: Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Agricultural Sales Entrepreneurship, sponsored by Titan Machinery, the winner is Andrew Pingnot from Vinton-Shellsburg FFA. Pingnot's SAE project consists of selling hay savers as well as livestock waterers. Pingnot has continued to increase his percentage of products and increased his financial responsibility from his business.

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Proficiency Area: Agricultural Sales - Placement

State Winner: Mia Boulton

FFA Chapter: Montezuma FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of agricultural sales placement, sponsored by Titan Machinery, is Mia Boulton of the Montezuma FFA chapter. Mia has spent five years involved in her chapter's 4,000 square foot greenhouse. Mia contributed to the success of the greenhouse by implementing curbside-pickup during the pandemic as well as a flower program for gravesites during Memorial Day. Mia is currently pursuing a degree in marketing because of the influence her SAE had on her. The runner-up is Abigail Sparrowgrove from the Marengo FFA chapter.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Services

State Winner: Jordan Everitt

FFA Chapter: Central Community FFA Chapter, Elkader

Description: Jordan Everitt of the Central Community FFA Chapter at Elkader is the first-place winner in the area of Agricultural Services, sponsored by Landus. Jordan works for Joel's Tractor and Auction and has earned his auctioneering diploma. He has worked over 600 hours doing customer relations, equipment repair, and marketing for the company. He hopes to continue with the company in the future. The runner-up in this area is Sam Finnegan of the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills.

Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research – Animal Systems

State Winner: Mary McKean

FFA Chapter: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: Mary McKean, of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville, is the winner in the area of Agriscience Research-Animal Systems sponsored by Christensen Farms. McKean conducted an agriscience project based on the trends in pet food production, advertising, and ingredients in relation to consumer choices. Following her high school graduation, McKean plans to pursue a degree in veterinary medicine.

Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research – Integrated Systems

State Winner: Libby Hageman

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 Hageman of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville. Over the last two years, Hageman completed two agriscience fair projects related to cleaning methods for calf bottle hygiene and the impacts of compaction in varied soil types. She is currently a Junior at Beckman Catholic and plans to pursue a degree in Veterinary Tech.

Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research – Plant Systems

State Winner: Jarrett McClain

School: AC/GC FFA Chapter, Guthrie Center

Description: Jarrett McClain, of the AC/GC FFA Chapter, is the first-place winner in the area of AgriScience research - plant systems sponsored by MinnTex Citrus, Inc. McClain's research began in 2019 with a research project that studied how to extend the life of cut flowers. His most recent project focuses on researching growing barley in a more cost-efficient manner. The second-place winner is Valerie Rahe of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Dalton Wright

FFA Chapter: Brokaw FFA Chapter, Clarinda

Description: Dalton Wright of the Brokaw FFA Chapter at Clarinda placed first in the area of Beef Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation. His beef production herd consists of cattle he shows at county and state fairs. Through his SAE, Dalton has learned important skills like pasture and herd management and breeding strategies. The runner-up is Kayden Schnuelle from the Postville FFA Chapter.

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Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Placement

State Winner: Breckyn Betenbender

FFA Chapter: North Linn FFA Chapter, Troy Mills

Description: Breckyn Betenbender of the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills is the winner in the area of Beef Production Placement, which is sponsored by the Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation. Breckyn works as the assistant manager of cattle operations at Betenbender Show Cattle. In this position, he manages 175 cow-calf pairs on 278 acres of pasture. Breckyn is diligent in ensuring the quality of calf crop and improving genetic qualities in the herd through Artificial Insemination and improved calf care. Through these efforts, he has ensured a 95% calf crop of his employer. Breckyn plans to continue raising his own cattle in the future as well as becoming an electrician. The second-place winner is Madelyn Reiter of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville.

Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Brody Courtney

FFA Chapter: Decorah FFA Chapter

Description: Brody Courtney of the Decorah FFA Chapter is the winner in Dairy Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa State University Dairy Science Club. In his SAE, he raises high-quality genetic cattle to show at various county, state, and national shows. He has learned about fitting, nutrition, and record-keeping through this project. In 2023, Courtney exhibited a class winner at the World Dairy Expo. After high school, he plans to return to the family farm to continue to produce genetically elite animals to show at the national level. The runner-up is Angie Knapp of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood.

Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Placement

State Winner: Kaden Guenther

FFA Chapter: Bellevue FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Dairy Production Placement, sponsored by the Iowa State University Dairy Science Club, first place goes to Kaden Guenther from the Bellevue FFA Chapter. Kaden works for a local dairy farm milking 130 cows with two Lely Robots and raising 70 heifers annually. He has gained valuable knowledge in nutrition, herd management, animal health, and equipment operation. His exposure to the dairy industry has enthused him to continue exploring new opportunities within animal agriculture. His future plans include joining the family cattle operation. The second-place winner is Haley Ronnebaum from the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Agricultural Production

State Winner: William Kroneman

FFA Chapter: Benton Community FFA Chapter, Van Horne

Description: William Kroneman of the Benton Community FFA Chapter at Van Horne is the first-place winner in the area of Diversified Agricultural Production, endowed by Hertz Farm Management. Williams's entrepreneurship SAE includes cattle, sheep, and pumpkin production. He also has 445 hours of placement work on two other farms. After graduation, William plans to attend Kirkwood Community College for Diesel Ag Technology with a certificate in Beef Production. The runner-up is Kaya Knipper of the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Crop Production - Placement

State Winner: Merrik Van Grootheest

FFA Chapter: Rock Valley FFA Chapter

Description: Merrik Van Grootheest of the Rock Valley FFA Chapter is this year's winner in the area of Diversified Crop Production - Placement, sponsored by CHS Foundation. Merrik has invested over 1300 hours working on his family's diversified crop farm. He plans to continue farming following graduation. This SAE experience has greatly influenced his desire to farm full-time. The runner-up in this area is Cale VanSickle of the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie.

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Proficiency Area: Diversified Horticulture

State Winner: Olivia Kraayenbrink

FFA Chapter: Sioux Center FFA Chapter

Description: Olivia Kraayenbrink of the Sioux Center FFA Chapter, is the first place winner in the area of Diversified Horticulture, sponsored by 4 Seasons Fundraising. Kraayenbrink has over 229 hours working on a one-acre farm-fresh flower farm. Tasks include preparing for planting, laying landscape fabric, direct seeding, propagating plants, harvesting flowers, drying flowers, and arranging flowers. Kraayenbrink would like to start her own business selling beef. This experience has given Kraayenbrink the chance to expand the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue this career objective. The runner-up in this area is Jestine Megchelsen from the Marengo FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Livestock Production

State Winner: Delaney Engler

FFA Chapter: Calamus-Wheatland FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in Diversified Livestock Production, endowed by Milt Luckstead Sr., is Delaney Engler of the Calamus-Wheatland FFA Chapter. She has demonstrated a wealth of knowledge throughout her SAE and can deeply portray the complexity of her program. She has jumped into the responsibilities of managing a hog site, expanding her cattle operation, and managing additional responsibilities off the farm. The runner-up in this area is Kathryn Kilgard of the Marengo FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Equine Science - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Lilly Henry

FFA Chapter: Central Lyon FFA Chapter, Rock Rapids

Description: Lilly Henry of the Central Lyon FFA chapter at Rock Rapids is the first-place winner in the area of equine science entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa State University - Block and Bridle Club. She began her SAE by training horses, along with specializing in food care. She partakes in rodeo events such as; breakaway roping, barrel racing, and pasture riding. Since 2021, her number has increased in the following categories: horse health, routine efficiency, and productivity. She will be attending Dordt University to pursue a degree in Animal Science. The second-place winner is Lacy Reth from the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi.

Proficiency Area: Equine Science - Placement

State Winner: Leah Thier

School: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: Leah Thier of the Beckman Catholic FFA chapter is the winner in Equine Science placement sponsored by the Iowa Horse Council. At the age of six years old, Leah began taking lessons at Blush Acres. Eventually, she became a head trainer and instructor at that same facility where she began her SAE in 2019. Leah has increased her paid placement hours as she gained additional experience. She started as a trainer and instructor then expanded her responsibilities as a barn manager. Through her SAE she has gained communication skills, engaged with other riders, along with the ability to be flexible in scheduling. The runner-up in this area is Alana Fleming from the Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter

Proficiency Area: Fiber/Oil Crop Production

State Winner: Ryan Wicklein

School: Central Plains FFA Chapter, Gowrie

Description: Ryan Wicklein of the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie is the first-place winner in the area of Fiber/Oil Production, sponsored by the Iowa Soybean Association. Ryan has invested 1,360 hours in his family's soybean operation. He assists with planting, scouting, and harvesting. Ryan has learned valuable skills while operating machinery and working with others on the farm. Through working with his father and an agronomist, he has increased his record-keeping ability and has become more knowledgeable about farm management. The runner-up in this area is Ben Philips of the Akron-Westfield FFA Chapter.

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Proficiency Area: Forage Production

State Winner: Brady Collins

School: Kingsley-Pearson FFA Chapter

Description: Brady Collins of the Kingsley-Pearson FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Forage Production, sponsored through the Iowa FFA Foundation Gold Standard Partners. Brady started his own alfalfa business in 2020 on his family farm. Over the years, he learned how to manage weeds and increase plant growth to produce more bales. His production has increased from 400 to 650 bales per cutting. He utilizes social media to sell his bales to local farmers. Following graduation, he plans to attend Iowa State University to major in Agricultural Systems Technology.

Proficiency Area: Forest Management and Products

State Winner: Seth Lauer

School: North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter, West Union

Description: The winner in the area of Forest Management and Products, sponsored by Myfruitsale.com, is Seth Lauer of the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union. Seth works with his father in the family business named Lauer Tree Service. Seth has invested 2,226 hours in his SAE and has learned valuable skills in working with customers and getting the job done. Seth operates and maintains all of the equipment for safe operation. The runner-up is Benjamin Keeney from the Colfax-Mingo FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Goat Production

State Winner: Lainey Knipper

School: Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter, Delhi

Description: Lainey Knipper of the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi is the first-place winner in the area of Goat Production, sponsored by Iowa Meat Goat Association. Lainey's SAE consists of raising registered boer goats. As an FFA member as well as an American Boer Goat Association Member, she has focused on responsibility and management of her herd. Through challenges and successes, Lainey has guided youth through workshops and education programs. Through herd management, she has focused on how to increase the stability of doe pregnancy and their solution through studying ketosis and CIDRS. Lainey's future plans continue in agriculture as she plans to study at Iowa State University to major in education and minor in Ag Business. The runner-up in this area is Trell Amoss from the Albia FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Grain Production

State Winner: Keaton Funk

FFA Chapter: Central Lyon FFA Chapter, Rock Rapids

Description: In the area of Grain Production, sponsored by Heartland Co-op, the winner is Keaton Funk of the Central Lyon FFA Chapter at Rock Rapids. Keaton demonstrated total immersion in grain production with management maintenance and adaptation of new tillage technologies on his family's farm located near Rock Rapids. He also showcased his ability to drill down to the particular skills and knowledge needed to be successful in grain production. The runner-up in this area is Blake Borchers of the GTRA FFA Chapter at Graettinger.

Proficiency Area: Landscape Management

State Winner: Marshall Zeien

FFA Chapter: New Hampton FFA Chapter

Description: Marshall Zeien of the New Hampton FFA Chapter is the winner in Landscape Management, sponsored through the Iowa FFA Foundation Gold Standard Partners. Marshall focuses on customer satisfaction, planning, and adjusting his schedule to accommodate weather and customer needs. He uses his knowledge to help the chapter with landscaping competitions within FFA. Harold Mohr of the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi is the runner-up in this area.

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Proficiency Area: Nursery Operations

State Winner: Tayton Knobloch

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: In the area of Nursery Operations, sponsored through the Iowa FFA Foundation Gold Standard Partners, the winner is Tayton Knobloch of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood. Knobloch has over 290 hours working at Knobloch's Greenhouse. He performs a variety of duties including making soil, caring for the plants, and assisting customers. He encouraged his learnings as a member of the West Lyon FFA Agronomy Team. Upon graduation, Tayton plans to work on his family's farm.

Proficiency Area: Outdoor Recreation

State Winner: Marie Grebner

FFA Chapter: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: Marie Grebner of the Beckman Catholic FFA chapter at Dyersville is the winner in Outdoor Recreation, sponsored by the Iowa Trappers Association. Marie has been involved as an outdoor activity guide and counselor at the Montessori Outdoor Camp in Peosta, Iowa for the past 2 years. During this experience, she has learned the value of patience, collaboration, and working as a team.

Proficiency Area: Poultry Production

State Winner: Claire Jonas

FFA Chapter: Roland-Story FFA Chapter, Story City

Description: Sponsored by Rose Acre Farms, Claire Jonas of the Roland-Story FFA Chapter at Story City, is the first-place winner in the area of Poultry Production. Jonas owns and operates a duck operation where she sells meat and duck eggs. Since the start of her operation, she has learned skills that have increased to productivity of her flock. Jonas plans to attend Iowa State University to study Agricultural Engineering. Madelyn Thede of the Wilton FFA Chapter is the runner-up in this area.

Proficiency Area: Service Learning

State Winner: Marley Larson

FFA Chapter: Knoxville FFA Chapter

Description: Marley Larson from the Knoxville FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Service Learning, sponsored by DeWitt FFA Alumni. Larson is passionate about suicide prevention and has established a 501c3 non-profit called Chasing Positivity and organizes a horse show to raise funds for community awareness and prevention of suicide.

Proficiency Area: Sheep Production

State Winner: Coy Peterson

FFA Chapter: Midland FFA Chapter, Wyoming

Description: Coy Peterson from the Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming is the winner in sheep production, which is sponsored by the Iowa Club Lamb Association. Coy runs a purebred Targhee flock with 30 head of breeding ewes and has learned the art of shearing his own sheep. He practices rotational grazing to improve sustainable farming and maximize profits. Upon graduation, Peterson plans to jump straight into farming with a focus on ruminant nutrition. Keegan Echard, from the MFL MarMac Chapter at Monona, is the runner-up in this category.

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Proficiency Area: Small Animal Production and Care

State Winner: Devyn Sander

FFA Chapter: IKM-Manning FFA Chapter

Description: The first-place winner in the area of Small Animal Production and Care, sponsored through the Iowa FFA Foundation Gold Standard Partners, is Devyn Sander from the IKM-Manning FFA Chapter. Devyn has grown his rabbit business 12-fold in the last 4 years. He performs daily care of the animals, maintenance of his equipment, and educates his local 4-H and FFA members about rabbit production and care. The second-place winner is Ellie Hartman from the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville.

Proficiency Area: Specialty Animal Production

State Winner: Mia Kloewer

FFA Chapter: Atlantic FFA Chapter

Description: The first-place winner in the area of Specialty Animal Production, sponsored through the Iowa FFA Foundation Gold Standard Partners, is Mia Kloewer of the Atlantic FFA chapter. Mia worked in the school's greenhouse caring for the fish and plants. Upon graduation, Mia would like to open her own greenhouse.

Proficiency Area: Specialty Crop Production

State Winner: Chloe Zittergruen

FFA Chapter: Tri-County FFA Chapter, Thornburg

Description: The winner in the area of Specialty Crop Production, sponsored by Ag Processing Inc., is Chloe Zittergruen of the Tri-County FFA Chapter at Thornburg. Chloe has logged over 600 hours in a flower internship, raising her own flowers, and producing and selling plants out of the school greenhouse. She has grown her knowledge of flower production and her passion for growing flowers and educating the community about floral production.

Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Jillian Woodruff

FFA Chapter: Central Plains FFA Chapter, Gowrie

Description: In the area of Swine Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored by Iowa Pork Producers Association, the winner is Jillian Woodruff from the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie. Woodruff has earned over \$30,000 raising and showing pigs at the county and state fair. She selects, feeds, treats, trains, and shows her swine. Important skills that Jillian has gained include food rationing, biosecurity, and using industry tools to make decisions. Ellyanna Haspels from the Central Lyon FFA Chapter at Rock Rapids is the runner-up.

Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Placement

State Winner: Tate Woods

FFA Chapter: North Linn FFA Chapter, Troy Mills

Description: The winner in Swine Production Placement, which is sponsored by Hog Slat-Midwest Division, is Tate Woods, of the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills. Tate works for his father's operation, Woods Show Pigs. He has spent over 1,500 hours feeding hogs, maintaining animal health, and many other aspects of swine production. The runner-up is Elsie Westergard of the West Sioux FFA Chapter at Hawarden.

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Proficiency Area: Turfgrass Management

State Winner: Megan Forret

FFA Chapter: Calamus-Wheatland FFA Chapter

Description: Megan Forret of the Calamus-Wheatland FFA Chapter is the first-place winner of Turfgrass Management, sponsored by Iowa Turfgrass Institute. Megan averages 550 hours a year building her business and equipment management skills working for her family business, Forret Mowing. Megan is a student at Iowa State University, studying to become an elementary school educator. She also hopes to continue supporting her family business in the future. The runner-up is Hayden Heyer of the Charles City FFA chapter.

Proficiency Area: Vegetable Production

State Winner: Blake Oostenink

FFA Chapter: Sioux Center FFA Chapter

Description: Blake Oostenink, of the Sioux Center FFA Chapter, is the first-place winner in the area of Vegetable Production, which is sponsored by 4 Seasons Fundraising. Over the last four years, Blake's sweet corn business has more than doubled his crop acres. He works closely with his community to sell his sweetcorn. Blake has earned over \$5,000 during the 2023 year and has learned how to grow his business while overcoming obstacles. His future plans are to attend Iowa State University to study Animal Science. Aiden Anderson of the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie is the runner-up in this area.

Proficiency Area: Veterinary Science

State Winner: Tessa Tauke

FFA Chapter: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: Tessa Tauke from the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville is the winner in the Vet Science area, sponsored by Christensen Farms. Tessa has moved from the completion of a research project involving bovine ringworm treatment to job shadowing with a veterinarian clinic. Tauke logged over 300 hours and has gained experience in critical thinking, diagnosis recognition, handling medication, and restraining animals. She plans to pursue a career in veterinary medicine and practice mixed animal medicine. The runner-up in this category is Jordyn Frost from the Nashua Plainfield FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Wildlife Production & Management

State Winner: Aidan Yaddof

FFA Chapter: Calamus-Wheatland FFA chapter

Description: Aidan Yaddof of the Calamus-Wheatland FFA chapter is this year's winner in the area of Wildlife Production and Management sponsored by the Iowa Division Izaak Walton League. Aidan started his own pheasant release program with a \$1,000 SAE grant. In the last two years, he has had a notable impact on the pheasant population in his area and has worked with the DNR to expand his impact. The runner-up is Lydia Flinders from the South O'Brien FFA chapter at Paullina.