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News Release

2016 Iowa FFA Proficiency Award Results

ANKENY, Iowa--100% of all FFA members have proficiencies as part of the agricultural program and the FFA. These proficiencies range in the areas of Agricultural Communications to Home and/or Community Development 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 2016 Iowa Proficiency Awards program.

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of over 14,800 student members as part of 226 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 - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Emily Campbell

FFA Chapter: Audubon FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Agricultural Communications, our winner is Emily Campbell of the Audubon FFA Chapter. Campbell earned \$900 while inputting 190 hours into her project by applying principles of entrepreneurship. She has been able to successfully market and grow her business. Campbell plans to attend Iowa State University to major in Agricultural Studies.

The second place winner is Gabby Power of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter at Fairbank.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Communications Proficiency Award is Iowa Farmer Today.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Education - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Kaitlin Isbell

FFA Chapter: Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Agricultural Education is Kaitlin Isbell of the Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter. Over the past four years, Isbell has worked a total of 316 hours at her placement at Vinton-Shellsburg High School. She gained skills through teaching third and fourth graders, being involved in community day projects, and creating an interactive barn - complete with petting zoo and interactive displays. Following high school, Isbell would like to become an Agricultural Education instructor.

The second place winner is Cassidy Kuhlmann of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter at Fairbank.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Education Proficiency Award is the Department of Agricultural Education and Studies at Iowa State University.

**Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication-
Entrepreneurship/Placement**

State Winner: Jordan Flick

FFA Chapter: New Hampton FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication is Jordan Flick of the New Hampton FFA Chapter. Flick has earned \$24,204 by working over 2,500 hours in his project. By working this many hours, he has developed unique skills which include using geospatial technology in agricultural applications. In the future, Flick plans to graduate from Iowa State University with a degree in Agricultural Engineering.

Eric Visscher from the Boyden-Hull FFA Chapter received second.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication Proficiency Award is CF Industries.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Wyatt Samuelson

FFA Chapter: La Porte-Dysart FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance Entrepreneurship, our winner is Wyatt Samuelson of the La Porte-Dysart FFA Chapter. Samuelson spent many hours restoring his 1954 Allis Chalmers WD-45 in preparation to show it at the Iowa State Fair. He used repair and operator manuals to assist in most of his project but his skills in MIG welding and wiring helped complete the restoration. Samuelson plans to attend Iowa State University and major in Agricultural Systems & Technology.

Marcella Bruns from the Cascade FFA Chapter received second.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Van Wall.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Placement

State Winner: Micheal Walvatne

FFA Chapter: North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter, West Union

Description: The winner in the area of Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance Placement is Micheal Walvatne of the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union. Over four years, Walvatne has worked 4,337 hours while successfully investing over \$50,000. He has learned to diagnose and repair electrical power systems in agricultural environments such as following plans and wiring electrical panels. Walvatne plans to continue his education at Northeast Iowa Community College studying the industrial electrical program.

The second place winner is Harrison Gebers of the Ridge View FFA Chapter at Holstein is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance-Placement Proficiency Award is Kuhn North America, Inc.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Processing - Placement

State Winner: Rebecca Van Regenmorter

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: Rebecca Van Regenmorter of the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood is the winner in the area of Ag Processing. Through her SAE, Rebecca has learned the importance of food safety and quality assurance to ensure her customers' health. She also learned to properly manage the equipment and facilities that were available to her for her operation. After high school, Rebecca plans to continue her education and attend a four-year university majoring in Agricultural Business.

Sydney Stender from the Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Processing Proficiency Award is the Iowa Corn Growers Association.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Sales - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Eli Slouha

FFA Chapter: Midland FFA Chapter, Wyoming

Description: In the area of Ag Sales Entrepreneurship, our winner is Eli Slouha of the Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming. Eli makes and sells custom wood working projects; what started as one 4H sign became 53 projects sold in 2015. He has developed his ability to manage his time in between the many projects along with school and other activities. Eli plans to attend Kirkwood Community College and major in Ag Business.

The second place winner in the area of Agricultural Sales Entrepreneurship is Hailey Schmitz from the Nashua Plainfield FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Sales Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is United Suppliers.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Sales Placement

State Winner: Cori Bebout

FFA Chapter: Brokaw FFA Chapter, Clarinda

Description: The winner in the area of Ag Sales Placement is Cori Bebout of the Brokaw FFA Chapter at Clarinda. Cori has worked earned \$20,000 by working over 2,000 hours in her SAE. Within his project he has developed many skills that are critical to developing and maintaining a business. These skills include identifying business inconsistencies and applying the appropriate management techniques. Bebout plans to attend Iowa State University and study Agricultural Education to pursue a teaching degree.

Courtney Nordheim from the Decorah FFA Chapter received second.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Sales Placement Proficiency Award is Dakin Ag Equipment.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Services

State Winner: Riley Rittgers

FFA Chapter: Central Plains FFA Chapter, Gowrie

Description: The winner in the area of Agricultural Services is Riley Rittgers of the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie. Since 2012, Riley has accumulated over 2,200 hours while earning roughly \$32,000 in his SAE. He has defined his most important skill as career experience, which he gained through learning the proper use and care of tools and services. Riley is currently attending Iowa Central Community College and studying diesel mechanics with the hopes of someday owning his own diesel shop.

The second place winner in the area of Agricultural Services is Ray Kurt from the Cascade FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Agricultural Services Proficiency Award is Landus Cooperative.

Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research - Plant Systems

State Winner: Trygve Lien

School: South Winneshiek FFA Chapter, Calmar

Description: In the area of Agriscience Research - Plant Systems, our winner is Trygve Lien of the South Winneshiek FFA Chapter at Calmar. He has spent more than 250 hours conducting three comprehensive agronomic research studies. He has evaluated corn fertilization systems, intensive corn management, and intensive soybean management. Trygve plans to pursue a career in agronomy.

Samantha Reicks from the New Hampton FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Agriscience Research - Plant Systems Proficiency Award is the Mid-Prairie FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Andrew Palmersheim

FFA Chapter: Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter, Delhi

Description: The winner in the area of Beef Production Entrepreneurship is Andrew Palmersheim of the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi. Over the past three years, Andrew has gone from 17 head to 27 head of cattle. Andrew is skilled in building relationships with others and enhancing his knowledge of financial services, which have led to him being able to take out a loan. In addition, he has been certified in artificial insemination. Palmersheim plans to attend a 2-year college close to home to manage and expand his cow/calf herd.

Grace Rens from West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood received second.

The sponsor of the Beef Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Placement

State Winner: Blair Bennis

FFA Chapter: Maquoketa FFA Chapter

Description: Blair Bennis of the Maquoketa FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Beef Production Placement. Bennis has worked over 1,800 hours by caring, feeding and breeding her family's beef cows. By completing these tasks, she has been able to gain knowledge in calculating feed rations and implementing disease prevention programs. She has also learned how to apply scientific principles to the process of making breeding selections. After high school, Bennis plans to attend Iowa State University and major in Animal Science.

Kelly Diemer from the Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Beef Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Kaleb Kruse

FFA Chapter: Maquoketa FFA Chapter, Delhi

Description: In the area of Dairy Production Entrepreneurship, our winner is Kaleb Kruse of the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi. Kaleb currently operates $\frac{1}{3}$ of a partnership between him and his brothers that consists of 32 head of dairy cows and heifers. One of the most important parts of his project has been developing the best genetics for his herd by using artificial insemination and embryo technology. Kruse plans to attend Iowa State University and major in Dairy Science.

Matthew Appler from the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Dairy Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Accelerated Genetics.

Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Placement

State Winner: Nathan Arthur

FFA Chapter: Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Dairy Production Placement is Nathan Arthur of the Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA Chapter. Over the past four years, Nathan has worked a total of 3,875 paid and unpaid hours earning \$16,025 on the family farm. He gained skills in managing a 125 head dairy operation which includes sanitation and genetic selection through the use of artificial insemination. Nathan plans to attend Iowa State University studying Dairy Science.

Ethan Menne from the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Dairy Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Foremost Farms USA.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Agricultural Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Spencer Pech

FFA Chapter: Starmont FFA Chapter, Arlington

Description: Spencer Pech of the Starmont FFA Chapter at Arlington is the winner in the area of Diversified Ag Production Placement, sponsored by Hertz Farm Management through the Iowa FFA Foundation. Spencer progressed from 11 hours on the family farm to over 600 hours on the farm and for an ag service provider. He experienced most growth in ag service and communication areas, as well as a love for agricultural natural resources. After high school, Pech plans to attend Iowa State University to pursue a degree in ag engineering as it applies to soil and water management.

Kelwin Knobloch from the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Diversified Agricultural Production Proficiency Award is Hertz Farm Management.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Crop Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Joshua Carlson

FFA Chapter: Central Plains FFA Chapter, Gowrie

Description: The winner in the area of Diversified Crop Production Entrepreneurship is Joshua Carlson of the Central Plains FFA Chapter at Gowrie. Joshua started with 10 acres of hay ground and has since diversified his operation to 260 acres of corn, soybeans, and hay. He learned the importance of building good working relationships with landowners, bankers, and agronomists, as well as manage all of the technical inputs required to produce a quality grain crop. After high school - Carlson plans to attend Iowa State University and earn a degree in agriculture, and will return to their family farm to become a partner-owner.

Cale Pellet from the Atlantic FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Diversified Crop Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is MinnTex Citrus, Inc.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Crop Production - Placement

State Winner: Chase Janss

FFA Chapter: Benton Community FFA Chapter, Van Horne

Description: In the area of Diversified Crop Production Placement, our winner is Chase Janss of the Benton Community FFA Chapter at Van Horne. Having the ability to work independently and the knowledge to accomplish tasks have allowed Chase to work with his grandfather on a 560 acre row crop farm. Janss also obtained his CDL in order to haul crops to his customers. He plans to return to the farm after high school in hopes of expanding the operation.

Collin Thines from the Easton Valley FFA Chapter at Preston is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Diversified Crop Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Legend Seed.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Horticulture – Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Felicia Fehr

FFA Chapter: Hawkeye FFA Chapter, West Bend

Description: The winner in the area of Diversified Horticulture Placement is Felicia Fehr of the Hawkeye FFA Chapter at West Bend. Felicia started from scratch and progressed to 1,411 hours of work with \$11,443 in earnings. She spent her time engaging in horticulture knowledge, as well as built up her confidence with decision making. Within her job, she has acquired responsibility and a sense of independence. In addition, she has improved immensely with her public speaking skills. Felicia plans to continue working, all a while gaining knowledge in the horticulture field.

The second place winner is Hailey Daufeldt of the West Liberty FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Diversified Horticulture Proficiency Award is the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Livestock Production

State Winner: Justin Swanton

FFA Chapter: Northeast FFA Chapter, Goose Lake

Description: Justin Swanton of the Northeast FFA Chapter at Goose Lake is the winner in the area of Diversified Livestock Production. Swanton started with a livestock herd of 5 ewes which has since grown to 10 ewes with the addition of two breeding heifers. By operating this herd, he has been able to learn a lot of livestock related skills which include making good mating selections and taking proper care of his show stock. After high school, Swanton plans to attend Iowa State University and double major in Animal Science and Agricultural Business before pursuing vet school.

The second place winner is Rebecca Martin of the Dewitt Central FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Diversified Livestock Production Proficiency Award is Kent Nutrition Group.

**Proficiency Area: Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management -
Entrepreneurship/Placement**

State Winner: Alejandro Koenig

FFA Chapter: South Winneshiek FFA Chapter, Calmar

Description: The winner in the area of Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management is Alejandro Koenig of the South Winneshiek FFA Chapter at Calmar. Koenig obtained the skill to calculate soil grade to precisely install tile lines. In addition, he was able to find and locate existing tile lines.

The second place winner is Cade Burma of the Boone A&M FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management Proficiency Award is the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Proficiency Area: Equine Science - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Peyton Schares

FFA Chapter: Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter, Fairbank

Description: The winner in the area of Equine Science Entrepreneurship is Peyton Jean Schares of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter at Fairbank. Schares has earned over \$4,000 from her project by buying, training, and selling 6 miniature horses and 1 quarter horse. Throughout that process, she was also able to develop her horses' skills and her own skills in contests like barrel racing. Schares plans to attend college and studying equine veterinarian medicine.

Katie Klingensmith from the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood is the runner-up in this area.

The sponsor of the Equine Science-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is the Iowa State University Block and Bridle Club.

Proficiency Area: Equine Science - Placement

State Winner: Cheyanne Hunt

School: Wapello FFA Chapter

Description: Cheyanne Hunt of the Wapello FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Equine Science Placement. Over the past 2 years, Hunt has logged 962 hours caring for 42 horse. In addition to the large number of horses that she cares for, she has also gained valuable experience in the successful breeding management of 18 mares. After high school she plans to attend a university to pursue a degree in veterinary science attempting her goal to be accepted in vet school.

The second place winner is Megan Leiran of the Little Switzerland FFA Chapter at Waukon.

The sponsor of the Equine Science-Placement Proficiency Award is Iowa Horse Council.

Proficiency Area: Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Joshua Haerther

FFA Chapter: Benton Community FFA Chapter, Van Horne

Description: In the area of Fiber/Oil Crop Production, our winner is Joshua Haerther of the Benton Community FFA Chapter at Van Horne. Throughout his SAE, Haerther has put spent 1,310 hours and earned \$8,500 by developing his 15-acre section of farm ground. One valuable skill that he has learned is maintaining his equipment which includes replacing the turbos on diesel engines. Haerther plans to attend Diesel Mechanic School and then return home to the farm.

William Rosgaard from the Rock Valley FFA Chapter received second.

The sponsor of the Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production Proficiency Award is the Iowa Soybean Association.

Proficiency Area: Food Science and Technology - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Sadie Gravel

FFA Chapter: Cascade FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Food Science and Technology, is Sadie Gravel of the Cascade FFA Chapter. Gravel has worked 497 paid hours and earned almost \$7,000 by processing and storing food products with correct safety and sanitation procedures. By doing this, she has also been able to prevent the spreading of foodborne illnesses. Gravel plans to further her education beyond high school and attain a future career in the foodservice industry.

Allison Nay from the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Food Science and Technology Proficiency Award is Hy-Vee, Inc.

Proficiency Area: Forage Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: David Trumm

FFA Chapter: Cascade FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Forage Production is David Trumm of the Cascade FFA Chapter. Over the past two years, Trumm has operated a family baling business and improved his operation from baling 50 to 60 bales per hour. He has also improved the quality of his machinery by developing an automatic oiling system for his baling equipment. After high school, Trumm plans to attend Iowa State University majoring in Agricultural Business and someday return to the family baling operation.

Christopher Knutson from the South Winneshiek FFA Chapter at Calmar is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Forage Production Proficiency Award is Caterpillar Dealers of Iowa.

Proficiency Area: Forest Management and Products - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Jarod Bodensteiner

FFA Chapter: Wapsie Valley FFA, Fairbank

Description: In the area of Forest Management & Products, our winner is Jarod Bodensteiner of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter at Fairbank. Jarod worked a total of 142 paid hours and now understands the importance of customer loyalty by listening to customers. He has also learned to cut trees to create wreaths and roping. Jarod plans to attend Iowa State University and study material sciences engineering with a minor in bioengineering.

Garrett Lauer from the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union received second.

The sponsor of the Forest Management and Products Proficiency Award MinnTex Citrus, Inc. Minnesota.

Proficiency Area: Fruit Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Terrance Fox

School: Central Trail FFA Chapter, Leon

Description: The winner in the area of Fruit Production, is Terrance Fox of the Central Trail FFA Chapter at Leon. Over the past three years, Fox has worked more than 250 hours at his family's wine grape vineyard. While working on the vineyard, he has developed skills including trimming, planting, and tying grapevines, as well as harvesting the 15-acre vineyard. Fox plans to attend Iowa State University studying Chemical Engineering.

Riley Jakes from the Cascade FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Fruit Production Proficiency Award is 4 Seasons Fundraising.

Proficiency Area: Goat Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Abigail Galm

School: Spencer FFA Chapter

Description: Abigail Galm of the Spencer FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Goat Production. Abigail owned 18 breeding goats and 12 market goats with a net income from operations at \$1,932. She has demonstrated safe animal handling and management techniques, as well as maintaining accurate production records. After high school, Abigail plans to attend Iowa Lakes Community College in the ag transfer program. Following ILCC, she will attend Iowa State University majoring in agricultural education with an endorsement in special education.

The second place winner is Payton Sash of the LaPorte-Dysart FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Goat Production Proficiency Award is the Iowa Meat Goat Association.

Proficiency Area: Grain Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Todd Holdgrafer

FFA Chapter: Northeast FFA Chapter, Goose Lake

Description: In the area of Grain Production Placement, our winner is Todd Holdgrafer of the Northeast FFA Chapter at Goose Lake. He plans to return to the farm after high school. Todd worked out a crop share agreement with his neighbor for 64 acres of cropland increasing to 143 acres his second year. He learned how to improve his agronomy skills by gaining knowledge with soil fertility and crop development.

Matthew Bleakney from the Newton FFA Chapter received second.

The sponsor of the Grain Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Iowa Crop Improvement Association.

Proficiency Area: Grain Production - Placement

State Winner: Ethan Lenz

FFA Chapter: Manson Northwest Webster FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Grain Production Placement, our winner is Ethan Lenz of the Manson Northwest Webster FFA Chapter. Ethan learned how to successfully manage the family farm from his late father, as well as making decisions involved with seed, fertilizer, fungicide, and grain marketing. Lenz plans to attend Iowa State University to major in agricultural studies and return to the family farm upon graduation.

The second place winner is Austin Knight of the Southeast Polk FFA Chapter at Pleasant Hill.

The sponsor of the Grain Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Heartland Cooperative.

Proficiency Area: Home and/or Community Development - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Corren Olsen

FFA Chapter: Sioux Central FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Home and Community Development is Corren Olsen of the Sioux Central FFA Chapter. Olsen has put in 329 logged unpaid hours toward recruiting individuals to participate in the "FFA to Haiti" program. These hours have included advocating nationally for the trip and sharing his own experience of the trip with others. This has helped improve his overall public speaking ability.

Tyler Geiger from the Montezuma FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Home and/or Community Development Proficiency Award is Monsanto.

Proficiency Area: Landscape Management - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Brandon Dirks

FFA Chapter: Midland FFA Chapter, Wyoming

Description: Brandon Dirks of the Midland FFA Chapter at Wyoming is the winner in the area of Landscape Management. After high school he plans to attend Kirkwood Community College to study Agricultural Production, and then transfer to Iowa State University to study Agronomy. After college, he wants to return to his family farm and dozing business. The skills Brandon attained through the proficiency was seeing the importance of taking pride in the work you accomplish, and time management skills.

The second place winner is Cortney Price of the Monticello FFA Chapter

The sponsor of the Landscape Management Proficiency Award is the North Linn FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Nursery Operations - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Jessica Boess

FFA Chapter: North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter, West Union

Description: In the area of Nursery Operations, our winner is Jessica Boess of the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union. Boess has worked 1,141 hours at K&K Gardens in local nursery operation businesses. She developed and implemented a fertilization plan for shrubs and trees in landscapings, as well as propagation skills used to guide plants to aid in increasing inventory numbers. She plans to attend Northeast Iowa Community College in Calmar.

Darin Knobloch from the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood received second.

The sponsor of the Nursery Operations Proficiency Award is Milton J. Luckstead.

Proficiency Area: Organic Agriculture

State Winner: Ben Wolff

FFA Chapter: North Linn FFA Chapter, Troy Mills

Description: Ben Wolff of the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills is the winner of the Organic Agricultural Award. Ben invested 178 hours into his project. He utilized organic fertilizers to grow vegetables in aeroponic growth chambers and implemented biological pest control. After high school, he plans to go to college and study physical therapy.

The sponsor of the Organic Agriculture Award is J. Ward Organics LLC.

Proficiency Area: Outdoor Recreation - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Jadin Hennings

FFA Chapter: LaPorte-Dysart FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Outdoor Recreation, is Jadin Hennings of the LaPorte-Dysart FFA Chapter. Hennings has attained applicable life skills, such as working with others and monitoring the safety and wellness of the patrons at the aquatic center. Hennings plans to attend Iowa State University.

Kyle Van Ginkel from the Rock Valley FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Outdoor Recreation Proficiency Award is Iowa Trappers Association.

Proficiency Area: Poultry Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Joclyn Bushman

FFA Chapter: South Winneshiek FFA Chapter, Calmar

Description: In the area of Poultry Production, our winner is Joclyn Bushman of the South Winneshiek FFA Chapter at Calmar. Joclyn has spent almost 3,500 hours by working on her family's poultry farm which has 600,000 broilers and maintains 40,000 layers annually. By being involved in her family's operation, she has learned important skills and concepts that encompass all aspects of the organic chicken industry. Joclyn plans to attend college and major in Animal Science.

Dustin Lippens from the Easton Valley FFA at Preston received second.

The sponsor of the Poultry Production Proficiency Award is the Iowa Poultry Association.

Proficiency Area: Sheep Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Katelin Pagel

FFA Chapter: Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Sheep Production, is Katelin Pagel of the Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA Chapter. Pagel has earned over \$1,100 and spent 1,272 hours caring for four sheep that she personally owns and another 65 that are owned by her family's farm. Through this experience, she has developed critical life skills including hard work and dedication. She has also been able to successfully promote the livestock industry. Pagel plans to attend Hawkeye Community College before transferring to Iowa State University to double major in Agricultural Business and Veterinary Science.

Chelsi Bailey from the Nashua-Plainfield FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Sheep Production Proficiency Award is the Iowa Club Lamb Association.

Proficiency Area: Small Animal Production and Care – Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Amy Ewing

FFA Chapter: Wayne FFA Chapter, Corydon

Description: Amy Ewing of the Wayne FFA Chapter at Corydon is the winner in the area of Small Animal Production and Care, sponsored by Heska through the Iowa FFA Foundation. Throughout her SAE, Ewing has expanded the number of rabbits that she cares for from four to eight. By doing this, it has created the opportunity for her to train younger FFA members on how to show and raise rabbits. After high school Ewing plans to attend Iowa State University for Agricultural and Life Sciences Education.

The second place winner is Cheyanne Haidsiak of the Red Oak FFA Chapter.

The sponsor of the Small Animal Production and Care Proficiency Award is Heska.

Proficiency Area: Specialty Animal Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Jacob Rawson

FFA Chapter: North Linn FFA Chapter, Troy Mills

Description: In the area of Specialty Animal Production, our winner is Jacob Rawson of the North-Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills. Rawson has spent over 330 hours caring for 2,000 Malaysian freshwater prawn and 3 freshwater alligators. Through his unique project, he has been able teach over 3,000 people about prawn and alligator production. After high school, Rawson plans to pursue a career in GPS technology.

The second place winner is Jared Kerr of the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter at West Union.

The sponsor of the Specialty Animal Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement Proficiency Award is Sonny Deke.

Proficiency Area: Specialty Crop Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Kylie Lynn Knepper

FFA Chapter: Cascade FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Specialty Crop Production, is Kylie Lynn Knepper of the Cascade FFA Chapter. Knepper raised one acre of gourds and Indian corn for her specialty crop project. By studying growing conditions and utilizing a roadside stand, she has been able to both produce and market her crop successfully.

The sponsor of the Specialty Crop Production Proficiency Award is the DeWitt Central FFA Alumni.

Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Marta Grant

FFA Chapter: Easton Valley FFA Chapter, Preston

Description: Marta Grant of the Easton Valley FFA Chapter at Preston is the winner in the area of Swine Production Entrepreneurship. After high school, Grant plans to continue her involvement with her swine operation and further her education beyond high school. Marta has a total of 258 market and breeding stock, which has allowed her to develop countless skills in vaccinations and medical protocols to implementing feed and nutrition decisions.

Evan Ver Steeg from the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Swine Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Iowa Pork Producers Association.

Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Placement

State Winner: Justin Bartling

FFA Chapter: AGWSR FFA Chapter, Ackley

Description: Justin Bartling of the AGWSR FFA Chapter at Ackley is the winner in the area of Swine Production Placement, sponsored by the Hog Slat - Midwest Division. Bartling has successfully earned \$18,140 from his 3,246 hours of experience. Through his swine enterprise, he has provided proper nutrition and feed rations for his hogs. In addition, he's mastered all aspects of the operation from gestation and farrowing. After high school, Bartling plans to continue his involvement with his swine operation and attend Kirkwood Community College for Agricultural Production.

Evan Gibbs from the Cascade FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Swine Production-Placement Proficiency Award is Hog Slat - Midwest Division.

Proficiency Area: Turf Grass Management - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: Grant Johnson

FFA Chapter: Aplington-Parkersburg FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Turfgrass Management, our winner is Grant Johnson of the Aplington-Parkersburg FFA Chapter. Johnson started his project by first purchasing a lawn mowing business and then expanding his clientele to 28 customers, both residential and commercial. By keeping busy with his customers, he has developed good business skills which include keeping adequate records and always using forms of personal communication to discuss business with his customers. Johnson plans to attend Ellsworth Community College and study Agriculture Management.

Michael Young from the AGWSR FFA Chapter at Ackley received second in this area.

The sponsor of the Turf Grass Management Proficiency Award is Iowa Turfgrass Institute.

Proficiency Area: Vegetable Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement

State Winner: David Turnis

FFA Chapter: Cascade FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of Vegetable Production, is David Turnis of the Cascade FFA Chapter. Turnis has improved his one-acre pumpkin farm by increasing his yields from 3,600 to 4,500 pumpkins despite facing difficult circumstances like drought. To overcome the difficulties of his operation, he developed an irrigation system to help supply a consistent water source to his crop. Turnis plans to attend Iowa State University studying Agricultural Studies with a minor in Agronomy.

Miranda Dreesen from the George-Little Rock FFA Chapter is the runner up in this area.

The sponsor of the Vegetable Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement Proficiency Award is 4 Seasons Fundraising.

Proficiency Area: **Veterinary Science – Entrepreneurship/Placement**

State Winner: Brooke Lapke

FFA Chapter: Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter, Delhi

Description: Brooke Lapke of the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi is the winner in the area of Veterinary Science. For the past four years, Lapke has worked for Rolling Hill's Veterinary Services. At her position with Rolling Hill's, she has developed important veterinary skills and business skills which include handling animal care equipment and invoicing customers. After high school, Lapke plans to pursue a degree in the medical field.

The second place winner is Emma Egger of the West Central Valley FFA Chapter at Stuart.

The sponsor of the Veterinary Science - Entrepreneurship/Placement Proficiency Award is the Iowa State University Pre-Vet Club.

Proficiency Area: **Wildlife Production and Management – Entrepreneurship/Placement**

State Winner: Brady Smith

School: West Liberty FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Wildlife Production & Management, our winner is Brady Smith of the West Liberty FFA Chapter. Over the past three years, Brady has worked over 340 hours and earned more than \$3,000 through his placement experience at Broken Brow Outfitters. By being employed at this position, he has increased his employability by developing his skills in effective communication. Brady's plans after high school include pursuing internship opportunities and a career in Wildlife and Natural Resource Management.

Maggie Brandel from the Decorah FFA Chapter received second.

The sponsor of the Wildlife Production and Management Proficiency Award is the Iowa Division Izaak Walton League.