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News Release

LITTLE SWITZERLAND FFA WINS 2024 IOWA FFA AGRONOMY CDE

The Little Switzerland FFA Chapter located in Waukon was named the Iowa Champion FFA Agronomy Team in the 2024 Iowa FFA Agronomy Career Development Event held at Ames on June 6, 2024. Team members included: Kendra Gibbs, Caleb Helgerson, Olivia Marti, and Sarah Stock. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Ms. Jessica O'Connor. The champion team will compete in the National FFA Agronomy Career Development Event during the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this October. The Reserve Champion Team in Agronomy was the Turkey Valley FFA Chapter located in Jackson Junction. Team members included: Matthew Smith, Tanner Tlusty, Burke Busta, and Hunter Kruse. Their agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor is Mr. Steve Pfaffle. Colton C Zupke from Sumner was the High Overall Individual in the competition.

FFA teams including 101 individuals from 28 chapters participated in this year's Career Development Event designed to provide students an opportunity to display their agricultural knowledge and skills in the area of Agronomy. Activities included demonstration of skills and problem solving in Agronomy, including crop, weed, insect and seed identification; crop and seed judging and evaluation; and grain grading. A written examination was included along with a team problem solving competition.

The Iowa FFA Agronomy Career Development Event was coordinated and conducted by faculty and staff with the Agronomy Department at Iowa State University in Ames. The Iowa State University Department of Agronomy hosted the event and provided T-shirts to all participants. The top individual receives a \$500 scholarship from the Iowa State University Department of Agronomy if the student chooses to major in Agronomy at Iowa State University.

The Iowa FFA Agronomy Career Development Event was made possible with support from Pivot Bio through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Listed below are the top teams and individuals in the various parts of the career development event.

Top 10 Teams

- 1 Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon
- 2 Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction
- 3 Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA
- 4 Central Community FFA, Elkader
- 5 North Scott FFA at Eldridge
- 6 New Hampton FFA, New Hampton
- 7 Unity Christian FFA
- 8 Southwest Valley FFA, Corning
- 9 Beckman Catholic @ Dyersville
- 10 Holland FFA, Orange City

Top 10 Individuals

- Colton C Zupke, Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA
Olivia Marti, Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon
Caleb Helgerson, Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon
Sarah Stock, Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon
Matthew Smith, Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction
Keaton Klingman, Central Community FFA, Elkader
Henry Reimer, Central Community FFA, Elkader
Tanner Tlusty, Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction
Zachary Rabe, Holland FFA, Orange City
Hunter Kruse, Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction

Specialty Areas -- Top Team/ Top Individual:

Identification of Nutrient Deficiencies, Diseases and Insects

Team: Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon **Individual:** Colton C Zupke, Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA

Identification of Seeds, Plants and Equipment

Team: Central Community FFA, Elkader **Individual:** Keaton Klingman, Central Community FFA, Elkader

General Knowledge Exam

Team: Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon **Individual:** Colton C Zupke, Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA

Team Event

Team: Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction

Below is a list of chapters participating by medal group.

Gold Teams (11)

Score Range (2060 to 1435)

Little Switzerland FFA, Waukon
Turkey Valley at Jackson Junction
Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA
Central Community FFA, Elkader
North Scott FFA at Eldridge
New Hampton FFA, New Hampton
Unity Christian FFA
Southwest Valley FFA, Corning
Beckman Catholic @ Dyersville
Holland FFA, Orange City
Central Plains FFA, Gowrie

Bronze Teams (9)

Score Range (1240 to 1025)

Indianola FFA, Indianola
Benton Community FFA, Van Horne
North Polk FFA, Alleman
GTRA FFA at Graettinger
Cedar Rapids Prairie
Independence FFA, Independence
Dike-New Hartford FFA
Wayne FFA, Corydon
Sioux Central FFA at Sioux Rapids

Silver Teams (8)

Score Range (1355 to 1275)

Lansing FFA Chapter
Decorah FFA, Decorah
Osage FFA, Osage
Maquoketa Valley FFA
North Butler FFA, Greene
Denison FFA, Denison
Belle Plaine FFA
West Delaware FFA, Manchester

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of over 20,000 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.