



## CONTACT

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## News Release

# 2024 National FFA Convention and Expo, October 23 – 26

INDIANAPOLIS, IN--The 97<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention & Expo will hold its annual in-person convention beginning October 23<sup>rd</sup> and concluding on October 26<sup>th</sup>. More than 72,000 FFA members and guests from throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are expected to be in attendance at this year's event, which will run through October 26<sup>th</sup>.

The convention and expo will kick off in Indianapolis, Indiana on Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Seven general sessions will be held at Lucas Oil Stadium. On the morning of Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, a special ceremony will be held where American FFA Degrees, the highest degree for an FFA member, will be bestowed upon more than 4,800 members.

The Iowa FFA Association is expecting representation from more than 3,000 attendees involved in all facets of the event. The following is a summary of results and accomplishments of Iowa FFA members in the respective national events.

### **Kanyon Huntington is National FFA Central Region Vice President**

Kanyon Huntington, a Political Science major at Iowa State University and FFA member from the East Union FFA Chapter, will complete his term as the National FFA Central Region Vice President. He will deliver his retiring address during the third general session of the conference on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Huntington is the fourth FFA member from Iowa to be elected to National Office since 2013 and served the Iowa FFA Association as the 2021-22 State Reporter. The previous three National FFA Officers from Iowa were Erica Baier-Richardson (2015-16 South Central State Vice President), Abrah Meyer-Wright (2014-15 Iowa FFA President) and Steven Brockshus (2012-13 Iowa FFA President).

### **Will Vlasek is Iowa's National Officer Candidate**

Will Vlasek, an Agricultural Systems Technology major at Iowa State University and FFA member from the Cedar Rapids Prairie FFA Chapter, is Iowa's National Officer Candidate. National officers commit to a year of service to the National FFA Organization. Each officer travels more than 100,000 national and international miles to interact with business and industry leaders, thousands of FFA members and teachers, corporate sponsors, government and education officials, state FFA leaders, the general public, and more. The team will lead personal growth and leadership training conferences for FFA members throughout the country and help set policies that will guide the future of FFA and promote agricultural literacy. The 2024-2025 National Officer team will be announced at the end of the Seventh General Session on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Vlasek previously served the Iowa FFA Association as the 2023-24 Southeast State Vice President.

### **Agriscience Fair National Finalists**

The Agriscience Fair is for FFA members who are interested in the science and technology of agriculture. Students can compete in 36 divisions across 6 systems areas: Animal; Environmental & Natural Resources; Food Products & Processing; Plant; Power, Structural, & Technical; and Social. Divisions are set based on junior (grades 7-8), intermediate (grades 9-10) and senior (grades 11-12) projects and whether the project is conducted by an individual or a pair.

--Animal Systems Div. 1: Lizeth Cortes, Beckman Catholic FFA (Bronze)

--Animal Systems Div. 3: Allison Gruntmeir, Central Lee FFA (Bronze)

--Animal Systems Div. 4: Lauren Galles & Isabella Jewett, MMCRU FFA (Bronze)

**--Animal Systems Div. 5: Ellie Hartman, Beckman Catholic FFA \*\*National Finalist\*\***

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- Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems Div. 2: Trenton Smith & Lane Simon, Cascade FFA (Bronze)  
--Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems Div. 3: Jacie Campbell, Mt. Pleasant FFA (Bronze)  
**--Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems Div. 4: Gavin Sieren & Reese Conrad, Keota FFA \*\*National Finalist\*\***  
--Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 1: Kathryn Helle, Beckman Catholic FFA (Bronze)  
**--Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 3: Alexander Kerper, Beckman Catholic FFA \*\*National Finalist\*\***  
--Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 4: Marlayna Cockshoot & Cael Mess, North Scott FFA (Bronze)  
--Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 6: Addison Harms & Sydney Groene, North Scott FFA (Bronze)  
--Plant Systems Div. 1: Nora Diep, North Scott Middle FFA (Bronze)  
--Plant Systems Div. 2: Jenna Sperfslage & Vivienne Rahe, Beckman Catholic FFA (Bronze)  
**--Plant Systems Div. 4: Claire Gaul & Autumn Domeyer, Beckman Catholic FFA \*\*National Finalist\*\***  
--Plant Systems Div. 5: Marie Grebner, Beckman Catholic FFA (Bronze)  
--Plant Systems Div. 6: Briana Shimkus & Ashley Mose, North Scott FFA (Bronze)  
**--Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 2: Collin Recker & Devin Schlichte, Beckman Catholic FFA \*\*National Finalist\*\***  
**--Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 3: Kenneth Helle, Beckman Catholic FFA \*\*National Finalist\*\***  
**--Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 4: Allison Knipper & Andrea Schneider, Beckman Catholic FFA \*\*National Finalist\*\***  
**--Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 5: Libby Hageman, Beckman Catholic FFA \*\*National Finalist\*\***  
**--Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 6: Ailey Marburger & Wyatt Schmit, East Mills FFA \*\*National Finalist\*\***  
--Social Science Div. 1: Sebastian Jones, North Scott Middle FFA (Bronze)  
**--Social Science Div. 2: Brynn Burlage & Brock Burlage, Beckman Catholic FFA \*\*National Finalist\*\***  
--Social Science Div. 3: Brianna Pirc, Beckman Catholic FFA (Bronze)  
--Social Science Div. 6: Cole Wessel & Jordan Jones, North Scott FFA (Bronze)

## National Chapter Award

The National Chapter Award program recognizes FFA chapters that successfully complete an annual Program of Activities (POA), which includes a series of activities designed to encourage its members to grow as individuals, to work as part of a team and to serve others.

AGWSR FFA, Two Star  
Algona FFA, Two Star  
Bellevue FFA, Three Star  
Benton Community FFA, Three Star  
Brokaw FFA, Two Star  
Calamus-Wheatland FFA, One Star  
Carroll Area FFA, Three Star  
Central Trail FFA, One Star  
Charles City FFA, Three Star  
Clear Lake FFA, Two Star  
Decorah FFA, Three Star  
East Buchanan FFA, Three Star  
La Porte-Dysart FFA, Two Star  
Marengo FFA, Two Star

Mount Ayr FFA, Two Star  
North Scott FFA, Three Star  
North Scott Middle FFA, Three Star  
North Linn FFA, Three Star  
Postville FFA, Three Star  
Sheldon FFA, Two Star  
Sioux Center FFA, Two Star  
Sioux Central FFA, Two Star  
South Hamilton FFA, Two Star  
South Winneshiek FFA, Two Star  
Southeast Warren FFA, Two Star  
Vinton-Shellsburg FFA, Two Star  
West Liberty FFA, Three Star

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**North Linn, Benton Community, Bellevue, Charles City - National Chapter National Finalist**



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The national level also recognizes the top chapters with innovative activities in each of the three divisions: growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture. The top ten chapters in each division receive a National FFA Premier Chapter Award plaque. Of the top ten in each division, a top premier chapter will be chosen in each division. Only 3-star chapters are eligible for premier chapter awards. North Linn FFA will compete in the Premier Chapter: Growing Leaders. Benton Community FFA will compete in Premier Chapter: Building Communities. Bellevue FFA and Charles City FFA are both Model of Excellence finalists.

### **National FFA Band, Chorus, and Talent**

Every year, members from across the nation audition to be involved in the National FFA Band, Chorus, and Talent. National FFA Band and Chorus members have various rehearsals and perform on stage at National FFA Convention. Talent has the opportunity to perform on stage at one of the General Sessions. One of the Talent acts is selected after multiple competition rounds as top talent at the end of convention.

#### --National Band:

Andrea Knaack, River Valley FFA

Anden Hall, Central Trail FFA

Evan Keppy, North Scott FFA

#### --National Chorus:

Malia Armour, Cedar Rapids Prairie FFA

Chris Long, North Mahaska FFA

Lane Converse, Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA

Kyler Rieken, Riverside FFA

Noah Findley, Albia FFA

Clark Spencer, Stanton FFA

### **Career and Leadership Development Events**

Career opportunities abound within today's agriculture industry. Career Development Events (CDEs) and Leadership Development Events (LDEs) help students develop the abilities to think critically, communicate clearly and perform effectively in a competitive job market. CDEs and LDEs cover a variety of job skills in everything from communications to mechanics. Some events allow students to compete as individuals, while others allow them to compete in teams.

--Agricultural Communications – Montezuma FFA, Team Members: Brady Boulton, Claire Erselius, Luke Erselius and Broox Stockman

--Agricultural Issues Forum – Calamus-Wheatland FFA, Team Members: Delaney Engler, Alexa Jacobi, Cooper VanderHeiden, Erica Will, Mackensie LaBarge and Kalloway Whitman

--Agricultural Sales – Clear Creek Amana FFA, Team Members: Hannah Gross, Shelby Heisler, Kelsey Leathers and Olivia Webb

--Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems – Muscatine FFA, Team Members: Corwin McDonald, Alex Houck, Kaden Miller and Brady Hoag

--Agronomy – Little Switzerland FFA, Team Members: Olivia Marti, Sarah Stock, Kendra Gibbs and Caleb Helgersen

--Conduct of Chapter Meetings – Montezuma FFA, Team Members: Vivian Cook, Leah Urfer, Sydnee Burgess, Rett Pargeon, Gracie Wilson, Rylee Thompson and Easton Hudnut

--Creed Speaking – Zachary Boevers, Wapsie Valley FFA

--Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management – Maquoketa Valley FFA, Team Members: Ford Domeyer, Caden Kremer, Tyler Hoeger and Bianka Ronnebaum

--Dairy Cattle Handlers' Activity – Braden Ronnebaum, Maquoketa Valley FFA

--Employment Skills – Karly Christensen, Winterset FFA

--Environmental & Natural Resources – Forest City FFA, Team Members: Riley Smith, Olivia Eastvold, Max Aitchison and Spence Jefson

--Extemporaneous Public Speaking – Lilly Moeller, Holland FFA

--Farm Business Management – Montezuma FFA, Team Members: Ellen Cook, Madison Cheney, Bryson Stockman and Krista Cheney

--Floriculture – Louisa-Muscatine FFA, Team Members: Ashton Coder, Emma Lamp, Miley Ossian and Lexie Eaton

--Food Science and Technology – North Scott FFA, Team Members: Ashley Mose, Briana Shimkus, Taylor Crain and Sydney Groene

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- Forestry – Algona FFA, Team Members: Ace Studer, Kara Rotert, Harold Reynolds and Grant Kramer
- Horse Evaluation – Ogden FFA, Team Members: Rylee Ferwerda, Brylie Hicks, Anna Wilson and Lydia Longhorn
- Livestock Evaluation – Columbus FFA, Team Members: Drew Totemeier, Cole Storm, Madeleine Howell and Cael Howell
- Marketing Plan – Osage FFA, Team Members: Paige Mehmen, Sophia Ketelsen and Kara Theis
- Meats Evaluation and Technology – Muscatine FFA, Team Members: Cheyenne Mosier, Jack Zorich, Saxby Stein and Madyson Wyatt
- Milk Quality and Products – Lansing FFA, Team Members: Dustin Stendel, Parker Leppert, Kaden Colsch and Kyle Mauss
- Nursery/Landscape –Holland FFA, Team Members: Zachary Rabe, Charles Moeller, Kienna Lassen and Marnie Croatt
- Parliamentary Procedure – Brokaw FFA, Team Members: Morgan Manes, Aidan Johnson, Taylor Rasmussen, Alexis Clark, Gabby Derry, Maggie Carlson and Jillian Dammann
- Poultry Evaluation – WACO FFA, Team Members: Emily Rinner, Kyler Rugg, Morgan Leichty and John McLaughlin
- Prepared Public Speaking – Nora Mitchell, Hudson FFA
- Veterinary Science – Osage FFA, Team Members: Alexis Kolbet, Miley Loften, Gable Hemann and Karena Herrick

## American FFA Degree

The American FFA Degree is awarded at the National FFA Convention & Expo each year to less than 1% of FFA members making it one of the organization's highest honors. In addition to their degree, each recipient receives a gold American FFA Degree key. There were 126 American Degree recipients from Iowa.

Emma Ahrendsen, Sioux Central FFA	Jacob Robert Burress, Iowa River FFA
Gillian Anderson, Charles City FFA	Hailey Marie Burton, Lamoni FFA
Keegan Bailey, Creston FFA	Julie Campbell, Mt. Pleasant FFA
Marcey Bailey, Lenox FFA	Jayda Chew, Murray FFA
Morgan Bakker, AGWSR FFA	Cale Claussen, North Scott FFA
Briley Barkela, Belmond-Klemme FFA	Dylan Comes, Atlantic FFA
Harley Baumler, Turkey Valley FFA	Ben Edward Crall, Southeast Warren FFA
Hanna Bedwell, Interstate 35 FFA	Jorryn Marie Crall, Albia FFA
Abby Berends, Aplington-Parkersburg FFA	Carlee Cremeens, Williamsburg FFA
Lauren Beyer, East Buchanan FFA	Lanee Davis, Wayne FFA
Logan Bicknese, Midland FFA	Frankie Dolan, East Buchanan FFA
Hannah Bill, Aplington-Parkersburg FFA	Sophie Dorsey, AC-GC FFA
Alyssa Birt, Southwest Valley FFA	Brett Dreager, Atlantic FFA
Kadence Boender, Central Lyon FFA	Dylan Engelbrecht, North Scott FFA
Brandon Bohac, Carroll Area FFA	Michael John Eslick, Central Plains FFA
Ben Borchers, GTRA FFA	Nick Feldpausch, BCLUW FFA
Josie Boyle, West Dubuque FFA	Delainy Fellinginger, Monticello FFA
Emily Bray, Lake Mills FFA	Bridget Fisher, Mid-Prairie FFA
Abby Brooks, Audubon FFA	Zane Fisher, Mid-Prairie FFA
Josie Brown, South O'Brien FFA	Hannah Fishwild, Midland FFA
Revin Bruck, Tri-Center FFA	Christopher Fleming, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA

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Lakin Foelske, Denver FFA  
Trey Fooker, Mount Ayr FFA  
Mallorie Forgy, Iowa Falls-Alden FFA  
Megan Forret, Calamus-Wheatland FFA  
Mary Ann Fox, Osage FFA  
Ryan Franzen, Turkey Valley FFA  
Ashlyn Fread, Clear Lake FFA  
Jacob Fuller, Murray FFA  
Alaina Gebel, Little Switzerland Waukon FFA  
Noah Gerber, Hawkeye FFA  
Chloe Hamaker, Central Trail FFA  
Gabriel Lee Hanson, La Porte-Dysart FFA  
Max Hawthorne, South Central Calhoun FFA  
Dallas Heaberlin, Murray FFA  
Grace Frances Helle, Beckman Catholic FFA  
Ashley Henneman, Stanton FFA  
Justin Heyer, Charles City FFA  
Luke Joseph Holdgrafer, Northeast FFA  
Mackinze Hora, Highland FFA  
Meghan Hunerdosse, Indianola FFA  
Jasmine Jensen, Indianola FFA  
Annie Johnson, Independence FFA  
Keeley Kehrli, East Buchanan FFA  
Tricia Kellner, Humboldt FFA  
Kaleb William King, Clarion-Goldfield-Dows FFA  
Jacob Kirkestue, Postville FFA  
Adam Knepper, Cascade FFA  
Jaydon Knight, Mount Ayr FFA  
Ashley Koenigs, Riceville FFA  
Isabell Louise Kruse, Beckman Catholic FFA  
Ivan Lambertsen, Anamosa FFA  
Andrew Lamfers-Hill, Belmond-Klemme FFA  
Calla Langel, Le Mars FFA  
Addyson Lindgren, Lamoni FFA  
Emmet W. Long, East Union FFA  
Peyton L. Long, East Union FFA  
Riley W. Long, East Union FFA  
Shelby Lynch, Newell-Fonda FFA  
Michael Maas, AC-GC FFA  
EmmaKay McClain, AC-GC FFA

Tyler Eugene Menne, North Fayette Valley FFA  
Rayce Meyer, Sioux Central FFA  
Jackie Miller, Maquoketa FFA  
Josie Miller, Lenox FFA  
Morgan Moen, Decorah FFA  
Aidan Morris, Algona FFA  
Ayla Ann Moss, North Fayette Valley FFA  
Kylie Ness, GTRA FFA  
Connor Pashek, Winterset FFA  
Dailynn N Phinney, Southeast Warren FFA  
Carl Rathje, Linn-Mar FFA  
Paige Danielle Roberts, Iowa River FFA  
Sam Roberts, Williamsburg FFA  
Kylee Rockhold, Central Trail FFA  
Grace Rowe, Southeast Warren FFA  
Karley Schaefer, Midland FFA  
Jacqlyn Schmitt, Turkey Valley FFA  
Sydney Elizabeth Septer, Pleasantville FFA  
DJ DUANE SHEPPERD, Atlantic FFA  
Carmen Sieren, Mid-Prairie FFA  
Keira Simmons, Panorama FFA  
Bryson Smith, Sioux Central FFA  
Jacob Spencer, Le Mars FFA  
Brayton Shay Striegel, Albia FFA  
Leah Rae Thier, Beckman Catholic FFA  
Jacob Thomas, AC-GC FFA  
Chiara Thompson, Forest City FFA  
Jayda Thomsen, Midland FFA  
Chloe Timmons, Murray FFA  
Madelyn Jo Vansickle, Central Plains FFA  
William Vlasek, Cedar Rapids Prairie FFA  
Trey M. Voeller, Diamond Trail FFA  
Dominic R Wadle, Southeast Warren FFA  
Brendan Wander, North Fayette Valley FFA  
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Danielle Whittle, Central Community FFA  
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Jacy Wiese, Wilton FFA



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Klayton Yoder, Mount Ayr FFA

Bryan Allen York, Atlantic FFA

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## **About Iowa FFA Association**

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of more than 20,000 student members as part of 267 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](http://IowaFFA.com), on Facebook, and Twitter.