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News Release

Montezuma FFA Wins Iowa FFA Ag Communications CDE

AMES, IA--The Montezuma FFA Chapter from Montezuma was named the Champion Team in the annual Iowa FFA Agricultural Communications Career Development Event (CDE) held at Iowa State University in Ames on April 15, 2025. Members of the first place team included: Vivian Cook, Rylee Thompson, Leah Urfer, and Gracie Wilson. Their agriculture education instructors and FFA advisors are Mr. Rick Swenson and Ms Hannah Garland. They will represent Iowa at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana in October. The Easton Valley FFA Chapter from Preston was named the Reserve Champion Team. Members of the second place team included: Hailey Dondlinger, Kelsie Thompson, Abigail Schmidt, and Breese Orr-Thole. Their agriculture education instructors and FFA advisors are Mr. Steven Eskildsen and Ms. Alyssa Poll.

FFA members from 25 chapters participated in this year's career development event. The event provided students the opportunity to display their agricultural knowledge and skills in the area of agricultural communications. The 99 individuals who participated in the event completed several activities including demonstration of skills and problem solving in journalistic writing, social media planning, magazine layout design, and video producer/electronic media, as well as presenting a team media plan.

The Iowa FFA Agricultural Communications CDE was made possible with support from the Iowa FFA Foundation Gold Standard Partners. Champion and reserve champion teams were presented with plaques and rosettes. Plaques were also presented to the champion practicum team, top written plan and top presentation. Plaques were also presented to the champion practicum team, top written plan team and top presentation team. Other top ten teams were also presented with rosettes.

Top 10 Teams

- 1 Montezuma FFA, Montezuma
- 2 Easton Valley FFA at Preston
- 3 Cedar Rapids Prairie
- 4 Osage FFA, Osage
- 5 Nashua Plainfield FFA, Nashua
- 6 Diamond Trail FFA, Monroe
- 7 Greene County FFA, Jefferson
- 8 North Union FFA, Armstrong
- 9 Calamus-Wheatland FFA, Wheatland
- 10 West Delaware FFA, Manchester

Specialty Areas -- Top Team/ Top Individual:

General Knowledge Exam

Team: Montezuma FFA, Montezuma Individual: Leah Urfer, Montezuma FFA, Montezuma

Team Practicums

Team: Easton Valley FFA at Preston

Team Presentation

Team: Cedar Rapids Prairie

Below is a list of chapters participating by medal group.

Gold Teams (8)

Score Range (623 to 507)

Montezuma FFA, Montezuma

Easton Valley FFA at Preston

Cedar Rapids Prairie

Osage FFA, Osage

Nashua Plainfield FFA, Nashua

Diamond Trail FFA, Monroe

Greene County FFA, Jefferson

North Union FFA, Armstrong

Silver Teams (9)

Score Range (487 to 403)

Calamus-Wheatland FFA, Wheatland

West Delaware FFA, Manchester

Vinton-Shellsburg FFA, Vinton

Maquoketa Valley FFA

Decorah FFA, Decorah

South Central Calhoun FFA, Lake City

Davis County FFA, Bloomfield

Dike-New Hartford FFA

Charles City FFA, Charles City

Bronze Teams (8)

Score Range (387.5 to 288.5)

Independence FFA, Independence

Lone Tree FFA

Belle Plaine FFA

Sioux Central FFA at Sioux Rapids

Central Springs

Ogden FFA

Agri-Power FFA, Eddyville

Postville FFA

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of more than 20,300 student members as part of 270 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 and on social media.