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News Release

2025 Iowa FFA Proficiency Award Results

ANKENY, Iowa--FFA members have Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs) as part of school-based agricultural education. 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 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 2025 Iowa Proficiency Awards program.

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of more than 20,200 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.

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Proficiency Area: Agricultural Communications

State Winner: Kaitlin Truelsen

FFA Chapter: DeWitt Central FFA Chapter

Description: Kaitlin Truelsen, of the DeWitt Central FFA Chapter, is the winner in the area of Agricultural Communications. Kaitlin has spent a total of 1,196 hours working as the social media content creator for the Referral Center Food Pantry and Thrift Shop and being part of the media and marketing team, CAC Media Group. As the media group's senior leader, Kaitlin conducts interviews, writes a column, and recently published a children's book. Upon her graduation, Kaitlin would like to pursue a career in marketing and communications for the livestock industry. Grace Ahrendsen of the Sioux Central FFA Chapter is the runner-up in this area.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Education

State Winner: Natalie Schroeder

FFA Chapter: Calamus-Wheatland FFA Chapter

Description: Natalie Schroeder, of the Calamus-Wheatland FFA Chapter, is the winner in the area of Agricultural Education, endowed by the Jim Hamilton Memorial. Natalie has created educational videos on a variety of agricultural topics with a series called "Chat with Nat". She is a two-time \$1,000 National SAE grant winner to expand her SAE. She identifies topics, lines up co-stars, writes interview questions, and films, edits, and distributes her videos via a private YouTube Channel. More than 200 elementary students ages 4-12 have viewed her videos. In the future Natalie plans to pursue a career in ag communications or ag education. The runner-up in this area is Kelsey Timp of the South Winneshiek FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication

State Winner: Jacob Meshek

FFA Chapter: Glidden-Ralston FFA Chapter

Description: The winner of the Ag Mechanics Design and Fabrication CDE, sponsored by CF Industries, from the Glidden-Ralston FFA Chapter is Jacob Meshek. Jacob has utilized his SAE program to enhance his welding skills during employment with Shultes Welding. Using the skills learned in his Ag Ed classes, he has turned those talents into a career in welding. He is attending DMACC to enhance his skills and has proven great proficiency in this area. The runner-up in this area is Kamryn Linder of the Nevada FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Placement

State Winner: Caleb Zuercher

FFA Chapter: MFL MarMac FFA Chapter, Monona

Description: Caleb Zuercher of the MFL MarMac FFA Chapter at Monona is the first-place winner in Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance Placement. Zuercher has worked over 200 hours at Palas Service and Repair. He is responsible for the shop area, maintenance, working alongside other mechanics, tearing down and repairing different makes and models of equipment. Caleb plans to attend Northeast Iowa Community College for Diesel Mechanics. The runner-up in this area is Isabella Hayes from the Indianola FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Processing

State Winner: Jack Munk

FFA Chapter: Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter, Fairbank

Description: The winner in the area of Ag Processing, sponsored by Ag Processing, Inc., is Jack Munk of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter. Jack works at his local locker where he has learned every aspect of the livestock harvesting process from selection of animals and quartering of carcasses to the packaging and grinding of the meat. He helps with ensuring the products are safe and good quality. Jack plans to major in agronomy and continue to work in Northeast Iowa after graduation. The runner-up is Belle Werner of the Benton Community FFA Chapter at Van Horne.

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Proficiency Area: Agricultural Sales - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Jordan Everitt

FFA Chapter: Central Community FFA, Elkader

Description: In the area of Agricultural Sales Entrepreneurship, sponsored by Titan Machinery, the winner is Jordan Everitt from the Central Community FFA at Elkader. Jordan has grown his business from a pickup and a small investment into a thriving business selling vehicles, implements, and other ag equipment. He has not only invested in his business but also in himself. He has invested in skills, certifications, and experiences. All of this has helped propel his business to success. The runner-up is Katelyn Schaul from the Springville-Lisbon FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Sales - Placement

State Winner: Everett Schmitt

FFA Chapter: Charles City FFA Chapter

Description: The winner in the area of agricultural sales placement, is Everett Schmitt of the Charles City FFA chapter, sponsored by Titan Machinery. Everett works at Theisen's, taking on a variety of roles to ensure the store's overall success. He has grown in his customer service skills, the ability to provide a smooth and efficient check out experience, and serve on the safety committee assuring OSHAS rules and regulations are followed. Schmitt plans to be an Automotive Technician, using the skills he's learned through his SAE project like customer service and workplace safety. Our runner-up is Abigail Sparrowgrove from the Marengo FFA chapter.

Proficiency Area: Agricultural Services

State Winner: Caden Wittrock

FFA Chapter: South O'Brien FFA Chapter, Paullina

Description: Caden Wittrock, of the South O'Brien FFA Chapter, is the first-place winner in the area of Agricultural Services. Caden has invested over 1,500 hours working for Wittrock Bailing. He has learned important skills including equipment operation, maintenance, and working with customers. He plans to attend college to pursue an education in agriculture and continue working with the custom bailing operation. The runner-up in this area is Luke Paplow from the Nashua Plainfield FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research - Animal Systems

State Winner: Libby Hageman

FFA Chapter: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: Libby Hageman of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville is the first-place winner in the area of Agriscience Research - Animal Systems sponsored by CHS Foundation. Libby conducted two research projects related to sanitation and hygiene practices when feeding dairy calves and housing lactating cows. She performed each step of the scientific method and presented results to others at state and national competitions. Upon graduation, Libby plans to pursue a career in dairy science.

Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research - Integrated Systems

State Winner: Clark Spencer

FFA Chapter: Stanton FFA Chapter

Description: Clark Spencer of the Stanton FFA chapter is the first-place winner in the area of Agriscience Research - Integrated Systems. sponsored by the Iowa Biotechnology Association. Clark has completed over 300 hours of research related to food products and processing, plant systems, and ag power. Each year his project increased in scope and complexity. Technical skills and professional skills were learned. Upon graduation, Clark plans to attend Iowa State University and major in Agronomy and Data Science. The runner-up is Valerie Rahe from the Beckman Catholic FFA chapter at Dyersville.

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Proficiency Area: Agriscience Research – Plant Systems

State Winner: Alexander Kerper

School: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: Alexander Kerper from the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter is the first-place winner in the area of AgriScience research - plant systems sponsored by MinnTex Citrus, Inc. Alexander has completed research projects related to Kernza, a perennial crop related to wheat. Learning outcomes and technical skills related to crop production and the scientific method were obtained. Upon graduation, Alexandra plans to attend college to major in plant science and continue pursuing undergraduate research opportunities.

Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Kayden Schnuelle

FFA Chapter: Postville FFA Chapter

Description: Kayden Schnuelle of the Postville FFA Chapter placed first in the area of Beef Production Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation. Kayden and his family manage a 100 head beef cow/calf pair operation. Kayden works to feed out all spring-born calves for market, raises fat cattle, and contributes to farm tasks such as hauling manure, bedding cattle and raising his own show cattle. He helps in the management decisions, and breeding strategies aimed at improving genetics for the future and enhancing the overall quality of the herd. Rate of gain, feed efficiencies, and raising high-quality meat is an important focus of Kayden's operation. Upon graduation, Kayden plans to continue on the farm and attend schooling to obtain his CDL. The runner-up is Nathan Beitz from the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi.

Proficiency Area: Beef Production - Placement

State Winner: Covey Wynia

FFA Chapter: Rock Valley FFA Chapter

Description: Covey Wynia of the Rock Valley FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Beef Production Placement, which is sponsored by the Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation. Wynia has worked more than 1,000 hours for a local cow-calf producer. Through his SAE placement experience, Wynia has been directly involved in the raising of cattle; from feeding to animal health. Covey has learned many new skills to support his plans to be actively engaged on the farm in the years ahead following his graduation from high school! Our second-place winner is Brexton Schneider of the ACGC FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Grace Guy

FFA Chapter: Newton FFA Chapter

Description: Grace Guy of the Newton FFA chapter is the first-place winner in the area of Dairy Production Entrepreneurship sponsored by the Iowa State University Dairy Science Club. Guy has increased her dairy herd to include 16 dairy cows and replacement heifers over the past three years. Working with her family farm, she has developed her herd and shown it extensively. She has learned many valuable skills in managing her herd including disease prevention. After graduation, Guy plans to become a bovine embryologist. Our runner-up is Ford Domeyer of the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi.

Proficiency Area: Dairy Production - Placement

State Winner: Kesley Hoeger

FFA Chapter: Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter, Delhi

Description: In the area of Dairy Production Placement, sponsored by the Iowa State University Dairy Science Club, first place goes to Kesley Hoeger from the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi. She has invested over 1900 hours in unpaid placement on her family's dairy farm. She manages the operation's calves and helps with both morning and night chores, all while managing a busy school workload. She has also learned tremendous calving skills and assistance by overseeing the farm's maternity pen. After graduation, she plans on studying Agricultural Communications. The second-place winner is Landon Guese from the Postville FFA Chapter.

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Proficiency Area: Diversified Agricultural Production

State Winner: Ben Buhr

FFA Chapter: Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter

Description: Ben Buhr of the Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter is the first-place winner in the area of Diversified Agricultural Production, endowed by Hertz Farm Management. Buhr partners with his grandpa to raise 80 acres of corn and soybeans and also finishes 200 pigs. He buys bulk ingredients to make his own feed rations and has also expanded his grain skills. Each year he has roughly doubled his herd size while also adding 20 acres from his initial farm size. Upon graduation, Buhr plans to attend Iowa State University to major in Agriculture Business and pursue pork and grain production. The runner-up is Anthony Sprank of the Bellevue FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Crop Production - Placement

State Winner: Jaivyn Van Grootheest

FFA Chapter: Rock Valley FFA Chapter

Description: Jaivyn 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. Grootheest has worked on the 14,000-acre family farm for the past four years for 1,295 hours. One of his great challenges was learning how to stay calm in stressful situations including during a field fire. He is involved in all aspects of the diversified crop production enterprise. The runner-up in this area is Prestyn Bahr of the Postville FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Horticulture

State Winner: Walter Rogan

FFA Chapter: North Linn FFA Chapter, Troy Mills

Description: Walter Rogan of the North Linn FFA chapter at Troy Mills is the first-place winner of Diversified Horticulture sponsored by the Iowa Division Izaak Walton League. Walter has worked for a local organic farmer as well as for the North Linn High School greenhouse. He has applied his new knowledge and leadership skills through every aspect of his work. His future plans are to pursue a career as a tradesman. The runner-up is Jackson Arndt from the Clear Creek Amana FFA Chapter at Tiffin.

Proficiency Area: Diversified Livestock Production

State Winner: Charlie Lane

FFA Chapter: Easton Valley FFA Chapter, Preston

Description: The winner in Diversified Livestock Production, endowed by Milt Luckstead Sr., is Charlie Lane of the Easton Valley FFA Chapter. Charlie has beef cattle, swine, and goats. He purchased his herd from a retiring neighbor while running and feeding them with a larger group owned by his parents. He was also active in the local cattlemen's association. He took a group of 30 Berkshire pigs out of a larger group that were not growing as quickly but through effective management, they became indistinguishable from the large group. Charlie plans to major in Animal Science and promote agriculture on a larger scale. The runner-up in this area is Teagan Liebe of the North Linn FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Equine Science - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Lacy Reth

FFA Chapter: Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter, Delhi

Description: Lacy Reth of the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi is the first-place winner in the area of equine science entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Iowa State University - Block and Bridle Club. Lacy breeds and trains her own horses, while also taking on Training Client Horses. Lacy trained six horses in 2024. After graduation, Lacy plans to continue expanding Reth Horses and pursue horse training and breeding full-time. The second-place winner is Shelby Sorenson from the Central Plains FFA Chapter.

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Proficiency Area: Equine Science - Placement

State Winner: Lola Chedester

School: East Sac FFA Chapter, Lake View

Description: Lola Chedester, of the East Sac FFA Chapter at Lake View, is the first-place winner in the area of Equine Science Placement sponsored by the Iowa Horse Council. Chedester has spent more than 500 hours feeding, training, and grooming horses. After graduation, Chedester plans to pursue education and a career as a large animal vet. The runner-up in this area is Lauren Eslick from the Central Plains FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Forage Production

State Winner: Chris Gebhart

School: Clayton-Ridge FFA Chapter, Guttenberg

Description: Chris Gebhart of the Clayton-Ridge FFA Chapter is the winner in the area of Forage Production. Chris produced alfalfa hay on 29 acres in his 2023 and 2024 crop seasons. He is the son of Ken and Sharmyn Gebhart of Guttenberg, Iowa. The runner-up in this area is Clay Lambert from the Central Plains FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Forest Management and Products

State Winner: Hunter Hangartner

School: Postville FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Forest Management and Products, sponsored by Myfruitsale.com, the first-place winner is Hunter Hangartner from the Postville FFA Chapter. Hangartner works for his father's forest products and services business, Hangartner Tree Services and Stump Grinding. Hangartner has invested 1,431 hours in his SAE and earned around \$21,000. Throughout his SAE he has learned valuable skills in working with equipment, customer relations, and pricing estimation.

Proficiency Area: Fruit and Nut Production

State Winner: Lillie Curry

School: Mount Ayr FFA Chapter

Description: Lillie Curry, of the Mount Ayr FFA chapter, is the first-place winner of Fruit and Nut Production sponsored by 4 Seasons Fundraising. Lillie has invested over 100 hours working at Clover Hill Orchard, an apple orchard established by her family in Mount Ayr. Lillie is involved in various aspects of maintaining the orchard including planting trees, mowing the orchard, pruning, harvesting, and assisting in the preparation for events such as the Madison County Covered Bridge Festival. Upon graduation, Lillie hopes to pursue a career in agricultural business management with a focus on specialty crop production and marketing.

Proficiency Area: Goat Production

State Winner: Devin Rawson

School: North Linn FFA Chapter, Troy Mills

Description: Devin Rawson of the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills is the first-place winner in the area of Goat Production, sponsored by the Iowa Meat Goat Association. Devin has been employed at D+E Dairy where she is in charge of milking, vaccinating, and helping kid out a herd of over 2000. During her time there, she has worked with the USDA located in Ames to test the milk. She has learned how to manage a large herd. After high school, she plans to pursue a career as a labor and delivery nurse. The runner-up in this area is Will Feldpausch from the BCLUW FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Grain Production

State Winner: Lydia Koch

FFA Chapter: Osage FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Grain Production, sponsored by Heartland Co-op, our winner is Lydia Koch of the Osage FFA Chapter. Lydia raised corn in 2023 and soybeans in 2024 in a crop share arrangement with a landowner in the Osage area. She also rents her father's farm machinery at current rental rates. She has demonstrated outstanding management and record keeping skills in her

SAE project. The runner-up in this area is Brendin Frasher of the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter at Delhi.

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Proficiency Area: **Landscape Installation**

State Winner: Lily Moeller

FFA Chapter: Holland FFA Chapter, Orange City

Description: Lily Moeller, of the Holland FFA Chapter at Orange City, is the first-place winner in the area of Landscape Installation. Moeller has invested over 500 hours in learning from industry experts and applying her knowledge while working for the City of Orange City. Moeller has learned how to better work with plants and will apply her knowledge in future nursery landscaping contests. The runner-up in this area is Darcy Wiegand from the Davis County FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: **Nursery Operations**

State Winner: Ellie Metzger

FFA Chapter: West Lyon FFA Chapter, Inwood

Description: Ellie Metzger from the West Lyon FFA Chapter at Inwood is the winner in the area of Nursery Operations. Metzger had a goal to successfully start plants from seed to sell to customers. She has been successfully doing this for two years now. Each year she takes her earnings and reinvests in her operations. Metzger is looking to apply her knowledge in the greenhouse to grow plants in a large-scale field.

Proficiency Area: **Organic Agriculture**

State Winner: Jaylyn Beran

FFA Chapter: Riceville FFA Chapter

Description: Jaylyn Beran of the Riceville FFA Chapter is the first-place winner in the area of Organic Agriculture, sponsored by J. Ward Organics LLC. Beran had worked over 2,000 hours on her family's organic farm operation. Her skills were well developed in the areas of how to raise crops without using chemicals. Following graduation, Beran plans to major in Ag Business to eventually become a Grain Buyer. Second place in this area is Kylie Munson from the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills.

Proficiency Area: **Poultry Production**

State Winner: Cael Daufeldt

FFA Chapter: West Liberty FFA Chapter

Description: Sponsored by Rose Acre Farms, Cael Daufeldt of the West Liberty FFA Chapter is the first-place winner in the area of Poultry Production. Cael has invested 957 hours at his placements at BKBE Farms as a Farm Production Assistant. Cael's duties have grown over his five years at BKBE. He is responsible for feeding and management, managing farm biosecurity, administering vaccines, facility sanitation, and business record keeping with the 62,500 annual bird operation. He has lowered the farm mortality rate by 5% below the industry standard within his time at BKBE. Cael's future plans are to obtain a degree in Ag Business with a focus on finance to become an Ag Loan Officer. The runner up in this area is Madelyn Thede from the Wilton FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: **Service Learning**

State Winner: Alannah McKibben

FFA Chapter: Marengo FFA Chapter

Description: In the area of Service Learning, sponsored by Iowa Cooperative Foundation, the winner is Alannah McKibben of the Marengo FFA Chapter. McKibben invested over 70 hours coordinating the Care Bag Project. The project focused on providing essential items to children entering the foster care system as well as to individuals in homeless and women's shelters. Upon graduation, McKibben plans to pursue a degree in Nursing. Isabel Birker of the Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter is the runner-up in this area.

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Proficiency Area: Sheep Production

State Winner: Alexis Kolbet

FFA Chapter: Osage FFA Chapter

Description: Sponsored by the Iowa Club Lamb Association, Alexis Kolbet, of the Osage FFA Chapter, is the first-place winner in the area of Sheep Production. Kolbet began her SAE in 2023 by purchasing 10 ewes. Over the past few years, she had used laparoscopic A.I. to improve her conception rate within her flock. Kolbet shows her lambs at local, state, and national levels which has helped her gain a large networking pool to sell. After graduation, Kolbet plans to pursue a degree in Veterinary Medicine. The runner up in this area is Carson Noonan, from the Cascade FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Small Animal Production and Care

State Winner: Ellie Hartman

FFA Chapter: Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter, Dyersville

Description: Ellie Hartman of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter at Dyersville is the first-place winner in the area of small animal production, which is sponsored by Dewitt FFA Alumni. Hartmann has worked over 1,300 hours, earning \$15,000 through her placement as an animal caretaker. Her duties require her to attend to the daily needs of the animals, perform coat and hygiene maintenance, as well as train and supervise a team of employees. She plans to continue in this position and upon graduation pursue a career as a small animal veterinarian. The runner-up in this area is Shayla Helgeson from the Marengo FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Entrepreneurship

State Winner: Hannah Grantz

FFA Chapter: DeWitt Central FFA Chapter

Description: Sponsored by Iowa Pork Producers Association, Hannah Grantz of the DeWitt Central FFA Chapter is the first-place winner in the area of Swine Production Entrepreneurship. She started Grantz Pork with family and marketed swine for local companies. She began with two head of sows and has expanded to nine sows this last year. Her marketing strategy is to sell whole and half pigs that are processed at the local locker. Her future plans are to attend Iowa State University and major in Ag Studies with an emphasis in swine production, nutrition, and marketing. The second-place winner in this area is Isabell Olsasky from the Southeast Warren FFA Chapter at Liberty Center.

Proficiency Area: Swine Production - Placement

State Winner: Katelyn Witte

FFA Chapter: West Fork FFA Chapter at Sheffield

Description: Katelyn Witte, of the West Fork FFA Chapter at Sheffield is the first-place winner in Swine Production Placement, sponsored by Hog Slat – Midwest Division. With 1,900 hours working in swine barns as a herdsman, she has learned to detect heat, use AI to breed, participate in nutrition and marketing decisions. Upon graduation, Witte plans on attending Iowa State University for animal nutrition. Your runner-up in this area is Delaney Engler, from the Calamus-Wheatland FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: Turfgrass Management

State Winner: Cole Daufeldt

FFA Chapter: West Liberty FFA Chapter

Description: From the West Liberty FFA Chapter, Cole Daufeldt is the winner in the area of Turfgrass Management, sponsored by Iowa Turfgrass Institute. Cole's SAE focuses on his employment at the West Liberty Country Club. He started working there in 8th grade and has grown not only his skill set but his responsibilities as well. Cole having worked over 1,900 hours through the course of his employment has played a major role in purchases by the country club in order to better maintain the grounds, helping the country club invest in about \$100,000 worth of maintenance equipment. His experience has also given him excellent landscaping skills. As an employee of the West Liberty Country Club, he is one of the youngest members on the board of directors. Cole plans to attend Iowa State University to study Ag Business. The second-place winner in this area is Marshall Zeien from the New Hampton FFA Chapter.

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Proficiency Area: **Vegetable Production**

State Winner: Lauren Schroeder

FFA Chapter: Calamus-Wheatland FFA Chapter

Description: Sponsored by 4 Seasons Fundraising, Lauren Schroeder of the Calamus-Wheatland FFA Chapter is the first-place winner in the area of vegetable production. During high school, Schroeder has grown over 12,000 pounds of vegetables worth over \$25,000 and donated it to food pantries in Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. Following graduation, she plans to pursue a degree in Nursing and become a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer. The runner up in this area is Calvin Lockrem from the Newell-Fonda FFA Chapter.

Proficiency Area: **Veterinary Science**

State Winner: Alia Schmidt

FFA Chapter: Easton Valley FFA Chapter at Preston

Description: Alia Schmidt of the Easton Valley FFA Chapter at Preston is the first-place winner in the area of Veterinary Science, sponsored by Christensen Farms. Schmidt has logged over 250 hours with her internship at Risius Vet Clinic in Maquoketa. She performs pregnancy-checks, artificial insemination, castrates, and administers vaccinations. Upon graduation, Schmidt plans to attend Iowa State University to become a veterinarian. The runner-up in this area is Carrie Schwickerath from the New Hampton FFA Chapter.
