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News Release

2023 National FFA Convention and Expo, November 1 – 4

INDIANAPOLIS, IN--The 96th National FFA Convention & Expo held its annual in-person convention beginning November 1st and concluded on November 4th. More than 70,000 FFA members and guests from throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands attended this year's event.

The convention and expo kicked off in Indianapolis, Indiana on Wednesday, November 1st. Seven general sessions were held at Lucas Oil Stadium. A special ceremony was held on Saturday, November 4th where American FFA Degrees, the highest degree for an FFA member, were bestowed upon more than 4,000 members.

The Iowa FFA Association had 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 their respective national events.

Kanyon Huntington is National FFA Central Region Vice President

Students from Michigan, Missouri, Florida, Iowa, Ohio and New Mexico have been elected by delegates throughout the United States to serve on the 2023-24 National FFA Officer team. Kanyon Huntington, a Political Science major at Iowa State University and FFA member from the East Union FFA chapter, was elected national central region vice president. 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. 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).

American Star Finalists

Each year at the National FFA Convention & Expo, four FFA members are honored with American Star Awards for outstanding accomplishments in FFA and agricultural education.

The American Star Awards, including American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience, are presented to FFA members who demonstrate outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through completion of an SAE. A required activity in FFA, an SAE allows students to learn by doing, by either owning or operating an agricultural business, working or serving an internship at an agriculture-based business or conducting an agriculture-based scientific experiment and reporting results.

Sixteen American Star Award finalists from throughout the U.S. are nominated by a panel of judges who then interview the finalists during the national convention and expo. Four are named winners and receive cash awards totaling \$4,000.

--Jasmyn Hoeger of the Beckman Catholic FFA Chapter was selected as an American Star Agriscience Finalist.

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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. 5: Tessa Tauke, Beckman Catholic FFA, 2nd Place Overall
- Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems Div. 1: Alaina Thier, Beckman Catholic FFA, 9th Place Overall
- Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems Div. 2: Isabel Kluesner & Chloe Their, Beckman Catholic FFA, National Winner
- Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems Div. 4: Gavin Sieren & Reese Conrad, Keota FFA, 7th Place Overall
- Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 1: Allison Knipper, Beckman Catholic FFA, 4th Place Overall
- Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 2: Ashley Schilling & Annabelle Zahradnik, Beckman Catholic FFA, 2nd Place Overall
- Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 5: Trey Voeller, Diamond Trail FFA, 3rd Place Overall
- Food Products and Processing Systems Div. 6: Sydney Groene & Cole Wessel, North Scott FFA, 4th Place Overall
- Plant Systems Div. 1: Natalie Besler, Beckman Catholic FFA, 3rd Place Overall
- Plant Systems Div. 3: Alexander Kerper, Beckman Catholic FFA, 7th Place Overall
- Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 1: Kenneth Helle, Beckman Catholic FFA, 7th Place Overall
- Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 4: Marlayna Cockshoot & Cael Mess, North Scott FFA, 2nd Place Overall
- Power, Structural and Technical Systems Div. 6: Benjamin Schuckert & Noah Gaul, Beckman Catholic FFA, 3rd Place Overall
- Social Science Div. 1: Owen Boge, Beckman Catholic FFA, 9th Place Overall

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.

Algona FFA, Two Star
Beckman Catholic FFA, Two Star
Belle Plaine FFA, Two Star
Benton Community FFA, Two Star
Brokaw FFA, Two Star
Central Lyon FFA, Three Star
Central Trail FFA, One Star
Charles City FFA, Three Star
DeWitt Central FFA, Two Star
East Buchanan FFA, Three Star
LaPorte-Dysart FFA, Two Star
Little Switzerland at Waukon FFA, Two Star
Marengo FFA, Two Star

North Linn FFA, Three Star
North Scott Middle FFA, Three Star
North Scott FFA, Three Star
Rockford FFA, Two Star
Sibley-Ocheyedan FFA, Two Star
Sioux Central FFA, Two Star
South Hamilton FFA, One Star
Southeast Warren FFA, Two Star
Stanton FFA, Three Star
Vinton-Shellsburg FFA, Two Star
Webster City FFA, One Star
West Liberty FFA, Three Star
Western Christian FFA, Two Star

Charles City, North Scott Middle School - National Chapter National Finalist

The national level 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. Charles City FFA competed in the Premier Chapter: Building Communities. North Scott Middle School FFA is a finalist in Middle School Model of Excellence.

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Proficiency Awards National Finalists

The Agricultural Proficiency Awards honor FFA members who, through their SAEs, have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers. Four National Finalists are selected for each of the award areas and will go on to compete for a national proficiency award. National Agricultural Proficiency Award winners are announced onstage during the National FFA Convention.

- Agricultural Education National Finalist: Fayeth Henningsen, DeWitt Central FFA
- Diversified Crop Production – Entrepreneurship National Winner: Hayden Holdgrafer, Easton Valley FFA
- Outdoor Recreation National Winner: Morgan Hodge, West Liberty FFA
- Wildlife Production and Management National Finalist: Blaze Maas, West Liberty FFA

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:

Lily Moeller, Holland FFA	Aaron Lee, Le Mars FFA
Rachel Rollinger, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA	Charles Moeller, Holland FFA
Isabelle Rouse, ACGC FFA	Zayden Reffitt, Boyer Valley FFA
	Clark Spencer, Stanton FFA

--National Chorus:

Lane Converse, Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA
Brayden Doty, MVAO FFA
Anden Hall, Central Trail FFA

--National Talent:

Samuel Roberts, Williamsburg FFA
Kaitlynn Smith, Diamond Trail 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 –Ogden FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Riley Lerdal, Ella Pfiffner, Cohl Burdette and Qyra Garrison
- Agricultural Issues Forum – West Liberty FFA, Gold, 4th Place Overall, Team Members: Mya Elizondo, Paige Werling, Addyson Lehman, Nellie Stagg, David Mahoney, Amerie Alvarado and Dominic Hernandez
- Agricultural Sales – Muscatine FFA, Silver, Team Members: Elsie Diane Lewis, Chale Lewis, Emily King and Dakota Dahlke
- Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems – Newton FFA, Gold, 3rd Place Overall, Team Members: Colin Cummins, Tyler Guy, Wesley McElroy and Landon Menninga
- Agronomy – Newton FFA, Gold, 8th Place Overall, Team Members: Lauren Van Manen, Breanna Leaming, Austin Storm and Madelyn Adkison
- Conduct of Chapter Meetings – Montezuma FFA, Silver, Team Members: Claire Erselius, Peyton Tindle, Brady Boulton, Broox Stockman, Luke Brennan, Luke Erselius and Krista Cheney
- Creed Speaking –Zoey Hamilton, Central Trail FFA, Bronze
- Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management – South Winneshiek FFA, Silver, Team Members: Kelsey Timp, Mitchell Vagts, Katrina Hageman and Hanna Vagts
- Dairy Cattle Handlers' Activity – Alayna Hageman, South Winneshiek FFA, Silver
- Employment Skills – Josie Boyle, West Dubuque FFA, National Winner
- Environmental & Natural Resources – Muscatine FFA, Silver, Team Members: William Noll, Addison Karen Weggen, Joseph Fowler and Madeline Wallace
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking – Kyler Rieken, Riverside FFA, Bronze

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- Farm Business Management – Montezuma FFA, 2nd Place Gold, Team Members: Camryn Brennan (2nd Place Individual), Makenna Johannes (7th Place Individual), Madison Van Zee and Cruz DeJong
- Floriculture – Muscatine FFA, Silver, Team Members: Chelsea Carlson, Jacob Murillo-Keener, Myla Halloran and Rhynn Maree Miller
- Food Science and Technology – Sioux Center FFA, Silver, Team Members: Gabriella Oteri, Izabella Klein, Kolby Oldenkamp and Delanie Roland
- Forestry – Louisa-Muscatine FFA, Silver, Team Members: William Hoopes, Benjamin Coder, Skyler Beck and Mason Zaehring
- Horse Evaluation – Davis County FFA, Silver, Team Members: Melana Followwill, Laney Weimerskirch, Cooper McCarty and Kaison Heemsbergen
- Livestock Evaluation – Silver, Calamus-Wheatland FFA, Team Members: Delaney Engler, Ryan Olson, Hadley Jacobi and Kalloway Whitman
- Marketing Plan – Hudson FFA, Gold, 3rd Place Overall, Team Members: Nora Mitchell, Chloe Utsler and Addyson Engel
- Meats Evaluation and Technology – South O'Brien FFA, Silver, Team Members: Brett Evans, Bensen Rohwer, Gabe Moermond and BreLee Rasmussen
- Milk Quality and Products – Little Switzerland Waukon FFA, Silver, Team Members: Ethan Gibbs, Kendra Gibbs, Caleb Helgerson and Olivia Marti
- Nursery/Landscape –Muscatine FFA, 3rd Place Gold. Team Members: Caleb Teed (6th Place Individual), Jenna Lovstad (10th Place Individual), Kale Wiebel and Parker Green
- Parliamentary Procedure – Brokaw FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Callie King, Emma Hanson, Paige McCoy, Kaylee Smith, Riley Nothwehr and Madison Stalder
- Poultry Evaluation – South O'Brien FFA, Silver, Team Members: Leo Sells, Hudson Oolman, Dain Moermond and Dante Johnson
- Prepared Public Speaking – Tucker Rohrig, Creston FFA, Bronze
- Veterinary Science – Des Moines FFA, Bronze, Team Members: Trinity Barth, Rubi Padilla-Vazquez, Liliann Tjaden and Leslie Cisneros

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 109 American Degree recipients from Iowa.

Justin Agnitsch, Midland FFA
Clayton Allen, Osceola Big Chief FFA
Shira Alley, Central Trail FFA
Emma Arnold, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA
Alivia Lauren Bakley, Osceola Big Chief FFA
Emma Bartling, Iowa Falls-Alden FFA
Mallory Behnken, CAM FFA
James Beran, Riceville FFA
Brady Bickel, Mount Ayr FFA
Kayla Ann Bonert, Beckman Catholic FFA
Kacey Warren Boyer, Osceola Big Chief FFA
Konrad William Boyer, Osceola Big Chief FFA
Allison Britton, Indianola FFA
Jordan Buscher, Algona FFA
Cole Carlson, Denison FFA

Chloe Church, Murray FFA
Curtis Dean Clark, Albia FFA
Megan Clark, Dewitt Central FFA
Lauren Connell, Charles City FFA
Davan Crooker, North Fayette Valley FFA
Nathan Crooker, North Fayette Valley FFA
Marissa Daniels, Charles City FFA
Ashlee David, Lenox FFA
Jairus William Davis, Osceola Big Chief FFA
Diana Davison, Little Switzerland at Waukon FFA
Caleb Jon Degner, East Sac FFA
Devin Christopher DeVore, Osceola Big Chief FFA
Abe Dieleman, GMG FFA
Aidin Dittmer, Southeast Warren FFA
Kaylee Eggerichs, New Hampton FFA

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Dylan Ford, Panorama FFA
Emily Frazier, Denison FFA
Sadie Fredricks, Indianola FFA
Emily Freese, Carroll Area FFA
Dailyn Garrett, Muscatine FFA
Brian Michael Graves, Wilton FFA
Renee Grimm, IKM-Manning FFA
Olivia Grooters, Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn FFA
Collin Grove, OABCIG FFA
Trey Haag, Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn FFA
Tessa J Halverson, North Fayette Valley FFA
Luke Harrington, Nashua Plainfield FFA
Kimberly Hendricks, Dewitt Central FFA
James Hodges, ACGC FFA
Jasmyn Mary Hoeger, Beckman Catholic FFA
Ella Hommel, Grundy Center FFA
Taylor Howell, Columbus FFA
Paige Melissa Jensen, CAM FFA
Sarah Kastner, Panorama FFA
Lexi Marie Knapp, Davis County FFA
Nathan Knapp West Lyon FFA
Ben Kremer, Independence FFA
Alexis Krogmann, Starmont FFA
Melia Kruse, Decorah FFA
Kollyn Lentz, Nashua Plainfield FFA
Tyler Loudon, Creston FFA
Jacob Ludeking, Benton Community FFA
George Martin, Davis-Rodgers FFA
Kelli Elizabeth McAfee, Osceola Big Chief FFA
Haley McClue, Carroll Area FFA
Hannah Mescher, Carroll Area FFA
Bram Mess, North Scott FFA
Sarah Mitchell, Charles City FFA
Guinevere Grace Mozak, Southeast Warren FFA
Ellie Neil, Wapsie Valley FFA
Molly Ann Niewoehner, Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA
Jensen Orr, Midland FFA
Hannah Paschke, Murray FFA
Callie Petersen, Midland FFA
Sam Philips, Akron-Westfield FFA

Amber Reams, Rockford FFA
Ethan Reed, MVAO FFA
Tyler Resor, Waverly-Shell Rock FFA
Ryleigh Jordyn Rinnels, Waverly-Shell Rock FFA
Ethan Rollinger, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA
Hailey Rossmiller, North Scott FFA
Cael Ruzicka, Charles City FFA
Madison Marie Sandel, Osceola Big Chief FFA
Hope Saroka, Midland FFA
Chloe Saville, Mount Ayr FFA
Kate Schaefer, Adel-Desoto-Minburn FFA
Elliot Scheaffer, Sheldon FFA
Kenny Schlosser, Colfax-Mingo FFA
William R. Schmidt, Benton Community FFA
Logan Mae Schmitt, Van Buren County FFA
Zachary Schoelerman, Spencer FFA
Breanna Rae Selsor, Osceola Big Chief FFA
Emily Sindt, Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn FFA
Drew Staudt, Charles City FFA
Javin Stevenson, Lamoni FFA
Maddy Stevenson, Roland-Story FFA
Michael Stille, Nashua Plainfield FFA
Kaydee Swartz, Central Trail FFA
Owen Thomas, Monticello FFA
Ashley Lynn Toppin, East Union FFA
Cheyanne Troendle, Lansing FFA
Jamie Vande Weerd, Central Lyon FFA
Kyle VanderHeiden, Calamus-Wheatland FFA
Kathryn VanManen, Newton FFA
Ali Elizabeth Wadle, Southeast Warren FFA
Ashley Lynn Warren, Hawkeye FFA
Alexis Wertz, New Hampton FFA
Davin Wickman, Monticello FFA
Emma Wiley, Vinton-Shellsburg FFA
Collin L. Witte, West Fork FFA
Ryan Wolf, West Dubuque FFA
Brycen Wookey, Murray FFA
Jesse Wulf, West Lyon FFA
Lauren Zaabel, Newton FFA

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of more than 19,200 student members as part of 262 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.