



Iowa FFA Association

The FFA Mission

*FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth, and career success** through agricultural education.*

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NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

DIAMOND TRAIL FFA CHAPTER AT MONROE CLAIMS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN AGRONOMY EVENT

The Diamond Trail FFA Chapter from Monroe was named the Champion Team in the annual Iowa FFA Agronomy Career Development Event held at Iowa State University in Ames on Thursday, June 8, 2006. Members of the first place Diamond Trail FFA team included: Austin Brandhof, Kurtis Dop, Clint Hansen, and Kyle Van Der Hart. Their Ag Education Instructor is Mr. Ed Ricks. The Wall Lake View Auburn FFA Chapter from Lake View was named the Reserve Champion Team. Members of the second place team included: Cody R. Auen, Cody J. Auen, Chad Fertig, and Kayla Smith. Their Ag Education Instructor is Mr. Scott Johnson. Kyle Van Der Hart, from the Diamond Trail FFA Chapter at Monroe, was named the High Individual Overall in the competition. FFA teams including seventy-one individuals from twenty chapters participated in this year's Career Development Event designed to provide the student an opportunity to display their agricultural knowledge and skills in the area of Agronomy. Activities included demonstration of skills and problem solving in hay, silage, corn, soybean and market grain evaluation; as well as seed, plant and insect identification. A written examination was included along with a team problem solving competition.

Koopman Hay and Forage, through the Iowa FFA Foundation sponsored the Top Ten Individual Rosettes, the Champion and Reserve Champion Individual Plaques, and the Champion Individual Specialty Area Plaques in the areas of Judging Crops, Identification, and Written Examination. Sand Seed Services, through the Iowa FFA Foundation, sponsored the Reserve Champion Team Plaque, Top Ten Team and Member Rosettes, and Champion Specialty Team Plaques in the areas of Judging Crops, Identification, and Written Examination. The Champion Team also received a cash award towards travel to the National Agronomy Career Development Event at Indianapolis, Indiana, by the generosity of the Iowa Corn Promotion Board, through the Iowa FFA Foundation. The top individual receives a \$500 scholarship from the Iowa State University Agronomy Department provided the student majors in Agronomy.

The Agronomy Career Development Event was coordinated and conducted by the faculty and staff of the Iowa State University Agronomy Department.

Top 10 Teams Overall:

1. Monroe
2. Lake View
3. Boone
4. Ackley
5. St. Ansgar
6. Riceville
7. Cascade
8. Charles City
9. Graettinger
10. Maquoketa

Top 10 Individuals Overall:

1. Kyle Van Der Hart, Monroe
2. Kurtis Dop, Monroe
3. Nick Jacob, St. Ansgar
4. Chad Fertig, Lake View
5. Ted Bechtum, Riceville
6. Austin Brandhof, Monroe
7. Kris Michalson, Charles City
8. Clint Hansen, Monroe
9. Scott Foust, Maquoketa
10. Charlie Fitzgerald, Boone

Specialty Areas -- Top Team/ Top Individual:

Judging Crops...

Team: Monroe

Individual: Nick Jacob, St. Ansgar

Identification of Seeds, Insects and Plants

Team: Monroe

Individual: Nick Jacob, St. Ansgar

Written Examination...

Team: Monroe

Individual: Kyle Van Der Hart, Monroe

GOLD EMBLEM TEAMS:

Monroe

Lake View

Boone

Ackley

St. Ansgar

Riceville

Cascade

Charles City

Graettinger

SILVER EMBLEM TEAMS:

Maquoketa

New Hampton

Marengo

Keota

Mount Ayr

Rockford

Creston

BRONZE EMBLEM TEAMS:

Manson

Rock Valley

Alleman

Williamsburg

The Iowa FFA Association has 230 local chapters with over 12,000 FFA members. FFA is a national organization of more than 490,000 members preparing for leadership and careers in science, business and technology of agriculture. Local, state and national programs provide opportunities for students to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom. FFA's 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.