



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

Iowa FFA Members Succeed at 80th National FFA Convention

The 80th National FFA Convention was held in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 24-27, 2007. Over 53,000 FFA members, advisors, and guests from across the country attended the event. Iowa FFA members were very active in all aspects of the convention.

National Winners

Andy Jennett of the **Creston FFA Chapter** was named the **National Winner in the Landscape Management Proficiency Award**. Landscape Management typically involves experiences of planting and maintaining plants and shrubs, landscaping and outdoor beautification, groundskeeping, sprinkler installations and improvement of recreational areas. Jennett received a \$500 cash award for being a National Finalist and an additional \$500 for being named the National Winner. The Agricultural Education Instructor/FFA Advisor at Creston is Galen Zumbach.

The **South Winneshiek FFA Chapter** was named the **National Winner in the Dairy Cattle Evaluation Career Development Event**. To provide a competitive event for agricultural education students, emphasizing skills in dairy cattle evaluation, selection and dairy herd management. Members of the team were:

- Jordan Hanson – 1st Place Individual, Gold Rating, \$900 Scholarship
- Kari Lien – 3rd Place Individual, Gold Rating, \$600 Scholarship
- Aaron Lien – Gold Rating
- Carl Lyons – Silver Rating

Team members received a \$1,000 each for being named the National Champion Team. The Agricultural Education Instructor/FFA Advisor is Dennis Blumhagen.

The **Hudson FFA Chapter** was named the **National Winner in the Marketing Plan Career Development Event**. The event is designed to assist students with developing practical skills in the marketing process through the development and presentation of a marketing plan. Members of the team were:

- Lee Koenigsfeld
- Anna Wolfe
- Ashley Wolfe

Each team member receives a \$1,000 scholarship for being named the National Champion. The Agricultural Education Instructor/FFA Advisor is Dennis Deppe.

National Finalists

The **Montezuma FFA Chapter** was named the **4th Place team in the National Ag Communications Career Development Event**. The purpose this event is to provide individuals with basic communications skills necessary to take advantage of career opportunities in agricultural communications. Members of the team were:

- Kaylee Doll – Silver Rating
- Camie Widmer – Gold Rating
- Matt Vavroch – Gold Rating
- Jalessa Hall – Bronze Rating
- Zach James – Gold Rating

The Agricultural Education Instructor/FFA Advisor is Rick Swenson.

The **Sioux Center FFA Chapter** was named the **9th Place team in the National Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event**. This event selects and awards those students and teams that demonstrate: (1) mastery of the subject matter and skills common to the systems areas (2) effective communication skills (3) superior problem solving techniques (4) an understanding of modern technology (5) the ability to function as team members working together and as individuals working alone. Members of the team were:

- Paul Kleyer – 8th Place Individual, Gold Rating, \$500 Scholarship
- Daniel Gradert – Gold Rating
- Brad Den Herder – Silver Rating
- Jacob Maret – Silver Rating

The Agricultural Education Instructor/FFA Advisor is Brian Oostenink.

The **Muscatine FFA Chapter** was named the **8th Place team in the National Ag Sales Career Development Event**. The purpose of this event is to provide an individual with the basic skills to take advantage of the career opportunities offered in the agricultural sales field. Members of the team were:

- Lane Mathis – Silver Rating
- Dylan Eagle – Silver Rating
- Kevin Guck – 4th Place Individual, Gold Rating, \$500 Scholarship
- Zac Pace – 7th Place Individual, Gold Rating, \$500 Scholarship

The Agricultural Education Instructors/FFA Advisors are Dave Tometich and Dave Fowler.

The **Washington FFA Chapter** was named the **7th Place team in the National Agronomy Career Development Event**. The purpose of the event is to create interest and promote understanding in agronomy by providing opportunities for recognition through the demonstration of skills and proficiencies. Members of the team were:

- Jeremy Vittetoe – Gold Rating
- Ryan Yeggy – Gold Rating
- Nicholas Kleese – Gold Rating
- Alex Meyer – Silver Rating

The Agricultural Education Instructor/FFA Advisor is Duane Van Winkle.

Janna Shifflett of the Osceola Big Chief FFA Chapter was named **4th Place in the National Job Interview Career Development Event**. This event is designed for FFA members to develop, practice and demonstrate skills needed in seeking employment in the agricultural industry. Shifflett will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for her efforts. The Agricultural Education Instructor/FFA Advisor is Brandi Boyd.

The **Muscatine FFA Chapter** was named the **10th Place team in the National Meats Evaluation Career Development Event**. The purpose of this event is to develop employment skills for students who are interested in exploring or pursuing career opportunities in the meat animal industry. Members of the team were:

- Mitchell Longtin – Gold Rating
- Brenden McCleary – Gold Rating
- Matthew Donald – Silver Rating

The Agricultural Education Instructors/FFA Advisors are Dave Tometich and Dave Fowler.

Emma Flemmig of the Glidden-Ralston FFA Chapter was named a **National Stars Over America Finalist in Agriscience**. The Stars Over America Program recognizes American FFA Degree recipients for outstanding achievement in their Supervised Agricultural Experience programs. Flemmig's experience with Agriscience during high school and college were recognized by being named one of four national finalists. Flemmig receives a \$2,000 cash award. Flemmig's Agricultural Education Instructor/FFA Advisor is Dana Weeda.

Jessica Tekippe of the West Delaware FFA Chapter at Manchester was named a **National Stars Over America Finalist in Agricultural Placement**. The Stars Over America Program recognizes American FFA Degree recipients for outstanding achievement in their Supervised Agricultural Experience programs. Tekippe's experience working in a variety of aspects of the dairy industry were recognized by being named one of four national finalists. Tekippe receives a \$2,000 cash award. Tekippe's Agricultural Education Instructor/FFA Advisor is Tammy Schnieders.

Jessica Shifflett of the Osceola Big Chief FFA Chapter was **Iowa's National FFA Officer Candidate**. Shifflett did an excellent job representing Iowa through several rounds of interviews during the convention. Shifflett's Agricultural Education Instructor/FFA Advisor is Brandi Boyd.

The **North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills** was a **National Model of Innovation Finalist** in the areas of Chapter Development and Student Development. Model of Innovation awards recognize FFA Chapters for outstanding activities performed in their school and communities. Only ten chapters are recognized nationally in the areas of community, student, and chapter development. The Agricultural Education Instructor/FFA Advisor is Tom Murray.

Four other students from Iowa were named National Proficiency Award Finalists. Each of these students received \$500 cash award. The other finalists were:

- Ag Mech Design/Fabrication Proficiency Award – Jay Magnussen, Paullina
- Ag Sales Placement Proficiency Award – Cole Koenig, Marengo
- Diversified Crop Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award – Deborah Zelle, Waverly
- Home/Community Development Proficiency Award – Luke Stien, Van Horne

Other National Career Development Event (CDE) Teams/Individuals

Ag Issues and Perceptions CDE – Agri-Power FFA @ Eddyville – Bronze Rating
Creed Speaking CDE – Donovan Richardson, Creston FFA – Silver Rating
Dairy Cattle Handler CDE – Ross Hanson, South Winneshiek FFA @ Calmar – Gold
Dairy Foods CDE – Edgewood-Colesburg FFA @ Edgewood – Silver Rating
Environmental Science CDE – Charles City FFA – Bronze Rating
Extemporaneous Speaking CDE – Holden Nyhus, Forest City FFA – Bronze Rating
Farm Business Management CDE – Montezuma FFA – Silver Rating
Floriculture CDE – Tri-Star FFA – Silver Rating
Food Science CDE – Wapello FFA – Silver Rating
Forestry CDE – North Mahaska FFA @ New Sharon – Silver Rating
Horse Evaluation CDE – Denison FFA – Silver Rating
Livestock Evaluation CDE – Iowa River FFA @ Garner – Silver Rating
Nursery/Landscape CDE – Denison FFA – Silver Rating
Parliamentary Procedure CDE – Osage FFA – Bronze Rating
Public Speaking CDE – Jacob Waddingham, Orient-Macksburg FFA – Bronze Rating

National Chapter Award

The top twenty-three FFA Chapters in Iowa were recognized at the National FFA Convention for outstanding achievement in the National Chapter Award. The National Chapter Award recognizes chapters for completing activities that develop their students, chapter, and community. Twenty of the top twenty-three chapters in Iowa were awarded the highest rating possible, the Three-Star Rating. The following is a list of results of Iowa's National Chapter Award recipients:

Chapter Name	Rating
Charles City FFA	3 Star
Creston FFA	3 Star
Decorah FFA	3 Star
DeWitt Central FFA	3 Star
East Sac FFA @ Lake View	3 Star
Elk Horn-Kimballton FFA	3 Star
Glidden-Ralston FFA	3 Star
Jesup FFA	3 Star
Iowa Valley FFA @ Marengo	3 Star
Mount Ayr FFA	3 Star
Nashua Plainfield FFA	3 Star
North Linn FFA @ Troy Mills	3 Star
Oelwein FFA	3 Star
Osceola Big Chief FFA	3 Star
Reno Smith FFA @ Villisca	3 Star
Sibley-Ocheyedan FFA	3 Star
Sioux Center FFA	3 Star
Wapsie Valley FFA @ Fairbank	3 Star
Waverly-Shell Rock FFA	3 Star
Winterset FFA	3 Star
La Porte-Dysart FFA	2 Star
Lamoni FFA	2 Star
North Fayette FFA @ West Union	2 Star

National FFA Convention Participants

The National FFA Delegate Business Sessions were held during the convention. The delegates debated and voted on future modifications in policies and activities for the organization. The Iowa FFA Officer Team served as official delegates. The members of the officer team are:

- Ryan Borcharding, Hampton – President
- Jake Hunter, DeWitt – Vice President (SE)
- Charlie Fitzgerald, Boone – Vice President (NC)
- Bret Spurgin, Moravia – Vice President (SC)
- Courtney Schmidt, Sibley – Vice President (NW)
- Alec Munier, Marion – Vice President (NE)
- Dan Hansen, Elk Horn – Vice President (SW)
- Zach Morris, Anamosa – Secretary
- Sarah Beaver, Clarinda – Reporter

Eight FFA members from Iowa were selected for the National FFA Chorus. They performed during general sessions, banquets, and special events in Indianapolis during the convention. The members from Iowa were:

- Anne Bomgaars, Sheldon
- Evan Brehm, Van Horne
- Jena Flak, Decorah
- Michael Hansen, Oelwein
- Bethany Olson, Jewell
- Brittany Pacha, Fairfield
- Jayna Shetterly, Marion
- Sam Zoulek, Decorah

Eight FFA members from Iowa were selected for the National FFA Band. They performed during general sessions, banquets, and special events in Indianapolis during the convention. The members from Iowa were:

- Deborah Bierschenk, Van Horne
- Jill Bomgaars, Sheldon
- Ashley Bonney, Oelwein
- Tucker Brinkman, Rockford
- Courtney Davis, Northwood
- Blake Holthaus, Decorah
- Britni Larabee, Villisca
- Dan Vanderhoof, Villisca

Two FFA members from Iowa were selected for the National FFA Talent. They performed during general sessions, banquets, and special events in Indianapolis during the convention. The members from Iowa were:

- Marissa Harvey, Akron
- Karen Whitman, DeWitt

American FFA Degree

The American FFA Degree is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon an FFA member. Only .6% of the 500,000 FFA members nationwide receive the American FFA Degree each year. The American FFA Degree recognizes students for achieving outstanding levels in their Supervised Agricultural Experience program, academic record, and FFA involvement.

The following is a list of Iowa FFA members who received the American FFA Degree in 2007:

Matthew Aggen	CAM FFA @ Anita
Brent Applegate	Riverside FFA @ Oakland
Leslye Bailey	Nashua-Plainfield FFA
Laura Baker	Creston FFA
Chris Bates	Tri-County FFA @ Thornburg
Sarah Lynn Beaver	Brokaw FFA @ Clarinda
Tasia Becker	CAM FFA @ Anita
Amanda Blake	Atlantic FFA
Ryan Lee Borcherding	Hampton-Dumont Tall Corn FFA
Alex Bormann	Algona FFA
Josh Bringleson	Laurens-Marathon Tall Corn FFA
Cole Jon Burrack	Starmont FFA @ Arlington
Raven Marie Butteris	Olin FFA
Nicholas A. Callahan	Cascade FFA
Jodi Calvert	Guthrie Center FFA
Allison B. Classen	Hawkeye FFA @ West Bend
Joe Connolly	Cascade FFA
Charlie Fitzgerald	Boone A&M FFA
Emma Leigh Flemmig	Glidden-Ralston FFA
Megan Flynn	Maquoketa FFA
Scott Foust	Maquoketa FFA
Matthew Hakeman	Williamsburg Hawkeye FFA
Scott Hanthorn	Central Trail FFA @ Leon
Lee Hardersen	Anamosa FFA
Kristine Harms	Anamosa FFA
Ashley Hartsook	Creston FFA
Taylor Allen Hopper	Graettinger/Terril FFA
Melissa Hosch	Cascade FFA
Jennifer Hosfield	Mount Ayr FFA
Joe Hotka	Lone Tree FFA
Tyler James Hotz	Lone Tree FFA
Adam Jackson	Mount Ayr FFA
Darcie James	Maquoketa FFA
Andy Jennett	Creston FFA
Alex W. Johnk	Walnut FFA
Jessie Juarez	Glenwood FFA
Sammy Katzer	Creston FFA
Casey Kent	East Sac FFA
Darren Kraus	Postville FFA

Jacob Krieg	Edgewood-Colesburg FFA
Phillip C. Kron	Mid-Prairie FFA @ Wellman
Matthew Kurt	Cascade FFA
Lacey K. Kurth	Anamosa FFA
Mark A. Laubenthal	Algona FFA
Justin Linderman	Creston FFA
Paige Lindsey	Central Trail FFA @ Leon
Sammy Jo Massman	North Fayette FFA @ West Union
Alicia D. McQuilkin	LaPorte-Dysart FFA
Kaitlin Metzger	Glidden-Ralston FFA
Kegan Miller	Maquoketa FFA
Blake E. Mormann	West Delaware FFA @ Manchester
Taylor Morrison	CAM FFA @ Anita
Kristine Mullen	DeWitt Central FFA
Alec J. Munier	Linn-Mar FFA
Kyle Clarence Norman	Humboldt FFA
Jessica O'Connor	Rockford FFA
Trevor J. Oetken	LeMars FFA
Travis Ohms	CAM FFA @ Anita
Jennifer Paulus	Rockford FFA
Brooke Rae Peppmeier	Creston FFA
Mat Pfab	Cascade FFA
Heidi Ramaeker	Creston FFA
Troy Michael Retallic	Atlantic FFA
Katie Rohe	IKM-Manning FFA
Danelle Rollinger	Monticello FFA
Benjamin Jon Rottinghaus	Charles City FFA
Benjamin J. Schmidt	DeWitt Central FFA
Melissa Lynn Schmitt	Wapsie Valley FFA @ Fairbank
Michelle Lee Schmitt	Wapsie Valley FFA @ Fairbank
Jessica Sheeder	Adair-Casey FFA
Jessica Shifflett	Osceola Big Chief FFA
Cody Sobotka	Mount Ayr FFA
Michael Stewart	Oelwein FFA
John Stinn	Atlantic FFA
Kara Strand	Emmetsburg FFA
Austin Studer	Creston FFA
Jessica Tekippe	West Delaware FFA @ Manchester
Crystal Watters	Maquoketa FFA
Amy Weeda	Mount Ayr FFA
Ryan Wegner	Charles City FFA
Dustin J. Wickman	Linn-Mar FFA @ Marion
Nicholas Willenborg	Carroll Area FFA
Kristal Willie	West Delaware FFA @ Manchester
Sarah R. Willie	West Delaware FFA @ Manchester
Thomas Wulfekuhle	Edgewood-Colesburg FFA

The Iowa FFA Association has 228 local chapters with over 12,000 FFA members. FFA is a national organization of more than 500,000 members preparing for leadership and careers in science, business and technology of agriculture with 7,194 local chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. FFA strives 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. Visit www.ffa.org or www.agiowa.org for more information.