



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.*

State of Iowa
Department of Education
Bureau of Technical and Vocational Education
Grimes State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0147
Contact: Alan Spencer, 515-281-4706

NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

2008 Stars Over Iowa named at last session of the 80th Leadership Conference

AMES, Iowa--The 2008 Stars Over Iowa were announced at Hilton Coliseum, Ames, on Tues., April 15, 2008. Twenty finalists were introduced in four different areas: Agricultural Placement, Agriscience, Agribusiness, and Agricultural Production. These star awards recognize students who have developed outstanding agricultural skill and competency through their career development programs, demonstrated outstanding management skills, earned the Iowa FFA Degree—the highest honor the state association can bestow upon an FFA member—and met other agricultural education, scholarship and leadership requirements.

Each star finalist receives a plaque, sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc, through the Iowa FFA Foundation, and a cash award, sponsored by Iowa Farmer Today through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Star agricultural placement finalists were Dakota Hoben of the Louisa-Muscatine FFA Chapter, Michael McEnany of the Colo-NESCO FFA Chapter, Jamie Negus of the South O'Brien FFA Chapter, Levi Powell of the Iowa Mennonite FFA Chapter, Matthew Price of the North Linn FFA Chapter, and Cheryl Smith of the Tri-Star FFA Chapter. Matthew Price of the North Linn FFA Chapter at Troy Mills was named the Star in Agricultural Placement. Matt's SAE consists of over 4,000 hours worked on an 1800-acre farm. Throughout this work experience he has gained skills in the areas of animal nutrition, Global Positioning System technologies, agricultural marketing, and management. Matt plans on attending Kirkwood Community College majoring in Agricultural Global Positioning Systems and Geographic Information Systems.

Star finalists in the area of Agriscience included Amber Connett of the Diamond Trail FFA Chapter, Dan Faber of the Sioux Center FFA Chapter and Brandon Wilson of the West Central Valley FFA Chapter. Brandon Wilson of the West Central Valley FFA Chapter at Stuart was named the Star in Agriscience. Brandon's SAE program is comprised of many research projects including looking at the effects of population density on grain quality as well as looking for the point of diminishing returns of corn yield as a function of nitrogen. This year his project looks at how nitrogen and phosphorus affects the grain quality and yield. Brandon plans to major in Agricultural Education at Iowa State University.

Star in agribusiness finalists were Travis Garlow of Tri-Star FFA Chapter, Justin Hoover of the

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Atlantic FFA Chapter, Dani Jo Lange of the South O'Brien FFA Chapter and Brandon McCulloh of the DeWitt FFA Chapter. Travis Garlow was named the Start in Agribusiness. Travis is a member of the Tri-Star FFA Chapter. His SAE consists of selling fuel wood, collecting and selling scrap iron, cleaning old machinery and vehicles, and marketing dairy steers raised from birth at local sale barns. He learned how to conduct a successful business, market his products, as well as ensuring high quality products to his customers. Travis plans to expand his business after graduation along with taking over his family farm.

Star finalists in the area of agricultural placement included Ryan Augustine of the North Mahaska FFA Chapter, Hannah Gesing of the Little Switzerland FFA Chapter at Waukon, Daniel Gradert of the Sioux Center FFA Chapter, Kellie Morris of the Algona FFA Chapter, Dan Olsen of the Atlantic FFA Chapter and Casey Tanner of the Orient-Macksburg FFA Chapter. Ryan Augustine of the North Mahaska FFA Chapter at New Sharon was named the Star in Agricultural Production. Ryan's SAE program has gradually grown over the years to today's 137-head beef cattle herd. He also co-managed 35 acres of corn and soybeans. Throughout his SAE experiences, he has learned about formulation of rations, evaluation of finished cattle, marketing, and record keeping. Ryan plans on attending Iowa State University to major in Agricultural Studies.

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.