



NEWS RELEASE

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National Agricultural Proficiency Winners Announced

INDIANAPOLIS – Winners in the National Agricultural Proficiency Awards Pageant were announced on Friday, Oct. 23, at the 82nd National FFA Convention. Awards were given in 47 categories.

2009 Agricultural Communications – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Caroline Bremer – Illinois

Caroline Bremer has always had a passion for agriculture. It is this passion that has fueled her desire to inform the public about the importance of agriculture and the National FFA Organization. During her freshman year, she joined the high school newspaper staff and wrote all the articles related to FFA. She later was elected chapter reporter and continued with her passion. As a reporter, she conducted interviews in radio and television, developed a newsletter and wrote news articles for the local paper. The Vienna FFA chapter member also interns at the Illinois state farm, as well as with the Illinois Farm Bureau and RFD Radio. Supported by her parents, Jeff and Lisa Bremer, along with her advisor Bill Fairless, this FFA member continues to work tirelessly to share agriculture information with the community.

2009 Agricultural Education – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Audrey Davis -- Georgia

When Audrey Davis of Bainbridge, Ga., became a chapter officer in 2005, the spark for her interest in agricultural education was lit. Soon, the Bainbridge FFA member was assisting in the agricultural education department by helping with membership rosters and career development events. Along with assisting at the school, she also worked at Flint Media, Inc., where she helped compile the Blue and Gold report, which kept the public up to date about FFA occurrences. Davis is supported by her parents, Alan and Lynn Davis, as well as her advisor, Hugh Lanier, as she continues to spread the agriculture message through agricultural education.

2009 Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Jonathon Cota – California

A love for the agriculture construction industry was born in Jonathon Cota of California at a young age. The Los Banos FFA chapter member vividly remembers following his father around as he completed various construction jobs around the county. Today, Jonathon works at JC Dairy

construction, which designs and fabricates new dairy structures and renovates existing ones. Cota is supported by his parents, Jorge and Caroline Cota, as well as his FFA advisors Larry Borelli, Stuart McCullough, Sonia Falaschi, Abby Flaherty and Jason Bretz.

2009 Agricultural Mechanics Energy Systems – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Blake Meneses – California

Taking things a part and putting them back together has always fascinated Blake Meneses of California. Today that interest has allowed the Tulare FFA chapter member to have a successful position at Cabrera and Meneses Tractor Services. Here, he is able to perform general repairs such as welding repairs, general maintenance or even major engine overhauls. He also works on computer repairs, hydraulic repair and minor welding repairs. He credits his ag mechanics classes for much of his success. He is supported in his work by his parents, Robert and Orlanda Meneses, as well as his FFA advisors, Dave Caetano, Jennifer Sousa and Mike Mederos.

2009 Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance – Entrepreneurship

Zachary Samuel -- California

Zachary Samuel of California is aware of how much wear and tear farm equipment bears and how often it is in need of repair. It was this need that led the Linden 46 FFA chapter member to pursue his business Zach Attack Services. Used to doing various jobs for his father on the farm, Zach noticed that other farmers in the community began to ask for his help. Having taken some ag mechanic classes through his agricultural education classes as well as having the time, Zach determined a maintenance business was the perfect answer. He is supported by his parents, James and Jaine Samuel, as well as his FFA advisors, Dean Archer, Heather Borgia and Michael Patterson.

2009 Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance – Placement

Brian Haas – Illinois

Brian Haas of Macoutah, Ill., has always been interested in mechanic work. In fact, the Mascoutah FFA chapter member began his mechanic work on his stock cars and tractors. He was then able to take that passion and begin working at Mascoutah Equipment, where he started with clean up work. He then progressed to working on combines and tractors in the shop. Today he is becoming more mechanically inclined with the equipment that he works with and sets up new equipments such as lawn mowers, tractors and tillage equipment. He is supported in his efforts by his parents, Christopher and Gina Haas, as well as his FFA advisor, Keith Eschmann.

2009 Agricultural Processing -- Entrepreneurship/Placement

Brian Wayne Masters II – Oklahoma

Brian Wayne Masters II, of Drummond, Okla., hopes to one day become a U.S. Department of Agriculture meat inspector. So when the Drummond FFA member was given the opportunity to work at Enid Packing Co. and Big Country Meat Market, he was ecstatic. Here was an opportunity for him to take the skills he used in his meat evaluation career development event on a daily basis. He continues to learn more about agricultural processing, and at Enid Pack, he is able to be involved in every facet of meat processing. His parents, Brian and Amber Masters, as well as his advisor, Keith Dillingham, are supportive of his endeavors.

2009 Agricultural Sales – Placement

Bridget L. Baker – Kansas

While preparing for the national floriculture career development event, Bridget L. Baker of Kansas began working at Owen's Original Floral shop. The Washington County FFA chapter member then became more motivated to learn about the business and was soon assisting with all facets of the business by consulting and advising clients, quoting and determining prices, taking customer orders, creating and designing merchandise and more. She is supported in her endeavors by her parents, Philip and Jeanette Baker, as well as by her FFA advisor John Kern.

2009 Agricultural Services -- Entrepreneurship/Placement

Rusty Kenner – Oklahoma

Six years ago, Rusty Kenner of Oklahoma and his brother were deeded the farm from his grandpa and grandma. Now the Cheyenne FFA member is working to make sure his farm stays viable. He is doing this through custom swathing and baling as well as through the Kenner Water Well Drilling and Repair business. Through this experience, Kenner is able to learn about the soil and its different properties as well as more information about his water well business. He is supported by his parents, Lynn and Dixie Kenner, as well as his FFA advisor Nathan Torrance.

2009 Beef Production – Entrepreneurship

Austin T. Perry – California

As soon as he was old enough to hold a rope halter, Austin T. Perry of California remembers working with his family's cattle. Currently the Clovis FFA member's own herd consists of 38 registered purebred Angus and Charlois cows and heifers. He also raises show cattle and spring calving cows. Through the Angus and Charlois Junior Breed Associations, he has been able to make contacts, which have helped him in the marketing of his cattle. He is supported by his parents, Randy C. Perry and Susan Henderson-Perry, as well as his FFA advisors, Mrs. Henderson-Perry, Mr. Dias, Mr. Woodard, Mr. Actis, Ms. Jones and Mrs. Valdez.

2009 Beef Production – Placement

Kassandra Pfeiffer – Oklahoma

The beef cattle industry has been a driving force in Kassandra Pfeiffer's life for as long as she can remember. The Mulhall-Orlando FFA member has grown up in a family that has operated a registered Angus cattle operation. She has always worked around cattle, which has allowed her to learn about the industry. As the industry continues to progress, the Oklahoma resident is able to continue to expand her knowledge base. She is supported by her parents, Jerry and Aida Pfeiffer, as well as her FFA advisor, Allen Miller.

2009 Dairy Production – Entrepreneurship

Jason Hartschuh -- Ohio

Jason Hartschuh of Ohio is learning how to be a profitable dairy farmer as he works on his parents 160-cow dairy farm. The Wynford FFA member began his own dairy herd in 1999 and owns four cows and three heifers. Through artificial insemination, he continues to improve the herds type and

production. He is supported by his parents, Allen and Dianne Hartschuh, as well as his FFA advisors, Mike Hoffman and Tom Daiber.

2009 Dairy Production – Placement

Tanner Bradley – Wisconsin

Tanner Bradley of Wisconsin is following in his father's footsteps when it comes to dairy production. The Fort Atkinson FFA member began working at Rosy-Lane Holsteins LLC during his eighth grade year. In 2007, he then began working at the Hoard's dairyman farm to further his dairy management skills. He is responsible for milking 258 Guernseys in the new double-10 herringbone parlor. He continues to learn more and more about the dairy industry. He is supported in his efforts by his parents, Norm and Kay Bradley, as well as his FFA advisors Jeff Agnew, Steve Merkel and Shannon Farrell.

2009 Diversified Agricultural Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Tom J. Eilertson – Minnesota

Diversified agriculture has always been a part of Tom J. Eilertson's life. The United South Central FFA member first introduction to diversification was when he was young and helping with simple pig chores. As he grew older, he had more responsibilities. When he turned 14, the family then turned to raising cattle. Today, the Minnesota resident runs his own operation and is able to run all the equipment needed to run his operation. He is supported in his efforts by his parents, John and Nancy Eilertson, as well as his FFA advisor, Dan M. Dylla.

2009 Diversified Crop Production – Entrepreneurship

Tyler S. Loschen – Illinois

Tyler S. Loschen has always loved farming. In fact, the Illinois resident would look forward to each Christmas with anticipation as he knew he'd have new components for his toy farm set. Now, agriculture isn't just a toy farm set for the Tri Point FFA member, it's reality. His crop enterprise began his freshman year, with the renting of 20 acres, and then expanded when neighbors rented their 160 acres to him. He is constantly expanding his operation, and it currently involves alfalfa, soybeans and corn. He is supported by his parents, Gary and Diana Loschen, who also serves as his FFA advisor.

2009 Diversified Crop Production – Placement

Matthew VanScoy – Ohio

Matthew VanScoy of Ohio is very interested in owning his own vegetable production. With this goal in mind, the Ridgemont FFA member began working at VanScoy's farm. It was a perfect fit. One of his responsibilities was baling hay, and then on the greenhouse side, his responsibilities expanded. He's responsible for clipping, suckering, learning and lowering tomatoes as well as testing water. His knowledge of the agriculture business continues to grow. He is supported by his parents, William and Sonja VanScoy, as well as his FFA advisor, Stephanie Jolliff.

2009 Diversified Horticulture – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Andrew Thomas Collier – Tennessee

Andrew Thomas Collier's interest in nursery and landscaping plants first began when the Tennessee resident began helping someone with their annual plant sale. As the Wilson Central FFA member continued to help, he began to become familiar with planting, watering and the placement of mums. Along with that familiarity he also began helping to maintain the farm through mowing and landscaping. His interest then took a slight turn, when he began to work at the local golf course, where he began to manage the agricultural-based side of the business, managing the putting greens and making sure to maintain the grounds. He is supported in his endeavors by his parents, Jeff and Melodie Collier, as well as his FFA advisors, Benny McDonald and Pam Walker.

2009 Diversified Livestock Production – Entrepreneurship

Rashele Blakley – Oklahoma

Rashele Blakley of Oklahoma is a sixth-generation livestock and ag producer. The Oologah FFA member can't remember a time when livestock production wasn't part of her life. Today, she produces show calves and seedstock as well as packaged meat for her commercial meat market from her registered Shorthorn and Main Anjou herd. She also raises swine, sheep and goats. She is supported by her parents, Lyle and Rae Blakley, as well as her FFA advisor, Ron Harper.

2009 Diversified Livestock Production – Placement

Elizabeth Kay Dahlke – Wisconsin

Growing up on a family farm with a large two-acre pond has afforded many opportunities for Elizabeth Kay Dahlke of Wisconsin. The Montello FFA chapter member raises hybrid bluegills for marketing with her family. It's not just fish for the Dahlke family. They also own a Hereford beef cattle operation, with approximately 100 beef and dairy steers along with a herd of 27 beef brood cows. As she works in both of these areas, she continues to gain knowledge about each industry. She is supported by her parents, Paul and Mary Dahlke, as well as her FFA advisor, Brian Hendrickson.

2009 Emerging Agricultural Technology – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Courtney Curlin – Georgia

Courtney Curlin of Georgia has always been interested in agriscience. It's this interest that led the Lowndes High School FFA member to develop urea filter technology for tractor emissions. Using research, she was able to construct an experimental filter to filter tractor emissions. The experimental filter was successful, so she was able to construct and utilize an operational prototype. Her research and innovativeness is supported by her parents, Travis and Sharen Curlin, as well as her FFA advisors, James Corbett, Andy Harrison, Spence Taylor and Quinton Haddock.

2009 Environmental Science and Natural Resources – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Keith Allen Bollinger – Wisconsin

Keith Allen Bollinger of Wisconsin has been able to learn much about the natural resources management field thanks to his recent experiences with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. The Cochrane-Fountain City FFA member has worked on restoring bluff prairies and growing beetles to control purple loosestrife. He is supported by his parents, Allen and Dorothy Bollinger, as well as his FFA advisors, Ms. Jumbeck and Mr. Stoppelmoor.

2009 Equine Science – Entrepreneurship

Brodie Poppino – Oklahoma

Brodie Poppino of Oklahoma grew up watching his mom ride and train horses for other people. It was a talent that the Adair FFA member wanted to pursue as well. Today, he breaks and trains horses for the roping events of rodeo and horse shows. He trains horses for a certain period of time, depending on the owner's needs. Learning how to run a business and be successful in this competitive field, Poppino plans to continue in the industry. He is supported by her parents, Marty and Tana Poppino, as well as her FFA advisors, Devin DeLozier and Josh Davis.

2009 Equine Science – Placement

Josh Goff – Oklahoma

Growing up in rural Oklahoma, Josh Goff has always loved livestock. Horses have specifically held a special place in the Woodward FFA member's heart. In 2006, he was able to go to work for Cudd Quarter Horses LLC. It was here where he has been able to see what it takes to work and manage a successful horse ranch. He began with the simple lower tasks such as cleaning stalls and feeding horses. Today, he rides and trains horses, cares for sick or injured animals and assists with the annual breeding process. He is supported by his parents, Tim Goff and Shelly Johnson, as well as his FFA advisors, Dallas Krout and Galen McCune.

2009 Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Jeremy J. Brabec – Nebraska

Jeremy J. Brabec of Nebraska has always been involved in agriculture. The Schuyler FFA member manages his own crop, rotating between corn and soybeans. This has allowed him the opportunity to make his own decision and learn about crop production. He is supported by his parents, Mark and Sheila Brabec, as well as his FFA advisors, Tom Wheeldon and Ryan Schroeder.

2009 Floriculture – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Emily Johnson – Kentucky

Emily Johnson has loved horticulture since she was a little girl, helping to weed and water her family's home garden. Taking agriculture classes and serving as chapter secretary for the Larue County FFA in Hodgenville, Ky., gave her the skills and know-how she needed to make her an extremely valuable employee at Lee's Garden Center, a local nursery and landscape store. She is currently attending the University of Kentucky, studying to be an agriculture teacher. Her parents, Sara Redmon and Jed Johnson, and her FFA advisors, Misty Bivens and Tim Quiggins, have helped her plant the seeds of success.

2009 Food Science and Technology– Entrepreneurship/Placement

Naomi Harper – Illinois

Chicago Ag Science FFA member Naomi Harper is not afraid of hard work. As a freshman she was accepted into the University of Illinois' Research Apprentice Program, where she worked first-hand with seed company Pioneer, studying genetic engineering and Bt corn development. Through the program, she was fully immersed, every day, in learning scientific methods developing presentations based on her research and meeting numerous research deadlines set by the lead scientists. One day,

she will use the research and goal-setting skills she has gained to earn a doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. She has been supported in her endeavors by her parents, Albert and Janelle Harper, and by her FFA advisors, Lucille Shaw and Sheila Fowler.

2009 Forage Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Andy Fuecht – Wisconsin

Andy Fuecht started out small, helping his dad with small chores on the family's dairy farm. Today, the Wisconsin FFA member has complete control over the forage operation on that same farm, where he works with his father and older brother. He takes care of all the tillage, planting and harvesting procedures for his alfalfa crop, and he closely monitors protein, moisture and more to ensure that his family's dairy cows consume the highest quality hay. In addition to these responsibilities, Andy runs a custom baling service, which he offers to other producers in the area. Andy has been supported and encouraged by his parents, Norbert and Louise Fuecht, and his Mayville High School FFA Advisor, Cal Geiger.

2009 Forest Management and Products – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Staten Levings – Georgia

Staten Levings has been helping his father with the family forest products company since he was a little boy. When he joined Echols County FFA as a freshman, he learned that he could turn his involvement with the business into a learning and money-making opportunity. He secured a job at Levings Forest Products doing odd jobs. Soon, he had learned the skills needed to take on bigger responsibilities, such as operating and maintain machinery, securing loads, and marking trees for harvest. After high school, the Georgia FFA member hopes to receive a business degree from Valdosta State University and become partial owner of Levings Forest Products. His goals are supported by his parents, Al and Emily Levings, and by his FFA advisor, Shelby Corbett.

2009 Fruit Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Brian Livesay – Oklahoma

Brian Livesay knows that sometimes it takes a little trial and error to figure out what type of career you're cut out for. When the Oklahoma FFA member was 13-years-old, he started working in the retail shed at Livesay Orchards. He very soon realized that he was not interested in pursuing a career in sales and set out to gain the skills he needed to work on the production side of the family-run operation. To date, he has learned to operate the farm's equipment, gotten his private chemical applicator license and learned about irrigation techniques. Once he graduates from high school and college, he hopes to become part owner of Livesay Orchards. His parents, Steve and Brenda Livesay, and his Porter FFA advisor, Brad Criner, have helped him along the way.

2009 Grain Production– Entrepreneurship

Jared Yost – Oklahoma

Jared Yost wants to follow in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, who both were known as top-quality producers in their rural Oklahoma community. He started by producing a small acreage of wheat for a 4-H wheat show. He soon realized that he had a real knack for farming by winning the State 4-H Wheat Competition. He then set his sights on winning FFA's wheat competition, which would make him one of few, elite individuals to win that title from both organizations. Jared is

currently attending Southwestern Oklahoma State University, majoring in business management. His ambitions are supported by his parents, Mike and Diane Yost, and by his Lomega FFA chapter advisor, Brandon Brown.

2009 Grain Production– Placement

Dalton Brewer – Oklahoma

Dalton Brewer began riding with his dad on the family farm's tractor and combine when he was just a baby. Farming has been a family tradition for the Brewer's since 1900, and it's a tradition that the Okeene FFA member intends to continue. Currently, he helps his father and grandfather with work on their 600-acre wheat operation just southwest of Watonga, Oklahoma. Through his placement, he has learned to operate all major types of grain production equipment and how to scout for insects and disease and determine when chemical application is needed. In the future he hopes to become an agriculture teacher while continuing his family's farming legacy. His dreams are supported by his parents, Kevin and Sharon Brewer, and by his FFA advisor, Clayton Fisher.

2009 Home and/or Community Development – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Jennifer Cunningham – Texas

Jennifer Cunningham of Wylie, Texas, was always on the lookout for an FFA chapter project that would benefit her entire community. As chapter president, she had led the Wylie High School FFA members through a canned food drive, Christmas caroling at the local nursing home and volunteering at special events. But she yearned to do something on a grander scale. So, she developed a feeder pig project, in which her FFA chapter took donated feeder hogs, processed them to slaughter weight, and then donated 100 percent of the meat to the local food bank. Last year, her chapter was able to donate 1,100 pounds of meat through the program. She receives support from her parents, Troy and Jayne Cunningham, and her FFA advisors, Amber Norris, Jess Wheeler and Kristi Thompson.

2009 Landscape Management– Entrepreneurship/Placement

Matt Moen – South Dakota

When Matt Moen was growing up, he was responsible for mowing his parents' two-acre lawn and taking care of all the trees and shrubs. Even though it was hard work, the South Dakota FFA member loved being outdoors and was fascinated by the ways in which different plants grew and changed colors with the seasons. When he got to high school, he set out to work for his brother's landscaping company, where he has since gained even more skills and knowledge in the area of landscaping and horticulture. Matt receives encouragement and support from his parents, Mike and Mabelle Moen, and his Harrisburg FFA Chapter advisor, Todd Marks.

2009 Nursery Operations – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Melissa Maulsby – California

Melissa Maulsby of California has always had an interest in landscaping, so it was no surprise when the Fallbrook FFA member began her nursery operations project. She focused on buying her own flats and transplanting them to help contribute to a larger variety of plants offered at the FFA Nursery Sales at her high school. She also continued to expand her nursery by propagating her plants by division, resulting in a total of more than 40 different varieties of plants. She is supported by her

parents, James and Judy Maulsby, as well as her FFA advisors, Ms. Chapman, Mr. Duffin, Mr. Sehnert and Mr. Kreutz.

2009 Outdoor Recreation – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Scott Hoiten – South Dakota

Scott Hoiten has had a life-long passion for wildlife. When he was 12-years-old, he began working with his cousin and grandfather on their peasant farms in Spencer, S.D. As he got older, he became even more involved with all aspects of the farm, from raising and breeding the birds to guiding hunting trips on the farm. Scott would like to parlay his knowledge and experience into an agribusiness career. He hopes to take over the peasant farm when his grandfather retires. Scott receives support and guidance from his parents, Jim and Becky Hoiten, and his McCook Central FFA chapter advisor, Terry Rieckman.

2009 Poultry Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Duane Unruh – Kansas

For Duane Unruh, the motto, “If opportunity doesn’t knock, build a door,” sums up this Peabody-Burns FFA chapter member’s drive to succeed. He began raising broilers in third grade for a 4-H project and, years later, is now the owner of Unruh Pasture Fresh Poultry, where he raises, butchers and markets Cornish cross broilers and produces eggs from Black Sexlink hens as his supervised agricultural experience program (SAE). His business also serves a niche market that welcomes fresh poultry without hormones or antibiotics and fresh eggs from hens kept on pasture. Duane is supported by his parents, Harlin and Doris Unruh, and his FFA advisors, Glenn Bechtel, Steve Thorburn and Sonya Roberts.

2009 Sheep Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Jacci Erwin – Ohio

Joining her family’s 20-year sheep operation has motivated North Union FFA member Jacci Erwin to play an influential role in the future of the sheep industry. Managing 54 head of Tunis ewes, Jacci successfully juggles her FFA activities while fulfilling her duties on her family’s Ohio farm. She recently exhibited eight head of her flock at the Ohio State Fair, National Show and the Indiana State Fair. She also marketed two of her ewes at the National Tunis Show and donated a ewe to help the Junior Tunis Association. She is supported by her parents, Dan and Cris Erwin, and her FFA advisors, Tom Jolliff and Nevin Smith.

Small Animal Production and Care – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Mikka Harman – Oklahoma

Raised on a cattle farm, Mikka Harman wanted to try something a little different for her SAE so she decided to raise and sell the popular, small-breed dog Shih Tzuhs. This Mulhall-Orlando FFA member started her enterprise with two registered females and a registered male and has currently bred and marketed 34 Shih Tzu puppies in four different states. A resident of Oklahoma, she raises the puppies from birth and sells them between the ages of 7 and 10 weeks. To save on costs and eliminate trips to the vet, she learned some veterinary skills associated with raising puppies, such as deworming, dew claw removal and giving vaccinations. She is supported by her parents, Chris and Randus Harman, and her FFA advisor, Allen Miller.

Specialty Animal Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Christie Hobby – California

Christie Hobby's interest in agribusiness, as well as her commitment to her family's 20-acre farm, has fueled her passion for the production and care of Boer goats. Her family owns Boers by Hobby, one of the top operations in her community and known for their champion Boers. This Hughson FFA member has gone from merely feeding the animals to being responsible for multiple areas of expertise and has become well-known for her quality showmanship in California. With Christie's help, the ranch sells about 100 head of goat a year. Through the ranch's mating system and embryo transfer, she has bred 15 champion wethers within the last four years. She is supported by her parents, Bill and Sue Hobby, and her FFA advisors, Kelly Larson and Mike Ellington.

Specialty Crop Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Matthew Steven Campbell – Oregon

Oregon's Willamette Valley is one of the largest grass seed producing areas in the world and Junction City FFA member Matthew Steven Campbell is right where he needs to be for his SAE in specialty crops production. He works for Kokkeler Farms, growing Annual Rye Grass, Perennial Rye Grass, Orchard Grass, Fescue Grass and Spring Green Clover. The by-products of grass seed is grass straw, perennial grass hay and rotational wheat crops. Through the years, he has become a valued employee at Kokkeler and has trained to run all the machines and equipment on the farm. From preparing soil for planting to customer service and training new employees, he has gained a better understanding of the cope and impact agriculture has on his community. He is supported by his parents, Mike and Judy Campbell, and his FFA advisor, Kathy Smith.

Swine Production – Entrepreneurship

Kari Beth Langbein – Texas

Comfort FFA member Kari Beth Langbein remembers summer vacations spent in her family's farrowing barn in south-central Texas, helping out only as much as a five year old could. As she watched her older sisters have fun working with the family's pigs, she decided to give it a try and now breeds swine, replacement gilts, show gilts and market swine for her SAE. She has produced several breed champions and continues to improve on her high conception rate and nutrition program. She is supported by her parents, Larry and Karen Langbein, and her FFA advisors, Perry White and Josh Limmer.

Swine Production – Placement

Holly Baggett – Tennessee

Lincoln County FFA member Holly Baggett has always been active on her family farm in Tennessee and she plans to keep it that way. Following in the footsteps of her father, she began showing market hogs when she was in third grade. Now she shows about 20 market hogs a year in various state shows as well as local fairs. As for her family's third-generation hog operation, she helps out in every aspect of the business, from feeding and vaccinating to breeding and record-keeping. She is supported by her parents, Terry Baggett and Lisa Posey, and her FFA advisors, Jennifer Snoddy, Tim Bradford and Danice Shout.

Turf Grass Management – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Tanner Strunz – Wisconsin

In 2006, Brodhead FFA member Tanner Strunz combined two of his passions—his love of the outdoors and mowing lawns—to start his own business, Strunz Lawn Care. Currently he mows 14 lawns in the Brodhead, Wis., area, and, in the winter, removes snow from 13 driveways. He also offers tree removal services and has been awarded an exclusive contract to take care of the lawn at Brodhead Chevrolet. He is supported by his parents, Thomas Strunz and Jean Day, and his FFA advisor, Jillian Beaty.

Vegetable Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Amber Allen – Oklahoma

Amber Allen combined a love for plants and the need to make money into a multifaceted business and SAE planting a home garden. Planting, cultivating and harvesting locally raised, high-quality vegetables has been a family tradition for this Burlington FFA member all of her life and has helped her develop management and crop production skills such as proper soil preparation, adequate weed control and organic garden practices. In addition to growing and selling fresh vegetables for family and friends in Oklahoma, she also donates her surplus crop to the Burlington Schools Farm-To-School program. She is supported in her efforts by her parents, Dwaine and Julie Allen, and her FFA advisor, Travis Bradshaw.

Veterinary Medicine – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Dana A. White – Missouri

Ever since she assisted in a surgery that allowed her to feel the aorta of a four-month-old puppy, Hardin Central FFA member Dana A. White has known she would pursue a career in veterinary medicine. She began her pursuit in 2006, when she was hired at Renfro's Veterinary Service in Missouri as a kennel attendant. Her inquisitive nature eventually garnered her exposure to other aspects of the practice, including a front row seat to a wide variety of surgeries ranging from c-sections, fracture repairs and exploratories. She was soon promoted to technician and ran lab work, assisted doctors regularly, filled prescriptions and performed the initial exams prior to the doctor's exam. She has been accepted into the Pre-Veterinary Medicine Scholars Program and has been recently hired as a doctor's assistant at one of the top veterinary clinics in the area. She is supported by her parents, Brad and Terri White, and her FFA advisor, Erica McBee.

Wildlife Production and Management – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Jeri Sigle – Kansas

Jeri Sigle, a member of the Council Grove FFA in Kansas, became interested in hunting and trapping when she was 5-years-old. That's when she realized she absolutely loved being outdoors and protecting and managing the health of various wildlife. Following in the footsteps of her parents, who are avid wildlife trappers, she began her own trapping and fur harvesting enterprise in Morris County. Now she can construct her own trap, saving hundreds of dollars. Her trapping expeditions take place on 3,000 family- and neighbor-owned acres of grassland next to the Neosho River in the rolling Flinthills of Kansas. She is supported by her parents, Chris and Sharmon Sigle, and her FFA advisor, Brandon Barr.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 506,199 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,429 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. 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 National FFA Organization operates under a Federal Charter granted by the 81st Congress of the United States, and is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

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