



**NEWS RELEASE**

**APRIL 19-23:**

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**Ada-Borup FFA Member Wins State Star Farmer**

*Twenty-two Honorary Degree Recipients Honored*

MINNEAPOLIS – (April 22, 2021) Daniel Jossund, a senior FFA member from Ada-Borup High School, received the State Star Farmer award during the Minnesota FFA Convention today. The Minnesota FFA Foundation's sponsor for the Star Farmer recognition program is Compeer Financial Services. His award was announced during a surprise visit from the Minnesota FFA State Officers to his school, streamed live to convention participants across the state.

The organization's 92<sup>nd</sup> Convention with the theme *Worth It* is taking place through virtual sessions, live recognition, interactive state competition finals and workshops, as well as in-person convention-in-the-classroom activities.

Jossund earned the recognition through his FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience in Plant Systems with Jossund Bailing and Daniel Jossund Hay & Grain, and through Agribusiness Systems with J&L Jossund Farms.

Jossund describes that his SAE taught him how to make connections, manage finances and direct employees. He has served as the Ada-Borup FFA president and participated in Conduct of Chapter Meetings and the Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems Career and Leadership Development Events. His parents are John and Lorraine Jossund.

Other finalists for the award included Jenna Caughey – Brainerd FFA, Anna Ridenour – Triton FFA, and Aly Dieball – Sibley East FFA.

During Thursday's FFA Convention session, sponsored by NextEra, the Minnesota FFA Land of Service honor was presented to: 1.) Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted with more than 3,021 hours served (value of \$80,486); 2.) Sleepy Eye with more than 1,407 hours served (value of \$35,780); and 3.) Princeton with more than 582 hours served (value of \$14,800).

Supervised Agricultural Experience state winners in the categories of Food Products and Processing Systems were recognized, along with Agriscience Fair participants in those categories.

Food Products and Processing Systems Proficiency winners included:

- Fruit Production – Zachery Ruppert, Tracy FFA, sponsored by MinnTex;
- Grain Production – Mackenzie Henning, Jackson County Central FFA, sponsored by Corteva;
- Nursery Operation – Kristen Hubbard, United South Central FFA, sponsored by Ziegler Cat;
- Specialty Crop Production – Eric Melberg, Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City FFA, sponsored by Charles and Barb Melberg; and
- Vegetable Production – Josephine Homeier, Medford FFA, sponsored by AgCountry Farm Credit Services.

In her retiring address, Emilee Xayanourom, state vice-president from Mountain Lake FFA, shared with convention attendees of a practice she learned from her dad: collectivism. Xayanourom stated collectivism is putting the needs of the group ahead of your own.

“People are unique and different from each other, but we all live on the same world,” Xayanourom said. “We need to be able to appreciate our differences but still work together for each of us as a whole.”

Finalists were announced in the CDE and LDE areas of Conduct of Chapter Meetings, Creed Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure and Prepared Public Speaking.

### **Minnesota FFA Honorary Degrees**

The Minnesota FFA Association relies on the support of exceptional teachers, individuals and companies to provide life-changing experiences for its members. Individuals who have provided exceptional service on a state level to agriculture, agricultural education, or FFA are eligible for the Honorary FFA Degree. Additionally, teachers who have created high-quality agricultural education programs which inspire and motivate their students to strive for success are eligible.

Minnesota FFA Honorary Degrees were presented to:

Agricultural teachers: Jeff Pokorny - Alexandria, Whitney Rupprecht - Crookston, Kim Anderson - Clearbrook  
Gonvick, Jill Grams - Buffalo Lake Hector Stewart;

Parents of state officers: Keith and Denise Olander, Angela Braun, One Xayanourom, Randy and Jennifer Knott, Vaughn and Joan Euerle, Joe and Gerri Swiers;

Parents of State Stars: Steve and Tammy Frericks, Allan and Laurie Greibrok, Brad and Ann Henning, and John and Lorraine Jossund.

FFA Chapters in schools across Minnesota participated in convention activities today and two drawings took place: one student won a chapter jacket and one chapter won \$200 to spend at a local business in the future promoting the day's theme, *Community is Worth It!*

Workshops offered online included Empowered & Humble: Transforming the way we think about service, and Invited but Uncomfortable – How do we get better at connecting across differences. The online Blue Room provided students with presentations surrounding 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges in agriculture, food and natural resources.

Throughout the convention, content is available on the [Minnesota FFA website](#), the [Minnesota FFA YouTube Channel](#), on the organization's [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) pages and on the Convention app (<https://crowd.cc/mnffa2021> or by download from <https://crowd.cc/s/3ZLxW>).

The FFA State Convention is offered in partnership by the Minnesota FFA Association, the Minnesota FFA Foundation, the Minnesota FFA Alumni, and the Minnesota Department of Education.

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**Note:** For many awards and events, photos can be obtained by emailing [snewellopitz@gmail.com](mailto:snewellopitz@gmail.com) during convention week, and [jtolosky@mnffa.org](mailto:jtolosky@mnffa.org) beginning April 26. Photos of Proficiency winners can be viewed on the Minnesota FFA [Instagram](#) site.

### **About Minnesota FFA**

FFA is a national organization developing students' potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education with more than 700,000 members in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Minnesota FFA Association represents nearly 12,500 members and 210 high school chapters across the state. Agricultural education engages students through hands-on learning in the classroom, work-based learning opportunities known as Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects, and FFA activities that develop social-emotional leadership skills.

### **About Minnesota FFA Foundation**

The Minnesota FFA Foundation will be hosting additional events to support the 12,500 FFA members across Minnesota. The Minnesota FFA Foundation is honored to support Minnesota FFA and thanks its donors and sponsors who make this possible. It is the mission of the Minnesota FFA Foundation to secure strategic partnerships and financial resources that promote and enhance premier leadership, personal growth and career success for Minnesota youth in Agricultural Education. To learn more about supporting Minnesota FFA through the Minnesota FFA Foundation at [www.mnffaoundation.org](http://www.mnffaoundation.org).

### **About Minnesota FFA Alumni and Supporters**

The Minnesota FFA Alumni Association and Supporters work to support the 12,500 FFA members, through 72 Alumni and Supporters affiliates across the state. Adult membership is open to anyone interested in supporting and promoting agriculture, agricultural education, and FFA at the local, state, and national level. One need not have worn the blue jacket to be a member of the FFA Alumni and

Supporters, whose mission is to work to secure the promise of Agricultural Education and FFA by creating an environment where people and communities can develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. Learn more about the Minnesota FFA Alumni Association at [MNFFAAlumni.org](http://MNFFAAlumni.org).

Learn more about the experiences of FFA members and supporters by visiting [MnFFA.org](http://MnFFA.org) and [FFA.org](http://FFA.org).