



NEWS RELEASE

APRIL 19-23:

Contact: Sherry Newell

Media Volunteer

Email: snewellopitz@gmail.com

Phone: 320-428-4628

AFTER APRIL 23:

Contact: Juleah Tolosky

Minnesota FFA Executive Director

Email: jtolosky@mnffa.org

Phone: 518-832-0313

Albany FFA Member Wins FFA State Star in Production Placement

Nine FFA Chapters Chartered

MINNEAPOLIS – (April 21, 2021) Kallie Frericks, a senior FFA member from Albany High School, received the State Star in Production Placement award during the Minnesota FFA Convention today. Her award was announced during a surprise visit from the Minnesota FFA State Officers to her school, streamed live to convention participants across the state. The 2021 Stars Over Minnesota awards are sponsored by Compeer Financial Services.

The Minnesota FFA Association's 92nd 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.

Frericks earned the recognition through her Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) at Strawberries Galore & More, a U-pick business owned by her parents, Steve and Tammy Frericks. She has also been employed at Groetsch Dairy and Blue Diamond Dairy, and in her family's crop enterprise. Her experience earns her top recognition among the other 264 FFA State Degree recipients.

Frericks described time management, work ethic, consumer communication, and working independently as key learnings from her various roles within agriculture. She is Albany FFA vice president and has participated in the Dairy Evaluation Career Development Event along with Creed Speaking and Parliamentary Procedure Leadership Development Events. She was the 2020 National FFA Fruit Production Proficiency winner.

Other finalists for the award included Wyatt Jenson – Edgerton FFA Chapter, Mikayla Thorson – Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted FFA Chapter and Elizabeth Thome – Southland FFA Chapter.

Minnesota FFA chartered nine new FFA chapters this year including Bethlehem Academy in Faribault, Cleveland, Crookston, Faribault, Granada-Huntley-East Chain, Integrated Arts Academy in Chaska, Isle, Park Rapids, and Willow River.

Wednesday's FFA Convention session was sponsored by the Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council. Recognition also included Agricultural Literacy awards presented to Sleepy Eye FFA, first place; Mora FFA, second; and Academy for Sciences and Agriculture, third. Together their efforts in agricultural literacy reached nearly 10,000 people. These awards were sponsored by Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom.

Supervised Agricultural Experience state winners in the categories of Natural Resources and Environmental Service Systems were recognized, along with Agriscience Fair participants in those categories.

Natural Resources and Environmental Service Systems Proficiency winners included:

- Agriscience Research Integrated Systems – Darrin Williamson, Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City, sponsored by the Minnesota Grain and Feed Association;
- Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management – Andy Krohnberg, United South Central, sponsored by Johnson Outdoors;
- Forest Management and Products – Joseph Fisher, Academy for Sciences and Agriculture, sponsored by Vermeer Sales and Service;
- Outdoor Recreation – Hunter Dow, Silver Bay, sponsored by Enbridge; and
- Wildlife Production and Management – Lance Sawatzky, Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg, sponsored by George and Mary Peichel.

Gold Award winners in the Agriscience Fair were Kaylee Wiink, Hancock; Simeon Rinne and Lindsey Christenson, both from the Academy for Sciences and Agriculture.

In her retiring address, Anna Euerle of Litchfield FFA, FFA State Reporter, told members they should recognize what makes them feel at home in order to seize new opportunities. Euerle, who describes herself as an introvert, shared her experience of overcoming her own reluctance to attend FFA Greenhand Camp during her speech entitled “I Just Want to Go Home.”

“Getting out there and taking advantage of every opportunity possible eliminates those ‘what ifs’ and turns them into memories made,” she said.

Convention participants were introduced to eight new FFA Region Presidents. They include:

Region I - Caidyn Johnson, of Fertile-Beltrami High School;
Region II - Jacob Anderson, of Grand Rapids High School;
Region III - Rylee Erickson, of Hancock High School;
Region IV - McKayla Carlson-Hughes, of Braham High School;
Region V - Natalie Beckendorf, of Renville County West High School;
Region VI - Marissa Johnson, of Tracy Area High School;
Region VII - Emma Kuball, of Waterville-Elysian-Morristown High School; and
Region VIII - Anne Simpson, of Pine Island High School.

The session also highlighted 13 high school FFA members who have committed to college courses that will prepare them to become agriculture educators upon graduation. A workshop corresponding to the "Teach Ag" effort was also part of the day's activities.

In addition, tributes to agricultural education teachers and FFA advisors were given by FFA members from across the state.

The Minnesota FFA Foundation Board of Trustees presented a Media Award for support of FFA to Michelle Rook, anchor with AgWeek and farm broadcaster with WNAX in Yankton, South Dakota.

FFA Chapters in schools across Minnesota participated in convention activities today such as a drawing to win a set of chapter jackets, service projects and efforts promoting the day's theme, *Tomorrow is Worth It!*

Workshops offered online included The Right Fit – Exploring post-secondary options to find the best fit for the future and Fortune Tellers: What challenges will agriculture face in the future. The online Blue Room provided students with presentations surrounding 21st 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.

###

Note: For many awards and events, photos can be obtained by emailing snewellopitz@gmail.com during convention week, and 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.mnffafoundation.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.

Learn more about the experiences of FFA members and supporters by visiting MnFFA.org and FFA.org.