



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Sherry Newell

Media Volunteer

snewellopitz@gmail.com

320-428-4628

State Degree Recipients Recognized at the Minnesota FFA Convention

Second session of convention includes Star awards, State FFA Degrees, Top Ten announcement, and retiring addresses from Lauren Stoel and Kaiya Grossman

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — The second session of the 2025 Minnesota FFA Convention in Minneapolis tonight (April 28) saw 451 students receive the State FFA Degree, while four members were named Stars for their efforts in the organization. The evening also included retiring addresses from Lauren Stoel and Kaiya Grossman, 2024-2025 state officers.

Stars

Four Minnesota FFA members were named as the organization's top achievers. These recognitions, known as the Star awards, are presented annually to the top individuals from four different Supervised Agricultural Experience areas and are sponsored by Compeer Financial Services. The Star awards program recognizes members for their outstanding achievement and dedication to their SAEs.

2025 State Star award winners are:

- Star Farmer: McKade Tewes, Jackson County Central FFA
- Star in Production: William Bastian, Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop FFA
- Star in Agribusiness: Jilian Schoenfeld, Russell-Tyler-Ruthton FFA
- Star in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource Sciences: Marin Knott, Tracy Area FFA

State Degrees

A record 451 agriculture, food and natural resources education students from across the state were awarded with Minnesota State FFA Degrees. The degree is given to the top

members of a state FFA Association, and only two percent of Minnesota FFA members earn the distinction. It demonstrates the student has put an exceptional amount of time into their FFA experience and has gone above and beyond in their local chapter and community. The state degree charms are sponsored by Riverview LLP.

Top Ten Chapters Announced

Minnesota's top three FFA Chapters were recognized, along with the remaining seven of the top 10 chapters. Over the past year, these chapters have been dedicated to furthering their education, working on various projects and carrying out community service initiatives. The Premier Chapter award is sponsored by Rosen's Diversified.

Glencoe-Silver Lake, Sleepy Eye, and St Paul - Highland Park are the top three schools with the Premier Chapter to be named from among the three during tomorrow's first session.

- Fourth Place, Rockford
- Fifth Place, Eden Valley-Watkins
- Sixth Place, Granada-Huntley-East
- Seventh Place, Tracy
- Eighth Place, Chatfield
- Ninth Place, Redwood Falls
- Tenth Place, Heron Lake-Okabena

Models of Innovation

The National Chapter Award Program recognizes FFA chapters that actively implement the mission and strategies of the organization. These chapters improve chapter operations that emphasize growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture. Chapters are rewarded for providing educational experiences for the entire membership. The Models of Innovation awards were sponsored by RDO Equipment/RDO Farms.

The overall winner is Sibley East in the Strengthening Agriculture category followed by ROCORI, and Highland Park.

In the category of Building Communities, winners were

- First Place: Sleepy Eye – Fall Pumpkins for our Seniors
- Second Place: Heron Lake – Trout in the Classroom
- Third Place: Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton – Songs in the Park

In the category of Growing Leaders, winners were:

- First Place: Sibley East – Mock Car Crash
- Second Place: Heron Lake-Okabena – Make Your Mark Greenhand Night
- Third Place: Mankato – Yard Game Night

Retiring addresses delivered



Retiring State FFA President Lauren Stoel from the Murray County Central FFA gave her retiring address. "Service has the power to light up the world and change lives for the better," Stoel said.

Additionally, retiring State FFA Secretary Kaiya Grossman from the Grand Rapids FFA Chapter presented her retiring address. "Remember, it's okay to be lost sometimes; it's in those moments of uncertainty that we may just discover our brightest colors yet," Grossman said.

State Officer Candidates Introduced

The following 16 individuals were announced as 2025-2026 state FFA officer candidates. The new officer team will be announced at the final session of the FFA convention on Tuesday evening.

- Adreanna Kaas, Milaca
- Alana Bromenschenkel, ROCORI
- Alex Johnson, Fosston
- Alexis Bailie, Fosston
- Alivia Butterfass, Morris
- Cameron Addington, Cannon Falls
- Dessa Terning, Dassel-Cokato
- Elsie Faux, Farmington
- Greta Kasper, Melrose
- Hailey Chambers, Medford
- Israel Treat, Deer River
- Keeley Runge, St. James
- Kelcie Kuschel, Sebeka
- Lauren Hunt, Willmar
- Madalyn Kronenberg, Sauk Rapids
- Paisley VonBerge, Hutchinson

Band and Chorus Concert

Preceding the session was the state FFA band and chorus concert. FFA members from across the state performed a wide variety of pieces. The FFA band is sponsored by Charles and Barb Melberg, and the FFA chorus is sponsored by Threads Custom Apparel.

Prior to the session, more than 4,000 FFA members attended a variety of workshops and tours focused on agriculture, food and natural resources, as well as leadership and personal development.

The convention's evening session was sponsored by the University of Minnesota College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences.

The Minnesota FFA Convention is offered in partnership by the Minnesota FFA Association, the Minnesota FFA Foundation and the Minnesota FFA Alumni and Supporters. Throughout the convention, content is available on the Minnesota FFA website, the Minnesota FFA YouTube Channel, and on the organization's Facebook and Instagram pages.

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About Minnesota FFA

FFA is a national organization developing students' potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) education with more than one million members in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Minnesota FFA Association represents more than 15,000 members and over 200 high school chapters across the state. AFNR education engages students through hands-on learning in the classroom, work-based learning opportunities known as Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects and FFA activities.

About Minnesota FFA Foundation

The Minnesota FFA Foundation hosts events to support more than 15,000 FFA members across Minnesota. The Minnesota FFA Foundation is incredibly honored to support the 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 AFNR education. To learn more about supporting Minnesota FFA through the Minnesota FFA Foundation at mnffaoundation.org.

About Minnesota FFA Alumni and Supporters

The Minnesota FFA Alumni and Supporters works to support more than 15,000 FFA members, through Alumni and Supporters Chapters 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 Agriculture 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 and Supporters at MNFFAAlumni.org. Learn more about the experiences of FFA members and supporters by visiting MNFFA.org and FFA.org.