



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.*

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

2007 Stars Over Iowa Winners 79th Iowa FFA Leadership Conference

The 2007 Stars Over Iowa were announced at Hilton Coliseum, Ames, on Tuesday, April 17, 2007. Twenty finalists were introduced in four different areas: Agricultural Placement, Agriscience, Agribusiness, and Agricultural Production. The members were selected as a result of receiving the Iowa FFA Degree. The Iowa FFA Degree is the highest honor that can be bestowed on an FFA member by the state association. Four hundred sixty-eight members received the Iowa FFA Degree in 2007 and twenty of those members were selected for outstanding recognition in the Stars Over Iowa ceremony.

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., through the Iowa FFA Foundation, sponsors plaques for each of the twenty finalists and for each area winner. The Iowa Farmer Today, through the Iowa FFA Foundation, sponsored cash awards for each of the Star finalists.

Star in Agricultural Placement Finalists

- Chad Fertig, East Sac FFA Chapter, WLVA HS, Lake View
- Calvin Pudenz, Carroll Area FFA Chapter, Carroll HS, Carroll
- Clint Moser, Central Trail FFA Chapter, Central Decatur HS, Leon
- Kyle Thelen, Creston FFA Chapter, Creston HS, Creston
- Glen Worrell, Prairie Valley FFA Chapter, Prairie Valley HS, Gowrie
- Andy Schiltz, Cascade FFA Chapter, Cascade HS, Cascade

The winner of the 2007 Star in Agricultural Placement was Chad Fertig of the East Sac FFA Chapter at Lake View. Fertig began working at Fertig Dairy Farms about ten years ago and as a freshman, Fertig established this work experience as his SAE. During Fertig's freshmen year, the operation had 68 milk cows, 60 feeder calves, and 520 acres of row crops. His initial interest was to have an after school job and worked 20 to 30 hours per week. At that time, Fertig did simple chores with his father. Soon his interest grew and he developed a passion for production agriculture. Fertig has advanced to where he works side-by-side with his father and assists with management decisions. The operation now has 76 milk cows, 100 feeder calves, and 550 acres of row crop. Fertig's work experience has also included contributions to many building and facility improvements. In addition, Fertig now rents ten acres of crop ground, which he makes all management decisions such as planting, harvesting, and chemical use.

Upon graduation, Fertig plans to attend Iowa State University, majoring in Dairy Science and Agronomy.

Fertig is the son of Dale and Sharon Fertig. His chapter advisors are Mr. Scott Johnson and Ms. Michelle Lund.

Star in Agriscience Finalists

- Mary Foell, Schaller-Crestland FFA Chapter, Schaller-Crestland HS, Early
- Kelcey Garrett, West Central FFA Chapter, West Central Valley HS, Stuart
- Michael Fosdick, Mediapolis FFA Chapter, Mediapolis HS, Mediapolis

The winner of the 2007 Star in Agriscience was Michael Fosdick of the Mediapolis FFA Chapter at Mediapolis. As a freshman, Fosdick began his Agriscience research studying the effect of soybean aphid pesticide on the soybean aphid's predator: the Asian lady beetle. . As a sophomore, he continued his Agriscience passion with a project on the effect of soybean rust fungicide on the soybean aphid predators: the Asian Lady beetle and the lacewing. In the summer of 2006, Fosdick conducted field research for Iowa State University. He worked with Entomologist Matt O'Neal to experiment with soybean aphid populations and predator research. Aside from Agriscience he also works at HB Environmental Solutions where he constructs liners for mobile transportation units used for cattle hides.

Upon graduation, he plans to attend Iowa State University, majoring in Ag Business.

Fosdick is the son of Gerald Fosdick and Maureen Fosdick. His chapter advisor is Ms. Julie Crozier.

Star in Agribusiness Finalists

- Landon Faris, South Hardin FFA Chapter, ENP HS, Eldora
- Brad McDonald, West Delaware FFA Chapter, West Delaware HS, Manchester
- Brian Staner, Cascade FFA Chapter, Cascade HS, Cascade
- Tyler Knuth, Atlantic FFA Chapter, Atlantic HS, Atlantic
- Kara Moser, West Lyon FFA Chapter, West Lyon HS, Inwood

The 2007 Star in Agribusiness is Landon Faris from the South Hardin FFA Chapter from Eldora-New Providence High School at Eldora. As a freshman, Faris started in the tractor restoration business by restoring a Farmall 450. Since that time, he has gained extensive knowledge in the area of engine overhaul, transmission repair and paint and body work. Faris has more than tripled his customer base since his freshman year and to date has restored 11 tractors on his own and helped on many others. Faris has taken his tractors to the Iowa State Fair, local parades and participated in tractor pull competitions. In addition to his Tractor Restoration SAE, Faris also is in demand by area producers for fieldwork and livestock production.

Upon graduation, Faris plans to attend Iowa State University, pursuing a major in Agricultural Systems Technology.

Faris is the son of Kim and Nancy Faris of Union. His chapter advisor is Ms. Linda Haywood.

Star in Agricultural Production Finalists

- Spencer Jordan, Linn-Mar FFA Chapter, Linn-Mar HS, Marion
- Chance Ferguson, Laurens-Marathon Tall Corn FFA Chapter, Laurens-Marathon HS, Laurens
- Matt McLaughlin, Audubon FFA Chapter, Audubon HS, Audubon
- Travis Nelson, Mediapolis FFA Chapter, Mediapolis HS, Mediapolis
- Jeremy Wurzer, Sumner-Fredericksburg FFA Chapter, Sumner-Fredericksburg HS, Sumner
- Anna Troester, Tri-Star FFA Chapter, Clayton Ridge HS, Guttenberg

Spencer Jordan of the Linn-Mar FFA Chapter at Marion is the 2007 Star in Agricultural Production. As a freshman, Jordan began his SAE project in the area of beef and swine production. Jordan has increased his beef cow-calf herd to 20 head. He also raised five head of market beef, and 30 head of market hogs. To gain additional experience, Jordan worked on a purebred hog farm as a swine specialist which assisted to his extensive knowledge in selecting livestock, animal nutrition, health management, record keeping, and marketing.

Upon graduation, Jordan will attend Iowa State University, majoring in Agricultural Studies and return to the family farm.

Jordan is the son of Jeff and Marcia Jordan. His chapter advisor is Ms. Barbara Lemmer.

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.

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