

# PROFICIENCY AWARD WINNERS 2011

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## **Agricultural Communications Proficiency Winner – Heather Milbrath (Bottineau)**

**by Annette Tait**

### **Agriculture? Milbrath's Got the Story Wrapped**

Heather Milbrath not only knows how to meet her deadlines but can also juggle her assignments. These skills have been developed over years as a reporter, first for her high school newspaper, *The Chippewa*, and more recently at the *Bottineau Courant*. Heather's experience will serve her well as she pursues a career in the field of agriculture communications.

Heather's career with *The Courant* has developed right along with her journalism skills. Early on, she was assigned smaller stories that were due within the week. Now Heather works on more detailed articles and also takes photos to illustrate her work. She has learned to be very organized, disciplined and professional in order to conduct interviews and research and complete her assignments on time.

One advantage of working for a newspaper is, "it helped me out a lot in school," wrote Heather in her proficiency. "I now find it very easy to write essays, even very lengthy ones, on a short deadline."

Heather's advisor, Gerald Wettlaufer, concurs. In his recommendation of Heather, Wettlaufer wrote: "She has written many feature stories and does the work of a professional," also noting that Heather, "is a very good spokesperson for the FFA and our school."

A very active FFA member, Heather was chapter president her senior year and has also served as vice president and secretary. She attended National Convention in 2008 and State Convention each year 2008 – 2010. Heather participated in numerous FFA activities, earned Star Greenhand and Star Chapter, and won awards in Ag Communications, Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Job Interview, Food Science (2008-2010), Creed Contest and Ag Mechanics. In addition to FFA activities, she participated in the Science Olympiad 2005-2010, earning a trip to the national competition in 2007. Heather was elected to student council 2007-2010 and served as president her senior year.

Heather is a 2011 graduate of Bottineau High School. She plans to attend North Dakota State University where she will major in Agriculture Communication and minor in Agribusiness. Heather is the daughter of Dean and Tami Milbrath of Bottineau.

The Agricultural Communications Proficiency awards are sponsored by Dakota Plains Cooperative and BI.

## **Ag Education Proficiency Winner – Jordan Zietz (Minot)**

**By Annette Tait**

### **Zietz' Goals Read Like Her Lesson Plans — Organized and On Target**

Agriculture Education Proficiency winner Jordan Zietz has plenty of practice at her chosen career—she's been teaching and mentoring youngsters in the Partners in Active Learning Support (PALS) program for the past four years and providing guidance to her peers in FFA and agriculture classes for nearly as long. All the while this motivated young woman successfully balanced her studies with a number of extracurricular activities, which she feels are an essential part of her life.

Jordan's drive and motivation are not uncommon among FFA members; and these characteristics surely helped drive her early identification of her chosen career as a freshman in high school. As Jordan wrote in her application, "I was fortunate to have the advantage of going to a big school, with a wonderful agriculture education program. ... I also consider it an advantage to have four advisors instead of one, as is the case in many schools."

The advantage she received was one Jordan passed on to others—to elementary students in the Community Learning Center (CLC) program, students in the PALS program and to her peers by developing and implementing lesson plans to assist others in the process of writing their proficiencies. Jordan's dedication to agriculture is also apparent in her efforts to help those who are removed from agriculture to understand its role in North Dakota's economy and "not take it for granted." Agriculture Instructor Tracy Hartwig praised Jordan's efforts in these areas, writing in her recommendation that Jordan "shows outstanding leadership skills, is a motivated individual and sets a great example for the younger members."

Jordan is a 2011 graduate of Magic City Campus with a 3.5 grade point average. She has been active in FFA throughout her high school career, holding the chapter presidency her senior year, serving as a junior officer her sophomore and junior years, and participating in the PALS Program all four years of high school. Jordan's many FFA accomplishments include 2009 District Agriculture Education Proficiency Winner, team and individual gold awards in Crops Judging, numerous awards and committee positions, and service in support of her chapter and her community. In addition to FFA achievements, Jordan was a Key Club member, August 2008 Student of the Month, a Magi Award Finalist, earned a place on the MHS Honor Roll and participated in the McHenry County Saddle Club.

Jordan is the daughter of James and Lisa Zietz of Minot. She plans to attend the University of Wyoming to earn a degree in Agriculture Education, after which she wants to return to North Dakota to teach in a rural setting.

The Agriculture Education Proficiency awards are sponsored by the ND Association of Agricultural Educators, The James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation, and the Tulsa Welding School.

## **Agricultural Mechanics Design & Fabrication Placement Proficiency - Dylan Johnson**

**By Myron Johs**

During his junior year of high school, Dylan Johnson enrolled in a construction class at the Southeast Region Career and Technical Center to learn how to build houses. "Right away I fell in love with the program and quickly realized this was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life," Dylan stated. He began working for Bernstein Construction of Wahpeton, ND, in the summer of 2009.

Dylan started on smaller projects like sidewalks and soon progressed to bigger and more complicated projects. Dylan gained many skills that are needed in the construction industry. He learned how to use the different floats and trowels, operate power floats, a power screed, and concrete edgers. He learned how to place and tie re-bars, pour footings and foundation walls, and build houses.

A 2010 graduate of Richland 44 High School in Colfax, ND, Dylan enrolled in the Building Construction Technology and Construction Management course at the North Dakota State School of Science in Wahpeton, ND. While enrolled in a commercial construction class, he was part of the group that helped build a new culinary arts building for the Southeast Region Technology Center. Dylan's ultimate goal is to one day own and operate his own construction business.

Dylan's parents are Albert Johnson and Cheryl Dalton. His advisor is Tony Boehm. The State Agricultural Mechanics Design & Fabrication Placement proficiency award is sponsored by James Valley Grain Elevator. The National Sponsors are RAM Trucks and Carry-On Trailer Corporation.

## **Agricultural Mechanics Repair & Maintenance Placement Proficiency Award - Devin Deile**

**By Myron Johs**

Devin Deile, a recent graduate of Wishek High School, was selected as the winner of the Agricultural Mechanics Repair & Maintenance Proficiency award at the State FFA Convention in Fargo, ND. Devin started working on his proficiency area in 2007.

Devin enjoys being outside and working with his hands. He started working on his Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program by tearing out old fences and installing new barbed wire fences and posts. In 2009, Devin started working as a roofer. Some of his duties were to remove the old shingles, repair the roof, if necessary, then lay down the new felt and start placing the new shingles. His most important goal for both of these jobs was to advance in rank and work his way up the ladder as he gained more experience.

Devin has joined the military and will be sent to AIT (Advanced Individual Training) for eight weeks for training as a heavy equipment operator and mechanic. He plans to return in September and begin roofing, farming, while keeping up with his military obligations, and working at the John Deere dealership in Wishek. In January, 2012, he plans to enroll at Bismarck State College and receive a degree in Business Management. He hopes to begin his own shingling business after he earns his degree.

Devin's parents are Glen and Carrie Deile of Wishek. His advisor is Rocky Brown.

The State Agricultural Mechanics Repair & Maintenance Placement Proficiency award is sponsored by Butler Machinery. The National sponsors are Tractor Supply Company and Hobart Welding Products.

## **Agricultural Processing Proficiency Winner - Matthew Mattern**

**By Myron Johs**

Matt Mattern just completed his junior year at Rugby High School and has been named the state winner in the FFA Agricultural Processing Placement Proficiency award area. Matt has been employed by Mattern Meats of Rugby, ND, which is a meats processing plant owned and operated by his grandparents.

Matt is involved in all aspects of the processing operation. It includes slaughtering the animal, transporting the meat to the facility, cutting the meat into the different cuts, de-boning, and grinding the meat to make hamburger and sausage. Cleaning the equipment and keeping the facility clean are some other important jobs that Matt does.

Matt stated that he needed to earn some money to pay for some "things" that he wanted to purchase. Since his grandparents needed help, they asked him to help out at the shop and that he would get paid. He has learned a lot and has put his meat cutting experience to good use by participating in the state FFA Meats Selection Career Development Event where he received a gold award in 2010, and his team placed second at state.

Matt's future plans include attending college for repairing and customizing snowmobiles, four wheelers and motorcycles, and to eventually start his own business.

His parents are Lawrence and Deb Mattern. His advisors are Richard Vannett and Jason Mongeon. The State Sponsor is the North Dakota Ag Products Utilization Commission. The National Sponsors are the Archer Daniels Midland Company and the CHS Foundation.

## **Ag Sales Entrepreneurship Proficiency Winner – Preston Gilderhaus (Maddock)**

**By Erica Spangelo**

Preston Gilderhaus, a recent graduate of Maddock High School, won the Agricultural Sales Entrepreneurship Proficiency award at the State FFA Convention in Fargo June 6-10. Preston has sold sweet corn for the last six years and has recently bolstered his agri-business to include selling truck beds.

With the encouragement of his father, Edwin, Preston began selling sweet corn the summer before entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade in order to learn how to manage a business. Since beginning this business, Preston has taken a serious interest in providing the best product for his consumers. He even planted three varieties of sweet corn to determine which would appeal to the customers the most and have the best flavor. Throughout the course of his business plan, he has continued to expand his network of area businesses and markets that he provides with sweet corn. Gary Wald, Preston's Ag. Ed advisor, explained that Preston's strength in this business is his "diligent record keeping".

Throughout high school, Preston has been actively involved in the FFA by serving as Chapter President for two years, attending numerous leadership conferences, state conventions, and national conventions, and participating in various Career Development Events such as Prepared Public Speaking. Similarly, he has been an active member of the Maddock School by participating in yearbook, speech, student council, band, choir, drama, and golf. Preston's ambitious nature will serve him well as he attends North Dakota State University in the fall majoring in Industrial Engineering and Management.

The state sponsor for the Agricultural Sales Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award is Bob Spangelo and the National Sponsors are Crop Production Services and Monsanto.

## **Ag Sales Placement Proficiency Winner – Brandon Meyer (Oakes/SC)**

**By Erica Spangelo**

Brandon Meyer, a freshmen at Valley City State University, won the Agricultural Sales Placement Proficiency Award at the State FFA Convention in Fargo June 6-10. Brandon's proficiency award is based on his work at Praska's Hardware Hank and Geffre's Greenhouse and Small Animal Sales in Oakes, ND.

Brandon began his work at the hardware store four years ago as a means of interacting with people while also learning more about the different areas of supplies for repairs that the hardware store offers. Brandon began as a cashier and has since taken on more technical responsibilities such as mixing paint and cutting class and keys. While also working at Hardware Hank, Brandon also worked at a greenhouse and small animal care business in order to learn more about the different nursery products and animals for sale.

These two experiences have helped Brandon solidify his career goal of becoming a game warden through His enrollment at Valley City State University in the game and fish management program. His experience at Hardware Hank provided him with the opportunity to sell bait and licenses to customers while familiarizing himself with the regulations and laws of North Dakota. In a vote of confidence for Brandon's future, his advisor, Daniel Spellerberg, said, "Brandon is a very intelligent young man who possesses a great deal of knowledge about every phase of the hardware store business. His skills and dedication to agriculture will make him an asset to the industry and community for many years to come."

The state Agricultural Sales Placement Proficiency award sponsor is Farmers Union Service Association and the national sponsor is Vigartone Ag Products.

## **Ag Service Proficiency Winner – Phillip Wanner (Wishek)**

**By Erica Spangelo**

Phillip Wanner, a junior at Wishek High School, won the Agricultural Service Placement Proficiency award at the State FFA Convention in Fargo June 6-10. Phillip has worked for four years as a field scout for Centre Crop Consulting, his father's business.

Phillip began working as a field scout alongside his dad in order to learn the procedures and processes of checking the fields for weeds, disease, insects, etc. Since then Philip has become responsible for checking the fields by himself and relaying the information to the bookkeeper. Phillip puts in long days driving around checking fields, so that he can correctly convey the information necessary to customers.

He began this proficiency with the goals of earning some money and learning more about the career field of agronomy. He has accomplished those goals and has found that he has "a passion for agriculture". Not only has he learned he is passionate about agriculture, but he has learned patience, responsibility, and good work ethic.

Phillip has been active in the Wishek FFA chapter serving as Chapter Vice-President and Treasurer, and participating in Career Development Events, such as Crops Judging, Farm Business Management, Nursery Judging, Dairy Cattle Judging, and Meats Judging. As if Phillip wasn't busy enough with his FFA activities, he is also an active member of the Wishek school participating in various sports, student council, drama, speech, band, and science fair. Rocky Brown, Phillip's FFA advisor, said, "One thing that definitely shows in his work and FFA involvement is Phillip's work ethic. Because of this, he is an extremely liked employee and student, who is very dependable. He is an individual that you can put on a project and know with confidence that it will get done both on time and correctly."

Phillip will begin his senior year at Wishek in the fall where he will determine his course of action for after graduation. However, his "passion for agriculture" is sure to play a part in that decision.

The state sponsor the Agricultural Service Placement Proficiency is ND Grain Dealers Association and the National Sponsor is Agricredit Acceptance LLC

## Hall is State Beef Entrepreneur

by Doug Vannurden

The North Dakota FFA Association has named Ian Hall of Berthold as the State Beef Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award winner.

Since 2007, Ian has been investing in heifers and building a foundation for his registered and commercial Angus, Simmental and Sim-Angus herd which has now grown to include 21 cows, 13 heifers, 3 market steers and 4 bulls. He has recently partnered with his brother to purchase ten embryos from a noted regional breeder to improve his herd genetics.

Ian shows representatives of his herd at area livestock shows including the North Dakota State Fair to display a positive image for the genetics of “Hall Stock Farm” and promote his cattle to potential customers. He markets his bulls by private treaty as well as by consigning bulls and bred heifers to the North Dakota state Angus and Simmental sales. He is continuing to use advanced reproductive strategies like estrous synchronization, artificial insemination, and embryo transfer to rapidly improve his herds’ genetic base.

Ian has earned many awards in livestock judging, including being a member of the champion State FFA Livestock Judging Team that was the high team in beef judging at the 2009 National FFA Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event. Ian was also the high individual in the 2009 State FFA Meats Career Development Event. He participated in the ND Stockman’s Association Beef mentorship program in the summer of 2010 and is actively participating in the Masters of Beef Advocacy Program with the National Cattleman’s Beef Association.

Ian is currently attending North Dakota State University majoring in animal science. He is serving as a State FFA Officer as the Northwest Region FFA Vice President. His parents are Curtis and Leann Hall of Berthold.

The beef production proficiency awards are provided by the North Dakota Stockmen’s Association and the national sponsors are Bayer Animal Health and NASCO Division of Nasco International, Inc.

## **Samantha Ritten is Beef Placement Award Winner**

**By Doug Vannurden**

Samantha Ritten, Wyndmere, has been recognized as the State Winner of the Beef Placement Proficiency Award for the North Dakota FFA. State plaques are sponsored by the North Dakota Stockmen's Association, and Midwest PMS and CattleCo are the national sponsors of the \$250 cash award.

Samantha is the daughter of Mark and Sharon Ritten of rural Wyndmere and a member of the Wyndmere FFA Chapter. Samantha is employed as a vital part of her families "Lone Wolf Ranch" where she has developed a wide array of skills that are a tremendous asset to the ranch. Lone Wolf Ranch consists of over 200 commercial cows and over 4000 acres of forage, pasture, and crop production. She is active in all facets of the operation and has shown quality cattle at local and regional fairs and livestock shows. She has developed her livestock selection abilities that have greatly impacted the selection of replacement heifers. Her showmanship experiences have not only helped to promote their cattle but have helped the ranch keep up with trends in the livestock industry.

Her father Mark Ritten says "When we purchase cattle, we take into consideration Samantha's opinion about the quality of the animal." He also notes that he would rather have her helping with many aspects of the operation than hiring someone else.

Samantha is also an active 4-H member and leader. She is a member of the Wyndmere FFA Meats Evaluation team and has been active in band and chorus. She is a 2011 Honor Graduate of Wyndmere High School and plans to attend the University of North Dakota this fall.

## **Dairy Production Entrepreneurship – Kristi Tonnessen (Granville)**

**by Kim Ripplinger**

Kristi Marie Tonnessen won the Dairy Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award at the 2011 North Dakota FFA State Convention recently held in Fargo, North Dakota. Kristi is a senior from Towner, North Dakota and a member of the Granville FFA Chapter. She became interested in dairy production while exhibiting Brown Swiss dairy cattle at the North Dakota State Fair. Cooper, Kristi's older brother, inspired her to develop her SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) program. Kristi was a member of the 2010 North Dakota State Champion Dairy Cattle Evaluation Career Development Event team with the Granville FFA Chapter, which nationally received 19th place, and personally, Kristi was in the top 25% of the nation.

Kristi wanted to raise high quality dairy females, increase her business skills, and run a successful operation within her SAE. Two important advantages that she values are the two dairy heifers given to her by her parents and the opportunities her FFA advisor, Mr. Hagel, has supplied. The Curtis Bohl Dairy in Rugby, North Dakota has been essential in Kristi's operation. They currently milk the cows in exchange for providing feed and care. The dairy heifer calves and other dairy females are incorporated into the Tonnessen herd. Kristi plans to market any bull calves and the heifers are to be sold to dairy producers. A recent yearling heifer was sold to a Drake/Anamoose FFA member so that member could begin a dairy production SAE. The Brown Swiss breed has always been a personal favorite for Kristi. She believes they are more eye appealing and have a consistent production number. Dairy showmanship, dairy cattle evaluation, and a pedigree selection and sire selection are areas Kristi strives to learn about to further the quality of her cattle.

Kristi is 2011 valedictorian of her high school class and has had a perfect attendance record for eight years. She plans to attend North Dakota State University to study pre-optometry or physical therapy and will continue her FFA involvement through the NDSU Post Secondary Agriculture Student/Collegiate FFA Organization. One day Kristi envisions herself obtaining a job in North Dakota and maintaining a few head of dairy and beef cattle.

The Dairy Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency state award is sponsored by the North Dakota Division of the Midwest Dairy Association and the national sponsors are New Holland and DeLaval, Inc..

## **Dairy Production Placement Proficiency Winner – Jared Nash (Richland 44)**

**By Kim Ripplinger**

Jared Nash is the Dairy Production Placement Proficiency Award winner. He is a senior at Richland High School and is a member of the Richland 44 FFA Chapter. Jared received his award at the ND State FFA Convention held recently in Fargo, North Dakota.

Jared was born and raised on the family dairy farm, Nash Dairy. He is fascinated by Holstein cattle and has enjoyed milking them since 2002. Jared's primary objective is to one day own and operate his own dairy. He finds that the daily learning factor and the expertise his father shares are key tools in reaching that goal. The first-hand experience is a privilege for Jared, and he continues to learn how to take care of the herd and to keep them healthy. The dairy tasks include feeding calves, spreading hay, sanitation and fly control, and many other chores required on a dairy farm. Jared continues to learn about breeding cattle, producing feed, and the general biology of Holsteins. He knows the importance of successfully artificially inseminating the cattle. The hard work and long hours can be challenging, but Jared appreciates the responsibility and satisfaction of a job well done.

Nash Dairy has a state-of-the-art milking parlor with twelve automatic milking machines. With a herd of around 130 Holsteins, Jared and his family can efficiently milk them in about two hours. Many other tasks can be completed within this time, such as artificial insemination, treating diseases, and testing milk quality. Jared uses anti-bacterial dipping to guarantee the highest quality of milk and to avoid a high somatic cell count and a decreased price. One of Jared's first jobs on the family dairy was to wash the parlor with a power-washer. This is essential to keep everything free of pathogens. The youngest of three children, Jared takes great pride in his mechanic skills. He states that he has to think creatively and form a plan to fix the machinery. With today's current prices, he knows that he can save a lot of money by repairing things himself rather than hiring the work done. Jared's most accomplished skill is feeding the calves. This required meticulous technique and extended patience.

Jared Nash not only works hard on his family dairy farm as an employee and entrepreneur but also strives for a 4.0 grade point average and excelling in track. He plans to study business management and dairy production and is currently researching college and scholarship opportunities. Richland 44 FFA Advisor, Tony Boehm is excited to see Jared's growth.

The Dairy Production Placement Proficiency state award is sponsored by the North Dakota Division of the Midwest Dairy Association. The national sponsors are GEA Farm Technologies and Kuhn North America.

## **Diversified Ag Production Proficiency Winner – Josh Stutrud from Rugby**

**By Kim Ripplinger**

Josh Stutrud, from Barton, North Dakota and a recent graduate at Rugby High School, won the Diversified Agricultural Production Proficiency award at the 2011 State FFA Convention held in Fargo, North Dakota. Growing up on a fourth generation family farm, Josh developed his Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) as an eighth grader.

Josh began by renting land and owning a small herd of cattle, and he has continued to expand his production in both areas. He has a labor exchange agreement with his father and grandfather, and is considered an indispensable employee. Josh completes all farm work with initiative and has ownership of the task. He utilizes a good crop rotation practice, crop insurance as a risk management tool, GPS technology, soil testing and moisture testing for hay bales and data cards. He utilizes both a marketing service and an order buyer and has developed a marketing plan to assure the optimal time to market his grain. Josh, also, uses his award winning FFA crop judging skills to scout for weeds and insects.

Josh has an impressive passion for the FFA. As a high school sophomore, Josh won a state championship proficiency and his goals did not end there. He is determined to become a Star Farmer and earn his American Farmer Degree. The knowledge and experience passed down from his father and grandfather are of great value to Josh. Described as motivated, enthusiast, dependable, and someone with a high quality work ethic, Josh Stutrud is considered a role model in the FFA. A member of both national gold award and state championship teams, Josh is committed to excellence.

Josh will attend North Dakota State University in the fall to earn a Crop and Weed Science degree with a minor in Agricultural Economics. Upon graduation, he plans to return to the family farm and become an active partner. He knows that the leadership skills he has acquired in the FFA will help him both as a successful farmer and as an active member in his community.

The Diversified Agricultural Production Proficiency state award is sponsored by the Lisbon FFA Chapter. The national sponsor is the J. R. Simplot Company.

## **Diversified Crop Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award - Vance Zacharias**

**By Ken Astrup**

Vance Zacharias, a sophomore at NDSU and the SE Region State FFA Vice President, won the Diversified Crop Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency award at the State FFA Convention, held on the campus of North Dakota State University. He won the award for his farming operation.

Vance began farming with his father and uncle. When his uncle decided to retire, Vance purchased his uncle's land and began farming his own operation in 2008.

Working with his family's operation allowed Vance the opportunity to rent equipment and facilities, thus avoiding the high cost of the initial investment and benefitting from his father's knowledge and experience. Vance credits part of his success to the skills he learned in FFA.

Vance said, "Through FFA, I had the opportunity to learn about weed and insects that affect crops and was able to scout my fields, knowing what to look for. FFA has also provided me the tools and the reasons to be a leader in my community."

In 2010 Vance won the National Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production Proficiency award at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN.

Zacharias's award was sponsored by Viterra / Dakota Growers Pasta Company. The national sponsor is the CHS Foundation.

## **Diversified Crop Production Placement Proficiency Award - Michael Ostrem**

**By Ken Astrup**

Michael Ostrem, a 2011 graduate of Rugby High School, won the proficiency award in Diversified Crop Production at the State FFA Convention, for his involvement in the family farm operation.

Michael credits his involvement in FFA and the family's operation with giving him the knowledge to succeed in agriculture. "Through FFA I have learned the importance and procedures of proper maintenance of equipment and proper handling of crop chemicals. It has allowed me to play a bigger role in our farming operation," Michael said.

Mike has a dream of owning and operating Rugby Livestock someday. He is well on his way, last summer Mike attended Western College of Auctioneering in Billings, Montana where he was named outstanding student. Mike has used his talents in auctioneering to benefit the ND FFA Alumni and ND FFA Foundation, the Rugby FFA , and the Carrington FFA Chapter by serving as an auctioneer for their fundraisers.

Mike was also a very active FFA member being part of three state champion SAE teams. He has earned a gold award in six different FFA judging contest and was named the District 3 President of the Day.

Michael plans to attend North Dakota State University this fall, majoring in animal science. His award sponsors are Steve and Cynthia Strege, and Crop Production Services and National Crop Insurance Services are the national sponsors for this award.

## **Diversified Horticulture Proficiency Award - Hannah Mitskog (Richland 44)**

**By Jon Leadbetter**

Hannah Mitskog, a senior at Richland 44 High School, won the Diversified Horticulture Placement Proficiency award at the State FFA Convention in Fargo, ND. Hannah began her Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) in 2007 and has been keeping accurate records of her activities on her family's lawn and garden.

Hannah began gardening with her mother when she was very young by doing the simple tasks of watering and planting seeds but has now progressed to completely managing all of the tasks with the garden and maintenance of their yard. Hannah strives to keep a healthy and productive garden to ensure a large crop when the time comes to harvest. She has enjoyed working in the garden and the satisfaction of harvesting her crop and either eating or donating the crop to senior citizens.

Through this project Hannah has learned to work hard and pay attention to detail. Hard work from this project has transferred over into her school and FFA activities as she has pushed herself to be very active in her school. Her advisor Mr. Tony Boehm states, "Hannah is certainly one of the most active members in her class. She is a terrific young lady and I really appreciate having her in my class and a member of our FFA chapter."

Hannah hopes to maintain her gardening and learn as much as she can about the different techniques and strategies to gardening. She plans to attend the University of North Dakota upon graduation for dentistry.

The Diversified Horticulture Proficiency state award sponsor is the Wahpeton FFA Chapter, and the national sponsor is Nationwide Insurance Foundation.

## **Diversified Livestock Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award - Nevada Turbiville**

Nevada Turbiville, a recent graduate of Scranton High School, won the Diversified Livestock Production Proficiency award at the State FFA Convention in Fargo, ND in June. Nevada began keeping his proficiency records in 2006.

Nevada began his diversified livestock operation by purchasing purebred cattle and then continued to diversify by purchasing hogs and sheep. He has kept back most of his heifers to build up his herd and continues to strive towards quality production. Nevada shows many of his animals and believes that is a good way to demonstrate the quality of his herd and help his marketing ability.

Nevada has learned through this project the appreciation of hard work, good record keeping and the skill of selecting quality stock to better his herd. Nevada wishes to continue raising beef cattle and hopes to pursue an agricultural economics and range science degrees in college. He hopes to start a career while continuing to farm and ranch.

Nevada has been very active in the FFA and other school activities and advisor Misty Steeke states, "Nevada is the type of producer that we need for the beef industry and has put in the necessary time to be successful."

The Diversified Livestock Production Proficiency state awards are sponsored by Tammy Meyer, Bernard & Jean Meyer. The national sponsors are Tractor Supply Company and the Wahl Clipper Corporation.

## **Emerging Agricultural Technology Proficiency – Joe Berg (Minot)**

Joe Berg, a Minot FFA member, is the winner of the Emerging Agricultural Technology Proficiency award that was announced at the State FFA Convention in June. Joe started out his working life by working on his uncle's farm near Flasher in 2003. He learned much from his uncle: he learned identification of crops and weeds and also the variety of areas in the agricultural industry. One of the disadvantages of this job was that it was 200 miles away from his hometown. So Joe started working at the North Central Research Center under Brian Jenks, the weed scientist. Joe worked as a crop scout where one of his duties was to spray for weeds and he also helped with an experimental trial on prickly lettuce in Velva. Joe also was able to distinguish when to spray and select chemical to use on test plots.

Currently, Joe works for SunPrieirie Grain in Minot where he sells seed and runs test plots. These test plots enable the business to see what new and upcoming seed varieties are hardy and strong enough to grow in North Dakota. Some of the skills Joe learned in the FFA was knowledge of crops, weed seed identification and plant identification when he was on the crops judging team for the Minot FFA. He also credits the FFA with improving his leadership skills and public speaking skills.

The Emerging Agricultural Technology Proficiency awards are sponsored by the ND Farmers Union, BASF, and Ag Leader Technology.

## **Environmental Science & Natural Resource Management Proficiency Winner – Jenna Gross**

Jenna Gross, a Napoleon FFA member, was named the winner of the Environmental Science and Natural Resource Management Proficiency at the State FFA Convention in June. Jenna was awarded this honor because of her work at the NDSU Central Grasslands Research Extension Center (CGREC) as an ag technician and her volunteer work at the Logan County Natural Resources Conversation Service (NRCS).

Jenna has learned much from her two jobs. Jenna said, “My job at the NRCS office has greatly increased my knowledge of day-to-day activities at the NRCS. I have been able to observe interaction between the conservationists and producers who are interested in implementing environmental improvement plans. At the CGREC I learned the importance of a rotational grazing system.”

Duties from her CGREC employment included maintaining and caring for commercial livestock research herd such as checking animal health, treating sick animals, and feeding livestock. The NRCS office duties, which began as part of a cooperative work experience program through the school, included secretarial duties, entering data to assist with planning conservation practices, and ranking federal funding applications.

Jenna is on the right track to meeting her goals which are to complete her Associate in Applied Science degree in Farm and Ranch Management at Bismarck State College, obtaining a bachelor’s degree from North Dakota State University in Animal and Range Science, and perhaps working as a Rangeland Management Specialist while ranching.

The Environmental Science and Natural Resource Management Proficiency awards are sponsored by Bridgette and Randy Readel/Dow Chemical. The national sponsor is Triscuit.

## **Equine Science Entrepreneurship Proficiency Winner – Janna Rice**

Janna Rice, a Maddock FFA member, won the Equine Science Entrepreneurship Proficiency award at the State FFA Convention in June. Janna's love for horses started at a young age. Since she was 10 years old, Janna has shown horses at the local, district and state level. Janna's mother, a veterinarian, encouraged Janna to work with horses and to begin training horses for sale.

Janna has learned much about horses over the years; she has learned the importance of grooming, training horses with a cool and calm manner, and keeping track of expenses and income to insure her enterprise is successful. In addition to Janna's training and selling horses, she also teaches riding lessons. She not only teaches her students to ride and respect their horses, she also gives them pointers on showing horses.

Showing horses for so many years has increased Janna's visibility in the community and around the state as a knowledgeable trainer. This exposure has helped in selling many of her trained horses. Janna also belongs to the American Paint Horse Association and the American Quarter Horse Association. Janna used her knowledge and skill as a horsewoman to assist her local hippology teams and horse judging teams compete. She helped coach the local 4-H hippology team as well as the local 4-H and FFA equine judging teams. The 4-H hippology team received first place in the state last year; the 4-H horse judging team was first place in the state and participated in the National 4-H Contest; and the Maddock FFA horse judging team was first in the state in 2010 and received a gold award at the National FFA Convention.

Janna plans to attend North Dakota State University and earn a degree in equine science and education. She will continue to expand her horse training business as well as farming with her parents.

The state sponsors for the Equine Science Entrepreneurship awards are Wade and Lynn Moser. The national sponsors are Land O' Lakes Feed/Purina Mill and Keystone Steel and Wire Company-Red Brand.

## **Equine Science Placement Proficiency Winner – Kalli Jo Scherbenske**

Kalli Jo Scherbenske was the winner of the Equine Science Placement Proficiency award at the State FFA Convention in June. Kalli, a Wishek FFA member, has been riding horses since she was two years old and is working for the Scherbenske Angus Ranch where she works with their 25 horses and 1200 cows, calves, heifers, and breeding bulls.

Kalli is essential to the ranch as a ranch hand, breaking and riding younger horses and halter breaking and taming yearling colts. The cattle are summered in 14 different pastures which requires horseback riding to check the cattle and check the fences. Rocky Brown, Kalli's FFA advisor, said, "Kalli rarely goes on a trail ride for just pleasure, she uses her horses as a tool. They are used for working and checking cattle, and for competing in rodeo events. With the high expectations that she has for her horses, she knows that training is key."

Kalli, who will be a sophomore in the fall at Wishek High School, still has time to think about her future goals but one of her goals is to pursue a degree in equine science.

The Equine Science Placement Proficiency award sponsor is the ND Association of Agricultural Educators. The national sponsors are Tractor Supply Company and Nutrena.

## **Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production Proficiency Winner – Amber Piatz**

Amber Piatz, who just graduated from Napoleon High School, was named the 2011 Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production Proficiency winner at the State FFA Convention in June. Amber, the daughter of Randy and Coleen Piatz, began her Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) by raising cattle. She wanted to expand her SAE and make it more diversified and more profitable by raising barley, Hard Red Spring wheat, soybeans, and oil sunflowers.

Amber has learned much in her years of farming. She rents land from her farther and uses his machinery at a discounted rate in return for farm labor. Amber has increased her operation every year and learned that turning a profit doesn't just have to do with farming but also marketing. "Because the market for soybeans and oil sunflowers was low during my sophomore year, I stored my soybeans and oil sunflowers until the price came back up. The price did come back up in December, and I made money on my soybeans and oil sunflowers which allowed me to expand my operation my junior year," explained Amber when referring to the importance of watching the markets.

Amber plans to attend North Dakota State University next fall with her sights set on a nursing career. She will use her earnings from the farm to help finance her college education.

The Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production Proficiency awards are sponsored by the ND Soybean Council (state sponsor); national sponsors are Bunge North America and Cargill.

## **Floriculture Proficiency Award Winner – Rachael Rott**

Rachel Rott, a 2011 graduate from Drake/Anamoose High School, won the Floriculture Proficiency Award at the State FFA Convention in June. Rachel won this award by her work at Schmaltz’s Greenhouse. She has worked there for several years and has grown as an employee from one who started out doing basic tasks like spacing plants and preparing pots for planting to her present duties which include transplanting, watering, wholesaling, helping customers, and running the till.

One of the goals Rachel set for herself was to learn the name of every flower and plant grown at the greenhouse. Rachel said, “I have almost succeeded in learning every name. I also have made a goal to learn basic facts about the plants and their growing styles.” Because of this commitment, Rachel has become a valued employee at Schmaltz’s Greenhouse.

Rachel has used her knowledge of plants to compete in the Floriculture Career Development Event at the State FFA Convention in 2010. Because of her competence, Rachel was awarded a Gold for this event.

Rachel’s plans for the future include attending Jamestown College and pursuing majors in biology and chemistry. She would like to continue her education and work towards a veterinary medicine degree and would like to work as a large animal veterinary with a specialization in dairy cattle.

The state sponsor for the Floriculture Proficiency awards is the Wahpeton FFA Alumni Association; the national sponsor is Bayer Environmental Science.

## **Forage Production Proficiency Award Winner – Jayden Welk**

Jayden Welk, a Rugby FFA member, won the Forage Production Proficiency Award at the State FFA Convention in June. Jayden lives and works on the family ranch southwest of Willow City. His main job on the ranch is to do the haying. They raise 250-300 head of yearlings, so the hay supplies them with feed. Any extra hay is sold to local producers.

Over the years, Jayden’s responsibilities have increased on the farm to those of helping to take care of farm implements to those of valued hand on the farm. Jayden said, “I moved up after my grandpa retired. I took his jobs such as spreading manure and raking a lot more hay. You don’t just get responsibility on the farm, you have to earn it!”

Jayden has used funds he has earned to purchase three head of feeder calves. In the future, Jayden plans to attend college and earn a degree in farm business management or marketing and then return home to farm and raise cattle.

The Forage Production Proficiency awards are sponsored by Interstate/Monsanto Seed Company. Claas of America, Inc. is the national sponsor of this award.

## **Forest Management and Products Proficiency Winner – Jessi Hummel**

Jessi Hummel, a 2010 graduate of Garrison High School, has received the Forest Management and Products Proficiency Award at the State FFA Convention on June 8. Jessi received this award because of her work with a tree and wildlife plot project.

In 2008, Jessi decided to plant trees to rehabilitate a wildlife habitat that was destroyed by beavers several years before. She worked with the West McLean Soil Conservation District to plan and implement this project and received funding from Pheasants Forever, the Garrison FFA Alumni, and the ND FFA Foundation. Glen Huettl, Garrison FFA advisor, said, “This project centered on the establishment and caring for 1.5 acres that includes 3000 trees of various varieties. She is responsible for care, upkeep, watering and weeding of this young tree plot.”

Jessi knew that this would be a project that would need her attention for years. The project site is located in what used to be a gravel pit which means that the soil type has good drainage but does not hold water very well. Because of the type of soil, Jessi has had to work diligently at weeding and watering the trees. She also had to use specific varieties that would thrive in this soil.

Jessi’s future plans include becoming a history and agriculture education teacher. She is currently enrolled at Bismarck State College.

The Forest Management and Products Proficiency awards are sponsored by the Bottineau FFA Chapter and the national sponsors are John Deere and RAM Truck.

## **Fruit Production Proficiency Award Winner- DeLayna Bueligen**

DeLayna Bueligen, a recent graduate from New Salem-Almont High School, was the recipient of the Fruit Production Proficiency Award at the State FFA Convention in Fargo on June 8.

DeLayna lives on a ranch northeast of New Salem with her mom and dad, David and DeAnn Bueligen.

DeLayna has apple trees and a strawberry garden, where she learned her craft of fruit production. Her mother and her grandmother also help in DeLayna's Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program. DeLayna has learned much over the years with this project. She has learned the importance of preparing the soil and reorganizing the rock stabilizing the apple trees and cutting off all the old branches for new growth. She has also spent hundreds of hours watering, weeding, and grooming the plants so they will produce the most fruit.

In addition to all the work of taking care of the plants, DeLayna has developed the skill of canning, preserving, dehydrating, and baking the fruit she produces.

DeLayna plans to attend Bismarck State College for nursing in the fall. The Fruit Production Proficiency Awards are sponsored by the ND Grape Growers Association. The national sponsor is the DuPont Company.

## **Grain Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award – Chase Rosenau by Kevin Teigen**

A North Dakota State University student was recently recognized for excellence as an entrepreneur. Carrington native Chase Rosenau was named the state winner of the North Dakota FFA Grain Production Entrepreneurship Award.

Chase started cultivating his interest in agriculture at a young age by riding in the tractor on his parents' farm. His application described how he took a more active role in his parents' operation as he got older. As a high school senior, his apprenticeship over, he rented 850 acres on his own. Although he makes the decisions on this land, he is quick to credit his parents for his success.

"My parents are there to help and show me how to properly manage a farm," Chase said.

Chase is currently majoring in agricultural engineering at NDSU. He plans to graduate in 2015, at which point he plans to expand his operation and pursue farming as a career. He looks forward to gaining additional management experience and applying more advanced marketing techniques to increase profits.

Chase's advisor is Missy Hansen. The proficiency award program recognizes students for excellence in record keeping and achievement in the area of their Supervised Agricultural Experience projects. The Grain Production Entrepreneurship state award is sponsored by the North Dakota Wheat Commission and the national sponsor is Pioneer Hi-Bred. The winner also receives a \$500 scholarship from the ND Grain Growers Association and the ND Barley Council.

## **Grain Production Placement Proficiency Award – Matthew Ottis** **by Kevin Teigen**

A recent graduate of Kindred High School has been recognized for his work on his parents' farm. Matthew Ottis was named the state winner of the Grain Production Placement Proficiency award at the ND FFA convention.

Matthew has been a part of his parents' farming operation since he learned to run the grain cart at age 6. Since then, he has expanded his skills to operate different types of machinery and in various conditions. His application described how wet conditions in the southeast part of the state have necessitated the development of some of these skills.

"Knowing how to use equipment in these types of conditions has been important to the success of the farm," Matthew said.

Matthew plans to study farm business management at North Dakota State College of Science before operating the family farm in a partnership with his brother. This will be yet another step in the learning process for Matthew, who said his responsibilities have increased significantly over the years and include managing other workers.

Matthew's advisors are Ted Johnson and Brooke Jameson. The proficiency award program recognizes students for excellence in record keeping and achievement in the area of their Supervised Agricultural Experience projects. The Grain Production Placement state award is sponsored by the North Dakota Barley Council and the national sponsor is Pioneer Hi-Bred.

## **Home and/or Community Development Proficiency Award Winner – Kyle Viland**

Kyle Viland, a Richland 44 FFA member, the 2011 Home and/or Community Development Proficiency Award Winner, was recognized at the State FFA Convention at NDSU in Fargo on June 8.

Kyle first job in this area was helping with the Medicine Wheel in Abercrombie, ND for his FFA chapter. The Medicine Wheel is a 60-foot circular garden. Kyle was a helpful member of the chapter, assisting in the planning, and the development of the garden which included putting fabric and woodchips all over the garden. Since 2005, Kyle has also helped water and weed this garden. Learning much about landscaping, Kyle also assisted his family in putting in a perennial rock garden and a waterfall garden in his parent's yard.

Mowing lawns is another one of Kyle's jobs. He currently mows three lawns including the churchyard and cemetery. These mowing jobs can require much time and effort but Kyle sees the effort pay off when he trims up the lawns with a line trimmer.

The third job Kyle has is working at his brother's carpentry business. They build cabinets for homes, remodeling home as well as work in new construction. Kyle has learned much about all aspects of the carpentry business. Because of Kyle's knowledge of carpentry, he helped with the remodeling of the local church. "His church just built a new building, and the volunteer hours that Kyle has completed are very impressive, specifically 240 hours. Kyle was involved in all of the woodwork, including baseboard, window and door trim, encasing the structural beams, building the Crucifix, and the cabinetry. All of these hours were donated, and it is truly a beautiful church because of the oak woodwork," said Kyle's FFA advisor, Tony Boehm. Kyle is currently attending North Dakota State University where his major is accounting. He would like to stay involved with the agricultural community by working for a company such as Farm Credit Services as an accountant.

The Home and/or Community Development Proficiency awards are sponsored by the ND Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives and Carhartt, Inc.

## **Landscape Management Proficiency Award Winner – Amber Burck (New Salem)**

Amber Burck was named the Landscape Management Proficiency winner at the State FFA Convention in Fargo, on June 8. Amber is a member of the New Salem FFA Chapter and is a 2011 graduate from New Salem-Almont High School.

Amber started working with her father, John Burck, when he couldn't keep up with the demand on the landscaping business. She enjoys working with her dad because he is very knowledgeable about landscaping and is patient when teaching Amber how to properly work in this profession.

Amber also works as a certified nursing assistant at the Elm Crest Manor. She plans to attend Bismarck State College this fall and pursue a career in nursing.

The Landscape Management Proficiency awards are sponsored by Al and Pat Giese and John Deere.

## **Outdoor Recreation Proficiency Winner – Cody Folden (Parshall)**

Cody Folden, a Parshall FFA member and 2011 graduate, is the winner of the Outdoor Recreation Proficiency award which was announced at the State FFA Convention on June 8. This award is sponsored by the Larimore FFA Chapter. The national sponsors are Cabela's and Yamaha Motor Corporation USA.

Cody has worked at the Van Hook Bait and Tackle Shop near New Town for 5 summers. Van Hook is a recreational park with camping, electrical and primitive camping, privately owned cabins, a park, and public toilets. Cody has learned much in all this time. He has learned how to run the till, how to inventory the store, and how to clean the leech and minnow tank. Some of his other duties include, cutting and counting firewood, mowing the grass in the park, and just doing the numerous odd jobs that need to be done. Cody enjoys working with his coworkers and considers the staff "one huge family." This is just one of the reasons that Cody has returned for so many summers.

Cody's plans for the fall include attending Northern State University and obtaining a bachelor's and master's degree in biology. He would like to become a biologist or teach biology.

## **Poultry Production Proficiency Winner – Jarett Lovcik (Rugby)**

Jarett Lovcik, a Rugby FFA member, was announced as the winner of the Poultry Production Proficiency award at the State FFA Convention held in Fargo, ND on June 8. Jarett won this award because of his work on the Pine Ridge Turkey Farm, which is owned by his family. The Pine Ridge Turkey Farm is located eight miles south of Rugby and can handle up to 72,000 birds on the farm at one time.

Since he was in the seventh grade, Jarett has helped out on the farm, starting with small chores such as putting bedding down for the turkeys, walking the barns, mowing and other small jobs. Since then, Jarett has become a valued employee who can be depended on for feeding, caring for disease and health concerns, fixing machinery, and operating the pay-loader to clean the barns.

Because of the many hours of labor on the farm, Jarett has been able to purchase his own car and doesn't need to ask his parents for spending money. He has also started saving for college. After graduating from high school in 2012, Jarett would like to go to college and perhaps take over the turkey farm one day.

The Poultry Production Proficiency awards are sponsored by USDA Farm Service Agency, Tractor Supply Company and Tyson Foods.

## Sheep Production Proficiency Award Winner – Taylor Friesz

Taylor Friesz, a 2011 graduate from New Salem Almont High School, won the Sheep Production Proficiency award at the State FFA Convention on June 8. Taylor won this award because of his work on his family's farm, specifically because of his work with the sheep operation.

Taylor's mother, Joana Friesz, had raised Registered Corriedale sheep for 20 years before Taylor started. She had developed a very sound genetic base and has a good nutrition plan and health program in place. Taylor grew up helping with the feeding and caring for sheep. "Growing up around sheep had made me realize this is a very diverse enterprise that offers ownership opportunities ranging from a hobby flock to a ranch, running thousands of head. I am also very excited about the fact that they are truly a 'green' production unit. They utilize forage and plants that many other livestock species will not graze, they also are great for control of noxious weeds," said Taylor.

Taylor's earliest responsibilities included bottle feeding lambs and feeding the ewes hay and grain in the lambing jugs. Today, Taylor is involved with the selection of breeding stock, maintaining a health program, developing a funding program, and transporting of livestock. Preparing and presenting seedstock at local, state, and national events is also one of Taylor's talents. In 2010 at the National Corriedale show, he received Reserve National Champion Ewe and the Reserve Champion Junior Ewe. Showing sheep at county fairs, the ND State Fair, and national shows is so important in the marketing of their sheep.

Taylor plans to attend Bismarck State College in the fall in the Agriculture, Technology, Food and Natural Resources Program. After completing this two year program, he plans to transfer to North Dakota State University to finish a degree in Agriculture Education. He plans to teach and also own a ranch, raising purebred Corriedale sheep and Hereford cattle.

The state sponsor for the Sheep Production Proficiency awards is the ND Grocers Association. The national sponsors are Bimeda, Inc. and New Holland.

## **Small Animal Production and Care Proficiency Award Winner – Nikita Wright (Maddock)**

The winner of the Small Animal Production and Care Proficiency award was announced at the State FFA Convention in Fargo, ND on June 8. Nikita Wright, from the Maddock A.S. Gibbens FFA Chapter, is the winner and her application will be forwarded on to the national competition.

Nikita got her experience with the production and care of dogs from her mother. She learned much and began her Supervised Ag Experience (SAE) program in raising and breeding of dogs when she took \$1,000 from her savings and bought her original Pomeranians. She used their male Pom who was a pet as a stud dog and continued to purchase more dogs over the years. Her parents already had built the kennel for the farm and she pays them a percentage for every puppy sold.

“When I started selling pups, I sold all of our pups by advertising in newspapers and through our website. When I first became USDA licensed, I found a pet store that would purchase all the pups. The owner liked my pups because they are high quality, well taken care of, vaccinated, wormed, and vet checked and very healthy,” said Nikita with pride. Nikita has expanded to four different pet stores and is able to sell puppies over the internet.

Nikita is proud of the cleanliness of the kennel. The business has one of the most high tech kennels possible, including a flush system to remove waste and an air exchanger system to keep the air circulating which controls the humidity and helps to keep the kennel smelling fresh. Nikita graduated this spring and plans to join the National Guard and hopes to work full time for them. She will continue to raise puppies on the side.

The Small Animal Production and Care Proficiency awards are sponsored by Bryan and Janet Strom and Merial.

## **Specialty Animal Production Proficiency Winner – Kyle Aasand (Carrington)**

Kyle Aasand, a Carrington FFA member, won the Specialty Animal Production Proficiency award at the State FFA Convention in Fargo on June 8. Kyle's many years of experience working for his father, Dean Aasand, on the family's farm has given Kyle much experience in raising specialty animals such as emus, ostriches, and rheas. The meat from the birds is sold as a specialty meat products, and the fat from the emus is rendered into oil and sold for cosmetics.

Kyle started helping his father when he was very young; he had chores on the farm that included watering and feeding the birds. Kyle has begun to have more responsibilities such as helping to repair the fences that are required for the animals, grinding corn, and keeping the animals healthy. He also has started to raise his own livestock including chickens, geese, turkeys, guinies, goats, and rabbits.

Kyle is an active FFA member who has served as chapter treasurer and participated in many career development events. He was a member of the 2010 State Champion Farm Business Management team who placed third at the National FFA Convention last fall. He also was a member of the State Champion Range Management Team and the State Champion Crops Judging Team.

The Specialty Animal Production Proficiency awards are sponsored by the ND Buffalo Association and Land O'Lakes Feed/Purina Mills.

## **Specialty Crop Production – Devan Hafner (Carrington)**

Devan Hafner, a Carrington FFA member, was the winner of the Specialty Crop Production Proficiency award at the State FFA Convention on June 8, 2011. Devan has worked for the NDSU: Carrington Research Extension Center for five years. He has grown over the years in his skills and abilities. Currently, Devan responsibilities involve working with test plots which includes weeding, thinning, mowing, roguing and foraging. He has worked on dry edible beans, lentils, garbanzo beans, lupines, confectionary sunflowers, emmer, mustard, millet, camelina, sudangrass, kenaf, spelt, alfalfa, hairy vetch triticale, buckwheat, and several other crops. Deavan has also been given the task of taking care of several off-station plots.

Steve Zwinger, research specialist, wrote as a reference, “Last summer, Devan worked fulltime assisting me on approximately 55 research trials. He proved to be a great asset for me with these trials. His job performance was excellent; I could always count on him to complete a task. Not only would he complete tasks in a timely manner, but also complete them correctly. Basically, the tasks given to Devan were job assignments that are expected from a full-time technician. His job performance and willing to learn are noteworthy and desirable.”

Devan is currently attending North Dakota State University where he is studying agronomy. He plans to return to Carrington Research Extension Center as an agronomist after college and perhaps earn a PHD in agronomy. The sponsors for the Specialty Crop Production Proficiency awards David and Denise Swanson and Viterra/Dakota Growers Pasta.

## **Swine Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency Winner – Brittney Klein (Garrison)**

Brittney Klein, FFA member from Garrison FFA Chapter, was named the winner of the Swine Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency at the ND State FFA Convention on June 8, 2011. Brittney, who is 19 years old, had her first experience with raising swine at the age of four. Her father worked as a feed representative and brought home a piglet that was the runt of the litter from one of the producers he did business with. “My two year old brother and I were ecstatic. Even though ‘Pongo’ was too weak and sick to survive for more than a couple of days, this experience of briefly owning a pig got me interested in owning, raising, and managing pigs. For some reason working with these sometimes smelly monogastrics clicks with me,” said Brittney.

When Brittney was nine, her father obtained two show hogs for her brother and Brittney and they started showing at local fairs. They currently attend various shows throughout North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota, and Minnesota. Brittney has learned much over the past 10 years of raising pigs. She has learned how to fit a hog for show, how to administer vaccines and dewormers, how to market her livestock, and how to be fiscally responsible. One of the major disadvantages for Brittney has been that she lives twelve miles away from the barn she rents to house her hogs.

Brittney is currently attending the University of Mary but plans to eventually earn a degree in Animal Science/Nutrition at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Sponsorship of the Swine Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency awards was provided by the ND Pork Council, LA-CO Markal, and Tyson Foods, Inc.

## **Turf Grass Management Proficiency Winner – Levi Tomlinson (Max)**

Levi Tomlinson, a recent graduate from Max High School, was named the Turf Grass Management Proficiency winner at the State FFA Convention in Fargo on June 8, 2011. Levi started his Supervised Agriculture Experience program by working at the Garrison Golf Course in the summer of 2009. Because of his love of golf, Levi thought he would enjoy working at the golf course and learning all about management of the course. When he first started, Levi's primary work assignments included running the rough mowers and the tee-box mowers. Since then, Levi has used a large variety of equipment including tractors, reel mowers, weed eaters, etc. Some of Levi's responsibilities include chemical application, fertilizing, equipment maintenance, tree planting/trimming, greens mowing, and operation of the course water system.

Cory Nordquist, chairman of the Garrison Gold Course Grounds Committee and Levi's social studies teacher, wrote in a reference letter, "Levi has been an excellent employee of the course. His supervisor, co-workers, and club members all greatly appreciate his strong character and work ethic. An example of this is Levi's latest project. He is currently heading up a project to clean up an area in our school that has been used as a storage area and is in need of cleaning and reorganization. This project was his idea and he encouraged his peers to be on board with the project. At a time when most graduating seniors tend to walk away from their school, he has shown great pride and care for the building where he received his education."

Levi will work at the golf course again this summer, saving up for college. He plans to attend Dakota College in Bottineau in the fall and eventually transfer to Minot State University and major in physical and health education and minor in coaching or physical therapy.

The state sponsor for the Turf Grass Management Proficiency awards is Agassiz Seed and Supply. The national sponsor is John Deere.

## **Vegetable Production Proficiency Winner – Jenna Vculek (Oakes/Sargent Central)**

Jenna Vculek, State FFA Secretary, won the Vegetable Production Proficiency Award at the State FFA Convention in June. Jenna, daughter of Brian and Julie Vculek, started her Supervised Agricultural Experience Program by growing seed potatoes which has now transitioned into producing potatoes for the processor. Jenna first started her vegetable production by renting land through a neighbor in order to provide seed stock for her family's farm. She ordered a load of G1 (First Generation) Ranger potatoes and rented equipment from the family farm. This is the fourth year she has grown her own seed, which she sells to the family farm. Jenna realizes that with land prices going up in the area, the family farm has to be a more self-sufficient operation; her Ranger potatoes fill a definite need.

"I enjoy scouting and inspecting potatoes for disease and other problems. Having helped on the family farm for as long as I can remember, my dad has helped set me up with my own variety of seed. I was in charge of acquiring land, seed stock, chemicals, fertilizers, equipment rental, storage and irrigation rights. With this responsibility, I developed a greater understanding of what it takes to raise a potato crop," said Jenna.

Jenna has learned much in her years as a potato grower. She has learned how to market her seed and how to get the seed certified as a certified seed in the state of North Dakota. Jenna currently attends North Dakota State University where she is pursuing a degree in ag economics with a minor in crop and weed science. She would also like to someday be recognized as a top female grower of potatoes in North Dakota and would like to break potato yield records for the varieties she produces.

The state sponsor for the Vegetable Production Proficiency awards is R. D. Offutt Company and the national sponsors are Tractor Supply Company and Wilbur-Ellis Company.

## **Veterinary Medicine Placement Proficiency – Christina Jacobson (Max)**

**By: Nikki Fideldy**

Christina Jacobson, 2010 graduate of Max Public School, was proudly awarded the Veterinary Medicine Placement Proficiency award at the ND State FFA Convention in June.

Christina is employed by Dr. Joe and Kathy Baber at the Garrison Veterinary Service. Her duties include assisting with surgeries and appointments, handling animals, taking care of the kennels, walking dogs, feeding and watering animals, helping clients, pricing merchandise, and keeping medical records.

“I feel that living on a ranch and being around livestock my whole life has helped me immensely while working at the Garrison Veterinary Service. My experience with horses, cattle, dogs, and cats has given me knowledge about how animals act in certain situations, and I feel that this knowledge is only achieved with experience,” said Christina.

Joe Baber included in his recommendation that, “Christina sets high standards for herself and puts forth the energy to succeed. In my opinion, Christina is goal oriented and has the ‘can do’ attitude to keep striving towards her goals.”

Christina plans to obtain a bachelor’s degree in agricultural business with a minor in equine studies from Dickinson State University. After completing her degree, she would like to start a horse training and boarding business. State sponsor for this award is North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association, and the national sponsor is American Veterinary Medical Association.

## **Wildlife Production and Management Placement Proficiency – Ashlyn Brummond**

**By: Nikki Fideldy**

Granville FFA member, Ashlyn Brummond, was recognized for her winning the Wildlife Production and Management Placement Proficiency at State FFA Convention in June.

Ashlyn, senior at Granville High School, began working at J. Clark Salyer Wildlife Refuge summer of 2010. Goals that Ashlyn achieved through her employment at the refuge were to develop human relation skills and experience working with others. She held many responsibilities which included mowing, maintenance of mowers and weed eaters, disposal of chemical containers, removal of brush, painting, and banding ducks.

Ashlyn has also been very active as an FFA member serving as chapter vice president and sentinel for the past two years. She was a member of the chapter floral, livestock, land evaluation, agriculture sales and dairy foods Career Development Event (CDE) teams. Jeff Hagel, Granville FFA Advisor and Agriculture Education Instructor, boasted about Ashlyn's participation in FFA activities and leadership conferences in his reference letter in her application.

Ashlyn plans to attend Dakota College at Bottineau this next fall majoring in biology and wildlife production. The state sponsor for this award is the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. The national sponsor for this proficiency award is Land O' Lakes Purina Feed.