



For Immediate Release

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Proficiency Finalists to Represent SD at National FFA Convention

The South Dakota FFA is pleased to announce the state will be represented by 6 Proficiency Finalists at the 2009 National FFA Convention. The finalists are:

- Maria Skoglund, McCook Central Chapter – Agricultural Education- Entrepreneurship/Placement
- James Haak, Howard Chapter – Agricultural Services - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Matt Moen, Harrisburg Chapter – Landscape Management - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Scott Hoiten, McCook Central Chapter - Outdoor Recreation - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Trent Thompson, Harrisburg Chapter – Small Animal Production and Care - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Zach Hansen, McCook Central Chapter – Swine Production - Placement

Students competed against over 1350 applications from across the nation in 50 categories ranging from Emerging Agricultural Technologies to Diversified Crop Production. The top SD student in each proficiency area was selected to compete against 50 other nominees (the United States, Puerto Rico, & the Virgin Islands.) Of these candidates, the top four students in each area were selected to compete for honors presented during the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this October 21-24.

Outstanding candidates possess the highest levels of skills and significant progress in moving into an agricultural career or enterprise as a result of the Agricultural Education Program, their Supervised Agricultural Experience Program and their involvement in FFA. All finalists are also eligible to compete to go on a week long International Experience Tour to Costa Rica provided by the National Sponsors as part of the Special Projects they support.

FFA is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture with 7439 local chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. FFA strives 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. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.