

# Wapsie Valley FFA Celebrates the Enjoyed Adventure at Annual Banquet

By:  
Chapter Reporter, Gabby Power

“Enjoying the Adventure” was this past year’s Wapsie Valley FFA theme. On May 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 pm, FFA Members, Advisors, and Guests gathered in the Wapsie Valley Multipurpose Room to celebrate this past year. President Cassidy Kuhlmann introduced next year’s Sentinel, Erika Jeanes for the invocation, then everyone enjoyed a great meal as they caught up with friends and discussed this year’s planting season. The meal was catered by the Fairbank Food Center while National Honor Society Members, Sammy Rohlfson, Timothy Warnke, Anna Sauerbrei, and Grant Weepie served cake and drinks. Following, everyone shuffled to the auditorium where the awards ceremony to celebrate the past year would take place. The awards along with their recipients were:

## Administrator Recognition

*These school administration personnels have been vital to the success of our chapter over the last year.*

- Ms. Denise Durant, Dunkerton High School Guidance Counselor
- Mr. Paul Gebel, Denver High School Principal
- Mr. Troy Heller, Tripoli High School Principal
- Dr. Chad Garber, Wapsie Valley High School Superintendent
- Mr. Ross Bauer, Wapsie Valley High School Principal

## SAE Awards

*These members have excelled in their Supervised Agricultural Experiences which are their experiential learning experiences.*

- **Sheep Production:** Mitchell Bartels
- **Diversified Crop Production:** Michael Biermann, Conner Jones, Hunter Robinson, Carson Woods
- **Ag Services:** Seth Gordon, Jacob Hammitt, Baylee Kleitsch, Jacob Risse, Ben Schmitz, Jordan Suhr, Abe Silva
- **Swine Production Placement:** Grant Grober
- **Equine Entrepreneurship:** Breanna Hakeman
- **Ag Mechanic Design and Fabrication:** Ben Huebner
- **Vegetable Production:** Erika Jeanes
- **Beef Production Entrepreneurship:** Bryce Kleitsch
- **Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance:** Landen Kuhlmann, Tanner Mohlis, Brandon Nading
- **Horse Production Entrepreneurship:** Megan Lahmann, Delaney Mohlis, Reagan Platte
- **Meat Goat Production:** Lydia Martins

- **Diversified Livestock Placement:** Brady Maurer, Austin Schares
- **Dairy Placement:** McKenna Meinecke, JP Michael, Karissa Michael, Nathan Thurm, Eric Richards
- **Specialty Animal Production Placement:** Todd Miller
- **Poultry Production Entrepreneurship:** Jackson Willey
- **Landscape Management:** Jordan Yessak

### Proficiencies

*Members are able to apply for proficiencies in their respective SAE programs. These are judged at the District, State, and National level.*

- **Ag Communications:** Gabby Power (Second Place Silver at State)
- **Agricultural Education:** Kassidy Kuhlmann (Second Gold at State)
- **Ag Services:** Holly Haberman (Silver at Districts)
- **Dairy Placement:** Natalie Risse (Silver at Districts)
- **Diversified Livestock:** Breanna Hakeman (Silver at District-Alternate to State)
- **Equine Management Entrepreneurship:** Peyton Schares (1st gold at State-Advance to Nationals)
- **Equine Management Placement:** Dayten Wittenburg (Bronze award at Districts)
- **Forestry Management:** Jarod Bodensteiner (1<sup>st</sup> place at State-Advance to Nationals)
- **Goat Production:** Britney Hershey (Silver at Districts)
- **Landscape Management:** Jacob Joerger (Silver at Districts-Alternate to State)
- **Dairy Production:** Jordan Kalenske (Bronze at Districts-Alternate to State)
- **Diversified Livestock:** Peyton Schares (Silver at Nationals)
- **Poultry Production:** Emily Martins (Final Four at Nationals-Received an educational seminar to Costa Rica)

### Malt Machine Managers

*These members were vital in the sales and maintenance of the malt machine.*

Natalie Risse, Ben Huebner, and Brandon Nading

### Greenhouse/Test Plot

*Each of these people worked very hard in keeping the Greenhouse running and/or taking care of the test plot.*

Conner Brandt, Seth Gordon, Breanna Hakeman, Ben Huebner, Brandon Hyde, Conner Jones, Bryce Kleitsch, Landen Kuhlmann, Cody Marvets, Brady Maurer, Brandon McCann, Marshall McElhose, McKenna Meinecke, J.P. Michael, Todd Miller, Brandon Nading, Eric Richards, Matthew Richards, Austin Schares, Nathan Thurm, Jacob Trotter, and Carson Woods

### Exploratory

*These members helped implement the Junior High School Agricultural Exploratory.*

*They developed the curriculum and taught the program to the 7th and 8th graders.*

Coordinator: Kassidy Kuhlmann Helpers: Isaac Brownell, Baylee Kleitsch, Emily Martins, and Gabby Power

## Fruit Sales

*These people were members of the top selling class or the top ten salesmen in the chapter.*

Lynn Duffy, Holly Haberman, Breanna Hakeman, Jacob Hammitt, Connor Jones, Jordan Kalenske, Sam Lundt, Alec Marticoff, Brady Maurer, Delaney Mohlis, Eric Richards, Natalie Risse, Benjamin Schmitz, Jacob Trotter, and Dayten Wittenburg

Top Ten Salesmen:

- 1-Natalie Risse-\$1807.00
- 2-Baylee Kleitsch-\$1693.00
- 3-Ben Schmitz-\$1358.00
- 4-Michael Biermann-\$1087.00
- 5-Alec Marticoff-\$1048.00
- 6-Haley Bayness-\$931.00
- 7-Annette Kleitsch-\$927.00
- 8-Matthew Richards-\$896.00
- 9-Brandi Marticoff-\$869.00
- 10-Dayten Wittenburg-\$834.00

## Committee Chair and Co-Chair

*Numerous members assisted in coordination of activities throughout the year by serving as leaders of committees.*

Sean Banger, Peyton Brown, Isaac Brownell, Lynn Duffy, Seth Gordon, Holly Haberman, Ben Huebner, Erika Jeanes, Jacob Joerger, Lakin Joerger, Connor Jones, Jordan Kalenske, Annette Kleitsch, Landen Kuhlmann, Dylan Lampe, Alec Marticoff, Brandi Marticoff, Chelsie Mason, Todd Miller, Tanner Mohlis, Delaney Mohlis, Reegan Platte, Eric Richards, Natalie Risse, Hunter Robinson, Ben Schmitz, Dayten Wittenburg, and Carson Woods

## PALS

*Students served as mentors at one of the elementaries during one class period a week.*

Mandy Even, Erika Jeanes, Lakin Joerger, Mikenna Joerger, Isabelle Kane, Sabrina Kelley, Annette Kleitsch, Baylee Kleitsch, Bryce Kleitsch, Kassidy Kuhlmann, Dylan Lampe, Madison Landsgard, Brandi Marticoff, Lydia Martins, Chelsie Mason, Gabby Power, Jacob Risse, Hunter Robinson, Tanner Sauerbrei, Austin Schares, Ben Schmitz, Sidney Schnor, Olivia Willey, and Dayten Wittenburg.

## Academic Honor Roll

*Students that have stayed in good scholastic standing throughout high school.*

Sean Banger, Mitchell Bartels, Grant Grober, Holly Haberman, Jacob Hammitt, Britney Hershey, Erika Jeanes, Jacob Joerger, Lakin Joerger, Mikenna Joerger, Jordan Kalenske, Trystan Lampe, Madison Landsgard, Julia LaRue, Sam Lundt, Alec Marticoff, Brandi Marticoff, Lydia Martins, Delaney Mohlis, Jacob Risse, Natalie Risse, Tanner Sauerbrei, Ben Schmitz, Alana Stroeder, Austin Warnke, Jackson Willey, Dayten Wittenburg, Jarod Bodensteiner, Brandon Hyde, Baylee Kleitsch, Kassidy Kuhlmann,

Dylan Lampe, Emily Martins, McKenna Meinecke, Tanner Mohlis, Gabby Power, and Peyton Schares.

### King and Queen

*Crowned in February to represent the chapter at activities.*

King Nathan Hyde and Queen Lydia Martins

### Exhibiting

*Members that showed at Buchanan County Fair, Bremer County Fair, Fayette County Fair, or the Iowa State Fair this past summer.*

Michael Biermann, Jarod Bodensteiner, Lynn Duffy, Rylan Duffy, Britney Hershey, Ben Huebner, Jordan Kalenske, Kassidy Kuhlmann, Landen Kuhlmann, Dylan Lampe, Alec Marticoff, Lydia Martins, Emily Martins, Brandon Nading, Eric Richards, Matthew Richards, Austin Schares, Peyton Schares, Nathan Thurm, Dayten Wittenburg, Carson Woods, Chance Beierschmitt, Cody Cripe, Cody Kleitsch, Garrett Hagenow, Marina Hilbert, Austin Matthias, and Alana Platte

### Delegates

*These members represented the chapter as they voted at District and State Convention for the new officers.*

District Delegates: Alec Marticoff and Megan Lahmann

State Delegates: Natalie Risse and Gabby Power

### Upper Level Offices

*Members who ran for offices above the chapter level.*

Natalie was elected the office of District Secretary.

Jarod Bodensteiner retired as a District Vice-President.

Abrah Meyer was elected as the National Central Region Vice-President.

### Ushers and Stage Attendant

*Assisted the whole time at the Iowa State Fair by helping with various events.*

Kalee Leistikow, Jacob Hammitt, Jacob Watts, Alana Platte, Annette Kleitsch

### Courtesy Corp

*These members assisted with whatever needed done at State Convention.*

Bryce Kleitsch, Trystan Lampe, Karissa Michael, and Natalie Risse

### State Committee

*This member reviewed the State FFA budget and was able to suggest changes for the upcoming year.*

Kassidy Kuhlmann served on the Auditing committee

### National Chorus

*These members were selected to sing in the choir at National Convention last fall.*

Marina Hilbert and Annette Kleitsch

### Iowa Degree

*These members received the highest degree that can be bestowed at the state level at State Convention a couple weeks ago.*

Michael Biermann, Lynn Duffy, Mandy Even, Holly Haberman, Breanna Hakeman, Jacob Hammitt, Lakin Joerger, Connor Jones, Jordan Kalenske, Sam Lundt, Alec Marticoff, Brady Maurer, JP Michael, Todd Miller, Chandler Power, Eric Richards, Natalie Risse, Ben Schmitz, and Dayten Wittenburg

### American Degree

*These members were able to receive the highest degree awarded to members at the National Convention last fall.*

Lauren Ambrosy, Nolan Schmidt, Cody Kleitsch, Garrett Hagenow, Adam Joerger, and Alex Schmitz

### Skill CDEs

*Skill career development events that include judging events of various animals and agricultural products.*

- **Horse Judging:** Breanna Hakeman, Megan Lahmann, and Peyton Schares (Silver at State)
- **Dairy Judging:** Eric Richards, Todd Miller, Jordan Kalenske and Dylan Lampe (3<sup>rd</sup> at tri-state and a 5<sup>th</sup> place Gold at districts, and 5<sup>th</sup> Gold at State. At tri-state, Todd Miller placed 9<sup>th</sup> individually and Dylan Lampe placed 10<sup>th</sup>. Eric Richards placed 9<sup>th</sup> individually at districts and Todd Miller placed 10<sup>th</sup> at state.)
- **Tri-state Dairy:** Bryce Kleitsch, Rylan Duffy, Karissa Michael, Lydia Martins, Haley Bayness, Jacob DeVries, Grant Grober, Nathan Hyde, Mikenna Joerger, Trystan Lampe, Julia LaRue, Blake Rechkemmer, Jacob Risse, Sam Rubner, Tanner Sauerbrei, Abby Sheppard, Alana Stroeder, Marisa Thurm, Molly Thurm-Wagner, Austin Warnke, Olivia Willey, and Jordan Yessak
- **District Soils:** Conner Brandt, Lynn Duffy, Mandy Even, Breanna Hakeman, Jacob Hammitt, Lakin Joerger, Conner Jones, Jordan Kalenske, Cody Marvets, Brady Maurer, J.P. Michael, Chandler Power, Abe Silva, Jordan Suhr, Jacob Trotter. Placing 5<sup>th</sup> as a team was: Dayten Wittenburg, Ben Schmitz, Holly Haberman, and Natalie Risse. Natalie also received 7<sup>th</sup> individually. Placing 3<sup>rd</sup> overall was: Alec Marticoff, Dan Sheppard, Sam Lundt, and Delaney Mohlis. Alec also placed 4<sup>th</sup> individually.
- **State Soils:** Alec Marticoff, Delaney Mohlis, and Dan Sheppard also received a bronze rating
- **Livestock Judging:** Bryce Kleitsch, Matthew Richards, Austin Schares, and Jackson Willey who scored 580 points out of 750 and Britney Hershey, Lynn Duffy, Peyton Schares, and Breanna Hakeman who scored 589 points
- **State Livestock:** Lynn Duffy, Breanna Hakeman, Peyton Schares (Bronze)
- **Meats Judging:** District-Jarod Bodensteiner and Kassidy Kuhlmann (7<sup>th</sup> Team and Jarod received 1<sup>st</sup> Individual) State-Jarod Bodensteiner, Kassidy Kuhlmann, Tanner Mohlis, and Delaney Mohlis (Silver)
- **Team Ag Sales:** Lynn Duffy, Rylan Duffy-Alternate, Jacob Hammitt, Bryce Kleitsch-Alternate, Kassidy Kuhlmann, Dylan Lampe, and Trystan Lampe-Alternate. (Gold Team and Dylan placed 10<sup>th</sup> individually)

- **Poultry Judging:** Lydia Martins, Jackson Willey, Sean Banger, Austin Schares, and Britney Hershey (2nd Team and Lydia placed 5th Individually, Jackson 4<sup>th</sup>, Britney 8<sup>th</sup>, and Sean 14<sup>th</sup>) Janice Martins was the coach.
- **Farm Business Management:** Emily Martins and Breanna Hakeman (Bronze)
- **Ag Mechanics:** Rylan Duffy, Bryce Kleitsch, Jackson Willey, Landen Kuhlmann, and Bradey Butters (14<sup>th</sup> at Districts and Jackson Willey and Landen Kuhlmann tied for 30<sup>th</sup>)

### Leadership CDEs

*Career development event contests that prepare students for real-world skills.*

#### Sub-Districts Only:

- **Greenhand/Chapter Quiz:** Karissa Michael (Bronze), Lydia Martins (2<sup>nd</sup> Gold), Jacob Hammitt (6th Gold), Lakin Joerger (5<sup>th</sup> Gold), Annette Kleitsch (9<sup>th</sup> Gold), Todd Miller (6<sup>th</sup> Gold), Ben Schmitz (10<sup>th</sup> Gold), and Dayten Wittenburg (9<sup>th</sup> Gold).
- **Public Speaking:** Jarod Bodensteiner (3<sup>rd</sup> Bronze)

#### Districts Only:

- **Website:** Jarod Bodensteiner (3<sup>rd</sup> Gold-Alternate to State)
- **Greenhand Quiz:** Rylan Duffy (Silver) and Julia LaRue (Bronze)
- **Chapter Quiz:** Alec Marticoff (10<sup>th</sup>), Megan Lahmann (8<sup>th</sup>), and Lynn Duffy (Gold) (Team 3<sup>rd</sup>)

#### Participating at the sub-district and district level:

**Conduct:** Grant Grober, Bryce Kleitsch, Trystan Lampe, Lydia Martins, Jacob Risse, Tanner Sauerbrei, Olivia Willey, Natalie Risse-Student Coach (Silver)

**Creed:** Karissa Michael (Silver)

**Program of Activities:** Baylee Kleitsch, Tanner Mohlis, and Gabby Power (4<sup>th</sup> Gold)

**Job Interview:** Natalie Risse (Gold)

**Secretary's Book:** Emily Martins (Gold)

#### State competition:

**Ag Broadcasting:** Emily Martins (3<sup>rd</sup> Gold)

**Ag Sales:** Cassidy Kuhlmann (2<sup>nd</sup> Gold)

**Chapter Display:** Grant Grober, Breanna Hakeman, Baylee Kleitsch, and Peyton Schares (Gold)

**Experience The Action:** Breanna Hakeman, Jacob Hammitt, Lakin Joerger, Annette Kleitsch, Todd Miller, Reegan Platte, Hunter Robinson, Ben Schmitz, Olivia Willey, Dayten Wittenburg, and Cassidy Kuhlmann-Student Coach (2<sup>nd</sup> Gold)

**Extemporaneous Speaking:** Dylan Lampe (3<sup>rd</sup> Gold)

**Greenhand Quiz:** Jacob Risse (3<sup>rd</sup> Gold), Bryce Kleitsch (Silver) (Team Gold)

**Parliamentary Procedure:** Erika Jeanes, Jacob Joerger, Landen Kuhlmann, Brandi Marticoff, Sidney Schnor, Carson Woods, and Lynn Duffy-Student Coach (2<sup>nd</sup> Gold)

**Treasurer's Book:** Jarod Bodensteiner (2<sup>nd</sup> Gold)

**Reporter's Book:** Gabby Power (6<sup>th</sup> Gold)

**Letter of Intent to Teach Ag:** Gabby Power (Southwest Minnesota State), and Kassidy Kuhlmann (DMACC and Iowa State University)

**Massing of Flags:** Delaney Mohlis

National Level

**Parliamentary Procedure:** Natalie Risse—Team President (3<sup>rd</sup> place test), Dayten Wittenburg—Team Secretary, Jacob Hammitt, Jordan Kalenske, Todd Miller, Lakin Joerger, Lynn Duffy (Team Gold) (Top 10) (2<sup>nd</sup> Team Test)

Prepared Public Speaking: Kalee Leistikow (3<sup>rd</sup> Place)

World Food Prize

Dylan-International World Food Prize (October) Natalie-Iowa Institute the 25<sup>th</sup> of April. She will find out if she advanced to the international level in late May. Because of their participation in the Iowa level, they each received a \$500 scholarship to Iowa State University College of Agriculture.

Gift of Grain Scholarship

*Students collected crop donations to raise money for scholarships that were divided based on member involvement percentage.*

Kassidy Kuhlmann, Baylee Kleitsch, Emily Martins, Dylan Lampe, Reegan Platte, McKenna Meinecke, Isaac Brownell, Tanner Mohlis, Annette Kleitsch

Leistikow/Ast Scholarship

*Donated by Kerri (Leistikow) and Jeff Ast.*

Gabby Power (\$500)

Wapsie Valley FFA Scholarship

*Selected by a random panel of community members.*

Kassidy Kuhlmann (\$250)

Mark Pearson Scholarship

*Awarded to select chapter FFA presidents across the state.*

Alana Platte and Kassidy Kuhlmann (Two-year full tuition to DMACC)

National FFA Scholarships

*After filling out the National FFA online application, students became eligible for thousands of scholarships.*

ADM-Gabby Power (\$1,000 and \$250 credit for the chapter)

Monsanto-Kassidy Kuhlmann (\$1,500)

Dekalb Award

*Honors an involved student in the FFA.*

Kassidy Kuhlmann

Graduating Seniors

*Enrolled in the FFA/Ag Ed Program.*

Jarod Bodensteiner, Isaac Brownell, Seth Gordon, Ben Huebner, Brandon Hyde, Annette Kleitsch, Baylee Kleitsch, Kassidy Kuhlmann, Dylan Lampe, Emily Martins, Cody Marvets, Chelsie Mason, Brandon McCann, Marshall McElhose, McKenna

Meinecke, Tanner Mohlis, Brandon Nading, Reagan Platte, Gabby Power, Peyton Schares, Makenzie Shover, and Nathan Thurm.

### Star Awards

*Members recognized for excellence.*

**Star Scholarship:** Gabby Power

**Star Greenhand Award:** Trystan Lampe

**Star Sophomore Award:** Landen Kuhlmann

**Star Junior Award:** Natalie Risse

**Star Senior Award:** Emily Martins

**Star Overall:** Natalie Risse

**Star Leadership Award:** Jarod Bodensteiner, Baylee Kleitsch, Cassidy Kuhlmann, Dylan Lampe, Emily Martins, and Gabby Power

### Public Greenhouse Donors

*Business/People recognized for their public donations to the \$45,000 Greenhouse Project.*

Oran Telephone Company, RTC Communications, Dunkerton Coop, Fidelity Bank, Richard Kligman, K-Line Farms, Readlyn Coop, Albrecht Farms, Friends of the Wapsie Valley FFA, Wapsie Valley School Board, Innovative Ag, Northeast Security Bank, and Farm Credit Services of America

### Distinguished Service

*Recognition to outstanding service personnel.*

Kitchen Staff and Custodial Staff

### Blue and Gold Award

*Awarded to a constant supporter/volunteer over the past year.*

Jess Lampe

### Honorary Degree

*Bestowed on to continued supporters of the chapter.*

Janice Martins and Mr. Ross Bauer

### Retiring Officers

*The 2015-2016 FFA Officer Team*

President: Cassidy Kuhlmann, Vice-President: Jacob Hammitt, Secretary: Emily Martins, Treasurer: Jarod Bodensteiner, Reporter: Gabby Power, Sentinel: Baylee Kleitsch

### New Officers

*The 2016-2017 FFA Officer Team*

President: Jacob Hammitt, Vice-President: Jacob Joerger, Secretary: Dayten Wittenburg, Treasurer: Lakin Joerger, Reporter: Natalie Risse, Sentinel: Erika Jeanes

### Advisor Recognition

*Provide guidance to members throughout the year.*

Ellen Doese-Advisor



Ashley Beierschmitt-Assistant Advisor

*Congratulations to everyone on another great year!*

**Pictures:**

**B-1:** Thanks to its active members, the Wapsie Valley FFA was able to fill the stage of the auditorium often throughout the awards ceremony!

**B-2:** Conner Jones, Ben Huebner, and Seth Gordon presented a few public donors with a certificate thanking them for their contributions to the Greenhouse Project.

**B-3:** Emily Martins, Natalie Risse, Landen Kuhlmann, and Trystan Lampe were all able to receive Star Awards at Banquet.

**B-4:** Present members gathered for a picture after the awards banquet. Row 1: Trystan Lampe, Baylee Kleitsch, Reegan Platte, Sidney Schnor, Annette Kleitsch, Madison Landsgard, Jacob Hammitt, Jacob Risse, Delaney Mohlis, Jordan Kalenske, Gabby Power, and Emily Martins. Row 2: Seth Gordon, Chandler Power, Blake Rechkemmer, Grant Grober, Jacob Joerger, Dayten Wittenburg, Peyton Schares, Lydia Martins, Isabell Kane, Holly Haberman, Lynn Duffy, Michael Beirmann, and Hunter Robinson. Row 3: Conner Jones, Isaac Brownell, Lakin Joerger, Alec Marticoff, Jarod Bodensteiner, Todd Miller, Tanner Mohlis, Britney Hershey, Kassidy Kuhlmann, and Erika Jeanes. Row 4: Jordan Yessak, Bryce Kleitsch, Ben Huebner, Dylan Lampe, Rylan Duffy, Mitchell Bartels, Jackson Willey, Austin Schares, Landen Kuhlmann, Carson Woods, Brandi Marticoff, Sean Banger, Natalie Risse, Olivia Willey, and Austin Warnke.