

2018 Wyoming FFA Convention – Day 2 Results

Thursday, April 19, 2018

State Star Awards

The Wyoming FFA State Star Awards represent the best of the best among thousands of American FFA Degree recipients. Finalists for the award have mastered skills in production, finance, management and/or research.

State Star in Agriscience

Makyela Sorensen, Paintrock FFA

Makyela became involved in agriscience research as a freshman participating in the Wyoming High School and FFA Agriscience Fairs with a project on mealworms. Since then, Makyela has continued to pursue more rigorous and detailed research of mealworms. Her most recent research focused on mealworms as a foodsource, investigating ways to improve their protein and carbohydrate content using juvenile hormone mimics as growth regulators. Over the course of her FFA career, Makyela has learned how to formulate a hypothesis, develop research protocols and present her findings according to scientific standards. Her research earned her a spot in the International Science and Engineering Fair. Ky serves as the Paintrock FFA chapter president, serves on student council and is a varsity volleyball and basketball player.

State Star in Agribusiness

Flint Pokorny, Lander FFA

Flint, alongside two of his nephews, turned earnings from selling their county fair steers into money for real estate investment. After forming a LLC and receiving a 15-year note, the three purchased a house and began renting it out. Along the way, Flint learned many carpentry skills like electrical, plumbing and flooring. Monthly rent of the house was enough to cover their loan payment and allowed them to invest in another property with two houses while using their cows as collateral. After the appraisal, the property had a \$51,000 appreciation, allowing them to invest in improvements to the property. Flint will use the skills he's learned as a foundation for his future business dealings.

State Star in Agricultural Placement

Rhett Greenwald, Torrington/Lingle FFA

Rhett has been an employee of Joe Greenwald, Inc. for 10 years, which is family-run farm that's been in the family for five generations. As an employee, Rhett is responsible for feeding, diagnosing, doctoring and processing cattle. He's also responsible for weed control, field preparation, raising and harvesting

crops. Alongside the farming and ranching responsibilities, he helps with mechanical duties like servicing vehicles and tractors. While working for Joe Greenwald, Inc., Rhett has become proficient in equipment operation, livestock handling and interpersonal communication. Rhett hopes to become the fifth generation of his family to farm.

State Star Farmer

Galen Kretschman, Clear Creek FFA

Galen started out with one cow, and after saving a calf when he was eight years old, he was able to keep it for his own herd. That calf was the basis for his herd and he's been able to grow his herd off of her, mothering many 4-H steers that he has sold. Outside of managing his own herd, he helps on his family ranch with many of the farming operations. He is also responsible for managing the genetics of his herd and part of his family's herd. Proving his worth with his herd, he is now easing into the position of manager of the Kretschman Ranch. Through his experiences, he's been able to grasp many in-depth animal science concepts to better manage the herd, such as feed efficiency, calving time frames, pregnancy rates and forage production. Galen plans to use that knowledge to become more established within the cattle industry.

The Wyoming FFA Association is part of the National FFA Organization, formerly known as Future Farmers of America. This youth organization has more than half a million student members nationwide, and more than 2,900 in 54 chapters in Wyoming. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

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If you are a news outlet and need a photo of a particular student or event, please contact Teresa Milner, Public Relations Coordinator at (307) 575-0211 or teresahmilner@gmail.com