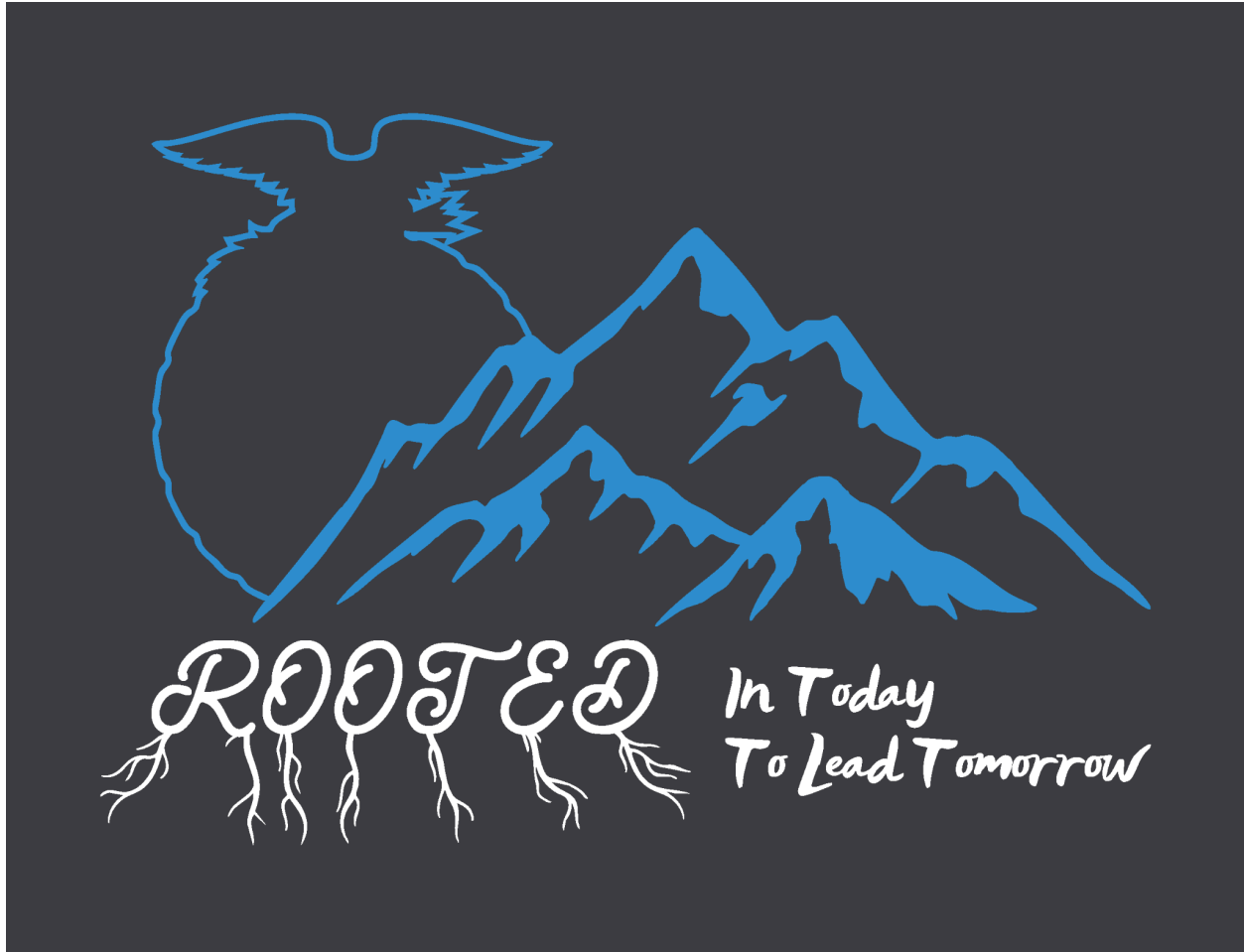


Awards NEWSLETTER

Lincoln FFA



In this special edition of the Lincoln FFA Newsletter, we would like to once again recognize all of our members' achievements that we celebrated at our End of Year Awards Banquet on May 21st. We once again congratulate all of our members for their outstanding work and dedication this year, and hope that our members will continue to thrive in the National FFA Organization!

For pictures from the Awards Ceremony, please contact Mr. Willhite (jwillhite@wpusd.org)

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Greenhand Degree Recipients

The Greenhand FFA Degree is the first degree that can be obtained by a member. It is earned by learning more about the National FFA Organization, its meaning, and history. This year Lincoln FFA Awarded 94 members their Greenhand FFA Degrees!

Michael Accettola	Micah Duff	Jarom Lauritzen	Mckennah Rath
Gabriel Aguilar	Steven Dunbar	John Lesmeister	Julianna Rodriguez
Jason Allen	Vanessa Eberhardt	George Lewis	Madilyn Rogers
Francisco Amador	Rylee Feckner	Kristin Lowe	Erin Romano Dailey
Anthony Arcuri	Kayden Fore	Adilynn Macdonald	Daxton Sampang
Annalynn Armistead	Julian Garcia	Hailey Mahaffey	Jaqueline sanchez
Oliver ausencio	Peter Gonzales	Julia Marino	Jonas sanchez
Cheila Avalos Chavez	Grace Gulliford	Jett Mendez	Lacey Sand
Alyssa Belloso	Maximiliano Guzman	Isaiah Montenegro	Ava shanahan
Khloie Boswell	Jessen Haddox	Jayden Morales	Madeline Shrum
Sophie Breaux	Cal Hamilton	Shaili Morales Ramirez	Peter Silchuk
		Mohammad Elias Nabizada	Joshua Sisneros
Wyatt Broyer	Emery Hern	Daniel Nunez	William Smull
Landen Cardoza	Xander Hernandez	Madison Panarra	Joseph Stricklin
Chloey Cederholm	Bryson Hidalgo	Marisol	
Mia Corso	Paola Jimenez Ramos	Perez-Martinez	Giovanni Villa
Kassias Cortes	Blake Johnson	Brayden Pianta	Nixon Watts
Zola Coyne	Ryker Keylock	Vance Pomerson	Caraline West
Adrian DeHaro	Mason Koszalka	Christopher Quezada	Brody Wooden
DeAnna Dill			
Michael Accettola	Micah Duff	Jarom Lauritzen	Mckennah Rath
Gabriel Aguilar	Steven Dunbar	John Lesmeister	Julianna Rodriguez
Jason Allen	Vanessa Eberhardt	George Lewis	Madilyn Rogers
Francisco Amador	Rylee Feckner	Kristin Lowe	Erin Romano Dailey
Anthony Arcuri	Kayden Fore	Adilynn Macdonald	Daxton Sampang

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Star Greenhand Degree Recipient

The Star Greenhand Degree is bestowed upon the most active and involved Freshmen member each year. This member is one who dives head first into the FFA by engaging in all 3-circles of the Ag Ed Model, joining CDEs & LDEs, seeking Chapter Office, etc. This year's Star Greenhand was awarded to;

Julia Marino

Chapter Degree Recipients

The Chapter FFA Degree is the 2nd highest degree that can be earned in the FFA, and the highest degree that can be conferred on a member by the local chapter. Members may only earn their Chapter Degree by increasing their participation in FFA Activities, having a productive Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Project, and by engaging in community service. This year, Lincoln FFA Awarded 14 members with their Chapter Degrees!

Joe Crawford
Charlotte Grandin
Dayana Gutierrez
Natalie Jensen
Makenna Kaikkonen
Tatum Kramm
Colton Kraushar

Scarlett Leebeck
Esmeralda Loyola
Payten Martin
Liam Maul
Lily Nielsen
Tyler Patton
Talon Ross-Hart

Star Chapter Degree

The Star Chapter Degree is given to the Chapter's most active and involved Sophomore Member, and is one of the highest honors that can be given by the Local Chapter. This year's Star Chapter Degree Recipient is;

Scarlett Leebeck

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Career Development Events (CDEs)

Career Development Events are competitions that center around an industry or career skill within the Agriculture Industry. Students must train and prepare, much like a sport, and then compete against other chapters at contests and field days. These competitions take time, dedication, and energy, but are extremely rewarding with the skill sets students earn, as well as the amazing experiences they endure through the competition season. Congratulations to our CDE participants this year!

Ag Fabrication

The Ag Fabrication contest challenges students to apply skills in welding, measurements, and project construction to complete hands-on fabrication tasks and tests. Congratulations to this year's team!

Congratulations to our Ag Fabrication team: Kristian Alvarez, Annie Armistead, Tanner Barnes, Keaton Cardoza, Chase Crawford, Joe Crawford, Cole Davis, Andy Gerlach, Damian Gutierrez, Julian Herron, Mason Lewin, Dominic Martinez, Micah Priest, Max Ramirez, Elijah Rhyne, Talon Ross-Hart, Matthew Siller, and their coach, Mr. Hess

Floriculture

The Floriculture contest is used to test students' knowledge in the floral industry. Students demonstrate knowledge of plant identification, floral design, and greenhouse practices through practicums and exams. Congratulations to this year's team!

Congratulations to our Floriculture team: Valerie Deharo, Amrita Rana, Kamryn Rhinehart, Nova Roberts, Lorelei Schmidt, and their coach, Mrs. Armistead.

Veterinary Science

The Veterinary Science contest is one of the most competitive in the FFA organization. Students need to know a wealth of vet information on various topics, complete practicums on different veterinary tasks, and complete tests.

Congratulations to our Veterinary Science team: Charlotte Grandin, Christopher Leebeck, Scarlett Leebeck, and their coach, Mrs. Killingsworth.

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Leadership Development Events (LDEs)

Leadership Development Events are much like CDEs, except their focus is on Public Speaking, and Leadership Development. Many LDEs are single person events, and require courage, dedication, and time to do well. Members engaging in LDEs are taking on quite the challenge, but the rewards are priceless. Congratulations to our LDE participants this year!

Creed Speaking

Creed is the first speaking contest, designed for freshman members to memorize and recite the FFA creed and answer questions based on its meaning. This contest is the first opportunity for FFA members to practice and demonstrate their public speaking skills.

Congratulations to our Creed Speakers; Sophie Breaux, Micah Duff, Hailey Mahaffey, Julia Marino, Caraline West and their coach Mr. Willhite!

El Credo De La FFA

A few years ago, in an effort to be more inclusive of hispanic students, The CA FFA State Association started the El Credo De La FFA, or Spanish Creed Contest. This contest is designed for spanish speaking members of any grade to express their passions for Agricultural Education and the FFA in Spanish.

Congratulations to our Spanish Creed Speakers; Ruby Alvarez, Valerie DeHaro, Estrella Herrera, Gissel Ibanez Sanabia, Esmeralda Loyola Ruiz and their Coach Mr. Willhite!

Impromptu Speaking

Impromptu tests a member's ability to think on their feet and respond to a variety of prompts from all areas of Agriculture. Responses must be thorough and thoughtful, meaning the speaker must have a wide range of agriculture knowledge.

Congratulations to our Impromptu Speaker; Charlotte Grandin and coach Mrs. Killingsworth!

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Parliamentary Procedure

The parliamentary contest creates a mock chapter meeting environment surrounding a piece of business. Members of the team must debate on the topic and make motions to prove their knowledge in Parliamentary Law, and then answer questions from the judges. Students must be able to learn the rules and laws of Parliamentary procedure, and learn how to argue and debate effectively and convincingly.

Congratulations to our Parliamentary Procedure Teams;

Novice Parliamentary Procedure

Sophie Breaux
Colton Kraushar
Scarlett Leebeck
Hailey Mahaffey
Julia Marino
Caraline West
Coached by Mr. Willhite

Advanced Parliamentary Procedure

Joe Crawford
Makenna Kaikkonen
Chris Leebeck
Esme Loyola Ruiz
Matt Marino
Liam Maul
Cooper Michael
Tyler Patton
Coached by Mr. Willhite

Project Competition

Each year members with exceptional and unique SAE projects are able to compete against other members from the 17 schools in our FFA Section to see who has the best SAE in a variety of Categories. Members who compete in Project Competition submit their SAE records, and have a panel of judges come out to their SAE project to observe and answer questions about their project. This year Lincoln FFA had 4 members compete in Project Competition.

Jacquelyn Ellis - Silver Star for her Equine Placement Project
Chris Leebeck - Silver Star for his Ranch Hand Project
Scarlett Leebeck - Silver Star for her Lamb Project
Grace Tripp - Gold Star for her Beef Production Project

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Proficiency Awards

Proficiency Awards are given to students who excel in their Supervised Agricultural Experience Projects. These awards encourage members to develop specialized skills that will apply toward their future careers. To be awarded a proficiency is a high honor, as it means that a student has an excellent SAE project.

In the area of Agricultural Communications, the winner is **Jacquelyn Ellis** for her role in the promotion and publicization of the CHSRA District 3 Rodeo.

In the area of Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication, the winner is **Jarom Lauritzen** for his project making wooden planter boxes.

In the area of Agricultural Sales, the winner is **Zane Smull** for his Placement Job as a Salesman at Powder Creek Ranch Supply.

In the area of Agricultural Services, the winner is **Jacquelyn Ellis**, for her custom agricultural photography business.

In the area of Beef Production Placement, the winner is **Christopher Leebeck**, for his work as a ranch hand on his family's cattle ranch.

In the area of Beef Production Entrepreneurship, the winner is **Matthew Marino**, for his work raising and showing market steers at the fairs.

In the area of Equine Science Placement, the winner is **Jacquelyn Ellis** for her Placement Project at Triple Crown Equine Center.

In the area of Equine Science Entrepreneurship, the winner is **Gissel Ibanez Sanabia** for her Horse Enterprise.

In the area of Goat Production, the winner is **Julia Marino** for her work raising and showing market goats for the fairs.

In the area of Landscape Management, the winner is **Valerie DeHaro** for her Placement job with a landscaping company.

In the area of Poultry Production, the winner is **Samantha VanSant** for her work raising and showing poultry for the fairs.

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In the area of Sheep Production, the winner is **Scarlett Leebeck** for her work raising and showing lambs for the fairs.

In the area of Small Animal Production and Care, the winner is **Kiley Ganjouee**, for her market rabbit enterprise.

In the area of Swine Production, the winner is **Kody Lowe** for his multiple years of Market Swine Projects.

Finally, in the area of Vegetable Production, the winner is **Liam Maul** for his vegetable garden enterprise.

While these accomplishments are extraordinary, the National FFA Organization outlines additional awards to recognize outstanding and unique SAE projects in specific areas, including Agriscience Projects, Placement Projects, and non-production Agribusiness projects.

This year we are able to recognize the Lincoln FFA Stars in Agribusiness, and Agricultural Placement.

Star in Agribusiness

This year's Star in Agribusiness is **Jacquelyn Ellis**! Jacquelyn is turning her passion for photography into something truly special, launching her own custom agricultural photography business. She is often seen at the High School Rodeo Grounds during District 3 rodeos in Lincoln, capturing the dedication and skill of young competitors in action. In addition to her photography work, Jacquelyn serves as the newly elected Student Publicist and Social Media representative for CHSRA District 3, helping share the stories of the rodeo community. The agriculture industry is full of incredible moments, and we are proud to have someone from Lincoln FFA preserving and showcasing them. Congratulations, Jacquelyn!

Star in Agricultural Placement

This year's Star in Agricultural Placement is **Zane Smull**! Zane is following the family business and has been working at Powder Creek Ranch Supply as a true jack of all trades working in and out of the store to support his customers in Lincoln. Zane has made it a point to be able to spend as much time as he can working at the store, to learn the operation, expand his skills and job responsibilities, and support his family's business. On top of this award tonight, we also want to once again recognize Zane

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for winning the Ag Sales Placement Proficiency for the Sierra-Buttes FFA Section, The Superior FFA Region, and placing in the top 3 in his category for the State! Congratulations Zane!

Involvement Awards

To get the full agricultural education experience, an FFA member must fully engage in the three circle model. This means that they must equally engage in Classroom Instruction, FFA Leadership, and SAE Projects. As a part of their grade in their ag classes, each student must earn at least 5 activity points per semester. These can be earned by attending meetings, going to Conferences and Conventions, and being involved in many of the other activities we host. We would like to recognize those members who have surpassed this requirement, as either a Bronze (11+), Silver (21+), or Gold (31+) member.

Bronze;

Oliver Ausencio
DeAnna Dill
Jessen Haddox
Kaidin Ingargiola
Landon Mayfield
Jett Mendez
Lily Nielsen

Brayden Pianta
Amrita Rana
Grace Tripp
Samantha Vasant
Lyla Whiteside
Cruz Wilkerson

Silver

Reese Allred
Ruby Alvarez
Annie Armistead
Micah Duff
Kayden Fore
Charlotte Grandin
Estrella Herrera

Colton Kraushar
Hailey Mahaffey
Cooper Michael
Vance Pomerson
Talon Ross-Hart
Zane Smull
Ashlee Swett

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Gold

Sophie Breaux

Joe Crawford

Valerie DeHaro

Addalynn Henson

Gissel Ibanez Sanabia

Makenna Kaikkonen

Chris Leebeck

Scarlett Leebeck

Esmeralda Loyola

Matthew Marino

Julia Marino

Liam Maul

Tyler Patton

Caraline West

State Degree Recipients

The State FFA degree is the second highest degree that can be awarded to a member of the FFA Organization. It is also the highest honor that the California State FFA Association can bestow upon a member. To earn the State FFA Degree means that a member has not only been extremely active in all aspects of Agriculture education, but that they have also shown dedication in their SAE project and higher involvement in the FFA. This year, Lincoln FFA is proud to have had five members earn their State FFA Degree!

Valerie DeHaro

Jacquelyn Ellis

Addalynn Henson

Gissel Ibanez Sanabia

Jacob Lake

Chris Leebeck

Matt Marino

Cooper Maul

Grace Tripp

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Committee Chairs

An effective FFA chapter utilizes multiple levels of student leadership. While our officer team is elected each year, our advisors and officers work together to select and appoint other members to serve as Chairmen of our Chapter's Committees. Each of these committees are responsible for their own events, meetings, and committee members. We would like to take a moment to recognize the Lincoln FFA Members who served as Committee Chairs this year.

Strengthening Agriculture Committee -
Chaired by **Christopher Leebeck**

Building Communities Committee -
Chaired by **Valerie Deharo**

Growing Leaders Committee -
Chaired by **Scarlett Leebeck**

Scholarship Recipients

Grey Brothers Agricultural Scholarship

Samantha VanSant

John Patch Memorial Scholarship

Amrita Rana

Steven Moore Memorial Scholarship

Kody Lowe

Cody Evans Agriculture Memorial Scholarship

Audrey Baser, Jacob Lake, Kody Lowe, Zane Smull, & Walter Wiswell

Gold Hill Grange Scholarship

Drew Hamilton & Zane Smull

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Lincoln Hills Garden Group

Samantha VanSant

John Field Memorial Scholarship

Kody Lowe & Zane Smull

Thermalands Sportsmen's Club Scholarship

Audrey Baser, Jacob Lake, Kody Lowe, Zane Smull, & Walter Wiswell

Vineyard Family Scholarship

Madeline Blackthorne, Alecia Ebbitt, Drew Hamilton, Amrita Rana, Zane Smull, & Samantha VanSant

Jackie Davis Memorial Scholarship

Zane Smull

McQueary Family Scholarship

Susana Paul

Placer County Farm Bureau Scholarship

Walter Wiswell

Placer-Nevada Cattlewomen's Scholarship

Walter Wiswell

Tradestrong Scholarship

Andy Gerlach, Joaquin Guzman, Ryan Kirk, & Luis Morales

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Placer County Agriculture Student of the Year

This award presented by the Office of Shanti Landon is meant to recognize the most outstanding student in Agricultural Education each year. With input from the FFA Advisors, this year's recipient was;

Christopher Leebeck

Agriculture Pathway Completers

Being a pathway completer shows that you have developed knowledge in your respective disciplines and are ready to obtain careers in those fields. Our Agriculture department is proud to offer 5 pathways to our members; Sustainable Agriculture, Ag Mechanics, Floriculture, Animal Science, and Agribusiness. Each of these pathways requires a student to take at least 3 specific classes in that discipline. We are proud to recognize pathway completers in the following areas

Agribusiness

Ryder Alves

Jeremiah Andrade Anderson

Audrey Baser

William Bass

Makenzie Cameron

Aaron Cuevas

Alecia Ebbitt

Hailey Feckner

Mason Flores

Lillian Grandin

Kaidin Ingargiola

Ryan Kirk

Dylan Knell

Jacob Lake

Mason Lewin

Kody Lowe

Elias Morales

London Shoff

Tyler Silva

Zane Smull

Jonathan Sturgis

Grace Tripp

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Agricultural Mechanics

Damian Aliano Roman

Ryder Alves

Jacob Ayala

William Bass

Hayden Bradley

Andy Gerlach

Damian Gutierrez Rodriguez

Kaidin Ingargiola

Myles King

Ryan Kirk

Mason Lewin

Dominick Martinez

Krishan Nand

Jose Orozco

Susanna Paul

Ramiro Ramirez

John Skiver

Alejandro Velazquez

Jonathan White

Cain Wilkerson

Walter Wiswell

Alexander Wittenberg

Richard Youmans

Animal Science

Zoey Allen

Audrey Baser

Makenzie Cameron

Aaron Cuevas

Hailey Feckner

Lillian Grandin

Drew Hamilton

Kaidin Ingargiola

Ryan Kirk

Jacob Lake

Mason Lewin

Kody Lowe

Elias Morales

Amrita Rana

Kamryn Rhinehart

Zane Smull

Jonathan Sturgis

Grace Tripp

Madeline Blackthorne

Ricky Woods

George Wright

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Floriculture

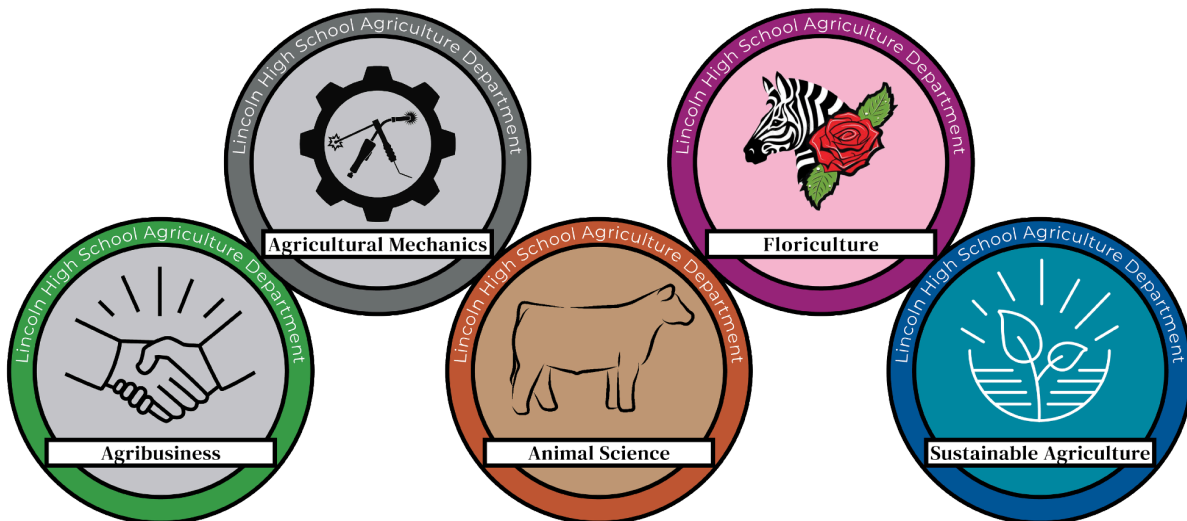
Victoria Brionez
Drew Hamilton
Amrita Rana

Kamryn Rhinehart
Nova Roberts
Samantha VanSant

Sustainable Agriculture

Zoey Allen
Audrey Baser
Makenzie Cameron
Aaron Cuevas
Hailey Feckner
Lillian Grandin
Drew Hamilton
Kaidin Ingargiola
Ryan Kirk
Jacob Lake
Mason Lewin

Kody Lowe
Elias Morales
Amrita Rana
Kamryn Rhinehart
Zane Smull
Jonathan Sturgis
Grace Tripp
Madeline Blackthorne
Ricky Woods
George Wright



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FFA Senior Award

The 3-Circle model of Agricultural Education represents that for a student to truly benefit from ag education, they should be actively involved in all aspects of the program; Classroom Instruction, Supervised Agricultural Experience Projects, and FFA Leadership Involvement. Each year there are a few senior members who have truly taken this idea to heart, and have maintained active participation in all 3 circles. It is no easy task, but to achieve the honor of the FFA Senior award, a member must be a member for all four years, participate in CDE or LDE teams during their time, have an active SAE project, and earn the highest degree that the California FFA State Association can bestow upon them, the State FFA Degree. I have had the privilege of working closely with this individual all four years of high school, and will miss his participation and presence at our activities when they graduate this year. When your name is called, please make your way onto the stage. This year's recipient of the FFA Senior Award is;

Kody Lowe

4-Year Agriculture Students

Zoey Allen

Ryder Alves

Audrey Baser

William Bass

Hayden Bradley

Victoria Brionez

Makenzie Cameron

Aaron Cuevas

Hailey Feckner

Mason Flores

Taylor Friend

Lillian Grandin

Damian Gutierrez

Rodriguez

Joaquin Guzman

Drew Hamilton

Kaidin Ingargiola

Ryan Kirk

Dylan Knell

Jacob Lake

Mason Lewin

Kody Lowe

Elias Morales

Susanna Paul

Amrita Rana

Kamryn Rhinehart

London Shoff

Tyler Silva

Zane Smull

Jonathan Sturgis

Grace Tripp

Madeline

Vandermolen

Samantha VanSant

Jonathan White

Cain Wilkerson

Walter Wiswell

Ricky Woods

George Wright

Richard Youmans

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Community Recognition

It takes a lot to operate a successful FFA Chapter, and it requires a lot of support and dedication from our community. Each year there are some of our community members who go above and beyond to support our chapter and students. We take this opportunity to recognize them and their contributions to Agriculture Education!

BeBe Industries

Jason Brandt

Marilou Edwards

Kevin & Joanne Lesmeister

Mary MacQueen

Stephanie Maul

Dave McQueary

Carrie Moore

Danielle Pacheco

Ashley Sandor

Todd Scott

Keri Scott

Shannon Spears

Mike Trueblood

Vickie Vineyard

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Honorary Chapter Degree

The Honorary Chapter Degree is the highest award and honor that can be bestowed on a non-member by an FFA Chapter. It is meant to symbolize the highest respect and honor for an individual and their contributions to the Local Program. As defined by the National FFA Constitution;

“Honorary FFA Degree—farmers, school superintendents, principals, members of boards of education, chapter advisors, teachers, staff members in agricultural education, business people and others who are helping to advance agricultural education and the FFA and who have rendered outstanding service, may be elected to receive an honorary FFA degree by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting or convention.”

This year’s Lincoln FFA Honorary Chapter Degree Recipients were;

Mr. Greg Swarts!

Mr. Swarts, we want to thank you for everything you have done to support not only Lincoln FFA but supporting future leaders. Your dedication whether it’s providing food for our leadership development event, or simply giving your time means more than words can express. You’ve played a vital role in helping support us as leaders and your contributions don’t go unnoticed. Thank you again for supporting the future farmers of America.

Star FFA Member

The Star FFA Member Award is a way we recognize the most active and outstanding FFA member from our chapter each year. The requirements are rigorous, but the honor is great! The winner of this award each year will have their name added to the perpetual plaque, in the hopes it will serve as a reminder to all FFA members that participation will lead to success. This year’s recipient of the Star FFA Member Award was;

Esmeralda Loyola!

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2025-2026 Chapter Officer Team Recognition

I want to take a moment and thank and congratulate once more our 25/26 Lincoln FFA Chapter Officer team for their outstanding work this past year. Being a Chapter Officer requires dedication, commitment, and hard work, and these young people brought all of that and more. It has been an honor to serve as their advisor this past year and I also thank them for making it such a fun and memorable year for me as well as the members. Congratulations to those who have been re-elected, I'm excited to see what you do in this new year!

- *Jacob Willhite, Lincoln FFA Advisor*

For the final time, your 2025 - 2026 Lincoln FFA Chapter Officer Team;



**Addalynn Henson, Matthew Marino, Gissel Ibanez
Sanabia, Ashlee Swett, Esmeralda Loyola,
Joseph Crawford, & Tyler Patton**



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2026 - 2027 Lincoln FFA Chapter Officer Team

After much anticipation, it is time to reveal the 2026-2027 Chapter Officer team. The process began in April, with 17 candidates submitting an application to the Advisor, undergoing an interview, and presenting a speech to the FFA members at the April FFA meeting. Though this 3 part process has brought forth the most qualified candidates to serve as officers next year, we thank and appreciate all of you for seeking to serve your fellow members.

2026/2027 Chapter Historian is: **Hailey Mahaffey**

2026/2027 Chapter Sentinel is: **Joseph Crawford**

2026/2027 Chapter Reporter is: **Esmeralda Loyola**

2026/2027 Chapter Treasurer is: **Ashlee Swett**

2026/2027 Chapter Secretary is: **Valerie DeHaro**

2026/2027 Chapter Vice President is: **Gissel Ibanez Sanabia**

2026/2027 Chapter President is: **Matthew Marino**

