



Submitted photo

Members of the Forest Lake FFA Chapter pose with their completed entry before the start of the Minnesota State Fair.

FFA receives award in competition at state fair

Student also helps in Miracle of Birth Center

The Forest Lake FFA's competitive landscape display took Reserve Grand Champion honors at the 2018 Minnesota State Fair. Students planned and installed the display with this year's theme, "Pollinator Garden." The exhibit is located outside the CHS Miracle of Birth Center and the FFA Leadership Center through Labor Day.

"We hope that fairgoers will stop by the display to see just one of the diverse learning opportu-

nities available to students as part of the Forest Lake Agriculture Department course offerings," agriculture teacher and FFA advisor Veronica Ward said in a press release. "Students enjoy putting their skills and creative minds to the test in this competitive activity."

The project is an extension of classroom instruction as students create a display that is evaluated on artistic design principles, identification of plant material with growth and care information, and quality of construction. Plants, materials and expertise were provided by Twin Lakes Landscapes of Columbus, Pro Care Compa-

nies of Forest Lake and Abrahamson Nursery of Scandia.

The local chapter is also represented at the CHS Miracle of Birth Center as junior Jenna Skarphol is serving as a barnyard attendant. Skarphol will work the second half of the fair and will assist with animal care, facility maintenance, and share the story of animal agriculture. The CHS Miracle of Birth Center is the most popular free exhibit at the Minnesota State Fair and is a cooperative effort between the Minnesota FFA, Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association and the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine.