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## SCHOOL BRIEF

### Forest Lake FFA chapter receives national honors

The Forest Lake Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter has been recognized as a Three Star Chapter by the National FFA Organization. This is the highest star rating that a chapter can earn and places the Forest Lake FFA among the top third of all chapters in the U.S.

The program recognizes outstanding FFA chapters that actively implement the mission and strategies of the organization. These chapters improve operations using the National Quality FFA Chapter Standards and a Program of Activities that emphasizes growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture. Chapters are rewarded for providing educational experiences for the entire membership.

Five members of the Forest Lake FFA chapter traveled to the National Convention in October to be recognized for this honor. The group was part of the record-breaking crowd at this year's convention, which welcomed 69,944 student members, teachers, alumni and guests. Chapter attendees participated in motivational sessions, personal development workshops and career success activities.

All state FFA chapters receive honors made possible by corporate sponsor John Deere.

"Feeding some 9 billion people by mid-century brings with it unprecedented challenges for today's farmers," said Amy Allen, manager of



Forest Lake FFA members (left to right) Rachel Roers, Marla Anderson, Rebecca Anderson, Madlson Carpenter and Emma Newcomb traveled to the National FFA Convention, Oct. 23-27, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

national corporate contributions at John Deere. "The skills and experiences learned through the National Chapter Award Program will help meet the critical needs."

Amanda Stafford, a 2016 graduate of Forest Lake Area High School, earned her American FFA Degree. Sponsored by Case IH, Elanco Animal Health and Syngenta, the award

recognizes demonstrated ability and outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production, processing or service programs.

To be eligible, FFA members must have earned and productively invested \$10,000 through a supervised agricultural experience program in which they start, own or hold a professional position in an existing agri-

cultural enterprise. Recipients must also complete 50 hours of community service and demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities and civic involvement.

Stafford is currently a student at Southwest Minnesota State University, where she is majoring in agricultural education and philosophy.

SUBMITTED