

The Minnesota Farm

Bureau Federation and the Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation worked with the Minnesota

Skarphol Wins State FFA Discussion Meet

FFA to sponsor the 17th FFA/Farm Bureau Discussion Meet competition. Sixteen regional FFA finalists from across the state competed at the Minnesota State FFA Convention on April 28 at the Continuing Education Conference Center Building on the University of Minnesota campus.

Jenna Skarphol of the Forest Lake FFA Chapter won the competition and Martha Moenning of the Triton FFA Chapter took second place. Luke Fonkert of the Dassel Cokato FFA Chapter and Nolan Mattison of the Maple River FFA Chapter also advanced to the final round. Skarphol and Moenning both receive a college scholarship sponsored by the Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation.

Other regional winners participating in the Discussion Meet included: Mollie Allen, Kasson-Mantorville FFA; Madeline Bailey, Ashby FFA; Hannah Baumgartner, Detroit Lakes FFA; Becca Berkenpas, Pipestone Area FFA; Dakota Cochran, Tracy Area FFA; Jenny Collins, Rothsay FFA; Paige Gerads, Upsala FFA; Stephanie Nowalk, HLWW (Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted) FFA; Bailee Schiefelbein, Kimball FFA; Samantha Scholtfeld, Ashby FFA; Levi Schmidt, Belle Plaine FFA; Katelyn Slettom, Grand Rapids FFA.

Topics of discussion for this year's event included:

- The United States has the safest and most affordable food supply in the world. How can we share agriculture's story with consumers?
- How can Farm Bureau, FFA and Agricultural Education address misconceptions about career opportunities in agriculture?
- Sustainability needs to be an integral part of agriculture, how do we as Farm Bureau and FFA work together to advance technology and practices?

Students participated in two semi-final rounds, and the top four advanced to a final round. Contestants were judged on their basic knowledge of critical farm issues and their ability to exchange ideas and information in a setting aimed at cooperative problem solving.