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Wisconsin FFA Foundation Announces SAE Grant Recipients

MADISON, Wis. [January 5, 2024] – The Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Grant committee of the Wisconsin FFA Foundation awarded over \$23,000 in grants to twenty-nine Wisconsin FFA members.

SAE Grants are designed to help students create or enhance their individual SAE project. The grants are made possible through donations from individuals and organizations who support FFA and agricultural education in Wisconsin, including the family of Paul and Kirsten Gross, Bluescope Buildings, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, Crystal Farms, Organic Valley, Seneca Foods, and the Wisconsin FFA Foundation Board of Directors.

The recipients received up to \$1,000 each for their projects which cover a wide range of areas such as animal science, crop production, agribusiness, and environmental science. These grants will allow students to expand their knowledge and skills in these areas while also gaining valuable hands-on experience.

The 2023 Wisconsin FFA Foundation SAE Grants are awarded in five categories: dairy, grain production, livestock, organic agriculture and start-up. Candidates were chosen based on the level and scope of their SAE project, as well as their age, financial need, leadership within FFA and their communities, and future plans for their individual projects.

Through Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs), agricultural students in Wisconsin (as well as nationwide) can apply the concepts they learn in the classroom to real-world situations. As one of the three pillars of the agricultural education model (alongside FFA membership and classroom lessons), SAEs provide students with immersive experiences beyond hypothetical scenarios. The SAE for All initiative has gained momentum across the state, encouraging every agricultural student to embark on an SAE project to better prepare for future career opportunities.

The 2023 Wisconsin FFA Foundation SAE Grant recipients are:

Dairy SAE Grants were awarded to the following recipients: Hannah Fesenmaier, Elmwood; Ava Kolodzienski, Ellsworth; Ella Raatz, Colby; Erika Sleznikow, Marshfield; Matthew Winch, Fennimore; Eden Richter, Fennimore; Joseph Schuch, Oregon.

Grain Production SAE Grants were awarded to: Hunter Carlson, Unity; Sean Jones, Dodgeville; Reid Stalsberg, Fennimore.

Livestock SAE Grants were awarded to: Caleb Davis, Edgerton; Liv Lucas, Greenwood; Kallie Penk, Thorp; Skyleigh Schroedl, Jefferson; Carter Ollendick, Tomah; Launa Daniels, Unity; Ethan Fitzpatrick, Holmen; Jaci Kammes, Black Hawk.

Organic Agriculture SAE Grants were awarded to: Samantha Vosters, Freedom; Jorja Wolfe, Cochrane-Fountain City.

Start-up SAE Grants were awarded to: Mckenna Keuler, Bangor; Sierra Bramstedt, Howards Grove; Caitlin Breunig, Edgerton; Megan Kesler, Oconton Falls; Grant Kilmek, Independence; Patrick Reilley, Waupun; Josephine Sadogierski, Portage; Mariah Sandberg, River Falls; Jonathon Wellnitz, Edgerton.

The Wisconsin FFA Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) organization, unites individuals, organizations and companies who share a common interest in the advancement of agriculture and community leadership through FFA. You can support today's FFA members by supporting the programs that have been core tenets of the FFA: proficiency awards, career development events, state FFA degrees, sectional leadership workshops, scholarships, chapter awards, agri-science fair, state FFA convention and state officer support. Learn more about the Wisconsin FFA Foundation and sponsorship opportunities by visiting <https://wisconsinaged.org/>.

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