



**Nebraska Cooperative Council
Education Foundation**

635 S. 14th St. Suite 125, Lincoln, NE 68508
PH: 402/475-6555 FAX: 402/475-4538

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Adam Feser
Director of Cooperative Advancement
402/475-6555 or adam@nebr.coop

WINNERS OF STATE FFA COOPERATIVE SPEAKING EVENT ANNOUNCED

LINCOLN, NE (April 15, 2024) – Awards were presented to 32 FFA members for their speaking skills and knowledge of cooperatives during a special awards ceremony on April 5, 2024. The FFA Cooperative Speaking Event is held during the State FFA Convention which was April 3-5 in Lincoln.

Each contestant in the Cooperative Speaking Competition was judged on a six- to eight-minute prepared speech on a topic dealing with cooperatives and their benefits to the local, state and national economies. Participants were selected for the competition at district contests throughout the state over the past several months.

The competition is sponsored by the Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation in an effort to help develop leadership skills and increase understanding of the cooperative system. 2024 marks the 73rd consecutive year that the Council or its Education Foundation has supported the Nebraska FFA Association.

Six students advanced to the finals. Laynee Ohm from the Arthur County FFA Chapter took top honors in the 2024 competition and received a trophy, first place medal, and check for \$250 from the NCC Education Foundation. Second place went to Katelyn Shimic of the Gering FFA Chapter along with a medal and check for \$125. Third place went to Lindsey Borgelt of the Wisner-Pilger FFA Chapter who received a medal and check for \$75. Rounding out the finals were 4th place - Jacob Wollenburg of the Tri County FFA Chapter; 5th place - Chloe Scheer of Palmer FFA Chapter; and 6th place - Claire Ahrens of the Pleasanton FFA Chapter.

Rocky Weber, NCCEF President, indicated that “The Council is proud to provide support for these students as they develop their leadership and communication skills while at the same time learning about the value cooperatives bring to Nebraskans all across the state.”