

Earned Recognition

[Dustin Schanbacher receives recognition for Stars Over Iowa]



Water Flow. It is necessary to understand plants and what they need when students are in FFA. "I usually water the plants during B block," Burgandy Frese 15 said, "and sometimes, depending on the temperature outside, someone will water them again." These plants were sold in the spring through FFA once they were much larger. [photo] Caitlyn Conway



Fast Pace. Spencer Hill 15, Chase Janss 15, Ryan Novotny 15, Chase Kusel 16, Matt Gessner 14 and Torey Wallander 17 watch Kristin Koopman 14 run to score for her team. "We [FFA] usually play kickball or dodge ball after the meetings for chapter bonding," Spencer said. [photo] Cassidy Nulty

The selection as a Stars Over Iowa nominee was an extreme honor for Dustin Schanbacher 14. However, before he celebrated, he prepared and turned in his Iowa degree, which took him all four years of high school.

Heidi Kaestner 14 explained that an Iowa degree was a record of all his projects for FFA.

"It is a record book of his Supervised Agriculture Experience," she said. She explained that, "in the book are: how many hours he worked throughout the years, how much money he made, how many hours of community service he completed and how many inside and outside FFA activities he participated in."

Once students reached their junior year and their Iowa degree looked correct, they applied for the star. The star required another application. The entire experience challenged Dustin because no one else applied for this opportunity.

"The application was really difficult to fill out," Dustin said, "because all the questions were in depth."

Even though it is incredibly tough to be selected for Stars Over Iowa, FFA members wanted the honor.

"I plan to go for it next year, Dakota Feldmann 15 said, "but I am focusing on getting my state degree right now."

In April, three judges interviewed Dustin. They reviewed the application and based their questions from that. Dustin knew he was prepared when he looked over his application.

He said, "I read over everything to make sure I knew what I had put down, but it was still a difficult process because I had never done anything like that before."

Even though this application took time, it was a major accomplishment for Dustin. Adviser Krystal Wright enjoyed that one of her students was recognized for what he had done.

"I am extremely proud of him," Wright said, "because it is wonderful to see my students recognized for their hard work and dedication."

~Ashley Masten

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Careful With the Chicks. Tucker Schroeder 16 and Jeremy Cassill 15 enjoy the baby chicks as they hold them. "Jeremy and I realized that you cannot squeeze the baby chicks too hard," Tucker said, "or they will begin to chirp really loud." [photo] Kristin Jensen



Practice Makes Perfect. Concentration is the key to Juli Martin's 16 success as she injects a banana with colored water to experience what it is like to give medicine to animals. "I thought it was interesting to see what happened to the banana while we were injecting it," Juli said. [photo] Natalie Towe

Top Three most memorable moments

1 "Getting my Chapter Degree was the most memorable because I will now always be a part of Benton's FFA Chapter."



JoAnn Skalsky 15

2 "Nationals was the best part about FFA because we were doing FFA stuff all week and not just during our class time."



Kayla Wilson 14

3 "Buying two chickens from the chapter was one of the best moments. Mrs. [Krystal] Wright knew one was a girl, so I named it Maria."



Chase Kusel 16



Special Day. On "Drive Your Tractor to School Day," Zach Haerther 14 enjoys his early morning travel. He said, "Driving your tractor shows the pride in agriculture." [photo] Ashley Masten

Loyal Leader. FFA meetings are productive with Adam Gorkow 14 as the president. "I enjoy leading as it gives me speaking experience in front of large groups," Adam said. [photo] Cassidy Nulfy

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