



## KEWANEE FFA HONORED AT STATE CONVENTION

SPRINGFIELD – Members of the Kewanee FFA chapter attended the 95<sup>th</sup> annual Illinois State FFA Convention June 13-15 along with more than 5,000 other FFA members, advisors, and guests. With a 2023 theme of “Electrify,” the three-day event annually recognizes achievements of Illinois FFA members, elects the major state officer team, and celebrates agriculture.

During the convention, the following awards were presented to the Kewanee FFA:

**Illinois State FFA Degree:** Rachel DeRycke, Kyle Joos, & Kiersten Yordy were conferred with State FFA Degrees by the Illinois Association for meeting all requirements including productive financial investments and earnings in a supervised agricultural experience and FFA participation, leadership, and academic excellence. The State FFA Degree is the highest achievement an FFA member can achieve in Illinois; less than 2% of members statewide earn this prestigious recognition.

**Foundation 25 Year Supporter:** The chapter was recognized for providing financial contributions to the Illinois Foundation FFA for 25 years.



Pictured above in photo **189 A**: Addison Gerard

**Illinois State Creed Speaking:** Kalleigh Gale was the District 1 Creed Speaking winner and competed against the TOP 10 Creed speakers from across the state while at State Convention.

**Illinois State Spanish Creed Speaking:** Daniela Chavez competed in the Spanish Creed speaking Leadership Development Event and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state!

**Illinois State FFA Band:** Kiersten Yordy & Abigail DeSchepper represented Kewanee High School in the state convention band, they performed during several sessions.

**National Chapter Award Finalist:** The chapter was named a National Chapter Award Finalist and will compete at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis this fall. The chapter learned in the final session on Thursday that they ranked in the TOP 20 out of over 350 chapters!



Pictured above (from L to R) in photo [REDACTED]: Rachel DeRycke and Kashen Ellerbrock

Students at the convention were greeted with activities including a career fair featuring colleges and agribusinesses and an opportunity to engage in the history of Illinois' capital city. The sessions featured addresses by National FFA Eastern Region Vice President Gracie Murphy, of Illinois, and from each of the retiring major state officers.

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#### **About Illinois Association FFA**

The Illinois Association FFA is part of the National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America. Over 41,000 students are enrolled in 365 FFA chapters in the State of Illinois. FFA is a national youth organization of 850,823 student members with a mission of making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Visit [www.ilaged.org](http://www.ilaged.org) for more information.

#### **About the Illinois Foundation FFA**

Illinois Foundation FFA engages individuals, industry, education, government, and foundations in securing funds to support quality agricultural education and FFA programs in Illinois, including providing awards at the State FFA Convention. To learn more and become involved, visit [www.illinoisffaoundation.org](http://www.illinoisffaoundation.org).

For more information, contact:

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