

News Release

Wisconsin Association of FFA

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For Immediate Release

Midthun Named Star Farmer Finalist

Callie Midthun of the Lodi FFA Chapter was named as a Finalist for the Wisconsin Star Farmer Award for 2008 at the 79th State FFA Convention in Madison, Wisconsin. Midthun's advisor is Glenda Crook. Her parents are John and Penny Midthun.

Callie's beef project has grown from a couple of show steers to a beef feeder and finishing operation averaging about 50 head of cattle per year. Callie is an equal business partner with her father. Midthun took an AI training program using this technology to improve her herd's genetics. Callie works hard to maintain herd health through management of proper nutrition, good housing conditions, bedding techniques, plenty of space, and routine vaccinations.

Callie finds that showing her animals at local fairs and placing high in classes to qualify for carcass evaluation and rating is a great tool for advertising. She also contacts individuals that don't raise livestock offering processed halves and quarters for direct sales. Satisfied buyers have become a clientele of returning customers for her. Callie plans to go into Veterinary Medicine as a profession.

The Star Farmer Awards are sponsored by Alliant Energy Foundation and *Wisconsin State Farmer* through the Wisconsin FFA Foundation, Inc.

The State Convention is a grand event that celebrates the accomplishments of the students, advisors, and supporters who make our organization great. Over 3,000 Wisconsin FFA members and advisors representing more than 250 schools along with parents, alumni, sponsors, and guests gathered June 9-12, 2008 to participate in the 79th State FFA Convention at the Exhibition Hall at Alliant Energy Center - Madison, Wisconsin.

The FFA Organization provides its members with an opportunity to gain life skills through hands-on learning. FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.
