

# News Release

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## Wisconsin Association of FFA

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For Immediate Release

## Klinkner Named Star in Agribusiness

Justin Klinkner of the Cashton FFA Chapter was named the Star in Agribusiness Award for 2008 at the 79th State FFA Convention in Madison, Wisconsin. Klinkner's advisor is John Heinberg. His parents are Gerald and Ann Klinkner.

Klinkner was able to remodel an old heifer barn from his parents, Gerald and Ann Klinkner, into a chicken coop. Justin began by purchasing ten varieties of hens off the internet. After a year, he decided to grow his operation and sell his produce as organic eggs. Klinkner applied for and received a Rural Youth Loan from the local Farm Service Agency to help him finance his project.

Klinkner's Organic Eggs has 350 organic egg producing hens. Justin worked to get just the right number of chickens to work with the size of his facility as organic standards require free-range for the birds. Through a contract with Organic Valley Cooperative of LaFarge, the nearly 300 eggs that are laid daily are gathered and marketed.

Justin has found out that managing his hens is a lot of work- keeping them bedded up and clean, monitoring how much they eat, and tracking egg production records. Through his project he has learned to be a financially responsible businessman.

Justin plans to get a degree in Ag Mechanics from Southwest Tech College and someday take over the farm or start his own agribusiness in poultry or livestock.

The Star in Agribusiness Awards are sponsored by Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives 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-Alliant Energy Center of in 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.

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