

News Release

Wisconsin Association of FFA

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For Immediate Release

Mlsna Named Star Farmer Finalist

Tyler Mlsna of the Cashton FFA Chapter was named as a Finalist for the Wisconsin Star Farmer Award for 2008 at the 79th State FFA Convention in Madison, Wisconsin. His advisor is John Heinberg. Tyler's parents, Mark and Bridget Mlsna, got him started in beef production.

Mlsna began with half ownership of a few steers. When Tyler gained more responsibility, his father encouraged him to purchase his uncle's 15 head of beef cattle. Three years later his current herd size is at 45 head. Tyler rents his grandparent's farm. His beef program consists of raising bull calves to 450 pounds. At feeder cattle weight he sells about 90 percent of the bulls. Most of the heifer calves are raised as replacements.

Through the Farm Service Agency Rural Youth Loan Program Mlsna secured financing to purchase his first equipment, a tractor, two feed wagons, and a gravity box. Tyler plans to graduate from the WTC Wood Tech program in cabinet making and carpentry. Eventually he hopes to buy his grandfather's farm and raise 150 head of beef and milk an outstanding herd of 40 dairy cows.

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.
