



## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 16, 2011

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### **Young Agricultural Entrepreneurs get Funding for Projects**

Madison, Wis. – The Wisconsin FFA Foundation selected 26 students to share \$15,900 in Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Grants. SAE programs apply and engrain the concepts learned in the agricultural education classroom and the life and career skills developed through FFA membership to individual experiential learning projects.

“The students’ SAEs are really unique to agricultural education,” said Nicole Nelson, executive director of the Wisconsin FFA Foundation. “What better way to prepare students for future careers in the agriculture, food and natural resources industry than encourage them to find or create those types of projects right now. These grants allow the students to start or expand their projects.”

The grants were awarded in four different SAE categories: aquaculture, dairy, organic agriculture and start-up. All of the funds were donated by agribusinesses and donors to the Wisconsin FFA Foundation Annual Fund. The businesses supporting the dairy grants included: Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, Foremost Farms USA, Saputo, We Energies-Agriculture Services Program, and Nasco. The Wisconsin Aquaculture Association and Organic Valley supported the aquaculture and organic agriculture grants, respectively. The start-up grants were provided by the Wisconsin FFA Foundation Annual Fund, which is made up of unrestricted contributions from individuals and companies. The Foundation Board of Directors approves the annual fund allocation.

To compete for funding, students completed a five-page application that explained their SAE program to-date, how much funding they were requesting, the anticipated use of the funds, future goals for their SAE program and involvement in other FFA and school-related activities. They also had the chance to explain any circumstances of financial need and a statement from their FFA advisor was submitted. Successful candidates were chosen based on the level and scope of their SAE in accordance with their age, future goals and plans for the program, and financial need.

“Today’s FFA student members will be key contributors to some of the largest issues our world will face,” said Nelson. “Through their future careers in the agriculture, food and natural resources industry, they will work on matters such as feeding a growing population, preserving our natural resources, ensuring consumers that food sources are safe and healthy, and so much more – which is why hands on experiences, such as SAEs are a great education tool to learn valuable skills for a growing and changing agriculture industry.”

“We saw a really great pool of applicants this year,” said Nelson. “The judges were impressed with their thoughtful, aspiring plans. They could tell by the application content shared that the students are passionate about their projects.”

## 2011-12 SAE Grant Recipients

### Aquaculture

Casey Boknevitx	Oconto Falls FFA
Aaron Frisk	New Lisbon FFA
Dakota Winkler	Oconto Falls FFA

### Dairy

Kristen Broege	Janesville Craig FFA
Trevor G. Crain	New London FFA
Tyler Endres	Lodi FFA
Bryce J. Krull	Lake Mills FFA
Carley J. Krull	Lake Mills FFA
Katherine Larson	Viroqua FFA
Cole Mark	Elmwood FFA
Charles Moore	Fennimore FFA
Daniel Ruben O'Keefe	Stevens Point FFA
Kari Orzechowski	Thorp FFA
Ashley Rickey	Wisconsin Heights FFA
Kaila Wussow	Bonduel FFA
Deanna Zernicke	Bonduel FFA

### Organic

Jena Alling	Unity FFA
Summer Johnson	Luck FFA

### Start-Up

Reese K. Aerts	DePere FFA
Skyla Aissen	Luxemburg-Casco FFA
Morgan Eilers	Waupaca FFA
Kyle Herbrand	Sauk Prairie FFA
Garrett Thomas Paulson	Clear Lake FFA
Zach Pittman	Clear Lake FFA
Grant Tyler Schoenberger	Albany FFA
Kyle Weisensel	Edgerton FFA

The Wisconsin FFA Foundation supports the state's agricultural education programs by developing partnerships with individual and corporate sponsors. Learn more about the organization or how to support students and projects like these by visiting [www.wisconsinffaoundation.org](http://www.wisconsinffaoundation.org) or contacting Nicole Nelson at [nnelson@wisconsinffaoundation.org](mailto:nnelson@wisconsinffaoundation.org).

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