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**POLK COUNTY FARM BUREAU**

**AITC visits St. Theresa's Elementary School plot**



Polk County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom coordinator Gretchen Voga and intern Joshua Holmes visited St. Theresa's Elementary School in Des Moines the other day to see how their crops were doing. Their corn continues to impress us by being as tall as 5 feet already! Wow!!! Their soybeans however are struggling to break the surface of the soil. We might have to help them by hoeing the ground to get them to come through unless we get a really hard rain. We will check again in a couple of weeks to see how everything is progressing.

When the students come back in the fall, they will be able to harvest the crops. We will keep you up to date on the progress of the Learning Test Plot here.

**Polk County Farm Bureau Ag Enhancement Scholarships Awarded**

We are very pleased to announce recipients of the 2015 Polk County Farm Bureau Ag Enhancement Scholarships.

Eric Butoto, Johnston High School graduate and son of Noe Rwezangoro and Antonette Nakizungu of Urbandale. Eric will attend Iowa State University with a career choice of Ag & Life Science.

Samuel Buckley, Johnston High School graduate and son of Michael & Jami Buckley of Johnston. Samuel will attend Iowa University with a career choice of Environment Science.

Congratulations to each of you and best of luck in your future endeavors.

**Students recognized by Governor Branstad for Academic Excellence**

Students from around the state were recognized for outstanding academic achievement at the Thirteenth Annual governor's Scholar Recognition Ceremony on April 26 at Hy-Vee Hall in Des Moines.

The statewide program, sponsored by the Iowa Governor's Office, Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and its title sponsor the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF), honored 436 high school seniors from across Iowa.

"Iowa Farm Bureau members believe that by investing in our youth and communities, we're investing in the future of Iowa," said IFBF President Craig Hill. "We are so proud to honor such exceptional students and proud



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to be a leading contributor to educational programs and annual scholarships for our youth."

Each high school was invited to select their senior student or students with the highest academic ranking. Based on grade point average for their first seven semesters. Students selected for the award also had the opportunity to recognize their favorite/most influential teacher and will receive a photo plaque of their meeting with Governor Branstad.

"The principles learned through academic success, like those learned from participation in education-based activities, help develop outstanding leaders and citizens." said IHSAA Executive Director Alan Beste. "The partnership between the IHSAA and the Iowa Farm Bureau, along with the great cooperation of the governor's Office has made this prestigious event possible for many years."

Ninety-eight percent of those recognized also participate in extra-curricular school activities, with more than 80 percent participating in at least one interscholastic sport. Nearly 60 percent of the group plan to continue their education in Iowa.

Jayde Logemann, student at Ankeny Christian Academy; Kory Ford and Andrew Klinker, both are students at Ankeny Centennial; Sony Hoang and Elizabeth Pritchard, both are students at Ankeny High School; Ashley Stevens, a student at Des Moines Christian; Kristina Smith, a student at Des Moines East; Cassie Harrington and Zachary Hall, both students at Des Moines North; Ashley May and Luis Martinez-Patino, both students at Des Moines, Abraham Lincoln; Emily Knuth, a student at Bondurant-Farrar; Evan Haugh, a student at Des Moines Roosevelt; Shuda Jarboe & John Krone, both students at Johnston High School; and Satya Yaramati, a student at Valley High School in West Des Moines; Timothy Drabek, a student at Grand View Christian; Devon Veach, a student at Iowa Christian Academy; Annemarie McCormick, a student at North Polk in Alleman; Justin Roepsch, a student at Saydel; and Jacey Huinker, a student at Southeast Polk; Megan Watson and Justin Dodd, both are students at Urbandale High School and Emily Hestbech and Nathan Roby, both are students at Hoover High School were all honored at the event.

### **2015 Polk County Fair: Ticket to Fun**

Join over 700 youth involved in Clover Kids and 4-H as they showcase their learning at this year's Polk County Fair from July 22-27 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. With sixty-two clubs, there is a lot to see and experience, especially with the theme: Ticket to Fun!

New to the fair this year is the first annual Clover Dash 5K on Saturday, July 25 at 9:30 am. Contact the Extension Office to register; early registration closes June 25. Also new this year is a Metro Arts Alliance workshop for Clover Kids (youth ages 4 through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) on Saturday, July 25 at 12:00 pm in the 4-H Exhibit Building. We've also incorporated art



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into this year's fair and will host a live painter at the Friday night beef show in the Livestock Barn. FarmHer, a photographer dedicated to women in agriculture, will have a booth throughout the fair and will capture 4-H'ers at work on Saturday, July 25. Another new and exciting element to this year's fair is the Pet Show at 5:00 on Saturday, July 25. Tradition is also fun! Join us at the kick-off BBQ Wednesday night from 6:00-7:30 pm in the 4-H Building. The Kind-Queen Coronation is at 7:00 pm on Wednesday evening, July 22. Also fun is the King Arthur Baking Contest that takes place on Saturday, July 25. Stop by the fair—free admission and parking—to see the kids' projects, animal shows, and fun events! The fair schedule is located online at [polkcountyfairiowa.com](http://polkcountyfairiowa.com). Join the fun this July with Polk County 4-H!