

## AGRISCIENCE FAIR NATIONAL AWARDS

### Agriscience National FFA Champion Division 3 Animal Systems

Lizzie Schafer - Taylorville FFA

Lizzie's agriscience research project was titled: Do bovine in vitro fertilization (IVF) embryo egg grades indicate fetal sex? In this experiment, she examined if in vitro fertilization-embryo stage quality determines the sex of offspring. The sex of an animal can have many implications in livestock production that are both practical and economical. The impact of embryo grade on the fetal sex ratios of 50% pregnancies produced of the embryonic content and the lower survival rate of these embryos was researched. Results of this study indicate differences in the ratio of fetal sexes in pregnancies resulting from the implantation of differing grades of embryos.



### Agriscience National FFA Champion Division 3 Plant Systems

Summer Ramsey - Southeastern FFA



Summer's agriscience research project tested the effect of temperature on the secondary drift of Dicamba herbicide. She found that a change from 20°C to 32°C nearly doubled the amount of leaf cupping which would cause soybean yield to decrease. Through her agriscience project, Summer gained new skills and is better able to help agriculturalists with developing a crop management plan, identifying plant anatomy, and discussing how environmental factors play a role in chemical application.

### Agriscience National FFA Champion Division 6 Plant Systems

Cullen Colvin and Matthew Grab - Freeburg FFA

Cullen and Matthew's research was completed to understand stress on soybeans and how inducing stress can affect yields. The agronomic outcome is to determine if purposeful, chemical stress can lead to a positive net gain. By spraying Cobra herbicide on the soybeans to cause stress in the fourth vegetative growth stage, they found a significant yield increase of five bushels per acre. Cullen and Matthew hope to continue finding ways to help soybean farmers increase efficiency and profit.



## FFA STATE OFFICER TEAM



(From left to right)

Secretary-Jordi Oliver, Vice President-Molly Schempp, Reporter-Margaret Vassen, President-Lexi Mueller, Treasurer-Emma Kuhns

## NATIONAL FFA OFFICER



**Miriam Hoffman, Earlville FFA**, was elected the 2020-21 National FFA Eastern Region Vice President. Her SAEs are dairy production, entrepreneurship and placement. She was the 2018-19 state FFA secretary. Growing up surrounded by FFA memorabilia from when her late father was involved in FFA, Miriam was encouraged by her older sister to join the organization. During an FFA leadership camp between her sophomore and junior years, she had an incredible three days of personal growth and relationship building, allowing her to challenge the limit of her comfort zone. Hoffman says that her aim for this year is to empower students and the organization to embrace complexity. "I hope to do this by embracing everything that we are as individuals and refusing to simplify ourselves to fit in a box," Hoffman said. "I want to embrace the nuance in our efforts to continue moving forward as an organization and in the beautifully diverse industry of agriculture." After her service to the FFA, Miriam will return to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale majoring in agribusiness economics.