

## Draft Copy

### 2012 FFA STAR CEREMONY

*Flag bearers will line up in a column of two's with the U.S. flag on the right. The U.S. and FFA flags will be in the front. Music is up and on que the U.S. and FFA flags will lead the state flags into the ring. They will circle the ring, when the flag bearers reach the entrance to the ring they will turn right and go up to the center of the ring. Go between the U.S. and FFA flag and toward the side of their respective rings. Each flag will maintain approximately 4 feet behind the flag in front of them. The U.S. and FFA flags will move approximately 4 feet back of and on either side of the podium. When this is accomplished, Cain Thurmond, Southern Regional FFA Vice President will enter the ring and proceed to the podium.*

*Cain steps to the microphone. Music becomes background.*

Good afternoon and welcome to the 2012 Big E FFA Star Award Ceremony. You are in for a special presentation this afternoon, the announcement of the four BIG E FFA Stars for 2012. My name is Cain Thurmond and I am serving as the 2011-2012 Southern Region Vice President of the National FFA Organization. This ceremony is the Big E and Farm Credit Bank's way of honoring the outstanding young farmers, agribusiness, agricultural placement, and agriscience students from the 18 states of the FFA's Eastern Region. All of these young men and women are students of agricultural education and members of the National FFA Organization.

The FFA is the leading youth organization in the United States with over 500,000 members studying in the fields of science, business and technology of agriculture through agricultural education.

Earlier today each of these stars was interviewed by adult leaders in the field of agriculture and related areas.

Each of these young FFA members has been honored because of their outstanding achievements in agriculture and their abilities in the areas of scholarship and leadership. It is my honor and privilege to present to you this year's Eastern States Exposition Star Farmer, Star Agribusiness, Star Agricultural Placement and Star Agriscience students of the Eastern Region of the National FFA.

*(Tiffany will read each of the candidates name and state and they will take one step forward and then step back)*

**Star Farmer Contestants:**

Kacey Reinholtz – Connecticut  
Sophie LaRochelle - New Hampshire  
Caleb Liptrap – Virginia  
Sarah Carl - Pennsylvania

**Star Ag Placement Contestants:**

Kristie Laverdiere – Connecticut  
Aaron Clark – Ohio  
Kendra Lester – Virginia  
Samuel Dively – Pennsylvania  
Joseph Goodenough IV – New Jersey  
Jordan Knarr - Delaware

**Star Agribusiness Contestants:**

David Johnston – Connecticut  
Tyler Bauman – Pennsylvania  
Phillip VanScoy – Ohio  
Lauren Breene – Rhode Island

**Star Agriscience Contestant:**

Lucas Bates – Virginia  
Maegan Olson – Maryland  
Nicholas Fried - Pennsylvania

Now, it's my pleasure to introduce three very special friends of the FFA, the President of the Eastern States Exposition, Mr. **EUGENE J. CASSIDY**, *(pause)* the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the BIG E Mr. Don Chase, *(pause)* and representing the Farm Credit Banks who are sponsoring this FFA program, Vice President of Farm Credit East, Mr. James Putnam

*(Enter Cassidy, Chase, and Putnam, who stand by the podium. They present the clocks and checks to the recipients.)*

*Tiffany reads the winners in each category and the winner comes forward to receive their award and congratulations from Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Chase, and Mr. Putnam ...*

### **Star Farmer**

This FFA member has taken an active role in raising, showing, and selling Nubian dairy goats since she began her operation at age 10. She started her herd with just two goats and has built her operation to 8, creating a very successful breeding program by selecting quality animals. She has found a successful market in selling her animals to people who raise goats for pets or for milk and cheese. By selective breeding, hard work, and careful selection of quality animals, this young entrepreneur has created a very successful business called "Dream Away Farm." Congratulations to Kacey Reinholtz of Connecticut.

### **Star in Agribusiness**

This year's star in Agribusiness has developed a small garden into a profitable business through hard work and a vision for success. During his first year of his vegetable production SAE he sold all of his produce from a farm stand along Route 85. Like a productive business owner, he set goals and expectations for his business to grow. This agribusiness star met his goals with flying colors when he produced enough tomatoes to meet customer demand at his farm stand, fill six whole sale accounts and have enough left over to donate 550 lbs to the local food bank! Congratulations to David Johnston of Connecticut.

### **Star in Ag Placement**

This FFA member works at a local dairy operation where he dedicated himself to hard work and learning the trade. Throughout his two years working on the farm, he has received two pay raises for his efforts for being a valuable employee for the business and helping to create success. He plans to use his income from the hard work on the farm to attend a two year Agriculture Technology School majoring in either Agriculture Technology or Agriculture Mechanics. This year's Star in Ag Placement is Samuel Dively of Pennsylvania.

## **Star in Agriscience**

This Agriscience star based her SAE on her internship researching Chronic Wasting Disease. She has gained experience working alongside Veterinarians in which she learned about animal anatomy and furthered her knowledge in the career she pursues. Her future is bright with big plans of attending Frederick Community College to get an associate in Biology, transfer to Virginia Tech to complete her bachelor's degree with a Dairy Science, Animal Science Major and a Wildlife Biology Minor. From there she hopes to attend Veterinary School and become a Dairy and Wildlife Veterinarian. Congratulations to the star in Agriscience, Maegan Olson of Maryland.

Let us give a big round of applause to these winners in the Big E Stars program.

Thank you for your attendance, support and belief in the future of agriculture through youth leadership. Let the circus begin!

*(US Flag and FFA Flag move to the front of the podium and cross with the US Flag crossing in front of the FFA Flag. The US & FFA flags will lead the state flags WV and VA flags at the head of the column. Alex will follow the flags leading the stars out of the tent.*

*(Pictures of the Stars will be taken outside the tent with Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Chase and Mr. Putnam)*

*Group of flag bearers and marchers will be escorted to the parade start gate area. Upon conclusion of the parade, the group will return to Mallary Ag office to drop off flags and flag carriers. Ag van will bring students who have to go the banquet to the Sheraton.*