

Frenchman Valley Coop., together with Syngenta, participated in a program through the National FFA Foundation this year that resulted in an FFA jacket being awarded to the Imperial chapter.

Syngenta made a generous proposition to its Midwest retail partners, such as the local coop: contribute \$2,500 to the National FFA Foundation and Syngenta would match it.

In recognition of that partnership and the retailers' contribution, chapters like the Imperial FFA received an official blue jacket and a \$500 check for the student organization.

Imperial FFA Advisor Jason Speck said the chapter split up the funds for the jacket between the eight freshman FFA members this year. In effect, the chapter had to order only seven jackets for the eight freshmen, and then split the cost savings between those freshmen.

Jordan Gibb, a freshman FFA member, wrote a thank-you from the chapter to the businesses.

Speck said they have not yet earmarked where the \$500 donation will be utilized, but it was much appreciated.

Russ Klemme, district sales manager for Syngenta in Minnesota, said, "The Blue Jacket Program created a lot of excitement and exceeded our expectations. The retailers who participated in the program are true ambassadors of agriculture."