

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Four members of the Imperial FFA will step across the stage next Friday, April 5, to receive their State FFA Degrees.

Seniors Jordan Gibb, Justin German, Spencer Hartman and Callin Ledall all have met the requirements and will receive their FFA State Degree.

Hartman is also up for the Star in agribusiness, and will interview for that top award while in Lincoln next week.

All of them will also be on one or more of the 11 Imperial FFA teams that will be competing at state, April 3-5, in the Career Development Events (CDEs) and related contests.

Six of the state-qualifying teams from Imperial were the district champions, noted FFA Advisor Jason Speck. Four other teams placed high enough at districts to compete at state. One other headed to state, the marketing plan team, did not have to qualify at districts, Speck said.

In addition, two individual FFA members won districts in speaking events, so will compete at state next week. Jessica Hartman will compete in junior public speaking and Andrea Hogsett in natural resources speaking.

The chapter also has six of its members who are in the state's top three in their proficiency areas. They include Derek Schilke, Jordan Gibb, Callin Ledall, Steven Fish, Michaela Ketter and Jared Knobbe.

They will interview during events next week for the top spot in their proficiency area. Those picked No. 1 in their proficiency will represent Nebraska at the FFA National Convention.

Spencer Hartman is also a candidate for an FFA state office, and will be undergoing additional interviews for that.

State Degree SAEs

As part of the FFA State Degree requirements, students must have a Supervised Ag Experience (SAE) program.

Gibb's SAE program is in the ag placement area. She has worked at the Upper Republican NRD, and has a couple of small business enterprises making garden benches and wooden chimes.

German also has an SAE in ag placement. He has been employed with German Land & Cattle Co., and has also worked at the Imperial pool.

Hartman's SAE program involves entrepreneurship and beef production. He has a small herd of cattle as well as cattle in a feedlot. The major part of his program, Speck noted, is his tomato-growing operation for which he has recently put up a second greenhouse.

Ledall has an SAE in entrepreneurship, as well. He has operated a lawn mowing and lawn care business for several years.