



**By Jan Schultz**

***The Imperial Republican***

Jared Knobbe represented the Imperial FFA as one of four national finalists for the FFA's proficiency award in Agriculture Services-Entrepreneurship Placement.

As Nebraska's top proficiency entry in that division, Knobbe made the top four to compete at nationals, and was part of the Imperial FFA entourage attending the convention Oct. 30 to Nov. 2.

While he didn't take the top honors at the national convention held in Louisville, Ky., the UNL sophomore and professional farrier will be going to Costa Rica next summer.

There he will join other national finalists at the FFA Proficiency and Stars Travel Seminar June 11-20, 2014.

The seminar empowers FFA leaders by providing them with a global perspective. Through this experience, participants gain knowledge by visiting farms and agribusinesses.

Only one FFA member from each of the 49 proficiency areas in the national FFA competition was chosen for the Costa Rica trip.

The profession of trimming and shoeing horses was initially introduced to Knobbe by his cousin. The 2012 Chase County School graduate then attended a professional horseshoeing school in Texas to further his skills.

An equine owner himself, Knobbe plans to continue his business operation through college, with a goal to graduate debt-free.

He is the son of Glen and Sue Knobbe of Imperial.

At the national convention, Knobbe received a plaque for being a national finalist and a \$500 check from TransCanada, sponsor of that award.