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Kansas 4-H Science of Agriculture Winners Announced

MANHATTAN, Kan. November, 2018— Kansas 4-H Science of Agriculture Competition winners were announced November 3, 2018 on the K-State campus. The 2018 winning teams are: 1st place team Cowley County with youth Braden Mugler, Brendan Mackey, Austin Henderson and coach Amanda Mugler; 2nd place Lyon County with youth Thomas Leihsing and coach Amy Jenkins; 3rd place team Lyon County with youth Jaimee Foster, Olivia Hamlin, Taylor Thomas, Deryk Witherspoon, Trevin Ginger and coach Amy Jenkins.

The 4-H Science of Agriculture Challenge asks teams of Kansas youth to identify agriculture-related issues in their communities and collaborate with local experts to find science-based solutions. Launched in late winter of 2018, young people organized into teams and began working with an adult volunteer who coached them through the scientific process. Most recently, teams presented their results at Kansas State University, which will included judging presentations, workshops on interviewing and resume building, and campus tours to explore agriculture and science resources at the University.

Each youth team gets to explore the issue of their choosing such as agronomy, animal husbandry, soil science, ag business, rural finance, food science, engineering and more. Topics in 2018 included pest control, water conservation and agriculture literacy. “The types of things we've talked about through this challenge are the types of things that will be asked of you all your life,” Wade Weber, State 4-H Program Leader and Department Head said to the participants during the awards ceremony. “I saw growth in you through this process - those are the types of skills that we need in this world. We need the people driven to make the best better.”

To help the young people grow and strengthen their projects, teams presented their solutions at a public forum during the Kansas State Fair. Constructive feedback and brainstorming possibilities is an important part of this real world learning experience.

The Kansas 4-H Science of Agriculture Challenge is funded by a through a grant to the Kansas 4-H Foundation by the Kansas Department of Agriculture. “We appreciate the partnership with the Kansas Department of Agriculture in providing Kansas 4-H Youth the opportunity to explore and propose real-life creative solutions to agricultural issues. The hands-on learning process inspires and prepares them for careers in agriculture,” Jake Worcester, President/CEO of the Kansas 4-H Foundation, said.

You can learn more about the 4-H Science of Agriculture Challenge and how you can get involved by visiting our [website](#) or by contacting Anissa Jepsen, State 4-H Specialist at 785-532-5800 or ajepsen@ksu.edu.