



# NATOMA FFA



## STATE CDE ISSUE



### Natoma FFA Shines in Manhattan

Natoma FFA teams enjoy success in all three of their team events on the campus of Kansas State University in early May.

TEAM PHOTO (ABOVE) Back row L to R: Taitem Zeigler, Austin Murphy, Dylan Pruter, Grady Dickerson, Sonny Gridley. Front Row L to R: Sarah Pelton, Erika George, James Maupin, Kaylee Anglin

#### MILK QUALITY & PRODUCTS

**2nd of 46 teams**

**Gold Division ~**

Grady - 2nd

Taitem - 14th

Dylan - 16th

James - 21st

169 Total Contestants

#### LIVESTOCK EVALUATION

**5th of 80 teams**

**Gold Division ~**

Kaylee - 16th of 282

**Silver Division ~**

Grady, Sarah,

Kaylee - all top 30 in

reasons. Erika

#### FOOD SCIENCE

**11th of 54 teams**

**Gold Division ~**

Taitem - 18th

James - 23rd

Sonny, Dylan

#### AGRONOMY

Austin

#### DID YOU KNOW?

**FFA competitions are not divided by class. 1A schools compete against 5A schools.**

45

**CHAPTERS WITH AT LEAST 1 TOP 5 FINISH**

188 total FFA Chapters in Kansas. Natoma is **by far the smallest school** to have a top 5

7

**1A SCHOOLS WITH A TOP 5 FINISH**

**1** 5A school, **17** 4A schools, **12** 3A, & **8** 2A schools had top 5 finishes

4

**TOP 5 PLACINGS IN 2 YEARS**

Last year the Milk Quality team was 3rd & the livestock team was 5th

## Natoma FFA: Small chapter does BIG things!

When it comes to high school enrollment numbers in the state of Kansas, only one school with an FFA program is smaller than Natoma. With 18 members in total out of the 29 students in high school, FFA is big. Ten of these members graduated as seniors this past Saturday, May 6th. Their legacy includes the ending of a 31 year drought for Natoma in the Kansas FFA CDEs. Not since 1985 had a team from Natoma cracked the top 5 at a state event. This group scored 4 of them in 2016 and 2017 combined, and finished 2nd this year in the state Milk Quality & Products CDE; 5th in Livestock.

The Kansas FFA Career Development Events, “CDEs” for short are held each Spring on the campus of Kansas State University. These highly competitive events relate directly to the field of agriculture, as well as leadership, communications and business. For Natoma, the events truly are career development opportunities. Eight of the ten graduating seniors are enrolled in an agricultural or



*“It is great to see these kids entering into agricultural and technical fields of study.”  
Jeremy Long, Natoma FFA Advisor*

career & technical program in a post-secondary school. Their choices include Food Science & Industry, Agriculture Communications, Agriculture Education, Veterinary Technician, Carpentry and Cabinetmaking, Professional Pilot Training, and Agriculture Equipment Technology. Jeremy Long, Natoma FFA Advisor had this to say about the group: “It is great to see these kids entering into agricultural and technical fields of study. There is no doubt that it is because of our great technical programs in Natoma, including both the Woods and Ag Ed/ FFA Departments.”

### SOME INTERESTING FIGURES...

This year, 45 chapters had at least 1 top 5 finish at the Kansas FFA CDEs. There are 16 events total. If you combine the 9-12 enrollment numbers for all of those 45 schools, you get 12,745 pupils. Natoma’s 29 students make up **.23%** of the total, and that’s an average of 283 students per school! Take for example, Louisburg; a 4A high school. Their chapter took home 6 top 5s with 3 championships. How about 4A Labette County? A 4 teacher program that scored 9 top 5s and one 1st place finish. Consider this: no school smaller than 94 students placed higher than Natoma within an event that Natoma had a team in. Don’t forget that there are no class divisions in FFA. Natoma competed against both chapters aforementioned. Natoma may have low enrollment numbers, but ranks in the top tier when it comes to FFA events and other school activities.

