Ottawa Area ISD
Learn. Serve. Lead.

13565 Port Sheldon Street, Holland, MI 49424
616.738.8940 • Fax 616.738.8946
oaisd.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 17, 2017

Contact: Michelle Ready
Director of Communications
and Marketing
(616) 738-8940 Ext. 4093
mready@oaisd.org

STUDENTS WIN STATE AND LOCAL 4-H COMPETITIONS DURING SUMMER LEARNING

Holland, MI- Students in the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District's (OAISD) Careerline Tech Center (CTC) Agricultural and Animal Sciences program took first place in the Michigan 4-H/Future Farmers of America (FFA) Meats Judging Contest on July 21 at Michigan State University in East Lansing. A week later, eleven students placed in the top three in their classes in the Market Class and Showmanship competition categories in the Ottawa County Fair 4-H/FFA competition Monday, July 24-29 in Holland.

Tom Yonker, a Black River High School senior, and Jolyn Timmer, a homeschooled senior, tied for first place "individual" at the statewide competition. They were also part of the FFA meats winning team which included Brianna Mollitor, a Hamilton High School senior, and which will travel to the national competition taking place October 24-28 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Tony McCaul, Agriculture and Animal Sciences instructor for CTC, said participating in the Michigan 4-H/FFA Meat Judging Contest helps students improve life skills including decision making, communications skills and confidence. Meat judging is also a practical skill students can use when they purchase meat at retail to help select the cut of meat with the highest quality and flavor.

In the competition, students judged three beef classes, three pork classes, identified 20 retail cuts, yield graded and quality graded three beef carcasses and answered a set of questions along with completing a multiple choice test.

"The students have spent every Tuesday since school ended to better their beef, pork and lamb meat judging skills in preparation for this competition including several trips to Earl's Meat in Holland to judge meat carcasses," McCaul said. "Their dedication to perfecting their meat judging skills throughout the summer, and the help from local businesses like Earl's Meat is what set CTC students apart from the others."

Students also saw great success at the recent Ottawa County Fair. In the "Market Class", Clarissa Cherry, Grand Haven High School senior, placed first in the "Feeder Calf" division and Brianne Siple, Grand Haven High School recent graduate, won first place in the "market lamb" division in which the judge evaluates the animal for meat quality. Anna Auckman, a recent graduate of Allendale High School, took first place in "Showmanship" for her skill at showing a feeder calf. At the end of the fair, eleven students from the CTC-FFA co-op won 14 ribbons.

--more--

"Students sign up in January for the June show. Being a part of CTC/FFA is a large commitment in time and resources for students. They are a very dedicated group," said McCaul. "This year, the animals sold for a total of $8,000. The money goes back to pay feed and animal expenses. Any remaining profit will go back to the chapter and the students for their hard work and time."

"Showing at the Ottawa County Fair is great opportunity for the students to gain real world, hands-on experience raising and training an animal," said McCaul. "This project has helped developed record-keeping and marketing skills that are needed in the agriculture industry, and will help them in their careers after high school."

Siple said the Ottawa County Fair was an overall great experience for her. "It was amazing to be able to work with our 4-H animals as a team, and to see just how hard everyone worked with them. The fair was a fun and lively experience, and one of the best ways to spend a week I can think of."

For more information, contact Tony McCaul at (616) 738-8950 ext. 4505, amccaul@oaisd.org

Operated by Ottawa Area Intermediate School District, Careerline Tech Center prepares high school juniors and seniors for tomorrow's workforce by providing career and technical education in 25 career areas. CTC serves students from public and private high schools, as well as homeschools, within the following local school districts: Allendale, Coopersville, Grand Haven, Hamilton, Holland, Hudsonville, Jenison, Saugatuck, Spring Lake, West Ottawa, and Zeeland. To learn more visit www.CareerlineTech.org

--xxx--