

At the recently completed Iowa Agricultural Education Summer Conference, held June 28<sup>th</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>, in Ankeny, IA, Dan Leinen and Brittany Elmquist, agriculture instructors and FFA advisors at Harlan High School were recognized for having the 2011 Outstanding Middle/Secondary School AgEd Program. This award distinguishes Iowa Association of Agricultural Educators members who are at the pinnacle of their profession and who are conducting the highest quality agricultural education program. This award recognizes agricultural education programs for their overall success, growth, and motivation. Outstanding agricultural education programs have educators who are innovators and catalysts for student success in agricultural education.

Enthusiastic, motivated, inspiring... these are just a few words that describe the teacher in an outstanding AgEd program. The IAAE's vision is to be the premier professional organization for advancing agricultural education. Dan and Brittany embodies the ideals of the agricultural teaching profession through his instruction methods.

The agriculture program at Harlan utilizes lectures, demonstrations, student activities, role-playing, problem-solving, small group activities, computer assisted instruction, field trips, lab experiences, and guest speakers to provide students a well rounded education in agriculture. The program consists of three required components: SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience), FFA, and classroom experiences. A five member advisory board assists in program planning. Leinen and Elmquist believe incorporation of the basics in education is a major component of the agricultural curriculum. Reading, writing, verbal communication, math, and, science are all interwoven into their classroom.

For their outstanding efforts throughout this past year as well as in their teaching careers, Dan and Brittany were presented a plaque by fellow agricultural education instructor, Eric Traeger. His/her application has been forwarded on to be evaluated in the National Association of Agricultural Educators regional competition. They will also have the opportunity to represent the state of Iowa at the NAAE Convention.