

Ankeny, IA (June 29, 2011) – Matt Eddy of Southeast Polk Community School District has been named the state of Iowa's FFA Organization Agriscience Teacher of the Year. The Agriscience Teacher of the Year award recognizes outstanding agriculture teachers who emphasize agriscience technology in their curriculum. Finalists have developed innovative programs in food, environmental, animal, plant, soil and mechanical/engineering sciences. The program is sponsored by PotashCorp as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Eddy utilized his program's advisory council to help evaluate the need for more science in his curriculum. They realized that they needed to be a bigger contributor to the school's overall climate and needed to offer something to the students to help meet graduation requirements. They saw an opportunity in the CASE curriculum. After attending and adopting the CASE curriculum for agriculture science education, Eddy has been able to see the benefits it has made to his students and the way he teaches. Due to these offerings, Eddy's program has gone from around 65 members to over 250 members in a few short years.

For his outstanding efforts throughout this past year as well as in his teaching career, Matt was presented a plaque by fellow agricultural education instructor, Ben Booth. His application has been forwarded on to be evaluated in the National level through the National FFA Organization. He will be recognized in October at the National FFA Leadership Convention.