



NEWS RELEASE

National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46278-1370

P: 317-802-6060
F: 317-802-6061

www.ffa.org

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

Kotar develops cutting-edge business, earns high honors

Hysham FFA member named national FFA agri-entrepreneur

INDIANAPOLIS – Logan Kotar, 18, of Hysham, Mont., is one of 10 students from across the country who will receive a National Agri-Entrepreneurship Award and \$1,000 during a ceremony at the 82nd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 23. The award program recognizes young people who start or are planning to start their own businesses.

Growing up in a small town Montana, job opportunities are often limited for teenagers. That didn't stop the entrepreneurial spirit of Kotar. He knew he wanted to do something that utilized his skills and could create a business. Soon, Logan's Steelworks was created.

Utilizing oxy-acetylene welding and plasma cutting skills he learned in his agricultural education classes, he realized he could make signs by tracing designs from a projector onto steel. He displayed his cuttings in various locations and was soon getting requests for custom made designs.

Kotar was able to market his through word of mouth from customers in the community, and displaying work in the Rosebud Treasure Fair, where he was awarded Best of Show and each entry was granted a blue ribbon.

With the ability to create his own work schedule and be his own boss, Logan's Steelworks is a perfect fit for Kotar. Along with the flexibility, he enjoys the hands-on portion of his business versus a business that is more paper work oriented. "Originally it began as a sales and service project," Kotar said, "However, about two years ago, when people liked my stuff and started buying it, I knew it was going to be successful."

Kotar, who graduated in May, credits FFA for getting him started in his career, one that he looks forward to doing for a lifetime, as he continues to expand his knowledge in design and welding. He is currently pursuing a degree at Sheridan College in Sheridan, Wyo., and plans to become a

certified welder and expand his business. Kotar is the son of Kenneth and JoAnna Kotar. His FFA advisor is JoAnna Kotar.

USDA Rural Development sponsors the National Agri-Entrepreneurship Award Program as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 506,199 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,429 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education. The National FFA Organization operates under a Federal Charter granted by the 81st Congress of the United States, and is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

###

