



National FFA Convention
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National FFA Organization
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NEWS RELEASE

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Wisconsin student named Star in Agricultural Placement

Tony J. Crescio receives top honors for his agricultural enterprise

INDIANAPOLIS – So what do peppermint, onions and carrots all have in common? These crops have helped Tony J. Crescio become more familiar with his family's agriculture background. The 21-year-old has been farming with his family for as long as he can remember, and that experience may now earn him top honors.

The National FFA Organization has named the Randolph, Wis., resident 2009 American Star in Agricultural Placement, one of the organization's highest honors.

Each year at the national FFA convention, 16 national finalists vie for the organization's top awards: American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience. These awards honor students who have developed outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through their supervised agricultural experience (SAE); demonstrated outstanding management skills; earned the American FFA Degree – the organization's highest level of accomplishment; and met other agricultural education, scholastic and leadership requirements. Each finalist was interviewed by a panel of judges, who named the top candidate in each area. The winner was announced in an onstage convention ceremony and received a plaque and an award of \$4,000. The runners-up will also receive plaques and \$2,000 each.

Crescio works with muck soil at Jack's Pride Farms, Inc. He began when he was in middle school, and the more he worked with his family, the more he became fascinated with the crops and the equipment that was needed to help with a successful harvest. Crescio wanted to be able to help with all areas of the farm and develop a solid based onion, carrot and mint oil production business. Over the years, he's been able to learn all aspects of the farm He has even received recognition as a national agri-entrepreneurship national winner for starting a small business creating air fresheners and soaps with the mint oil.

As he continues to gain experience, Crescio's responsibilities on the farm continue to grow. From tilling to planting and harvesting, he also helps with weed control for the plants. He also runs the still to distill peppermint oil. His overall career goal is to farm with his father, uncle and grandmother as a partner in the corporate farm.

"With my goal to become a partner in our farm corporation, I have farmed 40 acres of my own peppermint for the last four years," Crescio said. "The money from this has helped me pay for school, as well as assisted me in saving money to buy into the corporation."

Crescio, the son of John and Irma Crescio, majored in mechanical drawing at Madison Area Technical College. He is a member of the Randolph Cambria-Friesland FFA chapter where Keith Gundlach is his advisor.

The American FFA Degree recognition programs are co-sponsored by Case IH of Racine, Wis.; Farm Credit Systems Foundation of Washington, D.C.; Pioneer Hi-Bred of Des Moines, Iowa; and Syngenta of Greensboro, N.C., as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,439 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. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

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