

Costello to help lead national FFA

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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UNL student part of 6-member leadership team

Brennan Costello describes his election as central region vice president of the national FFA as an incredible opportunity to serve the organization.

Costello was elected by a nominating committee of nine college-aged members at the 2012 National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis last Saturday.

“It was a great feeling,” he said. “This is a chance to engage the incredible potential that our FFA members hold, be a champion for the national organization and spread the story of American agriculture.”

Clay Sapp, a University of Florida at Gainesville student, was elected to serve as national president.

Joining Sapp and Costello, on the national officer team, are Kalie Hall of Georgia as national secretary, Joenelle Futrell of Kentucky as eastern region vice president, Lindsey Anderson of California as western region vice president and Wiley Bailey as southern region vice president.

Throughout the year, Costello said the officers will travel as a team and individually.

Costello plans to finish school work at the University of Nebraska Lincoln by Thanksgiving. There he is a sophomore studying agribusiness.

Officers will train as a team in December and in January 2013 and will take an international tour

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to Japan.

Beginning with FFA week in February, they will begin individual travel by attending conferences, state conventions, chapters and other events.

The year ends during the 86th National FFA Convention in October, at Louisville, KY.

“My role is facilitating success for our over 500,000 FFA members through keynotes, workshops, sponsor and donor visits and connecting with members,” Costello explained.

The 2011 Gothenburg High School graduate, who retired as Nebraska FFA president last March, said ag teacher and FFA adviser Dan Scherer helped build the foundation for Costello’s involvement and success in FFA.

“My passion for this organization, its values and its mission help students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success,” he said. “It all began when I joined the Gothenburg FFA Chapter as a freshman.”

He added that he appreciates the work Scherer does, the caliber of students in FFA and the tradition of the program.