



Iowa FFA Foundation

Cultivating partnerships supporting agricultural education in Iowa

December 2021 | www.iowaffafoundation.org | **Donate**

Executive Director's Reflections

Peace and Joy!

Can you believe the holidays are upon us again already? The preparations - cooking, shopping, wrapping, packing, traveling, etc... maybe it is just me, but each year I find this season to be a bit more crazy than previous years. In our fast-paced – near the redline of anxiety filled lives, how do we find peace and joy?

Okay, immediately you may be dreaming of your ideal tropical vacation, maybe Orlando for a bowl game, or maybe time around the dinner table with family. But in the midst of the family time of holidays, do we really find the true relaxation needed for peace? At a time when every news story becomes hyper-polarized, do we really find joy?

I also must reflect for a moment, what about those who are truly hurting this holiday season? For many who have lost loved ones or simply haven't been able to be near their families and friends in 2021, the holiday season may bring a restless sadness – making it difficult to find joy.

I offer – true peace and true joy aren't independent emotions, rather dependent upon each other. Think about it, is it possible to experience the sincerest of joy without being at peace in



your life? And similarly, once at peace, isn't it likely that joy is amplified to bring jubilation to each of our endeavors? Being around those who bring us joy, are meant to be a gift to bring us peace – they are the ones who love us most and no matter the artificial expectations the world and ourselves have placed on the circumstances, our families and friends may also be most beneficial to our peace and joy.

This holiday season, I wish each of you the fullest peace and joy – in 2021 you again have blessed our organization beyond compare. Thank you for being a source of joy and peace for more than 35,000 individuals involved in Iowa Agricultural Education.

May you have a blessed holiday season,

~**Josh**

Did you know?

Tax Incentives For 2021 Charitable Contributions

1. A limited \$300 universal charitable deduction for cash gifts

The law now permits taxpayers to claim a limited deduction on their 2021 federal income tax returns for cash contributions they made to certain qualifying charitable organizations (and not to donor advised funds). These taxpayers, including married individuals filing separate returns, can claim a deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions to qualifying charities during 2021. The maximum deduction is \$600 for married individuals filing joint returns.

2. A lift on the cap on deductions for cash contributions

Contributions to public charities are generally limited to a percentage of a taxpayer's adjusted gross income (AGI). The law lifted the cap on cash contributions for those who itemize, increasing it from 60% to 100% of AGI for 2021. Any excess contributions available can be carried over to the next five years. For corporations, the law raised the annual limit from 10% to 25% of taxable income.

Remember, all gifts must be received by December 31st 2021 to be eligible to be claimed on your 2021 tax returns. Always seek the advice of a tax professional for details on how best to reduce your tax burden.

We invite you to join us at

THE IOWA FFA FOUNDATION'S 8TH ANNUAL



Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala



19
FEB

FFA ENRICHMENT CENTER
1055 Prairie Trail Parkway
Ankeny, IA

5
PM

8th Annual Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala Tickets Are Selling Fast!

The biggest night in Iowa Agriculture, the Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala, is returning to an in person event on Saturday, February 19th, as we welcome more than 400 supporters and friends to celebrate Agricultural Education and kick off National FFA Week in Iowa! With only a few tables left available, we are on the fast track to selling out SOON! With the virtual option also available this year, attendees that are unable to acquire in person space are encouraged to join us virtually for the event.

We hope you will be interested in supporting our mission, as we support students and educators, with our commitment to use \$50,000 of the money we raise this year to directly support starting agriculture educators as a part of the All In For Ag Ed campaign, which is working towards offering agricultural education in every school district in Iowa by 2029.

A mobile bidding platform will once again be available this year, with the auction opening up on Friday, February 4th.

Individual, couple, table & virtual ticket options are all available and include the opportunity to browse and bid on those unbelievable auction lots. All information can be found at <https://2022BlueJackets.givesmart.com>

Make sure to get your tickets early this year! We hope to see you there - both in person and virtually.

2022 Scholarship



Applications are OPEN!

Graduation is quickly approaching which means that the Iowa FFA Foundation has multiple scholarship opportunities available, including two new ones this year.

Descriptions of the scholarships can be found below. To get more information and apply before the January 7, 2022 due date, visit <https://forms.gle/FdQswdjkmPooXqwF8>.

The Haney Family Foundation Entrepreneurial Scholarship

The Haney Family Foundation Entrepreneurial Scholarship has been established to promote and celebrate entrepreneurial innovations of Iowa FFA members. Two \$2,500 college scholarships will be presented annually to Iowa FFA members. The primary goal of this scholarship program is to encourage Iowa FFA members to prepare for a career in agriculture. These students shall have designed and developed a farming concept, business idea, product, etc. that has the potential to develop into a sound and profitable business. This scholarship is available to applicants who are undergraduate students in two or four year programs. High school seniors are eligible to apply. Scholarship may only be applied to tuition and books; no funds may be applied toward living expenses or room and board.

Arthur and Susan Churchill Endowed Scholarship Program

The Arthur and Susan Churchill Scholarship Fund will offer one scholarship to a full-time agriculture student. \$1,000 will be awarded in 2022 - half of this scholarship will be paid directly to the scholarship recipient's college in August. After successfully completing the first semester of eligible enrollment, with a minimum semester GPA of 2.75, the second payment will be made. Applicant shall be a full-time student that has been accepted into a college program that offers an agricultural degree, or a 2-year transferable ag program to go on and major in an agricultural curriculum. Applicant must attend an Iowa college or university or Minnesota State University - Mankato, NW Missouri State University, South Dakota State University or University of Nebraska. Applicant must have a high school GPA of 2.75 in a 4.0 scale and maintain that while in college. This scholarship is available to applicants who are undergraduate students in two or four year programs. High school seniors, as well as college freshmen, sophomores and juniors are eligible to apply.

Dennis Selness Scholarship Program

Applicant must have been an active FFA member each year of his/her four years of enrollment in high school agricultural education. Active FFA membership and/or FFA Alumni membership shall be continued following high school graduation. Applicant shall be a full-time student that has been accepted into a college program that offers an agricultural degree, or a 2-year transferable ag program to go on and major in an agricultural curriculum. Applicant shall enroll in one or more agriculture classes each semester of his/her scholarship year. This scholarship is available to applicants who are undergraduate students in two or four year programs. High school seniors, as well as college freshmen, sophomores and juniors are eligible to apply; Dennis Selness Scholarships can be awarded to college freshmen through seniors.

DLL Financial Solutions Scholarship

The DLL Financial Solutions Scholarship Fund will offer one scholarship each to two full-time students. Each scholarship awarded in 2022 will be \$2,350 - half of this scholarship will be paid directly to the scholarship recipient's college in August. After successfully completing the first semester of eligible enrollment, with a minimum semester GPA of 3.0, the second payment will be made. Applicant shall be an FFA member with current, active membership that has been accepted into a college program or a 2-year transferable program. Applicant

must attend an Iowa college or university. Applicant must have a high school Grade Point Average of 3.0 in a 4.0 scale and maintain this 3.0 GPA while in college. This scholarship is available to high school seniors.

Sinclair Tractor FFA Scholarship

The Sinclair Tractor FFA Scholarship will offer one scholarship each to FIVE full-time students. Each scholarship awarded in 2022 will be \$2,500 - half of this scholarship will be paid directly to the scholarship recipient's college in August. After successfully completing the first semester of eligible enrollment, with a minimum semester GPA of 3.0, the second payment will be made. Applicant must be a resident within the Sinclair Tractor service territory – a home residence in one of the following 18 Iowa counties: Appanoose, Cedar, Davis, Des Moines, Henry, Iowa, Jefferson, Johnson, Keokuk, Lee, Louisa, Muscatine, Poweshiek, Scott, Van Buren, Wapello, Washington and Wayne. They must be a high school senior graduating in the spring of 2022 with a 3.0 GPA and a current and active FFA member.

Severson Family Memorial FFA Scholarship

The Severson Family Memorial Scholarship will provide one \$500 scholarship to an active, graduating senior FFA member of the Forest City, Iowa FFA Chapter. Applicant must have been accepted into a university, college or community college program with a 2.5 GPA that must be maintained while in college. Student must demonstrate a passion for agriculture, interest in pursuing an agriculture career and leadership through FFA activity and community involvement.



IOWA FFA

ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS

The 2022 State FFA Alumni Conference is January 15, 2022.

The 2022 State Alumni Conference will be held here at the Enrichment Center on January 15, 2022. Registration starts at 9 am, with the conference beginning at 9:30. In addition to district meetings, the business meeting and awards, there will be the opportunity to joint two breakout sessions of your choice. The breakout session topics are:

1. Past State Officer Panel where they'll discuss how their Alumni supported them and how to keep the younger Alumni members engaged.
2. Clyde Johnson will be joining us again to speak on membership and tax information.
3. The Maquoketa FFA Alumni will be sharing their fundraising ideas and speaking on their new Animal Learning Center.

In the event of inclement weather, the conference will be going 100% virtual. Stay up to date on the Alumni's social media should that occur.

You can register [here](#) and we hope to see you on January 15th to join us in celebrating Iowa FFA Alumni!



Unable to attend the Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala but still want to contribute?

Donate an item for the silent auction!

[Click here to contact us about donating an item](#)



We want to thank each one of you for your support in 2021.

Our offices will be closed

Thursday, December 23th; Friday, December 24th & Friday, December 31st.

No matter the size, your act of generosity will make a substantial impact to agricultural education in Iowa.

Donate Now



Unsubscribe

Iowa FFA Foundation

FFA Enrichment Center [1055 SW Prairie Trail Pkwy. Ankeny, IA 50023](#)