



Iowa FFA Foundation

Cultivating partnerships supporting agricultural education in Iowa

February 2023 | www.iowaffafoundation.org | **Donate**

Executive Director's Reflections

Friends,

As we celebrate FFA Week, we are able to hit the pause button on the whirlwind around us and truly get excited about Agricultural Education and FFA in Iowa.

One truly incredible FFA Week celebration each year is the Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala presented by Nationwide. What a way to kick off our FFA Week celebration! I sincerely appreciate each of you who attended, bid or donated auction items and made contributions to this great evening. Because of you, a new fundraising record has been achieved - THANK YOU!

As we focus on our centennial strategic initiative, All In for Ag. Ed., we continue to focus on ways to secure ag. education in each of Iowa's schools. Those who attended the Gala were able to enjoy another celebration – our public announcement that the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation has generously gifted \$1 million to sustain our ongoing programs while making a leadership investment into All In for Ag. Ed. What a way to celebrate FFA Week!

It is easy to witness students doing amazing work, contributing to their communities, giving back and taking the next step on their leadership journeys. And as they say, behind every great ag. student is an incredible Advisor! An amazing moment of each FFA Week is the



opportunity to recognize these educators through the Golden Owl Award presented in partnership with Nationwide. I can honestly say, sharing a moment with ag. educators, often a highly emotional moment at that, is absolutely incredible and does not occur enough!

Finally friends, I ask for your help. For more than one year, the Iowa FFA Foundation has worked with legislators across Iowa to lift up the plight of our ag. educators, especially the issue of summer contract payments. I am pleased to share State Representatives Chad Ingels and Shannon Latham, have drafted a bill (HF389) which would create a fund to offer state assistance for summer contract days! We need everyone to reach out to their legislator and let them know how much you value ag. education and specifically your educator. Ask them to join us in supporting this critical issue. Don't wait to do this, as we must get this bill passed by a committee before the end of next week to save it from being lost by funnel. Please contact your state representative regarding HF389 today!

Thank you all for joining the celebration – Happy FFA Week!

Sincerely,

Josh



Happy National FFA Week!

FFA Members are amazing and should be celebrated not only everyday, but especially this week. Happy National FFA Week!

Agriculture is the backbone of America and those wearing the blue corduroy jacket will be the ones who leave that impact on the world for years to come. FFA Members fight tooth and nail for this industry and we couldn't be more proud to support them in that fight.

Thank you to all of our partners who believe in the mission; we would not be able to do it without you!



Record Setting 9th Annual Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala

The 9th Annual Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala was held at the Enrichment Center on Saturday, February 18, 2023. It was wonderful to see the building flooded with the biggest supporters of Agriculture Education once again. With more than 120 silent and live auction items and 402 attendees, we were able to raise a record amount of \$138,561!

Throughout the night, individuals and corporate partners continuously bid on auction items, bought chances for games and raffle items and made monetary donations. The silent auction saw 992 bids from 413 different bidders before the silent auction closed and netted \$12,991. The live auction, cried by past Iowa FFA State President, CD Brinegar, raised \$14,410.

Iowa FFA President, Sam Martin and Iowa PAS President, Kirsten Schaefer took the group through an evening with comments from Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig and Iowa FFA Foundation Board President, Jason Berkland. Josh Remington spoke about the goal of implementing agriculture education in every school in Iowa and announced bill HF389 which addresses the issue of summer contract days for agriculture educators. To celebrate the start of National FFA Week, the FFA Creed was presented by the 2022 Iowa FFA Creed Speaking Champion, Emma Lihs from the Bondurant-Farrar FFA Chapter and it rang true in the hearts of every attendee.

Staying on the night's trend of supporting education and FFA members, the entertainment was presented by a central Iowa native who grew up on a farm and a former FFA Member, Ted Gaunt.

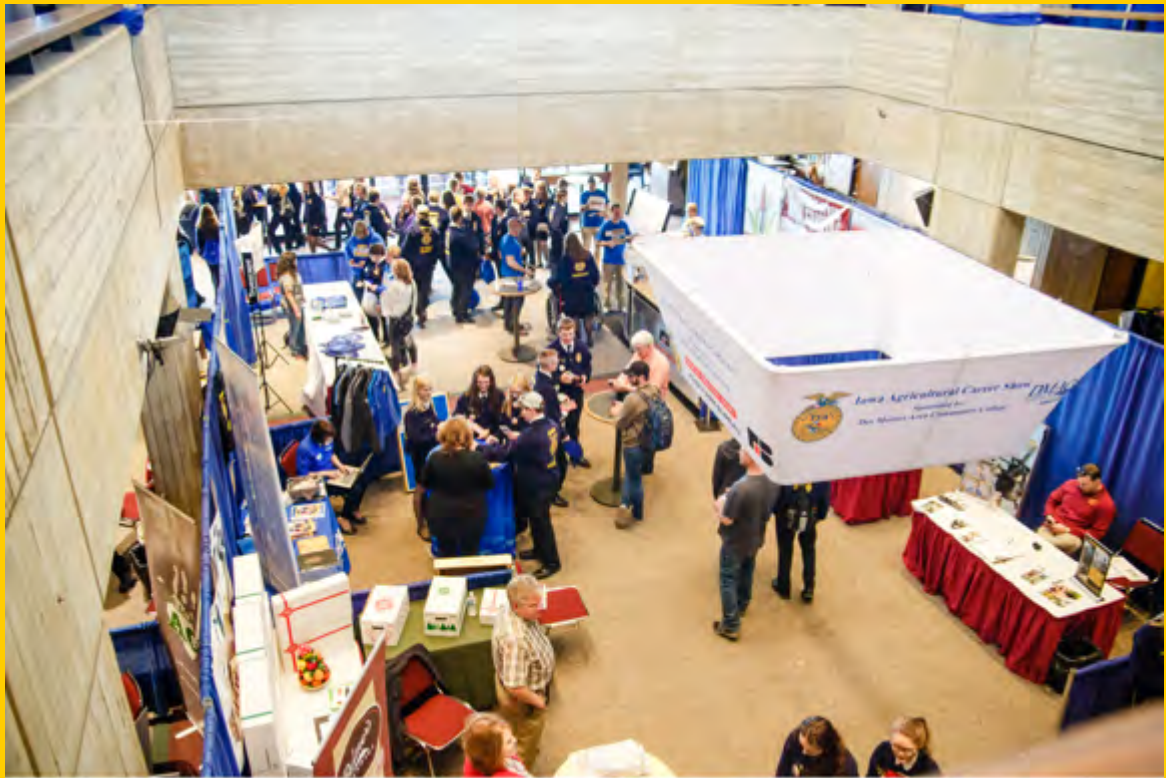
The support at Gala this year was wonderfully overwhelming. It is so exciting to be reminded just how strong the support of agriculture education is in the state of Iowa. Mark your calendars for the 10th Annual Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala on February 17, 2023. We will see you next year!

Photos from our stellar night at the Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala are provided by Dave Doese and can be found [HERE!](#)



Call Your Legislator Today About HF389!

HF389 creates a fund to offer state assistance for summer contract days. You can view the entirety of HF389 [here](#) and after you review it, call your legislator today to ask them to join us in supporting this critical issue! We must get this bill passed by a committee before the end of next week to save it from being lost by funnel.



Iowa Agricultural Career Show Registration is Open!

The Iowa Agricultural Career Show is held annually as part of the Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference. Each year 6,500+ student FFA members, advisors, parents, sponsors and guests travel to this conference to celebrate the achievements of FFA across the state of Iowa during the previous year. While at the conference, students take time to interact with exhibitors in the career show, helping students to understand the agricultural industry and gain valuable information regarding their career path. While many students are not of the age where they may participate in internships or be actively seeking full-time employment, students take an active role understanding the various components of each career pathway while trying to gain an understanding about how they can achieve their career goals.

Spots are selling fast so if you want in, click [here](#) for more information and to register for a booth!



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\$10,000 - \$19,999



27th Annual
Iowa FFA Foundation Golf Tournament

June 14, 2023
Lincoln Valley Golf Course
State Center, Iowa



Save The Date for the 27th Annual Iowa FFA Foundation Golf Tournament!

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

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