



Iowa FFA Foundation

Cultivating partnerships supporting agricultural education in Iowa

January 2022 | www.iowaffafoundation.org | [Donate](#)

Executive Director's Reflections

Happy New Year Friends!

Wasn't it refreshing to change the calendar to read 2022? Well, maybe not for everyone, but honestly, while many said 2020 was the difficult year, I feel that equally stretched on into 2021. To change that calendar to reflect on the previous year, the goals and resolutions we set and ponder where we desire to be one year from now. This process of evaluation and refocus is practiced by many of the best leaders!

As we reflect back, we have A LOT to celebrate for 2021 in Agricultural Education – record memberships for the Iowa FFA Association and Iowa FFA Alumni and Supporters; record gala support – even in the first-time virtual format; incredible partnerships and donor support cultivating growth in many of our key benchmarks. Truly, 2021 was a good year for Iowa Agricultural Education.

While much was achieved in 2021, as we look forward, there is even more to achieve in 2022. Team Ag. Ed. continues to focus on recruiting and retaining agricultural educators, continues to grow local support to have an Ag. Ed. program in every community and cultivates our next generation Iowa workforce through work-based learning projects (SAEs) and maximize leadership through participation in FFA and PAS. For us, we call this the All in for Ag. Ed. Initiative and have submitted a request to the Iowa Legislature to support this critical endeavor. Reach out to your state Representative and Senator to illustrate your support and



share why your local agriculture program and agricultural educator are critical for our children's future success.

As we start this new year, I am optimistic of the goals we have set and know that, together, we can make 2022 the best year ever for agricultural education in Iowa.

Sincerely,

~Josh



We invite you to join us at
THE IOWA FFA FOUNDATION'S 8TH ANNUAL
*Black Ties
Blue Jackets Gala*
19 FEB | FFA ENRICHMENT CENTER | 5 PM
1055 Prairie Trail Parkway
Ankeny, IA

Virtual Tickets Available for the 8th Annual Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala

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! The opportunity to join us in person has passed, as our in-person tickets are officially SOLD OUT.

However, the virtual option is still available, so those attendees that are unable to acquire in person space, are encouraged to join us for an equally exciting virtual 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.

Virtual tickets are available and include the opportunity to browse and bid on those unbelievable auction lots. Virtual tickets and all other information can be found at <https://2022BlueJackets.givesmart.com>

We hope to see you there - both in person and virtually!



Judges Needed!

The Iowa FFA Association is in search of judges for a multitude of events including but not limited to, National Chapter Awards, Proficiency Awards and State CDE's. There are many opportunities available and almost anyone is qualified to help! Visit <https://www.iowaffa.com/judges.aspx> to see the variety of ways to get involved on the state level and apply to be a judge.

Iowa PAS State Conference is February 9-11 at the Quality Inn and Suites in Ames,

Iowa. They are in search of judges for both individual and team contests. You can visit https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6KUvXBixQq89Axx to get more information and register as a judge.

Critical feedback from those in the industry is one of the most valuable things that a student can have, as it helps them learn and gain knowledge to be ready to enter the workforce.



Heartland Co-op Scholarship Available

Heartland Co-op is offering a scholarship through the Iowa FFA Foundation. To view the requirements and apply, visit <https://www.heartlandcoop.com/ScholarshipPrograms>. Applications are due March 4, 2022.



Iowa FFA Foundation at the Iowa Ag Expo

The Iowa FFA Foundation will be at the Iowa Ag Expo at the Iowa Events Center on February 1st through the 3rd. We would love to see you there and talk with you about supporting the future of Agriculture Education in Iowa!

2020-2021 Iowa FFA Foundation Annual Report

The 2020-2021 Annual Report is printed and live. Want to look at it before you get one in the mail? No worries! You can view it online here: https://issuu.com/iowaffafoundation/docs/ffa_annual_report_8.5x11_fnl_lores



IOWA FFA FOUNDATION



2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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

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Iowa FFA Foundation

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