



Iowa FFA Foundation

Cultivating partnerships supporting agricultural education in Iowa

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



Executive Director's Reflections

Happy New Year Friends!

Wow, hard to believe we are half-way through January – at risk of depressing you... we are 1/24th complete with 2023 already! The glass half full attitude also says that means we still have 23/24^{ths} of the year to complete our goals for this trip around the sun.

As we start each year, many of us do just that, we set goals and resolutions. While it is standard for many to search for new ways to improve their health, it is also a newer trend to

think about ways to make positive change for the New Year. This may be as simple as smiling more often, showing appreciation and saying “thank you” regularly to more robust challenges of giving a certain amount of hours to serve your community or favorite non-profit organization. (Ag. Ed. always needs more judges!)

Each year in Iowa Agricultural Education, we are excited to launch many new programs to help support our student members and educators. One project we launched last year was our new ag. educator and student teacher incentives. If you have read any of our information from the Gala, you are fully aware of the financial hurdle educators must overcome to start their career. Because of you, in 2022 we awarded 24 new agricultural educators \$1,000 each. Then, this fall, we awarded six student teachers \$500 each. To compound this, we just approved five more new educators for a \$1,000 award and 21 more student teachers their \$500 award! This \$42,500 investment marks one unique way we are stating the Iowa FFA Foundation – and you as our donors and supporters are truly ALL IN for Ag. Education! I hope you feel proud of this great investment and the impact it will have for many years to come!

As we start this New Year, I am optimistic of the goals we have set and know together we can make 2023 the best year ever for agricultural education in Iowa!

Sincerely,

~Josh



Tickets are Still Available for the 9th Annual Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala

The biggest night in Iowa Agriculture, the Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala is approaching quickly on Saturday, February 18th, as we welcome more than 400 supporters and friends to celebrate Agricultural Education and kick off National FFA Week in Iowa! Tables are going fast, so make sure that you're getting yours reserved!

We hope you will be interested in supporting our mission, as we support students and educators, with our commitment to once again 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 3rd at 5 pm.

Individual, couple & table 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://Gala2023.givesmart.com>.

Make sure to get your tickets early this year! We hope to see you there!



Registration for the Iowa Agricultural Career Show is Open!

The Iowa Agricultural Career Show is held annually as part of the Iowa FFA 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.

There is an incredible opportunity to interact directly with those 6,500+ students who attend the show. Are you interested in getting your company's brand immediately recognized by a targeted core group of individuals? Do you need individuals prepared to join your workforce in the coming years? Do you have a desire to help students explore their career choices in any of the more than 300 agricultural careers? If you agree to any of these statements, then you need to be at the show.

To get more information, including the show dates and times, along with pricing, visit [our website!](#)



Once again this year, the Iowa FFA Foundation will be at the Iowa Ag Expo in Des Moines from January 31st to February 2nd. You will be able to find us at the top of the escalators in our normal booth space, number 752! See you there!



Iowa FFA Foundation will be at Iowa Pork Congress this year in a new booth spot! You can find us in booth number 1203 on January 25th and 26th at the Iowa Events Center!



Heartland Co-op Scholarships Are Open!

Heartland Co-op has once again opened up their annual scholarships. Up to 12 students will be granted a \$1,000 scholarship! to find more information and to apply, visit:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.agricharts.com/sites/14/2023%20%20Scholarship%20Application%2012.6.22.pdf>



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 8th and 9th at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny, Iowa. They are in search of judges for both individual and team contests. You can visit https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bg8zzQ7SMwJCRfw 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!

2021-2022 Iowa FFA Foundation Annual Report

The 2021-2022 Annual Report is printed and officially live. We are working on getting them sent out in the mail, but you don't have to wait for a hard copy if you don't want to! You can view it online [here!](#)

IOWA FFA FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2021-2022



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](#)