



Iowa FFA Foundation

Cultivating partnerships supporting agricultural education in Iowa

October 2022 | www.iowaffafoundation.org | **Donate**

Executive Director's Reflections

Friends,

Fall – isn't it a great time of year? The heat of the summer finally breaks and we get to enjoy the wonderful colors surrounding us as we step outdoors. Seeing farmers harvest their crops, hearing the steady hum of grain driers through the crisp evening air and smelling the wonderful apple and pumpkin desserts and beverages that abound this time of year. We celebrate everyone in the agriculture industry as harvest progresses this season!



Fall also contains many other seasons and holidays, including one you have likely heard me talk little about... Halloween. For some, the season of being treated or tricked, with ghosts and goblins is even more exciting than being able to find any product in pumpkin-spice! The traditions of Halloween date back to the 730's A.D. when the Celtic Samhain Festival was moved to October 31 – the night before the Christian All Saints Day - to become "All Hallows Eve." As you may guess, part of the celebration included bonfires and costumes to defend against evil witches and ghosts.

Our traditions may change throughout history – and even from year to year, be that whether we go to the apple orchard or pumpkin patch (or which one and how often) or if we spend an evening walking our neighborhood connecting and watching the delight of young children as they "Trick or Treat." In a world of constant change which seems anything but stable, we can rest assured on the seasons changing!

As we enjoy this fall season, I wish you each the safest of fall harvests and happiness in each holiday.

Sincerely,

Josh

Black Ties Blue Jackets Registration Now Live!

Registration is officially underway for the 9th Annual Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala to be held at the FFA Enrichment Center on Saturday, February, 18th. This year's event will be once again be filled with the fun, games and auction that has made the event the highlight of the start to National FFA Week.

With the continued need for agricultural educators in Iowa, the Iowa FFA Foundation will again be directing part of the proceeds of this event to a fund to help new agricultural educators. This fund will help move the needle in the quest to provide agricultural education to every student in Iowa by 2029 as part of the "All in for Ag Ed" campaign.

The Sponsoring Committee is excited to work towards exceeding last year's record of more than \$100,000 and invite you to participate or donate a live or silent auction item. For more information, contact the Iowa FFA Foundation at 515-965-7370.

Tickets for the event can be purchased in advance by [clicking here](#).





Iowa FFA Members Set Course for Indianapolis

A caravan of busses, mini vans and Suburbans will be headed east early next week as more than 3,000 Iowa FFA members head for Indianapolis and the 95th National FFA Convention & Expo. Among the Iowa contingent are a number of outstanding FFA members who will be vying for National honors.

Coverage of the General Sessions will air on RFD-TV or streaming live at ffa.org beginning Wednesday, October 26th.

Mia Gibson, from the North Fayette Valley FFA Chapter, is Iowa's National Officer Candidate.

National Officers commit to a year of service to the National FFA Organization. Each officer travels more than 100,000 national and international miles to interact with business and industry leaders, thousands of FFA members and teachers, corporate sponsors, government and education officials, state FFA leaders, the general public, and more. The team will lead personal growth and leadership training conferences for FFA members throughout the country and help set policies that will guide the future of FFA and promote agricultural literacy. The 2021-2022 National Officer team will be announced at the end of the Seventh General Session on Saturday, October 29th. Gibson previously served the Iowa FFA Association as the 2021-22 State President and the 2020-21 State Secretary.

Blake Frascht from Charles City was selected as an American Star Farmer Finalist.

The American Star Awards represent the best of the best among thousands of American FFA Degree recipients. The award recognizes FFA members who have developed outstanding agricultural skills and competencies by completing a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program. A required activity in FFA, an SAE allows members to learn by doing. Members can own and operate an agricultural business, working or serving an internship at an agriculture-based business, or conduct an agriculture-based scientific experiment and report the results.

Other requirements to achieve the award include demonstrating top management skills; completing key agricultural education, scholastic and leadership requirements; and earning an American FFA Degree, the organization's highest level of student accomplishment.

Iowa FFA members will be competing in 26 Career Development areas

Career opportunities abound within today's agriculture industry. Career Development Events (CDEs) help students develop the abilities to think critically, communicate clearly and perform effectively in a competitive job market. CDEs cover a variety of job skills in everything from communications to mechanics. Some events allow students to compete as individuals, while others allow them to

compete in teams. Chapters who will be represented include: Montezuma, Calamus-Wheatland, Muscatine, West Lyon, Denison, East Buchanan, Bondurant-Farrar, North Fayette Valley, Creston, DeWitt Central, Algona, Montezuma, West Liberty, Diamond Trail, Newton, West Dubuque, Louisa-Muscatine, Columbus and Williamsburg.

Three Iowa FFA members named National Proficiency Area Finalists

The Agricultural Proficiency Awards honor FFA members who, through their SAEs, have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers. Four National Finalists are selected for each of the award areas and will go on to compete for a national proficiency award. National Agricultural Proficiency Award winners are announced onstage during the National FFA Convention.

--Agricultural Communications: Megan Clark, DeWitt Central FFA
--Diversified Agricultural Production: Evan Mogler, West Lyon FFA
--Forage Production: Hayden Holdgrafer, Easton Valley FFA

Iowa Sends 18 National Agriscience Fair Finalists

The Agriscience Fair is for FFA members who are interested in the science and technology of agriculture. Students can compete in 36 divisions across 6 systems areas: Animal; Environmental & Natural Resources; Food Products & Processing; Plant; Power, Structural, & Technical; and Social. Divisions are set based on junior (grades 7-8), intermediate (grades 9-10) and senior (grades 11-12) projects and whether the project is conducted by an individual or a pair. Chapters represented include: Beckman Catholic, North Scott and North Scott Middle.

8 members participating in Band, Chorus and Talent

Every year, members from across the nation audition to be involved in the National FFA Band, Chorus, and Talent. National FFA Band and Chorus members have various rehearsals and perform on stage at National FFA Convention. Talent has the opportunity to perform on stage at one of the General Sessions. One of the Talent acts is selected after multiple competition rounds as top talent at the end of convention. Members participating include, John Heitman from the Storm Lake FFA Chapter, Charles Moeller of Holland FFA, Kjersten Ouverson of Clear Lake, Rachel Rollinger from the Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter, Rachel Haupt of AHSTW, Aaron Lee from the Le Mars FFA Chapter, Laura Steinkamp of Carroll Area and Samuel Roberts from the Williamsburg FFA Chapter.

158 Iowa FFA Members to receive the American Degree

The American FFA Degree is awarded at the National FFA Convention & Expo each year to less than 1% of FFA members making it one of the organization's highest honors. In addition to their degree, each recipient receives a gold American FFA Degree key. Congratulations to these outstanding FFA members. A full list can be found [here](#).

**National Farm Toy Show
Offers Last Chance for 2022
Iowa FFA Tractors**



The 2022 Iowa FFA Limited Edition Tractors have been a great success with both of the tractors nearly sold out. The Iowa FFA Foundation will again be in a prominent space at the National Farm Toy Show in Dyersville, November 3-6. The booth is located just inside the main doors of Beckman Catholic Schools and will feature the remaining 2022 1/16 Farmall 450 with loader & IH 950 mixer mill set and Iowa FFA Challenger MT875. There will also be deep discounts for older inventory purchased at the show.

If you have delayed ordering these outstanding Iowa FFA branded models please do so before the show as we can not guarantee their availability afterwards. All Iowa FFA Limited Edition merchandise can be purchased by [visiting the E Store](#).



Do You Know The Best Ag Teacher in Iowa?

Through the Golden Owl Award, agricultural educators will be recognized and

rewarded for their essential and selfless role as they work to prepare future generations for successful careers. It is only through the dedicated service, coaching and mentorship by their ag educator that FFA members are able to achieve their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

Nominations for the 2023 Golden Owl Award are still open and will be accepted online through December 1, 2022 [here](#).

Give The Gift Of Blue



Nominations Still Open

Once again this year, through a generous gift from Glenn and Ginger Sterk, FFA Members from across our state without the financial means to own an FFA jacket of their own, will have the opportunity to receive the gift of an FFA jacket - shipped free of charge. Agricultural Educators, applications are still open and will be reviewed monthly. Nominations must be made by an FFA Advisor, so if you know of a student who could benefit from this program, please contact your chapter's advisor. More information and the application can be found [here](#).

Nominations will be kept 100% confidential and will be shared only with the selection committee. If you have any questions, please [contact us](#).

WELCOME NEW FFA CHAPTERS

Ottumwa

West Monona



GI ING TUESDAY

Save The Date For Giving Tuesday -- November 29, 2022

There are a multitude of students who have directly benefited from the skills and knowledge gained through being a part of Iowa Team Ag Ed and their success wouldn't be possible without partners like you.

Please join us by making a gift to the Iowa FFA Foundation on Giving Tuesday, November 29th to support agricultural education. Your one-time or monthly gift will ensure that all students continue to have access to the life changing possibilities that agricultural education provides.

To donate to the Iowa FFA Foundation, you can click [here](#). Remember, no gift is too small and all gifts are matched!



Support FFA as a member of **The Corduroy Club**

Your monthly gift of any size can make a lasting impact on FFA members across the state!

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](#)