



Iowa FFA Foundation

Cultivating partnerships supporting agricultural education in Iowa

August 2021 | www.iowaffafoundation.org | [Donate](#)

Executive Director's Reflections

Friends,

When growing up, I often heard my parents and grandparents say the phrase *"A lot of sweat and hard work is the only thing that will get you where you need to be."* Now as I think about this several years later, it is amazing how true this statement is. I have often reflected at their wisdom – such as saying "need" rather than "want" as we don't always end up where we thought we should, but God has placed us right where we need to be.

It was a pleasure to see many of you, our dear friends, out at the Iowa State Fair during the past two weeks. As we celebrated the ability to gather again this year and consumed some of the amazing delectable treats found only at the fair, we were also able to witness firsthand the next generation of agricultural leaders as they were putting in the long hours of hard work, and yes, the sweat was flowing freely! While sadly not all could win best of show (their want) many learned so much (their need). No matter if the students were exhibiting livestock, ag. mechanics, floriculture, farm crops, photography or in any other area, the planning, dedication and effort to have a project ready for the fair demonstrates skills students will be able to use their entire lives as they seek to achieve their goals.

I sincerely applaud the numerous hours of hard work, and yes – sweat, each of the more than 2,100 student exhibitors dedicated to their more than 8,000 projects exhibited this year. When you see an FFA member, please help me congratulate them on their success.





Golden Owl Nominations Now Open

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.

The Golden Owl Award, now in its fourth year, rewards seven Iowa teachers each year, one from each of FFA's six Iowa districts and one from a postsecondary institution. Those educators will be honored with an event at their school next February and receive a plaque and a \$500 donation.

One of the seven will also be awarded the grand prize, announced during the Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference next April, and receive the title of Iowa's Ag

Educator of the Year, the Golden Owl Award trophy and a \$3,000 donation.

"One of the honors of this award is it's nominated by colleagues, students and community members," said Michael Retallick, department chair of Agricultural Education and Studies at Iowa State University, who received the 2020 award. "It's a nice way to recognize the level of appreciation and level of impact that we have on young people."

Retallick was an ag instructor and FFA advisor at Maquoketa Community Schools from 1993 to 2001 before pursuing his doctorate at ISU. He said after having been a high school teacher, and now as a teacher of future teachers, he is excited to see ag education growing in Iowa.

"It's really neat to see all of the students that are engaged in ag education right now, and all of the districts across the state that are looking to grow their programs," Retallick said. "The future is great for agricultural education in Iowa."

Nominations for the 2022 Golden Owl Award will be accepted online through Dec. 1 at <https://bit.ly/3y6yKDT>.

2021 Limited Edition Tractors Nearly Sold Out

For the 30th Anniversary of the Iowa FFA Limited Edition Tractor program, we selected two Iowa made tractors to showcase this year. The 1/16th scale Oliver Super 88 with Corn Picker and the 1/64th scale Kinze Big Blue. Pre-orders opened on July 15th and the response has been overwhelming!

As we near the first shipment of tractors next week to our friends who have placed pre-orders, we are down to just a handful of tractors left and anticipate being sold out very soon. The Oliver is \$200 and the Kinze is \$39, both include free shipping to your door! We can not stress enough, not to delay if you want to be sure to reserve one of this years limited edition tractors. For fastest ordering visit <https://IAFFAFDNSTORE.givesmart.com>.



THANK YOU!

Because of your generosity
in 2020-2021

\$481,606.01

was raised through our
matching gift program towards
the capital campaign on the FFA Enrichment Center while
supporting Agricultural Education!

Remember-Every gift is matched 50 cents on the dollar!

Donate today!





NOMINATE A

PLAYER WITH HEART



BECK'S

Beck's would like to recognize student athletes that are not just a star player but a player that **shows heart** in school, at work, through their community and in the ag industry. We would like your help identifying these high school football players in your community so we can recognize them across the state during the football season.

Winners will be recognized in a radio spot, on social media and on the web this fall.



**SCAN HERE
to nominate an
athlete today!**



Save the Date

THE IOWA FFA FOUNDATION'S 8TH ANNUAL

Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala

Saturday

February 19, 2022

Registration Information

Coming Soon

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.

[Donate Now](#)



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