



Iowa FFA Foundation

Cultivating partnerships supporting agricultural education in Iowa

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

Executive Director's Reflections

Proud, honored, fortunate, grateful – I struggle today to express my overwhelming gratitude for each and every one of you who were able to join us at our Eighth Annual Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala on Saturday. In its eight year, the Gala continued to set many records, record attendance – 451, record amount raised – \$135,255, record highest single auction item – \$5,000, record amount raised in the live auction – \$19,875. When we first had an idea to celebrate FFA week with a fundraiser event, we had only dreams of achieving what was fulfilled this year.

While many organizations in the non-profit world have struggled, you stepped up in a big way to plant a stake in the ground and exclaim “I BELIEVE in the future of agriculture – with a faith born, not of words, but of deeds!” I am so proud of what we have been able to do together. I am honored you have entrusted us with your investments. We are beyond fortunate to have such loyal and dedicated partners and above all – I am grateful for you; because of you and your investment, the next generation of agricultural leaders has a bright future.



Thank you so much and happy National FFA Week! Sincerely,



Record Setting 8th Annual Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala

The 8th Annual Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala was held at the Enrichment Center on Saturday February 19, 2022. This year broke records in almost every single possible way. The committee chose to return to an in person event this year with a virtual option. It was wonderful to see everyone flood the building and support Agriculture Education in person once again. We truly missed you.

After last year's record setting event, we set our sights even higher this year. Our stretch fundraising goal was \$125,000. The total number the morning of the event was something of \$105,000 and we were unsure if that goal was attainable. However, our friends and partners truly pulled through on Saturday night. With more than 100 silent auction items, 451 attendees and 23 live auction items, we

raised a record total amount of \$135,255.

Individuals and corporate partners bought tables, bid on auction items and made monetary donations again and again and again! The silent auction saw 1,104 bids before the hammer closed on the silent auction netting a record \$15,859. The live auction, cried by past Iowa FFA State President, CD Brinegar, had 23 items sold and raised a record \$19,875.

Once again this year, we had the help of Pinnacle Productions out of Sioux Falls, South Dakota make the possibility of a virtual event happen. 50 virtual attendees were able to experience the wonders of Gala from the comfort and safety of their own homes.

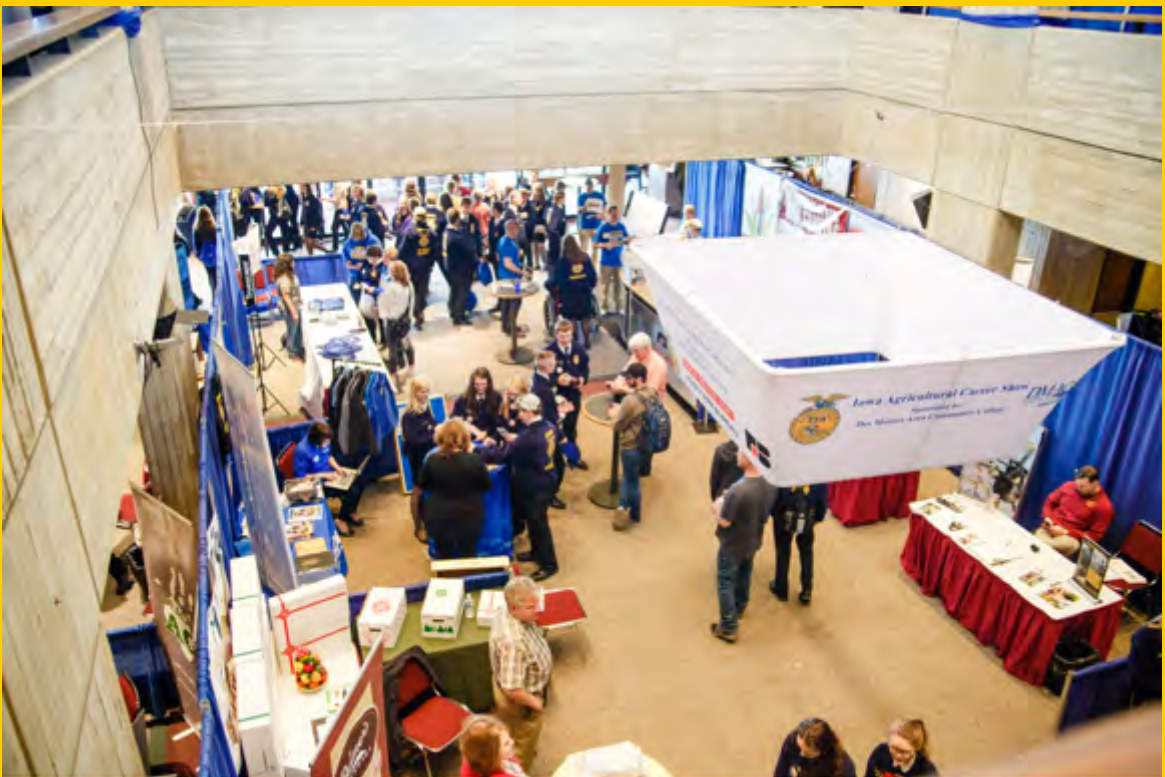
Iowa FFA President, Mia Gibson and Iowa PAS President, Jenna Steffen took the group through an evening full of comments from Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig, U.S. Senator Joni Ernst and Iowa FFA Foundation Board President, Josh Earll. Josh Remington spoke about the goal of implementing agriculture education in every school in Iowa and our commitment to use the first \$50,000 raised to directly support agriculture educators. To celebrate the start of National FFA Week, the FFA Creed was presented by the 2021 Iowa FFA Creed Speaking Champion, Tucker Rohrig from the Creston FFA Chapter and it rang true in the hearts of every attendee.

Staying on the night's trend of supporting education, the entertainment was presented by what former Iowa Governor Chet Culver calls, "The Official Funk Band of Iowa". *The Faculty Lounge* is a ten-piece horn-driven funk band comprised entirely of teachers and had people up on their feet in no time.

The support at Gala this year was record breaking and wonderfully overwhelming. It is so exciting to see just how strong the support of agriculture education is in the state of Iowa. Mark your calendars for the 9th Annual Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala on February 18, 2023. Be sure to get your tickets early next year, it's sure to be another sell out event! See you next year!



Photos from Gala, provided by Pinnacle Productions and Dave Doese, can be found [here](#).



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.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register for a booth!

2022 Golden Owl Finalists Named

Seven Agriculture Educators across the state of Iowa have been named as finalists for the 2022 Iowa Golden Owl Award. The finalists consist of one instructor from each of Iowa's six FFA districts and one from Iowa's post secondary institutions. Each finalist received a plaque and a check for \$500. The finalists will participate in a round of interviews prior to the 94th Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference in April, with the Iowa Golden Owl Award winner announced at the conference. The winner receives the coveted Golden Owl Trophy and a check for \$3,000. The award, in its fourth year, is made possible with the support of Nationwide.



Kevin Cooper

Nevada High School



Tess Mittag

Boyer Valley High School



Micah Weber



Mike Cooley

East Union High School



Jon Davis

Iowa State University



Jamie Christensen
Midland High School



Ashley Wiebe
Muscatine High School

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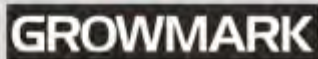


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\$500 - \$999



GRAIN MILLERS

26th Annual
Iowa FFA Foundation
Golf Tournament



June 15, 2022
Lincoln Valley Golf Course
State Center, Iowa

Save The Date for the 26th 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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Iowa FFA Foundation

FFA Enrichment Center 1055 SW Prairie Trail Pkwy. Ankeny, IA 50023