



Iowa FFA Foundation

Cultivating partnerships supporting agricultural education in Iowa

November 2021 | www.iowaffafoundation.org | **Donate**



Executive Director's Reflections

Friends,

This time of year often challenges us to stop and reflect on the many blessings we have received. Beyond the last Thursday in November, how often do we take this necessary time to reflect? Further, how often do we actually tell those who we count among our blessing of their impact?

Feeling immediately indicted by my own words, I wish to thank an individual who believed in me – Mr. Dennis Selness.

To many, Mr. Selness “Selness” or “Denny” as many respectively called him, was a kind-hearted, jovial individual. A man who knew how to say just the magic combination of words to motivate anyone to be their best. One whose luck at poker was simply fascinating. His grip on your shoulder would immediately shed clarity when focus was needed and his power to understand one’s ability for greatness and his relentless belief in this great vision was second to none. Mr. Selness was known nationally, internationally in fact; yet this did not change him. To many, Mr. Selness was an inspiration... to me, he was life-changing.

We lost Mr. Selness 17 years ago this month. To some, that may have been the end of their story, but for “Selness” this was only another chapter. As Mr. Selness completed his journey, he generously gave yet again – through his will he created a scholarship, the first endowed scholarship for the Iowa FFA Foundation, to lift up those who desire to go into his life-long passion – becoming an Agricultural Educator.

Not a day goes by without thinking of Mr. Selness - my friend, my mentor, my FFA Advisor and the many blessings he bestowed on me. I am sincerely thankful for his passion and dedication to making me who I am today and I thank him for his generosity to create this deeply needed scholarship.

To each Agricultural Education Instructor and FFA Advisor, THANK YOU for your unwavering commitment to your students – whether they say it or not, you absolutely change their lives.

To every one of you... please take a moment to send a note, give a call, pat a back, nominate for the Golden Owl Award, no matter what you do, PLEASE share your thanks with your Ag. Ed. Instructor and FFA Advisor!

With a thankful heart,

Josh

Make a Difference on Giving Tuesday



Giving Tuesday is a day in which people around the world support and give to the causes that matter to them. We all have navigated uncharted territory these past two years, but we have gotten through it, together.

Together, we can give back to an organization that is inspiring the minds of young agricultural leaders.

Together, we can give back to the teachers who put in countless hours to ensure that students are reaching their full potential.

Together, we can make a difference.

Together, we give.

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 30th 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!

Nominate Your Agriculture Educator for the Golden Owl Award



Agricultural Educators change lives and they deserve to be recognized for the work that they do both in and out of the classroom. That is why, for the 4th year, the Iowa FFA Foundation is once again partnering with Nationwide to give out the Golden Owl Award. The Golden Owl Award recognizes agricultural educators across Iowa for their tremendous contributions to helping the next generation of agricultural leaders.

Students, fellow teachers and other supporters can nominate their favorite agricultural teacher and summarize what makes him or her the best in the state. Nominees have an opportunity to win great cash prizes and the title of Iowa Agricultural Educator of the Year. You can nominate your favorite agriculture educator [here](#). Nominations are due by December 1, 2021.

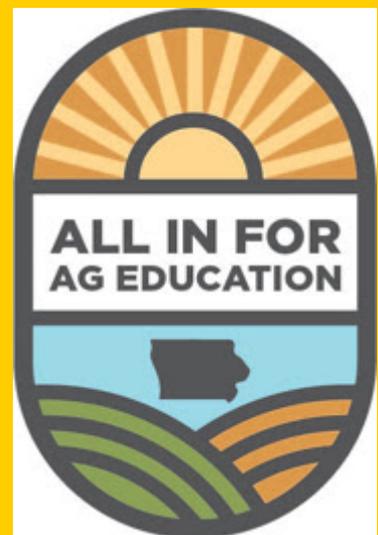
A Special Message From Our Friend, Dale Earnhardt, Jr.

Click to [here](#) or on the photo to the right to head to our YouTube page and hear Dale Earnhardt, Jr. talk about the importance of nominating your outstanding Ag Teacher for the Golden Owl Award today!



WELCOME NEW FFA CHAPTERS

Denver





Holiday Reminder

The Iowa FFA Foundation Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 25th and 26th for the Thanksgiving Holiday! We are thankful to each of you who continue to support the mission!



IOWA FFA
ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS

The Iowa FFA Alumni and Supporters have multiple Award opportunities for both Alumni and Iowa FFA Members. More information can be found [here](#). Applications are due on December 1, 2021 and winners will be announced at their Annual Conference on January 15th, 2022.



Tax Advantages for Year End Gifts Extended

Ordinarily, individuals who elect to take the standard deduction cannot claim a deduction for their charitable contributions. The law now permits these individuals to claim a limited deduction on their 2021 federal income tax returns for cash contributions made to certain qualifying charitable organizations. Nearly nine in 10 taxpayers now take the standard deduction and could potentially qualify to claim a limited deduction for cash contributions.

These individuals, including married individuals filing separate returns, can claim a deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made to qualifying charities during 2021. The maximum deduction is increased to \$600 for married individuals filing joint returns.

[More information On Deductions for Charitable Contributions](#)



Have You Reserved Your Seat at the Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala?

Registration is well underway for the 8th Annual Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala to be held at the FFA Enrichment Center on Saturday, February, 19th. This year's event will be back in a live format 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 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 2025 as part of the "All in for Ag Ed" campaign.

Along with the in person event, this year we are also offering a virtual option for attendees across the nation who want to join in the fun and take part in the silent auction. The Sponsoring Committee is excited to work toward exceeding last years 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](#) .



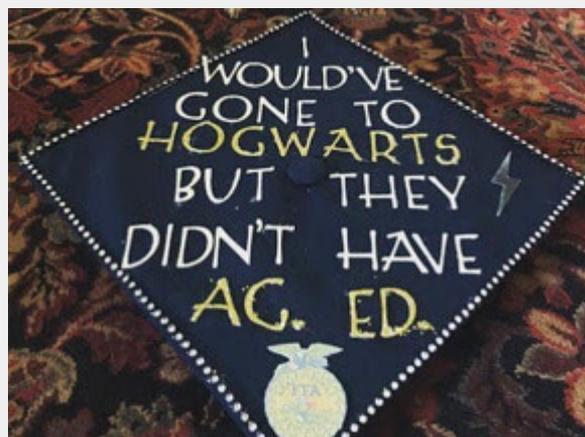
Support FFA as a member of The Corduroy Club

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

Scholarship Application Period Open

The Iowa FFA Foundation is now accepting applications for six college scholarship programs to be awarded for the 2022-23 academic year. The deadline for scholarship applications is January 7, 2022.

Scholarship program information and details can be found at <https://www.iowaffafoundation.org/scholarships.aspx>.



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

[Donate Now](#)



