



Iowa FFA Foundation

Cultivating partnerships supporting agricultural education in Iowa

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

Executive Director's Reflections

Friends,

For most, the incoming cooler weather makes you want to curl up with a blanket and sit in front of the fireplace -- but not for FFA members. From spending hours in the barn working with their animals to pulling multiple late nights in the tractor to picking up a few extra shifts at work, most FFA Members are in the height of their busy time and their SAE projects.

National Convention starts next week, which means a lot of those members will be spending a few days away from home, their SAE projects, school, work, sports, etc. As most involved with agriculture know, it is not easy to be away from home during the harvest season when there is still so much left to be done. However, these members will put in the extra work necessary to attend the 94th National FFA Convention and Expo.

A number of them have been waiting many days for this opportunity to grow as a leader, and display the talents they have learned, practiced and mastered over the course of the past year. Many competed in Leadership Development Events and Career Development Events last spring and summer, with some qualifying for the national contests next week. From sub-districts to districts to state and then, the ever sought after nationals; members go through many steps for the honor to compete at the national level.

Iowa FFA's presence at National Convention will be vast, from students competing in contests and our 117 American Degrees to Proficiency Awards and National Chapter Awards. All of this is possible because of partners like you, who donate time, money and wisdom to FFA Members across the state, and ensure that every student has the opportunity to learn, grow and succeed. For truly believing that the future of agriculture lies in the hands of those wearing the blue corduroy and doing everything you can to support them, we thank you. The success these students have found can only be achieved when we work together and continue to support the future of our industry.



Sincerely,

Josh

Iowa FFA Foundation Welcomes Advancement Specialist

Zoie Shook has joined the Iowa FFA Foundation as the Advancement Specialist.

Shook, a native of Guthrie Center, Iowa, is a former FFA member and served as the 2016-17 Iowa FFA Association SW State Vice President and later served on the Iowa FFA Alumni Board of Directors as the Past State Officer/Associate Member Representative.

Previous to joining the Iowa FFA Foundation staff, Zoie served as a legal secretary in a small law firm in west central Iowa. Newly engaged, she and her fiancé Ashton, who is employed by the city of Bondurant, are planning to relocate to the central Iowa area later this year.

Aside from being passionate about FFA, Zoie can be found coaching high school speech students, yelling at the television when the Kansas City Chiefs are losing, drinking iced coffee and eating Mexican food.

As the Advancement Specialist, Zoie will be putting her skills to work planning events, working with communications and social media, assisting in the efforts of fundraising staff as well as be the point person for donor recognition and work with the Developing Leaders sub committee.

We are excited to have Zoie join us and invite our friends and partners to take the opportunity to welcome her to the Iowa FFA Foundation.



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 94th 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 of the National FFA Convention will air on RFD-TV or streaming live on the National FFA website at ffa.org beginning Wednesday, October 27th.

Kabe Boysen, from the Wapello 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 30th. Boysen previously served the Iowa FFA Association as the 2020-21 Southeast State Vice President.

Chase Krug from Marion has been named one of four finalists for the American Star in Agriscience.

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, intern at an agricultural 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 25 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, Midland, Muscatine, West Lyon, Creston, Maquoketa Valley, Cedar Rapids Prairie, Gilbert, Diamond Trail, Southwest Valley, Highland, South O'Brien, North Scott, Brokaw, Ridgeview, East Buchanan, La Porte- Dysart and Clear Lake.

Four 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.

--Agriscience Research – Animal Systems: Jasmyn Hoeger, Beckman Catholic FFA

--Diversified Agricultural Production: Hunter Holdgrafer, Easton Valley FFA

--Nursery Operations: Lindsey Laughlin, West Liberty FFA

--Sheep Production: Zachary Schoelerman, Spencer FFA

Iowa Sends 10 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, Danville, North Fayette Valley, North Scott and Stanton.

Charles City is a National Chapter Award finalist

National FFA recognizes the top chapters with innovative activities in each of the three divisions: growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture. The top ten chapters in each division receive a National FFA Premier Chapter Award plaque. Of the top ten in each division, a top premier chapter will be chosen in each division. Only 3-star chapters are eligible for premier chapter awards. Charles City FFA will compete in the Premier Chapter: Strengthening Agriculture.

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, Maren Hettinga and Charles Moeller from the Holland Chapter, Ridge Kunkel from Lawton-Bronson FFA, Kjersten Ouverson from Clear Lake FFA, Bryan York from Atlantic, Zayden Reffitt from Dunlap, Emma Carlson from Belmont-Klemme and Chiara Dusanek from Midland FFA.

117 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 2021 Iowa FFA Tractors

The 2021 Iowa FFA Limited Edition Tractors have been a great success with the 1/64th scale Kinze Big Blue selling out and the 1/16th scale Oliver Super 88 with corn picker nearing the end of the run with less than twenty left.

The Iowa FFA Foundation will again be in a prominent space at the National Farm Toy Show in Dyersville, November 5-7. The booth is located just inside the main doors of Beckman Catholic Schools and will feature the remaining 2021 model Oliver as well as deep discounts for older inventory purchased at the show.

If you have delayed ordering this outstanding Iowa FFA branded model 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](#).

WELCOME NEW FFA CHAPTERS

Scranton

**North Scott Jr.
High**

**WACO @
Wayland**



Black Ties Blue Jackets Registration Now Live!

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 on the fun and take part in the silent auction. The Sponsoring Committee is excited to work toward 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](#).

**Support FFA as a
member of**

The Corduroy Club

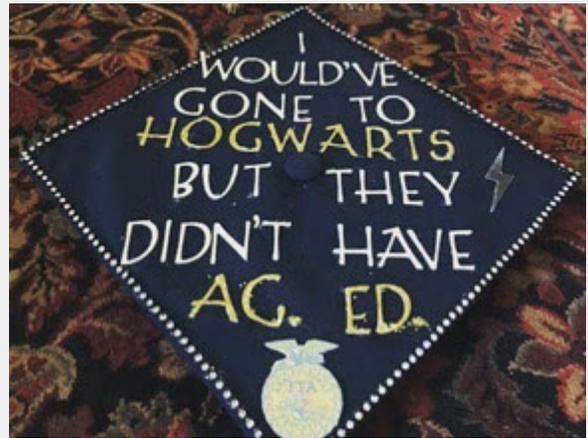


Your monthly gift of any size can make a lasting impact on FFA members across the state!

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.

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Iowa FFA Foundation

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