



Iowa FFA Foundation

Cultivating partnerships supporting agricultural education in Iowa

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

Executive Director's Reflections

Friends,

It is that time of year again! Schools and academic institutions across our state are gearing up and launching into the wonderful endeavor of another school year. Whether you made the journey to another school year as a student, educator or even as a parent, grandparent or supporter – there is so much to do and so much excitement that goes with the new year.

There are new opportunities to make friends, learn skills and grow through many new experiences. As the great Dr. Seuss said, “Oh the places you will go...”

It is easy for us to breeze on past these days while we are all so busy, buried in the “back to school whirlwind.” How amazing is it, however, to have a front row seat to watch the miracle of learning happen before our very eyes? Yes, you read that correct – the miracle of learning! Have you ever thought for a moment what would happen if we didn’t learn? We often hear clichés about how we are to “never stop learning” but, have we ever truly thought about this? While I am certainly not a neuroscientist, I find it amazing that a bunch of protein cells mixed with a lot of water and stimulated by an electrical pulse can build and hold memories – the critical components of our life! Take a moment and reflect on how amazing this process really is.

As students and educators go back to the classrooms this year, to fire those electrical stimulus and build new memories and skills, we wish nothing but the utmost success, learning and growth this school year. We are proud of the hard work each of our agricultural educators puts in each day. If you can, help us take a moment to thank them!





Iowa FFA Takes On The Iowa State Fair

After 11 days, the great Iowa State Fair has officially come to a close! Thank you to everyone who made it a point to stop by and say "Hi" to us throughout our time there. Iowa FFA showed up this year in a big way with livestock projects, static exhibits and the sea of yellow and blue shirted ushers and stage attendants. The unofficial results from the fair can be found [here](#).

Next year's Iowa State Fair is scheduled for August 10th - 20th and we hope to see you there!



Golden Owl Nominations Open In One Week!

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 fifth 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, 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 2023 Golden Owl Award will be accepted online through December 1st at <https://www.iowaffafoundation.org/golden-owl-award.aspx>.



FARM PROGRESS SHOW®

There Are Many Ways To Support FFA At Farm Progress Show!

The Farm Progress Show is just a week away! The Iowa FFA Foundation will be in Boone at the show August 30th - September 1st. We will be located alongside Wick Buildings in booth number 351 in the southwest quadrant with tractor order forms ready for you!

While at the show, there will be a few different opportunities to support the Iowa FFA Foundation, including the famous tire sale at the Titan Tire booth! Check in and bidder number registration will be at their booth, number 24S off of South Avenue, on Wednesday, August 31st from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. with the auction starting at 2:00 p.m. All proceeds from the auction will directly support the mission of the Iowa FFA Foundation. Once the 14 lots of Goodyear/Titan tires have been claimed, payment will be taken and tire load out will begin at 5:00 p.m. We will have specific load out instructions for the winning bidders that day. [Click here to view the complete list of tires](#) that will be sold and please [contact us](#) if you have any further questions about the auction.

Titan Tire is interested in having 6 FFA Chapters help them throughout the show. Each chapter would work a two hour shift on each day of the show. Working would involve taking photos of people at their booth with Titan's brand ambassadors - for each photo taken, the Iowa FFA Foundation will get \$5. Tickets will be supplied to those working these shifts. If you have questions, please [contact Josh](#).

Also during the show, Corteva will be selling Pioneer branded merchandise at their booth and a portion of those sale proceeds will be donated back to the Iowa FFA Foundation. Be sure to

head to booth 634 in the southwest quadrant to get some of their merchandise and support the Iowa FFA Foundation!

2022 Limited Edition Tractors Nearly Sold Out

For the 31st Anniversary of the Iowa FFA Limited Edition Tractor program, we selected some very special tractors to showcase - the 1/16th scale Farmall 450 with loader and IH 950 mixer mill set and the 1/64th scale Challenger MT875. Pre-orders opened on July 7th and the response has been extremely overwhelming!

As we near the first shipment of tractors to our friends who have placed orders, we are down to just a handful of tractors left and anticipate being sold out very soon. The Farmall set is \$230 and the Challenger 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>.



Give The Gift Of Blue Applications Open

As the school year begins, a sea of agricultural education students are getting back into the classroom and their ag teachers are getting them excited about everything that FFA and ag education has to offer. Some students, however, do not have the financial means to afford that iconic blue corduroy.

Once again this year, through a generous gift from Glenn and Ginger Sterk, FFA Members from across our state who are unable to afford 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 now open and will be reviewed monthly beginning October 1st, 2022. 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](#).

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

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