



Iowa FFA Foundation

Cultivating partnerships supporting agricultural education in Iowa

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

Executive Director's Reflections

Friends,

Many of you likely know that in addition to agriculture, I am also an avid enthusiast for anything aviation and aeronautical. To me, witnessing human creation breaking the laws of physics is simply inspiring – to know there may not be a limit or boundary we can't eclipse together, be that the early days of flight with the Wright brothers, to the NASA Apollo mission or to more recent missions such as the James Webb Space Telescope. The beautiful snapshots from the Webb telescope capture the birth or demise of distant stars in a way that often feels more like an illustrative fictional painting, than a true picture of our universe. I don't believe I am the only one to look at these images, marvel at this divine universe, and know we are all part of something much bigger.



A friend and former colleague of mine at National FFA, the late Bill Stagg, would often reflect on the blue corduroy of the FFA Jacket similarly – sharing how when a teenager puts on the jacket for the first time, they too instantaneously feel a part of something much bigger. As with many things Mr. Stagg often shared, his words here could not be more true. This simple corduroy jacket, creates a powerful sea, helping even the most disenfranchised student know they are welcome and encouraged to be a part of our organization.

As I reflect this month, I encourage everyone to take a moment, look at the stars and think about students in FFA Jackets – both incredibly powerful by their own right and yet, both quite simple. Through exploration and determination, both have the power to change lives. We thank our donors and partners who believe in our mission and join us by investing in Iowa

Sincerely,

Josh



Remembering The Late Wayne Nattress

Wayne Allen Nattress, brother, friend, beloved teacher and agriculturist, passed from this life on August 17, 2022, at age 83. Wayne was first embraced in the loving arms of his parents, Woodrow and Angeline (VanDerWilt) Nattress, in Sibley, IA, on December 14, 1938. He later helped welcome siblings Larry and Angela. Wayne lived on a farm and started his education at a rural school east of Sibley before moving to Rushmore and then Worthington, MN, where he graduated from high school in 1957.

Wayne was a loving big brother and is remembered for being both genuinely caring and true-to-form as a big brother, an incessant teaser. His siblings recall his good-natured humor and it became a characteristic Wayne held his whole life.

Wayne enjoyed helping on the farm and was known as an accomplished accordion player. He went on to earn both a B.S. and M.S. in vocational agriculture from Iowa State University. His early career included a position as a vocational agriculture instructor and FFA advisor in Palmer, IA, for 3 years and then Buffalo Center, IA, for 16 years. His time in Buffalo Center was dear to his heart and he curated a collection of bison art over many years. Wayne was a consummate example of the positive and lasting difference that teachers can make in the lives of their students. Wayne often quipped that “FFA is the center of BuFFAlO Center.” Many former students continue to hold Wayne as their favorite and most impactful teacher.

Wayne then served as the Iowa FFA State Advisor and as the agricultural education consultant for the Iowa Department of Education from 1982-1991. In 1986, Wayne boldly started the Iowa FFA Foundation to encourage youth to pursue careers and leadership roles in the agricultural industry. Upon his retirement in 2010 he was recognized by the State of Iowa for his long and impactful career. Wayne cherished his American FFA Degree. He also received the Friend of GROWMARK award, Distinguished Service Award by the National FFA Organization, Distinguished Service Award from the Iowa Association of Agricultural Educators, and FFA Alumni Outstanding Service and Outstanding Achievement awards.

Wayne, or Mr. Nattress, as he's known to thousands of students and FFA members, left a legacy that is impossible to put into words. Despite his own propensity to work long hours, he offered stern warnings of not allowing work to interfere with caring for and spending time with family. Wayne adored children. He always asked how people's kids were doing and if you didn't yet have kids, he'd ask when you're going to have them. Kids loved him too and they couldn't help but smile whenever they saw him. Wayne experienced joy in taking friends out to dinner and always picking up the tab, writing letters, giving gifts, playing his organ, and collecting Native American and buffalo artwork, John Wayne memorabilia and bald eagle sculptures. Wayne was a faithful believer in Jesus Christ and in his last years, his bible was the only book he would read.

Wayne will most be remembered for genuinely living out the FFA motto of “Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live and Living to Serve.” Wayne’s family and friends extend their gratitude to the staff of Bickford of Urbandale Assisted Living and UnityPoint Hospice for their compassionate care. According to Wayne’s wishes, memorial contributions may be directed to the Iowa FFA Foundation for the [Wayne Nattress Memorial](#) to be used for FFA Leadership Conferences at the FFA Enrichment Center.

Farm Progress Show a Huge Success!

The Titan Tire Auction at the Farm Progress Show was once again a huge success. Over 75 people gathered around as we auctioned off 14 lots of tires. The auction, called by Sullivan’s Auctioneers, featured guest auctioneer Cole The Cornstar. The hammer on the auction closed with a total of \$20,270 raised to support the Iowa FFA Foundation and agriculture education.



Thank you to everyone who came out and faced the heat to support the mission of the Iowa FFA Foundation!

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 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 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.

Nominations for the 2023 Golden Owl Award will be accepted online through Dec. 1 [here](#).



Iowa FFA Foundation

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Harvest Season is Upon Us!

Those fields of green are beginning to turn gold which means that harvest season is approaching quickly. As we move into fall and begin harvest preparations, make sure you're talking to your grain marketer about joining the Iowa FFA Foundation Checkoff Program.

1/10 of a cent will be deducted from each bushel of your corn or soybeans sold at the time of sale at either Heartland Co-op or Archer Co-op Grain Company. The cooperative will in turn submit 100% of those funds to the Iowa FFA Foundation. Each deduction will be directed to support the diligent work of the Iowa FFA Foundation. As the organization which financially supports Iowa's agricultural education, contributions impact a wide variety of programs, leadership development, career advancement and FFA specific resources. Together with other cooperative customers, this has the ability to become an immensely impactful amount. Any funds given to the Iowa FFA Foundation are recognized as tax deductible.

Make sure you talk to your local cooperative about joining the Iowa FFA Foundation Checkoff Program today!



Iowa's Give the Gift of Blue Applications Now 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 without the financial means to own 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](#).

Save the Date for the 9th



Annual Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala!

We are just 5 months away from the biggest night in Agriculture Education! Next year's event is set for February 18, 2023 at the FFA Enrichment Center. The Iowa FFA Foundation's Gala Committee is working very hard planning another record setting event for everyone. Registration for the 9th Annual Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala will go live on October 1st and we can't wait to

see you there!



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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Iowa FFA Foundation

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