



# Iowa FFA Alumni Newsletter

September 28, 2015

## Iowa FFA Alumni Calendar

## Iowa State Fair 2015

The Iowa FFA Alumni Association took a new approach to their involvement and presence at the Iowa



State Fair this past August. In years past we've had a static display located in the FFA building next to the FFA headquarters building. As a board we felt more could be done to get involved with fair goers and advocate for the alumni organization during the fair.

To do this we got in contact with the FFA association and agreed to become a part of their display on the second level of the Agriculture Building. Those of you who attend the fair would recognize the FFA display as the one with all the FFA jackets. As a part of this display, we set up a table of information and for much of the fair had an Alumni member present to speak to interested folks. We handed out membership applications, informational postcards, and FFA Alumni memorabilia and took down information from those who wanted to get in contact with a representative at a later date. Overall, we felt that this new approach was a huge success and received many constructive comments to help make future fairs even more successful. Thank you to all FFA Alumni members who worked the booth and helped to make our presence at the Iowa State Fair known!

Bryan Whitman

**October 6** NW District Greenhand Fire-up

**October 7** NE District Greenhand Fire-up

**October 8** SC District Greenhand Fire-up

**October 14** SW District Greenhand Fire-up

**October 20** SE District Greenhand Fire-up

**October 23** NC District Greenhand Fire-up

**October 28-31** National FFA Alumni Convention

**October 28-31** National FFA Convention & Expo

**November 14** Regional Development Conference, Kansas City, MO

**December 5** Regional Development Conference, Blackfoot, ID

**January 16** Iowa FFA Alumni Conference

\*For details about an event, for future events, and to sync the State FFA Alumni calendar visit our website at: [www.iowaffaalumni.com](http://www.iowaffaalumni.com)



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## Local Alumni Spotlight

### Newton FFA Alumni

In preparation for the annual FFA competitions, members of the Newton FFA Alumni made a commitment to better prepare those students participating in competitions by organizing a "trial" contest. The FFA members practiced their various speeches, demonstrations, etc. in front of members of the alumni and other volunteers. They were then critiqued - given advice on improvements, as well as positive reinforcement. This event was a great way for approximately 15 alumni and many students to not only prepare for these competitions, but also to get to know one another.

The interaction of alumni, many of which had been through these competitions themselves when they were students, and the current students was really amazing. They appreciated the critiquing. By providing this service to the students, they were better prepared and felt confident as they headed into the competitions. In the competition, several members received awards, with some advancing to state. We hope to make this an annual event to better prepare the students.

Newton Alumni Member

### Nashua Plainfield FFA Alumni

On March 31, 2014 the Nashua Plainfield FFA Alumni affiliate held a silent auction fundraiser in conjunction with the Nashua Plainfield FFA chapter's 75th anniversary banquet. The night's events included an open house showcasing the auction and the chapter's 75 years of history, a banquet meal, and a program facilitated by the chapter. The silent auction began during the open house and closed at the end of the student program, with item winners picking up their items afterwards.

156 people were in attendance, with 15 of them being affiliate members. The affiliate held its inaugural meeting 2 weeks prior and our goal was to spread popularity within the community, grow its membership base from the 21 original members, and fundraise for scholarships.

During the two weeks preceding the banquet, officers contacted local businesses and community members to receive donations for items. Local businesses who gave included a hardware store, golf course, trucking and lime business, and wellness center. The Nashua-Plainfield Alumni affiliate donated a total of 23 items/baskets, giving the affiliate one hundred percent profit off of the event. Items to be bid on included: two half-hogs, one load of crushed rock, two tickets to a Cyclone or Hawkeye football game, a golf & fitness basket, a grill basket, a movie & entertainment basket, a kitchen basket, various scaled model tractors, FFA apparel, and an FFA-Iowa State Fair print.

Our efforts were successful in supporting the local chapter and we agreed to make the auction an annual event. At the conclusion of the event, we discussed lessons learned and noted a few opportunities for improvements to enhance the event. We would like to incorporate a "live auction" portion for a few more valuable items. The affiliate also would like to increase advertising to draw additional attention to the auction. Our biggest challenge during our first year as an affiliate was limited time between our initial meeting and the auction. One local paper hosts a silent auction online which has been very successful in the past; we plan to look into costs and consider an online auction as an additional idea. We are currently planning for the 2015 chapter banquet and due to



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the possibility of smaller attendance, we will reduce our auction items by approximately ten less items.

We exceeded our fundraising goal of \$1,000 with a grand total of \$1,586. The executive board is very excited to begin talks of giving scholarships already this spring. Our membership has now increased to 29 members, with 14 of them being

lifetime members on the national level. We continue to see interest throughout the community and intend to increase community awareness and participation through our efforts. We are excited to support our local FFA chapter.

Nashua Plainfield Alumni Member

## State Alumni Conference

Although January 16th seems like a long ways away, the planning committee has been busy planning an interesting and fun Alumni Conference. This year's Conference will again be held at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny. The day session will contain a number of useful and informational workshops such as Drones in Agriculture and How to judge CDE Contests. The day's business session will include officer elections, student awards and as always the silent auction will tie everything together.

Alumni work can be hard at times, but Alumni shouldn't be all work and no play, so we have invited past state officers to join us for the evening and after a wonderful dinner and the honoring of our very best members, we roll out the felt tables for an evening of casino night fun followed with the annual live auction. Details will be forthcoming on the Iowa FFA Alumni Website.

## Iowa FFA Alumni Awards

Iowa is full of amazing people doing incredible things. If there is someone in your community that you feel goes above and beyond to help the people around them nominate them for the Iowa FFA Alumni Hall of Fame Award! They will be recognized at our annual conference held at the Enrichment Center in Ankeny. Details to this and many other awards can be found on our website!

## Call for Board Members!

Do you have a passion for the FFA Association and the young people of America? Do you want to work with schools that aspire to add an alumni affiliate or are in need of some support to get their alumni back on track? The Iowa FFA Alumni is over 2300 members strong and growing, and with that needs great leaders. If you desire to become a member of the board, email us at: [director@iowaffaalumni.com](mailto:director@iowaffaalumni.com)

## Letters to the Editor

Currently we do not have any 'Letters to the Editor.' We always welcome input on things we can do as a board. If you have any comments or concerns please email us with subject "Letter to the Editor" at: [director@iowaffaalumni.com](mailto:director@iowaffaalumni.com)

## Live Auction Items Needed!

The Iowa FFA Alumni State Conference committee is asking affiliates to help us with the fun of the live auction this year, by providing us with a "mystery box" to auction off. Whatever you put in the box is up to you, and you can decorate the box however you wish. Come and be a part of the fun as we see just what groups can come up with. Contact Colton Beals or Zach Clausen for details.



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## The 2015 Board

**Zach Classen**, President [classencattle@gmail.com](mailto:classencattle@gmail.com)

**Bryon Weesner**, President-Elect  
[bryon.weesner@gmail.com](mailto:bryon.weesner@gmail.com)

**Bryan Whitman**, Past President  
[bwhitman86@gmail.com](mailto:bwhitman86@gmail.com)

**Amy Classen**, NC District [midwayfarms@ncn.net](mailto:midwayfarms@ncn.net)

**Sarah Doese**, NE District [sdoese@iowaffa.com](mailto:sdoese@iowaffa.com)

**Melanie Bloom**, NW District  
[melanie.bloom@case4learning.org](mailto:melanie.bloom@case4learning.org)

**Bob Goodall**, SE District [bgoodall@guardian.com](mailto:bgoodall@guardian.com)

**Steve Dolch**, SW District [sdolch@myfmtc.com](mailto:sdolch@myfmtc.com)

**Colton Beals** SC District [beals.colton@gmail.com](mailto:beals.colton@gmail.com)

**Ashley Fitzgerald**, At-large [afitz1206@gmail.com](mailto:afitz1206@gmail.com)

**Clyde Johnson**, At-large [clydejohnson@lm.k1.ia.us](mailto:clydejohnson@lm.k1.ia.us)

**Patrick Diedrich**, At-large  
[diedrichpatrick@gmail.com](mailto:diedrichpatrick@gmail.com)

**Ann Basset**, At large [acbasset316@gmail.com](mailto:acbasset316@gmail.com)

**Jeff Mayes**, IAAE Rep. [jeff.mayes@qr-rebels.net](mailto:jeff.mayes@qr-rebels.net)

**Michael Tupper**, Iowa FFA President

**Dan Classen**, National FFA Alumni Rep.

## Alumni Development Conference

The Alumni Development Conference (ADC) was held in Raleigh, North Carolina July 8-11. The ADC is held yearly at different locations around the nation. This conference is held annually to benefit all of us and those we lead and work with on a regular basis. We interacted with other alumni members and supporters from across the country. The group was rich with educators, past members, supporters and advocates, both young and old, stretching from California to Maryland. We shared ideas, attend workshops and shared experiences with other affiliates. All of these skills gained were geared to develop alumni leaders and learn how to develop programs to enhance the local organization. Since returning, we have already put some of the items we learned of into action. Listed are just a few of the topics we discussed or learned about:

- FFA branding and how to market our organization
- Components available on the website [FFA.org/myjourney](http://FFA.org/myjourney)
- What we can do to assist students with SAE skills
- Assist students to develop more experience to help achieve their career goals
- Mobilize volunteers to improve school-based agriculture programs
- Recognize what "Our Agriculture Educator Needs"
- Better record keeping to protect our chapter's program

During the conference we visited the Research Triangle Park which included tours to Bayer Crop Science, BASF and Syngenta. This research park is one of the largest in the world. The park is over 9000 acres and has its own zip code. This research facility is home to many leaders in the fields of pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, agriculture and environment. Check it out on [www.rtp.org/about-us](http://www.rtp.org/about-us)

One full day was spent in workshops at the beautiful North Carolina FFA Center on crystal clear White Lake. This site is home to the North Carolina FFA Association's seven week camping program serving more than 2,500 students each summer.

Tours included Langdon Farms - sweet potato and flue cured tobacco production; Gregory Vineyards – Restaurant, Vineyard and Distillery; and McLamb Nursery – Nursery & Ornamental Production. This conference went above and beyond our expectations. We were able to meet many new friends and enrich our network of resources. The weather was steamy but beautiful, the southern hospitality was amazing, our passion was invigorated and the knowledge gained was priceless. Mark off a spot on your calendar for next year when the ADC conference will be held in Kansas City, Missouri.



Amy Classen & Dawn Punches





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## Converting FFA Members to Alumni

As advisors, you can help your current high school seniors and recent high school graduates to be able to continue their experiences the Blue and Gold of the FFA Organization. FFA members will be allowed to have dual membership in both the FFA organization and the FFA Alumni during this period where their membership overlaps. So there should be no concerns about out of school members being restricted from applying for FFA degrees, awards,

scholarships or other activities offered through the Iowa and National FFA Organizations.

So as the Iowa FFA Alumni Membership Chair, I ask you to utilize the ADVANCE TO ALUMNI function on your membership roster to advance multiple FFA members to the Alumni at one time, even if the chapter does not have an active FFA Alumni affiliate.

To complete this task:

**Step #1:** Log on to the National FFA website using your username and password.

**Step #2:** On the gray menu bar, please select SUPPORT.

**Step #3:** On the drop down menu, select ALUMNI.

**Step #4:** You are now on the National FFA Alumni web page. Select ALUMNI RESOURCES on the left menu bar.

**Step #5:** On the Alumni Resources web page, select ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP & ROSTERS

**Step #6:** On the Alumni Membership & Roster page, in the middle column, select INSTRUCTORS – BULK ADVANCE TO STUDENTS TO ALUMNI

**Step #7:** Follow the step by step instructions to ADVANCE MULTIPLE STUDENTS TO ALUMNI – DUAL MEMBERSHIP

If you have any questions about advancing FFA members to FFA Alumni membership, please email [director@iowaffaalumni.com](mailto:director@iowaffaalumni.com)

Clyde Johnson

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## How to Sell Alumni

One of the biggest questions that is asked from people that don't have an Alumni Affiliate is what value does FFA Alumni have? That is a great way to get the conversation started about all of the opportunities that the alumni have to offer. When people hear about all of the wonderful opportunities not only to students and the Ag teacher but alumni members as well people will be banging down the door to join.

Opportunity is a great way to sell the wonderful FFA Alumni. For starters there are additional awards and scholarships available to FFA members that come from chapters an active affiliate. One of the most exciting opportunities is the Washington Leadership Conference scholarships allowing students the opportunity to travel to our nation's capital and learn valuable skills that they will bring back to their community and carry with them the rest of their lives. Alumni members also are available to mentor students

above and beyond what the Ag teacher can. This allows the students to be more successful and opens up more opportunities to compete in contests and have a better overall experience in the FFA.

But, how do you sell Alumni to Ag Teachers? A strong Alumni Affiliate will do nothing but strengthen the local FFA chapter. An Ag teacher has many responsibilities and needs to have a large skill set with so many opportunities for students. This is where a strong affiliate can make the Ag teacher's life much easier. Alumni members can bring in their expertise and help students. For example, a teacher in Wisconsin did not have an extensive Dairy Judging knowledge. However, Alumni members stepped up and coached the FFA members. In fact, they coached the team to a National Championship. Alumni members can step up and ensure student success while still allowing Ag teachers time for a personal life.

Getting prospective Alumni members excited about the opportunities available to them is also important. One of the things that the State Alumni Conference offers is a swap shop for members to exchange ideas that have been successful in their local affiliate. The state conference has gone through a makeover this year and will have several opportunities for members to socialize and recognize the successes of the local affiliates and the members that have been working to ensure student success. There are several opportunities for prospective members to meet with current members and share the passion of supporting FFA and Ag Education not only in the state of Iowa but nationwide. With trips to the national conference, Alumni Development Conference, and the Regional Development Conference there are several opportunities to meet with members and make new friends with common interests.



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With all of the opportunities that the FFA Alumni has to offer there is something for everyone. A strong affiliate helps the keep a strong FFA program in the community and helps

ensure the strong leadership that FFA continues to promote. The Alumni also helps connect people with similar interests developing a strong community and connecting those who

want to support FFA members and Ag teachers across the state and nation.

Zach Classen

## Iowa FFA Alumni Membership Affiliation Program

The membership affiliation program is designed to easily mobilize volunteers to support local agricultural education programs and their FFA chapters. This program allows affiliates to provide membership, services, and benefits to an unlimited number of volunteers/supporters for one fee while keeping the rest of their funds right at home for their local programs. This program will also assist the Iowa and National FFA Alumni in their strategic goal of having an active alumni affiliate in every FFA chapter in the country and dramatically increasing the number of advocates and supporters with time, talent, and resources at the local, state, and national level.

### Program Highlights:

- Annual fee of \$50 per local affiliate in Iowa for the affiliate program providing basic support to all volunteers at the local affiliate.
- A minimum of 10 local affiliate members will continue to be in place for the affiliate to be considered active.

### What affiliates and their members receive

- Ability to use the National FFA tax reporting benefits as a National Alumni affiliate.
- Full access to use the National FFA Alumni Ag Career Network and all resources to provide information, house resources, report data, report & process membership, search for career opportunities and discover promising practices to grow the affiliate, the local agricultural education program and its members.
- Key alumni and FFA Organization updates, information, and all sponsor supported benefits available.
- Electronic "New Visions" alumni newsletter and FFA's "New Horizons" magazine.
- New supportive resources for the local alumni affiliate and their members to become stronger advocates. The needed tools to work with school and community based partners to sustain and grow support for local agricultural education programs and FFA chapters to ensure the success and experience for future generations.
- To be part of a national network united to support agriculture, agricultural education and FFA. Each local affiliates actions and support adds to the support of the state and the national level as there is increased support and benefits in numbers.

### Benefits

- Make it easy for individuals to join and less work for local volunteers and affiliates to obtain national membership and receive benefits.
- Provide an option for those who want to provide their support both in volunteer hours and financial contributions to the local level and still have the ability to communicate on a national level and receive key information keeping their local programs strong.
- Mobilize a larger network of local volunteers and supporters. Collect and report their contributions in time, talent and support and be recognized for their efforts at the local, state and national levels.
- National Alumni Association providing membership services rather than membership management
- Current booster clubs not seeing the value of national alumni membership will become involved utilizing key information, promising practices and provided services.
- Increase the active national affiliates and combined support of alumni keeping an increased number of local FFA chapters and agricultural education programs strong and sustainable at all levels.



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## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. When was the Affiliation program adopted in the state of Iowa?  
The Iowa FFA Board of Directors approved the Affiliation program on the state level at their meeting on August 29, 2015. The affiliation fee was established at \$50.00 per affiliate per year.
2. Does the Affiliation program have any effect on the Life Memberships of the Iowa FFA Alumni Association?  
No, the Life Membership program is still a viable and a necessary form of membership within the Iowa and National FFA Alumni Associations.
3. How does Affiliation program membership affect the local FFA alumni affiliate?  
The Affiliation program allows the local FFA alumni affiliate to recruit members with the understanding that a vast majority of their local dues will stay at the local level. Example: In previous years, annual members would pay \$10 for national dues and \$5 for state dues with a minimum of at least 10 members to be considered an active affiliate. For affiliates that would collect \$25 annual dues from 10 annual members, they would keep \$100 for their local affiliate, \$50 for the Iowa FFA Alumni Association and \$100 for the National FFA Alumni Association. This would still be true for the new Affiliation program if you continue to have only 10 (ten) members. If the local affiliate would conduct a membership drive and raise their membership to 20 (twenty) members, the local alumni affiliate would keep \$350 for local needs, \$50 for state and \$100 for the National FFA Alumni Affiliation program.

If your local affiliate has less than 25 life members at the conclusion of the previous membership year, you would use this chart.

# Annual Members	\$25/member	Local	State	National	Total
20	\$500	\$350	\$50	\$100	\$500
40	\$1000	\$850	\$50	\$100	\$1000
60	\$1500	\$1350	\$50	\$100	\$1500
80	\$2000	\$1850	\$50	\$100	\$2000

If your local affiliates has more than 25 life members at the conclusion of the previous membership year, you would use this chart.

# Annual Members	\$25/member	Local	State	National	Total
20	\$500	\$450	\$50	\$0	\$500
40	\$1000	\$950	\$50	\$0	\$1000
60	\$1500	\$1450	\$50	\$0	\$1500
80	\$2000	\$1950	\$50	\$0	\$2000

4. The example is based on \$25 per local member. Can the local affiliate establish their own membership dues?

Yes, the local affiliate can establish their own dues structure, however, the Life Membership fees are implemented as they were voted on at the last FFA Alumni Annual Conference. Those fees are as follows: \$150 Life membership, \$10 Life membership processing fee, and \$50 Iowa Life membership fee.