

Iowa FFA Alumni

Newsletter

Note:
Scholarship Deadline
Change



Free Money!

Awards

Deadline:
December 1st, 2016

FFA Alumni Awards

Outstanding Chapter Award

Outstanding Achievement Award

Distinguished Contributor Award

Iowa FFA Alumni Hall of Fame Award

New Alumni Chapter Program

Essay Contest

FFA Member Awards

WLC Scholarship

College Scholarship



October 10, 2016

Iowa FFA Alumni Calendar

October 19—22, 2016

National FFA Alumni Convention
Indianapolis, IN

December 1, 2016

Deadline for Iowa FFA Alumni
Awards

January 21, 2017

Iowa FFA Alumni Conference
& Awards Banquet

*Various award deadlines for
state conference are listed on
the Association and Alumni
website.



2017 Iowa FFA Alumni Annual Conference

January 21, 2017

FFA Enrichment Center
1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway
Ankeny, Iowa 50023

Schedule and registration will be posted at:
<http://www.iowaffaalumni.com/iowaffaalumniconference.aspx>

President's Corner

By: Bryon Weesner, Iowa FFA Alumni President

We have reached the point in the year of endings and beginnings...with harvest in full speed we see the bounty of the year's worth of hard work and dedication, and soon will gather with blue jackets from around the country at the National FFA Leadership Conference as we reward young people for their efforts. Across the state in classrooms there are young people looking forward to their year, the nervousness of incoming Greenhands and for some the last stretch to their FFA career.

As Alumni we also look forward to working with Ag Educators and FFA members in our role of support and mentoring. This is a great time for you as an Alumni member to reach out to the parents of incoming students to be a part of our organization. With the new Affiliate program, it is easy to add anyone who supports the FFA to our membership. I already know that your next question is "WHAT ABOUT PAYING DUES?" With the Affiliate fee system, once your Alumni chapter has paid the fee, you are free to add anyone to your roster. What would your Alumni chapter look like if there were no dues, but you simply passed the hat to ask for a "Donation"? As a part of the National 501c3, donations made are tax deductible, and as most of us know, we generally see more money given to support a cause if we leave open-ended the amount. This gives you a great opportunity to think outside of the box and include some who would shy away from paying dues, but who are the first one to come running to help out in any way possible.

Be sure to continue to ask your Ag Educator what you as an Alumni member can do to help them balance work and home life. Perhaps you could help deliver fruit from the annual sale; maybe you have space in your barn for a student to use for an SAE project; maybe you are willing to help students prepare for contest or maybe even something as simple as making treats or brining in a meal for those late evening prep sessions. If you don't know where to start, the best place to begin is to simply say "Thank You" to your Advisor for all the work they do and to continue to advocate for Agriculture Education and the FFA within your school district and community.

The best work that we as Alumni members undertake are the things that go unnoticed and often unrewarded. Take a moment to visit the Iowa FFA Alumni website and look through the award applications. At the state level we want to reward those who are making a difference across the state in Chapters from Atlantic to Wapsie Valley and from Spencer to Moravia. If you know of someone who has made a difference in your own chapter but hasn't received the recognition they deserve, submit an application for them!

Regardless of what role you play, know that your time and efforts are appreciated and I hope that you take the opportunity to step up and Transform a student's FFA experience into something they could never imagine. Have a safe harvest season and I look forward to seeing all of you at the Iowa FFA Alumni Conference in January.



NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

T-SHIRT!

The National FFA Convention & Expo shirt is officially hitting Tractor Supply stores! Limited quantities available! Only \$12.99!

Proceeds benefit the #FFAalumni Legacy Grants, Living to Serve and Give the Gift of Blue!

Find a store near you: <http://www.tractorsupply.com/>

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

On August 6th, Iowa FFA Alumni members joined others throughout the region to help determine how they could better support agricultural education and their local FFA chapters.

The National FFA Alumni Organization hosted a regional development conference in Ankeny, IA., which delivered professional, personal and alumni program development to local and state members. In addition, the conference was a time for alumni members to network and share local visions of innovation with other alumni chapters and state associations.



"As alumni, it is our responsibility to serve as a source of relief for our agriculture educators as well as attract new volunteers and supporters to help our FFA programs," said National FFA Alumni Executive Director Josh Rusk. "Our hope is that the regional development conferences will give alumni the tools and support they need to be successful in that endeavor."



This conference was one of six to be held this year. The other locations for the conferences include Oklahoma City, Burbank, Wash.; Oxford, Ohio; Atlanta, Ga. and Rochester, N.Y.

The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 629,367 student members who belong to one of 7,757 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Following Our New Display!

You've probably seen it here and there!

We're doing as much as we can to spread the word about the FFA Alumni in Iowa because we support the future of agriculture!

You may have noticed our fancy new display at the Iowa State Fair in the Ag Building next to the Iowa FFA and the Iowa FFA Foundation displays.

Iowa Ag Teachers witnessed our display at their annual IAAE Conference.

We were also at the Farm Progress Show in Boone!

See it for yourself at our Annual State Conference on January 21st!



WHAT'S HAPPENING

AT THIS YEAR'S

NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

- RFD TV will air the entire FFA Convention! Tune in!
- National FFA Officer, Abrah Meyer's farewell speech will be Friday morning. Abrah is from Iowa and has represented our state very well!
- FFA Alumni events and activities will be Friday afternoon.
- Stop by the FFA New Horizons booth at the trade show! The National FFA Organization and National FFA Alumni Association have merged publications!
"Beginning in March 2017, the organization's official member magazine, FFA New Horizons, will be published by Meredith Corporation, which publishes Successful Farming and many other magazine media brands. Justin Davey, a 10-year veteran of Meredith Agrimedia and Meredith Xcelerated Marketing, has been selected as Editor of FFA New Horizons."
Meredith Corporation is based out of Iowa, so stop by and say hello!
Read more here: <https://www.ffa.org/ffa2015/Pages/National-FFA-Organization-partners-with-Meredith-Agrimedia-to-relaunch-member-publication.aspx>
- Attending National FFA Convention?
Download the Official Convention & Expo App
Get it for free! Features include a complete convention and expo schedule, cool photo filters, interactive maps, a full exhibitor listing, a customizable schedule, exclusive convention and expo news and updates and more. Download it now through iTunes or Google Play.



Starting or Re-Activating Your FFA Alumni Chapter



Step #1: Fill Out: [Alumni Affiliate Chartering/Reactivating](#) (2 pages)

Step #2: Complete Page 3 of: [Membership Affiliation Program 2.0 Agreement](#) (1 page)

If you are reactivating and don't know your Affiliate ID Number contact:

Amy Classen, midwayfarms@ncn.net

If you're a new affiliate your number will be issued from nationals when they receive the form from step 1.

Step #3: Obtain an EIN Number: [Click Here for Instructions](#)

Step #4: Complete: [Tax Exempt Return Form](#) (1 page)

Step #5: Create a Constitution and Bylaws (Sample Here: [Constitution & Bylaws](#))

Step #6: Create a [Membership Roster](#)

Step #7: Collect Dues and Submit \$150 for National and State Affiliation Fees + \$210.00 for each new life member recruited.

Step #8: Send a copy of the 4 pages from steps 1-4, your constitution and bylaws, and membership roster with your affiliation fee to

Iowa FFA Alumni, PO Box 127, Boone, IA 50036.

FFA RECOMMENDS

ALUMNI/COLLEGIATE MERGER

Change will require an FFA constitutional amendment during 2017 convention and expo.

By: Joshua Rusk, National FFA Organization Alumni Association Executive Director

For years, Collegiate FFA and the National FFA Alumni Association have worked separately to recruit, retain and engage alumni members after they have left their local high school program. After consulting several focus groups and recommendation from the 2015 National FFA Convention & Expo delegates, National FFA is recommending that both groups officially join forces under one name, FFA Alumni, and eliminate collegiate as a form of membership. Current collegiate chapters would transition to alumni chapters with full rights and benefits of alumni membership. National FFA would continue to encourage members to continue their active membership with their local high school chapters so that they can continue to participate in active member awards and recognition programs. Alumni staff would develop a set of resources to be made available to alumni chapters at the collegiate level. This recommended change will require passage of a constitutional amendment during the 2017 National FFA Convention & Expo. Below are frequently asked questions and our official responses to each:

- How would you enter students who are not formally FFA members in high school into the roster?
- o The utilization of the affiliate model would allow the chapter advisor/leader to enter individual student information into the roster regardless of prior affiliation with FFA. As part of alumni's affiliation program, it will no longer be necessary to collect individual dues for each of those members; instead, a flat fee can be paid (\$100 national fee + state fee).
- How would the flat fee for the alumni chapter work on a local campus?
- o A local alumni chapter would be charged a flat rate for national and state fees. These fees would allow the chapter to enroll as many students as it wanted to be a part of the chapter and receive membership benefits from the National FFA Organization.
- Would there be a choice for individuals to pay dues versus utilizing the affiliate program?
- o The National FFA Alumni Association is transitioning from individual member dues to chapter affiliation; however, members will still have the option to obtain lifetime membership in the National FFA Alumni.
- What are the benefits of affiliate membership for our students?
- o The new affiliate membership will allow students to have access to electronic versions of FFA New Horizons magazine that will start to include alumni information in January 2017. Additionally, students will be notified and encouraged to participate in the free alumni regional development conference that will be conducted throughout the year to help them better engage and support local members. Members will also have full access to My Journey, the FFA Resume Builder and AgExplorer so that career success can follow members throughout their entire FFA life cycle. Additionally, we will provide timely correspondence and resources to help these students as they prepare for careers, volunteer at the local level, and give back to an FFA chapter of their choice.
- Why can't FFA create a National Chapter Award program for collegiate chapters?
- o FFA Alumni chapters at the collegiate level will be able to participate in the National FFA Outstanding FFA Alumni award area. Currently, the organization recognizes outstanding local FFA Alumni chapters and state FFA Alumni associations. We will add Collegiate FFA Alumni chapters to this award area if this proposal is adopted. The following feedback was provided by participants of two webinars hosted by National FFA staff:
- This process will allow students to get access to great information and see more return on their investment than they have experienced with paying the traditional Collegiate FFA dues.
- A concern was raised around the name "Alumni." FFA is encouraged to consider creating a name that is more inclusive and to not utilize a term that normally would only refer to former members.
- Webinar participants appreciated that each local chapter will still be able to operate its individual organization at the local level to meet the needs of students on its campus.
- "This is a move in the right direction, and I will support the change."
- "I think this will provide so many more opportunities for our members with the resources that will be provided by alumni."

Any Collegiate FFA members or advisors with questions or comments are encouraged to reach out to alumni@ffa.org.



See all the 2016 Proposed Bylaw Amendments here: [https://www.ffa.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/alumni bylaw amendments 2016.pdf](https://www.ffa.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/alumni%20bylaw%20amendments%202016.pdf).

RECORD NUMBERS—FFA MEMBERS

October 6th, the organization announced a record-high student membership of 649,355, up from 629,367 in 2015 and an increase of 3 percent. The number of FFA chapters grew from 7,757 to 7,859. The top six student membership states are Texas, California, Georgia, Oklahoma, Ohio and Missouri. Interest in FFA and agricultural education continues to grow, as membership continues to increase.

"FFA continues to grow leaders, build communities and strengthen agriculture, and our membership growth reflects continued enthusiasm for agriculture," National FFA Organization CEO Mark Poeschl said. "Through agricultural education, FFA is preparing our members for careers in agriculture and is working to ensure the security of our country's food, fiber and natural resources systems for years to come. Through real-world experiences, agriculture educators are helping students develop the technical knowledge, skills and problem-solving capabilities to be the industry's leaders of tomorrow."

Student membership was not the organization's only growth opportunity in 2016. National FFA Alumni membership exploded with 225,891 members, growing from 62,705 in 2015. This year, graduating high school seniors automatically received alumni membership, which the growth numbers reflect. FFA Alumni play an important role in keeping agricultural education and FFA programs in local schools by providing both volunteers and financial support to local teachers.

#TRANSFORMFFA

It's official! In 2015-16, a record

649,355 FFA MEMBERS

represented 7,859 chapters
and 52 state associations!

FFA members were supported by

225,891

National FFA Alumni Association members!

Thank you!

2016 Iowa FFA Alumni Board of Directors

Voting Members

President.....	Bryon Weesner	president@iowaffaalumni.com
President-Elect	Ashley Fitzgerald.....	afitz1206@gmail.com
North Central Representative	Amy Classen	ncdistrict@iowaffaalumni.com
Northeast Representative.....	Debra Zelle	nedistrict@iowaffaalumni.com
Northwest Representative.....	Melanie Bloom	nwdistrict@iowaffaalumni.com
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Iowa FFA President.....	Michael Tupper	mtupper@iowaffa.com
IAAE President.....	James Russ	j_russ@new-hampton.k12.ia.us
Past Iowa FFA Alumni President.....	Zach Classen	classencattle@gmail.com

Ex-Officio

Iowa FFA Alumni Foundation Representative	Ron Zelle	rzelle@nashua-plainfield.k12.ia.us
National FFA Alumni Council.....	Dan Classen.....	midwayfarms@ncn.net
Iowa FFA Alumni Advisor	Scott Johnson	scott.johnson@iowaffa.com
Iowa FFA Alumni Executive Director		director@iowaffaalumni.com