



# Iowa FFA Alumni Newsletter

June 10, 2015

## What's up with the State Officers???

I'm glad you asked! For our May meeting the State Alumni Board had the pleasure to sit down to dinner with this group of unbelievable young men and women. The month of May was full of training for the knowledge hungry group with BLAST-Off the 10<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> and Enrichment Center Training the 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. "BLAST Off training was a great time for the officers to get to know each other and themselves on a deeper level. It really helped to set the ground work for a successful year." ~Michael Tupper. Hunter Hamilton proclaimed "I thought [Enrichment Center Training] was really helpful; learning how to facilitate and the etiquette dinner was very eye opening!" The month of June will be full of District COLT Conferences. COLT is a leadership conference put on by the state officers with help from district officers.

This upcoming fall marks the beginning of a new stage in life for many of the officers. While Michael and Mikayla will be starting their sophomore year at Iowa State University, Kayla, Amanda, Brandon, Elisa, Hailey, Erica, and Hunter will all be freshman at Iowa State.

Every year brings about eight new faces as state officers. Eight young people that have no idea the energy, the time, the effort, or the miles that are before them. One day I described this to someone and they asked me, "Was it worth it?" As eight more people will find out, yes, it is worth every second. True, some days it might not feel like it, but it was those days that mattered most. You will never know the reach your actions have. What seem like little things at the time compound into amazing things that effect people you've never met.

As plans for the future flew around the room it is clear that this year will be one to remember. Many lives will change and our role as alumni will be integral. I remind everyone that even when it doesn't seem important, little things make a big difference.

Patrick Diedrich

## Iowa FFA Alumni Calendar

**June 8-14** WLC Bus Trip

**June 16-21** WLC Non-Bus Trip

**July 1** ISF Entries Due

**July 1** National FFA Band/Chorus/  
Talent Applications Due

**August 13-23** Iowa State Fair

**August 29** Livestock/Meats/Milk  
Quality & Products CDE

\*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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June 10, 2015

## Local Alumni Spotlight

### Agri-Power FFA Alumni

The Agri-Power FFA Alumni program was formed less than two years ago to help support the Ag Teacher and the FFA program. Alumni members soon started thinking of fundraisers to help the local FFA program. A very ambitious group of Alumni decided to have a used machinery auction in March of 2014. Our goal was to make a profit, and if we came out a few thousand profited, we would be very happy. Several Auctioneers in our community were contacted to help organize and auction that day. They all donated their time and resources to help us. We had a food stand that volunteers worked to get donations for, that alone made over \$1000. The auction total was over \$12,0000 profit for our first year. We plan on having the auction again since the first year was a huge success. Many alumni were involved in the advertising, getting donations, working the day of the sale, and coordinating the used machinery getting checked in and releasing. FFA members also helped the day of the sale with the food stand and with getting machinery hauled out. Overall, this fundraiser was a huge success to get our Alumni chapter started!

Agri-Power Alumni Member

### Moravia FFA Alumni

Its been a successful year for the Alumni members assisting, advocating, and mentoring the FFA members. Our year started with welcoming a new advisor and assisting him and the chapter with monthly challenges. We helped start an annual pedal tractor pull for the local festival involving the community kids. The tractor pull was big hit for the

kids. It had the whole town watching. With Moravia being a farming community the alumni members take pride in assisting the chapter in planting and harvesting their own 14 acre field plot. This year the FFA planted corn with a outstanding 184 bushels an acre. The students got the opportunity to learn hands on about crop production. Keeping the students involved in agriculture is an important goal for the Moravia FFA Alumni. Each month the Alumni meet together at the local restaurant to work on some big projects that will help achieve this goal. With crop production being an important interest for the chapter, the alumni pulled some strings and are proud to announce that for the 2015 crop season the FFA chapter will have their own 3400 bushel GSI grain bin at the school donated in full. The bin will benefit the chapter in many ways. Learning all the aspects in storing, conditioning , marketing, and most importantly grain safety.

Moravia Alumni Member

### West Bend Hawkeye FFA Alumni

#### Winner of the 2014 Essay Contest

We have two events kind of go hand in hand and take place at the end of June and during our town's 4th of July celebration. The Alumni board are the primary members who are involved in both events. The two events are an Antique Tractor Pull and an Antique Tractor Ride.

The Antique Tractor Pull takes place toward the end of June. Prior to the actual day of the event there are many things that need to be done. The



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June 10, 2015

## Local Alumni Spotlight Con't

first thing is securing the sled and the location of the pull as well as the date. After the date has been set sponsorship letters are mailed to various businesses and individuals in the area in hopes of raising sponsorship money. Sponsorship money is needed to help pay for the cost of the sled, liability insurance, prize money, and advertising. Without the sponsorship money the event would not be possible. A week before the event is when track preparation starts in the hopes of having the best track available for the pullers. During the week of prep there are anywhere from 2-6 alumni members involved. The day of the event requires around 6 alumni members assigned various jobs to pull the event off smoothly. We are also fortunate to get the local FFA chapter involved during the day as they run the concession stand as well as helping as being flagman and hooking the tractors to the sled. Our goal for the pull is to net \$1200-\$1500 in profit after

all expenses are paid. The Antique Tractor Ride takes place on the Friday of the weekend when West Bend holds their 4th of July celebration. The Alumni are very fortunate as to we receive great help from MaxYield Coop, Country Maid Inc. and West Bend Red Power in pulling off this event. All three businesses supply materials and labor during the day of the event. Prior to the day of the event the alumni send out registration letters to previous years riders and collect the registration fee which is \$25. The alumni also line up the route and talk with area towns where the riders will be stopping. Also law enforcement is contacted and made aware of the event. All riders are given a ride t-shirt that is paid for by the alumni. Our goal for the ride is to have roughly 85-100 riders and to clear between \$1200-\$1500 in profit after expenses are paid.

West Bend Alumni Member

## May Board Meeting

May 19 The Iowa FFA Alumni Board had dinner with the new 2015-2016 Iowa FFA State Officers. The dinner allowed the alumni to better get to know the officers. What a great time we had sharing old story's about FFA and how it has shaped all of our lives. After dinner the Alumni board held a meeting to go over businesses. District reports were given by each district representative. We were excited to hear that there are a few new affiliates and many more interested in starting a new affiliate. In the committee reports there was some new discussion on the annual conference. The conference committee is looking into having a two day conference starting Friday evening and ending Saturday afternoon. The idea is to have registration, social hour, and the live auction Friday night and Saturday have Business tours, workshops, silent auction and business session. Locations, costs, and logistics are still being researched but we would like your thoughts. Would you prefer a one or two day conference? Email your suggestions to: [director@iowaffaalumni.com](mailto:director@iowaffaalumni.com)

Colton Beals



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June 10, 2015

## Iowa FFA Alumni Awards

The Iowa FFA Alumni recently honored our award winners at our Annual conference:

**Iowa Degree Scholarship**-Aaron Montag, West Bend FFA

**College Scholarships**-Cory Knepper, Cascade FFA and Allyson Ryan, Albia FFA

**WLC Scholarship**-Emma Egger, West Central Valley FFA and Kassidy Kuhlman, Wapsie Valley FFA

**SAE Grant**-Erica Mehlhaus, Boone A&M

**Distinguished Contributor**-Iowa Pork Board

**Outstanding Achievement**-National FFA Alumni President Dan Classen, West Bend

**Iowa FFA Alumni Hall of Fame** Bob Goodall, Dewitt

**Iowa FFA Alumni Essay Contest**-West Bend Hawkeye FFA

For guidelines and applications visit our website at: [www.iowaffa.com](http://www.iowaffa.com)

Ann Bassett

## 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)

## A Word from the President...

FFA Alumni member what an exciting time to be involved in the Alumni! Even though school is out there are still several ways that we can support our Ag teachers and FFA members. Between the summer Career Development Events and helping students show off their hard work with their SAE projects by helping them exhibit them at the county and state fair. Besides all of the student opportunities there are several opportunities for Alumni members to learn and grow.

Even though school isn't in session students are still working hard on their SAE projects. Not every student will take them to exhibit at the county or state fair. However, that doesn't mean that other members couldn't use support. As alumni we can help ensure the success of all of our students with our support in



# Iowa FFA Alumni Newsletter

June 10, 2015

whatever capacity that may be. It is a truly rewarding experience to help students succeed. If we as Alumni can show students what it truly means "Learning to do, Doing to Learn, Earning to live, Living to serve" think of how bright the future is.

Even though supporting students is why we are here as Alumni members there are several opportunities to become more involved with the Alumni in the summer months! The big activity is the ADC conference which is in Raleigh, North Carolina. This is an excellent chance for Alumni members from across the country to connect and share ideas on how to strengthen our local affiliates. This is also an excellent chance to make new friends and reconnect with old friends.

The other big activity for the Alumni over the summer is the Iowa State Fair. This year we will be doing things differently than we have in the past. We will be in the Agriculture building in conjunction with the FFA booth. This will give the Alumni a chance to connect with more people and give us a stronger presence at the fair. Because of this change we would appreciate anyone who would be willing to help spread the word of the good work that we are as Alumni are doing here in the state of Iowa.

Have a great summer and enjoy all of the different activities that are possible during the summer month. Don't forget to keep your ears open for new ideas that could help strengthen your local affiliate. Summer is a great time to connect with fellow Alumni members and share ideas!

Zach Classen

## The 2015 Board

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

**Brian Vanderhoff, NW District VP**  
[brianpat1984@hotmail.com](mailto:brianpat1984@hotmail.com)

**Patrick Diedrich, At-large**  
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**Bob Goodall, SE District VP**  
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**Bryan Whitman, Past President**  
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**Colton Beals**  
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**Iowa FFA President**

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**Ashley Fitzgerald, At-large**  
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**Dan Classen,**  
**National FFA Alumni Rep.**

**Clyde Johnson, At-large**  
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## FFA Alumni at the State Fair!

**Does your affiliate have a uniqueness you want to share with the rest of Iowa?**

**Do you have a passion to see FFA Chapters realize the support of an Alumni?**

August 13-23 the Iowa FFA Alumni will be joining with the FFA Association on the second floor of the John Deere Agricultural Building to meet with fair goers and share our story and support of Iowa FFA members.

### What to Expect as a Volunteer:

- Free Ticket for Admission into Fair
- Free T-shirt
- Alumni Display with Flyers of Information to Hand Out
- Conversations with Fair Goers
- Sharing your Personal Stories as FFA Alumni Members of your Local Chapter
- Working Together with Iowa FFA Officers
- 3.5 Hour Shift Leaving you Time to Enjoy the Fair

Visit <https://www.volunteersignup.org/4QKCR> to sign up no later than July 15, 2015. You will be contacted after sign-up has ended.

