





# ELEVATED SUPPORT



Thank you for our treasured partnerships, the Wisconsin FFA Foundation proudly extended financial support to over 500 FFA members through an array of awards, scholarships, and grants. Additionally, the Wisconsin FFA equipped a staggering 25,000 students with remarkable opportunities in leadership, career development, and the agricultural industry.

> These remarkable members have exemplified their fervent pursuit of opportunities and wholeheartedly embraced our "Elevate" motto. Your contributions continue to shape the lives of these aspiring individuals every single day.

In profound appreciation, we extend our sincerest gratitude for your unwavering dedication, which remains a beacon of hope and inspiration for the rising generation of agricultural enthusiasts.





Dear Wisconsin Agricultural Education Supporters,

The theme for Wisconsin FFA this past year was "Elevate" which the 2022-2023 state officer team utilized to take things to the next level for Wisconsin FFA and all of Agricultural Education in Wisconsin. When we look at the support that is provided to students in all components of agricultural education-



Classroom, Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE), and FFA, it is clear your support has allowed students to take that theme to heart in order to *elevate* to the next level.

Throughout this report you will see countless examples of members, teachers, and alumni and supporters *elevating* their programming to reach new heights. A great example of this *elevation* was seen in FFA membership reaching record numbers at 25,275 members. These members were given opportunities thanks to the 338 agriculture instructors throughout the state who continue to ensure students have the opportunities needed to be successful.

The agriculture industry is also finding ways to *elevate* as we see the 104.8 billion dollar industry continuing to embrace new technologies and practices to ensure the industry's strength for years to come. I cannot wait to see the role our current students play in shaping the future of the agriculture industry!

Thank you for your continued support in making these opportunities available as we all work together to *elevate* agriculture, agricultural education, and FFA in the state of Wisconsin. The impact you have does not go unnoticed, and we could not continue to see this *elevation* without each and every one of you!

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# **PARTICIPATION NUMBERS**





383 State Degrees

721 Proficiency Applications

### Leadership Development Events:

Fall Leadership Workshops

2,480 members

**FIRE Conferences** 

768 members

Connect and I Am Conferences

744 members

### **Career Development Events:**

**Regional Competitions** 

4,095 members

239 chapters

State Competition

1,384 members

**160** chapters



# WHAT YOU SUPPORT

Each year, hundreds of industry and individual financial partners like you support agricultural education, Wisconsin FFA and its 25,000 members. During the 2022-23 fiscal year, your commitment helped the Wisconsin FFA Foundation direct approximately \$330,500 in funding to:

#### Local FFA Chapters -

- Chapter grants program
- Membership awards
- Career & leadership development event awards
- National band, chorus and talent stipends

#### Individual FFA Members -

- Supervised Agricultural Experience grants
- Post-secondary scholarships
- Proficiency awards

#### State-Level Programming

- State officer training
- Leadership conferences and workshops
- Wisconsin FFA Convention
- Proficiency award programming
- Various state-level awards

#### Wisconsin Agricultural Education Partners -

- Star Mission Program grants to aid a need or goal of the total Wisconsin Agricultural Education program, including strengthening a education programs from advisor to student
- Greatest-needs funding to the Wisconsin Association of FFA, the Wisconsin FFA Center, the Wisconsin FFA Alumni and the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators

Thank you for your partnership and for ensuring the future of agricultural education and Wisconsin FFA!



Here by the Owl

### First Female to Serve as National FFA Advisor and Board Chair

#### **By Cheryl Zimmerman**

These are very familiar words to FFA members and advisors as officers of the organization participate in the Official Opening Ceremonies. I have had the opportunity to share in that ceremony many times on a chapter and state level. However, I never imagined that at a point in my life I would say those words as the National FFA Advisor.



What many may not know is National FFA is one of the few organizations that has a Federal Charter, which was granted in 1950. To make a long story short, National FFA was the only chartered organization that has stipulations within the charter that mandated the U.S. Department of Education selects or approves a majority of its members of the board of directors, including the national advisor/board chair and national executive secretary.

Fast forward to November 2019. Changes in the Federal Charter allowed the positions of National FFA Advisor/Board Chair and the National FFA Executive Secretary to be elected from a wider pool of qualified, dedicated candidates. After a lengthy process, I was selected as the National FFA Executive Secretary and performed my duties in this role until May 2022 when I also started serving as the Interim National FFA Advisor, becoming the first female to serve in this role.

Never would I have imagined the opportunity to serve in this role. With this came the responsibility to chair the upcoming National FFA Board of Directors meetings, work closely with National FFA CEO, Scott Stump, in discussions around key issues of the organization, and share a message on stage at the National FFA Convention among other responsibilities.

A wonderful coincidence is Cortney Zimmerman, my daughter, was also serving as the National FFA Central Region Vice President. We were the first daughter/mother duo to serve on the National FFA Board of Directors. Sitting across the table from Cortney during National FFA Board meetings and then participating in the National FFA Convention with her was a dream of a lifetime. I am so proud of what she has accomplished as an FFA member.

While I serve as National FFA Executive Secretary along side newly elected National FFA Advisor, Dr. Park, I continue to be humbled by the tremendous honor and experience of my service.

So the moral of the story is: You never know what opportunities might come your way. Don't let opportunities pass you by, take those moments and cherish them. As a young FFA member wearing a Pecatonica FFA jacket that was a few sizes too big, I had only dreamed of the things I could do in FFA.

### YOUR SUPPORT, STUDENT'S SUCCESS

National Convention Awards

#### 2022 National Chapter Awards

**Three Star Chapters:** Badger, Big Foot, Columbus, DeForest, Denmark, Elkhorn, Freedom, Kewaskum, Manawa, Marshall, Slinger, Stanley-Boyd, Thorp, Waupaca, Waupun, Weyauwega-Fremont

Two Star Chapters: Bonduel, Clintonville, Dodgeland, Granton, Kiel, Lodi, Prairie Farm, Reedsburg, River Ridge

### State Convention Awards



#### **Environmental Services/Natural Resources**

Elsie Ennis | Schullsburg FFA Henry Koerner | Big Foot FFA Joe Reimer | New Auburn FFA Jonah Henningfeld | Big Foot FFA Maria Lee | Random Lake FFA

#### Food Products & Processing Systems

Evan Henningfeld | Big Foot FFA Grace Mansell | St. Croix Central FFA

#### **Animal Systems**

Brandon Boyd | Watertown FFA Jaylynn Dallman | New London FFA Meredith Shanks | Portage FFA Olivia Beth | Union Grove FFA

#### **Plant Systems**

Amanda Bender | Big Foot FFA Clare Viau | Stevens Point FFA Emily Zimmerman | Big Foot FFA Jordan Berg | Granton FFA Rebecca Konkel | Big Foot FFA Wittney Gotham | New Auburn FFA

#### Power, Structural & Technical Systems

Joseph Peterson | Bloomer FFA Ty Sheets | Kiel FFA

#### **Social Science**

Ella Woodworth | Schullsburg FFA Jackson Dahlke | Adams-Friendship FFA





Conduct of Meetings Marshfield FFA

**Creed Speaking** Eric Allen | Denmark FFA

Prepared Speaking Kat Davis | Oregon FFA Discussion Meet Simone Ciran | Richland Center FFA Marketing Plan Dodgeland FFA

Parliamentary Procedure Menomonie FFA

Simone Ciran | Richland Center FFA
Employment Skills

**Extemporaneous Speaking** 

Amy Jentges | Random Lake FFA













### Zimmerman's Year of Service By Cortney Zimmerman

Anxiously, I stood with thirty-six nervous candidates as the nominating committee chair's voice boomed over the speaker. "Your Central Region Vice President, from the state of Wisconsin, Cortney Zimmerman." Still trying to catch my breath I met the five individuals who instantly became my best friends and family. This moment was surreal.

Our team dove in headfirst as we started training the day following the convention. Our first few months were overwhelming yet none of us could contain our excitement as we looked ahead to the best part of our year, traveling across the country to meet the FFA members we are fortunate enough to represent.

As the days continued to get checked off the calendar, I was fortunate to spend time in New Hampshire and New Jersey for FFA Week, travel with Lori Randle, a National FFA Foundation Regional Director to different sponsor visits, including John Deere, Merck Animal Health, and Zoetis. Of course, one of the most memorable parts of my year was the traveling from state convention to state convention!

Through all of the travels, there was a group of people I knew that I could always lean on and chat about anything with because they would know exactly what I was going through. My teammates. They are easily some of the hardest working, driven, and FFA member-oriented people I know. They were always one call away and would do anything they possibly could just to make your day a little bit better.

Yes, this was the fastest year of my life and yes, I would do it all again if I was given the chance, but because it is only one year that is what makes everything so special. It was one of the most difficult yet rewarding years of my life and at the end of it, I can confidently say, the people are what made it all worth it.



# STATE AWARDS

Star Awards Sponsored by Compeer Financial

# Star in Agribusiness - Jacob Harbaugh



Jacob's involvement in the dairy industry allowed him to see the need for fitters and the opportunities that it would bring to him. Because of this, Jacob decided to start his own business, Harbaugh Hair. With his business, Jacob is able to provide custom services to meet his client's needs for fitting and grooming. Throughout the year, Jacob fits for cattle sales, fairs, shows and barn clippings. Jacob's skills in blending toplines and belly hairs allows him to highlight strong breed characteristics in each animal. Jacob's financial management of his business allows him to make informed decisions on whether ventures will be profitable. Jacob has been able to expand his business to now have 25 clients in which he provides services to.

### Star in Agriscience - Henry Koerner Big Foot FFA

With Henry's Supervised Agricultural Experience, Henry wanted to find solutions for hot issues in a variety of AFNR pathways. In regard to the plant science realm, Henry analyzed the effects of natural antimicrobials on plant tissue growth, finding that the cultures with honey and no added antimicrobials produced the most growth. Additionally, through his biotechnology research project, Henry concluded that the enzyme solution with the highest concentration was able to extract the most DNA from an onion. During the four years of Henry's SAE, he has had numerous other research projects, spanning from comparing the effects of various milk types used in the cheesemaking process on protein presence to utilizing poultry feces bacteria as a bioremediation agent of oil.



### Star Farmer - Nathan Seitz Pulaski FFA



Nathan purchased his first pair of market lambs in 2017. For the next couple of summers, Nathan would continue to do the same. Each year Nathan strived to learn more about sheep through trial and error, research and working with a variety of mentors. By the second year, Nathan was making management decisions on his own, such as switching his main feeding practice to pasture grazing. In 2020, Nathan purchased three ewes and a ram to start his breeding flock. This experience has allowed Nathan to gain an even greater depth of knowledge, including when to breed, how to assist in lambing, and what to feed through each stage of pregnancy. Nathan now owns nine ewes and two rams. As his flock continues to grow, Nathan is dedicated to producing high quality lambs each year.

# Star in Agricultural Placement - Ethan Lulich

Ethan works at his family's business, Lulich Landscaping LLC. At the beginning, Ethan's role was to assist with hauling plants, plant materials, and block pavers to the installation crew. Over time, Ethan's responsibilities have increased to operating the skid steer, mini-excavator, and soil preparator. On job sites, Ethan takes great care in plant, irrigation system, paver, and wall installation, and in laying sod. Additionally, Ethan has become an essential member of the mowing crew by cutting lawns and doing maintenance on the lawn mowers. In the winter, Ethan oversees all of the winter grounds keeping accounts that the company has in New Lisbon.



### Living a Life of Service: Day of Service is Back at WI State Convention

On Monday, June 12th, over 150 FFA members gathered at the Wisconsin State FFA Convention's Day of Service. It has been four years since the Wisconsin FFA members have been able to provide their hands and hearts to serving the Madison community. This year, Wisconsin FFA members were back to serving the Madison community for the 12th Annual Day of Service!

FFA members traveled to the UW-Arboretum, City of Madison Parks, and the Goodman Community Center in Madison to weed, mulch, sort, clean and serve at these community partner sites. This service project let the students get their hands dirty and help keep the Madison community beautiful while learning about the importance of service. Meanwhile, back at Alliant Energy Center, FFA members assembled 40 bed frames for children in need.

Thanks to our corporate sponsor, KERRY, and a grant through the National FFA, Wisconsin FFA donated \$5,000 to Sleep in Heavenly Peace to make the build possible. With a few limitations on space and capacity, we were only able to have about 100 Wisconsin FFA members helped to assemble all the bed frames, though many more had expressed interest. These ambitious FFA members built the beds within four hours for the Madison Area Sleep in Heavenly Peace Chapter!

Building beds was not enough though, after all, FFA members want the children sleeping in these beds to be as comfortable as possible. Taking this service project to the next level, FFA members and their communities came together to provide 110 sets of sheets and 43 comforters- enough for each bed build and more!

As students reflect on their day of service, they realize that their actions can truly make a difference in their community. Not only did they provide valuable help to local organizations, but they also gained a sense of pride and accomplishment in giving back. The Day of Service is an important tradition for Wisconsin FFA members, and they look forward to continuing this impactful event for years to come. By serving their community, these students are embodying the values of the FFA organization and making a positive impact on the world around them.

Thank you to all of the FFA Chapters who participated in our Day of Service!









### YOUR SUPPORT, STUDENT'S SUCCESS

Wisconsin FFA Proficiency Awards

Ag. Mechanics Repair & Maintenance (E) Shay Hanson I Whitehall FFA

Agricultural Communications (C) Ana Roehling | Wonewoc Center FFA

Agricultural Processing (C) Ethan Marquette | Weyauwega-Fremont FFA

Agricultural Services (C) Jacob Harbaugh I Clintonville FFA

Agriscience Research-Integrated Systems Henry Koerner | Big Foot FFA

Beef Production (E) Ava Jarvais I Clintonville FFA

Dairy Production (E) Alexis Thoma-Blankenberg I Iowa-Grant FFA

Diversified Agricultural Production (C) Luke Sprecher I Sauk Prairie FFA

Diversified Horticulture (C) Brooke Mullen | Seymour FFA

Equine Science (E) Natalie Schueller I Chippewa Falls FFA

Food Service (C-State Only) Ashley Warren I Weyauwega-Fremont FFA

Forest Management (C) Brayden Crimm I Weyauwega-Fremont FFA

Goat Production (C) Morgan Baerwolf I Columbus FFA

Landscape Management (C) Ethan Lulich I Mauston FFA

Organic Agriculture (C-State Only) Lindsey Montgomery | Waupaca FFA

Poultry Production (C) Cameron Pokorny I Waupun FFA

Sheep Production (C) Ava Johnson I Weyauwega-Fremont FFA

Specialty Animal Production (C) Brittany Bauer | Marshfield FFA

Swine Production (E) Eli Nett | Weyauwega-Fremont FFA

Turf Grass Management (C) Carson Kroll I Mineral Point FFA Ag. Mechanics Repair & Maintenance (P) Carter Volck I Lake Geneva-Badger FFA

Agricultural Education (C) Jescey Thompson I Galesville-Ettrick-Trempealeau FFA

Agricultural Sales (P) Emmalyn Brandvig I Tomah FFA

Agriscience Research-Animal Systems Mariah Stewart | Big Foot FFA

Agriscience Research-Plant Systems Clare Viau I Stevens Point FFA

Beef Production (P) Rylee Nelson I Waupaca FFA

Dairy Production (P) Courtney Glenna | Amery FFA

Diversified Crop Production (P) Ike Meylor I Darlington FFA

Diversified Livestock (C) Joseph Robinson I Mineral Point FFA

Equine Science (P) Madison Kwak I Menomonie FFA

Forage Production (C) Rhett Nelson I Waupaca FFA

Fruit Production (C) Natalie Hensen | DeForest FFA

Grain Production (C) Luke Schubert | Mineral Point FFA

Nursery Operations (C) Haley Williams I Randolph-Cambria-Friesland FFA

Outdoor Recreation (C) Ben McMeeken I Slinger FFA

Service Learning (C) Allison Loosen I Slinger FFA

Small Animal Production & Care (C) Jolie Kulinski I Random Lake FFA

Specialty Crop Production (C) Jacob Gibbs I Amherst FFA

Swine Production (P) Claire Esselman | Clinton FFA

Vegetable Production (C) Cody Hudziak I Weyauwega-Fremont FFA

Wildlife Production and Management (C) Sonny Boardman | De Soto FFA

Veterinary Science (C) Brooke Casey I New London FFA















### YOUR SUPPORT, STUDENT'S SUCCESS

Wisconsin FFA State Convention Awards

CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT



Ag. Communications Granton FFA Chapter

Ag. Sales East Troy FFA Chapter

Ag Technology & Mechanical Plymouth FFA Chapter

Agronomy Cadott FFA Chapter

Dairy Cattle Evaluation Fennimore FFA Chapter

Veterinary Sciences Hartford FFA Chapter

Wildlife Alma FFA Chapter



Ag. Issues New London FFA Chapter

Conduct of Chapter Meetings Big Foot FFA Chapter

Marketing Plan Shullsburg FFA Chapter

Parliamentary Procedure Shullsburg FFA Chapter

Quiz Bowl Marshall FFA Chapter

Membership

Growth Awards

Highest Percent Increase in Membership Elk Mound FFA Chapter

Largest Membership Chapter: Waupun FFA Chapter

Largest Membership Increase: Reedsburg FFA Chapter Dairy Handling Reedsville FFA Chapter

Environmental Sciences Elkhorn FFA Chapter

Agribusiness Mason Markham, Elkhorn; Elkhorn FFA Chapter

Floriculture Badger FFA Chapter

Milk Quality & Products Owen-Withee FFA Chapter

**Forestry** Marshfield FFA Chapter **Poultry Evaluation** Brillion FFA Chapter

Horse Evaluation Plymouth FFA Chapter

Livestock Evaluation Mauston FFA Chapter

Food Science & Technology Cochrane Fountain City FFA Chapter

Meat Evaluation Technolgy River Ridge FFA Chapter

Nursery & Landscaping Plymouth FFA Chapter

**Creed Speaking** Daniel Broker Rice Lake FFA Chapter

**Discussion Meet** Maria Lee Random Lake FFA Chapter

Employment Skills Morgan Baerwolfe Columbus FFA **Extemporaneous Speaking** Makala Paalman Freedom FFA Chapter

**Prepared Speaking** Jackson Nesbit Sun Prairie FFA Chapter

Middle School Essay Contest Briella Brusveen Randolph Cambria-Friesland FFA Chapter

#### Largest Membership - Sectional Winners

Section 1: Northwestern Section 2: Eau Claire Section 3: Sparta Section 4: Dodgeville Section 5: Milton Section 6: Portage Section 7: Auburndale Section 8: Antigo Section 9: Denmark Section 10: Kewauskum





Grain Producti

*Sponsored by Wisconsin Corn Growers Association* Venner, Elise - De Soto FFA Brusveen, Ashton - Randolph Cambria-Friesland FFA



Sponsored by Crystal Farms Dairy, Saputo Cheese USA, Sartori Co. & WE Energies

Cuaquehua, Nathali - Colfax FFA Doll, Sascha - De Soto FFA Olson, Jazlynn - Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau FFA Knapp, Joshua - Hartford FFA Stello, Danica - Melrose-Mindoro FFA Walter, Avah - Oshkosh West FFA Limberg, Megan - Plymouth FFA Nygren, Lily - Pulaski FFA Grezenski, Jacob - Rosholt FFA Ballweg, Braydon - Wisconsin Heights FFA

Livestoc

#### Sponsored by Collegiate FFA, UW-Madisons

Walter, Hunter - Loyal FFA DeBuhr, Ally - Platteville FFA Maroszek, Taylor - Pulaski FFA Dornacker, Kate - Slinger FFA Goplin, Brinna - Whitehall FF Brattlie, Rylee - Cambridge FFA) Davis, Abby - Darlington FFA Norgard, Lylah - Darlington FFA Schoessow, Caleb - Granton FFA Streich, Sydney - Lake Mills FFA

<u>rganic Agriculture</u>

Sponsored by Organic Valley/CROPP Cooperative Vosters, Samantha - Freedom FFA Klatt, Ben - Glenwood City FFA Cirian, Symone - Richland Center FFA

Sponsored Blue Scope Buildings, Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Kirsten Gross

Gee, Kaitlyn - Pulaski FFA Sumner, Sarah - Pulaski FFA Bobholz, Kate - Randolph Cambria-Friesland FFA Wiersma, Ashtyn - Randolph Cambria-Friesland FFA Sekerka, Abby - Rosholt FFA Mitchell, Violet - Wauzeka-Steuben FFA Schyndle, Morgan - Cuba City FFA Rabenhorst, Addisen - Denmark FFA Butteris, Anthony - Dodgeville FFA Ley, Logan - Dodgeville FFA Blanch, Breana - Ellsworth FFA Winch, Wesley - Fennimore FFA Kampa, Breeley - Independence FFA Clark, Natalie - Lakeside Lutheran FFA Kopmeyer, Hannah - Montello FFA Clausen, Abi - Oconto Falls FFA Kaiser, Hollee - Plymouth FFA



# **Honored Adults Awards**

### **Honorary State Degree**

Pam Allen – Mount Horeb FFA Advisor and agricultural instructor

Ashley Andre – Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection Policy Initiatives Advisor

Trevor Athorp – Outgoing member of the Wisconsin FFA Foundation Board

Tom Bressner – Outgoing President of the Wisconsin FFA Foundation Board

Mark and Tammy Denk – Parents of 2022-23 Wisconsin FFA President Casey Denk

Kelley Fanning – Department of Public Instruction Financial Specialist for CTSOs

David Friend – Kiel FFA Advisor and agricultural instructor

Amy Gerhardt – Outgoing President of the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators

Gene Hetebrueg – Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association Fundraising Chair

Bobbie Jo Montgomery – President of the Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association

**Dean Olson** – Interim Dean, UW-River Falls College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences

Brian Pinchart – Outgoing Wisconsin FFA Center Board Chair and Wrightstown FFA Advisor and agricultural instructor

Wendy Riester – Department Assistant for UW-River Falls Ag Education, Ag Economics, and Engineering Technology

Randy Romanski – Secretary of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection

Carolyn Rozell - Wisconsin FFA Foundation Operations Manager

Joe Schlies – Wisconsin FFA Center Office Assistant and the 2020-21 Wisconsin FFA President



## **Honored Adults Awards**

### **Distinguished Service**

**Ted Halbach** – A distinguished faculty instructor of dairy management at UW-Madison. Since 1999 he has been the superintendent of the Dairy Cattle Management Evaluation and Dairy Cattle Handler CDEs.

**Kerry** – Platinum-level Wisconsin FFA Foundation supporter. Their mission is to develop solutions that meet evolving tastes and provide sustainable nutrition for generations. In Wisconsin FFA, the support provided by Kerry is helping to develop future leaders by contributing to Day of Service projects performed during State FFA Convention week.

### Hall of Fame

**Diane Morgan** – Started her agriculture education and FFA membership as a student in Galena, Illinois. Her father's teachings that hard work, dedication, and passion for production agriculture is a privilege everyone does not have the opportunity to experience ignited in her a desire to become an agriculture teacher and FFA advisor. She received her degree at Illinois State University and taught for four years at Shullsburg, four years at Milton, and 25 years at Janesville Craig High School, where she retired from teaching in 2021.

**Dennis Uppena** – Began his FFA career at Cassville High School and later concluded his professional career as an agriculture instructor and FFA advisor at Cassville High School. He received his degree in agriculture education at UW-Platteville and went on to teach for two years at West Grant High School before moving to Cassville, where he served for 37 years.

### VIP Awards

**Terry Bernick** – Served FFA members for 22 years as Executive Assistant at the Wisconsin FFA Center. She is behind the scenes for every FFA program, working tirelessly with details and logistics. During the Wisconsin FFA Convention, you can find Terry working in the News Room, ready to share the award recognition of FFA members.

Tim Buttles – Taught and mentored students at UW-River Falls for 23 years as an Ag Education Professor. Dr. Buttles has coordinated the regional CDE qualifying event at UW-River Falls for 22 years and has been a judge, assistant coordinator, superintendent, or presenter for FFA events every year since 1997.

**Randy Tenpas** – A 40-year instructor at Fox Valley Technical College following a career in agribusiness with the Land O'Lakes Cooperative. In retirement, he has been involved with Farming for the Future Foundation from its inception as a member of the education advisory committee. While at Fox Valley Tech, he coordinated the regional CDE qualifying event.



### Wisconsin Dells Ag Program Receives Large Gift





Back to school is a wonderful time of year; the days get cooler so it is much more enjoyable to work outside, students are motivated to get involved from their time away during the summer, and there is energy in the air as the school year begins and everyone falls back into solid routines. At Wisconsin Dells High School the AgriScience Department is a busy place to be; students are setting up their SAE projects, the acre and half of garden spaces are being prepared for winter, the school farm is raising animals for the community, and FFA has kicked off the year with a variety of activities.

In Wisconsin Dells, every student who is enrolled in an AgriScience class has a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) that aligns with the SAE for All program. At the middle school this involves using the AgExplorer website from National FFA and learning how diverse the career opportunities are within the agriculture world. At the high school, any student enrolled in their first agriculture class starts out their SAE as a career exploration project where they explore five careers throughout the semester by evaluating their personal interests, what is offered to them during high school and how it can help them grow, employability skills, workplace safety, and financial management. As students continue to take agriculture classes during their high school careers, they grow their SAE depending on personal interests. Some of our students continue their career exploration activities to help them decide what they want to learn more about post high school, while others take on projects at school related to our aquaponics system, hydroponic systems, gardens, companion animals, or school farm, while others follow the path of a more traditional SAE by applying what they have learned in the classroom to a job opportunity outside of school.

We offer three middle school exploratory classes and thirteen high school agriculture classes at Wisconsin Dells. In sixth grade students explore agriculture commodities across the country, in seventh grade students learn about plant science and natural resources, while in eighth grade students focus on animal science and aquaculture. At the middle school, the students also spend time exploring SAEs and FFA. At the high school our classes range from Introduction to AgriScience, to Aguaculture which is our mosttaken class in the program, Plant Science, Animal Science, and Natural Resources. In the fall, we like to offer Landscaping, while the weather is warm the students practice client interviews, site analysis, plant identification, and complete landscape projects. Many of the projects fall within the acre and a half of garden spaces. We have partnered with the Wisconsin Dells Rotary to grow food for sale at farm stands, to local restaurants in the area, and for donation to our Happy Kids Network. Members of the rotary help with the gardens throughout the summer along with students who earn Ag Intern credits by gardening for 2-3 hours a week during the summer.

The gardens contain numerous annual crops as well as perennial fruits and trees. Students have also been working with Wisconsin Food Forests to create an agroforest, which will allow them to maximize their production in our spaces. The produce the students raise for sale at a farm stand is sold in a modified grain bin that students in our tech ed department retrofitted for our sales needs.



In addition, to our garden programs, students in AgriScience classes are actively involved in our school farm, the Brew Farm. When our school was built on farmland in 2020, we acquired an additional 80 acres of land that included a retired existing dairy farm. We currently have a range of poultry that primarily includes laying hens, broilers, and quail totalling around 150 animals. We also have goats, sheep, and swine with plans to add beef calves this school year. Our goats are used for a variety of labs with our animal science classes, including breed identification, hoof care, vaccinations, and animal handling. Our sheep provide wool for projects in our Family and Consumer Science classes as well as labs with the animal science classes. Lastly, our potbelly pigs have been used for breeding and farrowing demonstrations and our meat pigs are raised for consumption. The broilers and meat pigs as well as our future beef are raised specifically for the Happy Kids Network, which is an organization in our community that provides food and essential household items for families in our community for free. Our partnership with this organization has allowed us to expand the production animals that we raise and achieve our goal of providing local food to families in our community.

Within the world, FFA activities at the state and national level always keep our students active, but despite this the Wisconsin Dells FFA Officer Team strives to incorporate activities for all students at the local level. The officer team has really embraced the FFA quality standards of Growing Leaders, Building Communities, and Strengthening Agriculture. To achieve this they offer leadership training at the chapter level that is open to all high school students through a Leadership Lockin while still promoting leaders through monthly FFA meeting activities and committee opportunities. To help build our community, the FFA officers and committees plan school grounds cleanups, tie blankets nights for the Happy Kids Network, and work with businesses within our community as opportunities arise. Lastly, to strengthen agriculture our chapter hosts three Food for America events throughout the school year that reach all students in K-5 grade in our district and has transitioned our FFA Week celebrations to promote agriculture. The Food for America activities we host include a 4th Grade Forestry Field Day which focuses on trees, wildlife, and water. We also read books to our K-2 grade students to celebrate National Ag Day, and we host K-2 grade students, 3rd grade students, and 5th graders for our Elementary Ag Day. Throughout the school year we run a program with our K-2 students called "Adopt at the Brew Farm", where high school students update K-2 classrooms on specific residents, either a goat or a potbelly pig, housed at the Brew Farm. The students then get to visit their adoptees during the Elementary Ag Day Program. Our 3rd grade students rotate through 16 stations on Wisconsin commodities and our 5th grade students participate in a safety program. Through our Food for America Programs we reach over 600 K-5 grade students and 100 high school students each year. To revamp our FFA Week celebrations to focus more on agricultural literacy the FFA officer team chooses a Wisconsin industry to highlight, this year's industry is Poultry, they plan daily activities that share information about the industry and an assembly that highlights the industry through grade level competitions.

Between students' Supervised Agricultural Experiences, the school gardens, the Brew Farm, and FFA it is safe to say that our two teacher agriculture program stays busy and students are learning much more than what they are exploring within the walls of the AgriScience classroom.



### Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators Highlights

New agricultural educators are a majority these days. WAAE received a grant from the WI FFA Foundation to print the Teacher Resource Manuals and they were distributed to all new teachers that are 5 or less years into teaching.

WAAE 2023 state award winners:
Outstanding Early Career Teacher - Connor Anderson, Lodi
Outstanding Teacher Mentor - Rachel Sauvola, New Richmond
Outstanding Secondary Middle/High School Agricultural Program - Wisconsin Heights-Kim Houser, instructor
Outstanding Secondary Agricultural Educator - Mary Handrich, Denmark
Teacher Turn the Key - Joelle Liddane, Holmen
Outstanding Post-Secondary Agricultural Program - Western Technical College,
Agribusiness Science and Technology Program
NAAE Lifetime Achievement - Roger King
NAAE Outstanding Service and Cooperation - Mud Hole Custom Tackle, Anthony Youmans,
Education Program Director
Honored Secondary Educator - Dan Robinson, Jeanne Alling, and Sandra Dykes
State Special Citation - Gordon Gasch, David Laatsch
Organizational Relations - LEAF-Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program



### Message from the WI FFA **Foundation Board President**

The Wisconsin FFA Foundation's mission is to support and promote agricultural education and the FFA organization in Wisconsin. We rely on the generous donations and support of individuals, businesses, and organizations to fulfill this mission. As the President of the Foundation, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to all our donors and supporters for their contributions towards this cause.

Throughout the past year, these donations have helped us provide valuable resources and opportunities to the students involved in agricultural education and FFA. From scholarships and leadership development programs to grants for classroom projects, your support has made a significant impact on the lives of these young individuals.

Our work doesn't stop here. As we continue to strive towards fulfilling our mission, we hope to see continued support from our donors and supporters. Your contributions not only help us in achieving our goals but also serve as a source of inspiration for the students we aim to support. Your generosity and belief in our cause are greatly appreciated.

With Gratitude. Tom Bressner 2022-2023 President. WI FFA Foundation





Trever Athorp - Treasurer, Internal Affairs Committee Chair VP- Agricultural & Business Banking Officer, Nicolet Bank

Jesse Singerhouse - Secretary General Manager/CEO, Dunn Energy Cooperative

Janet Schneider - At-Large Director Registrar and Administration Assistant, Chilton School District

Katie Holewinski - At-Large Director, Development Committee Co-Chair Marketing and Membership Director, YMCA of Dodge County

Tom Kwak - At-Large Director Chief Operating Officer, Chippewa Valley Bean

Aaron Tigert - At-Large Director Regional Vice President -Core Markets, Compeer Financial

Nathan Weinkauf - At-Large Director, Development Committee Co-Chair Director - Central Region Sales, CNH Industrial Capital

Ethan Giebel - At-Large Director Member Business Loan Officer, WCCU Credit Union President, Keller Farms

Chad Brusveen - At-Large Director Strategic Account Manager, John Deere

Josh Joseph - At-Large Director Organic Vallev

Jessie Kreke - Past President Product-Operations Team Lead, Nelnet, Inc

Tom Bressner - President Executive Director, Wisconsin Agri-**Business Association** 

Deb Ihm - Vice President; Governance **Committee Chair** Director of Agriculture, Southwest Tech

Joe Keller - At-Large Director

Natalie Killion - At-Large Director Agricultural Advocate, 56th Alice in Dairyland

# WISCONSIN FOUNDATION **FEA**

### Statement of Financial Position

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Assets	2023	2022
Current Assets Other Assets	\$681,874 \$1,571,467	\$581,596 \$1,519,006
Total Assets	\$2,253,341	\$2,100,602

### **Liabilities & Net Assets**

Current Liabilities	\$172,045	\$48,174
Net Assets Unrestricted	\$610,354	\$667,775
Temporarily Restricted	\$300,979	\$320,625
Permanently Restricted	\$1,169,963	\$1,064,028
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$2,253,341	\$2,100,602

### Expenses

Personnel	\$169,923	\$123,152
Professional Fees	\$14,983	\$17,949
Office Expenses	\$36,906	\$31,087
Programming	\$330,527	\$240,505
Travel & Meetings	\$30,872	\$12,187
Advertising	\$1,929	\$1,072
Insurance	\$2,625	\$1,548
Occupancy	\$6,600	\$6,600
Fund raising expenses	\$10,338	\$12,031
Investment Mgmt Fees	\$0	\$0
Write off of Pledges Rece	eivable \$0	\$0
Misc	\$8.708	\$2,698
Total Expenses	\$613,411	\$448,830
Changes in Net Assets	\$28,868	-\$69,852
Net Assets, beginning FY Net Assets, end FY	′ \$2,052,428 \$2,081,296	\$2,122,280 \$2,052,428

### Statement of Activities

For the year end July 31, 2023

Support & Revenue

2023 2022

Contributions	\$557,031	\$458,788
In-kind Contributions	\$1,765	\$1,765
Fund Raising Events	\$21,969	\$18,910
Investment Return	\$54,033	-\$140,796
Miscellaneous	\$7,490	\$40,311
Total Support & Revenue	\$642,279	\$378,978

### Foundation Highlight:

The Foundation managed donor restricted endowment funds totaling \$1,387,140



### WAYS TO SUPPORT WISCONSIN FFA

The Wisconsin FFA Foundation builds relationships and encourages philanthropy to support and grow agricultural education and FFA. Our vision is to ensure access to agricultural education and FFA to all students in Wisconsin through exceptional funding and partnerships.

### Annual Fund & Events -

Annual unrestricted gifts to the Wisconsin FFA Foundation's critical operation and programming needs make all other programs and impact possible. The Foundation holds events throughout the year. Proceeds from those events stay in Wisconsin.

### **Endowments** -

Through a contribution to the FFA Forever Endowment, a contribution to an existing named fund, or by establishing a new endowment, donors can leave a legacy and long lasting impact benefiting Wisconsin FFA for years to come.

### Planned & Estate Giving -

Make Wisconsin FFA a lasting part of your legacy through a planned outright gift of cash or securities, a gift in your will or living trust, a charitable gift annuity, a donor advised fund, as a beneficiary, designation, or other means.

### Partnership Opportunities -

Business, organizations, and individuals alike can directly sponsor Wisconsin FFA Programs or award areas. From Proficiency Awards, to Scholarships, to State Convention - with naming rights and additional benefits including engagement and recruiting time with Wisconsin FFA members.

### Social Media Fundraising -

Select the Wisconsin FFA Foundation as a recipient of your social media fundraising campaign.

### Blue & Gold Society -

Individuals and families who donate \$15,000 or more during a three-year period are inducted into the Blue & Gold Society. Planned gift commitments are eligible for induction and recognition.

### Give FFA Day -

Each year during National FFA week, the Foundation executes a single day fundraising campaign for Give FFA Day.



Below is the annual listing of all Wisconsin FFA Foundation partners and benefactors during the 2022-23 fiscal year.

### **FFA- Related Organizational Partners**

Philanthropist (\$2,500+)

2021-22 State Officer Team National FFA Foundation, Inc. WI FFA Alumni & Supporters

#### Patron (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Elkhorn FFA Alumni Marshfield FFA Alumni New Glarus FFA Alumni Waupun FFA Chapter

#### Benefactor (\$500-\$999)

Bloomer FFA Alumni & Chapter Boyceville FFA Alumni Clinton FFA Alumni De Forest FFA Alumni Delavan-Darien FFA Alumni Denmark FFA Alumni Section 8 FFA Alumni Affiliates

#### Supporter (\$100-\$249)

Auburndale FFA Alumni Columbus FFA Chapter Turtle Lake FFA Alumni

BlueScope Buildings

### **Industry Partners**

#### Philanthropist (\$20,000+)

Compeer Financial CHS Foundation Case IH & CNH Industrial Renk Seed

#### Patron (\$10,000-\$19,999)

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Organic Valley/CROPP Cooperative Culver Franchising System, Inc. Rural Mutual Insurance GROWMARK, Inc. Anderson Pharms, LLC AgCountry Farm Credit Services Andis Foundation Kalscheur Foundation Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association Renk Seed

#### Benefactor (\$5,000-\$9,999)

MinnTex Citrus, Inc. - Iowa Case IH CNH Industrial Capital Wisconsin Public Service American Foods Group Chippewa Valley Bean GreenStone Farm Credit Services Wisconsin Agri-Business Association Nicolet Bank

#### Advocate (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Wisconsin Corn Growers Association Seneca Foods Corporation Blain's Farm & Fleet Four Hands Holsteins, Inc. MAI Animal Health Edward J. Okray Foundation

United Animal Health We Eneraies Baver Fund Hampel Corporation John Deere Financial, f.s.b. Badger State Ethanol, LLC BMO Harris Bank Landmark Services Cooperative Citizens State Bank of Loyal Kiwanis Club of Downtown Madison Wyffels Hybrids Fox Cities Builders Wisconsin Agriculture Education Foundation, Inc. (WAEF) Our Bar Jennie-O Turkey Store Direct Enterprises, Inc. Filament Marketing Growing America's Farmers, Inc. Agropur Inc. Dairyland Seed Co., Inc. Kuhl Equipment, LLC Pilgrim's Zoetis Inc. American Family Insurance Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative Xcel Energy, Inc. Wisconsin Rural Opportunities Foundation, Inc. Brakebush Brothers Inc. Breeze Dairy Group LLC State Bank of Cross Plains Wisconsin Pork Association

#### Supporter (\$250-\$999)

Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association Culver's of Pleasant Prairie Custer Farms, Inc.

#### **Blue and Gold Society Members**

Jim, Mark, Carol and Jon Anderson Lou and Sandra Arrington Harold and Geneva Beals Dennis and Joan Behr Walter and Delores Bjoraker Arnold B. and Katherine Cordes Flovd Doerina Elstad Brothers Estate The Family of Matthew D. Anderson Dr. Rick and Peggy Daluge Dean P. and Mary Elstad Gagnon James T. Grasee & Mary Handrich-Grasee Paul Gross Keith Gundlach Kim and Leona Havens Amelia Hayden, Inductee Kenneth K. Heideman Al and LynnHerrman The Family of Gordon J. Iverson DVM Wallace H. Jerome Amber Vickers Keller Rodney O. Kittelsen Robert and HertaLaatsch Family Kevin and Julie Larson Family Glenn L. and Sonja Linder Virgil O. and Ann Martinson Gerald R. Matteson William & Nancy (Carroll) Maurina and Family Derrick Papcke Bethany L. Rieth Michael A. Sabel Joseph Schlies, Inductee Ken Seering Bernie and Marty Staller Jerry Steiner Clarence A. and Caroline L. Strohschein Thomas H. and Christine M. Thomsen, in honor of Mr. Thomsen's father, H. H. 'Tommy' Thomsen Collin Weltzien, Inductee Jim and Nodji Van Wychen, in honor of Mr. Van Wychens's parents, John and Hattie Van Wychen



### **Industry Partners**

#### Supporter (\$250-\$999)

Investors Community Bank Associated Milk Producers Inc. Town Bank Usinger Foundation, Inc. Kuhn North America, Inc. LaClare Farms / KIDFARM LLC Vita Plus Corporation Greater Madison Convention & Visitors Bureau Darling Ingredients Lakeside Foods, Inc. Nasonville Dairy, Inc. Star Blends Daluge Travel, LLC Partners in Production Wisconsin Association of Meat Processors Dunn Energy Cooperative FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative Schmidt Building & Equipment, LLC Alliant Energy Foundation Badger Steel & Fabricating, Inc. CentralStar Cooperative Comfort Hoof Care, Inc. Hartung Brothers Inc. Lake Country Dairy, Inc. Milk Source, LLC **Premier Cooperative** Quality Roasting, Inc. Udder Tech Inc

#### Contributor (Up to \$249)

Corteva Agriscience Gross Motors, Inc. Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Culver's of Waukesha (K & KB Inc) **Brilliont Blooms** Bloom for Good Culver's of Waukesha (Beres Inc) Midwestern BioAg, Inc. Forrester Family Cattle Bragger Farms Citizen State Bank Franzen Trucking Hartmann Farms LLC Ker-Mar Registered Holsteins Lake Aire Agency Polaris Industries, Inc. Focus on Energy Thillcrest Dairy Farm Kwik Trip, Inc. Woodgrain Andersen Corporation Black Sand Granary **Burledge Holsteins Carlson Rambouillet** Flansburgh Ag Solutions, LLC Harvest Tec, Inc. Larse Trucking

McClellan Farms, Inc. Provision Partners Cooperative Reddy Ag Service, Inc. & Ross Soil Service, LLC Roberts Irrigation Scheps Dairy, Inc. Schraufnagel Implement, Inc. Vondra Ag Service LLC

Thank you. Partners!

### **Tributes**

#### In Honor of...

Floyd Doering by Victor Kekkum, Barbara & George Groshek, Mary & James Weber Rudy VanFleet by Glenda Crook Arlaina Meyer by Doris Mold John & Linda Porior by Kenneth Harter Travis Holt by ITS Inc Joe Keller by Justin Jorgenson Leander & Phyllis Nohl by Tiffany Nohl Tom Bressner by Sara Schoenborn

#### In Memory of...

Mark Zimmerman by John & Darlene Arneson, Richard & Peggy Daluge, Christin e Jumbeck, Jill Welke, and Cheryl Zimmerman Carol Strandlie by John & Darlene Arneson Barb Melton by John & Darlene Arneson Wilvert Knickermeyer by John & Darlene Arneson Laverne Ausman by Anonymous Eugene Anton Fochs by Stacey & Mark Chandler Paul Jaeger by Susan Dosedla and Christina Hoch Michael Vandenplas by Tina Prue George Ripp by Brett & Connie Jasik Fred "Fritz" Lins by Michael & Patricia Knoll Jeffrey Hicken by Bud Johnson and Craig & Andrea Slattery **Russell Tollefson** by Phillip & Carol Peterson Dan Elmer by Phillip & Carol Peterson Richard Vilstrup by Phillip & Carol Peterson William Martinson by Phillip & Carol Peterson Darryl Weber by Phillip & Carol Peterson Mark Worzalla by Debbie Riske Dan Rosenbush by Tim Wyss



### **Individual Partners**

#### Philanthropist (\$1,000+)

Arrington, Louis & Sandra Boehm, William & Deborah Dougherty, Vernon and Judith Grasee Gross. Paul & Kirsten Gundlach, Keith Holt, Travis & Ellen Iverson Johnson, Bud & Georgia Kruse, Donna Fae Kwak. Tom & Tricia Larson Family, Kevin & Julie Lawton, Fred & Cindy Steiner, Jerry Thomsen, Thomas H. Weiland, Dave & Jackie Wendt, Jerry & Sharon

#### Patron (\$500-\$999)

Athorp, Trever **Big Sky Suffolks** Braml, Ginger Cooley, Dennis Daluge, Richard & Peggy Dunn, Donald Giebel, Ethan & Brianna Gnatzig, Bill & Susan Hagenow, Robert Jones, Daryl & Katie Jorgenson, Justin Ledman, Mary Keough Palmer, Susan Pecher, Bob Rindsig, Greg Singerhouse, Jesse & Jenny Yanke, Bryan

#### Benefactor (\$250-\$499)

Betley, Tony Bradley, Jonas & Jen Bressner, Tom Brusveen, Chad Burgy, Beth Erickson, David & Beth Grunder, Sue Harter, Kenneth Ihm, Deborah Kast, Brian Keller, Joe Klessig, Katie Knoll, Michael & Patricia Krcma, Betty Kreke, Jessie Krull, Jayne Lader, Larry Miller, Daryl & Cynthia Mundt, Jackie

Natzke, Kenneth & Joyce Petersen, Terry C. Pettit, Ladd Raduenz, Mark Salm, Paul Schneider, Nick and Janet Schultz, Richard & Sue Steinbach, Cheryl & Timothy Strohschein, Mark P. Waterworth, Danielle Weber, Mary & James Weinkauf, Nathan Wendt, Kathy Wyss, Tim

#### Advocate (\$100-\$249)

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#### Supporter (\$50-\$99)

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### **Individual Partners**

#### Supporter (\$50-\$99)

Martinson, Traci Meyer, Alan D. Molls, Jr., Roman Nehls, Sheryl Philip & Carol Peterson Plourde, Jamie Pope, Anna Raasch, Anthony Rabach, Ralph & Judy Randall, Eric Reddell, Robert & Patricia Redig, Paul Reed, Danielle Sawicki, Craig & Ellen Schlei, Jamie Schlies, David R. Schlies, Joe Schneider. Chris Schneider, James Solum, Gary & Dorsay Splett, Kevin & Kathleen Stafne. Bruce & Rachel Stern, Peter & Ruth Strohschein. Alan Svlte. Melissa Thomas, Nicole Thompson, Lynn E Thull, Wendy Tucker, Steven & Jane Viesselmann, Jessica Voss, Bob & Marcia Weninger, Daniel Williams, Joyce Zimmerman, Cortney

#### Contributor (Up to \$49)

Anderson. Dustin & Jodi Anderson, Jim & Mary Andreas, Marra Arndt, Jennifer Arneson. John & Darlene Bark-Herrmann, Hillary Bergum, Stanley Clausen, David & Heidi Dehn. Kimberly & Mitchell Dienger, Amie Duchesneau, Dawn Ellickson, Jack Gearing, Charlene Genke, Mark and Tanya Gracyalny, Gary & Jennifer Hines, John & Shirley Hoesly, Katrina Houser, Kimberly Jumbeck, Christine M.

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