Foundation Awards Grants and Scholarships

The Wisconsin FFA Foundation is proud to announce that Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) grants and annual scholarships recently have been awarded.

It also has been a busy time for other award programs, as applications are being received for chapter grants in Food for America (sponsored by Syngenta Grow More Communities Foundation), Start-Up, Agricultural Experience (SAE) grants from these sponsors: Organic Valley/CROPP Cooperative and Community Service areas (sponsored by the Bethany L. Rieth Memorial Fund).

Syngenta Grow More Communities applications also are arriving at the office, and preparations are in full swing for many awards to be given at the 88th Wisconsin FFA Convention.

In December, a total of 37 Wisconsin FFA members from 27 chapters were awarded $28,950 in Wisconsin FFA grants from these sponsors:

- Wisconsin Aquaculture Assoc.
- Viroqua Food Co-op
- Organic Valley/CROPP Cooperative
- Sartori Company
- ST Paper, LLC
- Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association (2)
- Farmer Community Giving, Organic Valley
- GROWMARK (2)
- Harold & Geneva Beals Endowment (4)
- Louis M. Sasman of the Kiwanis Club of Downtown Madison Endowment
- Mary Elsal & Dean P Gagnon Endowment Fund (2)
- Matthew D. Anderson Endowment Fund (2)
- Robert & Herta Laatsch Family Endowment (2)
- Robert Wohlford Memorial Scholarship
- Rodney O. Kittleson Endowment
- Star Blends
- UW-Madison Collegiate FFA
- Walter & Delores Bjoraker Endowment Fund
- Wisconsin Ag-Business Association (4)
- Wisconsin FFA Convention
- Wisconsin Rural Opportunities Foundation (2)
- WPS Farm Show Food Vendors

In April, $29,634 in Post-Secondary Scholarships was awarded to 40 students from 32 Wisconsin FFA chapters. The 24 generous sponsors of these scholarships include:

- ANIMART (2)
- Arnold and Katherine Cordes Endowment
- Blain’s Farm and Fleet (2)
- ConAgra Foods (2)
- Elstad Brothers Endowment
- Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association (2)
- Farmer Community Giving, Organic Valley
- GROWMARK (2)
- Harold & Geneva Beals Endowment
- Kenneth K. Heideman Endowment (4)
- Louis M. Sasman of the Kiwanis Club of Downtown Madison Endowment
- Mary Elsal & Dean P Gagnon Endowment Fund (2)
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Spring - Refresh and Renew

Springtime - Refresh and Renew

Whether you have lived in the state of Wisconsin for only a couple years or for your whole life, at times you may wonder if life might just be a little bit easier in a warmer, more stable climate. However, after some thoughtful reflection, most of us arrive at the conclusion that it’s the changing of the seasons and the variety in the weather that keep us intrigued and enjoying each day as it presents itself. Springtime is the perfect opportunity to shed the ‘mud and gray’ in our physical environment, as well as in our minds, and open up the windows and doors for fresh air, warm sunshine, and a refreshed outlook.

The Wisconsin FFA Foundation has maneuvered through some recent changes and we are pleased to enter this spring season with a renewed sense of purpose and passion for supporting Wisconsin FFA and Team Ag Education. As we said goodbye to some dear team members who continued their journeys onto new career paths, we took the time to reflect and refresh our strategies to accommodate new ideas and new growth for the future of this Foundation.

We are pleased to introduce and welcome Executive Director, John Hromyak, and Operations Manager, Carol Ellis, to the Wisconsin FFA Foundation. They join Jennifer Bradley, Marketing Coordinator, and the board of directors in continuing the mission of supporting agricultural education and the 20,000+ young leaders who wear the ‘Blue and Gold’ across our great state.

Whether you are enjoying a good stretch of sunny days or are facing some uncertainty and economic headwinds, together we can formulate a plan that works for best to support Wisconsin FFA.

Let us help you refresh and renew your commitment to helping build the leaders of tomorrow in our local communities. Thank you for your continued support of the Wisconsin FFA Foundation!

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Syngenta helps Wisconsin FFA “Grow More Communities”

In a program that began in 2016, for our state, Syngenta has awarded grants through the Wisconsin FFA Foundation which are allowing chapters to grow gardens for donation and outreach in their communities.

“We know that growing food, not only in urban communities, but also in our rural communities, is important,” says Charles Scovill, a field agronomist with Syngenta. “By providing fresh produce to local food banks and then donating it to the 2,786 pounds of fresh produce. They also brought together their communities in a variety of events ranging from the World Hunger Leadership Challenge, Teaching and Discovery Day for Youth, partnering with SAGES third-grade class, hosting summer school classes for youth, and partnering with high school classes to produce canned tomatoes and salsa.

“Syngenta supports the Foundation to help FFA empower our youth through very engaging, hands-on programs, allowing FFA members to live the idea of service learning,” says Scovill. “Our donation is more about youth into community leaders than it is about funding a program.”

The Grow More Communities grant program is in its second year and grants will be awarded soon. Scovill says that the company is proud to be a catalyst to developing our society’s future leaders.