

Corduroy Connections

Minnesota FFA Alumni Association

Winter 2014

Minnesota FFA Alumni Officers

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Region I: Open

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Region III: Charles Erickson

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Region IV: Open

Region V: Harmon Wilts

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Region VI: Open

Region VII: Jim Burns

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Region VIII: Stacy Fritz

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Member At Large: Open

Top Ways FFA Alumni can Help Local Ag Teachers

FFA Alumni members know the importance of supporting their local FFA chapter and agricultural education program. One of the important people that FFA Alumni members work with, is the ag teacher/FFA advisor. Nina Crutchfield, of the National FFA Organization, compiled the following list of ways FFA Alumni can support their local ag teacher. This list was included in the New Visions newsletter.

1. Work with the teacher to create a list of needed assistance areas, then have FFA Alumni members identify areas they can contribute.
2. Help coach a CDE team.
3. Offer to help as an aide or guest speaker in the classroom.
4. Offer to babysit so teachers and their spouse can have a date night.
5. Develop advocacy skills and materials.
6. Work with chapter FFA officers to plan an event.
7. Create an Alumni Affiliate operations manual. Include contact information, details of annual events, and other helpful reminders. This allows easy transition when leadership roles change or when teachers change.
8. Provide food for an FFA meeting, it is guaranteed to increase attendance!
9. Develop SAE focus and mentorship programs between chapter members and affiliate members.



Learning to Do

Its Time to Renew FFA Alumni Membership!

Don't forget to renew your FFA Alumni Membership for 2014. The deadline to renew membership is **March 21, 2014.**

We will be using Agricultural Career Network for membership renewal again this year. To begin, login to Agricultural Career Network (AgCN) here.
https://www.ffa.org/_layouts/ffa/ffalogin.aspx

If you have any questions pertaining to the FFA Alumni membership renewal process please contact Chicky Otte. She can be reached by e-mail at sddotte@gmail.com

From the President: Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve. **Judy Barka, Litchfield**



"The Outlaws are Coming" was the headline in the Litchfield paper 43 years ago. The Outlaws were really coming only as Paul Harvey would say "here is the rest of the story." 43 years ago this week the first delegation of Hartford Alabama residents arrive in Litchfield to begin what we call the Peanut Butter and Milk Festival.

Hartford is in the center of Alabama' peanut industry and Litchfield is a huge area for dairy. The idea was created by Litchfield Businessman and FFA Alumni member Bruce Cottington. He was put in contact with Hartford FFA Advisor Paul Dean. The FFA Program has been a huge part of that exchange. Literally hundreds of FFA members from Litchfield and Hartford have traveled, many have become lifelong friends.

The Outlaws did come, but it was Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Outlaw their son Neil and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dean. The first year the group stayed in a hotel and Mrs. Outlaw was heard to say, "If the paper had not used the headline The Outlaws were coming, maybe we could have had host families." Now you know the rest of the story.

*Important Reminders

-Don't forget the MN FFA Alumni Annual meeting is coming up on March 1st , 2014 that will be hosted by Region 8 and held at the Cascade Meadow Wetlands & Environmental Science Center, 2900 19th Street NW Rochester, MN.

-Come and meet 2013-2014 National FFA Secretary Mitch Baker-Tennessee.

-Register now!

<https://cfans.wufoo.com/forms/minnesota-ffa-alumni-annual-conference/>

Doing to Learn

Opportunity to meet National FFA Secretary Mitch Baker!

There are many reasons to attend the State FFA Alumni Conference on March 1st! You will be able to connect with other FFA Alumni members from across the state, come up with new ideas to support your FFA chapter, and more!

Another reason to attend is that you will be able to meet one of the National FFA Association's leaders for this year.

Mr. Mitch Baker is going to be joining us in Rochester. He will be presenting workshops on leadership in the morning session of conference.

Mitch Baker is from Tennessee. Last October, he was selected as a National FFA Officer for 2013-2014. He is studying Agricultural Communications at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. National FFA Officers take a year off from school so that they are able to serve the FFA and its members.

Don't miss out on an incredible opportunity to meet him at MN FFA Alumni Annual Conference on March 1st in Rochester!

Minnesota FFA Alumni

Affiliate Profile



Redwood Valley FFA Alumni

Region: 5

FFA Alumni President: Matt Tiffany

FFA Advisor: Lisa Sackreiter

The Redwood Valley FFA Alumni is made up of people with a vision. The Redwood Valley school district had lost its high school agriculture program. There was not an FFA program in the district for 19 years. A group of community members worked together to form the Redwood Valley Alumni Chapter.

Minnesota Senator Gary Dahms was the true founder of the Redwood Valley FFA Alumni. Mr. Dahms, as well as other agricultural leaders in the community came together. They raised funds and convinced the Redwood Valley school district to reinstate the agriculture and FFA programs.

Redwood Valley FFA has seen great successes since the program was re-instated. Many students have found their niche in the agriculture and FFA programs. Redwood Valley FFA members have been successful in CDE contests. The Ag Mechanics team won the state contest and competed in the National CDE contest in 2010. The Poultry CDE team was able to earn top honors at the state contest in 2012. Without the support of the community members who worked hard to re-instate the agriculture and FFA programs, students would not have had these opportunities.



Redwood Valley FFA Poultry CDE team. These students won the state CDE contest in 2012.

Earning to Live

Do you have a passion for the FFA Alumni, agriculture, and want to make a difference in the state? Do you want to become more involved in the Minnesota FFA Alumni?

If yes, the Minnesota FFA Alumni Council is looking for individuals just like you! There are four spots open on the board for three Regional Representatives from regions I, IV, and VI and one Member at Large position. If you are unsure what region your FFA Alumni Affiliate is a part of please click [here](#).

Regional Representatives collect and update reports from every local alumni affiliate within their region on a quarterly basis for the regional representative report at the Board of Directors meeting, serve on one of the state alumni standing committees, participate in state alumni board meetings/conference calls, develop a priority list of potential new alumni affiliates, serve as a liaison between new affiliates and the state alumni board/membership committee.

If you are interested in being either a Regional Representative or the Member at Large positions or know of someone who is interested, please find the short application on our website, www.mnffaalumni.org, or by clicking [here](#).

Minnesota FFA Alumni

Alumni Profile



Harmon Wilts KMS FFA Alumni/Ag Boosters , Region V

Harmon Wilts is passionate and dedicated to the FFA. He began his association with FFA as a member of the KMS FFA chapter where he served as the treasurer. After he graduated from high school, the agriculture/FFA program was cut from the school. Fortunately, the program re-chartered in 2004. The newly re-chartered chapter began visiting the 6th grade class at KMS to educate students about FFA and agriculture. It is used to encourage students to consider joining FFA. As a result of one of these visits, Harmon's oldest daughter came home from school and told him that she wanted to join FFA. He has three daughters who have all been involved in KMS FFA.

In 2008 a group looked at the chapter and decided that it would be beneficial to start an alumni program. The reasons were to support the teacher and program, to prevent the program from being cut, help out during teacher transition, help students by coaching teams or donating money, and to educate the community. Harmon has been the president since 2009. The board meets three times a year and the chapter officer team attends.

KMS alumni show their support for students and the agriculture program. They donate FFA jackets for members who do not receive one through the Blue Jackets Bright Futures program. They also pay half of conference fees for attending members. For National FFA Week, the alumni sponsor an ad in the paper that thanks FFA members for the contributions to agriculture. During State FFA Convention the alumni pays for all attendees to go out and have dinner together.

Harmon also serves on the state FFA Alumni Board. He is the Region 5 Director. His responsibility is to support alumni affiliates, help new affiliate chapters get started, and serves as a liaison between the state board and affiliates in Region 5.

One of Harmon's favorite events is the State FFA Convention. He enjoys seeing kids that would have never had an opportunity to dress up and attend a professional conference, do so through FFA. He also enjoys seeing the growth and achievement of the students. Harmon also likes to see how students grow during their time as a chapter officer.

Harmon values the positive impact FFA provides for students and community members. He gives back to the FFA because it has had a positive impact on his kids. He also does so because FFA members today, will be the agricultural leaders of tomorrow. It is a great way to prepare students to take the torch and continue the legacy of American agriculture.

Living to Serve

Test your U.S. Ag knowledge!

1. What state is ranked first in hog production?
2. Which state is ranked first in tomato production?
3. How many states in the U.S. produce wheat?
4. Minnesota is the top turkey producing state in the country. Which state claims the second place spot?
5. What state is ranked highest in beef production?

Answers: 1. Iowa 2. California
3. 42 4. North Carolina 5. Texas

Minnesota FFA Begins FFA Chat

By: Lisa Roker

The Minnesota FFA Association has been using Twitter for several years. But recently, the Minnesota FFA Association began FFA Chat. This is a dialogue that lasts approximately 90 minutes and takes place every other Sunday at 7pm. Each FFA Chat has a specific focus.

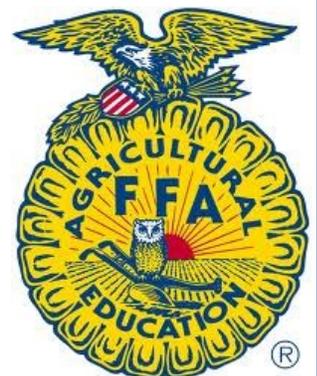
Past FFA Chats have focused on SAE's, Agricultural Education, and agricultural advocacy. The Minnesota FFA Association posts a series of questions. Participants can share their ideas and experiences in response to the questions. Participants include current FFA members, supporters, agricultural teachers, and anyone who is interested in FFA. Participants have joined the conversation from several other states across the country. This dialogue gives participants a unique opportunity to discuss and share their ideas about agriculture and FFA. It also gives participants a chance to learn about the things that others are doing.

FFA Chat is not the only agricultural based discussion forum on Twitter. Ag Chat is another opportunity for farmers, ranchers, and customers to talk about their experiences and learn from one another.

#FFAchat

Join the Conversation!

Open to all!



Premier Leadership, Personal Growth, and Career Success

Upcoming Events

March 1, 2014

State Minnesota FFA Alumni Conference

April 27, 28, 29

State FFA Convention

Don't forget to register for the State FFA Alumni Conference!

When: March 1, 2014

Where: Cascade Meadow Wetlands & Environmental Science Center

2900 19th Street NW

Rochester, MN

Register now at: <https://cfans.wufoo.com/forms/minnesota-ffa-alumni-annual-conference/>

Minnesota FFA Alumni Association

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**Minnesota FFA Alumni:
Supporting the Blue
Jackets since 1972!**

Newsletter created by
Minnesota FFA Alumni Intern
Lisa Roker.

FFA Alumni Mission

The mission of the Minnesota FFA Alumni Association is to secure the promise of FFA and agricultural education by creating an environment where people and communities can develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

FFA Alumni Vision

The vision of the Minnesota FFA Alumni Association is a world where people and communities can grow and develop to their fullest potential.

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