



Corduroy Connections

Minnesota FFA Alumni Association Newsletter
February 2012

Minnesota FFA Alumni Council Members

President,
Kevin Dahlman
dahlman@xtratyme.com

President Elect,
Judy Barka
jbarka@meekercoop.net

Secretary,
Chicky Otte
sddotte@frontiernet.net

Treasurer,
Marv Ziner
mdziner@aol.com

Membership Coordinator,
Mary Buschette
mbuschet@umn.edu

Past President,
Greg Gosen
silvercrestcharolais@gmail.com

Region Representatives

Region I, Lyle Westrom
lwestrom@umn.edu

Region II, Aimee Brichacek
tabric@embarqmail.com

Region III, Charles Erickson
cyerick@prtcl.com

Region IV, Sangeetha Gummadi
sangeetha.gummadi@mn.usda.gov

Region V, Harmon Wilts
harmon.wilts@monsanto.com

Region VI, Nate Janssen
Janssen.Nate@gmail.com

Region VII, Pam Uhlenkamp
pam.uhlenkamp@southcentral.edu

Region VIII, Stacy Fritz
sfritz@chatfield.k12.mn.us

Member At-Large

Vic Richardson
vcrich@charter.net

Greetings from President Kevin Dahlman

What a difference a year can make!!!

One year ago, we were wondering where to pile all the snow. Now we are wondering if there will ever be any snow to pile. Last year we were setting cold records, this year we will have 7 days above 40 degrees this winter. Last year our state budget deficit was nearing 5 billion dollars. This year, depending on how different accountants look at it, we might show in the black.



Your FFA Alumni association can also look back and be very appreciative of the past years successes. We have increased membership, increased affiliates, and more programs to help on the state and local levels. We hired a student intern, Blaire Hoven to help your officer teams with many of the tasks. The active association can also be proud of our national officer, increased active membership, and active chapters, and expanded programs to service of kids.

You state association was active and present at the recent Ag - Tech conference sponsored by the MAAE. Members participated in the various workshops, in the Blueprint discussions, World Food Peace presentation, and the silent auctions to raise money for scholarships.

Want to learn how to be involved at your local and state levels of FFA. Attend our annual conference, February 18, 2012 at the AFSA High school in Vadnais Heights, MN. Our workshops, speakers, and awards excite you, energize you, and help you help your kids, advisors, and chapters. It is a cannot miss opportunity for as many of your members as you can send.

Watch for us at the state convention in April. We will host the past state officers reunion, and the 25th state officer get-together. Make sure to spend some money at our expanded shop'n'shop. Look for our new items and "really cool stuff"!!

Reflecting back at the two years I have been your President, we are blessed to have so many willing and passionate volunteers to step in and make a difference. Please welcome your new President Judy Barka, Litchfield MN. Thank you for the opportunities.

Sincerely,
Kevin Dahlman
MN FFA Alumni Council President

MN FFA Alumni Council News

Minnesota FFA Alumni Association Annual Conference

Mark your calendars for this year's Minnesota FFA Alumni Annual Conference. The Alumni Conference will be held Saturday, February 18, 2012 at AFSA High School in Vandais Heights, MN. Rod Hamilton, chair of the Minnesota House Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Finance Committee, will present the keynote message.



To register for the Annual Conference please visit:
z.umn.edu/mnffaalumni2012

For more information about session topics, registration rates, and a tentative schedule, please see the attached Minnesota FFA Alumni Annual Conference Flyer or visit our website at www.mnffaalumni.org.

Rod Hamilton, Keynote Speaker

MAAE Ag Tech Conference – FFA Alumni Silent Auction



The Minnesota Association of Agriculture Educators (MAAE) Ag Tech Conference was held January 19-21, 2012 at the Best Western Kelly Inn in St. Cloud, MN

The Minnesota FFA Alumni Association once again held a silent auction to benefit scholarships for current FFA students to attend summer leadership camps. Eighteen silent auction items were donated by FFA Alumni Affiliates and supporters. Some of these items were a Fleet Farm gift card, wine, rain gauge, plant cell model, brownies, and a John Deere sweat shirt.

The silent auction raised \$274, and with a donation from the MN FFA Alumni Association, a total of \$500 was raised for scholarships. Out of the FFA Alumni Affiliates that donated items, five were randomly drawn to receive a \$100 scholarship to provide to a student. These affiliates were: Paynesville, Dassel-Cokato, Randolph, Brainerd and Metro FFA. Thank you to all who donated items and placed bids!

Alumni Affiliate News

Greetings from the St. Charles FFA Alumni!



St. Charles Alumni was chartered in April of 1981, and has supported agricultural education and the FFA in our community for over 30 years.

Our goal is to offer support through a variety of ways. Alumni members are part of the nominating committee for chapter officers election, help train Career Development Event (contest) teams, and chaperone FFA conventions and activities. St. Charles enjoys member/alumni picnics, and usually has an FFA

member represent the chapter at the Alumni meetings. Alumni members have been part of the interview committee to hire new Agriculture instructors. Members serve as guest speakers, and as a resource to the Ag teacher.

And of course the Alumni supports the chapter financially. St. Charles Alumni provides annual scholarships for outstanding graduating seniors, funding for members who can't afford to attend an event or purchase a jacket, and help to defray costs of officer retreats, Washington Leadership Conference, and other leadership training.

Some of our fundraising activities in recent years have included donkey basketball (we get the best attendance if we don't hold this on consecutive years), a comedy show (held during the summer town festival) and working at our high school concession stand during sporting events. One noteworthy project was the purchase of a vending machine for use in the school. A joint venture by the alumni and chapter, the machine is stocked and maintained by an Alumni member, and the chapter receives the profits.

St. Charles is proud to be home of National FFA Secretary Jason Troendle. While Jason was Minnesota State FFA President, the Alumni wanted to express their appreciation for his hard work and dedication to the FFA organization. St. Charles Alumni gifted Jason by paying his lifetime alumni dues. St. Charles looks forward to the next generation of agriculturalist, and their contribution to our world.

Please send us your news!

Have an interesting story, event, or piece of news to share with the Minnesota FFA Alumni community? Please send your stories and updates to mnffaalumni@gmail.com to be featured in future newsletters as articles or dates on our calendar.

Minnesota FFA Association News

National FFA Week – February 18-25, 2012

Join the MN FFA Alumni Association in celebrating National FFA Week - February 18-25! Throughout this week, FFA Alumni Affiliates, Chapters, and Supporters will be taking part in events across the country to celebrate FFA. Be sure to check out the National FFA website at www.ffa.org for a list of events and information about FFA Week.



Annual FFA Week Alumni Trivia Contest

Here in Minnesota, MN FFA Alumni and supporters will again be celebrating with the **6th annual FFA Week Trivia Contest!** Sponsored by the Metro Area FFA Alumni & Friends affiliate, the contest will celebrate the history and success of the FFA and agricultural education in Minnesota and across the nation and is open to any FFA supporter.

Here's how it works:

1. Each day subscribers to the Minnesota FFA Alumni listserve will receive an FFA Trivia Question. The email will direct you to a web link with the question of the day. At the end of each day a name will be drawn to receive a prize.

2. Each person who sends in a response will also be eligible for the Grand Prize - – **a set of four tickets to the FFA Day with the Minnesota Twins**. Your odds to win the grand prize increase by responding to each day's trivia question (your name can be entered in the drawing up to five times). So, make sure you answer the questions no matter the day!

All FFA Week Trivia questions and answers, along with the names of the grand prize and daily winners will be announced during the week following FFA Week.

3. If you know anyone who might be interested in participating, have them send a message to mnffaalumni@gmail.com and request to be added to the Minnesota FFA Alumni Listerve.

Have a great FFA Week!

Minnesota FFA Foundation News

Minnesota FFA Foundation launches Legacy Club



The Minnesota FFA Foundation is proud to announce the establishment of the Minnesota FFA Foundation Legacy Club. The Legacy Club is for individuals and couples who want to help ensure a bright future for agricultural education and FFA in Minnesota, and the students it serves. Funds raised will support the development of new and existing chapters. Support will be provided to chapter programs through a grant process.

“As the FFA creed states ‘I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds.’ I think about those familiar words of the FFA Creed and the significant impact FFA has on the lives of countless students. So many of us learned those words as freshmen and strive to embody it in our daily lives. FFA is a cornerstone in shaping and developing tomorrow’s leaders,” said Michael Dove, chair, Minnesota FFA Foundation. “Now is the time to reignite your belief in the future of agriculture and FFA by joining the Minnesota FFA Foundation Legacy Club.”

As a thank you gift, the first 200 who contribute to the Legacy Club will receive a signed and numbered, limited edition giclee print from well-known rural agricultural artist Bonnie Mohr.

“We are excited to be working with Bonnie in this effort. In her painting, We Live to Share Bonnie captures the spirit of agricultural education and the FFA experience and opportunity for individuals to give back to an organization that helps develop leaders,” said Dove. Mohr, a past FFA member served as state FFA Secretary from 1980-81.

“Born the daughter of a dairy farm family – I believe my life to some degree was a predestined course. From an early age, I grew to know the importance of belonging to a family where

everyone was important and played a role in the success of our farm. My participation in farm chores, family events and youth organizations like FFA shaped me as a youth, and have stayed with me into adulthood, the working world and now guide me while raising my own family and growing a business,” said Mohr. “My life is a product of the things I have surrounded myself with. My character and the beliefs I live by, are fashioned from my roots. In some ways, having the opportunity to produce this Legacy Club painting for the Minnesota FFA Foundation brings me full circle to one of the events in my life that have developed me into who I am today. It is an opportunity to be a part of a really great cause – growing our future through the young people who will play a role in shaping it.”

For more information on the Legacy Club, visit the Minnesota FFA Foundation website at www.mnffaafoundation.org.

The Minnesota FFA Foundation partners with individuals and businesses to provide resources that promote and enhance premier leadership, personal growth and career success for Minnesota youth in Agricultural Education. For more information about the Minnesota FFA Foundation, contact executive director Val Aarsvold at 507-534-0188 or visit us on the web at www.mnffaafoundation.org.

Thank you to the MN FFA Foundation’s current Star Partners:

Distinguished Star Partners

CHS
Northland Ford

Four Star Partners

Minnesota Soybean Growers

Three Star Partners

AgriBank
The Mosaic Company
Minnesota Corn Growers

Two Star Partners

AgStar Financial
CF Industries
Davisco Foods International
Hormel Foods
Minnesota BioFuels Association
Rosen’s Diversified
Wells Fargo
West Central Inc.

One Star Partners

ADM facilities of Minnesota
BASF
Bayer CropSciences
Gislason & Hunter, LLP
M & I Bank
Minnesota Farm Bureau
Minnesota Farmers Union
Monsanto
Pipestone Veterinary Clinic
Rod Enberg Logging
Seneca Foods
United FCS



Contact Us!



Like us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/MNFFAAlumni



Email us at: mnffaalumni@gmail.com



Find us on the web at: www.mnffaalumni.org



Link with us on LinkedIn: Search MN FFA Alumni



Follow us on Twitter: [@mnffaalumni](https://twitter.com/mnffaalumni)

Minnesota FFA Alumni Association
PO Box 131298
Roseville, MN 55113

Calendar of Events

Minnesota FFA Alumni Annual Conference: February 18, 2012

National FFA Week: February 18-25, 2012

Alumni Membership Dues State Deadline: April 15, 2012

Past State Officer Reunion: April 21, 2012

State FFA Convention: April 21-24, 2012

National FFA Alumni Development Conference (Bozeman, Montana): July 11-15, 2012

