



# Corduroy Connections

Minnesota FFA Alumni Association Newsletter

December 2011

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## Greetings from President Kevin Dahlman

Hello and welcome to the latest issue of Corduroy Connections, the Minnesota FFA Alumni Association's newsletter! As some of you may remember, the alumni once had a newsletter that was circulated to affiliate chapters, alumni members, and friends of the FFA to connect alumni across the state. We are very pleased to reinstate this newsletter and once again connect alumni across Minnesota and beyond.

Throughout this newsletter you will find updates on the activities happening across the state with Minnesota FFA Alumni. If you have announcements to share or would like anything included in the newsletter, contact us at [mnffaalumni@gmail.com](mailto:mnffaalumni@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you and wish you the best this Holiday season!



Sincerely,  
Kevin Dahlman  
MN FFA Alumni Council President

## MN FFA Alumni Council News

### Remembering Paul Day

Paul Day, age 82 of Northfield passed away November 9, 2011 at the Northfield Retirement Center. Paul was the FFA Ag Instructor in Faribault for many years. Paul was also the state supervisor for agricultural education and state FFA advisor for several years. He was also an active member of the MN FFA Alumni.



Funeral Services were held on Saturday, November 12th at Bethel Lutheran Church in Northfield with burial at Oaklawn Cemetery with Military Honors. Mr. Day is survived by children Toni (Ben) Clifton of Buffalo, Alison (Tom) Valinski of Northfield, Steven (Noriko) Day of Oak Park, IL; grandchildren Louie and Eddie Clifton, and Sara and Abby Valinski.

If you would like to remember Mr. Day with a contribution to the Minnesota FFA Foundation contact Val Aarsvold at [vaarsvold@mnffaafoundation.org](mailto:vaarsvold@mnffaafoundation.org) or visit [www.mnffaafoundation.org](http://www.mnffaafoundation.org). Or if you would like to make a contribution to the Paul M Day Scholarship at the University of Minnesota, please visit [ag-ed.cfans.umn.edu](http://ag-ed.cfans.umn.edu).

## Minnesota FFA Alumni Association Recognizes Volunteers:

### Outstanding FFA Alumni Award Nomination Forms Available

To recognize the many outstanding FFA alumni members throughout the state, the Minnesota FFA Alumni recognizes alumni with a number of Outstanding FFA Alumni Awards each year. These awards will be presented at the Annual Alumni Conference held February 18, 2012 at the Agriculture, Food, and Sciences Academy in Vadnais Heights, Minnesota.

To submit a nomination form for any of the following awards, please visit [www.mnffaalumni.org/Awards.aspx](http://www.mnffaalumni.org/Awards.aspx). Nominations are due **January 23, 2012**.

### Available Awards:

- Outstanding FFA Alumni Member Award
- Outstanding FFA Alumni Coaching Award
- Outstanding FFA Alumni Affiliate Award
- Outstanding Young FFA Alumni Award

### FFA Hall of Fame Nominations Open

The Minnesota FFA Hall of Fame was established as part of the organization's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 2004. One hundred thirty-four individuals have been inducted in the first years. In 2011, we were proud to welcome eight individuals into the Minnesota FFA Hall of Fame.

The Minnesota FFA Alumni Association is now accepting nominations for the 2012 Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have been influential and supportive of Minnesota FFA and who have demonstrated a high level of service and longstanding commitment to agriculture, agribusiness, and/or education in agriculture.

To nominate a candidate please visit [www.mnffaalumni.org/Awards.aspx](http://www.mnffaalumni.org/Awards.aspx). Nominations are due **January 23, 2012**.



*2012 Minnesota FFA Hall of Fame Inductees - Front row: Steve Sviggum, Kenyon; Sheryl Meshke, Lake Crystal; Rowland Bauck, New York Mills; Back row: Vic Richardson, Owatonna; Dennis Schroeder, Marshall; Larry Klingbeil, Bloomington; Tom Deming, Plainview. Also inducted was John (Jack) Larson (deceased), Slayton*

## Retiring National FFA Alumni Council Remarks

2011 marked the 40th anniversary of the National FFA Alumni Association. Fortunately, 40 years ago several thoughtful individuals had the foresight to formalize the network that provides support local chapters and to enhance FFA and the educational experience. We've come a long way in that time, but with 7-9 million FFA former members, there is much potential for what we can accomplish ahead.

I have appreciated the opportunity to represent Minnesota as an At Large Representative on the National FFA Alumni Council for the past three years and look forward to helping ag education and alumni continue to grow in Minnesota, especially increasing support for local FFA alumni affiliates and starting new ag ed programs in the state.

– Steve Olson



## Alumni Affiliate News

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### University of Minnesota FFA Alumni Affiliate Formed



Calling all FFA Alumni attending, working at, or who have an interest in the University of Minnesota! A small group of faculty, staff, and students have come together in efforts to connect all FFA alumni with ties to the U of M. With over 50,000 students attending the U of M and thousands more staff and faculty members, there are bound to be many past and present FFA members on campus and we want to get them all involved again.

The University of Minnesota FFA Alumni affiliate chapter has been created to connect FFA alumni, members, and friends of the FFA at the U of M who may have become out of touch with the FFA and want to reconnect or simply want to stay involved in the FFA Association. The U of M FFA Alumni affiliate is open to anyone. No matter what your major, what college you attend, what department you work in, or what your current involvement in the FFA is, the U of M FFA Alumni affiliate is for you!

The University of Minnesota Affiliate will be chartering in 2012. If you have any questions about the U of M FFA Alumni or are interested in joining our affiliate please contact Katie Winslow, U of M FFA Alumni Chair at [wins0115@umn.edu](mailto:wins0115@umn.edu) or visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/UMNFFA](http://www.facebook.com/UMNFFA).

### Congratulations to the Minnesota FFA Alumni Affiliates Chartered in 2011:

**Buffalo**  
**Glenville Emmons**  
**Hayfield**  
**Lac qui Parle Valley**  
**Lakeview**  
**Springfield**  
**Staples Motley**  
**Watertown Mayer**

The Minnesota FFA Alumni now has 47 active affiliate chapters, but more are always welcome! If you are interested in chartering an affiliate chapter please contact Mary Buschette, Membership Coordinator at [mnffaalumni@gmail.com](mailto:mnffaalumni@gmail.com)

## Minnesota FFA Association News

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### Jason Troendle Named National FFA Secretary



Six students from throughout the country were elected National FFA officers for 2011-12. This announcement made to a packed and excited house of FFA members at Conseco Fieldhouse officially closed the 84th National FFA Convention.

Ryan W. Best of New Mexico, Jason Troendle of Minnesota, Kenneth D. Quick Jr. of New York, Alicia Hodnik of Wisconsin, Cain Thurmond of Georgia and Seth Pratt of Idaho have been elected National FFA officers for 2011-12.

Troendle, of St. Charles, Minn., has been elected National FFA secretary. He is a freshman at Bethel University majoring in economics and environmental studies. The son of Fred and Sandra Troendle, he is a member of the St. Charles High School FFA Chapter in St. Charles, Minn., led by advisors Craig Will and Willie Lubahn.

MN FFA Alumni was proud to provide a stipend for Jason to attend the National FFA Alumni Development Conference and to assist in costs associated with preparing for National Officer interviews. Congratulations and good luck in the upcoming year Jason!

### 84<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention: Recap

The 2011 National FFA convention was held October 19-22 in Indianapolis, IN. Approximately 1,318 Minnesota FFA members attended the convention along with over 50,000 FFA members and guests from across the country. Members participated in general sessions, competitive events, educational tours, leadership workshops, a career show and expo, volunteer activities and much more. In addition 56 Minnesota FFA members received their American Degrees. Congratulations to the following individuals and teams on their accomplishments at the convention:

#### Star Farmer Finalist:

Tom Eilertson, United South Central FFA

#### Agricultural Proficiency Awards Program National Winner:

Jake Knutson, Grain Production – Placement, United South Central FFA

#### 2011 Honorary American Degree Recipients:

Bill Januszewski, Alexandria

Kevin Dahlman, Cokato

Kevin Paap, Lake Crystal

Julie Tesch, St Paul

George Peichel, Winthrop



## **Willmar FFA Members Raise Turkeys Pardoned by President Obama**

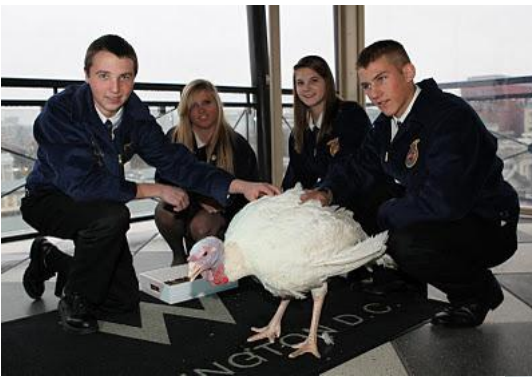
This Thanksgiving, members of the Willmar FFA Chapter, and the turkeys they raised, were given the opportunity of a lifetime. For Willmar FFA members Brianna Hoover, Brenna Ahlquist, Val Brown and Preston Asche this was the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. and participate in a Thanksgiving tradition at the White House. For the turkeys selected, named Liberty and Peace, this was the opportunity to receive a pardon by President Obama and be saved from the fate of most turkeys during the Thanksgiving season.

The participating FFA members worked with the birds for an hour every day after school. In addition to cleaning their pen and equipment, the FFA members got the flock comfortable around humans and distraction by talking, making random noise, playing music, and lifting each bird onto a table. All this was to prepare the birds selected to make the trip to the White House and represent Minnesota the best they possibly could.

This was the 64th time an event commemorating turkeys had been held at the White House, and 24 turkeys have now been given a presidential pardon. Liberty and Peace will now be moved to the historical Mount Vernon and Estate Gardens (the farm of George Washington) and will on display during the venue's holiday program.

For more information about the Presidential Flock visit: [minnesotaturkey.com](http://minnesotaturkey.com)

To view photos from the trip visit: [www.facebook.com/minnesotaturkey](http://www.facebook.com/minnesotaturkey)



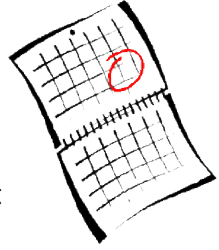
Willmar FFA members Preston Asche, Brenna Ahlquist, Brianna Hoover, and Val Brown at a press conference atop The W Hotel.



Willmar FFA members pose outside of White House with the Presidential pardoned turkey.

### Save the Date!

Please join us this year for the **Minnesota FFA Alumni Annual Conference**. The conference will be held on February 18, 2012 at the Academy for Sciences and Agriculture (AFSA) in Vadnais Heights, MN. This year's hosts will be the Metro FFA Alumni affiliate and AFSA. More information will be available soon at [www.mnffaalumni.org](http://www.mnffaalumni.org).



### 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](mailto:mnffaalumni@gmail.com) to be featured in future newsletters as articles or dates on our calendar.

#### Contact Us!

-  Like us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/MNFFAAlumni](http://www.facebook.com/MNFFAAlumni)
-  Email us at: [mnffaalumni@gmail.com](mailto:mnffaalumni@gmail.com)
-  Find us on the web at: [www.mnffaalumni.org](http://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  
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## Calendar of Events

Minnesota FFA Alumni Association Award Nominations Due: January 23, 2012

Minnesota FFA Alumni Annual Conference: February 18, 2012

National FFA Week: February 18-25, 2011

Alumni Membership Dues state deadline for 2012: 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

