

Corduroy Connections

Minnesota FFA Alumni Association

Vol. 1, Issue 1

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Two Open Positions

The mission of FFA Alumni is to support agricultural education students and FFA members by supporting the agricultural education teacher. There are three levels of membership for FFA Alumni-local, state, and national. Minnesota FFA Alumni Association is an umbrella organization for individual members and local affiliates as well as a link to the National FFA Alumni Association.

President's Column

By Steve Olson

Greetings and welcome to the first edition of the Minnesota FFA Alumni electronic newsletter. This will be a periodic newsletter to members of local alumni & friends affiliates. We have a couple of purposes for this newsletter. First, it is a way for the state alumni association to connect with members and local affiliates. We will provide updates on state and national activities. Second, the newsletter provides the opportunity for you to connect with other alumni affiliates. Whether it be ideas for raising scholarship funds or support in keeping an ag program alive, this newsletter is intended to be a link for you.

A couple of current items, first the Minnesota FFA Chapter House at the Minnesota State Fair is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. If you were a barnyard attendant at one time, showed livestock at the Great Minnesota Get Together, or just happen to be at the fair at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 3 or Sunday, Sept. 4 stop by the FFA Children's Barnyard to help celebrate the event. It will be a good place to meet old friends, make new ones, and at the very least have some ice cream.

Another reason, to celebrate 50 years of the FFA Children's Barnyard is that it may be the

last year...for the current building and site. The Barnyard and Miracle of Birth Center are the highest attended exhibit at the state fair. The exhibit is so popular that they are cramped for space to accommodate visitors. The State Fair has decided to build a new facility near the Como entrance between the Coliseum and water ride. This will be the new main entrance for the fairgrounds. Stop by the information tent in the FFA Children's Barnyard for a look at the schematic. Also look for ways that your alumni affiliate can participate in making others aware of the fundraising campaign.

Finally, thank you to Leslie Shuler with CHS for putting this newsletter together. I appreciate her expertise and CHS support of her participation. Also thank you to Mary Buschette, director of the University of Minnesota College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences Alumni Association for her behind the scenes support of this newsletter.

We appreciate feedback on the format and content of this newsletter. Please contact Leslie (leslie.shuler@chsinc.com) or me (steve@minnesotaturkey.com or 763.682.2171) with comments.

Minnesota State Fair New Miracle of Birth Center, FFA Leadership Center

The Minnesota FFA Alumni, Minnesota FFA Foundation, Minnesota State Fair Foundation and the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association will raising the \$1.5 million for this project with a completion date that would allow for opening at the 2006 State Fair. The project will include a separate, but connected, FFA Leadership Center to a Miracle of Birth Center that will be three times as large as the current facility. The Leadership Center will serve as an area for FFA displays (Hall of Fame and other outstanding FFA partners), displays on agriculture and its importance, a media area for broadcasting at the fair, an area for past FFA members to reconnect to the current happenings of Minnesota FFA. Staff area will be included for those assisting with the Miracle of Birth Center's daily operations.

An information booth will be at this year's State Fair along with promotional information, including a brochure, will be located in the livestock barns. We will rely heavily on word of mouth to encourage people to get involved through contributions.

For more information contact Steve Olson, Minnesota FFA Alumni, at steve@minnesotaturkey.com or 763-682-2171 Val Aarsvold, Executive Director, Minnesota FFA Foundation, 507-534-0188.

Learning to do.

Alumni Profiles Kevin and Nancy Dahlman



Kevin and Nancy Dahlman, Dassel-Cokato FFA Alumni members, play an active role in strengthening their community and the agricultural industry.

Hometown: Cokato

Employment: Kevin, Dahlco Seeds and Nancy, Local Assessor, Wright County

Family: Tony, a senior at the University of Minnesota- Twin Cities, and Pam, a junior at Dassel Cokato High School

FFA Alumni Affiliate: Dassel-Cokato

Years as members: 5+

Leadership positions: Kevin: past president and Dassel-Cokato State Alumni Board representative; Nancy: secretary-treasurer

Why did you join the FFA Alumni? We are concerned about the future of agriculture and agricultural education in our community.

Favorite activity or program to be a part of or support?

Kevin really enjoys time spent coaching the parliamentary procedure team. We also strongly support any way to raise funds for the local chapter. We set up a trailer at a local business to collect pop cans for recycling. We promote and solicit donations to buy the chapter sculpture at the Farm fest Auction.

Why is the FFA Alumni important? We need to show our support of agriculture and the future of agriculture, our youth.

How will the FFA alumni impact the future of agricultural education and FFA?

Strong Alumni presence shows community support to school administrations. With ever increasing demands on school budgets, Alumni must show the need for Agriculture Education and the FFA.

How do you get others involved, either to join or more active?

We keep advertising the positives of the Dassel Cokato FFA and continue to invite people with an interest in agriculture

education and agriculture to be a part of the future of the DC FFA. We are always looking for ways to improve our organization.

Other activities & interests? Independent Professional Seedsmen Association Board Chairman, Chairman of the DC School Board, Meeker and Wright Special Education Coop Board Chair, FSA Farm Service Agency Board, MN Ag Ed Leadership Council, 4-H-Advisory Council Member, Church Board—Deacon and Treasurer, Sunday School Teachers, MN Association of Assessing Officers, DC Charger Boosters, DC Speech Boosters.

Were you FFA members? Yes

Chapters: Kevin, Dassel-Cokato; Nancy, Litchfield

Leadership positions/accomplishments: Kevin, DC Chapter President and District 7 President; Nancy, Litchfield Chapter Treasurer and Secretary. Nancy also received the State Farmer degree in 1973, one of first five woman to receive the State degree. Kevin received State Farmer Degree in 1974.

Calendar of Events

Aug. 25- Sept. 5

Sept TBA

Oct. 26-28

Oct. 27- 28

Oct. 28

Nov. TBA

Minnesota State Fair

Minnesota FFA Alumni Conference Call

National FFA Alumni Convention Silent Auction, Louisville

National FFA Alumni Convention

National FFA Convention Live Auction

Minnesota FFA Alumni Long Range Planning meeting

Doing to learn.

Live Out Loud!

The Minnesota FFA Association Report

By Jill Pesek, Minnesota State FFA FFA Reporter

It has only been four short months since six Minnesota FFA Members had one of their dreams come true. The dream of some day being a Minnesota FFA Officer came true in Northrop Auditorium for Christian Lilienthal, Jamie Millmann, Jackie Koch, Sangeetha Gummadi, Jill Pesek, and Stephan Funk as they were elected as the 2005-2006 Minnesota FFA Officer team. Since that moment these six individuals have been serving the Minnesota FFA Association.

Their year started out with Blast-Off which was a great opportunity for the team to get to know each other and receive some valuable training for their upcoming year of service. The team also set goals and decided on a theme for the upcoming year. The theme is "Live Out Loud!" When asked what she thought of the 2005-2006 theme, Jamie Millman, Minnesota FFA Vice President, said, "I think it (Live Out Loud!) is awesome, has a lot of enthusiasm behind it, and defines how the team is approaching the year." After the team defined what they wanted to accomplish during the year it was time to start working with the members of the Minnesota FFA Association.

The first major event was the State Greenhand Leadership Conference. The Greenhands were encouraged to "Start Their Engines!" and find out what the FFA has to offer them. Jessi Beucler, a SGLC camper said, "SGLC was such an awesome experience, I learned a lot. The sessions were great and I really enjoyed reflections and cabin chats. FFA members coming to SGLC in the future will have one of the greatest experiences of their life." It was amazing watching the growth of the Greenhands over such a short period of time. After SGLC it was time for some more training. The entire team jumped in two vehicles and headed down to Aurora, Nebraska for the National Leadership



Stephen Funk, Sentinel; Jill Pesek, Reporter; Christian Lilienthal, President; Jackie Koch, Secretary; Sangeetha Gummadi, Treasurer; and Jamie Millmann, Vice President.

Conference for State Officers. NLCSO was an opportunity to become closer as a team, meet other state's state officers, and plan out the State Leadership Conference for Chapter Leaders. SLCCCL came quickly and campers were encouraged to "Turn it Up!" At SLCCCL FFA members learned about more opportunities in the FFA and how they can further develop themselves, their regions, and their chapters.

After the summer camps and conferences were done the state officers continued to represent the Minnesota FFA Association at numerous events. Some of these events include Farmfest, chapter training events, regional training events, State Presidents Conference, and the Minnesota Agriculture Ambassador Institute just to name a few.

The team is looking forward to the Minnesota State Fair, Business, Industry, and Education Tours, and National Convention. They are extremely excited to continue to "Live Out Loud!" during the remainder of their year of service.

A dream came true for six individuals but through training and numerous events the dream is being Lived Out Loud by one amazing team.

Minnesota FFA Alumni Affiliates

Albert Lea
Dassel-Cokato
GFW
Parkers Prairie *
Spring Valley *
Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted Lanesboro *

Austin
Eagle Bend *
Hills Bever Creek
Renville County West
Waseca

Renville County West
Elk River
New Prague
St. Charles
Watertown-Mayer

Blooming Prairie
Frazee (state only)
New Ulm
Metro Area Alumni & Friends
Willmar *

* National only

**This listing is from the MN FFA Alumni web site; to add your FFA alumni affiliate contact leslie.shuler@chsinc.com or steve@minnesotaturkey.com

Learning to live.

Minnesota FFA Hall of Fame: 2005 Inductees

The Minnesota FFA and the Minnesota FFA Alumni are proud to announce the Class of 2005 of the Minnesota FFA Hall of Fame. These twenty inductees join the 75 inaugural members who were inducted in 2004. More than 100 individuals were nominated by FFA Chapters, agricultural education leaders and community members.

“The Hall of Fame is an excellent opportunity to honor the men and women who, over the years, have demonstrated leadership and commitment not only to the FFA but also to Minnesota’s agricultural industry,” said Jeff Buyck, Minnesota FFA Association president.

A selection committee consisting of FFA members, alumni and agricultural educators selected the final inductees.

“We were looking for 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,” said Steve Olson, co-chair, Minnesota FFA Hall of Fame Committee.

The Hall of Fame sponsorship was made possible through the Minnesota FFA Foundation with funding from Great River Energy. Nominations for 2006 are due Feb. 15, 2006; forms are at www.ffa.umn.edu.

FFA Hall of Fame Class of 2005

Ms. Bonnie Bassett	St. Paul, MN
Mr. Bob Bollesen	Thief River Falls, MN *
Mr. Cyril Carpenter	Bloomington, MN
Mr. Bruce Cottington	Litchfield, MN
Dr. LaVern Freeh	Loma Linda, CA
Mr. Dennis Jackson	North Mankato, MN *
Mr. Steve Koziolk	Northfield, MN
Dr. Keith McFarland	Roseville, MN
Mr. Gerald McKay	St. Paul, MN
Miller Viewlawn Angus Farm	Mabel, MN
Dr. Ralph E. Miller	St. Paul, MN *
Mr. Harry Peirce, Sr.	Baudette, MN *
Mr. Frank Quam	Janesville, MN
Mr. Tom Rothman	St. Paul, MN
Mr. Robert "Bob" Rupp	Oak Park Heights, MN
Mr. Edward Terry	Northfield, MN
Mr. Truman Tilleraas	Fargo, ND
Mr. Dwain Vangsness	Adams, MN
Mr. Dan VonBank	St. Paul, MN
Mr. Cliff Vrieze	Truman, MN

* Deceased

Grand Opening: New Agricultural & Food Science Academy Building

The Grand Opening of the new Agricultural and Food Sciences (AFSA) Charter High School building will be Thursday, Sept. 8, 1 p.m. The new facility is located at 100 E. Vadnais Blvd. in Vadnais Heights. The Metro FFA Alumni has been a major supporter of AFSA since its inception.

The event will feature a program, tours, a reception and an opportunity to meet AFSA students and staff.

Questions can be directed to Becky Meyer: 651-209-3910 or bmeyer@agacademy.com or Doris Mold: 715-822-6347 or doris@sunriseag.net.

For more information about the school, visit www.agacademy.com.

- *Becky Meyer, AFSA Director and Steve Pooch, AFSA Advisory Board Chair*



The new home for the Agricultural & Food Science Academy is located in Vadnais Heights.

Corduroy Connections is the quarterly newsletter for the Minnesota FFA Alumni Association. For more information about the Minnesota FFA Alumni Association contact President Steve Olson at steve@minnesotaturkey.com

To submit news or inquiries, contact editor, Leslie Shuler, at 651-355-4918 or leslie.shuler@chsinc.com. The deadline for the next issue is Nov. 11.

Living to serve.