

2023

WISCONSIN

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Annual Report

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF FFA



*Thank
You*

for your

ELEVATED

SUPPORT

[WISCONSIN FFA

Thank you for our treasured partnerships, the Wisconsin FFA Foundation proudly extended financial support to over 500 FFA members through an array of awards, scholarships, and grants. Additionally, the Wisconsin FFA equipped a staggering 25,000 students with remarkable opportunities in leadership, career development, and the agricultural industry.

These remarkable members have exemplified their fervent pursuit of opportunities and wholeheartedly embraced our "Elevate" motto. Your contributions continue to shape the lives of these aspiring individuals every single day.

In profound appreciation, we extend our sincerest gratitude for your unwavering dedication, which remains a beacon of hope and inspiration for the rising generation of agricultural enthusiasts.

*Thank
you!*





Dear Wisconsin Agricultural Education Supporters,

The theme for Wisconsin FFA this past year was “Elevate” which the 2022-2023 state officer team utilized to take things to the next level for Wisconsin FFA and all of Agricultural Education in Wisconsin. When we look at the support that is provided to students in all components of agricultural education- Classroom, Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE), and FFA, it is clear your support has allowed students to take that theme to heart in order to *elevate* to the next level.

Throughout this report you will see countless examples of members, teachers, and alumni and supporters *elevating* their programming to reach new heights. A great example of this *elevation* was seen in FFA membership reaching record numbers at 25,275 members. These members were given opportunities thanks to the 338 agriculture instructors throughout the state who continue to ensure students have the opportunities needed to be successful.

The agriculture industry is also finding ways to *elevate* as we see the 104.8 billion dollar industry continuing to embrace new technologies and practices to ensure the industry’s strength for years to come. I cannot wait to see the role our current students play in shaping the future of the agriculture industry!

Thank you for your continued support in making these opportunities available as we all work together to *elevate* agriculture, agricultural education, and FFA in the state of Wisconsin. The impact you have does not go unnoticed, and we could not continue to see this *elevation* without each and every one of you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally Lachot". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PARTICIPATION NUMBERS



258

Chapters



25,248

Members

383

State Degrees

721

Proficiency Applications

Leadership Development Events:

Fall Leadership Workshops

2,480 members

FIRE Conferences

768 members

Connect and I Am Conferences

744 members

Career Development Events:

Regional Competitions

4,095 members

239 chapters

State Competition

1,384 members

160 chapters



WHAT YOU SUPPORT

Each year, hundreds of industry and individual financial partners like you support agricultural education, Wisconsin FFA and its 25,000 members. During the 2022-23 fiscal year, your commitment helped the Wisconsin FFA Foundation direct approximately \$330,500 in funding to:

Local FFA Chapters -

- Chapter grants program
- Membership awards
- Career & leadership development event awards
- National band, chorus and talent stipends

Individual FFA Members -

- Supervised Agricultural Experience grants
- Post-secondary scholarships
- Proficiency awards

State-Level Programming -

- State officer training
- Leadership conferences and workshops
- Wisconsin FFA Convention
- Proficiency award programming
- Various state-level awards

Wisconsin Agricultural Education Partners -

- Star Mission Program grants to aid a need or goal of the total Wisconsin Agricultural Education program, including strengthening a education programs from advisor to student
- Greatest-needs funding to the Wisconsin Association of FFA, the Wisconsin FFA Center, the Wisconsin FFA Alumni and the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators

Thank you for your partnership and for ensuring the future of agricultural education and Wisconsin FFA!



“Here by the Owl”

First Female to Serve as National FFA Advisor and Board Chair

By Cheryl Zimmerman

These are very familiar words to FFA members and advisors as officers of the organization participate in the Official Opening Ceremonies. I have had the opportunity to share in that ceremony many times on a chapter and state level. However, I never imagined that at a point in my life I would say those words as the National FFA Advisor.



What many may not know is National FFA is one of the few organizations that has a Federal Charter, which was granted in 1950. To make a long story short, National FFA was the only chartered organization that has stipulations within the charter that mandated the U.S. Department of Education selects or approves a majority of its members of the board of directors, including the national advisor/board chair and national executive secretary.

Fast forward to November 2019. Changes in the Federal Charter allowed the positions of National FFA Advisor/Board Chair and the National FFA Executive Secretary to be elected from a wider pool of qualified, dedicated candidates. After a lengthy process, I was selected as the National FFA Executive Secretary and performed my duties in this role until May 2022 when I also started serving as the Interim National FFA Advisor, becoming the first female to serve in this role.

Never would I have imagined the opportunity to serve in this role. With this came the responsibility to chair the upcoming National FFA Board of Directors meetings, work closely with National FFA CEO, Scott Stump, in discussions around key issues of the organization, and share a message on stage at the National FFA Convention among other responsibilities.

A wonderful coincidence is Cortney Zimmerman, my daughter, was also serving as the National FFA Central Region Vice President. We were the first daughter/mother duo to serve on the National FFA Board of Directors. Sitting across the table from Cortney during National FFA Board meetings and then participating in the National FFA Convention with her was a dream of a lifetime. I am so proud of what she has accomplished as an FFA member.

While I serve as National FFA Executive Secretary along side newly elected National FFA Advisor, Dr. Park, I continue to be humbled by the tremendous honor and experience of my service.

So the moral of the story is: You never know what opportunities might come your way. Don't let opportunities pass you by, take those moments and cherish them. As a young FFA member wearing a Pecatonica FFA jacket that was a few sizes too big, I had only dreamed of the things I could do in FFA.

YOUR SUPPORT, STUDENT'S SUCCESS

National Convention Awards

2022 National Chapter Awards

Three Star Chapters: Badger, Big Foot, Columbus, DeForest, Denmark, Elkhorn, Freedom, Kewaskum, Manawa, Marshall, Slinger, Stanley-Boyd, Thorp, Waupaca, Waupun, Weyauwega-Fremont

Two Star Chapters: Bonduel, Clintonville, Dodgeland, Granton, Kiel, Lodi, Prairie Farm, Reedsburg, River Ridge

State Convention Awards



Environmental Services/Natural Resources

Elsie Ennis | Schullsburg FFA
Henry Koerner | Big Foot FFA
Joe Reimer | New Auburn FFA
Jonah Henningfeld | Big Foot FFA
Maria Lee | Random Lake FFA

Plant Systems

Amanda Bender | Big Foot FFA
Clare Viau | Stevens Point FFA
Emily Zimmerman | Big Foot FFA
Jordan Berg | Granton FFA
Rebecca Konkel | Big Foot FFA
Wittney Gotham | New Auburn FFA

Food Products & Processing Systems

Evan Henningfeld | Big Foot FFA
Grace Mansell | St. Croix Central FFA

Power, Structural & Technical Systems

Joseph Peterson | Bloomer FFA
Ty Sheets | Kiel FFA

Animal Systems

Brandon Boyd | Watertown FFA
Jaylynn Dallman | New London FFA
Meredith Shanks | Portage FFA
Olivia Beth | Union Grove FFA

Social Science

Ella Woodworth | Schullsburg FFA
Jackson Dahlke | Adams-Friendship FFA



Conduct of Meetings

Marshfield FFA

Discussion Meet

Simone Ciran | Richland Center FFA

Marketing Plan

Dodgeland FFA

Creed Speaking

Eric Allen | Denmark FFA

Extemporaneous Speaking

Simone Ciran | Richland Center FFA

Parliamentary Procedure

Menomonie FFA

Prepared Speaking

Kat Davis | Oregon FFA

Employment Skills

Amy Jentges | Random Lake FFA



Zimmerman's Year of Service

By Cortney Zimmerman



Anxiously, I stood with thirty-six nervous candidates as the nominating committee chair's voice boomed over the speaker. "Your Central Region Vice President, from the state of Wisconsin, Cortney Zimmerman." Still trying to catch my breath I met the five individuals who instantly became my best friends and family. This moment was surreal.



Our team dove in headfirst as we started training the day following the convention. Our first few months were overwhelming yet none of us could contain our excitement as we looked ahead to the best part of our year, traveling across the country to meet the FFA members we are fortunate enough to represent.



As the days continued to get checked off the calendar, I was fortunate to spend time in New Hampshire and New Jersey for FFA Week, travel with Lori Randle, a National FFA Foundation Regional Director to different sponsor visits, including John Deere, Merck Animal Health, and Zoetis. Of course, one of the most memorable parts of my year was the traveling from state convention to state convention!



Through all of the travels, there was a group of people I knew that I could always lean on and chat about anything with because they would know exactly what I was going through. My teammates. They are easily some of the hardest working, driven, and FFA member-oriented people I know. They were always one call away and would do anything they possibly could just to make your day a little bit better.



Yes, this was the fastest year of my life and yes, I would do it all again if I was given the chance, but because it is only one year that is what makes everything so special. It was one of the most difficult yet rewarding years of my life and at the end of it, I can confidently say, the people are what made it all worth it.

STATE AWARDS

Star Awards Sponsored by Compeer Financial

Star in Agribusiness - Jacob Harbaugh

Clintonville FFA



Jacob's involvement in the dairy industry allowed him to see the need for fitters and the opportunities that it would bring to him. Because of this, Jacob decided to start his own business, Harbaugh Hair. With his business, Jacob is able to provide custom services to meet his client's needs for fitting and grooming. Throughout the year, Jacob fits for cattle sales, fairs, shows and barn clippings. Jacob's skills in blending toplines and belly hairs allows him to highlight strong breed characteristics in each animal. Jacob's financial management of his business allows him to make informed decisions on whether ventures will be profitable. Jacob has been able to expand his business to now have 25 clients in which he provides services to.

Star in Agriscience - Henry Koerner

Big Foot FFA

With Henry's Supervised Agricultural Experience, Henry wanted to find solutions for hot issues in a variety of AFNR pathways. In regard to the plant science realm, Henry analyzed the effects of natural antimicrobials on plant tissue growth, finding that the cultures with honey and no added antimicrobials produced the most growth. Additionally, through his biotechnology research project, Henry concluded that the enzyme solution with the highest concentration was able to extract the most DNA from an onion. During the four years of Henry's SAE, he has had numerous other research projects, spanning from comparing the effects of various milk types used in the cheesemaking process on protein presence to utilizing poultry feces bacteria as a bioremediation agent of oil.



Star Farmer - Nathan Seitz

Pulaski FFA



Nathan purchased his first pair of market lambs in 2017. For the next couple of summers, Nathan would continue to do the same. Each year Nathan strived to learn more about sheep through trial and error, research and working with a variety of mentors. By the second year, Nathan was making management decisions on his own, such as switching his main feeding practice to pasture grazing. In 2020, Nathan purchased three ewes and a ram to start his breeding flock. This experience has allowed Nathan to gain an even greater depth of knowledge, including when to breed, how to assist in lambing, and what to feed through each stage of pregnancy. Nathan now owns nine ewes and two rams. As his flock continues to grow, Nathan is dedicated to producing high quality lambs each year.

Star in Agricultural Placement - Ethan Lulich

Mauston FFA

Ethan works at his family's business, Lulich Landscaping LLC. At the beginning, Ethan's role was to assist with hauling plants, plant materials, and block pavers to the installation crew. Over time, Ethan's responsibilities have increased to operating the skid steer, mini-excavator, and soil preparator. On job sites, Ethan takes great care in plant, irrigation system, paver, and wall installation, and in laying sod. Additionally, Ethan has become an essential member of the mowing crew by cutting lawns and doing maintenance on the lawn mowers. In the winter, Ethan oversees all of the winter grounds keeping accounts that the company has in New Lisbon.



Living a Life of Service: Day of Service is Back at WI State Convention

On Monday, June 12th, over 150 FFA members gathered at the Wisconsin State FFA Convention's Day of Service. It has been four years since the Wisconsin FFA members have been able to provide their hands and hearts to serving the Madison community. This year, Wisconsin FFA members were back to serving the Madison community for the 12th Annual Day of Service!

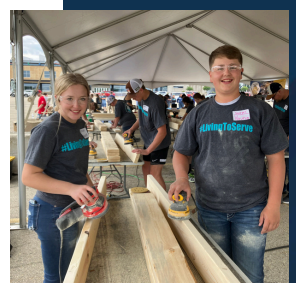
FFA members traveled to the UW-Arboretum, City of Madison Parks, and the Goodman Community Center in Madison to weed, mulch, sort, clean and serve at these community partner sites. This service project let the students get their hands dirty and help keep the Madison community beautiful while learning about the importance of service. Meanwhile, back at Alliant Energy Center, FFA members assembled 40 bed frames for children in need.

Thanks to our corporate sponsor, KERRY, and a grant through the National FFA, Wisconsin FFA donated \$5,000 to Sleep in Heavenly Peace to make the build possible. With a few limitations on space and capacity, we were only able to have about 100 Wisconsin FFA members helped to assemble all the bed frames, though many more had expressed interest. These ambitious FFA members built the beds within four hours for the Madison Area Sleep in Heavenly Peace Chapter!

Building beds was not enough though, after all, FFA members want the children sleeping in these beds to be as comfortable as possible. Taking this service project to the next level, FFA members and their communities came together to provide 110 sets of sheets and 43 comforters- enough for each bed build and more!

As students reflect on their day of service, they realize that their actions can truly make a difference in their community. Not only did they provide valuable help to local organizations, but they also gained a sense of pride and accomplishment in giving back. The Day of Service is an important tradition for Wisconsin FFA members, and they look forward to continuing this impactful event for years to come. By serving their community, these students are embodying the values of the FFA organization and making a positive impact on the world around them.

Thank you to all of the FFA Chapters who participated in our Day of Service!



YOUR SUPPORT, STUDENT'S SUCCESS

Wisconsin FFA Proficiency Awards

Ag. Mechanics Repair & Maintenance (E)

Shay Hanson | Whitehall FFA

Agricultural Communications (C)

Ana Roehling | Wonewoc Center FFA

Agricultural Processing (C)

Ethan Marquette | Weyauwega-Fremont FFA

Agricultural Services (C)

Jacob Harbaugh | Clintonville FFA

Agriscience Research-Integrated Systems

Henry Koerner | Big Foot FFA

Beef Production (E)

Ava Jarvais | Clintonville FFA

Dairy Production (E)

Alexis Thoma-Blankenberg | Iowa-Grant FFA

Diversified Agricultural Production (C)

Luke Sprecher | Sauk Prairie FFA

Diversified Horticulture (C)

Brooke Mullen | Seymour FFA

Equine Science (E)

Natalie Schueller | Chippewa Falls FFA

Food Service (C-State Only)

Ashley Warren | Weyauwega-Fremont FFA

Forest Management (C)

Brayden Grimm | Weyauwega-Fremont FFA

Goat Production (C)

Morgan Baerwolf | Columbus FFA

Landscape Management (C)

Ethan Lulich | Mauston FFA

Organic Agriculture (C-State Only)

Lindsey Montgomery | Waupaca FFA

Poultry Production (C)

Cameron Pokorny | Waupun FFA

Sheep Production (C)

Ava Johnson | Weyauwega-Fremont FFA

Specialty Animal Production (C)

Brittany Bauer | Marshfield FFA

Swine Production (E)

Eli Nett | Weyauwega-Fremont FFA

Turf Grass Management (C)

Carson Kroll | Mineral Point FFA

Ag. Mechanics Repair & Maintenance (P)

Carter Volck | Lake Geneva-Badger FFA

Agricultural Education (C)

Jescey Thompson | Galesville-Ettrick-Trempealeau FFA

Agricultural Sales (P)

Emmalyn Brandvig | Tomah FFA

Agriscience Research-Animal Systems

Mariah Stewart | Big Foot FFA

Agriscience Research-Plant Systems

Clare Viau | Stevens Point FFA

Beef Production (P)

Rylee Nelson | Waupaca FFA

Dairy Production (P)

Courtney Glenna | Amery FFA

Diversified Crop Production (P)

Ike Meylor | Darlington FFA

Diversified Livestock (C)

Joseph Robinson | Mineral Point FFA

Equine Science (P)

Madison Kwak | Menomonie FFA

Forage Production (C)

Rhett Nelson | Waupaca FFA

Fruit Production (C)

Natalie Hensen | DeForest FFA

Grain Production (C)

Luke Schubert | Mineral Point FFA

Nursery Operations (C)

Haley Williams | Randolph-Cambria-Friesland FFA

Outdoor Recreation (C)

Ben McMeeken | Slinger FFA

Service Learning (C)

Allison Loosen | Slinger FFA

Small Animal Production & Care (C)

Jolie Kulinski | Random Lake FFA

Specialty Crop Production (C)

Jacob Gibbs | Amherst FFA

Swine Production (P)

Claire Esselman | Clinton FFA

Vegetable Production (C)

Cody Hudziak | Weyauwega-Fremont FFA

Wildlife Production and Management (C)

Sonny Boardman | De Soto FFA

Veterinary Science (C)

Brooke Casey | New London FFA



YOUR SUPPORT, STUDENT'S SUCCESS

Wisconsin FFA State Convention Awards

CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS FFA

Ag. Communications

Granton FFA Chapter

Ag. Sales

East Troy FFA Chapter

Ag Technology & Mechanical

Plymouth FFA Chapter

Agronomy

Cadott FFA Chapter

Dairy Cattle Evaluation

Fennimore FFA Chapter

Veterinary Sciences

Hartford FFA Chapter

Wildlife

Alma FFA Chapter

Dairy Handling

Reedsville FFA Chapter

Environmental Sciences

Elkhorn FFA Chapter

Agribusiness

Mason Markham, Elkhorn;
Elkhorn FFA Chapter

Floriculture

Badger FFA Chapter

Milk Quality & Products

Owen-Withee FFA Chapter

Forestry

Marshfield FFA Chapter

Poultry Evaluation

Brillion FFA Chapter

Horse Evaluation

Plymouth FFA Chapter

Livestock Evaluation

Mauston FFA Chapter

Food Science & Technology

Cochrane Fountain City
FFA Chapter

Meat Evaluation Technology

River Ridge FFA Chapter

Nursery & Landscaping

Plymouth FFA Chapter

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENTS FFA

Ag. Issues

New London FFA Chapter

Conduct of Chapter Meetings

Big Foot FFA Chapter

Marketing Plan

Shullsburg FFA Chapter

Parliamentary Procedure

Shullsburg FFA Chapter

Quiz Bowl

Marshall FFA Chapter

Creed Speaking

Daniel Broker
Rice Lake FFA Chapter

Discussion Meet

Maria Lee
Random Lake FFA Chapter

Employment Skills

Morgan Baerwolfe
Columbus FFA

Extemporaneous Speaking

Makala Paalman
Freedom FFA Chapter

Prepared Speaking

Jackson Nesbit
Sun Prairie FFA Chapter

Middle School Essay Contest

Briella Brusveen
Randolph Cambria-
Friesland FFA Chapter

Membership Growth Awards

Highest Percent Increase in Membership

Elk Mound FFA Chapter

Largest Membership Chapter:

Waupun FFA Chapter

Largest Membership Increase:

Reedsburg FFA Chapter

Largest Membership - Sectional Winners

Section 1: Northwestern

Section 2: Eau Claire

Section 3: Sparta

Section 4: Dodgeville

Section 5: Milton

Section 6: Portage

Section 7: Auburndale

Section 8: Antigo

Section 9: Denmark

Section 10: Kewaunee



Grain Production

Sponsored by Wisconsin Corn Growers Association

Venner, Elise - De Soto FFA

Brusveen, Ashton - Randolph Cambria-Friesland FFA

Dairy

Sponsored by Crystal Farms Dairy, Saputo Cheese USA, Sartori Co. & WE Energies

Cuaquehua, Nathali - Colfax FFA

Doll, Sascha - De Soto FFA

Olson, Jazlynn - Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau FFA

Knapp, Joshua - Hartford FFA

Stello, Danica - Melrose-Mindoro FFA

Walter, Avah - Oshkosh West FFA

Limberg, Megan - Plymouth FFA

Nygren, Lily - Pulaski FFA

Grezenski, Jacob - Rosholt FFA

Ballweg, Braydon - Wisconsin Heights FFA

Livestock

Sponsored by Collegiate FFA, UW-Madisons

Walter, Hunter - Loyal FFA

DeBuhr, Ally - Platteville FFA

Maroszek, Taylor - Pulaski FFA

Dornacker, Kate - Slinger FFA

Goplin, Brinna - Whitehall FF

Brattlie, Rylee - Cambridge FFA)

Davis, Abby - Darlington FFA

Norgard, Lylah - Darlington FFA

Schoessow, Caleb - Granton FFA

Streich, Sydney - Lake Mills FFA

Organic Agriculture

Sponsored by Organic Valley/CROPP Cooperative

Vosters, Samantha - Freedom FFA

Klatt, Ben - Glenwood City FFA

Cirian, Symone - Richland Center FFA

Start-Up

Sponsored Blue Scope Buildings, Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Kirsten Gross

Gee, Kaitlyn - Pulaski FFA

Sumner, Sarah - Pulaski FFA

Bobholz, Kate - Randolph Cambria-Friesland FFA

Wiersma, Ashtyn - Randolph Cambria-Friesland FFA

Sekerka, Abby - Rosholt FFA

Mitchell, Violet - Wauzeka-Steuben FFA

Schyndle, Morgan - Cuba City FFA

Rabenhorst, Addisen - Denmark FFA

Butteris, Anthony - Dodgeville FFA

Ley, Logan - Dodgeville FFA

Blanch, Breana - Ellsworth FFA

Winch, Wesley - Fennimore FFA

Kampa, Breeley - Independence FFA

Clark, Natalie - Lakeside Lutheran FFA

Kopmeyer, Hannah - Montello FFA

Clausen, Abi - Oconto Falls FFA

Kaiser, Hollee - Plymouth FFA

Honored Adults Awards

Honorary State Degree

Pam Allen – Mount Horeb FFA Advisor and agricultural instructor

Ashley Andre – Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection Policy Initiatives Advisor

Trevor Athorp – Outgoing member of the Wisconsin FFA Foundation Board

Tom Bressner – Outgoing President of the Wisconsin FFA Foundation Board

Mark and Tammy Denk – Parents of 2022-23 Wisconsin FFA President Casey Denk

Kelley Fanning – Department of Public Instruction Financial Specialist for CTSOs

David Friend – Kiel FFA Advisor and agricultural instructor

Amy Gerhardt – Outgoing President of the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators

Gene Hetebrueg – Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association Fundraising Chair

Bobbie Jo Montgomery – President of the Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association

Dean Olson – Interim Dean, UW-River Falls College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences

Brian Pinchart – Outgoing Wisconsin FFA Center Board Chair and Wrightstown FFA Advisor and agricultural instructor

Wendy Riester – Department Assistant for UW-River Falls Ag Education, Ag Economics, and Engineering Technology

Randy Romanski – Secretary of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection

Carolyn Rozell – Wisconsin FFA Foundation Operations Manager

Joe Schlies – Wisconsin FFA Center Office Assistant and the 2020-21 Wisconsin FFA President



Honored Adults Awards

Distinguished Service

Ted Halbach – A distinguished faculty instructor of dairy management at UW-Madison. Since 1999 he has been the superintendent of the Dairy Cattle Management Evaluation and Dairy Cattle Handler CDEs.

Kerry – Platinum-level Wisconsin FFA Foundation supporter. Their mission is to develop solutions that meet evolving tastes and provide sustainable nutrition for generations. In Wisconsin FFA, the support provided by Kerry is helping to develop future leaders by contributing to Day of Service projects performed during State FFA Convention week.

Hall of Fame

Diane Morgan – Started her agriculture education and FFA membership as a student in Galena, Illinois. Her father's teachings that hard work, dedication, and passion for production agriculture is a privilege everyone does not have the opportunity to experience ignited in her a desire to become an agriculture teacher and FFA advisor. She received her degree at Illinois State University and taught for four years at Shullsburg, four years at Milton, and 25 years at Janesville Craig High School, where she retired from teaching in 2021.

Dennis Uppena – Began his FFA career at Cassville High School and later concluded his professional career as an agriculture instructor and FFA advisor at Cassville High School. He received his degree in agriculture education at UW-Platteville and went on to teach for two years at West Grant High School before moving to Cassville, where he served for 37 years.

VIP Awards

Terry Bernick – Served FFA members for 22 years as Executive Assistant at the Wisconsin FFA Center. She is behind the scenes for every FFA program, working tirelessly with details and logistics. During the Wisconsin FFA Convention, you can find Terry working in the News Room, ready to share the award recognition of FFA members.

Tim Buttles – Taught and mentored students at UW-River Falls for 23 years as an Ag Education Professor. Dr. Buttles has coordinated the regional CDE qualifying event at UW-River Falls for 22 years and has been a judge, assistant coordinator, superintendent, or presenter for FFA events every year since 1997.

Randy Tenpas – A 40-year instructor at Fox Valley Technical College following a career in agri-business with the Land O'Lakes Cooperative. In retirement, he has been involved with Farming for the Future Foundation from its inception as a member of the education advisory committee. While at Fox Valley Tech, he coordinated the regional CDE qualifying event.

Wisconsin Dells Ag Program Receives Large Gift



Back to school is a wonderful time of year; the days get cooler so it is much more enjoyable to work outside, students are motivated to get involved from their time away during the summer, and there is energy in the air as the school year begins and everyone falls back into solid routines. At Wisconsin Dells High School the AgriScience Department is a busy place to be; students are setting up their SAE projects, the acre and half of garden spaces are being prepared for winter, the school farm is raising animals for the community, and FFA has kicked off the year with a variety of activities.

In Wisconsin Dells, every student who is enrolled in an AgriScience class has a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) that aligns with the SAE for All program. At the middle school this involves using the AgExplorer website from National FFA and learning how diverse the career opportunities are within the agriculture world. At the high school, any student enrolled in their first agriculture class starts out their SAE as a career exploration project where they explore five careers throughout the semester by evaluating their personal interests, what is offered to them during high school and how it can help them grow, employability skills, workplace safety, and financial management. As students continue to take agriculture classes during their high school careers, they grow their SAE depending on personal interests. Some of our students continue their career exploration activities to help them decide what they want to learn more about post high school, while others take on projects at school related to our aquaponics system, hydroponic systems, gardens, companion animals, or school farm, while others follow the path of a more traditional SAE by applying what they have learned in the classroom to a job opportunity outside of school.



We offer three middle school exploratory classes and thirteen high school agriculture classes at Wisconsin Dells. In sixth grade students explore agriculture commodities across the country, in seventh grade students learn about plant science and natural resources, while in eighth grade students focus on animal science and aquaculture. At the middle school, the students also spend time exploring SAEs and FFA. At the high school our classes range from Introduction to AgriScience, to Aquaculture which is our most taken class in the program, Plant Science, Animal Science, and Natural Resources. In the fall, we like to offer Landscaping, while the weather is warm the students practice client interviews, site analysis, plant identification, and complete landscape projects. Many of the projects fall within the acre and a half of garden spaces. We have partnered with the Wisconsin Dells Rotary to grow food for sale at farm stands, to local restaurants in the area, and for donation to our Happy Kids Network. Members of the rotary help with the gardens throughout the summer along with students who earn Ag Intern credits by gardening for 2-3 hours a week during the summer.

The gardens contain numerous annual crops as well as perennial fruits and trees. Students have also been working with Wisconsin Food Forests to create an agroforest, which will allow them to maximize their production in our spaces. The produce the students raise for sale at a farm stand is sold in a modified grain bin that students in our tech ed department retrofitted for our sales needs.

In addition, to our garden programs, students in AgriScience classes are actively involved in our school farm, the Brew Farm. When our school was built on farmland in 2020, we acquired an additional 80 acres of land that included a retired existing dairy farm. We currently have a range of poultry that primarily includes laying hens, broilers, and quail totalling around 150 animals. We also have goats, sheep, and swine with plans to add beef calves this school year. Our goats are used for a variety of labs with our animal science classes, including breed identification, hoof care, vaccinations, and animal handling. Our sheep provide wool for projects in our Family and Consumer Science classes as well as labs with the animal science classes. Lastly, our potbelly pigs have been used for breeding and farrowing demonstrations and our meat pigs are raised for consumption. The broilers and meat pigs as well as our future beef are raised specifically for the Happy Kids Network, which is an organization in our community that provides food and essential household items for families in our community for free. Our partnership with this organization has allowed us to expand the production animals that we raise and achieve our goal of providing local food to families in our community.

Within the world, FFA activities at the state and national level always keep our students active, but despite this the Wisconsin Dells FFA Officer Team strives to incorporate activities for all students at the local level. The officer team has really embraced the FFA quality standards of Growing Leaders, Building Communities, and Strengthening Agriculture. To achieve this they offer leadership training at the chapter level that is open to all high school students through a Leadership Lockin while still promoting leaders through monthly FFA meeting activities and committee opportunities. To help build our community, the FFA officers and committees plan school grounds cleanups, tie blankets nights for the Happy Kids Network, and work with businesses within our community as opportunities arise. Lastly, to strengthen agriculture our chapter hosts three Food for America events throughout the school year that reach all students in K-5 grade in our district and has transitioned our FFA Week celebrations to promote agriculture. The Food for America activities we host include a 4th Grade Forestry Field Day which focuses on trees, wildlife, and water. We also read books to our K-2 grade students to celebrate National Ag Day, and we host K-2 grade students, 3rd grade students, and 5th graders for our Elementary Ag Day. Throughout the school year we run a program with our K-2 students called "Adopt at the Brew Farm", where high school students update K-2 classrooms on specific residents, either a goat or a potbelly pig, housed at the Brew Farm. The students then get to visit their adoptees during the Elementary Ag Day Program. Our 3rd grade students rotate through 16 stations on Wisconsin commodities and our 5th grade students participate in a safety program. Through our Food for America Programs we reach over 600 K-5 grade students and 100 high school students each year. To revamp our FFA Week celebrations to focus more on agricultural literacy the FFA officer team chooses a Wisconsin industry to highlight, this year's industry is Poultry, they plan daily activities that share information about the industry and an assembly that highlights the industry through grade level competitions.

Between students' Supervised Agricultural Experiences, the school gardens, the Brew Farm, and FFA it is safe to say that our two teacher agriculture program stays busy and students are learning much more than what they are exploring within the walls of the AgriScience classroom.



Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators Highlights

New agricultural educators are a majority these days. WAAE received a grant from the WI FFA Foundation to print the Teacher Resource Manuals and they were distributed to all new teachers that are 5 or less years into teaching.

WAAE 2023 state award winners:

Outstanding Early Career Teacher - Connor Anderson, Lodi

Outstanding Teacher Mentor - Rachel Sauvola, New Richmond

Outstanding Secondary Middle/High School Agricultural Program - Wisconsin Heights-
Kim Houser, instructor

Outstanding Secondary Agricultural Educator - Mary Handrich, Denmark

Teacher Turn the Key - Joelle Liddane, Holmen

Outstanding Post-Secondary Agricultural Program - Western Technical College,
Agribusiness Science and Technology Program

NAAE Lifetime Achievement - Roger King

NAAE Outstanding Service and Cooperation - Mud Hole Custom Tackle, Anthony Youmans,
Education Program Director

Honored Secondary Educator - Dan Robinson, Jeanne Alling, and Sandra Dykes

State Special Citation - Gordon Gasch, David Laatsch

Organizational Relations - LEAF-Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program

Message from the WI FFA Foundation Board President

The Wisconsin FFA Foundation's mission is to support and promote agricultural education and the FFA organization in Wisconsin. We rely on the generous donations and support of individuals, businesses, and organizations to fulfill this mission. As the President of the Foundation, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to all our donors and supporters for their contributions towards this cause.

Throughout the past year, these donations have helped us provide valuable resources and opportunities to the students involved in agricultural education and FFA. From scholarships and leadership development programs to grants for classroom projects, your support has made a significant impact on the lives of these young individuals.

Our work doesn't stop here. As we continue to strive towards fulfilling our mission, we hope to see continued support from our donors and supporters. Your contributions not only help us in achieving our goals but also serve as a source of inspiration for the students we aim to support. Your generosity and belief in our cause are greatly appreciated.

With Gratitude,
Tom Bressner
2022-2023 President,
WI FFA Foundation



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Marketing and Membership Director, YMCA of Dodge County

Statement of Financial Position

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Assets	2023	2022
Current Assets	\$681,874	\$581,596
Other Assets	\$1,571,467	\$1,519,006
Total Assets	\$2,253,341	\$2,100,602

Liabilities & Net Assets

Current Liabilities	\$172,045	\$48,174
Net Assets Unrestricted	\$610,354	\$667,775
Temporarily Restricted	\$300,979	\$320,625
Permanently Restricted	\$1,169,963	\$1,064,028
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$2,253,341	\$2,100,602

Expenses

Personnel	\$169,923	\$123,152
Professional Fees	\$14,983	\$17,949
Office Expenses	\$36,906	\$31,087
Programming	\$330,527	\$240,505
Travel & Meetings	\$30,872	\$12,187
Advertising	\$1,929	\$1,072
Insurance	\$2,625	\$1,548
Occupancy	\$6,600	\$6,600
Fund raising expenses	\$10,338	\$12,031
Investment Mgmt Fees	\$0	\$0
Write off of Pledges Receivable	\$0	\$0
Misc	\$8,708	\$2,698
Total Expenses	\$613,411	\$448,830
Changes in Net Assets	\$28,868	-\$69,852
Net Assets, beginning FY	\$2,052,428	\$2,122,280
Net Assets, end FY	\$2,081,296	\$2,052,428

Statement of Activities

For the year end July 31, 2023

Support & Revenue

	2023	2022
Contributions	\$557,031	\$458,788
In-kind Contributions	\$1,765	\$1,765
Fund Raising Events	\$21,969	\$18,910
Investment Return	\$54,033	-\$140,796
Miscellaneous	\$7,490	\$40,311
Total Support & Revenue	\$642,279	\$378,978

Foundation Highlight:

The Foundation managed donor restricted endowment funds totaling \$1,387,140



WAYS TO SUPPORT WISCONSIN FFA

The Wisconsin FFA Foundation builds relationships and encourages philanthropy to support and grow agricultural education and FFA. Our vision is to ensure access to agricultural education and FFA to all students in Wisconsin through exceptional funding and partnerships.

Annual Fund & Events -

Annual unrestricted gifts to the Wisconsin FFA Foundation's critical operation and programming needs make all other programs and impact possible. The Foundation holds events throughout the year. Proceeds from those events stay in Wisconsin.

Endowments -

Through a contribution to the FFA Forever Endowment, a contribution to an existing named fund, or by establishing a new endowment, donors can leave a legacy and long lasting impact benefiting Wisconsin FFA for years to come.

Planned & Estate Giving -

Make Wisconsin FFA a lasting part of your legacy through a planned outright gift of cash or securities, a gift in your will or living trust, a charitable gift annuity, a donor advised fund, as a beneficiary, designation, or other means.

Partnership Opportunities -

Business, organizations, and individuals alike can directly sponsor Wisconsin FFA Programs or award areas. From Proficiency Awards, to Scholarships, to State Convention - with naming rights and additional benefits including engagement and recruiting time with Wisconsin FFA members.

Social Media Fundraising -

Select the Wisconsin FFA Foundation as a recipient of your social media fundraising campaign.

Blue & Gold Society -

Individuals and families who donate \$15,000 or more during a three-year period are inducted into the Blue & Gold Society. Planned gift commitments are eligible for induction and recognition.

Give FFA Day -

Each year during National FFA week, the Foundation executes a single day fundraising campaign for Give FFA Day.



DONORS

Below is the annual listing of all Wisconsin FFA Foundation partners and benefactors during the 2022-23 fiscal year.

FFA- Related Organizational Partners

Philanthropist (\$2,500+)

2021-22 State Officer Team
National FFA Foundation, Inc.
WI FFA Alumni & Supporters

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Turtle Lake FFA Alumni

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CHS Foundation
Case IH & CNH Industrial
Renk Seed

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GROWMARK, Inc.
Anderson Pharms, LLC
AgCountry Farm Credit Services
Andis Foundation
Kalscheur Foundation
Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin
Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales
Association
Renk Seed

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Wisconsin Agri-Business
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Nicolet Bank

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