



The Announcer

March 2024

WISCONSIN FFA
ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS

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Wisconsin FFA Alumni, Executive Director

Fundraiser Sale to Support Wisconsin FFA

Have you started to think about that perfect gift for Mother's Day yet? Well we have a deal for you. We are kicking off a two-week sale of special FFA Alumni pottery items to raise funds for FFA programs.

Items are available by ordering directly through Rowe Pottery at <https://www.rowepottery.com/new-arrivals.html> at the bottom of new arrivals.

You order directly from the company and they will ship them for a fee or you do have the option to pick them up as well. It generally takes 3 to 4 weeks for delivery, so order early. The sale will end on 8 AM, April 2, 2024.

Items available include:

Spoon rest - \$ 25

Utensil jar, Utensils not included - \$ 55

Pie plate - \$ 65

Wine cooler, wine not included - \$ 95



2024-25 Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters Council



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Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters Convention

The 44th annual convention of the Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters organization was held February 2 – 3, 2024 at the KI Convention Center and Hyatt Regency in Green Bay. The theme of the convention, “Creating Connections in 2024,” focused on networking, sharing resources and trainings, while also having fun.

About 300 FFA Alumni members and guests from across the state of Wisconsin attended this year’s event. The convention kicked off Friday with a state council meeting, followed by an optional tour of Green Bay Southwest agriculture department, Lambeau field and Hinterland brewery. New this year were two “make and take” options for guests, one to make a glass art succulent dish and the other a wooden flower wall hanging. The Friday evening events included a dinner buffet and auction, and entertainment by Dueling DJ’s Dan & Rudy.

Saturday included business meetings, workshops and a special recognition program luncheon of past state FFA officers and state council leaders. Members heard from the various leaders of the other organizations, whom are part of Team Ag Ed, and were presented the annual financial report and budget during the annual business meeting. The election for Vice President was also conducted and Chris Blank of the Cashton FFA Alumni & Supporters chapter was elected. The remaining executive team was also forwarded to their new positions, electing Grant Staszak from Bonduel as President, Nick Lowe from Stoughton as President-Elect and Bobbie Jo Montgomery from Waupaca, as Past-President. There was one bylaws change adopted at the meeting and 4 different resolutions passed.

The 2023-24 Wisconsin FFA Officer Team played a

vital role in the operation of the convention. They helped with section meeting delegate registration, auctions, business meeting and election processes and they presented a very moving reflections program and two different workshops. The 2023-24 team was also recognized for all being lifetime members, of both the state and National FFA Alumni & Supporters and last year’s 2022-23 team was honored for being named a 100% State Lifetime Team at the national convention this past fall.

The annual awards banquet program included the retiring address of state association President Bobbie Jo Montgomery, and the recognition of numerous award winners. The list of those recognized includes:

- ◇ Several teachers were honored with Outstanding Agriculture Educator Awards, earning a cash prize. These included Mary Handrich – Denmark, Joseph Heinbuch – New Holstein, Tracy Heinbuch – Plymouth, Walter Taylor – Oconto Falls, Hallie Rehn – Oconto Falls, Dan Robinson – Lomira, Mariah Markhardt – Oconto Falls, Samantha White – Stoughton and Jared Mack – Sauk Prairie. Troy Talford, teacher from Sauk Prairie, was named the state winning educator.
- ◇ Curtiss Steffes from New Holstein was presented the Outstanding Young Member Award for his exceptional leadership.
- ◇ The Public Relations award recognizes the efforts of a chapter to promote their activities and mission, utilizing various forms of media. Elkhorn FFA Alumni & Supporters was chosen as the state winner. Stoughton received second place and Granton received third place honors.
- ◇ Lomira FFA Alumni & Supporters was named the Outstanding State Chapter in the small division. Winning the large division was the Oconto Falls FFA Alumni & Supporters.

Convention Continued

- ◇ Stoughton and Granton FFA Alumni & Supporters chapters received gold ratings in the National Outstanding Chapter Awards and will have their applications submitted to the national level of competition. Granton FFA Alumni & Supporters was also recognized as the overall winner in this area.
- ◇ Outstanding Achievement awards were presented to Joe & Erin Conant of Stoughton and Richard and Judy Meyer of Colby. The Meyers will have their application forwarded on to national competition as the state winner.
- ◇ The Dr. V.O. and Ann Martinson Award is given to the FFA Alumni who had the greatest increase in lifetime members. River Falls FFA Alumni & Supporters is this year's recipient.
- ◇ O'Brien Auctioneers and Stuart Muck were presented the Team Ag Ed Contributor award for their service, support and commitment to Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters Association.
- ◇ Retiring council members were recognized. They are Jerry Larsen from Luck recognized posthumously, Dave Clausen from Amery, Rene' Lehman from Waupaca, Gene Hetebrueg from Kewaskum and Terri Wilfert from Mishicot.

The group attending was entertained on Saturday evening by singer and performer Brayden Grimm, a member of the Weyauwega-Fremont FFA chapter.

Another auction Saturday night, as well as raffles during the weekend, resulted in a very successful fundraising program. Convention proceeds help support leadership development and educational programs and activities for FFA members throughout the state.

Next year's convention has been set for February 7-8, 2025 in Stevens Point.

2025 Convention

Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend the 45th annual Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters convention Feb. 7-8, 2025. This convention is being planned by sections 1, 2, 3 & 7 and the committee is in need of more volunteers for the event. Any alumni members in the sections are encouraged to help and participate in the planning.

The next planning meeting has been set for Saturday, April 20, 2024, 10 AM - noon.

Location: Chippewa Falls Senior High School - Ag Classroom at 735 Terrill St; Chippewa Falls

Directions: Park in the large student lot off of Coleman St; use the driveway closest to the building; choose a spot to park on the right side (closest to the building); there is an alcove with a white overhead door labeled as 10A, walk towards it and then turn left to enter the building through the greenhouse.

If you would like to help but are unable to attend, please let us know via email at execdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org or call Cheryl at 715-937-4838 and she will connect you with the committee chairs.

Don't Forget About Grants

We are once again offering grant opportunities for local Alumni chapters to assist with programs and projects. National FFA also offers additional grants. To find the applications, go to our website at <https://wisconsinaged.org/alumni/awards-and-grants/>

It's Tax Time

Chapters are reminded that you are required to file your taxes if you are registered as a 501(c)3 organization. If you made less than \$ 50,000, you simply need to file a 990 N form online. If you do not file this form for 3 consecutive years, you will lose your tax exempt status.

Current Council Members

President - Grant Staszak, Bonduel
President Elect - Nick Lowe, Stoughton
Vice President - Chris Blank, Cashton
Past President - Bobbie Jo Montgomery - Waupaca
Section 1 – Todd Coons, Shell Lake & Dave Clausen, Amery
Section 2 - David Meyer, Hudson & Agnes Buttke, Ca-dott
Section 3 - Derek Trescher, Cashton
Section 4 - Rick Bockhop, Platteville & Nick Huffman, Pecatonica
Section 5 - Dan Ziegler, New Glarus & Jerry Wendt, Stoughton
Section 6 - Matt Damm, Columbus & Brooke Wood-bury, Baraboo
Section 7 - William Litzer, Edgar & Mason Guken-berger, Marshfield
Section 8 – Mark Kunde, Winneconne & Stacy Boettcher, Weyauwega-Fremont
Section 9 - Nicole Wallander, Kiel & Missy Steffes, New Holstein
Section 10 - Jim Schneider, Campbellsport & Mary Gundrum, Mayville

Section Spring Meetings

Section 1 - April 27, 1 PM at Village Pizzeria in Amery
Section 2 - April 13, Time and location to be deter-mined.
Section 3 - To Be Determined
Section 4 - Already held
Section 5 - To Be Determined
Section 6 - To Be Determined
Section 7 - None
Section 8 - March 21 @ Marian
Section 9 - April 4, 6 PM @ Chilton High School Ag Room

Section 10 - April 1 @ Watertown Senior/Community Center, 6 to 8 PM.

Please watch our website for updates as they come out, as well as, emails to your registered chapter leaders, with full details. The events section can be found at <https://wisconsinaged.org/alumni-events>

Washington Leadership Scholarships

Each year Wisconsin FFA Alumni receives leadership dollars from the National FFA. These dollars are generated through interest earned on lifetime membership investments and are then distributed to chapters or state associations based on the number of lifetime members they have.

Wisconsin has nearly 5500 lifetime members, so the funds that we receive are significant. These funds must be used to provide leadership opportunities to FFA members. Our monies are used to help support scholarships so that FFA members can attend the Washington Leadership Conference during the summer. In order to apply, students must have an active local FFA Alumni chapter.

We are excited to announce that we have selected 14 FFA members to each receive a \$ 600 scholarship. Congratulations to the following students:

- Section 1 McKenna Jakubek, New Auburn
- Section 1 Maren Dodge, Amery
- Section 2 Lydia Marquardt, Chippewa Falls
- Section 6 Abigail Dorn, Oakfield
- Section 7 Ella Raatz, Colby
- Section 7 Jessica Lindow, Marshfield
- Section 7 Aubrey Behling, Edgar
- Section 7 Carmen Frese, Owen Withee
- Section 8 Rylee Nelson, Waupaca
- Section 8 Evan Retzlaff, New London
- Section 8 Natalie Rieth, Oconto Falls
- Section 9 Trinity Popp. Mishicot
- Section 10 Evan Henningfeld, Big Foot
- Section 10 Carsyn Peterson, Lake Mills

Wisconsin FFA Foundation Golf Outings

The Wisconsin FFA Foundation has asked us to share that they are once again hosting 2 golf outings this summer to raise funds for the Wisconsin FFA Association. Please check out the postcards they provided for us to share and make note that they are offering discounts for Alumni teams.

A graphic for the Wisconsin FFA Foundation 2024 Golf Outing. It features a dark blue background with a yellow sun and a golf flag on a green mound. The text is in white and yellow.

WISCONSIN FFA FOUNDATION

2024 GOLF OUTING

Northern Golf Outing - July 15
Wild Ridge Golf Course, Eau Claire, WI

Southern Golf Outing - July 22
Pleasant View Golf Course, Middleton, WI



WISCONSIN
FFA FOUNDATION

1241 John Q Hammons Drive,
Madison, WI 53717

All Events are 18-Hole, 9 AM Start

\$150/ PLAYER OR \$600/ FOURSOME

EARLY BIRD/ ALUMNI DISCOUNT:

USE CODE 'EARLYBIRD' FOR \$500/ FOURSOME

REGISTER AT:

<https://wisconsinaged.org/foundation-events>

Thank you to our Sponsors

Living to Serve (Perennial \$ 5,000 +)



Convention Sponsors

Diamond (\$ 2500 +)

Denmark FFA Alumni & Supporters
Elkhorn FFA Alumni & Supporters
National FFA - Tractor Supply Company Legacy Partnering Grant
Pioneer Seed
Section 9 FFA Alumni & Supporters

Star (\$ 1500 - \$ 2499)

New Holstein FFA Alumni & Supporters
Tim & Cheryl Steinbach

Platinum (\$ 1000 - \$ 1499)

Country Visions Cooperative
GreenStone Farm Credit Services
Johnsonville, LLC
Ken Seering, Past State & National FFA Alumni President
Nelson-Jameson, Inc.
Sauk Prairie FFA Alumni & Supporters
WI Farm Bureau

Gold (\$ 750 - \$ 999)

Christensen Marketing Partners Inc
Chippewa Falls FFA Alumni & Supporters

Silver (\$ 500 - \$ 749)

C.D. Smith Construction
Rudy Kaderly
Kiel FFA Alumni & Supporters
Lester Schlies and family in Memory of Nancy
Missy & Mark Steffes

Riesterer & Schnell
Cari & Jerry Sabel
Joseph Schlies
Section 6 FFA Alumni & Supporters
Wade Schoneck, Auctioneer and Assistants John
Kane & Andrew Bubolz
Suring FFA Alumni & Supporters
Swiderski Equipment, Inc
Tim Neubauer Trucking
Waupaca FFA Alumni & Supporters
Waupun FFA Alumni & Supporters
WI Corn Promotion Board
Wilfert Farms LLC
Dan Ziegler

Bronze (\$ 250 - \$ 499)

Ag-Bag by RCI
Becks Meat
Brandon Meats
Breeze Dairy Group
Brillion FFA Alumni & Supporters
Broadhead FFA Alumni & Supporters
Campbellsport FFA Alumni & Supporters
Chilton FFA Alumni & Supporters
Clover Hill Dairy LLC
Comfort Hoof Care
Compeer Financial
CP Feeds LLC
Four Hands Holsteins, Inc.
Immel Insurance & Financial Services
Just-A-View Farms
Leading Dairy Solutions, LDS Inc
Lewies Custom Raised Beef
Lodi FFA Alumni & Supporters
Marion FFA Alumni & Supporters
Marshfield FFA Alumni & Supporters
Mike Sabel Ag & Life Consulting
Milk Source LLC
N & J Farms
Oakfield FFA Alumni & Supporters
Pulaski FFA Alumni & Supporters
Quality Roasting, Inc
River Falls FFA Alumni & Supporters
Tasch's Custom LLC
Tigerton FFA Alumni & Supporters
Walters Buildings
Waupaca Foundry Inc.
WI Pork Association