



# The Announcer

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**Wisconsin FFA Alumni, Executive Director**

## National FFA Convention and Alumni Annual Meeting Updates

27 Wisconsin FFA Alumni members represented our state at the National FFA Alumni convention last month. The Wisconsin Association was recognized for having 100% Life Members of the State FFA Officer Team and we were recognized as the 5th largest Association in the nation with 15,214 members.

Two chapters were awarded Outstanding FFA Alumni Chapter Awards, Marshfield FFA Alumni—Silver rating and Stoughton FFA Alumni—Bronze rating.

Regina Oldendorf, former Executive Director of the Wisconsin FFA Alumni and James Check, Past National Alumni Board member, also from Wisconsin, both were presented the Honorary American FFA Degree at the convention as well.

Several FFA members from the state were also honored at the convention. The list of students is too long, but some of the highlights include:

- 127 Members received the American FFA Degree
- Matthew Ries, from Lomira FFA, was an American Star in Agricultural Placement Finalist.
- Katelyn Zimmerman of Spencer was the national winner of the Agricultural Education Proficiency Award.
- Amelia Hayden of Big Foot won the national Agriscience Research—Integrated Systems Proficiency Award. She also won the National Agriscience Fair in Food Products and Processing Systems.
- 6 Additional Wisconsin Teams won Gold honors and 7 teams won Silver honors in the Agriscience Fair.
- 4 teams and 9 individuals won Gold honors in the Career Development Events and 10 teams received Silver recognition.
- We had outstanding representation in the Leadership Development Events.
- Badger Big Foot, Cochrane-Fountain City, DeForest, Freedom, Prairie Farm and Waupaca were named 3 Star Chapters. 17 Other chapters were recognized as Two Star Chapter and 1 as a One Star.
- 6 Members Served on the National Band and 4 on the National Chorus.

Several of Wisconsin's Delegates posed for a photo at National Convention.



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*We strive to be Wisconsin's premier Agriculture Education advocate with FFA Alumni support in every community. We envision our diverse, positive, community committed organization to provide resources to support youth development and leadership.*

## Council Corner

### Call to Wisconsin FFA Alumni Convention: Dan Follendorf, 2017-18 Wisconsin FFA Alumni President



I invite you to come to the 2018 Wisconsin FFA Alumni Convention which will be held at the Paper Valley Radisson Hotel in Appleton on February 9 - 10, 2018. This marks 38<sup>th</sup> annual convention where we will celebrate the achievement of our alumni chapters and members.

The committees have worked on putting plans together to make this convention a success. The convention will be a balance of business meetings, awards sessions, education workshops, tours, social, dinner and entertainment. It takes time and effort of many individuals to make plans for a convention.

The Wisconsin FFA state officer team present at our convention showing their enthusiasm they bring to the FFA as a state officer. Each year I look forward to the reflections program that the team puts together and presents at our convention. We can feel inspired by the message that the team puts together.

The theme for the National FFA convention was "I CAN, WE WILL." We follow that theme with our Alumni convention theme "Challenge the Future". I invite everyone to set goals of how you can make a greater impact being an FFA Alumni member. Our membership numbers are rapidly on the rise. As a group WE CAN and WE WILL make a difference. Make a greater impact at the local level in everything you do. Challenge yourself to make an impact on the lives of students, the support you

provide and the advocating you do for Agriculture Education. Accomplishing these goals can seem like a challenge but working together as an Alumni Chapter these goals can be much easier achieved.

Each chapter is unique in their own way and the support they provide for Agriculture Education and FFA members. We all have a reason why we are an FFA Alumni member. At the last state council meeting I asked the question to the council members why are you here and the responses by each representative was unique in their own way, but all had a common relation of why we are here. The Wisconsin FFA Alumni council is a hard-working group. They take the time to meet individuals and chapters across the state and encourage advocacy for Agriculture Education. The State Council Representatives are available to help you, along with our executive director. We are just an email or phone call away. Share your story with us.

More information on convention is in this newsletter and available on our website. Convention registration is now open online, so go ahead and register. The link is <http://wisconsinffaalumni.org/events/>. I hope to see you and hear your story at convention!

## Alumni Award Deadline

All individual and chapter awards are **due post-marked no later than November 30th**. All applications should be mailed to the Wisconsin FFA Alumni office at W2680 US Hwy 10, Granton, WI 54436.

The applications are available online at [wisconsinffaalumni.org/awards\\_and\\_grants/](http://wisconsinffaalumni.org/awards_and_grants/). If you are having trouble accessing them, contact the [execdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org](mailto:execdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org).



### **State FFA Alumni Convention Approaching Fast**

It is only a few month until we gather for our annual Wisconsin FFA Alumni Convention. There are lots of events being planned and you will want to be sure to attend.

Some specific details include:

- To be considered for early registration prices & drawings, registration & payment must be post-marked by **January 6, 2018**.
- Hotel accommodations are the responsibility of each individual attending. Rooms are blocked currently but will be released after January 9, 2018.
- Contact Convention Chair by January 6, 2018 of any dietary concerns or special needs at [csabel@wisconsinffaalumni.org](mailto:csabel@wisconsinffaalumni.org).
- **Hotel Accommodations Are:**
  - Radisson Paper Valley Hotel**  
333 W. College Avenue  
Appleton, WI 54911  
(920) 733-8000 or  
800-333-3333
- **State Rate Room Charges are:**
  - Single - \$ 82.00
  - Double - \$ 99.00
  - Triple - \$ 109.00
  - Quad - \$ 109.00
- A block of rooms have been reserved, be sure to mention that you are with the FFA Alumni group.
- **Friday Afternoon Activities Include:**
  - Registration Begins at Hotel – 12:00 PM
  - Tours will Load Bus at Fox Valley Tech College at 12:30 PM.

- **Stop 1 – Milk Source/Tidy View**

Milk Source LLC was co-founded in 1999 by UW-Madison graduates Jim Ostrom, John Vosters and Todd Willer - each from multi-generational Wisconsin farm families - and traces its roots back to 1965 when a small 30-cow dairy farm was started in Freedom by John's parents.

Milk Source operates quality dairies in Wisconsin and the Midwest, producing milk that is used to make cheese, butter and other dairy products. In addition, Milk Source also has a Wisconsin calf farm and a heifer-raising facility. They are leaders in modern sustainable agriculture, finding safe, reliable and expandable technologies that tie economic success with environmental stewardship. Their farms have been pace-setters in the use of technology such as sand recycling, manure separation and underground nutrient pipelines.

Milk Source was named Dairy Today's Innovative Dairy Farmer of the Year for 2014, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce's 2014 Business Friend of the Environment, Wisconsin Family Business Council's 2015 "Innovation & Sustainability" Award winner, the 2015 Zoetis Diversity and Inclusion Award winner, a 2016 Wisconsin Top Rural Development Initiative Award winner and one of three finalists for the 2014 and 2015 Wisconsin Leopold Conservation Awards. MilkSource Genetics, established in 2007, is home to one of America's elite show cow herds. It is committed to building enthusiasm for the dairy industry and show cattle exhibiting.

In recent years, it has been home to a series of history making achievements: In 2017, jersey cow Martha became the first cow to win the top prize at Canada's premier show in three consecutive years; in 2016, MilkSource Genetics became the first farm to win the top breed in three different categories at the World Dairy Expo; and, in 2015, it exhibited Seisme, the first Red & White Holstein cow in history to reach the EX-97 classification zenith.

- **Stop 2 – Wichman Farms- Robotic Operation**

Wichman Farms Inc. is a fourth generation dairy farm that began in 1916 as a 117 acre farm and has grown into a corporation which includes 120 non-tillable acres, 598 tillable acres and 70 acres of rented land. The corporation was formed in 1980. In 1974 the original stanchion barn was converted to maternity pens for cows and pens for young calves. A new barn addition was built, resulting in a 120 free stall barn and a double six herringbone milking parlor.

After 40 years of use, the barn was overcrowded and the parlor needed updating. In 2013 a 248 free stall barn was built across the road. The herd was expanded to 2715 Holstein cows which are milked 24 hours a day by four Lely Astronaut robots. The old barn was converted to a dry cow barn with maternity pens. Fresh cows are still milked in the old parlor before being moved to the robot barn. Wichmans pride themselves on only employing family members.

- The Friday tours are Scheduled to return about 4 PM to the Fox Valley campus.
- Service Motor Company Ag Center Tours at Fox Valley will be provided for anyone all afternoon and when returning from farms.
- **There is a dinner option available @ Fox Valley Technical College** from 4:30 TO 6:00 PM – **Sponsored by Denmark FFA Alumni.**
- The remaining Friday evening activities will be held at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel.
- Registration will continue through the evening.
- The Silent Auction is scheduled to begin at 7 PM.
- There will be a Social Hour Beginning at 7 PM. Since there is a dinner option at Fox Valley, there will only be light snacks and beverages available.
- A commemorative glass is available for purchase and that will enable you to have free beer or soda throughout both Friday and Saturday evening. We are encouraging you to reserve yours when you register to guarantee that you have them.
- The Live Auction will begin at 8 PM. The committee will be accepting any donations for the silent or live auctions.
- The evening has been scheduled to be an opportunity for members to share in conversations, networking, idea-sharing and relaxing.

**Saturday is packed full of many events.**

- Once again you may choose the all inclusive options or select specific events that meet your schedule.
- **Breakfast** will include: Three scrambled eggs, served with hash browns and crisp bacon. Also includes pastries, orange juice, coffee, tea and milk.
- **Sectional meetings** to plan and coordinate activities unique to their section, or collaborate with other sections as needed.
- Annual **Business Meeting.** Resolutions will be posted online shortly.
- We will be enlightened by **guest speaker Joshua Rusk**, National FFA Alumni, to share what is happening across the nation.
- **Lunch** will consist of: Your choice of sandwich topped with leaf lettuce, served with potato chips, fruit and cookie. Sandwich options are: Turkey & Monterrey Jack on pretzel roll, Ham and Swiss on Rye Bread, Roast Beef and Cheddar on Steak Roll or Grilled Vegetable Wrap.
- Be sure to make your sandwich choice selection on the registration.
- Various **workshops** offered Saturday afternoon. There will be two rounds of workshop options, on several different topics, in order to allow you to maximize your networking & learning opportunities. The workshops are being finalized and more details will be released in the next newsletter.
- The **Banquet** meal will feature: Chicken Cordon Blue, Roasted Red Potatoes, Green Beans Almandine, Salad, Rolls and Butter, Coffee, Tea and Milk.
- Chapter and individual awards presented on Saturday.
- Dessert selection of pies and cakes.
- The **Live Auction** will begin at **8 PM**.
- Entertainment for the evening is a performance by **Kenny James Live** after the auction.
- There is a wide variety of options for convention packages to purchase. They may be seen on the next page.
- Don't forget to make your hotel accommodations early.
- Mark February 9—10, 2018 on your calendar today and get that early bird registration complete.



## 2018 State FFA Alumni Convention

### Registration Form

February 9 – 10, 2018 Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton

FFA Alumni Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- It is vital to include email and/or phone number for texts so that you may be notified of changes, etc.
- In order to be considered early registration prices and for the early bird prize drawing, registration and payment must be postmarked by **1/6/18**.
- All attendees must be registered to take part in convention events.
- Registration is transferrable between participants in the same year but not refundable.
- Only All-Inclusive registration options will be available after 1/6/2018.
- All online registration will close on 1/25/2018.

<u>Package Options</u>	Quantity	Total Cost
<b>Individual All-Inclusive</b> (\$ 95.00 by 1/6/18, \$ 125 after 1/6/18)		
<b>Couples All-Inclusive</b> (\$ 180.00 by 1/6/18, \$ 240 after 1/6/18)		
<b>Single Ala Carte Options:</b> Pick and Choose what you want. <i>(These options are only available for early bird registration. They will no longer be available after 1/6/2018)</i>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>Friday Tours, Fox Valley Dinner &amp; Hotel Snacks - \$ 25.00 each</b>		
<b>Friday Night - Fox Valley Dinner Only - \$ 15.00 each</b>		
<b>Saturday – All Activities &amp; Lunch - \$25.00 each</b>		
<b>Saturday – All Activities &amp; 3 Meal Option - \$ 80.00 each</b>		
<b>Saturday – Banquet &amp; Entertainment - \$ 40.00 each</b>		
<b>Commemorative Glass - \$ 20.00 each</b> <i>(Use for free beer or soda Friday and Saturday night.)</i> Guarantee you will receive one and not have to pay at convention.		
<b>Total Registration Cost</b>		

**You Must Select Preferences:**

- I will participate in Dairy Industry Tours - # Attending \_\_\_\_\_
- I will be eating dinner at Fox Valley - # Attending \_\_\_\_\_
- I am participating in Saturday lunch. Indicate the selection choice for each registrant.

1<sup>st</sup> Individual

- \_\_\_\_\_ Ham & Swiss
- \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey & Monterrey Jack
- \_\_\_\_\_ Roast Beef & Cheddar
- \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Vegetable Wrap

2<sup>nd</sup> Individual (of couple's registration)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Ham & Swiss
- \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey & Monterrey Jack
- \_\_\_\_\_ Roast Beef & Cheddar
- \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Vegetable Wrap

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