The Announcer

Summer, 2026

WISCONSIN FFA
ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS

Editor: Tari Costello
Wisconsin FFA Alumni, Executive Director

Activate is the theme of the 2026 State FFA Convention, which will be held June 15–18 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison.

More than 4,000 FFA members, advisors, parents, sponsors, Alumni and Supporters, and guests are expected to attend the convention to celebrate the accomplishments of members and chapters from the past year.

The Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters are proud to serve as a Platinum Sponsor of the convention.

If you are unable to attend, you can still follow the excitement through the convention livestream, which is once again sponsored by the Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters.

See more about the FFA Convention on the following pages!

Living To Serve Sponsors Shout Out

KONDEX®

RENK • SEED

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2:Day of Service, Convention Expo, Platinum Sponsorship, Golf Outings

Page 3:RDC, WAAE PDC, Farm Technology Days, Staffing Updates

Page 4:Recording Volunteer Hours, 2027 FFA Alumni and Supporters Convention, Contact Information

Day Of Service

The Day of Service features more than 700 volunteer opportunities for FFA members to engage in hands-on charitable work during the State FFA Convention.

Members partner with organizations such as Sleep in Heavenly Peace to assemble 80 beds for youth, as well as support Ronald McDonald House Charities of Madison, Madison Food Pantry Gardens, and other community organizations.

The Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters are proud to be a sponsor Meals from the Heartland. Through this project, FFA members will package 100,000 meals.

Convention Expo

Don't miss the Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters at the FFA Convention Expo. FFA members have a variety of activities to take part in at our booth!

Members will play the FFA Alumni and Supporters Plinko game and will test their knowledge about everything FFA!

Members will enter to win an FFA jacket and every FFA member LOVES the photobooth!

If you are at the convention, test your knowledge, if you dare!

Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters Platinum Sponsor at Convention!

It is a record year for the Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters in their contributions to the State FFA Convention!

Due to the success of the statewide raffle, along with other generous contributions, we are proud to sponsor the following items at this year's convention:

- Day of Service, Meals of the Heartland
- Keynote Speaker, Dr. Temple Grandin
- Live Streaming of the convention
- National Chapter Awards
- Middle School Essay Contest
- Career Development Events of Floriculture, Food Science and Technology, Forestry, Soils, Middle School, Dairy Handler
- Leadership Development Events of Junior High Essay Contest, Conduct of Chapters and Ag Issues Forum
- Proficiency Awards in the areas of Equine Placement, Forestry Management, Nursery Operations, Small Animal Production and Care, Specialty Animal Care, Specialty Crop, Swine Placement, Vegetable Production and Veterinary Science
- State FFA Convention Expo Photo Booth

FFA Foundation Golf

If you love to golf, consider signing up for the FFA Foundation Golf Outings. The Northern is July 13 at Wild Ridge Golf Course on July 13. The Southern Outing is at Pleasant View Golf Course on July 20.

For more information go to https://wisconsinaged.org/foundation-events

WISCONSIN ALUMNI & SUPPORTERS FFA

Wisconsin Hosts RDC in 2027!

Mark your calendar now!

Wisconsin will host the National FFA Alumni Regional Development Conference in Wisconsin April 30-May 1, 2027.

You won't want to miss this opportunity to tour a variety of agritourism sites, hear from local leaders and enjoy delicious foods!

The conference will be based in Fond du Lac with tours of Kelley Country Creamery, Abel Dairy, Ledgerock Distillery and La Clare Creamery, Cheese Shop, Café & Goat Farm.

Attendees will have the opportunity to get the most updated information about the National FFA Alumni from our National Staff!

We look forward to hosting all of you in Fond du Lac. Watch for more information in future issues of The Announcer!

Alumni at WAAE PDC

The Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators will host its Professional Development Conference June 28–July 2 in Pewaukee at The Ingleside Hotel.

Agricultural education instructors will have numerous opportunities to network and participate in professional development sessions led by fellow educators and industry leaders.

The Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters is proud to serve as a Gold Sponsor of this year's conference. As a Gold Sponsor, the organization has committed to:

- A $1,000 conference sponsorship
- A $500 scholarship for an agricultural education teacher in years 3–6 of their career
- An exhibitor booth at the conference expo
- A door prize that includes registration and hotel accommodations for the State FFA Alumni and Supporters Convention in February
- Two workshops focused on alumni membership and engagement
- Sponsorship of keynote speaker Dr. Becky Haddad from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln

The Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters looks forward to supporting agricultural educators and strengthening connections throughout Wisconsin's agricultural education community.

Farm Technology Days

Join us at Wisconsin Farm Technology Days 2026, hosted at Redetzkes' No Joke Dairy in Stratford from July 14–16!

The Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters will once again be exhibiting in the Progress Pavilion at Booth PP54. Stop by to meet our members, learn about current programs and initiatives, and discover what's new within our organization. We look forward to visiting with you this summer!

Staffing Updates

Team Ag Ed is excited to welcome two new staff members! Joining the Wisconsin Foundation in a new position as Development Officer is Morgan Knilans. Starting August 1, Jen Russell will begin her role as Managing Director of Chapter and Member Programming for Wisconsin FFA.

A special thank you to Kendra Jentz, Events Coordinator for the FFA Foundation, and Glenda Crook, Managing Director of Chapter and Member Programming for Wisconsin FFA. Your service has been sincerely valued, and we greatly appreciate your contributions. We wish you both the very best in this next chapter!

Have You Updated Your Volunteer Hours?

This is your last reminder to record the volunteer hours for your FFA Alumni and Supporters Chapter. **All hours for the past year need to be entered by June 30.** Please update your hours TODAY!

Why is tracking volunteer hours important?

Tracking volunteer hours helps demonstrate the value of our organization to stakeholders ranging from local school boards to state government leaders. According to current estimates, each nonprofit volunteer hour is valued at **$34.79**. By documenting our contributions, we can better showcase the impact FFA Alumni and Supporters make in our communities.

How can chapters track volunteer hours?

The process is simple and only takes a few minutes.

1. Select a chapter leader who will be responsible for submitting volunteer hours.
2. Go to the National FFA website.
3. Select **"Alumni Member"** from the drop-down menu.
4. Click **"Chapter/State Profile Search."**
5. Log in using your username and password.
6. Enter your chapter name and click **Search**.
7. On the left-hand side, select **"Volunteer Activities."**
8. Enter the following information:

- Volunteer Activity Type
- Activity Name
- Description
- Date
- Number of Volunteers
- Number of Hours
- Then click **Add**.

Completing this process takes just a couple of minutes, but the value of the information collected is tremendous. Every hour recorded helps tell the story of the impact FFA Alumni and Supporters make across our state and nation.

A Legacy That Leads

Plans are underway for the **2027 Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters State Convention**! Mark your calendars now for **February 19–20, 2027, in** Oshkosh.

The convention committees have been working hard to create an exciting weekend of learning, networking, and fun. Attendees can look forward to a variety of engaging workshops designed to provide practical ideas and resources to take back to their local chapters.

If you're looking to strengthen and elevate your FFA Alumni and Supporters chapter, make plans to join us in Oshkosh this February. Watch for registration details and additional convention information in upcoming newsletters!

Contact Information

Need a question answered?
Not sure who to contact?

Executive Director: Tari Costello
tcostello@wisconsinffaalumni.org
920.923.0376

State Council Members:
wisconsinaged.org/contact-alumni

Website: wisconsinaged.org