



The Announcer

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Wisconsin FFA Alumni, Executive Director

Sectional Leadership Workshops Include FFA Alumni This Year

The State FFA Association each fall hosts a leadership workshop for any chapter members and officers. The workshop is held after school and goes into the early evening and is hosted by the school and chapter of the State FFA Officer for each section. In an effort to help FFA Alumni members become more informed about how they may help their local FFA chapter, it's members and advisors, the Wisconsin FFA Alumni Council will be hosting a leadership workshop for any interested Alumni members at their respective FFA Sectional Leadership Workshops. We are encouraging FFA Alumni members to get more actively involved in the local FFA Chapter activities. There are so many ways that we can help. The workshop that we are sponsoring will help Alumni members develop a plan of how they may be involved and support their members. Each FFA Alumni has their own unique talents, skills and resources that can be utilized at the local level, so we are challenging you to come to the workshop and learn more.

The workshop is free to all FFA Alumni members and in order to accommodate work schedules and other activities, we have scheduled the Alumni portion to run from 6 to 7 PM. You simply need to come to the location and find the Alumni room that will be designated. We will take care of the rest. In order to help us be better prepared with materials, we do ask if you could tell your FFA Advisor that you are attending by at least the day before your event, so they can register a number of attendees. But if that is not possible, we still encourage you to attend. We hope to make this a yearly event so we need you there.

SLW Workshop Dates & Locations

Sept. 18 – Section 9 @ Luxemberg-Casco
Sept. 19 – Section 8 @ Waupaca
Sept. 20 – Section 7 @ Owen-Withee
Sept. 25 – Section 3 @ Black River Falls
Sept. 26 – Section 2 @ Menomonie
Sept. 27 – Section 1 @ Amery
Oct. 2 – Section 10 @ Big Foot
Oct. 4 – Section 4 @ Mineral Point
Oct. 9 – Section 6 @ Lodi
Oct. 10 – Section 5 @ Oregon

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Greetings From 2017-18 President, Dan Follendorf



The Wisconsin FFA Alumni took part in the Wisconsin FFA Convention in June. This year's convention theme "Small Acts, Big Impact" was noted throughout the convention. As FFA Alumni members, we strive to live that theme by creating "Small Acts, Big Impact."

Our Alumni members from across the state understand the importance that small acts of kindness have throughout one's life. When looking back on all the small acts we have made we will find that we have made a big impact. Our many hours we spent working, practicing, helping our teachers and students are small steps toward our big goals. The little things that we do make a difference in the life of an FFA member.

An effective FFA Alumni chapter of strong volunteers will allow Agriculture Education teachers to be better leaders in their classroom and allow their supporters to be charged with fundraising, advocacy, education and more. Alumni chapters help reduce the work load, provide valuable resources and give agriculture programs much needed guidance and support in Supervised Agricultural Experiences, Community Service, Food for America, and other FFA activities. Our Alumni Chapters play a significant role in providing financial support to students for the FFA programs such as trips to leadership workshops, state and national conventions and college education scholarships. Through our guidance and financial support, we are helping to grow lead-

ers, building communities, and strengthening agriculture. These students are our future Alumni members.

With the start of the school year just around the corner and the start of a new FFA membership year we should look to make a bigger impact than the year before. The Wisconsin FFA Alumni council has put together a new leadership training session to be part of the fall FFA Sectional Leadership workshops this September. This session is open to all FFA Alumni members. Wisconsin FFA Alumni members will have a chance to get together to share ideas and learn more about what is happening in the FFA Alumni. More details on this workshop session along with dates and locations can be found in this newsletter.

Our association is excited about the agriculture education programs and FFA members throughout the state. Let us celebrate the start to another successful school year, and imagine what we can accomplish together as Alumni chapters as we create our "Small Acts, Big Impact"!



State Council members have been working hard to organize and plan events to assist local FFA chapters. Please reach out to your sectional representatives or the executive council to let us know what you need.

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.

National FFA Convention Alumni Delegates Needed

The National FFA Alumni meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. This year's meeting will be held on Friday, October 27. We are looking for delegates to represent Wisconsin at the convention.

If you are a local FFA Alumni member and are planning to attend the FFA convention and are interested in learning more about the Alumni organization and helping the state in the voting process, we would love to hear from you. There will also be some chapters recognized at the Alumni meeting.

The tentative schedule on Oct. 27 includes:

8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Alumni Booth Open Hours Expo Floor
TBA - Morning Awards: Outstanding Chapter & State Association & Outstanding Achievement Presented at Fourth General Session
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Alumni Delegate Check-In
2 p.m. Alumni Annual Meeting
6 – 8 p.m. Alumni Reception

We must register all of our delegates prior to October 7, so we need to hear from you now. Please contact the state office as soon as possible. You may utilize the Executive Director email or call 715-937-4838.

Congratulations to Regina Oldendorf and Jim Check who will be recognized at the National FFA Convention with the Honorary American FFA Degree. Both of these individuals served the FFA Alumni at the state and national level for years so they truly deserve this recognition.

Agriculture Education Data Shows Student Success

There is a lot of great data that is starting to be collected at the state level which shows support for agriculture education programs.

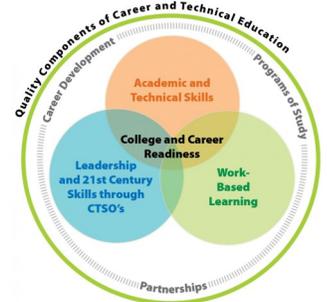
2015 Graduation rates showed that 90.2% of Wisconsin students graduated. That increased to 96.0% for students that participated in at least one CTE course. It increased even more to 97.9 % for those students who were classified as Agriculture Education concentrator (those students taking 3 or more CTE courses within the agriculture pathway).

As FFA Alumni members, one of our roles is to advocate for Agriculture Education. This is great data to share with your local school administration and boards of education.

It Is Membership Time Again

The 2017-18 FFA Alumni membership is now open. Information packets have been sent to the local leaders that were most recently identified. If you need help or information regarding the process, please contact your local officers or you may contact Cheryl Steinbach, Executive Director @ execdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org for assistance.

Since the State and National newsletters are now electronic only it is very important for us to have your most current and accurate email address. You may check yours and make updates through your account on ffa.org or you may have your local leaders update it for you. If you are unsure what your account status is, feel free to also check with the executive director at the email above.



State FFA Alumni Convention Planning Continues

Sections 8 and 9 are busy making plans for an awesome State FFA Alumni Convention to be held February 9 & 10 in Appleton. If you would like to be a part of the planning committee, please make plans to attend the next planning meeting on Saturday, October 14. The meeting will begin at 9 AM and will be held at the Radisson Paper Valley hotel, which is the actual convention site. We would love to get more help. If you want to help but can not attend the meeting please contact the Convention Chair, Cari Sabel, at csabel@wisconsinffaalumni.org.



Grants Available

Wisconsin FFA Alumni has 2 grants available for local FFA chapters. The updated applications will be posted soon on the website. Be sure to check them out. The first grant is the Chapter Support grant where Alumni chapters can get money to help support a program that they are working on with their local FFA chapter. The second grant is for New or Reactivated Alumni chapters to help get them moving forward. We recognize that there are a lot of potential needs out there and we encourage you to consider a grant.



Meet Your State FFA Officer

My name is Meikah Dado and I am honored to serve as your 2017-2018 state FFA Reporter from Section 1! I am a sophomore at UW-

Madison, where I am working on a double major in Dairy Science and Life Sciences Communication. A little bit about my FFA experience is that I began my FFA years as a middle school quiz bowl student. Although, I did not enjoy all of the memorizing dates and names, it gave me the knowledge and start to the FFA I needed. I went on to participating in the creed, going to workshops, and enjoying all FFA had to offer me. I fell in love with the speaking contests, now known as Leadership Development Events, and found my niche in the FFA. I was able to keep my FFA ties while continuing to participate in other organizations and sports such as 4-H, student council, figure skating, choir, and band. The FFA grew my love for agriculture, and the dairy industry. My SAE is dairy proficiency. I grew up on my family's 450 registered Holstein farm where I mostly worked with calves, but I also assist with heifer and cow management and field operations. I loved growing up on a dairy farm where I was able to experience hard work, happiness, and perseverance all in the same day. Now, as a Badger, I am involved with Association of Women in Agriculture, Collegiate Farm Bureau, and even an acapella church choir! I am excited to work with a range of people this year, and hope to fill it with kindness, joy, and service!

Calendar of Events

- Oct. 14—2018 Convention Planning Meeting @ Appleton
- Oct. 25 – 28 – National FFA Convention @ Indianapolis, Indiana
- Oct. 27 – National FFA Alumni Day
- Nov. 1 - Wisconsin FFA Alumni Grant Application **POSTMARKED**
- Nov. 11 - Deadline to submit resolutions to Exec. Director **POSTMARKED**
- Nov. 10 - Alumni Council Training/Committee Meetings/Games @ Green Bay with FFA 212/360 Conference
- Nov. 11 - State FFA Alumni Council Meeting – Green Bay
- Nov. 30 - All State Award Applications Due to State Office