



# Iowa FFA Today

Iowa FFA Association

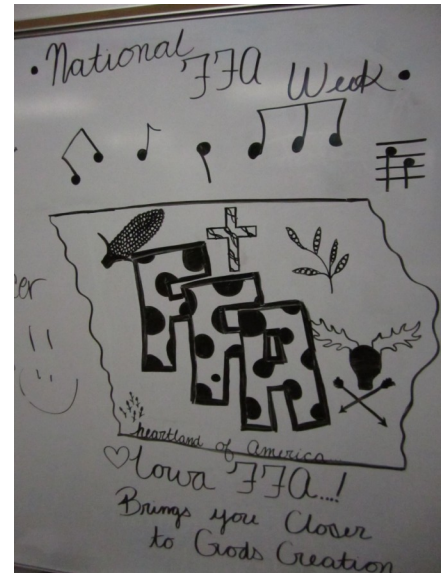
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MARCH 2012

## National FFA Week

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FFA members across Iowa and the United States celebrated National FFA Week February 18—25. From faculty breakfasts to Ag Olympics, FFA members found various ways to show their pride for agriculture and the National FFA Organization.





**Name:** Mr. Ronald Zelle  
**Occupation:** Nashua Plainfield Ag teacher and FFA Advisor  
**Home Chapter:** Waverly Shell Rock FFA  
**SAE:** Dairy Entrepreneurship and Oat Production  
**FFA Awards:** Star Chapter Farmer, DeKalb Agricultural Accomplishment Award, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place State Fish and Wildlife Management Proficiency Award, Iowa Degree, Honorary American FFA Degree



**Chapter:** St. Ansgar FFA  
**SAE:** Corn Production  
**Education:** Iowa State University, Ag Communications with a minor in Agronomy  
**Favorite Movie:** Anything with Will Ferrell  
**Favorite Leader in U.S. History:** Amelia Earhart

## Owl Watch



### Why did you choose to become an agricultural educator?

I changed to an Ag Ed Major in college. During student teaching I went with the chapter to National Convention and while in attendance, I realized I had made the right choice. I wanted to teach agriculture and help students realize their potential through the FFA Organization.

### What does this year's theme "I Believe" mean to you?

I have a favorite quote and "I Believe" fits well with in the theme of the FFA, "Remember, it is better to shoot for the stars and miss, than to aim at the cow pies and hit!" Growing up on a farm is not a part of every student's life, but they understand it is critical to set high goals to keep you moving up. I do believe in the future of agriculture and have spent most of my life in pursuing and sharing that passion.

### What is the best part of your job?

Getting to help students grow into mature productive young men and women, and teaching them about the worlds most vital industry. I also enjoy taking students on some of the most inspirational and motivating trips, all while working with some of the greatest students and teachers in the state of Iowa.

### Tell us about a mentor you have had in your life.

I have had several ag teachers that have helped shape me throughout the years. My high school Ag teachers were a great influence in what Ag Ed and FFA means in the lives of students. Also, there are many teachers that have aged along with me that have also played a vital role in shaping who I am today.

### What is your proudest moment as a teacher?

Placing 1st in Building Our American Communities, having two National finalist in Proficiency awards, 3rd place National Ag Mechanics and earning my Honorary American FFA Degree.

### What is your favorite CDE and why?

Experience the Action, because it is a recruitment tool used at the Nashua Plainfield FFA Chapter. For many years, students have dreamed up skits and games to encourage others to join Ag Ed.

## Fun Facts of Agriculture

- Americans eat approximately 100 acres of pizza each day, or 350 slices per second.
- Eggs age more in one day at room temperature than in one week in the refrigerator.
- Hamburger from a single steer will make about 720 quarter-pound hamburgers
- Livestock consume 400 million bushels of Iowa-grown corn annually.

## State Officer: Nicole Patterson

### NC State Vice President

I got involved in FFA because my dad had pushed me to, because he knew of all the opportunities to gain leadership and gain experiences that couldn't be obtained anywhere else. FFA has made me

into the person I am today by instilling leadership, people, communication, and responsibility skills in all aspects of my life. It has allowed me to meet people that have the same interests and build an

everlasting relationship with them, and continue to make an impact on my life. I'm proud to say that FFA has enabled me to find my true passions in life, and find who I really am.



# Chapter Chatter

## FFA Service Goes Global

By: Marshall Hay

Service is a key element of the FFA. Chapters across Iowa engage in local events promoting agricultural awareness, hope and pride for our local communities. This desire to help will be taken to the next level as over 5000 Iowa FFA members gather at the 84<sup>th</sup> State Leadership Conference on April 23 to package over 250,000 meals.

With a partnership with the Iowa FFA Foundation, the Food and Family Project, an initiative of the Iowa Soybean Association, and Cargill Iowa locations, over \$50,000 has been pledged towards the Meals from the Heartland food service project. The meals from this endeavor will be shipped to citizens of Haiti, helping to combat the widespread hunger.

As a united effort during State Leadership Conference, FFA members will bag the meals, which consist of rice, dried vegetables, and other staple grains.

Bulk bags of ingredients will be delivered to Hilton Coliseum where members will form assembly lines to measure out various amounts of grains, seal bags, and load containers of food for transport.

In addition to combating hunger on an international level, FFA Chapters will be able to donate funds or non-perishable food items to the Iowa Food Pantry to serve the needy in Iowa's urban areas. Drop-off bins will be conveniently located in the convention hall.

"At this year's conference... your belief in service-above-self can make a world of difference for the neediest of the needy. "I believe." It's the theme of our State FFA Leadership Conference. It's also a personal call to action for each FFA member... a belief that just one person can change the world," said Aaron Putze of the Food

and Family Project, a partner in the service project.

Details and sign-up information will be coming towards our chapters in the coming weeks. Please contact your State Vice President or the Executive Secretary for more information.



## Baxter FFA Receives Theisen's More For Your Community

Theisen's Home, Farm, and Auto of Newton presented Baxter FFA with a \$1,000 donation as part of the Theisen's More For Your Community Grant Program.

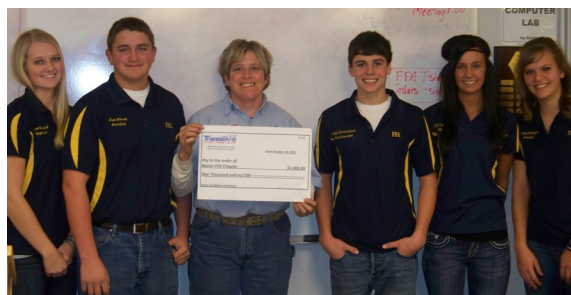
Theisen's made the presentation to the Baxter FFA Chapter on Dec. 12, 2011. The donation is part of a fundraising project to purchase educational tools and technology for the ag mechanics laboratory at Baxter High School. The project includes the purchase of an Edwards Ironworker machine that cuts, punches, forms and shapes all different types of metal. The project will allow students

to learn advanced ag mechanics fabrication skills. Additionally, learning opportunities for students to further explore career skills in agricultural mechanics will be provided by the machine for many years to come.

Baxter FFA Chapter President Alan Johnson said, "This technology is desperately needed in our ag mechanics shop and without the support of Theisen's, this project would not have been possible."

The Baxter FFA Chapter would like to thank Theisen's for their generous donation and support of agricultural education and FFA. The

Baxter FFA Chapter is made up of over 40 high school students who are enrolled in agricultural education courses at Baxter High School.



**Baxter FFA Chapter Officers are presented with the \$1,000 check from Theisen's.**

Nominate your advisor for "Owl Watch" by emailing [iowaffatoday@iowaffa.com](mailto:iowaffatoday@iowaffa.com).

Include

1. Advisor Name
2. Picture of advisor
3. Why they should be featured in "Owl Watch"

*FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.*

Send your "chapter chatter" to [iowaffatoday@iowaffa.com](mailto:iowaffatoday@iowaffa.com)



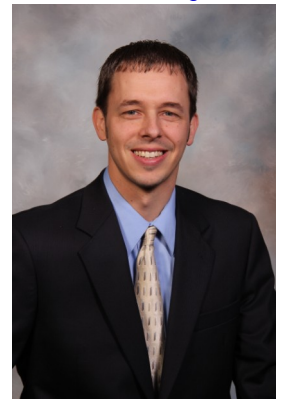
## Meet Your New Executive Secretary

Scott Johnson, former agricultural education teacher and FFA Advisor at East Sac FFA at Lake View, was recently hired by the Iowa FFA Association as the new Executive Secretary.

Johnson grew up on a dairy farm in Northeast Iowa near the small town of Guttenburg. He is a proud alumni of Iowa State University. He served as the Northeast State Vice-President in 1997-1998, and was the administrative assistant for the following three years. He was in his tenth year teaching at East Sac before accepting this position with the Iowa FFA.

Johnson said, "I'm excited for the new challenges that this opportunity will bring. Agricultural Education and FFA in Iowa has experienced many transitions, and I hope to see the Association evolve as the time passes."

Johnson has been on the job since the first of the year and has brought a new perspective on things within the Association. He is a tremendous asset to Iowa FFA and Team Ag Ed.



Scott Johnson  
Iowa FFA Executive Secretary

## FFA Legislative Symposium

By Lindsay Calvert

More than 350 FFA members from 42 chapters shared the story of agricultural education at Iowa's Capitol on Jan. 30, 2012. FFA Legislative Symposium helps students learn about the process, structure and strategies used living in a society with a representative democracy.

"It is important to have students learn about the legislative process and make personal connections with legislators in Iowa," said Dale Gruis, Iowa FFA Advisor.

Students gathered at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny in the morning to review the Iowa FFA Annual Report and a proper legislative visit. Highlights of the annual report include:

- Eleventh grade FFA members were more likely to score proficient on math and science than non-FFA eleventh graders.
- Iowa agricultural education students earned \$16 million in one year through their career experiences.

- 87% of FFA members plan to pursue postsecondary education.

Members also heard about the importance of agriculture in Iowa from Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Jay Johnson.

"I liked the atmosphere and being able to meet one-on-one with legislators," said Sioux Central FFA member Sven Nielson. "It was a great learning experience, especially during this reelection year."





# An Ordinary FFA Member With an Extraordinary SAE

By Nicole Patterson

To many, hunting and trapping may just be considered a hobby or something to do on a Saturday morning, but for Cole Parmely it is his part of his Supervised Agricultural Experience. Cole's family developed 100 acres of Conservation Reserve Program on their farm land, and Cole's interest in hunting and trapping fit right in. Parmely has turned this into an SAE project by maintaining and managing the conservation projects on his family farm. By managing the conservation land, he also gets the enjoyment of hunting and trapping to keep the animal numbers low. He now cares for his family's CRP ground and tracks



Cole setting a trap on his CRP ground.

his hours put in on the farm. Along with working on conservation, Cole helps with harvest of corn and soybeans his family farms each year. Cole's future plans include attending Iowa State University with a major in Agricultural Studies with a minor in Agronomy. He hopes to someday to make the business decisions for his farm, and possibly become a seed specialist. He would also like to become involved in his Chapters Alumni program and continue to be involved in the FFA.

## FFA Chapter Visits





**Chapter:** Wapsie Valley FFA  
**SAE:** Fareway  
**Education:** Des Moines Community College, AgEd  
**Favorite Singer:** Scotty McCreery  
**Favorite Quote:** "I don't think I am better than anyone, but I believe I can outwork everyone"

*Learning to Do*



*Doing to Learn*



*Earning to Live*



*Living to Serve*

## State Officer: Sarah Doese

### State Secretary

Being an advisors daughter, I have grown up with FFA, inside of the Agriculture Education classroom; however, it wasn't until my freshmen year of high school when I found out why I had such an eagerness to join this organization. I participated in the creed speaking career development event at the state level. While sitting in the holding room and talking to the people beside me my horizons were suddenly broadened. There were so many opportunities to be had and lifelong friendships to be made. I found myself

getting involved in various other activities including everything from farm safety days to district leadership conference, to 212 conferences. It is because of freshmen creed speaking that I am where I am today.

Through my opportunities in FFA, I have had the experiences of a lifetime. Going from the shy student sitting in the corner of a classroom to now being that person to strike up the conversation with that student, FFA has helped build my confidence. This organization

has not only helped grow my passion for the agriculture industry but also a passion for helping others. Through my numerous opportunities inside and outside of the classroom FFA has allowed me to search for my goals and dreams and provided me with the utensils to achieve them. It is because of the blue corduroy jacket, and the other 500,000 members who wear it, that I am where I am today.

## Pleasantville FFA members fabricate airplanes!

Middle school students are learning first hand how agriculture is so much more than farming! All 8th graders at Pleasantville School take an *Agricultural Careers Exploratory* course for 9 weeks. Students learn a bit about farming (the foundation of agriculture and our economy in Iowa) and a whole lot more about off-farm careers in agriculture. Units include greenhouse propagation, natural resources, parliamentary procedure, animal science, etc. Pictured, students are showing off their crop dusting airplanes that they each welded! Sophomore Ryan Bacon, gave a demonstration of the Ag.Ed./FFA program's *Plasma Cam*- (cnc table) by cutting out all components for the class



**Pictured Left-to-right:** Gunnar Sampson, Zebulun Adreon, Nathan Sowers, Alex Young, Kailey Brown, Avari Heinz-Pence, Booker Beier, Abby Tyree, Darren McLeod, Carter Cook, Samantha Borgerson, Sammy Edwards, Megan Oliver, Brady McMains, Dustie Tibboel- Ag.Ed. Senior Teaching Assistant Absent Kayla Greenwell