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News Release

Iowa FFA to Package and Donate 220,000 Meals

AMES, IA - The Iowa FFA Association and Meals from the Heartland, due to the continued and generous support from Cargill, are proud to announce that they will partner together to package 200,000 meals at the 98th Iowa FFA Leadership Conference. The service project will be held at Stephens Auditorium in Ames, Iowa on Sunday, April 19th and Monday, April 20th. 2026 marks the twelfth year these two organizations have engaged in this endeavor. This year is also the sixth year of Cargill's support, totaling 1 million meals packaged as a result of their support.

More than 1,200 FFA members from throughout Iowa are expected to volunteer in this effort to package 220,000 rice-soy meals. If the goal of 220,000 meals is met, it's the equivalent of feeding 840 children for an entire year. The partnership between Iowa FFA and Meals from the Heartland, over the course of thirteen years, will have contributed nearly 2.8 million meals to those in need throughout Iowa and around the world. This is comparable to keeping nearly 11,000 children fed for an entire year.

Meals from the Heartland is a non-profit organization composed of volunteers who package meals for delivery to starving people in Iowa, the United States and around the world. Since 2008, Meals from the Heartland has provided more than 250 million meals to the food insecure.

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of more than 20,500 student members as part of 273 local FFA chapters across Iowa. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The Iowa FFA Association was organized by delegates from 23 schools at Iowa State College on May 17, 1929 and is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The Iowa Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to local agricultural education programs. For more, visit the Iowa FFA Association online at IowaFFA.com and on social media.