

# 2017-18 Contributors to the South Dakota FFA Foundation

## Fiscal Year: July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

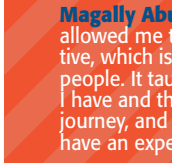
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South Dakota Wheat Growers (Agtegra)                  U.S. Army</p> <p><b>Ruby Sponsors (\$2,500 to \$4,999)</b>                  AT&amp;T                  BASF                  Butler Machinery Company                  C &amp; B Operations                  Citibank N.A. Fund &amp; Citibank-McKnight                  CROPLAN by WinField                  Dacotah Bank, Inc.                  East River Electric Cooperative                  Gylling Data Management, Inc.                  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# JUST ONE.

## THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE



**Tucker (TJ) Bigge, Parkston member,** "FFA created all kinds of 1sts for me - 1st major activity outside of sports I participated in, 1st time I got to travel, 1st time meeting lots of new people, 1st time I had to put forth an effort and work at something, and the 1st time I was rewarded for something outside of school. FFA gave me opportunities to travel, network and connect. FFA and the sponsors of these activities made that possible. I want to say 'thank you for supporting FFA!'"



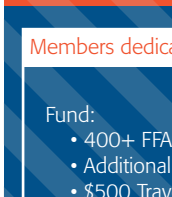
**Magally Aburto, Milbank FFA member,** "FFA allowed me to grow as a person and gain perspective, which is important to make connections with people. It taught me how to be grateful for what I have and the people who helped me. FFA is a journey, and anyone who's crazy enough to join will have an experience they'll never forget or regret."



**Kayden Ahlemeier, Gettysburg member,** "Receiving my jacket shows that I am part of a team and that I have a part to play in this organization and where it goes in the future. Thank you!"



**Callie Flemming, Willow Lake member,** "FFA brought out interests I never would have even dreamed of. It taught me I can do anything I put my mind to, and sparked a passion in Farm Business Management and Floriculture."



**Shelby Ruland, Wall member,** will forever be grateful to FFA and ag teacher for providing opportunities, "Ms. Herring showed me that it didn't matter that I was a freshman in a class of seniors, I could still be a leader. Now as District V FFA President, she is an example of a true leader for me to look up to. I am so glad she encouraged me to be in FFA because it was the start of finding my passion."

Members dedicated: 4400 Chapters leading: 90

### GOALS FOR NEW YEAR

Friend Sponsors with donations under \$50 are listed on the SD FFA Foundation website at: [www.sdffafoundation.org](http://www.sdffafoundation.org)

- 400+ FFA Jackets
- Additional Ag College Scholarships
- \$500 Travel Scholarships for all Champion Teams
- WLC Scholarships
- Chapter Service Grants
- State Convention "Living to Serve" Project
- Summer Leadership Retreats
- Ag Adventure Center Exhibits

## Have you ever said, "I WISH I COULD DO MORE"?

Those words accompany so many gifts we receive. The fact is there are several ways for those who "want to help us grow" leave a legacy for the future. You can ensure that the future is bright for young leaders in agricultural education with a planned gift. Many of these have wonderful benefits for the gift donors. Consider leaving a Legacy Gift through the SD FFA Foundation. Legacy gift options include:

**Endowment**  
 Contribute a minimum of \$10,000 over 10 years or less. The principle is invested and annual earnings are used to support the program of your choice.

**Bequest**  
 Indicate in your will that you'd like to leave part of your estate to the SD FFA Foundation. Gifts through your will can be a particular item, dollar amount or percentage of your estate.

**Beneficiary Designation**  
 Indicate that the SD FFA Foundation is a beneficiary of your life insurance policy, bank account, IRA or non-qualified annuity.

**IRA**  
 If your IRA has increased in value over the years and you have more income than you may need, then an IRA rollover gift is a simple and easy way to donate while not increasing your taxable income.

**Assets**  
 We can even accept real estate, crops and livestock.  
 When considering whether or not a planned gift is appropriate for you, ask yourself a few simple questions: "What do I want to give," "How should I give," "When should I give" and "Where will my gift make the most impact?" To visit about options for Leaving Your Legacy, contact the SD FFA Foundation.

[Gerri@sdffafoundation.org](mailto:Gerri@sdffafoundation.org) • 605.765.4865



GIVE THROUGH THE SOUTH DAKOTA FFA FOUNDATION

# JUST ONE.

It takes **Just One Jacket** – to be a leader, to help others, serve others, to get involved in FFA. FFA develops student confidence, leadership, team spirit, service and a desire to share their stories.

It takes **Just One Experience** – Supervised Agricultural Experiences (ownership/ entrepreneurship, research, placement/ internship, exploratory, school-based enterprises and service learning) teach students the value of hard work, record keeping and communication.

It takes **Just One Ag class** – 7 Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources pathways (agribusiness, animal, environmental services, food products and processing, natural resources, plant and power, structural and technical systems) and 31 course options provide agricultural skills and create the innovators and leaders of tomorrow.

It takes **Just One Risk** – FFA members to step out of their comfort zone, try something new and radically change their lives.

We are capable of shaping the future of agriculture, our homes, communities and the United States of America, with **Just One gift at a time:**

**Just One donation from you** will educate and mentor the leaders of tomorrow through the FFA. **Your generosity sustains agriculture education and supports FFA members** as they take **Just One** step toward growth, feel **Just One** moment of courage, say yes to **Just One** opportunity and receive **Just One** encouragement.

## FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for...

### PREMIER LEADERSHIP

#### Jeff Vander Wal

**Home FFA Chapter:** Sioux Valley  
**Year Graduated High School:** 1993  
**College:** South Dakota State  
**Current Position:** (Job, as well as offices or leadership positions) Farmer, Church deacon, Spink County Conservation District board, V.P of SD Shorthorn Assn, Plains Lions Club, Treasurer for Spink County 4H leaders Association, Chairman of Northwestern Ag advisory Council, Full time husband and parent



**What did you enjoy most about FFA?** Back in the pre social media days, we met people (in person) from other chapters at the district or state FFA events who became future clients, co-workers, business contacts, and most importantly, lifelong friends. There was 8-10 of us "Ag kids" in my class who couldn't wait to get out of school and go to a leadership event, judging contest or state convention. We pushed each other hard and all took home a state degree along with Star Farmer, Star Agribusinessman, a state office, over half of the scholarships available and we placed in 20+ of the proficiency awards.

**How did your FFA experience contribute to your leadership development?** Creed speaking, Ag Sales and Parli Pro were my specialties for the Fall CDE season. Even though I never won any of them, I can still recite the creed by heart, sell an idea to a fellow board member, and work together as a group to accomplish a goal without worrying about who gets the credit.

**What advice would you give FFA members today?** Don't be a part of the problem, be a part of the solution. Too many people in the world are critical of everything and not willing to solve problems or enhance something for your community in a positive way.

### PERSONAL GROWTH

#### Erin Wilson

**Home FFA Chapter:** Lennox Sundstrom  
**Year Graduated High School:** 2009  
**College:** South Dakota State University – 2013 Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Landscape Architecture Major, Horticulture Minor; Kansas State University – 2016 Master of Landscape Architecture  
**Current Position:** (Job, as well as offices or leadership positions) Assistant Landscape Architect for Ochsner Hare & Hare, the Olsson Studio in Kansas City, MO; Kansas City Center for Architecture and Design Board Member



**What did you enjoy most about FFA?** I loved going to FFA camp every summer to meet new people from across the state that turned into my lifelong friends. I also enjoyed competing in CDEs every fall and spring. I competed in Meat Evaluation, Nursery/Landscape, Ag Communications, Marketing Plan, and a few others. The road trips to camp, CDEs, and National FFA Convention were always fun too!

**How did your FFA experience contribute to your continued personal growth?** All of these diverse FFA experiences helped shape me as the person and the professional I am today. FFA led me to the opportunities that sparked my passion for design and landscape architecture. Eventually, my growth into a landscape architecture professional led to the development of the Agriculture Learning Lab at Lennox High School. I was happy to utilize my K-State master's report as my way to give back to the very place that helped me to grow and develop the fundamental skills and knowledge I still use to this very day.

**What advice would you give FFA members today?** Do not be afraid to take chances and get involved as much as you can. Take advantage of those opportunities while you can because they could lead you on an undiscovered adventure to success and personal growth.

### CAREER SUCCESS

#### Denny Oviatt

**Home FFA Chapter:** Huron  
**Year Graduated High School:** 1957  
**College:** 2 years at Huron College  
**Current Position:** (Job, as well as offices or leadership positions) Retired after 25 years as a radio and television announcer and as an announcer at 3 tracks of sprint car racing. Has announced horse shows for 54 years and still announces major world championship shows. Past president of the Sioux Falls Boys Club, past chairman of the SD State Fair Commission and has served on numerous state boards and commissions, past executive secretary of the SD Beef Council, SD Livestock Feeders and MN Livestock Feeders. In 1973 and 1974 flew cattle behind the Iron Curtain to Budapest Hungary for the US State Dept. Created a personally narrated slide program titled "Who Says Cows Can't Fly" and presented it 184 times in 5 states.



**What did you enjoy most about FFA?** Past FFA Chapter officer. Accepted the SD charter in Indianapolis when the FFA Alumni Foundation was formed and was one of the first SD lifetime members. Was a page in the SD House of Representatives in 1957 and attended Boys State.

**How did your FFA experience contribute to your continued career success?** I am thankful for the experiences FFA gave me. It is an outstanding organization where every member can be involved whenever the opportunity arises, in FFA, vo-ag, church, service clubs and neighborhood events.

**What advice would you give FFA members today?** Keep up-to-date on current events and news. Listen to what others have to say, whether you agree with them or not, respect their opinions. You will be amazed how interesting people really are. Utilize whatever talents the good Lord gave you and remember that success is not measured in dollars but in satisfaction for a job well done. Be polite to everyone with a smile on your face. Say "Hi", "Thank You", "Excuse Me" and hold doors open for others. A friend is one of the best things you can have...and one of the best things you can be.



## South Dakota FFA Foundation, Inc. CONTRIBUTION

**Yes! I want to help** shape the next generation of leaders in FFA as they **Grow Leaders - Build Communities - Strengthen Agriculture**  
**Give online at: [sdffaoundation.org](http://sdffaoundation.org)** (Please clip or copy this form to show your continued support for South Dakota FFA members, both present and future.)

**Mail to:** SD FFA Foundation, Inc. • 39393 133rd St., Bath, SD 57427

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**My contribution:**  
 \$50  \$100  
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 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Greatest needs of FFA  
 Advisor support  
 Student leadership  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please include matching gift forms from employers that have such programs.



**Please remember the SD FFA Foundation in your will and estate planning.** The SD FFA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your donation is eligible for a charitable deduction on your income tax return. Consult your tax advisor.