

South Dakota FFA ... we have a lot to be proud of. We represent a mighty brand, and we have worked hard to honor it, grow it, and steward it for those who will follow in our footsteps. **SD FFA members are poised, articulate, good young people who make our communities, state, and country a better place to live!**

The **South Dakota FFA Foundation** works passionately and quietly behind the scenes to **empower South Dakota FFA members** and agricultural education teachers through scholarships, leadership and career development events and activities, and professional networks that connect our stakeholders to opportunities. There is no other organization that promotes students the way we do. **The role of the Foundation is simple – help grow SD’s greatest resource: its youth.**

We’re proud of the work we’ve done. The question is, **What’s the future worth?**

Your personal gift will protect, grow, and strengthen the **future of the SD FFA.**

SOUTH DAKOTA



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

PREMIER LEADERSHIP

Name: Don Norton

Year Graduated High School: 1973

College: Western Illinois University, BA in Education, 1977 and MA Communications, 1992

Current Position: Honorary Illinois State FFA Degree recipient; Retiring as CEO of SDARL (South Dakota Agricultural and Rural Leadership Foundation), and continuing as a public speaker, trainer, and coach.



What did you enjoy most about FFA? My high school did not have FFA, so I’ve experienced the benefits of working with FFA members through leadership education. As a professional communicator, I’ve frequently been asked to judge FFA leadership events, and have consistently been extremely impressed with participants’ level of preparation, delivery, and poise. I also witnessed Illinois State FFA Officers testify successfully before a legislative committee to increase state funding for ag education. That moment convinced me that FFA is undoubtedly an important program for young people to develop their skills as agriculturalists and leaders.

How did FFA contribute to your premier leadership? As CEO of agricultural leadership programs in two states, it is clear to me that students who come from an FFA background are the strongest candidates for advanced leadership programs. FFA students have a great start on further developing the skills, knowledge, and character of agricultural leaders.

What advice would you give FFA members today? Continue to grow throughout your lifetime as a person and as a leader! Step up and serve your community and your profession. As John Maxwell said, “Leadership is learned daily, not in a day.”

PERSONAL GROWTH

Name: Lori Tonak

Home FFA Chapter: Clark FFA, Clark, SD

Year Graduated High School: 1977

College: South Dakota State University: BS Agriculture Education, 1981



Current Position: Instructor for the SD Center for Farm/Ranch Management, Mitchell Technical College

What did you enjoy most about FFA? As I only spent one year as a member, my experiences are from my time as an FFA advisor. My biggest enjoyment was to see the members’ growth in confidence and leadership from their first year of membership until graduation. Seeing a member who struggled academically excel at an FFA LDE/CDE is a close tie! Seeing past members giving back in the communities where they now reside also brings joy to my soul.

How did FFA contribute to your personal growth? As an instructor, the members taught me life can never be taken too seriously. The hardest working members I ever had always found time to have fun while we were working and traveling. Of course, the fun had to be within the boundaries of the advisor’s rules.

What advice would you give FFA members today? Do not be afraid to take on a new challenge. Breathe deeply when fear is overwhelming you and reach out for help from an advisor or a fellow member if you need to. FFA is a family and people are there to support you!

CAREER SUCCESS

Name: Glen Davis

Home FFA Chapter: Glenville High School, Glenville, Minnesota

Year Graduated High School: 1968

College: South Dakota State University: Agricultural Education degree, 1972; SDSU Master of Education 1978



Current Position: CEO of Legend Seeds Inc., De Smet SD; founded Legend Seeds in 1990 with wife Janet. Prior to that, taught Vocational Agriculture for 12 years (two years in Colman and 10 years in De Smet)

What did you enjoy most about FFA? As a student, the wide diversity of agriculture from judging teams, community projects to leadership opportunities and just the fun. As a teacher, the ability to see students develop life skills both in teamwork and individual achievements as well as production agriculture areas and leadership development.

How did FFA contribute to your career success? Working with a team, setting of goals and the management of projects (I had a swine project) along with practical skills in budgeting and planning.

What advice would you give FFA members today? Keep an open mind, take advantage of as many opportunities as you can. Be proud of your chapter, school, and community. Set a goal of doing what you can to improve yourself as well as the projects you are involved with.

GOALS FOR THE NEW YEAR

- Provide \$500 travel scholarships for all state CDE/LDE champions for training and travel to national convention
- Increase WLC scholarships
- More Chapter Service Grants
- Strengthen state convention “Living To Serve” project
- Additional summer leadership retreat scholarships
- Expand Ag Adventure Center exhibits
- Grow FFA day at Rodeo Rapid City
- Award 400+ FFA jackets
- Provide additional ag college scholarships
- Strengthen livestock show awards
- Create specialized events that support our future ag producers

FFA Members: 5500

FFA Chapters: 109

Average size of chapters: 50 members

1 in 8 SD high school students is in FFA

43% female - 57% male



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**. We’ve made giving easy! You can give monthly, sign up for round up donations, or make a one-time gift:

- Text: SDFFA to 269-89
- Scan the QR code
- Go to: sdffaoundation.org
- Or clip/copy and mail this form to: SD FFA Foundation, Inc. • 39393 133rd St., Bath, SD 57427

My contribution:

Greatest needs of FFA

\$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 Other \$ _____

Advisor support

Student leadership

Other

Company Name _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

*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.