

2020-21 Contributors to the SD FFA Foundation

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

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FFA'S LEGACY



Mat



Elliot



Grace



Maggie



JJ



Kacy

"FFA has granted me so many opportunities to improve leadership skills and abilities, given me more career experience, and opened the doors to success in my life that would have otherwise remained shut. Sponsors have played a crucial role in my FFA career by providing my jacket and enabling my chapter to organize and execute events. FFA and the sponsors who support it have evolved my character and leadership abilities to where they are now. Thank you." - **Matthew Mork, Webster**

"I've experienced many educational, fun and amazing things through FFA, which would not have been possible without our generous sponsors. I want to express my full gratitude. On behalf of myself and my chapter, thank you." - **Elliot Hendrix, Rapid City**

"My freshman year, I had the courage to join FFA. It has done amazing things - from teaching me how to judge poultry, to helping my town during a flood. FFA is the most dedicated organization I have had the opportunity to join. My life and future has been changed, and FFA will be shaping my journey forever." - **Grace DiGiovanni, McCook Central**

"FFA is not only about contests, competition, and conventions. FFA is about education, friendship, and advocacy. In my fourth year of FFA, I look forward to learning more about healthy soil's, meeting FFA members from across our great state, and finally, advocating for one of the most important industries in the world. Yes, FFA does have contests, competitions, and conventions, but it also involves so much more! I'm so grateful for FFA." - **Maggie Hovde, Willow Lake**

"Through FFA I learned about agriculture, how getting out of my comfort zone is a good thing, and many things about myself. None of this would have been possible without the FFA sponsors, so thank you. I enjoy FFA, and will make the best of the rest of my high school FFA experience." - **JJ Andrews, Rutland**

"FFA opened my eyes to many new opportunities and I have been able to share my love for agriculture. A huge thank you to those sponsors that allow members to apply for jackets and go to national convention." - **Kacy Goehring, Parkston FFA**

I BELIEVE IN THE SOUTH DAKOTA FFA!

There are several ways to leave a legacy for the future and help FFA grow. 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 5 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 or if you are obligated to take a Required Minimum Distribution, then an IRA charitable contribution gift is a simple and easy way to donate while not increasing your taxable income.

Assets

We can accept a variety of assets, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, 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 and consult with your tax advisor.

Gerri@sdfaffoundation.org • 605.765.4865



South Dakota FFA Foundation

OUR WAY.



Your Legacy.

GIVE THROUGH THE SOUTH DAKOTA FFA FOUNDATION

OUR WAY.



Throughout history people have fought against the current, dealing with unexpected challenges and changing perceptions, to pave their own way to success. The key is to learn from the past but keep moving forward. South Dakota FFA members are accomplishing this, creating their own way to leave a legacy:

- **Blake Volmer, Winner FFA**, took a chance and competed in the Agricultural Broadcasting Event for the first time, and had to do it over zoom. It paid off, as he took home 1st place at state!
- **Kallen Kafka, Wagner FFA**, paved his way by striving for the top in Veterinary Science. He practiced and went above and beyond ordinary. When faced with challenging and changing circumstances he spent hours shadowing vets and researching vet science topics on his own.
- **Blaise McGregor, Newell FFA**, went his own way advocating for agriculture at events like Rodeo Rapid City. He shared his love of sheep and facts about the agricultural industry in his reserved yet powerful manner.
- **Kayle Lauck, McCook Central FFA**, used her innovative agriscience research to bring mental health disorders in production agriculture to light, with events and countless media interviews.
- The **Iroquois FFA Chapter** won the State Agricultural Issues Leadership Development Event their 2nd year as a chapter. They went their own way by putting in hours of work to discuss the issue "Beyond Meats" and are in the top 16 national teams.

Will **your personal gift help members** make the most of their FFA experience? **Will you** follow your heart and leave a **legacy donation that helps FFA members** find or create their own way forward? **Your generosity sustains agriculture education and supports FFA members** as they pursue their **OWN WAY and forge THEIR LEGACY!**

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

PREMIER LEADERSHIP

Name: Jody Heemstra

Home FFA Chapter: Bridgewater High School

Year Graduated High School: 1994

College: South Dakota State University, Agricultural Journalism Degree, May 1998

Current Position: I am the News and Farm Director for the DRG Media Group in Pierre and Mobridge. I was honored to be chosen as the 2021 Tom Brokaw Award winner from the University of South Dakota Media and Journalism Department and the South Dakota Broadcasters Association. I'm also a member of the Pierre Area Chamber of Commerce Agri-Interest Committee and past West Region Vice President of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting.

What did you enjoy most about FFA? I enjoyed the variety of speaking, judging and leadership activities available to FFA members. No matter what a student is interested in, they will likely find an opportunity to expand their knowledge of that interest through FFA.

How did your FFA experience contribute to your leadership development? Participation in FFA helped me develop teamwork skills through parliamentary procedure and judging contests while also honing my self-confidence through individual contests and my SAE project.

What advice would you give FFA members today? Words matter. Word selection matters. What you say and how you say it matters. Choose your words so they have a positive impact.



PERSONAL GROWTH

Name: Dr. Travis Hoffman

Home FFA Chapter: Redfield High School

Year Graduated High School: 1999

College: South Dakota State University, Animal Sciences, B.S. 2003 Colorado State University, Animal Sciences with Meat Science emphasis, M.S. 2008, Ph.D. 2015

Current Position: North Dakota State University and University of Minnesota. Extension Sheep Specialist/Assistant Professor. I have a joint appointment with NDSU & U of M to work with sheep and goat enthusiasts on production management decisions and provide research-based solutions to operation and industry challenges.

What did you enjoy most about FFA? I enjoyed the Livestock Judging CDE, and the competition between students at each Spring's regional and state events. While many of us have moved our own separate ways in the livestock industry, FFA was an enjoyable foundation that built lifelong relationships.

How did your FFA experience contribute to your leadership development? I attended a State Leadership Retreat my Junior year in HS, and was challenged to be a leader by the State Officers. I was inspired to compete for a State FFA Officer position. I was unsuccessful, but appreciated the challenge to push individual limits, and am forever indebted for the professional development that helped me reach goals in my career and my personal life.

What advice would you give FFA members today? FFA provides young people the chance to succeed. Seize the Opportunity! Whether it is helping with chapter activities, CDE or SAE involvement, or a leadership role, challenge yourself to become involved as possible, and you will be rewarded for your efforts.



CAREER SUCCESS

Name: Michel Brink

Home FFA Chapter: Redfield High School

Year Graduated High School: 1972

College: South Dakota State University, Agriculture Education degree

Current Position: Retired from forty-three years of teaching high school agriculture education at Hitchcock Tulare school. Currently I am managing my family farm.

What did you enjoy most about FFA? Applying information and knowledge that was presented in the classroom and shop to the career development events and real life activities on the farm.

How did your FFA experience contribute to your career success? Because I enjoyed agriculture education class and FFA activities, I chose to major in agriculture education at SDSU. I never knew what FFA event would make a lasting impact for students, but always worked to find that connection with each student.

What advice would you give FFA members today? Participate in as many different FFA career development events as possible - in both production and leadership career development events. Experience is the best teacher, why not give yourself the best?



GOALS FOR THE NEW YEAR

- 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 Retreat scholarships
- Ag Adventure Center exhibits

Dedicated members: 4900

Active Chapters: 102

Average size of chapters: 50 members

1 in 8 SD high school students is in FFA

42% female - 58% 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 \$ _____



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

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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.