



2008-2009



# ILLINOIS FFA ALUMNI: "Promoting Excellence"

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March, 2008

**2007 - 2008  
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Greetings fellow Alumni,

Meeting. . . contest. . . meeting. . . contest. . . contest. . .  
contest. Yes, it is that time of the year. Three and four years of  
records are being scrutinized to the tenth degree with  
signatures a must. Protocol is definitely in order. What a busy  
time for FFA members and advisors!

The alumni board had its two day March meeting at which  
judging of the Washington Leadership Conference and  
Leadership Camp scholarship applications took place. Thanks  
to all who applied (We had twice as many applications as in  
the past.) and congratulations to those who received  
scholarships.

I would really like to THANK everyone who attended our  
annual meeting in January in Springfield. You made the event  
a real success by providing active bidding at our auctions.  
Working together, we generated a little over \$20,000. . . all to  
go back to FFA students.

State FFA officers are busy at FFA banquets. Should you be  
fortunate to meet one, introduce yourself as an Alumni  
member and watch for the smile which will soon appear. They  
appreciate our support.

As always should you need anything contact any of the  
council members or myself. As a council we are here to help  
you, our affiliates, and to support the best youth organization  
ever. . . . FFA!

Dean O. Olson  
State FFA Alumni President

**DUE DATE REMINDER:** The final date for submitting your  
alumni rosters is May 1 in order for your affiliate to be included in  
our state count at National FFA to determine the number of voting  
delegates we receive at National convention. Please be sure to sub-  
mit those rosters and dues prior to May 1. Contact the FFA Center  
at (217) 753-3328 if you have any questions.

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### **Annual Meeting Awards**

The following FFA Alumni Affiliates received Awards for their active support of their local agriculture programs and FFA Chapters.

**Outstanding/Pioneer Alumni Affiliate** winners were Bushnell-Prairie City, Cissna Park, and Leroy with Gold Ratings. Silver Ratings went to Mount Vernon and Waterloo. Hartsburg-Emden received a bronze rating.

**Largest Affiliates** were as follows: Roseville – 128, Heartland (Normal) – 123, Leroy – 117, Waterloo – 99, and Tri-Point – 98

**Most New Life Members** included Wayne City at 8, Waltonville at 5, Bushnell-Prairie City with 4, Tri-Point with 4 and Vienna with 4.

**Most New Members** winners were ROWVA at 31, Vienna at 18, Pleasant Plains with 17, Rockridge with 17, and Geneseo Ag Boosters having 16.

**One for One** chapters were Cisne, Geneseo, Heartland, LeRoy, Pecatonica, Pleasant Plains, Roseville, Tri-Point, Waterloo, Wayne City, and Woodland

**New Charters** were Hinckley, Staunton, Marion, Oakland, and Charleston

### **Auction Results**

Thank you Illinois FFA Alumni Members. Your involvement at the Annual Meeting Auction raised \$20,122.00 between the Live and Silent Auctions for Illinois FFA members to attend Leadership Conferences. This was an increase from last year. Also, with our second annual Chapter Basket Sale, the top three fund raising baskets were Bushnell-Prairie City with \$300, Geneseo bringing in \$130, and a close third by Cisne with \$125. Thank you all for your creativity, and willingness to support our students.

It is never too early to start soliciting auction items for next year. If you have any connections to solicit items that will bring a lot of bidder interests, tactfully explain that we are raising scholarship funds to send FFA members to attend leadership conferences.

### ***“Attitude Isn’t Everything, But It Is Darn Close!”***

*Dr. Larry Case during the Recently Held 2008 Annual Meeting*

That quote is one of many that Dr. Larry Case made during his recent keynote address at the Annual Meeting. Alumni members were fortunate to hear the challenges from our National FFA Advisor. He presented on the “10 x 15 Plan,” the Long-Range goal for Agricultural Education. The “10 x 15 Plan” refers to the goal of having 10,000 quality Agriculture Programs by the year 2015.

He stressed how important it is for students to be mentored on an individual basis. The Local Alumni Affiliate Members are to be passionate about volunteering to share the load of the local Agriculture Teacher. To paraphrase Dr. Case, we are to instill a passion for agriculture in our students. We are all, regardless of our career paths, to be advocates for Agricultural Education. He further mentioned he would like to see three students per chapter per year major in Agricultural Education in College.

Thank you, Dr. Case, for your challenges and continued hunger to see successful Agricultural Education Programs be developed and impactful.



***Washington Leadership Conference Scholarship Winners Announced***

Congratulations to the following students who were recently selected by the members of the Illinois FFA Alumni Council to receive scholarships to attend Washington Leadership Conference.

Brittany Pieper, Bushnell-Prairie City  
Jake Young, Cambridge  
Kiersten Kasey, Charleston  
Ed Dubrick, Cisna Park  
Nicole Carlen, Cumberland  
Austin Dobbels, Galva  
Andrew Nelson, Geneseo  
Emma Cross, Hartsburg-Emden  
Rachel Van Drimmelen, Mendota  
Morgan Reid, Nashville

Alex Samuelson, Orion  
Kaitlyn Wilkinson, Seneca  
Zachary Henson, Trico  
Darcie Rahe, Triopia  
Jacob Froelich, Tri-Point  
Jacob Kabat, Waltonville  
John Roskamp, Warsaw  
Jentzi Schumm, Wayne City  
Austin Tate, West Prairie

***Arctic Cat Raffle Tickets – Get Them And Sell Them Now!!!***

The Raffle Tickets for the Arctic Cat 500 4x4 Automatic LE are going extremely fast this year, so if you need more, please contact any council member, or the State FFA Center to get some of the remaining tickets. Tickets are \$5.00 Per ticket, \$10.00 for 3 tickets, or 40 tickets for \$100.00. Remember that **40%** of the money raised is returned as pure profit for your local FFA chapter. For those of you who return any money and tickets you have by April 1<sup>st</sup>, the Alumni will send a percentage check to you by the end of April. You may return more after April 1, if you still have tickets left over, but this is offered to you as a chance to get money back into your FFA programs before summer expenses of your FFA chapter are due.

***Leadership Camp Scholarship Winners Announced***

The following FFA members were selected by the Alumni Council to receive a free ride scholarship to attend the 2008 Illinois FFA Leadership Camp at the 4-H Memorial Camp Grounds in Monticello, Illinois.

Kaitlin Perchalski, Bushnell-Prairie City  
Jacob Bough, Charleston  
Calvin Lynch, Cissna Park  
Samantha McClain, Cumberland  
Stacy Bare, East Richland  
Christine Dubble, Eldorado  
Aaron Prins, Geneseo  
Loren Goodrich, Indian Creek  
Sheryl Avery, Iroquois West

Cheyenne Kargol, Midland  
Nicole Schmedeke, Morrisonville  
Cody Gill, Nashville  
Erika Laumbattus, New Athens  
Taylor Ellis, Oakland  
Riley Kubatzke, Orangeville  
Derik Warner, St. Elmo  
John Edgar, Trico  
Kailyn Handyside, Warsaw

***Max Armstrong to Speak at Wayne City FFA Banquet***

The Wayne City FFA Chapter is pleased to announce that Agricultural Broadcast Journalist Max Armstrong will be speaking at this year’s FFA banquet. It will be on March 21<sup>st</sup> at Wayne City High School. FFA Members will be honored for their accomplishments throughout the year, and various students will be auctioned off. For more information, contact Mr. David Scott, Wayne City FFA Advisor at the High School.

## ***Olympia FFA Chapter Appreciation Dinner***

The Olympia FFA Chapter held their Annual Appreciation Dinner on Saturday February 23, 2008 at the Olympia High School Cafeteria, Stanford, IL. There were approximately 100 people in attendance for a Ham Dinner provided by Agriculture Instructor Matt Nordstrom and the FFA chapter. After the meal, Mr. Nordstrom delivered a Power Point presentation on some of the different FFA and FFA Alumni Activities during the past year. Another Power Point presentation showed FFA member Mr. Seth Bauersfield getting the opportunity to sit in on a practice and have pictures taken with the University of Illinois Men's Basketball Team and Coach Bruce Webber.

Those present were also informed of the activities of the FFA Alumni Affiliate by Vice-President Ray Mohr. The FFA Chapter Banquet was announced as set for April 12, 2008 at 6 PM. Officers of the FFA Alumni Affiliate include Jeff Schnieder – President, Ray Mohr – Vice President, Jeff Springer – Secretary, Bob Benson – Treasurer, Kyle Haning – Reporter, Todd Wibben – Member at Large, and Mr. Matt Nordstrom – FFA and FFA Alumni Advisor.

### **Dates to Remember . . .**

April 4	State STARS Awards Night - Parkland College, Champaign
April 5	State Awards Day - University of Illinois, Urbana
April 26	State Ag Sales CDE - Parkland College, Champaign
April 29	State Livestock, Dairy Cattle, & Horticulture CDE - U of I, Urbana
May 1	Final Due Date for Alumni Rosters to be submitted
May 3	State Public Speaking CDE Finals - ISU, Bloomington
May 7	State Ag Business Management CDE - District Sites
May 13	State Ag Mechanics CDE - U of I, Urbana
May 26	Memorial Day - IL FFA Center Closed
June 10 - 12	Illinois FFA Convention - Springfield, IL

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