



2008-2009



# ILLINOIS FFA ALUMNI: "Promoting Excellence"

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1

June, 2008

**2008  
Illinois FFA Alumni  
Executive Council**

**President:**

Dean Olson  
22236 Grange Rd.  
Geneseo, IL 61254  
(H) (309) 944-4472  
(C) (309) 945-5079  
(F) (309) 944-4472  
olsonacres@geneseo.net

**Vice President:**

Jim McCray  
604 N. 1600 East Rd.  
Claytonville, IL 60926  
(H) (815) 457-2209  
(C) (815) 258-4011  
(F) (815) 457-3345  
mcpridebuilders@gmail.com

**Secretary:**

Janet Rigg  
19600 N. 1550th Rd.  
Macomb, IL 61455-8748  
(H) (309) 772-3264  
(C) (309) 255-5716  
(F) (309) 837-3966  
jkrigg5@yahoo.com

**Treasurer:**

John Riordan  
117 South Shelly  
Reddick, IL 60961  
(H) (815) 365-4593  
(C) (815) 545-9324  
RiordanGailE@aol.com

**Reporter:**

James Shelby  
16530 East Knox Rd.  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864  
(H) (618) 755-4352  
(C) (618) 214-8914  
shelby92000@yahoo.com

**District I Director:**

Richard DeSchepper  
13998 S. County Rd.  
Altona, IL 61414  
(C) (309) 299-6395  
Rich.DeSchepper@agrigoil.com

**District I Director:**

Loran Wilken  
441 North Adeline Rd.  
Leaf River, IL 61047  
(H) (815) 938-9039  
(C) (815) 541-2986  
diamondauto@frontiernet.net

Fellow alumni members;

Summer is upon us and the 2008 State FFA Convention is history. Many deserving FFA members were honored; while others worked to make the convention run smoothly. The outgoing state FFA officers were honored by receiving life-time memberships in the Alumni. As they leave office, we welcome the new officers for 2008 - 2009 elected at the convention.

They are:

President: Clay Zwilling, Sherrard Chapter  
Vice President: Austin Ashby, West Carroll Chapter  
Reporter: Ben Arteman, Blue Ridge Chapter  
Secretary: Andrew Heavner, Valmeyer Chapter  
Treasurer: Annie Larson, Indian Creek Chapter

They have big shoes to fill, but no doubt will do a great job!

With summer comes outdoor events, meaning potential money makers. If your alumni is hosting one, please share it with everyone by contacting the state office (217-753-3328). Ask for Tammy (or e-mail her at tyard@illinoisffa.org) or call Dean Olson at 309-945-5079. It is always good to hear what others are doing to see if the same idea would work for one's own affiliate.

In July the Alumni Council will hold a meeting the first day of Leadership Camp in Monticello. Later that afternoon, we will prepare pork chops (as usual with the help of Rich Sanders and his family) for the campers. A new twist this year is the addition of corn on the cob to the menu. Before we leave the camp, we will hand out the Leadership Camp scholarships to the selected campers...and a few fun T-shirts for active participants.

Here's hoping your summer is giving you a few dry days for fun in the sun...or to make hay!

Thanks for supporting the best youth organization ever...FFA!

Sincerely,

*Dean Olson,*  
IL FFA Alumni President

**2008  
Illinois FFA Alumni  
Executive Council**

**District II Director:**

Jason Webster  
1238 E. 3900 North Rd.  
Kempston, IL 60946  
(H) (815) 253-6335  
(C) (815) 584-7711  
jwebster@Beckshybrids.com

**District II Director:**

Dean Kregel  
1449 East 1000 North Rd.  
Milford, IL 60953  
(H) (815) 457-2017  
(C) (217) 304-0118

**District III Director:**

Dick Myers  
1210 Harrison Plaza  
Quincy, IL 62305  
(H) (217) 222-2482  
sdmyers@adams.net

**District III Director:**

Bill Crone  
P.O. Box 542  
301 W. Washington  
Ashland, IL 62612  
(C) (217) 415-7483  
wmdcrone@yahoo.com

**District IV Director:**

Jaye Snyder  
8059 E. 2525th Rd.  
Metcalf, IL 61940  
(H) (217) 226-3005  
(C) (217) 822-7726  
jsnyder4@uiuc.edu

**District IV Director:**

Lynn Rohrscheib  
11914 N. 250 East Rd.  
Fairmount, IL 61841  
(H) (217) 896-2040  
(C) (217) 369-1965  
farmin\_83@yahoo.com

**District V Director:**

Ted Hughes  
Route 1 Box 76  
Cisne, IL 62823  
(H) (618) 835-2531  
(W) (618) 835-2684

**District V Director:**

Steve Yandell  
9235 US Highway 45 N.  
Tunnel Hill, IL 62972  
(H) (618) 658-9270  
(C) (618) 771-2400  
yfour@accessus.net



## Arctic Cat 500 Raffle

The raffle conducted by the Illinois FFA Alumni for the Arctic Cat 500 4-wheeler was once again a success. The winner was drawn during the State Convention on June 12, 2008, during the afternoon session. Congratulations to Chad Mahler, winner of the ATV!! The state alumni sponsors the raffle as a way to assist chapters in raising funds. Forty percent of the ticket sales made by the chapter will be returned to the chapter. Thank you, everyone, for your efforts in selling those raffle tickets.

**National FFA Convention  
October 22 - 25, 2008  
Indianapolis, IN**

**Online convention registration  
will open in August, 2008.**

Even though you may still register by filling out the traditional forms and faxing them to National FFA, why not make your life a little easier by registering online? If you have internet access, visit [ffa.org](http://ffa.org) and keep a valid e-mail account, then you're already halfway there! Log on to their secure site, key in your convention registration information and pay with a credit card. You'll receive a confirmation e-mail after you complete the process, serving as your receipt. It's never been easier!

## **State Basket Competition Let's Defend our Title!**

Last year, the Illinois State basket won the basket competition held at the National Convention. A big thank you to Sarah and Dick Myers for doing an outstanding job in putting the basket together for us. Having the winning basket earned us an additional scholarship for one of our FFA members to attend Washington Leadership Conference this summer. We would like to try and repeat our basket victory. This year's theme is the Creed. Anyone with donations (especially, Illinois products) please contact Janet Rigg (309) 772-3264 or e-mail at [jkrigg5@yahoo.com](mailto:jkrigg5@yahoo.com).

## **National FFA Alumni Convention**

The National FFA Alumni Convention held in conjunction with the FFA Convention is just around the corner. The Awards Ceremony will be held on Oct. 23, from 4 - 6 p.m. and the Business Session will be held on Oct. 24, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Both of these events are tentatively scheduled to be held at the Indiana Convention Center. Silent Auction items will be open for bid starting on Wednesday, October 22, 2008.

It is imperative that Illinois be well represented with the convention being in Indianapolis. I realize it is a long drive in our busy schedules, but it is worth supporting our youth at every level of leadership development. Anyone who would be willing to serve as a voting delegate for the Illinois delegation on Friday of the Convention, please contact State President Dean Olson so we may get a count on filling our quota.



## Can Hunger-Million-Can Challenge

The Illinois FFA, IAVAT, FFA Alumni, Illinois PAS and Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders have all committed to working together on the Million-Can Challenge in the upcoming year. The Million-Can Challenge is a project of the National FFA Foundation and is sponsored by Toyota. We will be working with all of these groups to do our part in collecting a million cans of nonperishable food items to help in the fight against hunger. We kicked off the event at the Illinois State Convention, with the help of Lucy Whitehead from National FFA Alumni. We will be holding collection drives and events throughout the year at various locations throughout the state. With everyone's help, we can make this a successful project and can hunger!!

## National FFA Alumni Strategic Planning

February 2008 the National Alumni Council approved the following long range goals and objectives:

### **Long Range Goals and Objectives Long Range Goal:**

For every FFA chapter to have a fully engaged nationally chartered Alumni affiliate by the year 2015.

### **Short Term Objectives:**

1. December 2008: Establish a task force to develop a strategy to improve the quality and quantity of Alumni affiliates.
2. December 2009: Develop and implement a plan of action to insure all states have an active state FFA Alumni association.
3. December 2009: Develop tools for agriculture teachers to establish/maintain an actively engaged alumni affiliate.

**Rationale:** Results of an internal analysis study indicate that present National FFA Alumni programs need to be reviewed to determine their importance and function in today's agricultural education community. The need to recruit and retain qualified agricultural education teachers is crucial. Effective Alumni affiliates can help teachers more efficiently "take the reins" of their local programs. By providing this assistance, local support groups can help reduce teachers' workloads, time commitments, and stress. If these concerns expressed by teachers, even more experienced ones, are not addressed, they can lead to "burnout" and teacher resignations. Affiliates can contribute significantly to reducing the 25 percent nonrenewal rate among new teachers.

**Long Range Goal:** For all Team Ag Ed members to recognize the National FFA Alumni Association as a leader in advocacy for agricultural education by the year 2015.

### **Short Term Objectives:**

1. December 2008: Develop a plan of action to secure the support of all Team Ag Ed members for Ag Ed Advocacy Centers.
2. December 2009: Identify key individuals in each state to aid in the establishment of state and local advocacy centers.
3. December 2010: Establish an Ag Ed Advocacy Center in every state for the purpose of providing support to agricultural education on the local, state and national levels.

**Rationale:** In order for agricultural education to continue to exist, a process for addressing policies/legislative issues at the local, state, and national levels must be established. Stakeholders at every level of Team Ag Ed need tools to strategically design and execute advocacy plans. This united effort will help us to secure the future of agricultural education.

Comments and questions directed to National FFA Alumni Executive Director J. Frank Saldaña at [fsaldana@ffa.org](mailto:fsaldana@ffa.org) or 317-802-4292.

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

July 4	Independence Day - Illinois FFA Center Closed
July 15 - 20	State Leaders Conference - Washington D.C.
July 30 - Aug 2	Leadership Camp - Monticello, IL
Aug 8 - 17	Illinois State Fair - Springfield, IL
Aug 23 - Sept 1	DuQuoin State Fair - DuQuoin, IL
Sept 1	Labor Day - Illinois FFA Center Closed
Oct 13	Columbus Day - Illinois FFA Center Closed
Oct 22 - 25	National FFA Alumni Convention - Indianapolis, IN

*FFA Alumni is a local, state, and national organization designed to assist the FFA in activities and to provide other support as needed.*

**Illinois FFA Alumni**  
**3221 Northfield Drive**  
**Springfield, IL 62702**  
**(217) 753-3328**  
illinoisffa.org

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Springfield, IL  
PERMIT #180