



# Illinois FFA Alumni Association 2006 - 2007



**2006-2007**

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## Illinois FFA Alumni 36th Annual Meeting January 26 - 27, 2007 Northfield Inn & Suites Springfield, Illinois

The 2007 Illinois FFA Alumni Annual Meeting is just around the corner. The meeting will be at the same location as last year, the Northfield Inn & Suites, just across the street from the Illinois FFA Center.

The agenda will be finalized at the State Council meeting on December 9, 2006. During the Business Session and District Caucuses, of the Annual Meeting, the membership present will vote for the 2007 - 2008 State Council members.

There is new a highlight for the Annual Meeting; a Chapter Basket Contest (similar to the State Basket Contest during the National FFA Alumni Convention.) More information on the Chapter Basket appears on page two of this newsletter.

Returning entertainment "Me Too" will be on stage performing during the banquet Friday, January 26, 2007. This group was a bit hit at last year's Annual Meeting and we are delighted

that they could perform again for the Alumni.

A block of rooms have been set aside for registrants of the Annual Meeting at the Northfield Inn & Suites, Springfield, Illinois. For reservations, please call (217) 523-7900 and mention the Illinois FFA Alumni block when making your room reservations. The cut-off date for reservations is December 26, 2006, so please make your reservations before then.

If you are planning on attending, we have included a registration form with this newsletter that needs to be filled out and returned to the Illinois FFA Center with your registration fee.

If you didn't have the opportunity to participate last year, please consider attending this year's Annual Meeting and enjoy the camaraderie and infectious spirit of the Illinois FFA Alumni Annual Meeting!

## Silent and Live Auctions

The Illinois FFA Alumni Council is seeking items for the silent and live auctions during the Annual Meeting. Last year, the auction, raffle and donations raised over \$20,000 for the scholarships for our youth.

The Council is working on securing some other high ticket items. Any one wishing to bring items are asked to fill out the auction item form

(included in this newsletter) and return the form to the Illinois FFA Center. Please bring the auction item with you to the Annual Meeting.

A special thank you goes out to District I Director, Loran Wilken and State Vice President, Jim McCray for coordinating the auctions for the last few years.

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# Items up for Auction at the 36th Annual Meeting

## John Deere

### 2006 Gator™ TX Utility Vehicle:

401 cc, air-cooled, single cylinder, 4-cycle Kawasaki gasoline engine.

Front and rear outboard hydraulic disc brakes to deliver maximum stopping capability. All-wheel suspension allows for a smooth ride with or without load. Features include high-back seats, cup holders, 12v outlet, glove box, and fuel gauge.



Currently, we have the following items to auction off at this year's Annual Meeting:

- |                    |                               |                             |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
|                    | <i>Jackets</i>                | <i>Tools</i>                |                         |
| <i>Tool Boxes</i>  | <i>Hotel Packages</i>         | <i>Tractor Tires (set)</i>  | <i>Side Bed</i>         |
| <i>Gas Grill</i>   | <i>Livestock Lick Buckets</i> |                             | <i>Beef Cattle Feed</i> |
| <i>Lawn Swings</i> |                               | <i>Various cuts of Pork</i> |                         |

More items coming in every day!

Anyone wishing to bring auction items to the Annual Meeting, please complete the Auction form (included) or contact Sue Brookman at the Illinois FFA Center and request a form. We will use the information from the form about the auction item to be included in the Annual Meeting Program. Also, if you have any graphics on the auction items, please include the graphic with the auction form when returning to the Illinois FFA Center.

## Chapter Basket Contest



Photo: A State Basket submission for National FFA Alumni Convention.

For the first time, the Illinois FFA Alumni will conduct a Chapter Basket Contest during the Annual Meeting. Each Chapter is encouraged to submit one basket. Baskets should represent your Chapter and your Chapters areas of interest.

All items must fit securely inside the basket and should be wrapped with clear cellophane. The bottom of the basket can not be larger than 18" x 2 ft. A list of items inside the basket must be included and be clearly visible. The Chapter name should be clearly labeled on the basket. The basket can be of any creation.

Baskets must be in place by Saturday morning registration, January 27th, to be considered eligible for judging. Winning baskets will be announced before the Live Auction. The top three winning baskets from the contest will then be sold at the Live Auction. All baskets submitted are considered a contribution to the Illinois FFA Alumni Association.

## Illinois FFA Alumni Council Meeting

The Alumni Council will meet December 9, 2006, during the State Crops and Dairy Products Evaluation CDE's, Champaign, Illinois. Please feel free to share any ideas or questions you may have, by contacting your Alumni Council members listed on the front of this newsletter.

## Intent to Run for President 2007 Alumni Council

*For President - Dean Olson,*  
Geneseo FFA Alumni

"Agriculture has always been a part of my life." I now own and operate the farm near Geneseo where I was raised. I graduated from Geneseo High School where FFA was my major activity.

I graduated from Western Illinois University with a B.S. in Animal Science and Ag Management. Along with sons, I farm 1,700 acres of corn, soybeans, rye and hay. Feeding cattle is the basis of our operation, but we also feed hogs and do custom work.  
*(Continued on next page)*



## Intent to Run for President and Vice President 2007 Alumni Council

### **President, cont. - Dean Olson**

My family includes my wife, Diane (a middle school English teacher), our daughter Dee Ann Kuster (a veterinarian), sons Deric and Dustin who both operate farms of their own, and son Devin, a freshman at Black Hawk College. All four of our children have been very active in FFA.

I have served on the Henry County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, as president of the Henry County Beef Association, Illinois Beef Association Board, as 4-H County Fair Superintendent, the charter president of the

Geneseo FFA Alumni Chapter, of which I am currently reporter and president of the Illinois FFA Alumni. We are members of First Lutheran Church in Geneseo. I live my life for the four F's: Faith, Family, Farming and FFA! "I would be honored to continue in the office of President to strive to keep the Council working together for the benefit of the FFA."

### **For Vice-President - Jim McCray**

Cissna Park FFA Alumni

I am a married father of three. My wife, Sandy, teaches in the Cissna Park school district. We are blessed this

year with our first grandchild, a girl.

I am the owner of a construction company specializing in custom homes. I have lived in Cissna Park my entire life, never more than one or 1/2 miles from the family farm.

I have enjoyed my previous four years on the Alumni Council and believe I have skills that can be of benefit. I enjoy raising money for the Alumni and will continue to do so. Being the Vice President also allows me to be on the administrative Council. I believe a presence is needed on this council to express the views of the Alumni.

## Intent to Run for Secretary 2007 Alumni Council

### **For Secretary - Janet Rigg**

Bushnell-Prairie City FFA Alumni

I am a graduate of Macomb High School and Robert Morris College with an Associates Degree in Medical Assisting. I am a certified Medical Assistant and a certified Podiatric Medical Assistant. I have been employed by Max R. Rexroat, DPM and Idol R. Mitchell, DPM for over 27 years.

My responsibilities include patient care, supply inventory, ordering and back office management. I have a life membership in both the American and Illinois Podiatric Medical Associations. Until I was married to my husband, Curt, I lived in town and loved visiting my grandparents farm. For over 25 years now, we have lived in a tenant house on my grandparents farm. We have what I refer to as a "4-H Farm,"

a little bit of everything for horses, cattle, sheep, rabbits, cats and dogs, at one time or another. We have raised three children, Shelley (23), Cory (20) a junior at Western, and Kary (19) an Airman in the United States Air Force stationed in Tucson, AZ.

I volunteer with many school based organizations including; Athletic Boosters, After Prom Committee and Band Boosters. For the past several years, I have managed the concession stands for all sporting events working with sponsors and students and have been involved in fundraising and leadership roles in all of these organizations. I was the leader of the Bushnell Busy B's 4-H Club for ten years and still volunteer at the McDonough Co. 4-H Fair serving on

the beef committee. I am a member of the New Philadelphia United Methodist Church. I am an active member of the Bushnell-Prairie City FFA Alumni, attending National and Illinois Alumni Conventions to represent our chapter.

In my "spare" time, I enjoy entertaining family and friends and scrap booking.

"I have been involved in many organizations, taking on leadership responsibilities in all of them. With our youngest child finishing high school, the time seemed right to become more involved in the FFA Alumni at the state level.

The FFA has been such a great experience for my family that I would like the opportunity to give back to the organization that help support them."

## Intent to Run for Treasurer and Reporter 2007 Alumni Council

### **For Treasurer - John Riordan**

Herscher FFA Alumni

I was born and raised in the Reddick area and attended SIU for my Ag major. I was involved in the FFA all four years. After college, I returned to O'Dell and operated a grain and livestock farm. I sold John Deere farm equipment for 17 years and currently own and operate my own trucking business. Both of my children are active in 4-H and FFA. My daughter, Kelsi, is president of Greenhands and our son, Sean, is Vice President of his chapter. Sean and Kelsi are both active in showing cattle and own their

own cutter calf herd. This all has been done with help from my wife, Gail, who also works for Com-Ed. "Agriculture has always been a part of my life. I feel a need to help our future Ag leadership. My children are involved and I want to be involved for them and our FFA youth."

### **For Reporter - James A. Shelby**

Jefferson County FFA Alumni

I am a 2004 graduate of SIU Carbondale with a B. S. in General Agriculture. I currently work as a Non-Destructive Technician for Ultron, Inc. In my work there, I inspect draglines, rotary mills in cement plants and

other heavy industry equipment looking for cracks in critical components. I have been involved with the Alumni for five years as well as being involved in working with youth through church youth programs. I have served this year with enjoyment as your state FFA Alumni Reporter and would like to repeat in my capacity as Reporter. "My reason for wanting to be on the IL FFA Alumni Council is my continued desire to give back to the FFA organization. My desire to serve as a volunteer statewide and instill a servant's heart in youth."

## Thank you to our Sponsors

Without the support of our sponsors for the Annual Meeting, we would not be as nearly successful in supporting programs for our youth. We wish to acknowledge our sponsors of the Alumni Annual Meeting and thank them for their generous support. Sponsors confirmed at this time are:

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. A  
DuPont Company  
Bayer Crop Science  
Monsanto  
Toyota                      John Deere  
Illinois Farm Bureau  
Syngenta  
Gully Transportation  
GROWMARK, Inc.  
West Central FS, Inc

## Newsletter Information

Being in charge of this newsletter is an enjoyable experience. When putting this together every three months, the hardest thing I have to do is actually deciding how to structure the format.

It is because of the support all 4,000+ Alumni members give to our FFA members at the local level that the other council members and I can serve statewide. Any way that we can help our local agriculture programs, we are helping the future.

As Reporter, it is easy to talk about what the Council is doing, and what activities we are involved with at the state level. But it is my hope that every Alumni chapter in Illinois will take advantage of using our newsletter to talk about local happenings.

You may send articles to me at [jshelby92000@yahoo.com](mailto:jshelby92000@yahoo.com) or mail to 16530 East Knox Road, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864. Any questions you might have, please call me at (618) 214-8914.

## 2006 - 2007 ATV Raffle

The 2006 - 2007 Raffle is an Arctic Cat 650H1 ATV that will be awarded during the Illinois FFA Convention, June 12 - 14, 2007. The Raffle will begin December 1st and run through June 14, 2007. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Alumni Vice President, Jim McCray.

We would like to thank the following dealers for their participation and support of this raffle. When you have an opportunity, stop by and say thanks!

**Winterland Sales - Chenoa**  
**Heaton Chevrolet/Oldsmobile -  
Pittsfield**  
**Konneker-Brown, Inc. - Carlinville**

**Dwayne Hargrave International,  
Inc. - Jerseyville**

**Arctic Cat of Mt. Vernon -  
Mt. Vernon, IN**

**Weston's Lawn & Equipment -  
Lawrenceville**

**Metzger Equipment Company -  
Waterloo**

**Herschel Johnson Implement, Inc.  
Albion**

**Hamilton County Equipment -  
McLeansboro**

**Sparta Tractor - Sparta**  
**Illini ATV World - Danville**

**FS Country Plaza - Havana**

**DDS Sales - Teutopolis**

**M & S Implement Company, Inc. -  
Harrisburg**

**F. B. McAfoos & Company - Benton**  
**Adventure Powersports, Inc. -  
Breese**





November 18	E.D.G.E. Conference, Extension Center	Springfield, Illinois
December 9	Illinois FFA Alumni Council Meeting	Champaign, Illinois
January 19	Made For Excellence Conference	Collinsville, Illinois
January 25	Illinois FFA Board of Directors' Meeting	Illinois FFA Center
January 26-27	Illinois FFA Alumni Annual Meeting	Northfield Inn, Springfield
March 1	Alumni Rosters due to the Illinois FFA Center	Illinois FFA Center
March 1	Washington Leadership Conference Scholarship	Illinois FFA Center
March 1	IL FFA Leadership Camp Scholarship Application	Illinois FFA Center
March 1	Team AG Ed – National Distinguished Contributor Award	Illinois FFA Center
Mar. 9	Illinois FFA Alumni Council Meeting	Illinois FFA Center
Mar. 27	Illinois FFA Foundation Meeting	Illinois FFA Center
May 9	Illinois FFA Board of Directors' Meeting	Illinois FFA Center
May 1	Last date to add members to the FFA Roster	Illinois FFA Center
May 15	Legion of Merit Application	

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the National FFA Alumni Association is to secure the promise of FFA and agricultural education by creating an environment where people and communities can develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.



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