The Impact of Leadership
2009 Annual Report of Donors • National FFA Foundation
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2009 Milestone Sponsors

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50-Year Sponsors
Archer Daniels Midland Company

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Chief Industries, Inc.
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Tractor Supply Company
Virgil Eihusen Foundation
WIX Filters

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25-Year Donors
Dr. Larry and Joy Case
Robert and Pauline Wells
I really appreciate your dedication to the success of FFA members. I have enjoyed my experiences in the FFA, all of which have helped me to achieve many of my goals.

Sincerely,
Emily Hobson, Santa Paula FFA

When designed as an individual giving program in 2007, the National FFA Foundation’s Blue Jacket program sought to involve individual donors by impacting local students. The program allowed all individuals who donated $2,500 or more to the National FFA Foundation the opportunity to have an FFA jacket sent to the FFA chapter of their choice. In its first year, the program was successful realizing increased contributions from many previous donors. In the summer of 2008, Vern Hawkins of Syngenta, 2008 Sponsors’ Board Chair, led a simple question. How could a company utilize its local retail network to reach out to local agricultural education programs? This question led to a vision to make the Blue Jacket Program even more successful.

Through his leadership, all Syngenta retailers were challenged to assist at the local level, become involved in their communities and support those who are ultimately Syngenta’s future employees and customers. In 2008, 35 FFA students’ lives were impacted with new jackets. In 2009, thanks to the leadership challenge, the program experienced substantial growth, providing jackets to 75 students, more than doubling the number of jackets given the previous year. Along with the increase of jackets, in 2009 each recipient’s chapter received a $500 check, allowing the chapter to invest in the impact of future leaders.

While National FFA is extremely excited about this program, none are more excited than those whose lives have been impacted by receiving a jacket, like Kristin Ackerman, a senior from Harrisburg High School in Harrisburg, S.D., and Breanna Butler, a sophomore from Southwestern Heights High School in Kismet, Kan. For some, Kristin and Breanna may seem completely different. Kristin is involved with many sports including volleyball, track, basketball and soccer, while Breanna enjoys playing her baritone in the band, maintaining her 3.9 grade point average and working hard!”

Kristin received her new jacket two weeks prior to the 82nd National FFA Convention, where she and her team were representing South Dakota in the Parliamentary Procedure CDE. “I was really excited” Kristin recalled. “It was such an honor to receive. It was really still, fit really well and was great quality!”

“As an advisor, I was very flattered and humbled to have our chapter selected for the FFA jacket and money,” said Mr. Todd Marks, 30-year veteran agricultural education instructor and FFA advisor at Harrisburg High School. “I knew we had community support, but I didn’t realize how large of an impression we had made upon our local business community. This honor has been an excellent motivator for current FFA members to continue working hard!”

Along with jackets, the chapter also receives $500. Marks was able to use the money to purchase meat science identification materials, as well as shrubs to be planted around the school building for the enjoyment of the community and for use by the landscape class and nursery/landscape CDE.

Carmelita Goossen is the agricultural education instructor and FFA advisor at Southwestern Heights High School. “I was extremely excited and thankful for the opportunity. It is great that they are interested in future leaders and employees. They support us even without being asked,” Goossen said. “FFA exists at the local level, and it gives the local retailer, Plains Equity Exchange, sponsoring at the local level, chapters help students who are in need grow the most.” Southwestern Heights plans to use its new greenhouse, constructed solely by volunteers, a function place of learning.

Goossen firmly believes in the impact this program and its sponsors are making. “The Blue Jacket program helps meet the need every chapter faces by providing jackets to those students who work hard, but otherwise would not be able to purchase their own jacket. It allows students who borrow chapter jackets, to have their own, not something they take for granted, instilling an intense sense of pride and professionalism!”

The blue jacket, for some it is merely an item of clothing, but for the half-a-million FFA members, it is a symbol of pride. The blue corduroy jacket represents leadership, trust and integrity; it gives students the confidence to succeed and hope for a prosperous future in agriculture. The blue jacket is much more than fabric. It represents the gold standards found in every FFA member.

The jacket began in 1933, when Dr. Gus Lintner, advisor for the Fredericktown FFA Chapter in Ohio, designed a jacket as uniform for the Fredericktown Band, which had to perform at the national FFA convention. Official delegates were impressed with the jacket and voted to adopt it as official dress. In 1948, the National FFA Supply Service began to supply all members with the jackets.

When a member puts on the blue and gold for the first time, the moment is almost magical. They know their experiences in FFA will help make them the future leaders they will become. “I remember the first time I put on my FFA jacket,” said Riley Branch, 2008-2009 National FFA Western Region Vice President. “The pride that I felt when I pulled it out of the box, and it was folded up, and I draped it out, and it had my name on the front, and I remember thinking, this is mine. I had my piece of a larger scheme, a larger idea of the FFA jacket and of the organization.”

Regina Holliday, 2008-2009 National FFA Southern Region Vice President, recalls when she put her jacket on her freshman year. “I’d always seen the blue jacket and always looked up to it in my school and wondered how I would get it,” Holliday said. “Once you put it on, there’s a feeling of instantaneous ‘wow.’ You feel like you can conquer anything. When you grab the zipper, and you zip it up, and you can just stand back in the mirror, and you just have to take it all in. There’s not a word to describe how you feel when you put it on.”

More than just a jacket, the blue corduroy brings people together.

“I remember the first time I wore it and went to an event and everyone around me had theirs on as well,” Branch said. “It was so exciting for me to think that I was a part of something bigger than myself. All of us together are working on one grander idea and one grander mission, but yet we have a different way of doing it. To me that’s what the jacket symbolizes. The jacket is one of the pieces that bring us all together, and we use the jacket in the organization to accomplish the mission in different ways.”

It is such an honor to be recognized by such sponsors for all the hard work I, along with other applicants, put into this project, and I would like to express my great appreciation. Thanks again!

Sincerely,
Kyle Parreira, Tulare, CA

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Kyle Parreira, Tulare, CA
FAA Celebrates 40 Years of Women Membership

By Andrew Walker and Dustin Petty

If the 33 original members of the Future Farmers of America found themselves in FFA today, they would probably be surprised by what they saw. FFA members... in skirts? For the first four decades of its existence, FFA was strictly a boy’s club.

When the Future Homemakers of America (FHA) formed in 1945, girls finally had a group of their own, and there are countless stories within the FHA archives illustrating partnerships between FHA and FFA chapters. However, “separate but equal” rarely worked, and it was only a matter of time before women would get their blue corduroy.

In 1960, a proposal was presented saying loud and clear that women should be included in the ranks of FFA. When the motion was made to amend the constitution, a delegate used the parliamentary procedure technique of objecting to consideration of the question. Delegates became confused, sustaining the objection, thus stopping the vote for equality.

Those determined to bring about equality weren’t going to allow a repeat in 1969. Bob Craig, 1969-1970 Michigan FFA State President, was one of those individuals. “If the proposal wasn’t adopted this time, state associations were talking about pulling out [of the National FFA]. Why should we be part of an organization that discriminated against women?”

One of the first female leaders was Julie Smiley of the Mount Vernon FFA Chapter in Washington state. “I didn’t think of myself as the first woman,” said Smiley. “I just wanted to be good at what I did, and it was probably some of the most fun I ever had.” Smiley doesn’t remember much animosity toward her but acknowledges that there were those who worried this wouldn’t work and something might go wrong. But that day never came. Due to her groundbreaking tenure as a national officer, she was offered a scholarship to Texas A&M University. “I think it would have been a challenge to have been one of the original girls in FFA,” said Adrienne Boyette, 2008-2009 Florida FFA Vice President. “But the struggle made us stronger, and it’s now great to see how accepted females are in FFA.”

There were still those who opposed the measure, worrying that females would cause a disruption within the organization. “When our delegates went to the convention, I told them not to vote for the girls,” said former FFA advisor Bob Stein. “I felt that the girls had a strong home economics club (FHA) and we had ours. I was worried about chaperoning girls on trips and how their presence would disrupt the work of the chapter.”

Women were finally admitted by the delegates at the 1969 convention—with Bob Craig seconding the motion.

One of the first female leaders was Julie Smiley of the Mount Vernon FFA Chapter in Washington state. “I didn’t think of myself as the first woman,” said Smiley. “I just wanted to be good at what I did, and it was probably some of the most fun I ever had.” Smiley doesn’t remember much animosity toward her but acknowledges that there were those who worried this wouldn’t work and something might go wrong. But that day never came. Due to her groundbreaking tenure as a national officer, she was offered a scholarship to Texas A&M University. “I think it would have been a challenge to have been one of the original girls in FFA,” said Adrienne Boyette, 2008-2009 Florida FFA Vice President. “But the struggle made us stronger, and it’s now great to see how accepted females are in FFA.”

But what about those who originally opposed a feminine presence in FFA? “I can’t speak for everyone,” said Bob Stein, now enjoying retirement, “but I was dead wrong. Girls have been a wonderful addition to the organization. FFA is stronger today because of the young women in our membership.”

Apparantly, this idea is recognized by others as well. During the 82nd National FFA Convention, the U.S. Senate adopted a resolution celebrating the 40th anniversary of women’s admittance into the FFA and their contribution to the organization.

Margaret Mead once said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” In 2009, a group of thoughtful, committed women provided leadership to create a women’s giving circle, IMPACT FFA, to support programs through pooled resources and demonstrate the power of women coming together with a common purpose. Like other women’s giving circles, the intent was to create a community of well-informed women, “raise the tide” of philanthropy for the National FFA and to award high-impact gifts to at least one National FFA program or project each year.

In 2009, the IMPACT FFA members reviewed seven projects and determined that, to honor and recognize the 40th anniversary of women membership in FFA and to celebrate the leadership provided by women and all of their achievements in FFA for the past four decades, it would be appropriate to support the scholarships of the females who provided leadership for the previous year, the four female national officers.

Thank-you notes from the scholarship recipients:

“You are truly changing the lives of hundreds of thousands of students across the country, and from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you for making that possible. Your support is so greatly appreciated, and we look forward to your continued relationship with the National FFA Organization.”

Hannah Crossen
– 2008-2009 Eastern Region Vice President

“As I look back on my experiences as a National FFA Officer, above all the travel, beautiful places, life lessons, tours, speeches and workshops, what I remember and cherish most are the people. The selfless support from people I’d never met was incredible and humbling. Thank you so much for your support in our journeys as National Officers and as we finish our college endeavors. My teammates and I admire you for your many accomplishments and your altruistic generosity.”

Nessie Early
– 2008-2009 Secretary

“Contributing to someone’s education is the greatest gift you can give.”

Laila Hajji
– 2008-2009 Central Region Vice President

“Thank you so much for your generous donation. It is through wonderful supporters like you that I am able to pursue a higher education. Please continue to support FFA & ag ed and thank you for all that you do for students!”

Regina Holliday
– 2008-2009 Southern Region Vice President

Without generous sponsors like you, many young people including myself would not have the rewarding experiences that we have had. Thank you once again for making this positive impact on young people that you support.

Sincerely, Emily Johnson, LaRue County FFA/Kentucky Association
When Campbell Soup Company was seeking a partner to help get a positive message to consumers, they immediately thought of FFA. “We wanted to let our consumers know where our ingredients come from,” said John Faulkner from Campbell Soup Company, “and we knew FFA was dedicated to the health and prosperity of American agriculture.” These initial ideas blossomed into a great partnership between the Campbell Soup Company and the National FFA Foundation was formed, and the “Help Grow Your Soup” campaign was launched!

The “Help Grow Your Soup” campaign consisted of multiple media and promotional avenues, as well as projects involving all of agricultural education. One component project was development of the National FFA Partners in Active Learning (PALS) program — designed to foster relationships and educational moments between high school and elementary students. Other component projects included greenhouse construction grants and teacher recruitment initiatives — in partnership with the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) — and barn restoration projects coordinated by the FFA Alumni Association.

“The online component of helpgrowyoursoup.com was really wonderful. We asked consumers to go to the website and click on the red barn, and we’d make a donation on their behalf to the National FFA Organization,” said Faulkner. “Very quickly, we went right on past our goal, which was 250,000 clicks for $250,000 for the National FFA Organization.”

Recording artist Jewel served as celebrity “Help Grow Your Soup” spokesperson, making television appearances, radio spots and numerous printed media articles. Campbell Soup used the campaign to let the world know the quality and freshness of their soups are directly attributable to the quality produced by those in agriculture and that FFA is raising up future leaders in the industry.

In 2009, the program evolved with the launch of the redeveloped PALS curriculum. Campbell Soup Company, FFA and Urban Farming collaborated on the development of community gardens, allowing students from urban communities in Atlanta, Camden, Chicago, Detroit and New York to learn more about where their food comes from.

“A lot of kids, believe it or not, think that the food just comes from the grocery store. The program that we’re doing now is able to teach the kids where food comes from — planting the seed, nurturing the seed — it’s amazing when kids see their seedling start growing how protective they are…they’re like little plant parents. So I think it’s going to be a real good thing for our kids,” said Carol Resto, Instructional Aide at James Monroe Elementary Wyandotte, Mich., just outside of Detroit. Wyandotte Mayor Joseph Peterson explained: “The gardens like this that are being done today by the kids help give them insight on the future: teaching them young, increasing their knowledge on what they can do to be independent and self-sufficient, a great asset to them and to the future of the country. If everyone supports the youth in this manner, this is going to help them prepare for the future and make the world a better place to live in.”

“Where would we be without agriculture?” asked Catherine Hartz, PALS Mentor and Senior at Roosevelt High School in Wyandotte.

“It’s the basis of what Michigan is about. Young kids should be educated on how to plant a seed, how plants grow and what they do for our bodies and nutritional information. FFA has taught me to stand up and step out, and kind of make a place for myself. I can be who I am and be an educator to young people. I hope they feel proud in what they’re doing, and learn about it.”PALS mentee Haley Elliott, a fourth-grader at James Monroe Elementary, agreed with Catherine and has learned, “Healthy food keeps you in shape, gives you more energy instead of junk food. “Michigan State FFA Officer Aaron Balowski believes the “Help Grow Your Soup” campaign has been a great partnership. “The sponsors are what make this work,” he said. “FFA and urban-type settings are a great way to help education, but sponsors are what make it happen. [Sponsors] provide the tools to take it to the next level.”

In the latest “Help Grow Your Soup” evolution, Campbell Soup Company worked with the National FFA Alumni in the fall of 2009 to identify iconic barns in need of restoration. Ten barns were identified as finalists for restoration and listed on helpgrowyoursoup.com. As they had done so successfully before, Campbell used the online campaign component to garner more than 250,000 clicks as supporters voted for the five winning barns. As a result, barns in Michigan, Maryland, Indiana and North Carolina are slated to be restored by volunteers — including cadres of FFA members, Alumni and supporters — during the spring of 2010.

The “Help Grow Your Soup” campaign allowed the Campbell Soup Company to engage with FFA at all levels — from elementary-school students to active FFA members to Alumni and former members. Along with getting their message out to consumers, they were also able to embrace, in a wonderful line from the FFA Creed, “the best traditions of our national life.”

Faulkner said, “At Campbell Soup Company, everyone has been so impressed with our partners at FFA. Everyone we’ve worked with has been incredibly helpful and supportive as we’ve built this program together. And then to see that cascade down to the local level, to the state level and to the community level is really what it’s all about.”

Thank you for sponsoring the FFA convention. I am proud to be a part of the FFA and I have enjoyed my three years of participation in the program. It has helped me grow in many ways. I hope to use the knowledge I have gained from my FFA experience in my college career, working towards my floral certificate at the Santa Rosa Junior College. I am happy to be a part of such an accomplished group of people, and will carry my knowledge and a sense of community through my college experience and my career. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely, Alyssa DeVincenzi

FFA is an organization that not only teaches students leadership, but also prepares them for future careers. Thank you for sponsoring the Job Interview CDE and for everything else you do with the FFA Organization. This organization has taught me so much about whom I am, my potential and my ability to succeed. I have no doubt that you will continue to serve those involved in FFA, and I look forward to expanding my involvement with FFA.

Respectfully, Heather Harder, Colfax, WA
2009 was a transformational year for the National FFA Foundation. On behalf of the 2009 National FFA Foundation Sponsors’ Board, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to our corporate sponsors and individual contributors, as well as the foundation staff. Together, we stepped up to the challenge to raise more than $14.55 million for the continued success of the Blue and Gold legacy. The personal drive and commitment to make this year a success was phenomenal. It was through the team’s hard work and diligence that we were able to sustain the personal and professional development of young men and women from around the country, allowing them to develop valuable leadership skills necessary for future success.

This year our convention theme was “Lead Out Loud.” Our nation’s FFA students know that when they put on the blue jacket, they represent all of FFA — past, present and future — and they do just that, they lead by example. There is a challenge in our FFA future leaders to not only see the best in yourself and others, but also to lead and to serve. With more than 500,000 FFA students in more than 7,400 chapters, our future leaders discover and build themselves through their agricultural education experiences that you, as a supporter, made possible. They are finding ways to lead out loud in their communities today and will continue to do so. These young people will be our future employees and leaders. The future of agriculture and our communities remains bright!

It has been a year of great change and excitement — within FFA, in the United States and around the world. FFA students, advisors and staff will be challenged in the year ahead, but their commitment, the strength of FFA’s programs and the support of valued sponsors and new contributors will drive our progress.

During my time as a Sponsors’ Board member, I have had the remarkable opportunity to work with sponsors, students and staff, all dedicated to the FFA experience. The students of FFA take great pride in their accomplishments — and they do just that, they lead by example. There is a challenge in our FFA future leaders to not only see the best in yourself and others, but also to lead and to serve. With more than 500,000 FFA students in more than 7,400 chapters, our future leaders discover and build themselves through their agricultural education experiences that you, as a supporter, made possible. They are finding ways to lead out loud in their communities today and will continue to do so. These young people will be our future employees and leaders. The future of agriculture and our communities remains bright!

Thank you again for your generous contributions to FFA. You have made a positive impact on the lives of young men and women of FFA and the future of agriculture. 2009 truly demonstrated the value, the significance and the great future of the National FFA Organization. Thank you for continuing to “Lead Out Loud,” as we go into this new decade!

Sincerely,
Jeff Simmons
2009 National FFA Sponsors’ Board Chair

Your support and hard work benefit over 500,000 FFA members across the country. It was an honor to compete on the national level, and FFA has developed my leadership abilities to help me succeed in the future. Thanks again for your support.

2009 Sponsors’ Board Chairman’s Letter

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Ford Trucks’ relationship with FFA began in 1948 and developed into a scholarship program for FFA members in 1997. With the support of Ford dealers across the country, we will soon reach the milestone of providing $6.05 million in collegiate scholarships to these deserving students. We recognize that the agricultural community contributes to F-Series’ record as America’s best-selling trucks for 33 years running, and we appreciate your continued support through challenging financial times.

Ford Motor Company is honored to assist FFA members as they pursue their path to leadership in business and in their communities.

Doug Scott
Group Marketing Manager,
Trucks, Utility & Commercial Vehicles
Ford Motor Company
Platinum Sponsor

Platinum Sponsors $1,000,000 +

Monsanto
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Human ingenuity gave rise to agriculture some 10,000 years ago, and human ingenuity is what will enable agriculture to help meet the food and energy needs of a growing world population in this decade and beyond.

Through educational programs that promote continuous learning and responsible stewardship of natural resources and the environment, FFA instills a healthy spirit of inquiry and a passion for innovation among tomorrow’s leaders. We at ADM are proud to help further that tradition through our sponsorship of National FFA Organization scholarships.

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My involvement with the National FFA Organization has been a pleasure — from serving as President of the Apollo FFA Chapter in Owensboro, KY to sitting on the National Sponsorship Board today. The strong communication and relationship-building skills I learned are vital to my role at Tractor Supply Company. TSC is proud to sponsor FFA because of the continued dedication to premier leadership, personal growth and career success. It is a great way to connect with our future customers, team members and the unique communities we serve. FFA is important to our company and the success of the overall American landscape.

Benjamin R. Alsum of Randolph, Wis., took those business skills he learned in FFA and maximized them to his best ability. So much so, that this 21-year-old doesn’t have just one area of expertise, he has three — cattle-raising, customized baling and produce. Alsum’s experience with the produce business began when he was in middle school. His family sold sweet corn, vegetables, pumpkins and Indian corn at various stands across central and southeast Wisconsin. In 2005, Alsum purchased 2 percent of Alsum Sweet Corn. This endeavor was made possible through his expanding business, Ben’s Bovine Beauties. This business venture, along with a customized baling business, began early in Alsum’s FFA career. FFA taught him the importance of enterprises and allowed him to increase his ownership of Alsum Sweet Corn to 25 percent. He hopes to grow it to 40 percent by the end of the year. “Much of my success should go to FFA and the experiences I have gained from being an active member,” Alsum said. “Interacting with other FFA members and traveling to FFA events and activities have given me a diverse background in experiences, many of which relate to my SAE and its success.”

“I would like to thank the National FFA Foundation for its generous support of the American Star program as well as all FFA programs offered to the FFA membership across the United States. I started my FFA career at the end of Middle School and learned about the FFA by seeing other FFA members excel on the local, state and national levels. I decided at that young age that I wanted to be on stage some day at the national convention. As I progressed in my FFA career, I began planning for being an American Star in Agribusiness and worked tirelessly toward that goal. I run three businesses now and have increased the number of employees I have each year. FFA provided the incentives, through your support and of the many sponsors who partner with you, to make my goals realistic and come true. I appreciate your support, as do the other FFA members across the United States.”

Ben Alsum
2009 American Star in Agribusiness

My involvement with the National FFA Organization has been a pleasure — from serving as President of the Apollo FFA Chapter in Owensboro, KY to sitting on the National Sponsorship Board today. The strong communication and relationship-building skills I learned are vital to my role at Tractor Supply Company. TSC is proud to sponsor FFA because of the continued dedication to premier leadership, personal growth and career success. It is a great way to connect with our future customers, team members and the unique communities we serve. FFA is important to our company and the success of the overall American landscape.
As a manufacturing association, our 80+ members look to us to help identify the future workforce. Our engagement with the national FFA convention not only assured us that our industry has a lot to look forward to, but we were also impressed with the students’ professionalism and character, and look forward to continuing our support for the FFA.
My experience with FFA as a high school student in northwest Arkansas was invaluable. It gave me an excellent introduction to production agriculture that served me well as I joined and eventually led our family’s poultry business. While Tyson Foods has grown to become one of the largest food companies in the world, we still rely on talented, hard-working people who understand and appreciate agriculture. This is why we’re proud to support the FFA Foundation and its programs to teach and train some of the future leaders in our industry.
Helen Cox
Marketing Manager, North America
Animal Products Division
Wahl Clipper Corporation

Wahl Clipper Corporation is proud to be a sponsor of FFA, an organization exemplifying values and traditions very much like our own: commitment, integrity, leadership, innovation, teamwork, global perspective and service. For Wahl Clipper Corporation and the FFA, over nine decades of experience provides a foundation and creates opportunities for generations to come by “Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Serving.” Congratulations FFA! Keep up the good work!

Jill Leitzen
Director of Human Resources
Kuhn North America, Inc.

Amazing results happen when two organizations who are leaders in their fields unite! FFA and Kuhn North America have partnered for the past five years to support the development of premier leadership, personal growth, and career success of our nation’s future agricultural leaders through the sponsorship of career development events at the high school and collegiate levels. Add the intense passion for agriculture they exhibit, and these students are ready to hit the ground running early in their careers. As a result, Kuhn North America is pleased to continue its support of National FFA and the development of future leaders in agriculture.
The law firm of Ice Miller is proud to support the FFA Foundation in its mission to make a positive difference in the lives of students. The excellent programming provided by FFA serves to educate today’s youth and to cultivate the next generation of leaders. Those who now proudly wear the blue corduroy jacket will soon contribute to the innovations and policies that will create the world’s new sources of food, improve human health, protect our environment and expand our energy supplies. We applaud your efforts and encourage you to strive for the best, “in the promise of better days through better ways.”
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I would like to sincerely thank you for your support to the FFA. I also want to thank you for your sponsoring of the agricultural services award. The FFA teaches kids the value of leadership, personal growth and development. You can be sure that your support and time is going to a good organization. I again want to personally thank you for your sponsorship. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Dustin Stanton
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**Entrepreneurship** is the aspect of FFA that always intrigued Slade Don Nightengale of Cordell, Okla. In fact, at the young age of 8, he had begun his own stocker cattle operation with the money he earned from driving a tractor. When Slade first enrolled in agricultural education classes, he had an operation with 22 head of cattle — an inventory that he knew he wanted to grow. He was able to secure funding and soon purchased 128 head of cattle. He then rented 160 acres of land from a local landowner, with 45 acres of cropland and 115 acres of native grass pasture. Utilizing some of his father’s equipment in exchange for labor, he was able to plant the cropland. Today, he has 450 acres of planted wheat, 478 head of cattle and a lease for 1,000 acres of grass.

"I didn’t know what to expect when I enrolled in agricultural education classes in 8th grade," Nightengale said. "Completing five years of high school agricultural education, being involved in FFA and having a supervised agricultural experience program taught me many valuable lessons. Production agriculture requires record keeping, marketing and financial skills. My agricultural education classes and FFA have helped me develop these skills to prepare me for my career in production agriculture."

**Robert Gordon**
- Chairman
- Telvent DTN
- Gold Standards Circle

After meeting FFA student members, I was impressed by what a positive difference the FFA makes in the lives of so many young people. Through its leadership and education programs and incorporating practical agricultural experiences, the FFA is helping to create confident, centered young people who will make a difference. Supporting the FFA is one of the best investments one can make in the future of America.
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Success in her genes

Ariel Waldeck, 18, of Cecilia, Ky., has always wanted to follow in her grandfather’s farming footsteps so it wasn’t surprising when she decided to show Brown Swiss cattle, the gentle giants her grandfather always loved. “I chose Brown Swiss because that’s what my grandfather had,” Waldeck said. “He died when I was seven and I wanted to follow in his footsteps. Showing goes hand in hand with genetics and embryo transfer. You want the best when you show so that’s how I got involved in embryo transfer.”

After two years of showing and more losses than wins, she decided to take matters into her own hands and develop a better-quality Brown Swiss. Artificial insemination took her a step closer to the perfect show cow, but the results still fell short so she started buying embryos. She flushed her own cattle and implanted the embryos and soon celebrated an excellent conception rate that hovered around 70 percent. With such success, word of mouth spread, and Waldeck started All-American Genetics. Her company works with customers from all over the world to produce high-quality show animals. Just in the past year, she and her business partner have expanded the business to a new level by not only flushing other people’s cattle and implanting embryos but also raising the calves until they are 90 days old and can be returned to the owner. She also ships embryos from her own herd all over the world and sells cows and cattle. In addition, Waldeck offers classes for local farmers who are interested in starting embryo transfer on their own farms.

Waldeck is currently attending the University of Kentucky to pursue a double major in agricultural communications and integrated strategic communications.

As an agricultural education teacher straight out of college and then working for John Deere, I have seen how FFA builds great leaders and citizens. My wife and I have been pleased to be able to a part of giving back and contributing to the future of agriculture – an industry that has given us so much.

Will Hubbard
Rising Sun Circle
For Amy Lynn Robak of Oak Park, Minn., conservation and agronomy were the areas that held her attention. In fact, she worked hard to help farmers make economical and environmentally friendly decisions in the area of crop nutrients. She credits her FFA advisor, Alan Stemper, with helping her set goals that would dovetail with her interests and help her continue to learn more about these areas. She began work at the Benton County Soil and Water Conservation Office and was able to work with farmers who were concerned with environmental and natural resource issues on their land.

“I simply wanted to learn new technologies in the field of agronomy such as crop nutrient tools,” Robak said. “I plan to pursue graduate school at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities to obtain my degree in soil fertility. I want to help farmers develop economically sound farming practices.”

Robak is currently attending University of Wisconsin-River Falls, majoring in conservation/agronomy.

“My nutrient management research project influenced me enough to pursue a minor in Land Use Planning focusing on agriculture preservation,” Robak said. “I plan to pursue graduate school at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities to obtain my degree in soil fertility. I want to help farmers develop economically sound farming practices.”

“Being selected as the American Star in Agriscience has been an amazing experience and opportunity for me. It started for me growing up on a family dairy farm in Minnesota and having the experience of working with our farm doing research. My skills were developed by joining our local FFA chapter. By joining FFA, my research experience was only further developed and more opportunities were available to me. Today, with hard work and dedication, I believe anyone can achieve anything.”

Amy Robak
2009 American Star in Agriscience.
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107 Rick Van Gorder
Cary, IL
108 Don and Joyce Willock
Edwardsville, IL
109 Victor Voight
Rowlett, WI
110 John and Phyllis Jean Simpson
Charlotte, NC
111 Amber Smyer
Greenvale, FL
112 Timothy Snider
Joliet, IL
113 Clifford Steiner
Duluth, GA
114 James and Susan Stewart
Greenvale, IN
115 Michele and Rodney Sullivan
Aurora, NE
116 Marty Tatum
Greenvale, FL
117 Roger Teague
Morgantown, WV
118 Tim Thieoff
LaGrange, IL
119 Steven and Patricia Schehl
Carmel, IN
120 Richard Schleucher
Cedar, IA
121 Bill Schuman
Niagara, NY
122 Jack and Roxana Schuyler
Anchorage, AK
123 Charles and Nell Seaton
Wayzata, MN
124 Sally and Scott Shamo
Stouffville, ON
125 David and Alyce Sickel
Fall City, WA

Sentinel Circle $250-$499

3 Michael Morehouse
4 David and Cheryl Morley
5 Louis, MO
6 Richard A. Mottolo
North Reading, MA
7 John Muloney
Herald, CA
8 Matt Musselman
Kansas City, MO
9 Marty Macy
Sewanee, TN
10 Karen Ochonicky
Wayzata, MN
11 Julie and Kevin Ochsner
Kuttawa, KY
12 Gerald Oney
Greenfield, IN
13 Gregory and Cynthia Page
Watsonville, CA
14 Jerry and Denise Payne
Carmel, IN
15 Dick Peixoto
Staunton, VA
16 Jeff and Kelli Pennick
Belhaven, NC
17 Donald Poynter
Watsonville, CA
18 Anne and Harold Prichard
Carmel, IN
19 Gregory Phillips
Georgetown, KY
20 Marshall Poole
Carson City, NV
21 Donal Prynter
Reedsville, WI
22 Anne and Harold Prichard
Booneville, MS

Spark of Entrepreneurial Spirit

Connecting the agricultural community
Kela Kelis, 18, of Fairview, Okla., had an idea in 2005 when the show goat industry began to take off. Why not mimic the successful website oklahomashowpigs.com and start a website for show goats?

Her ambitious goal paid off. With an initial investment of $2,000 and some help from her parents, she purchased the website domain www.oklahomashowgoats.com as well as software. With the help of the owner of oklahomashowpigs.com, she was able to build her website adding graphics and a new logo. She also added a message board feature. The message board provided a forum for people to discuss topics in the goat industry. Kelin contacted local breeders and feeders to advertise on the website and linked from the oklahomashowpigs.com website. This allowed her to reach out to additional audiences and increase traffic to her website.

The result has been successful. When she took over the website in 2006, she had more than 465,000 hits. In 2008, there were more than 1.2 million hits. She has held two online goat auctions and continues to make updates to the site, and this fall she plans to add a classified-ads page allowing people to advertise services, equipment or goods. She plans to expand the online auctions as well.

Kelin has been around agriculture and FFA her entire life and has shown champion pigs, chickens and goats around the state.

Thank you so much for your continuous support of our organization and of the proficiency award program. Your support is greatly appreciated and does not go unnoticed. It is companies like yours that help keep our organization running strong. Thanks again!

Sincerely, Kristin McQueen
**Supporter Circle $100-$249**

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   Bridgewater, VA
2. Richard and Gwen Dado
   Amery, WI
3. Matt and Patricia Dakan
   Quakertown, PA
4. Dorabel Daley
   Mesa, AZ
5. Douglas Daley
   Gilbert, AZ
6. Thomas Dalfonso
   Anthorp, NY
7. Richard and Peggy Daluge
   Madison, WI
8. Evan and Patricia Davies
   Alpharetta, GA
9. Mark Davis
   Alapaha, GA
10. Dan and Angela Davis
    Maloneville, IN

**Supporter Circle $100-$249**

11. Wayne and Susan Cupp
    Bridgewater, VA
12. Richard and Gwen Dado
    Amery, WI
13. Matt and Patricia Dakan
    Quakertown, PA
14. Dorabel Daley
    Mesa, AZ
15. Douglas Daley
    Gilbert, AZ
16. Thomas Dalfonso
    Anthorp, NY
17. Richard and Peggy Daluge
    Madison, WI
18. Evan and Patricia Davies
    Alpharetta, GA
19. Mark Davis
    Alapaha, GA
20. Dan and Angela Davis
    Maloneville, IN

**For Tony Crescio of Randolph, Wis.,** all aspects of farming intrigued him, from the crops to the business side. For as long as he can remember, he’s been farming.

He works with much soil at Jack’s Pride Farms, Inc. He began when he was in middle school, and the more he worked with his family, the more he became fascinated with the crops and the equipment that was needed to help with a successful harvest. Crescio wanted to be able to help with all of the farm and develop a solid-based onion, carrot and mint oil production business.

Over the years, he’s been able to learn all aspects of the farm. He has even received recognition as a national agri-entrepreneur national winner for starting a small business creating air fresheners and soaps with the mint oil.

As he continues to gain experience, Crescio’s responsibilities on the farm continue to grow. From tilling to planting and harvesting, he also helps with weed control for the plants. He also runs the still to distill peppermint oil. His overall career goal is to farm with his father, uncle and grandfather as a partner in the corporate farm.

"With my goal to become a partner in our farm corporation, I have farmed 40 acres of my own peppermint for the past four years," Crescio said. "The money from this has helped me pay for school, as well as assisted me in saving money to buy into the corporation."

Whether its agriculture, science or even business, FFA offers students a wide variety of career options. Many students are able to capitalize on the hands-on experience that FFA offers. Through the help of their advisors and support of FFA sponsors, students are able to create a successful future for themselves.

"I would like to thank the National FFA Foundation for all its support with the various programs I have taken part in over the years. The opportunities and relationships that have resulted from my participation in the proficiency and agri-entrepreneur programs are those which I would have never made had it not been made possible by the National FFA Foundation. The rush of standing on stage in Lucas Oil Stadium is one moment I will never forget. I am very grateful and honored to be the 2009 FFA Star in Agricultural Placement. Again, thank you for all the memories and your dedication to agriculture."

Tony Crescio
2009 American Star in Agricultural Placement

On behalf of the Oregon FFA Association, I would like to thank you for sponsoring the Poultry Production Awards. We cannot thank you enough for your support and dedication to our organization. FFA members have been working diligently on their projects, and your sponsorship has allowed us to award them for their hard work.

Thank you, Patricia J. Roper, 08-09 State Sentinel, Oregon

**Supporter Circle $50-$99**

1. Duane and Rebecca Fisher
   Mifflintown, PA
2. Marlin Fletcher
   Hot Springs, AR
3. Jenny and Dana Flint
   Countryville, MO
4. Corey Flouy
   Champaign, IL
5. Joe and Sue Falk
   Magruder Springs, TX
6. John and Sheill Foland
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   Fort Collins, CO
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   Winfield, AL
9. Robin Frank
   Indianapolis, IN
10. Ed and Shirley Frederich
    Manawa, WI
11. Craig Frederich
    Lincoln, NE
12. Wayne and Ruth Frederich
    Ogle, IA
13. Bernard and Eleanor Fultz
    Tracy, TX
14. Tom Galladay
    Darlington, WI
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    Glendale, CA
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    Ninebark, VA
17. Jack Garman
    Somerset, KY
18. Jennifer Garrett
    Dowling, MI
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    Allfra, IN
20. Adam Gragus
    Lake Inez, IN
21. David Germain
    Kansas City, MO
22. Rodney and Eva Elmore
    Doniea, TX
23. Richard and Louise Elpers
    Houstad, IA
24. Robert Engle
    Naples, FL
25. George Erickson
    Whittemore, MN
26. R. James Ertl
    Roosevelt, WI
27. Eric Ersel
    Spokane, WA
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    Joel, MT
29. James Freiley
    Winfield, AL
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    Caron, WI
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    Indianapolis, IN
32. Dennis and Carol Ficus
    Phoenix, AZ
33. Cindy and Brian Hefner
    Bridgeport, WA
34. Nathan and Bonita Heimann
    Carlye, IL
35. Patricia Henderson
    Orange, VA
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    Lake St Louis, MO
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    East Liberty, OH
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    Silver Spring, MD
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    Canal Winchester, OH
55. Rossie and Mickey Hunsinger
    Indianapolis, IN
56. Sherry and Daniel Ingram
    St Louis, MO
57. Wln. Jay and Sharon Jackson
    Versailles, KY
58. James and Pamela Jenkins
    West Des Moines, IA
59. Scott and Carol Jensen
    Overland Park, KS
60. Mark, Jill, Michelle, and
    Carrie Turner
71. Kariann Johansen
    Ramona, WA
72. Jeff Johnson
    Strathmore, CA
73. Phil and Carla Johnson
    Eden Prairie, MN
74. Eric Jones
    St Louis, MO
75. Philip and Jane Josephson
    Kansas City, MO
76. John and Lorraine Jossund
    Hurley, WI
77. Anthony Juechter
    Sharenport, IA
78. Gary and Sandra Kabat
    Alhambra, IL
79. Earl and Ononele Kanter
    Canal Winchester, OH
80. Timothy and Nancy Kantor
    Burroville, IL
81. Thomas and Jud Karcher
    Sharenport, IA
82. Meriam Karlson
    Fairbanks, AK
83. Dorothy Kaye
    Sumner, WA
84. Roger Keel
    South Whitley, IN

**Individual Donors**

- Richard and Joyce Hummel, Canal Winchester, OH
- Rossie and Mickey Hunsinger, Indianapolis, IN
- Sherry and Daniel Ingram, St Louis, MO
- Wln. Jay and Sharon Jackson, Versailles, KY
- James and Pamela Jenkins, West Des Moines, IA
- Scott and Carol Jensen, Overland Park, KS
- Mark, Jill; Michelle, and Carrie Turner, Ramona, WA
- Kariann Johansen, Ramona, WA
- Jeff Johnson, Strathmore, CA
- Phil and Carla Johnson, Eden Prairie, MN
- Eric Jones, St Louis, MO
- Philip and Jane Josephson, Kansas City, MO
- John and Lorraine Jossund, Hurley, WI
- Anthony Juechter, Sharenport, IA
- Gary and Sandra Kabat, Alhambra, IL
- Earl and Ononele Kanter, Canal Winchester, OH
- Timothy and Nancy Kantor, Burroville, IL
- Thomas and Jud Karcher, Sharenport, IA
- Meriam Karlson, Fairbanks, AK
- Dorothy Kaye, Sumner, WA
- Roger Keel, South Whitley, IN
Your support and contribution are greatly appreciated by me and the FFA, because without people like you, it would be hard to make an organization successful.

Thank you again, Allison Griffith
Individual Donors

Thanks again,
It is people like you that enable the youth of California to be successful and receive recognition.

Edgar and Fay Spicer

Joseph and Elizabeth Stoff

Lynn and Karen Stapel

Karen Stapel

Robert and Pauline Wells

Dennis and Joyce Rachut

Supporter Circle $100-$249

Individual WLC Scholarship

James Barker

Dale and Vicki Pearson

William Harrington

Ameriprise Financial & AGSTAR Scholarship

Sparks of Entrepreneurial Spirit

Spark of Entrepreneurial Spirit

Alumni WLC Scholarship

James Barker

William Harrington

Dennis and Joyce Rachut

Endowments

It is people like you that enable the youth of California to be successful and receive recognition.

Thanks again, Jesse Silva, Le Grand, CA
Bill Kirk Scholarship Endowment
William and Lillian Kirk
Naples, FL
Rik Miller
Lincoln University, PA

Booker T. Washington Scholarship
Individual Combined Federal Campaign

Endowments
Joe and Kristi Metzger
Eli and Alice Metzger Scholarship Endowment
Aurora, IL
Edward Fauth
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Catherine Bunk
Gorham, ME
Audrey Kenison
Daniel R. Sanborn Scholarship
Burnsville, MN
Timothy and Nancy Kantor
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C. Coleman Harris National Officer Endowment
Tonya and Brad Coen
Masco EMS, IL
Carey Foulmay
Champaign, IL
Kipling and Myra Godwin
Windham, ME
Gary and Barbara Gary Winship
Saco, ME
Franklin and Charlene Franklin Thompson
West Chester, PA

Dale Wolf Scholarship Endowment
Dale Wolf was known for his active participation, support, leadership and guidance for agriculture, education, and the National FFA. He served as Chairman of the Board of DuPont’s pharmaceutical business and as Group Vice President of DuPont Ag & Nutrition Enterprise. He also held the position of chairman of the National Agriculture Chemical Association and chairman of the International Chemical Association. In 1987, Mr. Wolf left DuPont to become a public servant. He was elected Lieutenant Governor and then served as the 77th Governor of the state of Delaware.

In recognition of Mr. Wolf’s contributions to agriculture and his fellow citizens, DuPont and other friends established the Dale Wolf Scholarship Endowment as a lasting tribute to his dedication and service. The National FFA Foundation will award a scholarship to a college-bound FFA member pursuing a four-year degree in agriculture or ag sciences and who has a record of academic excellence and public service.

Glyndon Stuff Scholarship Endowment
Jerry and Nilda Stuff
Indianapolis, IN

Jacob Ross Parish Endowment Fund
Jason and Christie Barany
Dallas, TX
Andrew Harper
Austins, TX
Chris and Carla Harrison
Austin, TX

Jim Borel Scholarship Endowment Fund
James Borel
West Chester, PA
Rik Miller
Lincoln University, PA

Your support of the FFA Organization is valued and appreciated. Thank you for all you do!

Thanks,
Trista Ingle
John and Amy Rakestraw Scholarship
John and Amy Rakestraw
Long Grove, IL

Martin Sorkin Memorial Scholarship
Martin Sorkin served the world of economics and agriculture from his first position with the Agriculture Department in 1934 as an economist with the Federal Crop Reporting Service in Indiana. During World War II, he was involved in developing national food rationing programs. After the war, he helped develop policies for distributing surplus crops to countries facing food shortages. The effort evolved into the Food for Peace program, now administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

He remained an unofficial consultant to high-ranking Agriculture Department officials throughout his life. In the 1960s and 1970s, he served on several presidential advisory commissions on food, nutrition and economics.

Mr. Sorkin left the Agriculture Department in 1961 to work as an independent consultant. He provided economic consulting services to many trade groups and agribusiness corporations, including Archer Daniels Midland (ADM).

To honor Martin Sorkin’s illustrious career, ADM and other donors established the Martin Sorkin Memorial Scholarship, which awards annual scholarships for a college bound FFA members who have an interest in the study of international trade, economics, and/or public policy.

Mr. Sorkin would have been so pleased to have known about the scholarship fund. He cared greatly for young people, loved to see them learn and succeed, and wanted all the very best for them. He always welcomed the opportunities to serve as a mentor to those interested in agribusiness, wanting them to understand the many anomalies of the field and avoid its pitfalls. What a wonderful way to honor him and to continue the memory of his life.

Monsanto Roadrunners Scholarship
Jeanette and Walter Alghrim
St. Louis, MO

Andy Armbuster
Midland, MI

Linda Arnold
St. Louis, MO

Scott Baucum
St. Louis, MO

Charles Becker
St. Charles, MO

Gary and Joann Bradshaw
St. Charles, MO

Andy Armbruster
St. Louis, MO

St. Louis, MO

Bhakthabatsalam and Bharathi Rajasekaran
Chesterfield, MO

John and Buffy Raines
St. Louis, MO

Bart and Jerry Seager
Mulberry, IN

James and Nelda Morton
Friendswood, TX

Richard and Nancy Swem
Forest, IN

Kevin and Jessica Walker
Forest, IN

Mike Hopper Memorial Scholarship Endowment

Scholarships without Donations in 2009

Arthur and Nell Levin Memorial Scholarship

Baker Grace Georgia FFA Camp Endowment

BRIDGE Endowment

Cheryl Mintz Hennesy Scholarship

Dean Carlson Honorary Scholarship

Deborah Deloney FFA Endowment Scholarship

Elmer J. and Hester Jane Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Farm Aid Scholarships

Georgia M. Hellberg Memorial Scholarship

Scholarship

Western Dairy Farmers Promotion Association

I would like to thank you for your generosity by sponsoring the National Diversified Livestock Proficiency Award. To be recognized for one’s extensive efforts with our enterprises is much appreciated and means a lot.

Thank you,
Addie Dyer

R. Fowler/Armstrong Family Scholarship Endowment
Jeffrey and Sharon Armstrong
Oklahoma, OK

Randall and Sandra Armstrong
Kuttawa, KY

Travis Stowers Leadership Endowment

Sue and Jay Hawley
Kirklin, IN

James and Terry Hopf
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Robert and Rita Huck
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Jeffrey and Renai King
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John and Wanda Millet
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James and Nelda Morton
Lebanon, IN

Robert and Sharon Murphy
Middletown, IN

Gary and Annette Neal
Mulberry, IN

Travis Stowers Leadership Endowment

Sue and Jay Hawley
Kirklin, IN

Jeffrey and Sharon Armstrong
Oklahoma, OK

Randall and Sandra Armstrong
Kuttawa, KY

Addie Dyer
Thank you for these competitions that help students like me participate and succeed in a fun and interesting area like emerging agriculture.

Sincerely,
Lilia Chavez
# Six-Year Combined Contribution Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Corporate</th>
<th>Foundation/Government</th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>FFA Chapters, Commodity Groups and Universities</th>
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<td>2004</td>
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**2009 Contribution Source Distribution**

- Corporate: 85%
- Foundation/Government: 6%
- Individual: 6%
- Other: 3%

I would like to say thank you. The FFA Organization has instilled confidence and leadership in my children. It is an organization like no other for these kids. Thanks for all that you do and keep up the great work.

Thanks Again, Jane Rosenau, Carrington, ND

---

Thank you so much for sponsoring the Specialty Animal Production Proficiency Award. My SAE project is raising dairy and meat goats. I was very excited to represent Iowa at the national level. Again, thank you so much for your support of the FFA Organization.

Sincerely, Kimberly Jordan