



National FFA Organization

Prominent Former Members

Agriculture

"There are two things that make goose bumps go up and down my back: one is Old Glory flying over the nation's capitol when I walk by it at night, and the other is when I see FFA members in their blue jackets. I get an emotional feeling because FFA lifted me out of the depths of poverty and personal problems to the halls of Congress."

– Wes Watkins, former U. S. congressman from Oklahoma and former president of the Oklahoma FFA Association

Gus R. Douglass	West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture (10th term)	Point Pleasant, West Virginia - Former national FFA president (1946-47)
Adin A. Hester	President, Olive Growers Council of California	Oregon - Former national FFA president (1958-59)
Stephen Kautz	President, Kautz Family Vineyards, Murphys, California	Lodi, California - Tokay High School FFA Chapter
Tim Kimura	Professional trail course designer, trail horse clinician & instructor	
Jack Laurie	Former president, Michigan Farm Bureau	Cass City, Michigan
Justin McKee	Professional rodeo announcer	Labette County, Kansas - Former state FFA president
Tom McKittrick	Former general manager, World Dairy Expo	Kickapoo, Wisconsin - Former state FFA secretary and state FFA president
Orion Samuelson	Agribusiness director, WGN Radio; reporter, "National Farm Report"; co-host, "This Week in Agribusiness"; National Radio Broadcasters Hall of Fame (2003)	Ontario, Wisconsin
William Stamp Jr.	President, Rhode Island Farm Bureau	Cranston, Rhode Island - Former state FFA officer
Harry Stine	President, Stine Seed Company	Washington Township, Dallas County, Iowa
Richard Waybright	President, Mason Dixon Farms – one of the nation's largest dairy farms	Pennsylvania - Former national FFA vice president (1950-51)

Business

"FFA was a very big part of my development, both through high school and college. Serving as a local, state and national officer helped me develop a leadership style that has served me well through my career as a university teacher, a government researcher and a business executive."

– William T. Boehm, Senior Vice President, The Kroger Company, and President, Kroger Manufacturing, and former national FFA vice president

Nels Ackerson	Attorney, Ackerson Kauffman Fex	Indiana - Former national FFA president (1963-64)
Peg Armstrong-Gustafson	Owner and founder, Amson Technology LLC	Iowa - Former state FFA president and national FFA vice president (1977-78)
Greg Bamford	President, Bamford Realty Inc.	Colorado - Former state FFA president (1965-66) and national FFA president (1967-68)
William T. Boehm	Senior Vice President, The Kroger Company, and President, Kroger Manufacturing	Mosinee, Wisconsin – Former state FFA chaplain, state FFA president and national FFA vice president (1967-68)
Jim Davis	Creator of Garfield comic strip	Fairmount, Indiana - Former FFA chapter president
Morris Dees	Attorney; founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center	Alabama - Alabama Star Farmer (1955)
Steve Doocy	Co-anchor, "FOX & Friends" on FOX News Channel	Clay Center, Kansas - Former FFA chapter vice president
A. Charles Fischer	Former president & CEO, Dow AgroSciences	Texas
Jacob France	Owner, Rostrata Photography, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; winner of the 2004 Caribbean Travel Photographer of the Year award, presented by the Caribbean Tourism Organization	Shelley, Idaho - Former FFA chapter treasurer
Elizabeth Hund	Senior vice president and division manager, U.S. Bank's Food and Agribusiness Division	Kansas
Chris Johns	Editor in chief, National Geographic magazine	Crater, Oregon – Former state FFA president (1969-70)
Nicholas Kristof	Columnist for The New York Times; Pulitzer Prize winner (1990)	Oregon - Former state FFA reporter
Allen Lash	Founder and president, AgriSolutions Inc.	Finley, Illinois

J. Wilson McCallister	Former associate general counsel, Deere & Company	Florida - Former state FFA vice president (1959-60)
Fred McClure	Attorney, Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal; former aide to President Ronald Reagan and President George H.W. Bush	Texas - Former state FFA president and national FFA secretary (1973-74); the first African-American to serve as national FFA officer
James E. Newsome	Board member, CME Group, a CME/Chicago Board of Trade/NYMEX Company; former president of the New York Mercantile Exchange	Plant City, Florida – Former state FFA president (1977-78)
Greg Nickerson	President and COO, Bader Rutter & Associates	Iowa
James E. Oesterreicher	Former CEO & chairman of the board, J.C. Penney Company Inc.	Michigan
Jeffrey Simmons	President, Elanco Animal Health, a division of Eli Lilly and Company	Penn Yan, New York – Former Eastern Region Star in Agribusiness (1987)
Burton S. Sperber	Founder & CEO, ValleyCrest Companies	California
Kristie VerMulm	KTIV-TV news anchor, Sioux City, Iowa	Harrisburg, South Dakota - Former state FFA officer

Education

“Whether evaluating opportunities for the university, making public speeches, or interacting in committee meetings, I use the skills learned through my agricultural education program and FFA. ... I am who I am today because of those experiences.”

–Harry Birdwell, Former athletic director, Oklahoma State University, and former national FFA president

Harry Birdwell	Former athletic director, Oklahoma State University	Oklahoma - Former state FFA president (1968) and national FFA president (1969-70)
Lowell B. Catlett	Dean, College of Agriculture and Home Economics, New Mexico State University	Texas - Former national FFA vice president (1968-69)
Ray Chelewski	1998 Outstanding Teacher of the Year (named by the Walt Disney Company)	Rifle, Colorado
Raymond N. DuBois, M.D., PhD	Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center	Runge, Texas - Former FFA chapter president, district president and Area X vice president in Texas

Janice C. Eberly	John L. and Helen Kellogg Professor of Finance, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University	California - Former national FFA president (1982-83); the first female to serve as national FFA president
Kirklyn M. Kerr	Former dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Connecticut	West Virginia
M. Peter McPherson	Former president, Michigan State University	Lowell, Michigan
James Oglesby	Former assistant professor of education, University of Missouri-Columbia	Seneca, South Carolina

Entertainment

"The first time I had ever learned about setting goals was when I joined FFA in the eighth grade. I set a goal to be Miss Oklahoma after that. The public speaking skills developed in FFA were key to winning the Miss Oklahoma title where I had to be comfortable in interviews and talking on stage in front of thousands of people."

– Elizabeth Kinney, Miss Oklahoma 2004 and former FFA member in Oklahoma

Trace Adkins	Country music entertainer/recording artist	Sarepta, Louisiana
Razzy Bailey	Country music entertainer/recording artist	Lafayette, Alabama
Baxter Black	Veterinarian turned cowboy poet, syndicated columnist & radio commentator	Las Cruces, New Mexico - Former FFA chapter president
Lucas Black	Actor ("Sling Blade," "Cold Mountain," "Friday Night Lights")	Danville, Alabama – Speake FFA Chapter
Junior Bryant	Former fiddler with the country music band Ricochet	Pecos, Texas
Matthew Fox	Actor (Jack on "Lost" and Charlie Salinger on "Party of Five")	Crowheart, Wyoming - Wind River High School FFA Chapter
William Lee Golden	Country music entertainer/recording artist with The Oak Ridge Boys	Brewton, Alabama
Richard "Tuff" Hedeman	President, Championship Bull Riding (CBR); professional bull rider – 1986, '89, '91 PRCA World Champion; 1995 PBR World Champion; Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame (1997)	Coronado, Texas
Don Henley	Rock music entertainer/recording artist; member of The Eagles	Linden, Texas
Jared Hess	Writer/director of the film "Napoleon Dynamite"	Preston, Idaho
Elizabeth Kinney	Miss Oklahoma 2004	Mooreland, Oklahoma - Former state FFA reporter (2000-01)

Lyle Lovett	Country music entertainer/recording artist	Klein, Texas
Greg Martin	Member of the country music group Kentucky Headhunters	Metcalfe County, Kentucky
Tim McGraw	Country music entertainer/recording artist	Start, Louisiana
Eddie Montgomery	Member of the country music duo Montgomery Gentry	Kentucky
Willie Nelson	Country music entertainer/recording artist	Abbott, Texas
Doug Phelps	Member of the country music group Kentucky Headhunters	Missouri
Taylor Swift	Country music entertainer/recording artist	Tennessee – Hendersonville FFA Chapter
Owen Washburn	Professional bull rider – 1996 PBR World Champion	Capitan, New Mexico
Trent Willmon	Country music entertainer/recording artist	Afton, Texas - Former FFA chapter president
Tom Wopat	Singer and actor (Luke Duke on “The Dukes of Hazzard”)	Lodi, Wisconsin
Fred Young	Member of the country music group Kentucky Headhunters	Metcalfe County, Kentucky
Richard Young	Member of the country music group Kentucky Headhunters	Metcalfe County, Kentucky

Government

“I would not be in Congress if it wasn’t for the FFA. It developed my interest in politics, gave me a better understanding of government procedures and an enthusiasm for service. ... The leadership skills I developed and the values that were enhanced during my FFA years have provided concrete results in my life.”

– Sam Brownback, U.S. senator from Kansas and former national FFA vice president

Dan Bartlett	Former counselor to President George W. Bush	Rockwall, Texas - Former FFA chapter president
Sam Brownback	U.S. senator from Kansas	Prairie View, Kansas - Former FFA chapter president, state FFA president and national FFA vice president (1976-77)
Jimmy Carter	Former U.S. president; Nobel Prize winner (2002)	Plains, Georgia
Larry Combest	Former U.S. congressman from Texas (1985-2003)	Texas

B. Avant Edenfield	Senior U.S. district judge, southern district of Georgia	Stillson, Georgia - Former state FFA officer
John Engler	Former governor of Michigan (1991-2002)	Beal City, Michigan
Bill Even	South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture	West Central FFA Chapter, Hartford, South Dakota
John C. Gemmill	Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One	Agua Fria FFA Chapter, Peoria, Arizona - Former national FFA vice president (1967-68)
I. Miley Gonzalez	Secretary/director, New Mexico Department of Agriculture; former undersecretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture	San Simon, Arizona
James Harsdorf	Former Wisconsin secretary of agriculture; former Wisconsin state senator and state assemblyman	Stillwater, Minnesota
James B. Hunt	Former governor of North Carolina (four terms)	Rock Ridge, North Carolina
Jim Moseley	Deputy secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture	Lafayette, Indiana
Earl Pomeroy	U.S. congressman from North Dakota	North Dakota
Richard Posthumus	Former lieutenant governor of Michigan	Caledonia, Michigan - Former state FFA president
Bill Sarpalius	Former U.S. representative from Texas	Boys Ranch, Texas - Former state FFA president
Charles Stenholm	Former U.S. congressman from Texas	Stamford, Texas
Jim Teilborg	U.S. district court judge, Arizona	Colorado
Cecil H. Underwood	Former governor of West Virginia (1957-61, 1997-2001)	Joseph's Mills, Tyler County, West Virginia
Wes Watkins	Former U.S. congressman from Oklahoma (10 terms)	Oklahoma - Former president of the Oklahoma FFA Association (1958-59)
Dan Wyant	Former director, Michigan Department of Agriculture	Cassopolis, Michigan

Sports

"FFA was one of the most enjoyable things I had going through school. I played sports, but I always looked forward to having the forestry contests, land judging and livestock judging. I was on all those teams, plus all the other stuff – parliamentary procedure and public speaking."

– Herbert Perry, former professional baseball player and former FFA member in Florida

Stacy Dragila	Olympic gold medallist, women's pole vault (2000)	Auburn, California
Rulon Gardner	Olympic gold medallist, Greco-Roman wrestling (2000)	Wyoming
Billy Gillispie	Former head basketball coach, University of Kentucky	Graford, Texas – Lone Star Farmer Award
Jordan Gross	Tackle, Carolina Panthers	Fruitland, Idaho
Bill Irwin	First blind man to hike the entire length of the Appalachian Trail alone	Leeds, Alabama
Bo Jackson	Heisman Trophy winner at Auburn University; former professional football player and professional baseball player	McAdory, Alabama
John Lombardo	NHRA U.S. Nationals Funny Car champion (1985)	California – Surprise Valley FFA Chapter, Cedarville
Sterling Marlin	NASCAR driver; two-time winner of the Daytona 500 (1994 & 1995)	Tennessee
Brad Meester	Center, Jacksonville Jaguars	South Butler, Iowa - Former FFA chapter president
Herbert Perry	Former professional baseball player (Cleveland Indians, Tampa Bay Devil Rays, Chicago White Sox, Texas Rangers)	Florida
Jeff Query	Former professional football player (Green Bay Packers, Cincinnati Bengals, Washington Redskins)	Illinois
Bryant "Big Country" Reeves	Former professional basketball player (Vancouver Grizzlies)	Gans, Oklahoma
Mark Tauscher	Tackle, Green Bay Packers	Auburndale, Wisconsin
Dewayne White	Defensive end, Detroit Lions	Alabama

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