

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, Ironstone 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	General manager, World Dairy Expo	Kickapoo, Wisconsin - Former state FFA secretary and state FFA president
Orion Samuelson	Former agricultural services director, WGN Radio; reporter, U.S. Farm Report; Radio 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	Co-owner of Mason-Dixon Farm, one of the world's largest dairy farms	Pennsylvania - Former national FFA vice president (1950-51)

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Business

"I began to learn how to make a speech. And I began to learn how to work with other people. I also learned the value of agriculture, farm families, stability, commitment, idealism, hope, truth, hard work and patriotism from the FFA."

- Jimmy Carter, former U.S. president and former FFA member in Georgia

Nels Ackerson	Attorney, Ackerson Kauffman Fex	Indiana - Former national FFA president (1963-64)
Peg Armstrong-Gustafson	Owner and founder, Amson Technology Inc.	Iowa - Former state FFA president and national FFA vice-president (1977-78)
Greg Bamford	President, Bamford Companies, an Arizona land developer	Colorado - Former state FFA president (1965-66) and national FFA 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	Managing director, Rabobank International	Kansas
Nicholas Kristof	Columnist for The New York Times; Pulitzer Prize winner (1990)	Oregon - Former state FFA reporter
E. Allen Lash	Chairman of the board and president, Apogee Solutions Inc., AgriSolutions Inc.	Finley, Illinois
J. Wilson McCallister	Associate general counsel, Deere & Company	Florida - Former state FFA vice president (1959-60)
Fred McClure	Attorney, Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal; former aide to President	Texas - Former state FFA president and national FFA secretary (1973-74); the

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	Ronald Reagan and President George H.W. Bush	first African-American to serve as national FFA officer
Greg Nickerson	President and COO, Bader Rutter & Associates	Iowa
James E. Oesterreicher	Former CEO & chairman of the board, J.C. Penney Company Inc.	Michigan
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

"[FFA] made a big difference because it went along the same lines as basketball. It taught you how to work with one another, how to take care of each other and help each other out. ... That kind of stuff transpires for every day for anybody."

- Bryant "Big Country" Reeves, former NBA player and former FFA member in Oklahoma

Harry Birdwell	Athletic director, Oklahoma State University	Oklahoma - Former state FFA president and national FFA president (1969-70)
Lowell B. Catlett	Professor of agricultural economics and agricultural business, 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	Director, Vanderbilt-Ingram Comprehensive Cancer Center; B.F. Byrd Jr. Professor of Molecular Oncology; Professor of Medicine, Cancer Biology and Cell-Developmental Biology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center	Runge, Texas - Former FFA chapter president, district president and Area X vice president in Texas
Janice C. Eberly	John L. and Helen Kellogg Distinguished Professor of Finance, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University	California - Former national FFA president (1982-83); the first female to serve as national president
Kirklyn Kerr	Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Connecticut	West Virginia

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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

Trace Adkins	Country music entertainer/recording artist	Sarepta, Louisiana
Razzy Bailey	Country music entertainer/recording artist	Lafayette, Alabama
Baxter Black	Cowboy poet, syndicated columnist & radio commentator	Las Cruces, New Mexico - Former FFA chapter president
Junior Bryant	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	Professional bull rider; 1986, '89, '91 PRCA world champion bull rider; inducted into Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame (1997)	Coronado, Texas
Don Henley	Rock music entertainer/recording artist; former 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
Owen	Professional bull rider; 1996 PBR World	Capitan, New Mexico

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Washburn	Champion	
Trent Willmon	Country music entertainer/recording artist	Afton, Texas - Former FFA chapter president
Tom Wopat	Television and stage 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."

- U.S. Senator Sam Brownback, former FFA member from Kansas who served on the 1976-77 National FFA Officer team

Dan Bartlett	Counselor to President George W. Bush	Rockwall, Texas - Former FFA chapter president
Kevin Breene	Rhode Island state senator	Coventry, Rhode Island
Roger Breske	Wisconsin state senator	Wittenberg, Wisconsin
Sam Brownback	U.S. senator from Kansas	Prairie View, Kansas - Former FFA chapter president, state FFA president and national FFA vice president (1976-77)
Harold Brubaker	North Carolina state representative	Witness Oak, Pennsylvania - Former state FFA secretary (1964-65) and national FFA vice president (1966-67)
Jimmy Carter	Former U.S. president; Nobel Prize winner (2002)	Plains, Georgia
Larry Combest	Former U.S. congressman from Texas (1985-2003)	Texas
Dan Wyant	Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture	Cassopolis, Michigan
B. Avant Edenfield	Chief U.S. district judge, southern district of Georgia	Stillson, Georgia - Former state FFA officer

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John Engler	Former governor of Michigan (1991-2002)	Beal City, Michigan
John C. Gemmill	Vice Chief Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One	Agua Fria FFA Chapter, Peoria, Arizona - Former national FFA vice president (1967-68)
I. Miley Gonzalez	New Mexico secretary of agriculture; former U.S. Department of Agriculture undersecretary	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
Sue Rourk King	Assistant to the executive director for state operations, USDA	
Jim Moseley	Deputy secretary of agriculture, USDA	Lafayette, Indiana
Earl Pomeroy	U.S. congressman from 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)	
Wes Watkins	Former U.S. congressman from Oklahoma (10 terms)	Oklahoma - Former president of the Oklahoma FFA Association (1958-59)

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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 Texas Rangers third baseman and former FFA member from Florida*

Stacy Dragila	Olympic gold medallist, women's pole vault (2000)	Auburn, California
Rulon Gardner	Olympic gold medallist, Greco-Roman wrestling (2000)	Wyoming
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
Sterling Marlin	NASCAR driver; two-time winner of the Daytona 500	Tennessee
Brad Meester	Guard, Jacksonville Jaguars	South Butler, Iowa - Former FFA chapter president
Herbert Perry	Former third baseman, Texas Rangers	Florida
Jeff Query	Former wide receiver, Green Bay Packers and Cincinnati Bengals	Illinois
Bryant "Big Country" Reeves	Former center, Vancouver (now Memphis) Grizzlies	Gans, Oklahoma
Mark Tauscher	Tackle/guard, Green Bay Packers	Auburndale, Wisconsin
Dewayne White	Defensive end, Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Alabama

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