

# ENDURING HOPE

ARKANSAS FFA ANNUAL REPORT

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# AR. FFA by the Numbers

15,164  
FFA MEMBERS

331  
AG SCIENCE  
TEACHERS

229  
FFA CHAPTERS

16  
NATIONAL  
OFFICERS



\$137,916.97

TOTAL DONATIONS  
TO THE FOUNDATION



\$9,140

TOTAL DONATIONS  
TO THE FOUNDATION  
FROM FFA CHAPTERS



\$12,250

TOTAL AMOUNT  
OF FOUNDATION  
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

\$11,700

TOTAL AMOUNT OF  
CDE SUPPORT FROM  
THE FOUNDATION



2020  
CAMP ATTENDANCE

ARK. LEADERSHIP  
CONFERENCE: 539

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS'  
CONFERENCE: 115

GREENHAND/IMPACT  
CONFERENCE: 775

# Individual + Chapter Donors

A special thanks goes to the Foundation Plus Chapters for going above and beyond in contributing to the Foundation. We also appreciate teachers and community members for contributing on Give FFA Day and the Corduroy Club and designating their gift to be credited towards the FFA chapter of their choice.

## PLATINUM

\$15,000-\$24,999

Arkansas Electric Cooperatives  
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation  
Farm Credit Services of Western Ark.

## BRONZE

\$1,000-\$4,999

Ark. One Call  
Ark. Beef Council  
Ark. Blue & You  
Ark. Soybean Promotion Board  
Ark. Youth Expo  
ASU Foundation, Inc.  
AVATA  
CEV Multimedia  
Entergy  
Farmer's Bank & Trust  
Fresh Country Fundraising  
Independence Co. Farm Bureau  
Jonesboro Electrical JATC  
Pope Co. Farm Bureau  
Riceland Foods Foundation  
Seitz Fundraising  
Simmons Bank  
Valley View Agri-Systems  
Welsco  
Wieghat Graphics, Inc.

## GOLD

\$10,000-\$14,999

NA

## SILVER

\$5,000-\$9,999

Blue & Gold Sausage  
Greenway Equipment  
The Poultry Federation

## FRIEND

\$500-\$999

Ag Heritage Farm Credit  
Ark. Forestry Association  
Axles Plus  
Benton Co. Farm Bureau  
Grant Co. Farm Bureau  
Hot Spring Co. Farm Bureau  
Nabholz Construction  
Purina  
T Bar J Custom Apparel  
Washington Co. Farm Bureau  
White Co. Farm Bureau

## FOUNDATION PLUS DONORS

Ashdown  
Bentonville  
Bismarck  
Cabot  
County Line  
Emerson  
Lamar  
Mena

## CHAPTER DONORS

Blytheville  
Camden-Fairview  
Cedar Ridge  
Centerpoint  
Clarksville  
Clinton  
Cossatot River  
Crossett  
Genoa Central  
Greenbrier  
Green County Tech  
Gurdon  
Lafayette County  
Lincoln  
Magazine  
Mansfield  
Mayflower  
Mt. Ida  
Nettleton  
Pargould  
Piggott  
Pottsville  
Springdale  
Springdale Har-ber  
Two Rivers  
Westside - Coal Hill  
White Hall

Mountain Home  
Prairie Grove  
Quitman  
Riverside  
Spring Hill  
Star City  
Taylor

*Thank you to all of our sponsors!*



Printing provided by  
Arkansas Farm Bureau

# Corduroy Club

For those who wore the blue & gold, or are inspired by someone who did, the Corduroy Club allows individuals to give back to an organization that provides life-changing opportunities to students across the state of Arkansas. Learn more at [ArkansasFFA.org/Giving](http://ArkansasFFA.org/Giving).

## **PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE**

Tyler + Monica Griffin  
Darrel Way

## **LEGACY INVESTORS**

Senator Bruce Maloch  
Blake Morgan  
Eric Walker

## **RISING SUN SUPPORTERS**

Cleve + Cheli Clark  
Ronnie Duckett  
Marion Fletcher  
David Hays  
Ben Rothwell

## **BLEED BLUE + GOLD**

Macy Braswell  
Jennifer Cook  
Kent + Nina Crutchfield  
Ernie Deaton  
Bill Hewat  
Cameron + Hayley Jernigan  
Nancy Meador  
Len Nall  
Justin + Taylor Wiedower  
Eddie White  
'09-'10 AR FFA Officer Team

## **Blue Jacket Believers**

Chris Bacchus  
Larry + Nedra Bacchus  
Renea Baker  
Dr. Jeff Barber  
Jeremy Bull  
Will Clark  
Marcus Crawley  
Robert Crawley  
Alex + Kristi Dykes  
Robert + Patty Fulton  
Emily Hanson  
Lindsey Holtzclaw  
Matt Jackson  
Rex Martin  
Lauren Mitchell  
Patty Priest  
Terra Purifoy  
Rob Roedel  
Becca Spinks  
Denise Trotter  
Rhianna Wagner  
SAU FFA Alumni  
Sunni Wise

## **FRIENDS OF THE FFA**

Clint + Michelle Bacchus  
Casey Beavers  
Kelly Boyd  
Sammy Cox  
John Crangle  
Jason Davis  
Tyler Davis  
Monty Fain  
Audra Farrell

Frank Fowler  
Dru Glaze  
Andy Guffey  
Clint + Sara Hale  
Maggie Jo Hansen  
Sam Harris  
Toby + Kim Hogan  
Christy Hoyle  
Eric Hughes  
Susan Johnson  
John + Tara Jones  
Ron Koch  
Victoria Maloch  
Kent Mathis  
Meredith Matyja  
Chase McCormick  
Bailey Meador  
Caleigh Moyer  
Kristin Pennington  
Brian Peters  
Brent Pollett  
Nancy Priest  
Ben Rutherford  
Landon + Hannah Scott  
Casey Simpson  
Maddison Stone  
Foster Thompson  
Jimmy Tucker  
Chelsea Vardeman  
Susan Wallace  
Troy Weatherley  
Kisia Weeks  
Rodney Wiedower  
Taylor Wiseman  
Amber Yarbrough  
Don Young

# Capital Campaign Update

The leaves created a crisp blanket for me one day last Fall as I finally explored the forbidden side of Camp Couchdale. As an FFA member from Riverside and later State FFA President, I recall Mr. Fletcher telling us that the mysterious cabins on the other side of the lake were haunted. This effectively kept everyone, including me, from crossing the swinging bridge.

I recall stories from my grandfather, L.K. Holt, who began teaching agriculture in 1928, and I wonder about the Manila FFA boys that he hauled in the back of a Bob truck to camp. When they stayed in those very old cabins, did they have any idea that they would be part of a group of over ONE MILLION youth who have enjoyed Camp Couchdale? Thanks to a very generous \$2.5 million allocation by Governor Asa Hutchinson, we are embarking on Phase 1 of our improvements, which includes renovations to the Fletcher Center for updated learning spaces and a new Animal Science facility. Additionally, our new Ag Mechanics Lab shows our commitment to training our teachers and our students to meet the skilled workforce needs in Arkansas as we build stronger partnerships with industry leaders. But, we're only halfway there.

New cabins are needed, as well as other updates across camp, so we are ready for the next one million students. While Planet Earth, in some ways, seems to have tilted a bit off its axis with the pandemic, the world has been forced to consider the importance of those in the value chain

who produce and market food and fiber. Camp Couchdale has been a game board for nearly a century where FFA members and teachers have strategized over ways to equip and empower young leaders in agriculture who can creatively meet the demands for the next decade. Invest in the future by giving to the capital campaign, and help us impact the lives of young people all across Arkansas. For naming rights of classroom spaces, to make a legacy gift, or to simply make a donation towards our campaign, contact Jennifer Cook at (501) 472-3881 or [jennifer.cook@arkansasffa.org](mailto:jennifer.cook@arkansasffa.org).

## PLANNED RENOVATIONS

-  Renovations to Fletcher Center for updated learning spaces
-  New Animal Science facility
-  Ag Mechanics Lab
-  New cabins



*Jennifer Cook*  
Jennifer Cook  
AR FFA Foundation Director

# WHY WE LOVE THE FFA

ERIN KAY DANIEL

## WHY DID YOU JOIN FFA?

I joined FFA to learn more about agriculture and meet other people that have been raised around livestock. I also wanted to learn about the many ways agriculture impacts us everyday.

## THIS HAS BEEN A CHALLENGING YEAR FOR OUR WORLD AND COUNTRY. HOW HAVE YOU ENDURED THESE CHALLENGES WHILE CONTINUING YOUR FFA PARTICIPATION?

With everything that's been going on since March, it's actually made me appreciate the livestock industry even more than I already did. While most people were bored with nothing to do, I enjoyed having livestock to care for and feed every day. It's also been very interesting to see how 'essential' the livestock industry is even in tough times.

## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

I plan to continue expanding my purebred Santa Gertrudis herd by doing more ET work on my best cows. I plan to go to college at an ag school and be on a show team. I plan to major in something ag-related.



## QUICK STATS



**FFA CHAPTER**  
Magnolia



**YEAR IN SCHOOL**  
Junior



**SAE**  
Cattle and lambs



**CDE**  
Livestock Judging



**CURRENT OFFICE HELD**  
Sentinel



## QUICK STATS



### FFA CHAPTER

Cedar Ridge



### YEAR IN SCHOOL

Senior



### SAE

Food Processing: Honey



### CDE

Vet Science



### CURRENT OFFICE HELD

Vice President



## WHY DID YOU JOIN FFA?

I originally joined FFA my 10th-grade year. I was interested in the medical field, so the Vet Science CDE was the closest thing to a medical event that was offered at my school. What seemed to be a simple "I'll join the team to gain some experience" quickly turned into me showing animals, being a leader in the Vet Science CDE, and holding an office in my FFA Chapter. Joining FFA actually changed my view of what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. Since my family raises honey bees, I was encouraged to focus my SAE on that and won a proficiency award in my category.

## THIS HAS BEEN A CHALLENGING YEAR FOR OUR WORLD AND COUNTRY. HOW HAVE YOU ENDURED THESE CHALLENGES WHILE CONTINUING YOUR FFA PARTICIPATION?

Some of the challenges that were thrown my way during this pandemic have been missing out on CDE events, shows, and state convention. While these are very disappointing, I was able to endure these losses by gaining information and experience for my SAE, interning with a local vet, and working with my show animals more closely so they are better for show season. While interning at the vet's office roughly three days a week, I was able to see how to run a business and to see certain situations that are behind the scenes.

## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

As of right now, my plans are a bit different than others. I graduated from a local community college with two Associates degrees in May 2020. Due to this, I am extremely ahead in college, so I am planning on finishing my undergraduate degree then slowly start applying to veterinary schools as I meet the requirements. I would love to be a vet in my community and to share my passion of veterinary medicine with FFA members in the community.

## WHY WE LOVE THE FFA

KYLEE WOOD

# QUICK STATS



**FFA CHAPTER**  
Cabot



**LDE**  
Extemporaneous Speaking



**HIGHEST OFFICE HELD**  
'04-'05 State Secretary

## WHY WE THANK THE FFA

### MONICA GRIFFIN

#### WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE HANGING UP YOUR BLUE JACKET?

I graduated with my degree in Agriculture Education from Southern Arkansas University in 2009 as Monica Coker-Griffin. I student-taught with the legendary Terressa Curtis in Emerson and went on to be an Agricultural Educator at Mena, Cabot, and Vilonia Schools. God blessed me with an amazing nine-year career in education and Arkansas FFA, and I am forever grateful for the students I came to know and the teachers I can still call upon as colleagues and friends. In 2018, I felt the call to step away from the profession to be a full-time mom and farm manager. With my time apart from the classroom, Tyler and I were able to dedicate our time to giving Barrett the sibling we always wanted when we adopted our son Owen in late 2019. I definitely miss my time in the classroom, but I am blessed to remain in the industry I love. I am able to stay connected by being involved in the Arkansas FFA Alumni and by judging LDE competitions and assisting during CDE season.

#### HOW DID ARKANSAS FFA CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR SUCCESS AFTER GRADUATION AND INTO YOUR CAREER?

Arkansas FFA provided me with opportunities to travel across the state and country speaking about the importance of agriculture and the ever-growing need for the education of our field. The more I travelled the state and country, the deeper my love for this industry grew and the more I understood the skewed perception our industry has from that outside of it. This realization drew my heart into the field of agricultural education. I knew I wouldn't win over every student, but I was sure going to try. My goal as a teacher was to either make my students love the agriculture field as much as I did, or at least make them a knowledgeable consumer who positively contributed to society.



#### WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ENDURING THE MANY CHALLENGES OF THIS LAST YEAR?

My advice to students is to see that each challenge (for better or worse) is temporary, and you are provided choices during that season of challenge. You must reflect inwardly on what you have to offer that challenge and, when you are honest with yourself, you can either face it head on with confidence, or reach out to others to help you. My second piece of advice goes hand in hand. Seek out mentors, friends, and classmates that will help you develop into the person you desire to become and who can support you in challenging times. It is said that we are the sum of our five closest relationships. Can you see who you are going to become? Does that excite you or startle you? I implore you to analyze and identify who you want to be in this life and make daily choices that guide you to that version of yourself.



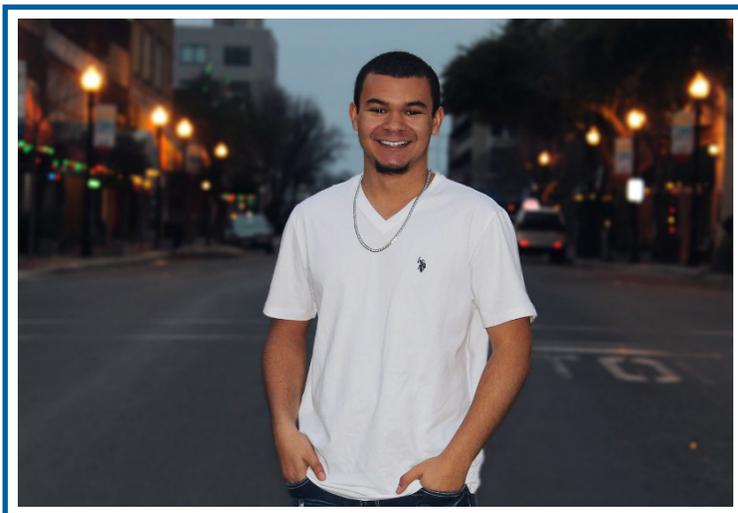
## WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE HANGING UP YOUR BLUE JACKET?

I hung up my jacket for the final time after my team and I won the 2019 National FFA Forestry contest. Since hanging up my jacket last October, I have been pursuing my education. I am currently a sophomore at Southern Arkansas University where I study Psychology and Criminal Justice. My goal is to get doctoral degrees in both subjects to become a school-based mental health therapist.

Aside from school, I work for three private contractors. Two are in the construction business, while the other does flooring. Since working with the three, I have learned how to lay floors, wire houses, as well as hang vinyl siding. After work, I spend time on my new hobby, woodturning. I hope to have a small woodworking business one day. When I am not at school or work, I volunteer in my hometown. Although my jacket may hang in my closet, I am still Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.

## WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ENDURING THE MANY CHALLENGES OF THIS LAST YEAR?

I know this year has been tough, and you have faced many challenges both inside and outside the classroom. Do not let them bring you down. These challenges don't define us, it's how we react to those challenges that does. With that being said, do your best to stay positive and find solutions to said challenges. Live each day as if it's your last. You'd be surprised at how amazing you'll feel.



## HOW DID ARKANSAS FFA CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR SUCCESS AFTER GRADUATION?

I can truly say that Arkansas FFA has shaped me into the man I am today and has contributed a great deal to my success after graduation. For starters, Arkansas FFA gave me a voice. Before I joined, I was not very outgoing and would get stage fright easily. After becoming a member and participating in LDEs, stage fright became a thing of the past. Big crowds no longer scare me, and I voice my opinions even if they are not like anyone else. I speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves and do my best to advocate for what is right. In my opinion, however, the most important thing I learned was how to work efficiently and think clearly.

A former teacher of mine always said, "It's not what you know, it's who you now." No words could be any truer. Through Arkansas FFA, I have met several lifelong friends and mentors. Each of which, have impacted my life in a unique way. I would not be who I am today without each of them. All these things have helped me whether it be in school, work, or just in life. I am forever grateful for the Arkansas FFA Association.

## QUICK STATS



**FFA CHAPTER**  
Hermitage



**CDES + LDES**  
Nursery/Landscape; Forestry;  
Opening/Closing Ceremonies;  
Creed Speaking; Parliamentary  
Procedure



**HIGHEST OFFICE HELD**  
Chapter President

## WHY WE THANK THE FFA

GREGORY HILLIARD

# WHY WE GIVE TO THE FFA

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## GREENWAY EQUIPMENT



### WHY DOES GREENWAY EQUIPMENT DONATE TO THE ARKANSAS FFA FOUNDATION?

Greenway understands that the future of agriculture are our young students. It is important to support organizations who teach students just that, that they are the future. We would not be a successful business without our employees and the students of FFA are our future employees.

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### WHAT IS THE VALUE OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ARKANSAS FFA?

Through FFA, Greenway as a company has been able to reach students and recruit from within schools like we have not been able to in the past. Finding new minds and fresh ideas from students is the value in our relationship with FFA.

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### HOW HAS GREENWAY EQUIPMENT ENDURED THE CHALLENGES OF THE LAST YEAR?

Finding new ways to reach our customers and potential employees has been tough in 2020. We have had to adjust to hold virtual seminars to deliver valuable information about employment opportunities within Greenway and rely heavily on social media. We are proud of how we have adjusted and know that through the help of FFA, we will be able to continue to adjust to new challenges down the road.



## WHY DO YOU DONATE TO THE ARKANSAS FFA FOUNDATION?

Having had three children involved in FFA and seeing the benefits this organization has had on their growth, it is extremely important that this organization be adequately supported. It is crucial that our education system provides the understanding that enable students to be lifetime champions for agriculture.

## WHAT IS THE VALUE OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ARKANSAS FFA?

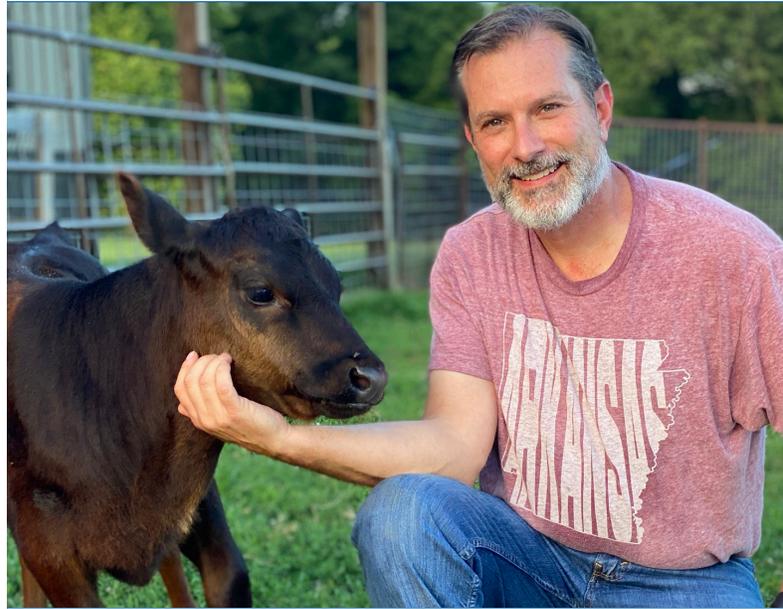
The general public has very little understanding of the source of their food and fiber. FFA provides students, from both the farm and the city, the ability to recognize and appreciate the importance of agriculture. It helps to demystify the practices and procedures associated with the efficient production of food fiber of all types. Additionally, FFA provides specialized activities that teach leadership and organizational excellence.

## HOW HAVE YOU ENDURED THE CHALLENGES OF THE LAST YEAR?

The circumstances of the past year have been challenging. From a personal perspective, staying close to home and social distancing has reminded me that the simple things are still important. Family meals, activities and otherwise mundane tasks are fun when the normal distractions of pre-Covid life don't exist. From a professional perspective, I am optimistic that the meaningful recognition of the complexity and importance of the agricultural supply chain may make non-farmers more appreciative of the dedication that US farmers have to feed the world.

## WHY WE GIVE TO THE FFA

DR. BILL HEWAT



# Board of Directors

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**GLEN MANCHESTER, VICE-CHAIR**

Farm Credit of Western Arkansas

**SENATOR BRUCE MALOCH**

Farmer's Bank & Trust

**CODY BURKHAM**

Arkansas Cattlemen's Association

**CHUCK TUCKER**

Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation

**RODNEY WIEDOWER**

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**DAVID HAYS**

AVATA Representative  
Prairie Grove FFA

**SAMMY COX**

AVATA Representative  
Crossett FFA

**RONNIE DUCKETT**

20 Year Club Representative  
Retired Ag Ed Instructor

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Mena FFA

**CLINT HALE**

Camp Couchdale Advisory  
Committee Chair  
Prairie Grove FFA

**CAROL JOHNSON**

AR FFA Foundation Development  
Council Chair

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Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.

The FFA motto that all FFA members learn held true over the past year as great strides were made to ensure continued growth and opportunities for the more than 15,000 FFA members in Arkansas.

Arkansas FFA and Camp Couchdale continued aggressive fundraising efforts and educational opportunities despite many challenges due to the pandemic. With the assistance of loyal long-time supporters and new supporters, the Arkansas FFA Foundation will continue to endure hope in the future of agriculture by preparing tomorrow's future leaders with life skills that are unmeasureable.

Thank you for supporting the Arkansas FFA Foundation, Camp Couchdale and the Arkansas FFA Association.



Rob Roedel  
Board Chairman

