



# MONTANA FFA FOUNDATION

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## State Advisor's UPDATE:

Greetings from the Montana FFA Association.

It is always interesting in Agriculture Education/FFA to try to figure out where one year ends and the next year begins. The only thing we can count on is that the years go by fast. It seems like school has just got out for the summer, however, when you look at the calendar, summer is almost half over.

The new state officers are anxious to meet members, conduct leadership activities and interact with chapter advisors. This group of officers bring a different skill set to the table than previous officer teams in recent memory and are excited to utilize these skills. The officers have most recently finished BLAST OFF training here in Bozeman and completed the NLCSO program in Cody, Wyoming. It is always nice for the officers to meet with the officers from North Dakota and Wyoming during that time.

Beginning the 10<sup>th</sup> of July, the state officers and the agronomy team from Joliet will participate in the West Coast Commodity Tour. This tour affords students the opportunity to visit the Wheat Marketing Center in Portland, the Cranberry bogs and processing plant near Aberdeen, Washington, as well as orchards and Stemilt's Fruit Processing Plant in Wenatchee. They will also visit Bonneville Dam, TEMCO Export Terminal, Grand Central Bakery and other points of interest. This has always been a great experience for this group and a highlight of their year.

I would like to thank Matt McKamey and his team for always doing a great job of facilitating the Alumni Leadership Camp near Highwood. The students enjoyed the experience! I would like to thank the Montana FFA Foundation for providing the opportunities they do for the state's FFA members as well as the state officers. Without Foundation support, Montana FFA would not be what it is today. Finally, I would like to thank the MAAE officers for conducting a good update conference in Hardin. Positive comments were made by every advisor I visited.

Thanks for all you do for Agriculture Education and FFA and I hope you enjoy the remainder of the summer!

Sincerely,

Mr. Jim Rose, State FFA Advisor

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# WELCOME RANCH HOUSE MEATS



LEAVE A  
LEGACY

The Montana FFA Foundation would like to welcome Ranch House Meats as a sponsor of the Parliamentary Procedure CDE. In 2007, the Flowers Family purchased Project Meats in Shepherd with the hopes of taking on a terrific adventure. Shane Flowers has been involved with livestock his entire life and had a deep passion for owning his own business. Tanya brought the creative design aspect to the business. Together they make a great duo of business, creativity, drive, passion, and a vision for the meat industry. They expanded their business to serve two locations. In 2010 they re-branded from Project Meats to Ranch House Meats and the Ranch House Sausage Co label on all their meat products. Their Smoke House became State Inspected and they were able to offer their customers unique smoked products along with local customized beef processing.

Their success is seen in the numerous awards they have received from local and national meat contests. They have several awards from the Montana Meat Processors Competition. Ranch House Sausage Co. Jerky has been Grand Champion for three consecutive years. From the American Cured Meats Competition, the Ranch House Sausage Co Corned Beef received the Champion Specialty Whole Muscle Product out of 800 entries.

Innovation and success is where the Flowers family business is based. The business started out as just a custom processing plant that has quadrupled in gross revenue by adding retail, state inspection and expanding their custom business. They bring quality, fresh-cut, homemade products with a small town feel back to the big town. Working with the FFA members has been an added bonus for the Flowers because they love being involved with youth and their community. Ranch House Meats has teamed with the Montana FFA Foundation to make a positive difference in the lives of FFA members across the state. We thank Shane and Tanya Flowers for all their support.

*Project Meats*

**RANCH HOUSE**  
**MEAT CO & SAUSAGE CO**

# FACES OF FFA

FFA is a heritage, starting in 1928 with only 33 students from 18 states to form the Future Farmers of America. Now, the National FFA Organization boasts over 630,000 members in over 7,750 chapters. At the Foundation, we would like to recognize those individuals who were in FFA and hear about their experience in the organization. We have launched our very first Faces of FFA, alumni and current, with alumni member and Foundation donor, Randy Bogden!

## FACE OF FFA – ALUMNI MEMBER



Mr. Randy Bogden grew up in Cascade, Montana, with Ag Processing as his SAE. He worked for his dad on the ranch and at his meat packing plant. He loved everything about the organization, and was able to qualify for nationals in the Meats Career Development Event. He attended Washington Leadership

Conference and Alumni Leadership Camp in 1988. Randy was the state Star in AgriBusiness in 1989, and later was awarded the Western Region Star in Agribusiness. This award sent him to Europe to tour ag facilities. He lived on a dairy farm in Germany for a few days during the tour. Randy held several chapter offices, was the Glacier District President, and later served on his state FFA officer team as the State FFA Parliamentarian in 1989-90.

Randy is still very involved with the FFA. “My biggest pride and joy is that my daughter received her Discovery Degree from the Electric City FFA this year. She has a passion for leadership and is working hard to participate in every activity available to her.” Mr. Bogden is a mentor to State FFA Officer candidates, a Meats CDE coach, and helps out on the local and state level every chance he has. Randy has been a Farm Bureau agent for 9 years now and enjoys broadcasting high school and college sports with his side-kick, Jim Sargent. At the Foundation, we are so thankful for Mr. Bogden's continual support.



## FACE OF FFA – CURRENT MEMBER

Our current Face of FFA is Erik Eberhart of the Flathead FFA Chapter. A junior at Glacier High School, Erik grew up on a small farm in Columbus, Montana. Inspired by all of the blue jackets he saw around him as a youngster, Erik joined FFA as a freshman and is going into his third year as a member. The Career Development Events, or CDE's, he has competed in thus far have been livestock judging, veterinary science and forestry. For the past six years, he's raised five Nubian dairy goats as his Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) for FFA. This has been a great opportunity for Erik, like thousands of other members across the state. He's been able to learn valuable lessons in finance, personal accountability, record keeping and many others, while also earning some money to save for his future. Erik plans to run for state office when he's a senior, and is thinking of even joining the marines someday. Erik is a great example of “Living to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.”



Do you have a recommendation for a “Face of FFA” individual, alumni or current?  
Please email suggestions to Allie Nelson, [support@montanaffa.org](mailto:support@montanaffa.org).





# HELPING HANDS UPDATE

Several months ago Molly Forest, a Choteau Elementary School teacher, became inspired to create a school garden. She contacted the Choteau FFA advisor and agricultural education teacher, Milford Wearley. With the help of two other teachers, Becky Rappold and Mary Smith, these individuals formulated a plan for the Choteau Elementary School Garden. The goal would be for all students to learn through hands-on experience.

The garden would be created in a small, unused courtyard in the high school building. Plants would be grown in raised beds made by the high school ag classes and FFA. Portions of the supplies such as seeds, pre-started vegetables and flowers, and watering tools were donated by local businesses. The project was progressing nicely until a problem arose when supplies for the planters and other additional materials had to be purchased.

The Choteau FFA Chapter applied for and received a Helping Hands grant from the Montana FFA Foundation, totaling \$2,100. The grant is funded by the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, Kenyon Noble, Farmers State Bank, and Five Valleys Land Trust. This grant allowed FFA and ag students to learn while also contributing to the project. The money was used to purchase materials for large, movable planters necessary for the project to succeed. Planters were then built in ag class with all students helping to contribute to various aspects of the task at hand.

While the garden itself was almost ready for planting, the elementary students were not ready to do the sowing. Under the direction of Becky Rappold, high school ag students gave lessons concerning all the basic essentials to gardening. A story was read and an activity was completed with each class in the elementary school.

Planting Day, as it became known by, occurred on the last day of school. The students had a blast playing in the dirt and learning about the plants they were planting. High school students aided with the event as class schedules allowed. The plants are now being cared for by volunteers throughout the summer. Later in the fall, a "Tasting Party" will be held to try some of the delicious produce from the garden. Students are already looking forward to next year's project because as one student said, "This can't just be a one-time thing."





# BLUE & GOLD GOLF SCRAMBLE



## MONTANA FFA'S BLUE AND GOLD GOLF TOURNAMENT

Join us for the 14th Annual Montana FFA Blue and Gold Golf Tournament.

- Friday, September 16th, at the Rising Sun Golf Course-Emigrant, Montana.

*\*A chance to enjoy this Exclusive, Private Golf Course\**

All proceeds benefit our 5,600 Montana FFA members. Lunch and prizes will be provide, along with sunshine and a chance to connect with FFA supporters from around the state!

**Registration opens August 1st at  
[www.montanaffa.org](http://www.montanaffa.org)!  
Limited number of spots available!**

Want to check out the course?? Download the app "Best Approach Rising Sun Golf"



# NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings.

I hope all of you are enjoying the summer. It doesn't seem like it's been 4 months since we were in Bozeman for State Convention and held our annual Foundation meeting. At this meeting we implemented our strategic plan for 2016-2017. One of the focal points is to increase our membership to the Montana FFA 500 Club. The 500 Club was started in 2010 and has seen growth in membership each year. Several of our current board members are part of the 500 club. Jay Meyer and I are founding members of this elite group. Membership requires you to annually contribute \$500 in program support. The 500 Club comes with some added perks. One is a gold and silver plated Montana Silversmiths belt buckle, invites to special receptions for only 500 Club members, invitation to attend the donor dinner and social at state convention, eligible to play on the 500 Club golf team at our annual golf tournament, window decal and special recognition in the list of donors included on our website and newsletters. These benefits are in addition to the gratification of knowing your contribution is helping young people throughout the State of Montana.

The funds generated by the 500 Club are used for scholarships, leadership training, and community service grants available to our students. All of which go directly back to our students and chapters, enhancing their FFA experience.

If you would like more information or would like to become a member, please contact anyone of our staff members at 406-582-4118. They would be happy to assist you. Until next time, enjoy your summer.

Forever Blue,

Curt Robbins

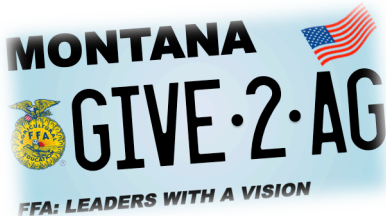
President

Montana FFA Foundation



# SIMPLE WAYS TO SUPPORT

There are many ways to give to the Blue Jacket in the Big Sky. A few of the simple opportunities are listed below: FFA License Plate, Amazon Smile, Murdoch's discount cards, and becoming a member of the 500 Club.



Looking for an easy way to give to Montana FFA year after year? By choosing to display an FFA license plate on your vehicle, you are doing just that! \$20 from each FFA license plate goes to help support Montana FFA, and the best part is, it's renewable each year you pay your registration fee with the DMV!

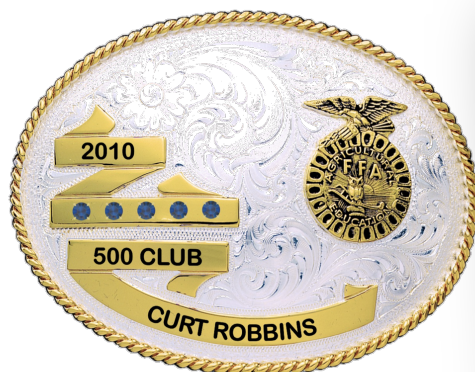
Do you purchase items off of Amazon? Use Amazon Smile! ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)), simply enter the Montana FFA Foundation, and a portion of your purchases go directly to the Montana FFA Foundation!

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.



FFA Members: Don't forget to use your Murdoch's Discount cards! You receive 10% off all show related products (including jeans!) and the Montana FFA Foundation receives proceeds in return to support members. Discount cards may be used at all Murdoch's locations, please contact the FFA Foundation.

We invite all individuals to be a part of our 500 Club. By donating \$500.00 each year you become part of a recognized elite group. 500 Club Members will have the opportunity to sit on the FFA Five Hundred Funds Futures Scholarship Program committee. This scholarship provides funds to first year students majoring in Ag Education or other Ag related fields.



Each member receives:

- ❖ A beautiful Montana Silversmiths special edition belt buckle
- ❖ 2 Tickets to the Sponsor Dinner at FFA State Convention
- ❖ Acknowledgement in the Foundation Forum



# GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Summer in Montana can arguably be the best place on earth, ask the millions of tourists that visit our beautiful state throughout the year. I am continually amazed at the scenery we get to enjoy everyday driving by a newly cut alfalfa field, the Yellowstone River rushing by, or the vast open spaces we possess in this great state. Montana is a destination spot for many visitors, some who have knowledge of agriculture, and those who have never seen a piece of farm equipment in their lives. From time to time, Montanans can sometimes feel overshadowed by the “tourism value”. With agriculture being the number one industry in Montana, what an opportunity we have to connect agriculture’s value, with our visitors, perpetuating a positive view on Ag!

We also have folks who live in our own backyard, five and six generations removed from the farm or ranch, and little knowledge of the importance agriculture plays in the state and nation. It is more than what is happening in the field, agriculture provides billions economically to support industries, while FFA provides future industrious, skilled leaders for every industry across the board.

The Foundation is always looking for ways to promote our programs, support our students and educate folks on the importance of the next generation of agriculturalists. We still have so much work to do! With an energetic and resourceful group of next generation leaders, FFA has the chance to promote agriculture and we have a distinct challenge and opportunity to welcome dialog and education regarding Ag in Montana. Our donors of the Foundation allow us to be catalysts for Ag promotion and allow our members to learn how to advocate for our industry to every visitor, guest or next-door neighbor they meet. As summer flies by, I thank you all for your help in supporting our programs and promoting the future of Ag. I challenge you this summer, to help spread the word that Montana is more than a pretty destination, it’s hard at work, providing food and fiber to folks all across this world and providing opportunities for our future generations.

Jaime Edmundson

Executive Director

Montana FFA Foundation

## Ag @ Sheridan College

Sheridan College agriculture programs are highly regarded for their rigorous, hands-on training.

Students study with experts in their field, who care about student success.



Like us on Facebook @ [www.Facebook.com/AgatSC](http://www.Facebook.com/AgatSC)

### Sheridan College Ag Programs

Animal Science • Agricultural Business  
Agricultural Science • Horticulture • Farrier Science  
Horticulture & Sports Turf Management  
Natural Resources & Ranch Land Management



For more information on Agriculture at Sheridan College visit us at:  
[www.sheridan.edu/ag](http://www.sheridan.edu/ag)  
or call 1-800-913-9139

# CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to one of our Past Shepherd FFA members, Holden Vandivort! Holden was awarded the reserve champion Berkshirte gilt in the Open Show for the World Pork Expo! He also placed 16th in Senior Showmanship out of 192 senior swine exhibitors.

*“Showing is what taught me to work hard, which helped me throughout FFA. Everything that makes me the man I am today is because of showing livestock and competing in FFA.”*

We are so excited to announce that Brandon Braaten has been selected as one of our National FFA Teacher Ambassadors for National FFA. Only 25 are selected for the elite program.

*“It has been an honor to be selected to part of [FFA.org](https://www.ffa.org)'s new teacher resources. I am excited to represent Montana and western states at the National FFA Center as we develop training materials and provide valuable feedback for the resources they are making available to teachers.”*





# ALC/WLC UPDATE

Among many other summer activities, the annual **FFA Alumni Leadership Camp (ALC)** was held once again this year at the Arrowpeak Lodge campground near Highwood. Long-time head camp leader, Matt McKamey, lead a group of eight counselors along with a few alumni members and chaperones. Campers were separated into seven groups, each led by at least one counselor and one state officer. Within their “color groups” campers created a team name, cheer, poster and skit, to be presented the final night of camp. Throughout the four days the members were together, they took part in various workshops lead by the counselors. Main ideas covered were risk management, communication, and teamwork. After the presentation of the skits on the third and final night of camp, a dance was put on by the counselors in the rec hall. The next morning, campers moved out of their cabins, ate lunch, and headed home. ALC is a great opportunity for members to make new friends from around the state, while also learning valuable skills. Thank you very much to the Montana FFA Alumni for making this event possible!



Two out of our three scholarship recipients recently attended **Washington Leadership Conference (WLC)**, Jenna Barker of the Conrad FFA and Kelsey Kraft of the Laurel FFA. During the five-day event, attendees learn how to become effective leaders by learning their purpose, how to value people, how to take action and how to serve others. FFA members leave WLC with the knowledge and the confidence to act in ways that help their schools, community and their country.





# GREETINGS FROM THE STATE OFFICER TEAM

The school year may have ended, but the FFA year continues well into the summer months. The newly elected Montana FFA State Officer Team has been hard at work, attending various trainings to prepare for the year ahead. Shortly after State Convention, the elected eight officers attended initial training in Bozeman, where they got to know the state FFA advisor, Mr. Jim Rose. Along with various other people the team will work closely with, Mr. Rose gave the team an overview of their duties and expectations. The team also attended two trainings held by staff of the National FFA. First up was BlastOff (Building Leaders and Strong Teams of Officers) in mid-June. National staffer, Matt Reutlinger, gave extensive training on speech delivery, team building, and personal development. National Leadership Conference for State Officers (NLCSO) was next up, June 19<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup> in Cody, Wyoming where the Montana officer team joined forces with the state officers from North Dakota and Wyoming. National Central Region Vice President Abrah Meyer, along with national staffers Nessie Early, Andy Moravec, and Austin Large gave the group of 24 officers a great few days of sessions, focusing on workshop development, agriculture advocacy, and facilitation. After four days at a beautiful campground, the team made their way back home. Thank you to all of the great sponsors of Montana FFA, who make everything we do possible!







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## FFA RADIO SHOW BROADCASTING AUGUST 21<sup>ST</sup>!

Here at the FFA Foundation, we are very excited to launch our first FFA Radio Show! **The show will broadcast the third Sunday of the month from 7-8pm on 560 KMON AM.** Please stay tuned! If you would like to be a part of the show, please email us!

## SAVE THE DATE!

- Commodity Tour  
July 10-15
- FFA Foundation Blue & Gold Golf Scramble  
September 16
- District Leadership Conference East  
September 5-9
- District Leadership Conference West  
September 12-15
- National FFA Convention  
October 19-22