



## **CONTACT**

Kristy Meyer  
Marketing and Communications  
National FFA Organization  
KMeyer@FFA.org  
800-293-2387

## **Friend of FFA Creates Endowment to Help Members Attend National Convention; Participate in Ag Issues Leadership Development Event**

INDIANAPOLIS (*Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018/National FFA Organization*) – While agriculture always played a part in Arthur Daniel “Dan” Nafziger’s life, his love for FFA developed when he volunteered to judge Career and Leadership Development Events (CDEs and LDEs) at the National FFA Convention & Expo.

It was here that he judged the Ag Issues LDE and he found a love for FFA and what it has to offer students. In the Ag Issues LDE, participants research the pros and cons of an agricultural issue and present their findings to a panel of judges. A team from each of the 50 states and both U.S. territories are eligible to participate in the CDE. The event helps students to develop critical thinking, problem-solving and formal communication skills.

In memory of Dan Nafziger, the family recently donated \$200,000 to establish an endowment to allow students to attend the national FFA convention. Students participating in the Ag Issue CDE will be given preference as well as those students who require financial assistance to attend the national convention.

“Our father was a teacher,” says son Ryan Nafziger. “He taught us to read, he taught us to listen, and he taught us to pay attention to the world around us. ‘Smart people notice things’ was one of his favorite sayings. He especially loved to teach us about his world – the world of agriculture.”

“That love of teaching and that love of farming was something he enjoyed sharing with FFA members as well,” Nafziger says. “He would come home beaming after judging presentations during the National FFA Convention. You could tell he was so impressed with the FFA members. It was palpable how excited he was to share whatever new ideas he had learned that day. As his children, we are grateful for what he taught us and want the learning opportunities he shared with us to continue. We know the FFA does a great job at providing students the opportunity to learn about agriculture and to develop new ideas. We hope our father’s gift will assist that mission for years to come.”

“The Nafziger’s generosity will make it possible for FFA members to attend the national convention,” said National FFA Foundation president Molly Ball. “FFA makes a huge impact on our students; this endowment will allow the organization to offer the opportunity to students who might otherwise not be able to attend. We are extremely appreciative of the Nafziger’s efforts in helping FFA continue the mission of premier leadership, personal growth and career success for our students.”

The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 653,404 student members who belong to one of 8,568 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The organization is also supported by 345,812 alumni members in 2,051 alumni chapters throughout the U.S.

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The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization of 653,404 student members as part of 8,568 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The organization is supported by 345,812 alumni members in 2,051 local FFA Alumni chapters throughout the U.S. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The National FFA Organization operates under a federal charter granted by the 81st United States Congress and it is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs. For more, visit the National FFA Organization online at [FFA.org](http://FFA.org) and on Facebook, Twitter and [the official National FFA Organization blog](#).

**About National FFA Foundation**

The National FFA Foundation builds partnerships with industry, education, government, other foundations and individuals to secure financial resources that recognize FFA member achievements, develop student leaders and support the future of agricultural education. Governed by a 19-member board of trustees composed of educators, business leaders, individual donors and FFA Alumni, the foundation is a separately registered nonprofit organization. About 82 percent of every dollar received by the foundation supports FFA members and agricultural education opportunities. For more, visit [FFA.org/Give](http://FFA.org/Give).