



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

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 and instructor	California – Reedley FFA Chapter
Jack Laurie	Former president, Michigan Farm Bureau	Cass City, Michigan
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	Owner, Mason Dixon Farms – one of the nation’s largest dairy farms	Pennsylvania – Former national FFA vice president (1950–51)

BUSINESS

Nels Ackerson	Attorney, Ackerson Kauffman Fex	Indiana – Former national FFA president (1963–64)
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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)
Dan Bartlett	Executive vice president, corporate affairs, Wal-Mart; former counselor to President George W. Bush	Rockwall, Texas – Former FFA chapter president
William T. Boehm	Former senior vice president, The Kroger Company, and former 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)
Bill Even	Commercial unit lead, DuPont Pioneer; former South Dakota secretary of agriculture (2007–10)	Hartford, South Dakota – West Central FFA Chapter
A. Charles Fischer	Former president and 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	Shelley, Idaho – Former FFA chapter treasurer
Elizabeth Hund	Senior vice president, food industries, U.S. Bank	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.; founder and CEO, FamilyFarms Group	Finley, Illinois
J. Wilson McCallister	Former associate general counsel, Deere & Company	Florida – Former state FFA vice president (1959–60)
Fred McClure	CEO, George Bush Presidential Library Foundation; 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
Jim Moseley	Co-chair, AGree; former deputy secretary, U.S. Dept.	Lafayette, Indiana

	of Agriculture (2001–05)	
James E. Newsome	Founding partner, Delta Strategy Group; former president of the New York Mercantile Exchange	Plant City, Florida – Former state FFA president (1977–78)
Greg Nickerson	CEO, Bader Rutter & Associates	Iowa
James E. Oesterreicher	Former CEO and chairman of the board, J.C. Penney Company Inc.	Michigan
Earl Pomeroy	Senior counsel, Alston & Bird LLP; former U.S. congressman from North Dakota	North Dakota
Richard Posthumus	President and CEO, Compatico; former lieutenant governor of Michigan	Caledonia, Michigan – Former state FFA president
Bill Sarpalius	President and CEO, Advantage Associates International; former U.S. congressman from Texas	Boys Ranch, Texas – Former state FFA president
Jeffrey Simmons	President, Elanco Animal Health, a division of Eli Lilly and Company	Penn Yan, New York – Former Eastern Region Star in Agribusiness (1987)
Charles Stenholm	Senior policy advisor, OFW Law; former U.S. congressman from Texas	Stamford, Texas
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, Chief Administrative Officer, Commissioners of the Land Office (Oklahoma); former Athletic Director at Oklahoma State University; and former National FFA President

Lowell B. Catlett	Professor and dean of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences,	Texas – Former national FFA vice president (1968–69)
Raymond N. DuBois, M.D., PhD	New Mexico State University Executive director, Bidesign Institute, Arizona State University	Runge, Texas – Former FFA chapter president, district president and Area X vice president in Texas
Janice C. Eberly	Professor of finance, Kellogg	California – Former national

	School of Management, Northwestern University; former assistant secretary, economic policy, U.S. Dept. of the Treasury	FFA president (1982–83); the first female to serve as national FFA president
I. Miley Gonzalez	Deputy director general, CATIE, Costa Rica; former secretary/director, New Mexico Dept. of Agriculture; former undersecretary, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture	San Simon, Arizona
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 Stidham, Miss Oklahoma 2004 and former Oklahoma State FFA Reporter

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 and 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
Easton Corbin	Country music entertainer/recording artist	Trenton, Florida
Steve Doocy	Co-anchor, “FOX & Friends” on FOX News Channel	Clay Center, Kansas – Former FFA chapter vice president
Matthew Fox	Actor (Jack on “Lost” and Charlie Salinger on “Party of	Crowheart, Wyoming – Wind River High School

	Five")	FFA Chapter
Brantley Gilbert	Country music entertainer/recording artist	Jefferson, Georgia – Jefferson City FFA Chapter
William Lee Golden	Member of country music group The Oak Ridge Boys	Brewton, Alabama
Don Henley	Rock music entertainer/recording artist; member of The Eagles	Linden, Texas
Jared Hess	Writer/director of the film "Napoleon Dynamite"	Preston, Idaho
Lyle Lovett	Country music entertainer/recording artist	Klein, Texas
Greg Martin	Member of the country music band Kentucky Headhunters	Metcalfe County, Kentucky
Tim McGraw	Country music entertainer/recording artist	Start, Louisiana
Justin McKee	Professional rodeo announcer	Labette County, Kansas – Former state FFA president
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 band Kentucky Headhunters	Missouri
Elizabeth Kinney Stidham	Miss Oklahoma 2004	Mooreland, Oklahoma – Former state FFA reporter (2000–01)
Taylor Swift	Country music entertainer/recording artist	Tennessee – Hendersonville FFA Chapter
Jake Whetter	On-air personality for Radio Disney	Arizona – Agua Fria FFA Chapter; former state FFA vice president (2000–01)
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," 1979–85)	Lodi, Wisconsin
Fred Young	Member of the country music band Kentucky Headhunters	Metcalfe County, Kentucky
Richard Young	Member of the country music band Kentucky Headhunters	Metcalfe County, Kentucky

GOVERNMENT

"... the one thing FFA taught me was determination. I learned that when you don't win, you must dust yourself off and try again."

-Matt Lohr, Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Harry Birdwell	Chief administrative officer, Commissioners of the Land Office (Oklahoma); former athletic director, Oklahoma State University	Oklahoma – Former state FFA president (1968) and national FFA president (1969–70)
Sam Brownback	Governor of Kansas and former U.S. senator	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
Gus R. Douglass	Former West Virginia commissioner of agriculture (11 terms)	Point Pleasant, West Virginia – Former national FFA president (1946–47)
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
John C. Gemmill	Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One	Agua Fria FFA Chapter, Peoria, Arizona – Former national FFA vice president (1967–68)
James Harsdorf	Former Wisconsin secretary of agriculture, state senator and state assemblyman	Stillwater, Minnesota
James B. Hunt	Former governor of North Carolina (four terms)	Rock Ridge, North Carolina
Matt Lohr	Virginia commissioner of agriculture and consumer services	Virginia – Former state FFA president and national FFA vice president (1990–91)
Jim Teilborg	Senior U.S. district judge, Arizona	Colorado
Wes Watkins	Former U.S. congressman from Oklahoma (10 terms)	Oklahoma – Former president of the Oklahoma FFA Association (1958–59)
Dan Wyant	Director, Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality; former director, Michigan Dept. 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 medalist, women's pole vault (2000)	Auburn, California
Rulon Gardner	Olympic gold medalist, Greco-Roman wrestling (2000)	Wyoming
Jordan Gross	Professional football player (tackle), Carolina Panthers	Fruitland, Idaho
Korey Hall	Former professional football player (fullback)	Glenns Ferry, Idaho
Richard "Tuff" Hedeman	Ambassador, 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
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 (1985); 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	Former NASCAR driver; two-time Daytona 500 winner (1994 & 1995)	Tennessee
Brad Meester	Professional football player (center), Jacksonville Jaguars	South Butler, Iowa – Former FFA chapter president
Jordy Nelson	Professional football player (wide receiver), Green Bay Packers	Kansas – Riley County FFA Chapter
Herbert Perry	Former professional baseball player	Florida
Maurkice Pouncey	Professional football player (All-Pro center), Pittsburgh Steelers	Florida – Lakeland FFA Chapter
Jeff Query	Former professional football player	Illinois – Maroa-Forsyth FFA Chapter
Bryant "Big Country"	Former professional	Gans, Oklahoma

Reeves	basketball player (Vancouver Grizzlies)	
Mark Tauscher	Former professional football player (tackle), Green Bay Packers	Auburndale, Wisconsin
Owen Washburn	Retired professional bull rider – 1996 PBR World Champion	Capitan, New Mexico
Dewayne White	Former professional football player (defensive end), Detroit Lions	Alabama