

## Kansas FFA Foundation, Inc. Hires New Executive Director

The Kansas FFA Foundation is pleased to introduce Jill Zimmerman as the foundation's new Executive Director. Established in 1982, the Foundation's purpose is to enable the Kansas Agriculture Education and FFA programs to empower future leaders and their passions. Ms. Zimmerman comes to the Kansas FFA Foundation with broad experience including those of fund-raising, business development and marketing.

"The Foundation is very excited to make this announcement. We believe Jill will be a valuable asset as the Foundation seeks to enhance its commitment to Kansas FFA members, agriculture education programs, and youth leadership initiatives throughout the state of Kansas," said

## Student Spotlight - Caleb Alexander, Garden City FFA

Ten students from across the nation were named winners in the 2006 National FFA Organization Risk Management Essay Contest. Each student submitted an essay on the topic of "Risk Management Strategies Used in a Supervised Agricultural Experience."

Caleb Alexander of Garden City FFA was one of these 10 students. To view his essay go to [www.ffa.org/programs/riskmgt](http://www.ffa.org/programs/riskmgt).

Each winner and his or her FFA advisor receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., May 3-7 where they will meet with USDA officials and be presented with their awards. In addition, USDA officials will speak to them about overcoming risks in a more open economy. The winners will also have lunch with USDA staff in the Secretary's Dining

## 2006 State FFA Proficiency Awards

The Agricultural Proficiency Awards program, like the FFA motto, helps students set goals and learn practical skills. These programs reward FFA members at the local, state and national levels for exceptional accomplishments and excellence in a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program.

The Kansas FFA Foundation, Inc. hopes to have all 51 proficiency award areas fully funded by 2007. As of the date of this newsletter 24 proficiency award areas have been fully funded. If you or someone you know may be interested in sponsoring an award area, please contact the Foundation. Full proficiency award sponsorships are available for a \$500 investment.

### **Award areas available are as follows:**

Agricultural Communications E/P; Agricultural Mechanics Design & Fabrication E/P; Agricultural Mechanics Repair & Maintenance – E; Agricultural Mechanics Repair & Maintenance – P ; Agricultural Mechanics Energy Systems E/P; Aquaculture E/P; Dairy Production – E; Dairy Production – P; Diversified Horticulture – E; Diversified Horticulture – P; Emerging Agricultural Technology E/P; Floriculture E/P; Food Science and Technology E/P; Forest Management and Products E/P; Fruit Production E/P; Home &/or Community Development E/P; Landscape Management E/P; Nursery Operations E/P; Outdoor Recreation E/P Poultry Production E/P; Small Animal Production and Care

Jerrod Westfahl, Chairman of the Kansas FFA Foundation Board of Trustees.

Prior to Zimmerman's current appointment she served as Treasurer and Equity Drive Coordinator for East Kansas Agri-Energy, LLC (EKAE). EKAE is a producer oriented group whose purpose was to construct a 35 million gallon per year ethanol plant in Garnett, KS. The plant opened in June 2005 and since its inception, successfully raised over \$24 million for the \$50 million project.

"I am truly eager about working for the Foundation. My passion for Kansas FFA, education and agriculture runs deep, and I am looking forward to helping the Foundation fulfill its mission and goals," said Zimmerman.

Room and visit the offices of their legislators.

With the phase-out and eventual elimination of federal farm price and income supports, it is critical that today's students and farm operators become aware of the new risk environment in production agriculture and develop an understanding of how to manage risk. This essay contest is offered to stimulate today's agriculture students' interest in, knowledge of and successful selection and use of risk management tools. In addition, the contest provides a way to recognize students who have developed their communication skills and can effectively share key information regarding implementing risk management tools.

– E; Small Animal Production and Care – P; Specialty Animal Production E/P; Specialty Crop Production E/P; Vegetable Production E/P

### **Entrepreneurship (E) and Placement (P)**

***A special thank you to the following donors who have already committed to sponsor a proficiency award in 2006:***

Larry Gossen Family, Brownsburg, IN; Santa Fe Trail Meats, Aaron Higbie, Overbrook; Zenger Farm and Land Management, Rex Zenger, Manhattan; Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission, Kevin Lickteig, Paola; Farm Credit Associations of Kansas; McPherson County Feeders, Allan Sents, Marquette; Schu-Lar Polled Herefords, Stan & Annette Larson & Bryce & Gina Schumann, Lawrence; Triangle H Grain & Cattle Company, Sam Hands, Garden City; Golden Harvest Seeds, Doug Robinson, Waterloo, NE; Kansas City Quail Unlimited, Dave White, Olathe; Buchman's Double B Ranch, Frank Buchman, Alta Vista; Land O'Lakes Purina Feed, LLC, Sarah Leonhard, Oskaloosa; Kansas Soybean Commission, Kenlon Johannes, Topeka; Kansas Forage & Grassland Council, Gary Kilgore, Chanute; Kansas Wheat Commission, Dusti Fritz, Manhattan; Jerrod Westfahl Family, Manhattan; Kansas Pork Association, Tim Stroda, Manhattan; Sod Shop, Inc. Wade Wilbur, Olathe; Pine Farms, Roger Pine, Lawrence; Mike & Jodi Guetterman, Bucyrus.

## Kansas FFA Foundation, Inc. Donors

### **4 Star Sponsors - (\$2500 - \$9999)**

Crader Distribution Company, Marble Hill, MO  
Farm Credit Associations of Kansas  
Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., Topeka, KS  
Toyota Motor Sales, USA  
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Seitz Gift Fruit, Fredericksburg, TX

### **3 Star Sponsors - (\$1000 - \$2499)**

Kansas City Quail Unlimited, Olathe, KS  
Kansas Dairy Association, Wamego, KS  
Kansas Pork Producers Council, Manhattan, KS  
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Bob Lee Family, Garden City, KS  
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### **2 Star Sponsors (\$500 - \$999)**

Farm Credit Services, FLCA, Little Rock, AR  
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Zenger Farm & Land Management, Inc., Manhattan, KS

Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission, Paola, KS  
Larry Gossen Family, Brownsburg, IN

### **1 Star Sponsors (\$250 - \$499)**

Abilene FFA Chapter, Abilene, KS  
Buchman's Double B Ranch, Alta Vista, KS  
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### **Gold Sponsors (\$100 - \$249)**

Farm Credit of Southwest Kansas, FLCA, Garden City, KS  
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Mary Kane, Manhattan, KS  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Thrift Shop, Concordia, KS  
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Merlyn Spare, St. John, KS  
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Harmon Bliss, Jetmore, KS  
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J.J. Jones, Topeka, KS  
Mark Scanlan, Fairfax, VA

*\*Donations received as of April 26.*

## Giving to the Kansas FFA Foundation is now easier

The Kansas FFA Foundation is pleased to announce the use of Electronic Funds Transfer program (EFT) as a convenient, almost effortless way to be a part of the continuing success and excellence of the Kansas FFA Foundation, Inc. and the programs it supports. To make a gift via EFT, simply log onto the Kansas FFA Foundation website at [www.ksffa.org](http://www.ksffa.org) and follow the EFT link.

EFT is a safe, proven electronic transfer process that delivers your gifts directly and automatically from your bank to the Foundation, as designated by you. You remain in complete control of the amount and timing of your gifts since they are made in installments only as you have pre-authorized them. You let your bank disburse your gifts of pledge installments automatically until you decide to stop.

Contributions can also be extended in installments over the entire year which may benefit your personal budget planning and make it more affordable to give and to increase your support of the Foundation. EFT has made giving easier for donors and nonprofit organizations nationwide for more than a dozen years. You may already be using EFT technology to receive payroll or pension payments or to make mortgage, insurance, utility and other types of recurring expenditures.

The Foundation, as always, will receive your gift in full just as you have designated. Benefits of the EFT program are that the Foundation can keep its administrative expenses down due to the fast, efficient and cost-effective gift processing. However you choose to contribute, your gifts are vitally important to the Kansas FFA Foundation and greatly appreciated.



### **Kansas FFA Foundation, Inc.**

P.O. Box 323  
Garnett, KS 66032  
[www.ksffa.org](http://www.ksffa.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Yes! I will assist Kansas FFA with my enclosed gift.

\$1,000     \$500     Other \_\_\_\_\_

\$250     \$100

\$75     \$50

Please contact me about sponsorship or other opportunities available to me or my company.

Please check for more information on Planned Giving.

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*• If you or your spouse are employed or retired from a company with a matching gift program, you may be able to double or triple the amount of your gift. Please contact your HR department for details on how your company may donate to the Kansas FFA Foundation.*

*• Your gift is tax deductible to the extent the law allows.*

*Thank you for your support!*



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# Kansas FFA Foundation Newsletter

MAY 2006

## Message From the Chairman

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your support of Kansas FFA and agriculture education. The Foundation board of trustees and staff greatly appreciate your important role in the success of thousands of Kansas students.

You know the importance of the agriculture education legacy because you experienced it either directly or through interaction with people who are FFA and agricultural education alumni. The high quality entrepreneurs, employees, community servants and leaders graduating from Kansas programs is unparalleled. We are all better off when those programs are as strong as they can be.

So how do we make sure agriculture education continues to be strong in Kansas? It begins with you. Besides making your own contributions to the Foundation, you likely

know individuals, companies or community organizations in your area that care about a solid future for agriculture education and the students it develops.

The Foundation board and staff are counting on your help connecting to those people, companies and organizations. I encourage you to call Jill Zimmerman or me any time to discuss how we can work together to make Kansas FFA and Ag Education the best it can be. Consider this your official invitation to join the Foundation's team. Together we can **Serve a Purpose, Give with Passion, Grow the Legacy.** We owe it to Kansas FFA and agriculture education.

In the meantime, let's celebrate our rich legacy and recent achievements at the upcoming Kansas FFA Convention. I look forward to catching up with you then.

*Jerrod Westfahl*

## 78<sup>TH</sup> KANSAS FFA STATE CONVENTION

<b>Wednesday – May 31, 2006</b>		7:00 pm	FOURTH SESSION, McCain Auditorium Retiring Address – Billy Brown, State Treasurer Honorary State FFA Degree Ceremony Officer's Parents Recognition Distinguished Service Presentation National Chapter Awards – Chapter Development Keynote Speaker – Rick Rigsby
12:00 noon	Fifth Annual Kansas FFA Career Show, KSU Alumni Center		
12:00 noon	Leadership Workshops, KSU Alumni Center		
7:00 p.m.	OPENING SESSION, McCain Auditorium Creed Speaking Awards Retiring Address – Sharita Lacey, State Vice President Parliamentary Procedure Awards Recognition of Kansas Chapters to Participate In 2006 National FFA Contests Kick Off Speaker		
<b>Thursday – June 1, 2006</b>			
8:30 am	SECOND SESSION, McCain Auditorium Meet the State Officer Candidates Presentation of Chapter Safety Awards National Chapter Awards-Community Development Retiring Address – Clement Neely, State Sentinel State Proficiency Award Winners Recognition <i>Fiber and/ or Oil Crop Production – Wildlife Management</i>		
11:00 am	Extemporaneous Public Speaking Finals, KSU Alumni Center		
12:00 noon	Proficiency Award Luncheon, KSU Alumni Center		
1:00 pm	Prepared Public Speaking Finals, KSU Alumni Center		
2:00 pm	THIRD SESSION, McCain Auditorium State FFA Convention Chorus State Proficiency Award Winners <i>Agricultural Communications – Equine Science</i> Retiring Address – Avery Land, State Reporter Recognition of Schools and Advisors of State Officers Scholarships	11:45 am	State FFA Degree Picture, McCain Auditorium
		12:00 noon	Foundation Annual Meeting / Luncheon, KSU Alumni Center
		2:00 pm	SIXTH SESSION, McCain Auditorium State Convention Band Recognition of Kansas FFA Foundation Sponsors State President's Retiring Address Presentation of Triple Crown Awards Presentation of Garlow Memorial Trophy State Convention Chorus "Stars over Kansas" Pageant Announcement of 2006-2007 State FFA Officers Recognition of Past State FFA Officers Installation of 2006-07 State FFA Officers
6:30 pm	State Convention Band Concert, McCain Auditorium	5:30 pm	Blue & Gold Celebration
			Friday – June 2, 2006
		9:00 am	FIFTH SESSION, McCain Auditorium Retiring Address – Kaitlyn Crow, State Secretary Agriscience Student Recognition Leadership Information Recognition National Officer Address – Jessie Gibb, South Dakota Presentation of the Kansas FFA Foundation Board State FFA Degree Ceremony Election of 2006-2007 State FFA Officers

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Executive Director

## Business & Industry Visits

Since January, the State FFA Officers have had the opportunity to conduct over 20 Business and Industry Visits. These visits serve as a great opportunity for the State FFA Officers to gain a better understanding of the agriculture industry, its challenges and current issues and trends.

A special thank you to the following businesses and individuals for hosting a visit: Farm Credit Services of Southwest Kansas, ACA, Garden City; Triangle H Grain & Cattle Company, Garden City; Steve Irsik, Ingalls; Schwieterman, Inc., Garden City; Abilene Machine, Abilene; Frontier Farm Credit, Manhattan; Buchanan & Company, Inc., Manhattan; Kansas Wheat Commission, Manhattan; Zenger Farm & Land Management, Manhattan; Community National Bank, Fredonia; Propane Marketers Association of Kansas, Topeka; Kansas Grain and Feed Association, Kansas Association of Ethanol of Processors and Kansas Ag Retailers Association, Topeka; Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson; SDK Laboratories,

Hutchinson; Kennedy and Coe, Wichita; U.S. Ag Bank, Wichita; Mid America Ag Network, Wichita; Kansas Beef Council, Topeka; Kansas Livestock Association, Topeka; Kansas Soybean Commission, Topeka; First National Bank, Hutchinson.



*Sharita Lacey, State FFA Vice-President, Kaitlyn Crow, State FFA Secretary are pictured with Tim Stroda, President and CEO, Kansas Pork Association. The Kansas Pork Producers Council sponsor the Swine Production Proficiency Awards.*

**The Foundation would like to invite all current and past donors to the reception which will be held on Friday, June 2 at 5:30 at the Alumni Center. Please RSVP by calling 785-532-6388 or [info@ksffa.org](mailto:info@ksffa.org).**