

Spring 2018

OFA Spirit

The Newsletter
of the Outstanding Farmers of America

www.outstandingfarmers.com

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2018 NOYF WINNERS - The winners named at the 2018 National Outstanding Young Farmers Awards Congress are (from left) Robby and Stephanie Bevis, Arkansas; Nick and Sunny Cummings, Ohio; Ian and Val Plagge, Iowa; and Sam and Jenn Zimmermann, Wisconsin.

Pat & Jerry Barnes Member of Distinction Award presented



The Pat and Jerry Barnes Member of Distinction Award is a legacy award for the OFA is made possible through the hard work and dedication of Pat and Jerry Barnes. This distinction is awarded to any OFA members who have shown exemplary involvement to the overall betterment of the OFA and its programs. Receiving the award this year was Willard Pedersen (ND 1967) pictured left receiving the award from Rodney Birchen.





The 2018 National Outstanding Young Farmer finalists (from left): Nick & Sunny Cummings, OH; Ian & Val Plagge, IA; Louie & Amanda Nigg, SD; Cody & Liz Bingham, ID; Nathan & Amy Engelhard, MI; William & Cala Tabb, MS; Jesse & Taylor Vanderwende, DE; Daniel & Kristy Williams, GA; Robby & Stephanie Bevis, AR; Sam & Jenn Zimmermann, WI.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dana and Julie Stapleton (SD 2002)
 stapletn@venturecomm.net • (605) 880-9371



Moline is next location for NOYF

Hello from South Dakota! What an exciting Congress we attended in California. Hats off to the Western Region for all of the hard work and fundraising efforts they have done! We really enjoyed ourselves. Thanks to the Region Committee and our Coordinator Sharon Page and our fellow officers for making the Congress a great success!!

We want to congratulate and welcome the Class of 2018 to the OFA! This is another great group of young agriculturists that we welcome as alumni and to our OFA Family! We are so excited for you to join our great program. We hope you have made connections and many life long friends like we have made! We hope to see you next year in Moline!

We are blessed with the great opportunity to be your President. We believe in the program and give it our full support. The year has been busy and we are getting ready to head to Moline to finalize plans for next year's Congress. Vice President Greg and Carmen and Sharon will be headed to Connecticut to start planning the 2020 Congress this spring/early summer.

One of the highlights of the Sacramento Congress was to continue our work in the Ag Outreach Program. We had the opportunity for all the officers to speak to four classes at a local school. The teacher was excited and we enjoyed sharing our positive voice of agriculture with students. The ag teacher was especially amazed that we were from all over the country and we were promoting ag. During our Regional meeting, it was mentioned that other OFA members would like to participate in the Ag Outreach Program. We think that is great and welcome others. Thoughts are maybe OFA members could speak to a classroom on Thursday. If you are interested please let us know and we will see if we can put it together.

We want to encourage all OFA members to look for candidates throughout the year. It is never too early to start looking. This is so important for the success of our program. We would like to thank the NACAA for the many candidates that they have provided. We really appreciate their efforts.

The Spirit of Giving Program continues to be a success! Thanks to those who con-

tinue to contribute. And also a quick reminder to pay your dues to the Treasurer, Andrew Kimmel.

We would like to thank John Deere for their continued support and Tom Steevers for stepping in as Emcee under short notice at the Congress.

Remember there is a summer tour in Minnesota; we are going to try to stop on the tour for one day.

We are looking forward to the planning of the next Congress and look forward to getting together with the many friends we have made in the OFA. We have made great friendships and great connections. We love when we hear from any OFA Alumni!

We hope everyone has a safe and successful growing season! We are excited to become grandparents in July! See you in Moline next February!



TREASURER'S REPORT

Andrew & Erin Kimmel (PA 2007)
ackimmel@windstream.net



Donations make continued OFA activities possible

We send our greetings to all our OFA friends from Western Pennsylvania. We hope all had safe trips home following our Congress in Sacramento, CA. We certainly enjoyed our time in the Golden State. We thank all the hands from the Western Region that worked

together to help make this year's Congress such a success! Everything was superb!

We want to extend our thanks to all of this year's candidates for being part of such a talented class and our best

wishes to the four winners! You all are wonderful examples of the future of agriculture. We also wish to thank Tom Stever for being our emcee and master of ceremonies for the Saturday evening banquet. Thank you for lending your time and talent to help make our evening's festivities such a success!

As OFA Treasurer we would like to thank all those who helped to financially support the OFA this year. Dana Stapleton challenged everyone to donate an additional \$100 at the annual meeting this year. This money will be used to pay for the registrations of the candidates if they return to next year's congress. It will take \$6,500 to pay for the ten couples, and through the gracious giving so far we have received over \$3,500 towards this effort. Reverse Bingo, Saturday night auction, Spirit of Giving, and membership dues all continue to help cover the cost of congress. Without your help, we could not continue to create special opportunities for candidates to return, attend Ag Week in DC and manage other expenses of the OFA. We thank you all for your continued help to maintain the success of our congress each year!

We will be looking forward to Moline, IL, for next year's congress in 2019. We will surely be excited to be in the Quad Cities area and at the corporate headquarters of John Deere! I'm sure there will be many exciting things to discover there.

Our best to everyone for a successful growing season ahead. Take good care to all! We bless those whose hands grow the food for the people of this great land and we bless those who receive it as well. Our best to you all from Western PA.

NOYF COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Rich and Debbie Norz (NJ 2010)
noyfprogram@gmail.com

Nomination challenge issued



Hello from New Jersey. It was quite an interesting winter where we had a lot of cold weather from December through January then a warmer than normal February. We also did not have many snow days, but have had a very wet February, with about 6" of snow, plus an additional 9" of rain. We are definitely looking forward to another great Jersey Fresh season for our vegetable and pumpkins.

The NOYF program is headed in the right direction as we had an awesome group of National Finalists in Sacramento. The diversity of the young farmer continually shows the progressiveness and ingenuity of the United States farmer!

This past year, we had a good year with receiving new NOYF nominations. For the 2018 Congress, the National Outstanding Young Farmer awards program secured great support, in getting new nominees, from the NACAA, OFA and other supporting partners. Heading towards the 2019 NOYF Congress, we are hoping to receive at least as many if not more great NOYF nominations from our supporting partners and many nominations from you, the OFA membership.

The OFA has a simple NOYF Nomination form that any nominee should be able to fill out in 30 to 60 minutes. You can find the 2019 Nomination Forms on the OFA website at www.outstandingfarmers.com. When on the site, slide over to the NOYF Awards tab then click on the Nominations tab and all the information they will need is there. Yes, it is that easy! Please keep in mind that the deadline for NOYF Nominations is August 1, but we will certainly accept nominations before that.

Now we would like to give you all a challenge! We know every OFA member has that great young farmer that is doing some amazing thing right around the corner or in the next town from you. So please go out and tell them about our wonderful program and get them an application to fill out.

We are excited at the direction the NOYF Program is headed and we are looking forward to making the National Outstanding Young Farmer Program even better.

Sacramento, CA

NOYE

National Outstanding Young Farmers





NOYE
National Outstanding Young Farmers
Sacramento, CA

NOYF Class of 1994 encouraged to attend Congress

If you were a member of the Class of 1994, it will be our 25th anniversary in 2019! We are encouraging you to come to the conference which will be held February 7-10 in the Quad Cities in Bettendorf, Iowa. Send your email address to Scott and Vicky Singlestad (MN) at vksinglestad@gmail.com so we can keep in contact.

Your classmates,

Scott and Vicky Singlestad (MN)
Lloyd and Daphne Holterman (WI)
Mark and Janet Knobel (NE)
Steve and Janeen Moest, (IL)

The Class of 1994 includes:

*Paul & Korlyn Casper SD
*David & Laurie Conrad OH
*Steven & Diane Dahlman MT
*Noel Davis AR
*Greg Davenport FL
*John & Mary Deichmann IA
*Scott & Kelle Dyer TN
*Larry & Carol Freeborn NJ

*Robert & Theresa Gravett KY
*Dan & Christine Hernstedt CA
*Lloyd & Daphne Holterman WI
*Brent Hostetler CO
*Brad & Kolleen Jensen UT
*Bryan & Kathy Jones OR
*Mark & Janet Knobel NE
*Daniel & Kathryn McConnell NC
*David & Brenda Meyer ND
*Russell & Nancy Miller Jr. AL
*Steve & Janeen Moest IL
*Steven & Kelly Obert IN
*Robert & Karen Omohundro MO
*Phillip & Debra Otte PA
*Valerie & David Patten NY
*Harold Ruff SC
*Stephen & Elaine Sexton TX
*Scott & Vicky Singlestad MN
*Randall & Colilla Smith TX
*Mark & Nancy Stocks GA
*Bert & Sharyn Toyama HI
*Dennis & Doris Tubergen MI
*Gloria & Gregg Varney ME
*Ernest & Cathy Vogl Jr DE
*William & Bonnie Weed CT
*Steven & Kelly Wilson MD

2018 Ag Day



Agri-Pulse Interviews Mark Ulness



2017 winners visit John Deere

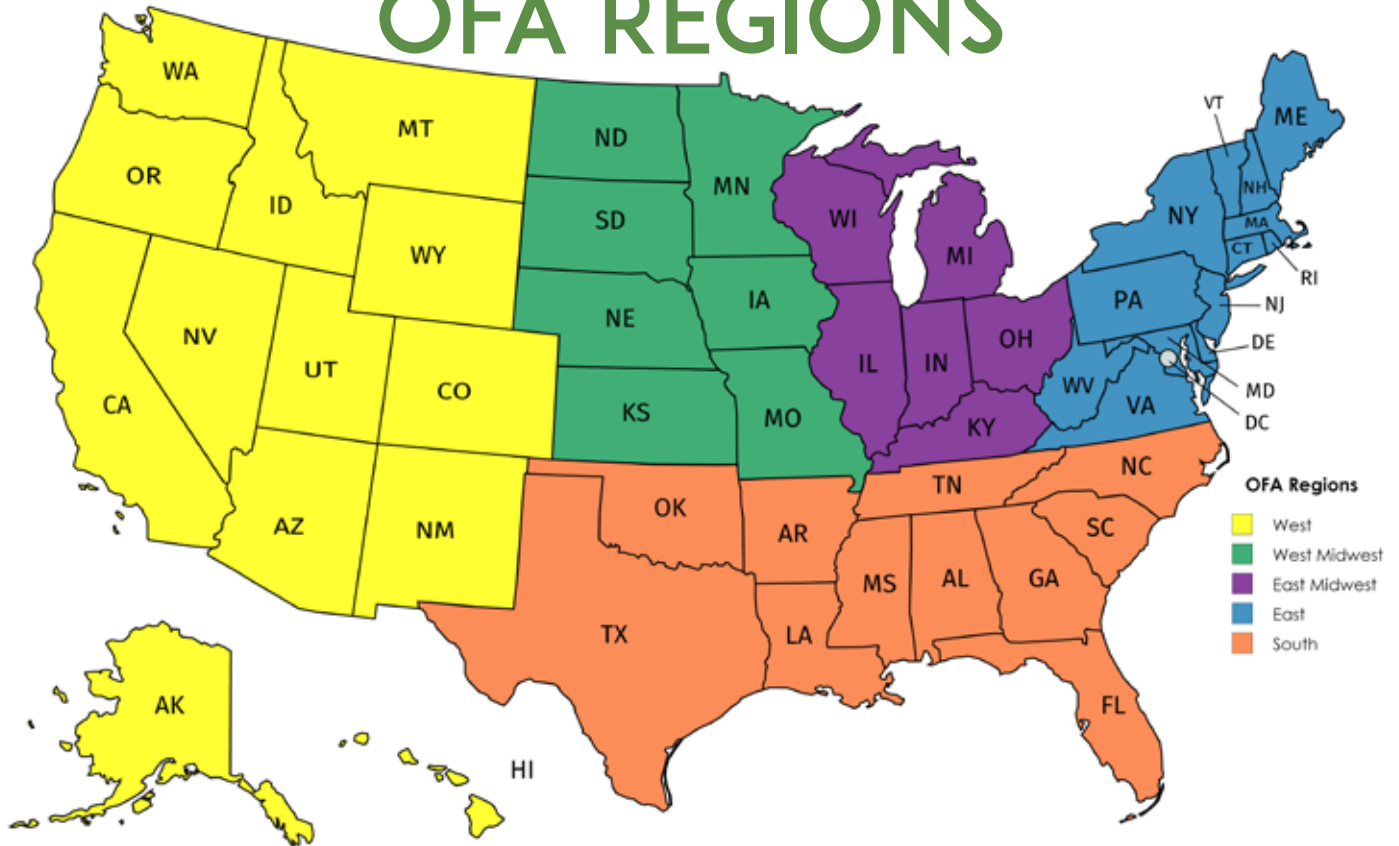


2017 National Winners with Max Armstrong

Anniversary Classes to be honored at NOYF 2019:

55 years: 1964
50 years: 1969
45 years: 1974
40 years: 1979
35 years: 1984
30 years: 1989
25 years: 1994
20 years: 1999
15 years: 2004
10 years: 2009
5 years: 2014

OFA REGIONS



NOYF Awards Congress Rotation

2019 - West Midwest

2022 - South

2020 - East

2023 - West

2021 - East Midwest

2024 - West Midwest

Special thanks to the 2018 NOYF Congress Sponsors!

Water Associates, LLC

Crop Production Services

Wonderful

Wegis & Young

US Irrigation

Wilbur Ellis

JAIN USA

Esperiqueta Farms

Hortau

Gowan Co

MYCOGEN Seeds

Agri-Pulse

Crop Production Services

America AgCredit

Simplot

Treehouse California Almonds

Gambini Nuts Co, Inc.

Dana & Julie Stapleton

Buttonwillow Warehouse Co, Inc.

Gambini Farms

Sharon Page

Famous Nut

Joe Gambini

Kirschenmann Farms, Inc.

JKB Energy

Farmers Business Network

Bolthouse Farms

Hilton

Jerry Barnes

Isle Waterfront

NETAFIM USA



**JOIN US FOR THE
2019 National Outstanding
Young Farmers Awards Congress
February 7-10 ■ QUAD CITIES
MOLINE ■ BETTENDORF ■ ROCK ISLAND ■ DAVENPORT**

By Kevin Albert (NE 2005)

The West/Midwest Region would like to invite you to come join us for the 2019 National Outstanding Young Farmers Congress February 7-10, 2019 at the Isles Casino/Hotel and Waterfront Convention Center, in Bettendorf, IA.

Located on the Mississippi River, the Quad Cities is comprised of Davenport and Bettendorf, Iowa; Rock Island and Moline/East Moline, Illinois; and surrounding communities. The population of the area is nearly a half-million people.

The Quad Cities is steeped in history because of its location along the Mississippi River. Throughout the years, the region has attracted

Native American Indians, settlers, and immigrants due to its close proximity to the river. As the Industrial Revolution developed in the United States, many industrialists looked to the Mississippi River as a promising source of water power.

In 1848, John Deere move his plough business to Moline to take advantage of the power and transportation the river had to offer. His business was incorporated as Deere and Company in 1868. Deere and Company is the largest employer today in the Quad Cities.

The Quad Cities area offers an array of tours that will provide

us with the opportunity to learn more about the region's history, explore John Deere manufacturing, and to get a view of some of the area's unique attractions.

We are excited to be hosting the NOYF Congress in 2019 and hope to see you all there! Watch the OFA Facebook page and www.outstandingfarmers.com for updates as Congress approaches.



BETTENDORF



**WATERFRONT
CONVENTION CENTER**

OFA MEMBER'S SPOTLIGHT

Ralph and Cleo Thompson (ND 1970)



A good time was had by all in the Sacramento, CA, area beginning February 15.

In 1970, (yes, it was a long time ago), we were chosen to represent North Dakota at the Outstanding Young Farmer Congress in Belleville, IL. When we walked into the lobby of the hotel, Richard Quattlebaum (SC 1965) was the first person to greet us. He made us feel comfortable right away. At that time the Jaycees were in charge of the program. We didn't know anything about the program as we didn't have Jaycees in our area at that time.

We met Willard and Ruth Pedersen (ND 1967) and they were influential in getting us to go

back the next year (Madison, WI) and there were twelve couples back from our year and we were hooked! Little did we know what a life changing opportunity this would be.

We have only missed one congress since 1970, our daughter and son-in-law (military) were home at that time. Orion Samuelson (our Master of Ceremonies) has always told the candidates "free bed and breakfast all over the United States." That is so true, each year at the Congress we meet new friends and greet "old friends" from all over the country. The tours are so interesting and we see things that the ordinary tourist doesn't get to visit.

We farm with our son, Randy and grandson, David, here on the eastern edge of North Dakota. We have sold Pioneer seed since Don Reuvers (MN 1967) told us we should think seriously about selling for Pioneer. Now Randy and his daughters, Paige and Debbi (agronomist) sell for Pioneer. We raise corn, soybeans, wheat, dry beans, and we have Angus beef cattle which we finish feed. We are easy to find, have plenty of room, do stop in and visit. You can reach us at 701-668-2913.

OFA Ag Outreach: Sacramento, CA





Outstanding Farmers of America
45696 116th St.
Sisseton, SD 57262

www.outstandingfarmers.com



DUES

- \$25 Annual
- \$250 Lifetime
(per couple)

Submit to:

OFA Treasurer Andrew Kimmel
Outstanding Farmers of America
169 Idaho Rd
Shelocta, PA 15774



www.outstandingfarmers.com

Send submissions or comments to: Erin Slivka
6074 PN Bridge Rd • Winifred, MT 59489 • slivka.erin@gmail.com