

Fall 2016



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ■ 2017 NOYF TOURS | 2 |
| ■ NATIONAL AG DAY | 3 |
| ■ OFA DUES FORM | 5 |
| ■ 2017 NOYF REGISTRATION | 7 |

2017 NOYF Awards Congress



**Greenville, South Carolina
February 9-12**

Greenville Marriott

One Parkway East • Greenville, SC 29615 • (864) 297-0300

Reserve your rooms online at <https://goo.gl/DyrakW>

Deadline: January 17, 2017

Check in: 3:00 PM; Check out: 12:00 PM

Complimentary valet parking

Airport shuttle service, on request, complimentary: Shuttle Phone: (864) 297-0300 Ext 155

Alternate transportation: Eastside Limo, \$18 (one way), reservation required

Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport (GSP)

Hotel direction: 4 miles S

For more information, visit www.outstandingfarmers.com

Southern Region gears up to host 2017 NOYF Awards Congress

By Danette McAllhaney

Wow- can you believe it- another year has passed! The Southern Region planning committee is excitedly awaiting your arrival in Greenville, SC. We have been preparing for months and the time is drawing near. We certainly hope all of you are planning to attend. We promise we are trying to make it a special event that will be well worth your efforts. Hopefully, God will bless us with great weather.

Friday will be a fun filled day. Tour buses will all be going to Koyo bearings for a very interactive tour of the facility. We will also all be going to Clemson University food nutrition and packaging sciences facility. At Clemson we will create our own ice cream flavor and sample the creation! Other tour sites will include Palmetto Moonshine to see a still in action and taste its wares and the Bart Garrison SC Ag History Museum.

Friday evening, we will be traveling to downtown Greenville to the Old Cigar Warehouse which was built in 1882 and used as a warehouse for cigars and cotton. While currently an event venue it maintains much of its old charm. Dress will be casual as we'll be having a good old pig pick'n for supper (as we call it in the south). After supper we will be entertained by Jerry Carroll, a farm comedian.

For all of you who may want to arrive early or stay after the Congress for touring- sorry we did not organize any tours. However, we do have some suggestions for you to plan your own excursions.

Day trips-

- Downtown Greenville has shopping, bars, restaurants
- Ashville - Biltmore Estates Linville Cave rns, Smith- McDowell House Museum, Carl Sandburg Home (just to name a few)

• Charlotte- Nascar Museum

• Greenville BMW plant- just plan ahead as tours are booked well in advance- and if you have a great crop year you can participate in the BMW driving school

Multi Day trips-

• Charleston- Visit the downtown and take a carriage ride or tour historic homes visit the market area and see straw grass baskets being made. There's also plantations and the beach

• Savannah- Similar to Charleston, very historic – tour historic homes, take a ghost tour or historic trolley tour and of course enjoy great food – the beach is nearby

• Myrtle Beach – Shows, restaurants

• Gatlinburg – Shows, arts and crafts, rent a cabin in Great Smokey Mountains

As you can see there is much to do – hope to see you in February!



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jeff and Elaine Thomson (CA 1981)

Jeflain2@aol.com



OFA board establishes foundation

Fellow OFA Stakeholders: Fall potatoes and fall carrots are turning fields green on the ranch the last couple of weeks (9/22/16); we hope no frost until December! Exciting things to discuss in this article; specifically, the OFA is on the verge of establishing an "OFA Sustaining Pre Foundation" based in Omaha, Nebraska.

With the very generous contribution of \$30K by Past President Buck Teeter and Marlan Johnson's devoted site work, we have almost completed the paperwork on a "Donor Advised Fund," and when this fund reaches \$1 million, the OFA Foundation can evolve!

A three person committee may efficiently guide the investments necessary for this new venture. Buck Teeter, Marlan Johnson (in Omaha) and myself will help in the first period. The OFA President can appoint folks as needed to this three person committee.

With the OFA, a 501c3 tax deductible non-profit, all OFA members may enjoy building the pre-foundation fund when they have a few dollars as time evolves. A foundation offers the OFA/NOYF Awards Program LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY! If anyone has questions, the committee and/or OFA Board will find the answers.

Another important item I wanted to discuss is the OFA search for a "Media Partner" to help us promote the Outstanding Young Farmer Awards Program. Our major sponsor, John Deere and Company, feels very strongly that the OFA will be strengthened and their major investment funding the NOYF Awards Program will be enhanced by a media sponsor. I spent almost two hours with the John Deere executives and the top officials at "Progressive Farmer Magazine" on a conference call. Lots of options were discussed on a preliminary basis; the bottom line evolved into an OFA visit in December to the Progressive Farmer meeting in Chicago and a Progressive Farmer visit to our National Outstanding Young Farmer Awards Program in

Greenville, SC, during February 2017. More discussions will follow these site visits.

With 1,800 or so OFA alumni families throughout the U.S., the search for candidates for the NOYF awards program has been a struggle as a mission for our Alumni! County agents affiliated with the NACAA are providing most of the candidates now that the US Jaycees are pretty much not participating. A media partner is needed per the John Deere executives. Your OFA Board would appreciate any input OFA alumni may have.

Elaine and I hope to see all of you at the NOYF Awards Program in Greenville, SC. We have been amazed at the factories/new businesses and the modern downtown Greenville presents. Hope all of you have a safe and productive harvest season. We finished all the spring crops by the end of August - very hot summer as it seems the whole country has had plenty of heat!

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

South Carolina provides plenty of sightseeing options



Greetings from South Dakota! We hope this past year has been a successful and great one for all of you!

Our Custom Corn Silage season went well with a small rain delay at the end of the season. Bean harvest started in end of September and then we went right into corn. Hope everyone had a great fall and safe harvest.

Greenville, SC, is the site of our upcoming 2017 Congress. Our region team is great and has been working hard to put on a great event! We have found South Carolina very charming and appealing! We know everyone will have a great time! They have some great tours planned and a charming Friday night venue for us to enjoy! There is a lot to see in South Carolina, so you might want to check with the Visitor's Bureau before you arrive to see what else there is to offer.

We hope to see the Class of 2016 in Greenville so they can reconnect with their classmates and fellow alumni as well. Of course, we can't wait to renew old friendships and meet the Class of 2017 also!

Our Congress registration fee has increased this year to \$325 a person. This is due to the rising costs of food and etc. at our upcoming Congresses. Please note that when you are filling

out your registrations. We have not had an increase in a number of years. We hope it is not a problem for anyone.

The Spirit of Giving is still a great help to the OFA. Think about getting your class together or as an individual and donate. This helps defray costs of the hospitality room and helps with speakers and other program expenses.

We want to encourage all OFA members to look for candidates throughout the year. It is never too late to start looking. The deadline always comes way too soon!

We would like to thank our fellow officers and coordinator for all the hard work they do. It's great when everyone takes a job and we can get things done!

If anyone would like to volunteer and help with the OFA Ag Outreach Program that we do before the Congress, please let us know. Any help is great!

Remember to make plans to attend the Congress in South Carolina! Check out the Spirit for more information on registration and tours! It sounds like it will be another great congress and a chance to catch up with old friends!

2016 Ag Day



Chad Garone represents OFA during National Ag Day festivities



National Ag Day Luncheon



2015 National Winners with Orion Samuelson

In Remembrance

Dale Koester (ID 1959) passed away September 29, 2016.

Cards of condolences can be sent to:

Joanna Koester
8997 E. Grant St.
Downey, ID 83234

NACAA convention is a chance to promote NOYF program

We are well into corn harvest and having some help with nice weather. We typically are harvesting until Thanksgiving. Hopefully with some nice weather early we will be done sooner. It is always much nicer to harvest with the air conditioner than the heater.

We also have a very busy schedule this

year with our family; our son Ben is a senior at Penn State and will graduate in the spring, and our daughter Emily is a high school senior.

We have been very busy with all the things that go along with seniors and preparing for graduation and on to college for Emily and starting life for



Ben.

We are very excited about our conference in Greenville, SC, in February. We have some very interesting tours planned and a visit to Clemson University as well. They have some very interesting research about food packaging and transportation that I think we will get to see.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Greg and Carmen Bendixson (ND 2002)

bendixsn@nccray.com

Winter comes early to North Dakota

Greetings from northwest North Dakota. We are experiencing either an early winter or lousy fall; what had looked to be an early harvest turned into a late one. Getting cattle in larger groups and closer to home, while doing some fall field work and finishing up flax-seed harvest.

The 2017 NOYF Congress in Greenville South Carolina is right around the corner. The regional group, headed by Danny and Danette McAlhaney, has done a sensational job of selecting venues and tour stops for our enjoyment. We enjoyed our time there for our officer meeting and pre-congress visit. If you come early or have time for an extended stay, try to get in a visit to downtown Greenville.

During Congress, you will be able to tour a bearing manufacturing plant and will visit Clemson University which

is a very impressive campus, and you will also get a chance to have a shot of moonshine after eating Clemson ice cream.

Thank you to all those who sent me your dues, as well as "spirit of giving" money, and purchased lifetime memberships. We were able to secure a new sponsorship from ONEOK, a natural gas pipeline company, which will help our budget out a lot.

Although the candidates are soon to be judged for the 2017 Congress, it is never too early to be thinking of a young farmer that you could nominate for 2018; we need the OFA to continue nominating candidates for our organization to remain strong going forward.

Hope all is well with you and yours. Dues or other donations can be sent to Greg and Carmen Bendixson, 8905 140th Ave NW, Zahn, ND 58856, or as always just drop them off next time you are through Zahn.

Erin was able to travel to Little Rock, Arkansas, to attend the NACAA convention with our Coordinator Sharon Page. The county agents were very interested in the National Outstanding Young Farmer program.

I think we continue to improve our relationship with more agents all the time. Connecting with them is so important. The more familiar they are with the program the more they can educate producers in their area about who we are and our mission to recognize outstanding farmers in every corner of our country.

As fall moves along at a fast pace, remember to be careful and take time to enjoy all the beautiful fall colors as they come this season.



Sharon Page and Erin Kimmel promote NOYF at the NACAA Convention.

EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Sharon and Kevin Page (MI 1991)
pageeboy@yahoo.com



Trip to France provides a new look at agriculture

Hello all my OFA friends! As I write to you, I'm enjoying the French country-side best known for its dairy farms, beef cattle, and lots of corn, which remind me of home. They are busy chopping silage and harvesting sugar beets. It's hard to imagine some 70 years ago these same fields had been pillaged by war. My stay in Paris was awesome ,but you can't take the country out of this girl.

Although it may be fall, February will be here before we know it. Our Southern Region has put together an extraordinary convention, which I hope you will enjoy with us. Greenville and the surrounding area has much to offer, so come early or plan to stay after to enjoy some of the greatest Southern hospitality! Mark your calendars to meet up with old friends, welcome back the class of 2016, our newest

alumni, and celebrate with the incoming Class of 2017.

As you know, John Deere has sponsored this event for 41 years; however, even with their generous support we are not able to cover the cost to organize a convention of this level and must offset it with registrations. Therefore, after much discussion, it was determined it would be necessary to increase the registration cost at this time. Hopefully this will not deter you from coming.

Please, do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions, since my job is to insure you have the best time ever.

Remember the deadline to make your hotel reservations is January 17, 2017, to be guaranteed the existing rate.



Dues

- Annual: \$25
- Lifetime: \$250

Submit to:

Gregory & Carmen Bendixsen
8950 140th Ave NW
Zahl, ND 58856

Spring
2016



PLATINUM (\$5,000 +)

Buck Teeter TN 1975
Class of 2002 & 2005
ONEOK

DIAMOND (\$1,000 +)

Joe Gambini & Lois Armstrong CA 1965
Andy & Hilde Burger DE 1966
John & Marge Walchli OR 1969
Ken & Audrey Mason SD 1970
David & Bernie Shiver IL 1970
Ralph & Cleo Thompson ND 1970
Russ & Marilyn Rosenboom IL 1972
Marlan & Mary Johnson NE 1989
Kevin & Sharon Page MI 1991
Rod & Janell Holth ND
Robert & Roberta Call NY 1960
Jerry & Pat Barnes OR 1970
Robert Y. Sakata CO 1956
David & Jeanne Endres WI 2001
Bob & Ella Mae Wade KY 1969
Dana & Julie Stapleton SD 2002

GOLD (\$500 +)

Dale & Joanna Koester ID 1959
Willard & Pat Hennings WA 1965
Richard & Juanalee Alden NE 1966
Willard & Ruth Pederson ND 1967
Eric & Marlene Haberer KS 1972
Max & Connie Peterson IL 1974
Bryce & Cheryl Chamberlain IL 1982
Steve & Dee Gordon OR 2012
Mike & Judy Hennenfent IL 1981
Sandy & Peggy Ludeman MN 1982
Lloyd & Daphne Holterman WI 1994
Rody & Mary Birchen IL 1993
Jay & Kristi Richardson WI 2004
Steve & Janeen Moest IL 1994
Dennis & Doris Tuburgen MI 1994
Memory of Pat Barnes (Class of 2007)
Bill Richards OH 1967
Jack & Mary Lou Thomson CA 1955
Memory of Dolan Brown GA 1965

SILVER

Tim & Sarah Sullivan* MN 2005
Mark & Trudy Peterson MO 2002
Memorial for Leo Sebek SD 2002

OFA is a 501(c) 3 Tax Deductible Non-Profit Organization.

NOYF COORDINATOR'S REPORT

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



NOYF finalists will be named in December after judging process

Greetings from New Jersey. As we write this fall letter, it is the middle of September and we have again had a very busy summer season here at Norz Hill Farm. We have had a difficult growing season with not much

rain and over 40 days with temperatures over 90 degrees. But with that being said, we have had a great time hosting many customers at our home market and at our different town tailgate markets enjoying our home grown "Jersey Fresh" produce. We are now looking forward to kicking off our 2016 Fall Festival and Scare Farm (haunted hayride) seasons.

We have just completed the nomination round for the 2017 National Outstanding Young Farmer Awards Program. We have a great group of Semi-Finalists and we are looking forward to getting in all the Semi-Finalist applications for the judging in October. Then the 2017 NOYF Finalists will be named in December and this group will be headed to Greenville, South Carolina in February of 2017 for NOYF Congress.

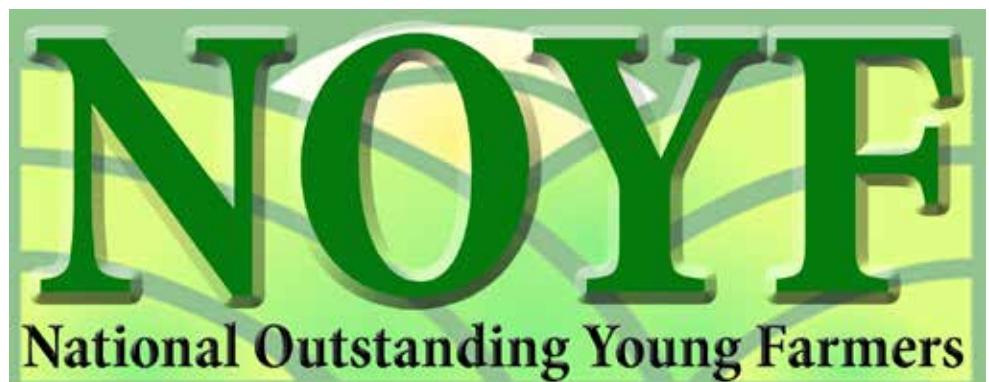
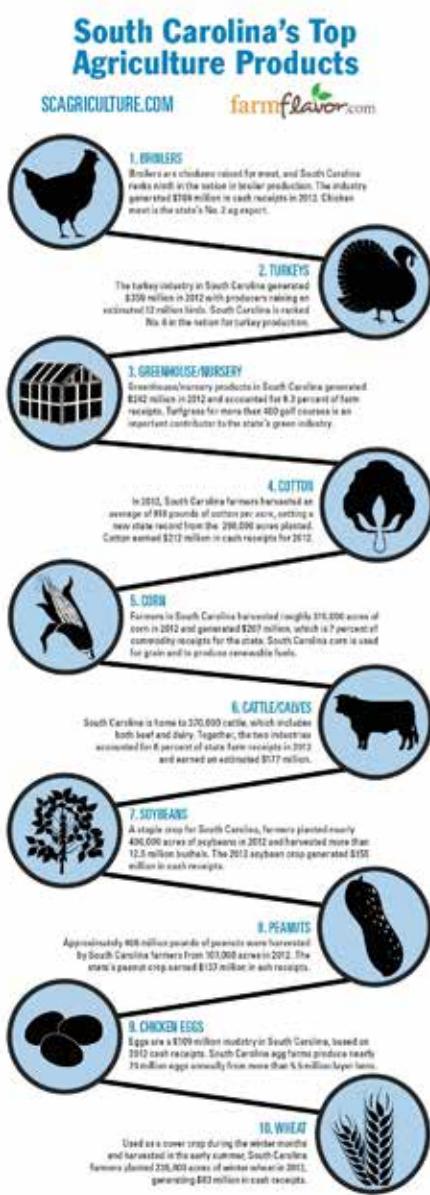
Again this summer, our program was significantly helped out by the NACAA finding many nominees with a few coming in from the OFA.

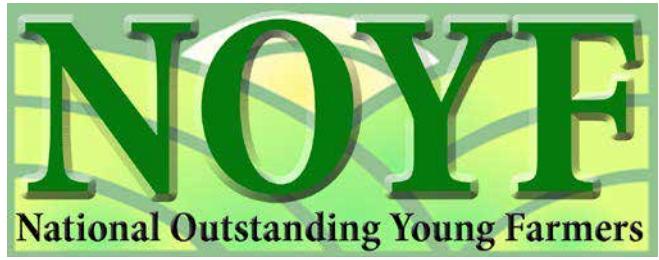
We know that everyone is just starting with their fall harvest season and then before you know it, it will be time

to get ready for the winter holidays, but keep in mind this is a great time of year to be on the lookout for the next great farmer in your area that can be nominated to compete in the 2018 National Outstanding Young Farmers Awards Program! Please go and visit these individuals and tell them about our great program and get them interested and excited to apply next summer.

There is a new NOYF nomination form that will be easier for any new nominee of our great program to fill out. Certainly encourage any prospective National Outstanding Young Farmer nominees to visit the OFA website at www.outstandingfarmers.com. Tell them to take a few minutes and learn a little more about our program. Please keep in mind that the deadline for the next NOYF Nominations is August 1, 2017, but we will certainly accept nominations before that.

We are excited about the current direction the NOYF Program is headed and you can help make it even better by finding that neighbor that will be the next great National Outstanding Young Farmer!





2017 Awards Congress Greenville, SC

Deadline: January 10, 2017

Name: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

OYF Class Of: _____ State: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Special Needs due to Disability: _____

| | <u>Payment Received By 1/10/17</u> | <u>Payment Received After 1/10/17</u> |
|--|--|---|
| ____ NOYF 2017 Complete Weekend Package(s) | \$325 each | \$350 each |
| ____ NOYF 2017 Awards Banquet ONLY | \$75 each | \$85 each |

Payment Information (check one)

Enclosed is \$_____ to confirm _____ registration(s) for the 2017 NOYF Awards Congress.

Check Money Order Master Card Visa Discover

Credit card # _____ Expiration _____

Name on card _____ Billing Zip Code _____

Cardholder's signature: _____

Make check or money order payable to OFA. Mail or email this form to:

OFA Coordinator Sharon Page • 4946 Reeder Rd • Lyons, MI 48851-9724
Phone (517) 881-5945 • email: pageeboy@yahoo.com

Visit www.outstandingfarmers.com for electronic version.



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

www.outstandingfarmers.com

OFA Updated Info Needed!

Coordinator Sharon Page is updating the OFA Member Database and requests an update from members. Please fill out the information and return to Sharon at 4946 Reeder Rd, Lyons, MI 48851-0724 or pageebboy@yahoo.com. If you are mailing in your registration form on the back of this sheet, you can return both to her at the same time. Thanks!

Name: _____

NOYF Year: _____ State: _____

Mailing Address:

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

The logo for "OFA Spirit" features the letters "OFA" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, followed by the word "Spirit" in a large, flowing, cursive script font. Below the main title, it says "The Newsletter of the Outstanding Farmers of America". At the bottom left, there is a small black bar with the website address "www.outstandingfarmers.com".

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