

Where Are They NOW?

LIFE AFTER FFA



"AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS"

This month's article features those who have changed from Ag Students to Ag Teachers, preparing the next generation of the ag industry.

"Where Are They Now?" highlights former New Jersey FFA members who once wore the blue jacket and are now in successful careers. Through the interpersonal skills and support it provides, the FFA leads its members toward successful careers.

DALE CRUZAN

How did Ag Education and FFA prepare you for your career?

"Agricultural Education and FFA provided me with a genuine career opportunity. At the time, I did not understand the depth of opportunity provided to me by my enrollment in AgEd/FFA. It ultimately led me to my current career of preparing the next generations of agriculturalists."

"A good or successful life is one where you've made a positive impact on one's life. It is not about the recognition but about what is left behind when you are gone."

Dale...

- Joined the Cumberland Regional FFA Chapter in 2001
- Served as a State FFA Officer from 2005-2006
- Attended Rutgers University for his Bachelors, and received a Masters Degree from Virginia Tech
- Currently serves as an Agricultural Science teacher at Allentown High School

What was your favorite moment in FFA?

"My favorite memory was participating in the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers. This was the first time I had traveled abroad and was able to truly experience a new culture."

What advice would you give to FFA members?

"My advice would be to not let anything hold you back from participating. One of my biggest regrets was never participating in the Washington Leadership Conference, due to my own hesitations about traveling on my own."

Heather...

- Joined the Northern Burlington FFA Chapter in 2006
- Served as a Chapter Officer
- Attended Virginia Tech for her Bachelors Degree
- Currently serves as an Agricultural teacher and FFA Advisor at Chancellor High School in Fredricksburg, VA
- Also works on her dairy farm as the primary calf manager

HEATHER SHINN

How did Ag Education and FFA prepare you for your career?

"FFA has played a huge role in helping to prepare me for my career. It is through my high school FFA experience that I am able to provide my students the best AgEd and FFA experience possible."

How would you define a "good" or "successful" life?

"Having a successful life in my eyes is waking up each day excited for what's ahead. Having a career that you enjoy, friends and family that support you, and a positive outlook on life!"

"FFA members: take advantage of everything that FFA has to offer you! The possibilities are endless and the skills you gain will help you for the rest of your life. Most importantly, soak it all in. Before you know it you'll graduate and move on. So take all the memories in and when you look back, you'll realize your time in FFA were some of the best years of your life."



What is your favorite FFA memory?

"Receiving my American Degree and walking across the stage at National Convention. A close second would be FFA Week in my senior year at Northern's 50th Anniversary when we lined the parking lot with 50 tractors from current and past FFA members. Seeing the community come together like that was awesome."



TIFFANY (ROBERSON) HOY



Tiffany...

- Joined the Northern Burlington FFA Chapter in 1988
- Served as a State FFA Officer from 1992-1994
- Attended West Virginia University for undergrad and got her Masters Degree from Penn State
- Currently serves as an Agricultural Educator at Tyrone Area High school in Tyrone, PA

How did Ag Education and FFA prepare you for your career?

“From the first time Mr. Kenny allowed me to teach his animal science class in 10th grade, I developed a belief that every person needs a greater understanding of where their food, fiber and natural resources comes from. As I continued through FFA, I learned I had a voice and could make a positive difference. Ag Ed gave me the confidence and sparked the fire that drives me still today to reach every one of my pupils. As an educator, is my responsibility to help them find their niche in life, while providing lessons on agriculture.”

“FFA members: take a deep breath and leap into all the events you can get involved in with the FFA. Our advisors seem to see more in us than we think we can do. Take every opportunity as a chance to grown and become You.”

What was your favorite FFA memory?

“There are so many, but I think the time we kidnapped the State “Owl” from the State Convention, created a ransom note and witnessed the return of the wise icon.”

How would you define a “good” or “successful” life?

“Being happy and settled with what I have and enjoying the moment. Each moment will influence our lives and will change life for the better. ‘God will give us no more than we can handle, embrace what he gives us.’”

SHARON SMITH

How did Ag Education and FFA prepare you for your career?

“FFA has helped me in my previous jobs by giving me the public speaking skills I needed in each of my positions.”

Sharon...

- Joined the Phillipsburg FFA Chapter in 1973
- Served as a State FFA Officer from 1975-1976
- Attended Delaware Valley University for undergrad, and obtained a Masters Degree from Rutgers
- Currently is retired, but previously served as a Secretary for 2 Historical Commissions and was an Ag Teacher

“A successful life is one where you get to do what you want.”

What is your favorite FFA memory?

“I was the first female to join my FFA chapter. My father had to go to my school to get me into an ag class. In the 1970’s, FFA was still predominately a male organization.”

What advice would you give to FFA members?

“Achieve your dreams, even if it means opening doors that have been closed.”



Everyone has a story to tell. We want to hear yours!

How has the FFA made a difference in your life?
Share Your Story with us at
<https://form.jotform.com/NJFFA/WhereAreTheyNow>
and be featured in a special issue!