

## Young Farmer Contacts

**Melissa Brooks**  
Leadership Programs  
Coordinator  
(515) 225-5425  
mbrooks@ifbf.org

**Mary Foley**  
Leadership Training  
Manager  
(515) 225-5463  
mfoley@ifbf.org

**Tim Niess**  
Field Service Manager,  
Western Iowa  
(515) 250-2269  
tniess@ifbf.org

**Ron Wood**  
Field Service Manager,  
Eastern Iowa  
(515) 240-1181  
rwood@ifbf.org

**Jenelle Rosine**  
Administrative Assistant  
(515) 225-5512  
jrosine@ifbf.org



YOUNG FARMERS

## Recognizing young farmers

Many young farmers deserve recognition for the financial progress of their farming operation. One way to earn that recognition is through the Young Farmer Achievement Award. We know we have many qualified applicants; many more than the number who usually apply. Operation type and size, in addition to how they got started in farming, are not limiting factors. Past winners have had various backgrounds.

Management, growth and progress in the applicant's farming operation are major factors in judging the Achievement Award. Involvement in Farm Bureau and other agricultural and community activities shows leadership and commitment.

The value in scrutinizing the past, present and future of your farm operation far outweighs any length of application. Not only does it provide the best information on which to judge your success...it is a management tool you can use for continued personal and financial success.

Iowa's first place winner will receive the use of an AGCO tractor for 120 days or 150 hours and \$500 provided by General Motors. The IFBF Young Farmer Program will provide the winner with a trip to the 2008 AFBF Annual Meeting, Jan. 13-16 in New Orleans, to compete nationally to win a 2008 Dodge Ram truck.

The top three Iowa Achievement Award-winners will be announced at the Young Farmer Banquet at the IFBF Annual Meeting on December 7.

The applicant needs the approval of your county Farm Bureau board. Each county is limited to only one entry. Applications must be received at the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation on or before 4:30 p.m. **May 1, 2007**. For more information or to obtain an application, contact your county Farm Bureau or log on to the website: [www.iowafarmbureau.com](http://www.iowafarmbureau.com).

### Achievement Award Prizes

**First Place:** Use of an AGCO tractor for 150 hrs or 120 days

\$500 cash from General Motors

**Second Place:** Iowa Farm Bureau provides a \$1000 gift certificate to a local business.

GROWMARK provides a \$500 gift certificate.

**Third Place:** Farm Bureau Financial Services provide a prize equal to or greater than a CD/DVD player.

Iowa Farm Bureau provides \$200.

## Iowa represented on national YF&R committee

Young farmers from Lyon County—Mike and Sarah VerSteeg—have been named to the American Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher Committee.

During their two-year term, they hope to look for ways to get young farmers more involved in the political process. “Agriculture is becoming more regulated all the time and we need to have young farmers involved in the process to either prevent burdensome regulations or shape future policies in our favor. Young farmers need to realize the importance of electing officials, in all levels of government, who understand agriculture or who are willing to listen to our ideas,” VerSteegs stated on their nomination form.

They also hope to look for ways the committee can help families work together through issues and stay

unified when parents and children start farming together.

Additionally, they hope to look for ways to educate urban people about the practices farmers use in agriculture to protect the environment and produce high quality, affordable foods.

Mike and Sarah have a breed-to-wean sow operation in Inwood. Mike received a bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in Agricultural Studies and Sarah has a cosmetology degree. The couple has three children. The family enjoys boating, church activities and being together on the farm.

The VerSteegs will be representing Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. They also serve as ex-officio members of the Iowa Young Farmer Advisory Committee.

## Be Challenged by Ag at the Iowa State

Do you have your team together for the Young Farmer Ag Challenge?

Registrations are being accepted for teams of up to four young farmers to compete in the state Ag Challenge on August 14, at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines. You can use the form on the next page to begin identifying members for your team.

Up to 32 teams will compete in Farm Bureau's version of an agricultural quiz bowl. The Ag Challenge will be held in the Family Center in the Variety and Homemakers Theaters. The first match will begin at 8 a.m. and the challenge will conclude by 6:00 p.m.

Teams must pre-register with their county Farm Bureau office. Registration deadlines are as follows:

**June 15:** First Team Deadline.

**June 16-29:** Registration forms will be accepted for a 2nd county team.

**June 30-July 13:** Registration forms will be accepted for a 3rd county team.

## Family Business Tip

You can better communicate with your fellow family business members by adapting to their different communication styles. When dealing with people who don't have good follow-through or that get distracted easily, guide the conversation to keep them on track.

*This idea is excerpted from Laura Michaud's book *From the Kitchen Table to the Conference Table—Family Business Communications*. If you would like to receive additional family business tips, check out [www.lauramichaud.com](http://www.lauramichaud.com).*



Iowa Young Farmers recently attended the American Farm Bureau Young Farmer & Rancher Conference in Jacksonville, Florida. Pictured above: Amy & Steve Swenka (District 6), Steve & Beth Rachut (Mitchell County), Krista & Greg Jochum (District 4) and Melissa Brooks (IFBF staff). Also attending from Iowa, but not pictured above: Jordan Valvick and Prentice Valvick (Kossuth County), and Mike & Sarah VerSteeg (Lyon County).

# 2007 AG CHALLENGE ENTRY FORM

County \_\_\_\_\_

Contestants must be Farm Bureau members engaged in production agriculture. At least two team members must be 35 or younger and cannot reach their 36<sup>th</sup> birthdays before August 14, 2007.

Please list team members:

Name	Age	Address
1. (captain)		
2.		
3.		
4.		

The Iowa Farm Bureau will provide 2 hotel rooms, additional rooms will be billed to the county Farm Bureau. The Iowa Farm Bureau will make the hotel reservations.

- We will not need hotel rooms.
- We will need only the two rooms provided by the IFBF.
- We will need additional rooms. \_\_\_\_\_ number of rooms (*in addition to the two rooms provided by the IFBF*).

Names rooms should be reserved under: \_\_\_\_\_

Best way to reach captain (phone, cell phone, e-mail, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form to your County Office Assistant. County Office Assistants, please transfer this information to the original registration form you received in March. Once all the information and signatures have been obtained, please return the original registration form to the Iowa Farm Bureau. Teams will not be considered registered until the entry form is received by the Iowa Farm Bureau with the appropriate signatures.**



**PEOPLE. PROGRESS. PRIDE.™**

**IOWA FARM BUREAU**

## YOUNG FARMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### District 1

*(Howard, Winneshiek, Allamakee, Chickasaw, Fayette, Clayton, Bremer, Black Hawk, Buchanan, Delaware and Dubuque Counties)*

Jeff & Colleen Peckham  
18073 80th Street  
Lime Springs, IA 52155  
Phone: (563)547-3476  
Email: jcpeck@iowatelecom.net  
Term: 2004-2007

### District 2

*(Kossuth, Winnebago, Worth, Mitchell, Floyd, Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Humboldt, Wright, Franklin and Butler Counties)*

Doug & Kim Adams  
1582 250<sup>th</sup> Street  
Humboldt, IA 50548-8711  
Phone: (515) 332-4165  
Email: doug.adams@ia.usda.gov  
Term: 2006-2009

### District 3

*(Lyon, Osceola, Dickinson, Emmet, Palo Alto, Clay, O'Brien, Sioux, Plymouth, Cherokee, Buena Vista and Pocahontas Counties)*

Matt & Minde Schuiteman  
957 20th Street SE  
Sioux Center, IA 51250  
Phone: (712)722-3272  
Email: ajsfarms@mtcnet.net  
Term: 2004-2007

### District 4

*(Woodbury, Ida, Sac, Calhoun, Monona, Crawford, Carroll, Guthrie, Audubon, Shelby and Harrison Counties)*

Greg & Krista Jochum  
1629 270<sup>th</sup> Street  
Salix, IA 51052-8024  
Phone: (712) 946-6169  
Email: gjjochum@hotmail.com  
Term: 2006-2009

### District 5

*(Webster, Hamilton, Hardin, Grundy, Marshall, Story, Boone, Greene, Dallas, Polk and Jasper Counties)*

Randy Kreager  
30501 Meadow Rd.  
Adel, IA 50003  
Phone: (515) 210-9682  
Email: kreagerrandy@aol.com  
Term: 2005-2008

### District 6

*(Tama, Benton, Linn, Jones, Jackson, Clinton, Scott, Cedar, Johnson, Iowa and Poweshiek Counties)*

Steve & Amy Swenka  
2671 Half Moon Ave. NW  
Tiffin, IA 52340-9200  
Phone: (319) 626-2713  
Email: dgangus@aol.com  
Term: 2006-2009

### District 7

*(Muscatine, Louisa, Washington, Keokuk, Wapello, Jefferson, Henry, Des Moines, Lee, Van Buren and Davis Counties)*

Nathan & Rachel Fishback  
2108 Highway 1  
Washington, IA 52353-9266  
Phone: (319) 653-5541  
Email: nrfishback@hotmail.com  
Term: 2005-2008

### District 8

*(Madison, Warren, Marion, Mahaska, Monroe, Lucas, Clarke, Decatur, Wayne and Appanoose Counties)*

Chris Cornell  
11743 173rd Ave.  
Ackworth, IA 50001-5611  
Phone: (515) 962-2033  
Email: cchris872@aol.com  
Term: 2004-2007

### District 9

*(W. Pott., E. Pott., Cass, Adair, Union, Adams, Montgomery, Mills, Fremont, Page, Taylor and Ringgold Counties)*

Justin & Jennifer Dammann  
2156 140th Street  
Essex, IA 51638-4520  
Phone: (712)379-3541  
Email: jjdammann@yahoo.com  
Term: 2005-2008

Districts 1, 3 and 8 will be retiring in July.