



FFA Spotlight – Duane & Nancy Kodesh Family

The Rice Lake FFA Alumni is pleased to recognize the Duane and Nancy Kodesh family. They truly exhibit a passion for Wisconsin agriculture, including support of the local FFA. Duane and Nancy are both graduates of Rice Lake, where Duane was active in the FFA, and served as chapter Sentinel. Along with their sons Justin and Trevor, the Kodesh family keeps busy on their dairy farm, milking 275 Holsteins, with 700 tillable acres. They have a free stall set-up, and milk in the tie stall barn. Cows are milked twice a day, with the help of two full-time employees. They have approximately 150 calves and heifers being raised at other farms. Justin, a 2005 RLHS graduate, completed the Welding program at WITC. He takes care of the feeding and maintenance, as well as cropping. Trevor, a 2010 graduate, got a head start on college through the Youth Options program, studying Dairy Herd Management at WITC. He's continuing that program, and has also studied Business Management. Justin's girlfriend, Chrissy Berlin, is also active on the farm, helping wherever needed.



L to R: Chrissy Berlin, Justin, Nancy, Duane, Trevor

For the past nine years the Kodesh family has been providing the corn stalks that are used to decorate Main Street, in downtown Rice Lake, during the fall season. FFA involvement has always been important, as well as staying active at the Barron County Fair.

RL FFA Alumni Honored at WI Alumni Convention

The 31st Annual Wisconsin State FFA Alumni Convention was held from February 11 through February 13th in Stevens Point. More than 200 FFA Alumni Members, State FFA officers FFA Advisors and guests participated. The convention themed "POINTing in the Right Direction" was hosted by Sections 1, 2, 3 & 7.

Saturday saw a day filled with sectional meetings, breakout sessions and the annual business meeting. Two of the highlights from Saturday were the election of the new Vice President, Ricky Kreif of Kewaskum (section 10) and the luncheon guest speaker, author and humorist, Michael Perry.

Saturday was concluded with the Awards Banquet. Again in 2010, Rice Lake did very well, earning recognition in several categories. The chapter received a Bronze Rating in the "Scrapbook", a Gold Rating in the Newsletter and was recognized as 1 of 16 Alumni Affiliates (nationally) who received a \$1000 grant to help in their project efforts. Congratulations Rice Lake FFA Alumni!

Meeting Minutes – January 16th, 2011

Members in attendance: Mark Gargulak, Mike Richter, Norb Pintens, Becca Odden, Lisa Barta, Arlaina Meyer, Damon Meyer, Amber Gonske

Old Business:

- Chili feed fundraiser summary was given by Norb. \$940 was the approximate net profit. Good student turnout, including many students from the middle school helped the night be a success!
- Fruit sale was discussed by Norb and Mark. \$22,000 was the gross sales (about \$7,400 net). Next year they may try to unload and sort fruit in the main high school shop with students' help instead of in the small room next to it.
- Mark and Norb discussed the tractor restoration project. Things are falling into place with students who are interested in working on it and people who can help.
- Milk machine sales are up from 1,889 to 2,100 from the same time last year. Katie Gargulak has been stocking the machine. The cookies and cream shakes have been very popular lately.
- Pfizer scholarship funds are still available. Mike said that we can use them however we see fit. Painting the tractor and Washington Leadership Conference were brought up as options.

Treasurer's Report

- There wasn't a formal treasurer's report, but Mike said there is \$6,851 in the treasury including \$900 from the Pfizer scholarship and tractor grant.

New Business:

- The scrapbook that was ordered for Danette to work on came damaged, but she was able to get another one. Mike said he is planning to take it to the State Alumni Convention in February.
- Cindy Broker entered the Newsletter Contest that will be judged at the State Alumni Convention. Mike suggested we start including a "message from the president" and "message from the advisor". Mark, Norb and Becca plan to do that. Amber suggested we start a "spotlight" segment in the newsletter. She plans to do that for our next newsletter.
- Mark asked about ways to bring in new members. Mike said that it has been brought up before to change the name of the Alumni to clarify that being an actual FFA Alumni is not necessary. Arlaina suggested we look at the bylaws to be sure we can still be state-affiliated if we did that. She said she has found it helps to educate parents about what the Alumni is. Amber mentioned that the Alumni Face Book page is another way to draw people in.
- FFA week will be Feb. 20-27. Norb said the high school members plan to have activities including root beer floats and a milk drinking contest. Becca said her members all have matching FFA t-shirts now!
- The FFA Banquet will be in mid-April. Date TBA.
- Norb and Becca reported that changes in schedules are coming for next year and budget cuts are happening, although it is unknown exactly how that will affect the Agriculture Department.



President's Corner

FFA Alumni, like a lot out there, is made up of numerous people on the roster but only a few that meet every few months to take care of business. The question has arisen as to how we could welcome new members that care as much as we do about our goal of supporting the FFA programs and instructors at both the Rice Lake Middle and High Schools. In this time of shortfalls in school budgets, we feel our mission is even more important.

One idea was to consider changing the name of our organization to better explain our goal. Many years ago the National FFA took on this challenge by changing from the Future Farmers of America to just FFA due to the fact that there are numerous agricultural occupations that have nothing to do with work on a farm. One idea from Mr. Pintens was the change to Rice Lake FFA Boosters instead of FFA Alumni. Our goal is to give a boost to the FFA program regardless of whether we were an FFA member in high school or not.

I'm sure there are others out there who have ideas and if you do, feel free to send them to me at mgargulak@gaic.com or also on our Face Book page, Rice Lake FFA Alumni.

Nut & Bolt Sale Update

The annual Nut and Bolt Sale for the FFA Alumni was due to start next week on February 21st but due to some health issues Jim Leland is not able to bring his tool truck to us this year.

We will still be holding the annual drive because it is one of our major fundraisers. With the profits of the sale, we help the Rice Lake FFA with scholarships and other expenses. We receive a percentage of the sales from what is sold during the drive. While Jim won't be able to drive to each farm, we will be taking orders for tools and supplies. Jim will pay for the shipping cost of any tools or other supplies purchased. They will be shipped directly to your farm or business.

Our organization is going to try and contact anyone who has purchased in the past. If you are not contacted in the next couple weeks and would like to make a purchase and help our organization, please call Mark at 715-651-7032. If you are not interested in making a purchase at this time but would like to make a donation directly to the Rice Lake FFA Alumni, please contact Mark.

Rice Lake FFA Alumni Officer Team

Office	Name	Phone #
President	Mark Gargulak	651-7032
VP/Secretary	Lisa Barta	790-3899
Treasurer	Eric Schneider	340-0001
Reporter	Cindy Broker	234-2044
Scrapbook	Danette Borofka	354-7042
Advisor	Norb Pintens	234-6356
Advisor	Becca Odden	234-8156 x2051

"The Rice Lake FFA Alumni supports students by helping develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success."

Middle School Update

The Middle School FFA is having a great year. The kids have been very enthusiastic about the activities and meetings. Our attendance is remaining steady with new students at every meeting. Currently, the kids are preparing for FFA week, which is approaching fast. The kids plan a week of FFA fun including milk drinking contest, ag trivia game, root beer float sales, staff appreciation breakfast, and blue and gold day.

Other activities that are planned are a ski trip to Christie Mountain on Friday, February 25th. Also, we will be making mozzarella cheese two days after school. Another field trip planned is we will be visiting Barron's Busse Acres in early March. This will provide students with a great modern day dairy business. In the spring we will be making dog biscuits and taking a trip to the Barron County Humane Society to walk dogs.

This has been a great year and I am so excited about the growth in the club. I hope that this can continue next year. It saddens me to think that I will not be here next year due to budget cuts. Currently, the Middle School Agriculture program is being proposed to be cut for the next school year.

Calendar of Events

February –

20-27 FFA Week

25 Christie Mountain Trip (Jr High)

April –

10 FFA Alumni Meeting – 7pm at Perkins

TBD Rice Lake FFA Banquet

