

Where Are They Now?

LIFE AFTER FFA



PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE

This month's article features past FFA members who currently have a career in production agriculture.

"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.

JOSEPH GOODENOUGH



Joe was a member of the Northern Burlington FFA Chapter from 2006-2012, and later served as the State Sentinel in 2012-2013. He received his American FFA Degree in 2013. Joe now continues his family business as a farmer in Columbus, NJ, and is a volunteer Captain of the Franklin Fire Co.



"Take advantage of every opportunity you are faced with through the organization. The skills developed, memories made, and friends will stay with you for the rest of your life."

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

"FFA has helped me develop organization skills, and the social skills I utilize everyday working with customers. It has also greatly advanced my leadership skills which I utilize as a captain in a volunteer fire company."

What is your favorite FFA memory?

"My favorite memory would be experiencing National Convention and hearing 50,000 people say the Pledge of Allegiance."



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

"A good or successful life, in my opinion, is waking up happy, going to a job or career you love, and making the most of every day."



MITCHELL JONES

Mitchell was a member of the Belvidere FFA Chapter from 1990-1994, where he served as a chapter FFA officer. He received his American FFA Degree in 1996. Mitchell graduated from Penn State University in 1998 with a degree in agronomy. Mitchell now owns Mountain Top Farm in Warren County, NJ which specializes in horse hay and grain. He is also the Vice President of the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture, and received the New Jersey Young Outstanding Farmer a few years ago.

"Get involved! Take advantage of the opportunities that are offered on both the local, state and national level. These opportunities really help develop you as a person"

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

"Being involved in FFA gave me leadership opportunities and involvement in the agricultural community. These opportunities opened up pathways for me to receive scholarships for college and pursue my passion."

What is your favorite FFA memory?

"Going to Kansas City for the national FFA Convention was one of my favorite memories."

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

"Doing something that makes you happy!"



CHRISTOPHER PROBASCO

Chris was a member of the Northern Burlington FFA Chapter from 1960-1963, and later served as the State Treasurer in 1963-1964. He received his American FFA Degree in 1966. Since retiring from State Office, Chris became the owner of Probasco Farms, LLC, where he farms with his son, John. Chris and his son farm over 2,000 acres between Chesterfield, Springfield, Mansfield and North Hanover Townships.

"FFA members, continue to participate in FFA as much as you are able. There are many ag related jobs that are best filled by men and women who have an agriculture background."



What is your favorite memory in the FFA?

"My best experience was being awarded the American FFA Degree. I also enjoyed helping my Ag Ed teacher, Richard Lange, set up the Northern Burlington FFA Chapter and attending FFA Camp at the Delaware Water Gap."

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

"My years in FFA and the many classes in ag education honed my leadership skills. Meeting new people has aided me in my dealing with employees, lenders, sales personnel and many others."

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

"Pretty much my life. I am 72 years old and still fully participating in the farm operation. I am able to recharge in Florida all winter and return in the spring ready for a new farming year."



JOEL SCHNETZER

Joel was a member of the Warren Hills FFA Chapter from 1978-1982. Joel now owns and operates Schnetzer Farm, Inc. in Asbury, NJ which specializes in beef and grain. He has been farming full time since 1981, and has served on numerous agriculture boards and committees.

"FFA helped me develop public speaking and parliamentary procedure skills that I use to this day!"

What is your favorite FFA memory?

"Going to the state FFA convention was a favorite memory of mine... It was where I met my wife! Ann was from the Phillipsburg FFA Chapter!"

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

"If you enjoy your job, you'll never truly have to work a day in your life!"



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STORY**

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Share Your Story with us at
<https://form.jotform.com/NJFFA/WhereAreTheyNow>
and be featured in a special issue!**