
FARMJOURNAL FOUNDATION

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For Immediate Release:

Grant Recipient Receives White House Honor

Philadelphia, PA (Nov. 5, 2012) – The Farm Journal Foundation congratulates twelve FFA and 4-H members named White House “Champions of Change.” The Champions were recently honored at a ceremony at the White House for “creating sustainable change in their communities.” Ridge Howell, president of the Checotah, Okla., FFA chapter, was honored, in part, for his work implementing an “FFA: Food For All” grant, which is a program of the National FFA Organization, funded by the Farm Journal Foundation’s *Farmers Feeding the World* campaign and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation.

After a successful first year, *Farmers Feeding the World* and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation recently renewed their partnership with the National FFA Organization’s *Feeding the World—Starting at Home* program to help fight world hunger. As the cornerstone of the partnership, the “FFA: Food For All” grant program funded 140 FFA chapters throughout the U.S. to develop sustainable hunger programs in their local communities and other communities in need. The Checotah FFA chapter is one of the subjects of the new *Farmers Feeding the World* report that debuted at a World Food Prize Borlaug Dialogue side event and will be featured on the “U.S. Farm Report” and “AgDay” television shows.

The Checotah FFA chapter used its grant to develop a community garden and purchase seed and plants. This program, spearheaded by Howell, has provided over 1,200 lb. of produce to the Checotah Senior Citizens Organization. Howell and his fellow FFA members demonstrated to Checotah elementary school students how to plant and raise vegetables, and then transferred the seeds to the FFA greenhouse to grow. Howell, working through “in-kind contributions” from his tribe, the Muscogee Creek Nation, maintained the garden throughout the summer, delivering fruits and vegetables to the senior citizens three times per week.

“Ridge and Checotah FFA’s grant project is a great realization of the impact *Farmers Feeding the World* hoped would result from the ‘FFA: Food For All’ grant program. The Checotah community garden fulfilled FFW’s mission of fighting hunger and educating the public about modern agriculture’s ability to feed the world, and we are so proud of everything they have accomplished thus far,” said Farm Journal Foundation president Charlene Finck. “Ridge’s honor as a ‘Champion of Change’ is well deserved and we applaud his and the other eleven honorees’ efforts to leave the world a better place than they found it.”

About the Farm Journal Foundation

The Farm Journal Foundation is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to sustaining U.S. agriculture’s ability to serve the vital needs of a growing world population with education and assistance focused on the unique interests of people and organizations aligned with U.S agriculture. The Foundation houses Farm Journal’s myriad advocacy initiatives such as the *Farmers Feeding the World* campaign and elements of the Farm Journal Legacy Project. For more information, please visit www.FarmersFeedingtheWorld.org.

About National FFA Organization

The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization of 557,318 student members as part of 7,498 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The National FFA Organization operates under a federal charter granted by the 81st United States Congress and it is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs. For more, visit the National FFA Organization online at www.FFA.org, on Facebook, Twitter and the official National FFA Organization blog.

About the Howard G. Buffett Foundation

The Howard G. Buffett Foundation funds humanitarian activities focused on agriculture, nutrition, water and conservation. In Africa, the foundation is helping address the food and agriculture needs of farmers through specific research initiatives and innovative programs such as local purchase for food assistance needs.