



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 20, 2022

Contact:

Derek Hill

716-353-1271

dhill@cornell.edu

Nationwide:

Graham Shippy

614-249-0682

SHIPPG1@nationwide.com

Johanna Bossard 2021-2022 NY FFA Golden Owl Awardee and New York's Ag Educator of the Year

*The Golden Owl Award® recognizes extraordinary teachers
and supports future educational efforts*

Ithaca, NY – On May 14, 2022 the New York FFA, New York Farm Bureau and Nationwide honored Johanna Bossard at the New York FFA annual state convention as the 2021-2022 NY FFA Golden Owl Awardee where she was crowned New York's Ag Educator of the Year.

Agricultural educators serve a critical role in preparing future generations for success. They also devote immeasurable time, and often their own resources, to help students pursue their passions. Our goal for this program is to recognize outstanding agricultural educators because we understand the importance of developing the next generation of agriculturalists.

This year's winner truly demonstrates the qualities of an amazing agricultural educator. Johanna has been teaching for twelve years at the same school, building a program that now boasts 175 students. Her involvement in agricultural education goes beyond her local school district, she also gives back by mentoring other agricultural educators in the areas of animal science and middle school agriculture. Speaking of giving back, it is important to her that the general public understand agriculture. She accomplishes this goal by serving on the Madison County Farm Bureau Board as the Pro-ed chair, educating the community about agriculture through her social media platforms and providing activities throughout the year on their family's dairy farm. Reflecting on her career, she is proud of all the awards, grants, obtaining the CTE endorsement for her program, all of the community involvement and building relationships with other educators. But what she is most proud of is the impact she has had on hundreds of students over the years!

As the no. 1 insurer of farms and ranches in the U.S.¹, Nationwide established the Golden Owl Award to honor the contributions of teachers and support them with additional resources to assist their continued educational efforts. This year, the award program honors outstanding ag educators in seven states: California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

“As we continue to increase the number of Agriculture programs and FFA chapters across the state, it is vital to our success that we have outstanding agricultural educators and FFA advisors to meet the need,” said Derek Hill, New York FFA Director. “We are proud to partner with Nationwide and New York Farm Bureau to recognize the amazing working and dedication our agriculture teachers do across this state. Congratulations!”

Nationwide supports the future of the agriculture community through meaningful sponsorships of national and local organizations. In conjunction with the Golden Owl Award, Nationwide is donating \$5,000 to the New York FFA Leadership Training Foundation to further support the personal and professional growth of students, teachers and advisors alike.

“As a company with deep roots in agriculture, we recognize the essential role agricultural teachers play in their communities and for the future of the industry,” said Brad Liggett, president of Agribusiness at Nationwide. “We’re proud to work with the New York FFA to recognize these selfless public servants for their many contributions to help prepare the next generation of leaders.”

Congratulations to all of our 11 finalists and to Johanna Bossard for being this year’s Golden Owl Awardee. For more information about the program please visit <https://www.nysffa.org/ny-ffa-golden-owl-award>.

¹ Source: A.M. Best Market Share Report 2020

About Nationwide

Nationwide, a Fortune 100 company based in Columbus, Ohio, is one of the largest and strongest diversified insurance and financial services organizations in the United States. Nationwide is rated A+ by both A.M. Best and Standard & Poor’s. An industry leader in driving customer-focused innovation, Nationwide provides a full range of insurance and financial services products including auto, business, homeowners, farm and life insurance; public and private sector retirement plans, annuities and mutual funds; excess & surplus, specialty and surety; pet, motorcycle and boat insurance. For more information, visit www.nationwide.com. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

About FFA

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agriculture education. For more information regarding FFA, please visit either www.nysffa.org or www.ffa.org. Follow us on [Facebook](#).

About New York Farm Bureau

Since 1911, Farm Bureau has been the Voice of Agriculture. New York Farm Bureau has been in the business of providing the resources that support and enrich the rural way of life. Through the efforts of our organization, farmers have learned to work together to promote more efficient production, better marketing, fair legislation, and a safe food supply and work environment. We play an important role among the 6 million members from the U. S. and Puerto Rico represented by The American Farm Bureau Federation, the largest voluntary general farm organization in the world. For more information, visit www.nyfb.org.