This month’s article features those who have changed from Ag Students to Ag Teachers, preparing the next generation of the ag industry.

“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.

**DALE CRUZAN**

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

“Agricultural Education and FFA provided me with a genuine career opportunity. At the time, I did not understand the depth of opportunity provided to me by my enrollment in AgEd/FFA. It ultimately led me to my current career of preparing the next generations of agriculturalists.”

**What was your favorite moment in FFA?**

“My favorite memory was participating in the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers. This was the first time I had traveled abroad and was able to truly experience a new culture.”

**What advice would you give to FFA members?**

“My advice would be to not let anything hold you back from participating. One of my biggest regrets was never participating in the Washington Leadership Conference, due to my own hesitations about traveling on my own.”

**HEATHER SHINN**

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

“FFA has played a huge role in helping to prepare me for my career. It is through my high school FFA experience that I am able to provide my students the best AgEd and FFA experience possible.”

**How would you define a “good” or “successful” life?**

“Having a successful life in my eyes is waking up each day excited for what’s ahead. Having a career that you enjoy, friends and family that support you, and a positive outlook on life!”

**What is your favorite FFA memory?**

“Receiving my American Degree and walking across the stage at National Convention. A close second would be FFA Week in my senior year at Northern’s 50th Anniversary when we lined the parking lot with 50 tractors from current and past FFA members. Seeing the community come together like that was awesome.”
TIFFANY (ROBERSON) HOY

How did Ag Education and FFA prepare you for your career?
“From the first time Mr. Kenny allowed me to teach his animal science class in 10th grade, I developed a belief that every person needs a greater understanding of where their food, fiber and natural resources comes from. As I continued through FFA, I learned I had a voice and could make a positive difference. Ag Ed gave me the confidence and sparked the fire that drives me still today to reach every one of my pupils. As an educator, is my responsibility to help them find their niche in life, while providing lessons on agriculture.”

“FFA members: take a deep breath and leap into all the events you can get involved in with the FFA. Our advisors seem to see more in us than we think we can do. Take every opportunity as a chance to grown and become You.”

What was your favorite FFA memory?
“There are so many, but I think the time we kidnapped the State “Owl” from the State Convention, created a ransom note and witnessed the return of the wise icon.”

SHARON SMITH

How did Ag Education and FFA prepare you for your career?
“FFA has helped me in my previous jobs by giving me the public speaking skills I needed in each of my positions.”

“A successful life is one where you get to do what you want.”

What’s your favorite FFA memory?
“I was the first female to join my FFA chapter. My father had to go to my school to get me into an ag class. In the 1970’s, FFA was still predominately a male organization.”

What advice would you give to FFA members?
“Achieve your dreams, even if it means opening doors that have been closed.”

Everyone has a story to tell. We want to hear yours!

How has the FFA made a difference in your life?
Share Your Story with us at https://form.jotform.com/NJFFA/WhereAreTheyNow and be featured in a special issue!