



The Ben Overholser Memorial Foundation was established in 2021 as a way to honor the life and legacy of Ben Overholser.

Ben was a lifelong resident of Darke County. He grew up on a family farm west of Greenville where he would help the family in the fields and milked cows for a neighbor. He was also active in 4-H and Greenville's FFA program where he served as an officer. His involvement in FFA led him to a co-op position his senior year of high school with Superior Implement and Supply Company (SISCO) in Greenville.

Ben loved his work at SISCO and worked his way up the ladder, eventually purchasing the company with his wife, Gail, in 2005. Ben used his ag background, excellent people skills, and a natural knack for business to continue to grow SISCO into one of the most respected companies in the agricultural distribution industry.

With Ben's success, he wanted to be able to give back to help support the youth programs in the county that he held near and dear to his heart.

Through his company, Ben has donated funds to build a new preschool and athletic complex in Ansonia and a new Ag and FFA complex in Arcanum. He has also donated to FFA silent auctions and meals and has supported hundreds of 4-H exhibitors in the livestock sale at the fair each year where SISCO is frequently one of the top buyers. His numerous contributions to the county's FFA programs have earned him honorary degrees from Ansonia, Arcanum, Greenville and Mississinawa Valley.

Ben was diagnosed with stage four cancer in November of 2020, and after a courageous seven-month battle, he went home to be with the Lord on May 23rd, 2021 at the age of 58.

Ben may no longer be with us physically on this earth, but his wife (Gail) and son (Josh) wanted to make sure that Ben and his giving nature and legacy would continue to live on. They discussed their ideas with Ben before his passing, and with his loving blessing, established this foundation so that Ben can continue to support his favorite causes, even after death.

Donations to the foundation will be used to fund scholarships for Darke County FFA and 4-H members among other local charitable initiatives. His family and our board of directors are so thankful for the amazing community support that will enable this foundation to do so much for Darke County's youth.



Scholarship Application – Darke County Jr. Fair Exhibitor

The Ben Overholser Memorial Foundation is pleased to announce that it will be presenting two \$5,000 scholarships to Darke County Jr. Fair exhibitors at the 2023 Great Darke County Fair. The deadline to apply is August 1, 2023. The scholarships will be presented to the winning applicants during the auction for their animal at Great Darke County Fair. If the winner is a non-livestock exhibitor, we will make arrangements to make the presentation at an appropriate time at the youth building.

Applications may be mailed to:
Ben Overholser Memorial Foundation
PO Box 475
Greenville, OH 45331

You may also email your application to gail@sisco-inc.com with the subject line “Scholarship Application.”

To be eligible to receive the scholarship, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Darke County Resident
- Member of a Darke County 4-H Club or FFA Chapter
- Must have exhibited livestock or other projects at the Great Darke County Fair through 4-H and/or FFA
- Have plans to obtain a 4-year or 2-year college degree or certified trade program
- Must be an incoming senior who will graduate from high school in 2024
- Must submit a recommendation letter
- Must complete all fields of application, including essay

All applicants who meet the above criteria will be considered. Preference may be given to a student pursuing a degree in agriculture and/or business, but students pursuing other fields will also be considered.



| | |
|---|--|
| Applicant Name | |
| Address | |
| Phone Number | |
| Email | |
| High School | |
| GPA | |
| ACT and/or SAT Score | |
| College or University you plan to attend | |
| Intended Major | |

FFA Members (4-H only members may skip this section)

| | |
|---|--|
| FFA Chapter you belong to | |
| Number of years involved | |
| List FFA offices you have held | |
| Briefly describe why you chose to be involved in FFA | |
| Briefly describe your favorite part of FFA | |
| Briefly describe your SAE | |



4-H Members (FFA only members may skip this section)

| | |
|--|--|
| 4-H Chapter you belong to | |
| Number of years involved | |
| List 4-H offices you have held | |
| Briefly describe why you chose to be involved in 4-H | |
| Briefly describe your favorite part of 4-H | |
| Briefly describe some of your 4-H Projects | |



Short

Answer:

In 150 – 200 words, explain what junior fair projects you have exhibited at the fair and the work and preparation involved. (You may attach your answers if you need more room)

In 150 – 200 words, explain how you plan to use your experiences and lessons learned in FFA and/or 4-H in college and in your eventual career. (You may attach your answers if you need more room)



In 150 words or less, explain why you need this scholarship and why the funds would be put to good use if you are selected. (You may attach your answers if you need more room)

Essay **Applicants must attach a 400-500 word essay on ONE of the following topics:**

- Explain what growing up in an agricultural area like Darke County means to you.
- With examples from your own experience, explain why today's youth should be a part of the junior fair programs at the Great Darke County Fair.
- Explain how you would promote agriculture and youth programs for agriculture to someone with little knowledge of the subject who doesn't see the importance of it.

Recommendation Letter:

Please attach a one page recommendation letter from an advisor, educator, boss, or other person with first-hand knowledge of your education and/or FFA or 4-H involvement.

Selection:

Any applications submitted by August 1st that meet all the criteria will be considered. Applicants may be asked to come in for an interview with our board of directors before a final decision is made. Winners will be announced at the 2023 Great Darke County Fair with recognition during the auctions or a special presentation in the youth building if the winner is not involved in livestock. Once proof of college acceptance is provided, we will issue a check for the \$5,000 made payable to the college or university the student will be attending.