

**[ NORTH CAROLINA  
ALUMNI & SUPPORTERS FFA**

*Chapter Spotlight*

## **Orange FFA Alumni**

This month's alumni feature is the Orange FFA Alumni Chapter in Hillsborough, NC. Chartered in 1984 to support Mr. Tommy Leonard and the students of Orange High School, the Orange FFA Alumni Chapter has a long history of dedication and achievement. Over the years, it has been recognized multiple times as an outstanding affiliate at the state level. Today, the group has 35 active members, including some second-generation alumni, continuing the tradition of supporting agricultural education and FFA programs. Throughout the year, the Orange FFA Alumni actively supports the chapter through various events and fundraisers.

Each October, the Orange FFA Alumni helps to host the school's annual Ag Day, a celebration of student projects, school spirit, and agriculture. They play a key role in organizing and planning the event, as well as cooking and selling food throughout the day, which serves as a major fundraiser for the chapter. Students showcase their SAE projects, staff get involved, and the whole school comes together for a day filled with hands-on learning and fun. Other school clubs join in with booths offering food and activities to raise funds. It's a cherished tradition that highlights agriculture while strengthening the school community.

During FFA Week, the Orange FFA Alumni hosts an annual breakfast-for-dinner, known as Ham & Egg Supper. Students, parents, school staff, and sponsors are invited to enjoy a meal while hearing updates from FFA officers and the alumni president. It's a great chance to connect, celebrate achievements, and support the future of our program in a laid-back setting.

Local farms, Parker Farms (cattle) and Hi-Low Farm (goats) offer students the chance to show livestock, even if they don't have the space or resources to raise their own. This opportunity helps more students get involved, gain hands-on experience, and be part of the show circuit.

Each year, the Orange FFA Alumni prepares and serves the awards meal for the Central Piedmont Junior Livestock Show & Sale. Open to 4-H and FFA members ages 5-18 from

multiple counties, the event features a variety of livestock, including market lambs, feeder and market steers, beef heifers, market goats, breeding does, and market hogs. It's a great way to celebrate the hard work of young exhibitors and support the agricultural community.

The Orange FFA Alumni awards two merit-based scholarships to seniors in the program each year. The first scholarship is given to 2–4 seniors who demonstrate leadership in the FFA chapter, maintain good academic standing, and give back to their community. The second scholarship, named in honor of Orange FFA's founding agriculture teacher, Mr. Tommy Leonard, is awarded to a senior pursuing a career in agricultural education. These scholarships help support the next generation of agricultural leaders.

The Orange FFA Alumni is all about supporting the teachers and students in the FFA program. They're always there to help out, whether it's with resources, guidance, or creating opportunities for students to succeed. The alumni are super proud of all the program's accomplishments and love being part of its continued success and growth. Their involvement really helps make a difference in the future of agricultural education at Orange High School.

Orange FFA Alumni with Governor Hunt while serving a meal at a local event in the spring of 1998.





Orange FFA Alumni serving the Concessions at Ag Day.



Owner, Watt Parker of Parker Farm, with a student who showed cattle raised on the farm.

