



IFYE NEWS

An Official Publication
of the
IFYE® Association of the USA, Inc.

Spring/Summer
2023 Issue

Established as International Farm Youth Exchange™ in 1948

Published May 12, 2023

2023 IFYE Participants Gearing Up for Summer and Fall Program

In preparing for the 2023 Outbound/Inbound/Host Family program-year, we would like to announce the following current Outbound IFYEs, as well as their hosting countries and time period. Program time period is indicated by (S) for summer and (F) for fall. Please note that the current 2023 Outbound IFYEs are listed in alphabetic order by “sending state.”

On page 7 is an introductory article about Inbounds and potential hosting states. Please also check our website and other periodic publications for updates and news as we enter this sending and hosting time of year.



Elizabeth Schroeder
Colorado

Current Status/Future Goals:

- Pursuing undergraduate degree in pre-veterinary animal science with a double minor in music and agricultural business.
- Long-range goals: Attend veterinary school and join the U.S. armed forces.

Previous International Experience(s): Tourist travels to Germany, the UK, New Zealand, and Canada

Ag-Related Experience(s):

- 4-H member with projects in livestock.
- Livestock Council President for two years.

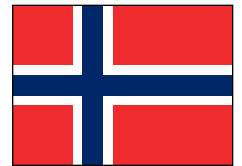
Other Experience(s):

- Concert harp performer.
- Bison Judging (Second Place Overall High Individual, National Western Stock Show).
- 4-H member with projects in performing arts, heritage arts, and shooting sports.

Interests:

- Playing harp and piano
- Reading
- Hiking, skiing, camping, horseback riding
- Helping with local 4-H
- Nutrition and Ruminant Digestion

Norway (S)



Michael Conger
Georgia
Halle Foundation
Representative

Current Status/Future Goals:

- Holds Bachelor’s degree in Public Service Leadership.
- Seeking Master’s in Public Administration.
- Interested in work in the nonprofit sector, especially community betterment programs.
- Long-range goal: To seek public office.

Other Experience(s):

- Selected as one of two students to represent the university system of Georgia at Chancellor Sonny Perdue’s Investiture ceremony.
- Recognized for efforts to bring together a variety of non-profit groups to highlight the needs of the local foster community.
- Community outreach lead volunteer for Called to Care, Inc.

Interests:

- Hiking
- Nature
- Camping

Germany (F)



Continued on pages 4-7



Jan Dennis Wood,
President
IFYE Association of the
USA, Inc.
jwood@ifyeusa.org

IFYE is a Registered Trademark

More than 12 months ago, the IFYE Association Board of Directors began the arduous process of trademarking the word "IFYE," a Standard Character Mark according to the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

You may remember information over the past year where we engaged an attorney with the intent of trademarking International Farm Youth Exchange™. Our attorney searched the records of the Trademark offices to ensure that

our logo and the word "IFYE" were both protected; he also researched to determine the status of the term "International Farm Youth Exchange." He discovered that the logo was protected by the registered trademark in November 2007. However, the word "IFYE" itself was not a registered trademark. The Board authorized the attorney to file a request for a registered trademark for both "IFYE" and "International Farm Youth Exchange."

Common Law Trademark Rights

On December 14, 2022, we received notice from the USPTO that our request to register International Farm Youth Exchange was denied. We have the right, and were advised, to continue the use of the ™ at the end of the word Exchange. This mark indicates to all that the words are being used as a trademark and "the owner is claiming common law trademark rights." But it is not registered. That helps to protect us from another entity trying to use and register the term. IFYE will continue to use the ™ with International Farm Youth Exchange on our website and written information, letterhead and brochures, etc. As an IFYE, if you have occasion to use International Farm Youth Exchange in citing our beginnings, you should use the ™.

Approval of "IFYE" as a Trademark

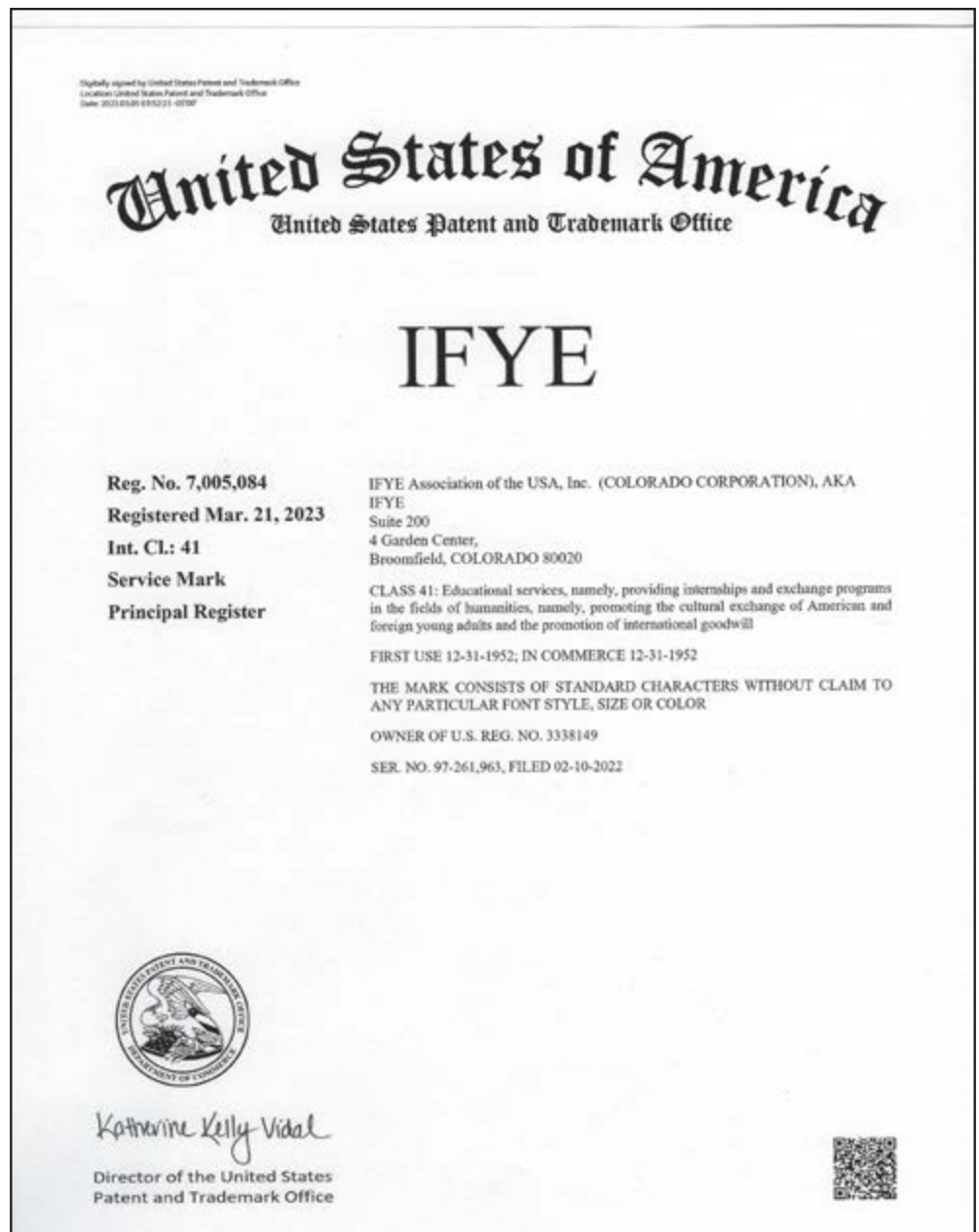
On March 21, 2023, IFYE was notified by the USPTO that our application to register the word "IFYE" as a trademark was approved. This was an important action for IFYE to take. It protects the word "IFYE" from being used in interstate commerce by any person

or organization other than The IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. or those organizations that IFYE grants permission to use by a Memorandum of Agreement. We believe there may be some use of our acronym by others and the Board will address that issue in the coming months.

Domestic vs International Protection of Trademark

This protection of our trademark by the USPTO does not extend to the international arena. So, all our IFYE peers in other countries still have the right to use the word and the logo. In the near future, the Board and staff will revise our written materials to include the registration mark. When we have the guidelines ready for use, they will be published within our portals with instructions for appropriate use.

Please note the addition of our registered trademark on our website header and footer, as well as on this IFYE NEWS. You will be seeing more use of it as we move ahead since the approval of our use.





Why IFYE's 75th Year is Important to Me

Carolyn Hansen

Interim Executive Director

Indulge me to share a personal story of why IFYE is important to me during this 75th year of IFYE's existence.

In late March, my husband Gordon and I departed on a 10-day Caribbean cruise. He boarded with what he thought was a backache. Fast forward to the sixth day of the cruise and it became very apparent he needed to

go to the hospital – in Costa Rica, a country new to us and neither of us spoke Spanish. Before I go any further, just know that we were well taken care of, we are home, and Gordon is recuperating.

The IFYE Aspect

As IFYEs, we quickly learned how to assess a situation, make a quick decision, and when needed, ask for help – and if we didn't know the language, we often asked with a smile.

While traveling in the ambulance three hours to San Jose, I kept asking myself who do I know in Costa Rica? The better question was who did I know who knows Costa Rica? My fellow Ohio IFYE/YDP (to Nicaragua), Mary Ann Vaughan Tinus, quickly came to mind. She shared the information with IFYE/YDP Grace Woodman-Fernandes (MI to Costa Rica). All of a sudden, we were no longer alone in Central America. As luck would have it, we didn't need to call on Grace for help, but knowing she was nearby was comforting.

Is IFYE still relevant?

Over the past 75 years, we've reached out, leaned on, helped out, and worked with our IFYE brothers and sisters and families around the globe. Since joining the IFYE Board in 2019, I've often asked myself what would happen if we were no longer able to send out IFYEs nor receive them. In this age of instant communication, do we really need IFYE? Is it as relevant for today's young adults and world as it was 51 years ago when I left for the Philippines? The answer is *absolutely*. IFYE is needed more today than it was when our founders from Cornell University had this great idea of Peace Through Understanding by living with host families.

Financial Support and Your Stories

Clearly, we need funds to continue to tell our story and send out IFYEs. Our membership has been and continues to be generous with financial support to IFYE; we cannot operate without it and your Board of Directors is grateful. I know most of you agree that IFYE has been an integral part of our lives. The lessons learned are too many to list here. Unfortunately, many of our country's elected leaders in Washington, D.C. do not know what we do or why we are important. That's why sending emails to your US Representatives, Senators, and those on the Ag Committees for the 2023 Farm Bill is so critical. They need to see our worth and hear our stories and they need to hear from each of us frequently. (See page 8 for information on writing your Senators and Representatives. Ed.)

Our Grant Writer, Mary Springer, and I have been contacting the businesses and following leads we garnered from the 2023 Commodity Classic, other exhibits, and from leads that many of you have given us. We are telling the "IFYE story" and showing why IFYE is important to agriculture and agribusiness. It takes time to develop those relationships and we still need more contributions of stories.

We've been fortunate to include many first-hand stories from the recent 2022 IFYE alumni and other years as we talk with foundations, individuals, organizations, and businesses. Your help in giving us leads is also important and we would like to hear from more of you. As mentioned previously, you open the door; we'll walk through it and keep it open.

Development Subcommittee of Finance Committee

Under the umbrella of the Finance Committee, we recently formed a Development Subcommittee with the responsibility of helping staff identify and reach out to individuals inside and outside of our organization. The timing is perfect; as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary, we would love to get a total of 75 new businesses and contributors. YOU can help us with that! We still need two or three more alumni and other IFYE family members to join the subcommittee and help us strategize how to and where to identify new resources. Your efforts will help set the direction of the fundraising plan and staff then carry out the work.

How Important is IFYE to the World?

Sitting in the chair of the IFYE Interim Executive Director, I see every day how important IFYE is to the world. As an IFYE alumna, last month I once again experienced the inexplicable knowledge that IFYEs do make a difference, we help each other in times of need, and we do our best to work toward Peace Through Understanding.

If you have a story to share on how IFYE has impacted your life, feel free to email me and let me know about it. It is experiences such as this that help others understand that it's not a two-, three-, or six-month experience; but it is a life-changing opportunity!

2023 Orientation and "Meet and Greet"

Our upcoming 2023 IFYEs will be meeting with Congressional Representatives on Capitol Hill during one day of their orientation in Washington, D.C.

- The Outbound IFYEs will be able to relay their pre-departure excitement of being able to travel abroad to a foreign country and live with several host families.
- The Inbound IFYEs will also join the visits on Capitol Hill so that they can relay their anticipation of seeing America and experiencing host-family life in various states as well.

This should be a win-win situation for expressing, in person, how important a cultural exchange program like IFYE is for young adults and how it helps to foster "Peace through Understanding" across the globe.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding how IFYE has impacted your life and others around you.



Stephan Rolle
Georgia
*Halle Foundation
Representative*

Current Status/Future Goals:

- Seeking a degree in Agricultural Education with a minor in African American Studies.
- Plans to seek master’s and doctoral degrees in Agricultural and Environmental Science Education.
- Plans to work with the University System as a 4-H District Program Development Coordinator, Extension Director, and/or State Leader.

Previous International Experience(s): Tourist travel to the Bahamas and Canada

Ag-Related Experience(s):

- Floriculture interest and experience – specifically raised, managed, and sold 32 species of plants.
- Grew vegetables to send to schools in nearby counties while teaching students about hydroponics and growing microgreens.
- Served as a member and in various leadership roles as a 4-H and FFA member to include acting as a Representative on the Georgia State 4-H Board of Directors.
- Participated in project competitions, became a Health Rocks![®] Ambassador, and participated in state poultry judging competitions.

Special Study Interests:

- The different philosophies concerning land use, innovative farming techniques, and hands-on experience with a variety of agricultural methods.
- Being able to see how different countries address farming issues; experience the different growing environments of Germany; and focus on/gain insight on the economic and political impacts on German agriculture.
- How the German government is involved, both directly and indirectly, in agriculture.

Interests:

- Floriculture
- Traveling/networking, volunteering
- Cooking
- Outdoor recreation/tennis
- Learning new skills

Germany (S)



Ryan Hurley
Kansas
*United Soybean
Board (USB)
Representative*

Current Status/Future Goals:

- Special Ed Assistant/Paraeducator in a local middle school.
- Future Goal: I hope to become involved in international trade and diplomacy as well as policy and to represent agriculture in these fields.

Previous International Experience(s):

- International outreach to several political parties in Europe as part of a group I am in.
- As a family, we attended several cultural festivals.

Ag-Related Experience(s): Marketing for a soybean startup that hoped to bring an easy-to-grow soybean plant into classrooms across America.

Other Experiences:

- Social Media Intern for No Labels Youth Congress
- Youth Coding Instructor

Interests:

- Agribusiness, agrimarketing
- Magnet fishing
- Video editing
- Both long walks and crafting help me to relax.

South Korea (S)





*Raine Esparza
Texas*

Current Status/Future Goals:

- Graduating August 2023 with Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Science and a minor in Sustainable Agriculture and Community Food Systems
- Long-range Goal: To work for the government or a consulting firm in habitat restoration and preservation.

Previous International Experience(s):

- 2022/2023 - Germany visiting previous exchange students
- 2017 - Tourist to France, United Kingdom, and the Netherlands

Ag-Related Experience(s):

- University of Kentucky (UK) Entomology Lab Assistant and Entomology Teaching Assistant
- University Plant and Soil Research Assistant
- UK Beekeeping Club – assisted in hive inspections and demonstrations
- UK Horticulture Club
- Sustainability Center Intern (San Antonio, TX) – urban farm maintenance and yard work

Other Experiences:

- MANRRS Sustainability Council Representative
- MANRRS member

Interests:

- Fiction writing, reading
- Martial arts (Taekwondo)
- Electric bass
- Nature photography, hiking

Thailand (F)



*Nora Larson
North Dakota*

Current Status/Future Goals:

- Holds Associate of Science degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management.
- Career goals center around developing and growing opportunities within the agricultural community, specifically, utilizing local heritage and artisanal handcrafts as an income source through agritourism.

Previous International Experience(s):

- Helped with international exchange student meal at Black Hills State University (BHSU).
- Attended yearly open house art exhibits by Jonathan Imafidor and Dotun Popoola, visiting artists from Nigeria.
- Attended the international dinner and dance at National 4-H Congress.

Ag-Related Experience(s):

- Worked on family farm/ranch.
- Worked at a small market garden (Fretless Farms).
- Served as an AmeriCorps Member with the Foundation for Agricultural and Rural Resources, Management and Sustainability (FARRMS).

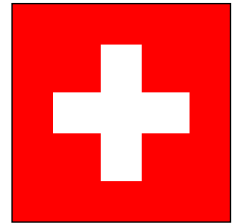
Other Experience(s):

- Entrepreneur in web design and social media strategist with experience in video, music, and television production
- Tourism and event planning

Interests:

- Traveling
- Baking
- Hiking, running, cycling, camping
- Watching movies, hanging out with friends, thrift shopping
- Being involved with or enjoying theatre and music
- Listening to podcasts
- Playing with the family dogs

Switzerland (S)



Kenya (F)





Kyle Newland
Ohio

Current Status/Future Goals:

- Seek a college degree in agriculture or nursing.
- Expand the family farm.
- Give back to 4-H groups.

Previous International Experience(s):

- Family has hosted IFYEs from Germany, Finland, and Switzerland.
- Traveled to Costa Rica with Spanish Class.

Ag-Related Experience(s): Family farm raising Columbia sheep, ducks, chickens, and goats.

Other Experience(s):

- 4-H member and camp counselor for multiple years
- Spanish club founder and member

Interests:

- Reading, music, games
- Boating, nature, spending time with animals
- Hanging out with friends

Finland (S)



Tanzania (F)



Meghan O'Reilly
Ohio

*United Soybean
Board (USB)
Representative*

Current Status/Future Goals:

- Holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Visual Communication Design.
- Entrepreneur and owner of Designs by Meghan (graphic design).
- Long term goal of being a freelance designer focusing on using design to develop stronger connections between agricultural producers and consumers.

Previous International Experience(s):

- Family has hosted Japanese LABO participants.
- 4-H International Exchange participant to Finland and Estonia.
- Ohio 4-H Cultural Immersions program to Puerto Rico.

Ag-Related Experience(s):

- Operation of family grain farm and feed mill.
- 4-H Advisor, Member, Club Officer, State Ambassador for numerous years.
- Active in Farm Bureau as Board Member and multiple officer positions.

Interests:

- Hiking, biking, skiing, snowboarding, exploring
- Drawing, reading

Taiwan (S)



Zambia (F)



Elisabeth Dalke
South Dakota

Current Status/Future Goals:

- Currently, a paraprofessional working with students ages 5-17.
- Seeking a degree in elementary education with a minor in special education.
- Would ultimately like to establish and manage a summer camp for children and young adults.

Previous International Experience(s):

- Tourist travel to Mexico and Italy
- Track & Field competitor in Australia

Ag-Related Experience(s): 4-H member with projects in livestock

Other Experience(s):

- 4-H member with projects in baked goods, arts and crafts, and photography
- Multi-year member, Counselor, and Alumni State Board member of North Dakota Leadership Seminar
- Member of Birkelo Leadership Program
- President of Politically Active College Students
- State FCCLA competitor for three years

Interests:

- Writing, reading
- Photography
- Travel

Austria (S)





Tori Rasmussen
South Dakota

Current Status/Future Goals:

- Seeking a degree in International Relations.
- Seeking a career working with different governments to find sustainable agricultural practices and help find solutions to major industry problems.
- Striving to “ignite a passion for agriculture in those around me.”

Previous International Experience(s):

- Scotland (four months) on a university student exchange program
- British Isles as part of the Student Ambassador Program spending four nights with a host family in Dublin, Ireland.

Ag-Related Experience(s):

- Worked on family farm
- 4-H member and officer for more than a decade
- FFA member
- South Dakota State FFA Secretary and American FFA Degree

Other Experience(s):

- Girls State Senate
- Majority Whip for the American Legion Auxiliary
- Page for the South Dakota Legislature

Interests:

- Art
- Reading
- Western dancing
- Hiking, watching sunrises and sunsets

Tanzania (F)



INBOUND IFYEs

Melissa Haberstroh, National IFYE Program Director (NPD), has indicated that we are expecting 18 Inbounds whose hosting states are currently being confirmed. Further information will become available in forthcoming publications.

Hosting States

Current states planning to host include, but are not limited to: Alaska, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Washington, and Virginia.

Inbound Partner Countries

Inbounds will be coming for the summer, fall, or both time periods from the following partner countries: Austria, Finland, Germany, Slovenia, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, and Thailand.

As with our Outbound IFYEs, the Inbounds have varied interests and farming experience. Here are a few of their current occupations and/or interests:

- Farmer
- Technical college student
- Furniture maker/carpenter
- Nursing student
- College student in the fall to study agriculture
- Interested in convergent agriculture
- Kindergarten caregiver

If an Inbound will be hosted in your state, check and see if he/she will be anywhere near your geographic area. Perhaps there is an activity where you can meet them and/or offer to help with sharing an activity. Please contact Melissa for who the coordinating person is in your state – if there is no state coordinator listed on our website (<https://ifyeusa.org/foreign-exchange-program/resources.html>).

2023 Farm Bill Activities

Jan Wood and Barbara Batie

Farm Bill activities continue and have gained intensity since our 2022 November IFYE NEWS. In December, our returning IFYEs gathered in Washington, D.C., where we held a second “Meet and Greet” for Ag Committee staffers. Thanks to Senator Joni Ernst’s office, we were able to hold the event in the Capitol Senate meeting rooms, which IFYE greatly appreciated.

After IFYE returnee debriefing, President Jan Wood, Interim Executive Director Carolyn Hansen, Board Secretary Barbara Batie and IFYE alum Bob Jenkins visited Agriculture Aides in U.S. Representatives’ and Senators’ offices including Senators Stabenow (MI), Boozman (AR), Brown (OH), Ernst (IA), Thune (SD), Durbin (IL), Grassley (IA) and Fischer (NE).

We were also able to visit with House of Representatives staff for Representatives Glenn Thompson (PA), Adams (NC), Costa (CA), Kaptur (OH), Price (NC), Miller-Meeks (IA), Shontell Brown (OH), Hayes (CT), Schrier (WA), LaTurner (KS), and McHenry (NC). Generally, our message was received positively.

Some aides in Republican Senate offices advised us that there was to be “no new money/programs” in the 2023 Farm Bill. Despite that message, the Farm Bill Committee continues to reach out to all members of the House and Senate Ag Committees. IFYE alumni have attended several Congressional Farm Bill Listening Sessions (*See the Listening Session article on page 10*).

Seeking Appropriations

In several of our sessions with Ag Committee staffers, we were advised to seek Appropriations. We had discussions with Rep. Kaptur’s staff regarding submissions for 2024 appropriations, which were due to the House Appropriations Committee on March 24. We were told that the committee has received multiple requests to fund IFYE. At this point, we do not know who submitted those requests.

“Marker Bill”

In the Senate, Senator Sherrod Brown (OH) agreed to sponsor a “marker bill” for the 2023 Farm Bill for IFYE. His Ag Legislative Aide has been very supportive since we first met with him last June. The bill is titled “International Agriculture Cultural Exchange Program” and while it does not name IFYE, it is written specifically to match the IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. This marker has been submitted to the Senate Committee on Agriculture.

Continued Communications

These are all very positive steps. There will need to be continued communication between IFYE and both the House and Senate Ag Committees as they start “making the sausage.” There are 27 new members on the House Ag Committee since mid-term elections. One of our major efforts over the next few weeks will be to reach out to all those Representatives and their staffers to provide them with documents that support our cause and to plead our case.

A Call to Action

Some IFYEs believe that we are definitely going to receive some federal government monies. This is not so. The Farm Bill Committee continues to promote IFYE; however, this is far from a certain thing.

Email Campaign

Now is the time for all IFYEs to support this effort by beginning an email campaign to reach:

- 1) the members of the House and Senate Ag Committees and
- 2) your own Representative and Senators.

We have tried to make the email campaign as easy as possible by providing a sample letter and tips for writing your Congressmen and Senators on the IFYE website.

- On the website homepage (ifyeusa.org), scroll toward the bottom where you may click on the 2023 Farm Bill button OR click on the following link: <https://ifyeusa.org/news-events/2023-farm-bill.html>



2023 FARM BILL

- The link will open to a copy of the sample letter that you can download and then copy and paste into the email of your representative and/or senator.
 - Be sure to add a sentence or two regarding your own IFYE experience.
 - If you went on program from a different state than where you now reside, clarify that as well.
 - If you served as a host family or other IFYE family member, also mention that.
- Postal mail is subject to longer delays than email in reaching your Congressmen - who all have email today. So, it is best to email anything being sent regarding the 2023 Farm Bill or other urgent matters.

Contacting your Senator and/or Representative

For information on how to contact your senator and/or representative, click on the sentence spotlighting the tips. If you happen to know a member of the House or Senate Ag Committee, by all means, direct an additional email to that person.

If you don’t know who the committee members are, you can find out by linking to the websites listed below:

- House Ag Committee: https://agriculture.house.gov/about/committee_members.htm
 - For the House, simply click on the committee member’s photo and it will take you to their website and from there you can find the contact link.
- Senate Ag Committee: <https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/about/membership>.
 - For the Senate, there is an arrow noting “to website” by each member’s name. Click on it and the link will take you directly to their website.

All letters are important as, each time we reach another Congressman or Senator, we spread the word about IFYE.

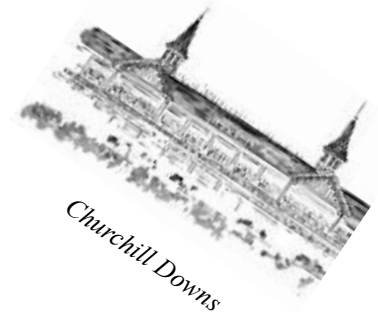
Please help by starting your letter campaign NOW. Let’s have more to celebrate this year with our 75th Anniversary.

75th Anniversary Celebration It's a Party!

When: October 6-8, 2023

Where: Louisville, Kentucky

Hotel: Holiday Inn Louisville East
1325 S. Hurstbourne Parkway
Louisville, Kentucky



IFYEs and IFYE Family Everywhere,

The 75th Celebration Committee announces the location for the anniversary celebration as Louisville, Kentucky. Committee Co-chairs, Pat Eisenmann Donahue (1971/72 OH YDP to Botswana) and Bob Ellis (1971 IN to The Gambia) have found what they describe as the “perfect” venue after struggling with high hotel costs in Nashville.

IFYE Association members previously voted for the celebration to be held in Nashville. Unfortunately, the cost of hotel rooms, along with banquet rooms, food, and parking in other locations was much higher than expected. Therefore, the committee chairs virtually reviewed a possible hotel in Denver and four hotels in Louisville in person. The committee unanimously agreed on the Holiday Inn Louisville East. Confirmed room and registration pricing will be announced by June 1 on the website and in future publications. Parking is free and the breakfast ticket is included in the registration fee.

This is not a full conference, but a weekend social event that will include hospitality suites open all day on Saturday. We’ll provide snacks for the suites, but you are welcome to bring your favorites. And, of course, there will be a cocktail hour and an internationally-themed banquet to celebrate IFYE’s 75th anniversary.

The committee is excited. Their creativity is really showing. So, mark your calendar. Younger IFYEs bring your kids. Others bring “older kids,” grandkids and/or others to share the time. Come early or stay an extra day. Cruise the Ohio River on a paddle-wheeler. Hit the Bourbon trail. Visit Churchill Downs. Take a drive to the pottery capital of Kentucky in Brea. Visit the Louisville Slugger Museum. Take in the Corvette factory and museum in Bowling Green. *Or just relax in the hospitality suites with IFYE brothers and sisters, as well as other friends of IFYE.*

We look forward to seeing a great many of you there. Watch <https://ifyeusa.org/news-events/upcoming-ifye-conferences.html> for updates on this celebration.

A Journey through the Years

The program Saturday evening will include a journey through the decades of IFYE. We would like to request stories, slides, photos, video clips, music clips, etc. for our Saturday evening International Banquet program and for

other shared media to commemorate the past 75 years of IFYE. There are several displays being planned regarding information from our IFYE Family..

Even if you will not be able to attend the celebration, sharing through the presentation(s) is a way that you can have a presence for the program and later..

Email us at 75years@ifyeusa.org for more details on sharing some of your memories – in story, song, poetry, slides, video clips, photos, etc. We look forward to hearing from you and sharing your information as we put together the IFYE Story through the decades.

Committee members include Pat Eisenmann Donahue (1971/72 OH YDP to Botswana), Bob Ellis (1971 IN to The Gambia), Cora Rhode (2022 CO to Switzerland and England), Wayne Shull (1968 OR to Costa Rica), Sheri Swackhamer (1983 MD to Italy), Guy Thompson (1992 OH to Germany), Ginny Warner (1971/72 PA to New Zealand), and Mark Wilson (1980 OH to Norway). Ex-officio members are Carolyn Seymour Hansen, Interim Executive Director (1972/73 YDP OH to The Philippines) and Jan Dennis Wood, President (1972 OH to Australia).



In Celebration of Our 75th Anniversary

We’re in the process of adding a special tab on our IFYE merchandise ordering site: <https://teamlocker.squadlocker.com/#/lockers/ifye-store>

As a reminder, IFYE earns a 10% fundraising profit from any order placed through our site. We’ll have a selection of items available such as polo shirts, T-shirts, tote bags and hats – all featuring our new 75th Diamond Anniversary logo.

Please browse our IFYE Store today at the link above and support our ongoing efforts to maintain our intercultural exchange program for the next decade and beyond.

Farm Bill Listening Sessions

2023 Farm Bill Committee

Both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate Agricultural Committees have sponsored Congressional Listening Sessions over the past several months. We've reported on some of these Farm Bill Listening Sessions in the IFYE Updates and IFYEs in Touch.

Some of the Listening Sessions that IFYE Association members have attended are listed below. In addition, you may find other states' previous and upcoming Listening Sessions by searching on the Internet under "state farm bill listening sessions." There are many sessions occurring in the next few months and it would be appreciated to have as many sessions attended as we can by our program alumni and other supporters. Jan Wood has talking points available for those who wish to attend and, hopefully, will be given a chance to speak. If interested, please contact her at jwood@ifyeusa.org.

April 20, 2022 – Michigan: The first session was sponsored by Senator Debbie Stabenow. Larry Gould attended but was not able to address the room. However, he was able to have a personal conversation with Senator Stabenow's Agriculture Legislative Aide. Upcoming Michigan Farm Bill Listening Sessions are scheduled for this July and August. See <https://thecountypress.mihomepaper.com/articles/2023-farm-bill-listening-sessions-scheduled-for-july-august/>

May 23, 2022 – Arkansas: The next Listening Session in Arkansas on May 23, 2022, was sponsored by Senator John Boozman. IFYE had no alumni present (to our knowledge). Arkansas alums did contact the Association with positive remarks about our efforts.

August 22, 2022 – Ohio: Ohio's Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur held a session in the Toledo area. Ken Gordon attended on our behalf and was also able to connect with Rep. Kaptur's staff. That contact became very important as Rep. Kaptur also serves on the Appropriations Committee. Members of the IFYE Farm Bill Committee have been able to hold multiple discussions with her lead Agricultural Legislative staff.

January 13, 2023 – Farm Show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: President Jan Wood and IFYEs "AK" Kissel (and SPIFYE Helga), Dave Allgeier, Hope Bittner, and Janice Tekely-Yaple attended a Farm Bill Listening Session at the Pennsylvania Farm Show sponsored by Glenn "GT" Thompson. The group met in a private session with Chairman Thompson (PA) and a few members of the U.S. House Ag Committee. We had a productive discussion about IFYE's efforts to find funding and potential other approaches such as matching dollar-for-dollar funding.

January 18, 2023 – Fort Wayne, Indiana: IFYE alum and Board Member, Roger Sherer, attended. Roger was not able to address the room nor the panel but was able to speak with some panel members.

February 14, 2023 – Tulare World Ag Expo, California: Don Campbell was able to speak personally with Chairman

Thompson as well as California Ag Committee members Representatives Doug LaMalfa and John Duarte.



Melissa Haberstroh, IFYE NPD, addresses the Waco Farm Bill Listening Session

March 15, 2023 – Waco, Texas: In March, a Farm Bill Congressional Listening Session was held in Waco, Texas. IFYE National Program Director, Melissa Haberstroh and IFYE alum, Stephanie Graham, attended to represent the IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. Unlike many other listening sessions, the Waco event was open to anyone wishing to speak. Melissa requested to speak and had the opportunity to address the room and the panel. You can read about this session and hear her address to the panel by clicking on <https://ifyeusa.org/news-events/farm-bill-congressional-listening-session.html>. You may also click on the photo above to get to the information and her address to the panel.

The most recent Listening Sessions occurred as follows:

- **Binghamton, New York on April 14** where Pennsylvania IFYE, Corinne Paulhamus (1982 PA to Germany) attended and was invited to speak in support of IFYE.
- **In Florida on April 24**, Georgene Bender (1976 OH to Poland) attended their session. Georgene was unable to present but was able to speak with Chair, "GT" Thompson, for a few minutes.
- **On May 5th**, IFYE Alum Andrew King (2011 MA to Finland) attended a session sponsored by Congressman Don Davis in **North Carolina**. Andrew was able to speak and had a substantial conversation with Rep. Davis.

Great job, Corinne, Georgene, and Andrew!

Please keep your eyes and ears open for the Listening Session(s) in your state and support IFYE by planning to attend. By having a presence (with an IFYE logo on a shirt, hat, handbag, etc.) at as many of these sessions as possible, we are sending a message that we are in every state and we need help through the 2023 Farm Bill or appropriations.

Enacted into law in December 2018, the current Farm Bill is set to retire on September 30, 2023. The original farm bill(s) were enacted in three stages during the 1930s as part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal legislation.



IFYE 75th Diamond Anniversary Campaign



Please use this form when donating by check to our 75th Diamond Anniversary Campaign.

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Please contact me. I have questions about giving.

In Memoriam

The passing of the following individuals has come to our attention since publication of the IFYE NEWS (Fall/Winter 2022)

LM = Life Member
SPIFYE = Spouse of an IFYE

Eldon (Bud) Aupperle (Illinois to Chile 1954) March 11, 2023 LM
Robert E Bagwell (New Mexico to India 1953) May 30, 2021
Susan Twitchell Donaldson (Wyoming to Ecuador 1956) November 20, 2021
Marie McKinzie Felan (North Dakota to Sweden 1958) October 28, 2021 LM
Charles E Gestring (Montana to India 1954) August 8, 2022
Larry J Greene (Kansas to France 1957) July 19, 2022
Chester H Haas (Pennsylvania to Austria 1961) June 7, 2018
Rita Eicholtz Hamerla (Indiana to Austria 1952) October 13, 2022 LM
Mary Pat Palmer Lebeck (Iowa to Luxembourg 1963) January 8, 2023
Marie E Book Mealiff (Iowa to the Netherlands 1950) July 26, 2021
Ronald Paasch (Iowa to Ecuador 1956) April 26, 2023 LM
Natalie Wiggers Riecks (Illinois to The Philippines 1955) March 6, 2023
A Hope Shackelford (North Carolina to Jordan 1955) October 2 2022
Caroline Smith (SPIFYE of Rex Smith – Australia to UT, CA, WI 1957)
Burton Strong, Sr (Vermont to United Kingdom 1950) May 20, 2022 LM
Michael R Wengryn (New Jersey to Japan 1969) February 20, 2023 LM
Carol Kay Whisman (Kansas to Germany 1975) December 31, 2022

Recent Website Activities

Thank you to our Website Content Committee, Website Consultant, and others for continually working to update our website. Recent updates include:

- Updating webpage footer and headers to include the recently-approved registered trademark for IFYE
- Style Guide updates to portals as well as public pages



**IFYE Association
of the USA, Inc.**

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Visit: <https://ifyeusa.org>

World IFYE Conference Tours

Bob Ellis (Membership Committee Co-Chair)

It will be August before you know it and the start of the 12th World IFYE Conference in Velden, Austria.

In conjunction with Explorations by Thor from Lexington, Kentucky, the IFYE Association of the USA has prepared two tours for IFYE.

- On the pre-conference tour, we will explore agricultural and cultural spots in Austria, Slovakia (Bratislava area), Hungary, and Germany before heading to the World IFYE Conference in Velden, Austria.
- At the conclusion of the World IFYE Conference, our post-conference tour will take us to Italy. We will enjoy agricultural and cultural spots within the country. Stops will include Venice, Verona, Modena (Parma ham, Balsamic vinegar, and Parmesan cheese), Florence, and Rome.

We will have Google Meet calls for each tour as listed below. You will meet everyone on your tour on the call. Explorations by Thor has sent out a meeting notice to all participants.

- Pre-conference Tour to Austria and surrounding areas
Google Meet – May 30, 2023 11:00 AM to 12 noon Eastern Time
- Post-conference Tour to Italy
Google Meet – May 30, 2023 1:00 – 2:00 PM Eastern Time

When booking your flights to Europe, be sure to use IFYE SkyBonus number so IFYE will get credit for the flights. Our number is: **US0114631**. IFYE gets credit for trips booked on any Sky Team member. This includes Delta Air Lines, Air France, KLM, Virgin Atlantic, AeroMexico, and others. If you have already booked your flights, it is not too late for IFYE to get SkyBonus points. Please contact Bob Ellis for more details – rellis@ifyeusa.org.

Also, please be sure to send your travel information to Explorations by Thor so that we can coordinate your arrival and departure details. We look forward to welcoming you on the tours.