



Billy Courter Memorial Scholarship

Billy Courter was a passionate farmer, business associate, husband, father, son, brother, and friend. On July 21, 2014 he left us as a result of a farming accident. He was a graduate of Alma High School and attended Michigan State University, pursuing the field of agriculture. Billy's family and friends created a scholarship fund to honor and remember him; the scholarship will help a graduating senior achieve their dreams of ongoing their education by the next step.

Billy spent his entire life in Forest Hill, Michigan where he worked with passion at the family dairy farm operation, which transitioned into a large beef operation in 2003. He worked diligently with his parents, his wife, and their four children to expand their business into one of the largest cattle operations in Michigan. While in high school he won the American Star Farmer at the National level, which entitled him a trip to Europe through the FFA. He was a passionate 4-H leader and volunteer for the Gratiot County Fair for Youth. The fair played an important role in his family's life. Billy loved helping 4-H participants and constructing the new fair feeder and horse barn. When Billy had a vision, he followed it through with hard work and dedication.

Billy also enjoyed spending time at the cottage on Crystal Lake. He loved to ride jet skis, pull tubes, ride bikes around the lake, drive his golf cart, go to the ice cream shop with all the kids, make s'mores and watch the sunset when the day ended. Billy was a hard-worker, teacher, listener, and in his youngest son, George's words, a "tough guy". He didn't mind getting his hands dirty and gave it all he had. He never saw a task too hard or an idea too crazy. He loved his family, friends, and career.

Billy was an expert in the field of Agriculture. He loved to see people succeed in their field of dreams. Billy would want to give others opportunities to be successful and pursue their passions. On behalf of his family; Jennifer, Jami, John, Jessica, and George, we wish you a successful future.



"Farming is not a job, it is a way of life."

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SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Applicant will be a graduating senior.
- Applicant must demonstrate academic ability with a minimum 2.5 GPA.
- Applicant must be ongoing their education in the agricultural field.

HOW TO COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION:

- Step 1.** Get this application from your school administration office.
Step 2. Read the entire application and gather all required information.
Step 3. Mail your completed application and 2 references to The Courter Family by **May 1, 2016**.
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1.) APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name: First / Last: _____
Address: Street: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone #: _____
E-mail: _____

2.) SCHOLASTIC INFORMATION:

Rank in Class: _____ **Number of students in your graduating class:** _____
ACT or SAT Score: _____ **Grade Point Average:** _____

****INCLUDE A COPY OF YOUR TRANSCRIPT. (See your high school counselor.)***

3.) COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY INFORMATION:

College you are planning to attend: _____
Full-time student: Yes ___ No ___ **If No, number of credits:** _____
Intended field of study: _____

4.) **SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:** Using the space below, list the extracurricular school activities you valued the most during the past four years.

Extracurricular School Activity	Leadership Positions Held	F	S	Jr	Sr

5.) **WORK EXPERIENCE:** Using the space below, list your work experience in the last four years.

Employer	Nature of Work	Dates	Hrs/Wk

6.) **COMMUNITY SERVICE:** Using the space below, list your most important extracurricular community activities in the past four years. (Feel free to attach additional information you feel is relevant.)

Community Service Activity	F	S	Jr	Sr

7.) **ESSAY:** Attach a one page essay regarding your personal and educational plans; how you chose them, who or what influenced you, and the reason you are seeking this scholarship. **“How is agricultural an important part of today’s society? How do you see yourself contributing to society through agricultural endeavors?”** Please include any information about yourself that you feel would make you a stronger candidate based on these characteristics.

