



**NEWS RELEASE**

**86th Annual State FFA Convention  
May 1-2, 2012 – Oklahoma City**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Kastl to Receive FFA VIP Award**

By: Emily Beanland, Media Intern

**Mike Kastl** will receive the 2012 VIP Award from the Oklahoma FFA Association. The presentation will take place May 1, at 6:30 p.m. during the 86th Annual State FFA Convention held at the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City.

This award is considered the Academy Award for the FFA and is presented to only one or two individuals annually who have supported FFA members, local chapters and the state association over an extended period of time. In order to qualify for this award, the recipients must have previously received the Honorary State FFA Degree.

Recognized in August 2010 for his 35 years of service, Kastl has had a long and distinguished career with the Oklahoma Conservation Commission where he is known to have championed the reclamation of abandoned coal mines in Oklahoma. Previous to this profession, Kastl was an award-winning FFA member, Oklahoma State University agricultural education graduate, and FFA advisor at Edmond and John Marshall high schools.

Kastl served as the first-ever Oklahoma FFA Alumni Leadership Camp Coordinator and is credited with establishing lasting traditions which have fueled much of the camp's success over the years. He served as chairman of the Oklahoma FFA Alumni Council from 1974-1978.

Additionally, Kastl aided in the establishment of OSU Agricultural Education Scholarship

Incorporated in which his involvement has made him the only Chairman of the Board for an organization that has raised over \$1 million to provide scholarships for FFA members who desire to enter the agricultural education degree program at OSU.

FFA is an integral part of the Agricultural Education Division of Oklahoma's CareerTech system. The Oklahoma FFA Association is the fifth largest state association in the nation with more than 23,000 members, and is proud to be the home of the 2010-2011 national FFA president, Riley Pagett, from Woodward, Okla. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

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