



98th

Missouri FFA Convention

April 15-17, 2026

Columbia, Missouri

WELCOME

The 98th Annual State FFA Convention of the Missouri FFA Association is excited to be holding sessions in Mizzou Arena for the first time this year. Columbia, Missouri welcomes us to town for this special event where Missouri FFA members will be recognized and rewarded for their hard work and achievements throughout the past year. The Convention theme this year is "Embrace Your Journey." For 98 years, agricultural education students have embraced their journey through our organization in classrooms across the state to develop and expand their knowledge in the areas of applied science, technical and employability skills, while learning about our nation's no. 1 industry: AGRICULTURE. Missouri FFA members have embraced their journey by sharing their passion for agriculture with Supervised Agricultural Experience programs in areas such as animal agriculture, crop production, mechanics and agriscience. Over the years, FFA has adjusted to reflect our ever-changing society and has helped its members embrace their journey as individuals to be leaders and innovators within our industry. We hope that as you represent your school and community, you wear your official dress with pride. We hope that you can "Embrace Your Journey" toward the future as you thirst for knowledge and sharpen the skills FFA has helped you develop, and you are empowered to share the vastness of the agricultural industry with those around you.



2025-2026 STATE FFA OFFICERS

Front Row (left to right): (seated)-Abigayle Lett, Odessa; Seth Engeman, Montrose {First Vice-President}; Ivy Elwell, La Monte {President}; Ryatt Haggerman, Versailles {Secretary}; Harlee Beck, Chillicothe.

Second Row (L-R): Annie Neely, Lockwood; Sophie Geppert, North Callaway; Cierra Britton, Cuba; Cash Honeycutt, Orrick; Taylor Nothdurft, Oak Ridge; Noah Groose, Dadeville.

Third Row (L-R): Gage Swindler, Braymer; Braxton Watts, El Dorado Springs; Lindsay McDonald, Mt. Grove; Kolton Stolba, Willow Springs; Maddy Rash, Buffalo; Matthew Lakey {State Officer Mentor}.

Get State FFA Convention results online at:

<https://convention.missouriffa.org>



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Watch the Convention Live Stream:

<https://convention.missouriffa.org/>

FFA IN MISSOURI

The FFA is a national organization of, by and for students enrolled in Agricultural Education. It was organized in Kansas City, Missouri in 1928 and is an integral part of the program of career education in agriculture in public schools. The Missouri FFA Association was organized and elected its first officers on May 4, 1928. The state charter was issued by the National Office in 1929. Membership in the National FFA Organization includes more than 1,042,245 students in 9,407 chapters. Currently, Missouri FFA is home to nearly 27,000 members in 369 chapters across the state.

The Missouri FFA Association holds its Convention in April each year. More than 8,000 FFA members and guests take part in Leadership Development Events, Career Development Events, award programs, workshops and Convention sessions. Participants include adults representing the agriculture industry; MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; NWMSU; MSU; school officials; the press; parents; and guests.

The State FFA Officers plan and conduct the Convention sessions, including the business meetings, award programs, entertainment and inspirational activities. The 738 delegates, two from each chapter, transact all business.

Supervision of Convention and Career Development Events

The Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Education staff of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education assist in the planning and supervision of the Convention and competitions. These staff members, along with the State FFA Officers, form the State FFA Executive Committee:

- Keith Dietzschold State Advisor
- Teresa Briscoe State Executive Secretary
- Lee Crabtree District Supervisor, State Executive Committee
- Marie Davis District Supervisor, State Executive Treasurer
- Lisa Evans District Supervisor, State Executive Committee
- David Higgins District Supervisor, State Executive Committee
- Jim Spencer District Supervisor, State Executive Committee
- Tracy Bieri Administrative Assistant
- Bridget Eisterhold Administrative Assistant
- Kathy Kilmer Administrative Assistant
- Heather Dimitt-Fletcher Executive Director, Missouri FFA Foundation



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration/Information Desk – All sessions will be held in Mizzou Arena. The ONLY entrance for advisors and members is the NORTH entrance. The information desk, located near the North Entrance door, will be open at all times. Staff can provide information and directions for various activities. An advisor from each chapter should register and indicate the number of FFA members and guests in attendance from their chapter.

Parking – Personal vehicles ONLY use the parking lots on the south and southeast side of the Hearnes Center. Busses should park in Lot RP10 (also known as Truman’s Landing) and shuttles will be provided for the Driver and/or Instructor.

Sponsors and Guests – Please check in at the Registration/Information Desk for directions and seating information.

Delegates – The two delegates from each chapter should register on the floor of the auditorium prior to the Delegate Session starting at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 16 (See page 16).

FFA Career Show – Businesses and organizations will have exhibits set up for educational purposes from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday in Hearnes Center. FFA members and guests are encouraged to visit these exhibits.

News Media Office – Representatives of the news media may obtain information about all Convention activities and competition results in the press room. Check in at the Registration/Information Desk for directions or assistance. The Convention media website is: <https://convention.missouriffa.org/>.

Food Service – Beverages, pizza, burgers, sandwiches and Mexican cuisine as well as sweet treats will be available at several food stands on the main concourse of Mizzou Arena. There will be no Food Trucks available this year.

FFA Book Display – The first-place Scrapbook, Secretary’s Book, Treasurer’s Book and SAE Record Book from each of the FFA areas in the state are on display in the concourse of Mizzou Arena near the Registration Desk.

FFA Apparel Booth – The Mizzou Ag Ed Society is sponsoring a booth offering FFA items. The booth will be at the main concourse on Thursday and Friday.

Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau – The Registration/Information Desk located just inside the East Entrance will be providing informational packets about Columbia. They will gladly assist you with information regarding restaurant locations and other Columbia attractions.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

State FFA Chorus – The State FFA Chorus is under the direction of Beth Dampf, High Point superintendent, and Beth Eckles, both of Jefferson City. Chorus members belong to FFA chapters throughout Missouri and are selected based on individual applications. The chorus holds rehearsals and will perform at 3:30 p.m. prior to the 5th session on Friday.

Courtesy Corps and Ushers – Volunteer groups from various chapters serve in this capacity with supervision by postsecondary agriculture students.

Career Development Events – A special thank you goes to the army of volunteers, MU Agricultural Education faculty and staff, along with each advisory committee, for their coordination and operation of the Career Development Events. Those assisting can be found on page 18-20, along with Dr. Bryan Garton, Dr. Jon Simonsen, Dr. John Tummons, Dr. Rebecca Mott, Mrs. Heather Eberlin, Mrs. Alex Ebbesmeyer, Mr. Bruce Fowler and administrative staff from the University of Missouri.

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER

WHITNEY WHITAKER

Meet Whitney, the 2026 Missouri FFA State Convention photographer. The team will be capturing photos throughout convention to celebrate on-stage victories and select award winners. Check out the following FAQs to navigate this experience!



FAQs

Q: How do I purchase images?

A: You can find all of the image at whitneywhitaker.org

Q: How much will images cost?

A: Digital downloads are \$25 and prints start at \$8. Packages are available too!

Q: When will photos be available to purchase?

A: All photos should be online within 24 hours of each session.

Q: Where can I go to take a group photo of my FFA chapter?

A: Backdrops will be provided throughout the halls around the arena. You can also contact Whitney to schedule a time outside of sessions to get one taken with her.

whitneywhitaker.org | hello@whitneywhitaker.org

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CITATION

Dr. Jim Hutter



Missouri FFA is pleased to recognize Dr. Jim Hutter for his service to agricultural education and Missouri FFA.

Dr. Hutter is a retired professor from Missouri State University and a former agricultural education instructor and FFA advisor.

A Miller, Missouri native, Jim received a Bachelor of Science in Education from Southwest Missouri State University, a Master of Science in Education from the University of Missouri and his PhD from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Hutter served as the agricultural education instructor and FFA advisor at Fair

Grove High School from 1984-1987 before joining the agricultural education faculty at Missouri State University from 1989 until 2025 when he retired.

A National Association of Agricultural Educators NAAE Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Dr. Hutter has also been honored with a Missouri Farm Bureau Service and Leadership Award, Outstanding Teaching Award from Missouri State University, and the Honorary State and American Degrees.

Dr. Hutter and his wife, Leslie, reside in Springfield, Missouri. They have three sons and one daughter.

“Show up every day, work hard and compete,” Dr. Hutter says when asked to summarize his work in agricultural education. “Plant today what you will harvest in the future.”

Missouri FFA wishes to thank Dr. Jim Hutter for his many years of service to agricultural education and the Missouri FFA Association.

*The Missouri FFA Association and Missouri FFA Foundation would like to recognize **MFA OIL** for their support as a **CONVENTION BLUE SPONSOR**.*



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DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CITATION

LTC Don Koonce, USA, Ret.



Missouri FFA is pleased to recognize Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Don Koonce, USA, Ret., for his service to agricultural education and Missouri FFA.

LTC Koonce has 30 years of service to the Missouri Army National Guard in the 203rd Combat Heavy Engineer Battalion, including deployment to Baghdad. He has been active in veteran support, including serving with the Missouri National Guard Retiree Council and as the Missouri Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) vice-chair.

A shining example of one who helps others, LTC Koonce's contribution to agricultural education and Missouri FFA is rooted in providing motivating and inspirational messages to countless FFA members at State FFA Camp and numerous FFA and school assemblies.

LTC Koonce received a Bachelor of Science degree from Missouri University of Science and Technology, a Master of Business Administration from William Woods University and a Doctor of Education in Character Education from the University of Missouri- St. Louis.

A true citizen soldier, LTC Koonce is a family man and storyteller, a historian and active volunteer through youth, military and ministry activities. He and his wife, Norma, reside in Holts Summit and have 2 children, 10 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Missouri FFA wishes to thank Lieutenant Colonel Don Koonce for his many years of service to agricultural education and the Missouri FFA Association.

*The Missouri FFA Association and Missouri FFA Foundation would like to recognize the **U.S. ARMY** for their support as a **CONVENTION BLUE SPONSOR.***



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CITATION

Mrs. Joann Pipkin



Missouri FFA is pleased to recognize Mrs. Joann Pipkin for her service to agricultural education and Missouri FFA.

Pipkin has worked as Missouri FFA's director of communications from 1996 until 2026. She also served as the Missouri FFA Secretary in 1988-1989.

An agricultural communications professional, Pipkin was hired in 1996 by Missouri FFA and Missouri Agricultural Education to help publish the state FFA magazine. What began as a print state insert program through National FFA has since developed into a full-scale communications team that includes all forms of print and digital media. Today, with assistance from two additional independent contractors, Missouri FFA's Communications Team produces a digital magazine, eNewsletters, an annual report and Fact Sheet in addition to maintaining an established presence on social media channels and an all-encompassing website.

A graduate of Missouri State University with a degree in agricultural communications, Pipkin has received the Ag Leadership Award from Missouri Agricultural Extension Professionals as well as Missouri Cattlemen's Association Media Award and print and photo awards from the Livestock Publications Council and the Ag Communications Network. She has also been awarded the Honorary State and American FFA Degrees for her service.

A native of Halfway, Missouri, today Pipkin and her husband, Jim, reside in Republic where they own and operate Clearwater Farm, a registered Angus seedstock operation. They have two children and one grandson.

Pipkin says, "My entire career has been a true testament for what agricultural education and Missouri FFA can do to help students discover their gifts and find their passion. There couldn't have been a better way for me to give back and help train tomorrow's leaders than to serve in this industry."

Missouri FFA wishes to thank Joann Pipkin for her many years of service to agricultural education and the Missouri FFA Association.

*The Missouri FFA Association
and Missouri FFA Foundation
would like to recognize
MFA Incorporated
for sponsoring the
State FFA Degree Awards
at this year's Missouri FFA
State Convention.*



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CITATION

Dr. Donn Russell



Missouri FFA is pleased to recognize Dr. Donn Russell for his service to agricultural education and Missouri FFA.

Dr. Russell is a true pioneer in agriculture, having started the agricultural education program at the College of the Ozarks in 2000. At the time, it was the only agricultural education program in a private christian college in the United States. Dr. Russell retired in 2025 from the College of the Ozarks after 25 years of service.

A native of Minnesota, Dr. Russell received an associate of arts degree from Worthington Community College. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science, Master of Science degrees and a PhD from Iowa State University.

In addition to starting the ag ed program at C of O, Dr. Russell also directed its FFA chapter, which became the largest organization on campus. Dr. Russell was instrumental in directing the annual C of O FFA Judging Workshop, which grew in attendance to more than 2,800 students. He is also an avid industry volunteer, helping judge numerous speaking events during his tenure.

Dr. Russell is a recipient of the Honorary State and American FFA Degrees, as well as the National Association of Agricultural Educators State and National Outstanding Service Awards, the College of the Ozarks Five-Fold Mission Award and being named the Top Teacher Award for Pioneer Hybrid Computer Division.

With his wife, Vickie, Dr. Russell resides in Branson, Missouri. The couple are parents to two sons. Summarizing his work in Missouri agricultural education and FFA, Dr. Russell says, "I consider agricultural education the last stand in true education. The first line of the FFA motto is 'Learning to Do.' Students remember 75% of what they do versus 5% of what they hear. A teacher, my mother once said education needs to be fun. Through FFA, I believe we make education fun while learning through doing!"

Missouri FFA wishes to thank Dr. Donn Russell for his many years of service to agricultural education and the Missouri FFA Association.

*The Missouri FFA Association and Missouri FFA Foundation would like to recognize **American Family Insurance** for their sponsorship of the **State Star program** at this year's State Convention.*



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DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CITATION

Mr. Ernie Verslues



Missouri FFA is pleased to recognize Mr. Ernie Verslues for his service to agricultural education and Missouri FFA.

Having retired in 2025 as president and chief executive officer for MFA Incorporated, Verslues was instrumental in continuing support for youth involved in agriculture through Missouri FFA and other youth programs. Verslues has judged speeches, promoted MFA funding SAE Grants through the Missouri FFA Foundation, and been a long-time supporter of the Missouri FFA Convention. Additionally, Verslues supported funding to Missouri Farmers Care for the Ag Ed on the Move program, as well as the organization's summer intern program.

A Missouri native, Verslues graduated from Blair Oaks High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Central Missouri State University. A past recipient of the Honorary State and American FFA Degrees, Verslues was also honored with the Mumford Distinguished Service Award from the University of Missouri College of Agriculture Food and Natural Resources and is a member of the Missouri Institute of Cooperatives Hall of Fame.

Verslues and his wife, Jan, reside in Rocheport, Missouri. They have three children with five grandchildren.

A steadfast supporter of Missouri agricultural education and Missouri FFA, Verslues says, "With fewer young leaders coming from farms, FFA is critical to developing the next leaders in agriculture."

Missouri FFA wishes to thank Mr. Ernie Verslues for his many years of service to agricultural education and the Missouri FFA Association.

*The Missouri FFA Association and Missouri FFA Foundation would like to recognize **BUNGE** for their support as a **CONVENTION BLUE SPONSOR**.*



GUEST SPEAKERS

First General Session – Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

Chris Chinn, Director
Missouri Department of Agriculture
Jefferson City, Missouri

Chris Chinn, a fifth-generation Missouri farmer from Clarence, was named Director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture in January 2017. Director Chinn has held leadership positions in agriculture on the local, state and national level for more than 18 years, working to move the state's agriculture industry forward.



As a trailblazer in ag advocacy, Chinn has established her brand through social media and public speaking. Her blog and Twitter audiences have attracted more than 10,000 faithful followers who have tuned in to hear her farm story. Through her outreach, she stands up for both rural and urban Missouri by bridging the gap between farmers and consumers and contributes to the advancement of the state's top economic driver.

As the Director of Agriculture, Chinn works to promote, protect and defend Missouri farmers and ranchers. Two of her priorities are ensuring that every farm and ranch has access to quality, affordable internet and helping create opportunities for the next generation of producers to return to rural Missouri and family farms.

Director Chinn also works with Governor Kehoe on the Show-Me-State Food, Beverage and Forest Products Task Force to grow the state's economy while helping the agriculture industry through investments in food and forest product manufacturing.

Chinn is a member of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), which represents the departments of agriculture in all 50 states. She is a member of the Missouri State Fair Commission, Missouri Wine & Grape Board, Missouri Development Finance Board, Agricultural Leadership of Tomorrow Board and the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority Board of Directors.

In 2007, she served as chairman for the American Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee and served on the board of directors for the American Farm Bureau Federation. In 2013, Chinn became a national spokesperson when she was named one of four Faces of Farming and Ranching by the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance, an honor that identifies farmers and ranchers who are eager to share their farm story. She has served as a board member for the Shelby County University of Missouri Extension Council and the Long Branch Area YMCA. Chris is a member of the Missouri Pork Association and served on the association's state board. She is a member of ALOT (Agriculture Leaders of Tomorrow) Class 13, American Farm Bureau PAL (Partners in Agricultural Leadership) Class 5 and is a member of the Shelbina Christian Church.

Chinn resides on her family's farm in Shelby County, with her husband, Kevin, where she helps manage their 1,600 sow farrow-to-finish hog operation as well as their family feed mill. Chinn and her husband also have a small cow-calf herd, as well as raise corn, soybeans and hay. Their two children, Rachele and Conner, along with their spouses, are both involved in production agriculture. The newest adventure for the Chinn family is serving as proud grandparents to three granddaughters.

GUEST SPEAKERS

First General Session – Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

Jael Cruikshank, Western Region Vice President
National FFA Organization
Bend, Oregon

Jael Cruikshank initially joined FFA because her family was involved, but she quickly fell in love with the organization after attending one of the meetings. Ever since, she has been actively involved in the organization and has taken advantage of as many opportunities as possible within her chapter, district and state.

The Oregon native credits her variety of Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs) as a testament to the way she has explored the industry of agriculture and how she hopes to have an impact. Her swine and dairy SAEs provided her with an understanding of what it takes to bring food from farm to table and a perspective on how to educate others about modern livestock production. Through all of her SAEs, she has developed a drive to advocate for agriculture with purpose and authenticity.

During her national officer year, Jael wants to love and serve others.

“In a life of chaos, I believe it is getting harder and harder to live in the moment,” Jael says. “I believe to accomplish this goal, I need to take moments to put others’ needs over my own.”



Second General Session – Thursday, 2:00 p.m.

Christopher R. Daubert, Vice Chancellor and Dean
University of Missouri College of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
Columbia, Missouri

Christopher R. Daubert, Ph.D., serves as the Vice Chancellor and Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at the University of Missouri. He is also a Professor of Food Science and Engineering in the Division of Food, Nutrition and Exercise Sciences. Daubert joined Mizzou from North Carolina State University, where he served as a professor and head of the Department of Food, Bioprocessing and Nutrition Sciences; director of the Food Rheology Laboratory; and system co-chair of Food, Biochemical and Engineered Systems.

Daubert has served as editor-in-chief of the Journal of Texture Studies and on the editorial board of the Journal of Food Process Engineering. He is a fellow of the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) and became IFT President in 2024. Daubert also serves on the board of trustees for the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) and was recently selected as incoming chair for the academic heads section of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU). Daubert received his Ph.D. in agricultural engineering and food science at Michigan State University, and has been recognized with distinguished alumnus awards from both Pennsylvania State University and Michigan State University.



REMINDER

Advisors and Students:

Please send thank you notes to our award sponsors.

Addresses will be posted on missouriffa.org the week after Convention.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Third General Session – Thursday, 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Karla Eslinger, Commissioner of Education
Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
Jefferson City, Missouri

Dr. Karla Eslinger is a lifelong educator with more than 30 years of experience in a variety of educational settings. She started her career as an elementary school teacher before serving as a building principal and superintendent in Ava and West Plains. After retiring as superintendent, Dr. Eslinger came to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to serve as the assistant commissioner in the Office of Educator Quality. She then went on to work for the AEM Corporation, serving as a senior analyst for education services and providing technical assistance to the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C.



Dr. Eslinger most recently represented District 33 in the Missouri Senate from 2021-2024. Prior to that, she represented District 155 in the Missouri House of Representatives from 2019-2020.

A graduate of Gainesville High School, Dr. Eslinger holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from The College of the Ozarks. She also earned a master's degree in education administration and a specialist degree in superintendency and educational system administration from Missouri State University. Dr. Eslinger received her doctorate in educational leadership and policy analysis from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Dr. Eslinger is a long-term resident of Wasola, where she and her husband, David, reside on the family farm. They have also owned and operated a small business for over 35 years. They have two daughters, who are public school educators, and four grandchildren.

Fifth General Session – Friday, 4:00 p.m.

Mun Choi, President
University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri



Mun Y. Choi, PhD serves as the 24th president of the University of Missouri — a dual role as chancellor of the University of Missouri and president of the University of Missouri System. He oversees the academic, business and financial aspects of the four universities, as well as a health care system and statewide extension program.

As President, he helped transform the perception of higher education's value with the university community, alumni, legislators and Missourians. Choi has led efforts to strategically grow MU's stature as AAU (Association of American Universities), land-grant flagship research university. In 2021, he launched MizzouForward, a \$1.5 billion, 10-year investment in faculty excellence, student success and modern infrastructure.

Choi's MU leadership team, working closely with faculty, staff and committed stakeholders, has set Mizzou on a record-breaking path. MU is committed to supporting Missouri agriculture through innovation, and secured the largest federal research, education and extension grant in university history as well as an additional grant (\$35 million total) to pair farmers with scientists.

2026 CAREER SHOW INFORMATION & EXHIBITORS

This year the Career Show will be in the Hearnes Building. Attendees can expect to visit exhibits around the concourse and on the floor from from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m on Friday, April 17. The Talent Review this year will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Hearnes Building also on the floor. The Hearnes building is within walking distance of Mizzou Arena. All students and advisors should enter on the west side. No Food stands will be open in the Hearnes building during the Career Show. Please use the provided QR code to see the list of exhibitors along with a map of location.



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI CAMPUS MAP & EVENT VENUES



Event venues on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus can be viewed by scanning the QR code at left. Off-site Leadership Development Event site addresses can be found on pages 18-20. Workshops are located at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 1225 Fellows Place, Columbia, MO 65201.

GET TO KNOW COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

We like to think of Columbia as a cool neighborhood in a big city, with a young vibe, an active buzz and an engaged community. We're also a friendly and welcoming community, with a thriving downtown and an abundance of cultural opportunities. We're Columbia, MO... What You Unexpect!



COURAGE TO REPORT



Courage2ReportMO takes ANONYMOUS reports involving any public or private school in Missouri with students in pre-kindergarden through 12th grade. Scan the code at left for more information or to file a report.



NEW FFA CHAPTERS

New FFA chapters for the 2025-26 school year will be chartered during the Second Session, 2 p.m., Thursday, April 16. Notre Dame • Oak Grove School of the Osage • University City
Congratulations and welcome to Missouri FFA!

2026 LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

Wednesday, April 15

TIME	LOCATION	PRESENTER	WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION
2:00 p.m. AND 3:15 p.m.	Hampton Inn Columbia Room	Nancy Wilkerson, Past FFA Member	Community Service Project Each session will count as one hour of community service. Students will be making jump ropes for "Samaritans Purse" to be placed in shoebox gift boxes for youth all over the world. Each attendee should bring two, old CLEAN, colorful t-shirts to use in this project.
2:00 p.m. AND 3:15 p.m.	Hampton Inn Stephens Room	Braden Havlik, Past State Officer & Missouri's 2025 National Officer Candidate	The Next Step "Embrace your Journey" to chapter, state and maybe even national officer candidate. This workshop is for members of all ages. In this interactive workshop, attendees will discuss, practice and learn the steps necessary to be successful in their journey to becoming an FFA officer.
2:00 p.m. AND 3:15 p.m.	Hampton Inn Missouri Room	Jael Cruikshank, National FFA Western Region Vice-President	Success That Matters This interactive workshop challenges students to rethink what success really means and discover why significance (impacting others) is what actually brings fulfillment.

Thursday, April 16

TIME	LOCATION	PRESENTER	WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION
12:00 p.m. AND 1:15 p.m.	Hampton Inn Columbia Room	Natalie Fifer & Maria Birdsong, MSF Queen Contest Superintendents; & Bailey Schneider, 2025 Missouri State Fair Queen	More Than a Crown: Get Involved at State Fair In this workshop attendees will learn how the Missouri State Fair queen contest goes beyond a traditional pageant by serving as an educational experience for young women interested in agriculture and community involvement.
12:00 p.m. AND 1:15 p.m.	Hampton Inn Stephens Room	Jill Wagner, State Relations Specialist National FFA Association	National FFA Journeys to Embrace Learn more about National FFA opportunities available to students including Next Gen pathway conferences, endorsed activities, and Living to Serve, SAE and student engagement grants.
12:00 p.m.	Hampton Inn Missouri Room	Mindi Hanneken & Abigail Dahmer, Missouri Teach Ag Ambassadors	From Soil to Success: Embracing the Journey of Ag Education In this interactive workshop, participants will explore how ag education helps young people develop practical skills and leadership abilities while gaining a deeper understanding of the ag industry.
1:15 p.m.	Hampton Inn Missouri Room	Kiley Mattson, Missouri Teach Ag Ambassador	Teach Ag: The Ultimate Challenge! In this workshop, students will go through activities to get an overview of the ag education profession and then practice teaching mini lessons on agriculture. Do you have what it takes to be a great ag teacher who positively influences the lives of students? Join us and find out!

2026 LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

Friday, April 17

TIME	LOCATION	PRESENTER	WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION
9:00 a.m. AND 10:15 a.m.	Hampton Inn Columbia Room	Addison Spencer, State PAS President and Anna Unnewehr, State PAS Vice President	Pathways in Agriculture With the help of the Missouri PAS state officer team, you will learn about different job opportunities within agriculture. You will leave this workshop with a better understanding of career opportunities.
9:00 a.m. AND 10:15 a.m.	Hampton Inn Stephens Room	Mikaela Rojas & Carmen Wilburn, Past State Officers	Share Your Journey In this workshop, you will interact with others who are looking to effectively share the story of agriculture in their area. Photography, verbiage and style will be discussed to ensure member success in communicating with others of all ages.
9:00 a.m. AND 10:15 a.m.	Hampton Inn Missouri Room	Jael Cruikshank, National FFA Western Region Vice-President	Success That Matters This interactive workshop challenges students to rethink what success really means and discover why significance (impacting others) is what actually brings fulfillment.
1:30 p.m.	Mizzou Arena, Clinton Club	Avery Deevers, CTE Assistant Instructor, UCM, and Pam Proffitt- Rowland, Coordinator, Missouri Teach Ag	Embrace the Future in Your Ag Ed Journey Inspire and influence the next generation who will feed and shape the world of agriculture. Get ready for a fun and interactive workshop where FFA members will learn how to become the next group of passionate agriculture teachers. Through exciting, real-world activities, we hope you will leave motivated and ready to pursue the life changing and important career of agricultural education!

Missouri Teach Ag Ed Program & Workshops are jointly sponsored by
*MFA Inc. &
Missouri Retired Agriculture Teachers*



OUR VISION:

Agricultural education envisions a world where all people value and understand the vital role of agriculture and natural resources in advancing personal and global well-being.

GENERAL SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 15

*** ALL LDE AND CDE EVENT INFORMATION IS LISTED ON PAGES 18-20, including registration & start times and locations.

LDEs—Ag Issues, Parliamentary Procedure and Conduct of Meetings

CDEs—Nursery/Landscape, Dairy Foods, Livestock, Soils and Agronomy

- 1:00 p.m. Registration (Mizzou Arena, North Entrance, Main Concourse)
- 2:00 p.m. Leadership Workshops (Hampton Inn) — See page 14 for details
- 3:15 p.m. Leadership Workshops (Hampton Inn) — See page 14 for details
- 4:00 p.m. Wednesday FFA Talent Performers Meeting
(Mizzou Arena Auditorium Floor)
- 5:30 p.m. Pre-Session and FFA Talent
- 6:00 p.m. **FIRST SESSION of the 98th Missouri FFA State Convention**
See page 22 for session details

Thursday, April 16

*** ALL LDE AND CDE EVENT INFORMATION IS LISTED ON PAGES 18-20, including registration, start times and locations.

LDEs—Knowledge, Creed Speaking, Division 1 Speaking, Division 2 Speaking, Advanced Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking and Employment Skills

CDEs—Forestry, Ag Mechanics, Dairy Cattle, Entomology, Food Science, Horse Evaluation and Poultry

- 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. Thursday and Friday FFA Talent Rehearsal
(Mizzou Arena Auditorium Floor)
- 8:00 a.m. FFA Alumni WLC Scholarship Interviews (Columns Club, North Suite)
- 9:00 a.m. New State Officer Meeting (Mizzou Arena, Backstage)
- 10:00 a.m. Registration (Mizzou Arena, North Entrance, Main Concourse)
- 10:30 a.m. Thursday and Friday FFA Talent Performers Meeting
(Mizzou Arena Auditorium Floor)
- 11:00 a.m. State FFA Chorus Rehearsal (Columns Club)
- 11:00 a.m. Delegate check in begins (Mizzou Arena Auditorium Floor)**
- 12:00 p.m. Leadership Workshops (Hampton Inn)
See page 14 for details
- 12:00 p.m. Delegate Orientation and Business Session
(Mizzou Arena Auditorium Floor)**
- 1:15 p.m. Leadership Workshops (Hampton Inn)
See page 14 for details
- 1:30 p.m. Pre-Session and FFA Talent
- 2:00 p.m. SECOND SESSION of the 98th Missouri FFA State Convention**
See page 23 for session details
- 4:00–5:30 p.m. Dinner for Current and Past State Officers and Sponsors Reception
(Mizzou Arena, Main Concourse, West End)
- 5:30 p.m. Pre-Session and FFA Talent
- 6:00 p.m. THIRD SESSION of the 98th Missouri FFA State Convention**
See pages 24-25 for session details

GENERAL SCHEDULE

Friday, April 17

*** ALL LDE AND CDE EVENT INFORMATION IS LISTED ON PAGES 18-20, including registration, start times and locations.

CDEs—Meats, Ag Sales, Floriculture and Farm Management

- 8:00 a.m. Registration (Mizzou Arena, North Entrance, Main Concourse)
- 8:00 a.m. State FFA Chorus Rehearsal (Mizzou Arena Auditorium Floor)
- 8:30 a.m. Brunch and Meeting for Retiring/New State FFA Officers/Parents
Courtesy of the Missouri Farm Bureau
(Mizzou Arena, Main Concourse, West End)
- 9:00 a.m. FFA Career Show (Hearnes Center Floor & Concourse, 9 a.m.– 1 p.m.)
- 9:00 a.m. Leadership Workshops
(Hampton Inn)—See page 15 for details
- 9:30 a.m. Dessert Reception for Honorary Degree Recipients
Courtesy of the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives
(Mizzou Arena, Main Concourse, West End)
- 10:00–12:00 p.m. Talent Review (Hearnes Building, Floor)**
- 10:15 a.m. Leadership Workshops (Hampton Inn)
See page 15 for details
- 10:30 a.m. State FFA Chorus Rehearsal (Columns Club)
- 11:00 a.m. Pre-Session and FFA Talent
- 11:30 a.m. FOURTH SESSION of the 98th Missouri FFA State Convention**
See page 26 for session details
- 3:00 p.m. Seating of State Degree Candidates
- 3:00 p.m. Pre-Session and FFA Talent
- 3:30 p.m. 2026 State FFA Chorus Concert** (Mizzou Arena Auditorium)
- 4:00 p.m. FIFTH SESSION of the 98th Missouri FFA State Convention**
See page 27 for session details

MISSOURI FFA FACTS

- ✓ Missouri FFA membership includes 26,828 agricultural education students in 369 chapters across the state.
- ✓ Missouri FFA will award 1,141 State FFA Degrees at this Convention.
- ✓ This year, 508 FFA members will be recognized with an FFA Proficiency Award for the development of their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program.

CAREER & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENT SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 15

CDE / START TIME	CHECK-IN	CHECK-IN LOCATION	EVENT LOCATION	STUDENT RETURN LOCATION	EVENT SUPT
NURSERY/ LANDSCAPING 12:30 p.m.	11:15 a.m. 12:00 p.m. <i>Buses Depart</i>	Hearnes Center West Entrance (Sections C10, C11, C12, C13)	Memorial Union, N201 ABC & Stotler Lounge	Mizzou Arena	Tom Moloney
DAIRY FOODS 1:15 p.m.	12:00 p.m. 12:45 p.m. <i>Buses Depart</i>	Hearnes Center West Entrance (Sections C10, C11, C12, C13)	Memorial Union, N214 ABCDE & Jesse Wrench Auditorium	Mizzou Arena	Dr. Bongkosh Vardhananbhuri
SOILS 10:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. <i>Buses Depart</i>	Hearnes Center West Entrance (Sections C8, C7, C6, C5)	Off Site	Mizzou Arena	Sam Lord
LIVESTOCK 11:45 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	Trowbridge Show Arena	Trowbridge Show Arena	Advisor drop off & pick up at Trowbridge (West Entrance)	Kelsey Fuller & Dakota Grellner
AGRONOMY 11:45 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	Trowbridge Sales Arena	Trowbridge Sales Arena & Livestock Bays	Advisor drop off & pick up at Trowbridge (West Entrance)	Tim Reinbott & Andrew Biggs
LDE / TIME	CHECK-IN	CHECK-IN LOCATION	EVENT LOCATION	STUDENT RETURN LOCATION	EVENT SUPT
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE 8:00 a.m.	All teams must appear NO later than 8:00 a.m.	Wyndham Executive Center	Wyndham Executive Center, 2200 Interstate 70 Drive SW (rooms TBD)	Advisor Provided	Tom Mooney
CONDUCT OF MEETINGS. 8:00 a.m.	All teams must appear NO later than 8:00 a.m.	Wyndham Executive Center	Wyndham Executive Center, 2200 Interstate 70 Drive SW (rooms TBD)	Advisor Provided	Jeremy Haley
AGRICULTURAL ISSUES FORUM 10:00 a.m.	30 mins. prior to presentation time for prelims	Wyndham Executive Center	Wyndham Executive Center, 2200 Interstate 70 Drive SW (rooms TBD)	Advisor Provided	Jill Fansler
FINALS (PARLI, CONDUCT & ISSUES) 1 hour after prelims end	---	Wyndham Executive Center	Wyndham Executive Center, 2200 Interstate 70 Drive SW (rooms TBD)	Advisor Provided	---

CAREER & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENT SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 16

CDE / TIME	CHECK-IN	CHECK-IN LOCATION	EVENT LOCATION	STUDENT RETURN LOCATION	EVENT SUPT
FORESTRY 8:15 a.m.	7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. <i>Buses Depart</i>	Trowbridge Sales Arena	Trowbridge Sales Arena & Livestock Bays & off-site location	Mizzou Arena	Dr. Hank Stelzer
AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS 8:15 a.m.	7:30 a.m.	Trowbridge Show Arena–NW (Sections F, G, H, J)	Agricultural Engineering Building	Advisor pick up at Trowbridge	Kent Shannon
DAIRY CATTLE 8:15 a.m.	7:30 a.m.	Trowbridge Show Arena–SW (Sections B, C, D, E)	Trowbridge Show Arena	Advisor drop off & pick up at Trowbridge (West Entrance)	Dr. Scott Pook & Maria Pook
FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 9:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. <i>Buses Depart</i>	Hearnes Center – West Entrance (Sections C10, C11, C12, C13)	Memorial Union, N214 ABCDE	Plaza 900 Students Walk	Dr. Kantha Channaiah

FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY:

Lunch provided for students at Plaza 900.

At approximately 1:15 p.m., eight finalists will be announced at the amphitheater (weather permitting).

Teachers are welcome to join for the announcement. Eight finalists will return to Memorial Union (no teachers), and the remaining 16 teams will be transported by two buses to the Hearnes Center in time for the Second Convention Session. Official Dress is requested for both preliminary and finals.

At the conclusion of the event, the finalists will be escorted back to the Hearnes Center.

CDE / TIME	CHECK-IN TIME	CHECK-IN LOCATION	EVENT LOCATION	STUDENT RETURN LOCATION	EVENT SUPT
FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FINALS 1:45 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	Eckles Hall	Eckles Hall & Event Center	Advisor pick up at Eckles Hall (final 8 only)	
ENTOMOLOGY 10:15 a.m.	9:00 a.m. 9:45 a.m. <i>Buses Depart</i>	Hearnes Center West Entrance (Sections C10, C11, C12, C13)	Memorial Union, N201 ABC and Jesse Wrench Auditorium	Mizzou Arena	Dr. Deborah Finke & Kristin Simpson
HORSE EVALUATION 9:15 a.m.	8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m. <i>Buses Depart</i>	Hearnes Center West Entrance (Sections C8, C7, C6, C5)	Stephens College Equestrian Center 381-499 Old 63 N, Columbia, MO	Mizzou Arena	Marci Crosby
POULTRY 11:45 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	Trowbridge Sales Arena	Trowbridge Sales Arena & Livestock Bays	Advisor drop off & pick up at Trowbridge (West Entrance)	Eric Roller

CAREER & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENT SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 16

LDE / START TIME	CHECK-IN	CHECK-IN LOCATION	EVENT LOCATION	STUDENT RETURN LOCATION	EVENT SUPT
CREED 8:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	Stoney Creek Hotel Salon A	Stoney Creek Hotel, 2601 S. Providence Rd. Columbia	Advisor Provided	Hilary Black
DIVISION I SPEAKING 8:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	Stoney Creek Hotel Salon A	Stoney Creek Hotel, 2601 S. Providence Rd. Columbia	Advisor Provided	Elise Luebbering
DIVISION II SPEAKING 8:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	Stoney Creek Hotel Salon A	Stoney Creek Hotel, 2601 S. Providence Rd. Columbia	Advisor Provided	Samantha Turner
ADVANCED SPEAKING 8:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	Stoney Creek Hotel Salon A	Stoney Creek Hotel, 2601 S. Providence Rd. Columbia	Advisor Provided	Courtney Williams
EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING 8:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	Stoney Creek Hotel Salon A	Stoney Creek Hotel, 2601 S. Providence Rd. Columbia	Advisor Provided	Jeff Ward
EMPLOYMENT SKILLS 8:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	Stoney Creek Hotel 2nd Floor, Pines	Stoney Creek Hotel, 2601 S. Providence Rd. Columbia	Advisor Provided	Kari Weis- Asbury
FINALS (For all except Creed) 1:00 p.m.	12:30 p.m.	Stoney Creek Hotel	Stoney Creek Hotel, 2601 S. Providence Rd. Columbia	Advisor Provided	
FFA KNOWLEDGE 4:30 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	Stoney Creek Hotel Salon B & Salon C	Stoney Creek Hotel, 2601 S. Providence Rd. Columbia	Advisor Provided	Dr. Kendrick Spencer & Avery Deevers

Friday, April 17

CDE / TIME	CHECK-IN	CHECK-IN LOCATION	EVENT LOCATION	STUDENT RETURN LOCATION	EVENT SUPT
AGRICULTURAL SALES 8:00 a.m.	7:15 a.m.	Memorial Stadium West Tower	Memorial (football) Stadium – Tiger Lounge and West Side Suites (Floors 3, 4, & 5)	Memorial Stadium	Dr. Bryan Garton, Matt Arr & Laura Friedrich
MEATS 8:15 a.m.	7:30 a.m.	Trowbridge Show Arena (NW Sections F, G, H, J)	Eckels – Meat Processing Lab and Eckles Event Center	Advisor drop off & pick up at Trowbridge (West Entrance)	Dr. Teagan Schnurbusch
FLORICULTURE 8:15 a.m.	7:30 a.m.	Trowbridge Show Arena (SW Sections B, C, D, E)	Trowbridge Show Arena	Advisor drop off & pick up at Trowbridge (West Entrance)	Lesleigh Cravens
FARM MANAGEMENT 8:15 a.m.	7:30 a.m.	Trowbridge Sales Arena	Trowbridge Sales Arena & Livestock Bays	Advisor drop off & pick up at Trowbridge (West Entrance)	Bruce Fowler

GOLDEN OWL AWARD

Presented by the Missouri FFA Foundation and sponsored by Nationwide® and FCS Financial, the Golden Owl Award recognizes agricultural educators across Missouri for their tremendous contributions helping the next generation of agricultural leaders. Students, parents, fellow teachers, administrators, and other supporters submitted more than 500 nominations for our state's ag teachers. From those nominations, 18 teachers representing the 16 Missouri FFA areas and our post-secondary/adult education programs were selected as semi-finalists, receiving \$250 and Golden Owl swag. After the second round of competition, seven finalists were surprised at their schools with a \$500 cash prize. During Thursday evening's session, one of those finalists will be named the Missouri Agricultural Educator of the Year, receiving a \$3,000 cash prize and the coveted Golden Owl Award trophy.



HYMAX | HELPING YOUTH MAXIMIZE THEIR AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Designed to train students to be stronger advocates for agriculture, HYMAX Academy challenges students through hands-on activities while digging into the issues facing agriculture today. The program works to sharpen skills and strengthen voices of freshmen in high school.



HYPE | HELPING YOUTH PREPARE FOR EXCELLENCE

A youth leadership conference, HYPE is designed to challenge and equip 30 incoming high school senior FFA members to be advocates for agriculture. These 30 FFA members receive hands-on experiences to prepare them to communicate, lead and advocate for the agricultural industry. In addition, students gain strategies to continue strengthening their knowledge base in agricultural issues, sharpen their written and verbal communication skills and spark potential career interests. Most importantly, these students bring home tools to help themselves and other members in their FFA chapter tell agriculture's story.



MISSOURI AGRIBUSINESS ACADEMY

Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Agriculture, the Missouri Agribusiness Academy (MABa) provides 30 Missouri high school sophomores a chance to explore the vast agribusiness resources of our state. Academy members are selected through a competitive written application and oral interview process.

The primary objective of MABa is to provide an opportunity for students to view various facets of agriculture, visit agribusinesses and meet leaders in agriculture, government and education. Other objectives are to aid students with communication skills and personal development as well as explore career opportunities.



FFA members who graduated as a part of the 2025 MABa class will be recognized during Thursday afternoon's Convention session.

FIRST SESSION PROGRAM

6:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 15

Opening Ceremony — 2025-2026 State FFA Officers

Session Moderators — State Vice Presidents Cash Honeycutt, Orrick FFA and Gage Swindler, Braymer FFA

Invocation — Braxton Watts, State Vice President, El Dorado Springs FFA

National Anthem — Cheston Wilson, Dixon FFA

Session Reflections — Seth Engeman, Taylor Nothdurft, Lindsay McDonald and Noah Groose

Swine Facility Management Contest — Missouri Pork Producers – Diane Slater

Remarks from Missouri Department of Agriculture — Director Chris Chinn

BOAC Missouri Department of Agriculture Grant Awards

Missouri Agribusiness Academy Recipients

FFA Talent

Convention Keynote Speaker — Jael Cruikshank, National FFA Western Region Vice-President
Sponsored by Columbia Convention & Visitors Bureau

FFA Talent

Proficiency Awards

Food Products & Processing Pathway
Food Service

Natural Resources/Conservation Systems Pathway
Environmental Science & Natural Resource Management
Forest Management & Products
Outdoor Recreation
Wildlife Production & Management

Power, Structural & Technical Systems Pathway - Sponsored by Heritage Tractor
Agricultural Mechanics Design & Fabrication
Agricultural Mechanics Repair & Maintenance–Entrepreneurship
Agricultural Mechanics Repair & Maintenance–Placement

FFA Talent

Chapter Activity Awards — Gold, Silver and Bronze Emblem Chapters
Sponsored by FCS Financial

Closing Ceremony

SECOND SESSION PROGRAM

2:00 p.m. Thursday, April 16

Opening Ceremony — 2025-2026 State FFA Officers

Session Moderators — State Vice Presidents Maddy Rash, Buffalo FFA and Noah Goose, Dadeville FFA

Invocation — Taylor Nothdurft, State Vice President, Oak Ridge FFA

Session Reflections — Cierra Britton, Harlee Beck, Abigail Lett, Braxton Watts

Welcome to Mizzou — Dean Christopher Daubert, Vice Chancellor and Dean of CAFNR

FFA Talent

Agriscience Fair — Sponsored by BTC Bank

Animal Systems

Environmental Services/ Natural Resource Systems

Food Products & Processing Systems

Plant Systems Pathway — *Sponsored by FMC*

Power, Structure, and Technical Systems

Social Science Systems

Missouri Teach Ag Fall Speaking LDE Winner — Vivian Jones, West Platte FFA

Missouri FFA Convention T-Shirt Results

Missouri Ruralist Larry Harper Young Writers Contest — Mindy Ward, Editor

Soybean Innovation Challenge — Missouri Soybeans — Devyn Keller

FFA Talent

Charter Presentation to New FFA Chapters

Distinguished Service Awards

FFA Talent

Missouri Youth in Agriculture Scholarship Recognition

FFA Leadership Development Event — Wednesday Events (in order of presentation)

Agricultural Issues

Conduct of Meetings

Parliamentary Procedure

Closing Ceremony

THIRD SESSION PROGRAM

6:00 p.m. Thursday, April 16

Opening Ceremony — 2025-2026 State FFA Officers

Session Moderators — State Vice Presidents Lindsay McDonald, Mt. Vernon FFA and Taylor Nothdurft, Oak Ridge FFA

Invocation — Sophie Geppert, State Vice President, North Callaway FFA

National Anthem — Lindsleigh Todd, Mansfield FFA

Session Reflections — Ryatt Haggerman, Annie Neely, Kolton Stolba, Maddy Rash

Remarks from Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education —
Commissioner Dr. Karla Eslinger

Career Development Event Results — Pre-Convention Events (in order of presentation)
Agricultural Communications
Environmental and Natural Resources
Veterinary Science

Recognition of Past State FFA Officer Teams

FFA Talent

Proficiency Awards

Agricultural Business Pathway—Sponsored by BTC Bank

Agricultural Communications

Agricultural Education

Agricultural Processing

Agricultural Sales – Entrepreneurship

Agricultural Sales – Placement

Agricultural Services

Agriscience Research – Animal Systems

Agriscience Research – Integrated Systems

Agriscience Research – Plant Systems

Diversified Agriculture Production

Service Learning

FFA Talent

—Continued on Next Page—

—Continued from Previous Page—

FFA Alumni — WLC Scholarships and Hagan Scholarship

Proficiency Awards

Animal Science Pathway —Sponsored by S&H Farm Supply

- Beef Production – Entrepreneurship
- Beef Production – Placement
- Dairy Production – Entrepreneurship
- Dairy Production – Placement
- Diversified Livestock Production
- Equine Science – Entrepreneurship
- Equine Science – Placement
- Goat Production
- Poultry Production
- Sheep Production
- Small Animal Production and Care
- Specialty Animal Production
- Swine Production – Entrepreneurship
- Swine Production – Placement
- Veterinary Science

FFA Talent

Missouri FFA Foundation — Heather Dimitt-Fletcher

Golden Owl Award Presentation — *Sponsored by Nationwide and FCS Financial*

Proficiency Awards

Plant Science Pathway — Sponsored by MTI Greenhouse Solutions

- Diversified Crop Production – Entrepreneurship
- Diversified Crop Production – Placement
- Diversified Horticulture
- Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production
- Forage Production
- Fruit & Nut Production
- Grain Production
- Landscape Installation
- Nursery Operations
- Specialty Crop Production
- Turf and Landscape Maintenance
- Vegetable Production

Closing Ceremony

FOURTH SESSION PROGRAM

11:30 a.m. Friday, April 17

Opening Ceremony — 2025-2026 State FFA Officers

Session Moderators — State Vice Presidents Cierra Britton, Cuba FFA & Sophie Geppert, North Callaway FFA

Invocation — Kolton Stolba, State Vice President, Willow Springs FFA Chapter

Career Development Event Results — Wednesday/Thursday Events (in order of presentation)

- Agricultural Mechanics
- Agronomy
- Dairy Cattle
- Dairy Foods
- Entomology
- Food Science and Technology
- Forestry
- Horse Evaluation
- Livestock Evaluation
- Nursery / Landscape
- Poultry
- Soils

FFA Leadership Development Events — Thursday Events (in order of presentation)

- FFA Knowledge
- Creed Speaking
- Division 1 Speaking
- Division 2 Speaking
- Advanced Speaking
- Extemporaneous Speaking
- Employment Skills

FFA Talent

Honorary State Degree Ceremony

MVATA President Remarks — Jackie Carlson, Jefferson

MVATA Teach Ag Scholarships

Honorary State Degree Presentation

Honoring of State FFA Officers' Parents

FFA Talent

Introduction of New State FFA Officers

Installation of New Officers

State Officer Retirement

Closing Ceremony

2026 CHORUS CONCERT
3:00 p.m. Friday, April 17

State FFA Chorus

Director: Beth Dampf, Choral Director, California

Accompanist: Beth Eckles, Jefferson City

“Praise His Holy Name” — Arranged by Keith Hampton

“Crowded Table” — Words & Music by Natalie Hemby, Lori McKenna
& Brandi Carlile; Arranged by Andrea Ramsey

“Tell My Father” — Words by Jack Murphy; Music by Frank
Wildhorn; Arranged by Andrea Ramsey

“Shine Like Stars” — Words & Music by Pinkzebra

FIFTH SESSION PROGRAM
4:00 p.m. Friday, April 17

National Anthem “Star Spangled Banner”

Arrangement, Jamey Ray — 2026 State FFA Chorus

Opening Ceremony — 2025-2026 State FFA Officers

Session Moderators — State Vice Presidents Annie Neely, Lockwood FFA & Kolton
Stolba, Willow Springs FFA

Invocation — Harlee Beck, State Vice President, Chillicothe FFA

Session Reflections — Ivy Elwell, Cash Honeycutt, Sophie Geppert and Gage Swindler

Introduction of Guests

Remarks from University of Missouri — President Mun Choi

FFA Talent

Career Development Event Results — Friday Events (in order of presentation)

Agricultural Sales

Farm Management

Floriculture

Meats

Missouri FFA Foundation — Heather Dimitt-Fletcher

State FFA Degree Ceremony

State FFA Talent

State Star in Agriscience — *Sponsored by American Family Insurance Agents*

State Star in Agribusiness — *Sponsored by American Family Insurance Agents*

State Star in Placement — *Sponsored by American Family Insurance Agents*

State Star Farmer — *Sponsored by American Family Insurance Agents*

FFA Talent

Awarding of the State FFA Degree — *Sponsored by MFA Inc.*

Closing Ceremony

AREA STAR IN AGRIBUSINESS

Quin Staten
Tarkio
Area 1

Gracelynn Barnett
Chillicothe
Area 2

Quintin Wiedeman
North Shelby
Area 3

Stetson Stone
Centralia
Area 4

Trice Roden
Montgomery Co. R-II
Area 5

Gage Davis
Marshall
Area 6

Mavrick Trammell
Lone Jack
Area 7

Austin Burnett
Eugene
Area 8

Jordann Barnhart
Joplin
Area 9

Alcoa Harris
Conway
Area 10

Kiley Jenkins
Mount Vernon
Area 11

Brody Stillings
Ava
Area 12

Dylan Abraham
Gainesville
Area 13

Karley Frank
Linn
Area 14

Clare Maloney
Farmington
Area 15

AREA STAR IN AGRISCIENCE

Israel Myers
Maysville
Area 2

Brie Dailey
Osceola
Area 7

Reagan Ahart
Tuscumbia
Area 8

Ellie Samek
Bolivar
Area 10

Avery Rossow
Republic
Area 12

Lucy Conger
Rolla
Area 13

Kylie McRoy
Farmington
Area 12

AREA STAR FARMER

Andy Mattson
Jefferson
Area 1

Beau Ann Graves
Chillicothe
Area 2

Braxton Switzer
Brookfield
Area 3

Aubrey Youse
Paris
Area 4

Lane Carter
Audrain Co. R-VI
Area 5

Brock Marshall
Marshall
Area 6

Olivia Wingard
Pleasant Hill
Area 7

Blain Kusgen
California
Area 8

Rhett Forkner
Nevada
Area 9

Brier Day
Marshfield
Area 10

Elizabeth Helm
Seneca
Area 11

Kampbell Thomas
Republic
Area 12

James Laughlin
Waynesville
Area 13

John Meurer
St. James
Area 14

Miley-Mae Phillips
East Prairie
Area 15

Emily Sisco
Alton
Area 16

AREA STAR IN PLACEMENT

Kate Fischer
Savannah
Area 1

Dillon Clark
Maysville
Area 2

Henry Hauser
Green City
Area 3

Payden Crain
Paris
Area 4

Larson Hall
Clopton
Area 5

Hunter Browning
Marshall
Area 6

Gavin Crump
Sherwood
Area 7

Gio Ubaldo
Tipton
Area 8

Jacob Dryer
Nevada
Area 9

Cooper DeHart
Halfway
Area 10

Roper Brown
Seneca
Area 11

Wyatt Caswell
Seymour
Area 12

Wesley Pinson
Mountain Grove
Area 13

Connor Kendall
Sullivan
Area 14

Jacob Sulser
Ste. Genevieve
Area 15

Alexis Perkey
Dexter
Area 16

HONORARY STATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Davin Althoff
Missouri Farm Bureau
Chief Administrative Officer

Jim Anderson
Mo. Dept. of Agriculture
*Executive Director, Missouri
Grape & Wine Board*

Garrett Ball
FFA Camp Waterfront
Director / Supervisor

Raymond Beck
Beyond Productions
Production Crew

Ryan S. Bilyeu
College of the Ozarks
Dairy & General Farm Mgr.

Paul T. Combs
Baker Implement Company
President

Darrin & Mary DeOrnellis
Trapshooting
Ham / Bacon Curing

Heather Dimitt-Fletcher
Missouri FFA Foundation
Executive Director

Dr. Nikki Freeman
University of Central Mo.
*Public Speaking Academy
Instructor*

Robert Guinn
FCS Financial
Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Mitch Holder
North Central Mo. College
Dean of Instruction
*Event host, Guest speaker,
Judge*

Jennifer Poindexter
Missouri Farm Bureau
Dir. Promotion & Education

Megan Sheperd
Four Season Fundraising
Sales Representative

Mariah Speiss
Missouri Farm Bureau
*Young Leader Development
Coordinator*

Don Tiller
Mo. Dept. of Conservation
Conservation Agent
*Hunter Education,
Trapshooting*

Nancy Wilkerson
Wilkerson Rock Quarry
*Event Judge, Workshop
Presenter*

George Yaghmour
Key Apparel
V.P. Sales & Marketing

AGRICULTURE INSTRUCTORS

Jessica Aeschliman
Savannah

Mikaila Livingston
Savannah

Karla Riggs
*State Fair Community
College*

Mitch Schmidt
South Shelby

Rich Thomas
Oak Ridge

STATE OFFICER PARENTS

Stephen & Andrea Beck
(Harlee Beck)
Chillicothe

DJ & Judy Britton
(Cierra Britton)
Cuba

Brad & Jessie Elwell
(Ivy Elwell)
LaMonte

John & Donna Engeman
(Seth Engeman)
Montrose

Kate Geppert
(Sophia Geppert)
North Callaway

Ryan & Casey Groose
(Noah Groose)
Dadeville

Patrick & Amanda Haggerman
(Ryatt Haggerman)
Versailles

Donald & Jamie Honeycutt
(Cash Honeycutt)
Orrick

Joshua & Michelle Lett
(Abigayle Lett)
Odessa

Glenn & Tabitha McDonald
(Lindsay McDonald)
Mt. Vernon

**Angie Whitesell &
Joseph Vukceovich**
Jeremy Neely
(Annie Neely)
Lockwood

John & Sarah Nothdurft
Kelly Rees
(Taylor Nothdurft)
Oak Ridge

Casey & Becky Rash
(Maddux Rash)
Buffalo

Gary & Deedee Stolba
(Kolton Stolba)
Willow Springs

Justin & Erika Swindler
(Gage Swindler)
Braymer

Matthew & Jenny Watts
(Braxton Watts)
El Dorado Springs

2026 STATE PROFICIENCY SPONSORS

These friends of Missouri FFA provide plaques for Area and State Winners at the Convention. Supporters with a "" are recognized as Proficiency Plus sponsors, providing both plaques and scholarships. Supporters with a "***" are Ag Ed Pathway Sponsors. Drop them a note of thanks to show you appreciate their support!*

Agricultural Communications
BTC Bank

Agricultural Education
Missouri Vocational Agriculture
Teachers Association*

**Agricultural Mechanics
Design and Fabrication**
Ahrens Steel and Welding Supply

**Agricultural Mechanics
Repair & Maintenance**
Entrepreneurship & Placement
Heritage Tractor

Agricultural Processing
Missouri Agribusiness Association

Agricultural Sales Entrepreneurship
Agricultural Sales Placement
BTC Bank

Agricultural Services
Vivayic

Agriscience Animal Systems Research
Agriscience Integrated Systems Research
Agriscience Plant Systems Research
FMC Corporation

Beef Production Entrepreneurship
Missouri Cattlemen's Association

Beef Production Placement
Missouri Beef Industry Council*

Dairy Production Entrepreneurship
Dairy Production Placement
Midwest Dairy*

Diversified Agricultural Production
MTI Greenhouse Solutions

**Diversified Crop Production
Entrepreneurship**
Missouri Crop Improvement Association

Diversified Crop Production Placement
Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production
Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council*

Diversified Horticulture
MTI Greenhouse Solutions

Diversified Livestock Production
Area 2 Agriculture Teachers Association

**Environmental Science and
Natural Resource Management**
Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Equine Science
Entrepreneurship & Placement
S&H Farm Supply

Food Service
Seitz Fundraising

Forage Production
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Forest Management & Products
Missouri FFA Foundation

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Missouri Corn
Merchandising Council

Goat Production

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St. Louis Community College (Meremac)

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Missouri Department
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The Poultry Federation

Service Learning

Missouri FFA Association

Sheep Production

Missouri Sheep Merchandising Council*

Small Animal Production & Care

Missouri FFA Foundation

Specialty Animal Production

Specialty Crop Production

Stoddard County Seed and Feed

Swine Production

Entrepreneurship and Placement

Missouri Pork Association*

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College of Agriculture,
Food & Natural Resources
University of Missouri

2026 STATE FFA SPECIAL AWARD CONTRIBUTORS & HOSTS

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LDE Sponsor	Missouri Ruralist Magazine
Past State Officers	Litton Memorial Cash Awards
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Dairy Foods	Star Labs
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LDE Sponsor	Parliamentary Procedure
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Entomology	Past State Officers
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Past State FFA Officers	CDE Sponsor
Environmental and Natural Resources	Past State FFA Officers
(Grasslands) CDE Host	Soils
Natural Resources Conservation Service	CDE Sponsor
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Past State Officers	CDE Host
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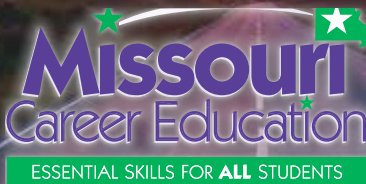
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foundationinfo@missouriffa.org

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FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

THE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION MISSION

The mission of agricultural education is to prepare and support individuals for careers, build awareness and develop leadership for the food, fiber and natural resource system.



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