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WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF FFA

Wisconsin FFA Advisors

We Made It!

We survived February and March! Thank you to all of the FFA advisors that worked with their FFA members to complete their degree applications, proficiency award applications, and that helped prepare their FFA members for LDEs and CDEs! It has been a busy, busy time of year.

A special thank you to the FFA advisors that have gone above and beyond to help judge proficiencies, review American Degrees, review State FFA Degrees, host LDEs and help host CDEs. Wisconsin FFA members are lucky to have such dedicated teachers that help provide opportunities for all of Wisconsin FFA members. You all deserve a pat on the back!

Speaking of opportunities, enrollment and registration in all FFA events, conferences, and contests have been exceeding the maximum limits and the capacity we have to host FFA events. It is so great to see so many FFA members wanting to participate again! Keep up the good work!

As we start preparing for the Wisconsin State FFA Convention, watch your emails for important notices and read the newsletter for updates and reminders. This state convention is going to be big if the level of participation we are seeing now continues!

If you have questions or need assistance don't hesitate to reach out to any of us.

Wisconsin FFA State Staff



AWARD APPLICATION DEADLINES

Middle School Essay Contest - April 16

National FFA Chapter Awards - April 19

Three Star Leaders - April 19

FFA Talent - April 21

Food for America - May 1

Other contests coming up:

Ag Issues still has openings

Market Plan still has openings

Safe Tractor Operators Contest- Farm Tech Days

Ag Artwork Contest

Scrapbook Contest

UPCOMING LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES

Mission & EDGE Conferences

Chula Vista, Wisconsin Dells

April 11-12, 2024

Wisconsin FFA State Convention

Madison, Wisconsin - Alliant Energy Center

June 10-13, 2024

Registration Details Coming Soon!

State FFA Degree Appeals due April 1

- State FFA Degree applications are being reviewed and emails are being sent to advisors to make corrections.
- Additional corrections may be required when resubmitted.
- There are 382 State FFA Degrees to review and the process is taking some time so be patient.

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Proficiency Awards

Congratulations to all 723 proficiency award applicants!

The applications were judged on March 8-9 at the Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells. Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped judge. It took all of you to make this possible. The rankings have been released to the public as well as the placings for Golds from 6th place down.

The State Finalists will be presented on stage at the Wisconsin State FFA Convention!

The placings of the State Finalists will be announced on stage!

All State Proficiency Finalists are also invited to create a display board to put up on Tuesday at the convention more information will be sent out soon.

American Degrees Submitted to the National FFA

Thank you to all that returned their American FFA Degrees in a timely fashion. Those applications have been approved and submitted to the National FFA by the March 15th deadline for the early review. If you have not returned your corrected American Degree yet, you still have time, but the longer you wait, the longer it will take for it to be reviewed by the National FFA.

JUDGES NEEDED FOR STATE CONVENTION!

We are in need of judges for all of the competitions at the State FFA Convention. This includes state officer interviews, Leadership Development Events, Agriscience Fair and other competitions.

If you would like to volunteer or know of someone who would be interested, please contact Glenda Crook at gcrook@wisconsinffa.org

FIRE CONFERENCE

Thank you to SWTC-Fennimore for hosting our March FIRE Conference.

We had 310 FFA members in attendance. Thank you advisors for bringing students to this conference to help them learn about all the opportunities the FFA Organization has available to them.

Thank you to Deb Ihm and the PAS members for assisting us with the conference.

Dates for 2024-2025

Mark your calendars now....

UW-River Falls - Saturday October 5, 2024

UWSP-Marshfield Campus - Friday, October 11, 2024

FVTC-Appleton - Saturday, October 12, 2024

SWTC-Fennimore - Friday February 28, 2025

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Career Development Event Reminders

- 1) Dairy Handlers CDE has reopened and will close on Friday March 29. Details here [Dairy Handlers](#)
- 2) Registration is open for Day #1 and Day #2 of the State CDE's. Most of the CDE's require qualification before entering. Ag Sales is reaching capacity. A few CDE's are open to all contestants without qualification. Please do NOT sign up on judging card for qualification events BEFORE your teams have made it. [Registration found here](#)
- 3) 4 of the 5 Regional CDE's have posted results and should be official soon. Use [this document to see IF your team qualified](#). This document will be updated as more teams qualify.
- 4) Now is the time to secure transportation and [PARKING](#) - Please do not drive a van or other vehicle to Madison Campus on April 25th and expect to find parking. Madison College has free parking for the CDE's on April 19th. Please work with UW Campus parking systems for oversized vans.
- 5) Here are the [current locations, start times and addresses](#) for the CDE events. These might change slightly, but all changes will be sent advisors of the teams.
- 6) Check your judging card information to see that it reflects your CURRENT teachers and CORRECT advisors(s) email addresses. This is the MAIN way teams/advisors will be contacted. If your information is incorrect in judging card (or you list only one advisor) you will not get updated information.
- 7) Integrity/Photo Release form - EVERY team will need to sign and bring to each CDE. It can be found [on the WI FFA CDE website](#)
- 8) 8) If you have questions or need help please reach out to Diane Morgan or Ken Engelke - they are here to help see that everyone has a great experience with the State CDE Events.

Food for America

The 2024 application has been updated to a two-part application. A Google Slide Deck template has been created to share ALL the events and activities that your chapter does for the Food for America program. Activities that engage K-12 students and community in agriculture literacy activities are eligible for consideration.

Once the Google Slide Deck is complete, please upload the slides to the official form, which will be available at [wisconsinaged.org- Food for America webpage](#). **Due Date: May 1, 2024**

If you received a 2023-24 Food for America Grant, the award application will double as your grant report.

- [Google Slides Application Portion](#)

- Application format is designed to support a year-long program

- [Formsite Application](#)

Food For America Grant Applications

2024-2025 Food for America Grant Application Due Date: June 30, 2024

Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom is excited to once again offer Food for America program grants to Wisconsin FFA Chapters. The grants are available for projects that increase K-12 student awareness and understanding of agriculture. The application will open on March 1, 2024. Please review the Grant Tips 101 slides for tips and formatting that will help your application stand out.

[2024 Food for America Grant Application](#)

[Grant Tips 101 Slides](#)



Wisconsin Association of FFA March Board of Directors Meeting Recap March 14, 2024 - Clarion Suites Hotel, Madison

1. State Officers provided a recap of events they participated in since the February Board Meeting.
2. Mrs. Zimmerman provided updates on current FFA membership now surpassing 25,000 but a number of chapters need to submit final membership. Leadership Conferences - FIRE at SWTC-Fennimore - 310 attended. Upcoming EDGE and Mission Conference registration is full and waiting lists have started. Mrs. Crook provided updates on American and State Degree submissions, proficiency awards, FFA band and chorus, LDEs and CDEs. The Board discussed concerns about needing more opportunities for members to participate in CDEs.
3. Updates were provided by Mrs. Ladsten, DPI; Mrs. Quinlan, Wisconsin FFA Foundation; and Mrs. Breunig, WAAE.
4. Henry Koerner - Constitution/Bylaws and Policies Committee Report. Updates included membership extensions, hotel rooms at FFA Events, Star Finalist Interviews, State Officer Candidates, Gmail account policies, State Officer Information. It was discussed to make the policies more visible on the new website.
5. Linsey Mueller and Sally Ladsten presented the Finance Committee report. Mrs. Ladsten provided a full report on the proposed FFA budget which was approved by the Board. The Board voted to implement a per person fee for the 2024 State FFA Convention. \$20 per member and advisor which also includes the dance and games fee for Wednesday evening. There will be a \$10 fee for guests. This will exclude any special guests that have been invited including judges and sponsors.
6. Amber Bunnell and Parker Litterick shared the Membership Committee Report.
7. Julia Lenz and Lizzy Reinart shared the Awards and Programs Committee Report.
8. Jescey Thompson shared the Media and Public Relations Committee Report. Jescey was commended for the fantastic job done in leading the team with social media efforts throughout the year.
9. Amy Jentges and Sophie Koehler provided the Service Committee Report. FFA Jackets for the Blue Legacy program will be presented at state convention. Amy will be notifying advisors of recipients. SHP will be involved in the State Convention service projects to make 60 beds. Amelia Hayden will serve as our Day of Service Co-Chair along with Tari Costello.
10. Brooke Wittrock and Mary Schrieber shared the Partners Committee Report.
11. Sectional LDEs were reviewed. Most Sectional LDEs have taken place. Holding rooms, quiz bowl questions, etc. were discussed.
12. Revised Section Realignment proposals were presented. A proposal was approved by the Board and will be sent to advisors and presented to the delegates at State FFA Convention.
13. The State Officer Task Force completed the new State Officer Handbook and State Officer Candidate application. The Board approved these items with several adjustments recommended from the state officers. Materials will be posted online. State Officer Candidate Academies will be held April 2, 10 and 16.
14. The Board was asked for any further recommendations for Honored Adult Recognition at State Convention.
15. Constitutional changes to the State FFA Degree Application were approved by the Board to move forward to the delegates at Convention.
16. The Board reviewed the LDE Task Force recommendations. There are many recommendations so further work will be done by smaller committees to make final recommendations.
17. The Wisconsin State Fair has asked the state officers to participate in the Ag Discovery Day April 30. We are also working with the State Fair to adjust the state officer work schedule in the Discovery Barnyard during the state fair.
18. The Onward Conference proposal was presented by Brooke Wittrock and Parker Litterick. It was approved by the Board to continue to explore the possibilities of offering this conference focused on career pathways. Mrs. Zimmerman will assign a steering committee.
19. Mrs. Crook shared the updates to the Safe Tractor Operators Contest Handbook. The Board approved the recommended changes with flexibility to make any additional changes needed.
20. Mrs. Zimmerman gave a State Convention update related to working with the Alliant Energy Center, provided assignments to state officer advisors and reviewed major schedule changes. Updates were also provided on the officers work with the sessions and reflections.
21. Mary Schrieber and Henry Koerner shared the updates to the Delegate Process for Wednesday June 12 at the State FFA Convention. Detailed information will be posted on the website and sent out to advisors. The Board approved the changes and the committees.
22. Julia Lenz reported on the Meals Committee as far as speakers invited and programs that will occur.
23. Linsey Mueller reported on workshops that are scheduled for convention and those individuals that have been invited to present workshops.
24. Amber Bunnell is working with the Past State Officer Committee.
25. Parker Litterick and Lizzy Reinart reported on the plans for decorations including recognizing state officer candidate and highlighting the 90th anniversary of the FFA jacket.
26. Brooke Wittrock reported on her work with the Seating and Courtesy Corp Committee.
27. Henry Koerner and Jescey Thompson reported on their work to create the "FFA Student Spotlight Stage" in Hall B on Wednesday.
28. Mrs. Zimmerman asked for the state officer advisors to provide her with their reservations for the Clarion Suites hotel.
29. The Board approved their recommendation to change the state degree ceremony by awarding recipients alphabetically by last name and not by section or chapter.

Following the FFA Board meeting, the state FFA officer advisors conducted the State FFA Degree review on Thursday evening and Friday.

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2024 Spring EDGE and MISSION Conferences - April 11-12 (Thursday/Friday) Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells

Schedule: Remember there is no dinner scheduled for Thursday before the conference starts....so make sure your students have eaten. There will be pizza following the evening session during the dance and game time.

Thursday, April 11

3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Registration

6:15 p.m. - All Conferences Start

Friday, April 12

7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Breakfast

8:30 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. - Conferences Resume

11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. - Lunch

3:30 p.m. - Conferences End

2024 State FFA Convention Updates

There are a few changes coming to the state convention...watch for more updates.

Convention Registration Fee:

Members \$20; Advisors \$20; Guests \$10.

Registration will now include admission to the Wednesday evening dance and games.

Registration fees will be included through the online registration system.

Tuesday June 11, 2024:

Time Change

No Delegate Business Session Tuesday morning - Moved to Wednesday morning

Opening Session begins at 10:45 a.m. All Sessions/functions will begin one hour earlier than in the past. We must start Convention entertainment by 9:00 pm and have all attendees out of the Convention Hall by 11:00 p.m.

Agriscience Fair Judging:

Will occur Tuesday afternoon...watch for more details.

Wednesday June 12, 2024

Delegate Activities

8:30 a.m. Delegate Session begins with orientation, committee meetings, delegate business session and state officer selection process. Important information for your delegates will be posted on the State Convention website including videos to help them better understand their role as a delegate.

Student Spotlight Stage:

New Student Showcase Stage. This stage will have numerous member presentations, college Ag Ed major signing and other highlights for attendees to enjoy and learn more about what FFA members are doing in Wisconsin!

State Degrees Announcement in New Order:

State Degrees will be announced in a new order. Members will be recognized alphabetically by last name and not by section or chapter. And remember the Keynote Speaker Nick Tokman will speak following the state degree ceremony.

Sally Ladsten
Department of Public
Instruction

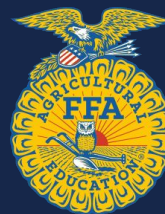
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2024 March FIRE Conference - SWTC-Fennimore



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2024 March FIRE Conference SWTC-Fennimore



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Wisconsin was well represented at the National FFA NextGen Ag Communications Conference - Fort Worth, Texas



State FFA President Mary Schrieber had the opportunity to meet United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack at the Climate-Smart Commodities Celebration in Fountain City, Wisconsin



2024 proficiency judges busy evaluating applications in Wisconsin Dells