



# 2023 WISCONSIN FFA DELEGATE ACTION PLAN

## FFA Official Dress Suggestions Committee

*What ways can Wisconsin FFA encourage that proper Official Dress is worn at events?*

### Recommendation 1

State Officers make a video about how to wear and how they feel about their Official Dress. It may also include some historical facts to express the effort that goes into it.

#### Action Plan

- The State Officers prepared and posted a video regarding proper Official Dress prior to National FFA Convention and will continue to share more throughout the year as needed.

### Recommendation 2

We recommend that the Blue Jacket Legacy also include other aspects of Official Dress, including but not limited to pants, white collared shirts, and skirts.

#### Action Plan

- This recommendation was referred to the Service Committee for evaluation and to the 2020-2021 State Officer Team, who started the Blue Jacket Legacy program. The main focus right now is to provide as many FFA jackets as possible to the members with the current funding available. This may be something to consider in the future with increased funding but the goal at this time is to significantly increase the number of jackets presented.

### Recommendation 3

We recommend that Wisconsin FFA hosts an Official Dress “Drive.”

#### Action Plan

- This recommendation was referred to the Service Committee for evaluation.

# Middle School Opportunities Committee

## *How can Wisconsin FFA incorporate the newly added 5th and 6th grade membership into state programming?*

### **Recommendation 1**

Provide Career and Leadership Development Event opportunities to 5th and 6th grade members.

#### **Action Plan**

- This recommendation was referred to the LDE Task Force and WAAE CDE Committee for review. Many of these opportunities will also be guided by National FFA in their soon to be released updates with awards and recognition.

### **Recommendation 2**

Provide a day camp for 5th and 6th grade members regionally to be facilitated by three to four State FFA Officers.

#### **Action Plan**

- Advisors will be surveyed about how many 5th and 6th graders are currently listed on their membership rosters.
- While including a “day camp” style event for 5th and 6th grade members cannot be implemented this year, F.I.R.E. Conference is a one-day event available to 5th and 6th graders. Additionally, for the first time Wisconsin FFA hosted four F.I.R.E. Conferences to accommodate for the record member attendance.

### **Recommendation 3**

Incorporate a fifth degree of FFA membership specifically to 5th and 6th grade members.

#### **Action Plan**

- As Wisconsin does not have the National jurisdiction to designate our own degree of membership, we explored this possibility at National FFA Convention during the Delegate Processes. After engaging in discussion with other delegates at National FFA Convention, we proceeded in accordance with the National FFA.

### **Further Commentary**

Due to the difficulty of getting 5th and 6th grade students into agricultural education courses, we recommend a way to include local level members into the day camps..

#### **Action Plan**

In accordance with the Three-Circle Model of Agricultural Education and the Official FFA Manual, “Membership in FFA requires middle and high school students to be enrolled in a local school-based agricultural education program...” (Pg. 9) However, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and our State Advisor, Sally Ladsten, are investigating new and unique ways in which agricultural education courses can be delivered to middle school students.

# Importance of the Delegate Voice Committee

***How can Wisconsin FFA reevaluate the delegate process to ensure that the actionable steps recommended by the Delegate Body are taken by the Wisconsin Association of FFA?***

## **Recommendation 1**

Provide Delegate Committees, any Constitutional Amendments, and other important delegate resources earlier to allow for discussion within chapters

### **Action Plan**

- The State FFA Officers and Board of Directors reviewed and selected the 2024 Delegate Committees in March. Committee topics will be published on the website and on social media no later than April 1st. Business Session items will be posted in April. A new Delegate page has been created on the State FFA Convention website.

## **Recommendation 2**

Explore ways for State Delegates to explore the Expo Center and other State Convention experiences.

### **Action Plan**

- Being a delegate is an honor and a priority during State Convention. Unfortunately it is hard to not have overlap with other convention activities. The Delegate process at State Convention will occur on Wednesday morning between 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. There would be time between 12:30 and 2:00 p.m. to explore the Convention Expo if the delegate is not receiving their state FFA degree.. And because all the delegate work happens on Wednesday morning, that may open up additional time on Tuesday to participate in other convention related activities.

## **Recommendation 3**

We recommend that Wisconsin FFA provide an explanation as to what delegates are and what their role entails at State FFA Convention.

### **Action Plan**

- State Officers prepared a State Convention Delegate Orientation video, meeting, packet, and social media post to convey the importance and impact of their work as delegates.
- State President, Mary Schrieber, and Mrs. Zimmerman corresponded with agricultural educators at Fall Leadership Workshops to share more about the need to select well-informed delegates.
- State Parliamentarian, Henry Koerner, and State President, Mary Schrieber, developed an online orientation session for delegates prior to State Convention.
- The delegate website has been enhanced to include more information to assist delegates in understanding their responsibilities.

# State Officer Election Process Committee

*What changes, if any, need to be made to our State Officer Election Process to ensure that State Officers are qualified to serve Wisconsin FFA members?*

## Recommendation 1

The Committee is requesting additional information to be provided to prospective State Officer candidates through workshops, Past State Officer panels, or other opportunities to grow student knowledge.

### Action Plan

- The State FFA Officers and State Staff have revamped our State Officer Academy by making resources more accessible, consistent, and informative for potential State Officer Candidates. Three different academies will be offered to help state officer candidates understand responsibilities, the election process and any other questions they may have about running and/or serving as a state officer.
- The State Convention Workshops Committee plans to host a Past State Officer Panel during State Convention.

## Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that Wisconsin FFA investigate and address the financial and time commitments of serving as a State FFA Officer.

### Action Plan

- The State Officer Task Force is evaluating the current structure of the process and more will be shared throughout the year.
- The State FFA Officers and State Staff plan to include Past State Officer Testimonials on the "Officer Candidates" page of the website.

## Recommendation 3

There is a wide agreement that qualified applicants should be able to represent outside sections if there is no officer serving.

### Action Plan

- This procedure is already in place with a question included on the State Officer Application.
- The State Officer Task Force will take this recommendation into account when considering this topic in the future.

# CDE and LDE Participation Committee

## *How can Career and Leadership Development Events be improved to meet the needs of Wisconsin FFA's membership?*

### **Recommendation 1**

We recommend that online training be provided to event judges prior to judging.

#### **Action Plan**

- The website will be updated with additional resources and handbooks for Leadership and Career Development Events to be accessed by advisors, students, hosts and judges.
- Hosts of competitions will be provided information to continually work with judges so they are prepared for the events that are being judged. These materials are provided every year and the final responsibility of preparation is a key responsibility of those that are asked to judge. The hosts of the contest are to provide the materials to those individuals asked to judge. State Staff help to provide as many resources as possible.
- This recommendation will be forwarded to the WAAE CDE Committee and Mrs. Crook to show the need for more information, training, and resources for possible judges.

### **Recommendation 2**

The Committee proposes more incentives, including prizes and grants, be available to students competing in Career Development Events.

#### **Action Plan**

- This will be referred to the Wisconsin FFA Foundation and WAAE CDE Committee. Prizes are dependent on funding and at the current time we are using available funds for the awards presented.

### **Recommendation 3**

The Committee recommends that more Leadership Development Event workshops be provided for students and advisors (similar to the Parliamentary Procedure workshops hosted by the University of Wisconsin - River Falls).

#### **Action Plan**

- This will be referred to the LDE Task Force.

# State Convention Suggestions Committee

*How can the experience at State FFA Convention be made more engaging and interactive for all members?*

## Recommendation 1

The Committee proposes a central hub of State Convention information sources that contains dates, times, locations, and a map.

### Action Plan

- State Sentinel Brooke Wittrock is implementing this resource as part of her State Convention preparation and sentinel duties. The Wisconsin FFA also provides a State FFA Convention website where all convention information is posted as well as a State Convention App and printed program to provide information to all attendees.

## Recommendation 2

The Committee proposes increasing the number of service opportunities for members to engage in throughout State Convention.

### Action Plan

- This recommendation has been referred to the Service Committee and the State Convention Day of Service Managers. More opportunities to build beds for SHP will be implemented at the 2024 State Convention.. A survey was provided to advisors from Day of Service Manager Amelia Hayden. She is trying to find more service sites in the Madison area to fit the demand for students who want to participate in service projects.

## Recommendation 3

We recommend evaluating session order and State Convention schedule to maximise member involvement and participation.

### Action Plan

- When selecting the session order and content in December, the State Officer team and state staff took this recommendation into account. Several changes will be made for the 2024 State Convention including moving all the delegate sessions to Wednesday, starting sessions earlier on Tuesday in order to finish earlier in the evening. The State Degree Session on Wednesday afternoon will have the state degrees awarded first and then the keynote speaker will follow. Each year we evaluate the sessions to make sure that we are maximizing our time for the awards and activities that happen in each of the sessions.

# Agriculture Teacher Retention & Recruitment

*How can Wisconsin FFA promote the field of agricultural education and encourage high schoolers to pursue the career?*

## Recommendation 1

The Committee proposes that Wisconsin FFA sponsors an “Ag Teacher Appreciation” campaign on social media that encourages students to submit their advisor for recognition.

### Action Plan

- A nomination Google Form was sent to all Chapter Presidents and the advisors selected were highlighted on the FFA Association social media pages.
  - The State Officer Team implemented this recommendation with the help of State Reporter, Jescey Thompson, and State President, Mary Schrieber.

## Recommendation 2

Whereas students pursuing agriculture education don't often get to see programs outside of their home chapter, it is our recommendation to host an ag teacher mentorship exchange.

### Action Plan

- This recommendation was referred to the WAAE Teach Ag Committee. This is also something that WAAE and UW-River Falls and UW-Platteville could partner with as their focus is on teacher recruitment.

## Further Commentary

Whereas there are any students in the state of Wisconsin who are unsure about pursuing agriculture education, our recommendation is to facilitate an agriculture teacher workshop regarding experiences from teachers in the field.

### Action Plan

- For many years, the “Change Lives Teach Ag” workshop has been offered to FFA members at the State FFA Convention to learn more about what it requires to be an Ag Teacher and FFA Advisor. The WAAE Teach Ag Committee plans to continue this workshop each year at convention. Also as planning for State FFA Convention continues, this recommendation has been referred to the Workshops Committee for further exploration if there are additional opportunities that could be provided.