



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Minnesota FFA Convention Highlights Student Achievement
Members pursuing agriculture, food and natural resources gather April 28-29

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Finalists for the coveted FFA “Star” awards have been named and await the announcement of winners during the Minnesota FFA Convention scheduled for April 28-29 on the University of Minnesota campus and the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.

The naming of four Stars from among 14 finalists will top a full slate of awards to be presented to students who have excelled in agriculture, food and natural resources projects and activities in the course of their FFA membership.

Finalists for the Star designation include:

Star in AgriScience

- Chris Schafer, Grand Rapids FFA
- Marin Knott, Tracy Area FFA

Star in Agribusiness

- Adreanna Kaas, Milaca FFA
- Ole Rogness, Litchfield FFA
- Jilian Schoenfeld, Russell-Tyler-Ruthton FFA
- Eden Messerli, Gibbon Fairfax Winthrop FFA

Star Farmer

- Bryce Frericks, Albany FFA
- Abby Holtkamp, Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg FFA
- McKade Tewes, Jackson County Central FFA
- Tyler Steele, Lewiston-Altura FFA

Star in Production Placement

- Sarah Arends, Ada-Borup-West FFA
- Derik Johnson, Willmar FFA

- Samantha Henning, Jackson County Central FFA
- William Bastian, Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop FFA

The announcement of winners will take place at the University's 3M Arena at Mariucci Monday evening, April 28. Compeer Financial Services will present \$100 awards to each of the finalists as well as to 11 Region FFA Stars. The company will also recognize the four winners with \$300 awards.

FFA members receiving Star recognition are chosen from among students who reach the Minnesota FFA's highest achievement, the State Degree. More than 400 members will receive the degree during the convention.

Proficiency winners chosen for national advancement

FFA members who have reached objectives in 42 areas of agriculture, food and natural resource sciences will be recognized, with those ranked as top proficiency winners advancing to national competition.

Agriscience Fair participants in the categories of animal systems, environmental services and natural resource systems, food products and processing systems, plant systems, social science, and power, structural and technical systems will also be honored.

Convention spotlights competition and leadership

FFA members representing their local chapters will compete in 19 Career Development Events surrounding subjects ranging from forestry and food science to companion animals and farm management. Winners from the contests advance to national FFA competition.

A team of state FFA officers selected the 2025 convention theme, Stand as One, and will preside over the event's general sessions, giving retiring addresses to highlight their experiences. The final convention session concludes with naming the 2025-2026 state officer team from among candidates who go through an extensive nominating process.

Tours, workshops and a career show offered to students

The Minnesota FFA Foundation, in partnership with the Agricultural Centers of Excellence, coordinates a Career Connection event during the convention April 28, where nearly 80 companies and organizations will be on hand to visit with students.

FFA members can also tour the University's Raptor Center and Huntington Bank Stadium, as well as Gerten's and Bachman's. Workshops offered include sessions on how scientists track animals, and how cows make milk.

Chapters to be honored

Four new FFA chapters will be chartered, including Hope Lutheran FFA in Winona, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton FFA, Hendricks FFA and Monticello FFA.

Minnesota's top FFA chapter will also be named, as well as the winners in innovation, ag literacy and community service.



For more information on the Minnesota FFA State Convention, visit [MNFFA.org](https://mnffa.org), or follow Minnesota FFA on its [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

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About Minnesota FFA

FFA is a national organization developing students' potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) education with more than one million members in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Minnesota FFA Association represents more than 15,000 members and over 200 high school chapters across the state. AFNR education engages students through hands-on learning in the classroom, work-based learning opportunities known as Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects and FFA activities.

About Minnesota FFA Foundation

The Minnesota FFA Foundation hosts events to support more than 15,000 FFA members across Minnesota. The Minnesota FFA Foundation is incredibly honored to support the Minnesota FFA and thanks its donors and sponsors who make this possible. It is the mission of the Minnesota FFA Foundation to secure strategic partnerships and financial resources that promote and enhance premier leadership, personal growth and career success for Minnesota youth in AFNR education. To learn more about supporting Minnesota FFA through the Minnesota FFA Foundation at mnffaoundation.org.

About Minnesota FFA Alumni and Supporters

The Minnesota FFA Alumni and Supporters works to support more than 15,000 FFA members, through Alumni and Supporters Chapters across the state. Adult membership is open to anyone interested in supporting and promoting agriculture, agricultural education and FFA at the local, state and national level. One need not have worn the blue jacket to be a member of the FFA Alumni and Supporters, whose mission is to work to secure the promise of Agriculture Education and FFA by creating an environment where people and communities can develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. Learn more about the Minnesota FFA Alumni and Supporters at MNFFAAlumni.org. Learn more about the experiences of FFA members and supporters by visiting MNFFA.org and FFA.org.