

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FFA Winter Leadership Summit features contests, workshops *Winning FFA teams, individuals will advance to nationals*

ST. PAUL, Minn. – Nearly 250 FFA members from across Minnesota will converge on St. Cloud State University Monday, December 15, to vie for spots in national competition in Leadership Development Events (LDEs). Team and individual winners in the areas of Prepared and Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure, Ag Issues, Conduct of Chapter Meetings, Employment Skills and FFA Creed will move on to the National FFA Convention held in the fall of 2026.

Compeer Financial is a major sponsor of the Winter Leadership Summit. Compeer Financial and the Minnesota FFA Foundation work to enrich agriculture through the investment in FFA members.

The Summit also hosts the Minnesota Farm Bureau FFA Discussion Meet on Sunday evening. An invitational event for the FFA Creed will be held in Spanish, Hmong and Somali. It is made possible by a grant for Underserved Populations through the Minnesota Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) with awards sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

The LDE competitors and fellow FFA members will also participate in workshops designed to help them develop practices and records for the Supervised Agriculture Experiences (SAEs), a core part of the required and integral part of the agriculture, food and natural resources (AFNR) education component which is part of the FFA experience. The subjects covered will include ag mechanics, equine, community gardens and animal-related projects, among others.

FFA alumni and supporters will also help members who are preparing their applications for the State FFA Degree and Proficiency Awards in their chosen area of AFNR.

Local FFA chapter officers will have access to a session called C.L.I.M.B., which is the acronym for *Chapter Leaders Igniting Momentum and Brilliance*. Newly established members, known as Greenhands, will also participate in a workshop. Older members looking toward graduation will be offered a session to help them prepare scholarship applications, sponsored by the Minnesota FFA Foundation.

Minnesota's pork, beef, dairy and turkey sectors will join the Summit as well, presenting Livestock Quality Assurance information session along with up-to-date agriculture information. The Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council is providing support for chapter travel to St. Cloud.

The Winter Leadership Summit is complementary to the Minnesota FFA State Convention held in April, where Career Development Events (CDEs) are held to select national competitors.

“The Summit highlights the work these students have already done in their leadership areas but also provides the resources that will help them continue down their agriculture education path,” said Natasha Mortenson, Minnesota FFA career and alumni coordinator. “The partnership Minnesota FFA has with the agricultural commodity organizations shows collective effort put towards growing the next generation of agricultural leaders.”

For more information on the Minnesota FFA Leadership Conference, visit [MNFFA.org](https://mnffa.org), or follow Minnesota FFA on its [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) 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 1 million members in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Minnesota FFA Association represents nearly 16,000 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 nearly 16,000 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 the nearly 16,000 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](https://mnffa.org) and [FFA.org](https://ffa.org).