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Minnesota FFA Announces New State Leadership Conference

State Leadership Development Events (LDE) moved to St. Cloud December 9-10

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota FFA will bring more than 250 students to St. Cloud December 9-10 for its first State Leadership Conference, a move that begins to address the challenge of meeting its growing membership needs during April's Minnesota State FFA Convention.

The new conference includes the organization's Leadership Development Event (LDE) contests in Extemporaneous and Prepared Public Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure, Conduct of Chapter Meetings, Employment Skills, Creed Speaking and Spanish Creed Speaking. Both the preliminary and final competitions will take place December 9, with awards given that evening.

The Minnesota Farm Bureau FFA Discussion Meet and the Ag Issues LDEs will take place December 10.

"We are excited about focusing on leadership during this new event," said Natasha Mortensen, Minnesota FFA career and alumni coordinator. "Many other state FFA organizations have conferences like this at a different time than their state convention, and we are committed to making this change for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years."

Renovations scheduled at one of the Minnesota FFA State Convention's primary locations, the Minnesota State Fair's Warner Coliseum, helped accelerate the move, but Mortensen said it also speaks to the organization's focus on leadership and serving its growing membership.

"With this model, we can offer various workshops for which there was limited time during the convention," she said. "We can also shorten the schedule for the spring convention to better accommodate chapters. We also are giving members another college-type experience by involving St. Cloud State University and St. Cloud Technical and Community College."

In addition to the LDEs, the conference will include elements of previous Habits to Own (H2O) and Providing Officers with Essential Resources (POWER) events, along with a Middle School FFA Conference.

Scheduled workshops at St. Cloud State University (SCSU) include introducing the college's biology department, doing hands-on activities at its Department of Environmental and Technological Studies, and visiting its planetarium. A presenter from the SCSU Career Development and Outreach Center will work with students on developing resumes.

At the St. Cloud Technical and Community College, students can operate a robot, experiment with virtual simulators and test a 3D scanner.

A Tuesday morning session will include Minnesota's dairy, beef, pork and poultry representatives offering industry background and each commodity's quality assurance training.

Past state FFA officers and award winners will present workshops to prepare State FFA Degree applications and to inspire members to fully embrace their FFA experience. Current state FFA officers will provide a Fun Fest for students.

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 the 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 and FFA.org.