



# E-NEWS NOW

SPRING 2017 • VOLUME 1



## Schedule Snapshot

Thursday, April 20

- 10:00 a.m. Registration Opens
- 12:00 p.m. Leadership Workshops
- 12:00 p.m. Delegate Orientation and Business Session (check in begins at 11:00 a.m)
- 1:00 p.m. Leadership Workshops
- 2:00 p.m. First General Session
- 6:00 p.m. Second General Session

Friday, April 21

- 7:00 a.m. Career Development Events
- 8:00 a.m. Registration Opens
- 9:00 a.m. Agriculture Teachers Meeting
- 9:00 a.m. FFA Career Show Opens
- 9:15 a.m. Leadership Workshops
- 10:30 a.m. State FFA Alumni Convention
- 10:30 a.m. Leadership Workshops
- 1:30 p.m. Third General Session
- 5:30 p.m. State FFA Chorus Concert
- 6:00 p.m. Fourth General Session

## Career Development Events

Thursday, April 20

- 8:30 a.m. Agricultural Issues Prelims, FFA Creed Speaking
- 11:00 a.m. Floriculture, Poultry, Soils, Agronomy, Livestock
- 11:30 a.m. Horses
- 11:45 a.m. Nursery/Landscaping Dairy Foods
- 12:45 p.m. Farm Management Entomology
- 1:00 p.m. Agricultural Issues Finals
- 6:00 p.m. FFA Knowledge

Friday, April 21

- 7:45 a.m. Agricultural Mechanics
- 8:00 a.m. Agricultural Sales, Forestry, Dairy Cattle, Meats, Parliamentary Procedure, Conduct of Chapter Meetings, Division I Public Speaking, Job Interview, Extemporaneous Speaking, Advanced Public Speaking
- 10:00 a.m. Division II Public Speaking

## Embrace Change, Respect Tradition

By Leon Busdieker  
State FFA Advisor



abilities in career skills, work-based learning and communication.

Thousands of blue corduroy jackets will descend on Columbia, Missouri, to compete in career and leadership development events. Many will be recognized for excellence in work-based learning programs such as ag entrepreneurship, ag placement, agribusiness and agri-science.

We always look at this convention as the culmination of a school year full of hard work. In the career development events, students have been training to compete in areas such as soils, meats, agricultural mechanics, and forestry. The knowledge and skills acquired by students through these competitions will prepare our young men and women for more than 300 various careers in agriculture.

On April 20, we gather to celebrate and showcase the accomplishments of hundreds of Missouri FFA members. The *Success Ready* students crossing the stage for these two days are young men and women who have displayed outstanding

In the work-based category, FFA members combine their academic and technical skills in a real world application. Whether working in agribusiness, production agriculture, starting their own agribusiness, or agri-science research, these projects provide numerous opportunities for success. Students gain valuable experience while earning money and recognition through proficiency awards, star awards and state degrees.

Through leadership development events, students can participate in five different public speaking contests, parliamentary procedure and debate current agricultural issues. These competitions allow FFA members to demonstrate skills they have learned through classroom instruction. These skills can, in turn, be used to enhance their employability in the professional world.

The celebration of these achievements will be shared by more than 8,000 young men and women. For some, it will be the culmination of four years of hard work, while for others it will be their first chance to see the opportunities available to them for the next three years through their involvement in FFA. No matter which category they might find themselves in, it will truly be an experience to remember.



Missouri FFA Convention  
April 20-21 • Columbia

## At a Glance...

- New Chapters >>> 2**  
Welcome Kearney and Spokane.
- State Degree Recipients >>> 761**
- Proficiency Awards >>> 635**
- Honorary State Degrees >>> 25**
- National Chapter Applications >>> 49**

## Get Convention Info Online

[missouriffa.org](http://missouriffa.org)  
<https://dese.mo.gov>

## Career Show

Friday, April 21  
9:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m.  
Hearnes Center Field House



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## Call to Convention

By Colton Spencer  
Missouri FFA President

Missouri FFA State Convention: Considerably the busiest time of year for FFA chapters across the state. Chapters have worked day and night to perfect their skills and knowledge for career and leadership development events.



I can remember my first experience at state convention. I was eight years old, and my only task was to help save seats on the floor of the Hearnes Center for my Dad's Aurora FFA students. As a young kid, I can remember the music thumping and lights flashing throughout the arena. I can remember each member seeming as if they were having the time of their life meeting new friends from all across our state. The passion for the FFA organization was starting to build within me as I sat with my parents and watched the state officers coordinate every session. I loved watching each member's reaction as he or she received an award, sought after for all year. I loved seeing the passion for agriculture that every single member in the blue corduroy jacket possessed. Above all, I loved the feeling that I was in a huge family.

As an FFA member in high school, my favorite event was always state convention. Every time I attended a session I was reminded of how amazing our organization truly is. As you find yourself sitting in a seat in the Hearnes Center April 20 and 21, I hope you have the same thoughts and feelings that I had as a young kid. Whether you are a first-year member or maybe this is your last convention, you will always be reminded of how impactful the FFA organization is as you spend your time with 26,000 other FFA members from across our state. Enjoy your time in Columbia as we "Embrace Change and Respect Tradition" at the 2017 Missouri FFA State Convention.

## FFA Food Insecurity Service Day at Missouri State Fair

Missouri FFA will partner with the Missouri State Fair and Missouri Farmers Care this August to help bring awareness to state-wide hunger.

FFA members will work with the Meals of Hope Organization to pack 50,000 meals for The Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri on Tues., Aug. 15 during the state fair.

The event brings FFA and state agricultural groups together to help members embrace the line in the FFA Motto, "Living to Serve."

Chapters are invited and encouraged to bring members to assist with meal packaging and other events that day. For details on how you can help, contact the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education at 573-751-8578.

## Convention Guest Speakers

First Session • Thursday • 2:00 p.m.

First Session • Thursday • 2:00 p.m.



**Ashley Willits**

National FFA Eastern  
Region Vice President

Willits is a student at Tarleton State University, majoring in agricultural education. She is a member of Lowville FFA in New York, where her SAE experiences have been in diversified livestock production, agricultural processing and outdoor recreation. Willits was elected to the 2016-17 National FFA Officer Team at the 89th National FFA Convention & Expo.



**Chris Chinn**

Director of Missouri  
Department of Agriculture

Chinn was named director in January 2017 by Missouri Governor Eric Greitens. She resides on her family's farm in Shelby County with her husband, Kevin, and her two children. Chinn helps manage the family's farrow-to-finish hog operation, as well as their family feed mill. The Chinn's also have a small cow-calf herd, in addition to raising corn, soybeans and alfalfa.

Second Session • Thursday • 6:00 p.m.

Fourth Session • Friday • 6:00 p.m.



**Dr. Margie Vandeven**

Missouri Commissioner of Education

Vandeven was appointed Missouri's sixth Commissioner of Education by the State Board of Education in December 2014. She is passionate about ensuring Missouri students are prepared for post-secondary success after leaving the PK-12 system. Vandeven and her husband, David, reside in Foristell.



**Kyle Schelle**

Motivational Youth Speaker

Scheele is an inspiring speaker, writer and youth expert who has challenged thousands of teens across the nation to live better stories. When he's not on stage, Kyle is at home in Springfield, Missouri, where he lives with his wife Lindsay and their three children.