



MISSOURI FFA Foundation

QUARTERLY IMPACT REPORT

>>> DIRECTOR'S REMARKS



Miles, smiles, handshakes, and presentations...those four words rather accurately sum up the Missouri FFA Foundation's spring. In March, Foundation board members and I traveled across the state surprising teachers who were selected as our Golden Owl finalists. Along the way, we met new sponsors and checked in on long time supporters. **In April, schools** serving thirteen counties in Missouri, **were awarded almost \$183,000 in grants** for projects that will improve greenhouse operations, ag mech and welding programs. Other funded projects will build food science and meat labs. Some support integrated instruction such as garden/field to plate projects.

Student achievements were celebrated at the Missouri FFA State Convention. A new class of state officers made their leadership pledges then too! Meanwhile, students who had received SAE Grants from the Foundation in the winter submitted their project reports. Keep an eye on our social media series, See It Saturday, for pictures and videos highlighting these projects. Missouri FFA's yearly leadership trainings launched in late April. Leadership training continued as a primary focus in May (and will be throughout the summer).

As always, thank you to our donors and supporters who make all of these activities possible!

Make sure you **check out the Missouri Ag Ed Savings Pass!** It's a mobile app that will help you save money in your local community, throughout the state, across the country, and even around the world, while benefitting Missouri Ag Ed.

Heather Dimitt-Fletcher
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Missouri FFA Foundation Executive Director

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE >>> GOLDEN OWL FINALISTS

Jack Green, Nick Norwald, Jon Wilson, Kristy Sivils, Shelby Haag, Jarred Sayre, and Johnny Viebrock were recognized as finalists for this year's Golden Owl Award. Each were surprised with a ceremony at their school where they received a \$500 cash prize in honor of their commitment to improving the quality of ag education in Missouri, their belief in the future of ag, and their dedication to shaping the industry's workforce. Our deepest appreciation goes to Nationwide Insurance and FCS Financial as the sponsors of the program!

March



April



NURTURING INNOVATION >>> 2026 AGRISCIENCE FAIR

Missouri FFA's Agriscience Fair was held on April 11 in Columbia, Missouri. More than 120 students presented 85 research projects in the pathways of Power, Structures & Technical Systems, Social Science, Plant Systems, Food Products & Processing Systems, Environmental Sciences & Natural Resources Systems, and Animal Science. Winners were recognized on stage at the state convention.

Thank you to the presenting sponsor BTC Bank!

CELEBRATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

MOFFA STATE CONVENTION

More than 10,000 people attended the Missouri FFA State Convention held April 15-17. The Foundation's first endowed memorial scholarship was awarded to Joann Rhea of Sweet Springs, while 24 FFA Members received Proficiency Plus Scholarships. On that Thursday, we hosted the Past State Officer & Sponsor Reception for more than 150 attendees. Deepest gratitude to all of our state convention sponsors who can be found [here](#).



INVESTING IN FUTURE LEADERS

MISSOURI AG ED SAVINGS APP

Like having a discount when you go out to dinner? Looking for a good deal at Home Depot? Planning to attend a concert or any Royals' or Cardinals' games this summer? If you travel, attend sporting events, visit amusement parks, shop, or eat out, there's a way you can save money AND support Missouri Ag Education. We're excited to partner with Advocate for Agriculture to launch a membership savings app with options for everyone. Find out more [here](#).



PLANTING NEW IDEAS

2026 GOLDEN OWL

Jarred Sayre was named Missouri's Ag Educator of the Year at the Missouri FFA State Convention. He received the coveted Golden Owl trophy and a \$3,000 cash prize!

After obtaining his bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Missouri, Jarred started his career in Clark County, returning to his alma mater in Milan, where he has taught for the last 26 years. He's a leader in his school and community, serving on numerous committees with multiple organizations. A staunch advocate for all aspects of ag ed, Jarred's goal is to help each of his students find the path that's best for them to achieve their dreams.



May

DEVELOPING LEADERS

MISSOURI FFA STATE OFFICERS BLAST OFF!

The week before Memorial Day, the new cohort of Missouri FFA State Officers gathered for Blast Off! During this initial training for their team, they learn more about their duties and how to be effective advocates for Missouri agricultural education. Our Foundation Executive Director joined the group to present an overview of the Foundation, lead them through an active team building exercise, and discussed ways they can communicate the Foundation's mission.



CULTIVATING THE NEXT GEN

➤➤➤ LEAD CONFERENCES

Almost 900 officers from Missouri FFA chapters across the state gathered together at eight different Lead Conferences held from May 26-29! The conferences, facilitated by previous state officers, offer chapter officers an opportunity to jumpstart their year of service. They explore ways they can work together as a team to set goals, engage with stakeholders, market their chapter, and create the year's plan.



PLANTING NEW IDEAS

➤➤➤ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Investment in teacher professional development is one of the Foundation's priorities. Twenty-one teachers went "back to school" as soon as their classes were out to enhance their own plant science knowledge. An Advanced Floral Design Institute was held at the University of Missouri-Columbia on May 27-28. On May 29, Mary Leykamp hosted a Plant Propagation for Beginners workshop at Montgomery County High School. Approximately, 520 students will benefit from the teachers' upgraded skills next school year.



YOU'RE INVITED!

Alumni & Supporters Reunion

August 15, 2026

Missouri State Fairgrounds

Taylor Woods Building

4:00-6:00 p.m.

TO RSVP BY AUGUST 7, SCAN HERE:



OR VISIT:

[HTTPS://DONORBOX.ORG/EVENTS/913877](https://donorbox.org/events/913877)

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