

**Have you ever thought...**



**"Someone should DO something about this????"**

**Yeah. Us, too.**

**Minnesota FFA's Ag Policy Experience is returning in March, 2020 - and is a great place for young leaders looking for solutions. This two night conference in Saint Paul uses key influencers and hands-on experiences to help students develop confidence and ability regarding the development and execution of the policies and processes that shape agriculture, education and more.**

**When:** March 1-3, 2020 (March 3rd will also be FFA Day at the Capitol). Chapters can pick their APEX students up at the Day at the Capitol while giving additional students an advocacy experience.

**Where:** Saint Paul, MN. (Lodging and registration will be at the Drury Inn)

**What:** Two nights and three days with FFA and agricultural leaders from throughout Minnesota. Past experiences have included receptions with key legislators, connection with agricultural and government mentors & the opportunity to meet with the Governor! Details about the 2020 conference are still under construction.

**Who:** High school FFA leaders with an interest in government or policy.

**Cost:** \$100 - includes hotel lodging and 5 meals.

**Register by January 17 at**

<https://form.jotform.com/93074588718168>

Registration will be confirmed by State FFA Staff and subsequent payment can be submitted to the Minnesota FFA Office at: P.O. Box 130354, Roseville, MN 55113.

Registered students will receive additional information about schedule, dress code & conference responsibilities after they have been confirmed as participants in the 2020 Ag Policy Experience.

*In the event registration exceeds the capacity of our venues, priority will be given to students who have not previously attended and to those from underrepresented areas of the state.*

**AG POLICY**  
*experience*

## Ag Policy Experience Objectives

Students will:

- Understand advocacy as “communicating and acting on behalf of something about which we are knowledgeable, experienced and passionate.”
  - Develop a personal brand as it relates to their place in agriculture and FFA and their vision for the future.
  - Identify and implement communication strategies for use in advocacy
  - Gain experience sharing their agricultural advocacy story with peers, agriculturalists and legislators.
  - Examine personal habits and how they affect our credibility and influence.
- Understand and engage in the legislative process in Minnesota.
  - Understand the flow of an issue from citizen/industry to law.
  - Recognize key components of lawmaking in which non-legislators may have significant roles (committee hearings/public testimonies)
  - Understand the dynamic of power and influence (majority vs minority) in lawmaking.
- Develop greater understanding of the issues currently facing Minnesota agriculture.
  - Interact with agricultural leaders about current issues being proposed for legislative attention.
  - Generate a list of topics agricultural advocates must be knowledgeable about in order to be credible.
  - Learn how agriculture responds to crisis issues in the public eye.
- Understand the role they play in advocacy as FFA leaders on the local and state level.
  - Develop take home advocacy messages about agricultural issues that can be used on local, state and national level.
  - Revisit the concept of advocacy that includes ‘acting on behalf of something.’ Identify ways chapters can act on the local level to support agricultural or educational issues.
  - Explore the idea of advocacy and leadership on the chapter or state association level - leaders do not just ask for change, they assess the health of their organization and take action.
  - Understand the purpose of FFA Day at the Capitol and receive clear instructions about their role in the day.