



What It Takes

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### **State FFA Convention Begins in Minneapolis**

*Session Highlights: Chapter Charters, Hall of Fame Inductees, Region Presidents, Alison Murrell and Miriana Eiden Retiring Addresses*

MINNEAPOLIS – (April 21, 2024) Minnesota’s 95th State FFA Convention opened tonight at 3M Arena at Mariucci in Minneapolis with the theme *Achieve. What It Takes*. The opening session featured chapter charters, Agriscience Fair awards, Hall of Fame induction, and region president recognition. The session was preceded by preliminary Leadership Development Events and a reception for FFA alumni.

Retiring State FFA Reporter, Miriana Eiden from the Buffalo chapter, gave the first of six retiring addresses from the 2023-2024 officer team which are scheduled during the course of the convention. Eiden spoke about positivity and perseverance in her retiring address titled, “Fill Your Cup.”

“Being positive doesn’t mean you don’t have negative thoughts, it means you don’t let those thoughts control your life,” said Eiden.

Additionally, retiring State FFA Secretary, Alison Murrell from the Braham chapter, presented her retiring address during tonight’s opening session. Murrell spoke on overcoming challenges during her retiring address titled, “Driven to Discover.”

“A challenge is a challenge for a reason, and we are driven to have the courage to overcome them and encourage others to do the same,” said Murrell.

#### **Five FFA chapter charters signed**

Since the last state convention, five new chapters have been chartered. This brings the number of chapters statewide to 218, leading to over 15,000 FFA members enrolled in food, agriculture and natural resource classes.

The five newly chartered chapters are:

- Anoka-Hennepin.
- Henning.

- Lake Park Audubon.
- North Branch.
- Northfield.

### **Hall of Fame inductees honored**

Minnesota FFA inducted six individuals into the Hall of Fame for their support and dedication to state FFA initiatives and agricultural education. These six individuals have joined the other 239 previous Hall of Fame inductees.

This year's Hall of Fame Inductees are:

- Corynn Flood, Cokato, FFA supporter.
- Jean Johnson, York, North Dakota, FFA supporter.
- Dr. Sally Noll, St. Paul, FFA supporter.
- Keith Place, Okabena, retired agricultural educator.
- Nathan Purrington, Ada, agricultural educator.
- Russ Runck, Watertown, former agricultural educator and FFA supporter.

### **Agriscience Fair awards presented**

The top three projects from two categories of the Agriscience Fair were recognized. First to be recognized was the Food Products and Processing Systems pathway.

Division One winners, which recognize individual researchers in grades seven or eight, included:

- First place, Greta Adamski, Academy for Sciences and Agriculture.
- Second place, Rayah Toles, Academy for Sciences and Agriculture.

Division Two winners, which recognize pairs of researchers in grades seven and eight, included:

- First place, Judge Getchell and Aiyana Sheets, Academy for Sciences and Agriculture.
- Second place, Michael Weinhagen and Isaac Ross, Academy for Sciences and Agriculture.

Division Three winners, recognizing individual researchers in grades nine or 10, were:

- First place, Cayden Urmann, Academy for Sciences and Agriculture.
- Second place, Anna Klein, Academy for Sciences and Agriculture.
- Third place, Jasmine Fleming, Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial.

Division Four winners, which recognize pairs of researchers in grades nine or 10, were:

- First place, Sarah Bauer and Alistar VanDemark, Academy for Sciences and Agriculture.
- Second place, Rose Day and Sarah Erwin, Academy for Sciences and Agriculture.

- Third place, Charlie Molenaar and Shane Froehlich, Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg.

Division Five winners, recognizing individual researchers in grades 11 or 12, were:

- First place, Joseph Norlander, Academy for Sciences and Agriculture.
- Second place, Andy Bustamante, Academy for Sciences and Agriculture.
- Third place, Navi Brown, Academy for Sciences and Agriculture.

Division Six winners, recognize pairs of researchers in grades 11 or 12, were:

- First place, Reid Ellis-Cramer and Miranda Klein, Academy for Sciences and Agriculture.

The Social Systems pathway was also recognized during the session.

Social Systems pathways winners in Division Two, recognizing pairs of researchers in grade seven and eight, included:

- First place, Grant Slininger and Ava Cox, Rockford Middle.

Division Four winners, recognizing pairs of researchers in grade nine and 10, were:

- First place, Emily McGinty and Bailey Ohren, Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg.

Division Six winners, recognizing pairs of researchers in grades 11 or 12 were:

- First place, Ericka Sanchez and Daniela Giron, Academy for Sciences and Agriculture.

### **Retiring region presidents recognized**

Retiring region FFA presidents were recognized for their leadership in the opening session. They included:

- Annabelle Begg, Region I, Norman County East.
- Torri Gunderson, Region II, Grand Rapids.
- Kaitlin Reitmeier, Region III, ROCORI.
- Travis Boyle, Region IV, Foley.
- Lauren Dolezal, Region V, Redwood Valley.
- Mary Lanoue, Region VI, Marshall.
- Molly Niederegger, Region VII, Mankato.
- Natalie Clemenson, Region VIII, Zumbrota-Mazeppa.

New in 2024, all convention attendees including adults will be required to be registered and display a button to access the convention Monday and Tuesday, April 22-23. Guests should pre register [here](#) or onsite for \$10 per session.

The Minnesota FFA Convention is offered in partnership by the Minnesota FFA Association, the Minnesota FFA Foundation and the Minnesota FFA Alumni and Supporters. Throughout the convention, content is available on the Minnesota FFA website, the Minnesota FFA YouTube Channel, on the organization's Facebook, Twitter

and Instagram pages and on the convention app, which will be live just before the convention begins. Find the link on the Minnesota FFA website.

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**Editor's Note:** Publicly available photos of award winners and honorees can be found [here](#). Photos will be updated on a rolling basis.

### **About Minnesota FFA**

FFA is a national organization developing students' potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through AFNR education with more than 800,000 members in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Minnesota FFA Association represents nearly 15,000 members and over 210 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 will be hosting additional events to support the nearly 15,000 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](http://mnffaoundation.org).

### **About Minnesota FFA Alumni and Supporters**

The Minnesota FFA Alumni and Supporters works to support the nearly 15,000 FFA members, through 73 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](http://MNFFAAlumni.org).

Learn more about the experiences of FFA members and supporters by visiting [MnFFA.org](http://MnFFA.org) and [FFA.org](http://FFA.org).