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**2026-2027 FFA State Officer team takes reins at final session, Career Development Event winners advance to national competition**

*Nominating committee recognized, chapter awards, and retiring address from Hailey Chambers*

MINNEAPOLIS — (April 21, 2026) The 2026-2027 Minnesota State FFA officer team was announced at the organization's state convention in Minneapolis today. The Minnesota FFA officer team this year will be:

- President: Luke McCrea, Bethlehem Academy
- Vice President: Mattea Quigley, Randolph
- Secretary: Anna Sievert, Glencoe-Silver Lake
- Treasurer: Edward Winters, Zumbrota-Mazeppa
- Reporter: Ella Aarsvold, Kasson-Mantorville
- Sentinel: Aidyn Brutger, Eden Valley-Watkins

The new officer team was revealed at the final session of the 97th Minnesota FFA Convention. The six students now begin a year of leading the organization's activities surrounding agriculture, food and natural resource education.

Session four was sponsored by Pembina. The new state officer jackets were sponsored by Paul and Val Aarsvold.

The session also included the announcement of Career Development Event winners, scholarship recipients, Land of Service winners, Agriculture Literacy winners and a retiring address from Hailey Chambers.

**Land of Service**

In this program, chapters from across the state of Minnesota plan and conduct projects, then submit service hours to be recognized during the State Convention. Chapters that applied for this

award volunteered for a total of over 15,000 hours. In the Land of Service category, sponsored by Mike Balek and Mary Buschette, winners were:

- First Place: Sleepy Eye FFA
- Second Place: Princeton FFA
- Third Place: Glencoe-Silver Lake FFA

### **Agriculture Literacy**

The Minnesota FFA Agricultural Literacy Challenge is a program that encourages FFA chapters to teach others about agriculture. The 19 chapters that applied reached over 100,000 people with their Ag Literacy efforts this past year. In the Agricultural Literacy category, sponsored by Minnesota Ag in the Classroom, winners were:

- First Place: Sleepy Eye FFA
- Second Place: Glencoe-Silver Lake FFA
- Third Place: Frazee Vergas FFA

### **Recognition of Nominating Committee members**

Eight FFA members served on the nominating committee for the 2026-2027 state officer team, along with student chairs and adult representatives. They have been working since early March to prepare for the process of selecting the next state officer team and have spent their convention time interviewing and evaluating candidates. They have worked diligently to slate a team for the next year. These individuals include:

- FFA Members:
  - Lucey Minten, Perham FFA
  - Jake Siltala, Sebeka FFA
  - Allison Ratka, ROCORI FFA
  - Wyatt Glessing, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted FFA
  - Bianca Forsberg, Litchfield FFA
  - Katelyn Runge, St. James FFA
  - Eden Messerli, Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop FFA
  - Katie Roberts, Hayfield FFA
- Student Chairs
  - Cole Sundeen, former Minnesota FFA state officer
  - Lauren Stoel, former Minnesota FFA state officer
- Adult Representatives
  - Amanda Cook, Minnesota FFA Board of Directors
  - Rich Larson, Minnesota FFA Board of Directors
  - Amanda Ziedler, Minnesota FFA Alumni and Supporters Board of Directors
  - Eleora Mathiowetz, Minnesota FFA Board of Directors

### **Career Development Event placings announced**

Several thousand FFA members who competed and placed in 20 Career Development and Invitational Events during the convention were recognized. The winners were named for each event, with many moving on to compete at the national convention. While announced as follows, placings are not final until one week following the convention.

Winners announced are:

- Agricultural Communications, sponsored by Steve and Carolyn Koziolk
  - Team: Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted FFA
  - Individual: Arianna Grosshuesch, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted FFA
- Agricultural Education, sponsored by Minnesota Teach Ag
  - Team: St. Paul Highland Park FFA
- Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems, sponsored by John Deere Dealerships-Kibble Equipment and Midwest Machinery
  - Team: Holdingford FFA
  - Individual: Ben Capistran, Crookston FFA
- Agronomy, sponsored by Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council
  - Team: Maple River FFA
  - Individual: Kathryn Wassman, Mountain Lake FFA
- Agricultural Sales, sponsored by Crystal Farms
  - Team: Maple River FFA
  - Individual: Emmary Birhanzl, Montevideo FFA
- Best Informed Greenhand, sponsored by Dr. Curtis Youngs
  - Team: Sleepy Eye FFA
  - Individual: Ella Capistran, Crookston FFA
- Companion Animal Science, sponsored by Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation
  - Team: Westbrook-Walnut Grove FFA
  - Individual: Matthew Lee, GFW-Pioneer Express FFA
- Dairy Evaluation, sponsored by AMPI
  - Team: Fillmore Central FFA
  - Individual: Maggie Wingert, Fillmore Central FFA
- Farm Business Management, sponsored by John Deere Company
  - Team: Russell-Tyler-Ruthton FFA
  - Individual: Michael McCorkell, Martin County West FFA
- Fish and Wildlife Management, sponsored by Minnesota FFA Foundation
  - Team: Maple River FFA
  - Individual: Payton Kuhns, Maple River FFA
- Floriculture, sponsored by Bachman's
  - Team: Fillmore Central FFA
  - Individual: Grace Kingsley, Fillmore Central FFA
- Food Science and Technology, sponsored by Midwest Dairy
  - Team: Menahga FFA
  - Individual: Tess Isaacson, Menahga FFA
- Forestry, sponsored by the Department of Forest Resources, University of Minnesota
  - Team: Menahga FFA
  - Individual: Lydia Vandermay, Sebeka FFA

- Horse Evaluation, sponsored by Minnesota Horse Council
  - Team: Fillmore Central FFA
  - Individual: Elyzah Erickson, Mankato FFA
- Livestock Evaluation, sponsored by Central Livestock Association
  - Team: Tracy Area FFA
  - Individual: Mason Fruechte, Pipestone Area FFA
- Marketing Plan, sponsored by Red River Farm Network
  - Team: Windom FFA
- Meats Evaluation and Technology, sponsored by Blondie's Butcher Shop
  - Team: Lakeview FFA
  - Individual: Teegan Fiene, Lakeview FFA
- Milk Quality and Products, sponsored by South Dakota State University - Dairy and Food Science Department
  - Team: Sleepy Eye FFA
  - Individual: Claire Hoefs, Tri-City United FFA
- Nursery and Landscape, sponsored by Bailey Nurseries
  - Team: Maple River FFA
  - Individual: Tanner Glessing, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted FFA
- Poultry Evaluation, sponsored by Minnesota Turkey Council
  - Team: Sleepy Eye FFA
  - Individual: Annabel Coudron, Marshall FFA
- Soils, sponsored by CF Industries Foundation
  - Team: Westbrook-Walnut Grove FFA
  - Individual: Leah Carter, Westbrook-Walnut Grove FFA
- Talent, sponsored by Ruth Meirick
  - Kylee Miner, Isle FFA
- Veterinary Science, sponsored by GEAPS
  - Team: Russell-Tyler-Ruthton FFA
  - Individual: Sam Mattson, Glencoe-Silver Lake FFA

### **State Treasurer gives retiring address**

Retiring State FFA Treasurer Hailey Chambers from the Medford FFA shared her retiring address. "We should not become so focused on the future that we forget we are in the middle of what we wished for right now," said Chambers.

### **Retiring state officer team parent recognition**

The parents of the retiring 2025-2026 state officer team were recognized for their unwavering support over the past year. These individuals include:

- Matt and Leah Addington, Cannon Falls
- April and Bill VonBerge, Hutchinson
- Darrel and Heidi Terning, Darwin
- Betsy and Jay Chambers, Medford
- Scott and Samantha Runge, St. James

- Steve and Christine Hunt, Willmar

For more information on the Minnesota FFA State Convention, visit [MNFFA.org](https://mnffa.org), or follow Minnesota FFA on its [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

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**Editor's Note:** Photos are available [here](#). Additional photos will be shared as sessions and recognition occur.

### **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 one million members in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Minnesota FFA Association represents just over 16,000 members and over 200 high school chapters. 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 more than 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](https://mnffaoundation.org).

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

The Minnesota FFA Alumni and Supporters works to support more than 16,000 FFA members, through Alumni and Supporters Chapters. 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](https://MNFFAAlumni.org). Learn more about the experiences of FFA members and supporters by visiting [MNFFA.org](https://MNFFA.org) and [FFA.org](https://FFA.org).