



## Minnesota FFA 2025 STATE FFA CONVENTION

# Workshop Descriptions

### How to write a program of activities

- Dr. Michael Martin, professor of Ag Ed at U of MN Crookston, has a passion for developing well-rounded active FFA chapters. He was an advisor in a diverse FFA chapter that was a two-time 3 Star National FFA Chapter in just its 1st two years of existence. Dr. Martin is a published expert of designing whole agricultural education programs. He emphasizes developing FFA activities which can be conducted in class and infuses SAE ideas for maximum participation and effect. This workshop is for any FFA member seeking to learn how to take their events to the next level and ensure they are adaptable for all. More so, this engaging, discussion-based workshop will allow FFA members to go back to their local chapter and start implementing the skills they learned here.
- Presented by Dr. Martin, U of MN Crookston

### Service Learning Come and Go

- The Sleepy Eye FFA chapter has a strong tradition of giving back to its local community and state in a wide range of community service events. The last two years, the Sleepy Eye FFA chapter has offered this Service-Learning workshop to any FFA member to come and take part in giving back to others. During this time, FFA members will be making cards and posters for nursing homes. This opportunity is open to all and is a come and go event.

### Attitude of gratitude

- Workshop Title: *An Attitude of Gratitude* - In this workshop, we'll explore the power of cultivating gratitude in our fast-paced world that constantly rewards instant gratification. Participants will investigate how to develop a mindset of appreciation, slow down, and pause from constantly comparing themselves and their situation to everything and everyone else. Through activities and discussion, we'll discover how gratitude can improve well-being, strengthen relationships, and lead to more joy, even in a fast-paced, always-on culture. Join us to build a deeper sense of thankfulness in your everyday life.
- Presented by *Jason Troendle* - Jason grew up in southeast MN in Saint Charles involved in agriculture. As an active member in FFA, Jason had the opportunity to serve as an officer at the local, regional, state and national level. Jason has a strong background and love for agricultural economics and worked in the industry as a consultant, director of market intelligence, and a lead economist for numerous agricultural organizations across the county. Jason is now working alongside family as a financial adviser serving the rural southeast MN community. He has a passion for student and leadership development and giving back to the organization that has shaped his development and helped to set him up for success.



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### **The Global Farmer Experience**

- Join us for The Global Farmer Experience an interactive simulation game based on the challenges facing farmers in developing countries. Find out how you will fare when faced with the kind of difficult decisions farmers must make every day in the developing world and learn how you and your FFA chapter can make a difference to create lasting solutions to hunger.
- Presented by Mark Swanson, Regional Director of Growing Hope Globally

### **Purposeful Pivoting**

- In life, we all encounter moments when we feel stuck in a rut, unsure of how to move forward. This workshop is designed to explore the tangible steps we can take to pivot, shift our mindset, and effectively lead ourselves and others through challenging times. Let's dive into actionable strategies for growth and transformation through Purposeful Pivoting.
- Presented by national FFA officer Caroline Groth

### **Ideal Team Player! Anytime works for me.**

- What makes someone a great teammate—in school, sports, or any group? In this interactive workshop, we'll explore *The Ideal Team Player* by Patrick Lencioni and break down the three key traits of a strong team member: **Humble, Hungry, and People Smart**. Through real-life examples, group activities, and discussion, students will:
  - ✓ Learn what it means to be a great teammate in school, sports, and friendships
  - ✓ Recognize how these traits help build stronger teams and relationships
  - ✓ Discover ways to grow in these skills to stand out in leadership and future careersWhether you're part of a club, a sports team, or a group project, learning to be the "ideal team player" will set you up for success now and in the future!
- Presented by Emma Wentz, Employment Skills Industry Chair with Superior Industries Inc.

## Tour Descriptions

### **Tour Bachman's Greenhouse**

- Learn and see all that Bachman's greenhouse has to offer.

### **Tour Gertens'**

- Learn and see all that Gertens' has to offer.

### **Controlled Environment Plant Sciences**

- Description:

### **From Microbes to Milk: Understanding the science of Rumen Fermentation**



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- Take a tour of the Salfer Rumen Fermentation Lab and see how we use artificial rumens to study dairy cow nutrition, physiology, and rumen microbiology. In our lab we're exploring how to help cows make more milk with less feed.

### **A Tour of Food Technology**

- Participants will get to tour the UMN pilot plant, where they'll see first-hand how food is made at production scale. They will also get to see how foods are analyzed and evaluated for nutritional and sensory quality. Explore how agricultural products are transformed into the foods we eat!
- Presented by the Department of Food Science and Nutrition

### **St. Paul Campus Tours**

- Explore the CFANS campus with current undergraduate students. Step into the shoes of a student and see the hands-on learning facilities our programs have to offer. Tour will include a look at the animal barns, plant growth facilities and/or the pilot plant.
- Presented by the CFANS Ambassadors

### **Raptor Center Tour**

- Established in 1974, The Raptor Center specializes in the medical care, rehabilitation, and conservation of eagles, hawks, owls, and falcons. In addition to treating approximately 800 birds a year, the internationally known program reaches more than 150,000 people each year through public education programs and events, provides training in raptor medicine and surgery for veterinarians from around the world, and identifies emerging issues related to raptor health and populations.

### **Huntington Bank Stadium Tour**

- You'll be immediately immersed in the rich history and electric atmosphere of Gopher football. This iconic stadium stands as a testament to the passion and dedication of Minnesota's loyal fans and the legacy of the University of Minnesota football program. Get an up close look at the locker rooms and field.

### **Wildlife on the Airwaves: How Scientists Track Animals**

- Ever curious how scientists figure out where wildlife spend their time? Come learn from students in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology about radio telemetry technology, which enables biologists to track wildlife. Join us on campus as we put this gear to the test and attempt to find a real collar in the field!



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### **St. Paul Campus Sorority and Fraternity House Tours**

- Learn about the St. Paul Fraternities and Sororities on campus. The tour will start at Farmhouse Fraternity and will go to Delta Theta Sigma, Lambda Delta Phi, Beta of Clovia, and end at Alpha Gamma Rho. Tour the outside and inside of the houses and meet members of each chapter. This tour will provide insight to the community that surrounds the University of Minnesota's - St. Paul Campus.