



2026

February
Newsletter

Cheryl Zimmerman
Glenda Crook



Upcoming Dates

March -April

Sectional LDEs

March 3 Proposals for State FFA Constitution or Rule Changes Due

March 3 State FFA Degrees Due

March 3 CVTC CDE Contests

March 3 EDGE & MISSION Registration Due

March 3-4 Eau Claire Farm Show, Foundation Silent Auction

March 5 WI FFA Foundation Board Meeting

March 6-7 Proficiency Judging, Wisconsin Dells

March 12-13 FFA Board of Directors Mtg

March 13 State FFA Foundation Scholarship and Chapter Grants Due

March 17 South Central CDE

March 20-21 EDGE/Connect Conference

March 21-25 NAAE National Policy Seminar

March 24 National Ag Day

March 24 Mid-State Tech CDE

March 24-26 WPS Farm Show-Oshkosh

March 26 UW-Platteville CDE

March 27 FVTC-Appleton CDE

March 28 UW-River Falls CDE



DUE TUESDAY MARCH 3 - 2026 Spring EDGE and MISSION Conferences Registration

The EDGE and MISSION Conferences will be held March 20-21 (Friday/Saturday) at the Holiday Inn and Convention in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Washington Leadership Conference Registration Opens March 5

WIX Filters Celebrates 40 Years of Support for FFA With 2026 Box Top Fundraiser

WIX Filters today announced the company's 2026 FFA Box Top initiative, an annual fundraising program now underway for local FFA chapters preparing students for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture.

Participants can earn \$0.25 for their local organizations with every approved box top they collect and redeem from the entire WIX Filters lineup, including oil, air, cabin air, fuel, transmission, air compressor, hydraulic and coolant filters. Additionally, WIX Filters will award \$1,000 bonuses to each of the four local chapters redeeming the most box tops, as well as \$1,000 for the chapter achieving the largest percentage increase in box tops collected over last year.

To be eligible for the awards, box tops and completed redemption forms must be received by WIX Filters on or before April 15, 2026. Auto parts stores across the country can support FFA chapters in their communities by helping members promote, collect and redeem box tops at an ideal time when farmers are performing routine maintenance on their equipment to prepare for the busy growing season ahead.

For additional program details and redemption forms, visit <https://www.wixfilters.com/en-us/about-us/community-involvement/wix-filters-ffa-box-top-program.html>

or contact WIX Filters at customer.request@mann-hummel.com.

State FFA Alumni Convention - February 20-21

Thank you!!!

Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters
for hosting a fantastic State Convention!!



**Congratulations to the 2026-2027
Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters Council**



**State Officer Team receives FFA Alumni &
Supporters Lifetime Membership**

FFA Farm Forum February 11



Thank you to Wisconsin Farm Bureau for providing this leadership development opportunity.



FFA Day on the Hill February 22-23, 2026



**Thank you
WAAE
Advocacy
Committee for
organizing this
event.**



SWTC FIRE Conference February 26 & 27

Thank you SWTC-Fennimore for hosting our conferences!!



Spirit Award Winners
New Glarus FFA
Dodgeville FFA



SAE For All

SAE for All Strides newsletter from the National FFA is linked to the left. See what other states are doing for their SAE for All initiatives.



Check out the SAE for All February Newsletter

Do you have ideas for the newsletter or information you would like to see included reach out to Nathaniel Nolden.

A screenshot of a newsletter page titled "SAE FOR ALL" with the subtitle "What can I implement this month in my classroom?". It includes a "Happy CTE Month:" section with a list of resources, two "CTE 101" icons for "Why CTE?" and "Busting CTE Myths", a "SAE Record Book" section, and three circular callouts: "Wisconsin SAE for All Implementation Plans", "SAE for All WI FFA", and "Wisconsin SAE for All Certified Teachers".

SAE FOR ALL
What can I implement this month in my classroom?

Happy CTE Month:
CTE Month is the perfect time to highlight the efforts your students are demonstrating in class with their SAE for All projects! Check out the great resources provided by [CTE 101 on Career Exploration & Planning](#).

- We recommend taking a look at the [Student Portfolios \(Colorado\)](#) which has information on helping students create a digital portfolio and a sequencing document to help with implementation for students in 9th grade.
- We also recommend looking at the [Career Exploration Lesson Plans \(Nebraska\)](#) which has lessons for students in grades K-9 that can be downloaded!
- Lastly, we recommend using the downloadable documents under [Why CTE?](#) and [Who Benefits from CTE?](#) found under [CTE 101 for Counselors](#) page as you advocate for your program and SAE for All during CTE month!

CTE 101 Why CTE?
Through CTE, students gain skills, knowledge, and employability skills that are essential for their success in the workforce. CTE programs provide hands-on learning experiences that prepare students for careers and college.

CTE 101 Busting CTE Myths
Over time, CTE has evolved from a narrow focus on agriculture and mechanics to a broad range of career and technical education. Today's CTE programs provide hands-on learning experiences that prepare students for careers and college.

SAE Record Book
Use this record book to help your students keep the necessary records for SAE Award application.

Wisconsin SAE for All Implementation Plans

SAE for All WI FFA

Wisconsin SAE for All Certified Teachers



TEACHER Spotlight

SAE FOR ALL TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Rachel Ziegler
Green Bay Southwest

Earned the SAE for All Certification
Council in 2025!

Your paragraph text

Favorite Part of SAE for All?

My favorite part of SAE for ALL was helping me understand how to implement it into all my classes and giving me solid resources to do so. Last year was my first year, I had incorporated an SAE for All model thanks to working with Zach Markhardt at Green Bay East. Prior to last year, I thought of SAE as all the immersion type SAEs that I would do visits to in the summer and that students would fill out their proficiency awards. SAE for All, is great for me in an urban school setting because most students I now have are going to fall under the Foundational SAE. There is also great flexibility in SAE for All. This year, I am incorporating even more student choice as long as students are hitting the 5 essential components of the Foundational SAE.

Advice for Implementation:

Green Bay Southwest is the only school in the district for SLIFE students (Students with Interrupted Formal Education). I am currently working with the Multilingual Program to modify and ensure that SAE for All is accessible to all, especially my SLIFE students. So, my overall advice is keep modifying, changing and allowing choice to meet the needs of your program to ensure SAE for All in your classrooms.



Goals:

How will we successfully roll out SAE for All in our local program?

Goal 1: All students at Green Bay Southwest in an Ag program will have a Foundational SAE.

Goal 2: All students in an Ag program within the district will have a Foundational SAE.

SAE for all certifiide!

Proficiency Judging

March 6-7



JUDGES ARE NEEDED!



Join us at the Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells to judge proficiency applications!

This is a great time to learn more about the applications and to help Wisconsin FFA complete this very big process.

Currently there is a need for 16 more judges in order to be able to complete this task.

If there isn't enough help then the feedback and comments will be minimal due to the lack of time.



Sign up to help here!



Wisconsin State Honorary Award Nominations Due March 15, 2026

The philosophy of the Honorary State FFA Degree is to recognize individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the agricultural education - FFA program at the state level.

Please take time to consider Individuals who have provided exceptional service to agriculture and/or the agricultural education/FFA program. Individuals nominated from a chapter must have the approval of the Chapter FFA Advisor.

The Applications are located on the wisconsinaged.org website under Chapter Resources. They are currently linked in the lower side module. This information will be needed if your individual is selected from the list of nominees.

NOTE: If you are nominating an individual from your community you will need to include an application.
If you are nominating a current teacher please use the teacher application form and submit it by March 15th.

**Applications should be sent to Sonya Huebner at
sonya.huebner@gmail.com**



**Mark Your Calendars for the
2026 Washington Leadership Conference
Registration will open at 5 p.m.
Thursday, March 5.**



BLUE JACKET

Legacy Fund

Final Applications are due Friday March 6, 2026!

**Do you know a deserving FFA member who is in need of a jacket?
Nominate this person to receive a Blue Jacket!**

As the State Officer Team prepares to take off their jackets and finish their FFA journeys, they would like to give FFA members a jacket to continue their journeys in. Nominated students could be members who are super involved in your chapter, those who are unable to afford a jacket, or ones experiencing any other special circumstances. We encourage advisors and alumni to nominate a member from your chapter for the opportunity to receive a FFA Jacket.

**We will reach out to inform you if your student was
selected or not by April 6th.**

We want to keep this a secret from the FFA Members until the jackets arrive and are presented to them. We are planning to present these FFA jackets at the 2026 State Convention. However, we know that some chapters are unable to attend, so attendance at State Convention will not dictate whether or not an FFA member is selected.

Please reach out to Harley Prill or Sam Mell at hprill@wisconsinffa.org and smell@wisconsinffa.org with any questions.

Here is the form link: <https://forms.gle/tGWn1fuqKoKgTkPs7>



Wisconsin Association of FFA

January 16, 2026

Board of Directors Meeting Summary

1. State Officers provided an update of their summer and fall activities
2. Cheryl Zimmerman provided the Executive Director Report. Update on membership, chapters, follow up on Fall Conferences and highlighted upcoming events.
3. Glenda Crook provided the Managing Director Report. Update on AET, American Degrees and award applications and SAE Recordkeeping
4. Tari Costello, Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters Executive Director reported on Alumni events including financial support for chapters, the upcoming State Convention, Raffle and WLC Scholarship Applications
5. Ellen Schutt, Wisconsin FFA Foundation Executive Director provided a report that highlighted the popcorn sales, license plate project and Give FFA Day.
6. Troy Talford Co-Chair of the WAAE Advocacy Committee provided an update on the 2026 FFA Day on the Hill February 22-23
7. 2025-2026 Membership Current Total - 21,841 Status of Newly Chartered Chapters - New request 1/15/2026, Westosha Central. Review of Late Rosters – Mrs. Zimmerman worked with several chapters and was completed. Payment Update – Every chapter has at least one roster submitted. Sending reminders for payments.
8. The Board approved to renew two Wisconsin Association of FFA CDs. One to Dupaco Bank for the 25 month special 3.96% and the second to Old National for a 5-month special 3.75%. Also providing the flexibility to adjust as needed when the actual CDs come due for the highest interest rates at the best length of time provided while staggering the expiration date of each CD.
9. State FFA Officer Advisory Committee Update - Jillian Beaty, Advisory Committee. Listening session to be held at Half-Time concerning four proposal ideas: Wisconsin FFA Board Representation, Delegate Round Voting, Nominating Committee, Wisconsin FFA State Officer Team size. The Advisory Committee will continue to use the input from committee work, listening sessions and surveys as they move forward with suggested changes.
10. Approved American and State Degree updates including the revised review process and the activities above the Chapter Level updates.
11. Approved the AET subscription fee (\$3500) to be paid by the Wisconsin Association of FFA.
12. Approve adding Auctioneering, Ag Ed, and Middle School Career Development Events to the Wisconsin list of CDEs.

13. Upcoming Events: February Board Meeting - Tuesday, February 10th in conjunction with Farm Forum, February 11th.
State FFA Alumni Convention – February 20-21, Middleton
FFA Day on the Hill – February 22-23, Madison
FIRE Conference – February 26-27, Fennimore
State FFA Proficiency Judging – March 6-7, Wisconsin Dells
March Board Meeting – March 12-13, Madison
Mission and EDGE Conferences – March 20-21, Stevens Point
14. Approved to provide a meal packaging service project with Meals from the Heartland as part of the 2026 State FFA Convention Day of Service based on the amount of funding secured. The Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters State Council has agreed to provide the second half of the funding for this to happen at the 2026 State Convention.
15. Approved to have Dr. Temple Grandin as the 2026 Wisconsin FFA Convention Key Note Speaker.
16. Approved to have Hailey James as the 2026 Wisconsin FFA Convention Entertainment.
17. Approved to have SAE for All Pin Hunt at the 2026 Wisconsin FFA State Convention.
18. 2026 District and Sectional Leadership Development Events Update Approved to deduct 10 points deducted per day for a total of 5 days for the Employment Skills Application.
19. Assistant Band and Chorus Directors: Approved the continuation of the \$500 Honorarium to Deanna Barkhaus and increase the honorarium to Katie Stalsberg from \$100 to \$200.





Wisconsin Association of FFA

February 10, 2026

Board of Directors Meeting Summary

1. State Officers recapped events since the January Board Meeting.
2. Recap of 2026 District Leadership Development Events
 - a. District LDE results were presented in preparation for the Sectional LDEs.
 - b. Discussion about experiences at District LDEs to note for future events.
 - c. Mrs. Crook reviewed procedures for hosting the Sectional LDEs and provided materials to the state officers and their advisors.
 - d. The Board approved to enforce the rule that chapters that don't meet the deadline to register for District LDEs will not be allowed to compete.
3. Updates provided on applications, CDEs, conferences and proficiency judging.
4. An update was provided from the FFA Foundation including the Popcorn Fundraiser, Give FFA Day, Chapter Grants and SAE Grants.
5. Evan Retzlaff, State Parliamentarian informed the Board about the review of potential Constitutional amendments and the proposed Delegate Committees.
6. An FFA membership update was provided. Membership over 23,000.
7. State Officer Advisory Committee Update - Subcommittees are reviewing the 4 proposals utilizing the feedback of the surveys and the listening sessions.
 - * Next meeting is virtual April 1, at 4 pm to review subcommittees work and refine the proposals.
8. State Officers gave update on Blue Legacy program.
9. Proposed changes to awards 2026-2027 School Year - 2027 State Convention
10. Motion for SAE Award Changes (To Be Considered at March Board Meeting)
11. Proficiency Award winners eligibility to compete a second time in 2027
 - a. Approved that in 2027 the SAE Awards will be all new award areas open to all FFA members to compete and win, even if they were a past state winner in a proficiency area.
 - b. Approved that Wisconsin FFA members that are not recognized as one of the 6 National Finalists at the National FFA Convention can apply in the SAE Award area again and win at the state level again.
12. Nominations for Honored Adult recognition was discussed.
13. Information about the procedure for electing the State FFA President was provided to the advisors and state officers by Mrs. Zimmerman
14. State FFA Convention housing for Board members and state officer parents was discussed and the closure of the Clarion Suites Hotel for the 2026 Convention.
15. The next FFA Board of Directors meeting - March 12-13 in Madison with state degree review to follow.

Just for Fun!!!

