



**March
2026**

Newsletter

**Cheryl Zimmerman
Glenda Crook**

Upcoming Dates

**April 1 - Final Deadline for
Submitting FFA Membership**

Need more time???

Contact Cheryl Zimmerman

April 1.....Ag Issues Registration Opens

April 1.....Marketing Plan Registration Opens

April 17.....State CDE at Madison College

April 15..... MS Essays Due

April 21.....National Chapter Award Due

April 21.....3 Star Leadership Award Due

April 22.....Talent Applications Due

April 24.....State CDE UW-Madison

April 24.....State Officer Applications Due

May 1.....Food for America Apps Due

**June 15-18 - 97th Wisconsin FFA Convention
Madison, Wisconsin**



2026 State FFA Officer Candidate Academy

With State Convention approaching, it will be time to elect a new state officer team. The State Officer team has created academies for your students who are interested in running to serve as a State Officer.

Here are the details about each session...

Session 1 | Year Overview

DATE & TIME: March 31 @7:00 PM

OVERVIEW:

- Learn about the events State Officers will attend throughout the year.
- Understand the schedule as a State Officer on a per month basis
- Hear about the valuable experiences State Officers gain throughout the year
- Learn about networking opportunities and lifelong connections made during the year

Session 2 | Process Overview

DATE & TIME: April 7 @7:00 PM

OVERVIEW:

- Learn about the qualifications necessary to run for state office.
- Gain valuable insight into the interviews and election process.
- Hear about a State Officer Candidate's schedule and responsibilities at State Convention.
- Ask any questions you have about the election process!

Session 3 | Stakeholders

DATE & TIME: April 14 @7:00 PM

OVERVIEW:

- Explore ways to support your candidate as they work towards becoming a State Officer
- Gain valuable insights from parents, advisors, FFA Alumni & Supporters, as well as current State FFA Officer advisors
- Join us for an interactive Q&A session

This session focuses more on helping supporters of candidates better understand their role.

Session 4 | Frequently Asked Questions

DATE & TIME: April 21 @7:00 PM

OVERVIEW:

- Hear personal testimony from current state officers
- Clarify any potential questions to ensure success
- Ask any questions that you may have

Please make sure to communicate these details with your students. Encourage all of your students, whether they will be candidates this year or in future years, to attend these educational sessions! Let us know if you have any questions.

2026 EDGE and Mission Conferences





Wisconsin FFA Service Project Hygiene Product Collection

Over 170 items were collected from FFA chapters attending the **EDGE** and **MISSION** Conferences in Steven Point. Thank you for the collection of these items to be donated to those in need.



SAE FOR ALL

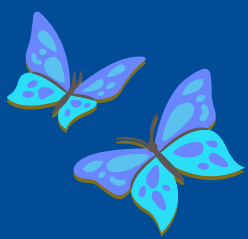
Click on the newsletter icons below to read the March editions!



SAE for All

SAE for All trainings continue. It is a high priority for advisors to be trained in preparation for the new 2027 SAE Awards! A training was held at EDGE conference. The next training will be offered at WAAE PDC. If you haven't attended at training yet, sign up for the workshop at WAAE.

Spanish Creed State Contest!



The Wisconsin State FFA Spanish Creed competition will take place at the State FFA Convention on Tuesday, June 14, 2026.

Students will register online for this contest. The Spanish Creed is an invitational held at the National FFA Convention.

The Spanish Creed or El Credo de FFA that is to be used is located on the National FFA Website, and on the WI FFA website on the FFA Creed web page.

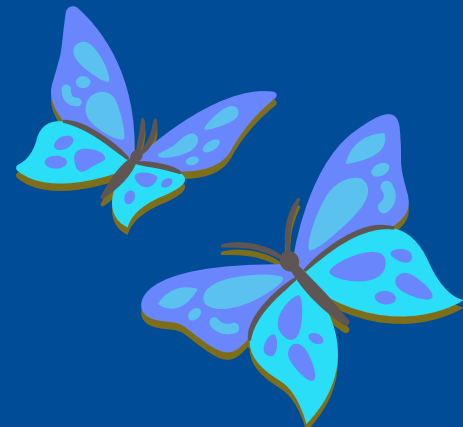
The students will answer three questions just like the FFA Creed contest only in Spanish.

The top four individuals will be recognized on stage with a plaque.

The winner will advance to the National FFA Spanish Creed Invitational.

The second place individual may go if there are spots available.

Please encourage your Spanish speaking FFA members to participate in this contest!



Wisconsin FFA By the



Numbers!



FFA Membership.....	25,816
American Degrees.....	216
State Degrees.....	408
State Stars.....	43
Proficiency Applications ..	867
Creed.....	164
Discussion Meet	168
Employment Skills.....	260
Extemporaneous.....	215
MS Quiz Bowl Teams.....	122
Parli Pro Teams.....	79
Prepared Speaking.....	166

Convention Reminders

Day of Service Opportunities

Monday June 15, 2026

Off-Site Service Locations/

Onsite - Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed-Building

Meals from the Heartland - Meal Packaging

Registration Available Soon

Leadership Development Events

Monday June 15, 2026

Parliamentary Procedure LDE Exam and Semi-Finals

Tuesday June 16, 2026

Spanish Creed Speaking Competition

Order of State FFA Degree Presentation

Starting with Section 6 - Chapters in Alphabetical Order

Keynote Speaker following State Degrees

Spotlight Stage

Continuing for a third year - the Wisconsin FFA Spotlight Stage!

Similar to National FFA's Student Showcase, the Spotlight Stage provides a chance for Wisconsin FFA members to share their projects and experiences in FFA with others. It highlights opportunities in a whole new way!

This amazing opportunity will take place in Hall B of the Alliant Energy Center on Wednesday, June 17 from 9am-1:30pm.

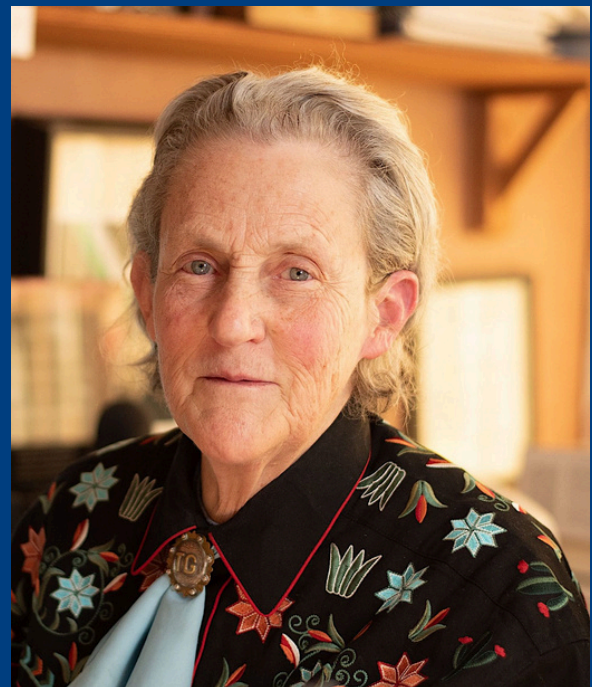
Do you have students interested in participating on the Wisconsin FFA Spotlight Stage?

This year we are collecting participant interest using a Google Form. Students, advisors, and chapters can indicate how they would like to be involved in the Spotlight Stage Program. Watch for an email for the forms and information to sign up!!

Watch for more information coming soon...

State Convention Housing
Convention Schedule
Convention Registration and Ticket Sales
Delegate Registration
Convention T-Shirt Sales

Keynote Speaker
Temple Grandin
Wednesday June 17
2:00 p.m. Session
following state degree
ceremony





Wisconsin Association of FFA

March 12, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Summary

1. State Officers recapped events they participated in since the February Board Meeting.

2. **Executive Director Update - Mrs. Zimmerman**

a. Current FFA membership surpassing 25,000. Final membership deadline is April 1 unless a chapter requests an extension.

b. Leadership Conferences - FIRE at SWTC-Fennimore - 493 attended. Preparations underway for EDGE and MISSION Conferences.

c. FFA band and chorus update. 105 band applications and 85 chorus applications. Selections have been made.

3. **Managing Director Update - Mrs. Crook**

a. Provided updates on American and State Degree submissions, proficiency awards, LDEs and CDEs.

b. Provided update on award/degree application review process.

4. Updates were provided by Mrs. Schutt, Wisconsin FFA Foundation; Ms. Costello, Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters and Gwen Boettcher, WAAE.

5. **Evan Retzlaff - Constitution/Bylaws and Policies Committee Report.** The following Constitutional Amendments will come before the delegates at the State FFA Convention.

a. **Update Terminology** - This motion is to clean up language so it is current to what the Association is currently doing. No intent to change the meaning of the items, just update terminology.

b. **Degree Emblem Use** - This motion is to update language so that it matches National FFA constitution language. We need to be aligned.

c. **Update Language Concerning Convention** - This is another amendment to clarify language no change of intent of item.

d. **Executive Director** - This amendment adds the Executive Director into language where it was missing.

e. **Clarification of Language Concerning 5th grade members** - This is again for clarification and to align with the National FFA Constitution. There is no request to change the grade level of membership.

f. **State Convention Voting Delegates** - This is the motion concerning the requirement for voting delegates to have the chapter or state degree to be a voting delegate.

g. **Timeline of Submitting Constitutional Amendments** - This amendment is to move up the date for chapters to submit constitutional amendments from March 1 to February 1. This will allow the Board to review a month earlier so information can be given to chapters earlier.

6. **Brooke Luedtke, State Treasurer - Finance Committee Report.** The proposed 2026-27 FFA budget was approved by the Board. to send to the delegates. The registration fees for the State FFA Convention will increase \$5.00 for 2026. Membes and advisors will be \$25.00 and guests will be \$15.00

7. **Parker Smith and Layten Sobieski -Membership Committee Report.** The committee is evaluating updating membership awards. No changes for 2026.

8. **Taniele Ducommun and Ava Forde - Awards/Programs Committee Report.** The committee is working on upcoming state convention contests. They also worked to increase publicity of awards and programs.

9. **Corbyn Weber, State Reporter - Public Relations Committee Report.** Updates were given on very successful social media campaigns and increased usage on all social media platforms.

10. **Sam Mell and Harley Prill - Service Committee Report.**

a. FFA Jackets for the Blue Legacy program will be presented at state convention. Nominations have been received and will be reviewed for selection. SHP will be involved in the State Convention service projects to make 80 beds instead of 60. Tari Costello Day of Service Co-Chair works with this project. Meal from the Heartland will again have meal packaging event at convention. Thank you to the Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters for a huge contribution to make this possible. Amelia Hayden Day of Service Co-Chair is also working to secure the number of sites for students to conduct service projects.

11.**Max Luedtke and Amalia Draxler - Partners Committee Report.**

12. **Sectional LDEs** were reviewed. Most Sectional LDEs are complete. Conduct of Chapter Meeting and High School Quiz Bowl teams to be determined following April 13 Section 9 LDE. (Delayed because of weather.)

13. The Board approved to move forward with the **2027 Changes to Awards and Recognition.**

14. The Board was asked for any further recommendations for Honored Adult Recognition at State Convention.

15. Board approved the **Proposal to increase Wisconsin Association of FFA Dues from \$5.50 to \$8.00 and add \$25 to each state level of affiliated membership.** This proposal come before the State Convention Delegates in the setting of the 2026-2027 Dues.

16. The Board of Directors conducted a SWOT Analysis of the FFA Association to be utilized at the upcoming Team Ag Ed meeting on March 20.

State FFA Convention

17. Mrs. Zimmerman gave a State Convention update related to working with the Alliant Energy Center, provided assignments to state officer advisors and reviewed schedule changes. Updates were also provided on sessions and other convention logistics. FFA Chorus practice will move back to the hotel for practice and the band will move to the New Holland Pavilion.

18. **Amalia Draxler and Evan Retzlaff reported on Delegate Operations.** **Final committee topics** were approved for convention committee meetings.

19. **Max Luedtke reported on Meals Committee** - speakers and programs.

20. **Taniele Ducommun and Parker Smith reported on workshops.**

21. **Brooke Luedtke** is working with the **Past State Officer Committee.**

22. **Ava Forde** reported on the plans for **Decorations.**

23. **Layten Sobieski** reported on work with **Seating and Courtesy Corps**

24. Mrs. Zimmerman asked for the state officer advisors to provide their reservations for the Sparks by Hilton Hotel formerly Clarion as well as neighboring hotels because of limited space and different room configurations at the Sparks Hotel.

25. Announcements were made about upcoming events and meeting was adjourned.

Following the FFA Board meeting, the state FFA officer advisors conducted the State FFA Degree review on Thursday evening and Friday.



State Officer Banquet Mileage Reimbursement

State Officers appreciate being invited to your FFA Chapter banquets or award recognition programs to celebrate your members and chapter accomplishments. **Please feel free to contact them to schedule your recognition event on their calendar as dates are filling fast.**

State officers can provide greetings or a keynote - let them know the time they have to speak. They can assist in handing out awards, meeting with parents and alumni, thanking administration and sponsors or wherever you need assistance in your awards program. State Officers say that banquets are some of their best experiences to reconnect with your members.

Just a reminder....We ask chapters to reimburse the state officers for their travel expenses to your banquets. If you need an invoice, please let your state officer know. Otherwise if you are willing to provide them with a gas gift card or comparable gift, that works fine too.

We ask for your cooperation in this matter to support our officers during their year of service in order that they can celebrate with your members as the school year comes to a close. As an FFA Association, we thank chapters for providing this needed financial assistance in helping support our state officers with these expenses.

Thank you for inviting state officers to your events to join in on the celebration.

