

THE GEHRKE GAZETTE



2024-2025 WISCONSIN FFA
STATE OFFICER TEAM

December 2024
Volume II

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CONNECT!!



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Wisconsin FFA - Section 4



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WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF FFA
TURN IT UP

2024-2025
STATE THEME!!

Update from National Association of Agriculture Educators

HUMBLE LEADERS

energized by the responsibility of
shaping the future one student at a time.



**NAAE #TeachAg Ambassadors
want to connect with you about
becoming an agricultural educator.**

- The 2024-25 class of #TeachAg Ambassadors are passionate about agricultural education and want to encourage others to consider a career in ag ed.
- They have received training and lessons to use at local, university, and state levels.
- You can connect with them on a one-on-one basis or schedule them for a #TeachAg recruitment event.

Find a current
Ambassador by
clicking on the
#TeachAg link at
the top of
www.naae.org.



Career Development Events Updates from Wisconsin FFA

WI FFA CDE UPDATES

REGIONAL CDE DATES

Janesville- March 12
Mid-State Tech- March 18
UW-Platteville- March 20
Fox Valley Tech- March 28
UW-River Falls- April 5

STATE CDE DAY 1: APRIL 11 MADISON COLLEGE AREA

Ag Communications
Ag Mechanics - Q
Ag Sales
Environmental Science
Food Science
Horse Evaluation - Q
Middle School

Q= Team must Qualify at a
Regional Contest

STATE CDE DAY 2: APRIL 25 UW-MADISON AREA

Agronomy-Q
Dairy Handlers
Forestry -Q
Meats - Q
Vet Science - Q
Milk Products - Q
Farm Business Management - Q
Nursery Landscape
Dairy Cattle -Q
Floriculture - Q
Livestock - Q
Poultry - Q
Wildlife - Q

MIDDLE SCHOOL STATE CDE

There will be a Middle School CDE hosted at State CDEs on Friday, April 11. This is open to 7th and 8th grade members.

Be sure to check the Middle School CDEs webpage often for updates as CDE season approaches.

<https://wisconsinaged.org/ms-cde>

**NEW
NEW
NEW
NEW**

AUCTIONEER CDE

Registration for the Auctioneer CDE is now open! This is an individual event held on Monday, January 27 in Marshfield. Registration is limited to the first 15 contestants.

Further information on the event can be found at:

<https://wisconsinaged.org/auctioneer>

MEATS TEAM REGISTRATION INCREASE

As you plan your budgets for the year, please note that the cost of the State Meats Contest will be \$150 per team. This is due to the increasing cost of resources required to host the contest.



2025 STATE FOOD SCIENCE MATERIALS NOW AVAILABLE

Information on the 2025 State Food Science CDE is now available on the CDE Website. This year's superintendent, Kerry Ingredients, has selected a really fun team activity scenario: Create a NEW Savory On The Go Menu Item for Starbucks. This could be a great activity to implement into a Food Science course to help generate interest in the contest! Check out the website for further details on the contest.

<https://wisconsinaged.org/fst>

Update from your State Officer

Hello Section 4!

Can you believe we are nearly halfway through the year?! I know, crazy! These last five months have flown by and I cannot wait to soak in the next seven! Over the last few months, the team has been VERY busy meeting and connecting with members! From our three weeks of FLWs, World Dairy Expo, F.I.R.E. Conferences, National Convention, I Am/Connect, and now chapter visits, along with different local events, we have been loving meeting all of the members and advisors from across the state!



As fall continues, I am excited to keep visiting chapters and meeting all the members and advisors from Section 4! It's also a great time of the year to relax, watch a Christmas movie, have family time, eat lots of food, and watch some football! As the year is coming to a close remember everything you have accomplished this year! Whether it was FFA, Sports, School, or anything else, look back on what we have accomplished in 2024 and be proud! I am proud of all the accomplishments Section 4 members, advisors, alumni and supports have earned in the last 12 months!

Lets make the next year be just as good! Try something new within FFA. Coming up are Leadership Development Events in the winter, and Career Development Events in the spring. When you try something new, it might end up becoming a favorite! For those that are eligible, make sure to apply for your state degree! Have an awesome SAE project? Fill out a proficiency application this winter!

If there is any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out! Whether it is a question, concern, or an event you want me to attend, feel free to let me know anytime! Thank you for everything Section 4, and I look forward to meeting you at upcoming events!

Tyson Gehrke
Section 4 State Treasurer

NATIONAL CONVENTION SUMMED UP

American Degree Recipients

Olivia Adams
Cassville

Allison Thm
Cassville

Jonah Hooper
Iowa-Grant

Julia Searls
Iowa-Grant

Bekka Shemak
Iowa-Grant

Evie Whitaker
Iowa-Grant

Talena Sprecher
Ithaca

Joseph Robinson
Mineral Point

MaKenna Burkeland
Pecatonica

Bryce Johnsrud
Pecatonica

Carissa Swenson
Pecatonica

Jessica Patterson
River Ridge

Haylee Scharmer
River Ridge

Madison Russell
Shullsburg

Ella Woodworth
Shullsburg

NATIONAL CONVENTION SUMMED UP

Career Development Events

Fennimore FFA

Gold - Veterinary Science

Fennimore FFA

Silver - Agricultural Sales

Mineral Point FFA

**Silver - Meats Evaluation and
Technology**

River Ridge FFA

Bronze - Livestock Evaluation

National FFA Alumni & Supporters Award

Outstanding State Association

Wisconsin FFA Alumni



National Proficiency Finalists

NATIONAL WINNER

Joseph Robinson

Mineral Point

**Ag Mechanics Repair &
Maintenance Entrepreneurship**

Luke Schubert

Mineral Point

Fiber & Oil Crop

Fall Review



FLWs

A fantastic three weeks were spent hiking around Wisconsin during Fall Leadership Workshops! We hosted workshops in each Section, as well as attending two tours every day! It was a great adventure interacting with over two thousand members and spending time with the team!

World Dairy Expo

In the midst of Fall Leadership Workshops, we took a day to attend the World Dairy Expo in Madison! We hosted workshops, spoke on student panels, assisted with contests, spoke in front of international delegates, and met with sponsors! It was a jam packed day and full of fun!



F.I.R.E. Conference

We Forged Our Path to F.I.R.E Conference and have completed three! We taught members how to forge their path in FFA with conferences hosted at Fox Valley Technical College, UW Stevens Point at Marshfield, and UW River Falls! Join us for one more F.I.R.E. Conference at Southwest Wisconsin Technical College in Fennimore in February!



National FFA convention

National Convention was a BLAST. We had the ability to serve as National Delegates where we helped shape the future of National FFA! Along with that we saw many Wisconsin Members receive recognition on stage, caught up with State Officers from across the country, and listened to Nate Smith and Megan Moroney!! It was a great week, with little sleep, feet pain, and a lot of fun we wouldn't have any other way!



I AM & Connect Conference

I Am and Connect Conference was so much fun! We helped out with the registration of the conference and assisted the facilitators in their workshop rooms. Along with that, we also boogied on the dance floor at the 70s & 80s themed dance as we mingled with members from across the state!



CTSO Government Day

Career and Technical Student Organizations Government Day was so much fun! We had the ability to network with the other 5 CTSO State Officers, as well as advocate for CTE Education to our state legislative members! It was a great day spent in Madison at the Capitol!



Chapter Visits

I have been having SO SO SO much fun at chapter visits! Visiting all of your schools has been amazing and I feel so welcomed everywhere I go! Thank you, and I cannot wait to meet the rest of Section 4 as visits continue! If a date has not been scheduled yet, reach out and we can get your visit on the calendar!





Events Coming Soon



Upcoming Chapter Visits

Dec 2 - Mineral Point

Dec 4 - Ithaca

Dec 17 - Argyle

Dec 18 - Highland

Dec 19 - Boscobel

Jan 10 - Shullsburg

Jan 13 - Darlington

Jan 31 - Pecatonica

Leadership Development Events



**District 10
North Crawford**



**District 11
Lancaster**



**District 12
Dodgeville**



**Section 4
Fennimore**



Events Coming Soon



Upcoming Due Dates	
Dec 2nd	Initial Membership Roster & POA
Jan 3rd	Half-Time Conference Registration
Jan 9th	National FFA Scholarship
Jan 15th	WLC Scholarship
Feb 3rd	American Degree Application
Feb 13th	State Band & Chorus Application
Feb 14th	State Proficiency Applications
Mar 3rd	State Degree Application



JANUARY							2025	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
			1	2	3	4		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
26	27	28	29	30	31			



Half Time Conference

Join us on January 17th & 18th in Stevens Point for the Half Time Conference! Learn how to keep your chapter going strong for the second half of the school year!

Promote Section Four!!



Service Project Saturday

Know of an outstanding service project being done by an FFA chapter?! Nominate them to be posed on Wisconsin FFA social media pages for Service Project Saturday! Scan the QR code below to nominate an a chapter!



Teacher Appreciation

Know of an outstanding agriculture teacher and advisor?! Nominate them to be posed on Wisconsin FFA social media pages for teacher appreciation! Scan the QR code below to nominate an advisor!



Section 4 Member of the Month



September Member of the Month



Emily Retallick
Cassville FFA

October Member of the Month



Kaylee Neff
Shullsburg FFA

November Member of the Month



Parker McCullick
Wauzeka-Steuben FFA

Know of an outstanding member in your chapter?! Nominate them for the Section 4 member of the month! Nominations can occur at any time and nominee is announced on the 25th of every month. Scan the QR code below to nominate a member!



2024 - 2025 State Officer Directory

Section 1

Emma Johnson
State Parliamentarian
Amery FFA
ejohnson@wisconsinffa.org

Section 2

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State Vice President
Glenwood City FFA
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Section 3

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Melrose-Mindoro FFA
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Section 4

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Section 6

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State President

Jescey Thompson
G-E-T FFA
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Section 7

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Thorp FFA
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Section 8

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Pulaski FFA
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Section 9

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State Vice President
Mishicot FFA
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Section 10

Alyssa Schauer
State Sentinel
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WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF FFA



Big thank you to our

Leadership Partners



Wisconsin FFA Foundation

for everything that they do



Leadership Partners

Platinum



Gold

AgCountry Farm Credit Services
American Foods Group
Collegiate FFA, UW-Madison

Silver

Pioneer Hi-Bred
International, Inc.
Wisconsin Public Service

Bronze

BMO Harris Bank
Jennie-O Turkey