

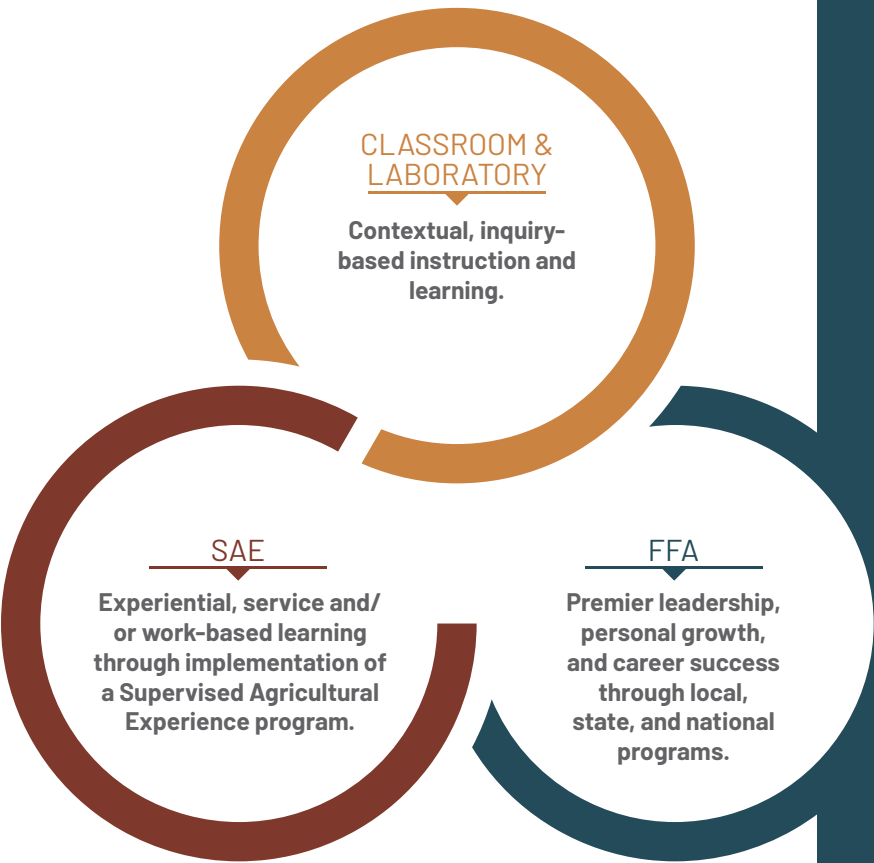
INITIATE



2021

Illinois Agriculture,
Food, and Natural Resources
Education Report

Agricultural Education is delivered through **three** interconnected **components**.



Agricultural education programs in Illinois public schools are supported by **local**, **state**, and **federal** funding opportunities.

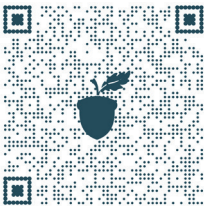
State funding includes specialized funding from the Agricultural Education line item in the State Board of Education’s annual budget. This line item funded five unique grant programs in fiscal year 2021, including the Teacher Three Circle Grant program and incentive funding for programs in Grades 5-12. The Teacher Three Circle Grant program partners with local school districts to extend agricultural education teacher contracts to 12 months. Incentive Funds are distributed directly to districts based on annually published program quality indicators and can be spent on new equipment, curricular resources, professional development, and student services.

State funding for agricultural education also includes the Career and Technical Education-Improvement (CTEI) fund. CTEI funds and federal Perkins funds are distributed through Illinois’ Education for Employment (EFE) systems. EFE systems are consortiums of school districts that partner to strengthen CTE opportunities in their region. Each EFE system is managed by a director and governed by a Board of Control composed of district superintendents. Agricultural education programs, which are a hallmark of career and technical education at the local, state, and national levels, are supported through these systems in a variety of ways.

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Check here for additional resources.



38,076

FY 2021 Ag Ed Enrollment, Duplicated (8%↓)

32,656

FY 2021 Ag Ed Enrollment, Unduplicated (7%↓)
32,442 Public, 214 Private

10,536

Calendar Year 2021 SAE Participation (12%↓)
32% of students with SAE Projects

15,517

Calendar Year 2021 SAE Participation
Unique SAE projects, (14%↓)

\$13,735,092

Calendar Year 2021 SAE Earnings (2%↓)

20,583

FY 2021 FFA Membership (1%↓)

Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Data

78 AITC Coalitions

463,642 PreK-12 Students

\$1,771,047 State and Local Funds Invested in AITC

Agricultural Education Program Data

355 Agricultural Education Programs

77% Offering AFNR as Science Credit

Ag Ed Teacher Data

455 Agricultural Education Teachers

2.5% increase from FY 2020

279 Teachers in Three Circle Grant

FCAE Program Data

682 Professional Development Hours

2 Graduate Courses Offered

710 Onsite or Virtual Program Visits

2,736 Students Reached through Career Presentations

80 Teaching Vacancies Filled

FY21 Line Item Breakdown	
Three Circle Grant	\$2,549,710
Incentive Funding Grant	\$1,030,290
University Incentive	\$40,000
GAST	\$300,000
FCAE	\$1,080,000
TOTAL	\$5,000,000

Which role do you serve for
Agricultural Education?
These pages are for you!

Legislative Leader 3-9

Industry Friend 8-13

Aspiring Student 12-21

Community Supporter 18-23

Local Educator 22-31





Teacher Three Circle Grants

Three Circle grants support implementation of the Three Circle Model of agricultural education by working with Local Education Agencies (school districts and career centers) to compensate teachers for extended working time outside of their regular duties. Teachers must document 400 additional working hours on FFA, SAE, curricular, and professional learning.

\$2,549,710 Total FY 2021 Allocation

279 Number of Participating Teachers

229 Number of Participating Local Education Agencies



Incentive Funding for Programs in Grades 5-12

Incentive funds support local agricultural education programs for Grades 5-12. Funding can be used for a variety of purposes based on the needs of the local program. Allocations are based on the achievement of program quality indicators each year. Quality indicators address all aspects of school-based agricultural education, including teacher qualifications, student services, courses offered, facility and technology improvements, work-based learning integration, student leadership, and other FFA opportunities.

\$1,030,290 Total FY 2021 Allocation

\$23.75 per Quality Indicator

343 Participating Local Education Agencies



Incentive Funding for Teacher Preparation Programs

Incentive funds support agricultural education teacher preparation programs at public universities. Funding can be used for a variety of purposes based on the needs of the program and preservice teachers. Allocations are based on the achievement of program quality indicators each year. Quality indicators address all aspects of teacher preparation programs, including teacher readiness, academic advising, course content, preparation for licensure, and comprehensive field experiences offered to preservice teachers.

\$40,000 Total FY 2021 Allocation

\$104 per Quality Indicator

4 Participating Universities



Growing Agricultural Science Teachers

Growing Agricultural Science Teachers (GAST) funds are given to colleges and universities offering an agricultural education program of study to include the Introduction to Agricultural Education course (AGED 100) articulated across the state. Funds support initiatives to recruit, develop, and retain agricultural education teachers. The program has four main objectives – recruitment and retention, development of preservice teachers, professional learning for early career teachers, and professional learning for teacher educators.

\$300,000 Total FY 2021 Allocation

8 Participating Colleges

150 Preservice Teachers Impacted



Dean Dittmar, State
Coordinator



John Heiser, District I
Program Advisor



Luke Allen, District II
Program Advisor



Jennifer Waters, District III
Program Advisor



Megan Coy, District IV
Program Advisor



Casey Bolin, District V
Program Advisor



Mindy Bunselmeyer,
Executive Director



John Edgar,
Associate Director



Andrew T. Klein,
Principal Consultant



Dr. Sheila Rowe,
Principal Consultant

ISBE works with the **Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education** and the **Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education** to administer a statewide program of **agricultural education**.

The Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education (FCAE) project coordinates these efforts as they relate to three main purposes – curriculum development, articulating agricultural education across Illinois public schools, and consumer education outreach initiatives.

FCAE Allocation: \$1,080,000



\$792,806

Local Program
Support



\$91,705

Work-based
Learning Support



\$60,000

Agricultural
Literacy



\$26,500

FFA Center
Services



\$19,984

Teacher Professional
Development



\$17,483

Indirect
Costs



\$12,500

MANRRS Pilot
Project



\$49,285

Website Management
and Publications



\$7,212

Curricular Resource
Management



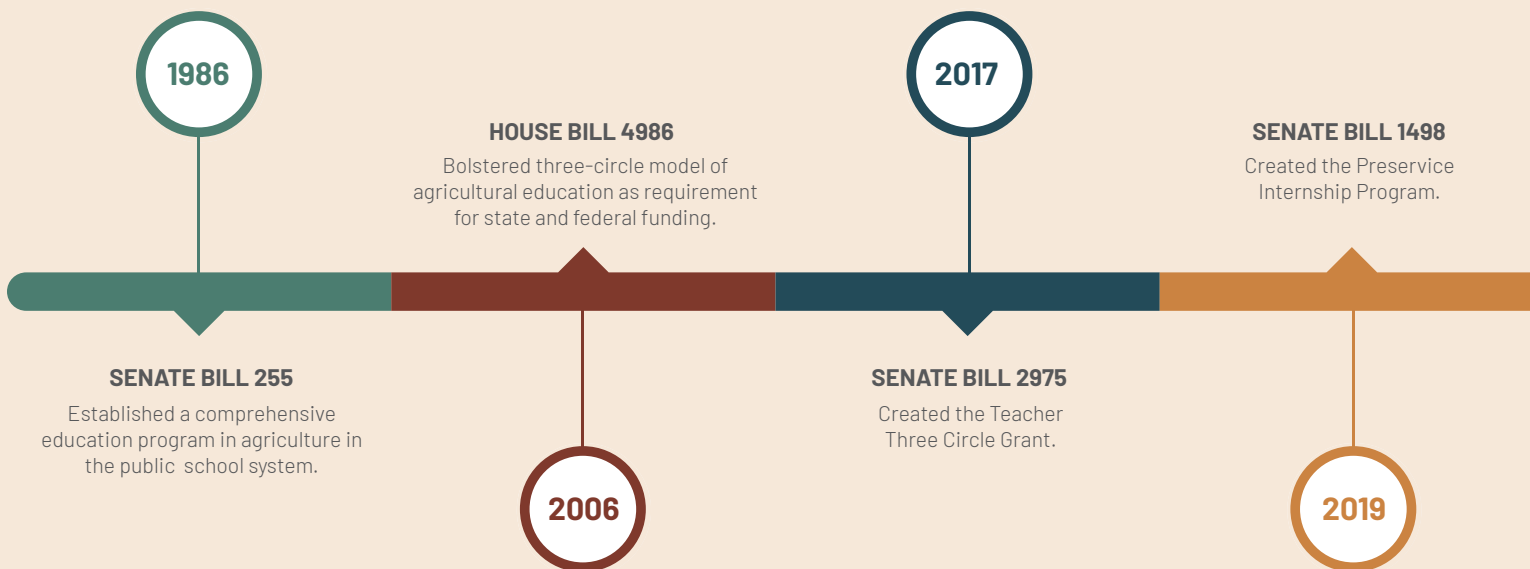
\$2,525

Conference Exhibits

FCAE, the Illinois FFA Center, and ISBE work together to **improve** all aspects of **agricultural education in Illinois**.

- FCAE coordinates the statewide program of agricultural education through local program support, teacher professional development, and agricultural literacy initiatives.
- Illinois FFA Center coordinates professional services for all agricultural education-related organizations to include the FFA student organization, FFA Foundation, FFA Alumni, Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers, Illinois Association of Community College Agriculture Instructors, and Professional Agriculture Students.
- ISBE administers state funding for agricultural education to include the FCAE project.





Senate Bill 255 passed and was signed into law on September 19, 1986, creating Public Act 84-1452 and Chapter 122, Section 2-3.80 of the Illinois School Code stating: "The General Assembly recognizes that agriculture is the most basic and singularly important industry in the state, that agriculture is of central importance to the welfare and economic stability of the state, and that the maintenance of this vital industry requires a continued source of trained and qualified individuals for employment in agriculture and agribusiness." SB 255 thereby established a comprehensive education program in agriculture in the public school system – pre-K through adult education – and required that the State Board of Education make this program readily available to school districts.

House Bill 4986 passed Public Act 84-1452, which amended the Illinois School Code, on January 20, 2006, stating: Provides that a school district that offers a secondary agricultural education program that is eligible for state and federal funding must ensure that, at a minimum, the following are available to its secondary agricultural education students: (1) an instructional sequence of courses approved by the State Board of Education; (2) a state and nationally affiliated FFA Chapter that is integral to instruction and is not treated as an extracurricular activity; and (3) a mechanism for ensuring the involvement of all secondary agricultural education students in formal, Supervised Agricultural Experience activities and programs.

Senate Bill 2975 passed and was signed into law effective January 1, 2017, creating Public Act 99-826 and Section 2-3.80b of the Illinois School Code. This legislation "created an agriculture education teacher grant program to fund personal services costs for agriculture education teachers in school districts. The grants shall be for the purpose of assisting school districts with paying for personal services costs of agriculture education teachers." This grant today is known as the Teacher Three Circle Grant.

Senate Bill 1498 passed and was signed into law effective August 13, 2019, creating Public Act 101-554 and Section 2-3.80d of the Illinois School Code. By this new law, the "State Board of Education must, in consultation with the Board of Higher Education, develop an Agricultural Education Pre-Service Teacher Internship Program, beginning at the secondary education level, for pre-service teaching students." This program today is known as the Preservice Internship Program.



FFA members meet and thank Governor Pritzker before the signing of Public Act 102-0403.

Historical Legislation

2022

**SENATE BILL 1624 &
HOUSE BILL 3218**

Adds agricultural science and agricultural education as course options for university admission.

HOUSE BILL 3178

Changes the composition of the Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education.

Senate Bill 1624 and House Bill 3218 passed and were signed into law effective January 1, 2022, creating Public Act 102-0403. This Public Act amended various Acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois. With respect to the high school coursework that a person must satisfactorily complete for university admission, adds agricultural sciences as a course option for the science category and agricultural education as a course option for the electives category.

House Bill 3178 passed and was signed into law, creating Public Act 102-0463. This Act amended ILCS 5/2-3/80 effectively changes the composition of the Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education.

The Agricultural Education line item was fully funded in fiscal year 2021 at \$5 million. All Agricultural Education line item funds were allocated to the six grant programs outlined in Part 75 of the administrative rules for the Illinois State Board of Education.



The **Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education (ICAE)** is a group of professionals **tasked with advising the Illinois State Board of Education on agricultural education.**

Pursuant to Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/2-3.80), the 13-member committee is composed of members representing a variety of agricultural education roles.



Dr. Amy Leman
Chair (Adult Education)
University of Illinois

Brad Pilcher, Vice Chair (FFA Representative)
Bayer Crop Science

Kevin Daugherty (Agricultural Literacy)
Illinois Farm Bureau

Kaizad Irani (College Agriculture Instructor)
Parkland College

Doug Hanson (ILCAE)
ProHarvest Seeds

Allyn Buhrow (ILCAE)
Farmer, Pioneer Seeds

Aimee Shasteen (ILCAE)
Farm Credit Illinois

Kim Haywood Jr. (ILCAE)
Lovejoy Technical Academy

Erika Allen (ILCAE)
Urban Growers Collective

Jody Heavner (Secondary Agriculture Teacher)
Pittsfield High School

Suzanne Schafer (Secondary Agriculture Teacher)
Taylorville High School

Gary Ochs (University Agriculture Instructor)
University of Illinois

The **Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education (ILCAE)** is a volunteer, grassroots agricultural industry group **focused on the expansion and improvement of agricultural education programs** at all levels. ILCAE is responsible for the vision of agricultural education through the Illinois Agricultural Education Plan.



Allyn Buhrow
Chair
Farmer, Pioneer Seeds

Greg Webb, Vice Chair
Archer Daniels Midland (ADM)

Michael Zecher, Secretary
Zecher Farms

Erika Allen
Urban Growers Collective

Dave Catron
Retired Educator

Allen Dietz
Retired Educator, Dietz Farms

Brenda Dismore
Tyson Foods

Jeff Galle
Global Pork Production
Enterprises

Warren Graeff
Midland States Bank

Doug Hanson
ProHarvest Seeds

Kenny Hartman
Glendell Farms LTD

Kim Haywood Jr.
Lovejoy Technical Academy

Russel Higgins
University of Illinois Extension

Chris Kendall
Peoria Educational Region
for Employment Career and
Training

William Kling
Attorney, Community
Collaborative, LLC

Mindy McDermott
The Climate Corporation

Don Moffitt
Retired State Representative

Rod Riech
Brandt Consolidated Inc.

Karen Schieler
Compeer Financial

Aimee Shasteen
Farm Credit Illinois

Kay Shipman
FarmWeek

Haley Siergiej
Nutrients for Life Foundation

Holly Spangler
Prairie Farmer & Farm Progress

Tyler Strom
Illinois Agri-Food Alliance

Dan Swanson
Illinois State Legislature

Cynthia Tucker
PepsiCo

Kaitlin Weitekamp
John Deere

Wyatt Williamson
Edgar County Farm Bureau



The **National FFA Organization** works through State Associations to **endorse and deliver official charters to local schools** when meeting the requirements to start an official FFA chapter. Charters are signed by national and state leaders, as well as the first members of the local chapter who are forever dubbed as charter members.

National FFA Organization



Founded 1928

Charter No. IL0551

This is to certify that the Park Forest-Chicago Heights Chapter
having satisfied all the requirements for affiliation with the
Illinois FFA Association
and the National FFA Organization
is hereby officially chartered as a duly recognized chapter
and is entitled to all of the rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

In witness whereof, we have affixed our signatures
this 7th day of December, 2021

Charter Members

The **number of openings** for agriculture teachers **exceeds the number of teaching candidates**, so agricultural education is recognized by the Illinois General Assembly as an area of **high staff shortage** (IL110 ILCS 947/65.25). **Aggressive strategies** and **targeted support** are utilized to **recruit, develop, and retain high-quality agriculture teachers** in Illinois public schools.

Fiscal Year	Agricultural Education Job Openings	Graduates in AFNR Teacher Education Programs	Non-traditionally Licensed Teachers Hired in Ag Ed
2019-2020	85	28	23
2020-2021	66	22	14
2021-2022	84	36	21

State Teach Ag Results Program

The State Teach Ag Results (STAR) program is a project of the National Teach Ag Campaign, a teacher recruitment and retention initiative managed by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. STAR provides funds for states to develop sustainable programs to increase the number of agriculture teachers. High school and college students explore becoming an agriculture teacher.

\$9,514 STAR Dollars in FY 2021

65 Preservice Teachers Impacted



Preservice teachers explore floral design on the annual STAR Bus Trip.

Teacher Contract Lengths

65% are 40-60 Days Beyond

6% are 31-45 Days Beyond

8% are 16-30 Days Beyond

11% are 01-15 Days Beyond

10% are 0 Days Beyond

Recruitment Activities for High School Students

40 Students Competing in the Agricultural Education CDE

24 Junior Internships with Agricultural Educators

1,763 Students Reached through AFNR Career Presentations

121 Students Attending ELITE Conference



Students considering Agricultural Education as a career meet with college programs at the annual ELITE Conference.

Growing Agricultural Science Teachers Program

GAST is a grant project of the Illinois State Board of Education. GAST funds support the efforts of teacher preparation programs to recruit, develop, and retain agricultural education teachers. Allocations are contingent on annual funding priorities. Funding in FY 2021 was used for student scholarships, mentorship programs, and professional development for early career agriculture teachers.

\$300,000 GAST Dollars in FY 2021

150 Preservice Teachers Impacted

173 Early-Career Teachers Impacted

Teacher Three-Circle Grant Program

The Three Circle Grant program is a project of the Illinois State Board of Education. Three Circle funds support an educator's extended salary beyond the regularly assigned teaching duties. Participating school districts partner with ISBE to provide salary and benefits for 400 additional working hours. ISBE pays a greater amount for new programs.

64% of Illinois Teachers Participating

279 Participating Teachers

\$18,278 Average Salary Increase

424 Average Hours Worked Outside of School

188 Average Hours on FFA

51 Average Hours on SAE

185 Average Hours on Curricular/PD

Retention Activities for College Preservice Teachers

36 Student Teacher Awards at IAVAT Summer Conference

23 Participants in IAVAT Student Branch Activities

6 College-level Internships with Agricultural Educators

Retention Activities for Current Teachers

36 Teachers at 1st Year Teachers' Conference

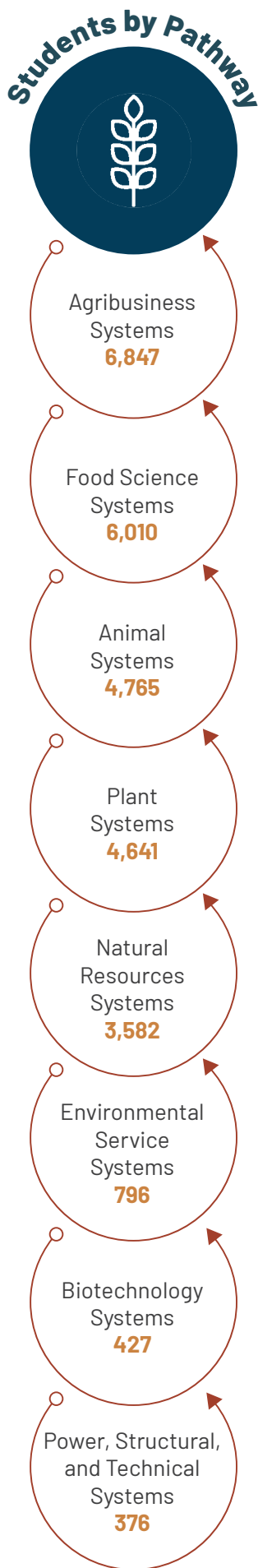
19 Teachers at 2nd Year Teachers' Conference

1,576 Participants in SBAE Professional Development

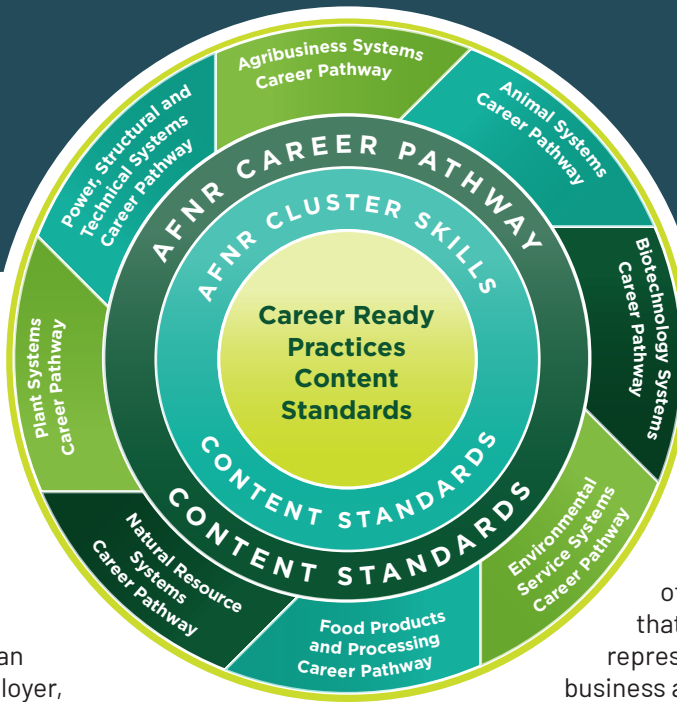
4 New Teacher Retention Grants from IAA Foundation

Agricultural Education Eligible for Federal Loan Forgiveness

We Need Teachers



The **Agricultural, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) career cluster** is **focused** on the production, processing, marketing, distribution, financing, and development of **agricultural commodities** and **resources**, including food, fiber, wood products, natural resources, horticulture, and other plant and animal products or resources. ISBE recognizes eight unique pathways.



Industry-Recognized Credentials

An industry-recognized credential is a verification of a student's qualification or competence. A third party, such as an organization or employer, issues a credential. Credentials are valued in the labor market and are a validation of knowledge and skill. They can take many forms, including certifications, certificates, and licenses. AFNR programs in Illinois offer many credentials, including:

1. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Credentials
2. Illinois Department of Natural Resources Hunter Safety Certification
3. Illinois Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicator Certification
4. National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America Certifications

Program Advisory Councils

Quality AFNR programs have close ties with business and industry. These partnerships are critical to ensuring programs meet current occupational needs. Program Advisory Councils, which are required for CTE Programs of Study,

are one of the most effective ways to establish and strengthen these partnerships. An advisory council is a group of stakeholders that may include

representatives from local business and industry, school administrators, faculty, staff, and

representatives from transfer institutions who advise the institution on the development, implementation, and evaluation of the program. ISBE utilizes the Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education as a statewide advisory council, and local programs are incentivized to implement local advisory councils through the Incentive Funding Grant.

AFNR Model Program of Study

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) sponsored the development of Model Programs of Study Guides in crucial industry areas as part of the Illinois State Plan for Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (also known as the Perkins V Plan). The AFNR Model Program of Study Guide was developed in consultation and collaboration with the Illinois State Board of Education and other notable AFNR stakeholders.



CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Career Connected Learning
for All Students


Education Systems Center
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



Work-Based Learning (WBL) is **sustained interaction with professionals** in **real workplace settings** or **simulated environments in school** that foster in-depth, **firsthand engagement** with the tasks required for specific AFNR careers.

These tasks are also aligned to relevant AFNR curriculum and instructional standards. In local AFNR programs, WBL is commonly facilitated through Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs. SAE opportunities are endless and entirely based on exploring students' passions and career interests. Students will start with a Foundational SAE, then expand to include one or more Immersion SAEs.

SAE Participation Data

10,536 (28%) Students with SAEs (12%↓)
15,517 Unique Projects (14%↓)
\$13,785,092 SAE Earnings (2%↓)
1,465,654 Journal Entries (18%↓)

Project Types

47% Placement/Internship
29% Entrepreneurship/Business
19% Foundational
5% Research/Agriscience

Project Levels

91% Individual
7% School-based
1% Service-Learning

Projects by Pathway

35% Animal Systems
16% Plant Systems
7% Food Products and Processing
7% Agribusiness Systems
6% Power, Structure, and Technical
5% Career Ready Practices
2% Environmental Service
2% Natural Resources
1% Biotechnology Systems

Work-Based Learning

FFA Degrees and Star Awards

Student members of FFA are recognized through a sequence of awards based on achievement in multiple aspects of the AFNR instructional program, including academic success, leadership roles, and SAE progression. These awards are known as Degrees.

Discovery Awards

The Discovery FFA Degree is awarded to members in Grades 7 and 8 at their local chapter banquet each year. Those middle school members receiving their Discovery Degree can also apply for statewide Star Awards in specific project areas. For this year, those went to:

Star Agribusiness: Wyatt Arnold, Galatia

Star Agricultural Placement: Lauren Johnson, Eastland

Star Farmer: Wyatt DeAth, Salt Fork

State Awards

The State FFA Degree is the highest honor the Illinois Association FFA can bestow on a student. This past year, 521 members were awarded the coveted State FFA Degree. From these awards, outstanding members are recognized as "stars" in their respective project areas. Illinois' stars in FY 2021 are:

Star Agribusiness: Toby Winans, Taylorville

Star Agricultural Placement: Tyler Gerdes, Breese Central

Star Agriscience: Delana Erbsen, Eastland

Star Farmer: Shana Lueking, Christ Our Rock Lutheran

National Awards

The American FFA Degree is the highest honor the National FFA Organization can bestow on a student. This past year, 134 members from Illinois were awarded the American FFA Degree. From these awards, Illinois selects outstanding members to be considered by National FFA for American Star Awards. Those stars are:

Star Agribusiness: Joey Allison, Cisne

Star Agricultural Placement: Zachary Hebert, Watseka

Star Agriscience: Daniel Vogwill, CHSAS

Star Farmer: Payton Erbsen, Eastland



*Lizzie Schafer from the Taylorville FFA Chapter was recognized as the national champion in her proficiency award area in 2021.

Agricultural Communications	Brooklyne Luessenheide, Nashville
Agricultural Education	Elaan Bader, Litchfield
Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication	Matt Klingele, Liberty
Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance – Entrepreneurship	Dawson Boys, Stewardson-Strasburg
Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance – Placement	Maxwell Griffey, Sycamore
Agricultural Processing	Sam Terneus, Lincolnwood
Agricultural Sales – Entrepreneurship	Emerson Tarr, LeRoy
Agricultural Sales – Placement	Jaton Shaffer, Blue Ridge
Agricultural Services	Toby Winans, Taylorville
Agriscience Research – Animal Systems*	Lizzie Schafer, Taylorville
Agriscience Research – Integrated Systems	Gracie Corso, Taylorville
Agriscience Research – Plant Systems	Christina White, Paxton-Buckley-Loda
Beef Production – Entrepreneurship	Ty Knodle, Nokomis
Beef Production – Placement	Dave Mock, Galva
Dairy Production – Entrepreneurship	Shana Lueking, Christ Our Rock Lutheran
Dairy Production – Placement	Katy Cassan, Marengo
Diversified Agricultural Production	Beau Mumm, Monticello
Diversified Crop Production – Entrepreneurship	Lance DeClerck, Taylorville
Diversified Crop Production – Placement	Jack Beetz, Mendota
Diversified Horticulture	Keil Endress, Midland
Diversified Livestock Production	Lauren Mohr, Normal West
Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management	Miranda Araujo, Seneca
Equine Science – Entrepreneurship	Jada Hamman, Newark
Equine Science – Placement	Olivia Charles, West Carroll
Fiber and Oil Crop Production	Loren Pribble, Goreville
Food Service	Alexandria Cain, ROWVA
Forage Production	Evan White, Midwest Central
Forest Production and Management	Collin Nash, Pittsfield
Fruit Production	Ethan Weidner, Teutopolis
Goat Production	Mason Fricke, Triopia
Grain Production	Logan Bend, Indian Creek
Landscape Management	Carissa Jefferson, Edwards County
Nursery Operations	Joshua Fuller, Canton
Outdoor Recreation	Abby Hoeft, Normal West
Poultry Production	Hunter Mott, Central A&M
Safety	Georgia Vandigo, Scales Mound
Sheep Production	Trace Titus, United
Small Animal Production and Care	Grace Milligan, Cisne
Specialty Animal Production	William Huber, Kaneland
Specialty Crop Production	Ty Steffen, Newark
Swine Production – Entrepreneurship	Annie Johnson, Cambridge
Swine Production – Placement	Zach Kampwerth, Central Breese
Turf Grass Management	Alec Langley, South Central
Vegetable Production	Shannon Flavin, Unity-Tolono
Veterinary Science	McKenna Merritt, Illini West
Wildlife Production and Management	Cameron Pace, Cambridge



**Service-Learning
State Winner:**
Libby Larkin, Pontiac
More on Page 20.



Career Development Events (CDE) are team-based challenges for FFA members that focus on **skill development** and **career preparation**. These competitive events develop individual responsibility, foster teamwork, and promote communication while recognizing the value of ethical competition. Members expand their knowledge base by interacting with peers and teachers, as well as business and community leaders, to gain a complete and comprehensive knowledge about specific careers. Events are also aligned to Illinois Learning Standards.



Prairie Central FFA Chapter, National Champions in Agricultural Sales



Eastland FFA Chapter, National Champions in Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Management



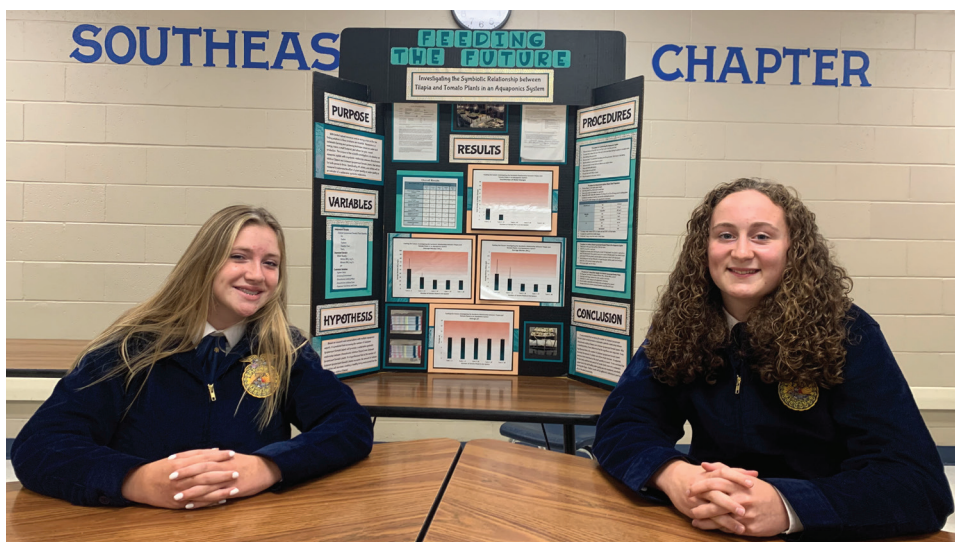
Prairie Central FFA Chapter, National Champions in Milk Quality & Products

CDE	Participation	State Winner
Agricultural Business Management	19%	Unity-Tolono
Agricultural Communications	3%	Canceled due to COVID-19
Agricultural Education	7%	Madelyn Hubble, Normal
Agricultural Mechanics	14%	Canceled due to COVID-19
Agricultural Sales	30%	Prairie Central
Agronomy	51%	United
Dairy Cattle Evaluation	16%	Non-Reasons: Vandalia Reasons: Eastland Middle School: Carlyle
Dairy Cattle Handlers	2%	Canceled due to COVID-19
Dairy Foods	22%	Canceled due to COVID-19
Food Science and Technology	12%	Somonauk-Leland-Sandwich
Forestry	21%	High School: Midland Middle School: Liberty
Horse Evaluation	45%	Non-Reasons: Rochelle Reasons: Unity-Tolono Middle School: West Prairie
Horticulture	27%	Seneca
Land Use	19%	Canceled due to COVID-19
Livestock Evaluation	44%	Non-Reasons: Macomb Reasons: Normal West
Meat Evaluation and Technology	22%	Prairie Central
Poultry Evaluation	26%	Milford
Quiz Bowl	20%	Brownstown
Veterinary Science	29%	Clifton Central

Students grow in **technical skills** and **professional knowledge** as they compete with their peers in section, district, and state-level **Career Development Events**.



The **Illinois Agriscience Fair** recognizes students who gain **real-world, hands-on experiences in agricultural enterprises**. Students use scientific principles and emerging technologies to solve complex problems related to agriculture, food, and natural resources. The Agriscience Fair is for middle and high school students. Participation begins at the local level and progresses to district, state, and national levels.



Savannah Ramsey and Amanda Stephens, Southeastern FFA Chapter
National Champions in Division 2 — Environmental Service and Natural Resources



Olivia Shike, Unity-Tolono FFA Chapter National
Champion in Division 3 — Animal Systems

Project Category	Grades 7-8	Grades 9-10	Grades 11-12
Animal Systems	High Individual: none High Team: Liliana Weese & Gracie Arthur, Southeastern	High Individual: Olivia Shike, Unity-Tolono High Team: Drew Mickey & Jay Bliler, Taylorville	High Individual: Lizzie Schafer, Taylorville High Team: Delana Erbsen & Alyssa Miller, Eastland
Environmental Service and Natural Resource Systems	High Individual: Hailie Heaton, Southeastern High Team: Savannah Ramsey & Amanda Stephens, Southeastern	High Individual: Sara McGehee, Fairfield High Team: Samantha Alvarez & Reagan Green, Central Burlington	High Individual: Kaleia Maxey, Chicago Ag Sciences High Team: Christina White & Maci Kingren, Paxton-Buckley-Loda
Food Products and Processing Systems	High Individual: none High Team: none	High Individual: Olivia Alka, Mt. Carmel High Team: none	High Individual: none High Team: none
Plant Systems	High Individual: none High Team: none	High Individual: Jocelyn Williams, Taylorville High Team: Tucker Winans & Stephen Franklin, Taylorville	High Individual: Isabelle Norris, Taylorville High Team: Kevin Hyder & Rylee Beckel, Cisne
Power, Structural, and Technical Systems	High Individual: none High Team: Anden Akers & Jaren Henry, Southeastern	High Individual: Charles Miller, Cisne High Team: none	High Individual: Elaan Bader, Litchfield High Team: none
Social Systems	High Individual: none High Team: none	High Individual: none High Team: Abby Norris & Abby Erlenbush, Taylorville	High Individual: Tabitha Wagner, Chicago Ag Sciences High Team: Brilyn Lantz & Ani Kerr, Southeastern

I **believe** in
leadership from
ourselves and
respect from
others.

Sidney Stiers of the Williamsfield FFA Chapter won the national Creed Speaking Leadership Development Event at the National FFA Convention in 2021.

Leadership Development in FFA Local AFNR programs develop student leadership through FFA programs at the local, state, and national levels. FFA members focus on skill development through Leadership Development Events (LDE). These competitive events develop individual responsibility, foster teamwork, and promote communication while recognizing the value of ethical competition. Events are also aligned to Illinois Learning Standards.	LDE	Participation	State Winner
	Agricultural Issues	3%	Cisne
	Conduct of Chapter Meetings	11%	Olney
	Creed Speaking (Grade 9 Only)	52% for All Public Speaking	Sidney Stiers, Williamsfield
	Extemporaneous Public Speaking	52% for All Public Speaking	Morgan Mouser, Tri-Valley
	Parliamentary Procedure	23%	Paxton-Buckley-Loda
	Prepared Public Speaking	52% for All Public Speaking	Lizzie Schafer, Taylorville

Leadership Conferences Local programs promote leadership and personal growth through conferences held at the local, state, and national levels. Conferences looked different in 2021 because of pandemic-related restrictions, but despite these challenges members and student leaders came together for team-building and peer networking.	Conference	Audience	Host(s)	Location	Participation
	Greenhand	New Students	LLCC, SIUC, UIUC, WIU	Regional Locations	Regional Events
	Ground Zero	Grades 9-10	State FFA	Virtual	35%
	COLT	Chapter Officers	SIUC	Carbondale	Regional Event
	BUILD	Grades 11-12	ISU	Normal	28%
	STAR	Section Officers	BHC, JJC, JWCC, LLC, and SIUC	Regional Locations	20%
	Premier 20	Student Leaders in FFA and 4-H	Illinois Farm Bureau	Bloomington	2%
	WLC	FFA Members Across the Nation	National FFA	Washington, D.C.	Postponed due to COVID-19

FFA membership is an investment in a student's future. **Participation** can be an **uplifting** and **community-building** experience that contributes positively to **personal growth**, including mental and emotional well-being.

In addition to personal gains, FFA membership also builds career skills and professional success for students as they network with industry professionals; explore options for careers; and develop essential skills like public speaking, interviewing, and networking.

FFA also makes a positive difference in communities. Strong chapters are built by strong members, and strong members who come together can have a greater impact on their school and community than they could ever have had independently. These are the primary returns on investing in FFA members — premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. Join your local chapter to reap the full benefits of our wonderful organization!

The Value of Leadership in FFA

There are many positive aspects of FFA membership. Ask any former member what they remember most about their time in the FFA, and you will likely get a different answer inspired by their unique experiences. FFA members take ownership in their experiences — all of which develop leadership and teamwork skills. Competitive events, such as public speaking, parliamentary procedure, and agricultural issues, give members a voice in discussing important topics with their local chapter or the agricultural industry. These experiences give members confidence in handling real-world situations by sharing opinions, analyzing problems, or working with a team to make decisions.

Conferences are perhaps the most memorable, especially for new members. Meeting others from different backgrounds and communities teaches students to respect others' ideas and perspectives. Serving as an officer is perhaps the most demanding and rewarding experience for a student. The variety of roles and responsibilities often puts student officers in charge of tasks such as leading meetings, tracking chapter finances, managing public relations, coordinating service projects, and mentoring new students. Through these responsibilities, members develop confidence that you don't often experience through other youth programs, and that is because FFA truly is a student-led organization.

Student leadership, work ethic, and inspiration are at the **heart of this organization**, and **all members benefit** from this **system and structure of leadership** that is FFA.



19,177

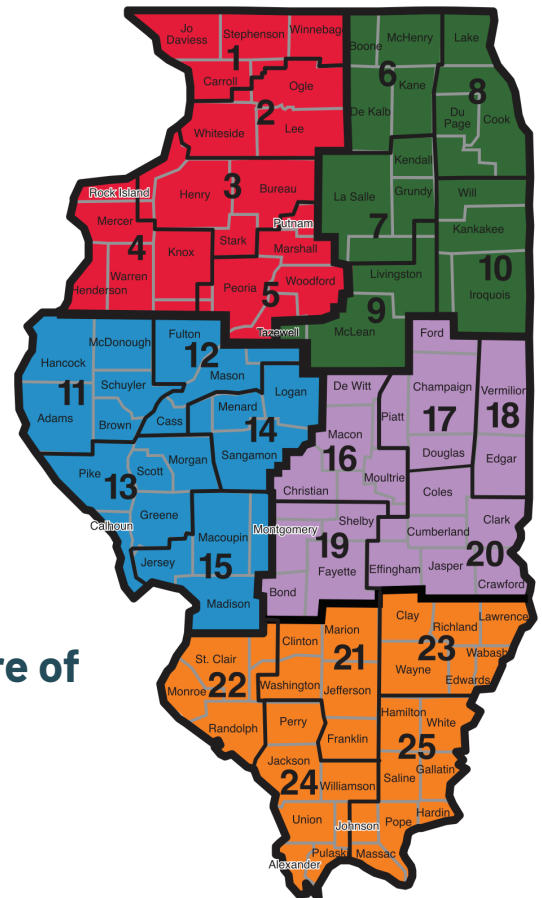
FY 2019 FFA Members (4%↑)

20,772

FY 2020 FFA Members (8%↑)

20,583

FY 2021 FFA Members (1%↓)



Premier Leadership in FFA

Gender	FY19	FY20	FY21	Change from FY20
Male	10,964 (57.2%)	11,498 (55.4%)	11,663 (56.7%)	+165 Members
Female	8,124 (42.4%)	9,047 (43.6%)	8,675 (42.1%)	-342 Members
Non-Binary	1(0.0%)	9(0.0%)	20(0.1%)	+11 Members
Non-Disclosed	88(0.5%)	218(1.0%)	225(1.1%)	+7 Members

Race/Ethnicity	FY19	FY20	FY21	Change from FY20
Asian/Pacific Islander	84	97	93	-4.0%
Black	633	810	946	+16.8%
Hispanic/Latino	568	641	605	-5.6%
Native American	147	122	78	-36.1%
Two or More	321	321	337	+5.0%
White	16,230	18,064	17,947	-0.6%
Non-Disclosed	1,194	717	577	-19.5%

Illinois FFA State Officer Team traveled to Southern Illinois University-Carbondale for a statewide meeting from July 12-16, 2021



Our Leadership Structure

Our state FFA association is composed of local chapters that are led by student officers currently enrolled in agricultural education at their respective schools. Chapters are regionally organized into 25 sections and five districts. Student officers are selected annually at the chapter and section levels, and five state officers are elected by chapter delegates at the annual state convention in Springfield. Students who serve as state officers postpone college and career to work full time at the Illinois FFA Center in Springfield and travel the state promoting FFA programs and related student opportunities. This year's state officers are:

President: Adam Loker, Wayne City
Vice President: Jatón Shaffer, Blue Ridge
Reporter: Lauren Mohr, Normal West
Secretary: Gracie Murphy, Macomb
Treasurer: Kara Freebairn, Serena

The **National Chapter Award (NCA) program** is designed to recognize FFA chapters that **actively implement the mission and strategies of the organization**. The **2021 State Premier Chapter** is **Cambridge FFA Chapter** in Cambridge, Illinois.

Cambridge FFA received the highest overall score on the NCA program in Illinois, a direct result of students' hard work and dedication along with the leadership of a quality agricultural education teacher. Student officers are responsible for planning and implementing the annual Program of Activities, which this year included two nationally recognized activities! See below for more information.

Thirty-five chapters in Illinois were recognized as national finalists in the NCA competition. Four of those chapters were recognized for outstanding achievement in specific areas, and one chapter was recognized as a Model of Excellence finalist.

Service-Learning SAE Programs

A service-learning Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) is conducted by one or more students in which they plan, conduct, and evaluate a project designed to provide a service to their local school, public entities, or the community. It must benefit an organization or group other than the FFA chapter.

194 Service-Learning Projects

179 Students with Service-Learning SAEs

86 FFA Chapters with Service-Learning SAEs

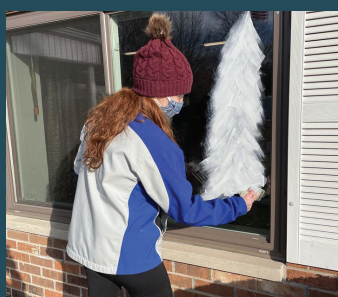
Service-Learning Winner in 2021

Libby Larkin of the Pontiac FFA Chapter is the 2021 State Proficiency Winner in the area of Service Learning. Her SAE consisted of hosting a food packaging event in her community. She started by researching these types of events after serving as a volunteer at a food packaging event. After learning more, she developed a fundraising plan and made a presentation for potential sponsors. She then scheduled a date and coordinated local volunteers. Meals were then delivered to local schools, clubs, and food pantries. Libby says that, "Unfortunately, food insecurity shows no boundaries." Libby also shared that she is blessed to have the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives through food packaging events.

Premier Chapters by Section	
1	Scales Mound
2	Rochelle
3	Cambridge
4	Knoxville
5	Midland
6	Central Burlington
7	Seneca
8	Chicago Ag Sciences
9	Normal Community
10	Cissna Park
11	West Prairie
12	Midwest Central
13	Pittsfield
14	Athens
15	Highland
16	Decatur MacArthur
17	Paxton-Buckley-Loda
18	Hoopeston Area
19	Greenville
20	Altamont
21	Mount Vernon
22	Waterloo
23	Olney
24	Goreville
25	Harrisburg



CHSAS FFA



Red Hill FFA



Seneca FFA



Decatur MacArthur FFA

Community Connections



Cambridge FFA was recognized as a finalist in the area of Growing Leaders for its “GOLD Escape Room.” Cambridge planned an exciting virtual escape room as well as a virtual leadership development workshop for the freshmen in order for them become accustomed to the organization and learn how they could become more involved in the FFA. Cambridge FFA was recognized as a finalist in the area of Strengthening Agriculture for its activity called “LIVE! with Legislators.” The officer team partnered with WQAD to present virtual interviews with local legislators about agricultural issues. The officer team set up interviews, organized the videos, and broadcasted them to the community through social media.

Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences FFA was recognized as a finalist in the area of Growing Leaders for its “Virtual Black History Museum.” Members came together to create a virtual museum that all 820 students were able to tour during a week of programming for Black History Month. Students recorded videos and voice overs, and had a section to highlight contributions to agriculture.

Red Hill FFA was recognized as a finalist in the area of Building Communities for its activity, called “Window Painting.” FFA members partnered with the Art Club to paint murals on nursing home residents’ windows. This allowed students to interact with local citizens as well as provide a bright spot for the residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Seneca FFA was recognized as a finalist in the area of Strengthening Agriculture for its activity, called “Skyscrapers and Barons: Our Grain History” The agricultural management classes created displays at the local museum about the history of the grain industry and those involved with it. It also included a display about grain identification and its production.

Decatur MacArthur Andreas Ag Academy FFA was recognized as a finalist for the Model of Excellence award area. The Model of Excellence award recognizes chapters that have outstanding achievement across all three areas of the NCA — growing leaders, building communities, and strengthening agriculture.

Illinois FFA Alumni

Interested in supporting your local agriculture program and FFA chapter? Former FFA members and interested adults are a natural, supportive resource for FFA advisors and their students. A local FFA alumni chapter helps to rally the community around agricultural education and FFA activities. FFA alumni chapters also provide a helping hand to FFA advisors in coordinating activities for the local FFA chapter.



241 Alumni Chapters in Illinois
10,917 Alumni Members in Illinois
65% of FFA Chapter with Active Alumni

Alumni Raffle Supports Local Chapters

The Illinois FFA Alumni Association raises money through an annual raffle with proceeds given to local chapters. To raise funds, the state alumni conducts an annual raffle. Amy Kane (Pearl City FFA) of Davis, Illinois, won a Polaris Ranger as a part of the alumni raffle in 2021. \$24,715 was raised through the ranger raffle in 2021. \$10,136 of these funds were given back to local chapters based on local ticket sales. The Alumni also provide scholarships for students to attend state and national leadership conferences each year.



Alumni and Advisory Councils

Quality programs have close ties with their local agricultural industry. An advisory council is a group of stakeholders that may include representatives from local businesses, school administrators, faculty, and staff who advise the program on development, implementation, and evaluation of the program. As most FFA alumni chapter members fit these same roles, teachers commonly use the local alumni in place of a separate advisory council. This can be an effective structure as FFA alumni meetings can also serve as program advisory meetings.

54% — Programs with Advisory Councils in FY 2021



Illinois FFA Alumni Board, 2021





The **Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC)** program provides **accurate, standards-based agricultural classroom materials** and **resources to preK-12 teachers** across the state.

163,981
PreK-8 Students Reached

78 coalitions
(Covering 86 counties)
Agricultural Literacy County Coalitions

\$627,600
(9.5% of these funds from Ag Ed Line Item)
Dollars Awarded for County Grants

\$8,046
Average Dollars Awarded per Coalition

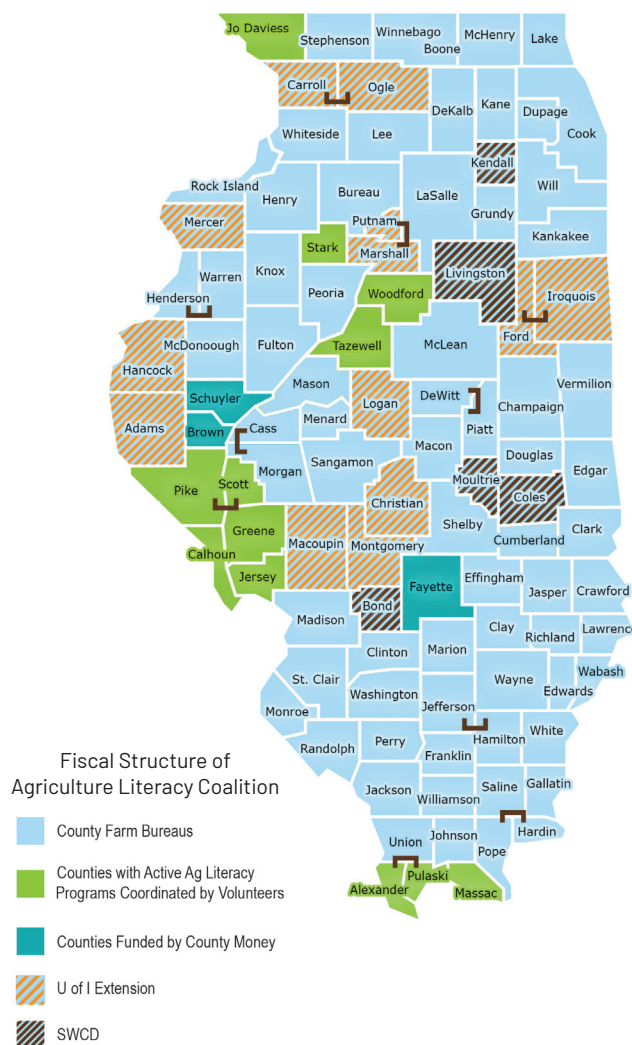
15,893
PreK-8 Teachers Engaged in AIRC

2,449 (54%)
Schools in IL Engaged in AIRC

40,169
Community Members Engaged in
Agricultural Literacy through AIRC

\$1,593,952
State and Local Dollars Invested
for AIRC Statewide

Using the established network of county agricultural literacy coordinators, Illinois AIRC continued to be Illinois' leader in agricultural literacy programming. Matching grants were provided to county coalitions to develop an advisory council and hire an AIRC coordinator. Financial support for AIRC was provided by agricultural organizations and foundations, business and industry partners, commodity groups, farm bureaus, extension, soil and water conservation districts, and private individuals.





Exploring Agricultural Careers in Grades 5-8

Perkins V allows for federal career and technical education funds to provide career exploration and development activities in Grades 5-8, while state CTE funds can support these activities in Grades K-8. Agricultural education in Illinois has included middle school students since 2009. AFNR courses available to students before ninth grade include Career Exploration – a general careers course that includes exploration of all CTE clusters – and Exploratory Agricultural Science. In Exploratory Agricultural Science, students learn fundamental concepts to serve as a foundation for future courses in high school. Topics include, but are not limited to, animal and plant science, agribusiness, horticultural science, agricultural mechanics, and food science.

Models of Agricultural Career Exploration in Grades 5-8

Agricultural Education is delivered in Grades 5-8 using different models. Some programs utilize one teacher who instructs both middle and high school students while others utilize a teacher dedicated to just middle school instruction. Ninety-seven local programs (27 percent statewide) report offering AFNR courses to students in Grades 5-8. Approved AFNR courses for middle school include Career Exploration and Exploratory Agricultural Science. Middle school courses offered in AFNR are often implemented in a quarterly rotation with other electives, but may also be offered as a semester- or year-long experience. Course descriptions, recommended outlines, and standards-aligned curricular resources can be accessed on the Illinois Agricultural Education website.

Seventy-three percent of programs offering middle school AFNR courses report using a shared classroom/laboratory space for both middle and high school students. Nine local programs reported engaging middle school students in career exploration activities like leadership conferences, college open houses, and the Farm Progress Show. Nineteen programs reported hosting guest speakers in middle school courses, and 30 programs engaged middle school students in career development events like horticulture, livestock evaluation, and veterinary science. See more information on middle school agricultural education below.

69 Programs offering MS Courses equivalent to 10-25% local full-time equivalent (FTE)

10 Programs offering MS Courses equivalent to 26-50% local FTE

1 Programs offering MS Courses equivalent to 51-74% local FTE

17 Programs offering MS Courses equivalent to 75% or more of local FTE

37 Programs include MS AFNR Activities in local Annual Report

Middle School FFA Membership

Students in Grades 7 and 8 are eligible for FFA membership in Illinois. Opportunities for these members include career and leadership development, participation in SAE programs, and achievement of the FFA Discovery Degree. Middle school students are eligible for all FFA activities, including Leadership Development Events (LDE), with the exception of those specifically age-restricted in the rules.

7 Stand-Alone Middle School Chapters

942 FFA Members in Grades 7-8*

42 FFA Chapters awarding Discovery FFA Degrees to MS Students

12 FFA Chapters where MS Members participated in LDEs

*Includes FFA members from stand-alone middle school programs and combined middle and high school programs.

The **agriculture, food, and natural resources (AFNR) sector**, preK-16 school based agricultural education is very important. World population is currently at 7.9 billion people with projections expected to increase by twenty-three percent to 9.7 billion people by the year 2050.

The need for food, clothing, energy, and related agricultural products and services will continue to be in high demand. With this high demand, a talented workforce of employees will equally be in high demand and important to our economy. For the 2020-21 school year, 32,656 fifth to twelfth grade students were enrolled in AFNR courses. To meet the demand for jobs in the career areas of: agribusiness, animal science, biotechnology, environmental services, food products and processing, natural resources, plant science, and power, structural and technical systems, student enrollment in these courses must increase significantly and proportionately.

Allowing AFNR courses to meet academic graduation requirements and to fulfill college and university course entrance requirements are key. Strategic funding to schools with data driven resources and services are necessary components to double AFNR enrollment by the year 2050. Urban and diverse students in the city of Chicago, third largest city in the United States, and metropolitan areas of Illinois must be targeted for inclusion of school based AFNR education programs with classroom, student leadership organization (FFA), and work-based learning (SAE) components. Developing more AFNR licensed teachers will also be important to teach in these urban metropolitan Illinois cities. Equally important and critical as our population is less connected with where their food comes from, the need for agricultural literacy is vital. Agribusiness representatives, educational leaders, and AFNR state staff will be partnering, collaborating, and working closely together as a team to achieve these goals.



Dean Dittmar, FCAE State Coordinator,
on the future of Agricultural Education
in Illinois

Agricultural Education



- 345** Programs in SY 2018-19
- 353** Programs in SY 2019-20
- 355** Programs in SY 2020-21
- 17** Average AFNR Class Size
- 77** Programs with Two or More Teachers
- 74** Programs with College Articulation Agreements
- 103** Programs with Dual Credit AFNR Courses
- 100%** Programs that Utilize Illinois Core AFNR Curriculum
- 188** Programs with Advisory Councils
- 226** Programs with Alumni Group
- 134** Programs with AFNR Courses in Grades 5-8

Graduation Requirements fulfilled by AFNR

- 77%** (+5%) Programs offering Science Credit
- 37%** (+/-0%) Programs offering Consumer Education Credit
- 5%** (+3%) Programs offering Math Credit
- 2%** (+1%) Programs offering Social Studies Credit
- 2%** (+1%) Programs offering Language Arts Credit

Lab Facilities in AFNR Programs

- 76%** with Mechanics Facilities
- 60%** with >10 Computers/Laptops
- 75%** with a Greenhouse
- 53%** with Land/Plant Facilities
- 70%** with 1:1 School Technology
- 43%** with Instructional Landscaping
- 32%** with a Garden
- 28%** with Agriscience Facilities
- 28%** with Aquaculture Facilities
- 16%** with Small Animal/Veterinary Science Facilities
- 16%** with Food Science Facilities
- 9%** with a Nursery
- 6%** with Large Animal Facilities



Illinois Core Curriculum for AFNR

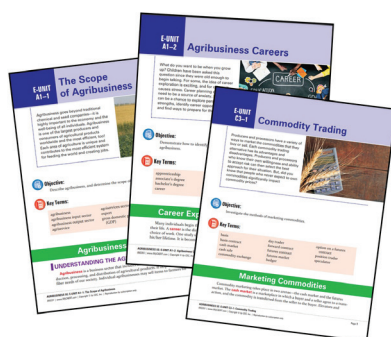
The Illinois Core Curriculum for AFNR is free and accessible to Illinois teachers and administrators at www.ilaged.org. Curriculum libraries are complete, with full lesson plans aligned to Illinois Learning Standards. Each lesson includes a digital textbook (eUnit), presentation slides, related labs and activities, and assessments. The Agribusiness Library was updated in 2021.

11 Number of Curriculum Libraries

847 Lessons

80 New Lesson Plans

16 New Instructional Videos



Teacher Credentials

Illinois teachers continually seek professional credentials in various AFNR career pathways to enhance learning for their students. Credentials sought by teachers include:

1. AWS Weld Inspector, Educator, and Welder
2. Anhydrous Ammonia Applicator and Transportation License
3. Briggs and Stratton Small Engine Basic Engine Theory Certification
4. Illinois DNR Hunter Safety Certified Instructor
5. Introduction to OSHA, OSHA 10, and 30
6. Illinois Department of Agriculture Certified Pesticide Applicator
7. SERVSafe Certified Food Handler
8. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Pilot License

Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) in Illinois

CASE is a curriculum and professional development initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education that is managed by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. CASE courses are developed using elements from pedagogical approaches that are recognized in educational literature. CASE curriculum is available to educators who complete certification through a CASE institute, which is an immersive professional learning experience in a specified course. Illinois teachers have taken on leadership roles within the CASE organization, and many have become certified in CASE curriculum based on local program needs.

CASE Curriculum and Number of IL Teachers Certified

Agriculture Business Foundations
111



Introduction to AFNR
79



Agriculture Science-Animals
50



Agriculture Science-Plants
42



Natural Resources & Ecology
15



Agriculture Power & Technology
14



Food Science & Safety
12



Mechanical Systems in Agriculture
6



Agriculture Research & Development
3



Animal & Plant Biotechnology
1



Environmental Science Issues
1



Illinois AFNR teachers are eligible to become members in Illinois' premier agriculture teacher organization – the Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers (IAVAT). **IAVAT offers professional learning, teacher leadership, and advocacy for agricultural education.**

Teachers are professionals, and membership in IAVAT has significant returns on investment. In addition to teacher benefits, students of teacher-members are eligible for discounted registration costs for in state-level competitive events aligned to agricultural careers. Dues for membership are often covered by the members' schools because of this benefit.



Demographics of IL AFNR Teachers Total Number of Agriculture Teachers in Illinois 455, 2.5% increase from FY 2020

Male	46%
Female	53%
Didn't Grow Up on a Farm	41%
Member of IAVAT	77%
Under Age 30	36%
Over Age 50	17%
Early Career (Less than five years)	39%
Late Career (More than 25 years)	12%

Teacher Licensure Demographics

Teachers in Illinois are licensed to teach AFNR in three main ways. Traditional licensure through an approved university teacher preparation program results in a Professional Educator License (PEL). Alternative means of licensure includes seeking an Educator License with Stipulations (ELS), which requires 60 college credit hours and 2,000 hours of professional experience in AFNR. Another alternative means of licensure includes seeking a CTE-Provisional (CTEP), which requires 8,000 hours of professional experience in AFNR.

Number of Teachers with Professional Educator License: 79%

Number of Teachers with Educator License with Stipulations: 21%

Teacher Salaries

Average Teacher Salary in FY 2021: **\$54,799 (0.03% increase from FY 2020)**

Average Starting Teacher Salary in FY 2021: **\$46,770 (0.9% decrease from FY 2020)**

Building Illinois' AFNR Teaching Corps

Agricultural education in Illinois benefits from a growing, diverse corps of professional educators. To continue to grow the number and diversity of AFNR teachers, Illinois' Team Ag Ed is implementing several initiatives. The Growing Agriculture Science Teachers (GAST) Grant for universities and colleges distributes annual funds to empower students to major in agriscience education. The Joint Board of Directors (IAVAT and FFA) oversees a statewide diversity and inclusion task force to develop initiatives to increase access to agricultural education among diverse students. FCAE initiated a pilot program for school districts to start Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) junior chapters at Illinois high schools. FCAE and the IAVAT Recruitment and Retention Committee implement annual initiatives to increase students majoring in agricultural education.

Outstanding Educators





The Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers is proud to partner with Nationwide Insurance, Illinois Association FFA, Farm Credit Illinois, and Compeer Financial to offer the **Golden Owl Award**.

The Golden Owl Award® allows these organizations to also extend their support to agricultural educators who devote countless hours – and often their own resources – to positively impact the lives of their students. The Golden Owl Award program allows students, fellow teachers, and other supporters to nominate their favorite agricultural teacher and summarize what makes them the best in their state. Nominees can win the distinction of being their state's Agricultural Educator of the Year.

Sue Schafer was chosen as the 2020-21 Illinois Agricultural Educator of the Year for her extraordinary work as an agricultural teacher at Taylorville High School. Nominations described her as always putting her students first and being able to direct any student, agricultural background or not, toward success according to their individual talents and interests.

District I Winner

Kindra Callahan, Kewanee

District II Winner

Kyle Miller, Prairie Central

District III Winner

Corinne Biswell, West Prairie

District IV Winner

Sue Schafer, Taylorville

District V Winner

Josh Berg, Okawville



Instructors of agriculture at Illinois' **community colleges** and **universities** are eligible for membership in the **Illinois Association of Community College Agriculture Instructors (IACCAI)**. IACCAI **provides members** with opportunities for **professional learning, networking**, and **advocacy** for community college agricultural education programs.



Community College Enrollment Data

Total Enrollment	3,247 (9.3%↑)
Male	1,721 (53%)
Female	1,526 (47%)
Non-Farm	2,468 (76%)
Farm	779 (24%)
Agricultural Education in HS	1,087 (33%)
Transfer Program	671
Associate in Applied Science Program	1,658
Certificate Program	918

Community College Data

Programs in AFNR	29
Full-Time Faculty in AFNR	90
Part-Time Faculty in AFNR	115
Average Full-Time Salary	\$67,446
Average Faculty Age	48

Early College Credit Data

Students Offered Articulated Credit in FY 2021	290
Students Received Dual Credit in FY 2021	643



College Programs

The **Professional Agricultural Students (PAS)** organization prepares students from two- and four-year colleges for the workplace by **building student skills** through **annual competitions** and **real-life learning** applications.



Statewide Event	High Individual	High Team
Prepared Public Speaking	Kate Czarny, SIUC	N/A
Agribusiness Sales	Brian Kenshol, LLCC	N/A
Agricultural Education	Luke Jesgarz, WIU	N/A
Beef Cattle	Carly Etter, SIUC	SIUC
Crop	Jenna Goeken, ICC	ICC
Floriculture	Erin Anderson, DACC	N/A
Landscape Horticulture	Ian Wilkinson, JJC	N/A
Overall Livestock	Evan Link, ICC	ICC
Precision Agriculture	Haley Ochs, Parkland	N/A
Sheep	Garrett Rhode, ICC	ICC
Soil	Thomas Stamberger, SIUC	SIUC
Swine	Regan Fringer, ICC	ICC
College Bowl	N/A	LLCC
Employment Interview State Winners		
Agricultural Equipment Service	Carson Lobdell, LLCC	N/A
Agribusiness Administration	Jenna Gottschalk, ICC	N/A
Agricultural Education	Luke Jesgarz, WIU	N/A
Agricultural Sales	Braylee Finck, LLCC	N/A
Crop Production	Gavin White, ICC	N/A
Dairy Production	Ryan Michael, ICC	N/A
Feeds and Animal Health	Chase Gore, ICC	N/A
Fertilizers and Agricultural Chemicals	Devin Baker, ICC	N/A
Forestry and Natural Resources	Drake Fandel, ICC	N/A
Fruit and Vegetable Production	Mackenzie Harmon, LLCC	N/A
Landscaping and Nursery	Alexis Carroll, LLCC	N/A
Livestock Production	Spencer Atkinson, ICC	N/A

11 PAS Chapters
114 PAS Members

PAS Student Officers

President
Jacob Meyer, Joliet Junior College

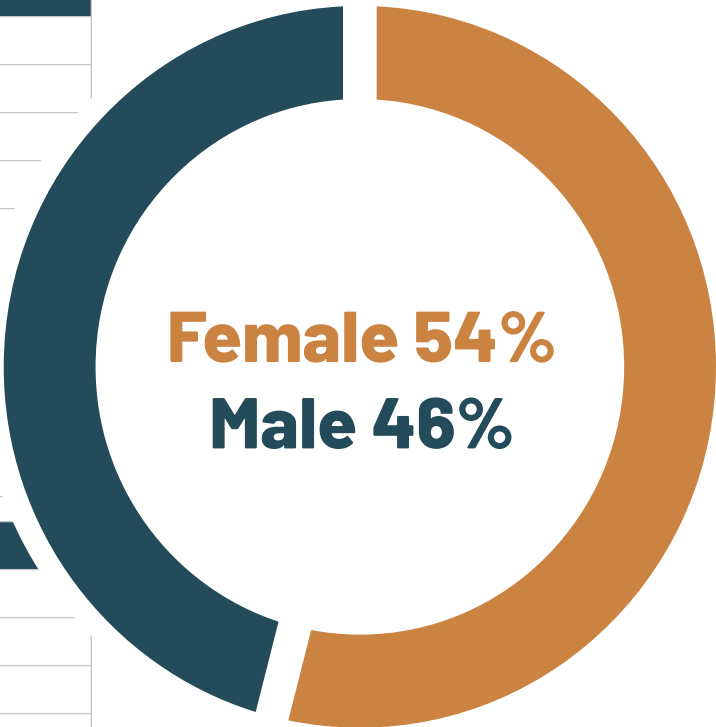
1st VP
Alexis Carroll, Lincoln Land Community College

2nd VP
Collin White, Illinois College

3rd VP
Emma Freebairn, Lake Land College



Enrollment Data by University	
Total Number of Undergraduate Students	3,551
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign	1,912
Southern Illinois University Carbondale	561
Illinois State University	400
Loyola University Chicago	363
Western Illinois University	241
Illinois College	56
Greenville University	18
Percentage of Students-Male	46%
Percentage of Students-Female	54%



Additional Enrollment Data	
Freshman Students	614
Transfer Students	397
University Faculty	605
Graduate Students	567



University Programs

Collegiate Farm Bureau provides involvement **opportunities** for students interested in agriculture at **12 chapters throughout Illinois**. The purpose of the **Collegiate Farm Bureau program** is to **bridge the gap** between participation in high school agriculture programs, such as 4-H and FFA, and future involvement as an Illinois Farm Bureau member.

Collegiate members are offered **plentiful opportunities** for **leadership, professional development, and networking** through experiences in **agriculture education, legislation, advocacy, and community service**.

Chapters

Black Hawk College – East Campus, Galva
Highland Community College, Freeport
Illinois Central College, East Peoria
Illinois State University, Normal
Joliet Junior College, Joliet
Kaskaskia College, Centralia
Lake Land College, Mattoon
Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Wabash Valley College, Mount Carmel
Western Illinois University, Macomb



Collegiate Farm Bureau Discussion Meet Winner

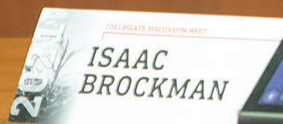
Isaac Brockman, Illinois State University, is the state winner for Illinois' collegiate discussion meet. This competition is evaluated on an exchange of ideas and information on a pre-determined topic. Participants build basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of important agricultural issues, and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach consensus and solve problems.

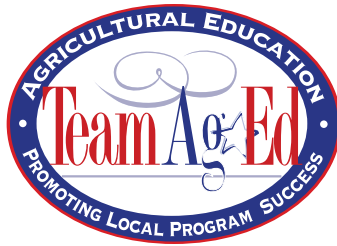
Questions discussed during the meet included:

- How can Farm Bureau improve its effectiveness at recruiting Young Farmers and Ranchers members and increase participation?
- How can Farm Bureau policy support easing government regulations to ensure long-term economic viability for local animal processing facilities?
- How can Farm Bureau help farmers and ranchers increase their efficiency in the use of renewable resources and transition to green energy practices?

Also, in the final four were:

- Second place: Seth Mitchell
Richland County, University of Illinois
- Third place: Leah Moorman
McDonough County, Western Illinois University
- Fourth place: Zachary Zwiebel
Will County, Joliet Junior College





Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is the state agency responsible for preK-12 education, including career and technical education. Principal consultants serve in a supervisory, administrative capacity related to program approval, funding, and regulatory requirements.

Board Chair, Darren Reisberg
State Superintendent, Dr. Carmen Ayala



University Council consists of the agricultural teacher education faculty from the five Illinois universities offering teacher education programs in agriculture, ISBE, FCAE, FFA, and IAVAT. The focus of this group is to maintain high-quality preservice agricultural education programs and to identify research priorities.

Chair, Dr. Andy Baker



Illinois Department of Agriculture is the state agency responsible for advocating for Illinois' agricultural industry and providing the necessary regulatory functions to benefit consumers, agriculturalists, and the state's natural resources. The agency also promotes agribusiness in Illinois and throughout the world.

Director, Jerry Costello II



Illinois Association of Community College Agriculture Instructors is a professional organization for postsecondary agricultural education teachers at all levels.

President, Jess Smithers



Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education is a 13-member committee established by legislation and appointed by the Governor to advise both the Governor and State Board of Education concerning agricultural education for K-12 students.

Chair, Dr. Amy Leman



Illinois Professional Agriculture Students organization is a career and technical student organization for students enrolled in agricultural programs at the postsecondary level. PAS provides students with professional development opportunities, helping students get an edge in today's job market.

President, Jacob Meyer



Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education is a voluntary, grassroots agricultural industry group focused on the expansion and improvement of agricultural education programs at all levels. ILCAE is primarily an advocacy group focused on legislation that impacts agricultural education.

Chair, Allyn Buhrow



Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers is a grassroots professional organization for agriculture, food, and natural resource education teachers at all levels.

President, Lisa Oellerich



Illinois Farm Bureau is a grassroots, statewide organization of farmers and agricultural professionals dedicated to enhancing the people, progress, and pride of Illinois and its farming community.

President, Richard Guebert, Jr.



Illinois Association FFA is a career and technical student organization for students enrolled in agricultural education programs at the middle, high school, and collegiate levels. This organization promotes premier leadership, personal growth, and career success for all agricultural education student members.

President, Adam Loker



Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education (FCAE) is a state project administered through the ISBE in cooperation with and advised by the Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education. FCAE addresses the aims of Public Act 84-1452 involving the implementation of identified goals for improving education in and about agriculture in Illinois.

Coordinator, Dean Dittmar



Illinois FFA Alumni Association supports and promotes the FFA organization and its activities and agricultural education at every level. The focus of the association is the local chapter affiliate.

President, Steve Yandell



Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom program combines the efforts of the Illinois Farm Bureau, FCAE, University of Illinois Extension, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Illinois Agricultural Commodity organizations, various agribusinesses, and others to provide agricultural literacy for all students at level preK-8. Education

Director, Kevin Daugherty



Illinois Foundation FFA is a foundation established to receive and disburse funds to support quality agricultural education programs and FFA chapters across Illinois.

Chair, Joe Webel