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 2022, 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.

40,561 Ag Ed Enrollment, Duplicated (6.12%)
35,805 Ag Ed Enrollment, Unduplicated (8.79%)
9,790 Calendar Year SAE Participation (7%)
27% of students with SAE Projects
16,508 Calendar Year SAE Participation
$9,815,444 Calendar Year SAE Earnings (28.50%)
23,289 FFA Membership (11.60%)

Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Data
80 AITC Coalitions
206,194 Prek-12 Students
$1,710,223 State and Local Funds Invested in AITC

Agricultural Education Program Data
359 Agricultural Education Programs
74.20% Offering AFNR as Science Credit

Ag Ed Teacher Data
479 Agricultural Education Teachers
5% increase from FY 2022
65% Teachers in Three Circle Grant

FCAE Program Data
164 Professional Development Hours
2 Graduate Courses Offered
882 Onsite or Virtual Program Visits
2,698 Students Reached through Career Presentations
81 Teaching Vacancies Filled

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

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Check here for additional resources.
Grant Programs

Teacher Three Circle Model of Agricultural Education

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 equal to 60 additional days on FFA, SAE, curricular, and professional learning. Teacher does not have to record time every month.

$2,705,919 Total FY 2022 Allocation
304 Number of Participating Teachers
239 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.

$658,899 Total FY 2022 Allocation
$22.69 per Quality Indicator
347 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 2022 Allocation
$200 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 2022 Allocation
142 Participating Colleges
142 Preservice Teachers Impacted

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, 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.

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 State Board of Education worked with the Governor and state legislature to increase the Agricultural Education Line Item to $7.05 million to allow for the growth of programs, students, and teachers.
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.

Kevin Daugherty (Illinois Ag In The Classroom)
Chair
Illinois Farm Bureau

Erika Allen (ICAE)
Urban Growers Collective

Allyn Buhrow (ICAE)
Pioneer Seed

Douglas Hanson (ICAE)
ProHarvest Seeds, MWS Seeds

Kim Haywood, Jr. (ICAE)
Brooklyn Unit School District 188
Lovely Joy Technical Academy

Jody Heavner (Secondary Agriculture Teacher)
Pittsfield High School/FFA Advisor

Kaizad Irani (Community College Agriculture Teacher)
Parkland College, University of Illinois

Amy Leman (Adult Agriculture Educator)
University of Illinois

Gary Ochs (University Agriculture Instructor)
University of Illinois

Brad Pilcher (FFA Representative)
Bayer Crop Science

Aimee Shasteen (ICAE)
Farm Credit Illinois

Suzanne Schafer (Secondary Agriculture Teacher)
Taylorville High School/FFA Advisor

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.

Erika Allen (ILCAE)
Urban Growers Collective

Michael Zechar, Secretary
Zechar Farms

Erika Allen (ILCAE)
Urban Growers Collective

Allen Dietz
Retired Educator, Dietz Farms

Brenda Dismore
Tyson Foods

Jeff Gaie
Global Pork Production Enterprises

Warren Graeff
Old National Bank

Douglas Hanson
ProHarvest Seeds & MWS Seeds

Kenny Hartman
Glendale Farms LTD

Kim Haywood, Jr.
Brooklyn Unit School District 188
Lovely Joy Technical Academy

Michael Henrovich
Griffith Foods, Inc.

Chris Kendall
Prairie Education 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 Schierer
Compass Financial

Kay Shipman
FarmWise

Haley Siegle
Nutrients for Life Foundation

Holly Spanger
Prairie Farmer & Farm Progress

Tyler Strom
Illinois Agri-Food Alliance

Dan Swanson
Illinois State Legislation

Ryan Tate
Illinois Farm Bureau

Cynthia Tucker
PepsiCo

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.
The number of openings for agriculture teachers exceeds the number of teaching candidates. Agricultural education is recognized by the Illinois General Assembly as an area of high staff shortage (L110 ILCS 947/65.25). Aggressive strategies and targeted support are utilized to recruit, develop, and retain high-quality agriculture teachers in Illinois public schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Agricultural Education Job Openings</th>
<th>Graduates in AFNR Teacher Education Programs</th>
<th>Non-traditionally Licensed Teachers Hired in Ag Ed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020-2022</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022-2022</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022-2023</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

$8,377 STAR Dollars in FY 2022
74 Preservice Teachers Impacted

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 2022 was used for student scholarships, mentorship programs, and professional development for early career agriculture teachers.

$300,000 GAST Dollars in FY 2022
142 Preservice Teachers Impacted
195 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.

$300,000 GAST Dollars in FY 2022
142 Preservice Teachers Impacted
195 Early-Career Teachers Impacted

Retention Activities for College Preservice Teachers
Retention Activities for College Preservice Teachers

44 Teachers at 1st Year Teachers’ Conference
22 Teachers at 2nd Year Teachers’ Conference
1,846 Participants in SBAE Professional Development
4 New Teacher Retention Grants from IAA Foundation
100% of students majoring in Agricultural Education are eligible for federal loan forgiveness and federal Teach grants.

Retention Activities for Current Teachers
Retention Activities for Current Teachers

44 Teachers at 1st Year Teachers’ Conference
22 Teachers at 2nd Year Teachers’ Conference
1,846 Participants in SBAE Professional Development
4 New Teacher Retention Grants from IAA Foundation
100% of students majoring in Agricultural Education are eligible for federal loan forgiveness and federal Teach grants.

Preservice teachers visit with Jesse Faber (current agriculture teacher and FFA advisor) during their bus tour in 2022.

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.
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
10,890 (30%) Students with SAEs (3.25% SAE Participation Data

More Immersion SAEs. Foundational SAE, then expand to include one or and career interests. Students will start with a Foundational SAE, then expand to include one or more immersion SAEs.

State Awards
The State SFA Degree is the highest honor the Illinois Association FFA can bestowed 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 2022 are:

Star Agriscience: Katie Wagner, Mercer County
Star Agricultural Placement: Loren Pribble, Goreville
Star Agribusiness: Lizzie Schafer, Taylorville
Star Farmer: Braydon DeCounter, West Prairie

National Awards
The American FFA Degree is the highest honor the National FFA Organization can bestowed 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 Agriscience: Larret Lewis, Wayne City
Star Agricultural Placement: Garrett Granby, Seneca
Star Agribusiness: Makenna Green, Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond

Proficiency Award Statewide Winners

2022 National Proficiency Champions: Lizzie Schafer, Taylorville and Ty Staffen, Newark

Agricultural Communications
Elena Bader, Litchfield
Agricultural Education
Morgan Wirt, Atwood
Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication
Taylor Snook, Cambridge
Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance – Entrepreneurship
Lana Sauder, Tremont
Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance – Placement
Aidan Harmer, Flanagan-Cornell
Agricultural Processing
Avery Strohm, Earlville
Agricultural Sales – Entrepreneurship
Hailie Kohl, Herscher
Agricultural Sales – Placement
Marie Bailey, Unity-Tolono
Agricultural Services
Ty Jensen, Pontiac
Agriscience Research – Animal Systems
Delana Erbsen, Eastland
Agriscience Research – Integrated Systems
Megan Baker, Neoga
Agriscience Research – Plant Systems
Dakoda Maquire, Princeville
Beef Production – Entrepreneurship
Ross Stabenow, Loman-Winlow
Beef Production – Placement
Lizzie Schafer, Taylorville
Dairy Production – Entrepreneurship
Wyatt Zehr, Flanagan-Cornell
Dairy Production – Placement
Nevin Erbsen, Eastland
Diversified Agricultural Production
Grecko Mickey, Taylorville
Diversified Crop Production – Entrepreneurship
Tong Staffen, Newark
Diversified Crop Production – Placement
Cole Rapppe, Meridian-Macon
Diversified Horticulture
Eli Arenas, South Central
Diversified Livestock Production
Grace Brown, Flanagan-Cornell
Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management
Quinn Dajewski, Wattonville
Equine Science – Entrepreneurship
Eric Wixey, Nashville
Equine Science – Placement
Jacqueline Euker, Mariono
Fiber and Oil Crop Production
Tommy Waters, Goreville
Food Service
Sidney Storl, Williamsfield
Forest Management & Products
Cole Roach, Sycamore
Fruit Production
Brie Portz, Marissa
Goat Production
Anna Criscoe, Rantoul
Grain Production
Ethan Pratt, Amboy
Landscape Management
Josie Korte, Scales Mound
Nursery Operations
Sam Jones, Flanagan-Cornell
Outdoor Recreation
Kerley Bogatzke, Pittsfield
Poultry Production
Ethan Main, ROWVA
Safety
Benjamin Vandigo, Scales Mound
Sheep Production
Owen Torrance, West Prairie
Small Animal Production and Care
Kathryn Wagner, Mercer County
Specialty Animal Production
Emma Wiker, Athens
Specialty Crop Production
Colton Bumier, Midland
Swine Production – Entrepreneurship
Mackenzie Landman, Highland
Swine Production – Placement
Dani Rubenacker, Hamilton County
Turf Grass Management
Blake Trenhef, Wesclin
Vegetable Production
Kendra Downing, Cambridge
Veterinary Science
Grace Politz, Rushville-Industry
Wildlife Production and Management
Evan Kraft, Normal


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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CDE</th>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>State Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Business Management</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>Prairie Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Communications</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Streator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Education</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>Drexel Douglass, Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Mechanics</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>Prairie Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Sales</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>Unity-Tolono</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agronomy</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>Eureka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy Cattle Evaluation</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>Non-Reasons: Prairie Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reasons: Prairie Central Middle School: Carlyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy Cattle Handlers</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>Delana Erbsen, Eastland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental &amp; Natural Resources</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>South Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Science and Technology</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>Somonauk-Leland-Sandwich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>High School: Olney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Middle School: Liberty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse Evaluation</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Non-Reasons: Sherrard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reasons: Olympia, Middle School: AWood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horticulture</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Seneca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Interview</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>Paige Lemenager, Normal West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Use</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>High School: Cambridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Middle School: Liberty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock Evaluation</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>Non-Reasons: United</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reasons: Taylorville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meats Evaluation &amp; Technology</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Prairie Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk Quality &amp; Products</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>High School: Prairie Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Middle School: Clinton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry Evaluation</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Prairie Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz Bowl</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>Marissa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary Science</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

*Percentages based on the number of programs that participated in these events at or above the section level.
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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Category</th>
<th>Grades 7-8</th>
<th>Grades 9-10</th>
<th>Grades 11-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Systems</td>
<td>High Individual: Drake Slutz, Sycamore</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Team: none</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Individual: Brody English, Mt. Carmel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Team: Drew Mickey &amp; Jay Biller, Taylorville</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Individual: Olivia Alka, Mt. Carmel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Team: none</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Service and Natural Resource Systems</td>
<td>High Individual: none</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Team: Ayden Miller &amp; Tristan Hester, Southeastern</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Individual: Megan Baker, Neoga</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Team: Greyson Applebee &amp; Gehrig Bunselmeyer, Maroa-Forsyth</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Individual: Samantha Alvarez, Central Burlington</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Team: none</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Products and Processing Systems</td>
<td>High Individual: Deacon Waner, Southeastern</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Team: none</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Individual: Allie Branch, Cisne</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Team: none</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Individual: Cooper Lee, Southeastern</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Team: Charles Reed &amp; Alexi Haas, Stockton</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Systems</td>
<td>High Individual: none</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Team: Kenzie Grisworld &amp; Riley Smith, Southeastern</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Individual: Lainie Clark, Fairfield</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Team: none</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Individual: Blake Twenhafel, Wesclin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Team: Kevin Hyde &amp; Isabella Cline, Cisne</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power, Structural, and Technical Systems</td>
<td>High Individual: none</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Team: none</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Individual: Hadley Walker, Cisne</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Team: Liliana Reese &amp; Gracie Arthur, Southeastern</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Individual: Elaan Bader, Litchfield</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Team: none</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Systems</td>
<td>High Individual: none</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Team: none</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Individual: Olivia Shike, Unity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Team: Abby Norris &amp; Abby Erlenbush, Taylorville</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Individual: none</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Team: Allyson Yoakum &amp; Lorelei Darlak, Sycamore</td>
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Leadership Conferences
Local programs promote leadership and personal growth through conferences held at the local, state, and national levels. Conferences were held for 2022 because of pandemic-related restrictions. Students and student leaders are encouraged to take part in building and peer networking.

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.
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.
The National Chapter Award (NCA) program is designed to recognize FFA chapters that actively implement the mission and strategies of the organization. The 2022 State Premier Chapter is Streator FFA Chapter in Streator, Illinois.

Streator 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 quality agricultural education teachers. Student officers are responsible for planning and implementing the annual Program of Activities, which this year included several innovative activities.

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.

239 Service-Learning Projects
23 Students with Service-Learning SAEs
100 FFA Chapters with Service-Learning SAEs

Service-Learning Winner in 2022
William Weber from the Flanagan-Cornell FFA Chapter is the 2022 State Proficiency Winner in the area of Service Learning. His SAE coaligned with his Eagle Scout project which consisted of clearing up and improving an area park. Goals for the project included clearing and maintaining specific areas of overgrown brush and building and installing kiosks with educational materials. William developed many skills during this project. He assembled volunteers, gathered building materials, maintained safe working practices, and coordinated all project components.

A project designed to involve all the members of the Cambridge FFA Chapter and help them improve their personal growth resulted in a top national chapter honor. The Cambridge FFA Chapter received the 2022 Premier Chapter: Growing Leaders award during the 95th National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis. "We’re still a little worn out from it," said Trent Taber, FFA adviser for the Cambridge, Illinois, chapter. "I think the students were a little overwhelmed at first because it requires a lot of preparation to get all the facts and details of our activities." Mr. Taber said. Students Brooklyn Humphrey and Taylor Pace put together the idea for the five-episode podcast during the summer of 2021. Topics included self awareness, time management, advocacy, finance and diversity. 100% of chapter members listened to the podcasts. "I think what really set the girls apart when they presented is they showcased how one activity branched over to the other activities we do in our national chapter award," Taber said. “They did a great job on that.”
Agricultural Literacy

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

Using the established network of county agricultural literacy coordinators, Illinois AITC continued to be Illinois’ leader in agricultural literacy programming. Matching grants were provided to county coalitions to develop an advisory council and hire an AITC coordinator. Financial support for AITC 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.

91 Programs offering MS Courses equivalent to 10-25% local FTE
12 Programs offering MS Courses equivalent to 26-50% local FTE
14 Programs offering MS Courses equivalent to 75% or more of local FTE
47 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.

9 Stand-Alone Middle School Chapters
1,135 FFA Members in Grades 7-8*
46 FFA Chapters awarding Discovery FFA Degrees to MS Students
14 FFA Chapters where MS Members participated in LDEs

*Includes FFA members from stand-alone middle school programs and combined middle and high school programs.
Agricultural Education Programs in SY 2019-20
363 Programs in SY 2020-21
355 Programs in SY 2021-22
18 Average AFNR Class Size
57 Programs with Two or More Teachers
65 Programs with College Articulation Agreements
109 Programs with Dual Credit AFNR Courses
100% Programs that Utilize Illinois Core AFNR Curriculum
223 Programs with Advisory Councils
226 Programs with Alumni Group
129 Programs with AFNR Courses in Grades 5-8
quirements fulfilled by AFNR
74% (-3%) Programs offering Science Credit
39% (+2%) Programs offering Consumer Education Credit
8% (+3%) Programs offering Math Credit
5% (+3%) Programs offering Social Studies Credit
6% (+4%) Programs offering Language Arts Credit
Programs
81% with Mechanics Facilities
70% with >10 Computers/Laptops
76% with a Greenhouse
60% with Land/Plant Facilities
89% with 1:1 School Technology
48% with Instructional Landscaping
37% with a Garden
28% with Aquaculture Facilities
28% with Small Animal/Veterinary Science Facilities
18% with Food Science Facilities
14% with a Nursery
7% 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.
11 Number of Curriculum Libraries
834 Lessons
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
93
Introduction to AFNR
77
Agriculture Science-Animals
45
Agriculture Science-Plants
43
Agriculture Power & Technology
16
AgXplore Middle Schools
15
Natural Resources & Ecology
11
Food Science & Safety
10
Mechanical Systems in Agriculture
6
Agriculture Research & Development
4
Environmental Science Issues
1
Technology Applications in Agriculture
1
Animal & Plant Biotechnology
0
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.

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: 78%
Number of Teachers with Educator License with Stipulations: 22%

Teacher Salaries
Average Teacher Salary in FY 2022: $60,073.56 (11.1% increase from FY 2021)
Average Starting Teacher Salary in FY 2022: $48,066 (2.7% increase from FY 2021)

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.

Demographics of IL AFNR Teachers
Total Number of Agriculture Teachers in Illinois 465, 2.5% increase from FY 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didn’t Grow Up on a Farm</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of IAVAT</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under Age 30</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over Age 50</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Career (Less than five years)</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Career (More than 25 years)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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.

Kent Weber was chosen as the 2022 Illinois Agricultural Educator of the Year for his extraordinary work as an agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at Seneca Township High School. One colleague describes him: “When you look at his success in and out of the classroom over the years, you will find nobody better. As he has said in the past, ‘If an ag teacher is getting it done in the classroom, then the FFA success will follow.’ … He is there for all teachers and students, and really can’t be beat.” Congratulations, Mr. Weber!

District I Winner
Casey Lynn Johnston, Bureau Valley

District II Winner
Kent Weber, Seneca

District III Winner
Wyatt McGrew, Macomb

District IV Winner
Mike White, Paxton-Buckley-Loda

District V Winner
Mark Steber, Richland County - Olney
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.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community College Enrollment Data</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender Withheld</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate in Applied Science Program</td>
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<td>Certificate Program</td>
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<tr>
<th>Community College Data</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programs in AFNR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full-Time Faculty in AFNR</td>
</tr>
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<td>Part-Time Faculty in AFNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Full-Time Salary</td>
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<td>Average Faculty Age</td>
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<th>Early College Credit Data</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students Offered Articulated Credit in FY 2022</td>
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<td>Students Received Dual Credit in FY 2022</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Speaking Name and College</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prepared Public Speaking</td>
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<td>Impromptu Speaking</td>
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<tr>
<th>Special Events Individual and College Team</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agribusiness Sales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Horticulture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Livestock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precision Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swine</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Bowl</td>
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<tr>
<th>Employment Interview State Winners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Equipment Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agribusiness Administration</td>
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<td>Agricultural Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural Sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeds and Animal Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertilizers and Agricultural Chemicals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry and Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit and Vegetable Production</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landscaping and Nursery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Livestock Production</td>
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<tr>
<th>Career Planning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agribusiness Management &amp; Marketing Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural Education Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural Processing &amp; Biotechnology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruminant Animal Systems Progress</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Programs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 PAS Chapters</td>
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<td>153 PAS Members</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAS Student Officers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st VP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd VP</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd VP</td>
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### Additional Enrollment Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment Data by University</th>
<th>Additional Enrollment Data</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign</td>
<td>Freshman Students 950</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Illinois University Carbondale</td>
<td>Transfer Students 369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois State University</td>
<td>University Faculty 280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loyola University Chicago</td>
<td>Graduate Students 374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Illinois University</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Illinois College</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenville University</td>
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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.

Miriam Hoffman
**Discussion Meet Winner 2022**

Miriam Hoffman, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is the state winner for Illinois' collegiate discussion meet. This competition is evaluated on an exchange of ideas and information on a predetermined 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.

**2022 COLLEGIATE DISCUSSION MEET**

**STATE WINNER:**
Miriam Hoffman
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE

**RUNNER UP:**
Emma Kuhns
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

**HONORABLE MENTIONS:**

- Kylie Schakel
  LINCOLN LAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Keely Wixted
  JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE

**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
Colleges and Universities with AFNR Programs

Indicates institution participates in Growing Agricultural Science Teacher grant program.
Illinois FFA EDI Task Force

Illinois FFA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force is a group formally organized in the Fall of 2020 with the purpose of focusing on the sense of belonging within Illinois FFA and continuing to focus on making events and activities within FFA engaging for all of our members. The Illinois FFA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force has two subcommittees, consisting of Breaking Down Barriers and Education and Advocacy. Breaking Down Barriers will focus on the policies, procedures, and logistical barriers to access and equity within Illinois Agricultural Education. Also, this subcommittee will look at each event/conference for what content it contains and how it is or could be more inclusive and valuing all FFA members. Education and Advocacy will research and provide recommendations for stakeholder learning opportunities. This subcommittee will provide workshops and professional development opportunities to teachers and FFA members.

Both sub committees worked together to coordinate efforts at the 94th Annual Illinois FFA State Convention developing the Cultivating Conversations room for FFA members to experience. In the Cultivating Conversations Room, FFA members can discover opportunities to enhance their personal growth and have authentic conversations with other FFA members, all while embracing differences and discovering similarities. It was created with the purpose of bringing members together through kindness, empathy and love for one another. There were four Engagement Areas:

- Be the Change
- NFA Spotlight
- Conversation Corner
- Discovering Similarities

FFA members shared 230 Be The Change ideas, as well as 23 FFA Chapters signed up for the Chapter Exchange Signups, while 43 Unique Chapters Checked in. FFA members on the Task Force recorded 86 conversations starters, where a unique conversation was generated by a group of members who were participating in the Conversation Corner. A unique conversation is one that was started with a prompt provided by the group and the conversation was unique to that group and not mirrored by another group with the same prompt. Students were greeted and given a task card to guide them through the room. Upon visiting each area and receiving a stamp they were given a silicone bracelet with the message: ‘Embrace Differences - Discover Similarities’.

Other notable accomplishments of this committee include:

- 3 teacher-oriented professional development workshops on equity, diversity, and inclusion
- 106 unique teachers engaged in professional learning opportunities focused on EDI
- 12 meetings of the EDI Task Force throughout the year
- 230 different students engaged in EDI focused activities at State FFA Convention

Junior MANRRS Chapters

Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Relates Sciences (MANRRS) is the leading collegiate organization for underrepresented high school students engaged in AFNR-career oriented academic programs. MANRRS also conducts a Jr. MANRRS program designed to stimulate interest in science, technology, engineering, agricultural, and mathematics fields (STEAM). Illinois Agricultural Education has worked to grow Jr. MANRRS in Illinois over the past year.

Other notable accomplishments of this committee include:

- 7 Jr. MANRRS Chapters across Illinois reaching from Carbondale to Chicago
- 27 Jr. MANRRS members in Illinois (most of which are concurrently FFA members) Recruiment exhibit at the National Jr. MANRRS Conference finding future Agriculture Teachers. Inaugural Illinois Jr. MANRRS Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago
- Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is the state agency responsible for pre-K-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, Dr. Steven Iseye State Superintendent, Dr. Carmen Ayala
- 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 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, Kevin Daugherty
- 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.
- FCAE currently has an advocacy group focused on legislation that impacts agricultural education.
- Chair, Allyn Buhrow
- 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 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 pre-K-8.
- Education Director, Kevin Daugherty

University Council consists of the agricultural teacher education faculty from the five Illinois universities offering teacher education programs in agriculture, ISBE, FCAE, FFA, and ISBW. The focus of this group is to maintain high-quality preschool agricultural education programs and to identify research priorities.
- Chair, Dr. Jay Solomonson
- Illinois Association of Community College Agriculture Instructors is a professional organization for postsecondary agricultural education teachers at all levels.
- President, Justin Ebert
- 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, Cathi White
- Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers is a grassroots professional organization for agriculture, food, and natural resource education teachers at all levels.
- President, Donna Paige
- 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 Yandle
- 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 Weibel