

Michigan FFA Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2025
5:00 PM Dinner Available - Room 338 Natural Resources
5:00 to 6:00 PM Committee Meeting - Please see below
6:00 to 8:00 PM Board Meeting
338 Natural Resources

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. on Thursday, September 11, 2025, by Brent DeSaegher, the State President. 24 members and guests were present: Brent DeSaegher, William Rogers, Caty Janicek, Andersen Zachar, Jessica Peters, Carly VanderRoest, Keira Fudge, Elizabeth Hartmann, Olivia Snyder, Doug Pennington, Josephine Forbush, Ramey Lunceford, Katie Holt, Charles Scovill, Hannah Bollinger Sloan, Renee Schweitzer, Johanna Lentz, Angela NaDell, Jess Nash, Aaron McKim, Mark Forbush, Tiffany Rogers-Randolph, Kevin Nugent, and Michelle Sidel.
- II. **Opening Ceremonies - FFA State Officers**
- III. **Secretary's Report - Caty Janicek**
 1. 24 members and guests were present. April minutes were presented.
 - a. Andersen Zacher moved to accept. Jessica Peters seconded. Motion passed.
 - b. Doug Pennington moved to sustain. Motion carried.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report - Andersen Zachar**
 1. The FFA Association account balance as of August 31, 2025 is \$245,227.51. There are approximately \$120,000 in outstanding payments for the State Convention and for Ag Skills Contests. The balance in our contingency fund as of August 31, 2025, is \$333,602.74.
 - a. Caty Janicek moved to accept. Carly VanderRoest seconded. Motion passed.
 - b. Charles Scovill moved to sustain. Motion carried.
- V. **Michigan FFA Association**
 1. **State Officer Report - Brent DeSaegher**
 - a. The newly elected State Officers spent the summer attending a variety of different trainings, including:
 - i. Basecamp
 - ii. Checkpoint #1
 - iii. Media and Messages Training

- iv. State Leadership Conference Preparation
- v. Checkpoint #2
- b. On July 8th, the team successfully hosted the State Leadership Conference.
- c. Chapter Visit season is here:
 - i. Officer pairs have received their assigned chapters and have begun scheduling visits.
 - ii. A practice visit will take place at the Owosso FFA Chapter on September 12th.
- d. State Convention preparations will begin soon, with the first practice scheduled for September 14th.
- e. The State Officer Team will represent Michigan at the National FFA Convention from October 26 - November 1.

2. State Advisor Report - Mark Forbush

- a. Schools are currently waiting for budget approvals for this academic year.
- b. There are 136 agriscience programs statewide, with growth in the number of AFNR educators.
- c. Efforts are underway to add more teachers at individual schools.
- d. Six student teachers are set to begin their placements in the spring.

3. State Executive Secretary Report - Dr. Tiffany Rogers-Randolph

- a. Highlights of 24-25 Michigan FFA Activities:
 - i. Recognition Programs:
 - 1. Student recognition grew significantly compared to previous years
 - a. State FFA Degrees increased by 9%
 - b. Academic Excellence awards increased by 15%
 - c. Proficiency Awards increased by 19%.
 - 2. Michigan FFA was one of only six states selected to participate in the National FFA Belonging and Engagement Collaboration, creating opportunities to build a more welcoming, supportive, engaging, and growth-focused environment for all members.
 - ii. State Officer Program and Funding:
 - 1. For the first time, a new election process was used for State Officers, resulting in a team of eight officers.
 - iii. Michigan FFA received \$4 million through the State of Michigan Public Act 120.

1. Established goals to maximize the impact of these funds for agriscience students and educators.
2. Lowered FFA dues by 30% for every local chapter.
3. Provided every member in the state access to a cost-free credential.
4. Increased grants for regional leadership camps by 50%.
5. Added a new full-time State staff position to coordinate contests and recognition programs. This position has been filled by Mr. Kevin Nugent.

iv. Membership & Growth:

1. Michigan FFA membership has reached 10,047 members.
2. Work is underway to develop a new Michigan FFA website.
3. Plans are being made to begin a strategic planning process in the upcoming year.

4. State Executive Secretary Report - Mr. Kevin Nugent

a. Broiler Contest:

- i. Chapters are preparing for the upcoming contest.
- ii. The event will take place at Munsell's Poultry Processing from October 20-23.

b. National FFA Convention & Expo:

- i. State-level winners are preparing to compete nationally, including:
 1. Contest winners
 2. National chapter recognition
 3. Proficiency award recognition
- ii. 66 Michigan FFA members will receive their American Degree.

VI. Belonging and Engagement Committee - Dr. Tiffany Rogers-Randolph

1. An application will soon be released for student representatives.
2. State Officers will also receive an application to serve as the State Officer Representative.
3. The committee will identify a new board representative at their next meeting.

VII. Michigan FFA Alumni - Jess Nash

1. Raffle Update:

- a. So far, 40,000 raffle tickets have been sold.
- b. Members and alumni are encouraged to keep selling as many tickets as possible.

2. National FFA Convention & Expo:

- a. Preparations are underway for the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo.
- 3. Michigan FFA Alumni:
 - a. The next annual meeting will be held on March 21, 2026 at the Michigan Farm Bureau Headquarters.

VIII. Past State Officers - Henry Reinart

- 1. No report

IX. Michigan FFA Foundation - Alexandria Schnabelrauch

- 1. Grants:
 - a. Information for grant applications will be released soon.
 - b. Deadline: December 1, 2025.
- 2. Can-Do Challenge:
 - a. Country artist Luke Bryan challenged FFA chapters to collect food cans and create agriculture-inspired sculptures.
 - b. The Ionia FFA Chapter was selected as the winner!
 - c. They will travel to see Luke Bryan in concert on September 20, 2025.
- 3. Conferences:
 - a. The Careers Conference will be hosted as part of the Fall Leadership Conference on October 8, 2025.

X. Ag Ed Club - Olivia Snyder (Thomas Brewer-Brown absent)

- 1. About 30 members attended our first meeting.
- 2. The next meeting will be on September 16, 2025.
- 3. To help reduce costs, the club has adopted a new system:
 - a. At each meeting, different members will provide the food.

XI. Call To The Public

- 1. No reports

XII. Standing Committee's Report

- 1. No reports

XIII. Informational Items

1. Michigan FFA 100-year Task Force Report - Alexandria Schnabelrauch:

- a. Goal: Celebrate FFA's history while looking toward the future.
- b. Plans to begin the celebrations with a soft launch in September of 2027.

2. Agriscience Fair Updates - Mark Forbush:

- a. The College of Agriculture has updated their Agriscience Fair handbook

- b. They plan to host a training session to review these updates at Fall PDI.
- c. Training dates will be announced within the next month.

XIV. Old Business

1. SAE Proficiency Task Force:

- a. The task force has begun assembling.
- b. Members include:
 - i. Lizzie Hartmann - Student Representative (current state officer)
 - ii. Sara Dammann - Student Representative (recent past state officer)
 - iii. Melissa Kramer, Ubley FFA Chapter - AFNR Educator, 4-year program
 - iv. Matt Hensley, Lenawee FFA Chapter - AFNR Educator, 2-year program
 - v. Two state-level judges (to be included)
- c. Currently waiting for further contact before moving forward.

2. Michigan FFA Calendar of Events & Activities Task Force:

- a. The task force will examine the Michigan FFA Calendar of Events & Activities
 - i. Purpose: Ensure events and activities are being run efficiently.
 - ii. The committee will also review practices from other states to identify potential improvements.

XV. New Business

1. Proposals

a. Forestry - Awards and Activities Committee

- i. It was moved to update the Forestry CDE as proposed. See updated contest resources for all changes.
 - 1. Katie Holt moved to accept with changes. Motion passed.
 - 2. Keira Fudge moved to sustain. Lizzie Hartmann seconded. Motion carried.

b. Floriculture - Awards and Activities Committee

- i. It was moved to update the Floriculture CDE as proposed with the following adjustments:
 - 1. A rotation of wire and glue will be written into the rules. Ensure that wire is used for 2026, to allow for one year to plan for the introduction of glue as an option.
 - 2. Add to materials list: Students should bring their own wire/glue (depending on the year).

- ii. See updated contest resources for all changes.
 - 1. Katie Holt moved to accept with changes. Motion passed.
 - 2. Carly VanderRoest moved to sustain. Andersen Zachar seconded. Motion carried.

c. Junior High Conduct of Meetings - CDE Committee

- i. It was moved to update the Junior High Conduct of Meetings LDE as proposed with the following adjustments:
 - 1. When judges confer on correctness of abilities, add the wording: The contest chair will lead this discussion.
- ii. See updated contest resources for all changes.
 - 1. Charles Scovill moved to accept with changes. Motion passed.
 - 2. Carly VanderRoest moved to sustain. Andersen Zachar seconded. Motion carried.

d. Greenhand Conduct of Meetings - CDE Committee

- i. It was moved to update the Greenhand Conduct of Meetings LDE as proposed with the following adjustments:
 - 1. When judges confer on correctness of abilities, add the wording: The contest chair will lead this discussion.
 - 2. Replace the suggested ability of Point of Information with Question of Privilege (as this is a national level ability for this contest).
 - 3. Clarify in exam wording: The exam will be worth 10 points.
- ii. See updated contest resources for all changes.
 - 1. Charles Scovill moved to accept with changes. Motion passed.
 - 2. Andersen Zachar moved to sustain. Jessica Peters seconded. Motion carried.

e. Marketing - Vision and Special Topics Committee

- i. It was moved to update the Marketing CDE as proposed with the following adjustments:
 - 1. Only the first 15 teams that register will be allowed to complete.
- ii. See updated contest resources for all changes.
 - 1. Ramey Lunceford moved to accept with changes. Motion passed.

2. Andersen Zachar moved to sustain. Carly VanderRoest seconded. Motion carried.

f. Nursery Landscape - State Officer Policy Committee

- i. It was moved to update the Nursery Landscape CDE as proposed. See updated contest resources for all changes.
 1. Doug Pennington moved to accept with changes. Motion passed.
 2. Caty Janicek moved to sustain. Jessica Peters seconded. Motion carried.

g. Junior High Public Speaking - State Officer Policy Committee

- i. It was moved to update the Junior High Public Speaking LDE as proposed with the following adjustments:
 1. Add in wording: Manuscripts will not be distributed at district contests.
- ii. See updated contest resources for all changes.
 1. Doug Pennington moved to accept with changes. Motion passed.
 2. Caty Janicek moved to sustain. Andersen Zachar seconded. Motion carried.

XVI. Announcements

1. The contests that will be looked at next year include: Land Conservation, Job Interview, Tractor Driving, Farm Business Management, Meat Judging, Vet. Science, Parliamentary Procedure, and AFNR Education.
2. The next Board of Directors Meeting will be on December 4, 2025, at 6:00 pm in Room 338, Natural Resources.

XVII. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Caty Janicek

2025-2026 Michigan FFA State Secretary

FYI: 2026-2027 contests slated to be reviewed are:

- Land Conservation
- Job Interview
- Tractor Driving
- Farm Business Management
- Meat Judging
- Vet. Science
- Parliamentary Procedure
- AFNR Education

2025-2026 Meeting Dates:

December 4, 2025

February 19, 2026

April 9, 2026