Innovation and Best Practices for Teaching and Learning Fall PDI 2026
Crowne Plaza Lansing West – October 7th and 8th

Wednesday October 7th

7:30 – 8:30 am Registration and Continental Breakfast – Conference Lobby

Following are located in Ballrooms ABC

8:30 – 8:35 am Welcome and Agenda Overview – *Mark Forbush*

8:35 – 8:45 am Institute of Agricultural Technology – *Jeno Rivera*

8:45 – 9:00am AFNRE Update – *Mike Everett*

9:00 – 9:20 am FFA Foundation and 100 Year Update– *Alex Schnabelrauch*, *Executive Director Michigan FFA Foundation*

9:20 – 9:45 am Session I - CDE/LDE Updates for 2026-27 – *Kevin Nugent and Dr. Tiffany Rogers-Randolph*

Review key contest updates as a full group, followed by contest-specific table discussions for AFNRE CDE, Farm Business Management, Job Interview, Land Conservation, Meats Evaluation, Parliamentary Procedure, Tractor Driving, and Veterinary Science.

9:45 – 10:00 am NASA Research Opportunities for Students and Programs - ***Kaitlyn Lemon ARSET Trainer & Partnerships Specialist.*** *NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET, NASA EarthRISE Developers Academy, Analytical Mechanics Associates)*

10:00 – 10:15 am Break

10:15 – 10:55 am Michigan FFA Update – *Dr. Tiffany Rogers-Randolph and Kevin Nugent*, Michigan FFA Participants will be provided with information on State FFA activities.

10:55 – 11:25 am National FFA Update – *Jason Gore*, State Relations Specialist National FFA Participants will be provided with an update on National FFA activities, National Convention and general updates related to FFA.

11:25 – 11:40 am ICEV Credential Recognition - *Tammy Hyatt*

11:40 – 11:50 am Michigan FFA Alumni Update – *Burt Henry*

11:50 – 12:20 pm Michigan Department of Education Updates – *Mark Forbush*, MDE & CSUS/AFNRE Participants will be provided with information on trends at the State and National level related to AFNRE key topics.

12:20 – 1:00 pm Networking Luncheon – Sponsored by iCEV – **Ballrooms ABC**

1:00 – 1:45 pm Session II- Select one of the following concurrent sessions:

Innovation Convention World Wide – Ballroom A
Katie Dallos, Program Specialist, *Andaiye Spencer,* Educator Outreach Specialist, and
Emily Shannon, Affiliate Relations and Events Manager

What happens when project-based STEAM learning meets real-world problem solving? Explore how Invention Convention Michigan guides K-12 students through the 7-Step Invention (Engineering Design) Process, empowering them to identify meaningful problems, develop innovative solutions, and communicate their ideas with confidence. Participants will engage in an interactive challenge that mirrors the classroom experience and discover how invention education fosters creativity, leadership, and durable skills. They will also explore the free resources available to educators through The Henry Ford's educational platform, inHub.

SAE Award updates on new Proficiency and Updates to Agriscience Fair – Ballroom B – *Kevin Nugent*
Information on the new SAE Award Program (formally Proficiency Awards) including new categories, changes to the state-level evaluation process and common issues on applications. Also covered will be changes to the Agriscience Fair program.

1:50 – 2:35 pm Session III- Select one of the following concurrent sessions:

Innovation Convention World Wide – Ballroom A
Katie Dallos, Program Specialist, *Andaiye Spencer,* Educator Outreach Specialist, and
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2:35 – 2:45 pm Break

2:45 – 3:35 pm Session IV – Select one of the following concurrent sessions:

CDE/LDE -Ballroom A

Agronomy Workbook – *Kassie Acker* - The Agronomy in Michigan Student Workbook covers agronomic basics with materials from the Michigan FFA Agronomy CDE. Learn how to implement this workbook as a classroom or study tool for students working on agronomy identification, knowledge, and scenarios.

LDE Student Tools - Sarah Albrecht - For my final project, I created a resource for agricultural educators to use when preparing teams for Leadership Development Events (LDEs). The goal of this project is to give teachers and students a tool that can be used to learn about all eleven leadership development events. The LDE toolkit is designed for teachers to give students the basics of all the leadership development contests. This will allow them to pick and study their chosen contest more independently. This resource can also be used to quickly reference rules or tips during a contest practice. Each contest will have a cover page with team makeup, official dress requirements, and a summary of the contest that can be understood by students considering participating.

Curriculum and Neurodivergent Learners – Ballroom B

Conservation of Natural Resources - *Nathan Snow* – Conservation and Natural Resources is a complete one semester curriculum aligned to Michigan's Perkins Course Competencies for Natural Resources and Environmental Systems. It includes seven student workbooks covering stewardship, forestry, wildlife and habitat management, soil conservation, water resources, energy, and natural resource policy, plus a full teacher curriculum guide. Learn how to use this ready to use curriculum to give students hands-on experience with natural resource management

Middle School Curriculum - *Nicholas Prestly* - This project provides a ready-to-use, flexible curriculum for middle school agriculture exploratory classes, including a pacing guide, lessons, activities, and hands-on projects across a variety of agricultural topics. It is designed to reduce teacher planning time while creating engaging, project-based experiences that introduce students to agriculture and spark curiosity to continue into future agriculture courses

Neurodivergent Learners - *Kyle McFarren* - This study breaks down how Michigan Agricultural Teachers work with a range of neurodivergent learners in both the classroom and hands-on laboratory settings (greenhouse, barn, woodlot, etc). It shows how teachers are handling an ever growing student population with needs that differ from a neurotypical student. We will also discuss some of the most common needs, wants, and strategies that participants identified.

Science integration – Ballroom C

Ag Bio Labs - *Zoey Hrabal* - Hands-on lab activities including teacher instructions and student worksheets to help with the preparation of lab lessons that meet educational standards in science classes. The activities in the resource correlate with Michigan Biology and Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNRE) Standards. Included in the resource are a curriculum crosswalk, teacher instructions, list of materials and student worksheets.

Stream Monitoring - *Cassie Stone* - The project Stream Monitoring in the High School Agriscience Classroom is designed as a hands-on project-based learning unit that combines classroom knowledge with on-site stream monitoring. The project starts off with in-class lessons pertaining to water quality, macroinvertebrate identification, and stream habitat assessment to prepare students for on-site stream monitoring. As the unit progresses, students have the opportunity to sample streams in their area to assess the data and evaluate water quality. The unit ends with a written report about the students' findings. This unit can be taught as a stand-alone unit on stream quality and ecology or done in correlation with MICorps volunteer stream monitoring program.

A Teacher's Guide to Integrating Agriscience Fair Within Introductory Agriculture Curriculum - *Megan LoPresto* – "A Teacher's Guide to Integrating Agriscience Fair Within Introductory Agriculture Curriculum" gives teachers the tips, tricks, and resources they need to integrate student participation in the FFA Agriscience Fair within their agriculture classroom curriculum. This resource will provide teachers with a step-by-step breakdown of completing an Agriscience Fair project, a pacing guide for the in-class Agriscience Fair project, content standards connected to the Agriscience Fair, and more!

3:40 – 4:30 pm Session V – Select one of the following concurrent sessions:

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4:30 – 4:50 pm Break room check in

5:00 – 6:00 pm MAAE Meeting – **Ballrooms ABC**

6:00 – 6:30 pm Connecting and Reconnecting with AFNRE colleagues – **Ballrooms ABC**

6:30 – 8:00 pm Teacher Award Dinner – MAAE and MHTA – **Ballrooms ABC**

8:30 – 8:45 pm State Officers Reflections – **Royale Atrium**

9:00 - 9:30 pm MHTA Meeting – **Ballroom A**

8:45 – 10:15 pm FFA Dance **(Ballrooms DEF)** /Game Night **(Ballroom C)**
Teachers/Advisors with students, please supervise the dance and game night.

<u>Thursday October 8th</u>

7:00 – 7:40 am Networking Breakfast – **Ballrooms ABC**

7:40 – 7:50 am **DTE Energy** - *DJ Ikeler* – **Ballrooms ABC**

8:00 – 8:55 am Session VI – Select one of the following concurrent sessions:

Greenhouse Management – **Ballroom A -** This session will be a panel discussion with Q and A from the group on how to run a greenhouse for your program. Information will be shared such as a planting calendar, material suppliers, managing watering and plant care, and running a plant sale.

Michigan FFA Meat Rabbit Contest: From Breeding to Competition – *Tony McCaul* **– Ballroom B**

Take a hands-on look at the Michigan FFA Meat Rabbit Contest from the ground up! This workshop will cover rabbit breeds and crossbreeding, breeding and selection, nutrition and feed options, ideal market weights, and practical tips for successfully raising contest animals. Participants will also learn how the contest works, what judges look for, and how the project can be incorporated into an agriculture curriculum through animal science, genetics, nutrition, record keeping, and hands-on learning. Whether you are new to meat rabbits or looking to improve your program, you'll leave with practical knowledge and strategies to take back to your classroom and FFA chapter.

Veterinary Science CDE Teacher Training - *Tammy Hyatt and Kayla Stomack* - **Ballroom C**
This interactive, one-hour professional development workshop is designed to equip agricultural education instructors with practical strategies and resources for preparing students for the Veterinary Science Career Development Event (CDE). Participants will explore effective methods for teaching Veterinary Science breed identification, general knowledge concepts, and practicum skills utilizing the Veterinary Science Teacher Totes and associated instructional materials.

Teachers will receive an overview of key Veterinary Science CDE content areas and engage in hands-on demonstrations of common practicum skills that students may encounter in competition. Emphasis will be placed on classroom implementation, student practice techniques, safety considerations, and efficient use of available teaching resources.

9:00 – 9:55 am Session VII – Select one of the following concurrent sessions:

Greenhouse Management – **Ballroom A -** This session will be a panel discussion with Q and A from the group on how to run a greenhouse for your program. Information will be shared such as a planting calendar, material suppliers, managing watering and plant care, and running a plant sale.

Michigan FFA Meat Rabbit Contest: From Breeding to Competition – *Tony McCaul* **– Ballroom B**

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Veterinary Science CDE Teacher Training - *Tammy Hyatt and Kayla Stomack* - **Ballroom C**
This interactive, one-hour professional development workshop is designed to equip agricultural education instructors with practical strategies and resources for preparing students for the Veterinary Science Career Development Event (CDE). Participants will explore effective methods for teaching Veterinary Science breed identification, general knowledge concepts, and practicum skills utilizing the Veterinary Science Teacher Totes and associated instructional materials.

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9:55 – 10:10 am Break

The following 2 sessions are held in Ballrooms ABC

10:10 – 10:40 am Session VIII - MDARD Pesticide Compliance Assistance Materials Survey- *David Creswell, Emily Pochubay and Antonio Escobar*
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will be presenting and collecting information to help them develop compliance assistance materials.

10:40 – 11:10 am Session VIII - Idea Expo - Freely move around to different opportunities

Teachers will rotate through the following potential topics:
Secondary/Postsecondary Program of Study,
CDE/LDE Material Swap,
Biotech Programs,

Also, you can choose:
AgSci Dialogues-Get Paid to Pilot – *Dr. Michael Kaplowitz*
Learn about and sign-up to be a paid participant in a six-session, online intergroup dialogue centered on urban, suburban, and rural identities. AgSci Dialogues is designed to learn from agricultural science educators how intergroup dialogue, inclusive practices, and skills for supporting dialogue across difference can advance agricultural science teaching and learning. One goal is developing possible agriculture, food, and natural resources classroom material centered on advancing leadership, communication, and cross-cultural competencies. Learn about the program and sign up to become a study participant and receive a $500 gift card as an appreciation for 100% attendance (6 online sessions). We look forward to sharing more about the opportunity, answering your questions, and to filling up the limited spaces we have for our AgSci Dialogues being scheduled for late spring/early summer 27!

11:10 to 11:50 am Session IX – Select one of the following concurrent sessions:

Integrating Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and STEM Concepts into Agriscience Programs – *Eric Moser* – **Ballroom A** – In this session, teachers will explore the NGSS three-dimensional learning framework and 5E model of instruction. Teachers will also get a chance to develop an NGSS-aligned lesson plan to use in their classroom.

Forestry VR Field Trips - Ballroom B – *Jarred Saralecos MSU Forestry Department and Mark Forbush* - An MSU Forestry and Michigan FFA partnership is building a series of immersive virtual reality forest tours for integration into classrooms. We look forward to sharing the projects' progress as well as hosting demonstrations and eliciting feedback on our first virtual tour.

National Chapter Application – *Cindy Walker* - **Ballroom C**
Having judged at the national level Cindy brings perspective on how to complete the National Chapter Application and have it well received at that level.

11:50 to 12:30 pm Session X – Select one of the following concurrent sessions:

Integrating Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and STEM Concepts into Agriscience Programs – *Eric Moser* – **Ballroom A** – In this session, teachers will explore the NGSS three-dimensional learning framework and 5E model of instruction. Teachers will also get a chance to develop an NGSS-aligned lesson plan to use in their classroom.

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National Chapter Application – *Cindy Walker* - **Ballroom C**
Having judged at the national level Cindy brings perspective on how to complete the National Chapter Application and have it well received at that level.

12:30 – 12:35 pm Keystone Cooperative – *Jeff Westra*

12:35 to 1:30 pm **Networking Lunch – Ballrooms ABC**

1:30 to 2:15 pm Session XI - **Ballrooms ABC**

CIP Self Review Tips and **Secondary / Post-Secondary Program of Study**– *Mark Forbush MDE OCTE MSU* – **Ballroom**

- How to help you complete the needed material for your CIP Self Review and have your students help!

Program Round Tables – Teacher Exchange

- Following the presentation ideas will be exchanged and you will be able to build evidence to put into your CIP Self Review!

2:15 pm Adjourn

Fall PDI Sponsors
Michigan Department of Education
Michigan State University
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Department of Community Sustainability
Michigan FFA Association
iCEV
DTE
Keystone Cooperative