
BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Information/Discussion _____

Future Action _____

Action _____

Item: Future Farmers of America (FFA) National Convention (1 Day)

Submitted by: Craig Weigel 

Date: 9.25.25

Recommended by: Sue Gardner 

Board Meeting Date: 10.20.25

RECOMMENDATION:

Requesting approval to send students from our AgriScience in FFA to attend one day of the National FFA Convention on Oct 30, 2025. Please note that the Cedar Springs HS FFA Advisor will also be transporting and attending with 3 of their students, meeting at KCTC to share transportation to Indiana. With the board meeting on October 20th, we have been intentional in preparing as much as possible in advance, and we are confident we have the ability to get students registered for this great experience by the event's deadline of Oct 27, 2025.

Please see below for details around the experience, itinerary, and logistics.

BACKGROUND:

National Convention Student Benefits, Learning targets/PCC Standards & Suspected Outcomes

Purpose:

Students are attending this trip for three reasons this year. **First**, all students wanting to receive Michigan State University Credits and their State FFA Degree, need a five above the chapter level activities to meet this requirement. FFA is the CTSO for our program. FFA is more involved than other CTSO programs and requires much more time from the students. **Second**, the National FFA Convention offers many different opportunities for students. This year, with a one-day trip, students will be able to experience one of the nation's largest, career & college expo, all specific to the Agriculture/Natural Resources CIP Code. **Thirdly**, we have selected a once a student career opportunity. Students will get to experience one of the Nation's largest Dairy farm operations, and learn the full ins and outs of the dairy industry, first hand.

Student Benefits:

- Build positive working relationships with students and future alumni
- Meet industry professionals
- Develop their own Network.

Learning Targets / PCC Standards:

- B1: Analyze and describe animal origin and domestication according to their hierarchical taxonomy and agricultural use.
- B2: Provide for the biosecurity of agricultural animals and prescribe and implement a prevention and treatment program for animal diseases, parasites and other disorders.
- **Career Ready Performance indicators:**
- CL: Demonstrate Collaboration Skills consistently and independently
 - CL2: Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee
 - CL3: Model Integrity, ethical leadership and effective management.
- CM: Demonstration communication skills consistently and independently
 - CM1: Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
- PM: Demonstrate Personal Management skills consistently and independently

- PM2: Plan Education and career paths aligned to personal goals
 - PM2C: Display perspective regarding the career pathways available and the time, effort, experience, and other requirements to pursue each, including the path of entrepreneurship

Suspected Outcomes:

- Students will leave with knowledge on what it takes to run a dairy operation, have built new relationships, secured an experience towards their MSU/FFA requirements and have received information on job opportunities in the AFNR field. Students will also have established positive relationships from students around the world and within Michigan. They will also leave with the responsibility of time management and spatial awareness as they trek the nation's largest AFNR college and career expo.

Teachers: Heather Pratt and Brent Willett + Jenna Myers and Taryn Troupe (FFA Advisors from Cedar Springs)

Date: Oct 30, 2025

Itinerary:

Fair Oaks, Indiana
Indianapolis, Indiana

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 4:45 am | Arrive at KCTC Lot 4. |
| 5:00 am | Depart KCTC with Cedar Springs FFA to Cracker Barrel → stop as needed for Bathroom Breaks → Breakfast on the bus |
| 9:45 am | Arrive at Indiana Convention Center (ICC) for Career/College Expo → Students have 1.5 Hours to explore Expo. → Participate in any activities within the expo. → Collect as many College / career related items as possible → Complete Goose Chase on phones → Meet students from other states. |
| 11:45 am | Meet by the Block FFA Letters to walk to the bus. (ICC, West Entrance) |
| 12 pm (ET) | Depart to Fair Oaks (LISA) 219-394-5322 |
| 2:45 pm (ET) / 1:45 (CT) | Fair Oaks Farms. 877-536-1194, ext. 322. |
| 3:10 pm (ET) / 2:10 (CT) | Tour Starts |
| 6:30 pm (ET) / 5:30 pm (CT) | Load Bus |
| 6:45 pm (ET) / 5:45 pm (CT) | Depart to Dinner |
| 7:30 pm (ET) / 6:30 pm (CT) | Merrillville Exit. E 61st Ave. → Park at Speedway → McDonalds, Taco Bell, Arbys |
| 8:15 pm (ET) / 7:15 pm (CT) | Depart to KCTC |
| 10:45 / 11 pm (ET) | Arrive back to KCTC |

Cost: \$50 per person + sack lunches/snacks from Culinary Catering + up to \$225 for parking bus + gas (sharing costs between Cedar Springs and KCTC)

Number of Students: Up to 28 students (25 students from KCTC FFA + 3 students from Cedar Springs FFA)

Transportation Info:

- 1 bus – Cedar Springs students will meet at KCTC in their own van and join our students in the bus to Indiana
- Brent Willett will drive and is aware of the USDOT laws for commercial drivers and will follow the break rules
 - Brent says that his license is also good for out of state transportation

Paperwork: [Permission Slip](#) and [Field Trip Request](#)