

FFA in the USA

TAKE ME TO THE FAIR! A YEAR-ROUND PASTIME SINCE 1841, STATE FAIRS REMAIN ONE OF THE BEST STAGES FOR FFA MEMBERS AND CHAPTERS TO SHOW OFF THEIR AG SAVVY. HERE ARE SOME OF THE EXCITING FFA HAPPENINGS AT STATE FAIRS, COUNTY FAIRS AND OTHER EXPOS, SUBMITTED BY STATE OFFICERS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY. — Compiled by Julie Woodard

ALABAMA

At the Alabama National Fair, FFA chapters vie for the top spot in the Agricultural Information Exhibit Contest, complete with displays based on an annual theme about the state's agriculture.

ALASKA

How often do you encounter reindeer in a Junior Livestock Showmanship Contest? That's what you'll see FFA members do at the Alaska State Fair. Another unique event is the Giant Cabbage Contest; a 138-pound cabbage holds the Guinness World Record.

ARIZONA

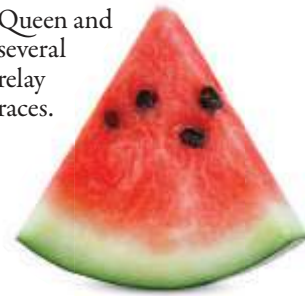
Members compete in a Livestock Judging Contest at the Arizona State Fair, where their skills are tested against other chapters and 4-H members.

COLORADO

During the Heifer Wrangle Show at the Colorado State Fair, members exhibit heifers they have raised as part of a supervised agricultural experience grant program.

DELAWARE

At the end of their state fair week, members show off their skills in the FFA Fair Games. Activities include an egg toss with the governor, a watermelon-eating contest with the Mar Del Watermelon Queen and several relay races.



FLORIDA

At the 115th annual Florida State Fair, Florida FFA continued its partnership with the Iowa Pork Producers to promote the pork industry and to raise money for Florida FFA.

GEORGIA

In the annual Georgia State Fair Legislative Showdown, state senators and representatives are invited to learn about and exhibit livestock alongside FFA members.

IDAHO

Idaho enjoys not one but three state fairs: the Western Idaho State Fair, the Eastern Idaho State Fair and the North Idaho State Fair. At each fair, members sell raffle tickets for a chance

to win a tractor at the state leadership conference. Profits fund college scholarships for graduating members.

ILLINOIS

State officers host the Illinois FFA Barnyard at the Illinois State Fair. More than 15,000 fair-goers travel through the barnyard to visit the animals.

INDIANA

More than 200,000 people walk through the 25,000-square-foot FFA Pavilion at the Indiana State Fair to play miniature golf, pet farm animals, interact with chapters and more.

KANSAS

In the Agricultural Education Building, Kansas FFA presents the Grand Champion animals all week long. Along with caring for animals, various chapters also find ways to advocate for agriculture.



KENTUCKY

Kentucky FFA partners with other agricultural groups to sponsor Ag Land at the Kentucky State Fair and to educate nonfarm families about where their food comes from.

LOUISIANA

It was a family affair at this year's LSU AgCenter State Livestock Show. Twins Sydni and Adisyn Walker from Lacassine FFA won both Champion and Reserve broiler pens.

MAINE

Members volunteer for Lil' Farmers at the Fair, an interactive exhibit that educates your children on the wide reach and impact of agriculture.

MARYLAND

The Maryland State Fair features an FFA Day when members get into the fair for free. They can also visit the U Learn Farm to present speeches, display their show animals and share what they are doing to promote agriculture.

MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts may not have a state fair, but it does have the Big E, the largest expo on the East Coast. The only FFA competition of its kind, this regional affair hosts 17 states and serves as a great practice round for national convention competitors.

MINNESOTA

During FFA Weekend at the Minnesota State Fair, members compete in the largest FFA-only livestock show in the nation, as well as landscape competitions, a tractor-driving competition and various career development events.

MISSOURI

FFA members unite at the Missouri State Fair to pack over 100,000 meals for food-insecure families across the state.



MONTANA

Missoula FFA is finishing work on a USDA-inspected meat-processing facility at the chapter's ag center. All products will be produced, processed, packaged and sold by FFA members.

NEBRASKA

Showmen with the top livestock enter the ring one last time during The Final Drive at the Nebraska State Fair. Judges select the overall Grand and Reserve champions.

NEVADA

Nevada FFA holds its annual state livestock competition at the Clark County Fair and Rodeo, which is the largest fair in southern Nevada.

NEW JERSEY

Every year, Northern Burlington FFA sponsors a tent at its county fair to showcase each part of its agricultural program and to display the chapter scrapbooks to the public.

NEW MEXICO

FFA members spend their time at the Red Barn at the New Mexico State Fair and use farm animals to educate the public about agriculture and the impact it has on everyday lives.

NORTH DAKOTA

This year, the North Dakota State Fair will host the 19th annual North Dakota FFA Foundation and Alumni Auction, which raises over \$23,000, on average, to support FFA activities.

OHIO

Edison FFA teamed up with the Ohio Cattleman's Association to serve food at several of the association's food stands during the Ohio State Fair. This gave students the chance to meet and interact with those visiting the fair.

OKLAHOMA

During the Tulsa State Fair, exhibitors can donate their animals to the FFA Hunger Challenge, which helps feed the hungry all across the state.

OREGON

The Oregon State Fair hosts an annual Goat Milking Contest where only state legislators compete. The winning senator or representative earns a trophy.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Each year in October, hundreds of members gather for FFA Day at the South Carolina State Fair and attend a farm-to-table lunch.

TENNESSEE

At the Tennessee Appalachian Fair, FFA members gain community service hours by volunteering as members of the Appalachian Fair Youth Board. The board par-

ticipates in local farm days that promote ag literacy during the fair.

UTAH

Chapters take turns volunteering at the Utah State Fair's Little Hands on the Farm, teaching thousands of kids how food gets from the farm to the fork.

VERMONT

State officers stay cool in the summer and support the dairy industry by traveling to multiple fairs to help out at FFA dairy bars and booths.

WASHINGTON

The Stanwood FFA Chapter cohosted the annual Country Living Expo, which included a large variety of workshops, a keynote address from Dr. Temple Grandin and an expo where actor Chris Pratt's sheep won the fiber prize.

WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin FFA Honors Band and Chorus performs for four days during the Wisconsin State Fair, playing crowd favorites and welcoming alumni back to play in the final concert.



VIRGINIA

FFA Forestry Field Day at the State Fair of Virginia allows members to compete in activities such as log roll, log throw, cross-cut saw, water accuracy and bow saw.

FIRST PLACE