



Next Gen: A glimpse into the future of agriculture

The Next Gen Conferences are a series of career-focused conferences centered around each of the eight Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Career Pathways.



Next Gen Conferences: Then and Now

	2020	2022
Career Pathway	Animal Systems	Plant Systems
# of attendees	50 attendees	45 attendees
Conference Location	Kansas City, Mo.	St. Louis, Mo.
Top-rated site*	Calving and reproduction demonstration	Missouri Botanical Gardens
Gender of attendees	39 females 11 males	28 females, 16 males, 1 non-binary individual

*Attendees rated each site and speaker via a post-conference survey

“The most beneficial experience I had at the [Next Gen] conference was the persistent [advice] to do what I love and to find my why. I needed to be pushed to reach my full potential.”

–Next Gen participant (2022)

The National FFA Organization grows the next generation of leaders who will change the world.

These future leaders can make a tangible impact on the problems facing the world and agriculture. National FFA uses conferences, workshops and other experiences to cultivate premier leadership, personal growth, and career success in FFA members. The FFA Next Generation (Next Gen) Conference equips students with the knowledge and skills to interest and prepare them for future careers in agriculture.

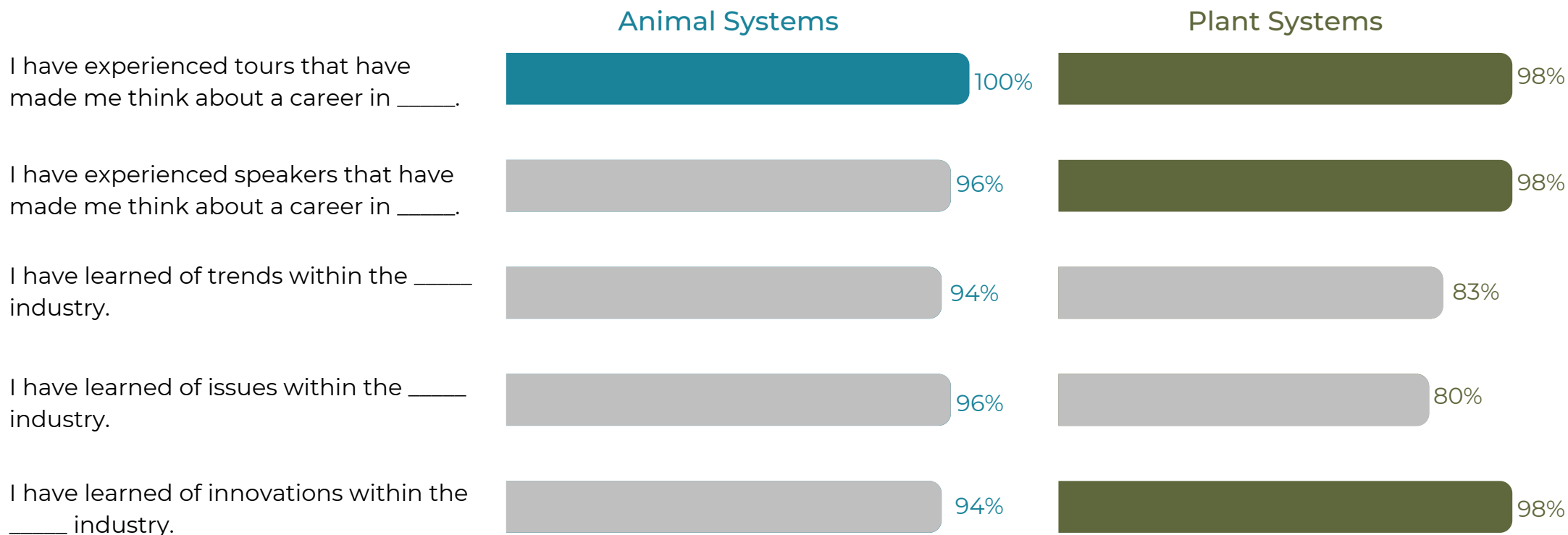
The first Next Gen conference was held in Kansas City, Mo., in Feb. 2020. FFA members were immersed in experiences related to animal systems careers. The COVID-19 global pandemic halted plans for the conference series in 2021, but the Next Gen conference made a triumphant return in June 2022. This time FFA members traveled to St. Louis, Mo., and explored potential careers in plant systems. This document focuses on the experiences FFA members had at these two conferences and how what they learned will help them grow to be the next generation of leaders who will change the world. For more information, contact evaluation@FFA.org.

¹ The National AFNR Content Standards provide state agricultural education leaders and educators with a high-quality, rigorous set of standards to guide what students should know and be able to do after completing a program of study in each of the AFNR career pathways. (2022, The National Council for Agricultural Education).



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Learning to Do: Acquiring Knowledge at Next Gen Conferences



Results are from the Next Gen conference student survey responses in 2020 and 2022.

What FFA members say was the most beneficial experience they had at Next Gen...

"Getting out of my comfort zone to go talk to people I have never met. It was an incredible experience."

"I think the most beneficial thing [about the Next Gen Conference] was learning more about the industry and what qualifications are needed to get a solid job."

"I have finally been able to decide what I would like to do for my future and [the Next Gen Conference] gave me the ability to meet with future employers."

"Meeting amazing people from other states and being able to connect with people who are just like me but also very different."

Student quotes come from the Next Gen conference survey responses in 2020 and 2022.



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Almost all FFA members at the animal systems and plant systems conferences said they have discovered employability skills and learned with other students from diverse backgrounds.

I have discovered practical employability skills that will help me in the future.



I have learned with other students from diverse backgrounds and shared interests.



I have networked with other students from diverse backgrounds and shared interests.



Results based on Next Gen conference student survey responses in 2020 and 2022

Ready for what's next: The National FFA mission

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. After taking industry tours, speaking with industry professionals, learning about career paths within animal and plant systems, and networking with other students from diverse backgrounds and shared interests, FFA members indicated that the Next Gen conferences in 2020 and 2022 met the intended learning outcomes for members (see charts on pages two and three of this document). These learning outcomes allow for personal growth and career development of FFA members, furthering the National FFA Organization's mission and demonstrating that FFA members are ready for what's next.

For more information, email evaluation@FFA.org.

■ 2022 Plant Systems Conference
■ 2020 Animal Systems Conference



"The Next Gen Conference was an excellent opportunity for my student (and myself)! The tours were my favorite part. I highly recommend this conference to other FFA members! Advisors attending will also benefit from the conference.

-Next Gen chaperone (2022)