

Workshop Descriptions

There will be 1-2 virtual workshops per time slot as attendees allows. Those links will be sent directly to those registered for the virtual workshop.

FBM – Farm Business Management

PS – Post Secondary

HS – High School

Friday 5:45pm-6:45pm Sessions

FBM – Ascent Financial – Rachel Bork and Associates

Farm Business Transitions

PS – The NorthStar Promise: What does it mean? – TBD

According to the Office of Higher Education, “beginning in fall 2024, the North Star Promise (NSP) Scholarship program will create a tuition and fee-free pathway to higher education for eligible Minnesota residents at eligible institutions as a ‘last-dollar’ program by covering the balance of tuition and fees remaining after other scholarships, grants, stipends and tuition waivers have been applied.” In this session we will talk about what that means for you, your students, and your programs.

HS – FFA and 4-H Crop Scouting – Anja Johnson, University of Minnesota, 4-H Youth

Development and Brian McNeill and Minnesota 4-H Agriculture Ambassadors

Join us for an immersive Crop Scouting Workshop tailored for educators in FFA. Discover hands-on techniques, and interactive simulations to enhance your teaching on crop health, pest management, and plant analysis. Gain valuable insights and tools to empower your students in agricultural practices. Don't miss this opportunity to cultivate a thriving learning environment!".

HS – Practical Applications of Digital Media Skills in the Classroom – Greta Tank,

Education Program Specialist; Agricultural Education, Communication & Marketing and Dr. Troy McKay; CHS Digital Media Teaching Assistant Professor; Agricultural Education, Communication & Marketing program at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Interested in podcasting, digital storytelling or video production in your classroom? Join Dr. Troy McKay and Greta Tank from the University of Minnesota’s Agricultural Education, Communication and Marketing Program for this hands-on session. Participants will explore technology equipment at different price points, brainstorm course applications, review free apps and curriculum resources, hear best practices from fellow educators through a panel discussion and Q&A. This two-hour workshop includes dedicated time for discovering how to embed digital media skills into your individual classroom.

Part 1 of 2

HS – Leveraging LinkedIn to Build Community– Mary Buschette, Director of Alumni &

Constituent Relations, U of M CFANS

Learn ideas of how to use LinkedIn as a way to build and maintain connections with alumni and supporters of your program.

HS – Social Media in the Ag Room– Nate Anderson, Watertown-Mayer

Tips and tricks on utilizing social media to promote your programs. Time can also spend some time helping people create accounts for their chapters.

Part 1 of 2

HS – Putting your officer Team to Work – Kelsey Brandt, New Ulm School, Stephanie Brandt & Lainey Brandt, Sibley East Schools

Are you an FFA advisor looking to maximize the impact of your chapter and cultivate strong leadership skills among your students? Join our empowering workshop designed specifically for FFA advisors seeking to leverage the potential of their FFA officer teams to lead the chapter effectively.

Part 1 of 2

Friday 7:00pm-8:00pm Sessions

FBM – Compeer Financial – Landon Shroyer, Ag Tech Partner Officer
Fintech in Agricultural Lending

HS – Inclusion and Diversity what can I do at the Local Level – Shell Tumberg,
Perham High School

6 mini workshops will be shared with you to use with your local leader teams. They can also be used as a spin off lesson for your classroom.

HS - Practical Applications of Digital Media Skills in the Classroom –

Part 2 of 2

HS – Understanding CTE Funding: Perkins & State Revenue – Leah Bott, Silver Bay
AFNR teacher, Lake Superior Perkins Consortium Coordinator and Shelli Sowles, MDE CTE Coordinator
Learn the ins and outs of the CTE Levy and Federal Perkins funds. Topics will include: State-approved Programs (MN Rule 3505), Perkins (p-file) data collection, Federal Funding – allowable and unallowable expenses, Career Technical Education Revenue (Levy and Aid) – allowable and unallowable expenses, and Programs of Study (POS). Come to learn and come with your questions!

HS – College in the Schools: Teaching AnSci 1101 for College Credit in HS –

Tony Seykora and Kyle Roseboom, Animal Science at U of MN, Twin Cities
Minnesota Vo-Ag teachers have been teaching the U of MN AnSc 1101 Introductory Animals Science in the high school for 15 years. Learn how you can become a member of this cohort and give this opportunity to you students.

HS - Social Media in the Ag Room–

Part 2 of 2

HS – POA – Share – Anna Buckentine, Belle Plaine

Come listen to what FFA Chapters all over the state do for their POA's. Gain new ideas, share what has gone well in your area and just have fun connecting with FFA advisors.

HS – Putting your officer Team to Work–

Part 2 of 2

Friday 8:15pm-9:00pm Sessions

FBM – FBM Updates – Keith Olander

COE and Database leaders will provide final details needed for the analysis season along with new programs for spring semester and beyond. Additionally, we will be covering climate smart projects that may impact FBM students.

Saturday 9:30am-10:30am Sessions

FBM - Pine Country Bank – Mike Mastey, Agricultural/Commercial Loan Officer
Current Trends in Dairy Lending/ Contract Production Financing

HS – State Fair, Heavy on AgTechnology – Nick Milbrandt, Blue Earth and Tim Uhlenkamp, Willmar

We will be going through the new live events for Ag Technology happening at the state fair along with talking about different options for Projects that your students can submit for Ag Technology. We will cover our plans to run the trailers again, helpful hints to get kids to send their projects, and then also cover other portions of State Fair. We would be happy to answer any and all questions state fair related.

HS – FFA Alumni – Nathan Hanel, Southern Centers of Agriculture, Cara Soukup, MN FFA Alumni and ROCORI FFA Alumni and Supporters

Local FFA Alumni and Supporters can play a huge role in the lives of FFA members and the FFA Advisor! In this workshop, you will learn about proven strategies your Alumni can implement to help, advocate, and impact the local chapter and community. You will also learn about available resources and opportunities at the State and National level that your Alumni can utilize to be more effective.

HS – Using AI (Artificial Intelligence) in the classroom – Kelsey Brandt, New Ulm

This workshop is your gateway to understanding how AI can transform your teaching methods, enhance student learning, and prepare the next generation of agricultural leaders. By the end of this workshop, you will be equipped with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to integrate AI seamlessly into your agriculture classroom. Whether you are a beginner curious about AI or an experienced educator looking to enhance your teaching toolkit, this workshop promises valuable insights and practical strategies to transform your teaching approach.

Part 1 of 2

HS – SafeTalk for Ag – Tammy Diehn, 2B Continued

SafeTALK training focuses teaches in-depth skills you can learn in half a day. You'll learn how to recognize someone having thoughts of suicide, how to engage them, and how to make sure they get help. This evidence-based training is effective for people as young as 15. The in-person format includes powerful audiovisuals and live practice. SafeTALK for AG teaches the same skills to farmers, lenders, mediators, agency staff, clergy, educators, veterinarians, healthcare and social service providers, and agricultural advisors and businesspeople.

Part 1 of 2

HS – Mission: Eclipse Drones and Drone Competition – Bruce Mathiowetz and Zack Nicklin, Northland Community College-UAS

There is a need for resources and guidance related to safety in school labs/grow spaces/shops/etc. to lessen teachers' negligence, prevent accidents, and teach students proper safety measures. PPE, class size, facility requirements, machine guarding, safety instruction, safety testing/documentation and acceptable practices in courses will be discussed. A basic workshop outline will be followed and a new state resource will be presented but this workshop is designed to use a lot of Q&A time to best serve your local needs.

Part 1 of 2

HS – Ag Machinery Workshop – Al Stemper, Erik Hoff and Randy Barka

Workshop will cover machinery portion of FFA Ag Mechanics. Workshop will allow instructors the opportunity to gain experience on best operation; maintenance practices for Choppers. Workshop time will be spent looking at skills and problems solving activities that can be used to train and prepare students for the regional and State Ag Mechanics contests. Handouts and resources will be provided.

Part 1 of 2

HS – Meats Processing for Beginners – Andrew Siira and Levi Muhl, MN Dept. of Ag- Meat Inspector

So you want to teach meat processing. What do you need to know about classroom or facility requirements, state inspection options, staff contacts and more. Learn from state meat inspectors about how you can successfully create or convert your learning space and equipment into a lab that can properly and safely support meat processing requirements.

HS – Empowering Ag Educators: Leveraging Clifton Strengths for Student Success and Professional Growth – Lyndsay Ampe, Agri-Business Instructor - Ridgewater College

Calling all high school and post-secondary agriculture educators! Join us for a dynamic workshop that will revolutionize how you prepare your students for success. In this session, discover the transformative potential of Clifton Strengths. Uncover the holistic view it offers of your individual strengths, learn to leverage them personally and professionally, and guide your students to do the same. Get ready to redefine career and life preparedness. No prior assessment is required, just a willingness to empower yourself and your students through Clifton Strengths.

Part 1 of 2

Saturday 10:45am – 11:45am Sessions

FBM Catt and Associates – James Nelson – Grain Marketing Advisor

Developing an Effective Marketing Plan

HS – All about the Meats CDE – Sue Gorman, Minnesota Dept. of Ag

Come join me for a one-hour overview of the MN Meat Evaluation CDE with tips and tricks to train a winning team. We will discuss what the state contest consists of, ways to help your team with identification, grading and placing and how to utilize various online references as well as other training tools. This will be a great opportunity for you to ask questions and learn from my ups and downs in training various teams, as well as from hosting contest many different contests within Minnesota and Wisconsin.

HS – High Quality Advisory Committees – Lisa Sackreiter and Steve Schlager, Madelia High School

Are you lost on where to start with an Advisory committee? Are you frustrated with how your advisory committee works or doesn't work? Come learn how to set up a good advisory committee that will help you have a better Agriculture department with great community connections!

HS – Meat Processing 2.0 – Taking it to the Next Level – Andrew Siira & Levi Muhl, MN Dept. of Ag- Meat Inspector

Have you taught a meat science unit or class before? Ever processed jerky in class? If you have begun to dabble into teaching meat processing and want to further expand your ability to teach meat processing, this is the workshop for you. Meet with state meat inspectors and other teachers to discuss each other's successes and failures and learn from each other about how to properly grow your meat processing program.

HS – Using AI (Artificial Intelligence) in the classroom –

Part 2 of 2

HS – SafeTalk for Ag –

Part 2 of 2

HS – Mission: Eclipse Drones and Drone Competition –

Part 2 of 2

HS – Ag Machinery Workshop –

Part 2 of 2

HS – Empowering Ag Educators: Leveraging Clifton Strengths for Student Success and Professional Growth –

Part 2 of 2

Saturday 1:45pm – 2:45pm Sessions

FBM – Nutrien Ag Solutions – Tyler Morgan – Agronomist

The Use of Fertility Biologicals

HS – How to Hydroponics – Skyller Schmidt-Retterath, BOLD Schools

Come learn all about hydroponics! This workshop is for anyone interested or wanting a refresher on hydroponics! You will learn about hydroponics, how to get grants for them, types of systems, lessons, and how to grow produce for school! Also learn how to keep students engaged all year long with hydroponics!

Part 1 of 2

HS – Hands-On Projects for Plants, Natural Resources and Wildlife

Pathway/Course – Mary Hoffmann and Katie Emmett, Sleepy Eye School

Looking for new Hands-On Lessons or Projects in the areas of Plants, Natural Resources and Wildlife... look no further! Attend this workshop and gain multiple fun AND educational activities for your classes that you can use immediately!

HS – Wood Shop – Bill Rinkenberger and Abby DeDina, Blooming Prairie

Are you a new teacher? You going to teach a shop class? what are all the things you need to do before you start that class? This workshop will create a check list of all the thing you need to have on hand or in your curriculum before you start teaching. In the end we want your shop space safe for you and your students.

Part 1 of 2

HS – Hands-on Floral Design – Darcy Dahna, Mt. Lake

This workshop is for anyone who struggles when teaching kids how to create basic floral designs. This hand-on workshop is broken down into easy step-by-step instructions. During this workshop you will create a centerpiece and discuss how to create types of designs. If you have your own flower arranging tools (knife or clipper), please bring them. A limited number of tools will be available to borrow. This class would be great for those preparing for the Floriculture CDE or have a basic design course. **There will be a \$20 workshop fee for this workshop.**

Part 1 of 2

HS – Is There Any Debate?: Conduct of Chapter Meeting Basics – Spencer Roeglin, Sibley East

Want to start a Conduct of Chapter Meetings team? Don't know where to start? Well start here! This workshop will cover basics of the contest like contest structure, points, and time. As well as look deeper into: Moving Motions, Parliamentary Language, How to Coach Your Chairperson, and Debate Basics!

HS – Smith River Run-Mapping Water Quality – Christa Williamson, KMS

What's happening along Smith River? Algae blooms in the watershed are impacting the ecosystem and the economy, and it is our job to investigate where the cause is coming from- is it natural, rural based, or urban caused? Experience an engaging inquiry activity that will allow your students to decide where and how to test for the nutrients that are causing problems and track down the sources. We will not only test water samples, but also use location-based data layers to help analyze where the problem is along the Smith River Run!

Saturday 3:00pm-4:00pm Sessions

FBM – Finpack & Updates – Pauline Van Nurden, Center for Farm Financial Management

2023 Closeout Updates - Join this session to get the latest information regarding FINPACK updates and closeout information for completing the 2023 farm analysis. This session will cover error sleuthing in the FINAN financial analysis and share how to fix common errors. Also, bring your questions to be answered and share your analysis best practices with fellow instructors.

HS – How to Hydroponics – Skyller Schmidt-Retterath, BOLD Schools

Part 2 of 2

HS – Hands-On Projects for Exploring Ag, Junior High, or Animal Science

Pathway/Course – Mary Hoffmann and Katie Emmett, Sleepy Eye School

Looking for new HandsOn Lessons or Projects in the areas of Exploring Ag, Junior High, or Animal Science look no further! Attend this workshop and gain multiple fun AND educational activities for your classes that you can use immediately!

HS – Wood Shop – Bill Rinkenberger and Abby DeDina, Blooming Prairie

Part 2 of 2

HS – Hands-on Floral Design – Darcy Dahna, Mt. Lake

Part 2 of 2

HS – Roots of Resilience – Lisa Sackreiter, Madelia High School

Are you feeling burned out? Do you need a check in on your mental health? We will identify stressors in agriculture and education and their impact, while sharing resources to work on resilience and perseverance.

HS – “Safety: Designing Guidelines to Lawyer Proof Your School Agricultural Facilities” – T.J. Brown, South Central College

There is a need for resources and guidance related to safety in school labs/grow spaces/shops/etc. to lessen teachers' negligence, prevent accidents, and teach students proper safety measures. PPE, class size, facility requirements, machine guarding, safety instruction, safety testing/documentation and acceptable practices in courses will be discussed. A basic workshop outline will be followed and a new state resource will be presented but this workshop is designed to use a lot of Q&A time to best serve your local needs.