Workshop Descriptions

FBM – Farm Business Management
PS – Post Secondary
HS – High School

Friday Evening Sessions

**FBM - 1st hour – Analyzing 2019 and 2020 Farm Program Choices** – Kent Thiesse, Farm Management Analyst, Senior Vice-President, Chief Ag Loan Officer, MinnStar Bank, Lake Crystal
Discussion topics covered in this hour will include: Commodity Program provisions in the New Farm Bill, importance of updating FSA program yields for 2020, analyzing ARC-CO and PLC program choice for 2019 and 2020, effect of lower crop yields in 2019 on farm program choices, situations favoring ARC-Individual program choice, 2021-2023 farm program choices, review of ARC-CO & PLC 2014-2018 crop years, update on crop insurance, MFP and disaster payments.

**FBM - 2nd hour – Cash Flow Strategies in Challenging Times** – Kent Thiesse, Farm Management Analyst, Senior Vice-President, Chief Ag Loan Officer, MinnStar Bank, Lake Crystal
This session will include a discussion of the following topics: background on tight cash flow margins in recent years and for 2020, importance of grain marketing decisions, tying crop insurance into a risk management plan, controlling production and land rental costs, flexible leases and land rental arrangements, managing overhead and family living expenses, other cash flow and management strategies for 2020.

**PS – REVERSE COLLEGE FAIR**

**HS – Social Media and Graphic Frenzy** – Natasha Mortenson, Riverview LLP
Bring your laptop or iPad to this social media and online graphic maker workshop! We will be going over social media basics and advanced information, how to schedule posts using Buffer and learning how to use Canva and Piktochart graphic programs. These are all free and great tools to use as a lesson with students and/or for promotion and information purposes for your program and FFA Chapter.

**HS – Easy Money….”Grant”ed It Might Take A Little Work** – Sarah Dornink, MAELC & Wes Anderson, Ag-Ed Instructor
Come join us to demystify the grant writing process! Successful grant writing is based on knowing where to find grant money and writing an effective proposal. In this workshop, we will examine different types of fund sources and specific grant opportunities. We will then talk about the different sections of the MAELC grant proposal and how to write each section. Please feel free to bring current grant applications you are working on and as a group, we will offer feedback and advice for making it a winning grant that stands out from other submissions.

**HS – Ag Teacher Hacks** – Amber Seibert, Ag-Ed Instructor
A “hack” is something that makes your life easier: an easy, do-able trick that will save you money, time, or stress in your everyday life. The goal of this workshop is to share some of the “hacks” that have made our lives as Ag Teachers a little bit better. We hope to quickly share some of the tips and tricks we’ve created ourselves or picked up from others in the areas of classroom, FFA, and technology tools. Please bring a laptop to share and check out the “hacks” we will be sharing!
**HS - Teaching Internship Workshop** – Agricultural Education Faculty, University of MN
This workshop is intended for cooperating teachers and the teacher candidates they will mentor during spring semester 2020. The twelve-week teaching internship is the capstone experience for teacher licensure students and has been identified as one of the most valuable experiences in the teacher preparation process. The goals of the workshop are to understand indicators of a successful teaching internship, determine the order that classes will be taught, and identify opportunities for FFA and SAE involvement.

**HS – State Degree 101** – Christa Williamson, Ag-Ed Instructor
It’s Applications Season! This workshop will focus on the Minnesota State Degree. We will go through the degree section by section, addressing common problems. Have applications started? Bring them with or increase your knowledge on the degree as a whole.

**HS – Citizen Volunteer Monitoring – Aquatic Invertebrates** – Len Ferrington & staff, University of Minnesota, Entomology and Fisheries & Wildlife
This workshop will focus on aquatic invertebrates, their impact on trout streams, and how agriculture instructors along with their classrooms might participate as citizen science volunteers. The Citizen Volunteer Monitoring Network through the involvement of the University and Minnesota Pollution Control agency will be reviewed. On-line resources that are available for citizen volunteers to identify and/or verify the aquatic insects they encounter during field assessments will be outlined.

**HS – Drones** – Lance Brune, Ag-Ed Instructor
Are you looking to incorporate drones into your agriculture program? This workshop will showcase how one program has developed a stand-alone drone class that fits their program needs. There will be a question and answer session on how to fund the program, get administrators on board, selling your class to students, and the logistics of running a drone class.

**Saturday Morning Workshops**

**FBM – Troublesome FINAN and FINFLO Topics** – Pauline Van Nurden and Dale Nordquist, CFFM, University of Minnesota
The discussion for this session will focus on specific topics pertaining to FINAN and FINFLO. Specific FINAN topics include alfalfa establishment, owner wages vs. value of labor and management, custom hire allocations, livestock finishing grain and normal grain, review capital gains and sales, dairy hauling vs. marketing, hay vs. alfalfa hay and other related topics. FINFLO topics include crop expense distributions, harvest months, feed distributions, refinance, changing ending CPLTD, review livestock budgets & months on feed, cost of production, detailed prepaid expense and other related topics.

**PS – TO BE DETERMINED**

**HS – YME Agricultural and Science Research Facility Greenhouse** – Ben Lecy, Jake Suter and Darrel Refsland, YME High School
This workshop will present various greenhouse topics and projects utilizing an agricultural and science research facility greenhouse. Topics will include applying aquaponics, hydroponics, composting and soil science. Student led research and food production projects will be presented.

**HS – Ag Communications: Digital Storytelling** – Rebecca Swenson, Troy McKay, Garret Steede, Ag Education & Communications, University of Minnesota
This hands-on workshop will introduce a set of lesson plans that integrate key agricultural communication activities into existing plant and animal science classes. Workshop participants will also learn how to use mobile video production kits to easily integrate digital storytelling into their classroom. Agriculture communication is a fast-growing segment of university programs and jobs; social and digital communication channels are a high-interest area for students. This workshop will help teachers leverage agriculture
communication to engage students in science content in new and creative ways. At the end of the workshop, teachers can learn more about how to use these activities and tools to prepare students for the Agricultural Communications CDE.

**HS – Training AGvocates for AGriculture** – Natasha Mortenson, Riverview LLP
Training and BEING an advocate for Agriculture is one step away after completing this highly engaging and hands-on workshop. Learn about hot topics in agriculture, finding resources that matter and work, and having those tough conversations with others about agriculture and leaving it positive in the end. This workshop will provide you with the method for having those tough conversations with others and training your students how to have them as well.

**HS - Ag Mech CDE Sprayers Practicum** – Curt Yoose, Ridgewater College & Midwest Machinery, Sauk Rapids Store
This workshop will provide teachers with a chance to see how to set up or identify what type of practical activities could be done for preparing students for the Ag Mechanics contest. Emphasis will be on sprayers for this workshop. Technicians and staff from Midwest Machinery will join Curt Yoose and present information pertaining to calibration, sprayer components, nozzle & selection, spray drift, and mixing math. The workshop will be held inside the shop at the new Sauk Rapids store. Participants will car pool to the store.

**HS – “Lions, Tigers and Bears? More Like Cats, Dogs and Fishes!”** – Katie Brown, Ag-Ed Instructor
Is it Small Animals or Vet Science? What has changed in the last few years? How can I prepare my kids? In this workshop you will be given access to different breed Power Points needed for the students to be successful in identifying difference small animals, a laundry list of exams, and more resources that will be best used when attempting to prepare your team to succeed! This is also a great CDE that will help you include students who may not be your typical “farm Kid” that’s in FFA.

**HS – Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure** – Amy Schneider, Ag-Ed Instructor
Ever wish you could start up a parliamentary procedure team, but just don’t know where to start? This workshop will go over all the elements of parliamentary procedure and what it takes to get a team started off strong. We will cover the rules of the event, motions, debating and how to set up team practices. This will be a great workshop for beginners and maybe a nice refresher for those who have been out of practice for awhile. There will be time for questions and strategy as well!

**HS – Strategies to Organize** – Stan Wulf, Stan Wulf Strategies
Have you ever tried many times to organize your shop areas only to become frustrated because it doesn’t sustain? Stan Wulf, owner of S. Wulf Strategies and a specialist in workplace organizing, will present the process he uses to implement an organization system for shops, storage area, etc. Understanding that “sustaining” is the most difficult step in workplace organization, he threads that step throughout the entire process. Stan worked in manufacturing for 28 years before starting his own company to help others become more efficient through strategic organizing.

**HS – Vet Science** – Lisa Orren, Ag-Ed Instructor
Want to feel more confident demonstrating practical skills in your veterinary science class? Participants will work on common hands on procedures in the vet clinic setting including but not limited to grooming, restraints, bandaging, injections, venipuctures/blood draws, physical exams, CPR, and sutures. The first 30 attendees will take home a “fake leg” that they can use in their own classrooms.
Saturday Afternoon

**FBM - 1st hour – Excel Tips & Tricks** – Linda Muchow, Technology Specialist, Alexandria Technical & Community College

Come and learn the essential business features of Excel including creating formulas, working with basic functions, creating quick and effective charts, applying for filter, and inserting a table. Learn how to filter a large list of information and calculate herd numbers using a Dairy Producers worksheet, learn how to create and analyze formulas using a Dairy Heifer Replacements – Sell or Keep evaluation worksheet, and create charts using Farm Business Management Program Data.

**FBM - 2nd hour – Declutter Your Outlook Inbox** – Linda Muchow, Technology Specialist, Alexandria Technical & Community College

Do you receive multiple e-mails a day that you need to manage and respond to? Do you store emails in your inbox because you might need to refer back to them? Do you know Outlook can help manage your inbox for you? This training will focus on using Outlook functionally to improve managing day-to-day information. During this session, we will look at the various ways you can organize your email is a systematic, and sometimes automatic, way to keep your inbox clean using Outlook features like Rules, Categories, Quicksteps, and Cleanup. We will also look at how you can use your calendar, tasks, and to-do list to help with time and project management.

**HS - Hands-on Floral Design** – Darcy Dahna, Ag-Ed Instructor

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. Powerpoints and examples will be available at the workshop. **BRING A FLASHDRIVE.** 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.**

**HS - State Fair Opportunities** – T. J. Brown and Agriculture Instructor Panel

Have you ever had questions on any of the FFA activities at the Great Minnesota Get Together? If so, attend this workshop and get all your questions answered! An overview of the Agricultural Mechanics show along with potential ideas for students will be shared. The process for involving your students as ‘barnies” in the Miracle of Birth Center will be reviewed. An overview and brief explanation on how to prepare/enter crop samples will be covered. An introduction and explanation of the tractor driving event will be presented. The landscape booth competition will also be explained. PLUS, a discussion on the BRAND NEW COMPETITION your chapter or individual members can compete in at the FFA Chapter House.

**HS – RPL Reconnect** – Amber Seibert and Stephen Funk, Ag-Ed Instructors

This workshop is for teachers that attended the retreats in 2019 at Itasca State Park or Green Lake. This will be an opportunity to reconnect and work through curriculum as well as have input on the structure and purpose of these events as we begin to plan for 2020 and beyond. Participants should bring a laptop and arrive to the workshop with their materials already sorted in the Google folder shared at previous retreats. If you have any questions prior to the workshop, please contact Amber Seibert or Stephen Funk.

**HS – Work Based Learning and Child Labor Law Rules & Scenarios** – Eric Sawatzke and Dustin Steenblock, Ag-Ed Instructors

Work Based Learning provides students with opportunities to build career awareness, explore careers, and develop critical thinking, decision-making and problem solving skills. Work Based Learning placement can sometimes be a challenge due to a wide variety of factors including distance from the school, scheduling conflicts, and employer’s requirements to abide by child labor laws. Are your WBL students working in conditions considered safe by Department of Labor standards? Have you completed the proper paperwork,
including child labor law exemption forms with the Department of Labor? Do barriers to employment keep you students from getting the best work experience possible? Join us for a discussion on current laws and procedures for Work Based Learning and what changes would improve your WBL program. Participants are encouraged to share their own stories of student learners who were limited in their WBL options due to any of the factors mentioned above.

**HS – Electrical Workshop For Beginners** – Duane Lichy, Ag-Ed Instructor
Are you newer to the field of teaching, new to teaching an electricity course, or trying to prepare a team for the Agricultural Mechanics CDE? This workshop is designed for you. During this workshop you will receive training, labs, and assessments readily usable and applicable for your basic electricity course. Training will take you through electrical principles, planning circuits, and residential wiring labs.

**HS – Forestry 101** – Shawn Linder, Ag-Ed Instructor
In this workshop we will look at all the basic components of this year’s contest which includes: Tree I.D., Wood I.D., Tool I.D., Exams, Timber Cruising, GPS/Compass, Forest Business Management, and Map Interpretation. Where do you start, what are your resources, and what to prioritize? This workshop will be designed for the new or inexperienced teacher in the area of Forestry.

**HS – Milk Quality CDE** – Nick Milbrandt, Ag-Ed Instructor
Nick will discuss ways to help prepare a team for the Milk Quality contest. He will discuss how to prepare various milk samples to create the various flavors of milk the students have to identify. He will also show you the cheese matrix and discuss ways to help students memorize that document.

**HS – Keeping Your Head Above Water** – Lance Brune, Ag-Ed Instructor
Feeling overwhelmed and overworked? Looking for ideas to make your job more enjoyable and less stressful? This workshop will look at strategies to overcome the many struggles of the Ag teacher in the classroom. Focus areas will include using technology to make our students work harder than we do, using time efficiently, and curriculum development. Bring an iPad or laptop and a willingness to try something new.