

STARS OVER MICHIGAN

Selection Process Guide



MICHIGAN FFA

Applications due:

Please refer to the [Association Calendar](#) for the deadline

ELIGIBILITY

Each year, Star Candidates are selected only from the current year's State FFA Degree Candidates (see application requirements below). Candidates must have a successful Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) connected to agriculture, food, or natural resources. **An applicant may only apply in one of the following categories.**

STAR CATEGORIES

Star Farmer (Production)

Candidates must have an entrepreneurship type SAE in production agriculture.

Star in Agribusiness

Candidates must have an entrepreneurship type SAE in a non-production area. Examples include but are not limited to: lawn care services, crop consulting services, and services marketing agricultural products.

Star in Agricultural Placement

Candidates must have a placement type SAE working for an agricultural producer or agribusiness. This placement does not have to be a paid position, although the applicant must have enough earnings and investment from their SAE to qualify to receive the State FFA Degree.

Star in Agriscience

Candidates must have an SAE program that involves planning and conducting scientific research utilizing the scientific method of investigation. This may include qualitative research, quantitative research, experimental research, descriptive research, or quasi-experimental research. Members who work for agricultural laboratories but are not performing their own research should apply in the Agricultural Placement category.

APPLICATIONS

Applicants will complete and submit the following applications through AET:

1. State FFA Degree application and
2. Star Battery application

State FFA Degree Application

The completed State Degree application should reflect an applicant's entire SAE program and all leadership experiences. Information from all SAE types may be included in the State Degree application.

Star Battery Application

Applicants must select only one star category to apply under. Candidates who have SAE projects of multiple types must decide which their strongest type is and complete the Star Battery application with only that information. **The Star Battery application should only contain records and narratives that focus on the SAE enterprises that fall under the selected category.**

To be considered:

1. **Both applications must be complete and of high quality**
2. **Description of SAE specified in Star Battery application (Performance Review A – 1) must clearly relate to agriculture, food, or natural resources.**

APPLICATION REVIEW

Three to five industry representatives or retired agriscience educators will serve on the committee to review Star Applications in every category. Two committee members will score each application to present to the larger committee for final review.

These representatives may include individuals conducting onsite visits.

[Rubrics located on the Michigan FFA website will be utilized to score applications.](#)

When evaluating State Degree applications, **the committee shall only consider SAE records that correspond to the enterprises specified in the Star Battery application. Leadership/FFA activities and community service records will not be taken into consideration.**

Based on rubric scores, each judge will individually rank the applications in each category – highest score receiving a “1.” Judges cannot have ties in their individual rankings. So, if a tie exists after their scores are totaled, they must adjust their individual scores to break the tie.

All judge rankings are compiled and totaled. Applicants with the lowest total ranking (placing highest for the most judges) will be invited to take part in an onsite visit. If a tie occurs, the committee will confer to break the tie.

Up to six applicants in a category can be selected for an onsite visit. No applicant is automatically granted an onsite visit, regardless of ranking or

number of applicants in the category. The committee must determine that an onsite visit is warranted based on the SAE represented in the application.

ONSITE VISIT

For each category, one industry representative or retired agriscience educator will visit the SAE site for each applicant in this round. This visit will consist of an interview/tour with the applicant, review of records, and discussions with advisor(s), administrator(s), and employer(s) (if applicable).

Based on the onsite visits, the industry representative will recommend the top three applicants in each category to advance to the Final Star Interviews. No applicant is automatically granted to advance to the final interviews, regardless of ranking or number of applicants in the category. The committee must determine that advancement to final interviews is warranted based on the onsite visit.

Based on the onsite visit, each judge will individually rank the applicants in each category – highest score receiving a “1.” Judges cannot have ties in their individual rankings. So, if a tie exists after their scores are totaled, they must adjust their individual scores to break the tie.

FINAL STAR INTERVIEWS

Up to three applicants in each category will be invited to take part in the Final Star Interviews.

Applicants in each category will be interviewed by a panel of three industry representatives. The panel will receive the candidates’ application materials before the interviews to review.

Interview Structure

Self Introduction: Each candidate will meet with the panel individually to deliver a three-minute introduction. The introduction should include:

1. Clear and detailed description of the SAE project related to the category area.
2. What the candidate personally did to start the project and the project's current status.
3. Outline candidate's personal ownership and responsibility.
4. No questions will be asked by the panel during the introduction.

Interview: Each candidate will then meet with the panel individually for a 20-30 minute interview:

1. Questions may focus on any aspect of the candidate's application materials and SAE project.
- 2. Emphasis should be placed on questions relating to the following application sections:**
 - a. Learning Outcomes and Efficiency Factors**
 - b. Skills, Competencies, and Knowledge**

[Rubrics located on the Michigan FFA website will be utilized to score the final interviews.](#)

Based on rubric scores, each judge will individually rank applicants in each category – highest score receiving a “1”. Judges cannot have ties in their individual rankings. So, if a tie exists after their scores are totaled, they must adjust their individual scores to break the tie. All judge rankings are compiled.

FINAL STAR SELECTION

Final Star Awards will be determined by combining the judge rankings from:

1. Application Review (two individual judge rankings)
 - a. For final ranking, original application rankings will be adjusted to a relative ranking based on the three candidates that advance to the interview process.
 - b. For example: From the pool of applicants, if the three applications that advance to interviews were originally ranked at application scoring as 1, 4, 6. The application ranking for final scoring would be adjusted to be relative to those that advanced:

Candidates that Advanced to Interviews	Original Application Judge Ranking (App. 1)	Relative Application Judge Ranking (App. 1)
A	1	1
B	4	2
C	6	3

2. Site Visit (one individual judge ranking) and
3. Final Star Interviews (three individual judge rankings)

The applicant with the lowest combined ranking (placing highest for the most judges) will be named the category Star. If a tie occurs, the applicant ranking highest in the Final Star Interviews will be named the category Star.

Example Final Ranking

Candidate	Application Judge Ranking (App. 1)	Application Judge Ranking (App. 2)	Onsite Visit Judge Ranking (Visit 1)	Interview Judge Ranking (Int. 1)	Interview Judge Ranking (Int. 2)	Interview Judge Ranking (Int. 3)	Total of Rankings	Final Placing
A	1	2	3	3	2	1	12	2
B	2	1	1	1	1	2	8	1
C	3	3	2	2	3	3	16	3