



MICHIGAN FFA

State Officer

AFNR Trending
Topics

UPDATED 2025

TO BE USED FOR THE 2026 SELECTION PROCESS

2026 Trending Topics

Each year, National FFA researches and determines topics trending in agriculture and education. Michigan FFA adapts this list for State Officer Candidates to focus their preparation efforts. Specific topics for rounds in the interview process will be directly pulled from this list.

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) INDUSTRY Topics

1) Reauthorization of the [Farm Bill](#)

The Farm Bill is a legislative package that Congress reauthorizes (or passes) approximately every five years. The last version was signed into law in 2018 and extended it until September 2024. Twelve titles are included in the bill, and each has a broad impact on the future of agriculture. Portions of the Farm Bill were passed within the “One Big Beautiful Bill,” but many provisions still require attention from Congress, with farm organizations calling on Congress to act.

[“The future of food and farm policy” by The Hill](#)

[U.S. House Committee on Agriculture](#)

[U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry](#)

2) Status of the Farm Economy

Numerous places track the farm economy in a variety of ways. This gives insight into all aspects of production agriculture:

[Purdue Ag Economy Barometer](#)

[USDA Economic Research Center - Farm Economy](#)

A range of programs, such as risk-management tools, conservation incentives, and market support initiatives, play a role in the overall farm economy. These programs influence farm income, production decisions, and long-term planning, making them a key factor in how the agricultural sector functions.

[USDA Programs for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers](#)

[USDA Programs for Small and Mid-Sized Farms](#)

[Farm Service Agency Tools](#)

3) Expansion of AI and Tech in and Across the Full Food Value Chain

Precision agriculture and autonomous tech are reshaping modern farming, requiring new CTE curriculum and career pathways in ag tech and data science:

[USDA: Precision Agriculture](#)

[AI in agriculture: Pros and Cons](#)

[Purdue AgFutures Lab](#)

[World Economic Forum: AI in Food Systems](#)

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) EDUCATION Topics

1) Value of Career and Technical Education and Funding

Career and Technical Education (CTE) gives students hands-on learning and real-world skills that connect directly to today's workforce. Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) education is a key part of CTE, offering pathways in areas like plant and animal science, food systems, natural resources, and agribusiness. Each year, the federal government appropriates (or spends) approximately \$1.4B through Perkins V, directly impacting the flow of dollars into local career and technical education programs.

[ACTE Value of CTE](#)

[ACTE Developing the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Workforce Perkins V \(Advance CTE\)](#)

2) Teacher Recruitment and Retention

Recruiting and preparing future agriculture teachers through traditional and nontraditional licensure pathways, including teachers with and without Agricultural experiences are essential for the viability of school-based agricultural education. Many of today's future teachers have limited firsthand agricultural experiences beyond what they can glean from their own high school agriculture programs. This also includes preparing industry-experienced teachers (lateral entry/alternative licensure) to be effective in the classroom, with Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE), and with FFA.

[Teacher Burnout and Retention](#)

[Motivations to Pursue a Career as an Agricultural Education Teacher](#)

[Agricultural Educator Retention and Attrition Rates](#)

[ACTE The National Teach Ag Campaign](#)

[National Teach Ag Campaign](#)

3) SAE for All

SAE for All provides every agricultural education student with meaningful, supervised experiences that help them apply classroom learning in real-world settings. The goal is to help students explore career interests, build employability skills, and gain hands-on experience through projects that fit their abilities, resources, and aspirations—ensuring all students can participate in an SAE, regardless of background or access to traditional agricultural opportunities.

[SAE for All Guide](#)

[National FFA SAEs in the USA](#)