

# Growing Together: Cultivating Future Leaders in Ag Education

## Sunday, June 22nd

3:00	Mentor Committee Prep Room	108/109
3:30 - 4:00	New Teacher Workshop Registration	Atrium
4:00 - 6:00	New Teacher Workshop	112/113
4:00	IAAE Board Meeting	114/115
6:00	Dinner (For IAAE Board, Iowa FFA Association Board Members and invited guests only)	Various
6:30	FFA Association Board Meeting (Orientation at 6:00)	114/115

## Monday, June 23rd (Business Casual)

7:45 - 10:00	Registration	Hallway
8:30 - 9:50	Mentor/Mentee Breakfast & Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>**For those involved in Mentor/Mentee program**</li> </ul>	107
9:50 - 10:00	Networking Social <b>Please plan to arrive by 9:45 am for the Conference.</b>	
10:00 - 11:00	Collaborative Workshop/Keynote * <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sarah Nerswick - Green and Growing</li> </ul>	106/107
11:00 - 11:30	IAAE First Business Session	106/107
11:30 - 12:30	Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflection by SC Outstanding Young Member: Annika Holtzbauer</li> <li>FCS Grant Update - Evan Babcock</li> </ul>	106/107
12:30 - 5:00	Workshop Rotations (Section A) * <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groups preassigned during registration</li> </ul>	Various
		<div>Blue</div> <div>White</div> <div>Yellow</div> <div>Orange</div>
12:30 - 1:15	Rotation #1	1A 2A 3A 4A
1:30 - 2:15	Rotation #2	2A 3A 4A 1A

BREAK - Round Table Discussions - 106/107

3:00 - 3:45	Rotation #3	3A	4A	1A	2A
4:00 - 4:45	Rotation #4	4A	1A	2A	3A

**\*\*Post-Secondary Colleague: please find the green sheet in your registration materials for your rotation\*\***

<b><u>Workshop 1A</u></b>	<b><u>Workshop 2A</u></b>	<b><u>Workshop 3A</u></b>	<b><u>Workshop 4A</u></b>
How to Stay Sane and Organized with Fair Materials	Classroom Management 101: Keeping Your Cool and Your Students Engaged	Team Ag Ed Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National FFA</li> <li>- Iowa FFA</li> <li>- Region III</li> </ul>	Department of Education Update
106/107	108/109	112/113	114/115

6:00	Supper	106/107
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflection by SE Outstanding Young Member: Kortney Orr</li> <li>• Foundation Update</li> <li>• Tenure Recognition</li> <li>• Recognize New Teachers</li> </ul>	

**Tuesday, June 24th**  
(Business Casual)

7:30 - 9:00	Registration	Hallway
8:00 - 9:00	Agri-Business Breakfast * <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflection by SW Outstanding Young Member: Joelle Grubbs</li> <li>• Marcus Wilhelm - Regional President for CoBank's Central Region</li> </ul>	106/107
9:00 - 12:00	Trade Show	Atrium
9:00 - 9:50	District Breakouts (District VP will complete agenda items from Virtual Meetings held earlier) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northeast</li> <li>• North Central</li> <li>• Northwest</li> </ul>	108/109 112/113 114/115

10:00 - 10:50 District Breakouts  
(District VP will complete agenda items from Virtual Meetings held earlier)

- Southeast 108/109
- South Central 112/113
- Southwest 114/115

11:00 - 11:50 Workshop Rotations (Section B) \* Various

- These workshops are only offered for one rotation

<b><u>Workshop 1B</u></b>	<b><u>Workshop 2B</u></b>	<b><u>Workshop 3B</u></b>	<b><u>Workshop 4B</u></b>
Bee Hives	Livestock Facilities	Community Gardens	Hydroponics
106/107	108/109	112/113	114/115

12:00 Industry Lunch & Learn \* 106/107

- Reflection by NW Outstanding Young Member: Jilian Joyce
- Ideas Unlimited Presentations
- Kristen Bandy - Iowa ACTE Executive Director
- Teacher Education Updates (Dordt, BVU, ISU, M-Side, NWMSU, UIU)

1:30 - 2:30 Post Secondary Program Showcase 106/107

2:40 - 3:35 Rotation #1 (Section C) \*

BREAK - Refreshments

3:55 - 4:50 Rotation #2 (Section C) \*

<b><u>Workshop 1C</u></b>	<b><u>Workshop 2C</u></b>	<b><u>Workshop 3C</u></b>	<b><u>Workshop 4C</u></b>	<b><u>Workshop 5C</u></b>
Non-Traditional Certified Teacher Cohort	Recognition!	Middle School Ag:	Fostering Good Relationships w/Administrators	POA Power & Special Committees
Was your path to Ag Ed different? Let's work together!	And the winner is.... Recognition in your chapter!	Keep students engaged in the classroom. New ways to get JH students involved in FFA.	Explore how to cultivate productive, respectful, collaborative relationships.	Discover simple strategies, get student buy-in for joining/leading committees.
212/213	108/109	112/113	114/115	208/209

6:00 - 6:30	Pre-Banquet Reception <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsored by Four Seasons</li> </ul>	Atrium
6:30	District & Post-Secondary Group Photos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please wait until 7 PM to find a seat in 106/107</li> </ul>	Atrium
7:00 - 9:00	Iowa Agricultural Education Banquet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dress: Business Professional</li> <li>• Reflection by NE Outstanding Young Member: Cambrie Tuttle</li> <li>• IAAE Awards</li> <li>• 25 Year Clock Presentations <i>Sponsored by Sonny Deke</i></li> <li>• Retiree Recognition</li> </ul>	106/107

**Wednesday, June 25th**  
(Casual Friday)

7:30	Light Breakfast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announcements</li> <li>• Reflection by NC Outstanding Young Member: Alex McDougall</li> </ul>	106/107
8:00 - 8:50	IAAE Committee Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy in Ag Education</li> <li>• Member Experience</li> <li>• Teacher Recruitment and Retention</li> <li>• Financial Review</li> <li>• Professional Development (Conference Planning)</li> <li>• Past Presidents</li> </ul>	106/107 112/113 108/109 106/107 114/115 106/107
9:00 - 9:50	Rotation #1 (Section D) *	Various
10:00 - 10:50	Rotation #2 (Section D) *	

<b><u>Workshop 1D</u></b>	<b><u>Workshop 2D</u></b>	<b><u>Workshop 3D</u></b>	<b><u>Workshop 4D</u></b>	<b><u>Workshop 5D</u></b>
<p>Maintaining the Nest:</p> <p>The balance being a parent and ag teacher before burning out"</p> <p>106/107</p>	<p>Get Your Life Together!</p> <p>Creating organizational systems that work as an ag teacher</p> <p>108/109</p>	<p>Effortless Ways to Eat Better:</p> <p>Discover practical, time-saving strategies to make meal planning more manageable.</p> <p>112/113</p>	<p>Financial Management:</p> <p>It's never too early (or too late!) to start thinking about retirement and your financial future.</p> <p>114/115</p>	<p>ISU Precision Ag:</p> <p>Hear from ISU Digital Ag Team about a new program directly impacting students and classrooms across Iowa.</p> <p>208/209</p>

11:00 - 12:00	IAAE Closing Session	106/107
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foundation Update: Dave Holm</li> </ul>	
12:00	Lunch	106/107

## Post Conference Options

**1:00 - 4:00**

### **Ballard Ag Program Beehive Tour**

Join us at Ballard for a hands-on honeybee hive lab designed specifically for agriculture teachers! Discover the fascinating world of beekeeping and explore how to incorporate this valuable topic into your curriculum. This session will cover essential aspects of apiculture, including crucial safety protocols and equipment, the exciting process of hive setup, and practical techniques for conducting thorough hive inspections. We'll conclude with an open Q&A session, providing you with the opportunity to get all your beekeeping questions answered. Don't miss this unique chance to learn about these vital pollinators and gain practical skills you can share with your students!

**Ballard  
HS -  
Huxley**

**1:00 - 4:00**

### **ISU GIS -**

Looking for geospatial activities to engage students interested in drones or crop productivity? We will demonstrate no-cost geospatial and remote sensing resources for geospatial investigations. You'll leave this workshop with a few activities to implement in a drone or plant science class along with the resources needed for an easy execution.

**ISU  
Campus**

**Teaching  
Lab, 248  
Durham  
Hall**

**1:00 - 4:00**

### **Iowa State Fair Garden**

A unique experience maintaining a garden located at the Iowa State Fairgrounds, including the opportunities and challenges that come with such a high-profile, public space. Whether you're just getting started or looking to expand, you'll leave with realistic strategies, classroom connections, and ideas to align your garden with program goals and student success.

**Iowa  
State  
Fair  
Grounds**

## Workshop Descriptions

**Monday June 23rd @12:30**

<b>1A</b>	<p><b>How to Stay Sane and Organized with Fair Materials:</b></p> <p><b>Presenter(s):</b> Elsa Schmidt</p>	<p>If you've ever juggled nomination and entry forms, deadlines, tagging, student questions, and last-minute project changes — all while trying to stay calm and get everything done on time — then you're in the right place. This workshop is designed to share practical strategies, time-saving tools, and real-world solutions to help you stay organized during this process. Let's dive into how we can streamline the chaos, support our students, and preserve our sanity!</p>
<b>2A</b>	<p><b>Classroom Management 101: Keeping Your Cool and Your Students Engaged</b></p> <p><b>Presenter(s):</b> Sarah Nerswick</p>	<p>Look, we've all been there - a classroom that feels more like a circus than a learning space. This workshop is your backstage pass to classroom management that actually works. We're ditching the boring theory and diving into real-world strategies that'll help you turn chaos into controlled excitement. Ever wish you could know how to handle that one challenging student or create an atmosphere where kids actually want to learn? This is your moment. We'll try out the classroom management strategies so you can feel comfortable walking into your classroom the next day and implementing them.</p>
<b>3A</b>	<p><b>National FFA Update Iowa FFA Update Region III Update</b></p> <p><b>Presenter(s):</b> Scott Johnson and Friends ;)</p>	<p>Kim Bellah with the National FFA State Relations Team and State FFA Staff share updates for the 2025-2026 year and address your questions and concerns.</p>
<b>4A</b>	<p><b>DE Update</b></p> <p><b>Presenter(s):</b> Alan Spencer</p>	<p>Hear about all the latest and greatest updates from the Iowa Department of Education. The workshop will provide you with information to ensure that Ag Teachers are informed and prepared for the next school year.</p>

**Tuesday June 24th @ 11:00**

<b>School Based SAE Projects</b>		
<b>1B</b>	<b>Bee Hives</b>  <b>Presenter(s):</b> <b>Jeff Edwards</b> <b>Bret Spurgin</b>	<b>Empower your agricultural program with a unique, hands-on learning opportunity! This workshop, designed specifically for high school Ag teachers, will equip you with the knowledge and resources to successfully integrate beekeeping into your curriculum. We'll delve into everything from honey bee basics and hive management to the typical seasonal cycle of a beehive, ensuring you're confident in overseeing a school apiary. Learn the practical steps for starting and maintaining a hive at your school, explore common beekeeping hurdles and their solutions, and discover effective methods for tracking student work and engagement. Introduce your students to the vital role of pollinators and provide them with an unforgettable, real-world experience in agriculture!</b>
<b>2B</b>	<b>Livestock Facilities</b>  <b>Presenter(s):</b> <b>Ashley Wiebe</b> <b>Matt Schroeder</b>	<b>Goats and pigs and cattle - oh my! Looking to explore adding a school-based livestock facility that supports meaningful SAE projects to your program? This workshop details how to plan, fund, market, and maintain a livestock facility at your school. We'll cover everything from facility design to student leadership to grants and fundraising. You'll leave this workshop with architectural plans, ideas for lessons, examples of implementation, and student leadership structures. Whether you're just starting the conversation or looking to refine your current setup, this workshop has something for you.</b>
<b>3B</b>	<b>Community/School Gardens</b>  <b>Presenter(s):</b> <b>Caitlin Remington</b>	<b>Looking to start or strengthen a school or community garden program? Join us for an interactive session where we'll dig into the practical and impactful aspects of running a garden that grows more than just plants. With help from student co-presenters, we'll explore time commitments, student involvement, educational integration, and the social benefits that come with garden-based learning.</b>
<b>4B</b>	<b>Lettuce Grow!</b> <b>Building a Hydroponic Tower Program from the Ground Up</b>	<b>Looking to bring innovation, sustainability, and hands-on learning to your ag program? This workshop will walk you through starting and managing a school-based hydroponic tower system that supports impactful SAE projects and supplies your cafeteria with fresh produce. From equipment setup and student</b>



	<b>Presenter(s): Jacob Bowers</b>	<b>roles to tracking SAEs and overcoming common challenges, this session has something for every program—whether you’re just getting started or ready to expand.</b>
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**Tuesday June 23rd @ 2:40**

<b>1C</b>	<b>Non-Traditional Certified Teacher Cohort</b>  <b>Presenter(s): Alan Spencer</b>	<b>This workshop is for teachers who have a non-traditional/alternative certification to teach Ag. We will discuss issues facing teachers who have outstanding industry experience and have been called to become an Ag Teacher. In addition, we will cover the options to receive full teacher licensure in the State of Iowa.</b>
<b>2C</b>	<b>Recognition!!</b>  <b>Presenter(s): Jamie Pudenz Ryan Faught</b>	<b>Is social media working for you or is it just a chore? Are you looking for some tips and tricks to make planning, creation of posts, and increasing your reach easier? This workshop will dive into some tools that already exist but you may not be using. From guidance of officer roles for social media, Canva videos, Meta planner for Facebook and Instagram, and other chapter examples. If you are not tech savvy and simply looking to start somewhere OR if you're already an expert- great! We will have a Q&amp;A of what works for different programs!</b>
<b>3C</b>	<b>Middle School Ag</b>  <b>Presenter(s) Hannah Garland</b>	<b>Are you new to teaching middle school or looking to enhance your current middle school curriculum? This workshop will help you learn how to incorporate junior high contests into your curriculum, keep students engaged in the classroom and new ways to get junior high students involved in FFA.</b>
<b>4C</b>	<b>Fostering Good Relationships with Administrators</b>  <b>Presenter(s): Blake Anderson Steve Sonntag</b>	<b>Strong support from school leadership is essential for the success and sustainability of agricultural education programs. This panel discussion brings together Iowa ag teachers and school administrators to explore how to cultivate productive, respectful, and collaborative relationships. Panelists will share real-world strategies for communication, program advocacy, conflict resolution, and aligning ag education with school-wide goals. Participants will leave with actionable insights to strengthen their partnerships with administrators, ultimately benefiting students, programs, and communities.</b>

<b>5C</b>	<b>POA Power &amp; Special Committees</b>  <b>Presenter(s):</b> <b>Morgan Quick</b> <b>Rosa Sondag</b>	<b>POAs and committees can feel overwhelming—so where do you even begin? In this hands-on workshop, we'll break it down and show you how to make it manageable and meaningful. Learn how to create a strong Program of Activities, see real examples of how we've updated and organized ours, and discover simple strategies to get student buy-in for joining and leading committees. Leave with tools and ideas you can take back and apply right away to energize your FFA chapter and empower your members!</b>
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**Wednesday June 25th @ 10:00**

<b>1D</b>	<b>Maintaining the Nest</b>  <b>Presenter(s):</b> <b>Sarah Martin</b>	<b>Work-Life balance is a hot button topic for any industry, but how do we find contentment without having to feel like we need to wear a “Superman’s Cape”. Maintaining the Nest will look at stressors that are common in all lives. We will explore ways to find balance inside and outside the classroom as well as creating personal boundaries for you. Bring questions and engage with others!</b>
<b>2D</b>	<b>Get your life together! Creating organizational systems that work as an ag teacher</b>  <b>Presenter(s):</b> <b>Joe Ramstad</b>	<b>Ag teachers have more “stuff” to organize than most, if not all, other teachers: classroom spaces, shop spaces, greenhouses, test plots, and maybe even throw in a land lab or a livestock facility. Not only that, but there is also a need to organize all of the paperwork and curriculum on your computer or Google Drive. But what are some ways to organize the chaos, and ultimately create systems or processes that actually work? You will walk away with several ideas, tangible resources, and implementable strategies that have proven to work for getting it all together as an ag teacher.</b>
<b>3D</b>	<b>Effortless Ways to Eat Better</b>  <b>Presenter(s):</b> <b>Paige Green - Hyvee Dietician</b>	<b>As educators, mentors, and masters of multitasking, your days are packed — and healthy meals often fall to the bottom of the to-do list. During this workshop, discover practical, time-saving strategies to make meal planning easier and more manageable. Learn how to build quick, flexible menus and adapt recipes to fit tight schedules without sacrificing nutrition or flavor. You’ll leave with smart grocery tips, planning tools, and shortcuts that simplify food choices.</b>
<b>4D</b>	<b>Financial Management and You</b>  <b>Presenter:</b> <b>Kim Pinegar, IPERS</b>	<b>It’s never too early (or too late!) to start thinking about retirement and your financial future. Hear from Senior Retirement Benefits Officer Kim Pinegar on the Iowa Public Employees’ Retirement System (IPERS).</b>

5D	<p>ISU Precision Ag</p> <p>Presenter(s): Dr. Ryan Huffman</p>	<p><i>One mission of the ISU Digital Ag team is education to inspire students, advance the skills of industry professionals, and ensure a thriving workforce that drives success for the ag industry. This mission includes a passion to 'raise the flag' for AgTech and awareness of career opportunities in the ag industry. In this session, you'll be introduced to precision agriculture through the eyes of our team, learn about options to engage with our organization, and hear about a new program directly impacting students and classrooms across Iowa.</i></p>
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### Board of Directors

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