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FFA Members to Gather in Manhattan

One of the largest annual gatherings of Kansas high school students is set to begin in early June as more than 2,000 FFA members, agricultural educators and supporters converge at Kansas State University for the 88th Kansas FFA Convention. The convention will open Wednesday, June 1, and run through Friday, June 3.

The convention theme, "Amplify," inspires members' growth as future leaders in agriculture, their communities and the world. The theme also reflects the many opportunities FFA offers students to develop their potential through Career Development Events (CDE), Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs and more.

Convention guests will hear from the retiring 2015-2016 state FFA officer team and special guests including motivational speaker Scott Greenberg; Dr. Frank Tracz, director of the K-State Marching Band; and Amberley Snyder, a rodeo champion who has learned to ride again after an accident left her paralyzed.

Thirty-nine members will be awarded proficiency awards for accomplishing specific career goals in their SAE programs. The State FFA degree, the highest honor a state association can bestow, will be awarded to more than 200 of its finest members. Three of those recipients will be recognized for having the best SAE programs in the state with the Star Farmer, Star in Agricultural Placement and Star in Agribusiness awards.

"The Kansas FFA Convention continues the 88-year tradition of developing students' potential in premier leadership, personal growth and career success," said Karl Wilhelm, Kansas FFA president and member of the Holton FFA Chapter. "This week we celebrate the work and achievements of Kansas FFA members and future leaders of the agriculture industry."

Attendees also will be entertained by members from across the state performing in the Kansas FFA Band and Chorus, as well as a laser light show before each session, sponsored by the K-State College of Agriculture.

In addition to individual recognition, entire FFA chapters are recognized through National Chapter Awards and the Triple Crown Award. The coveted Triple Crown distinguishes the top state chapter in the areas of student, chapter and community development.

During the final session, six extraordinary members will be elected to the 2016-2017 state officer team to

serve more than 9,000 Kansas FFA members.

View the full convention schedule at ksffa.org, where a live video stream of sessions will begin on Wednesday, June 1. Follow convention updates, including award winners, at kansasffaconvention.wordpress.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/ksffa, on Instagram at [@ksffa](https://www.instagram.com/ksffa) and on Twitter at [@KansasFFA](https://twitter.com/KansasFFA) and hashtag [#ksffa](https://twitter.com/ksffa).

The Kansas FFA Association is a statewide organization of 9,059 agricultural education students in 179 chapters in every corner of Kansas. It is part of the National FFA Organization, a national youth organization of 629,367 student members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture with 7,757 local chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Our mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ksffa.org for more information.