



Convention Minutes

Delegate Business Session:

The delegate business session was called to order by Kansas FFA State President, Jory Ratzlaff, in the Ballroom at the K-State Alumni Center, at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 30th.

Kansas FFA State Secretary, Quinn Browning, called the roll: a quorum was present.

There was no unfinished business.

New Business:

Cade Hartman from the Lakin FFA Chapter moved to have delegates vote no for affiliation at the 98th National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis in October of 2025. The motion was seconded by Braden Stuzman of the Inman FFA Chapter. The previous question was called, the motion was voted on, and passed.

Graham Higbie from the Central Heights FFA Chapter moved to approve the 347 State FFA Degree candidates. The motion was seconded by Hunter Steinler from the Andale FFA Chapter. The motion was passed.

Keely Petrus from the Deerfield FFA Chapter moved to approve the following recipients of the Honorary State Degree: the parents of the 2024-2025 State Officers; the parents and advisors of the 2025 State Stars; and Mike Smith, Kasie Bogart, and Beth Stuewe. The motion was seconded by Landon Larson from the Arkansas City FFA Chapter. The motion was adopted.

Mitchell Snow from the Central Heights FFA Chapter moved to approve the new Kansas FFA Foundation Board of Trustees members, Emily Koop and Jill Arensdorf. The motion was seconded by Aaliyah Matzek from the Maize FFA Chapter. The motion was passed.

Greta Showalter from the Lyons FFA Chapter moved to approve the following recipients of the VIP Citation: Dr. Bob Brockelman. The motion was seconded by Rhett Pope from the Prairie View FFA Chapter. The motion was passed.

Ethan Riley from the Tonganoxie FFA Chapter moved to make no adjustments to the dues, as proposed by the Kansas FFA Affiliate Chart. The motion was seconded by Eyer Holt from the Abilene FFA Chapter. The motion passed.

Hayden Riffey from the Pratt FFA Chapter moved to approve the candidate for the Distinguished Service award. The motion was seconded by Grace Nelzen from the Hutchison CTE Academy. The motion passed.

Graham Higbie moved to take a 10-minute recess. The motion was seconded by Gavyn LeDuc from the Washington County FFA Chapter. Motion passed.

After the motion passed, delegates were released for 10 minutes.

Committee Reports:

The delegate business session reconvened following the 10-minute recess.

Talon Pile of the Ellis Chapter moved to approve the minutes of the 96th Kansas FFA State Convention as read. It was seconded by Jaci Falkenstien of the Labette County FFA chapter. The motion was adopted.

Grace Johnston, East Central District president, presented the report of the Committee on Elevating Urban and Suburban Voices in Agriculture. Joree Bentz from the Washington County FFA Chapter moved to accept their committee report. The motion passed.

Carly Bohlken, Northeast District president, presented the report of the Committee Boosting Chapter Impact through Business, Community, and Alumni Connections. Talon Pyle from the Ellis FFA Chapter moved to accept their committee report. The motion passed.

Rebecca Durler, Southwest District president, presented the report of the Committee on Advancing Scholarship Awareness and Access. Cole Yates from the Ellis FFA Chapter moved to accept their committee report. The motion passed.

Riley Sturgis, Southeast District president, presented the report of the Committee on Retaining FFA Members through all Four Years. Hayley Diers from the Baldwin FFA Chapter moved to accept their committee report. The motion passed.

Kora Zongker, South Central District president, presented the report of the Committee on Growing FFA Membership from within Ag Ed Classrooms. Graham Higbie from the Central Heights FFA Chapter moved to accept their committee report. The motion passed.

Clara Gfeller, North Central District president, presented the report of the Committee on Expanding the State Degree and SAE's for today's agriculture. Kylie Stone from the Republic County FFA Chapter moved to accept their committee report. The motion passed.

Lizzy Vajnar, Northwest District president, presented the report of the Committee on Maximizing State and District FFA Experiences. Brock Lies from the Andale FFA Chapter moved to accept their committee report. The motion passed.

Ethan Riley from the Tonganoxie FFA Chapter moved to adjourn the meeting. Graham Higbie from the Central Heights FFA Chapter seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Opening Session:

The first session of the 97th Kansas FFA State Convention was called to order by Kansas FFA President Jory Ratzlaff on Wednesday, May 28th, at 7:00 p.m. in McCain Auditorium.

Kansas FFA State President Jory Ratzlaff was introduced as the chair of the opening session for the 97th Kansas FFA State Convention.

James DeRouche, Kansas State University College of Agriculture Ambassadors, provided opening remarks.

The following FFA Chapters chartered in the 2024-2025 school year were recognized: Baldwin FFA Chapter, Caldwell FFA Chapter, Clearwater FFA Chapter, Liberal FFA Chapter, Osage City FFA Chapter, Oskaloosa FFA Chapter, and the Sedgwick FFA Chapter.

The top four individuals, along with the state winner of the Invitational Spanish Creed Speaking contest, presented a paragraph from the FFA Creed. Those individuals who were finalists for the Creed Speaking LDE, in ranking order, were: 4th, Haley Love, Caney; 3rd, Macey Hensley, Council Grove; 2nd, Rowley Keesecker, Washington County; and representing Kansas at the National Convention and placing 1st, Hailey Shadden, Uniontown. The winner of the Invitational Spanish Creed Speaking contest was Karina Mijangos, Deerfield.

Morgan Ourada and Carson Rudd introduced Kansas FFA Secretary Quinn Browning for her retiring address, titled "Everything in Time." Following her remarks, Quinn's parents and advisor were recognized for their continued support of her endeavors, Kansas FFA, and the Prairie View FFA Chapter. Quinn's parents, Brooke and David Browning, also received their Honorary State Degree.

The top four teams in the Conduct of Chapter Meetings were announced. The top four teams were: 4th-Inman, 3rd-Mission Valley, 2nd- Chapman, and 1st- Uniontown.

The top four teams in the Parliamentary Procedure LDE were: 4th- Hays, 3rd- Royal Valley, 2nd- Mission Valley, and 1st- Labette County.

The 13 state officer candidates were brought on stage to present their candidate speeches to the delegates. State Secretary Quinn Browning called the roll of chapters, and a quorum was present. The 13 state officer candidates were in alphabetical order: Bricen Benycheck, Maggie Chandler, Dustin Denton, Addie Haverkamp, Kara Helms, Kendra Hermreck, Lillian Hulse, Sophia Kasella, Hannah King, Allyson Rietcheck, Olivia Strnad, Marisa Wasinger, and Violet White.

After a few brief announcements, the closing ceremonies were conducted.

Second Session:

The second session of the 97th Kansas FFA State Convention was called to order by Kansas FFA State President Jory Ratzlaff on Thursday, May 29th, at 8:30 a.m. in McCain Auditorium.

The winning team of the Conduct of Chapter meetings performed opening ceremonies in place of the current state officer team.

Kansas FFA State Treasurer Zoë Rhodes was introduced as the second session chair and assumed the duties of the chair.

Those chapters with innovative ideas in the Building Communities area of the National Chapter Award were the Fairfield FFA Chapter, recognized for their activity, "The Cattleman's Ball," Neodesha FFA Chapter, for their activity, "Project USA," Skyline FFA Chapter for their activity, "FFA Fuels Local Economy," and Tonganoxie FFA Chapter for their activity, "Coffee and Bouquets."

Kylie Hines, Jody Hines, Adelle Higbie, and Benjamin Knauss introduced Kansas FFA State Vice President, Hayley Hines, for her retiring address entitled "Write your Love Story." Following her remarks, Hayley's parents, advisor, and administration were recognized for their continued support of her endeavors, Kansas FFA, and the Paola FFA Chapter. Hayley's parents, Jeff and Beth Hines, also received their Honorary State Degree.

The Kansas FFA Foundation Board of Trustees was recognized on stage for all of their hard work and dedication to the Kansas FFA. The Board of Trustees consisted of: Mike Smith - Chair, Yancy Wright - Vice Chair, Shelly Turner - Treasurer, Kevin Davis and Kurt Dillon - Executive Committee, Tom Benoit, Jackie Chandler, Beth Gaines, Kevin Gleason, Alex Gottlob, Loy James, Mary Kane, Dana Ladner, Kyle Nichols, Jory Ratzlaff, Jay Selanders, Kelly Sipes, Karl Dawn Stover, Todd Sturgis, and Dr. Jonathan Ulmer. Johanna Anderes, Development Coordinator, was recognized.

Mike Smith, Loy James, Kevin Davis, and Kurt Dillon were recognized for their last term as trustees. Emily Koop and Jill Arensdorf were also recognized as new members of the board at that time.

The results from the Leadership Information Test were announced. The top 10 individuals were: 10th place Landon Albrecht, Southeast of Saline, 9th place Audra Oborny, La Crosse, 8th place Ian Schroeder, Inman, 7th place Delaney Bradford, Neodesha, 6th place Alexandria Kester, Royal Valley, 5th place Kasey Smith, Frankfort, 4th place Josie Strauss, Chapman, 3rd place Maddy Simmons, Hiawatha, 2nd place Acacia Erdley, Hiawatha, and 1st place Emily Hare, Buhler. The top five teams were 5th place Chapman, 4th place Inman, 3rd place Ellsworth, 2nd place Royal Valley, and 1st place Holton.

SAE Grants were also recognized during the second session. Those individuals receiving state level grants were: Kayley McGuire - Beloit, Isabel Wright and Eeva Dunstan - Blue Valley, Will Hanen - Buhler, Haiden Edens-Ranes - Caney, Peighton Harris and Katie Stoffer - Chapman, Mallory Dobrinski - Ellsworth, Pete Neis - Eudora, Sadie Wessel and Kale Koch - Frankfort, Caleb Merrick, Wyatt Kepley, and Drew Schibi - Labette County, Liam Voelker - Linn, Cole Dieball - Little River, Shelby Sprague - Marmaton Valley, Dakota Brown, Dylan Funk, Conner Hoelting, and Grace Johnston - Mission Valley, Derek Wurtz, Harry Langill, and Carson Edelman - Nemaha Central, Jace Johnson - Royal Valley, Eli Olander - Southeast of Saline, Veda Alvarez and Lilly Bedtke - Tonganoxie, McKenzie Baker, Witt Keesecker, and Rowley Keesecker - Washington County, Ava Bales - Wellington, and Autumn Ross Underwood - Winfield.

Individuals receiving national level SAE Grants were: Cole Jones - Beloit; Ella Hoeltzel, Steven Taylor, Braac Webster and Gage Williams, Blue Valley; Madison Gardner, Gerald Gullion, Benson Smiley, Chapman; Jodi Donley and Will Donley, Ellsworth; Wes Anderson, Carter Caffrey and Alice Heiman, Frankfort; Matthew Mans, Garden Plain; Kennedy Moreland and Elisabeth Smith, Junction City; Brantly Allen and Lily Wiley, Labette County; Kade Hartman, Lakin; Garrett Shoup, Lyndon; Issac Hight, Marysville; Ava Gustin, Mission Valley; Elijah Sudbeck, Nemaha Central; and Boston Lawerence, Wellington.

Our KAAE Vice Presidents and District Advisors were recognized. Ms. Alicia Hampton of the Spring Hill FFA Chapter, Mr. Jacob Rutledge of the Chapman FFA Chapter, and Mr. Scott Sutton from the Uniontown FFA Chapter were recognized as retiring KAAE Vice Presidents. Mr. Caleb Powelson, Mr. Cade Fiske, and Dr. Kelly Hoelting - East Central District, Mr. Jacob Rutledge and Mr. James Weller - North Central District, Ms. Carrie Husband - Northeast District, Mr. John Hutson - Northwest District, Mrs. Emma Jacobson and Mr. Jon Meyer - South Central District, Mr. Brandon Calloway and Ms. Elizabeth Sturgis - Southeast District, and Ms. Karly Larson - Southwest District were recognized as District Advisors.

The annual Nationwide Insurance Golden Owl Recognition Program honored the following advisors: Mrs. Melisa Bertz, Prairie View FFA; Mrs. Elissa Mullinix, Manhattan FFA; Mr. Steve Buss, Jefferson West FFA, Mrs. Janet Gottstine, Logan FFA. Mrs. Lauren VanAllen, Clearwater FFA, Ms. Emma Lehmann, Neodesha FFA, and Mrs. Kelly Sipes, Stanton County FFA. Mrs.

Melisa Bertz was recognized as the 2025 Kansas State Golden Owl recipient.

Josiah Cruikshank past National FFA Western Region Vice President, gave a special keynote for those in attendance.

The first part of the Proficiency Award pageant was presented to the following members: Agricultural Communications - Lillian Hulse, Minneapolis; Agriculture Education- Josie Strauss, Chapman; Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication – Parker Embree, Prairie View; Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance Placement – Joseph Kern, Washington County; Agricultural Processing – Isabella Stolle, Prairie View; Agricultural Sales Entrepreneurship – Cooper Burling, Eudora; Agricultural Sales Placement – Landon Albrecht, Southeast of Saline; Agricultural Services – Kruce Liddeke, Norwich; Agriscience Research-Plant Systems – Keira Gliniecki, Junction City; Beef Production Entrepreneurship- Emma Karst, Russell; Beef Production Placement – Jackson McCurry, Andale; Dairy Production Entrepreneurship – Alexandria Kester, Royal Valley; Dairy Production Placement – Lauren Bowles, Sabetha; Diversified Agricultural Production – Lucas White, Holton; Diversified Crop Production Placement – Kourtney Dibben, Clay Center; Diversified Horticulture – Emilee Remmers, Centre; and Diversified Livestock Production – Lora Larison, Holton.

After a few brief announcements, the closing ceremonies were held.

Third Session:

The third session of the 97th Kansas FFA State Convention was called to order by Kansas FFA State President Jory Ratzlaff on Thursday, May 29th, at 2:00 p.m. in McCain Auditorium.

Kansas FFA State Sentinel, Natalee Bray, was introduced as the third session chair and assumed the duties of the chair.

The second part of the Proficiency Award pageant was presented to the following members: Equine Science- Entrepreneurship – Alexandra Buckley, Chapman; Equine Science-Placement – Aubrey Kirmse, Perry Lecompton; Forage Production – Avarielle Hightower, Prairie View; Forest Management and Products – Dalton Ligenfelter, Marais des Cygnes; Fruit and Nut Production – Bree Allen, Prairie View; Goat Production – Erika Wiese, Cheney; Grain Production – Kyle Murphy, Norwich; Landscape Management – Noah Bartel, Holton; Nursery Operations; Jansen Gerstner, Frankfurt; Outdoor Recreation – Estelle Bass, Perry-Lecompton; Poultry Production – Kennedy Moreland, Junction City; Service Learning – Ava Gustin, Mission Valley; Sheep Production – David Hays, Perry-Lecompton; Small Animal Production and Care – Shianne Kimball, Holton; Swine Production-Entrepreneurship – Ethan Petersilie, La Crosse; Swine Production Placement, Conner Hoelting – Mission Valley; Turf and Landscape Maintenance – Stratton Draper, Paola; Vegetable Production – Lily Wiley, Labette County; Veterinary Science – Adalyn Pfizenmaier, Clay Center; and Wildlife Production and Management – Payton Huffman, Buhler.

Cooper Springer introduced Kansas FFA State Reporter, Mason Springer, for his retiring address entitled “Take Your Chance.” Following his remarks, Mason’s parents, advisor, and administration were recognized for their continued support of his endeavors, Kansas FFA, and the Neodesha FFA Chapter. Mason’s parents, Michael and Christy Springer, also received their Honorary State Degree.

The Kansas FFA Foundation Sponsors were recognized for the continued support of the Kansas FFA Association over the last year.

Chapter seed programs were also recognized for their contributions to the Kansas FFA Association by making a minimum annual donation of \$200. The 24 chapters participating in the chapter seed program were: Arkansas City, Beloit, Buhler, Centre, Chapman, Ellsworth, Haven, Hiawatha, Hill City, Holton, Lakin, Logan, Lyndon, McLouth, Mission Valley, Natoma, Nemaha Central, Osborne County, Pike Valley, Republic County, Royal Valley, Sedan, Southeast of Saline, Southwestern Heights, and Windfield.

Osborne County was announced as the winner of the first Middle Grades Quiz Bowl Competition.

Scrapbook awards were recognized next. These chapters were the best of the best at capturing those perfect moments.

The Employment Skills LDE results were announced. The top six individuals, in ranking order, are: 6th - Hudson Nemecheck-Valley Heights, 5th - Isabella Stolle– Prairie View, 4th - Clara Gfeller - Chapman, 3rd - Kyleigh Heikes - Eudora, 2nd - Jackson McCurry - Andale, and 1st - Lilly Hulse - Minneapolis.

The Agriscience Fair winners of each division in the Animal Systems category were: Division 1- Zoë Winsor, Moundridge; Division 2- Anna Galle and Payton Wilson, Moundridge; Division 3- Kayleigh Goggins, Junction City; Division 4- Hunter Doolittle and Mason Ferguson, Marmaton Valley; Division 5- Kennedy Moreland, Junction City; Division 6- Maggie Bohl and Mallory Dobrinski, Ellsworth. The winners of each division in the Environmental and Natural Resources category were:

Division 2- Quentin Shaw and Tanner Riley, Canton-Galva; Division 3- Brittney Dibben, Junction City; Division 4- Grayden Mariscal and Collin Goracke, Ashland; Division 5- Kourtney Dibben, Junction City; Division 6- Wyatt Henry and Jaxon Nightingale, Canton-Galva. The winners of each division in the Food Products and Processing Systems category were: Division 1- Annah Schrag, Moundridge; Division 2- Angelica Elliot and Rylee Lacey, Canton-Galva; Division 3- Brynn Kruse, Canton-Galva; Division 4- Cohner Janssen and Honesty Williams, Canton-Galva; Division 5- Grady Oentrich, Junction City; Division 6- Ellie Samms and Haley Brogan, Winfield. The winners of each division in the Plant Systems category were: Division 2- Heath Ratzlaff and Kyler Sawatzky, Canton-Galva; Division 3- Kade Hartman, Lakin; Division 4- Jaycob Dieker and Gabe Schmeidler, Canton-Galva; Division 5- Audra Oborny, La Crosse; Division 6- Cassidy Lawrence and Autumn Ross Underwood, Winfield. The winners of each division in the Power and Technology category were: Division 1- Tia Williams, Canton-Galva; Division 5- Wyatt Sutton, Ness City. The winners of each division in the Social Science category were: Division 1- Lainey Kendig, Osborne County; Division 2- Levi Henry and Rustin Ayres, Canton-Galva; Division 3- Emma Arbuckle, West Elk; Division 5- Cora Coffey, Manhattan; and Division 6- Marie Wright and Kiley Dillow, Chanute.

Those chapters excelling with innovative ideas in the Growing Leaders category of the National Chapter award were: Buhler FFA Chapter for their activity, "Farm to Table," Centre FFA Chapter with their activity, "Arrive Alive Week," Chapman FFA Chapter for their activity, "FFA Draft Day," and Hays FFA Chapter for their "Enneagram Activity."

The recipients of the CTE Scholars award were recognized during this time. Those individuals who were designated as CTE Scholars are: Buhler – Eliza Aldrich, Gage Elliott, Kyler Gillespie, Will Hanen, Brayden Henry, Payton Huffman, Rachel Mourn, Madelyn Poepperling, Macey Rosenberger, Ella Sanborn, Brendan Scripsick, Juliette Shank, Talon Sullivant and Jake Winters; Ellsworth – Maggie Bohl; Garden City Gage Sorensen; Hugoton- Channing Dillinger; Junction City – Kourtney Dibben, Keira Gliniecki, Janay Harrington, Shevy Olson, and Makayla Smith; Mission Valley - Clara Johnston; Neodesha – Tucker Leck, Newton – Addilyn Johnson, Zeanna Stenzel, and Abigail Secor; Olathe - Lillie Hundley, Charley Murphy, and Alexia Sumter; Peabody – Cade Gossen; Royal Valley – Dakota Hittle and Alexandria Kester; Skyline - Cory Hampton and Ethan Robinson.

Our National Eastern Region Vice President, Caroline Groth, from Kentucky, gave special remarks.

WLC Scholarship recipients were recognized for their hard work and achievement on stage. Those individuals were: Arkansas City -Hadley Musson; Bucklin -Rebecca Durler; Chapman - Teagan Ellis, Abigail Gaston and Clara Gfeller; Dexter-Brylee Casebolt and Anabell Mugler; Hays – Keeli Kimzey, Ella Neher, and Mary Vajnar; Labette County- Jaci Falkenstien and Sierra Hill; Manhattan – Cora Coffey; Nemaha Central- Robert Langill, Jade Macke, and Koree Stuke; Stockton- Brenna Odle, Mia Odle, and Shae Yohon; Winfield- Autumn Ross Underwood; Marais Des Cygnes- Kathleen Patterson and Madyson Rose; Dexter- Logan Becker, Brylee Casebolt; Ell- Saline- Laykin Walker; Inman- Micah Ballard and Creighton Friesen; and Washington County- Joree Bentz.

The 10 finalists for the Gator Drawing were also announced. Those 10 individuals will be eligible to win the Gator at the end of the 6th session!

After a few brief announcements, the closing ceremonies were held.

Fourth Session:

The fourth session of the 97th Kansas FFA State Convention was called to order by Kansas FFA State President Jory Ratzliff on Thursday, May 29th, at 7:00 p.m. in McCain Auditorium.

Representative Tracey Mann gave Remarks and was thanked for his support of the Kansas FFA.

Kansas FFA State Secretary, Quinn Browning, was introduced as the chair of the fourth session for the 97th Kansas FFA State Convention.

Kaylee, Laney, and Lyndee Bray introduced Kansas FFA State Sentinel, Natalee Bray, for her retiring address entitled "Exactly As You Are." Following her remarks, Natalee's parents, advisor, and administration were recognized for their continued support of her endeavors, the Kansas FFA, and the Pike Valley FFA Chapter. Natalee's parents, Travis and Brandi Bray, also received their Honorary State Degree.

The Honorary Degree ceremony was performed by the state officers, and three special individuals were selected to receive this degree. Those individuals were: Ms. Kasie Bogart, Mr. Mike Smith, and Mrs. Beth Stuewe.

The VIP Citation was also announced. The individual receiving this recognition was Dr. Bob Broeckelman.

The Recognition of Excellence award was given to Mr. John Bergin.

The top four individuals in the Discussion Meet LDE were recognized next. Those individuals, in ranking order, were: 4th -

Mason Willard, Manhattan; 3rd - Braeden Stutzman, Inman; 2nd - Billy Cherney, Republic County; and 1st - Ethan Petersilie, La Crosse.

The top teams in the Agricultural Issues Forum LDE were recognized next. The winner was the Junction City FFA Chapter.

The top four individuals in the Extemporaneous Public Speaking LDE were then recognized. The top four individuals in ranking order were: 4th- Jackson McCurry, Andale; 3rd- Hank Newton, Southern Coffey County; 2nd- Cherish Galliard, Lyons; and 1st- Kailey Howell, Spring Hill.

The top four individuals in the Prepared Public Speaking LDE were then recognized. The top four individuals in ranking order were: 4th- Ruby Gomel Osthoff, Smith Center; 3rd- Jase Beltz, Canton Galva; 2nd- Clara Gfeller, Chapman; and 1st- Jackson McCurry, Andale.

Those chapters with innovative ideas in the Strengthening Agriculture area of the National Chapter Award were Andale FFA Chapter for their activity, "Bookbarn," Cherryvale FFA Chapter for their activity, "FFA News," Iola FFA Chapter for their activity, "Community CDE Night," and Lakin FFA Chapter for their activity, "Enrollment Day."

We heard from our convention keynote speaker, A'ric Jackson, who gave an inspiring message.

After a few brief announcements, the closing ceremonies were held.

Fifth Session:

The fifth session of the 97th Kansas FFA State Convention was called to order by Kansas FFA State President Jory Ratzliff on Friday, May 30th, at 8:00 a.m. in McCain Auditorium.

Kansas FFA State Reporter, Mason Springer, was introduced as the chair of the fifth session for the 97th Kansas FFA State Convention.

Hannah Schreiner introduced Kansas FFA Treasurer Zoë Rhodes for her retiring address entitled "No Perfect People." Following her remarks, Zoë's parents, advisors, and administration were recognized for their continued support of her endeavors, Kansas FFA, and the Girard FFA Chapter. Zoë's parents, Bud and Erin Rhodes, also received their Honorary State Degree.

Those chapters that excelled in the National Chapter award were recognized on stage. Silver and Gold Divisions were both recognized. Those chapters in the Silver Division were: Burlington, Caldwell, Canton-Galva, Centre, Chaparral, Cherryvale, Fairfield, Inman, Iola, Junction City, Lakin, Leoti, Maize, Manhattan, McLouth, Neodesha Prairie View, Republic County, Shawnee Heights, and Tonganoxie. Chapters in the Gold Division were: Andale, Arkansas City, Buhler, Caney, Chapman, Cheney, Clay Center, Dexter, Ellsworth, Girard, Haven, Hays, Hill City, Hoxie, Marais des Cygnes, Marysville, Minneapolis, Mission Valley, Ottawa, Riverton, Royal Valley, Sedan, Skyline, and Winfield.

The chapters that excelled in the Marketing Plan CDE were announced. The winner was the Paola FFA Chapter.

Agricultural Communications-Cheney, Agricultural Sales-Ellsworth, Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems-Prairie View, Agronomy-Washington County, Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Management-Spring Hill, Environmental & Natural Resources-Jefferson County North, Farm & Agribusiness Management-Paola, Floriculture-Manhattan, Food Science & Technology-Louisburg, Forestry-Holton, Horse Evaluation-Oskaloosa, Livestock Evaluation-Wabaunsee, Meats Evaluation & Technology-Eureka, Milk Quality & Products-Louisburg, Nursery/Landscape-Washington County, Poultry Evaluation-Spring Hill, and Veterinary Science-Louisburg at the 98th National FFA Career Development Events representing Kansas were announced. Also recognized was the high team in Entomology-Yates Center. After the team announcements concluded, the top individuals from each Career Development Event were also recognized.

The CDE Sweepstakes award was also announced. This award is the culmination of success at the Career Development Events held in early May. The five chapters that placed in the sweepstakes competition were: 5th- Washington County, 4th- Paola, 3rd- Anderson County, 2nd- Spring Hill, and 1st- Louisburg.

Mr. Anthony Meals, Kansas FFA State Advisor, gave his State of the State remarks on the current situation of Agricultural Education in the state of Kansas.

Then, 110 individuals from the state that received a scholarship from either the State or National Association were announced and recognized.

After a few brief announcements, the closing ceremonies were held.

Sixth Session:

The sixth session of the 97th Kansas FFA State Convention was called to order by Kansas FFA State President Jory Ratzlaff on Friday, May 30th, at 10:30 a.m. in McCain Auditorium.

Retiring advisor Mrs. Melisa Bertz was recognized for her years of service to agricultural education, Kansas FFA, and her students in the Prairie View FFA Chapter.

We heard special remarks from Alyssa Walsh, owner of Sweet Briar Creative.

There were 347 recipients from chapters across Kansas approved to receive their State FFA Degree.

After the State Degree ceremony, the Gator Drawing occurred.

After a few brief announcements, the closing ceremonies were held.

Seventh Session:

The seventh session of the 97th Kansas FFA State Convention was called to order by Kansas FFA State President, Jory Ratzlaff, on Friday, May 30th, at 2:00 p.m. in McCain Auditorium.

Kansas FFA State Vice President, Hayley Hines, was introduced as the chair of the seventh and final session for the 97th Kansas FFA State Convention.

The State Band performed a short concert to cap off a week of training and presenting their talents to attendees of the 97th Kansas FFA State Convention.

Heath Ratzlaff, Sage Toews, and Jase Beltz introduced Kansas FFA President Jory Ratzlaff for his retiring address entitled "Direction We Define." Following his remarks, Jory's parents, advisor, and administration were recognized for their continued support of his endeavors, Kansas FFA, and the Canton Galva FFA Chapter. Elda and Dallas Ratzlaff were recognized for their continued support; they received the Honorary State Degree.

Those chapters that placed in the top 10 of the Triple Crown Award and the winner of the Bob Garlow Memorial Trophy were announced. The top 5 chapters in ranking order were: 5th- Girard FFA, 4th- Royal Valley, 3rd- Riverton, 2nd- Chapman, and the chapter that was awarded the Bob Garlow Memorial Trophy for placing first in the Triple Crown Award was Ellsworth.

The State Chorus performed a short concert to cap off a week of training and presenting their talents to attendees of the 97th Kansas FFA State Convention.

The presentation of the Stars over Kansas was held. Ethan Kneisler from the Lyndon FFA Chapter was named Star in Agribusiness. Tucker Leck from the Neodesha FFA Chapter was named Star in Agriculture Placement. Dustin Denton from the Valley Heights FFA Chapter was named Star Farmer. All the parents and advisors of the Stars over Kansas were presented with an Honorary State FFA Degree. The other students representing their district for the Star in Agribusiness were McKenzie Baker, Washington County; Noah Bartel, Holton; Clay Guttery, Osborne County; and Emilee Remmers, Centre. The other students representing their district for the Star in Agriculture Placement were Mason Mitzner, Prairie View; Landon Albrecht, Southeast of Saline; Madeline Bontrager, Holton; Jackson McCurry, Andale; and Grady Gleason, Garden City. The other students representing their district for the Star Farmer were Josie Kueser, Ellsworth; Jase Beltz, Canton Galva; and Maggie Chandler, Neodesha.

Christian Penã assumed the duties of chair to announce the results for the new state officer team.

The 2025-2026 Kansas FFA Officer team was announced: Sentinel- Allyson Reitcheck, Eudora FFA; Reporter- Brycen Benyshek, Concordia FFA; Treasurer- Maggie Chandler, Neodesha FFA; Secretary- Marisa Wasinger, Hays FFA; Vice President- Dustin Denton, Valley Center; President- Lillian Hulse, Minneapolis FFA.

The 2025-2026 Kansas FFA Officer team was duly installed.

The 2025-2026 Kansas FFA Officers performed closing ceremonies.