

## **2023-24 Kansas FFA Discussion Meet Questions**

### **FFA:**

One of the pillars of the agricultural education model that makes it uniquely successful is Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE). How can we help individual FFA members understand the value of SAEs and get connected to meaningful experiences during their time as a member?

### **Agriculture Education:**

An important part of a student's education is discovering career paths and gaining hands-on experiences alongside career professionals in the industry. For example, programs like "Ag Immersion Events" provide structure for experiencing specific career options first-hand. How can agricultural education improve or enhance career exploration opportunities for students?

### **Crops:**

Innovation has always been an important part of U.S. agriculture. In Kansas, we are seeing the rise of both new commodities and production methods to help farmers enter the industry and diversify their operations through things like hemp, cotton and hydroponics. How can FFA help young and aspiring farmers discover and find success with new production practices, crops and markets?

### **Natural Resources:**

In September 2022, 67 out of 105 Kansas counties were under emergency status due to drought conditions. Reduced rainfall adversely affects livestock and crop operations' productivity. How are Kansas farmers and ranchers currently adapting to the short and long-term effects of drought and depleting water resources and what innovative approaches can be adopted to remain viable and profitable?

### **Livestock:**

In the past year, 11 Kansas counties experienced outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), posing risks to the state's livestock industry. Enhancing biosecurity measures and promoting industry awareness are crucial to mitigating the potentially devastating impacts. How can on-farm biosecurity efforts and awareness be improved in the Kansas agriculture industry?