

GUEST SPEAKER

First General Session – Thursday, 2:30 p.m.

**Sarah Draper, National FFA Western Region Vice President
Box Elder FFA – Corinne, Utah**

It was the simple words “I believe” that started Sarah Draper on her unique path within the National FFA Organization.

“I did not come from a farming background or have siblings that bled blue and gold; there were no traditions to uphold,” she said. “However, I decided to take a chance on this creed—never imagining it would one day become what my heart was made of.”

After surviving the growing pains of being nudged and then tossed from her comfort zone when competing in Career Development Events and finding a job at a local dairy, Draper began to realize the opportunities available to her through agricultural education and FFA.

Draper was elected to the 2015-16 National FFA Officer team as Western Region vice president at the 88th National FFA Convention & Expo.

Originally from Corinne, Utah, Draper is a member of Alpha Tau Alpha Agricultural Honor Society and the Utah State University Country Swing Club. Within FFA, Draper is a member of Collegiate FFA and served as the Utah FFA vice president in 2014-15. While a member of Box Elder FFA, she served as chapter president and also was named the high school’s valedictorian. She was a member of the National Honor Society, the Key Club, a 4-H member, and was a member of the track and tennis teams. For her supervised agricultural experiences, she bred a Maltese with Yorkie studs to make Morkies, worked in a veterinarian’s office her senior year in high school and milked cows at a dairy.

Upon graduation from college, Draper hopes to become an agriculture educator and work in the State Office of Education advocating for better career and technical education in Utah.



MISSOURI FFA FACTS

- ✓ Missouri FFA membership is 25,920 members.
- ✓ Missouri ranks fifth nationally in FFA membership.
- ✓ Missouri FFA will award 773 State FFA Degrees at this convention.
- ✓ Missouri has the largest number of American FFA Degree recipients of any state - 463 Missouri FFA members received the American FFA Degree in 2015.
- ✓ This year, 611 FFA members will be recognized with an FFA Proficiency Award for the development of their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Program.
- ✓ That same SAE program generated over \$48 million in student income during the 2014-2015 school year across the state.

GUEST SPEAKER

Second General Session – Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

McKenzie Garber, Miss Missouri



Believe in the beauty of your dreams. Miss Missouri 2015 McKenzie Garber is a former FFA member from Hale, Missouri.

Garber grew up on a farm but her agriculture classes in high school helped teach her the greater facts about the industry. Her Supervised Agriculture Experience project focused on raising rabbits, and Garber said that taught her responsibility and the business side of agriculture.

“It was really rewarding for me to work hard at something and keep track of the results,” she said.

On a broader scale, FFA helped Garber further develop her public speaking skills, which she uses every day in her role as Miss Missouri.

“One of my favorite lines from the FFA creed is, ‘Without labor neither knowledge nor wisdom can accomplish much,’” she said. “That has always stuck with me. What really separates the cream from the crop is the people that are willing to work really hard.”

While advocating for agriculture is part of her job as Miss Missouri, Garber’s personal platform focuses on character education through CharacterPlus. In addition, she is also helping raise funds for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals, the national platform for Miss America.

Garber often speaks to civic and other organizations and is eager to share with them her farm and rural background. “I come from a town of only 419 people,” she said. “That was really pivotal in shaping me into the person I am today. That’s the perfect opportunity to talk about Missouri agriculture.”

A graduate of Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with a degree in convergence journalism, Garber served as Miss Missouri’s Outstanding Teen in 2011 and is the first woman to win the teen and miss title in Missouri.

TEACH AG WORKSHOP

Are you TAGGED to Teach Ag?

(Attendance by INVITATION ONLY)

1 p.m. , Friday, April 22 | Hearnese Center Room 309

Presented by

Mrs. Brook Kreatez, Trenton FFA Advisor

Lance Martin, Chillicothe FFA Advisor

Lane Howard, Macon FFA Advisor

This high-energy, hands-on workshop will engage participants in activities that demonstrate the rewards and benefits of becoming an Agricultural Education teacher. Participants were selected in advance by local Agricultural Education instructors.

GUEST SPEAKER

Fourth General Session – Friday, 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Rick Rigsby

Dr. Rick Rigsby is President and CEO of Rick Rigsby Communications. Through motivational speaking, corporate coaching, books and blogs, Rick encourages and empowers audience members to become great people who do great things.

The San Francisco native is a former award-winning journalist, who followed a television news career with six years of graduate school—culminating with a Ph. D. from the University of Oregon.

A college professor for two decades, Rick spent most of those years at Texas A&M University, where he also served as character coach and chaplain for the Aggies football team.

Dr. Rigsby now devotes his full attention to empowering people worldwide—from presenting leadership principles in Nigeria to speaking to Fortune 500 companies in the Americas, Europe and Canada. In high demand among educational, business and service organizations and a favorite among professional sports organizations including the National Football League and the PGA, Rick offers common-sense wisdom to those desiring to rise to greater levels of excellence.

Throughout his three decades in broadcasting and academe, Rick Rigsby has received numerous commendations and awards, including being named a two-time recipient of the prestigious Outstanding Teaching Award by Texas A&M University's College of Liberal Arts.

In addition to academic publications, Dr. Rigsby is the author of *Lessons from a Third Grade Dropout*—the story of timeless common-sense wisdom learned from his father.

For additional information please see www.rickrigsby.com



FFA PUBLIC SPEAKING ACADEMY

June 7-9, 2016 – University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg

Want to improve your speaking skills? Take your speech to the next level at Missouri FFA Public Speaking Academy. Build confidence, gain speech writing and presentation skills and get equipped to answer questions during this three day program. You will receive one-on-one coaching, participate in group activities, and compete in the academy speech contest.

Registration information can be found online at www.missouriffa.org/resources or call 573-751-3544.

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS

First General Session – Thursday, 2:30 p.m.



Coty Back

Coty Back
National FFA Organization
National Officer Management Team
Indianapolis, Indiana

Richard Fordyce
Director of Agriculture
Jefferson City, Missouri



Richard Fordyce

Second General Session – Thursday, 6:30 p.m.



Joshua Rusk

Joshua Rusk
National FFA Alumni
Executive Director
Indianapolis, Indiana

Jeff Voris
MVATA President
Halfway FFA
Halfway, Missouri



Jeff Voris

Friday

Sara Morgan

Special Music: Drive a Tractor

9 a.m. - MVATA Meeting

9:30-11:30 - FFA CareerShow

1:30 p.m. - Third Convention Session

River Delta Records and CMA recording artist Sara Morgan has been performing for large audiences since the age of two when she discovered a live microphone in the choir loft at her uncle's wedding.

While living in Fayetteville, Arkansas, in 2012, Sara recorded her first solo album of all original material, *The Crazy One*, with producer, Jason North.

In May 2014, after three years of driving between Fayetteville and Kansas City for music gigs and work, Sara moved back to Kansas and settled down beside an 80-acre farm southwest of Kansas City. In November of that year, her dream of spending time with her idol, the Queen of Country Music, Loretta Lynn, came true. Sara played the preshow before Ms. Lynn's performance at the Uptown Theatre in Kansas City.



Sara's newest single, *Drive a Tractor*, has found airplay on Top 40, community, and independent radio stations alike. *Drive a Tractor* is part of Sara's initiative to thank farmers for feeding and clothing people around the world, to create awareness among consumers about the importance of farming, and to provide scholarships to students pursuing college degrees in agriculture-related fields.

Sara is a country girl at heart, but her songwriting spans the gamut from pop, rock, R&B, Broadway showtunes, jazz, folk, blues, and country.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

- 7:30 a.m. Interview State Officer Candidates (Hearnes Center 272 G)
- 8:00 a.m. Stage Practice (Hearnes Center Auditorium)
- 8:00 a.m. FFA Talent Rehearsal Time (Hearnes Center Auditorium)
- 8:30 – 5:00 p.m. Agricultural Issues Forum (Forum Christian Church)
- 9:00-11:30 a.m. Creed Speaking Preliminaries and Finals — (Hearnes Center 317)
- 10:15 a.m. Creed Finals (Hearnes Center 317)
- 10:00 a.m. Registration (Hearnes Center East Entrance Main Concourse)
- 10:30 a.m. FFA Talent Performers Meeting (Hearnes Center Auditorium)
- 11:00 a.m. State FFA Chorus Rehearsal (Mizzou Arena Foyer)
- 11:00 a.m. Career Development Events – See page 12
- 12:00 p.m. Leadership Workshops (Hearnes Center & Hampton Inn & Suites) – See page 16
Hearnes Center 309 • Hearnes Center 311 • Hearnes Center 317
Hampton Inn & Suites Conference Center (Missouri, Stephens, Columbia rooms)
- 12:30 p.m. Delegate Orientation and Business Session**
Check in begins at 11:30 a.m. (Hearnes Center Auditorium)
- 1:00 p.m. Leadership Workshops (Hearnes Center & Hampton Inn & Suites) – See page 16
Hearnes Center 309 • Hearnes Center 311 • Hearnes Center 317
Hampton Inn & Suites Conference Center (Missouri, Stephens, Columbia rooms)
- 2:00 p.m. Area Star Farmer Interviews (Hearnes Center 309)
- 2:00 p.m. Area Star in Placement Interviews (Hearnes Center 307)
- 2:00 p.m. Area Star in Agribusiness Interviews (Hearnes Center 311)
- 2:00 p.m. Area Star in Agriscience Interviews (Hearnes Center 324)
- 2:00 p.m. FFA Talent
- 2:30 p.m. FIRST SESSION of the 88th Missouri State FFA Convention**
- 3:00 p.m. FFA Alumni WLC Scholarship Interviews (Hearnes Center 272 G)
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner for Honorary State Degree Award Recipients (Hearnes Center 317)
Courtesy of Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives Inc.
- 5:45 p.m. FFA Talent/Pre-session
- 6:00 p.m. FFA Knowledge Contest—Hampton Inn & Suites Conference Center
(Missouri, Stephens, Columbia rooms))
- 6:30 p.m. SECOND SESSION of the 88th Missouri State FFA Convention**

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

- 7:00 a.m. **Career Development Events** (See page 12 & 13)
- 8:00 a.m. **Parliamentary Procedure Registration**
(Stoney Creek Inn, 2601 South Providence)
- 8:00 a.m. **Registration** (Hearnes Center East Entrance Main Concourse)
- 8:00 a.m. **Division I Prepared Public Speaking Check-In** (FCC)
- 8:00 a.m. **Job Interview Check-In** (FCC)
- 8:30 a.m. **Extemporaneous Speaking Check-In** (FCC)
- 8:30 a.m. **Advanced Prepared Public Speaking Check-In** (FCC)
- 8:30 a.m. **State FFA Chorus Rehearsal** (Hearnes Center Auditorium)
- 9:00 a.m. **Agriculture Teachers Meeting** (Hampton Inn Conference Center)
- 9:00 a.m. **FFA Career Show**
- 9:15 a.m. **Leadership Workshops** (See page 17)
- 10:00 a.m. **Division II Prepared Public Speaking Check-In** (FCC)
- 10:30 a.m. **State FFA Alumni Convention** (Hampton Inn Conference Center)
- 10:30 a.m. **Leadership Workshops** (See page 17)
- 10:45 a.m. **State FFA Chorus Rehearsal** (Hearnes Center 324)
- 11:00 a.m. **Meeting for Retiring and New State FFA Officers and Parents**
(Hearnes Center Auditorium)
- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch for Retiring and New State Officers and Parents**
Courtesy of Missouri Farm Bureau (Lower Concourse)
- 1:00 p.m. **Job Interview Finals Check-In** (FCC)
- 1:00 p.m. **Extemporaneous Speaking Finals Check-In** (FCC)
- 1:00 p.m. **FFA Talent**
- 1:30 p.m. **Prepared Speaking Finals Check-In: Division I, Division II and Advanced** (FCC)
- 1:30 p.m. **THIRD SESSION of the 88th Missouri State FFA Convention**
- 2:00 p.m. **Advanced Prepared Public Speaking Finals** (FCC)
- 2:00 p.m. **Division I Prepared Public Speaking Finals** (FCC)
- 2:00 p.m. **Division II Prepared Public Speaking Finals** (FCC)
- 2:00 p.m. **Extemporaneous Speaking Finals** (FCC)
- 4:30 p.m. **Dinner for Retiring and New State FFA Officers and Parents**
Courtesy of FCS Financial (Hearnes Center Lower Concourse)
- 4:45 p.m. **FFA Talent/Pre-session**
- 5:00 p.m. **Seating of State Degree Candidates**
- 5:30 p.m. **2016 State FFA Chorus Concert** (Hearnes Center Auditorium)
- 6:00 p.m. **FOURTH SESSION of the 88th Missouri State FFA Convention**

**FCC = Forum Christian Church at 3900 Forum Blvd.

***Hampton Inn & Suites Conference Center at 1225 Fellows Place.