Bryce Cluff was elected to the 2017-18 National FFA Officer Team as western region vice president at the 90th National FFA Convention & Expo.

Majoring in agricultural technology and management with an emphasis in education, Cluff is a junior at the University of Arizona. Cluff served as the Arizona FFA vice president in 2015-16. While in high school, his supervised agricultural experience (SAE) was focused on poultry production. As a first-year FFA member, he worried about his ability to create a successful SAE in his urban neighborhood. Cluff began his SAE by purchasing a male Pekin duck at the local feed store. He quickly found his passion in the poultry world, and his SAE grew from a single bird into a backyard full of diverse poultry.

“I developed my business skills, and learned how I could challenge myself to become a better agriculturist,” Cluff says. “These skills and experiences have since translated into my life and have shaped me to be a successful student and employee.”

Throughout his year of service, Cluff says he hopes to grow alongside FFA members from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Chris Chinn, a fifth generation Missouri farmer from Clarence, was named Director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture in January 2017. Director Chinn has held leadership positions in agriculture on the local, state and national level for more than 12 years.

As a trailblazer in ag advocacy, Chinn has established her brand through social media and public speaking. Through her outreach, she stands up for both rural and urban Missouri by bridging the gap between farmers and consumers, contributing to the advancement of the state's No. 1 industry.

In 2013, Chinn became a national spokesperson when she was named one of four Faces of Farming and Ranching by the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance, an honor that identifies farmers and ranchers that are eager to share their farm story. Chinn resides on her family’s farm in Shelby County with her husband, Kevin, and her two children, Rachelle and Conner, where she helps manage their farrow-to-finish hog operation as well as their family feed mill. The Chinns also have a small cow-calf herd and raise corn, soybeans and alfalfa.
GUEST SPEAKERS

Second General Session – Thursday, 6:00 p.m.

Mike Parson
Missouri Lieutenant Governor

Michael L. Parson was elected Missouri’s 47th Lieutenant Governor on Nov. 8, 2016. He was victorious in 110 of Missouri’s 114 counties and received the most votes of any lieutenant governor in Missouri history.

Lieutenant Governor Parson served in the Missouri Senate from 2011 to 2017 and the Missouri House of Representatives from 2005 to 2011. Lieutenant Governor Parson was sheriff of Polk County from 1993 to 2005 and is a veteran of the U.S. Army.

While in the Missouri Senate, Lieutenant Governor Parson chaired the Small Business, Insurance and Industry Committee, and during his first two years served as the majority whip. While serving in the House of Representatives, he was chair of the House Rules Committee. He sponsored and co-sponsored landmark legislation, including the Missouri Farming Rights Amendment, which changed the Missouri Constitution to guarantee all Missourians the right to farm and ranch.

Lieutenant Governor Parson resides in Bolivar with his wife Teresa. Together they have two grown children and five grandchildren. He was raised on a farm in Hickory County, and graduated from Wheatland High School. He is a small business owner and third generation farmer with a cow-calf operation near Bolivar.

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

Carey Portell — St. James, Missouri

Never give up. It’s a common phrase we often take for granted. But motivational speaker and Missouri native Carey Portell lives it every day. As she headlines this year’s State FFA Convention, Portell will inspire FFA members across the state to push their limits and, most importantly, never give up.

After Portell and her children were involved in a fatal drunk driving collision, she was left with partial disabilities, even after a four-year recovery. Connecting with agriculture and assisting on her family’s cattle operation has given Portell hope. She claims farm work as her physical and mental therapy.

Portell travels nationwide to share her story. Additionally, Portell shares how farming has given her a focus and a feeling of life again. She enlightens listeners with her sense of perseverance and persistence.
THURSDAY, APRIL 19

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 a.m.  New Officer Meeting (Hearnes Center Auditorium, Backstage)
8:30-11:30 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 6. Some registrations begin at 10:15 a.m. Please refer to the schedule.
12:00 p.m.  Leadership Workshops (Hearnes Center) – See page 16  
Hearnes Center 309, Hearnes Center 311, Hearnes Center 317
12:00 p.m.  Delegate Orientation and Business Session  
Check in begins at 11:00 a.m. (Hearnes Center Auditorium)
1:00 p.m.  Leadership Workshops (Hearnes Center) – See page 16  
Hearnes Center 309, Hearnes Center 311, Hearnes Center 317
1:30 p.m.  FFA Talent
2:00 p.m.  FIRST SESSION of the 90th Missouri State FFA Convention
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)
3:00 p.m.  FFA Alumni WLC Scholarship Interviews (Hearnes Center 272 G)
5:00 p.m.  Dinner, Honorary State Degree Award Recipients (Hearnes Center 317)  
Courtesy of Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives Inc.
5:15 p.m.  FFA Talent/Pre-session
6:00 p.m.  FFA Knowledge Contest  
Hampton Inn & Suites Conf. Center  
(Missouri, Stephens, Columbia rooms)

6:00 p.m.  SECOND SESSION of the 90th Missouri State FFA Convention

NOTE:
FCC = Forum Christian Church at 3900 Forum Blvd.
Stoney Creek Inn at 2601 South Providence
FRIDAY, APRIL 20

7:00 a.m. Career Development Events (See page 6 & 7)
8:00 a.m. Parliamentary Procedure Registration (Stoney Creek Inn)
8:00 a.m. Conduct of Chapter Meeting Registration (Stoney Creek Inn)
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
  (Columns Club, East Tower, Memorial Football Stadium)
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
  (Columns Club, East Tower, Memorial Football Stadium)
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 90th 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)
3:00 p.m. Past State Officer Reunion Reception
  (Columns Club, East Tower, Memorial Football Stadium)
4:30 p.m. Past State Officer Reunion Program
  (Columns Club, East Tower, Memorial Football Stadium)
4:30 p.m. Dinner for Retiring and New State FFA Officers and Parents
  (Hearnes Center Lower Concourse) Courtesy of FCS Financial
4:45 p.m. FFA Talent/Pre-session
5:00 p.m. Seating of State Degree Candidates
5:30 p.m. 2018 State FFA Chorus Concert (Hearnes Center Auditorium)
6:00 p.m. FOURTH SESSION of the 90th Missouri State FFA Convention