



## Community

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# FL FFA leaders attend Ag Policy Experience

*Experience allows students to meet with representatives and develop their own policies*

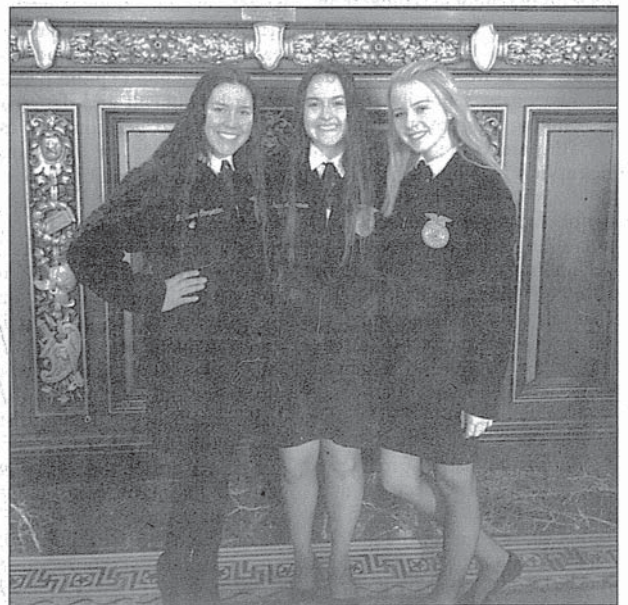
Forest Lake FFA members Madison Carpenter, Rebecca Anderson, and Grace Ackerman attended the Ag Policy Experience Conference Jan. 27-29 in Saint Paul. Forty high school students from Minnesota Future Farmers of America Chapters attended the elite chapter leaders met elected officials, hosted a legislative reception and developed their own policy agendas.

The Ag Policy Experience conference targets high

school FFA members with an interest in government, policy and agricultural solutions. Students learned about advocacy, key messages, the legislative process and telling their own story. They hosted State Representatives and State Senators on the agriculture and education committees and their own elected officials. Leaders from the Minnesota Departments of Agriculture, Education and Natural Resources spent time with the group. They toured the House chamber, the Supreme Court and the governor's office and had the opportunity to sit in on a House Agriculture Committee Hearing where two students testified about the value of agricultural education and the FFA.

A cornerstone of the

conference was taking their experiences with the legislative process and applying it to their own passions. Each student identified a locally relevant issue and submitted a proposal for a legislative response prior to attending the conference. Student leaders then caucused and prioritized their legislative agenda through a legislative committee process. They discussed taxes, creation of an agricultural "green new deal," response to low agricultural commodity prices and investment into education and rural mental health. Their legislative work culminated in committee work hosted at the State Office Building with support from professional legislators, lobbyists and state agricultural leaders.



*Submitted photo*  
Forest Lake FFA members (left to right) Madison Carpenter, Grace Ackerman and Rebecca Anderson attended the Ag Policy Experience.