



## **86<sup>th</sup> Louisiana FFA Convention & Expo**

*Monroe, LA. (Tuesday, June 2, 2015) – The 2015 Louisiana FFA Convention & Expo continues the second year of its four-year run in Monroe. More than 1,200 FFA members from throughout the state are expected at this year's convention and expo that goes through June 5.*

The convention and expo will bring an estimated economic impact of \$1.2 million. The event will be held in Monroe through 2017 before the organization re-opens the bid process to determine the location for the next four years.

"Go All Out" is the theme of this year's convention and expo. "Our passion for this organization is infectious and makes others around want to go all out. Throughout the year, FFA members have gone all out for leadership, agriculture, service, and education," said 2014-2015 Louisiana FFA President, Christen Wall, an incoming Louisiana State University student.

Six general sessions will draw FFA members together at the Monroe-West Monroe Convention Center. Students will have countless opportunities to be engaged by exhibitors from dozens of corporations, organizations and colleges at the expo inside the Civic Center.

Scott Backovich will be the opening session's headline motivational speaker. A representative of the television series Duck Dynasty and Monroe Mayor James E. Mayo will also bring greetings in this session. On Wednesday, June 3, National FFA Eastern Region Vice President, Ruth Ann Meyers of Kentucky will address convention attendees in the Second General Session. Louisiana Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry's Associate Commissioner Dr. Carrie Castille will deliver her message to attendees during the Stars Over Louisiana Luncheon also on June 3.

Throughout the week, students will attend 7 leadership and personal growth workshops focused on teamwork, Ag Careers, college readiness, and hunger relief. FFA members will also patronize Monroe destinations, including Pecanland Mall, the Duck Commander Warehouse, the Downtown River Market, and other local restaurants and attractions.

FFA members will also participate in a community-service initiative during the week. Students will volunteer to package meals for senior citizens at the Northeast Louisiana Food Bank located in Monroe.

An opening fun night with games, food, and prizes on June 2 will be hosted by the Monroe CVB and the convention will feature a late-night dance on June 4. News, features, sights and sounds from the 2015 Louisiana FFA Convention & Expo will be published in real time on FFA.org and Facebook, Twitter and Instagram with #goLAFFA all week. Portions of the event will be streamed live on iHigh.com. The convention and expo ends June 5, after state delegates representing FFA from all chapters elect a new, ten-member state FFA officer team for 2015-2016.

The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 610,240 student members in grades seven through 12 who belong to one of 7,665 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

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