



NASAE

the connection

ISSUE ONE | JAN-FEB 2025 | CDE EDITION

Member Spotlight: Keith Dietzschold



"Mr. Dietzschold doesn't focus on students at the top. Rather, he focuses his efforts on the average student in agricultural education... This is just one illustration of Mr. Dietzschold's unparalleled desire to help all students, driving progress in agriculture for generations to come."

Keith Dietzschold was named the 2024 NASAE Outstanding State Supervisor, a recognition that reflects his remarkable dedication and leadership in agricultural education. With nearly four decades of service, Keith has significantly shaped Missouri's agricultural education landscape, serving as an educator, FFA advisor, and, most recently, as the Director of Agricultural Education at the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. His leadership extends beyond Missouri, with active participation in national committees and task forces that have strengthened agricultural education programs across the country. His work in developing Missouri's Agricultural Education Strategic Plan and establishing the Missouri FFA Foundation has created lasting opportunities for students and educators alike.

Beyond his administrative success, Keith is known for his deep commitment to students, especially those who may not be at the top but still benefit immensely from agricultural education. His former students and colleagues commend his ability to balance tradition with visionary leadership, ensuring that agricultural education remains relevant and impactful. Keith's relentless advocacy for both students and teachers, along with his ability to foster industry partnerships, has expanded opportunities for young leaders in agriculture. His recognition as the NASAE Outstanding State Supervisor is a testament to his lifelong passion for agricultural education and the countless lives he has touched throughout his career.



UPCOMING THE STATE STAFF CONNECTION SERIES SESSIONS

March 11

The Use of Artificial Intelligence

4 pm ET

Submit Your Questions

April 8

State Policies and Teacher Professionalism

4 pm ET

STATE SPOTLIGHT

Indiana FFA - Unified Horticulture CDE



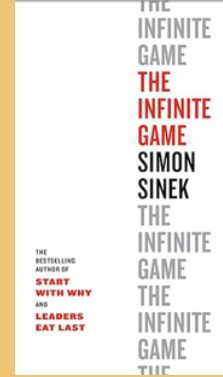
**FOR MORE
INFORMATION VISIT
HERE!**

Indiana FFA launched its first-ever Unified Horticulture Career Development Event (CDE) in April 2024, providing FFA members with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to compete in an inclusive, skill-building environment. This innovative contest, developed in Fall 2023, focuses on identifying plants, evaluating produce quality, and applying workplace problem-solving skills. Participants compete with the support of peer FFA members, fostering engagement and a sense of belonging. The inaugural event saw 15 competitors successfully complete the contest, with top individuals recognized on stage at the state convention. Indiana FFA continues to expand its commitment to inclusion, with plans for additional Unified CDEs in the future.

GOOD READS

"THE INFINITE GAME"

by Simon Sinek



This book explores the mindset needed for long-term success in leadership, emphasizing the importance of vision, adaptability, and fostering strong relationships—key principles for those leading FFA & Ag Ed programs at the state level. It encourages leaders to focus on the bigger picture, ensuring that agricultural education and FFA continue to grow and thrive for future generations.

STATE STAFF TOOLBOX: CDE RESOURCE DRIVE

The NASAE CDE Shared Resource Drive is a collaborative platform designed to support state staff with valuable materials for Career Development Events. Members are encouraged to borrow resources to enhance their programs and contribute their own to strengthen agricultural education nationwide.

Visit the Drive

STATE RELATIONS CORNER

We so appreciate our two National FFA State Relations Specialists, Kimberly Bellah and Jill Wagner as they hold down the fort! Check out their Spring Update!



CONNECTION REFLECTION

Takeaways from the past Connection Series Events

MARKETING

Ugly Mug Marketing visited about the marketing cycle. Takeaways included:

- Consider hiring a professional marketing team if budget allows.
- Canva is an excellent tool for individuals with little graphic design experience to excel.
- Recording and resources are available!

MANAGING VOLUNTEERS

Lee shared with us methods she uses to organize and manage volunteers. These included:

- Creating a guide for each area in which volunteers are utilized.
- Recognize volunteers whenever possible!
- Background checks for volunteers with prolonged access to students.
- Recording and resources are available!

SHARING OUR BEST

By sharing ideas we can make Agricultural Education and FFA across the country stronger! Check out these awesome CDE ideas from other states!



WASHINGTON AG INNOVATIONS CDE



[Learn More](#)

The purpose of the Agriculture Innovations CDE is to connect ag education student's skills that relates to ag technology education. This CDE focus' on skills that develop innovative solutions to enhance productivity, sustainability, and efficiency in farming. Students can work on projects involving precision agriculture, data analysis, remote sensing, or agricultural automation.



[Learn More](#)

INDIANA AG EQUIPMENT DIAGNOSTICS CDE

The ag equipment diagnostics event is designed to teach high school youth skills to become a technician working in the ag equipment industry. Participants learned about electrical systems in 2024 and were given a scenario that used their knowledge, skills and equipment to diagnose the problem and write a work order, same as if they were working at an equipment dealer.



NEW JERSEY TURF MANAGEMENT CDE



[Learn More](#)

The Turf Management Career Development Event includes all aspects of the industry in producing, marketing, utilizing, and maintaining turf as well as related products, equipment, and services. This event will stimulate career interest, encourage proficiency development, and recognize excellence in students of turf management through the ag education curriculum.



[Learn More](#)

ARIZONA MASTERS OF BEEF ADVOCACY

The purpose of the Masters of Beef Advocacy CDE is to provide individuals with knowledge and understanding of beef and the beef lifecycle and the tools to share that information. The contest allows students to complete the MBA program and then showcase their knowledge and ability to share facts and information about the beef community with those who have questions or concerns.

