



## AgroExpo | FFA Crop Management Challenge

### What is the FFA Crop Management Challenge?

The Crop Management Challenge is a competition for Michigan FFA chapters to enter and expand their member’s agronomy and marketing skills. Students will compete with other chapters and tasked with making sound agronomic and environmental decisions in a demonstration plot of corn or soybeans.

### What is the process for entering the 2024 CMC?

1. Submit a request of interest to participate by December 1, 2023. Space is limited to 16 plots (8 Corn and 8 Soybean).
2. Attend contest training and orientation December 11, 2023. Orientation will be held at the AgroLiquid office located at 3055 W-M21, St. Johns, MI 48879

### What are the FFA Chapter responsibilities?

1. The FFA chapter is expected to have a team of 2 to 4 members, with a 5<sup>th</sup> permitted if they are the audio/visual team member. Teams can substitute teammates during presentations or the educational booth in unforeseen circumstances.
2. The FFA chapter is **expected** to attend the AgroExpo on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and attend the FFA CMC Sponsorship Luncheon the same day.
3. Signage will be placed in front of team plots displaying their selected nutritional plans. Teams are allowed to take these signs home after the completion of the last day of the AgroExpo (3pm).
4. Booths at the show should showcase the team’s crop nutrient decisions and share what they’ve learned during the contest. If needed, the North Central Research Station will provide a tent and table.
5. The FFA chapter will determine seed population, which crop fertility products are used, rate, placement, and application timing in the Challenge plot. Tillage options are also to be decided by the teams.

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6. It's highly recommended that you obtain an agronomy advisor for your team. This can be a local farmer or agronomist from any Ag Retailer. If one cannot be found, resources can be provided to aid in finding one.
7. There will be a field day hosted at the North Central Research Station in mid-July 2024. Dates will be released later and communicated to the FFA Advisor. This will be an opportunity for students to check on their plot, listen to speakers, and gain knowledge that can be used in navigating the contest. Over the course of the growing season, it is recommended that students visit their plots at least three times.
8. Students will be expected to create a presentation to a panel of judges. The judges are selected from local agribusiness and the FFA CMC sponsors. The presentations will be held in early to mid-December. These presentations will be 10 minutes in length, with 5 minutes for judging questions and scoring.
9. Plot yield data will be provided to students after the completion of harvest in late October.

### What will be provided?

1. The North Central Research Station and sponsors will provide seed, fertilizer, soil test results, herbicide, and fungicide programs.
  - a. The same hybrid will be used on all plots.
  - b. The same fungicide and herbicide program will be used on all plots. The plots will be 15' x 355'. Row spacing for all crops will be 30".
  - c. Irrigation will be applied to guarantee at least 1" of water during growing season.
  - d. The North Central Research Station will be responsible for tillage, planting, herbicide and fungicide applications and harvest.
  - e. Product information for all AgroLiquid products will be provided for use.

### How will teams be scored?

<i>Team Presentation</i>	200 Points
<i>Yield</i>	100 Points
<i>Profit</i>	100 Points
<i>Final Report</i>	100 Points
<b>Total Available</b>	<b>500 points</b>

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## Award Ceremony for the 2024 FFA CMC Contest

1<sup>st</sup> place in either crop category will receive a plaque, the traveling trophy and \$1,000.

2<sup>nd</sup> place in either crop category will receive a plaque and \$500.

3<sup>rd</sup> place in either crop category will receive a plaque and \$250.

These will be presented at the Michigan FFA State Convention, February 28 – March 1, 2025 (TBD) at The Wharton Center, Michigan State University.

The checks will be made payable to the school's FFA Chapter.

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# Contest Agreement

We, the undersigned, agree to meet all the obligations stated above in completing the Crop Management Challenge Contest. We understand that many sponsors have invested significant time and money into this event and will make our best effort to make this a worthwhile event for all. We also agree to send thank you notes to all contest sponsors after the conclusion of our presentation.

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Crop desired (circle one): Corn or Soybeans

If your first choice is full, would you be willing to switch crops? Yes or No

**FFA Advisor Name, Email and Cell Phone:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Team Captain Name:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Members:**

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate: \_\_\_\_\_

Return by December 1, 2023, to Marnie Swartzendruber at [info@theagroexpo.com](mailto:info@theagroexpo.com)

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