

UPDATE

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DATES TO REMEMBER

June		
1		Collegiate Agricultural Ambassador applications due CDE Team Declaration forms due Preliminary Delegate Allocation due
7-8		Mid-America Grassland Evaluation Contest, Springfield, Mo.
7-12		Washington Leadership Conference – Session 1
10		2005 State Presidents' Conference registration due
14-18		Washington Leadership Conference – Session 2
18-28		Costa Rica Proficiency Trip
15		American Degree applications due Final Delegate Allotments due
19-22		Wyoming NLC SO
20-23		Arkansas NLC SO
21-24		Nebraska NLC SO
21-26		Washington Leadership Conference – Session 3
26-30		New York NLC SO
27		FFA Live on RFD-TV
29-July 2		Tennessee NLC SO Oregon NLC SO
28-July 3		Washington Leadership Conference – Session 4
July		
1		Delegate Issue nominations due National Band/Chorus/Talent applications due to directors Alumni Local Program Support Grant applications due Outstanding/Pioneer Affiliate application due Outstanding/Pioneer State FFA Alumni Association application due Outstanding Achievement application due State-to-State FFA Alumni Mentor Program application due Council Nomination application due National Distinguished Contributor application due Alumni Scrapbooks due
3-7		Utah NLC SO
5-8		Illinois NLC SO
10-13		South Carolina NLC SO
8		CDE team certification forms, waivers, payments and needs requests due
12-17		Washington Leadership Conference – Session 5
19-23		Washington Leadership Conference – Session 6
26-30		State Presidents' Conference – Washington, D.C.
26-31		2005 State Leaders Conference – Columbus, Ohio

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THE LATEST FROM FFA

2005 National Delegate Process: Representatives at the State Presidents' Conference will again select the issues for consideration in the 2005 national delegate process. All new issues must come from state nominations; each state may submit up to five issues. Please submit your nominations to Seth Derner before July 1. If you have any questions, please contact Seth at sderner@ffa.org at 317-802-4413 or visit <http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/so/delegates/>.

REV It Up Update: By now, you've heard about the REV It Up kits made possible by CSREES,

USDA grant funding. The kits will be distributed in the fall, along with an exciting new educational resource called PACES (Career Exploration and Preparation for Rural Youth Through Agricultural Education and FFA), also funded by CSREES, USDA. In June, the National FFA Center staff will be verifying eligible chapters with each state. You will hear more about the distribution of these exciting materials in the next few months, and should have them in-hand to use for the 2005-06 school year.

FFA Live on RFD-TV: Mark your calendars now for the next installment of *FFA Live!* on RFD-TV. The show will run from 7-9 p.m. Eastern (6-8 p.m. Central) on Monday, June 27, and will feature an array of phenomenal guests! Dr. Larry Case, National FFA Advisor, will discuss the importance of agriscience in today's agricultural education programs and will also be on hand to take your phone calls. Jason Hughes, West Virginia's teacher of the year, will also be a featured guest. He'll talk about his local program and the steps he has taken to make it so successful. Additionally, two FFA members will join the panel to talk about their SAEs and FFA experiences and how their advisors have helped them accomplish their goals. Mike Hansen will host. You don't want to miss it!

RFD-TV can be found on Dish Network channel 9409 and Direct TV channel 379. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at ffalive@ffa.org. We'd love to hear from you!

Washington Leadership Conference: Registration for 2005 is filling up quickly. **There are limited spots available for the June 21-26 and June 28-July 3 conferences.** Registration is handled on a first come, first served basis.

The dates for the 2005 conference are June 7-12, June 14-18, June 21-26, June 28-July 3, July 12-17 and July 19-24. Student package: \$550, Advisor Double: \$585, Advisor Single: \$780, Advisor Guest: \$975, Room Only Package: \$475. This year's conference features high levels of service learning, mentoring and volunteerism strategies, problem solving skills, relationship building skills and character development. For more information and to **download a registration form**, visit www.ffa.org, e-mail wlc@ffa.org or call 317-802-4312.

Positions available with National FFA: Currently, the National FFA Organization has many staff positions open. Full descriptions of all positions can be found at www.ffa.org/about_ffa/html/ffa_jobs.cfm

Interested individuals can send a resume to Cindy Driver at cdriver@ffa.org or fax to 317-802-5257. Contact Cindy at 317-802-4257 with any questions.

New Proficiency Award for 2006: A new proficiency award area in agricultural education will be added in 2006. The National FFA Board of Directors approved the new award for the new revision cycle, stated as:

The "agricultural education" award involves students with SAEs related to education and extension, including but not limited to youth mentoring, agricultural education departmental assistants, PALS mentors and student coordinators, students developing informational materials and presentations for civic organizations and school-aged youth, and students who are involved in SAEs that educate the public about the broad topics of agriculture, agricultural education and FFA.

The James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation, www.JFLF.org, and the Lincoln Electric Company have recently made a three-year commitment to fund the Agricultural Education proficiency award as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The James F. Lincoln Foundation was created in 1935 to promote the science and education of arc welding. Its primary functions include the development of welding educational materials and annual awards for students' arc welding projects and engineering papers. The Lincoln Electric Company has been a sponsor of the National FFA for 57 years, providing advanced training opportunities and materials for students and teachers in the area of welding.

Teacher workshops to promote this new award area will be conducted during the 2005 National FFA Convention.

MERCHANDISING

Official Jacket Update: We are in the final phase of the jacket restoration project. We worked with Clemson Apparel Research Center to create new patterns that will fit today's students more appropriately and address the many fit concerns that were brought forth over the years. Beginning August 1, 2005, we will start shipping jackets in the new fit. It will be critical that all information is read about how to determine what size to order in the new catalogs and all information on the CD that will accompany the catalogs is reviewed. A video on the CD will show advisors how to measure the student in order to purchase the correct jacket size.

In hopes of getting ahead of the game, we are currently making all new tailored jacket orders from the new jacket patterns. If you are placing an order for a tailored jacket, you will want to use the attached forms that will guide you through the new measuring process. Please note that there are three worksheets on this file. Contact Lee Anne Shiller, lashiller@ffa.org, for more information.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Totals for 2004-2005: The Membership Team would like to thank all of the hard-working state staff this year. Through June 1, 2005, we have tallied 486,314 members, already surpassing the 2004 *year-end* total of 476,732. Remember, membership for the 2004-2005 year does not close until **August 31, 2005**.

NEW Online Training Document: The Step-by-Step Guide to FFA Online Membership is located at <http://access.ffa.org/index.html>. This new PowerPoint training document, created with the assistance of Pam Kilpatrick of the Alabama FFA Association, offers a step-by-step process for the chapter advisor and a tool for state staff to present online membership.

Final Delegate Allotments: Final Delegate Allotments presented with any approved amendments based on appeals are due on June 15, 2005.

Membership Requirements and Needs: Please fill out the request you received from your membership representative for any special needs and for all dates important for next year's membership. The Membership Team is setting up a summer schedule for Excel template creation, new online state password creation and time frames for training materials and assistance required by state staff for the 2005-2006 membership year.

New Horizons Magazine Address Update: Subscription deadline dates for members receiving *New Horizons* in 2005 are as follows:

July/August	June 14, 2005
September/October	Aug. 16, 2005
November/December	Oct. 13, 2005
January/February 2006	Dec. 9, 2005

CONVENTION

www.ffa.org/convention

National Convention Courtesy Corps: The application to participate in Courtesy Corps at the 2005 National FFA Convention is now available. It may be downloaded at http://www.ffa.org/convention/html/pln_courtesycorp.htm and must be returned to the National FFA Center by September 5. Courtesy Corps is a great way for students to get involved in the national convention, and we are always looking for volunteers! For more information, contact Carrie Powers at cpowers@ffa.org or 317-802-4321.

National FFA Band/Chorus/Talent Applications: The National FFA band, chorus and talent programs are a great way for members to express their creative side while participating in the largest annual youth gathering in the nation. Applications are available online in the Convention area and are due to the national directors by **July 1, 2005**.

National FFA Officer Candidates Information: The 2005 candidate application is now available. It can be found in the State Guide and in the Guide to the National FFA Officer Selection Process. The guide is available at an unpublished web address, which was sent to state staff via e-mail in late March. The guide has been updated with information used during the 2004 process. All applications must be submitted in hard copy format and must be postmarked by August 1, 2005. Contact Doug Kueker at 317-802-4272 or dkueker@ffa.org, or Kim Henry at 317-802-4362 or khenry@ffa.org.

National Convention Judges: Nominations are now being accepted for judges for the Agricultural Proficiency Awards, Stars, Agriscience Awards and National Chapter Awards at the 78th National FFA Convention. The Agricultural Proficiency and Star Awards judging will take place on Thursday, Oct. 27, 2005, and all of the judges will be invited to an awards luncheon on that day. Agriscience Awards will be judged on Wednesday, Oct. 26, and Thursday, Oct. 27. National Chapter Awards will be judged on Wednesday, Oct. 26. Nominations can be submitted on the attached form and sent to Rosalie Hunsinger, National FFA Organization, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960 or faxed to 317-802-5255.

The National FFA Organization cannot cover expenses for judges.

2005 CDE deadlines: Deadlines for the 2005 National FFA CDEs are as follows:

June 1	Team declaration forms due
July 8	Team certification forms, waivers, payments and needs requests due
	State assistants forms due
	State speaking judges forms due
Aug. 15	Prepared Public Speaking manuscripts due
Sept. 15	Agricultural Communications portfolios due
	Agricultural Issues portfolios due
	Job Interview portfolios due
	Marketing Plan portfolios due
Oct. 12	Add/Delete forms due

CDE Program Information: www.ffa.org/programs/cde/

CDE Convention Information: www.ffa.org/convention/html/conv_cde.htm

EDUCATOR NEWS

AG ED Job Posting Website: Have any teaching, state staff or internship opportunities in your state? Post your agriculture-related job openings on our AG ED job posting website: www.ffa.org/statestaff/agedjobs/index.htm. Contact Michele Gilbert at mgilbert@ffa.org or 317-802-4301.

Teacher Resources: The FFA Global website has numerous resources available for teachers to utilize in their classrooms. Choose from a wide range of lesson plans and interactive global projects. Bring global agriculture into your classroom by visiting www.ffa.org/programs/global/ (click on Global Resources) or call 317-802-4309.

STATE STAFF NEWS

Extra Copies of *The Core*: Teacher educators and state leaders, please let us know if we can provide multiple copies of *The Core* to you for use with pre-service teachers, partners or student leaders. Requests can be made by e-mailing coreadvice@ffa.org or calling 317-802-4239. When making the request, please include the following:

- How many copies you would like
- Who will be receiving them
- Contact person to send them to

- Mailing address for shipment

Learn More About Agricultural Education Resources: National FFA wants to ensure that you, your teachers and pre-service teachers are equipped to do your job effectively and efficiently, which means getting you the resources that you need. Contact us if you have a conference, seminar, enrichment activity, meeting or class coming up where you would like to have products from *The Core* featured. We're happy to set up displays, have staff do workshops on effectively using any of the products and answer all of your and your teachers' questions! To schedule an event, e-mail coreadvice@ffa.org or call 317-802-4239. The summer schedule is filling up quickly, so don't wait to schedule your event!

Important Information regarding CDE Certification and Payment: The deadline for Declaration Forms was June 1. Before we start invoicing states based upon those teams, we want to inform all state staff of the processes that have been implemented this year to ensure that declaration forms, certification forms and payments are appropriately processed.

If your state requests that the participating chapters pay the certification fee, we would like to ask if state staff would consider having the chapters pay the state directly and then, in turn, have the state association pay the National FFA Organization for the total amount. We are unable to process certification forms without proper payment, and we would hate to hold your teams back. **Paying by one check from the state association ensures the reliability of the certification, expedites the processing time of the certification form, and ensures team orientation packets and other correspondence are sent in a timely manner.** Your cooperation with this method of payment is much appreciated.

After states send in their CDE declaration form, the National FFA Organization will invoice you for the number of teams you declared. The packet this invoice comes in will include four items:

- a copy of your declaration form
- an invoice based on the number of teams declared (on green paper)
- a large envelope pre-addressed to CDE Certification Coordinator at the National FFA Center (with a pink "CDE Certification Forms/Waivers" label)
- a legal-size envelope pre-addressed to the Accounts Receivable Department at the National FFA Center (with a green "CDE Certification Payment" label)

The large envelope addressed to the CDE Certification Coordinator is for your convenience to mail any certification forms or waivers that you do not send via email.

Please use the separate, legal-size envelope addressed to Accounts Receivable to mail the check and the voucher portion of your invoice. Please remember to include this payment voucher to ensure that payment is processed correctly.

Please do not send this payment to the National FFA Organization lockbox in Cincinnati, as this will undoubtedly delay the certification process!

Our desire is to be pro-active in this process so that forms and checks do not get sent to the wrong places. We do not want to hold up your teams or have them disqualified because payment was never received. Please help us help you by following the processes outlined above.

Contact Jessica Scholer at jscholer@ffa.org or 317-802-4288 with any questions or concerns.

Electronic CDE Certification Forms Available: NEW CDE certification forms are available in an Excel template for 2005. The template includes certification form and student waiver. Electronic file and step-by-step instructions can be found on your Ag Ed Inservice CD-ROM. Contact Jessica Scholer, CDE Certification Coordinator, at 317-802-4288 or jscholer@ffa.org.

Student Waiver, Release of Liability and Consent to Medical Attention Forms: Protect your students and your state association by creating a student waiver form specific to your state or event. We now have a template to help you create your own forms for regional, state or interstate

events. If you are interested in creating student waiver forms for your state event, please contact Jessica Scholer, CDE Certification Coordinator, at jscholer@ffa.org.

2005 NLC SO: Plans are in full swing for the 2005 National Leadership Conference for State Officers (NLC SO). Based on recommendations from the NLC SO Task Force (held in November 2004), the conference will have a fresh look and structure for 2005! Check out the task force's full report and conference-specific information such as agendas, objectives and checklists at www.ffa.org/programs/conferences/html/conf_officers.html. Check back often for updates of the 2005 conference.

NLC SO is sponsored by Monsanto Inc., KRAFT Inc., International Truck & Engine Corp., Wrangler, Intervet, Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), Tractor Supply Company, Wayne Farms LLC and Ariat as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

2005 NLC SO Dates:

June 19-22, 2005	Wyoming NLC SO
June 20-23, 2005	Arkansas NLC SO
June 21-24, 2005	Nebraska NLC SO
June 26-30, 2005	New York NLC SO
June 29-July 2, 2005	Tennessee NLC SO
June 29-July 2, 2005	Oregon NLC SO
July 3-7, 2005	Utah NLC SO
July 5-8, 2005	Illinois NLC SO
July 10-13, 2005	South Carolina NLC SO
August 2-5, 2005	West Virginia NLC SO

For more information, contact Tiffany Sanderson at tsanderson@ffa.org or 317-802-4239.

2005 State Presidents' Conference: State leaders, please join us for the 2005 State Presidents' Conference! Registration materials and conference information are located at www.ffa.org/programs/conferences/html/conf_officers.html. Registrations are **due in full** by June 10, 2005, for both the state officers and all state leaders or teachers attending the 2005 conference. Please check the website for updates of the 2005 conference.

The 2005 State Presidents' Conference is sponsored by Chevrolet and GMAC as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

2005 SPC Dates:

July 26-30, 2005	Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C.
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For more information, contact Tiffany Sanderson at tsanderson@ffa.org or 317-802-4239.

American Degree Applications Deadline Change: In 2004, the Board of Directors approved changing the national due date of American Degree applications to **June 15 for 2005** and each year thereafter.

A list of American Degree recipients must be prepared for the July board meeting during the second week of that month. Applications submitted early are welcomed and assist us in timely processing. Due to previous difficulties, we strongly recommend you track your shipment to verify its arrival at the National FFA Center. Send applications to Rosalie Hunsinger, Program Manager, National FFA Organization, 6060 FFA Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46278.
www.ffa.org/programs/degree/

Star Applicants' Personal History: A reminder that the personal history of any Star applicant should be no more than three double-spaced pages, in **at least 10-point font**. In the minimum qualification process before judging, if there are more than three double-spaced pages, the additional pages will be removed from the application before judging.

ALUMNI

State Leaders Conference: The National FFA Alumni Association invites all alumni members and their families to attend the 2005 State Leaders Conference to be held July 26-31 in Columbus, Ohio. State Leaders Conference (SLC) is an opportunity for FFA alumni leaders across the country to meet and discuss the issues facing FFA and FFA alumni. It is a time to gather valuable information and resources from workshops presented around our theme - "Advocates for Agricultural Education." Various tours and social engagements are the final touch in creating an environment for learning, friendship, relaxation and fun. For additional conference information and a registration form, visit www.ffa.org/alumni/ or call 317-802-4293. Please note: Each state is entitled to one SLC grant to cover the conference fee for their official state representative. Contact your state FFA alumni leaders about the possibility of attending the conference as your state's representative.

Awards and Grant Applications: The following are due **July 1:** Local Program Support Grant Application (NEW DATE BEGINNING 2005), Outstanding/Pioneer Affiliate Application, Outstanding/Pioneer State FFA Alumni Association Application, Outstanding Achievement Application, State-to-State FFA Alumni Mentor Program Application, Council Nomination Applications, National Distinguished Contributor Applications and Scrapbooks. All forms can be downloaded at www.ffa.org/alumni/.

Student Projects for Alumni Auction: The National FFA Alumni team is inviting FFA members to donate their outstanding classroom, shop or SAE projects to the 2005 FFA Alumni auction. This auction category will showcase students' talents and skills from the diverse skill areas being taught in agriculture courses across the nation, from wood and metal working to floral arranging and anything in between! Visit www.ffa.org/alumni/html/alumni_auction.html for more information.

2005 FFA Alumni Auction: Raising Moo-ia for FFA: Donations are now being accepted for the 2005 National FFA Alumni Auction. The National FFA Alumni team is looking for product donations for the live and silent auctions held during the national FFA convention. Auction funds provide WLC and collegiate scholarships to hundreds of students. Please consider donating so we may continue providing these opportunities for students. A donation form is available on our website at www.ffa.org/alumni/html/alumni_auction.html.

State Basket Contest: Interested in winning a WLC scholarship and other prizes? Enter the FFA Alumni State Basket Contest! Each state FFA association and FFA alumni association is invited to enter. Share your state's commodities and creativity! Visit www.ffa.org/alumni/ for more contest description and rules.

For more information on the FFA Alumni Auction and State Basket Contest, visit www.ffa.org/alumni/html/alumni_auction.html or call 317-802-4294.

Visit the National FFA Alumni online at www.ffa.org/alumni/.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN UPDATE

Online Giving: Online giving is now available through the National FFA Foundation. You can make your annual contribution to FFA by visiting www.ffa.org/foundation/.

UPDATE is available online each month at www.ffa.org/media/html/med_pub_index.htm. Attachments are also available online.

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The FFA Mission

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership**, **personal growth** and **career success** through agricultural education.

The Agricultural Education Mission

Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems.

The National FFA Organization is a resource and support organization that does not select, control or supervise state association, local chapter or individual member activities except as expressly provided for in the National FFA Organization Constitution and Bylaws.

The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of all human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer.

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