

UPDATE

Vol. XXXIII, No. 10
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U.S. Department of Education
October 2003

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 1 ILSSO applications due, FFA Center
29-Nov. 1 2003 National FFA Convention

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FFA

19-year high membership numbers: Today, nearly a half-million young people nationwide, as well as in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, are living the legacy of the National FFA Organization. By becoming members of FFA, 464,267 students in 7,194 local chapters are serving their communities and exploring more than 300 careers in agriculture thanks to the opportunities provided by FFA.

Become a trainer: Are you or someone you know interested in becoming an ALD, BLAST-Off, EDGE, MFE or WLC conference trainer? FFA is looking for ambitious and dedicated individuals to serve as conference trainers for FFA Leadership and Personal Growth Series and State Officer Trainings. If you or anyone you know is interested, visit the Job Opportunities-FFA Center section at www.ffa.org or click on the following link <http://www.ffa.org/careers/jobs/index.html>. Information and instructions for applying can be found there. Applications will be accepted through Nov. 1, 2003, for BLAST-Off and through Nov. 30, 2003, for ALD, EDGE, MFE and WLC.

SAE grants available: Sixteen \$1,000 grants, sponsored by Merial, will be awarded to applicants with beef/cattle, dairy or sheep production SAEs. Twenty \$500 grants, sponsored by Akey, will be awarded to swine production SAEs only. In addition, twenty \$150 grants, sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Conrad, will be awarded to students from the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota or Wisconsin. Each grant will be awarded to an FFA member between the ages of 14-17 who demonstrates financial need and an exceptional SAE plan. The postmark due date is Nov. 5, 2003. Judging will be in December and grant winners will be notified by mail immediately following.

The application is located on the FFA website at <http://www.ffa.org/programs/sae/html/saegrants.html>. The application is formatted in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and you must have Microsoft Excel 5.0 or greater in order to work the template. Please note: Microsoft Works is not Microsoft Excel. If you have any questions, contact Rosalie Hunsinger, 317-802-4255, rhunsinger@ffa.org.

Buy a brick and mark your future on FFA: For more than 75 years, FFA has been contributing to society through programs that provide young men and women with the experience, training and development vital to succeeding in the world. Without your support, FFA cannot provide America's youth with valuable programs, including: career development, leadership conferences, national convention activities, international exchanges and awards in 45 proficiency areas.

As part of the 75th anniversary of the National FFA Organization, we're inviting you to be

a part of history. You can obtain your part of history at the National FFA Center by purchasing a 75th anniversary brick. A limited number of bricks will be available to friends, supporters and members of the FFA. These special edition bricks will feature a diamond design in the corner to commemorate 75 years of student success!

A 4" x 8" brick suitable for two lines of text can be purchased for \$250 and an 8" x 8" brick suitable for four lines of text to remember an individual, chapter, teacher or officer team can be purchased for \$1,000.

Act now! Orders will be taken until Dec. 31, 2003. Please contact Molly Schilling, mschilling@ffa.org, 317-802-4416.

Conference tools CD to be provided: For those states conducting EDGE, MFE and/or ALD, a CD will be provided for the conference coordinator. This CD, which is free for all states conducting conferences, will serve as a tool for states to use in promotion and management of the conferences. Items found on the CD will include: press releases, conference logos, conference T-shirt designs, templates for conference promotional brochures, templates for conference promotional posters, templates for conference certificates, liability waivers, code of conduct forms, registration templates, and other promotional and managerial tools. Each item on the CD will be able to be personalized to each state's needs. Conference brochures on the CDs can be printed and mailed or e-mailed directly to every advisor in the state. For information, contact Andy Armbruster, aarmbruster@ffa.org, 317-802-4308.

NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION NEWS

Reminder: Convention registration fee set at \$30 and \$35 beginning in 2003: The National FFA Board of Directors and National FFA Officers have set the national FFA convention attendance fee at \$30 for pre-registration and \$35 for on-site registration beginning in 2003. The action was taken to offset significant increases in costs for services, decoration, staging, labor and security. As a break-even activity, convention costs are borne by participants and not by general dues. Even with the approved increase, the \$30/\$35 FFA convention fee remains markedly lower than national meeting fees for other student organizations: VICA/Skills USA - \$90/\$100; FCCLA - \$100/\$110; and FBLA - \$85/95.

Delegate schedule for 2003 National FFA Convention: With the National FFA delegate process starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday (registration that morning from 7-10 a.m.), there are no official delegate activities on Monday at the 2003 National FFA Convention. Instead, a past national FFA officer, Amber Goolsby, has been contracted to host activities for state FFA officers and other youth leaders (those serving as delegates). These activities will be completely optional; they will not be coordinated or sponsored by National FFA staff, and will be offered on a fee basis. If you have questions about this new opportunity, please contact Seth Derner, sderner@ffa.org, 317-802-4413.

School Officials Luncheon – free: Invite your state officials, school officials or important education partners to experience motivational speakers, outstanding teachers and top students at the School Officials Luncheon. This educational and entertaining event will take place during the 2003 National FFA Convention on Friday, Oct. 31, 2003 at 11:30 a.m. Take this opportunity to show your education partners a unique side of the convention. In addition to the luncheon, we welcome them to experience the many suggested activities including convention sessions (4th and 6th), national FFA leadership

workshops, and the FFA National Agricultural Career Show®. The luncheon is free; however, seating is limited. Only 300 tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so please respond early to secure a reservation for this activity. To order your school official's complimentary ticket, complete the attached request form or contact Michele Gilbert, mgilbert@ffa.org, 317-802-4301. Have attendee's name, title, organization, mailing address, phone/fax and e-mail address ready to share when contacting Michele. For additional information, contact Ernie Gill, project manager, egill@ffa.org, 317-802-4222.

New event at the National FFA Convention for teachers: Agriscience Institute: an interactive onsite campus experience. Teachers looking to integrate science, math and social studies into their agricultural education programs should attend these workshops. The Agriscience Institute includes five different interactive workshops especially designed to help teachers bring their classroom to life. Participants will discover new ideas, activities, information and methods that will increase student involvement and interest. The project sponsors are providing this opportunity for teachers to experience an innovative approach to incorporating modern technology into current issues facing agriculture and our society.

Workshop topics:

- Bringing Sustainability to the Community
- Bringing Environmental Issues to the Classroom
- Applied Biotechnology workshop
- Ag Prep: Integrating Math, Agriculture, Science & Technology
- Veterinary Science Instructional Materials and related equine opportunities

Teachers can take advantage of this great opportunity while they visit the FFA National Agricultural Career Show® during convention. The interactive classrooms will be located next to the Agriscience Fair and FFA Education booth. A schedule with starting times will be placed in front of each classroom. It will truly be a campus atmosphere.

These 45-minute rotational workshops will be offered during the following dates and times: Wednesday, Oct. 29, 12:30-5:30 p.m.; Thursday, Oct. 30, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 31, 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. For more information, contact Tony Small, tsmall@ffa.org, 317-802-4300.

Hot tips to engage students: Ag teachers who want to learn practical tips to enhance student engagement, retention and application will want to join nationally known facilitator and educator Mark Reardon in his teacher workshops at convention. Mark will be conducting training all day Thursday and Friday at convention on student engagement and brain-based learning. In addition, Mark will be previewing LifeKnowledge, the newest instructional materials from the National FFA Organization, designed to help agricultural educators incorporate leadership, personal growth and career success in the classroom. Each workshop is limited to the first 200 participants. See the convention planning guide for times and locations. For information, contact Andy Armbruster, aarmbruster@ffa.org, 317-802-4308.

Revisions to National Leadership Dinner: A few revisions have been made to the National Leadership Dinner, which will occur on Friday, Oct. 31, at the 2003 National FFA Convention. In an effort to make the event more engaging for students and provide more opportunities for students from conferences to reunite, experiential learning activities will take place once the meal is complete. These activities will replace those of a traditional

banquet speaker. For information, contact Andy Armbruster, aarmbruster@ffa.org, 317-802-4308.

Best community service practices to be shared: Teachers will want to join partner teachers Mark Wilburn and Dan Shell from Ohio in sharing best community service practices at the 2003 National FFA Convention. Mark and Dan had the top chapter in the state of Ohio this past year. This teacher workshop, which will be held on Thursday, Oct. 30, at 11 a.m. in CC 109-110, will be an excellent opportunity for instructors to learn about strategies and techniques to implement in their local chapter's community service program and understand the avenue to help those activities tie directly to the National Chapter Award application. This event is sponsored by Toyota Motor Manufacturing of North America. For information, contact Andy Armbruster, aarmbruster@ffa.org, 317-802-4308.

EVENTS

2003 CDE deadlines announced: Deadlines have been set for the 2003 National FFA CDEs; all items are due to the FFA Center by the dates indicated. A copy of all forms listed below can be found in the 2003 State Guide. They are as follows:

Oct. 1 - Late membership payments and \$25 processing fee due (for qualification)

Oct. 15 - Add/Delete forms due

New CDE Special Needs Request Policy: Teams and individuals participating in the 2003 Career Development Events who feel that they are entitled to Special Needs Accommodations must submit a Special Needs Request Form. This form, along with additional information about the policy, can be found on the following website: <http://www.ffa.org/programs/cde/html/cdeupdate.html>. Please make sure your national qualifying CDE participants and advisors are aware of this new procedure. The form must be submitted at the time of certification.

MERCHANDISE

Be on the lookout for the 2003-2004 National FFA merchandise materials: This includes the blue (apparel & gift catalog), the gold (awards & supply catalog), the Agricultural Education Resources Catalog, a flyer on nationally sanctioned fundraisers and information on the annual T-shirt contest. These materials represent the best FFA has to offer members, advisors and state staff alike! If you have not yet received your merchandise materials and catalogs, please contact Lee Anne Shiller, lshiller@ffa.org, and we'll rush a package to you.

There are several new and exciting products and merchandise being offered to customers.

- Official FFA Jacket—the price has been reduced to \$45. Check out the insert included in the catalog package to find out how we got there, where we're going and what you can expect in the coming years as we continue to upgrade our official FFA jacket.
- Customization/Personalization Program—newly developed customization program for FFA chapters, alumni chapters and anyone needing something customized. FFA makes it easy. Select from sweatshirts, T-shirts, shirts and polos. Pick a design. Pick colors. And personalize it. (See p. 12-15 of the blue catalog.)
- Blankets and pillows—check out the new FFA mural blanket. Customize a corduroy pillow just like the back of an official FFA jacket. (See p. 38-39 of the blue catalog.)

- Station markers—new 3-dimensional cast station markers and corduroy banner station markers are available. Perfect for your chapter meetings. (See p. 7 of the gold catalog.)
- New and improved banners—now made by our jacket manufacturer out of the same corduroy and embroidered just like your official FFA jacket. (See p. 8 of the gold catalog.)
- New stationery line—new updated letterhead, invitations, thank you cards and office supplies. Many feature the official FFA mural. (See p. 5 of the gold catalog.)

As always, remember that income generated from the sale of merchandise supports the operations of the organization and the programs we provide.

The third annual T-shirt design contest entries are due March 15, 2004: FFA is looking for some creative students to submit their designs. Winning designs will be featured on t-shirts and sold in the 2004-2005 National FFA Blue Catalog and online store. Encourage your FFA members to submit all those fabulous designs that have been produced at the local level. If selected, their chapter will earn 50 percent of the gross profits on the catalog sales for one year. As of the end of August, the five winning chapters from the '02-'03 contest had earned a total of \$3,294.13 with the top chapter earning nearly \$1,400. And this year's winners are on a record-setting pace. The number one selling T-shirt, 03-WOAG, has already earned \$2,277. See the 2003-2004 winners in this year's blue catalog. (See p. 16-17) For questions, please contact Dawn Sharp, dsharp@ffa.org.

ALUMNI NEWS

National FFA Alumni Auction: This year's Alumni Auction is going to be one of the best! The auction committee and National FFA Foundation have been hard at work securing objects ranging from household items to weekend getaways. Be sure to come by during the national FFA convention and participate in the bidding excitement and to vote for your favorite state basket. The silent auction will run from Wednesday, Oct. 29 – Friday, Oct. 31. A complimentary social is being planned prior to the live auction on Friday evening. Supporters of agricultural education and FFA are encouraged to get involved by donating specialty items that will contribute to the success of the auction. All funds raised go to support WLC scholarships and local chapter grants. For a listing of all auction items and schedules and to download a donation form, visit <http://www.ffa.org/alumni>. Contact: Amber Smyer, asmeyer@ffa.org, 317-802-4294.

National FFA Alumni Convention Raffle: The National FFA Alumni Association will again hold raffles in conjunction with the 2003 National FFA Convention. This year two raffles are being organized. Prior to the convention, a limited supply of 3,000 tickets will be sold for a John Deere Gator at \$10 a ticket or three for \$20. In a second raffle, tickets will be sold at the national FFA convention for an EZ-Go WorkHorse and a Husqvarna YTH2046 Yard Tractor. Tickets can be purchased at the Alumni booth in the center aisle of the shopping mall for \$1 a ticket, with a bonus ticket for every \$5 you spend. The winners of all three items will be drawn during the Alumni Live Auction on Friday, Oct. 31 at 6 p.m. (need not be present to win). Contact: Amber Smyer, asmeyer@ffa.org, 317-802-4294.

American Degree Scholarship: The National FFA Alumni Association has a special

scholarship opportunity for FFA members receiving their American Degrees at the 2003 National FFA Convention. If a degree recipient is currently a member of the National FFA Alumni Association (membership is separate from FFA) or chooses to join the Alumni Association on or before Oct. 31, 2003, they will be entered into a drawing for a \$1,000 scholarship. Information was sent out to all American Degree recipients, so be sure to encourage them to take advantage of this great opportunity.

Alumni Auction State Basket Contest: Every state FFA association and state FFA alumni association is encouraged to enter the State Basket Contest as part of the Alumni auction during the national convention. Baskets should uniquely represent your state by including products native to your state and distinct items of interest. States that wish to enter a basket may contact us at asmeyer@ffa.org. The winning baskets will be announced and moved to the Live Auction for further bidding Friday night. Prizes for winning baskets include a \$450 Washington Leadership Scholarship and 100 tickets for the Alumni Giveaway. Show pride in your state by sharing what it has to offer!

STATE STAFF NEWS

Time capsule effort at the 2003 National FFA Convention: States may submit corrections or additions to the manifest list of items included in the time capsule box. Any correction or addition must be made by Oct. 15, 2003. These may be submitted to Doug Kueker at dkueker@ffa.org. All boxes and included items will be collected at delegate registration. Plans for the ceremony to place the boxes in the time capsule are complete. Each state has been assigned a session where they will present their box. Presentations will take place during convention sessions two through seven and sessions nine and ten. One representative from each state should plan to be available to present the box during the kick-off of their session. Please submit the name of the individual who will represent your state to Doug Kueker, dkueker@ffa.org, no later than Oct. 10. That person should report to the VIP section 132, rows A-C, at least 30 minutes prior to the session. Representatives will then be briefed on the ceremony and taken backstage prior to the session start time.

Following is a listing of the times for state box presentations:

Thursday, Oct. 30

3-4:30 p.m. Second Session:

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut

7:30-9 p.m. Third Session:

Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana

Friday, Oct. 31

8-10 a.m. Fourth Session :

Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland

12-1:30 p.m. Fifth Session:

Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska

3-4:30 p.m. Sixth Session:

Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota

7-9 p.m. Seventh Session:

Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island

Saturday, Nov. 1

12:30-2:30 p.m. Ninth Session:

South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont

3:30-5 p.m. Tenth Session:

Virginia, Virgin Islands, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

For more information regarding the time capsule, please visit

<http://www.ffa.org/convention/html/timecapsule.htm> or e-mail dkueker@ffa.org

Local Program Resource Guide 2003-2004 CD-ROM: Just a quick reminder to all state staff and teacher educators: The Local Program Resource Guide 2003-2004 CD-ROM has been released. Orders were shipped to state staff in June, and a second shipment went out to teacher educators in mid-August. If you have not received your order or have not placed an order, please contact Michele Gilbert, mgilbert@ffa.org, 317-802-4301. For more information, please contact Jim Armbruster, jarmbruster@ffa.org, 317-802-4334.

National Agriculture Education Inservice: We are pleased to announce that the National Agricultural Education Inservice will be held Feb. 5-8, 2004, at the downtown Adams Mark Hotel in Indianapolis. We will follow the same registration format used last year. For those who are eager to begin the planning process, please use the attached guidelines when selecting your paid participants.

In addition, we will conduct the National New State Staff Inservice (NSSI) on Feb. 4-5, 2004, at the same location. NSSI will run from noon on Wed. Feb. 4 until noon Thurs. Feb. 5. At the conclusion of NSSI, new state staff will also have the opportunity to attend the National Agricultural Education Inservice.

New State Staff reserve your spot now! Those who wish to attend NSSI prior to the National Ag. Ed. Inservice are asked to contact the following: Michele Gilbert, local program success assistant, mgilbert@ffa.org, 317-802-4301. In mid-October, agendas, registration forms and additional information will be provided for both the National Ag. Ed. Inservice and National New State Staff Inservice. Any questions about the National Agricultural Education Inservice can be directed to: Tony Small, local program success manager, tsmall@ffa.org, 317-802-4300.

Future National Ag Ed Inservice Dates: February 3-6, 2005; February 2-5, 2006.

Future NSSI Dates: February 2-3, 2005; February 1-2, 2006.

INTERNATIONAL HAPPENINGS

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/ online resources or call 317-802-4309.

FFA Global Leadership Training available online: FFA Global is looking for agriculture instructors who are interested in exploring agriculture in our exciting online learning program about global agriculture. A "real world" storyline allows students to learn about global agriculture and U.S. policy as they follow the lives of two fictional FFA members as they travel to Moldova, Honduras and Ethiopia. Several chapters are already using the program, and if you are interested in learning more about this project, please contact FFA Global at 317-802-4309 or at global@ffa.org. Visit the FFA Global Leadership Scenarios site at <http://www.ffa.org/scenarios/> today!

International Teacher Opportunities: Competitive scholarships are available for agriculture teachers to participate in an international experience through EARTHWATCH. The scholarships are available for use in 2004. EARTHWATCH institute promotes sustainable conservation of our natural environments and cultural heritage by creating partnerships among scientists, the general public, educators and businesses. Expeditions take place year round throughout the world. Participants can receive up to \$1500 scholarships to cover a portion of the expedition costs plus membership to EARTHWATCH. To learn more about the expeditions available, visit www.earthwatch.org Scholarship applications are available online at www.ffa.org/programs/global/. Please call 317-802-4309 for more information.

Travel to Europe: Each year in January, State FFA Officers have the unique opportunity to travel to Europe to learn about global agriculture and business on ILSSO, the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers. Participants have a host-family stay with a German family and participate in business and industry visits. Tentative dates for 2004 are Jan. 5 – Jan. 21. Applications will be due Oct. 1, 2003. If you are a newly elected or past state officer and have ever wanted to travel to a foreign country, learn about global agriculture, or spend two amazing weeks with other State FFA Officers, then the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers (ILSSO) is the right place for you! Download application forms and find out more information, e-mail us at global@ffa.org, visit online at <http://www.ffa.org/programs/global/> or call 317-802-4309.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN UPDATE

National FFA Convention in Indianapolis in 2006: The annual national FFA convention is in Louisville, Ky., again this year, and will not move to Indianapolis until 2006. You can access convention site selection information at: http://www.ffa.org/about_ffa/convention2006/index.html.

UPDATE is also available at www.ffa.org/news/html/ffapubsindex.html#update each month. Attachments are 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.

