

New VISIONS



The Official Newsletter of the National FFA Alumni Association

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Alumni Auction: Raising Moo-la for FFA!

By Amber Smyer

It will be *udderly* impossible to resist joining the fun and helping to raise some *moo-la* at the 2005 National FFA Alumni Auction! You'll have a *moovelous* time!

Held during the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, the auction annually raises thousands of dollars to assist students who desire to attend the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) and to award a number of college scholarships to FFA members pursuing degrees in agricultural education.



The auction features over 1,000 items and offers a large variety of products from art and collectibles to tools and equipment. There is sure to be something that catches everyone's eye! There will be a \$5 charge for each bid number issued, which will be applied towards each bidder's auction purchase.

On Friday, October 28 at 5 p.m., join us for appetizers and peruse the items for bid prior to the fun and excitement of the live auction! The live auction will begin at 6 p.m. in convention center 104 and 105 and include a street legal scooter, Carhartt clothing, unique FFA items, and much more!

Visit our website at www.ffa.org/alumni/ to preview current auction donations. Watch for additional information and the auction catalog to arrive with the next issue of *New Visions*.

SILENT AND LIVE AUCTION

The 2005 silent auction will run Wednesday, October 26 through Friday, October 28 in the convention center south wing lobby B. The silent

Donations Needed!

Auction Items: The National FFA Alumni Auction offers entertainment and excitement for convention attendees, while generating funds for student scholarships. Show your support for the FFA and this rewarding activity by donating to the 2005 National FFA Alumni Auction. Donated products, gift certificates, travel packages, and gift baskets are needed to raise funds for the programs the National FFA Alumni Association now offers FFA members.

State Basket Contest: As part of the auction, a state basket contest is held for all state FFA and state FFA Alumni associations to enter. What does the term "basket" mean in your state? Create a fun and inventive basket filled with your state's products and specialties! All baskets will be judged. The top three entries will receive prizes and be sold during the live auction. Contest prizes include a WLC

scholarship, a registration fee to the State Leaders Conference, and 100 tickets in the Alumni convention give-away. This is an opportunity to show state pride and support the FFA!

Student Involvement: Local agricultural education programs can assist in auction fundraising efforts by donating outstanding student projects. This is an excellent opportunity for students to showcase their talents and skills. Needed are projects that represent the diverse areas being taught in local agricultural classes, including woodworking, floral arrangements, supervised experience program products, and everything in between!

Visit www.ffa.org/alumni/ to complete a donation form or contact us at asmeyer@ffa.org or 317-802-4294 for more information. Donation forms must be received by **July 15** for auction items to appear in the catalog.

2005 CALENDAR

Dates when items must be postmarked to National Office

June 15

State Leaders Conference Registration

July 1 – New Date Beginning 2005 LPS Grant applications

July 1

Outstanding/Pioneer Affiliate, Outstanding/Pioneer State Association, Outstanding Achievement, and National Distinguished Contributor applications; and Scrapbooks

State-to-State Mentor Program application
Alumni Council Nominations

July 15

Auction Items to appear in Catalog

July 26-31

State Leaders Conference, Columbus, OH

October 26-28

National FFA Alumni Auction
Louisville, KY

October 27-28

National FFA Alumni Convention
Louisville, KY

Visit our website at www.ffa.org/alumni/ for updated Alumni information or to download award applications.

Forms can be requested by sending a message via e-mail to bhaig@ffa.org or by phoning 317-802-4293. Forms will be mailed via the U.S. Postal Service.

ROUND TABLE

Advocacy Is a Part of Service

As a freshman in high school, I learned the FFA motto. Four short lines packed with wisdom for a solid educational process and for living. We all know it!

“Learning to Do, Doing to Learn,
Earning to Live and Living to Serve!”



Dr. Larry Case

Today, the FFA motto is more meaningful to me. I know the benefits of the teaching-learning process of agricultural education. It is a model for all of education and it serves our students well.

As a member of a local FFA Alumni affiliate, you undoubtedly are thrilled to see local students achieve their goals. In turn, they see you as a role model for service.

It is a complete package. No matter what you do in life, it still applies. It describes a process for learning, a reason for living, and values sorely needed in the world today.

Bonds are formed and community is realized. It just doesn't get any better than that!

Agricultural education is worth keeping and advocates are needed. Keeping programs strong is best done at the local level. Local supporters are the key. Working with students is just part of the task. Serving as community leaders in advocating for strong local programs is also critically important.

Albert Schweitzer once said: “I don't

“Agricultural education is worth keeping and advocates are needed.”

know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.” Thank you for serving students and advocating for strong local agricultural education/FFA programs.

Dr. Larry Case
National FFA Advisor

Council Nominations Needed!

It will be time to select new leaders to serve on the National FFA Alumni Council at this year's national convention.

The Member-At-Large positions currently held by Billy Vestal of Tennessee and Monte Ladner of Mississippi will be open. Both three-year terms run from October 2005 to October 2008. With the election of Norman Gay of Georgia as President-Elect, the Southern Region position is open for election. The elected individual will complete the one year remaining in that term, which is currently held by appointee Ronnie Ansley of North Carolina. The newly elected Southern Region Representative will be eligible to run for a full three-year term in 2006.

Applications are now being accepted for all three positions. Elections will be held

at the national convention business session on Friday, October 28, 2005. All nominations must be postmarked by **July 1, 2005**, for consideration by the national nominating committee.

The Council is responsible for the policies and strategic planning of the National FFA Alumni Association, serves as its executive body and is subordinate to the National FFA Board of Directors. Members do not receive a salary for their work, but are reimbursed for travel expenses as established in Alumni policies.

For more information, contact J. Frank Saldaña at 317-802-4292. To obtain an application, visit the Alumni website at www.ffa.org/alumni, email requests to bhaig@ffa.org, or call 317-802-4293.



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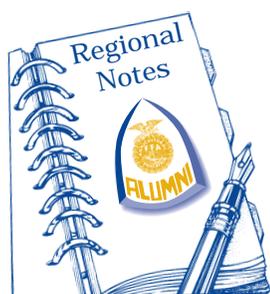
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“Regional Notes” is a column that highlights how local students, teachers, and Alumni from across the country are fulfilling the FFA Alumni mission to secure the promise of agricultural education and the FFA. In each issue, comments from the regional representatives to the National FFA Alumni Council will be presented.

Advocacy and the Local FFA Alumni

The role of local FFA Alumni members in promoting the effectiveness of agricultural education has been the topic of discussion in our organization recently, and especially during the past several months. While we do not mean to diminish the influence of Alumni on the state and national levels, the greatest influence can be obtained through the work of the local FFA Alumni.



Billy Vestal

Many agricultural education programs have been improved and even saved because local FFA Alumni were involved in communicating the value of the program to school administrators and community members. Local school systems continue to face budgetary shortfalls and annually are forced to closely evaluate all aspects of their educational programs to look for avenues to cut costs and

balance the budget. Agricultural education programs are not immune from this scrutiny.

Leaders of a local school system recently decided that the extended or summer employment of agriculture teachers was not a high priority, and consequently reduced their contracts from 12 to 10 months. The local Alumni affiliate developed a plan to convince the school and county government leaders to restore the funding. While the outcome of the initiative is uncertain, there is a high probability that it will succeed, primarily because local Alumni members have been actively promoting agricultural education and the FFA in the community.

Another suburban program in one of our larger cities offers a prime example of what can happen when local Alumni fail to advocate for their program. The teacher of a very active urban agricultural education program moved to another school. The program had a large, active FFA Alumni affiliate with 38 life members in addition to its annual membership.

However, affiliate members failed to maintain a voice for the program, and in a very few years it closed. Had that affiliate worked with school officials to attract and retain a competent teacher, in all probability the program would be alive and strong today.

Local Alumni members need to constantly promote the FFA and agricultural education in their communities. A lone ranger serving as an advocate is important, but affiliate members working together can be more effective.

- Take time at each Alumni meeting to discuss strategies and options for advocacy.
- Inform stakeholders who make the decisions that affect agricultural education of its importance in developing the community's future leaders.

Billy Vestal
Member-At-Large
vestalb@netease.net

Webster's dictionary defines "advocates" as "those who plead and defend the cause of others." Abraham Lincoln was an advocate against women's suffrage during his early years as a state lawmaker from Illinois. Martin Luther King's advocacy for civil rights is well known. History is replete with citizens who served as great advocates for worthy causes.

Today, FFA Alumni serve in the same great capacity as advocates for agricultural education and the FFA. This sense of purpose is felt so strongly among the members that national association leaders selected "Advocates of Agricultural Education" as the theme for this summer's State Leaders Conference. There are many activities that Alumni can conduct to advocate effectively for

agricultural education at all levels.

The Oklahoma FFA Alumni Association has played a vital role in promoting agricultural education and the FFA, and providing opportunities annually to thousands of FFA members. One of the responsibilities of the Alumni during the state FFA convention is to chaperone the state FFA chorus. We launch each convention by taking chorus members to both chambers of the Oklahoma legislature, providing an inspirational taste of what members can look forward to at the convention.

Our largest annual activity is the sponsorship of our Alumni leadership camp. Now in its 33rd year, the camp provides leadership training, group interactions, and character building. In 2004, nearly 1,350 FFA members attended. Former FFA members, who are now

legislators themselves or state leaders, credit the training received at the Alumni camp and the opportunities provided by the FFA for their current success and leadership positions.

Our state association is also a strong advocate at the national level, sponsoring 108 FFA members to attend the Washington Leadership Conference. These students observe our legislative system at work and inform our nation's leaders about the benefits of agricultural education.

The Alumni association is an organization born of need and cradled by enduring principles. As we continue to serve, we must remember it is up to us, the present members, to carry the torch of leadership and further advance our aims and objectives.

Kury Murray
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NEWSLETTER

7 Keys to Success in Agricultural Education

Program Planning

3 Components	3 Strategies
Instruction	Partnerships
SAE	Marketing
FFA	Professional Growth

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2005 National FFA Alumni Association Convention Schedule

CONVENTION SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)	AUCTION SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)
<p>Delegate Registration Friday, October 28, 8 - 9:30 a.m. South Wing - outside Conference Center 106</p> <p>Sessions Awards Session – Thursday, October 27, 4 - 6 p.m. South Wing - Conference Center 105 Awards Appreciation – Thursday, October 27, 6 - 7:30 p.m. South Wing - Conference Center 105 Business Session – Friday, October 28, 9:30 a.m. - Noon South Wing - Conference Center 105</p> <p>Alumni Workshop Schedule (To Be Determined)</p> <p>Alumni Sponsored Entertainment Convention Concert – Thursday, October 27, 9:30 p.m. Broadbent Arena</p> <p>Hypnotists Wednesday, October 26, 4 and 8 p.m. East Hall A Thursday, October 27, 4, 6 and 8 p.m. East Hall A Friday, October 28, 4, 6 and 8 p.m. East Hall A</p>	<p>Wednesday, October 26 Silent Auction Bidding Open 1 - 6 p.m. South Wing Lobby B Live Auction Items on Display 1 - 6 p.m. South Wing Lobby B</p> <p>Thursday, October 27 Silent Auction Bidding Open 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. South Wing Lobby B Live Auction Items on Display 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. South Wing Lobby B</p> <p>Friday, October 28 Silent Auction Bidding Open 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. South Wing Lobby B Silent Auction Closes 2 p.m. Auction Payment/Pickup 4 - 10 p.m. CC* Room 106 Live Auction Social 5 p.m. CC Rooms 104, 105 Live Auction Begins 6 p.m. CC Rooms 104, 105</p> <p>Saturday, October 29 Auction Item(s) Payment/Pickup 8 - 10 a.m. CC Room 106 Mini-Auction for Unclaimed Items 10 - 11 a.m. South Wing Lobby B</p> <p>* CC = Conference Center</p> <p><i>For more convention information, visit www.ffa.org/alumni/ or contact us at 317-802-4292 or alumni@ffa.org.</i></p>