

UPDATE

Vol. XXXIII, No. 11
C. Coleman Harris
U.S. Department of Education
November 2003

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 5-8 National Agriculture Education Inservice, Indianapolis, IN

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. As 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 and 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 ffa.org 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.

The 2004 Scholarship guidebook and application are currently being mailed to all FFA advisors and guidance counselor offices. If you have not received a copy of the scholarship book/application by Dec. 1, 2003, please contact the scholarship office to request one. Students will also be able to download the application from ffa.org at <http://www.ffa.org/programs/schapp/index.html> in December. All scholarship applications must be postmarked by Feb. 15, 2004.

This is the 20th year of the scholarship program, and the National FFA Organization has awarded nearly \$20 million to students since 1984. This year, approximately \$2 million in scholarships is

available. Do your students have the right combination of community service, FFA involvement, leadership skills and SAE development? Encourage them to apply today! Questions about the National FFA Collegiate Scholarship Program can be directed to Carrie Powers at scholarships@ffa.org.

Enter the 2004 Risk Management Writing Contest! FFA members can win an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. when they enter the 2004 Risk Management Writing Contest!

Encourage your members to write a personal essay of no less than 1000 words on the topic of risk management strategies used in a supervised agricultural experience program (SAE) and send it to the National FFA Center. Students should analyze the risks involved in their SAE, describe their risk management strategies and indicate which “tools” were used to minimize risk and how they were applied.

All entries must be postmarked by Jan. 31, 2004. Ten lucky winners and their advisors will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., where they will meet with top U.S. Department of Agriculture officials and tour our nation’s capital. A resource guide and contest rules will be mailed to all chapters in December; contest information and last year’s winning essays are posted at ffa.org. Questions? Contact the Risk Management Writing Contest Program Coordinator at 317-802-4288.

This contest is offered by the National FFA Organization in cooperation with the National Council for Agricultural Education and with funding from the Risk Management Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION NEWS

Attendance record set at 2003 National FFA Convention: This year, 51,338 people attended the 2003 National FFA Convention. The 2003-2004 National Officers were also elected at the convention. Javier Moreno, from Culebra, Puerto Rico, was elected president. Stacia Christine Berry, from Cheyenne, Wyoming, was elected secretary. Christy Windham, from Laurel, Mississippi, was elected southern region vice president. Anne Knapke, from Oxford, Ohio, was elected eastern region vice president. Amy Rasmussen, from Mead, Nebraska, was elected central region vice president. Casey Hogan, from Stephenville, Texas, was elected western region vice president. You can relive key moments of the convention by visiting [<http://www.ffa.org/convention/index.html>](http://www.ffa.org/convention/index.html).

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, lschiller@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 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 their design is 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.

STATE STAFF NEWS

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. Please read all the attached information and make plans to attend the upcoming Inservice.

In addition, we will conduct the National New State Staff Inservice (NSSI) on Feb. 4-5, 2004, at the same location. This is a wonderful opportunity for new state staff to learn more about the programs and services provided by the National FFA as well as connect with the individuals who facilitate them. Those who would greatly benefit from the NSSI are new state FFA advisors, executive secretaries, directors, and other new state staff who work closely with the National FFA

Organization. NSSI will run from noon on Wednesday, Feb. 4, until noon Thursday, Feb. 5. At the conclusion of NSSI, new state staff will also have the opportunity to attend the National Agricultural Education Inservice. Those who wish to attend NSSI prior to the National Ag Ed Inservice are asked to check the appropriate box on the attached registration form (*AEIS 2004 Registration Form*).

For questions on registration, please contact Michele Gilbert, Local Program Success assistant, National FFA Organization, 317-802-4301, mgilbert@ffa.org.

For questions on the National Ag Ed Inservice or NSSI, please contact Tony Small, Local Program Success manager, National FFA Organization, 317-802-4300, tsmall@ffa.org.

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 <<http://www.earthwatch.org>> Scholarship applications are available online at www.ffa.org/programs/global/. Please call 317-802-4309 for more information.

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

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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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 16, 2001

TO: State Staff (Advisors, Executive Secretaries/Directors and other state staff)
Teacher Educators
Teacher Leaders

FROM: Dr. Larry Case, Coordinator, Agricultural and Rural Education, USDE
National FFA Advisor and CEO, National FFA Organization
Bernie Staller, COO, National FFA Organization and FFA Foundation
Anna Melodia, Education Division Director, National FFA Organization
Mark Leitman, Executive Director, National Council for Agricultural Education
Dr. Jay Jackman, Executive Director, NAAE
C. Coleman Harris, USDE and Executive Secretary, National FFA Organization

RE: 2002 National Agricultural Education Inservice

You are invited to attend the 2002 National Agricultural Education Inservice. The dates for the annual event are February 7-10, 2002 in Indianapolis, Indiana at the Downtown Adams Mark Hotel. This year's conference will include an opportunity for agricultural education leadership from across the country to gather together and further explore and focus on current issues that will impact the overall future of agricultural education.

Details and pre-registration information for the meeting are enclosed. The draft agenda provides a perspective of the schedule for the inservice. Please review the information and send the enclosed registration forms to Damon Spight, (preferred) by email dspight@ffa.org, or Fax 317-802-4244, or through regular mail by December 14, 2001. Meeting the registration deadline will ensure funding for those who qualify.

In continuing the commitment to building state leadership capacity, the National FFA Organization, has joined together as a part of TEAM AG ED to provide funding for this year's conference. The guidelines for attending the upcoming event are outlined in the enclosed registration information guidelines. The information is designed to assist you in completing the registration form. Please read closely the section that best applies to your leadership role in agricultural education and to the details on transportation and housing.

The National FFA Organization continues to welcome additional attendees to the National Agricultural Education Inservice at the participant's expense. The hotel and conference center package cost, depending on room preference, is on the registration form and will be charged directly by the hotel. Upon registration, the hotel requires a credit card to guarantee reservations and to cover incidentals during the conference. The hotel does not provide transportation from the airport, but several options are available. Following registration you will receive additional information including transportation to the hotel, flight information, Indianapolis information and confirmation numbers.

If you have additional questions or concerns regarding the Inservice, please contact Tony Small at 317-802-4300.

Enclosures

National Agricultural Education Inservice DRAFT agenda
Downtown Adams Mark Hotel
Indianapolis, Indiana

Thursday, Feb 7, 2002

Day theme: "Celebrating the Strength of Agriculture Education"

1:00-3:00	Registration	Foyer
3:00 p.m.	Opening and Welcome:	Ballroom
3:15 p.m.	Opening Session	
4:30 p.m.	Team Ag Ed State of the Union	Ballroom
	National Agricultural Education Update	
	Larry Case, CEO, National FFA Organization	
	Coleman Harris, National Executive Secretary	
	NAAE Update	
	Jay Jackman, Executive Director, National Association of Agricultural Educators	
	National Council for Agriculture Education	
	Mark Leitman, National Council	
	National FFA Organization and Foundation Update	
	Bernie Staller, COO.	
	"Understanding the role of Team Ag Ed"	
6:15 p.m.	Interactive workshop: "Getting to Know our Team Ag Ed"	
	Breakout sessions divided by the four national regions.	
7:30 p.m.	Reception and Mixer	
	(Followed by a great opportunities to dine in the area.)	

Friday, February 8, 2002

Day Theme: Building Our Personal Strengths

8:00 a.m.	General Session	Ballroom
	StrengthFinder tm	
	Building a Strengths Based Team Ag Ed using StrengthFinder tm	
9:45 a.m.	Breakout sessions	
	Application of Strengths	
	Partnering	
	Providing Leadership	
	Enhancing Management	
11:30 a.m.	General Session	Ballroom
	<i>Building commitment to Team Ag Ed in your state.</i>	
12:30 p.m.	Lunch	
1:45-2:15	State Team Meetings	
2:30 p.m.	Breakout sessions (Related work groups)	
	State Staff / Supervisors, Directors, Consultants	
	State Executive Secretaries/ Directors	
	Teacher Educators	
	Teacher Leaders	
5:30 p.m.	Team Ag Ed Reports (General Session)	
6:15 p.m.	Dinner (On your own)	

Saturday, February 9, 2002

Day Theme: "Tools for Building LPS Capacity/Strength"

Business Casual

8:30 a.m.	General Session	Ballroom
9:30 a.m.	Experiential Learning Sessions	
	<i>Tangible Tools for the Job</i>	
	(Breakout session by work related groups)	

11:00 a.m.	Experiential Learning Sessions (Continued) Technology as a tool Branding: without the iron SAE: Instructional tool or antique methodology Managing the Madness: The pyramid and it's power.	
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m.	Experiential Learning Sessions (Continued) Mentoring and relationships Agriculture and Science: Making the connection Developing Others: tips and techniques Planning strategically: Focusing the resources available.	
2:15 p.m.	Break	
2:30 p.m.	Final Experiential Learning Sessions Career Clusters: Where are we? Managing the fear factor. Tools for the trade Teaching teachers (recruiting outside the box)	
3:30 p.m.	Team meetings (Developing the Action Plan) <i>Commitment to being Partners for Success</i>	
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn	
6:30 p.m.	Dinner <i>Celebration of Our Team Ag Ed (Introductions by States)</i>	Ballroom

2002 Inservice Registration Information

The National Agricultural Education Inservice will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana at the Downtown Adams Mark Hotel the dates of February 7-9, 2002.

As a part of the longstanding commitment to state leadership in agricultural education the National FFA Organization is again providing financial assistance for participants to attend the National Agricultural Education Inservice. In an effort to clarify who is eligible for reimbursement the following detailed information was put together to assist in determining who will be provided assistance. The objective is to provide flexibility to the state leadership to best determine those that should attend and establish suggested guidelines that allow for managing

The National FFA Organization will provide state participants with airfare (21-day advance/Saturday night stay over) and hotel expenses (based upon double occupancy). The emphasis of this year's Inservice is targeted to building strong Team Ag Ed connections in states using the following suggested participants from each state.

Recommended Participant	Details
State Supervisors, Directors	Selected by the lead State Staff Director or Supervisor.
State Executive Secretary/Directors:	Selected by lead State Staff Supervisor or Director.
Teacher Educators:	Each university with an agricultural education teacher preparation program is encouraged to send one person that actively involved in preservice education. The State Supervisor/Director should work with the department chair(s) to determine the participants.
Teacher Leaders:	Invited by NAAE and will represent the state professional organization as the state president or president-elect. Registration information is being sent directly to the representative designated by NAAE. Coordination with the state supervisor/director is essential.

In an effort to provide every state an equitable opportunity for state representatives to attend, the following breakdown has been established. Each state is responsible for serving different numbers of students and teachers. Determination for the categories is based upon the number of agricultural education students engaged in more than one component of an integral agricultural education program, specifically through their FFA membership.

The additional participants from the larger states must be designated by the lead state staff representative and can represent any of the Team Ag Ed participant groups listed above. In states with more than one teacher education institution: one representative from each different school responsible for preservice teacher education is encouraged.

Agricultural Education Students w/ FFA membership	# Of Inservice Participants Costs covered (housing double occup, transportation)
States with 10,000 or less paid FFA membership:	Four (4) participants
States with 10,000 to 19,999 paid FFA membership:	Five (5) participants
States with more than 20,000 paid FFA membership:	Six (6) participants
**Additional representatives are welcome at their expense	**Unlimited

States wishing to register additional participants to attend the inservice are encouraged to do so. The inservice is open to all who wish to participate and gain valuable insight on current trends and information in agriculture education. Additional participants will be responsible for all costs including the \$100.00 registration fee. All hotel registrations must be completed through the National FFA Organization to ensure rate.

Your hotel registration information is located on the bottom of the registration form. Please include any specific requests for rooming arrangements when registering.

All flights paid for by the National FFA Organization must be booked through the new National FFA Organization travel director. We ask all participants who using FFA funding for air transportation expect a Saturday night stay over to ensure lower costs for transportation. The Saturday night stay will schedule a departure on Sunday, February 10, 2002.

Please use the Excel template flight request form with the registration form to provide the needed information for booking your flight. For prompt efficient service send the registration form and flight form electronically or by fax to the addresses listed on the forms. Please pay close attention to the due date (**December 14, 2001**). You will receive your flight itinerary along with all pre-inservice information soon after the reservations are complete.

√ **Checklist for registration Forms**

- ☐ Complete the registration forms provided and include all information requested.
 - Inservice Registration
 - Flight request form is appropriate
- ☐ Send all e-registration forms electronically or by fax to the contact listed on the forms. This will ensure prompt service to you.
- ☐ Send the registration fee or P.O. and a copy of all forms to the address listed on the forms.



Team Ag Ed
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION INSERVICE REGISTRATION

Indianapolis, Indiana

FEBRUARY 5-8, 2004



REGISTRATION DUE: POSTMARK DATE DECEMBER 3, 2003

1. PERSONAL INFO -- GIVE YOUR NAME EXACTLY AS IT READS ON YOUR GOVERNMENT ISSUED ID

Dr. Mr. Ms. Mrs. This information will be used to update the State Staff Database. If you like to be addressed differently, please fill in the Preferred or Nick Name box.

Formal Name: Preferred or Nick Name:

Title: Phone:

Organization: Fax:

Address:

City: State: Zip Code:

E-mail: * Providing an E-MAIL address will speed up the confirmation process and receipt contact information for coordinating travel.

ARRIVAL DATE

(ex. Thursday, February 5)

DEPARTURE DATE

(ex. Sunday, February 8)

2. REGISTRATION ~ \$100 fee per person, ALL participant types

Participant Type (Place an "X" the appropriate box):

- ☐ State Staff (Advisors, Exec. Secretary/Directors & other state staff)
- ☐ Preservice Teacher Educator
- ☐ State NAAE/Teacher Leader representative/Teacher
- ☐ State FFA Foundation
- ☐ *Other (i.e. additional state representative, industry representative, state alumni representative, etc.)

Will you be attending New State Staff Inservice?

Yes ☐ No ☐

** New State Staff Inservice will begin on Feb. 4th at 12:00 p.m. and will end on Feb. 5th at 12:00 p.m. Registration for National Ag Ed Inservice will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Feb. 5th.

Payment Method:

☐ Check Enclosed

Check #

Make Checks & POs payable to: National FFA Organization

☐ Purchase Order

PO #

☐ Bill Credit Card

CC#

Type

Exp.

ex. 8888-1565-8765-3559

ex. MC, Visa, Am Exp, Discover

ex. 08/03

3. HOUSING / TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Double Occupancy

State Staff/Teacher Educators/Teachers Covered (No room charges, except incidentals)

* Others (\$68+tax/night plus incidentals - w/roommate)--charged by hotel

Single Occupancy

State Staff/Teacher Educators/Teachers Covered (\$56+tax/night plus incidentals)--charged by hotel

* Others (\$111+tax/night plus incidentals)--charged by hotel

Rooming preference (please check all that apply):

Double ☐ Smoking ☐ Roommate Name Roommate State

Single ☐ Non-Smoking ☐ Hotel Room Not Required ☐

If you are unable to attend, you must contact Michele Gilbert to cancel your room reservation.

Method of Travel:

Air

☐

Driving

☐

Other (please explain)

If traveling by air, please make your flight arrangements by **December 5, 2003** (include a Saturday night stay-over).

4. SEND COMPLETED FORM TO: Michele Gilbert at mgilbert@ffa.org or fax to (317) 802-5301

5. CONTACT FOR REGISTRATION QUESTIONS:

Make Checks/POs payable to:

National FFA Organization

ATTN: Michele Gilbert

RE: National Ag Ed Inservice

6060 FFA Dr, PO Box 68960

Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960

Registration Contact:

Michele Gilbert, LPS Assistant

Education Division, National FFA Organization

Phone: 317-802-4301

Fax: 317-802-5301

Email: mgilbert@ffa.org

Form is due no later than:

December 3, 2003

AEIS Reg Fm 04.2