



# UPDATE



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U.S. Department of Education

## Dates to Remember:

**April 8** - National School Boards Conference, Chicago, IL

**April 20** - National Assoc. of Ag Educators Region 1 Conference, Boise Idaho

**May 15** - All FFA membership dues and FFA Delegate appt dues date

**May 15** - Alumni rosters must be postmarked

**May 15** - Alumni Legion of Merit Awards applications Due

## Media Center

Country superstar visits FFA Today! ...[read more.](#)

Travis Jett hosts National Agriculture Week FFA Rally in Washington, D.C. ...[read more.](#)

National FFA Organization Launches LifeKnowledge Center, Recognizes Founding Partner Contributions ... [read more.](#)

National convention rebroadcasts continue on [RFD-TV](#) . ...[broadcast dates.](#)

## Update Links

### THE LATEST FROM FFA

**LifeKnowledge ads in a magazine near you:** A LifeKnowledge advertisement will soon begin appearing in various agricultural publications. The ad will run in monthly publications plus some biweekly newspapers. Generally, the ad will run in April, although some could appear earlier or later. The publications are providing their advertising space free of charge. Around 35 publications will be running the LifeKnowledge ad including Successful Farming, Farm Industry News, Farm Journal, Farm Progress, Top Producer, various commodity

problem, the sponsor labels will be supplied to the state with their convention state check order. Please do not penalize any application due to this sponsor label problem. We are working on formatting the labels into an Avery 5162 label that we will be able to place on the FFA website.

**Applications (Proficiency and American Degree):** We have received numerous phone calls regarding the Proficiency and American Degree applications not showing a zero in the cells that hold numbers. Due to the new calculation that only allows "Whole Numbers" to be entered, the zeros do not show up in the number cells. This is across the board and all applications will appear the same.

Questions? Contact: Rosalie Hunsinger, 317-802-4255

Click Here for [American Degree](#) or [Proficiency Information](#).

### Risk Management Essay Contest Winners Announced

Ten winners have been chosen in the 2006 National FFA Risk Management Essay Contest sponsored by the USDA Risk Management Agency. Each of the winners and a chaperone will travel to Washington, D.C. the first week of May to be honored during a special recognition ceremony at USDA. The winners are:

- **Caleb Alexander**, Garden City, Kan.; Garden City FFA
- **Emily Arkfeld**, Dunbar, Neb.; Lourdes Central Catholic FFA
- **Jeffrey Bridges**, Grapeland, Tex.; Grapeland FFA
- **Monty Brown**, Canton, Okla.; Canton FFA
- **Angie Bushong**, Tulare, S.D.; Hitchcock-Tulare FFA
- **Alexandria Henry**, Elwell, Mich.; Alma FFA
- **Troy Kimmel**, Stoneham, Co.; New Raymer FFA
- **James Lyons**, Georgetown, Ky.; Scott County FFA
- **Sierra Simpson**, Kremlin, Okla.; Timberlake FFA
- **Kate Wheeldon**, Schuyler, Neb.; Schuyler FFA

For additional information on the Risk Management Essay Contest, contact: Jessica Scholer, 317-802-4288, [jscholer@ffa.org](mailto:jscholer@ffa.org).

### 79TH NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION IN INDIANAPOLIS

**Convention Planning Guide and Chapter Toolkit:** In mid-April, FFA advisors across the country will receive the **First Edition Advisor's Planning Guide** containing convention housing information. Included in the same mailing will be a welcome packet from the Indianapolis Local Organizing Committee. Be on the lookout for this important mailing.

**Online Convention Registration:** Pre-registration for the annual national FFA convention is always your best bet to ensure your chapter obtains opening session tickets, concert tickets and entertainment options. This year, pre-registering will be easier than ever before, thanks to online convention registration. Advisors nationwide will have the option to register online, seeing real-time availability of tour, National Day of Service, concert and rodeo tickets. You'll be able to print out a confirmation of your registration online, and, best of all, you'll receive FREE shipping and handling on your convention tickets and registration packet. We anticipate a mid-August opening for convention pre-registration, both online and via mail or FAX, which will coincide with the release of the **Second Edition Advisor's Planning Guide**.

Be on the lookout for important instructions in upcoming editions of **UPDATE** and the **Second Edition Advisor's Planning Guide**. Of course, you can always

### Links referenced in articles, news & notes

- [State Guide](#)
- [NLCSO](#)
- [CDE Program](#)
- [Proficiencies](#)
- [American Degree](#)
- [Move to Indy](#)
- [National Alumni](#)

### FFA Unlimited

## Spring Sale

### Shop

## FFA Marketplace

### Online Links

- [MyFFA Login](#)
- [Website Assistance](#)
- [WebLinks Directory](#)
- [Photo Gallery](#)
- [Media Center](#)

still FAX a hard-copy registration form to the National FFA Center, but shipping and handling charges will apply to registrations submitted this way.

**Visit the [Move to Indy](#) information on [ffa.org](#).** The updated convention site will be available soon.

**2006 National FFA Convention Indianapolis Housing Incentive:** The registration fee for the 2006 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., has been set by the National FFA Board of Directors at \$40 per person. As an incentive for using the official Indianapolis housing block, FFA will reduce the pre-registration fee to \$30 per person for chapters registered through the housing block. The standard \$40 registration fee will apply to all participants who do not use the official Indianapolis housing block, including those who drive in locally. This two-tiered fee structure will ensure that the cost of the convention facilities – which include Conseco Fieldhouse, the RCA Dome, the Indianapolis Convention Center and the Indiana State Fairgrounds – is shared equally by all convention participants, regardless of their housing plans.

Just as was done in Louisville, a small portion of the daily room rates charged by the hotels in the official FFA housing block will be used by the Indianapolis Convention and Visitors Association to pay for the convention facilities. Since those outside the official housing block do not contribute to that portion of the facility payment, the incentive discount does not apply.

**State Housing Blocks:** As a friendly reminder, a \$50.00 (non-refundable) deposit per room reserved is due to the National FFA office by June 1, 2006. (Checks should be made payable to the National FFA Organization.) On May 1, you will receive an e-mail verifying your room block (room types and counts). If you have any questions, contact: Ellen Williams, 317-802-4269.

Those states and chapters not participating in the state housing block can still reserve rooms. The forms will be included in the First Edition Advisor's available Mid-April 2006. The deadline for housing forms to be received at the National FFA Center is Sept. 25, 2006.

### **STATE STAFF NOTES**

**State Checks:** National FFA Foundation Vouchers Form A: Previously we had reported our auditors required the social security number on all state check recipients. That ruling has now been changed to the social security number is required on convention national finalist/winner applications only. The Form A on the [state guide](#) has been changed to reflect this ruling. If you had previously downloaded the form with the social security number included, you may leave that field blank. Questions? Contact Rosalie Hunsinger 317- 802-4255 Visit the [State Guide](#)

**NLC SO Schedule for 2006:** Click here for [NLC SO Online](#) information, including the 2006 Schedule and Hosts. Questions? Contact: Marshall Baker, 317-802-4359

**NRCS announces Mid-America Grassland Evaluation Contest:** This contest is open to FFA and 4-H Members and occurs June 6-7, 2006. **Click here for the [Contest Rules \(.pdf\)](#).**

### ***Coming Soon! : New National Officer Selection Process Resources***

During the January National FFA Board of Directors Meeting, members approved 14 recommendations regarding the national FFA officer selection

process and the national FFA nominating committee. Several of these recommendations involved policies associated with eligibility for national office and service on the nominating committee. National FFA staff members are currently working to develop the systems and resources necessary to facilitate implementation of the 14 recommendations. Below is a timeline indicating when many of the resources will be available:

**National Officer Selection Process Webpage** - Available by April 15, 2006 - The Webpage will contain information for prospective national officers; resources for current candidates; and prospective nominating committee members. Documents and resources will be added to the page in the coming months.

**National Officer Selection Process Handbook** - Available by May 1, 2006 - This handbook will contain detailed information about the application, interviews, competencies being evaluated in each round, and policies affecting the national officer selection process. The handbook will be made available on the public webpage created for the national officer selection process.

**Nominating Committee Potential Nomination System** - Available by May 1, 2006 - This system will support the national officers in finding a pool of well-qualified students to serve on the nominating committee. Any member of Team AgEd who has a MyFFA account at [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) will be eligible to nominate an individual they believe is qualified to serve on the nominating committee. Nominations for this committee will be accepted through this system from May thru July, 2006. A key state leader in each state will review eligible nominations from the state. After reviewing, this contact will approve and submit names of students eligible for the opportunity (by state's standards) to the national FFA officer team for their review. More details regarding the process will be available on the National Officer Selection Process Webpage in the Nominating Committee section by April 15.

**National Officer Candidate Application (Paper Version)** - Available by April 15, 2006 - A MS Excel® version of the national officer application will be made available via the Selection Process Webpage. The paper version is for preparatory and state use only. An online application system will be utilized to facilitate the candidate application submission and certification process this year.

**National Officer Candidate Application (Online Version)** - Available by June 1, 2006 - An online application system is currently under construction. This system will be available to only the candidate who is selected from your state association to apply for national office. Candidates will be able to complete, save, edit, and submit their application for national office through this online system. State leaders will be able to review candidate applications throughout the process; however, students are responsible for submitting the final version of the application to National FFA by the August 1, 2006 deadline. A help guide will be available to all candidates and state leaders. Technical support will also be available from national FFA staff.

A full report on the national FFA officer selection process revision is available from national FFA staff upon request. For a copy of the workgroup report please contact Doug Kueker by phone at 317-802-4272. For all inquiries regarding the new selection process please contact Josh Bledsoe by phone at 317-802-4291.

## **ALUMNI**

**Washington Leadership Conference scholarship**

The 2006 National FFA Alumni WLC student scholarships packets were sent to qualifying state and local affiliates in February. [2006 WLC Scholarship Awards List.](#)

### **State Leaders Conference**

Mark your calendars to attend the 2006 FFA Alumni State Leaders Conference, July 11-16, 2006 in Nashville, TN.

Click here for the [Invitation](#) and [Registration Form.](#) Contact your state Alumni leaders about the possibility of being the official state representative!

Registration due June 1.

**Rosters & Legion of Merit Applications:** Remember that alumni rosters are due to the National FFA Center by the May 15 postmark date in order to qualify for grants, awards and delegate counts. Legion of Merit applications are also due on this date.

[Visit the National FFA Alumni online.](#)

### **AS SEEN IN PREVIOUS UPDATES**

**National Convention Judges:** The National FFA Organization is accepting nominations for judges for the Agricultural Proficiency Awards, Stars, Agriscience Awards, and National Chapter Awards at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this fall. The Agricultural Proficiency and the Star Awards judging will take place on Thursday, Oct. 26, 2006, and all of the judges will be invited to an awards luncheon on that day. The Agriscience Awards will be judged on Wednesday, Oct. 25 and Thursday, Oct. 26. National Chapter Awards will be judged on Wednesday, Oct. 25. We are not able to cover any expenses for the judges. Submit Nominations to: Rosalie Hunsinger, National FFA Organization. P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960, fax: 317-802-5255.

[Nomination Application \(.pdf\)](#)

**Host the National Officer Team:** The National FFA Organization is seeking a state association to host the entire national FFA officer team in early January, 2007, for the annual National FFA Officer Training Experience Week. This is a terrific opportunity to have all six officers in your state for seven days to interact with FFA members, advisors and supporters. Interested states can request an application by contacting Mark Wilburn, 317-802-4252.

Applications are due at the National FFA Center by Sept. 1.

**2006 State Leadership Resource Guide Online:** The proceedings from the 2006 National Ag Ed Inservice are now available online. This year, we are happy to provide this information online (only), so you will have access to it anytime, anywhere. Please enjoy this great resource! **Click Here for [National Ag Ed Inservice Resources.](#)**

IMPORTANT NOTE: "Due to the large size of some documents, it is advised that you right-click on the desired document link and select 'Save Target As'. Then, save the file to your computer BEFORE you attempt to open it."

**Washington Leadership Conference:** It's time to start planning for the 2006 Washington Leadership Conference. Due to the increasing popularity of WLC, the 2006 conference will be offered for seven weeks instead of six! The 2006 conference dates are; June 6-11, June 13-18, June 20-25, June 27-July 2, July 11-16, July 18-23, July 25-30.

Advisors: be sure to read about the new advisor program options and registration. Registration begins March 1, 2006. Questions? Contact: Tina Paris, 317-802-4238. **[Click Here for WLC Information & Registration.](#)**

**WLC Registration:** Due to technical difficulties, please note a change in the fax number for WLC registration. Please fax forms to 317-802-6051 to the attention of T.J. Abbey.

**1 Million Hour Challenge:** The National FFA Organization is excited to announce the 1 Million Hour Challenge, a special challenge issued to chapters across the country in an effort to unite youth with their communities. Knowing that service learning projects and community development projects can take place throughout the year, FFA chapters will be challenged to document the number of service hours they take part in from Nov. 1, 2005 to Oct. 1, 2006.

The 1 Million Hour Challenge is really very simple, but it can make a great impact. **[Click Here for the Million Hour Challenge Information.](#)**

***UPDATE is available online [Click Here](#)***

#### **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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Visit [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) for more information.