



UPDATE



Vol. XXXVI, No. 6

U.S. Department of Education

THE LATEST FROM FFA

National FFA Announces New Division Director: Dr. Waidelich has been named Division Director for Research Development and Sponsored Programs.

[Read the full press release here.](#)

Delta Conference: The National FFA Organization's Delta Conference will take place July 16 - 21, in Indianapolis. Thirty-one first time attendees have been selected to attend Delta and nineteen participants from last year's program have been selected to attend Delta II. Their selection was based on the scoring of multiple essay questions, their use of LifeKnowledge, and reference checks. Delta II participants will leave the conference with turn key strategies to help fellow teachers, pre-service teachers, and state leaders integrate LifeKnowledge into local programs. Each participant will receive a scholarship that covers conference expenses. The scholarships are provided by former members of the National FFA Foundation's Sponsors' Board. Attached is a Word document listing the individuals selected and the conference mentors. Contact: Andy Armbruster, aarmbruster@ffa.org, 317-802-4308, *Please click on the 2006 Delta Participants attachment.*

THE 79TH NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION IN INDIANAPOLIS

Second Edition Advisor's Planning Guide: Be on the lookout in mid-August for the *Second Edition Advisor's Planning Guide*, a big mailing filled with all the planning tools and information you need for the 79th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis this October. With the APGII, you'll receive information on the Collegiate Career Expo, the School Officials Luncheon and more information about the convention host city of Indianapolis. **The on-line convention registration system will be available after the Second Edition Advisor's Planning Guide is mailed in mid-August.**

Important Indianapolis Information: As the convention moves to its new host city this fall, there will be several changes from years past. First and foremost, for their safety and security, please instruct your students and attendees to **wear their convention badges at all times** – not just when attending convention sessions or the career show. The city of Indianapolis has an 11 p.m. curfew for all minors under the age of 18. FFA members attending the 79th National FFA Convention will be exempt from this curfew, but only if they can be easily identified. Convention registration badges can also assist Indianapolis volunteers in identifying convention attendees should they need assistance or directions to convention locations and events.

Convention Ticket Refund Information: The process of allocating tickets for national FFA convention sessions and activities is designed to be fair and efficient. By carefully planning ticket purchases, advisors can ensure FFA members receive confirmed access to these opportunities and that as many students as possible are able to participate. As with most public events,

June 6 – WLC begins and continues through July 30, Washington, DC

June 15- Costa Rica Proficiency Winners Depart

June 15- Honorary American Degree, Distinguished Service, VIP Award due postmarked to the FFA Center

June 16 – FFA Foundation Day of Service

June 30 - H.O. Sargent Awards for both member and non-member recognition due postmarked to the FFA Center

July 1 – Grant, Award & Council Nomination applications due postmarked to the FFA Center

July – 11-16 Alumni State Leaders Conference, Nashville, TN

July 16-21 – Delta Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana

July 21- 26 – FFA Board of Director's meeting and State President's Conference, Washington, DC

Update Links

Links referenced in articles, news & notes

- [Collegiate](#)

convention event tickets are nonrefundable. Please note that opening session tickets may only be exchanged at the on-site convention registration counter in Indianapolis. Exchange of these tickets will only be possible if the desired session has available seats and if the session being exchanged has not already occurred.

Tickets sold for activities such as music concerts, Xtreme Bulls, hypnotist performances, etc., are nonrefundable once an order is processed. These tickets may not be exchanged or returned unless the event is cancelled. In the case of a cancellation, instructions on receiving refunds will be communicated. Questions about the purchase or exchange of convention tickets can be directed to Sheridan Gilchrist, sgilchrist@ffa.org. Your cooperation and careful planning are appreciated and will help guarantee a positive experience for all FFA members and advisors.

2006 American Degree Recognition Upgrade

With the move to Indianapolis we felt it was a great opportunity to revise the recognition of the American Degree recipients for 2006. In the past the recipient has had to pay for their convention session pass as we did not have sponsorship. The upgrade of their recognition will be as follows:

- American Degree session will be held Saturday, October 28, on the American Degree Stage in the RCA Dome, rather than Consecro Fieldhouse
- The Eighth Convention Session American Degree recognition will start at **7:45 a.m.** and will be in reverse order Wyoming - Alabama
- American Degree certificate in a blue leatherette frame.
- American Degree recipient receives a complimentary session pass for themselves and their two parents (3 total)
- American Degree recipient receives a free ticket for the reception to be held on Friday, Oct. 27 from 7 - 9 p.m. in the Indianapolis Convention Center - Sagamore Ballroom. ***The reception takes the place of the luncheon*** normally held on Saturday afternoon.
- Additional tickets to the reception may be purchased for \$10.00 each
- RSVP card mailed to recipients confirming their attendance to the reception. This will allow us to estimate attendance.
- All information regarding this recognition will be sent to the recipients immediately following approval of recipients by the board of directors

American Degree Application Updated:

The American Degree application template posted on the FFA website has been updated, effective May 24. We added a field asking for the e-mail address of the applicant. This field is required for the convention registration process. Unfortunately, we did not discover the need for this field before the 2006/2007 LPR CD-ROM was formatted. Please inform your schools to download the latest version of the template before filling out the application for the 2007 convention. Questions regarding the updated application can be sent to Rosalie Hunsinger, rhunsinger@ffa.org, 317-802-4255.

Honorary Award Applications: Just a reminder that the applications for Honorary American Degrees, VIP Awards and Distinguished Service Citations are due on June 15! Contact: Carrie Powers, cpowers@ffa.org. **[Click here for the applications.](#)**

CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

2006 CDE deadlines: Deadlines for the 2006 National FFA CDEs are as follows:

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

FFA Unlimited

Shop

[FFA Marketplace](#)

Online Links

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

- July 7 Team Certification Forms due
 Student Waiver Forms due
 CDE Special 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 11 Add/Delete Forms Due

Important Information regarding CDE certification and payment

The deadline for CDE declaration forms was June 1. Several states have submitted their declaration forms, and before we start invoicing states based upon those teams, we wanted to inform all state staff of the processes that will be continued this year to ensure that declaration forms, certification forms, and payments are appropriately processed.

If your state asks the participating chapters to 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 would be most 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 (4) 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 label "CDE Certification Forms/Waivers")
- a legal size envelope pre-addressed to the Accounts Receivable Department at the National FFA Center (with a green label "CDE Certification Payment")

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 sized 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 proactive 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, jscholer@ffa.org, 317-802-4288.

New Important 2006 CDE Policy Changes:

Please review the complete list of policy changes available online: [Click Here](#).

OTHER FFA NEWS

National FFA Positions available: Currently, The National FFA Organization has several staff positions open. Some of the positions are: Education Specialist, Chapter Leadership Continuum and Program Manager, Career Development Events and HR Generalist. [Click here for full descriptions of all positions.](#)

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 November 1, 2005 to October 1, 2006. The 1 Million Hour Challenge is really very simple, but can make a great impact. [Click here for 1 Million Hour Challenge information.](#)

Important Membership System Information: The Membership System in PeopleSoft will be unavailable to users Aug. 2 through Aug. 9 for upgrades. These upgrades are a continued enhancement to make Online Membership more user friendly for advisors and state staff. This lockout will include both Live and Training modules.

Membership Delegate Allotment Deadline, June 15, 2005: Final Delegate Allotments presented with any approved amendments based on appeals.

Membership Totals for 2005-2006 – The Membership Team would like to thank all the hard work from state staff this year. Through May 15, 2006, we have received 490,428 members, already exceeding totals for 2004-2005 membership year. States exceeding last year's total membership include: Oklahoma, Missouri, Michigan, Utah, Wyoming, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, California, Virginia, New Mexico, Nebraska, Montana, Florida, Kentucky, Connecticut, and Illinois.

Impact Study on WLC Complete - The Research, Development and Special Projects Division at the National FFA Organization is pleased to release an impact study conducted on a sample of participants in the WLC program between 2003 and 2005. The Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communications Department at Texas A&M University partnered with FFA staff to complete this investigation. The study included 338 WLC student participants self-selected to respond to the questionnaire. In addition, in-depth community visits were used to provide a clearer picture of the WLC experience. The results from both sources were used to evaluate the conference in D.C., the WLC On-line program, and the effectiveness of the Living to Serve Plans created by students. Results are reported in both an executive summary as well as a detailed research report. The report is attached to this document as a PDF. This study is part of a larger review of the WLC Programming. The data and recommendations included in this report will be used by a task force meeting in July 2006 to continue the systematic investigation and review of the WLC programs. Questions about the report may be sent to Doug Kueker, dkueker@ffa.org, 317-802-4272.

WLC Task Force - The Research, Development and Special Projects Division at the National FFA Organization is partnering with stakeholders in the field and the Leadership and Educational Programs Division to conduct a participatory evaluation of the Washington Leadership Conference Programs. The group will observe the conference program in D.C., conduct interviews with teachers, students, and staff, and utilize data collected from multiple sources to formulate recommendations for program improvement. The task force will be on-site the week of July 10-15 to finalize their work. Task force members include: Jason Larison (KS) - Board of Directors - Chairperson; Matt Davis (MO) - Administrator; Sarah Regan (TX) - Parent; Stephanie Warner (IN) - State Leader; Kirk Maag (OR) - Past Staff Member; Dane White (CA) - Past National Officer; Destiny Belz (MO) - Student Representative; Dale Beaty (WI) - National FFA Alumni Representative; Nick Brown (OK) - Agriculture Instructor; James Paul Bailey (AL) - Student Representative; Jaysa Crist (ID) - Student Representative; Patrick Kirby (NH) - Sponsor Representative. Questions or feedback for the task force to consider may be sent to dkueker@ffa.org, 317-802-4272.

Leadership Continuum Workgroup Research Reports - The Board of Directors appointed a working group to review and offer recommendations regarding the future of leadership development. Staff from the Education Division and the Research Development and Special Project Division have collaborated with this group to begin developing a plan for keeping Agricultural Education and FFA leadership programming cutting-edge in the next 5-10 years. The group has worked with information from a number of sources. This information may be useful to you in your own work. Attached to this Update are the following:

- A summary of findings from an input meeting held in June 2005. The concept development meeting provided a forum to discuss innovations in leadership development. Forty "thought leaders" from education, industry, agricultural education, leadership consultants, and youth organizations participated in the event.
- A summary of findings from a survey administered to state leaders regarding how states support leadership development at the local level. The data for this report were collected from 35 participating state leaders during the annual NASAE meeting in Louisville, KY. The questionnaire asked participants questions about their current state leadership program offerings as well as gathered thoughts about programs offered from the National FFA Center.
- Local leadership development needs study. This study was conducted by researchers at the University of Missouri - Columbia. The attached report is a set of preliminary findings as of February, 2006. A randomly selected sample of 100 schools from across the country were contacted to participate in a survey regarding their attitudes and perceptions of leadership development in local activities. The final report is expected in June, 2006.

The workgroup will continue discussions in June 2006, and will submit a plan for leadership development to the National FFA Board of Directors in July 2006 for review and discussion. Questions about the reports and or comments for the Leadership Continuum Workgroup may be sent to dkueker@ffa.org, 317-802-4272.

National Officer Selection Process Web Page: This Web page is accessible to anyone who wishes to view it from the front page of www.ffa.org. 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 for more details. To

access the page roll your mouse over "Members and Students" and choose "Becoming an Officer" in the dynamic menu that appears.

National Officer Selection Process Handbook: This handbook contains detailed information about the application, interviews, competencies being evaluated in each round, and policies affecting the national officer selection process. [Click here for the handbook.](#)

Nominating Committee Potential Nomination System: 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 Ag Ed who has a "My FFA" account on 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 through 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. [Click here for more details on the National Officer Selection Process.](#)

National Officer Candidate Application: A Microsoft Excel® version of the national officer application is available via the National Officer Selection Process Web page. ***The paper version is for preparatory and state use only.*** The online application system is currently under construction. This system will be available to only the candidate 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 Center by the Aug. 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.

To Gain Access to the Online Application System: Once your state has selected your official candidate please have them register as a student/member on MyFFA. Have the state contact for the national officer selection process e-mail the candidate's full name to Phyllis McDonald at pmcdonald@ffa.org along with following information:

- Candidate's "My FFA" Name
- Candidate's "My FFA" Chapter ID
- Candidate's "My FFA" Registered Zip Code
- Candidate's "My FFA" Registered E-mail address

Allow **five** business days for the candidate's information to be processed once the state leader submits info above. Official candidates will then receive a confirmation e-mail with instructions for accessing the online application system. The system will be available after June 15, 2006. For all inquiries regarding the new selection process contact: jbledsoe@ffa.org, 317-802-4291.

Leave Your Mark – Buy a Brick!

You have an opportunity to make your mark in the courtyard at the National FFA Center! Honor an individual, an agriculture teacher, chapter, officer team, or create a memorial tribute by purchasing your very own brick. For \$250, you can purchase a 4-by 8-inch brick with a two-line inscription. For \$1,000, you can purchase a larger, 8-by 8-inch brick with up to four lines inscribed. With the National FFA Convention moving to Indianapolis this year, thousands of FFA

members, advisors and friends of the organization will be touring the Center. The bricks in the courtyard serve as a visible reminder of the far-reaching support for FFA and agricultural education. Add your name, chapter name, or the name of a loved one to this special place while supporting FFA members through the National FFA Foundation. You'll be in good company! To purchase a brick, visit the National FFA Foundation web page: www.ffa.org, or call 317-802-4234.

ALUMNI

Washington Leadership Conference scholarships

The 2006 National FFA Alumni WLC student scholarships packets were sent to qualifying state and local affiliates in February. WLC sessions begin the first week of June, be sure any awarded Alumni scholarship is submitted with student registration prior to attendance. Refunds will not be issued for documentation received after registration is completed. Contact: Betsy Haig, bhaig@ffa.org, 317-802-4293.

Grant, Award & Council Nomination Applications: The following applications are due to the National FFA Center by the **July 1** postmark date. Local Program Support Grants, Outstanding/Pioneer Affiliate award, Outstanding State FFA Alumni award, Outstanding Achievement Award, National Distinguished Contributor award, scrapbooks and National FFA Alumni Council nominations. National FFA Alumni is currently accepting nominations for Alumni members to fill the Eastern Region and Southern Region representative positions on the National FFA Alumni Council. Contact: alumni@ffa.org to receive forms via e-mail or mail.

National FFA Alumni Auction: Interested in helping FFA students attend Washington Leadership Conference? Donate an item to the 2006 National FFA Alumni Benefit Auctions to help raise money for student scholarships! Held during national convention the goal of the 2006 Alumni auction is to raise \$100,000 to provide scholarships for FFA members to attend WLC and collegiate scholarships for students pursuing a career in agricultural education. Showcase student projects, local businesses, alumni/supporter talents and help raise us raise \$100,000 for student scholarships! Contact: asmeyer@ffa.org, **[Click here for the Auction Donation Form.](#)**

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.

