

UPDATE

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U.S. Department of Education
August 2004

DATES TO REMEMBER

August

- 3-5 National Council for Agricultural Education Board of Directors meeting, Alexandria, Va.
- 15 Prepared Public Speaking CDE manuscripts due, FFA Center

September

- 15 Agricultural Communications CDE Portfolios due, FFA Center
- Agricultural Issues CDE Portfolios due, FFA Center
- Job Interview CDE Portfolios due, FFA Center
- Marketing CDE Portfolios due, FFA Center

THE LATEST FROM FFA

Board Meeting: The National FFA Board of Directors and National Foundation Board of Trustees met in Indianapolis, Ind., July 8-13, 2004. Read the attached summary for more information on the meeting.

Retiring COO Honored: After 37 years of service, Bernie Staller retired as Chief Operating Officer of the National FFA Organization on July 16. Staller began his career as an agribusiness instructor and FFA advisor at Janesville-Parker High School in Janesville, Wis. During the 11 years he taught, enrollment in his agricultural education program grew from 40 to 500 students, and the faculty expanded from one to five instructors. In 1977, Staller joined the National FFA Foundation in Madison, Wis., and in just two years he was named executive director. Staller was named to the then newly created position of COO of the National FFA Organization in 1991. The National FFA Organization has, under Staller's leadership, secured a \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and \$500,000 in sponsorship from John Deere to develop leadership and personal development curricula that meet the educational needs of rural youth. Through the grant, FFA is creating LifeKnowledge, a comprehensive collection of lesson plans that will allow the nation's 10,000 agriculture teachers to deliver cutting-edge leadership training to students.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Bernie for his dedication to FFA and wish him well in the future. If you would like to send him a note, please do so at 2112 W. Glenmoor Lane, Janesville, WI 53543.

Official Jacket Update: Jackets currently being shipped now feature new emblems that have been updated to restore the design and color of the original FFA emblem. The jacket's front emblem now matches its back emblem, and the color of the thread used for the jacket's embroidery matches the gold in the new emblem. Beginning in August chapters will begin seeing their jackets arrive in the original shade of FFA national blue. Last fall, new COO Doug Loudenslager, donated a portion of his national officer jacket in order to recapture the color for the new jacket. We're very excited about these changes and understand that we will have a mix of both colors for the next few years, but believe these changes are a move in the right direction that will get us closer to how the original jacket looked. For more information, contact Lee Anne Shiller, lashiller@ffa.org.

Get Ready to "REV It Up" in 2005: You'll be hearing the words "REV It Up" in the coming months, and here's the reason: Thanks to grant monies from the USDA, the National FFA Organization will create and distribute a toolkit of new and redeveloped materials focusing on recruitment, engagement and volunteerism for rural youth. (The "REV" stands for Recruitment, Engagement and Volunteerism.) Be on the lookout for additional information about this exciting project this fall and winter. The toolkit's release is targeted for late spring 2005.

Updated Convention Information on ffa.org: Corresponding with the release of the 2nd Edition Convention Planning Guide, the ffa.org convention site has been updated to include comprehensive information on sessions, tours, concerts and housing. In addition, **online convention registration** debuts this week. For all the latest convention info, visit www.ffa.org/convention/. Check back for convention updates and breaking news throughout the fall.

“The Core” Catalog merchandise now available on FFA Unlimited: Be sure to check out the latest merchandise available through the FFA Unlimited online store, www.ffaunlimited.org.

INTERNATIONAL

International Leadership Seminar for State Officers: Each year current and past state officers have an opportunity to travel abroad to learn about agricultural practices in another country. The 2005 trip is tentatively scheduled for January 4-20. Approximate cost is \$3,300-\$3,600. The 2005 trip is tentatively scheduled for France, Germany and Austria.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership: 2004-2005 Excel Templates for Membership – Production of Excel rosters for the 2004-2005 FFA membership year has begun. If you have not requested a specific delivery date or your state has changed dues structure, please contact your membership representative or send the completed attached document in to the National FFA Center.

Membership rosters for 2004-2005 will be accepted after Sept. 1. Remember, membership for 2004-2005 is to be on the new 2004-2005 template. Also, the 2003-2004 membership year continues through Aug. 31, so additional new and renewing members can still be submitted.

Membership: Over 100% Club The following states have submitted 100 percent of membership as compared to last year's state total (as of 07/21/04):

Online States: Ohio **Excel Template States:** Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

Membership: 90% Club: The following states have submitted 90 percent of membership as compared to last year's state total (as of 07/21/04):

Online States: Illinois **Excel Template States:** Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virgin Islands, Virginia, Wyoming.

PROGRAMS

FFA Race Day at Nazareth Speedway: The Nazareth Pennsylvania Speedway will host an FFA Race Day Aug. 29. Come see the USAC Weld Racing Silver Crown Series and Firestone Indy 225 races. The package deal includes general admission for the USAC and IRL events, exclusive hospitality area, catered lunch and motor sports personality appearance. The cost is \$60 per person (\$100 value) with a portion of the proceeds benefiting FFA. To purchase tickets, or for more information, call 1-800-629-7223 and mention promotional code FFA. Hurry and get your tickets for this great day of racing!

NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION NEWS

National Convention Courtesy Corps: The application to participate in Courtesy Corps at the 2004 National FFA Convention is now available! The application may be downloaded from http://www.ffa.org/convention/html/pln_courtesy_corps.html and must be returned to the National FFA Center by Sept. 5. Courtesy Corps is a great way for students to get involved in the national convention, and we are always looking for volunteers! For more information please contact Carrie Powers, cpowers@ffa.org 317- 802-4321.

Applications for flag bearers being sought: Applications for the 2004 National FFA Convention State Flag Bearers are due by Sept.15. For more information contact Tina Paris at 317-802-4309 or tparis@ffa.org.

H.O. Sargent Diversity Award Workshop: On Saturday, Oct. 30 at this year's national FFA convention, a student workshop will be held from 8:30–9:30 a.m. in Conference Center 102. The overall purpose of the workshop is to provide students and their local chapters with the relationship-building models and skills necessary to focus on building and strengthening relationships by respecting the many dimensions of diversity. Students and chapters will leave the workshop with tips, insights and practices that can lead to personal, membership and community growth. A \$300 mini grant for diversity programming will be awarded to the chapter with the most members present. For more information, visit <http://www.ffa.org/programs/hosargent/>.

Collegiate events at FFA convention: Are you beginning to map out your plans for the 2004 National FFA Convention? Make sure to add Collegiate programs to your travels! Along with the National Ag Ed Collegiate/ATA Conclave events, guests of the convention will have the chance to attend multiple workshops with topics including “Interviewing Hot Tips,” “Career Development,” “Choosing Ag Ed as a Career” and

"Building a Successful Organization."

The 77th National FFA Convention activities will also include the first-ever Collegiate Career Expo on Saturday, Oct. 30. This activity is designed to allow college age convention guests an opportunity to meet with the top agricultural businesses in the nation to discuss internships and full time employment. So polish up that resume and get ready to experience career success at the collegiate level.

Visit <http://www.ffa.org/collegiate/index.html> in the coming months to learn more about the Collegiate Career Expo as well as the exciting evening activity planned for your collegiate students. Questions or comments? Contact collegiate@ffa.org.

EDUCATOR NEWS

2004 Supervised Agricultural Education (SAE) Grants: SAE Grants will be available again this year. The application due date is Nov. 10, 2004. The application is attached, or you can download an application from the SAE home page at <http://www.ffa.org/programs/sae/index.html>.

- 16 - \$1,000 grants available for beef/cattle, dairy or sheep production SAEs only. Sponsored by Merial as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.
- 20 - \$500 grants available for swine production SAEs only. Sponsored by Akey as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.
- 16 - \$150 grants available for SAEs in either agribusiness or farming. You must be from the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota or Wisconsin. Sponsored by Mrs. Charles Conrad as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

LifeKnowledge Training: The new LifeKnowledge lessons have been received by hundreds of teachers across the country, and instructors are eager to use them in their classes this fall. Teachers, you also have plenty of time to order the collateral materials to use in your classrooms. You may order collateral materials either on site at the training or by contacting the order department at the National FFA Organization, 1-888-332-2668. The all-new FFA Mission Poster Series is a set of 16 posters designed to build a classroom environment that is based on FFA Mission. (Item: POSTER-LIFEKNOW) You will also be able to inspire students with the FFA Mission Quote Series with 40 posters with quotes from some of the world's finest role models. (Item: QUOTES-LIFEKNOW)

A friendly reminder to state leaders who have not yet scheduled LifeKnowledge training for the teachers in your state: Please contact one of the following LPS staff for scheduling or to inquire about training details.

Tony Small, LPS manager 317-802-4300
Kevin Keith, LPS specialist, Eastern U.S. states 317-802-4254
Ernie Gill, LPS specialist, Western U.S. states 317-802-4222
Jim Armbruster, LPS specialist, advisor development 317-802-4334

STATE STAFF NEWS

The National FFA Career Development Event staff would like to say "thank you" to all of the state staff, as you have helped to make CDE Certification run smoothly this year. We look forward to continuing to serve you. For questions in the following areas, please contact the appropriate staff:

General Inquiries:

Candice Murphy ,317-802-4263

Special Needs Accommodations:

Mike Honeycutt, 317-802-4262

Finals Hall events:

Jenny Errichiello, 317-802-4312

Scoring:

Jim Armbruster,317-802-4334

Certification, Registration, and Publicity:

Jessica Ells, 317-802-4288

AG ED Job Posting Website: Do you have any teaching, state staff or internship opportunities in your state? Post your agriculture related job openings on our AG ED Job Posting website. Check it out at <http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/agedjobs/index.htm>

For more information, please contact Michele Gilbert, mgilbert@ffa.org, 317-802-4301

Electronic calendars available: State Staff are reminded that National Team Ag Ed/Local Program Success Specialists have developed electronic calendars for both Outlook and Excel. These calendars can be found for download with instructions at: <http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/>. Scroll down that page to: "Help & Resources" -- "Calendars" for options and calendar file downloads.

COLLEGIATE

Collegiate FFA, are you involved? Do you have a Collegiate FFA Chapter? Are you interested in beginning a Collegiate FFA Chapter? If you answered yes to these questions, please contact Eric Schilling and Kristy Miller, your Collegiate Services team. To confirm your National Collegiate FFA Chapter affiliations or to join Collegiate FFA, contact collegiate@ffa.org, 317-802-4214.

ALUMNI

Alumni Auction: The National FFA Alumni auction offers entertainment and excitement for convention attendees, while generating funds for student scholarships. Show your support of FFA and this rewarding activity by donating to the 2004 National FFA Alumni auction, Oct. 27-29. Donations of products, gift certificates, travel packages and gift baskets are all needed to continue the high level of support we offer FFA members.

What does the term "basket" mean in your state? As part of the auction, a state basket contest is held for all state FFA associations and state FFA alumni associations to enter. Create a fun and inventive basket filled with your state's products and specialties! All baskets will be judged, and the top three baskets will receive prizes and be moved into the live auction for further bidding. Prizes include a WLC scholarship, a registration fee to the State Leaders Conference and 100 tickets in the Alumni convention giveaway. Don't miss this opportunity to show pride and support for your state.

Calling all teachers! Your agricultural education program can assist us in our fundraising efforts by donating outstanding student projects. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase your students' talents and skills. We are looking for a diverse representation of the areas being taught in our agricultural classes, from woodworking to floral arranging and everything in between! Big or small, we'll take them all! Get your students thinking about unique and creative projects they could donate.

To donate to the auction, please complete the attached form and return to the National FFA Alumni. For more information on the auction please visit our website at <http://www.ffa.org/alumni> or contact us at alumni@ffa.org

Alumni awards WLC scholarships: WLC scholarship packets were mailed to qualifying states and Alumni affiliates in March. Attached is a listing of scholarship numbers and dollar amounts awarded to states and affiliates. Names noted designate the individuals who received the scholarship packets and are responsible for distribution. Please be aware that all scholarships are conditional upon receipt of all required documentation. For more information or questions, please contact us at alumni@ffa.org, or 317-802-4293.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN UPDATE

Important CDE Deadlines: Please remember to mark your calendar with the following deadlines for the 2004 National FFA Career Development Events:

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. 14:	Add/Delete Forms due

UPDATE is also available at www.ffa.org/news/html/ffapubsindex.html#update <<http://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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