

UPDATE

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C. Coleman Harris
U.S. Department of Education
June 2004

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DATES TO REMEMBER

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| June | 15 | VIP Citation Application due, FFA Center |
| | 15 | Distinguished Service Citation Application due, FFA Center |
| | 15 | Honorary American Degree Applications due, FFA Center |
| | 19-29 | Costa Rica Proficiency Tour |
| | 20-23 | Wyoming NLCSO |
| | 20-24 | Louisiana NLCSO |
| | 22-25 | Nebraska NLCSO |
| | 27-30 | Washington NLCSO |
| | 30 | H.O. Sargent Award Applications due, FFA Center |
| | | American Degree Applications due, FFA Center |
| July | 28-July 1 | Kentucky NLCSO |
| | 27-July 1 | New York NLCSO |
| | 4-9 | Arizona NLCSO |
| | 6-9 | North Carolina NLCSO |
| | 8-13 | FFA Board Meeting, Crowne Plaza in Indianapolis, IN |
| | 13 | Trustees Meeting, Crowne Plaza in Indianapolis, IN |
| | 15 | Agri-Entrepreneurship applications due, FFA Center |
| | | Proficiency due date, FFA Center |
| | 20-24 | State Presidents' Conference, Washington, D.C. |
| | 27-Aug. 1 | Alumni State Leaders Conference, Omaha, Nebraska |
| August | 1 | National FFA Officer Candidate application due, FFA Center |
| | 2-6 | Virginia NLCSO |
| | 16 | Ag Science Fair World Expo |

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FFA

2004 National Delegate Process: Representatives at the State Presidents' Conference will again select the issues for consideration in the 2004 national delegate process. All new issues must come from state nominations; each state may submit up to five issues. Please submit your nominations to Seth Derner before July 1. If you have any questions, please contact Seth at sderner@ffa.org, 317-802-4413 or visit <http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/so/delegates/>.

Washington Leadership Conference: Start planning your trip to D.C.! Remaining available dates for this year's conference are: July 6-11 and July 13-18. Prices for the conference have increased and are as follows: Student package \$550, Advisor Double \$585, Advisor Single \$780, Advisor Guest \$975, Room Only Package, \$475. This year's conference will consist of high levels of service learning, mentoring and volunteerism strategies, problem solving skills, relationship building skills and character development. The premier FFA leadership conference is shaping up to be the best yet! A chapter mailing in late February included the registration form. For more information visit http://www.ffa.org/programs/conferences/html/conf_wlc.htm, e-mail wlc@ffa.org or call

317-802-4312.

Agriscience Teachers and Students Wanted: Don't let your state be the only one not represented by an Agriscience Teacher of the Year or Agriscience Student Scholarship and Recognition winner. The 2004 state student winner amount is \$750; runners-up will receive a \$500 scholarship. Submit your teacher nominations and student applications today. Access the forms at http://www.ffa.org/programs/ag_sci/. For more details or information, do not hesitate to contact Damon Spight at either 317-802-4402 or dspight@ffa.org.

National FFA Officer Candidates–2004: The 2004 National FFA Officer Candidate Application has been converted to an Excel template, so it is now in a format members are accustomed to completing. The new application can be found on the State Guide and on the "Guide to the National FFA Officer Selection Process." The guide is available at an unpublished web address, which was sent to state staff via e-mail in late March. The guide has been updated with information used during the 2003 process. All applications must be submitted in hard copy format and are due postmarked by Aug. 1, 2004. Contact: Kelly Horton, khorton@ffa.org, 317-802-4248 or Kim Henry, khenry@ffa.org, 317-802-4362.

NLCSO dates announced: The tentative schedules (by conference) for the upcoming National Leadership Conference for State Officers (NLCSO) have been announced. The 2004 NLCSO program is sponsored by Monsanto, Inc., KRAFT, Inc., Wrangler, International Truck and Engine Corp., Archer Daniels Midland, Ariat International, Intervet and Wayne Farms LLC, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. For more information, contact Tiffany Sanderson, tsanderson@ffa.org, 317-802-4239. <http://www.ffa.org/programs/conferences/>

Dates for State Presidents' Conference announced: The 2004 State Presidents' Conference will be held July 20-24 in Washington, D.C. The State Presidents' Conference is sponsored by Chevrolet as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. For more information, visit http://www.ffa.org/programs/conferences/html/conf_officers.html. Please contact Seth Derner, sderner@ffa.org, or Tiffany Sanderson, tsanderson@ffa.org, if you have any questions.

CONVENTION NEWS

Mark your calendars! The 77th National FFA Convention is right around the corner!! This year's convention is October 27 through October 30, 2004 in Louisville, Kentucky. The first edition Planning Guide has been mailed. Inside you will find the housing form, a list of area hotels/accommodations, along with a tentative schedule to help you plan for your convention experience. If you do not have a planning guide and would like to receive one, please contact, Jill Masters, jmasters@ffa.org, or 317-802-4216. The Second Edition Planning Guide will be sent out in August with more convention information. In the meantime, feel free to check our website, www.ffa.org, as often as you would like for updates on convention.

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

American Degree Applications: The official due date for the American Degree applications is June 30, 2004. There is a 10 day turn around timeframe, from the official due date to the July board meeting. The board approves all recipients at the board meeting. If your applications are ready before the official date, it would be greatly appreciated if you would mail them before the June 30th due date. Also, if you would e-mail the American Degree certification form to www.rhunsinger@ffa.org we would be able to download the applicant information directly into the database, cutting down on data entry. **NOTE:** Please use type case rather than all capitalized names, as we use this information for certificates, etc. If you have any questions, please contact Rosalie Hunsinger at 317-802-4255. The American Degree certification form is attached for your convenience.

NOTE: State staff often travel during the summer months and sometimes it is necessary to contact them when there is an American Degree minimum qualification problem. In order to avoid having to appeal the application, please provide a cell or alternative number for quick contact. You can add the number to the attached American Degree certification form.

Student Leadership Workshop Presenter Application: Applications are now being accepted for individuals interested in presenting a student leadership workshop at the 77th National FFA Convention. The postmark deadline is June 1, 2004. Those hired to present student leadership workshops are ineligible to run for national FFA office. Please see the attached workshop presenter application. Contact: Andy Armbruster, aarmbruster@ffa.org, 317-802-4308.

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, insight 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/>.

It's not too early to begin selecting your nominees for National FFA Recognition: For forms and applications visit: <http://www.ffa.org/programs/honor/>

Distinguished Service Citation (DSC) Award Program:

The Distinguished Service Citation is the highest award presented to an organization, agency business, industry or other group by the National FFA Organization. States are asked to nominate organizations, agencies, or other groups for the Distinguished Service Citation. The recognition is for outstanding contributions made to the National FFA Organization and the total program of agricultural education. Applications are due at the National FFA Center, postmarked on or before June 15.

VIP Award Program:

The Special VIP Citation is presented annually at the National FFA Convention to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Agricultural Education/FFA Program, over a long period of years. States are asked to nominate individuals for VIP Citation. This recognition may be awarded to but is not necessarily limited to those individuals holding the Honorary American FFA Degree. Applications are due at the

National FFA Center, postmarked on or before June 15.

Honorary American FFA Degree:

The Honorary American FFA Degree is the highest FFA Honorary Degree. Each state may nominate five candidates. The purpose of the degree program is to recognize individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the agricultural education/FFA program. Individuals nominated must have provided exceptional (outstanding) service to agriculture and/or the agricultural education/FFA program. Individuals nominated from a state must have the approval of the State FFA Advisor. FFA division directors, board members and national officers may also make nominations. All nominations must be submitted on the official nomination form postmarked on or before June 15.

VIP Citation Application revised: The VIP Citation application has been revised to allow more space for citing a nominee's accomplishments and contributions to agricultural education/FFA as well as to ensure state staff have approved the submission. For your convenience and distribution, you can find the revised VIP Citation application either below or at <http://www.ffa.org/programs/honor/>. The nomination deadline is June 15. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Damon Spight, dspight@ffa.org, 317-802-4402.

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 agriculture 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.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership update: The membership department has begun membership validation for American Degree candidates. Please contact your membership representative with any potential issues prior to submission of candidates for national recognition to avoid any penalty fee.

Remember, the membership year continues until Aug. 31, 2004, so additional new and renewing members can still be submitted. The May 15 deadline for member submission and payment applies primarily for the national convention delegate count determination. Additional members will be accepted through Aug. 31, but only those submitted and fully paid by May 15 are used in delegate counts.

Another huge congratulations to the State Staff of our new "Over 100%" club for

surpassing their last year's membership totals already. Our most sincere thanks for your hard work and support.

Over 100% Club

Online States

Ohio

Excel Template States

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| Texas | Louisiana | Arizona | Oklahoma |
| Minnesota | Montana | Nevada | Utah |
| North Carolina | Connecticut | Indiana | |
| Arkansas | Wisconsin | West Virginia | |
| Alabama | Florida | Georgia | |
| Tennessee | Massachusetts | New Hampshire | |
| New York | California | | |

90% Club: The following states have submitted 90% percent of membership as compared to last year's state total (as of 05/22/04):

Online States

Illinois

Excel Template States

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| South Dakota | Idaho | North Dakota |
| New Mexico | Oregon | Washington |
| Iowa | Michigan | Nebraska |
| Kansas | Wyoming | Colorado |
| Virginia | Kentucky | Mississippi |
| Missouri | Pennsylvania | South Carolina |
| Virgin Islands | Delaware | Rhode Island |
| Vermont | | |

PROGRAMS AND AWARDS

New policy for special needs and disabilities: During the 2003 award year the National FFA Organization incorporated a new policy and procedure for accommodating special needs and disabilities in national Career Development Events (CDEs). This policy was adopted to make CDEs more accessible to our members with special needs, to uphold the organization's legal obligation and to address our key strategic priority area of increasing diversity in membership and participation. Based on the success of this effort, special needs policies and procedures have been developed for each of the following award areas for implementation at the 2004 National FFA Convention: Agriscience Fair, Agriscience Student of the Year, Agriscience Teacher of the Year, H.O. Sargent, Models of Innovation (National Chapter Award), SAE, Proficiencies and Stars. Career Development Events will operate under the same guidelines as 2003. Information regarding these policies and procedures will soon be available on www.ffa.org in the specific areas for each program, and will be included on the 2004-2005 Local Program Resource CD-ROM. As you prepare to certify teams for national participation, please take a moment to look at these policies so that we can best serve participating members with special needs. For more information contact Mike Honeycutt, mhoneycutt@ffa.org, or 317-802-4262.

CDE Handbook now available: The Revised CDE Handbook is now on the web! You may access the entire handbook or the 2004 supplement at <http://www.ffa.org/programs/cde/>.

Remember to mark CDE Deadlines on your calendars:

Deadlines have been set for the 2004 National FFA CDEs. They are as follows:

June 1: Team Declaration Forms due

July 9: Team Certification Forms, Waivers, Payments, and 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. 14: Add/Delete Forms due

State CDE plaques available: Please remember to order plaques for your state's CDEs. Orders must be submitted at least 30 days prior to your presentation using the state plaque order form found in the 2004 State Guide, <http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/html/stateguide.html>
For more information, contact: Jessica Ells, jells@ffa.org, 317-802-4288.

A call for H.O. Sargent Diversity Award applications: The H.O. Sargent Diversity Award is a special honor and recognition given by the National FFA Organization in celebration of the work and dedication of FFA members and non-FFA members advancing efforts to diversify FFA and/or agricultural education. The award program, initially established through the leadership and vision of Mr. G.W. Owens of New Farmers of America and Dr. H.O. Sargent of the U.S. Department of Education, was re-instituted in 1995 in commemoration of the contributions underrepresented groups and majority groups together have made to FFA and agricultural education.

Activities that qualify an individual for the award are as varied as imagination and resources allow. This is in part because "diversity" is broadly defined to embrace any activity that has a goal of bringing balance between minority and majority groups within your community, school, chapter and more. Consequently, pen pal programs, community service activities, cultural awareness programs, membership recruitment campaigns, and a wide range of other projects make a nominee eligible for the award. It's all about accepting, connecting, developing. Both FFA members and non-members can apply or be nominated. The application deadline is June 30 (postmark date). The application is attached below. For more details visit <http://www.ffa.org/programs/hosargent/>. For more information, contact Damon Spight, dspight@ffa.org, 317-802-4244. The H.O. Sargent Diversity Award program is sponsored by Monsanto as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

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.

Collegiate Task Force: Several individuals will meet in Indianapolis this month to assess the future of collegiate programs. This collegiate task force meeting will encompass discussions on the vision, mission, goals, standards and plans of action for collegiate

programs. The task force will include State Staff representatives, partnering collegiate groups and the National FFA collegiate programs staff. Be sure to visit <http://www.ffa.org/collegiate/index.html> to view meeting information and outcomes.

National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS): The 2004-05 National PAS and Minorities in Agriculture Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) officers will meet in Indianapolis at the National FFA Center May 25 - 29 to participate in their annual officer training. Officers will focus on team building activities such as leadership, time management, partnerships, business presentations and maximum self-achievement. The officer training is a National FFA Foundation sponsored project by Archer Daniels Midland (ADM). To view officer training highlights visit www.nationalpas.org and <http://www.ffa.org/collegiate/index.html>.

ALUMNI

State Leaders Conference: The National FFA Alumni Association invites you to attend the National FFA Alumni Association's 2004 State Leaders Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, July 27-Aug. 1. This is an opportunity for FFA Alumni leaders across the country to meet and discuss issues facing the FFA and FFA Alumni. It is a time to gather valuable information and ideas related to assisting your local FFA, volunteerism, fundraising, public relations, membership incentives and much more. Registration forms are now available online at <http://www.ffa.org/alumni>, or contact us at alumni@ffa.org.

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 now 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 <<mailto: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 individual

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.

Alumni offers welding hoods: Lincoln Electric has generously donated 1,000 welding hoods to the National FFA Alumni. The association is now offering these helmets at a discounted price (while quantities last). Don't miss this opportunity to get a quality product! For more information and pricing please contact us at alumni@ffa.org. Magnum Welding Hood by Lincoln Electric.....Value: \$29.95. Lift Front Helmet, S22136-4R. S/FL HWL 24, 25. 5 ½"X 4 ½" lens.

EDUCATOR NEWS

The National FFA Organization accepting nominations for judges: FFA is accepting nominations for judges for the Agricultural Proficiency Awards, Stars, Agriscience Awards, and National Chapter Awards at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky., this fall. The Agricultural Proficiency and the Star Awards judging will take place on Thursday, Oct. 28, 2004, and all of the judges will be invited to an awards luncheon on that day. The Agriscience Awards will be judged on Thursday, Oct. 28 and Friday, Oct. 29. National Chapter Awards will be judged on Wednesday, Oct. 27. We are not able to cover any expenses for the judges. Nominations can be submitted on the form enclosed with this mailing and should be mailed to Rosalie Hunsinger, National FFA Organization, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN, 46268-0960 or faxed to 317-802-5255.

STATE STAFF NEWS

Local Program Resource Guide 2004-2005 CD-ROM

Just a quick reminder to all state staff and teacher educators, the Local Program Resource Guide 2004-2005 CD-ROM has been released. Orders were shipped to state staff on May 28, and a second shipment will go 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 or 317-802-4301.

AG ED Job Posting Web Site: 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 web site. 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/index.html>. Scroll down that web page to: "Help & Resources" -- "Calendars" for options and calendar file downloads.

Important Information regarding CDE certification and payment: The deadline for CDE declaration forms (June 1) is rapidly approaching, and several states have submitted their declaration forms. Before we start invoicing states based upon those teams, we are informing state staff of the processes being implemented this year to ensure that declaration forms, certification forms and payments are appropriately processed.

Two years ago, nearly all states paid for the certification of their CDE teams with one check, but last year we had several states that asked individual chapters to send their payments directly to the National FFA Center. This year, please ask your chapters to pay the state directly, and then each state should 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 state association check 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 will 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 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")
- a legal size envelope pre-addressed to the Accounts Receivable Department at the National FFA Center (with a green label "CDE Certification Payment")

Please use the large envelope addressed to the CDE Certification Coordinator to mail all of your certification forms.

Please use the separate, legal sized envelope 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 to ensure that forms and checks get to the right place. We do not want to delay your teams or have them disqualified because payment was never received. Please help us help you by following the processes outlined above. Please contact Jessica Ells at jells@ffa.org, 317-802-4288 with any questions or concerns.

MERCHANDISING

June Summer Sale: We're clearing out our warehouse to make room for all the new BLUE catalog items to be released in August. Be sure to go to www.ffaunlimited.org and check out our June Summer Sale for some great deals. Prices are as low as \$1.99!

Official Jacket Update: Jackets are currently being shipped with an updated emblem. The colors and design used in the original emblem have been restored. The emblems are now closer to gold rather than orange and the design is the same on both the front and back. Also, the color of the thread used for the jacket's embroidery matches the gold in the new emblem. In August, we will begin shipping jackets in the original shade of FFA blue to chapters. We're very excited about these changes. We understand that we will have a mix of both the new and old colors for the next few years, but believe these changes are a move in the right direction. The jackets are getting closer to their original look. For more information, contact Lee Anne Shiller, lshiller@ffa.org.

July \$35 Official Jacket Sale: We have almost exhausted our supply of jackets in the old color. We have approximately 1,200 left. In order to transition smoothly to the new color on August 1, we will sell what is left of our supply starting July 1. The jackets will be \$35 each. Not all sizes will be available, but you will be able to see what sizes are in stock by checking the up-to-date list at www.ffaunlimited.org. For more information, contact Lee Anne Shiller, lashiller@ffa.org.

The Agricultural Education Resources Catalog has a new name and a new look: The Core is now where you'll turn to find solutions for teaching and learning in your agricultural education program. Along with the new design and new name, you'll notice that there are many exciting new products. From Charlie Greenhand's Ag Trivia Game to LifeKnowledge™ lesson plans, your teachers will find every thing they need to create an interactive and engaging learning environment for their agriculture students. If you haven't yet received your copy of The Core e-mail T.J. Abbey, tjabbey@ffa.org.

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.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN UPDATE

Garst Announces Commercial Competition for FFA: Garst Seed Company is giving FFA chapters an opportunity to raise awareness in urban America about the integral role agriculture plays in modern society. The "Agriculture, the Fuel for America" commercial competition challenges FFA students to develop print, broadcast, or television advertising campaigns for a grand prize of \$1000 in donations to the winning chapters in each division. Second and third place chapters of each category will also receive prize donations of \$750 and \$500. The FFA chapter earning the title of Best of Show will receive an additional \$500. Advertisements will be displayed and awards will be presented at the 2004 National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky this October. For more information and registration, e-mail askgarst@garstseedco.com or address entries to Garst Seed Company, Attn: FFA Commercial Competition, c/o The Integer Group, 2633 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, Iowa 50321. Entries must be postmarked October 1, 2004.

UPDATE is also available online: State Staff Connection:
<http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/index.html>

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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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