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UPDATE

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U.S. Department of
Education

LATEST NEWS

Get Your National Animal Identification System (NAIS) Outreach Kit

The NAIS Outreach Kits are now available! Learn the ins and outs of the NAIS premises registration process. Discover ways to incorporate NAIS into the classroom, SAE projects, CDE preparation and community service projects. By utilizing the kit materials and filling out the Chapter Enhancement Application (included in the kit), your chapter will be eligible to earn a trip to Washington, D.C., in spring 2009. Encourage chapters to request their kits today by visiting www.ffaunlimited.org. You can find additional information and resources about NAIS at www.ffa.org/nais and www.agedlearning.org. Contact: Karen Fredenburg, 317-802-4465 or kfredenburg@ffa.org.

Veterinary Medicine Becomes a New Award Area

Starting with the 2009 SAE application process, Veterinary Medicine will become a separate SAE from Small Animal Care. The new description for Veterinary Medicine will be: Using the best management practices available, we will provide health care for large and small animals. Programs can include wage earning and entrepreneurial or exploratory activities at large animal hospitals, research facilities or veterinary clinics.

Also starting with the 2009 SAE application process, the new description for Small Animal Care will be: Using the best management practices available, we will efficiently produce and market small pet animals (such as rabbits, cats, dogs, mice, hedgehogs and guinea pigs) and programs that typically provide a service in caring for the well being of pets. Programs can include working at a pet shop, as a groomer, a dog trainer, providing pet-sitting services or working at a kennel. Contact: Rosalie Hunsinger, 317-802-4255 or rhunsinger@ffa.org.

Free Teacher Resources Available

The 2008-2009 Local Program Resource (LPR) Guide is now online! Visit <http://www.ffa.org/lpr> to download Local Program Success instructional resources on everything from FFA and SAEs to marketing and program planning. The site also features STIHL technical training lessons and student manuals. The LPR is sponsored by STIHL as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Contact: Jim Armbruster, 317-802-4334 or jarmbruster@ffa.org.

DATES TO REMEMBER

2008 NLCSO

Conferences

July 1 - 4: Colorado

July 7 - 11: North Carolina

July 28 - 31: Delaware

July 30 - Aug. 2: Idaho

July 1: Local Program Support Grant and Alumni Award applications due

National Band, Chorus and Talent applications due

July 15: Agriscience Teacher of the Year applications due

Agriscience Student of the Year applications due

Proficiency applications due

Application deadline for the Agri-Entrepreneurship program

Application for National Chapter Award must be received by

July 15 - 20: Washington, D.C. FFA

Summer Issue of *Making A Difference* Online Now!

School is out, but that hasn't stopped us from bringing you a great summer issue of *Making A Difference* online. Visit <http://makingadifference.ffa.org> to learn more on how you can make your summer away from the classroom as exciting, fun and efficient as possible.

STATE STAFF NEWS

National Officer Candidate Submissions Open for Approved State Staff

Visit ffa.org to submit your national officer candidate. Log in to MyFFA and click on NomCom State Staff Dashboard in your MyFFA menu. There you will see instructions for submitting your candidate. If you don't have a MyFFA account, you will need to register. Your candidate must also have a MyFFA account, so encourage him or her to sign up as soon as possible. Once your candidate's information has been submitted, he or she will be contacted to finish the application. Applications must be submitted and approved by state staff by Aug. 1. Contact: Josh Bledsoe, or jbledsoe@ffa.org,

Nominating Committee Nominations Now Open

Want to nominate a student to serve on this year's Nominating Committee? Visit ffa.org and log in to MyFFA. Once logged in you will see a link to Nominating Committee in your MyFFA menu. Simply click on the link and fill out the form to nominate a state officer for the Nominating Committee. Nominations are due Aug. 1. Contact: Josh Bledsoe, or jbledsoe@ffa.org,

Send Us Your State Officer Contact Information

As we wrap up the state convention season, we ask that you submit contact information for your newly elected state officers. The submission of this information will ensure that each member of your officer team receives the *Bright Ideas* newsletter as well as access to the state officer website. Your state officer information can be submitted on the form found at <http://www.ffa.org/documents/stateofficerinformationform.zip>. All states should have their information submitted by Aug. 1. Contact: Shane Jacques, or sjacques@ffa.org.

MERCHANDISING

New Catalogs Are Coming

The 2008-2009 BLUE Catalog for apparel and gifts will be shipped in July and should be in your hands by early August! Check out our new and exciting selection of tees, hats and sweatshirts. Shop for your favorite polos, woven shirts and outerwear and keep in mind they can all be personalized with your name and chapter name. Be on the look out for the 2008 CORE catalog, coming to you soon. You'll also want to make sure you locate your 2007-2008 Gold catalogs in your classroom as this catalog will be good through the end of 2008. New items for the Gold and Core catalogs will be developed this fall and new catalogs will be shipped in early January 2009. In the meantime you may shop online anytime at ffaunlimited.org or call 1-888-332-2668.

Free Personalization

Look for the August issue of *FFA New Horizons*, available July 25, for a special offer on personalization and official casual dress. For a limited

Alumni State Leaders Conference

2008 CDE Deadlines

July 7: Team Certification Forms due (postmarked)

CDE Special Needs Requests due

Student Waiver Forms due (postmarked)

State Assistants Forms due (postmarked)

State Speaking Judges Forms due (postmarked)

Aug. 1: Applications submitted and approved for National Officer Candidate.

State Officer Nominations due for serving on the Nominating Committee.

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. 8: Add/Delete Forms due (by 5 p.m. EST)

Oct. 22 - 24: Alumni Silent Auction

Oct. 22 - 25: 81st

time only, when you purchase a piece of official casual dress, such as a casual dress shirt, polo or outerwear, we'll personalize it. This includes up to three lines of personalization. You can also check out ffaunlimited.org for details. But hurry, this offer expires Sept. 15.

10 Official Jackets for \$375

Beginning July 15 you can buy a set of 10 official jackets in core sizes for \$375. These jackets will be embroidered with the state and chapter names only (no front lettering). One each of the following sizes is included in the set: girl's sizes 34, 36, 38, 40 and boy's sizes 36, 38, 40, 42 and 46. To place an order, call 888-332-2668 and order ODJKT-10. Limit one per chapter. Offer ends Aug. 31, 2008

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED

National Officer Schedules Nearly Booked

If you are interested in hosting a national officer, please act now as their availability is limited for the remainder of the year. Requests are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Travel expenses for national officers are the responsibility of the requesting organization. The national officer request [form is available online](#). Contact: Charles Parker, 317 802-4455 or cparker@ffa.org.

2008 State Information Forms Available

For states hosting Experiencing Growth, Discovery and Excellence (EDGE), Made For Excellence (MFE) and Advanced Leadership Development (ALD) conferences, the state information forms are now available. Click [here](#) to visit the webpage with the forms. Contact: Crystal Hart, 317-802-4321 or chart@ffa.org.

Check Out the 2008 State Convention Merchandise Sales Program

This is a great opportunity to make extra money for your state organization and play a key role in your state's convention by providing FFA merchandise to those who attend. If you are interested in this sales program or have questions, contact Dawn Sharp, Merchandise Buyer, 317-802-4271 or dsharp@ffa.org.

Send Us Your Recipes for the National FFA Cookbook!

Voyageur Publishing, an FFA licensee, is looking for great FFA recipes from members (current and former), past national and state officers, advisors, state staff and alumni for an exciting new cookbook scheduled for release in spring 2009. The National FFA Cookbook will be sold at fine bookstores throughout the United States, and it will also be available to FFA chapters, state associations, foundations and alumni for fundraising. Spread the word and check ffa.org and [FFA Marketplace](#) for details.

Turn Your Boat Design Into Cash

The Lund Boat Company will launch a design contest this August – open to all FFA chapters, landlocked or not! Lund will provide the basic boat design, and chapters can go online to apply the finishing touches – from colors to graphics to seat coverings. It's all up to you! The winning chapter will receive a cash prize from Lund. Visit ffa.org and look for a link to the contest website in August.

National FFA
Convention

Oct. 24: Alumni Live
Auction

**[SHOP FFA
Marketplace](#) and [FFA
Unlimited!](#)**

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FFA VIDEO FEED OR
RECEIVE PODCASTS
VIA ITUNES. WATCH
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THE FFA VIDEO
PAGE!**

News from Wyndham Hotels and Resorts

FFA members, advisors and families will automatically receive the special FFA discounted rate at Wyndham Hotels and Resorts when they make their online reservations at <http://www.wyndham.com/rates/main.wnt?corporateid=1000005345>.

To receive the FFA discount at all other hotels in the Wyndham Hotel Group, including Ramada and Travelodge, please continue to make your online reservations at [Wyndham Hotel FFA Discount Program](#) and use the corporate code **1000005345** at the time of booking.

Important Information Regarding CDE Certification and Payment

The CDE Certification Form deadline is just around the corner (postmarked July 7). The document containing information on CDE certification and payment information [is available here](#). Contact: Melissa Brown, 317-802-4288 or mbrown@ffa.org.

Coming Soon: The 2008 National FFA Alumni Benefit Auctions

To raise funds for Washington Leadership Conference and collegiate scholarships, the National FFA Alumni, will hold the following benefit auctions:

- From Wednesday, Oct. 15 to Wednesday, Oct. 29, the National FFA Alumni Timed Online Benefit Auction will be available for online bidding before, during and after the national convention. Review the auction catalog (available this fall), register and bid online at www.unitedcountry.com/ffaauction/.
- On Friday, Oct. 24 at 6 p.m. (EDT) the Live Benefit Auction will be broadcast from the national convention via the Internet for all to participate. Review the auction catalog (available this fall), register and bid online at www.unitedcountry.com/ffaauction/.

Donations for the benefit auctions are currently being accepted. FFA Alumni would love to have outstanding student projects donated to the auction in order to feature the skills being taught in our Ag Ed programs. Click here to download the [donation form](#).

The 2007 National FFA Alumni Benefit Auctions raised \$147,000 to provide scholarships and collegiate agricultural education scholarships to hundreds of the nation's students.

Alumni Seeks Candidates for Council Positions

Applications are currently being accepted for two Member-at-Large positions for the National FFA Alumni Council. Both three-year terms run from 2008 to 2011 and are open to all alumni members regardless of region. Elections for these positions will be held during the National FFA Alumni Convention business session on Oct. 24. For a summary of responsibilities and required meetings, contact 317-802-4292 or alumni@ffa.org. You can also visit www.ffa.org/alumni; a link to the National FFA Alumni Council Nomination form is on the right under National Forms & Information. Nominations are due to the National FFA Alumni office by July 1.

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, and 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. Educational materials are developed by FFA in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies.

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 ffa.org for more information.