

UPDATE

Vol. XXXII, No. 8
C. Coleman Harris
U.S. Department of Education
August 2002

DATES TO REMEMBER

August

- 1 Hall of States Exhibit application due
- 1 National Convention Delegate registrations due
- 1 National Officer Candidate applications due
- 15 Agriscience Fair certifications due, FFA Center
- 15 Legion of Merit Citation applications due, FFA Center
- 15 Prepared Public Speaking manuscripts due, FFA Center

September

- 6 Courtesy Corps. applications due, FFA Center
- 15 Portfolios for Agricultural Communications, Agricultural Issues and Marketing Plan due, FFA Center
- 15 Cover letters, resumes and references for Job Interview due, FFA Center

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FFA

Conduct a survey. This year the National FFA Organization is launching a comprehensive surveying effort to discover what convention attendees like and dislike about convention activities. Unlike previous years, this survey will not be done on computer or via ffa.org. Instead, we want to send people -survey specialists- out into the crowd to personally talk to people and collect the data. Surveying will occur Friday, Nov. 1 and Saturday, Nov. 2. Times are flexible. If this opportunity interests you, please check your personal convention schedule before responding by Aug. 30 to Katie Dallam at kdallam@ffa.org <<mailto:kdallam@ffa.org>> or call 317-802-4216. More information will be sent in early September.

Don't forget to reserve convention housing. The Louisville Housing Bureau began assigning rooms June 15. All requests in by that date will receive confirmation by Aug. 1. If you normally reserve rooms through the National FFA Organization (ex. state staff, judges, etc.,) you will be contacted (in some cases already have been) regarding this year's process. Please call with questions. Andrea McNeely, 317-802-4288, amcneely@ffa.org <<mailto:amcneely@ffa.org>> or Katie Dallam, 317-802-4216, kdallam@ffa.org <<mailto:kdallam@ffa.org>>.

See 75 years of FFA in art. During the national FFA convention, 33 oil paintings commissioned for the FFA Calendar Series (1951-1984) will be on display at the Kentucky Center for the Arts Wednesday, Oct. 30 through Saturday, Nov. 2 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Experience the history of FFA and trace its growth through the years. Artists: Arthur Sarnoff, Harold Anderson, Bill Medcalf, E.N. Erickson. Admission is free.

The 2nd Edition Convention *Survival Guide* is on its way to your door. Watch for the newly redesigned information guide that provides everything you need to know about the 75th National FFA Convention including convention pre-registration, housing information, schedule of events, concert acts, keynote speakers and more. You can find this same information online at www.ffa.org/convention/index.html [<http://www.ffa.org/convention/index.html>](http://www.ffa.org/convention/index.html). Discover downloadable forms, checklists, worksheets and other information in the online Convention Survival Guide - made for a first year advisor or a veteran teacher. If you cannot find an answer on the website then e-mail kdallam@ffa.org [<mailto:kdallam@ffa.org>](mailto:kdallam@ffa.org) or call 317-802-4216. See you in Louisville!

Invitation for alumni band and chorus. Through the years, hundreds of FFA members have inspired convention attendees through music. In honor of the 75th Anniversary of FFA, the national FFA band and chorus invites former band and chorus members to join the 75th National FFA Convention band and chorus for a special performance.

Alumni band

Contact Joe LaJoye, national FFA band director, via e-mail at jplajoye@triton.net [<mailto:jplajoye@triton.net>](mailto:jplajoye@triton.net)

by Oct. 20, 2002. The Alumni band will join the National FFA Band at the American Degree Lunch Saturday, Nov. 2 at noon. Play one song or the whole set. Luncheon tickets (\$15) can be purchased using the pre-registration form or during convention at registration in South Wing Lobby A. Alumni band members should report to South Wing A at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 2. Bring your instrument and a folding music stand. Music will be provided at this time.

Alumni chorus

Contact Patti LaJoye, national FFA chorus director, via e-mail at jplajoye@triton.net [<mailto:jplajoye@triton.net>](mailto:jplajoye@triton.net)

by Oct. 20, 2002. The Alumni chorus will join the National FFA chorus Friday, Nov. 1 at the Band and Chorus Concert (6-6:45 p.m.). Alumni chorus members should report to the East Ballroom in Freedom Hall at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1. Instructions and music will be provided at this time.

Spam alert. Over the last several months, the FFA national staff, state associations, members and parents have been on the receiving end of unsolicited and annoying spam mailings. The most recent mailing is of great concern, as one can infer from the message that it was sent from the National FFA Organization. The particular content of the e-mail is not only offensive, but, in many instances, criminal. The sending of spam e-mail, using false and misleading subject headings and messages, violates Federal Trade Commission and state anti-spamming laws. The National FFA Organization is pursuing all law enforcement remedies available to stop this unlawful spamming. For your convenience, we have provided a listing of website addresses where you can forward any unlawful spam e-mails you may receive in the future. Attached is a letter for your use in responding to anyone who may contact you regarding the unlawful spam e-mails. Please forward this information to all parties you deem appropriate. If you have any questions, contact Mickie Miller at mmiller@ffa.org [<mailto:mmiller@ffa.org>](mailto:mmiller@ffa.org).

Teaming for the future of Ag: National PAS and MANRRS leadership training. The National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS) joined with the National Society for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences

(MANRRS) in July to start a new era of excellence. Between the two organizations, six National PAS officers and 17 MANRRS officers wrapped up their week-long National Officer training session focused on individual and team leadership skills. An exciting comprehensive training program was developed to provide the skills, training and resources to serve as an effective officer team for both the PAS and MANRRS organizations. This exciting opportunity was sponsored by ADM as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Thanks to their support, officers had the opportunity to interact with one another to further their business etiquette, conference planning, leadership and team building skills. To find out more about the organizations, visit PAS online at <http://www.ffa.org/aero/pas/index.html> and MANRRS at <http://www.manrrs.org>.

Courtesy Corps applications due! Courtesy Corps applications are due September 6, 2002. This year all chapter application must be approved by the state and include a signed copy of the Code of Ethics. Please direct all questions to April Pruet, apruet@ffa.org <<mailto:apruet@ffa.org>>, 317-802-4256 or fax applications to 317-802-5256.

Board of Directors meeting: The National FFA Organization's board of directors met in Indianapolis in mid-July. Attached is a summary of the meeting.

Convention registration fee set at \$30 for 2003. The National FFA Board of Directors and National FFA Officers have set the national FFA convention attendance fee at \$30 for pre-registration and \$35 for on-site registration beginning in 2003. The action was taken to offset significant increases in costs for services, decoration, staging, labor and security.

The annual national FFA convention is a break-even activity; its cost is borne by participants and is not paid-even in part-by general dues. Even with the approved increase, the FFA convention fee remains markedly lower than national meeting fees for other student organizations: VICA/Skills USA - \$90/\$100; FCCLA - \$100/\$110; and FBLA - \$85/95. Increases in the convention fee are scheduled periodically, and are not expected to require adjustment for another five to seven years.

Award-winning convention coverage at ffa.org. If you haven't visited [ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) in a while, check out the expanded convention planning information available at <http://www.ffa.org/convention/index.html>. Up-to-date schedules, concert announcements, planning documents and the *2nd Edition Survival Guide* are all available, and handy drop-down menus make important information available in just one click.

In related news, on July 16, 2002, the FFA Web Team members received an Excellent Performance in Communications (EPIC) Award of Merit from the International Association of Business Communicators for their coverage of last year's convention. This year's convention website will be even better! Make [ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) your source for award-winning FFA convention coverage.

School Officials Luncheon. Invite your state official, school official or important education partners to experience motivational speakers, outstanding teachers and top students at the School Officials Luncheon. This educational and entertaining event will take place on Friday, Nov. 1, 2002 at 11:30 a.m., during the 75th National FFA

Convention. Take this opportunity to show your education partners a unique side of convention.

In addition to the luncheon, we welcome them to experience the many suggested activities including convention sessions (4th & 6th), national FFA leadership workshops, and the FFA National Agricultural Career Show[®]. The luncheon is FREE; however, seating is limited! Only 300 tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, so please respond early to secure a reservation for this activity. To order your official's complimentary ticket, contact Michele Gilbert at 317-802-4301 or mgilbert@ffa.org <<mailto:mgilbert@ffa.org>>. Have attendee's name, organization, mailing address and e-mail address ready to share when contacting Michele. (Please note the updated phone number, as it was printed incorrectly in the School Officials Luncheon flyer.)

For more information, contact Tony Small, tsmall@ffa.org <<mailto:tsmall@ffa.org>>, 317-802-4300 or Michele Gilbert, mgilbert@ffa.org <<mailto:mgilbert@ffa.org>>, 317-802-4301.

Membership

National FFA Membership Update: Membership as of July 17, 2002 is 460,257. The official membership total will be announced Aug. 31, 2002. For the 2002-2003 membership year, 34 state associations have elected to use a Microsoft Excel template to process their rosters; and, as of July 13, 22 state associations have been trained in its use. One more training session is scheduled for August 3. Online membership training for the four pilot states will be held in September. For those that have questions regarding the Online or the Excel membership systems, two workshops will be available at national convention in October. Watch the Second Edition Advisor Survival Guide or the *FFA Online Membership Xpress* for more information. Also in the next *Xpress*, look for a feature on the National FFA Center's membership team.

COMPETITIONS

Cargill scholarships. In an effort to strengthen its partnership with FFA, and to make a more positive impact on youth in communities where Cargill has a presence, the company has redesigned its scholarship program. It's now bigger and better than ever. The new and improved Cargill Community Scholarship Program will award 350 \$1000 scholarships in the 2002-2003 school year. In addition, the scholarship recipient's school may also be eligible for a library grant. These scholarships will be available to both FFA and non-FFA members. Watch for the description in the 2003 Scholarship Book.

EDUCATOR NEWS

Agriscience Fair certification changes to begin in 2003.

A new certification process will be in place next year. The forms are available now and may be used for 2002, and must be used in 2003. The new form includes a checklist for Agriscience fair projects to ensure exhibits meet all eligibility and safety requirements. The certification forms and five copies of the project abstract will be due postmarked Aug. 15 each year. The new certification form is included in the 2003 application form (attached) along with an example format for the project abstract. Please contact Anna Melodia with questions, amelodia@ffa.org <<mailto:amelodia@ffa.org>>.

Global agriculture. Each year, State FFA Officers have the unique opportunity to travel to Europe to learn about global agriculture and business through International Leadership Seminar for State Officers (ILSSO). Participants stay with a German farm family and participate in business and industry visits. Tentative dates for 2003 are Jan. 4-20. This year's trip includes stops in Germany, Austria and Italy. If you are a newly

elected or past state officer and have ever wanted to travel to a foreign country, learn about global agriculture, or spend two amazing weeks with other State FFA Officers, then the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers (ILSSO) is the right place for you! Download application forms and find out more information, e-mail us at global@ffa.org <mailto:global@ffa.org> visit online at <<http://www.ffa.org/international/>> or call 317-802-4309.

FFA Global Leadership Training available online! FFA Global is looking for agriculture instructors interested in exploring agriculture through our exciting, online learning program about global agriculture. A “real world” storyline allows students to learn about global agriculture and U.S. policy as they follow the lives of two fictional FFA members who travel to Moldova, Honduras and Ethiopia. Several chapters are already using the program. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please contact FFA Global at 317-802-4220 or at global@ffa.org <mailto:global@ffa.org>. Visit the FFA Global Leadership Scenarios site at <<http://www.ffa.org/scenarios/>> today, check it out and get signed up for your classes this fall!

National FFA Agricultural Ambassador Program accepting applications. Once again, the National FFA Organization, Education Community Outreach Host committee and Louisville Food Processing Network will bring the Agricultural Ambassador Program to the 75th National FFA Convention. The program will provide training assistance and resources to urban fourth grade classroom teachers in preparation for a visit and presentation by FFA members from around the country. This opportunity should prove to be very educational to all the ambassadors who participate. It will also prepare them to train other chapter members within your state to create an agricultural awareness project.

Who can be involved this year?

- All 2002-2003 State FFA Officers not serving as official delegates at the national FFA convention will be eligible.
- FFA members who have leadership experience and are arriving early for convention. For clarification, call Eva Madrid. (Please see contact information below.)

FFA Agricultural Ambassadors will be selected through an application process.

Time Commitment:

- Must be able to attend training on Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2002.
 - Registration for training will start at 8 a.m.
- Must be able to participate in the visit to the schools from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2002.

The costs for the materials, supplies and lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday are covered through sponsorship of this project, which is funded by the Louisville Food Processing Network as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Attached, please find an information sheet and application. For more information please contact: Eva Madrid, emadrid@ffa.org <mailto:emadrid@ffa.org>, 317-802-4322; Michele Gilbert, mgilbert@ffa.org <mailto:mgilbert@ffa.org>, 317-802-4301 or Tony Small, tsmall@ffa.org <mailto:tsmall@ffa.org>, 317- 802-4300.

STATE STAFF NEWS

Career Clusters initiative: The Career Clusters initiative seeks to identify and validate

the academic and technical skills needed for 11 career areas by Aug. 15. Staff members at the national Career Clusters initiative office have been working with partnerships across the nation to develop knowledge and skills statements for 11 career clusters. Input is sought from educators and industry experts on the knowledge and skills statements. Individuals may validate the knowledge and skill statements by going to our web site at <http://www.careerclusters.org> and responding to the survey, which is expected to take between 20 and 30 minutes to complete. The information gathered from respondents will be used to make the knowledge and skills statements "more accurate and complete."

The 11 careers clusters are: Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; Architecture and Construction; Marketing, Sales and Service; Finance; Hospitality and Tourism; Business, Management and Administration; Human Services; Law, Public Safety and Security; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; Education and Training; and Government and Public Administration. Career clusters identify pathways from secondary school to post secondary education and the workplace. The knowledge and skills statements from the 11 clusters will be used in schools, academies and secondary and post secondary learning centers to provide students a relevant context for learning and better prepare them for the 21st century work place.

For more information about the Career Clusters initiative or to validate the knowledge and skills statements, go to <http://www.careerclusters.org> or call toll free 866-438-8873.

Local Program Success Guide 2002-2003 CD-ROM: Just a quick reminder to all state staff and teacher educators, the Local Program Resource Guide 2002-2003 CD-ROM has been released. Orders were shipped to State Staff in July 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 at mgilbert@ffa.org <<mailto:mgilbert@ffa.org>> or 317-802-5301.

For more information, please contact: Michele Gilbert, mgilbert@ffa.org <<mailto:mgilbert@ffa.org>>, 317-802-4301;

Tony Small, tsmall@ffa.org, 317-802-4300 <<mailto:tsmall@ffa.org>, 317-802-4300> or Kevin Keith, kkeith@ffa.org <<mailto:kkeith@ffa.org>>, 317-802-4254

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN UPDATE

2002 Career Development Event (CDE) Information

CDE Student Waiver: Each member participating in a National FFA CDE must submit the proper Waiver, Release of Liability and Consent to Medical Treatment form. The National FFA CDE Coordinator must receive the form by Sept. 30, 2002. If a team does not qualify for participation in the national event until after this deadline, the waiver form must be submitted with the certification form. Students who do not submit this form will not be allowed to participate.

Deadlines for Manuscripts and Portfolios:

- All Prepared Public Speaking manuscripts must be submitted to the National FFA Center by Aug. 15, 2002.
- All portfolios for Agricultural Communications, Agricultural Issues and Marketing Plan must be submitted to the National FFA Center by Sept. 15, 2002.
- All cover letters, resumes and references for Job Interview must be submitted by Sept. 15, 2002.

Agricultural Mechanics Theme: Material Handling Systems

Please refer to the following website for complete information regarding the 2002 Agricultural Mechanics CDE: <http://www.missouri.edu/~pavt0689/natcon.html>.

UPDATE is also available at <http://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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2002 Ag



2003 AGF



Abstract



Electronic 2002 Ag



Template for Spam



Website Addresses

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One Mission: Student Success

75th National FFA Convention

October 30 - November 2, 2002

**2002 National FFA
Agricultural Ambassador
Program**

Information Provided Inside

National FFA Agricultural Ambassador Program

What is it? The 2002 National FFA Agricultural Ambassador Program.

Once again, the National FFA Organization is bringing the 75th National FFA Convention to Louisville, Kentucky, October 30 – November 2, 2002. This event has opened the door for exciting opportunities to connect with the community. As a part of this relationship several special activities are being planned. The Education Community Outreach Host committee has focused its efforts on connecting with the education community. This focus has created an exciting opportunity to continue the Agricultural Ambassador program this year. This program will involve 30-35 fourth grade classroom teachers and their students and the National FFA Organization.

The program will assist in providing training and resources to fourth grade classroom teachers in preparation for a visit and presentation by state FFA officers from around the country. As a member of this group, the teachers will have access to specialized training, resources from Project Food, Land and People, Agriculture in the Classroom, 4-H Gee Whiz in Agriculture, Food for America and other classroom instructional resources.

When does this occur?

During the 2002 National FFA Convention (October 30 – November 2, 2002)

The teachers who have been selected will attend training June 26 -27, 2002 and prepare pieces of information that will be a part of their curriculum for the fall. The instructional resources are focused on agricultural literacy and will be the foundation for a visit from the FFA Agricultural Ambassadors during the National FFA Convention.

The FFA Agricultural Ambassadors will be selected through an application process. The applications are due **August 16, 2002**. The Agricultural Ambassadors selected will be placed into teams of 2-3 people. The teams will be provided resources, training and information to present to the fourth grade classroom assigned in the Louisville area. Some preparation before the convention will be necessary, and **Tuesday, October 29, 2002** will be the day of training and development. Resources for possible implementation in home states, practice sessions for the officers and an overview of the following day's activities will be a part of the training session. **Wednesday morning, October 30, 2002** will be the day for actual state officer presentations and interaction with the school.

Who can be involved this year?

All 2002 - 2003 State FFA Officers that will not serve as official delegates at the National FFA convention will be eligible.

The development of this activity and its success relies on utilizing the skills of state officers or chapter leaders/leaders who are not official delegates and have skills and training to make the difference as an agricultural ambassador. The activities of the National FFA Agricultural Ambassador program occur primarily during the time of Official Delegate meetings. In addition, the training and experiences of agricultural ambassadors will assist in further development of your skills.

What does it cost?

The costs for the materials, supplies, and lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday are covered through sponsorship of this project. The Louisville Food Processing Group has funded this as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Will this require additional travel?

No. The ambassadors' training sessions will occur at the main convention center. In addition, the ambassadors will be escorted in presentation groups to the school sites to conduct the educational activity. Currently, the plan is to have 2-3 teams per school (which is 4-6 ambassadors) present at each site. The classroom size will not be over 30 for each ambassador team. The Agriculture Club of Louisville, (a Cooperative Extension agent group in Kentucky) will assist in providing transportation to and from the school sites.

Why should I become involved?

This is the fourth year for the National FFA Agricultural Ambassador program. The opportunity to be a part of this event is exciting. In addition, the opportunity to inform youth about agriculture, agricultural career opportunities, promote the National FFA Organization through serving as an agricultural ambassador is an awesome responsibility. The development of young people and commitment to the FFA mission of **Premier Leadership, Personal Growth** and **Career Success** are a part of this exciting event. Finally, the resources and training that will be a part of this program may assist in conducting similar activities across the country and allow for collaboration to occur that will last for years to come.

How do I sign up?

Enclosed is an application and additional information about participating in this group of the National FFA Agricultural Ambassador program this year. The applications are due **August 16, 2002** to the National FFA Organization. Following selection, specific information on assignments, plans and preparation opportunities will be sent to each agricultural ambassador.

General comments:

This will be the fourth year for the National FFA Agricultural Ambassador program for the 2002 National FFA Convention. We look forward to the opportunity to be a part of the Louisville community and hope that you will join us by participating in this exciting event.

For additional information contact:

Eva Madrid

Local Program Success Intern
(317) 802-4322
emadrid@ffa.org

Michele Gilbert

Local Program Success Assistant
(317) 802-4301
mgilbert@ffa.org

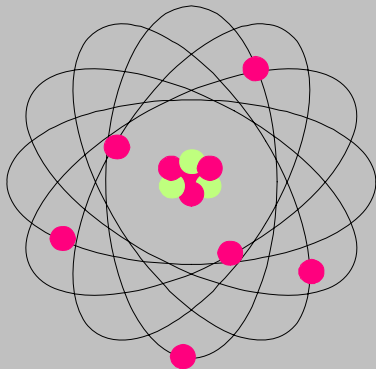
Tony Small

Local Program Success Specialist
(317) 802-4300
tsmall@ffa.org

National FFA Organization, 6060 FFA Drive, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960

National FFA Agriscience Fair

NATIONAL FFA AGRISCIENCE FAIR
GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES



Sponsored by

Ford Motor Company Fund

Award Objective

The National FFA Agriscience Fair recognizes middle and high school students who are studying the application of scientific principles and emerging technologies in agricultural enterprises. Participation begins at the local chapter level and progresses to the state and national levels. Areas of participation closely mirror those of the International Science and Engineering Fair but reflect an agricultural theme.

GOALS

- Provide students with an opportunity to use the scientific process.
- Provide students an opportunity to achieve local, state and national recognition for their accomplishments in agriscience.
- Reinforce skills and principles learned in agriscience courses.

- Provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate and display agriscience projects that are products of their agriscience courses.
- Provide recruiting and promotional opportunities for agriscience programs.

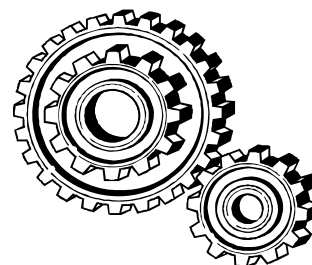
RECOGNITION

Chapter Level - Winners may be selected annually in each FFA chapter. The winner may represent any of the agriscience category areas (based on state rules for competitions). Medals and certificates are available from the National FFA on the Medal Distribution Request form included in the Free Chapter Materials packet.

State Level - Winners from each division in all five categories may be selected annually in each of the chartered state associations. Each of those winners may then participate in the appropriate areas on the national level.

National Level - Winners from each state may be forwarded for national competition. A national winner will be selected in each division. National winners will be presented with ribbon rosettes and plaques.

Additional awards may become available as funded by special project sponsors above and beyond the core sponsorship for the National FFA Agriscience Fair. They may include, but are not limited to, scholarships and cash awards to division winners in each category. These awards will be **appropriate** for each division, not necessarily equal or identical.



Categories

The following are the categories for the National FFA Agriscience Fair:

I. BIOCHEMISTRY/ MICROBIOLOGY/ FOOD SCIENCE

This involves the biology of microorganisms such as bacteriology, virology, protozoology, fungi bacterial genetics, and yeast. This area can also include the following: Chemistry of life processes such as molecular biology; molecular genetics; enzymes; photosynthesis; protein chemistry; food chemistry; hormones, etc.

Examples:

- Compare yeast fermentation techniques for converting sugars to alcohol
- Resistance of organic fruits to common diseases
- Control of molds on bakery products

II. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

The study of pollution (air, water and land) sources and their control. Other areas of ecology would be applied here.

Examples:

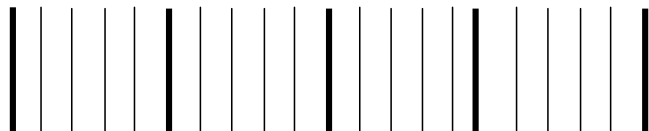
- Effect of agricultural chemicals on water quality
- Effects of cropping practices on wildlife populations
- Compare irrigation systems for energy efficiency
- Research uniform water quality standards
- Compare water movements through different soil types

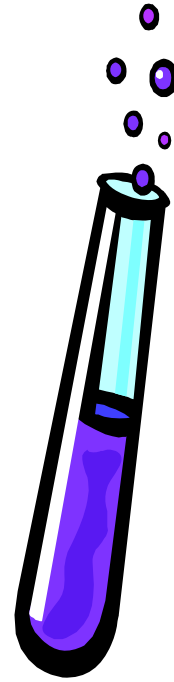
III. ZOOLOGY (ANIMAL SCIENCE)

The study of animals including animal genetics, ornithology, ichthyology, entomology, animal ecology, paleontology, cellular physiology, animal husbandry, cytology, histology, animal physiology, invertebrate neurophysiology, studies of invertebrates, etc.

Examples:

- Compare nutrient levels on animal growth
- Research new disease control mechanisms
- Effects of estrous synchronization on ovulation
- Compare effects of thawing temperatures on livestock semen
- Effects of growth hormone on meat/milk production





IV. BOTANY (PLANT/SOIL SCIENCE)

The study of plant life such as agriculture, agronomy, horticulture, forestry, plant taxonomy, plant physiology, plant pathology, plant genetics, hydroponics, algae, etc.

Examples:

- Effect of substrate particle size on shiitake mushroom growth
- Effects of heavy metals such as cadmium on edible plants
- Effect of ultraviolet light on soil microbes
- Effects of lunar climate and soil condition on plant growth
- Compare plant growth between hydroponics and conventional method

V. ENGINEERING (MECHANICAL/ AGRICULTURE ENGINEERING SCIENCE)

This area includes technology and projects that directly apply scientific principles to manufacturing and practical uses such as mechanical, chemical, electrical, environmental engineering, etc.

Examples:

- Develop alternate energy source engines
- Absorption media for plant materials
- Compare various tillage methods for energy efficiency
- Investigation of light energy sources

Agriscience Fair Rules

Projects may be disqualified if they do not meet the eligibility, safety and display rules.

ELIGIBILITY RULES

1. Competition is open to all FFA members in grades 7-12. There are four divisions. Division I is open to individual members in grades 7, 8 and 9. Division II is open to individual members in grades 10, 11, and 12. Division III is for teams of two members in grades 7, 8, and 9. Division IV is for teams of two members in grades 10, 11 and 12. The students grade level is determined by the age of the member at the time of qualification at the state level. States with qualifying competitions may have up to 20 entries, one in each category, in each division. For example: A state may have an entry in Zoology in Divisions I, II, III and IV. You may not have more than one entry in a division. Participant must be an FFA member.
2. There are five categories. They are Biochemistry/Microbiology/Food Science; Environmental Sciences; Zoology; Botany; and Engineering. See previous explanations for more information.
3. Each member and/or team may enter only one project. A team is a maximum of two members working cooperatively on the same project. Students participating in the Agriscience Student Scholarship and Recognition Program may participate in the National FFA Agriscience Fair. Successive year projects must indicate change or growth in the project from the previous year(s) in the log books. Displays must reflect the current year's work only.
4. Each participant is required to meet with the judges to explain their project. Explanation and questioning may not exceed fifteen minutes. Students with conflicts due to participation in other national events will need to choose only one event in which to participate. No exceptions will be made due to participation in other events (i.e. National Band or Chorus, Career Development Events).
5. In team divisions, both members are required to be present for judging to qualify for placing and
6. States may enter one project in each area that they have a state winner, this is a maximum of twenty entries for states with a qualifying competition. In the case that a state does not have a state qualifying competition, the maximum number of entries will be ten. No entries from a state may compete against each other in the same division at the national level.
7. Exhibited projects and project reports shall be the result of the student(s) own efforts.

SAFETY RULES*

1. If an exhibit becomes unsafe or unsuitable for display, it will be removed and deemed ineligible for any awards.
2. Projects involving vertebrate animal/embryo subjects must conform with the following statement: Experiments on live animals/embryos involving surgery, the removal of parts, injection of harmful chemicals, and/or exposure to harmful environments, are

Agriscience Fair Application Form

Must include certification form with application beginning in 2003.

This form may be used by states to identify individuals who are interested in participating in the National Agriscience Fair. This application form should be completely filled out and submitted to the state FFA office by the appropriate due date for your state. This form does not guarantee entry in the National Agriscience Fair. Each state may set its own standards or qualifications for participation.

ONE ENTRY PER FORM. COPY FOR ADDITIONAL ENTRIES AS NEEDED.

Name _____ Career Goal _____

Parent or guardian name _____

Home Address _____

Home City _____ Home State _____ Home Zip _____

Home Telephone _____ School Telephone _____
(Remember to include your area code) (Remember to include your area code)

FFA Chapter Name _____ FFA Chapter Number _____

Ag Instructor(s) _____

Year in School Use Arrow to Choose (at time of qualification)

School _____

School Address _____

School City _____ School State _____ School Zip _____

Project Title _____

Category: Biochemistry/Microbiology/Food Science
 Environmental Science
 Zoology
 Botany
 Engineering

Division: One (Individuals in grades 7-8-9)
 Two (Individuals in grades 10-11-12)
 Three (Team of two in grades 7-8-9) * Please fill in information below
 Four (Team of two in grades 10-11-12) *Please fill in information below

Fill in the information below for a second member of team: (Leave blank if individual)

Name _____ Career Goal _____

Parent or guardian name _____

Home Address _____

Home City _____ Home State _____ Home Zip _____

Home Telephone _____
(Remember to include your area code)

Year in School Use Arrow to Choose (at time of qualification)

Agriscience Fair Score Sheet

Each category is to be scored from 0-10, with 10 being a perfect score. The total possible score for the entire sheet is 100 points.

Participant _____

Category _____ Division _____

SCORE CATEGORY

_____ **Knowledge Gained**- Is there evidence the student has acquired scientific skills and/or knowledge by doing this project? Does the exhibitor recognize the scope and limitation of the problem he or she has selected?

_____ **Scientific Approach**- Has a scientific approach been made to the problem? Has the exhibitor solved the problem by using scientific facts as a basis for new conclusions? Is the exhibitor aware of the basic scientific principles that lend support to the methods used and the conclusions reached?

_____ **Experimental Research**- Has data been gathered from work done by the student, rather than the results from the work of others? Is the exhibitor's equipment effective? Does it do what it was intended to do? Can the research be the basis for further experimentation? Is the project actually a model or demonstration?

_____ **Individual/Team Work**-Has material been gathered from a variety of sources and cited? Is the log book present for examination? If a team, is evidence of collaboration present? Can the portions of the presentation representing the work of others be identified?

_____ **Thoroughness**-Is the exhibitor aware of the empirical method (the necessity of repeating trials) and the importance of controlling the variables in the experimentation in order to reach valid conclusions? Has the analysis of the problem been orderly? How successfully was the original plan carried through to completion?

SCORE CATEGORY

_____ **Information**-Are known facts and principles stated correctly and used accurately? Have the results of experiments been reported accurately even though faulty experimental methods or conditions may have made the data unreliable? If so, have these errors been noted? Is the data complete or at least based on random, rather than selected sampling?

_____ **Conclusions**-Has the student started with known facts and drawn their own conclusions? Are the conclusions consistent with the data and/or observations?

_____ **Written Project Report** - Are all components of the written report available? Has the exhibitor made thorough use of the data, literature cited, interviews, correspondence, etc. and noted them properly? Considering the age and experience of the exhibitor, does the project make use of their abilities?

_____ **Interview**-Is the exhibitor able to successfully communicate their knowledge on the project?

_____ **Visual Display**-Has the data been presented in the best manner for the particular type of information involved? Are spelling errors present? Does the exhibit demonstrate a general neatness and attractiveness? Is the display presented in a logical and interesting manner?

Total Score

Final Placing _____

Project Components

LOG BOOK

A log book is your most important piece of work. It will contain accurate and detailed notes of a well-planned and implemented project. Your notes should be a consistent and thorough record of your project. This will be one of your greatest aids when writing your paper.

PROJECT REPORT

You will be required to submit a written project report. It must include the following:

- **Title Page.** Include the project title, your name, address and chapter.
- **Table of Contents.** Reference each section of your paper.
- **Abstract.** The abstract should be a maximum of one page in length. It should include a brief statement of purpose, procedures used, data collected and conclusions drawn. It may also include possible research applications or future research.
- **Introduction.** This should include the problem statement, your hypothesis, and an explanation of what prompted your research and what you hoped to achieve.
- **Materials and Methods.** Describe the methodology used to collect your data or make your observations. This should be descriptive enough to allow someone else to replicate your experiment. Include a list of materials and equipment used.

- **Results.** A factual presentation of the outcomes of your study. These may be presented in tables and charts.

- **Discussion and Conclusion.** Draw conclusions from the results of your study and relate them to your original hypothesis. Be thorough. Allow the reader to see your train of thought, compare your results to commonly held beliefs or expectations. Offer sound reasoning for your results. If your results were not as expected, explain why in this section.

- **Acknowledgements.** Credit those who assisted you in your investigations. These may be individuals or businesses that provided guidance or materials.

- **Literature cited.** A list of published articles, books or other communications cited in your text. Use an accepted style guide for proper reference listings and footnotes.

INTERVIEW

The interview will consist of a question and answer period between the student and judge(s). The maximum time limit for the interview is 15 minutes. Judges are impressed with those students who can speak freely and confidently about their work. They are not interested in memorized speeches, they simply want to talk about the research to see if the competitor(s) have a good grasp of the project from start to finish. Besides asking the obvious questions, judges often ask questions to test insight into the project such as "What wasn't done?" and "What would be the next step?"

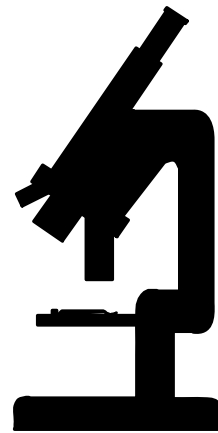
DISPLAY

Your display should be eye-catching and informative. Keep it simple so judges and others can quickly assess and understand your project and the results you achieved. Use clear language and captions to explain photos, graphs and other items. Make the headings stand out. Draw and clearly label graphs and diagrams. Use photographs to show the stages of your project or to depict items that may not be safe to exhibit or would be costly to transport or replace if lost or damaged.

Be sure to follow all rules relating to display requirements. Projects may be removed from competition if the guidelines are not followed.

JUDGING

Judges evaluate 1) how well the scientific method was followed; 2) the detail and accuracy of the log book and project report; and 3) whether tools/equipment were used in the best possible way. Judges look for well thought-out research. They look at how significant the project is in its field as well as how thorough the research is. The three components of the project: written report, interview and display, are all evaluated to determine the final placing of the exhibits.



Agriscience Fair Certification Form

Must include certification form with application beginning in 2003.

Each statement below must be certified by the local FFA Advisor and the State Staff. The purpose of this form is to ensure that all projects meet the eligibility, safety and display rules. This form does not prevent the project from being disqualified at the national level if any requirements are violated at that time. Any "no" answers disqualify the project from national competition. See rules brochure (application page 3 & 4) or the Agriscience Handbook for details

Local Advisor State Advisor

Yes	No	Yes	No	
				1. Participant is a current in-school FFA member.
				2. Project is the result of the student's (divisions 2 & 4) or student team's (division 1 & 3) own work.
				3. Student or team of students will be attending the National Agriscience Fair and meet with the judges. (If team, both are required to be present)
				4. Projects involving vertebrate animals/embryos did not involve surgery, removal of parts, injection of harmful chemicals or exposure to harmful environments.
				5. No toxic or hazardous chemicals are used with the display.
				6. No crystals, other than salt and sugar, are used with the display.
				7. No hypodermic needles or syringes are included with the display.
				8. No bacteria are included in the display.
				9. Only plastic petri dishes are used (if applicable).
				10. No lasers are used.
				11. No combustible materials are used.
				12. No open flames are included with the display.
				13. All electrical devices meet approved safety standards. (see rules brochure for details)
				14. The exhibit meets the size restrictions: 48 inches wide x 30 inches deep x 108 inches high (height includes the table if the project is on a table top)
				15. Five copies of the project abstract are included with this application/certification form.

We certify that the above information is true, accurate and complete.

Student Signature

Student Signature (if team)

Local FFA Advisor Signature

State FFA Advisor Signature

The application form, this certification form and five copies of the project abstract must be postmarked by August 15 each year. Mail forms to:

Agriscience Fair
 National FFA Organization
 PO Box 68960
 6060 FFA Drive
 Indianapolis, IN 46268



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.

Produced by the National FFA Organization 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.

National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
PO Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960
www.ffa.org

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(Abstract format)

Name

**Category
Division**

Abstract

Title of Project

Text of abstract should be 100 to 250 words, one page maximum; text of abstract should be Times New Roman font, 12-point pica, double-spaced. Headers and titles should be Times New Roman font, 12-point pica, and bolded. Each paragraph should be indented. Remember, the written report contains detailed information; the abstract is a brief overview that should catch the attention of the judges.

First paragraph: The purpose of your experiment.

Second paragraph: The procedures used during your experiment.

Third paragraph: The type of data collected during the experiment.

Fourth paragraph: The conclusions and research applications of your experiment.



One Mission: Student Success

75th National FFA Convention

October 30 - November 2, 2002

Agricultural Ambassador

Application

Due August 16, 2002

Name _____ Grade _____

E-Mail _____

Office Held _____

Home Address

School Address

(If Applicable)

Address _____

School _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

City _____

Phone _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Fax _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

1. Why do you desire to be an Agricultural Ambassador?

2. In what ways will your state benefit from your role as an Agricultural Ambassador?



Dear _____

Thank you for bringing to our attention the recent e-mail you received. We deplore the confusion and potential harm that such uses of the letters "FFA" can bring.

When you received this e-mail which included the unauthorized use of "FFA" and/or directed you to a website that used the unauthorized letters "FFA", you were the victim of unsolicited and unlawful "spam" promoting this particular website and its objectionable content.

The sending of "spam" e-mail using false and misleading subject headings and messages, such as the one you received, violates Federal Trade Commission and state anti-spamming laws. These "spam" attacks are of great concern to FFA, as the recipient is predisposed to think that the message comes from the National FFA Organization with which they are affiliated and may then be harmed by exposure to the offensive and criminal content of these websites. Please be assured the National FFA Organization is pursuing all law enforcement remedies available, and we will continue to forward all offensive materials to the proper legal authorities to assist in putting an end to this invasive and offensive e-mail "spamming" directed at the public.

We ask you to please forward any future, offensive e-mails to the National FFA and the proper legal authorities, both nationally and within your state. For your convenience, we have provided a listing of website addresses to which you can forward any unlawful "spam" e-mails you may receive in the future.

Please know that we share your concern, and we thank you for bringing this to the attention of the National FFA Organization.

Sincerely,

National FFA Organization
<http://www.miller@ffa.org>

Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section of the Criminal Division of the US Dept. of Justice.
<http://www.cybercrime.gov/>

Internet Fraud Complaint Center
<http://www1.ifccfbi.gov/index.asp>

Federal Trade Commission:
[https://rn.ftc.gov/dod/wsolcq\\$.startup?Z_ORG_CODE=PU01](https://rn.ftc.gov/dod/wsolcq$.startup?Z_ORG_CODE=PU01)

Center for Missing and Exploited Children
<http://www.missingkids.com/>

Federal Bureau of Investigation
<http://www.fbi.org/>

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.

Website Addresses for “Spam” emails.

National FFA Organization
<http://www.miller@ffa.org>

Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section of the Criminal Division of the US Dept. of Justice.
<http://www.cybercrime.gov/>

Internet Fraud Complaint Center
<http://www1.ifccfbi.gov/index.asp>

Federal Trade Commission:
[https://rn.ftc.gov/dod/wsolcq\\$.startup?Z_ORG_CODE=PU01](https://rn.ftc.gov/dod/wsolcq$.startup?Z_ORG_CODE=PU01)

Center for Missing and Exploited Children
<http://www.missingkids.com/>

Federal Bureau of Investigation
<http://www.fbi.org/>

**National FFA Board of Directors
Meeting Summary
July 2002**

The FFA Board of Directors met in Indianapolis, Ind., July 12-16. Newly seated board members are: Kent Boggs, U.S. Department of Education representative, state FFA executive secretary, Oklahoma Department of Career & Technical Education, Stillwater, Okla.; Elaine Lewis, U.S. Department of Education representative, Instructor—Agricultural Education, Yelm High School, Yelm, Wash.; and James Woodard, state supervisor, state director of agricultural education, State Department of Education, Atlanta, Ga.

Reports included the following:

The National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS) joined the National Society for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) the week of the National FFA Board meeting. Between the two organizations, six national PAS officers and 17 MANRRS officers wrapped up their weeklong national officer training session focused on individual and team leadership skills. A comprehensive training program was developed to provide the skills, training and resources to serve as an effective officer team for both the PAS and MANRRS organizations. This opportunity was sponsored by ADM as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

- Cindy Ettestad reported on behalf of the National FFA Alumni Council and announced the hiring of Frank Saldaña as the new executive director of FFA's National FFA Alumni Association.

- Steve Zimmerman, chairperson for the special board committee on the delegate process, reported that ten critical and emerging issues were drafted for consideration at the State Presidents' Conference (SPC). Following SPC, a number of issues will be submitted to the delegates at the 75th National FFA Convention.

- Bob Heuvel initiated discussion regarding a proposed constitutional amendment regarding use of lapel pins on the official jacket. It was concluded that the use of lapel pin on the official jacket was not a constitutional item, but a handbook item.

Motions carried include the following:

- Approval of 2,554 American FFA degrees, 11 H.O. Sargent Awards-Member and 2 H.O. Sargent Awards-Non members.

- Approval of the Distinguished Service Citation for IMC Global Inc.; Publishers Press; and the USDA-Farm Service Agency.

- Approval of 97 Honorary American FFA Degrees-Others and 52 Honorary American FFA Degrees-Teachers.

- Approval of the VIP award for Mr. Bill Bartow (MI), Dr. Jane Coulter (DC), Dr. Larry Erpelding (KS), Mr. Enoch Gonzalez (PR), Mr. Lawrence J. Gundrum (IL), Mr. Joel

C. Janke (ND), Dr. Layle D. Lawrence (WV), Mr. William B. Schreck (IL), Mr. Kenneth G. Seering (WI), Mr. Pete Spike (OH) and Congressman Wes Watkins (DC).

- Approved an increase in the 2003 convention pre-registration fee from \$25 to \$30 and the on site registration fee from \$25 to \$35.
- Approval of the statement: “*The National FFA Board of Directors strongly encourages all advisors to ensure that ALL FFA members who attend the national FFA convention follow the standards of official dress as outlined in the 2002-2003 Official FFA Manual on page 10.*” This statement is to be published in the 2nd Edition Convention Survival Guide, the Convention Guidebook and on the FFA website, as well as in letter or minor convention print items (related to specific convention activities: award programs, band, chorus and talent, courtesy corps, etc.) that may be sent to advisors and or students prior to the national FFA convention.
- Approval to eliminate multi-part paper rosters as a means of recording National FFA membership effective August 31, 2003 and to eliminate the use of stand-alone spreadsheets templates (on floppy disks or CD-ROMs) as a means of recording national FFA membership effective August 31, 2005. The goal is to move all FFA membership rosters from paper to online by 2005.
- Appointment of Bob Heuvel as Board Superintendent of the national FFA officer nomination process.
- Approval of a \$95,800 transfer from capital reserves to fund the purchase of equipment and building related items.
- A recommendation to the delegates at the 2002 National FFA Convention that the dues for 2003-2004 remain at \$5 per member.
- Selection of board member Horacio Garza, Jr., to serve on the National FFA Awards and CDE Advisory Board.

The next meeting of the National FFA Board of Directors will be Monday, Oct. 28, 2002 in Louisville, Ky. The next meeting of the National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees Executive Committee meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2002 in Louisville, Ky.

The January meeting of the National FFA Board of Directors will be held Jan. 24-27, 2003 in Alexandria, Va. The January meeting of the National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees will be held Jan. 27, 2003 in Alexandria, Va.

**National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees
Meeting Summary
July 16, 2002**

The board meeting took place at the Adam’s Mark Hotel in Indianapolis.

Reports

- \$6.18 million in contributions has been pledged year-to-date. (This is 11 percent ahead of last year.) Individual giving is providing an additional revenue stream.
- Jerry Brase, 2003 foundation chair, shared his experiences on the FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board. Plans are underway for a projected \$9 million fundraising goal. Efforts will focus on "flat-lining" fundraising expenses and increasing the percentage of individual giving in accordance with industry standards. 2003 Sponsors' Board members are now being recruited.

Board actions:

- The board moved to authorize creation of up to seven funding pools in the areas of Food Products and Processing; Animal Systems; Plant Systems; Natural Resources Systems; Power Structural & Technical Systems; Environmental Service Systems; and Business Systems. These areas are consistent with the established career clusters.
- The board moved to encourage Foundation staff and the leadership of the National Council for Agricultural Education to develop a proposal for possible funding of the Council's request for matching funds. This proposal will be presented to the Foundation Executive Committee meeting in October 2002 in Louisville, Ky.
- The board approved special project funding of Phase 2 of the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Career Cluster Project.
- The board accepted the preliminary Foundation budget for 2003.