

UPDATE

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U.S. Department of Education
February 2002

DATES TO REMEMBER

February		
	7-10	National Agricultural Education Inservice, Indianapolis
	15	National FFA Scholarship Applications Due, FFA Center
	16-23	National FFA Week
	28-Mar. 2	National Council for Agricultural Education, Board of Directors meeting, Alexandria, VA
March		
	1	FFA Global Programs Application Deadline for summer programs
	13 – 16	National Postsecondary Agricultural Student (PAS) Organization Conference, Mankato, MN
May		
	15	FFA dues and membership rosters due, FFA Center

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FFA

Olympic hopefuls? Do you know of former FFA members who will be competing in the Salt Lake City Winter Games? If so, we'd like to hear about them as well. The competitors' hard work and determination has undoubtedly resulted in an inspirational message worthy of sharing. We are prepared to highlight individual stories on [ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) [≤http://www.ffa.org/≥](http://www.ffa.org). There is also the potential for appearances at the 75th National FFA Convention. Let's put the spotlight on these exemplary individuals! Contact: Nicole Bishop, nbishop@ffa.org [≤mailto:nbishop@ffa.org/≥](mailto:nbishop@ffa.org).

Summer Internship Opportunity at the National FFA Center available: The National FFA Organization will offer an internship opportunity for an experienced teacher to work with supervised agricultural experience program-based (SAE) awards and activities this summer. Please check the job posting at [ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) [≤http://www.ffa.org/≥](http://www.ffa.org) or review the advertisement in the February and March issues of *FFA Advisors Making A Difference*. Applications for the position are due postmarked by Mar. 20, 2002. Contacts: Kevin Keith, (317) 802-4254, kkeith@ffa.org [≤mailto:kkeith@ffa.org/≥](mailto:kkeith@ffa.org) or Rosalie Hunsinger, (317) 802-4255, rhunsinger@ffa.org [≤mailto:rhunsinger@ffa.org/≥](mailto:rhunsinger@ffa.org).

Proceedings is available online. Experience the excitement, pride and energy of the national convention through *Proceedings*, the official record of the 74th National FFA Convention. *Proceedings* is available on [ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) [≤http://www.ffa.org/≥](http://www.ffa.org) at [≤http://www.ffa.org/proceedings/index.html/≥](http://www.ffa.org/proceedings/index.html). All of the information in the printed version can be downloaded as Adobe Acrobat PDF files.

The New Century Farmer Program is sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred and DuPont Crop Protection as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The program is intended to help young, prospective farmers see the exciting opportunities available to them in the 21st century. Applications must be typed, postmarked and returned to the National FFA Organization no later than Feb. 23, 2002. Contact: the National FFA Organization, (800) 293-2387, or the New Century Farmer contact, (317) 802-4256, ncfarmer@ffa.org <<mailto:ncfarmer@ffa.org>>.

National Leadership Conferences for State Officers (NLC SO) 2002 dates are listed below.

Date	Location
June 16- 19	Wyoming
June 17-20	Arkansas
June 18-21	Nebraska
June 24 - 27	Florida
June 25-28	Indiana
June 27-July 1	New York
June 30-July 3	California
July 1-5	New Mexico
July 29 - August 1	Delaware

2002 Washington Leadership Conference (WLC): The Rosslyn Westpark Holiday Inn and the Eisenhower Holiday Inn will again serve as the two hotels for this summer's conference in the Washington, D.C. area. The staff will consist of eleven counselors and two assistant managers. The cost of the program remains the same this year at \$495 per student. Advisor program rates are: advisor single, \$700; advisor double, \$525 and advisor/guest package, \$875. Advisors may also choose an "Individualized Package". The rate is \$430 for a reserved hotel room. Advisors and chaperones choosing this package will have the option of adding individual activities for an additional fee. Registration materials will be mailed to each chapter in early February 2002. Also, look for updated WLC information on [ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) <<http://www.ffa.org>>. Contacts: Kassie Lucero, (317) 802-4319, or Tina Paris, (317) 802-4309.

Washington Leadership Conference Staff selected: The staff members for the 2002 WLC are: Team Leaders- Brady Fritz, NE and J.D. Cant, OR. The following staff have also been selected: Jill Casten, KS; Carrie Harp, WA; Annthie Kramer, NE; Sarah Myers, OH; Kevin Richards, OR; Jon Sellenrick, NE; Abby Spruill, GA; Juleah Tolosky, NY and Stephanie Warner, IN. The assistant manager for the advisor program is Amy Nicol, OH.

EDUCATOR NEWS

FFA Global introduces Leadership Scenarios. FFA Global Leadership Scenarios is an online global curriculum for use by FFA advisors in all classrooms. This web-based program is designed to stimulate students' interest in international agriculture by infusing global agriculture and travel in one virtual tour. The program mirrors the lives of "real-world" people in "true to life" situations. Students are invited to join two of their virtual peers, Carmen and Eric, as they travel overseas and discover the "how-tos" of international travel. Students can learn about an area's culture and language and even

receive fundraising tips for an actual trip. An introductory CD-ROM will be sent to educators in the next couple of weeks. To sign up your class or for more information e-mail global@ffa.org <<mailto:global@ffa.org>> or call (317) 802-4220.

2002 Career Development Event (CDE) certification deadline: The deadline date for CDE certification forms is July 11, 2002. Please mark your calendars for the 2001-2002 school year. Contact: Wendy Baird, (317) 802-4263, <wbaird@ffa.org>.

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. Contact: Wendy Baird, (317) 802-4263, <wbaird@ffa.org>.

Certification payment for 2002 CDEs: Page 2 of the introduction section of the CDE handbook, Selection and Certification of State Teams, item number 4 states, "Each entry in team or individual career development events will be charged an entry-processing fee, *payable at certification* (Fee is \$25.00 per entry)." All certification-processing fees for CDE teams must be paid at the time the certification form is submitted. Dairy Handlers and demonstration events do not have a processing fee. Certification forms will not be processed until payment has been received. Contact: Wendy Baird, (317) 802-4263, <wbaird@ffa.org>.

Deadlines for CDE 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, résumés and references for Job Interview must be submitted to the National FFA Center by Sept. 15, 2002.

Contact: Wendy Baird, (317) 802-4263, <wbaird@ffa.org> <<mailto:wbaird@ffa.org>>.

The Agricultural Mechanics CDE event theme for 2002 is "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>>.

2002 CDE Certification forms can be obtained from the 2002 National FFA State Leadership Guide CD-ROM or the State Guide to FFA Activities at <<http://www.ffa.org/programs/cde/html/resources/stateguidemenu.html>>. For 2002, participants' membership numbers must be submitted at time of certification. Contact: Wendy Baird, (317) 802-4263, <wbaird@ffa.org>.

The "Guide to the National FFA Officer Selection Process" will be updated soon. Each section of the guide will then be e-mailed to state staff as a Microsoft Word document. This will allow modifications to be made as needed by state staff. PDF read-only files will also be available through [ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) <<http://www.ffa.org>>, allowing national officer candidates access to the information as part of their preparation process. Contact: David Doerfert, <ddoerfert@ffa.org> <<mailto:ddoerfert@ffa.org>>.

ALUMNI NEWS

National FFA Alumni Association Executive Director Gene Starr has resigned, effective Dec. 14, 2001. He is now teaching agricultural education at Suwannee Middle School in Live Oak, FL.

The FFA Alumni Association is exploring a joint appointment with the FFA Volunteer development effort. The position announcement is expected in February.

If you have questions, please contact Betsy Haig at: National FFA Alumni Association, P.O. Box 68960, 6060 FFA Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960, (317) 802-4292, alumni@ffa.org <<mailto:alumni@ffa.org>>.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN UPDATE

National FFA Week 2002: FFA chapters across the nation are preparing for an exciting FFA Week Feb. 16-23. Materials to help chapters apply this year's theme, "FFA Makes it Real," to a week full of activities are available online at <http://www.ffa.org/programs/ffaweek/index.html>. These materials include such items as advertising slicks, proclamations and certificates of appreciation. This year, the National

FFA Organization is using FFA Week as an opportunity to highlight the more than 300 careers available through agricultural education.

By February, scripts for public service announcements and professional, downloadable recordings of PSAs will be available for use in local communities. A news release focusing on the celebration is available on [ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) <<http://www.ffa.org>> for chapter use.

Advisors, state staff and FFA members are encouraged to use FFA Week as a time to tell others about the compelling realities created everyday through FFA. Visit the FFA Week web page and provide feedback on what is happening in your area. Encourage local media to air PSAs and cover FFA Week events. Your work will allow all of us to help more students realize their dreams! Contact: Michelle Foley, (317) 802-4253, mfoley@ffa.org <<mailto:mfoley@ffa.org>>.

Downloading from [ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) <<http://www.ffa.org>> will become easier. Over the next two months, the National FFA will standardize the use of universally accessible .zip and .pdf files on the website. This should ensure that users can safely, accurately and easily download files from [ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) <<http://www.ffa.org>>.

Currently, it is possible for embedded scripts called "macros" in some Excel files to trigger virus warnings on receiving PCs. Virus software can mistakenly interpret the macros as executable files and block completion of the download. ZIP software puts a protective shell around the original file, reducing its file size and cloaking the macros so virus software won't interpret them as a threat.

Directions for downloading and using free ZIP software are already available on [ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) at <http://www.ffa.org/html/download.html>. By Mar. 15, the new file standards will be in place, eliminating many potential download difficulties.

National FFA Membership Update: Four states--Illinois, Ohio, Washington and Wisconsin--are participating in an Online Membership pilot program as part of Project AIM (Accessing Information Management), the National FFA Organization's information technology initiative.

National FFA staff will demonstrate the online membership system at the Agricultural Education Inservice meeting in February. Attendees will be able to "test drive" the program during several breakout sessions and get a real taste of its features and benefits.

As of Jan. 25, 2002, the National FFA Organization has received rosters from 282,180 members. What has been processed by each state is available to be viewed at http://www.ffa.org/about_ffa/membershipinfo/html/yeartodate.html. Please remember that all rosters **and payments** must be submitted to National FFA by May 15, 2002.

UPDATE is also available each month at www.ffa.org/news/update/index.html <http://www.ffa.org/news/update/index.html>. Attachments are available online.

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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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