

UPDATE

Vol. XXXII, No. 3
C. Coleman Harris
U.S. Department of Education
March 2002

DATES TO REMEMBER

March

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 13 - 16 | National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS) National Conference, Mankato, MN. See details at http://www.ffa.org/aero/pas/html/conference.html |
| 17 - 23 | National Agriculture Week |
| 20 | National Ag Day |
| 22 | EARTHWATCH teacher scholarships for international travel due to FFA Global Programs, FFA Center |

May

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | International Leadership Seminar for State Officers (ILSSO) applications due (August 2002 Departure), FFA Center |
| 15 | FFA dues and membership rosters due, FFA Center |

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FFA

FFA Secures Syngenta Grant. The National FFA Foundation has secured a \$200,000 grant from Syngenta, a strong supporter and believer in FFA. This much-needed funding will help recruit, retain and recognize agriscience teachers. Look for more details in next month's UPDATE.

“What Does “FFA” Stand For?” Answering the Question. FFA faces a continuing challenge from the public and the news media in answering the questions, “What do the letters ‘FFA’ stand for?” and “What is FFA?” With input from the current and past national officers, the Marketing and Communication Services Team developed answers to these questions, and the text was approved at the January board of directors meeting.

When providing information to the general public and media in news releases, brochures, website postings or in general conversation, the following language is suggested to help position the organization and its proper name.

1. “What is FFA?”

FFA is a dynamic youth organization within agricultural education that changes lives and prepares students for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. Although FFA was created in 1928 as Future Farmers of America, the name was changed in 1988 to the National FFA Organization to represent the growing diversity of agriculture. Today, almost half a million student members are engaged in a wide range of agricultural education activities, leading to over 300 career opportunities in the food, fiber and natural resources industry. Student success remains the primary mission of FFA.

2. “What do the letters F-F-A stand for?”

The letters FFA stand for Future Farmers of America; however, the official name of the organization was changed in 1988 to the National FFA Organization. Over the past 75 years, the FFA and agricultural education have grown to encompass all aspects of agriculture, from production farming, agribusiness and forestry to biotechnology, marketing and food processing.

FFA New Horizons Receives NAMA Award

FFA New Horizons recently received first place in the National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) Region IV awards honoring the highest level of creativity and performance in agricultural communications.

As the first-place winner in the internal communications category, FFA New Horizons will now be eligible to compete against other regional winners for the Best of NAMA award. National finishers will be announced Apr. 17, 2002, in Nashville, Tenn. For more information about the National Agri-Marketing Association, visit www.nama.org <http://www.nama.org>. *FFA New Horizons* is published by Farm Progress Companies, Inc. on behalf of the National FFA Organization.

Proposed FFA Constitutional Amendment. The FFA Board of Directors has asked that the delegates consider the following constitutional amendment this October.

Article 16 - Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the National FFA Organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution and bylaws, any special rules of order the National FFA Organization may adopt, and any statutes applicable to this organization that do not authorize the provisions of this constitution and by laws to take precedence.

It is important to note that this is not a change, just a constitutional recognition. The FFA has always operated under *Robert's Rules of Order*. It is also the parliamentary authority followed in the Parliamentary Procedure career development event (CDE). Dr. James J. Connors, superintendent of the National FFA Parliamentary Procedure CDE, made this recommendation to the board.

We encourage discussion of this amendment at upcoming state association executive meetings and at your state FFA conventions. It will also be important to inform your voting delegates to the convention this Fall.

Call for Judge Nominations. The National FFA Organization is accepting nominations for Agricultural Proficiency, Star, Agriscience, and National Chapter Awards judges at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky., this fall. The agricultural proficiency and the star awards judging will take place Thursday, Oct. 31, 2002, and all judges will be invited to an awards luncheon on that day. The agriscience awards will be judged on Wednesday, Oct. 30 and Thursday, Oct. 31. The national chapter awards will be judged Wednesday, Oct. 30. We are unable to cover any judges' expenses. Nominations can be submitted on the form enclosed with this mailing and should be sent to Rosalie Hunsinger, National FFA Organization, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960, or faxed to her at 317-802-5255.

Summer Internship Opportunity at the National FFA Center this Summer. The

National FFA Organization will offer an internship opportunity for an experienced teacher to work with supervised agricultural experience program (SAE) based awards and activities this summer. Please check the job posting at ffa.org or review the advertisement in the February and March issues of "Advisors, Making A Difference." Applications for the position are due postmarked by Mar. 20, 2002. Contact: Kevin Keith 317-802-4254, kkeith@ffa.org <<mailto:kkeith@ffa.org>>, or Rosalie Hunsinger 317-802-4255, rhunsinger@ffa.org <<mailto:rhunsinger@ffa.org>>.

Maximize event promotion with ffa.org. The FFA Web Team would like to help you publicize your state conventions, events and activities by including them on our website calendar. Notify us at webmaster@ffa.org <<mailto:webmaster@ffa.org>>, and we'll add your important dates and link the items back to your state sites for additional information.

FOCUS ON AGRICULTURE

National Agriculture Week. Celebrate the importance of agriculture during National Agriculture Week, Mar. 17-23. Organized by the Agriculture Council of America (ACA), National Ag Day and "America's Largest Classroom on Agriculture" provide a wonderful opportunity to contribute to agricultural awareness in your local community. Encourage chapter advisors to participate in this effort, focused on educating consumers about the important role of agriculture in their daily lives. Additional information, ideas and educational support materials are available on the official National Ag Day Web site, <<http://www.agday.org>>.

CONTEST

Youth in Grazing Management Essay Competition. The American Forage and Grassland Council is soliciting entries for its Youth in Grazing Management Essay Contest. This Contest is funded through the generous support of R.L and Pat Dalrymple of Ardmore, Okla.. The deadline for the 2002 Youth in Grazing Management Essay Contest has been extended to May 1, 2002. All entries should be sent to AFGC, P.O. Box 94,Georgetown, TX 78627.

Essays must be original composition of the entrants. Essays can either be typed or legibly handwritten. Subject matter may be anything pertaining to grazing management, including but not limited to personal experiences in grazing management, observation or explanation of grazing practices, livestock management on pasture, fencing or other equipment related to grazing management, plant or animal species response to grazing management or any other subject matter related to grazing management. Awards will be based on the decision of a three-judge panel. All decisions will be final.

There are three participant age categories based on age as of Jan. 1, 2002.

Category 1) Under 14 years of age - 200 to 400 word essay

Category 2) 14 to 18 years of age - 350 to 500 word essay

Category 3) 19 to 22 years of age 800 to 1000 word essay

Monetary prizes are as follows:

Age	1st prize	2nd prize	3rd prize
-----	-----------	-----------	-----------

Under 14	\$100	\$50	\$25
14 - 18	\$150	\$100	\$50
19 - 22	\$200	\$125	\$75

In addition, each first-place winner will receive a complimentary registration and banquet ticket for the 2002 American Forage and Grassland Council Annual Conference, July 14-17, 2002 in Minnesota.

EDUCATOR NEWS

Washington Leadership Conference. Start planning for your state group or chapter members to attend the 2002 Washington Leadership Conference (WLC). We will use the Rosslyn Westpark Holiday Inn and the Eisenhower Holiday Inn this summer. The staff will consist of nine counselors and two assistant managers. The program cost remains \$495 per student. Advisor program rates are: advisor single, \$700; advisor double, \$525; and advisor/guest package, \$875. This year we have added an additional package for advisors called the Individualized package, priced at \$430 for securing the hotel room. In addition to the room cost, advisors and chaperones may choose to participate in individual activities for additional fees. Registration materials were mailed to each chapter in February. Look for updated WLC information on the FFA website, www.ffa.org [≤http://www.ffa.org≥](http://www.ffa.org). Contact: Kassie Lucero, klucero@ffa.org [≤mailto:klucero@ffa.org≥](mailto:klucero@ffa.org), 317-802-4319, or Tina Paris, tparis@ffa.org, 317-802-4309.

EARTHWATCH Scholarships Available. Competitive scholarships for 2002 are available for agriculture teachers to participate in an international experience through EARTHWATCH. EARTHWATCH is a research organization with international expeditions throughout the world each year. Participants receive scholarships up to \$1500 to cover a portion of the expedition costs plus membership to EARTHWATCH (www.earthwatch.org). Applications are available from FFA Global at global@ffa.org or by calling 317-802-4220. The application deadline has been extended to Mar. 22, 2002.

National Leadership Institute. Do you want to be part of a prestigious group of scholars? The National Dissemination Center for Career and Technical Education conducts a year-long National Leadership Institute that will help you: (1) develop an understanding of the role of a leader and how to exercise responsibilities inherent in that role, (2) develop effective strategies for engaging in continuous learning to enhance leadership qualities, (3) improve your understanding of and ability to lead reform/change processes and (4) develop a new vision for career and technical education. Complete an application available at www.nccte.org [≤http://www.nccte.org/≥org](http://www.nccte.org) [≤http://www.nccte.org/≥](http://www.nccte.org) to be considered as a 2002 scholar. For additional information about the National Leadership Institute go to their website at www.nccte.org/programs/academy/institute/index.asp [≤http://www.nccte.org/programs/academy/institute/index.asp≥](http://www.nccte.org/programs/academy/institute/index.asp), or contact Rebecca Parker at 800-678-6011 ext. 2-9807 or by e-mail at parker.304@osu.edu [≤mailto:parker.304@osu.edu≥](mailto:parker.304@osu.edu). Remember, the application deadline is April 15, 2002

PEOPLE

In Memoriam: Bryan Gause, 2001-02 NAAE president and agriculture teacher at Union County High School in Liberty, Indiana, died Feb. 2 of an apparent heart attack. Gause was preparing to go work with one of his students on a proficiency award application when he collapsed. Gause is survived by his wife, Merle, and two school-aged children, Ben and Susie.

A great family man and a good agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, he was loved by his students. He was also a loyal and dedicated member of the NAAE board of directors, an alternate vice president for Region IV, the Region IV vice president, president-elect, and president for the 2001-02 year.

Memorial contributions may be made to:
Bryan D. Gause Memorial Scholarship Fund
c/o Union County Foundation
404 Eaton Street
Liberty, Indiana 47353

Cards may be addressed to:
Mrs. Merle Gause
341 West Fosdick Road
Liberty, Indiana 47353

Friends and colleagues may sign the funeral home guest book at <http://www.ShowalterBlackwellLong.com>. The most recent information regarding Bryan's untimely passing is posted on the NAAE website at <http://www.naae.org>. (You may need to click on your refresh button to see the most current pages.)

New contact numbers for Jim Scott, South Carolina state FFA executive director:
Phone: 803-419-1938, FAX: 803-419-1909.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN UPDATE

National FFA Membership Update: Beginning in 2002-2003, FFA membership will be managed completely online via the web, and the online membership pilot program is concluding. As of Feb. 22, National FFA has processed 328,435 members. Please remember that all rosters and payments must be submitted to National FFA by May 15, 2002.

2002 CDE Information

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

2002 certification deadline: The National FFA Convention begins Oct. 30, 2002. The deadline date for CDE certification forms is July 11, 2002. Please mark your calendars for the 2001-2002 school year.

2002 CDE Certification Forms from State Guide: States must submit their CDE Team Declaration form to the National FFA by June 1. This form is used to indicate all CDE event areas in which your state will be participating, regardless of state qualification dates. All certification forms for participating teams that have qualified prior to the July 11 deadline must be submitted by the deadline, as well. Please refer to the 2002 National FFA State Leadership Guide CD-ROM or <http://www.ffa.org/programs/cde/html/resources/stateguidemenu.html> for the 2002

Certification Forms. For 2002, membership numbers for participants must be submitted at the time of certification.

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.

Certification payment: 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 CDEs will be charged an entry-processing fee, payable at certification (Fee is \$25 per entry). All certification-processing fees for CDE teams must be paid with the certification form. Dairy Handlers and events that are demonstrations do not have a processing fee. Certification forms will not be processed until payment has been received.

Deadlines for Manuscripts and Portfolios:

- All Prepared Public Speaking manuscripts must be submitted to the National FFA office by Aug. 15, 2002.
- All portfolios for Agricultural Communications, Agricultural Issues and Marketing Plan must be submitted to the National FFA office 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>.

National Leadership Conferences for State Officers (NLCSO) 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

FFA Global Leadership Training is available online! FFA Global is looking for agriculture instructors interested in test-piloting our exciting, online learning about global agriculture. A "real world" story line allows students to learn about global agriculture and U.S. policy as they follow the lives of two fictional FFA members traveling to Moldova, Honduras and Ethiopia. If you are interested in learning more about this project, contact Jim Piechowski, 317-802-4214 or jpiechowski@ffa.org. Visit the FFA Global Leadership website at <http://www.ffa.org/scenarios> today.

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.

=====

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.

© 2002 National FFA Organization

Julie J. Adams

Communication Specialist

317-802-4225

Fax: 317-802-5225

jadams@ffa.org

National FFA Organization • 6060 FFA Drive • P.O. Box 68960 • Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960
317-802-6060 • Fax: 317-802-6061 • www.ffa.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.