

UPDATE

Vol. XXXII, No. 10
C. Coleman Harris
U.S. Department of Education
October 2002

DATES TO REMEMBER

October

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| 3-5 | National Council for Agricultural Education Board of Directors meeting, Alexandria, Va. |
| 30-Nov. 2 | 75 th National FFA Convention, Louisville, Ky. |

CONVENTION NEWS

Convention registration materials: State staff can pick up registration materials for themselves, delegates and other groups, Monday, Oct. 28, 1-5 p.m., Convention Delegate Registration in the Executive West Hotel, Edinborough Room. Please note: This is a change in day from the original information previously sent out with the state group registration form. Contact: Stacia Edmonds, sedmonds@ffa.org <<mailto:sedmonds@ffa.org>>, 317-802-4261, or Katie Dallam, kdallam@ffa.org <<mailto:kdallam@ffa.org>>, 317-802-4216.

Tickets are still available for the 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 Friday, Nov. 1, 11:30 a.m., during the 75th National FFA Convention. Take this opportunity to show a unique side of the convention to your education partners. In addition to the luncheon, they are welcome to experience the many suggested activities including convention sessions 4 and 6, 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, please fill out the attached RSVP form and e-mail or fax it to Michele Gilbert, mgilbert@ffa.org <<mailto:mgilbert@ffa.org>>, 317-802-5301. Please include the following information: attendee's name, organization, mailing address, e-mail address and number of tickets. Contact: 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. (Please note the updated phone number, as it was printed incorrectly in the School Officials Luncheon flyer.)

Dates to remember for Career Development Events: Team member Add/Delete forms are due to the National FFA Center by Friday, Oct., 11. You must delete a member before you can add a member. After the Oct. 11 deadline, changes can be made on-site at the national FFA convention. Advisors can use the On-Site Add/Delete form available at the CDE Registration Booth to add and delete participants up to one hour prior to the Team Orientation Meeting. Please note that membership status for participants added on-site will be verified after convention. If a student is found not to be an FFA member, he or she will be disqualified. The team's results may be impacted by a disqualification. Contact Andrea McNeely, amcneely@ffa.org

<mailto:amcneely@ffa.org>, 317-802-4288.

State staff seating at convention: A reminder to state staff: there is extra reserved seating for you this year in Freedom Hall. These seats are located on the floor in sections 3 and 4 rows 4-10.

MEMBERSHIP

First in line: This year, the state of Georgia earned the distinction of submitting the first FFA membership roster. It also happened to be the first-ever Excel template roster submitted to FFA.

Electronic membership: Excel template training scheduled. If you want hands-on training on the FFA Excel membership template, come to the membership workshop at the national FFA convention. From 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday Oct. 31, teachers, state staff and other interested individuals can experience the electronic membership template by working directly with the program. An overview of membership roster processing and the web-based online membership systems will also be included. The workshop is repeated Friday, Nov. 1, 9 to 10:30 a.m. Both workshop sessions will be held in the West Wing Ag Sales Computer Lab at KFEC.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FFA

Celebrate the 75th on ffa.org. Get a jump-start on the FFA 75th anniversary by visiting ffa.org at http://www.ffa.org/about_ffa/ffat75/index.html. The 75th Celebration page includes pictures from the golden anniversary calendar, as well as desktop wallpaper you can download. You'll also find some great old songs from the FFA archives, as well as new public service announcements recorded by country duo Montgomery Gentry.

While you're visiting ffa.org, don't miss a terrific new feature about the official FFA jacket, called "The Fabric of Success," at http://www.ffa.org/about_ffa/ffa75/fabric.html. Be sure to let parents, friends and members know that they can always get up-to-the-minute, award-winning convention coverage at <http://www.ffa.org/convention/index.html>.

Patriotic tribute still available on ffa.org

Due to overwhelming popular demand, the "Tribute to the heroes of September 11" September ffa.org homepage is now available as a graphic that can be downloaded. The patriotic picture features an eagle, rose, American flag and quotation from former President George Bush and it is now available at the ffa.org Chapter Center: <http://www.ffa.org/chapters/index.html>. Follow the directions in the top right-hand corner of the page.

Be on the lookout for the 2002-2003 National FFA merchandise materials-including the blue catalog (apparel & gifts), the gold catalog (awards & supplies), a flyer on nationally sanctioned fund-raisers and an Agricultural Education Resources flyer. These materials represent the best FFA has to offer members, advisors and state staff alike! Remember, income generated from the sale of national FFA merchandise directly supports the operations of the organization and delivery of its programs.

You will notice several new things in this package.

- New Merchandise-check out several new FFA products including 75th anniversary commemorative items.

- Commemorative Official FFA Jacket-This commemorative official jacket from the 1930s is perfect to use as a fundraiser or gift for a special FFA supporter
- Official FFA Jacket-commitment, dedication, pride. Encourage your FFA members to show their pride for the organization by donning the fabled blue corduroy jacket.
- Chapter T-shirt Contest-check out the winning designs from the first annual chapter T-shirt contest! This is a great way for chapters to earn some extra money.
- Girls Merchandise-the blue catalog features an increased line of merchandise. Your FFA members (and their mothers, sisters, nieces and girlfriends) will love it!
- Sweatshirts-take a look at the expanded line of FFA sweatshirts. Sure to be a hit with your FFA members!
- FFA Private Label-many new apparel items are exclusively designed for FFA and feature a newly developed FFA label.
- Personalize It-many of the T-shirts, jackets, hats and other merchandise can be personalized. What a great way to promote your chapter and officer teams!
- Fundraisers-for the first time ever, FFA has five nationally sanctioned fund-raisers, developed from a true "grass roots" effort.
- Ag Ed Resources-see the latest and greatest in agricultural education resources. For a complete catalog, go to www.ffaunlimited.org <<http://www.ffaunlimited.org>> or your Local Program Resource Guide CD-ROM.

Chapters and state associations should have received merchandise catalogs by now. If you haven't received them, please contact Lee Anne Shiller, lshiller@ffa.org <<mailto:lshiller@ffa.org>> and we'll rush a package to you.

Conference staff applications are now be found on the Web. MFE, ALD, EDGE, WLC, and BLAST Off trainer applications are now located on the FFA web site under the Job Opportunities National FFA Center tab. The BLAST Off application should be postmarked on or before Friday, Nov. 1, 2002. The WLC application should be postmarked on or before Sunday, Dec. 1, 2002. MFE, ALD and EDGE applications should be postmarked on or before Saturday, Feb. 1, 2003. Contact: Pat Faust, pfaust@ffa.org <<mailto:pfaust@ffa.org>>, 317-802-4211.

COMPETITIONS

The Second Annual T-shirt Design Contest entries are due Friday, Jan. 31, 2003.

FFA is looking for some creative students to submit their best designs. Winning designs will be featured on T-shirts that will be sold through the 2003-2004 National FFA Blue Catalog and online store. Encourage your FFA members to submit all those fabulous designs that have been produced at the local level. If selected, they will earn 50 percent of the gross profits on the catalog sales for one year. See the 2002-2003 winners in this year's blue catalog. Contact Dawn Sharp, dsharp@ffa.org <<mailto:dsharp@ffa.org>>, 317-802-4271.

Merial/SAE Grants available Grants are currently available for students between the ages of 14-17 who demonstrate financial need and an exceptional SAE plan. Sixteen grants of \$1,000 will be awarded to applicants with beef/cattle, dairy or sheep production SAEs (only). Also, 20 grants of \$150 will be awarded to students from the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota or Wisconsin. For more information, refer to the application on the FFA website at <<http://www.ffa.org/programs/sae/html/saegrants.html>>. Applications must be postmarked no later than Monday, Nov. 11.

Reading and Community Volunteerism by Our Best. Do you know an FFA member who is an avid reader and community volunteer? He or she might be the next honoree of Nestlé's Very Best In Youth recognition program. Co-sponsored by Nestlé and Reading Is Fundamental (RIF), this program honors 30 youth from across the nation who not only have made reading a priority but also have made valuable contributions to the quality of life in their communities.

Each nominee must be a legal resident of the United States and be between ages nine and 18. The honorees will be profiled in a book to be published in the summer of 2003, and each will receive a four-day, all-expenses-paid trip (with their parent or legal guardian) to Los Angeles for the awards ceremony in July 2003. In addition, Nestlé will donate \$1,000 in the name of each winner to the charity of his or her choice. Deadline for submissions is Friday, Nov. 29, 2002. For more information and to obtain the nomination packet, visit www.rif.org/news/events/viby2003.html or call Connie Jameson of RIF 202-673-1506. Encourage your young person to apply today!

EDUCATOR NEWS

The Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Career Cluster, Phase I is complete.

The latest information is on the Web at <http://www.careerclusters.org/clusters/anr.htm>. This includes a complete listing of the knowledge and skill statements along with performance elements and measurement criteria. A distribution of the hard copy information will occur at the National NASAE meeting in Louisville, Oct. 28-30, 2002. State leaders who attended the States' Career Clusters Meeting in Charleston, S.C., should have a copy of the States' Career Clusters Resources CD. If you would like copies of this information, contact Kimberly Green, kgreen@nasdvtec.org, Executive Director of the National Association of State Directors of Vocational Technical Education Consortium.

International Experience Available: International Teacher Opportunities Competitive Scholarships are available for agriculture teachers to participate in an international experience through EARTHWATCH. The scholarships are available for use in 2003. EARTHWATCH is a research organization with international expeditions throughout the world year-round. Participants receive up to \$1,500 scholarships to cover a portion of the expedition costs plus membership to EARTHWATCH. Applications can be found online at www.ffa.org/programs/global/. Applications are due Saturday, Feb. 1, 2003.

STATE STAFF NEWS

National Agriculture Education Inservice: Team Ag Ed is pleased to announce that the National Agricultural Education Inservice will be held Feb. 6-9, 2003, at the Downtown Adams Mark Hotel in Indianapolis, Ind. The same registration format used last year. For those eager to begin the planning process, please use the attached guidelines when selecting your paid participants.

In addition, the National New State Staff Inservice (NSSI) will be conducted on Feb. 5-6, 2003, at the same location (Adams Mark). The New State Staff Inservice will run from noon on Wednesday, Feb. 5 until noon Thursday. At the conclusion of NSSI, New State Staff will also have an opportunity to attend the National Agricultural Education Inservice.

New state staff should reserve their spots now! Those wishing to attend NSSI prior to the

National Agricultural Education Inservice should contact Michele Gilbert, mgilbert@ffa.org <mailto:mgilbert@ffa.org>, 317-802-4301.

In mid-October, agendas, registration forms and additional information will be provided for both the National Agricultural Education Inservice and National New State Staff Inservice. Contact: Tony Small, tsmall@ffa.org <mailto:tsmall@ffa.org>, 317-802-4300.

INTERNATIONAL HAPPENINGS

Travel to Europe: Each year, state FFA officers have the unique opportunity to travel to Europe to learn about global agriculture and business during the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers (ILSSO). Tentative dates for 2003 are Jan. 4-20. This 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 ILSSO is the right place for you! Download application forms and find out more information, at www.ffa.org/international e-mail us at global@ffa.org <mailto:global@ffa.org>, or call 317-802-4309.

FFA Global Leadership Training available online! FFA Global is looking for agriculture instructors who are interested in exploring agriculture in our exciting, online learning program. 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 traveling to Moldova, Honduras and Ethiopia. Several FFA chapters are already using the program. To learn more about this project, please contact FFA Global 317-802-4309 or at global@ffa.org <mailto:global@ffa.org>. Visit the FFA Global Leadership Scenarios site at <http://www.ffa.org/scenarios/> today!

Pura Vida, Costa Rica! National FFA Proficiency Finalists and Star Over America winners have the opportunity to travel to Costa Rica in June to learn about Latin America Culture and the tropical agriculture of a Central American country. There are openings for teachers to attend as well. You must be an agricultural education instructor with a minimum of 1 year of teaching experience and able to fluently speak both English and Spanish. Applications are due Feb.1, 2003.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN UPDATE

New delegate process at 75th convention: A revised delegate process will be initiated at this year's national FFA convention. The new process started this summer at State Presidents' Conference with state delegates voting on issues submitted. The national officer team determined that nine issues are critical for delegates to discuss at this year's convention. All state leaders, local leaders, and members are encouraged to take part in the issue hearings Tuesday morning, Oct. 29, at KFEC in Louisville. A memo explaining this process was sent to state leaders responsible for delegates. For questions about the process or logistics, contact Seth Derner, sderner@ffa.org <mailto:sderner@ffa.org> or Tami Lamar, tlamar@ffa.org <mailto:tlamar@ffa.org>.

Reconnect with FFA Campaign: The Reconnect campaign for former FFA members is well underway, with ads running in Farm Bureau regional news magazines, Progressive Farmer state magazines, and *Crop Insurance TODAY*, plus many more planned for the coming months. In addition to print ads, the Reconnect page of the FFA website has received 3,300 hits and has registered 776 members. Look for the FFA at 75 State Planning Guide, available mid-September on the FFA website, to find

information and ideas for promoting the Reconnect campaign in your state.

UPDATE is also available at [_www.ffa.org/news/html/ffapubsindex.html#update](http://www.ffa.org/news/html/ffapubsindex.html#update)
[≤http://www.ffa.org/news/html/ffapubsindex.html#update](http://www.ffa.org/news/html/ffapubsindex.html#update) each month. 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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One Mission: Student Success

75th National FFA Convention

October 30 - November 2, 2002

RSVP for School Officials Luncheon

Please Print or Type

Name: _____
(Include: Prefix, First Name, & Last Name)

School/Org: _____
Address
(will be mailed here): _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Fax number: _____

Email: _____

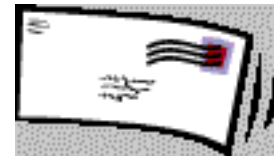
Number of Tickets: _____

Yes! I will be able to attend the School Officials Luncheon to be held Friday, November 1, 2002.

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: **Free School Officials Luncheon**
(East Hall 3 & 4 - will start serving at 11:30)

Please Email,
Fax or Mail To:

National FFA Organization
C/O Michele Gilbert
PO Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960
Phone: 317-802-4301
Fax: 317-802-5301
E-mail: mgilbert@ffa.org



For more information: http://www.ffa.org/convention/html/pln_sch_officials_lunch.html

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.

2003 Ag Ed Inservice Registration Information

The National Agricultural Education Inservice will be held Feb. 6-9, 2003 at the Downtown Adams Mark Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana.

As a part of its longstanding commitment to state leadership in agricultural education, the National FFA Organization is again providing financial assistance for participants to attend the National Agricultural Education Inservice. The following detailed information was assembled in an effort to clarify those eligible for reimbursement. We want to offer state leadership the flexibility to determine those who should attend and establish guidelines that allow for managing the annual investment.

The National FFA Organization will provide state participants with airfare (21-day advance/Saturday night stay over) and hotel expenses (based upon double occupancy). The 2003 Inservice will emphasize the importance of building strong Team Ag Ed connections within states. The following table lists suggested participants:

Recommended Participant	Details
State Supervisors, Directors:	Selected by the lead State Staff Director or Supervisor.
State Executive Secretary/Directors:	Selected by lead State Staff Supervisor or Director.
Teacher Educators:	Each University with an agricultural education teacher preparation program is encouraged to send one person actively involved in preservice education. The State Supervisor/Director should work with the department chair(s) to determine the participants.
Teacher Leaders:	Represent the state professional organization as the state president or president-elect. Registration information is being sent directly to the representative designated by NAAE. Coordination with the state supervisor/director is essential.

Because each state is responsible for serving different numbers of students and teachers, category determination is based upon the number of agricultural education students engaged in more than one component of an integral agricultural education program—specifically, their FFA membership. In an effort to provide every state an equitable opportunity for representatives to attend, the following breakdown has been established.

Agricultural Education Students w/ FFA membership	# Of Participants Allotted to Receive Assistance - Housing (double occupancy) - Airfare (21-day advance/Saturday night stay over)
States with fewer than 10,000 paid FFA membership:	Four (4) participants
States with 10,000 to 19,999 paid FFA membership:	Five (5) participants
States with more than 20,000 paid FFA membership:	Six (6) participants
**Additional representatives are welcome at their expense (responsible for all costs including \$100 registration fee)	**Unlimited

Additional participants from larger states must be designated by the lead state staff representative, and can represent any of the Team Ag Ed participant groups mentioned above. In states with multiple teacher education institutions, one representative, responsible for preservice teacher education, from each school is encouraged to attend.

The 2003 Ag Ed Inservice is open to all who wish to participate and gain valuable insight on current trends and information in agricultural education. States wishing to register additional participants for the inservice are encouraged to do so.