

UPDATE

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U.S. Department of Education
March 2004

DATES TO REMEMBER

March

8-10 National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS)

Board of Directors Meeting, Green Bay, Wis.

10-13 National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS)

Conference, Green Bay, Wis.

15 T-shirt design submissions due, FFA Center

April 1 Summer internship applications due, FFA Center

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FFA

NAMA recognizes Bernie Staller as Agribusiness Leader of the Year: The National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) has selected Staller as the Agribusiness Leader of the Year. The award is NAMA's highest honor and is designed to recognize an outstanding leader in agribusiness, education, government service or other agribusiness related area. Solicited from senior level position holders in private, public or academic service, nominees exemplify excellence in agribusiness by their significant contributions to the industry. The award will be presented during the Agri-Marketing Conference in April. The list of past recipients of the award reads like a Who's Who in American agribusiness, including many past National FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board chairs.

Identifying delegate issues for 2004: The convention delegate process needs critical and emerging issues from state associations for 2004. Each state association is encouraged to submit five issues for consideration to the national delegate process, so plan now to collect ideas from students, teachers, alumni, and other partners. Submit your delegate issues to Seth Derner by July 1. If your state process is scheduled to conclude after July 1, please inform Seth.

At the 2004 State Presidents' Conference (SPC), state officers will discuss the state-submitted issues and prioritize them for national consideration. The 2004 national delegate issues will be selected at SPC, and the national officers will appoint the corresponding committees. No new issues will be introduced at SPC. Additionally, any amendments or bylaw changes will also be discussed at SPC. For questions about this change in the delegate process, please contact Seth, sderner@ffa.org, 317-802-4413.

VIP Citation Application revised: The VIP Citation application has been revised to allow more space for citing a nominee's accomplishments and contributions to agricultural education/FFA as well as to ensure state staff have approved the submission. For your convenience and distribution you can find the revised VIP Citation application either below or at <http://www.ffa.org/programs/honor/>. The nomination deadline is June 15. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Damon Spight, dspight@ffa.org, 317-802-4402.

Washington Leadership Conference: Start planning your trip to D.C.! The dates for this year's conference are: June 1-6, June 8-13, June 15-20, June 22-27, July 6-11 and July 13-18. Prices for the conference have increased and are as follows: Student package \$550, Advisor double \$585, Advisor single \$780, Advisor Guest \$975, Room-only package, \$475. This year's conference will consist of high levels of service learning, mentoring and volunteerism strategies, problem-solving skills, relationship building skills and character development. The FFA premier leadership conference is shaping up to be the best yet! There will be a chapter mailing in late February complete with a registration form. For more information, visit http://www.ffa.org/programs/conferences/html/conf_wlc.htm, e-mail wlc@ffa.org or call 317-802-4312.

WLC staff selected: The following individuals have been selected as trainers for the 2004 Washington Leadership Conference: Jeff Alves, California; J.D. Bowns, Oregon; Luke Browning, California; Anne Marie Diener, California; Jonie Garwood, Nebraska; Kirk Maag, Oregon; Marty Tatman, Wyoming; Kristie Ploehn, Minnesota; Jon Sellenrick, Nebraska; Dane White, California; and Cara Wiese, Nebraska. Saturday's WLC service learning event is sponsored by Timberland Pro as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. For more information, contact Andy Armbruster, aarmbruster@ffa.org, 317-802-4308.

Dates for State Presidents' Conference announced: The 2004 State Presidents' Conference will be held July 20-24 in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit http://www.ffa.org/programs/conferences/html/conf_officers.html. Please contact Seth Derner, sderner@ffa.org, or Tiffany Sanderson, tsanderson@ffa.org, if you have any questions.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership update: State representatives received the latest membership updates at the Agriculture Education Inservice in Indianapolis Feb. 5 - 7. Speakers Steve Zimmerman (ND), Jay Runner (IL) and Frank Dry (IL) provided valuable information and timely insights into possible ways to utilize data the National FFA Membership rosters currently collect - and how valuable that information can be to funding, educational and diversity issues the states are facing. Your membership representative can help you get some of this same data for your state needs.

Membership information received at the FFA Center through Feb. 15 totals 322,133 members, or 69 percent of the total membership last year. More rosters are coming in all the time. The speed and accuracy of the Excel and Online systems are really paying off this year, putting this process well ahead of schedule.

90% Club: The following states have submitted 90% percent of membership as compared to last year's state total (as of Feb. 16):

Online States

Illinois
Ohio

Excel Template States

South Dakota	Oklahoma	Colorado
Texas	Minnesota	Kansas
Iowa	Montana	Kentucky
Arizona	North Dakota	Louisiana

Delegate count administration information: All states should recently have received the Delegate Count Administration memo indicating the timeline and procedure for determining each state's number of convention delegates based on membership. The memo is attached to this UPDATE for your reference.

PROGRAMS AND AWARDS

FFA Scholarship tied directly to membership: Please remember that in order for any FFA member to receive scholarship from the National FFA Organization (except for those sponsored by Cargill and Monsanto/NAFB), the student must be a current FFA member with all dues paid.

Scholarship applications will be reviewed March 22-April 2. If rosters have not been received from states by this time, offices will be called to verify students' membership to determine eligibility. It will be necessary to speak to someone directly in the state office; the student's advisor will not be able to answer membership questions.

Please make sure to mail in rosters to the center ASAP and have a representative in your office available to answer membership verification questions between March 22-April 2, so that your students don't lose out on chances for scholarships! For any questions about the National FFA Scholarship Program, contact scholarships@ffa.org.

2004 CDE deadlines announced: Deadlines have been set for the 2004 National FFA CDEs. They are as follows:

June 1:	Team Declaration Forms due
July 9:	Team Certification Forms, Waivers, Payments due Special Needs Requests due (Contact: Mike Honeycutt, mhoneycutt@ffa.org) State assistants forms due State speaking judges forms due
Aug. 15:	Prepared Public Speaking Manuscripts due
Sept. 15:	Agricultural Communications Portfolios due Agricultural Issues Portfolios due Job Interview Portfolios due Marketing Plan Portfolios due
Oct. 14:	Add/Delete Forms due to National Office.

Forms are available online: <http://www.ffa.org/programs/cde/>

Clarifying adjustments impacting 2004 National FFA Organization Career Development Events: The National FFA Organization's Award and CDE Advisory Committee reviewed the attached clarifying adjustments and recommended approval by the National FFA Organization Board of Directors. The board of directors approved these clarifying adjustments at the January 2004 board meeting. For questions or clarifications, contact Candice Murphy, CDE program coordinator: cmurphy@ffa.org.

Agriscience Student and Teacher of the Year: The Agriscience Student and Teacher of the Year are two of the more lucrative award programs that FFA has to offer. In recent years the participation in these two areas has been on the decline, while participation in the Agriscience Fair has continued to set new records. Please encourage students involved in agriscience at the state level to consider applying their project in the student of the year category. Every state winner receives a \$500 scholarship, and the top two from each state are considered for national participation. The national winner receives \$5,000 in scholarship money, the largest scholarship opportunity in FFA award programs (Agriscience Fair, CDEs, etc.). In 2003, only eight states submitted applications.

Participation in the Agriscience Teacher of the Year program has also been on the decline. Every state winner is entitled to \$100, and the national finalists receive \$500 and a \$1,500 grant for their chapter. The National FFA Organization would love to see an application submitted from every state if possible. Please encourage teachers and students involved with agriscience to take advantage of these great opportunities. Applications for both the Agriscience Student and Teacher of the Year are due to the FFA Center postmarked by July 15th. For further assistance in this area please contact agriscience@ffa.org, call 317-802-4262 or online http://www.ffa.org/programs/ag_sci/.

A call for H.O. Sargent Diversity Award applications: During this time of year our hearts are opened and re-attuned to what it truly means to be a member of the human race. With genuine care and compassion we seek to meet one another's needs and desires in ways truly indicative of selfless brotherhood and sisterhood. This time of year is also the time for our youth and adults to begin plans and activities for the H.O. Sargent Diversity Award.

The H.O. Sargent Diversity Award is a special honor and recognition given by the National FFA Organization in celebration of the work and dedication of FFA members and non-FFA members advancing efforts to diversify FFA and/or agricultural education. The award program, initially established through the leadership and vision of Mr. G.W. Owens of New Farmers of America and Dr. H.O. Sargent of the U.S. Department of Education, was re-instituted in 1995 in commemoration of the contributions underrepresented groups and majority groups together have made to FFA and agricultural education.

Activities that qualify an individual for the award are as varied as the imagination and resources allow. This is in part because "diversity" is broadly defined to embrace any activity that has a goal of bringing balance between minority and majority groups within your community, school, chapter and more. Consequently, pen pal programs, community service activities, cultural awareness programs, membership recruitment campaigns, and a wide range of other projects make a nominee eligible for the award. It's all about accepting, connecting, developing. Both FFA members and non-members can apply or be nominated. The application deadline is June 30 (postmark date). The application is attached below. For more details visit <http://www.ffa.org/programs/hosargent/> -.

For more information, contact Damon Spight, dspight@ffa.org, 317-802-4244. The H.O. Sargent Diversity Award program is sponsored by Monsanto as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

State CDE plaques available: Please remember to order plaques for your state's CDEs. Orders must be submitted at least 30 days prior to your presentation using the state plaque order form found in the 2004 State Guide (<http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/html/stateguide.html>). Contact: Jessica Ells, jells@ffa.org.

MERCHANDISE

Super Book Sale for State Conventions: M.T. Publishing has agreed to offer FFA chapters and state associations the ***Blue Jackets; Gold Standards - 75 Years of Living the FFA Legacy*** anniversary book at a substantial discount when bought by the case. The normal book price of \$29.95 will be reduced to \$19.95 per book when purchased by the case; each case holds 26 books. You can sell the book during your

state convention at the full retail price of \$29.95 and enjoy the profits, or pass the savings on to your members and supporters. It is up to you.

Two easy ways to order:

- (1) Telephone orders -- contact M.T. Publishing at 888-263-4702 and make sure to mention the FFA Super Book Sale.
- (2) ORDER ONLINE AND SAVE EVEN MORE -- Place your order online and M.T. Publishing will reduce the price to \$17.97 per book when ordered in case quantities (26 books per case). To order online, click on <<http://www.mtpublishing.com/>> and then click on the Place an Order button. Fill in the order form completely, making sure to order by the number of books per case (26), not the number of cases. (For example, if you want 52 books, indicate 52 books, not 2 cases.)

Shipping and handling fees: All orders will be shipped via UPS standard ground rates. For all full-case orders, M.T. Publishing has reduced their handling fees to \$1.00 per book. To qualify for the reduced handling rate, you must order by the case, 26 books per case. Regular handling charges will apply to all other orders.

Place your orders today, as quantities are limited.

Official jacket update: Starting in the month of March, the official jackets shipped to chapters will feature emblems that have been updated to restore the design and color of the original FFA emblem. The jacket's front emblem will now match its back emblem, and the color of the thread used for the jacket's embroidery will match the yellow in the new emblem. In August and September of this year, chapters will begin seeing their jackets arrive in the original shade of FFA blue. For a complete description of all changes that have been made to jackets and what changes are still to come, please read the attached document. For more information, contact Lee Anne Shiller at lshiller@ffa.org.

The Third Annual FFA T-Shirt Design Contest: Entry Deadline March 15.

Encourage your local FFA chapters to get creative and submit a design in the Third Annual FFA T-shirt Design Contest.. Winning designs will be featured on T-shirts and sold in the 2004-2005 National FFA Blue Catalog and on www.ffaunlimited.org. The winning chapters will earn 50 percent of the gross profits on the shirt's catalog sales for one year. As of the end of January, the five winning chapters from the '03-'04 contest had earned a total of \$12,000. And this year's winners are on a record-setting pace! The #1 selling t-shirt, 03-WOAG, has already earned \$9,421! See the 2003-2004 winners in this year's National FFA Blue catalog. (p. 16-17) For more information, contact Dawn Sharp at dsharp@ffa.org, or visit http://www.ffa.org/chapters/html/tshirt_contest.html.

Special State Association Plaque and Trophy Forms. It's that time of year again. Time to start planning for your state FFA conventions! Mark one item off of your long to-do list by sending in the attached "2003-2004 Special State Association Plaque and Trophy order form." If you'd like to add a special touch to your awards, you can now order solid walnut plaques in the shape of your state. Please see the attached PDF for details. For more information, contact Heather Rutherford, hrutherford@ffa.org.

State Convention Merchandise Sales Program : The State Convention Merchandise Sales Program has undergone a few changes this year. Items will no longer be sold through a consignment program, but a regular sales order with a 25 percent discount and free shipping, as long as no merchandise is returned. For complete details please read the attached document carefully. For more information, contact Dawn Sharp at dsharp@ffa.org

COLLEGIATE

Collegiate FFA, are you involved? Do you have a Collegiate FFA Chapter? Are you interested in beginning a Collegiate FFA Chapter? If you answered yes to these questions please contact Eric Schilling and Kristy Miller, your Collegiate Services team! To confirm your National Collegiate FFA Chapter affiliations or to join Collegiate FFA contact collegiate@ffa.org, 317-802-4214.

2004 PAS Conference set for March: Plant your "Pathway for Progress" at the 2004 National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS) Conference, March 10-13 in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Be part of the action, and make progress with PAS during four exciting days that feature:

- Agribusiness tours related to the PAS Career Program Areas
- National career program award competitions
- An opening session tailgate party at Lambeau Field
- State officer rally
- National PAS business
- Election of the 2004-05 National Officer Team
- The PAS Associates meeting
- Entertainment and plenty of informal fun

Don't miss the excitement of the 2004 National PAS Conference, hosted by Wisconsin PAS. Discover sporting Green Bay, home of football's Green Bay Packers, the Green Bay Gamblers hockey team and NCAA Division I basketball by the UW-Green Bay Fighting Phoenix. Learn about Wisconsin agriculture while enjoying shopping and entertainment just steps from the hotel's door. And - of course - learn, make new friends and prove (and improve) your skills at conference sessions, tours and competitions. Start planning your conference trip now. To find out more information about joining the National PAS or to view further information about the upcoming conference, visit the PAS website at www.nationalpas.org. You may also request additional information by contacting Kristy Miller, kmiller@nationalpas.org, or 317-802-4220.

ALUMNI

State Leaders Conference: The National FFA Alumni Association invites you to attend the National FFA Alumni Association's 2004 State Leaders Conference to be held in Omaha, Nebraska, July 27 - August 1. This is an opportunity for FFA Alumni leaders across the country to meet and discuss issues facing the FFA and FFA Alumni. It is a time to gather valuable information and ideas related to assisting your local FFA, volunteerism, fundraising, public relations, membership incentives and much more. For more information on State Leaders Conference please visit our website at www.ffa.org/alumni or contact us at alumni@ffa.org.

Alumni Auction: The National FFA Alumni auction offers entertainment and excitement for convention attendees, while generating funds for student scholarships. Show your support of FFA and this rewarding activity by donating to the 2004 National FFA Alumni auction, October 27 - 29. Donations of products, state baskets, gift certificates, travel packages and gift baskets are all needed to continue the high level of support we now offer FFA members. For more

information on how you can donate to the auction please visit our website at <http://www.ffa.org/alumni> or contact us at alumni@ffa.org.

EDUCATOR NEWS

Summer internship opportunity at the National FFA Center this summer: The National FFA Organization will be offering an internship opportunity for an experienced teacher to work with SAE-based awards and activities this summer. Please encourage interested teachers to check the job posting on the website at http://www.ffa.org/about_ffa/html/ffa_jobs.htm or to review the advertisement in the February and March issues of "FFA Advisors Making A Difference". Applications for the position are due postmarked by April 1. Contact Rosalie Hunsinger, rhunsinger@ffa.org <<mailto:rhunsinger@ffa.org>>, 317-802-4255 with questions.

The National FFA Organization accepting nominations for judges: FFA is accepting nominations for judges for the Agricultural Proficiency Awards, Stars, Agriscience Awards, and National Chapter Awards at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky., this fall. The Agricultural Proficiency and the Star Awards judging will take place on Thursday, Oct. 28, 2004, and all of the judges will be invited to an awards luncheon on that day. The Agriscience Awards will be judged on Thursday, Oct. 28 and Friday, Oct. 29. National Chapter Awards will be judged on Wednesday, Oct. 27. We are not able to cover any expenses for the judges. Nominations can be submitted on the form enclosed with this mailing and should be mailed to Rosalie Hunsinger, National FFA Organization, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN, 46268-0960 or faxed to her at 317-802-5255.

2004 Food and Society Conference: The Food Project (TFP) is partnering once again with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to create a significant and meaningful youth presence at this year's 2004 Food and Society (FAS) Conference April 19-22, 2004, in Squaw Valley, California. This collaboration is part of TFP's BLAST (Building Local Agricultural Systems Today) Initiative. BLAST's mission is to develop a network of young leaders who will build and advocate for sustainable, community-based food systems around the country and around the world. Nominate a youth/young adult team to participate in the conference. If selected, the team would join others from around the country for a Pre-Conference Training and Networking Day on April 19 and for special workshops during the proceedings that will help youth and young adults get the most out of the conference. The Pre-Conference activities will include communications and leadership training, sharing of models and practices, tours of local projects and team building. All lodging, meal and local transportation costs will be covered in full. Airfare or other travel costs may be subsidized by scholarships. If you have questions please contact Anim Steel or Amanda Blaine at The Food Project: 617-442-1322, or e-mail ablaine@thefoodproject.org. Applications for the Kellogg Foundation's Food and Society Conference are available at <http://www.thefoodproject.org/newtfp/misc/cfsc.shtml>.

The Center for Excellence in Education announces new initiative: Under a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development and in partnership with Sts. Cyril and Methodius International Foundation, in Sophia, Bulgaria, the Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) will sponsor a conference for 100 Bulgarian farmers to discuss U.S. methods and products for increasing dairy productivity.

The program will focus on U.S. dairy farm practices to increase milk production and to explore the feasibility of expanding beef farming in Bulgaria. The conference will take place on April 7-8, 2004, in Nova Zagora, Bulgaria.

Farmers in Bulgaria will be introduced to practical and science based practices and U.S. products by Dr. Patrick Burns of Colorado State University, Dr. Duane Flack, president, Associated Agricultural Consultants and Dr. Michael Schutz of Purdue University. U.S. farmers who will represent the best of dairy farming practitioners include Mr. Mark Deardroff of Indiana and Mr. Ward Zigler of West Virginia.

Making Science Come Alive Conference: Using hydroponics to “make science come alive” is what the Science Alive conference has been doing for the past three years. Once again the Flowing Wells FFA Chapter, University of Arizona, Yavapai Community College, Cropping Inc., American Hydroponics and the Aquaponics Journal have teamed up to bring another exciting edition of this hands-on conference. The conference mission is to equip teachers to complete amazing, inexpensive and meaningful science-based projects with their students. The conference topics include hydroponics, aquaculture, tissue culture, biotechnology and program management. The conference will be held in Tucson, Ariz., May 19-22, 2004. Teacher registration is \$375 before Feb. 20 and \$420 thereafter. Special student rates are available too. The registration fee covers several meals, tours, classroom curriculum, samples and catalogs. Please visit the website www.ag.arizona.edu/science_alive for more details and registration forms. You can also contact Aaron Ball, ballaa@flowingwells.k12.az.us, 520-690-2332, for more information.

Precision Agriculture Tool Kit: Precision agriculture is the fastest growing aspect of agriculture in North America. And with the continuing trend to make growers even more efficient and profitable through technological advances, knowledge and understanding of the precision ag industry is very important. When it comes to teaching about this new frontier of ag technologies, do you have the right tools and information to bring it into your curriculum? John Deere Ag Management Solutions (AMS) has developed a Precision Ag Education Tool Kit specifically tailored to help you bring precision ag topics and applications to your classes and course curriculum. For more information, see your John Deere dealer.

STATE STAFF NEWS

Indiana University's International Agricultural Education Summer Institute scheduled for July 11-17: High school agriculture teachers and university Agricultural Education majors are invited to a residential, one-week Summer Institute on International Agriculture and Global Food Security. Nationally renowned speakers and university faculty will address three major themes during the week: the state of international agriculture, the development of global agribusiness, and the role of food in international security. Purdue University credit available. For more information, visit (<http://www.indiana.edu/~global/iaeinstitute.htm>) or call 812-855-0756.

Georgia FFA Celebrates: During Presidents' Day weekend, the Georgia FFA celebrated their 75th birthday with a well-orchestrated series of events in Plains, Georgia, to honor the legacy of the Georgia FFA and their most famous former member, President Jimmy Carter. The celebration began with the dedication of an FFA display at the Plains High School Museum and ended with a parade down Main Street that featured marching bands, blue jackets and President Carter as the grand marshal. Another highlight of the event was the filling of a time capsule that President Carter built in his Plains workshop for the Georgia FFA. Each of the more than 200 Georgia FFA chapters contributed memorabilia for the time capsule.

More than 2,300 FFA members and hundreds of parents, teachers and supporters of FFA were present to celebrate the FFA legacy and to honor former member Jimmy Carter. The event was filmed by the Georgia Farm Bureau and will be broadcast on RFD-TV. Photos of the event are posted at www.ffa.org/media/index.html.

INTERNATIONAL HAPPENINGS

Teacher resources: The FFA Global website has numerous resources available for teachers to utilize in their classrooms. Choose from a wide range of lesson plans and interactive global projects. Bring global agriculture into your classroom by visiting: www.ffa.org/programs/global/ online resources or call 317-802-4309.

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 2004. EARTHWATCH institute promotes sustainable conservation of our natural environments and cultural heritage by creating partnerships among scientists, the general public, educators and businesses. Expeditions take place year round throughout the world. Participants can receive up to \$1500 scholarships to cover a portion of the expedition costs plus membership to EARTHWATCH. To learn more about the expeditions available, visit www.earthwatch.org <<http://www.earthwatch.org>> Scholarship applications are available online at www.ffa.org/programs/global/. Please call 317-802-4309 for more information.

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 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 as they travel to Moldova, Honduras and Ethiopia. Several chapters are already using the program and if you are interested in learning more about this project, please contact FFA Global at 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!

World Expo 2005 Student Travel Opportunity (Nagoya, Japan): This one in a lifetime international experience is open to national convention Agriscience Fair 2004 participants in grades 10-12. In addition to the regular Agriscience Fair application process, those applying for the World Expo 2005 opportunity must complete a 250 word essay on how their scientific research supports the expo's theme, "Nature's Wisdom." See World Expo 2005 Flier <http://www.ffa.org/programs/ag_sci/documents/agsci_worldexpo2005flier.pdf> or EXPO 2005 Web Page <<http://www.expo2005.or.jp/en/whatexpo/>> (<<http://www.expo2005.or.jp/en/whatexpo/>>) for more details and/or contact Damon Spight, dspight@ffa.org, 317-802-4402. Application deadline is August 16, 2004.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN UPDATE

2004 BLAST Off Trainers Selected: The following individuals will be working with state officer teams throughout the spring and summer for BLAST Off: Angela Browning, California; Ann De Lay, California; Brad Dodson, California; Tim Hammerich, California; Kim Anderson, Georgia; Kerry Priest, Georgia; Cory Epler, Kansas; Matt Wolters, Kansas; Amy Nicol, Ohio; Jason Lacey, Oregon; Carrie Harp, Washington; and Rick Henningfeld, Wisconsin. Look for information regarding conference registration and logistics in the coming month. For more information, contact Tiffany Sanderson, tsanderson@ffa.org, 317-802-4239.

NLCSO dates and locations announced: Dates and locations for the 2004 round of National Leadership Conferences for State Officers are complete. The following are the confirmed dates and locations for this coming summer: Wyoming - June 20-23; Louisiana - June 20-24; Nebraska - June 22-25; Kentucky - June 28-July 1; New York - June 27-July 1; Washington - June 28-30; Arizona - July 4-9; North Carolina - July 6-9; Virginia - Aug. 2-6. More information on NLCSO will be available in the coming months. For questions regarding location details please contact the state staff in the respective states listed above. For questions specific to program content, national FFA officers, or NLCSO contact Andy Armbruster, aarmbruster@ffa.org. National Leadership Conference for State Officers is sponsored by Ariat International, International Truck and Engine, Intervet, Wayne Farms LLC, Wrangler, KRAFT Inc., ADM Inc. and Monsanto as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

State FFA Officer Web page now online: A new online State Officer Center featuring articles, tools and resources to support and enrich a state FFA officer's year of service is now available at [<http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/so/>](http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/so/). The page is organized into four sections - Speeches and Workshops, Team Effectiveness, Personal Effectiveness and Agriculture and Partners. Officers and state leaders can expect to find monthly feature articles, along with downloadable documents for reference and planning purposes. For questions regarding this program please contact Doug Kueker, dkueker@ffa.org. The State FFA Officer Center is sponsored through generous support from Dow Agrosiences Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

UPDATE is also available online at State Staff Connection:
[<http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/index.html>](http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/index.html)

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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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