

UPDATE

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U.S. Department of Education

February 2006

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DATES TO REMEMBER

February

- 1 Costa Rica Proficiency Trip Applications due– National FFA Center
- 1 MFE, ALD, EDGE Applications due– National FFA Center
- 1 New Ag Ed State Staff Forum – Hilton Hotel, Indianapolis, IN
- 1-2 National New State Staff Inservice – Hilton Hotel, Indianapolis, IN
- 2-5 National Agricultural Education Inservice – Hilton Hotel, Indianapolis, IN
- 10 PAS dues and Affiliation fees due – National FFA Center
- 15 Scholarship Applications due – National FFA Center
- 15 National Ag Day Essay deadline
- 17 PAS Career Program area certifications due
- 18-25 National FFA Week
- 20 New Century Farmer Applications due – National FFA Center
- 20 FFA Today! on RFD-TV
- 21 PAS Discounted Conference Registrations due
- 21 PAS National Conference Hotel Reservations due

March

- 1 WLC registration begins
- 15 T-shirt Design Contest Entries due – National FFA Center
- 20 National Ag Day

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THE LATEST FROM FFA

Washington Leadership Conference: It's time to start planning for the 2006 Washington Leadership Conference. Due to the increasing popularity of WLC, ***the 2006 conference will be offered for seven weeks*** instead of six! The 2006 conference dates are; June 6-11, June 13-18, June 20-25, June 27-July 2, July 11-16, July 18-23, July 25-30.

Advisors: *be sure to read about the new advisor program options and registration.* Visit www.ffa.org for updates. Registration begins March 1, 2006. Contact: Tina Paris 317-802-4309, tparis@ffa.org.

Membership Totals for 2005-2006: The Membership Team would like to thank those states that have already started sending 2005-2006 memberships. Through Jan. 15, 2006, we have received 299,489 members.

New Horizons Magazine Address Update – Subscription Deadline Dates:

Members received by these dates will be included in the New Horizons magazine run for bi-monthly issue.

**March/April
May/June**

**Feb. 10, 2006
April 14, 2006**

July/Aug	June 14, 2006
Sept/Oct	Aug. 16, 2006
Nov/Dec	Oct. 13, 2006
Jan/Feb 2007	Dec. 9, 2006

Return of Membership TelSpan Training: Training will return in March for state staff and selected individuals wanting to learn how to pull specific reports in the PeopleSoft database. Dates will be distributed at February Inservice and in the next issue of UPDATE. If you have any suggestions for training needs, contact: Clay Worley, cworley@ffa.org.

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 on the 2006 State Guide page (<http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/html/statguide.html>). Any questions? Contact: Jessica Scholer, jscholer@ffa.org, 317-802-4288.

2006 CDE deadlines announced: Deadlines have been set for the 2006 National FFA career development events. They are as follows:

June 1:	Team Declaration Forms due
July 7:	Team Certification Forms due
	Student Waiver Forms due
	CDE Special Needs Requests due
	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. 11:	Add/Delete Forms due

National Convention Judges: The National FFA Organization is accepting nominations for judges for the Agricultural Proficiency Awards, Stars, Agriscience Awards, and National Chapter Awards at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this fall. The Agricultural Proficiency and the Star Awards judging will take place on Thursday, Oct. 26, 2006, and all of the judges will be invited to an awards luncheon on that day. The Agriscience Awards will be judged on Wednesday, Oct. 25 and Thursday, Oct. 26. National Chapter Awards will be judged on Wednesday, Oct. 25. We are not able to cover any expenses for the judges. Nominations can be submitted on the attached form 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.

Proficiency Award Example Applications: Example applications of Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance Entrepreneurship, Dairy Production Entrepreneurship, Wildlife Production and Management - Entrepreneurship and Wildlife Production and Management - Placement have been added to the examples already listed on the Proficiency Award Program home page <http://www.ffa.org/programs/proficiency/index.html>. There are now 28 applications available, in a PDF format, requiring Adobe Acrobat Reader.

State Checks - National FFA Foundation Vouchers Form A: Due to IRS accounting requirements, we now will require the recipient's social security number for all state award checks. This field has been added to the Form A in the state guide. If you are ordering your state checks on the Form B, on which the check is made out to the award area, we need for you to submit your winner information on Form A as soon as possible, following your state convention. This information is required for audit purposes. Thank you for your assistance.

MERCHANDISING

FFA Recycles: FFA Recycles is a great program — not only for raising money, but also for reinforcing the role of FFA within the local community as good stewards of the land. All-new marketing materials sport attractive, bold graphics designed to get consumers' attention and participation. The marketing kit, located at <http://www.ffa-recycles.com/marketing.asp>, includes a poster, sell sheet, press release and a complete step-by-step guide

to make the program a big success. And the best part is, it's free, simple and profitable! Go to www.ffarecycles.com to get the facts on e-waste, to learn about the opportunities in re-manufacturing and to find out just how easy it will be for your chapters to raise money year-round.

Scrapbooking: Spring is just around the corner, which means it's time to start thinking about chapter and state scrapbooks! *"It takes two,"* official scrapbook licensee for National FFA, has a complete line of FFA branded papers to make this year's books really special. They also offer a complete line of crinkled, vellum and specialty papers to complement FFA branded materials. Go to www.ittakestwo.com to find a store near you – or you can order directly from *it takes two*.

EDUCATOR NEWS

"Agriculture in America" Essay Contest (for high school juniors)

Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM) and *American Heritage* Magazine recognize the importance of preparing our nation's youth for their roles as tomorrow's leaders. As such, ADM is announcing the second year of the "Ag in America" scholarship contest. The contest requires students to submit a short essay on the importance of agriculture. Grand prize is a \$2,000 government bond (current value) to be used towards schooling. Winning essay may be published in *American Heritage* magazine. For full contest rules, contact Jennifer Walker, Jennifer.Walker@admworld.com, 217-424-7465, www.admworld.com

Internship Opportunity: Summer internship opportunity offered at the National FFA Center. The National FFA Organization will be offering an eight-week 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 or to review the advertisement in the January and February issues of "Advisors, Making A Difference". Applications for the position are due postmarked by April 1, 2006. Contact: Rosalie Hunsinger, 317-802-4255, rhunsinger@ffa.org.

Scholarship Opportunity: National Honor Roll (NHR) was developed to give recognition to high school and middle school students who have attained outstanding academic success and to provide customized service as they apply to college. NHR is a sponsor of the FFA Collegiate Scholarship program. In addition, NHR has other scholarship opportunities available to FFA members. Contact: Monica Stumacher, 516-593-0555, ext. 126, Mstumacher@nationalhonorroll.org.

National FFA Scholarship Applications Now Available! The application and guidebook for the 2006 National FFA Scholarship Program is available at www.ffa.org/programs/scholarships. This information has also been mailed to every FFA chapter and every guidance office in a school with an FFA chapter. Last year one out of every four students who applied received a scholarship. Apply today! Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 15. Contact: scholarships@ffa.org.

Deadline for National Ag Day Essay Contest is Feb. 15 The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) is calling upon 7th to 12th grade students to submit an original essay of 450 words on the importance of U.S. agriculture. This year's theme is "Growing our energy: Alternative fuels from agriculture," and the deadline for entries is Feb. 15. Teachers are asked to encourage this year's participating students to focus their essays on the changing face of farming and the U.S. economy as it relates to ethanol, biodiesel and energy issues.

This year's national winner will receive a \$1,000 prize and a roundtrip ticket to Washington, D.C., to be recognized during the March 20 Ag Day Luncheon held at the National Press Club. At the luncheon, the winning essayist will have the opportunity to join with industry representatives, members of Congress, federal agency representatives, media and other friends in a celebration of agriculture. Statewide contest winners will each receive a \$100 prize.

All entries should be sent to: Ag Day Essay Contest (MC), 1201 NW Briarcliff Pkwy., Ste. 200, Kansas City, MO 64116, or msandfort@mccormickcompany.com. The Ag Day Essay Contest is sponsored by: DuPont, Case IH, The Council for Agricultural Science & Technology, *High Plains Journal*, National Association of Farm Broadcasting and National Agri-Marketing Association.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN UPDATE

78th National FFA Convention Rebroadcast

INDIANAPOLIS – If you missed the 78th National FFA Convention live broadcasts in October, be sure to check out the rebroadcasts on RFD-TV on Monday nights at 7 p.m. EST. From January to April, viewers will see the convention general sessions in their entirety in one-hour packaged segments. Here is the rebroadcast schedule February 27, 2006. Additional times will be posted on www.ffa.org and RFD-TV's website at www.rfdtv.com.

2/6/06: 7 pm. Session 4. Retiring address by National FFA Western Region Vice President Brian Hogue; Distinguished Service Citations; VIP Citations; Honorary American FFA Degrees.

2/13/06: 7 pm. Session 5. Retiring address of National FFA Southern Region Rachel McCall; introduction of National Officer Candidates; Agri- Entrepreneurship Awards.

2/20/06: 7 pm. FFA Today!

2/27/06: 7 pm. Session 6a. National Agriculture Proficiency Awards Pageant.

*All Times Eastern. Additional dates to be added.

RFD-TV can be found on Dish Network channel 9409 and Direct TV channel 379. If you have questions or comments, contact: ffatoday@ffa.org.

State Convention Checks Request Forms Updated

In order to facilitate the processing of state checks for all award areas, the Agriscience Teacher and H.O. Sargent - Diversity Award will be added to the Form A and Form B located in the state guide. These award areas will be listed at the bottom of the form, following the Agri-Entrepreneurship award area. With the increase of award amounts for the 2006 Proficiency award areas, the award dollar amount has also been listed on the form for your convenience. These forms are found in the state guide on the FFA website at <http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/html/statguide.html>. As always, please allow four weeks for processing your state convention award checks.

ALUMNI

Washington Leadership Conference scholarship - The 2006 WLC student scholarships packets will be sent to qualifying state and local affiliates in March.

State Leaders Conference- Mark your calendars to attend the 2006 FFA Alumni State Leaders Conference, July 11-16, 2006 in Nashville, TN. Details will be available in the coming months.

Visit the National FFA Alumni online at www.ffa.org/alumni/.

UPDATE is available online each month at www.ffa.org/media/html/med_pub_index.htm. Attachments are also 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.