

UPDATE

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U.S. Department of Education
April 2004

DATES TO REMEMBER

May	1	Contact National FFA Center for online membership in 05-06
June	15	VIP Citation Application due, FFA Center
	15	Distinguished Service Citation Application due, FFA Center
	15	Honorary American Degree Applications due, FFA Center
	19-29	Costa Rica Proficiency Tour
	20-23	Wyoming NLCSO
	20-24	Louisiana NLCSO
	22-25	Nebraska NLCSO
	27-30	Washington NLCSO
	30	H.O. Sargent Award Applications due , FFA Center
	28-July 1	Kentucky NLCSO
	27-July 1	New York NLCSO
July	4-9	Arizona NLCSO
	6-9	North Carolina NLCSO
	20-24	State Presidents' Conference, Washington, D.C.
	27-Aug. 1	Alumni State Leaders Conference, Omaha, Nebraska
August	1	National FFA Officer Candidate application due, FFA Center
	2-6	Virginia NLCSO
	16	Ag Science Fair World Expo

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FFA

It's not too early to begin selecting your nominees for National FFA Recognition:

For forms and applications visit for Honorary Awards: <http://www.ffa.org/programs/honor/>

Distinguished Service Citation (DSC) Award Program:

The Distinguished Service Citation is the highest award presented to an organization, agency business, industry or other group by the National FFA Organization. States are asked to nominate organizations, agencies, or other groups for the Distinguished Service Citation. The recognition is for outstanding contributions made to the National FFA Organization and the total program of agricultural education. Applications are due at the National FFA Center, postmarked on or before June 15.

VIP Award Program:

The Special VIP Citation is presented annually at the National FFA Convention to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Agricultural Education/FFA Program, over a long period of years. States are asked to nominate individuals for VIP Citation. This recognition may be awarded to but is not necessarily limited to those individuals holding the Honorary American FFA Degree. Applications are due at the National FFA Center, postmarked on or before June 15.

Honorary American FFA Degree:

The Honorary American FFA Degree is the highest FFA Honorary Degree. Each state may nominate five candidates. The purpose of the degree program is to recognize individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the agricultural education/FFA program. Individuals nominated must have provided exceptional (outstanding) service to agriculture and/or the agricultural education/FFA program. Individuals nominated from a state must have the approval of the State FFA Advisor. FFA division directors, board members and national officers may also make nominations. All nominations must be submitted on the official nomination form postmarked on or before June 15.

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.

COO search continues: The search process for a new COO is continuing on schedule. Twenty-five of the 142 applicants submitted were forwarded to the Board of Directors selection committee. The committee then selected eight applicants to forward to the larger Board Committee who will select a smaller number (about three) for final interviews. The final interview date along with a final board decision is anticipated to occur in May or June.

Local Program Resource Guide 2004-2005 CD-ROM: Great news! We are preparing for the release of the Local Program Resource Guide 2004 - 2005 CD-ROM (LPR Guide), your complete guide to Agricultural Education and the most valuable FFA program enhancing materials. For a fifth year, these materials will be provided in CD-ROM format. One representative from each state has been sent a request form via e-mail.

In addition, we have offered the LPR Guide to all pre-service teacher educators and their pre-service students for the upcoming year. As a result, those students will have an opportunity to become familiar with the materials before they begin teaching.

If you have not done so, please e-mail or fax your order to Michele Gilbert at mgilbert@ffa.org or 317-802-5301. The CDs will be shipped to state staff in June and to teacher educators in mid August. For more information please contact: Michele Gilbert, mgilbert@ffa.org, 317-802-4301 or Jim Armbruster, jarmbruster@ffa.org, 317-802-4334.

Risk Management Essay Contest Winners Announced:

Ten winners have been chosen in the 2004 Risk Management Essay Contest sponsored by the USDA Risk Management Agency. In honor of their achievement, the winners and their advisors will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., to participate in a special USDA/FFA Day ceremony on May 7, 2004. This year's winners are (by state): Colorado: Tyler J. Kimmel, New Raymer FFA; Illinois: Krista Ubbenga, Hartsburg-Emden FFA; Kentucky: Wiley Hendricks, Clark County FFA; Nebraska: Jeffrey Schroeder,

Wisner Pilger FFA; Waco Phipps, Platte Valley Academy FFA; Oklahoma: Colin Lowe, Chickasha FFA; Andrea Curry, Sterling FFA; Kristi Brown, Canton FFA; Jordan Davis, Burns Flat-Dill City FFA; Texas: Kari Bailes, Shepherd FFA.

Internship Opportunity Available at the National FFA Center: Would you like the opportunity to work with the National FFA Staff Delivery Team in preparation for the 77th Annual Convention? A **PAID** internship is available for June 1 through the end of November. If interested, please read attached description. For other internship opportunities visit, http://www.ffa.org/about_ffa/html/ffa_jobs.htm

Agriscience Teachers and Students Wanted: Don't let your state be the only one not represented by an Agriscience Teacher of the Year or Agriscience Student Scholarship and Recognition winner. The 2004 state student winner amount is \$750; runners-up will receive a \$500 scholarship. Submit your teacher nominations and student applications today. Access the forms at http://www.ffa.org/programs/ag_sci/. For more details or information, do not hesitate to contact Damon Spight at either 317-802-4402 or dspight@ffa.org.

H.O. Sargent Diversity Award Workshop: On Saturday, Oct. 30 at this year's national convention, a student workshop will be held from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in Conference Center 102. The overall purpose of the workshop is to provide students and their local chapters with the relationship-building models and skills necessary to focus on building and strengthening relationships by respecting the many dimensions of diversity. Students and chapters will leave the workshop with tips, insight and practices that can lead to personal, membership, and community growth. A \$300 mini grant for diversity programming will be awarded to the chapter with the most members present. For more information, visit <http://www.ffa.org/programs/hosargent/>.

National FFA Officer Candidates-2004: The 2004 National FFA Officer Candidate Application has been converted to an Excel template, so it is now in a format members are accustomed to completing. The new application can be found on the State Guide and on the "Guide to the National FFA Officer Selection Process". The guide is available at an unpublished web address, which was sent to state staff via e-mail in late March. The guide has been updated with information used during the 2003 process. All applications must be submitted in hard copy format and are due postmarked by Aug. 1, 2004. Contact: Kelly Horton, khorton@ffa.org, 317-802-4248 or Kim Henry, khenry@ffa.org, 317-802-4362.

NLC SO dates announced: The tentative schedules (by conference) for the upcoming National Leadership Conference for State Officers (NLC SO) are attached to this month's UPDATE. The 2004 NLC SO program is sponsored by Monsanto, Inc., KRAFT, Inc., Wrangler, International Truck and Engine Corp., Archer Daniels Midland, Ariat International, Intervet and Wayne Farms LLC, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. For more information, contact Tiffany Sanderson, tsanderson@ffa.org, 317-802-4239. <http://www.ffa.org/programs/conferences/>

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.

Congratulations to the following individuals who have been selected as trainers for the 2004-2005 EDGE, MFE and ALD Conference Season. Kjer Ames, Oregon; Kasie Bogart, Kansas; J.D. Bowns, Oregon; Luke Browning, California; Wes Crawford, Oregon; Jacob Davis, Missouri; Randy Dreher, Iowa; Renee Durham, Arkansas; Mike Folin, Oregon; Jonie Garwood, Nebraska; Tim Hammerich, California; Micah Hansen, South Dakota; Seth Heinert, Wyoming; Mary Kurtz, South Dakota; Crystal Mathews, Missouri; Lisa Nelson, Wyoming; Josie Noah, Idaho; Caela Paioff, Florida; Jake Peissig, Wisconsin; Natalie Phipps, California; Kristie Ploehn, Minnesota; Morgan Scheidere, Missouri; Tracy Smithback, Wisconsin; Boone Steinmetz, Idaho; Darcy Vial, Oregon; Ariel Winegar, Oregon; and Kristyn Woodrow, Arkansas. For more information, contact: Andy Armbruster, aarmbruster@ffa.org, 317-802-4308.

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! For more information, visit http://www.ffa.org/programs/conferences/html/conf_wlc.htm, e-mail wlc@ffa.org or call 317-802-4312. *Please note: There are limited spaces available for the June 22-27th conference. Registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis.*

State FFA Officer Web Page Updates:

New information and resources are now available at <http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/so/>. Here state FFA officers can enrich their current knowledge, skills and abilities. Look out for more new content coming this May!

New for Speeches and Workshops

"Creativity Soup"- A source of helpful tips about developing your own creativity.

"It's Money In the Bank"- A workshop that will teach students how to build and maintain relationships in a team environment.

"Maintaining Engagement"- A simple and essential concept to make your next presentation outstanding.

Check Out these New Tools and Resources

Event Planning Template(.zip)

Presentation Planning Reference

New for Teams

"Coaching and Your Team" - Helpful hints from Christy Windham, national officer, on effective coaching and delivery.

"Theme Development" - A workshop on teaching your team methods to increase the impact of their presentations by creating and following a complete theme.

New in Agriculture and Partnerships

“Volunteerism and the FFA” - Advice for inviting and maintaining quality volunteers.

“Buzz Words” - The source for fast, informative facts and information about the changing faces of our communities and the agriculture industry.

Check Out these New Tools and Resources

Planning Sheet for Partner Visits

Partner Visit Planning Reference

New for Officer Personal Effectiveness

Growth Plan Template - Set your goals and action plan for growth as a state FFA officer.

To obtain copies of previous feature articles or Volume 2 of *FFA Bright Ideas - State FFA Officer Newsletter*, visit the archive link at the bottom of the page. For more information on the State Officer Web Pages contact Doug Kueker, dkueker@ffa.org, 317-802-4272. The State FFA Officer Web Pages are made possible through support from Dow AgroSciences as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership update: Membership information received at the FFA Center through March 15 totals 383,916 members, or 83 percent of the total membership last year.

Congratulations to the state staff of our new “Over 100%” club for surpassing their last year’s membership totals already. Our most sincere thanks for your hard work and support.

Over 100% Club

Online States

Ohio

Excel Template States

Texas

Louisiana

90% Club: The following states have submitted 90% percent of membership as compared to last year's state total (as of 3/15/2004):

Online States

Illinois

Excel Template States

South Dakota

Arizona

Idaho

North Dakota

Arkansas

Minnesota

Wisconsin

Connecticut

Iowa

Oklahoma

Montana

Colorado

Kansas

Kentucky

Pennsylvania

Georgia

Virginia

Illinois

Online membership for 2004-2005: State Staff considering moving to the direct entry Online Membership process for next year may access the membership training site at <http://access.ffa.org> to examine the many improvements for 2004-2005. Please contact your membership rep for logon IDs and passwords. We encourage you to play in the test environment so you can fully experience the online processes prior to making your decision. States interested in moving to the online process for the 2005-06 school year should contact Sheridan Gilchrist or Clay Worley by May 1.

Online membership training materials are located at <http://www.ffa.org/membership/index.htm> under “Online Support.”

PROGRAMS AND AWARDS

New policy for special needs and disabilities: During the 2003 awards year the National FFA Organization incorporated a new policy and procedure for accommodating special needs and disabilities in national Career Development Events. This policy was adopted to make these events more accessible to our members with special needs, to uphold the organizations legal obligations and to address our key strategic priority area of increasing diversity in membership and participation. Based on the success of this effort, a special needs policy and procedure has been developed for each of the following award areas for implementation at the 2004 National FFA Convention: Agriscience Fair, Agriscience Student of the Year, Agriscience Teacher of the Year, H.O. Sargent, Models of Innovation, SAE Proficiencies and Stars. The policy and procedure for Career Development Events will operate under the same guidelines as 2003. Information regarding these policies and procedures will soon be available on www.ffa.org in the specific areas for each program. As you prepare to certify teams for national participation, please take a moment to look at these policies so that we can best serve participating members that have special needs issues. For more information contact Mike Honeycutt, mhoneycutt@ffa.org, or 317-802-4262.

CDE Handbook revisions soon to be online: The final edits are being made, and the CDE handbook with 2004 revisions will be posted online by April 30.

Remember to mark CDE Deadlines on your calendars

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, and 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. 14:	Add/Delete Forms due

CDE Positions Available: The National FFA Organization is looking for a Creed Speaking CDE superintendent to begin duties in 2005! This is a great opportunity to get involved in FFA activities, work with industry leaders and mentor students from around the country. If you are interested, or know someone who may be, please read the attached position description. The selected person will assist current superintendent in 2005 and take on full responsibilities in 2006. For more information, please contact Candice Murphy, cmurphy@ffa.org <<mailto:cmurphy@ffa.org>> or 317-802-4263

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>>

For more information, contact: Jessica Ells, jells@ffa.org or 317-802-4288.

A call for H.O. Sargent Diversity Award applications: 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 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.

MERCHANDISE

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, dsharp@ffa.org.

COLLEGIATE

PAS conference a success: The 2004 National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS) conference was held March 10-13 in Green Bay, Wisconsin. With 640 in attendance, the event was a huge success for PAS.

During the four-day conference, PAS members, advisors and guests visited Lambeau Field for the conference opening session and attended various workshops and tours corresponding to their areas of study in agriculture. Other conference highlights included the election of the 2004-05 National PAS Officer Team. Officer positions are held as follows:

- President = Beth Holding of Southwest Wisconsin Technical College
- President-Elect = Lavyne Rada of South Dakota State University
- Secretary = Sara Oftedahl of Ridgewater College, Minnesota
- Vice President = Mike DuBois of State University of New York - Cobleskill
- Vice President = Carl Horne of Northwest Missouri State University
- Vice President = Lance Zollinger of Brigham Young University - Idaho
- Vice President = Eric Wahler of Walla Walla Community College, Washington

Also joining PAS for the 2004-05 year will be Phil Fravel of Clemson University and Mel Dewsnup of Brigham Young University - Idaho. These individuals will serve as representatives on the PAS Board of Directors. Noah Freeman of Parkland College, Illinois will serve as Board Chair for the year. To learn more about the National PAS Organization and to view conference highlights, visit www.nationalpas.org. To request additional information you may also contact Executive Director, Eric Schilling at 317-802-4214 or Kristy Miller, program coordinator, at 317-802-4220. E-mails are also welcome at info@nationalpas.org.

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.

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-Aug. 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. Registration forms are now available online at <http://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, Oct. 27-29. Donations of products, gift certificates, travel packages and gift baskets are all needed to continue the high level of support we now offer FFA members.

What does the term "basket" mean in your state? As part of the auction, a state basket contest is held for all state FFA associations and state FFA alumni association to enter. Create a fun and inventive basket filled with your state's products and specialties! All baskets will be judged and the top three baskets will receive prizes and be moved into the live auction for further bidding. Prizes include a WLC scholarship, a registration fee to State Leaders Conference and 100 tickets in the Alumni convention giveaway. Don't miss this opportunity to show pride and support for your state.

Calling all teachers! Your agricultural education program can assist us in our fundraising efforts by donating outstanding student projects. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase your students' talents and skills. We are looking for a diverse representation of the areas being taught in our agricultural classes, from woodworking to floral arranging and everything in between! Big or small, we'll take them all! Get your students thinking about unique and creative projects they could donate.

To donate to the auction, please complete the attached form and return to the National FFA Alumni. For more information on the auction please visit our website at <http://www.ffa.org/alumni> or contact us at alumni@ffa.org.

Alumni awards WLC scholarships: WLC scholarship packets were mailed to qualifying states and Alumni affiliates in March. Attached is a listing of scholarship numbers and dollar amounts awarded to states and affiliates. Names noted designate the individual who received the scholarship packets and are responsible for distribution. Please be aware that all scholarships are conditional upon receipt of all required documentation. For more information or questions, please contact us at alumni@ffa.org, or 317-802-4293.

Alumni offers welding hoods: Lincoln Electric has generously donated 1,000 welding hoods to the National FFA Alumni. The association is now offering these helmets at a discounted price (while quantities last). Don't miss this opportunity to get a quality product! For more information and pricing please contact us at alumni@ffa.org.
Magnum Welding Hood by Lincoln Electric.....Value: \$29.95. Lift Front Helmet, S22136-4R. S/FL HWL 24, 25. 5 ½"X 4 ½" lens.

EDUCATOR NEWS

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 317-802-5255.

World Expo 2005 Application Now Available (Aichi, Japan): This once-in-a-lifetime international experience is open to 2004 national convention Agriscience Fair 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." Experience gained from attending the World Expo includes and goes beyond orientation to the Japanese culture, exposure to issues facing our global society, potential solutions and awareness of future technology as applied to all facets of society. The application and more details are below. For more information, contact Damon Spight, dspight@ffa.org, 317-802-4402, if you have questions. Application deadline is Aug. 16, 2004. (Note: This is the same deadline date for the Agriscience Fair. All fair applications, abstracts and certifications must be postmarked no later than Aug. 16 for eligibility!) [World Expo 2005](#)

[Flier <\\ffa-in-fs1\homes\spight\Educational Programs Division\Agriscience-Related\Agriscience Fair 2004\World Expo 2005 Planning\Advertising Material-Related\agsci_worldexpo2005flier.doc>; World Expo 2005 Application <\\ffa-in-fs1\teams\public\ Web Content Editors\Damon Spight\agsci_fair\WorldExpo2005ApplicationForm.zip>](#)

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.

INTERNATIONAL HAPPENINGS

The FFA Global website opportunities: 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/ for online resources or call 317-802-4309.

Costa Rica Proficiency Trip Spanish Interpreters: The National FFA Organization is still accepting applications for Spanish-speaking teachers to accompany students to Costa Rica in June. You must have at least one year of classroom experience and be fluent in both English and Spanish. The trip is scheduled for June 19-29, 2004. For more information, please call 317-802-4309.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN UPDATE

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.

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.

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.

UPDATE is also available [online: 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.