# Making a Difference September 2006

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79th National FFA Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana

ust as the blue jacket is a time-honored icon of FFA, the organization's members set the gold standard for young leaders in our nation. The half-million FFA members and all they represent – premier leadership, personal growth and career success, all wrapped in blue corduroy – are the essence of this year's convention theme, "Blue Jackets, Gold Standards."

As usual, the 79<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention will be packed full of activities and events designed to educate, inspire and entertain you and your students. You can make the most of the experience by taking time now to review the *Second Edition Advisors Planning Guide* (mailed to all chapters and available online at [www.ffa.org/convention/]) and creating a detailed plan to chart your convention activities. (You'll even find a helpful planning tool on pages 8–9 of the APG).

#### **Start Now**

As the convention moves into its new home in Indianapolis, creating a plan will be more important than ever. You'll want to allow a little extra time to learn "the lay of the land" and become familiar with where each event will be located. Additionally, there will be different security protocols (see article on p. 10) that you'll want to take into consideration.

Review the guide and highlight the sessions, career development events, tours, workshops, entertainment and other learning experiences you feel will benefit your students. Then, go

back through and put those events in a calendar format to see where they overlap. Don't forget to block out time to spend in the FFA National Agricultural Career Show.

#### **Add Buffer Zones**

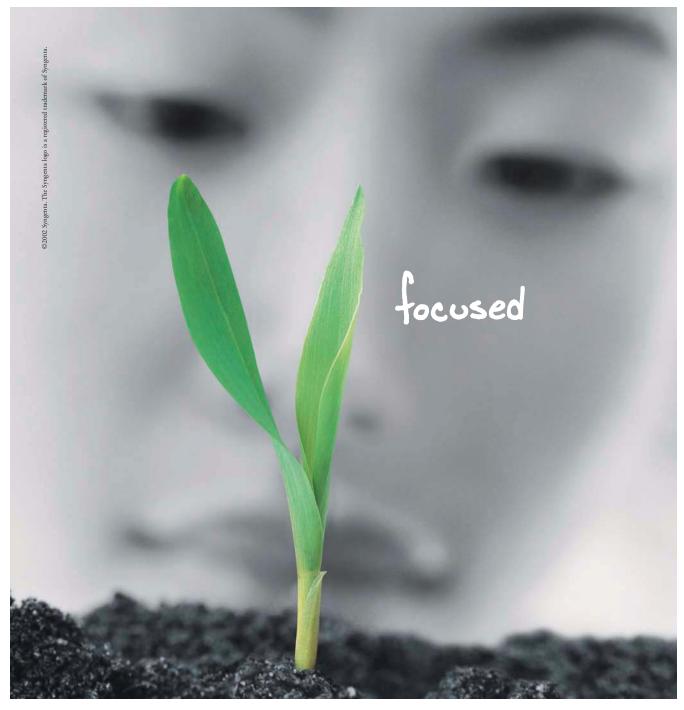
While you're mapping out your schedule, be sure to include plenty of time to travel from one spot to another, and plan to arrive early at all sessions. The doors will open one hour prior to each session; lights will be dimmed and high-energy pre-session activities will begin 30 minutes prior to each session.

Once you have your schedule drafted, consider what you can do to help your students fully absorb the convention experience. The true value of the convention is what each student retains after the glittering lights and upbeat music fade. Make sure you schedule some downtime at the end of each day to relax and discuss the day's experiences. These conversations will help the students process each day's activities.

#### **Structured Lessons**

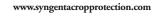
Look back over the schedule and consider creating assignments that will help students retain key information. You can focus on specific areas of interest, such as agriscience. If you have students who are interested in science, make sure they visit the Agriscience Fair. Or, maybe you have a budding entrepreneur. Guide this student to the national agri-entrepreneurs' display in the Career Show and have them interview the winners and pick up information to share with the chapter.

Lastly, consider what life lessons you help your students internalize by giving them a take-home assignment. Asking them to write out their goals, prepare a report or give a presentation can drive home the lessons learned so that they'll be used long after the excitement fades.



For the 20,000 people of Syngenta, farmland is not just another place to do business. It's the place we call home. You see, Syngenta is dedicated to innovative crop protection, seed solutions and sustainable agriculture around the world. And nothing else. In other words, we're passionately focused on seeing crops do well. Just like someone else we know.





### Making Difference

FFA Advisors Making a Difference is published eight times a year to assist FFA advisors in making a positive difference in the lives of students.

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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.

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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.

Rocky Mountain Marketing Communications, Inc. Editorial Consultant

Published by Larry D. Case, Coordinator, Agricultural and Rural Education, U.S. Department of Education This publication is available online at [www.ffa.org/news/html/ffapubsindex.html].

#### Watch for the LPS Logo



The logo shows how this issue of FFA Advisors Making a Difference relates to Local Program Success, a national initiative to strengthen agricultural education programs. You'll see this icon on all FFA materials. The shaded apples show which areas the materials address.

# Perspectives

### Welcome to Indy!

he city of Indianapolis can't wait for the last week of October to arrive, as that will signal the arrival of the national FFA convention!

For me, this journey started years ago when I wore a blue corduroy jacket with my name on the front and Tipton, Indiana, on the back. I was very involved in my chapter and later had the opportunity to serve as an Indiana state officer. FFA and agricultural education contributed so much to who I am today that when the opportunity arose to work on bringing first the National FFA Center, then the national FFA convention to Indianapolis, I jumped at the chance with the help of my company, Dow AgroSciences.

You'll find that Indianapolis has created the perfect balance of big city amenities and a friendly, inviting atmosphere. The city offers state-of-the-art convention facilities, unique meeting venues, trusted hotel brands, exciting attractions, delicious dining options and superb shopping. And, our connected convention district puts it all just steps away from the heart of downtown.

Add to that mix the fact that Indianapolis has a strong agriculture industry presence, including companies focused in the life sciences, equipment, food, turf and the ornamental industry. Bringing the FFA convention to Indy provides yet another solid agricultural influence for our urban community. Plus, it creates an opportunity for FFA members from across the country to experience the energy and excitement of a modern, safe, progressive big city.



By Ted McKinney
Leader, US Food Chain Dow AgroSciences LLC
and Indianapolis Local Organizing Committee,
Chair Finance Team (pictured with Travis Jett,
national FFA president)

As I've worked with our city and business leaders to raise support for the FFA convention, it has been extremely gratifying for me to experience their positive responses. Indianapolis hosts a number of world-class events, including the Indianapolis 500 and the NCAA Final Four, and I don't think we've ever experienced the enthusiasm and excitement that is being generated in anticipation of your arrival. Across the city, people know FFA is coming and are excited to be able to host these future leaders at such a formative time in their lives.

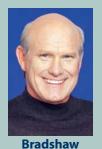
Personally, being able to help so many people better understand agriculture has been extremely gratifying. I, too, can't wait for the last week of October – and all those blue jackets – to arrive in Indianapolis!



# **Convention Keynote Speakers**



he national FFA convention has a reputation for attracting top–notch speakers, and this year is no exception. Here's a closer look at this year's lineup of convention keynoters.













#### **Terry Bradshaw**

Terry Bradshaw, widely acknowledged as today's preeminent NFL studio personality, serves a dual role of co-host and analyst on FOX NFL Sunday. Bradshaw will kick off the convention as he addresses sessions 1A. 1B and 1C.

As the top draft pick in 1970, Bradshaw became one of the most prolific quarter-backs in history, leading the Steelers to four Super Bowl championships, six AFC championship games and eight straight playoff appearances (1972–79). In 1989, Bradshaw was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.

#### **Clark Kellogg**

Clark Kellogg, who will address the fourth convention session, joined CBS Sports full time in 1997, after having served as a studio and game analyst for ESPN (1990–97). A standout basketball player at The Ohio State University (1979–82), Kellogg led the Buckeyes in both scoring and rebounding as a sophomore and junior. He earned All-Big Ten and Most Valuable Player honors in 1982, when he averaged 16.1 points and 10.5 rebounds per game. Following his junior year, he entered the NBA Draft and was the number 1 pick of the Indiana Pacers. He played for five seasons before retiring with chronic knee problems.

#### **Mike Rayburn**

Mike Rayburn is an award-winning speaker and entertainer with a truly unique presentation. Rayburn will make his debut on the blue-and-gold stage during the seventh convention session. Known as the *World's Funniest Guitar Virtuoso*, Mike uses his astounding guitar creations, uproarious songs and presentation skills to encourage, challenge and inspire his audiences to step beyond their perceived limitations.

#### **Scott McKain**

Scott McKain, a former national FFA officer, is a highly successful business professional, author and commentator. McKain will share his insights with the American FFA Degree recipients and others who attend the ninth convention session. He is the vice chairman of Obsidian Enterprises - a company he helped found just a few years ago - generating \$100 million in annual revenue. Obsidian has been named as one of the "fastest growing public companies" in the United States. McKain is the author of What Customers REALLY Want- released internationally in August 2005 - and the #1 business bestseller, ALL Business is Show Business!

#### **Mike Johanns**

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns will address the third general session, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 26. Johanns was raised on an Iowa dairy farm and still describes himself as "a farmer's son with an intense passion for agriculture." Prior to coming to USDA, Johanns served as Nebraska's 38<sup>th</sup> governor. During his six years in office, Johanns was a strong advocate for rural communities and farmers and ranchers. He has continued that advocacy, leading the effort to improve access to world markets for U.S. products, and hosting 21 of 52 farm bill forums held across the country.

#### **Dr. Troy Justesen**

Dr. Troy Justesen, assistant secretary, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, will represent the U.S. Department of Education at the convention. A former FFA member from Utah, Justesen will speak at the fourth general session, 8 a.m., Friday, Oct. 27. Justesen serves as the principal adviser to Secretary of Education Spellings on departmental matters related to career, technical and adult education; high schools; lifelong learning; and community colleges as well as workforce and economic development.



# **Building Support for Your Program**

hat if...
...your biggest supporters
were the people who had
the greatest impact on your program?

...the people in your school who have the greatest influence on students' schedules had a 100% belief in agricultural education and FFA?

...the body that makes policy decisions for your school truly understood the agriculture classroom, SAE and FFA?

Sounds like a utopia doesn't it? Think about it. How would your job, the FFA chapter and the agricultural education department be different if your principal, superintendent, counselor or school board members had a clear understanding of and true belief in agricultural education and FFA?

How do you achieve that? One way to start is by not leaving them at home when you travel to Indianapolis this fall for the 79<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention. Coming back after missing a week of school and telling them how wonderful the event was only gains their acceptance for your absence. It does not necessarily build support. To fully get these key decision makers in your court, they need to attend convention, not just hear about it after the fact.

#### Invite Your School Officials to Convention

If you need another chaperone or sponsor, instead of asking a parent to attend, why not take your counselor, principal or even your superintendent along? Can you imagine the change in their perception of your school's program after touring the Agriscience Fair and Career Show, conferencing with administrators from across the nation, attending a convention

session and just being completely immersed in the events at the 79<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention?

Grant Peterson, who teaches agriculture at Grantsville High School in Utah, has seen first-hand the power of engaging administrators in FFA activities. "Several years ago I invited our then-principal to serve as a chaperone on our trip to the national FFA convention," Peterson says. "She was so impressed with the event, particularly the patriotism displayed and how the members participated in the Pledge of Allegiance during closing ceremonies. She has commented many times about the impact that trip made in her thinking. She is now our district CTE director and has been very supportive. In fact, she has made a significant, positive difference for FFA and agricultural education across the district."

Peterson continues, "We are constantly hearing about the importance of advocacy. While it is important to be engaged with our state and federal legislators, the individuals who have the biggest impact on our programs locally are our administrators and school board members. We're fools if we don't reach out of our comfort zones and build those relationships by inviting these people to our events and activities, so they can truly understand how our programs are different from others and how they benefit our students."

# Special **Programming**

This year's convention will feature a day of activities developed just for school officials on Friday, Oct. 27. Motivational speakers, VIP seating at the general convention session, guided tours of the expansive Career Show, and a tailor-made School Officials Luncheon featuring informative round table discussions led by school officials are all included.

This is the opportunity you have been looking for ever since that first time you said to yourself, "If they only understood

what we are about, we could accomplish so much more!" This is your opportunity to help your key school officials really understand what your program is all about. Best of all, it is **free**; courtesy of funding from National Starch Food Innovation.



School officials who attend the convention will have the opportunity to participate in programming designed especially for them, including a tour of the Career Show and the Agriscience Fair.

#### **Take Action!**

Getting them to attend takes action on your part. Invite them to travel with you, save them a spot in the van, bus, plane or whatever means of transportation will bring you to Indianapolis. Make what might be the best investment you ever could in your school's agriculture program: Bring your administrator to Indy!

For more details on the School Officials Program, visit [www.ffa.org/convention/documents/conv\_soe.pdf]. To register your school official, use the Online Convention Registration tool at [www.ffa.org/convention/html/pln\_registration\_info.htm].



## Planning for a Great Convention

s you anticipate the 79th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, all the excitement of the event and

the new city - including terrific tours, dining options, entertainment activities and a vibrant downtown environment – awaits you. It has been seven years since the convention last made a move to a new venue, so please keep in mind that many things will be different than you've come to expect. Following is a list of changes that will be different from previous years or "new to Indy."

American Degree Ceremony

(Please see "Convention Arena Sessions" below)

#### **American Degree Reception**

In place of the American Degree luncheon that has taken place in the past, this year the National FFA Organization will host an American Degree reception from 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday evening prior to the Saturday American Degree Ceremony. The reception will take place in the Sagamore Ballroom of the Indiana Convention Center, and will feature former national FFA officer Scott McKain as the keynote speaker. All American Degree recipients receive one free admission to the reception and can request up to three free tickets to the American Degree Ceremony (Convention Session #8).

#### **Bus Parking**

(Please see "Parking" below)

#### Concerts

This year's FFA concert attractions include the reigning Academy of Country Music top new male artist, Jason Aldean, and the top new female artist, Carrie Underwood. Wednesday's mega concert will feature Underwood, with Aldean and Keith Anderson opening the show. Thursday's concert will feature Blake Shelton, with Trent Willmon and Jamie O'Neal warming up the stage. Details are available in the Second Edition Advisors Planning Guide, p. 47.

#### **Convention Arena Sessions**

Eight of the nine convention sessions will take place in Conseco Fieldhouse. To accommodate the large number of American Degree recipients and their guests, Convention Session #8, the American Degree Ceremony, will be held in the RCA Dome on the American Degree Stage. Doors for all sessions will open one hour prior to the session start time, with pre-session activities beginning half an hour prior to the session start.

#### **Convention Registration Location**

Pre-registration is your best option to avoid the lines at on-site registration. If you are unable to pre-register, the main convention registration desk will be located in the Indiana Convention Center off the Maryland Street entrance. The registration area is not a wide, open space, but is part of a narrower convention center location. The area cannot accommodate hundreds of students waiting while their advisors complete the registration process. Please consult the downtown activities listed on pages 39-40 of the Second Edition Advisors Planning Guide, and ensure that your students have a place to wait and a meeting point set in advance while their representatives register for the convention. Better yet, beat the rush and pre-register for the convention through the convenient online convention registration option.

#### **Convention Registration Badges**

Your convention registration badge will be more important than ever, as security guards at all events will require them for entry. You'll also want to have your convention badges when you're out and about in downtown Indianapolis, as the city has a curfew for those under age 18. Your students' convention badges will be necessary after the curfew begins, so make sure that your students have their badges with them at all times, even when they aren't in official dress or attending a convention activity.

Convention registration badges will be sold at the main convention registration desk in the Indiana Convention Center. Lost badges may be replaced at either the main convention registration desk or Conseco Fieldhouse; there will be a \$5 fee.

#### **Convention Ticket Refund Procedure**

The process of allocating tickets for national FFA convention sessions and activities is designed to be fair and efficient. As with most public events, convention event tickets are nonrefundable. Please note that opening session tickets may only be exchanged at the on-site convention

registration counter in Indianapolis. Exchange of these tickets will only be accommodated if the desired session has available seats and if the session being exchanged has not already occurred. Tickets sold for activities such as concerts, Xtreme Bulls, hypnotist performances, etc., are nonrefundable. These tickets may not be exchanged or returned unless the event is cancelled. In the case of a cancellation, you will receive instructions on receiving your refund.

#### Dances

There will be no convention dances this year.

#### Dining

To identify dining locations near your hotel, click on [www.indy.org] and select "Where To Eat." You will find there is a diverse selection of ethnic cuisine throughout the Indianapolis area ranging from fine dining to fast food. Downtown there are more than 200 restaurants from which to choose. Plus, there are three food courts at the convention center and three more within walking distance. This does not include the 20plus restaurants at the City Market located on Market Street between Delaware and Alabama. just three blocks north of Conseco Fieldhouse. For convenience, you may wish to purchase "Dining for Dollars" certificates for use in the Circle Centre Mall. For more information related to the certificates, go to [www.simon.com/mall/ event\_details.aspx?ID=163&ElreD=45706].

#### **Downtown Environment**

For the first time in seven years, FFA members and activities will be back in the middle of a true, exciting downtown city environment. Downtown Indianapolis is clean, safe, well-lit and easy to navigate. Please remember there will be a substantial amount of vehicular and pedestrian traffic surrounding all our convention locations. Downtown FFA convention locations include the Indiana Convention Center, RCA Dome, Conseco Fieldhouse and eight event hotels. The Indiana State Fairgrounds is 38 blocks north of downtown. Downtown Indy is crisscrossed by a grid of intersecting streets, many of which are one way. Please consult



the pull-out Indianapolis map in the Second Edition Advisors Planning Guide, for a clear view of the Indy downtown area, convention event venues, parking locations and street directions.

#### **FFA Way**

Georgia Street, the downtown thoroughfare that runs between the Indiana Convention Center/RCA Dome and Conseco Fieldhouse, three blocks away, will be partially cordoned off for pedestrian traffic. The street will be renamed "FFA Way" in honor of the convention, and will be staffed with Indianapolis Police Department officers and a variety of Indianapolis volunteers to assist convention attendees during their travels back and forth between convention venues. FFA Way will be the easiest, safest and most direct route between the convention arena (Conseco Fieldhouse) and the Indiana Convention Center, where the Career Show, shopping mall, Finals Hall and other events will be located. Please understand there will still be automobile traffic on this street, so be attentive.

#### Housing

To obtain information about hotels, go to [www. ffa.org], and link to convention housing where you will find the form, hotel list and maps. The form is due to National FFA by September 25. For additional information and/or questions contact [housing@ffa.org].

#### **Indiana State Fairgrounds**

Ten CDEs will take place at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, 38 blocks north of downtown Indianapolis. The Indiana State Fairgrounds is self-contained, with fencing surrounding the facility. Ample food and beverages will be available for sale at the fairgrounds, and breaks have been built in to the CDE schedules to allow for meals and snacks. FFA staff strongly suggest that you take advantage of meal and snack options at the fairgrounds, as there are limited dining establishments in the area. Unlike the downtown environment, the state fairgrounds is surrounded by residential neighborhoods,

commercial areas with few dining options and busy streets, so we suggest that your group stay inside the grounds for all activities, including meals. CDE participants may use the free fairgrounds shuttle to return to the downtown convention facilities at their leisure. For more fairgrounds information, consult your CDE team orientation packet.

#### **Parking**

Prepaid parking passes purchased through online convention registration are your best option. In a downtown environment such as Indianapolis, it will be doubly important that you take advantage of the prepaid parking opportunities available to you. FFA has secured approximately 5,000 parking spaces for convention attendees, and an additional 500 spaces for school buses. Please pay particular attention to the parking information provided in the Second Edition Advisors Planning Guide, and pre-register now to secure a parking space before you arrive in Indy!

#### **Safety and Safety Zones**

Indianapolis is a clean, safe and welcoming city, and the 79<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention will take place in the heart of it all. However, as with all large metropolitan areas, you'll want to make sure your students are familiar with general safety practices. Consult page 14 of the Second Edition Advisors Planning Guide, for more information.

#### **Shuttles**

FFA has arranged for shuttles between the downtown Indiana Convention Center and three groups of destinations: the Indiana State Fairgrounds (CDE participants), the Indianapolis Zoo (bus parking) and several different hotel campuses. Please refer to page 50 in the Second Edition Advisors Planning Guide for important information on shuttle routes and passes.

#### **Restaurant Rules**

A high majority of restaurants in the city of Indianapolis are smoke-free establishments. The only exceptions to this rule are establishments classified as bars that serve alcohol as the majority of their revenue.

In order to enter the majority of these establishments, guests must be 21. Please

keep this in mind as you make your dining reservations, and make sure your students are aware that establishments in the downtown area will enforce age restrictions appropriately.

#### **Tax Exemption**

FFA chapters are not eligible for tax exemption in the state of Indiana. All housing rates quoted and provided to chapters using the Indianapolis housing block include all appropriate taxes in the rate.

#### **Tours**

abundance of Career Success Tours for your and your students. You can visit Dow AgroSciences and participate in a series of six interactive demonstrations. Those interested in public horticulture might want to visit the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Each tour costs \$7. Register online at [www.ffa. org]. Review pages 32-34 of the Second Edition Advisors Planning Guide for all the details.

The greater Indianapolis area is offering an



# Join in the National FFA Day of Service



he National FFA Day of Service is a new feature of the national FFA convention. With the help of Indianapolis civic leaders, the National FFA Organization and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), this community component was developed to promote community awareness through agricultural education and FFA member participation.

"The National FFA Organization has always embraced the idea of giving back to our communities. In fact, the last line of our FFA motto is 'Living to Serve,' which accurately positions service as the capstone of the FFA experience," said FFA Chief Operating Officer Doug Loudenslager. "We want to find the right way to give back to the Indianapolis community through the National FFA Day of Service."

"Service is a cornerstone for communities," says Joe Martinez, who is an education specialist with the National FFA Organization working with the civic engagement programs. "By participating in the National Day of Service, we will give FFA members firsthand experience in various activities that they can take home and then partner with community members to solve local issues. We know that our FFA chapters are doing outstanding community service events throughout the year. Now we are going to the next level and involving adults to work side by side with FFA members to create change in the community."

There are four service events in which FFA members can register and participate. Registration for these events is available through the Online Convention Registration system – and will be accepted through this mechanism only.

Here is additional information on each of these areas.



- · Area: Social and Human Justice
- Anticipated Number of FFA Participants: 150
   FFA participants will engage in volunteer work on the Commodity Supplementary
   Food Program assembly line building

Food Program, assembly line building boxes and filling each with 40 pounds of USDA food for senior citizens. FFA participants will:

- take part in informational and educational sessions;
- tour the 83,000 square-foot facility to learn more about food banking;
- learn about programs and services that can be reproduced in other communities;
- statistics on hunger, and how volunteerism is critical to food banks and feeding the hungry.



- Area: Environmental Stewardship
- Anticipated Number of FFA Participants: 260 Participants will have the opportunity to experience and gain knowledge about being good urban land stewards through rejuvenation of land within the Kessler Park System of Indianapolis. FFA members will perform various landscape activities ranging from tree planting to creating view sheds of natural and historic features. Program participants will be working side-by-side with other partners, reinforcing the value of partnerships and recognition that each group provides a unique perspective.



- Areas: Partners in Education Environmental Stewardship
- Anticipated Number of FFA Participants: 150 FFA participants will attend a brief seminar on implementing community projects. This will be followed by handson activities at a local Indianapolis charter school with the ultimate goal of creating an outdoor classroom a living laboratory. In addition, FFA members will be involved in planting 50 trees as part of a long-range tree planting/reforestation project within the city of Indianapolis. Other activities will include:
- establishing a butterfly garden, pond and seating area
- removing invasive species
- re-establishing a healthy native environment
- · developing wildlife habitat
- · building a detention pond
- · litter pick up
- · planting a trail head
- flower and vegetable garden plantings



- Area: Social and Human Justice
- Anticipated Number of FFA Participants: 260 Participants will take part in building five different homes in the Indianapolis area. Construction activities include: installing siding, installing porch posts and beams, painting (interior and exterior) and site and neighborhood beautification.



#### **National Collegiate Agricultural Ambassadors**

# **Ready for Service**

he National Collegiate Agricultural Ambassador program has selected 15 new ambassadors for the 2006-2007 school year. Presentations focusing on economic importance, environmental stewardship, sustainable agriculture and sound science have been developed for the ambassadors to share with others.

Over the next year, these students will serve as ambassadors by delivering presentations to high school classes, community organizations and other groups interested in learning more about the opportunities the agricultural industry has to offer.

The 15 collegiate students selected as the 2006-2007 National Collegiate Agricultural Ambassadors are listed below:

- Pamela Bartholomew Univ. of Tennessee-Martin
- Vanessa Brossman Sam Houston State Univ.
- Nicki Busdieker Univ. of Missouri-Columbia
- Kory Dedmon Southern Arkansas Univ. Jill Pesek South Dakota State Univ.
- Charlee Doom Univ. of Kentucky
- Jason Frerichs South Dakota State Univ. Whitney Richter Tarleton State Univ.
- Marcus Hollan Butte College

- Katie Klessig Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison
- Heather McLean Univ. of Tennessee-
- Matthew Meyer Western Illinois Univ.
- Ashley Middleswarth Oklahoma State Univ.
- Sarah Rammelsberg Iowa State Univ.
- Ashleigh Waddle Virginia Tech

Early this fall, the collegiate ambassadors will begin traveling and making presentations to high school classrooms, community groups and other audiences interested in hearing a clear, concise message of agriculture. Look for the ambassadors and hear more about the program at the national FFA convention this October. If you are interested in learning more about the program, or want to contact an ambassador near you, please contact Jill Casten, program manager, at 317-802-4356 or via e-mail at [jcasten@ffa.org]. National Collegiate Agricultural Ambassador Vanessa Brossman,





in your state or your chapter?

Hours logged in 1 Million Hour Challenge show the bigger picture and attach value to civic engagement projects. How can this help you? Learn more by visiting the 1MHC page on ffa.org.

CHAPTER ADVISORS -- Here's how you log hours:

- 1. Visit ffa.org and click 1MHC logo
- 2. Log into MyFFA
- 3. Click Manage My Profile
- 4. Scroll down to FFA Chapter Project Submissions
- 5. Click Add New Project

Service projects from Nov. 1, 2005 through Oct. 1, 2006 can be logged as a part of the 1MHC.

For more information, contact: Joe Martinez, 317-802-4316.





### Win \$1,000 and a spot on TV!

- Most service hours by a state
- Most unique service project by a chapter
- Most service hours by a chapter

The winning chapter will receive a \$1,000 Living to Serve Award to be put towards a new service project or expand on an existing service project!

LOG YOUR SERVICE HOURS

# FFA Advisors Making a Difference • September 2006

# **Keeping an Eye on Safety**

ike many large gatherings, the national FFA convention is a celebratory event filled with excitement and enthusiasm. To keep everyone safe while they enjoy the convention experience, the National FFA staff is working diligently with Indianapolis officials to make everyone aware of existing security systems and procedures that will be new to convention attendees.

Much like airport security has changed significantly recently, several new security checks will be in place when teachers and students pour into Indianapolis in late October. While many of the changes will be invisible to convention participants for obvious reasons, others will be very evident.

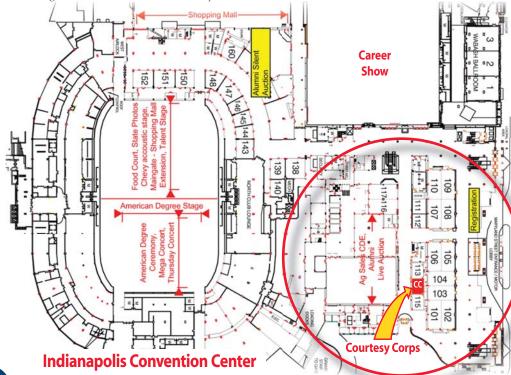
#### **Security Searches**

Your convention registration badge will be more important than ever, as security guards at all events will require them for entry. You'll also want to have your convention badges when you're out and about in downtown Indianapolis, as the city has a curfew for those under age 18. Your students' convention badges will be necessary after the curfew begins, so make sure that your students have their badges with them at all times, even when they aren't in official dress or attending convention activities. FFA members will still be expected to uphold high behavioral standards, as they are representing the organization while in the host city.

You'll also want to plan ahead and include more time to move back and forth from the convention sessions (which will be held in Conseco Fieldhouse) to the Career Show and Shopping Mall areas (which will be housed in the Indiana Convention Center/RCA Dome). Entry into the convention sessions at Conseco Fieldhouse, or any Conseco Fieldhouse event, will require a bag search, similar to clearing security at a professional sporting event. Please allow extra time, as this will take a few minutes, and it is likely that there will be lines during peak times.

#### **Safety Zones**

Indianapolis is a clean, safe and welcoming city, and the 79<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention will take place in the heart of it all. You'll want to make sure your students are familiar with general safety practices (listed on page 14 of the Second Edition Advisors Planning Guide).



## **TTPS**

Follow these helpful tips to ensure everyone has a safe and fun convention:

- Establish a meeting place and times to reconvene with the group throughout the day. Choose a specific spot for meeting—next to a particular food court vendor or in front of a specific conference room, for example. Make sure your students know exactly where that spot is. Take them there and show them as soon as you arrive at the convention.
- If you have a cell phone, share the number with your students. Keep the phone charged up, powered on and with you at all times. You may want to contact your state FFA association staff and make sure they have your cell phone number in case they need to reach you as well.
- Make sure your students keep the name, address and phone number of their hotel with them at all times.
- Provide each student with a copy of your group's agenda. This will help a lost student locate other members of the group. (For example, if the student is lost at 1 p.m. on Thursday, they might look at their schedule and see that some students would be at the Agriscience Fair. A National FFA convention staff member could direct them to that location.)
- Tell your students that if they cannot find you at the meeting point and cannot reach you by cell phone to go to the nearest Courtesy Corps/Lost and Found office, which is at the Indiana Convention Center Room 114 (see map). After you have shown the students your meeting spot, show them where this room is located. Check the dry erase boards outside of the Indiana Convention Center Courtesy Corps Office and the Convention Command Post located at Conseco Fieldhouse regularly for the names of any missing students.
- Do not leave a facility until you are sure you can account for each student.



# State Presidents Meet in Nation's Capital, Select Delegate Issues

S

tate FFA officers from across the country had the experience of a lifetime when they met with President George W. Bush at the State Presidents' Conference (SPC) held in Washington, D.C., July 25–29.



Attendees of the conference (state FFA presidents and an additional officer from their team) represented all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. All were united by common goals: to strengthen skills in leadership and citizenship, to discuss national FFA business and to explore the heritage of the nation's capital. The group attended the conference to prepare for their responsibilities as delegates and committee chairs for the 2006 National FFA Convention, to be held in Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 25–28.



Newly confirmed USDE Assistant Secretary of the Office of Vocational and Adult Education Troy Justesen met with and spoke to FFA State Presidents' Conference participants two days after he was sworn in to his new position.

#### **Delegate Issues**

The issues selected for discussion at the national FFA convention are as follows:

- Start-up grants for new chapters
- Begin awarding an American Star Greenhand and provide resources for beginning SAEs
- CDE Innovations and Process Evaluation committee
- Middle school membership opportunities
- Female Official Dress
- Provide materials and resources in both English and Spanish to chapters with Spanish-speaking students

The State Presidents' Conference is planned and conducted by the team of six national FFA officers who selected this year's conference theme, "A New Era in Agriculture." State officers attending the conference learned how to represent a new era in the agricultural industry and, in turn, will train chapter officers in the local schools on how they can also embody a new era.

Highlights of the conference, other than meeting the president, were meeting with

Members of the National

FFA Organization State Presidents' Conference meet "Miss Beazley" Thursday, July 27, in the State Dining Room of the White House, prior to their meeting with President George W. Bush. White House photo by Eric Draper

members of Congress, a visit with Ray Simon, Deputy Secretary of Education and Chuck Connor, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

Activities included visits to the Jefferson Memorial, U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, FDR Memorial and many other historical landmarks. Officers also attended leadership workshops to discuss the importance of FFA and agricultural education.

The Chevrolet Motor Division and GMAC (General Motors Acceptance Corporation) sponsor SPC as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



### Classrooms in the Career Show

ou have come to expect that your students will learn and grow from their national FFA convention experience. What you may not be aware of are all the possibilities for you to learn and grow as a teacher, too! There will be three classrooms set up in the FFA Agricultural Career Show, each offering opportunities for professional development.

your classes, you'll want to spend some time here. The DuPont classroom will host a series of six different sessions:

- Food Safety: Inhibiting Microbial Growth
- Food Preservation and Nutrient Value
- Groundwater Contamination: Trouble in Fruitvale
- Plant Genetics and Breeding Improved Crops
- Biofuels: The Ethanol Alternative
- · Creating and Understanding the Use of **Topographic Maps**

Each session will be taught by a National Agricultural Science Teacher Ambassador. These teachers have been trained on integrating science into the agriculture curriculum and will provide simple, effective tips on how you can add rigor and relevance to your classroom instruction. Every instructor attending a session will receive a free set of materials to take home and use in the classroom. This classroom is sponsored

> Opportunities for professional development abound at the national FFA convention. Stop by the Career Show classrooms to learn new teaching strategies and receive free materials.



#### **Agriscience** Institute

There will be two classrooms that are part of the Agriscience Institute, the DuPont Agriscience Classroom and the DTN Classroom. Professional Learning Units will be available for each session attended. Workshops will be offered throughout Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during Career Show hours. Check the Second Edition Advisors Planning Guide for schedules.

#### **DuPont Agriscience** Classroom

by the DuPont Center for Collaborative Research and Education.

#### DTN Classroom

If you're looking for ways to integrate the most current agriculture information in your classes, you'll want to stop by the DTN Classroom. DTN has been an innovator in producing and delivering news and information since 1984. They deliver information through a variety of Internet, satellite and direct data feed connections, and provide teachers with highly advanced analysis and integration tools that help teach smart business decisions. Sessions will demonstrate how to use the most current agriculture

business and market information in your daily curriculum. Sessions will be hands-on and interactive with computer workstations. Teachers who participate in the three different sessions will walk away with curriculum materials and free access to the DTN website. This classroom is sponsored by DTN.

#### **Interactive Classroom**

The third classroom will focus on LifeKnowledge® and materials offered through The Core catalog. First, LifeKnowledge 3.0 (LK 3.0) is here! Stop in to discover how every student in every class can experience leadership as you use the interactive classroom to take the newest features of LK 3.0 on a test drive. You'll be able to try out the online LK precept indicator where students can assess their development in the 16 precepts of leadership. You will also be able to access the online LK coaching guide that helps teachers purposefully integrate LK into already existing chapter, program and SAE activities. Using this guide, you can develop a roadmap for each student that is personalized to their developmental levels and where they want to go. For example, if you have a student who scores low in the responsibility precept, the guide will provide recommendations on coaching that student to grow in that specific area.

If you've been intrigued by one of the new products you've seen in The Core catalog and want a chance to review it in person, this is your opportunity. Take a pit stop in this virtual classroom and you'll have the chance to test drive the newest tools for teaching leadership in your agricultural education program. You'll discover new ways to engage students in your classes, tuck away strategies for unique ways to interact with your content, and learn strategies for making efficient use of your time.

Check the Second Edition Advisors Planning Guide, pages 28-29, for more details on all of these teacher workshops and more. The guide, which includes the schedule, is available online at [www.ffa.org/convention/].



# **Invite Your School Officials**

# to the 79th National FFA Convention!

Want to help your school's superintendent, principal, guidance counselor or other administrator better understand FFA and agricultural education? Ask them to attend the 79<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention! A day of activities planned exclusively for school officials will be presented Friday, Oct. 27. Best of all, these activities will be provided at no charge, thanks to funding from National Starch Food Innovation.

### School officials will be able to:



# Learn

• learn more about the more than 300 diverse career opportunities available in agriculture



## **Discover**

• discover science-based agriculture curricula, service learning activities, student-based leadership, and the LifeKnowledge leadership curriculum



### See

• see the results of agricultural education in the Agriscience Fair, Career Development Events and on the convention main stage



### **Visit**

• visit with their colleagues from other schools regarding what is happening in their agricultural education programs and what each of them can do to support their programs

Register your school officials for free now at [www.ffa.org].

The special programming for school officials is being made possible by funding from National Starch Food Innovation as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



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# Local Program Success

# Convention Anxiety or Excitement?

or most people, traveling to new places invokes feelings of excitement and anticipation, but with that also comes anxiety regarding what you'll find when you arrive. It's kind of like going on a family vacation. You have things running through your mind like, "I hope I can find the hotel." "Where am I going to park?" "Where are we going to eat?" "Where will the activities for which we purchased tickets be located?" And the list goes on...

However, this year's convention is just like anything else in your life that involves change. Change can create some anxiety, but it can also cause excitement. I hope you are excited about the 2006 National FFA Convention and traveling to Indianapolis.

I was a member of the National FFA Board of Directors when the decision was made to move the convention from Kansas City to Louisville. We all experienced

a lot of anxiety about

the unknown,

but there was also a sense of excitement about going to a new place and having new experiences. FFA staff heard complaints about students not being able to have the urban experience of downtown Kansas City. Then, we heard how nice it was to be isolated and how much easier it was to supervise members at KFEC in Louisville.

In Indianapolis, I sincerely believe you will be able to experience both—a vibrant urban setting that is safe and easy to navigate. To help alleviate your anxiety and build your excitement, I encourage you to review the information provided in the Advisors Planning Guide, [www. ffa.org] and this publication. The more informed you are, the more enjoyable the experience will be.

# Quick Comparison

The following are some comparisons and facts that will help you feel more confident about your upcoming experience with the 79th National FFA Convention. In Louisville, there were 5,300 ticketed parking passes at an average cost of \$30.00 each. In

Indianapolis, there are 5,455 spaces with an average cost of \$29.00, plus an additional 2,000 daily transit spaces within walking distance

of the Indiana Convention Center.

The FFA convention staff has secured more than 140 hotels with 12,000 rooms, as compared to the 10,000 we had in Louisville and the surrounding areas.





# Tours of the National FFA Center

The center will be open for free tours during national convention Monday, Oct. 23, through Saturday, Oct. 28, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on a first-come, firstserved basis. A shuttle will run from the Indiana Convention Center downtown on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for a fee of \$5/person roundtrip. Tickets for this shuttle will be available at the downtown ticket booth in the Maryland Street Motor Lobby where Career Success Tour tickets will also be sold. There are 14 great Career Success Tours scheduled in the Indianapolis area during convention, and don't forget about the National Day of Service on Oct. 26. For information about tours, concerts, parking, Day of Service and registration, go to ffa. org, "My FFA" and then "Online Convention Registration" (OCR).

As you begin planning your national convention experience, I encourage you to locate the planning grid available online and in the *Advisors Planning Guide*. Once you have filled in the grid with all the activities and events you'd like to attend, then go to the Online Convention Registration site and register. Have a great convention!

FFA Advisors Making a Difference • September 2006

# FFA in Indy: Are You Ready?

he time is at hand to begin finalizing plans to attend the event of the year, the 2006 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. I can already feel the excitement and anticipation of the FFA members as they make plans to attend this convention.

The city of Indianapolis has a worldwide reputation for planning and conducting first-class events of all kinds and sizes. The world's largest races, the Indianapolis 500 and NASCAR's Allstate 400 at the Brickyard, and five of the top 200 trade shows in the country call the city of Indianapolis home.

Preparations to host the national FFA convention actually began 20 years ago when the city leaders committed to developing a world-class convention district. Since this early commitment, downtown Indy has undergone a dramatic transformation that continues to please convention attendees and visitors. FFA members, advisors, school administrators and state staff, prepare yourself for a week of excitement and expect to broaden your horizons!

While in Indianapolis, state staff members from across the nation will have the opportunity to attend the National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education (NASAE) annual conference. This conference is a planned educational program that is designed to:

By Bruce
Lazarus,
President Elect
National Association of
State Supervisors of
Agricultural Education
Arkansas Office of
Agricultural Science
& Technology



- support the professional growth and development of supervisory personnel that are essential for planning and successfully conducting agricultural education programs;
- evaluate and interpret trends related to agricultural occupations; and
- take the lead in planning and implementing educational programs to meet the needs of a changing agricultural industry.

Premier leadership, personal growth and career success are the goals also shared by the city of Indianapolis. The 2006 National FFA Convention will be a genuine moving experience for each and every participant.



For the first time ever, Ford Motor Company has generously donated a 2007 F-150 SuperCrew XLT pickup to the National FFA Alumni live auction. The pickup is the flagship of America's best-selling line of trucks with best-in-class cargo volume, and payload and towing capabilities. It surpasses Ford's high standards of refinement and safety.





#### New Holland Combo

For the third consecutive year,
New Holland has donated a
lease on a great haymaking
combo, which consists of this package:



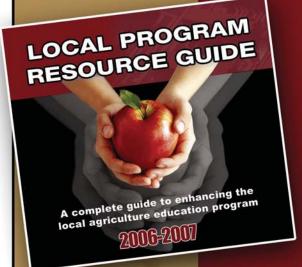
- 300 hours' use of a 105 PTO-HP New Holland TS125A tractor and
- One season's use (up to 3,000 bales) of the winning bidder's choice of either a New Holland BR740A Roll-Belt™ round baler equipped with CropCutter™ or a BR780A Roll-Belt™ round baler equipped with the BaleSlice™ crop cutting option.

Approximate retail value of the lease is \$10,000. The tractor/round baler combination will be available for use between April 1 and October 31, 2007.

**PROXY BIDS** are now being accepted to allow more members and supporters who cannot attend the live auction to submit their bids. For more details or to request a proxy form, contact Amber Smyer at 317-802-4294 or asmyer@ffa.org. For more details on these and other auction items, visit [www.ffa.org/convention/html/pln\_alumni.html].

# LOCAL PROGRAM RESOURCE GUIDE

**Vital Program Information at Your Fingertips** 



Need to access the CDE Handbook, find information on proficiency categories, locate the latest scholarship application, get information on revising your chapter constitution or check out the forms your students will need to fill out before attending convention?

This easy-to-navigate CD-ROM makes managing your program simpler with updates, status reports, handbooks, applications and more.

Everything is just a click away!

**Get Your Local Program Resource Guide Today!** 

Local Program Resource Guides have been sent to your state staff for distribution. Contact your state staff if you have not received your copy.

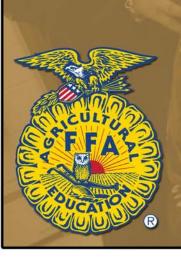
Additional copies can be purchased through

The Core and online at ffaunlimited.org

Minimum Requirements for 2006-2007 LPR CD-ROM

PC - Windows 2000 with 128MB of available RAM. Internet Explorer 6.1 or greater and a CD-ROM drive.

MAC - OS 8.5 or later. Power PC MAC OS compatible 64MB of RAM or higher. Internet Explorer 6.1 or higher.



# **Teacher**Resources

#### **Red Box Reminder**

The REV It Up kit (the red box) was distributed to each program throughout the



nation via inservice presentations made by LPS staff at the summer teacher conferences. By now, each teacher should have had time to take a closer look at what the

different components in the kit have to offer. If you haven't yet done so, make sure you take the opportunity to become more familiar with all the new materials that it contains. In addition to all the new materials provided, there is a survey included that each school needs to send in. If you cannot find the survey sheet in your red box, you can access an online version at [www.Smari. com/revitup]. Feedback on the usefulness of the materials is critical to the future development of additional resources. Make sure to take an in-depth look at your REV It Up kit and complete the survey. Watch the fall Core catalog for availability of additional copies of the CDs and the web location for downloading the posters and pamphlets.



The Green Industry Conference (GIC) is your best opportunity to enhance your knowledge about the green industry — lawn care, design/build/installation landscape management and interior plantscaping. GIC will be held Nov. 1–4, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus in Columbus, Ohio.

At GIC, you'll find sessions that target your interests, your questions and your training problems. With 10 powerful educational

tracks, multiple networking opportunities and exposure to the industry's latest technology, products and equipment — this is the mustattend event of the year! Don't leave your students behind; this event will help open their eyes to the broad range of careers in a fast-growing industry.

Best of all, GIC is free to faculty and students! For more information, visit [www. greenindustryconference.com] or call the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) at 800-395-2522.

**Entries Invited** for Organic School Garden **Awards** 

School gardens that use organic methods are eligible to enter the Organic School Garden Awards program, Enter Your Essay & Poster sponsored by the Rodale Institute.

Teams of students and

teachers (grades K-12) nationwide are asked to submit an essay and poster that expresses how they use their school garden as a learning tool, how they use the produce they grow, and what impact it has for the students and community. Any school within the United States with an organic garden may enter the contest. Three winning schools will receive cash prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250. Visit [www.kidsregen.org/gardens/index.shtml] for entry forms, guidelines and information on previous winners.

#### **Agriculture Safety** Resource Kit

The University of Florida has packaged their Agriculture Education Safety Resource Kit so teachers from across the nation can access the materials online. The teaching kit, developed for majors in the University of Florida's Agricultural Education and Communication

Department, has also been used in workshops with teachers in the field. All the materials in the kit can be downloaded from [wwwflagsafe.ufl.edu/publications/res-kit. html]. Resources are listed with a brief annotation about their contents so you can select individual items to make your own "Safety Resource Kit" notebook.

#### 200+ Links for CDE Reference

Collected by agriculture teachers through summer coursework, the KSU Agricultural Education Web page provides one of the most complete listings of CDE websites

found. Visit [http://coe.k-state.edu/ ageducation/woa-cdes.htm] to find links for more than 30 state CDE sites, CDE test banks and a huge listing of sites for specific CDE areas. You'll want to be sure you have time to browse when you start to look. It could take a while to explore this one!

#### **Looking Back to** Understand the Future

Too often when we teach our classes about current trends and directions in the livestock industry, our students fail to understand what it all means. Review the information available at [www.msu. edu/%7Eritchieh/historical/cattletype.html] as a way of helping your animal science students gain an understanding of the beef industry's development. The site, created by Harlan Richie of Michigan State University, Department of Animal Science, contains PowerPoint presentations and more than 100 additional examples of the ideal beef animal starting in England through present day. This is an excellent resource to use for students to see the genetic changes that selective breeding programs have created in the past 150 years. More "experienced" instructors will enjoy the trip down memory lane with the "baby beef" of yesterday.



# OFFICIAL CASUAL DRESS SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

# ONLY BLUE WILL DO. BLUE AND GOLD...

EMBLAZONED TOGETHER IN THE FFA EMBLEM, THESE COLORS HAVE BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH PRIDE, DIGNITY AND HONOR. THEY HAVE BECOME THE SYMBOL OF COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION FOR ALL THOSE WHO DON THE FABLED FFA CORDUROY JACKET.



AS A PART OF OUR EXPANDED SELECTION WE ESPECIALLY WANT TO THANK TIMBERLAND
PRO FOR THEIR CONTINUED
WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP AS

WELL AS THEIR SUPPORT IN PROVIDING US THE NEW OFFICIAL CASUAL SERVICE

#### OFFICIAL CASUAL DRESS



Official casual dress is as important as official dress in creating the image of how our members are perceived in our communities, we have developed a broader line of official dress options for members to wear. In the 2006-

2007 Blue catalog you will see a variety of shirts – button-down, polos, and rugby – that can be personalized for your chapter as well as items from Timberland PRO, Wrangler and Carhartt.

#### FFA AND TIMBERLAND PRO

Timberland PRO Purchasing Program has allowed us to price the Service Learning Boot at \$59, which will allow our members to purchase these boots and show their pride while working in communities across



the country. In addition, \$10 from the sale of every pair of boots will go directly to the organization's service learning programs. Timberland PRO. Made To Work.<sup>TM</sup>



# **FFA**News

#### Former FFA Member Named USDE Leader



Dr. Troy Justesen, a
Utah native and former
member of the Emery
County FFA Chapter,
was recently appointed
assistant secretary,
Office of Vocational
and Adult Education,

U.S. Department of Education. Justesen was sworn into his new post July 26 and spoke at the FFA State Presidents' Conference two days later on July 28.

Justesen feels his experience in FFA and agricultural education helped prepare him for his career in public service. "Like many young people, I learned about *Robert's Rules of Order* in my ninth-grade agriculture class," Justesen says. "I can't tell you how important that is to what I do now."

Justesen will be attending the national FFA convention and is scheduled to address the fourth session, 8 a.m., Friday, Oct. 27. Watch for a full article on Justesen and his thoughts about FFA, agricultural education and how he plans to move both forward within the U.S. Department of Education in the October issue of FFA Advisors Making a Difference.

#### Log your service hours and you could win \$1,000 and a spot on TV!

FFA chapters and members deserve a little fame for their fabulous efforts with the One-Million-Hour Challenge. Those who log their service hours have a chance to win in one of the categories below. All winners will be recognized on ffa.org and on a future episode of FFA Today! on RFD-TV.

 Most service hours by a chapter (based on total number of hours). The winning chapter will receive a \$1,000 Living to Serve Award to be used for a new service project or to expand on an existing service project.

- Most service hours by a state (based on total number of hours from all chapters within the state).
- Most unique service project by a chapter (judged by a panel of National FFA Organization staff, narrowed down to five finalists and one winner).

For more information on the One-Million-Hour Challenge, go to [www.ffa.org] or contact: Joe Martinez, 317-802-4316, [jmartinez@ffa.org].

#### Chapter Officer Newsletter Coming Soon

Chapter officers serve a vital role in FFA. By taking a major leadership role in their chapter, students grow from the experience and benefit their chapter, school and community. An exciting new resource to further develop these important leaders will soon be released by the National FFA Organization.

The chapter officer newsletter will include insightful articles, helpful

hints and promising practices to help chapter officers effectively lead their chapters. This newsletter is scheduled to be published four times each year as an insert in *FFA Advisors Making a Difference*. Look for the first edition in the next issue!

# Identify Yourself on "My FFA"

With the use of the "MyFFA" system for states and chapters to access Online Convention Registration, Nominating Committee and One-Million-Hour Challenge applications, all state staff and chapter advisors should eventually be registering on MyFFA to gain access to these applications. But wait, you may already be in the system and

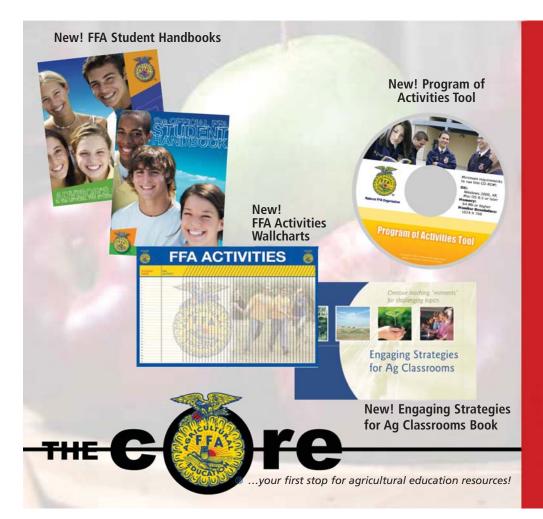
**not know it!** When the Former Member Reconnect application was merged with MyFFA, all registered users were migrated to MyFFA. Anyone who was formerly registered with the Former Member system are now registered to MyFFA and identified as a former member.



When you first register on MyFFA, you may receive a notice that you are already registered. If this happens, please use the lost password request, which will forward your existing registered username/password. Please also contact the National FFA Center via e-mail to [webteam@ffa.org] or [webmaster@ffa.org] to have your role changed to identify you as a state staff member or advisor. You will know if you are registered as a former member if, upon login, you are taken to the supporters page.

#### **Omega Conference**

The LifeKnowledge Center for Agricultural Education is pleased to introduce "OMEGA: Powerful Professional Growth." The OMEGA conference is designed for university faculty and Ph.D. students in agricultural education. The purpose of OMEGA is to ensure agricultural education and its teachers continue to create relevant programs with sustainable futures. Thirty applicants representing more than 20 institutions have been accepted for Omega and will travel to Indianapolis Sept. 13-16 for a three-day mini-conference. This miniconference is the first step of a 10-month, mentored professional growth experience that will culminate with a weeklong conference June 2-8, 2007. Omega is made possible through support of the National FFA Foundation.



# Come see us at national convention!

All of the new resources from The Core catalog will be available to test drive in the FFA Shopping Mall!

- Try out new software
- Find what fits your needs!
- Get answers to your questions!



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Look for your
next issue of FFA Advisors
Making a Difference in October. It
will feature stories about program
management, as well as provide teaching
resources and FFA news.