



# Chapter Innovators Guide 2002

MODELS OF INNOVATION

AWARD WINNERS





LAND O'LAKES  
FOUNDATION

Spring, 2003

Dear FFA members:

Cargill and Land O'Lakes congratulate the award winning National FFA Chapters that are featured in this book. The winners of the 2002 National Chapters Awards are truly models of innovation. We encourage you to read about these winners and their outstanding achievements. We also challenge every FFA chapter to learn from them and strive for similar success.

The award winning FFA chapters are not only dedicated to innovation but they are true leaders in their communities. We all know that rural America needs experienced and committed leaders. Whether you go on to farm full time, work in agribusiness, or teach and inspire young people like your Ag instructors do, rural America needs you. We need your commitment to keeping our world fed, our industry strong, and our communities healthy and viable.

That's one reason Land O'Lakes and Cargill support the National Chapter Awards. This comprehensive program encourages and recognizes student participation and achievement in three key areas: individual student development, strengthening your own FFA chapter, and building a better community in which to work and live. We hope your chapter will be featured in this book next year.

Congratulations again and we look forward to hearing from you on your successes during this year and in the future.

Sincerely,

Alan Willits  
Vice President  
Cargill AgHorizons

Bonnie Bassett  
Executive Director  
Land O'Lakes Foundation



Laurel-Concord FFA Chapter, Nebraska

## 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 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.



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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 Constitution and Bylaws.

# Models of Innovation

## Introduction

**F**FA chapters annually develop Programs of Activities (POAs) to guide them through the year's events. The POA serves as the chapter's "road map" to success. The FFA National Chapter Award program recognizes chapters for their efforts in planning and meeting the objectives they set in their POAs. The POA and the award program have three divisions—Student Development, Chapter Development and Community Development. Each year at the national FFA convention, the ten highest-scoring chapters in each division receive the Model of Innovation Award.

The 2002 Model of Innovation award winners' activities are presented in this book. Through them, you'll see a sample of the many ways FFA chapters identify needs, set goals, create plans, implement plans and evaluate results. Many of the projects may sound similar to activities your chapter has undertaken. What makes them innovative is the way they were developed and

implemented. The award judges were impressed with these chapters' abilities to identify goals and objectives, create a workable plan of action, and not only get results, but also analyze those results, identify lessons learned and determine ways to improve future activities.

Use the ideas in this book to spark innovative ideas for your FFA chapter. When your new officer team is elected, they should review this book as a group and use it as a resource when developing their POA. The book also contains insights from students and advisors, a summary of the award program, tips for National Chapter Award success and ideas for recruiting more members into your FFA chapter.

Set your sights on strengthening your students, chapter and community in innovative ways. Organize chapter activities with a written Program of Activities, apply for recognition and reap the rewards of innovation in your school, community and beyond!

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Laurel-Concord FFA Chapter, Nebraska



# The FFA National Chapter Award Program

## Student Development Quality Standards

### Chapter Quality Standards

**Division I—Student Development**  
Personal and group activities that improve life skills and address quality standards in:

- Leadership
- Healthy lifestyles
- Supervised agricultural experience (SAE)
- Scholarship
- Agricultural career skills

**Division II—Chapter Development**  
Activities that encourage students to work together and address quality standards in:

- Chapter recruitment
- Financial
- Public relations
- Leadership
- Support groups

**Division III—Community Development**  
Cooperative activities with other groups that make the community a better place to live and work, and address quality standards in:

- Economic
- Environmental
- Human resources
- Citizenship
- Agricultural awareness

Successful FFA chapters share one common trait—they understand that success is the result of planning and implementing those plans. The FFA National Chapter Award program encourages chapters to develop and use a written Program of Activities (POA) and recognizes chapters' achievements through the following awards.

### State Superior Chapter

Any chapter in good standing that completes at least one activity related to each of the National Chapter Award program's 15 quality standards (see left column) may apply for this award. State Superior Chapters receive a recognition certificate.

### State Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards

Chapters that qualify for the State Superior Chapter award may supply additional information about three activities in each division. State judges score these activities to determine State Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. Winning chapters receive a multi-year plaque, and as awards are earned in subsequent years, they receive plaque inserts that specify the level achieved.

### National Three-Star, Two-Star and One-Star Gold Awards

Chapters that receive the State Gold award may compete for national awards. The number of applications a state may submit is restricted to no more than 10 percent of its total number of chapters. National award judges score the applications. Each chapter receives a multi-year plaque with an engraved plate that indicates its achievement of the Three-Star, Two-Star or One-Star award. The "star" designation signifies overall achievement in the National Chapter Award program.

### Model of Innovation Awards

The Model of Innovation awards are presented to the most innovative Three-Star chapters in each division. These chapters each receive a special recognition plaque at the national FFA convention. Special recognition is also given at the national convention to the top-rated middle school FFA chapter.

For complete details on the FFA National Chapter Award program, consult *Chapter Planning and Recognition: A Student Handbook*. It is available free from the National FFA Organization and is also available on the Local Program Success CD-ROM. For a hard copy, call 1-888-332-2668 and request item #NCAH.



Laurel-Concord FFA Chapter, Nebraska

The FFA National Chapter Award program recognizes chapters' development and use of a written POA that addresses the quality standards in the three divisions. For more information on each standard, refer to the corresponding sections of this booklet.

# 2002 Models of Innovation Winners

## **Student Development Division**

### **National Winner**

Laurel-Concord FFA Chapter, Nebraska

### **Model of Innovation Finalists**

Caldwell County FFA Chapter, Kentucky  
Comanche FFA Chapter, Oklahoma  
Garretson FFA Chapter, South Dakota  
Holton FFA Chapter, Kansas  
Monticello FFA Chapter, Iowa  
Munford FFA Chapter, Tennessee  
Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon  
Union FFA Chapter, Missouri  
Versailles FFA Chapter, Ohio



Laurel-Concord FFA Chapter, Nebraska

## **Chapter Development Division**

### **National Winner**

Comanche FFA Chapter, Oklahoma

### **Model of Innovation Finalists**

East Clinton FFA Chapter, Ohio  
Franklin FFA Chapter, Nebraska  
Laurel-Concord FFA Chapter, Nebraska  
Norco FFA Chapter, California  
Peoria FFA Chapter, Arizona  
Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon  
Ravenna FFA Chapter, Nebraska  
Seneca FFA Chapter, Illinois  
Weyauwega-Fremont FFA Chapter, Wisconsin

## **Community Development Division**

### **National Winner**

Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon

### **Model of Innovation Finalists**

Apollo FFA Chapter, Kentucky  
Munford FFA Chapter, Tennessee  
Ravenna FFA Chapter, Nebraska  
Riverside FFA Chapter, Tennessee  
Southmont FFA Chapter, Indiana  
Wahpeton FFA Chapter, North Dakota  
Western Boone FFA Chapter, Indiana  
Wolfe County FFA Chapter, Kentucky  
Yelm FFA Chapter, Washington



Union FFA Chapter, Missouri

## **Outstanding Middle Grade Chapter**

Jeff Davis Middle School FFA Chapter, Hazlehurst, Georgia

The 2002 awards are based on activities completed during a 12-month period between January 2001 and June 2002 (deadlines vary by state).



Jeff Davis Middle School FFA Chapter, Hazlehurst, Georgia

# 2002 National Chapter Award Winner ✧ Student Development Division

## Laurel-Concord FFA Chapter - Laurel, Nebraska

### Student Development Quality Standards

Leadership activities help the individual develop technical, human relations and decision-making skills to enhance personal success.

Healthy lifestyle activities promote the mental or physical well being and self-esteem of students.

•4 Supervised agricultural experience activities promote student involvement and growth through agriculture-related experience and/or entrepreneurship.

Scholarship activities develop a positive attitude toward lifelong learning experiences.

Agricultural career skill activities develop agricultural occupation and career skills in a progressive learning environment.

“Getting members involved starts with appealing to all kinds of people with various backgrounds, interests and ambitions. Once you catch people’s eyes, the rest should fall into place.”

**Kim Victor, 2002-03 Laurel-Concord FFA Chapter Vice President**



National FFA Advisor Larry Case, Ed.D., presents Laurel-Concord FFA members with their National Chapter Award

The Laurel-Concord FFA Chapter is fortunate to have a great group of students who are really in touch with community needs, according to Paul Timm, chapter advisor. “I think the key to student involvement is making the activities enjoyable. Our members come up with some very creative ideas and, as the advisor, I see it as my job to help them turn their ideas into reality. To do that, the ideas must be student driven. The students must have ownership if they are to take the ball and run with it.”

And run with it they did!

To develop student leadership, the chapter had 10 members participate in the national FFA convention. One student was involved in the National FFA Chorus, while another was a national proficiency finalist. All the students who went to the convention attended two leadership workshops along with convention sessions and toured the FFA National Agricultural Career Show.

To develop healthy lifestyles among its members, the chapter hosts a “kick-off” each August to celebrate the start of a



# 2002 National Chapter Award Winner ✧ Student Development Division

## Laurel-Concord FFA Chapter - Laurel, Nebraska

new school year. Held in conjunction with their alumni, the kick-off includes a barbecue and many games. After dark, the members light a bonfire and toast marshmallows.

Students at Laurel-Concord assisted in conducting research at the Haskell Agricultural Laboratory to develop skills for their supervised agricultural experience programs. After the research was complete, they analyzed the data and prepared a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation was

delivered to students in Mead, Neb., via the distance education program.

Working with their local alumni, the chapter sponsors a \$200 scholarship annually. The scholarship is awarded to a graduating FFA member who is continuing his or her education in agriculture. The scholarship is given to the student after he or she has completed a semester of post-secondary education with a grade point average of "C" or above.

Students enrolled in the plant science

class broadened their agricultural career skills by working with the owner of a local floral shop. The students grew a variety of vegetables, including tomatoes, peppers, squash and green beans. The floral shop provided the use of its greenhouse and the owners assisted the students in developing their greenhouse management and marketing skills.

All of these activities started as chapter member ideas. Through the Program of Activities development

process, each idea was fleshed out and implementation plans were developed. Throughout the year, the chapter officer team diligently encouraged members to become involved in each different activity.



# Healthy Lifestyles

Healthy lifestyle activities promote the mental or physical well being and self-esteem of students.

## More Healthy Lifestyle Ideas

### Fun Field Activities Day

The chapter hosted an activities day during National FFA Week. Events included hay bale tossing, hay bale stacking, fishing pole casting, hot dog eating, turkey calling, roping, an egg race, and a three-legged feed sack race. The winners of each event received a prize.

—Riverside FFA Chapter, Tennessee

### •6 Operation Clean Stream

Members volunteered their time and effort to help clean up a local river. One early summer morning, members arrived on site at their stretch of the Bourbeuse River. They floated down more than seven miles of river picking up garbage, tires and other debris along the way. The effort yielded two trailer loads of debris weighing approximately 1,500 pounds. The FFA Alumni held an appreciation dinner for the members.

—Union FFA Chapter, Missouri



### Hunter Safety

Working with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, members helped plan and implement a Hunter Safety Course for the community. This course promoted safety in the community, and provided students an opportunity to earn their certifications.

—Caldwell County FFA Chapter, Kentucky

### Laughter is the Best Medicine

FFA members hosted a booth at the local Health Fair, with the theme, "Laughter is the Best Medicine." To prepare their exhibit, chapter members researched the positive effects of laughter and illustrated these in their booth. They also distributed jokes to the children and adults who visited their exhibit as a way of reinforcing their message.

—Franklin FFA Chapter, Nebraska



### Agriculture Jeopardy

Chapter members developed an "Agriculture Jeopardy" game board and used it to teach children how to stay safe around grain bins, wagons and other agricultural equipment. The game was played during a local community festival. In addition, chapter members worked with the local sheriff's department to fingerprint and collect data on 220 children. The data collected will be used in missing children's cases.

—East Clinton FFA Chapter, Ohio



### Fire Safety

Hosting an educational event at the Fire Safety House turned out to be as much fun for the FFA members as it was for the second graders they were teaching. Members demonstrated how to exit a house if it is on fire and handed out informational pamphlets on fire safety.

—Jeff Davis Middle School FFA Chapter, Georgia

### Kick Off

The chapter planned a barbeque with activities afterwards to get the school year off on the right foot. Younger members were assigned upperclassmen to serve as mentors. The mentorship was a great way for the younger members to learn about FFA and get to know the older members.

—Laurel-Concord FFA Chapter, Nebraska



# Healthy Lifestyles

Healthy lifestyle activities promote the mental or physical well being and self-esteem of students.



## **FFA Game Show**

To strengthen FFA and agricultural knowledge of students, members created a game show entitled, "Who Wants to Go to Gatlinburg?" Based on the popular television show, "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," FFA members took a qualifying test prior to National FFA Week. The eight top-scoring individuals participated in the game show. More than 180 members attended the game show. The winner received an all-expenses-paid trip to the state FFA convention.

—Munford FFA Chapter, Tennessee



## **Halloween Party**

To involve both FFA members and alumni the chapter coordinated a Halloween party. The members offered many activities including bobbing for apples, pie eating, pumpkin carving, a costume contest, scary story telling, and many others. By the evening's end, 80 percent of members participated and 95 percent of alumni attended.

—Versailles FFA Chapter, Ohio

## **Tobacco Awareness**

The chapter officers set a goal of increasing members' awareness of tobacco's effect on the human body. The chapter partnered with the county health department and screened 240 students for lip and gum disease associated with tobacco use. This activity has helped decrease tobacco usage in the school.

—Norco FFA Chapter, California



## **Cowboy Dance**

The chapter hosted a Christmas Dance and invited more than 40 different chapters along with the state officer team. All proceeds from the dance went to the state officer fund. The dance was held at a member's farm.

—Western Boone FFA Chapter, Indiana

## **More Healthy Lifestyle Ideas**

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### **Chapter Christmas Party**

To provide all members with a safe, fun supervised activity, the chapter hosted a Christmas party. During the party, members participated in ice hockey, a dart tournament, bingo, sledding, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. More than 120 members attended. The event provided members with a chance to interact outside of the classroom and form friendships between different classes.

—Wahpeton FFA Chapter, North Dakota

# Leadership

Leadership activities help individuals develop technical, human relations and decision-making skills to enhance personal success.

## More Leadership Ideas

### Student Youth Organization Day

Chapter members participated in the State Student Organizational Leadership Day held in the state capital. The students met with their senators, state representatives, and the governor. The FFA members were hosted by State Senator Robert Stivers and were recognized on the floor of the Kentucky Senate. They returned with knowledge of the legislative process, parliamentary procedure and functions of the state government.

—Wolfe County FFA Chapter, Kentucky

### Speaking Team

To develop members' public speaking skills, the chapter formed a speaking team. The team participated in prepared, extemporaneous and creed speaking career development events. Of the 15 chapter members who participated, five earned competition spots and the honor of competing at the next level.

—Peoria FFA Chapter, Arizona



### FFA In Action

As a way of increasing agricultural awareness in southern Oklahoma and northern Texas, chapter members produced a series of 162 television segments. The agriculture communications class prepared scripts, filmed, edited and scheduled segments that aired twice a week on KSWO, an ABC affiliate in Lawton, Okla. The television show "Ag Day" requested a segment be produced to endorse "FFA in Action" on a nationwide basis. More than 400 FFA members from 54 Oklahoma and 14 Texas chapters participated.

—Comanche FFA Chapter, Oklahoma

### FFA Week Assembly

In an effort to increase FFA exposure in the school, chapter members planned a school-wide assembly during National FFA Week. A former state FFA president was the guest speaker. As a result, enrollment increased by 23 students.



—Comanche FFA Chapter, Oklahoma

### Developing Seven Habits

All chapter officers participated in the "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens" seminar to develop their leadership skills. The skills learned carried through to many leadership conferences and activities. In addition, the chapter sent four officers and two committee chairs to the Washington Leadership Conference where they further honed their leadership skills.

—Monticello FFA Chapter, Iowa

### From the Plains to Perrydale

To broaden members' horizons, exchange ideas and create friendships, the Perrydale FFA Chapter partnered with the Seward, Nebraska, FFA Chapter on a cultural exchange. Perrydale members planned tours of Oregon's unique agriculture, historic sites, the scenic beauty of the Columbia Gorge, a trip to the Pacific Ocean and a trip to a Portland Trailblazers' basketball game for their 70 Nebraska guests. While planning and coordinating this exchange took many hours and much effort, it provided a tremendous experience for all involved.

—Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon

# Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE)

Supervised agricultural experience activities promote student involvement and growth through agriculture-related experience and/or entrepreneurship.



## Chapter Test Plot

The chapter secured a 35-acre land lab to promote student involvement, growth and development in agricultural career skills. The members wanted to learn how to effectively plant and harvest no-till soybeans. They planted 26 different varieties of seed from eight different companies. The members developed skills in planning, planting and harvesting. The chapter profited \$7,200 while the members benefited from the experience.

—Versailles FFA Chapter, Ohio

## Land Lab Management

To encourage more SAE experiences, the high school has a 117-acre farm that includes ponds, forest, gardens and a nursery. The members secure equipment, seed, chemicals and fertilizer for the farm. They also maintain records for the farm, evaluate performance and brainstorm ways to improve production.

—Seneca FFA Chapter, Illinois



## Educational Tours

The chapter takes summer, fall and spring tours of agricultural interest. These tours are based on an SAE interest survey the members complete. This year, members toured the University of Missouri-Columbia College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, the Missouri Institute of Cooperatives; and the Tri-State Farm Progress Show. More than 75 percent of the members participated in these educational tours.

—Union FFA Chapter, Missouri

## Artificial Insemination

Over the holiday break, 10 chapter members with beef SAEs participated in an artificial insemination workshop. The two-day training was spent half in a classroom and half in the barn working with cows. In addition to AI techniques,

members learned about proper herd nutrition, the value of higher quality genetics, effective hygiene, heat detection and other steps to ensure herd health. Area ranches and a local genetics company representative provided the cattle and the materials needed for the workshop.

—Franklin FFA Chapter, Nebraska

## Animal Lab

Providing hands-on experience for members was the goal of this chapter's animal lab project. The chapter contracted with a local construction company to build a metal pole barn. The members secured a loan from the school district to finance the project. As a result, the number of members exhibiting livestock greatly increased. A flock of sheep was purchased from a local producer, along with some show goats. These animals provided students with ample opportunities for hands-on experience in taking care of large animals.

—Munford FFA Chapter, Tennessee

## More Supervised Agricultural Experience Ideas

### SAEs That Take You Places

The chapter has had four national proficiency finalists, two of whom were selected to participate in the International Travel Seminar to Costa Rica. By highlighting these winners and the opportunities they received, younger members were encouraged to develop stronger SAEs. This effort led to a 20 percent increase in the number of proficiency applications submitted at the chapter and state levels.

—Yelm FFA Chapter, Washington

### Heifer Coop

Members are given opportunities to work with a local farmer who provides them with a calf, feed and assistance. In return, the members are required to show the animals in competition and keep accurate records.

—Seneca FFA Chapter, Illinois



# Scholarship

Scholarship activities develop a positive attitude toward lifelong learning experiences.

## **Scholarship Program**

To help members finance their educations beyond high school, the chapter established a scholarship program incorporating an auction. Community members donate items to the auction and the proceeds are used to fund scholarships. In April, every senior planning to continue his or her education is given an application. Those seniors who have been FFA members for four years and have met the minimum scholarship and leadership qualifications, receive a \$500 scholarship. In addition, one four-year FFA member receives a \$2,000 scholarship that is awarded over a four-year period. Beyond these local scholarships, seniors are encouraged to apply for the National FFA Scholarship Program.

—Riverside FFA Chapter, Tennessee



## **Scholarships for CDE winners**

The chapter awards \$500 scholarships to each member of state-winning career development event teams. This encourages members to try new CDEs and increases the level of participation.

—Southmont FFA Chapter, Indiana

## **Members of the Month**

The chapter honors four members per month who are active in the FFA. Presentations for the students are made at the monthly chapter meetings. Students are recognized for their outstanding SAE programs and FFA involvement.

—Norco FFA Chapter, California

# Agricultural Career Skills

Agricultural career skills activities develop agricultural occupation and career skills in a progressive learning environment.



## **Agriculture in Your Life**

As a way of helping children understand agriculture and its role in their lives, chapter members worked with FCCLA members and ecology students to host an educational event for area second- and third-grade students. More than 200 elementary children visited the high school and learned about agriculture. The children rotated through four stations. At the first station, they learned about corn, soybeans and wheat. The next station focused on dairy products and the children made butter. Next, they learned about chickens and eggs. Finally, the children learned about pork and observed a baby pig. All the elementary students received coloring books provided by the corn and soybean associations.

—East Clinton FFA Chapter, Ohio



## **River Assessment**

To engage members and develop career skills, the officers developed a program in which students collected and analyzed local water samples. Working together, 54 members correctly collected and analyzed samples and determined the amount of nitrates, chlorides, iron and dissolved oxygen present in each sample. The data collected was made available to the public.

—Caldwell County FFA Chapter, Kentucky

## **Landscape Design Contest**

Chapter members competed against students from other area schools in the local Home Builders' Association landscape design contest. The members used materials donated from area horticultural businesses to build their design, which was named best of show. They were presented with a cash award.

—Apollo FFA Chapter, Kentucky

## **Strengths Finders**

The chapter hosted a Gallup Strengths Finders profile assessment for high school staff members, administrators, Board of Education members, seniors not enrolled in agriculture, and the board of directors and five employees from the local Farmers Coop. This allowed the community members to identify their personal strengths and encouraged them to apply those strengths in their lives and careers.

—Ravenna FFA Chapter, Nebraska

## **Career Studies**

To educate members about local agricultural-related jobs and skills needed for employment, studies were conducted at four local agribusinesses by 18 ninth-grade members. In addition, all chapter members explored agricultural careers using the Internet.

—Garretson FFA Chapter, South Dakota

## **Science Ideas in Action**

The chapter's goal was to unite all schools in the Yelm community through science, career exploration and FFA. The chapter hosted a science fair for all ages. There were 175 participants, and more than 350 parents, students and community members attended. Members helped tutor the young science fair participants.

—Yelm FFA Chapter, Washington

## **More Agricultural Career Skills Ideas**

### **Research with Syngenta**

A Syngenta representative approached the chapter and asked if members would assist in a corn flux research project. The members agreed and processed 758 samples measuring ear width, cob width, cob length, total kernel weight and 500-kernel weight for each sample. In addition, the students learned about agribusiness and research careers from the Syngenta employees.

—Laurel-Concord FFA Chapter, Nebraska

### **Career Fair**

The chapter sponsored a career fair during its annual FFA mini camp. Local community colleges and employers were invited, with 15 accepting the invitation and hosting displays. More than 550 Arizona FFA members had the opportunity to visit with the employers and colleges during the event.

—Peoria FFA Chapter, Arizona

# 2002 National Chapter Award Winner ✧ Chapter Development Division

## Comanche FFA Chapter, Comanche, Oklahoma

### Chapter Development Quality Standards

Chapter recruitment activities increase agricultural education enrollment and/or FFA membership and encourage greater participation.

Financial activities encourage thrift and sound financial management practices among members through earnings, savings and investments.

Public relations activities promote a positive image and inform students, parents, school officials and the community about chapter and member accomplishments.

Leadership activities develop teamwork and cooperative skills among chapter officers, committees and members.

Support group activities develop and maintain positive relations among FFA members, parents, community leaders and industry.

“As officers, we try to appeal to members by relating FFA activities to their other interests. For example, if a student is into wrestling, we encourage him to use that interest in an FFA activity like public speaking. Wrestlers are always watching their weight and need to learn about good nutrition, which makes a great public speaking topic that is related to agriculture. It’s all about focusing on what the members are interested in and making the activities fun and enjoyable for all.”

**Chris Branch, 2002-03  
Comanche FFA Chapter  
Treasurer**



Comanche FFA members explode with excitement as the chapter's name is announced at the national FFA convention.

**W**hen the Comanche FFA chapter officers start working on their Program of Activities, they focus on identifying needs within the chapter and community in which their members share an interest. “Once you have a shared interest on which to focus your energies, you must create a plan of action and include activities and responsibilities for everyone in that plan,” says Bruce Akins, one of the chapter’s advisors.

“As an example, we started an elementary science fair as a way to reach out to

younger students and help them understand the connection between science and agriculture,” Akins says. “This activity attracts some of our students that aren’t interested in other activities, and it puts them in a teaching role with the elementary students. They have to step out of their comfort zones and spend time on the other side of the desk. The students take on a leadership role and develop their skills. Plus, they realize that they are not just representing themselves, but the chapter and the FFA organization. This experience empowers our students and helps them grow personally.”



# 2002 National Chapter Award Winner ✧ Chapter Development Division

## Comanche FFA Chapter, Comanche, Oklahoma

Akins and his teaching partner, Larry Reed, apply this concept across all the chapter's activities. Here's a sampling of some of their efforts in chapter development.

To enhance their recruitment efforts, the chapter officers invited several state officers to visit. The state officers discussed opportunities available to FFA members and encouraged prospective members to join.

Chapter members hosted a sale to increase their financial skills. They developed an advertising plan, clerked the sale, figured commissions and processed billing for a consignment auction.

To increase public awareness of FFA, the chapter produced a weekly television segment called, "FFA in Action," for KSWO-ABC, Channel 7, in Lawton, Okla. The program informed the viewing audience about FFA and chapter member activities.

The chapter officer team formed committees and engaged many chapter members in planning, organizing and conducting the annual parent-member banquet.

FFA members worked with chapter support groups to clean up the city park and conduct beautification projects. They produced bedding plants in the school's greenhouse and planted them in front of local businesses and at a senior citizen center.



# Chapter Recruitment

Chapter recruitment activities increase agricultural education enrollment and/or FFA membership and encourage greater participation.

## Chapter T-Shirts

Members selected a theme, designed a logo and created chapter t-shirts. All members received a t-shirt. In addition, the shirts were given to prospective members at various times during the year.

—Monticello FFA Chapter, Iowa

## Chapter Meeting Involvement

In an effort to include more members in monthly chapter meetings and make them more exciting, the chapter hosts an activity after each meeting. The activities include degree initiations, egg tosses, softball games and a pie eating contest. Members who arrive on time are entered in a door prize drawing. The prizes are presented at the end of each meeting.

—Norco FFA Chapter, California

## Welcome Back to School Picnic

To welcome back returning members and recruit and retain new members, the chapter held a picnic. After the meal was served, the president, advisors, alumni president and contest winners spoke about summer accomplishments, current chapter happenings and upcoming events. This project allows members to get reacquainted at the beginning of the school year.

—Wahpeton FFA Chapter, North Dakota



## Leadership Night

To encourage eighth-grade students to enroll in agriculture and join FFA, the chapter hosted a leadership night. The fun began with a scavenger hunt, then continued with an ice-breaker and barnyard Olympic activities. FFA prizes were presented to event winners. The evening closed with a presentation about FFA and participants making their favorite ice cream sundae. Following the event, letters were mailed to all 45 eighth-grade students thanking them for attending and encouraging agriculture program enrollment.

—East Clinton FFA Chapter, Ohio



## Junior High FFA

FFA membership was offered to interested seventh and eighth graders. A number of special activities were developed for these young members, including a corn growing contest, participation in Farm Day and the Junior High FFA Ag Olympics. Because of this effort, the chapter recruited 33 percent of the eighth-grade class into FFA. In addition, the Junior High FFA members participated in the fruit sale, raising sales by \$3,000.

—Versailles FFA Chapter, Ohio

## Junior High-The Future of FFA

Junior high FFA members hold officer positions, participate in the quiz bowl, essay contest, leadership night and EDGE conference. This increases FFA knowledge, builds leadership skills and helps develop the future of the chapter.

—Weyauwega-Fremont FFA Chapter, Wisconsin

# Public Relations

Public relations activities promote a positive image and inform students, parents, school officials and the community about chapter and member accomplishments.



## **Fun with a Hypnotist**

To promote a positive image of the FFA, the chapter hosted a hypnotist show and advertised it as "Having Fun with FFA." The Alumni affiliate bought the show for \$1,100 at the National FFA Alumni Auction and donated it to the FFA chapter. More than 1,400 students and faculty members attended the show, which was also broadcast on closed-circuit television inside the school. The chapter received more than 50 thank-you notes from faculty and students at Apollo.

—Apollo FFA Chapter, Kentucky

## **Planting Poseys**

FFA members invested more than 100 hours working on the town park and the school wetlands area. They planted flowers and shrubs they had grown. In addition, members built flowerbeds, bird feeders and birdhouses they designed.

—East Clinton FFA Chapter, Ohio



## **Young McDonald's Farm**

To familiarize community members with agriculture, members hosted exhibits at many local activities. The members gathered a dairy calf, a beef calf, a pony, ducks, lambs, goats, pigs, rabbits, turkeys, chicks and hens for displays at the county fair, Fifties Day Festival, and the Indy 500 Festival. The exhibit also featured names of FFA sponsors, providing them with additional recognition.

—Western Boone FFA Chapter, Indiana

## **Community Pancake Feed**

The chapter collected donations from members for a community pancake feed. Local businesses donated food items for the event. More than 450 community members, parents and farmers attended.

—Holton FFA Chapter, Kansas



## **Clean Up**

Chapter members helped a total of 117 farmers with the Rinse and Reuse program. They collected 300 old batteries for proper disposal, and hauled in and disposed of more than 75 junk cars. The members took water samples on different farmers' properties, sent them in for analysis and provided the results to each farmer. The members also cleaned up the river and along the highway in their town.

—Wolfe County FFA Chapter, Kentucky

## **Teacher Appreciation Day**

Throughout the year, FFA members work with the student body, teachers, administrators and the community. To express appreciation of their support, the chapter hosts a teacher appreciation day. This has helped FFA establish a sound reputation with the teachers and the community.

—Weyauwega-Fremont FFA Chapter, Wisconsin

## **More Public Relations Ideas**

### **Harvest Fest**

A harvest fest was held to honor and initiate Greenhand and Chapter FFA Degree members and parents. The event is held in conjunction with the hay, grain and horticulture show. For the show, members had to test the weight and measure the moisture content of at least two entries. All chapter members participated in the hay, grain and horticulture show, along with 37 greenhands and their parents attended, and 25 chapter degree recipients.

—Monticello FFA Chapter, Iowa

### **In the Media**

To create community awareness of agricultural education and FFA, the chapter reporter writes a news release on every FFA activity. The news releases are sent to the local newspaper, parents, alumni, school officials, board members and the agricultural education advisory board.

—Southmont FFA Chapter, Indiana



# Chapter Finance

Financial activities encourage thrift and sound financial management practices among members through earnings, savings and investments.

## More Financial Ideas

### Fall Harvest Cooperative

The chapter organized a cooperative to help members understand how they work. A board of directors was selected and made responsible for setting policy, creating a budget and publicizing the program to members. They sold 1,500 shares of stock at \$5 with a goal of increasing the stock value to \$7.35 per share. The cooperative produced and marketed 2,000 bales of straw, 700 bundles of corn stalks and 5,000 pounds of "squirrel food" from the school farm. The value-added products that were sold created \$8,900 in profit for the members who participated (ending stock share value was \$9.15). In addition, the FFA chapter received \$4,000 in profits. The students learned a great deal about adding value and marketing agricultural products through this activity.

—Seneca FFA Chapter, Illinois



### Flower Power

The chapter raised and marketed 400 mums. This project provided members with opportunities to learn marketing, greenhouse, cash register and customer service skills. The mums brightened the community, and the members were very pleased with the prices they received for their efforts.

—Caldwell County FFA Chapter, Kentucky

### Fireworks Stand

To supplement the annual fruit sale, the chapter hosted a fireworks stand. The funds raised were targeted specifically for use as chapter travel expenses. Every member who worked the stand received a t-shirt emblazoned with the phrase, "Holton FFA, It's a Blast," and a percentage of the profits were placed into an individual account for use during the year.

—Holton FFA Chapter, Kansas



### Wahpeton Canvas Company

A former chapter president is now the CEO of the Wahpeton Canvas Company, and he contacted the chapter about doing a belting project for the company. The members tracked inventory, ordered supplies, inserted bolts through belts and attached teeth to the belts, which are used on John Deere Combine pick-up heads. The chapter received \$2.50 per belt, earning \$6,000 total.

—Wahpeton FFA Chapter, North Dakota

### Money Matters

As a way of helping members develop sound financial habits, all members are required to track and categorize their personal spending. This activity helps members see where their money goes and how to spend it more prudently.

—Franklin FFA Chapter, Nebraska



### Toy Show, Sale and Auction

As a fundraiser, the chapter hosted a toy show, sale and auction. Members contacted local vendors, rented 102 tables, and managed the toy auction, displays, a pedal pull and a concession stand. The show had 27 consigners, 175 auction items and more than 1,000 attendees. More than 130 members involved. The auction grossed \$6,600, with the chapter receiving a net profit of \$3,131.

—Seneca FFA Chapter, Illinois

### Sell a Member

Member services were sold at the auction block to earn money for the chapter. The members were "sold" in work periods of four hours. A total of \$2,015 was raised by the member auction, which was attended by 75 potential buyers.

—Garretson FFA Chapter, South Dakota

# Chapter Finance

Financial activities encourage thrift and sound financial management practices among members through earnings, savings and investments.



## **Pasture Profits**

The chapter leases 90 acres from the school district. The students are responsible for purchasing steers, doing veterinary work, hauling feed, fixing fence, feeding mineral and salt, and evaluating the animals before they are sold. The FFA chapter collected \$1,797 for FFA when they sold the steers. The chapter made a profit of 73 dollars per steer. In addition to the money raised, the members profited from the experience by all they learned about managing cattle.

—Ravenna FFA Chapter, Nebraska

## **Bowl-a-Thon**

To raise money, the chapter hosted a bowl-a-thon at the local bowling alley. The money is used for travel expenses so that members can participate in career development events and the state FFA conference. Students enjoy the activity and it helps develop camaraderie among the members.

—Norco FFA Chapter, California



## **Green for Green**

Some students funded their entire trip to FFA camp through the "Green for Green" program. Each member was responsible for marketing greenhouse plants, collecting funds and delivering the plants. A total of 193 hanging baskets were sold, which funded registration for 10 campers.

—Munford FFA Chapter, Tennessee

## **Corn Feed**

While sweet corn is in peak production, the FFA chapter hosts a corn feed. Students handpick the corn for the feed, and prepare other dishes to serve. All members participated in the corn feed, and the chapter raised more than \$2,800 from the event. These funds are used to pay member dues, and cover other expenses.

—Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon



## **Donkey Basketball**

The chapter sold tickets for the Alumni's donkey basketball fundraiser. The event raised \$1,092 for scholarships.

—Yelm FFA Chapter, Washington

## **FFA Reality Store**

The FFA Reality Store was set up to resemble a regular town. Each member was given a "reality" life. The goal was to use the income they had to support themselves and their families. One career option FFA members experienced was serving in the military. Students were told their rank, job, salary and benefits package. The members were challenged to have at least one dollar left at the end of the activity.

—Wolfe County FFA Chapter, Kentucky

## **More Financial Ideas**

### **Blooming Success**

To raise money for the chapter, members sold bedding plants and poinsettias. The members planted more than 12,000 flower and vegetable plants using 75 varieties of seed. Members developed a marketing plan, budgeted production costs and priced plants. The chapter had a net profit of \$3,860. Based on this success, the members created a business plan to expand the greenhouse and presented it to the school board. They received \$10,000 in grant funds to add an additional 12 feet to the greenhouse and purchase germination chambers, pneumatic seeders, drip irrigation, soil sterilizer and a light meter.

—Monticello FFA Chapter, Iowa

### **Consignment Auction**

To raise money to construct a new agriculture laboratory, chapter members organized and implemented a consignment auction. More than 600 items were consigned or donated to the effort. The auction raised \$12,500 with 172 buyers and 22 chapter members participating.

—Comanche FFA Chapter, Oklahoma



# Chapter Leadership

Leadership activities develop teamwork and cooperative skills among chapter officers, committees and members.

## More Chapter Leadership Ideas

### NFL

New Future Leaders (NFL) is a leadership camp for FFA members. During this leadership conference, each member developed an idea, then brought it home and implemented it in the chapter. In addition to their leadership activities, camp participants jet skied, boated and fished. The Nebraska state officers attended to assist with the team-building exercises.

—Laurel-Concord FFA Chapter, Nebraska

### Helping Hands

When an FFA member was diagnosed with leukemia, the chapter swung into action. They sponsored a catfish supper to raise money to help the family with unexpected expenses.

—Jeff Davis Middle School FFA Chapter, Georgia



### Leadership Lock-in

Working with the FCCLA, FFA members planned and implemented a Leadership Lock-in. The event focused on cooperative skills, building individual self esteem and developing student leadership skills. Activities included ice breakers, teamwork games, a spider-web discussion of people who were influential in the students' lives, and lots of fun. A state FFA officer spoke, providing inspiration and leadership insight. At midnight, the students had access to the gym, computer lab and movies.

—Franklin FFA Chapter, Nebraska



### Food for America

Because of popular demand for the Food for America program, the chapter made three presentations. The presentations featured a trip to the local grocery store and an explanation of how products move from local farmers to processors and finally to merchants. During the past year, 12 different animals were used for different programs.

—Union FFA Chapter, Missouri



### FFA Chapter Retreat

To prepare for the District Leadership Career Development Events, the chapter held a weekend retreat. During the retreat, members presented demonstrations and speeches in front of other members. Each presentation was critiqued, and members were given feedback on what they could do to improve. By the end of the retreat, the members were more confident in their presentation skills.

—Southmont FFA Chapter, Indiana



# Chapter Support Group

Support group activities develop and maintain positive relations among the FFA, parents, community leaders and industry.



## Reaching Out, Working Together

FFA members worked with the school's student council, FBLA, FCCLA, VICA, STAR, and FCA chapters to host activities. One outcome of this collaborative effort was the hosting of an all-school assembly for students in grades 7-12. A motivational speaker delivered an inspirational message to the students regarding decision making and how choices can impact one's life for years to come. The news story covering the assembly can be found online at [\[http://theindependent.com/stories/012402/new\\_talk24.html\]](http://theindependent.com/stories/012402/new_talk24.html).

—Ravenna FFA Chapter, Nebraska

## FFA Display Case

The members wanted a display case in which to exhibit their accomplishments, similar to a sports trophy case. They requested bids from several suppliers to determine a budget. A fundraising campaign was organized to gather the money needed for the project. The completed display case highlights member accomplishments and chapter activities. It is in the school's commons area, which receives heavy use and high traffic.

—Holton FFA Chapter, Kansas



## Alumni Social

To earn money for the FFA Scholarship fund, the chapter worked with alumni members to host a soup and sandwich social. The social was held during a wrestling match and varsity basketball game. Members served more than 300 customers at the social. The alumni raised more than \$1,000 for the scholarship fund.

—Versailles FFA Chapter, Ohio

## Golf Course

To provide a real-world environment for students to apply their competencies, the chapter established a golf course. The students constructed a Pro Shop. The golf course management class maintains the course. The golf course is used by many, including the girls' golf team and special education classes.

—Peoria FFA Chapter, Arizona

# 2002 National Chapter Award Winner ✧ Community Development Division

## Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon

### Community Development Quality Standards

Economic activities improve the economic welfare of the community.

Environmental activities preserve natural resources and develop more environmentally responsible individuals.

Human resources activities improve the welfare and well-being of members and citizens in the community.

Citizenship activities promote and encourage members to become active, involved citizens of their school, community and country.

Agricultural awareness activities help the public become better informed about the food system and related agricultural issues.

“As officers, we try to plan a wide variety of activities to appeal to a broad group of members. We also work to make each activity fun for participants.”

**Kami Coy, 2002-2003 Perrydale FFA Chapter Treasurer**

“The officers assign the easier tasks to younger members as a way of getting them involved. Accomplishing these smaller tasks helps members gain confidence in themselves and prepares them for tackling the bigger tasks.”

**Tory Bolling, Perrydale FFA Chapter Member**



Perrydale FFA members are congratulated by Larry Case, national FFA advisor, as they receive their Model of Innovation award.

With 22 years of teaching experience under his belt and a wall of plaques and trophies attesting to his skill, Kirk Hutchinson says it all starts with the students. “If you want an active chapter, you have to start with the chapter officer team,” Hutchinson explains. “First the officers have to develop a plan, and then it is their job to sell it to the members. I’d like to say that we don’t still struggle with motivating students, but that is just not the case. Getting students involved is incredibly difficult.”

Hutchinson continues, “One thing I’ve found that helps get students engaged is establishing traditions. When you do an activity for a couple of years in a row, even though you modify it a bit every year, it becomes a tradition. It becomes something people – including younger students – look forward to. It becomes ‘their’ activity, not yours.”

Looking at the list of activities Hutchinson’s students implement each year, it’s obvious these words hold water. For example, Perrydale FFA members provided a helping hand during the

# 2002 National Chapter Award Winner ✧ Community Development Division

## Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon

recent drought through their Food For All program. Members worked together to solicit donations of food and clothing from agricultural businesses, community members and other FFA chapters across Oregon. They provided the food and clothing collected to agricultural communities in the Klamath Basin and local food banks.

To enhance their environment, chapter members brought shovels, work

clothes and a good attitude to a local stream bank in danger of erosion. They planted 750 trees to preserve and protect the bank.

To help improve the welfare and well being of local citizens, members raised pigs. As part of the Pork for People program, members solicited donations from community members and area businesses to help pay for feed and processing expenses. The pork was

donated to three local food banks to provide those in need with a healthy source of protein.

To encourage citizenship, chapter members conducted several visits to a local nursing home. Chapter members organized a holiday luncheon and spring fling, and invited friends to the retirement home.

Members made several presentations about FFA and agricultural education at

area meetings and conferences. This increased the public's awareness of agriculture and the leadership development opportunities FFA provides.





# Community Economic

Economic activities improve the economic welfare of the community.

## More Community Economic Ideas

### Tobacco Education Meetings

FFA members worked with the County Extension Service to host meetings and help explain the Phase 1 and Phase 2 Tobacco Settlement monies to farmers in the community. The members helped farmers complete forms to apply for compensation. As a result, 116 people received checks for their tobacco base quotas. The money received was to be used to produce something other than tobacco, to start a beef cattle operation, for example.

—Wolfe County FFA Chapter, Kentucky

### Home and Garden Show Help

Volunteering to help area businesses set up and tear down their exhibits at a local home and garden show was an excellent way for members to learn community service first hand. The show draws people from all over northeast Kansas, and the local chamber of commerce expressed thanks for the assistance the members provided.

—Holton FFA Chapter, Kansas



### National Food Check-Out Day

To recognize the efficiency and productivity of America's farmers and ranchers, the Apollo FFA Chapter celebrated Food Check-Out Day on Feb. 8 – the 39th day of the year. Food Check-Out Day highlights the affordability of food in America. On average, Americans will have earned enough income during the first 39 days to pay for their yearly food supply. The members distributed information on agriculture and bagged groceries. More than 500 people checked out during the day and learned about the importance of agriculture.

—Apollo FFA Chapter, Kentucky



### Community Food Drive

The chapter asked a local service organization for a list of families in need of food. Members talked with elementary school officials and secured their help in getting elementary students to bring in canned food items. An award was given to the class that brought in the largest amount of items. After gathering all the donations, FFA members assembled 230 boxes of food for 115 families. Warm smiles of gratitude helped chase away the day's chilly weather.

—East Clinton FFA Chapter, Ohio

### Job Search

To assist members in finding summer jobs and to help local farmers find summer employees, the chapter organized a job search. The economic development committee established a work sign-up sheet. The list was then made available to farmers and other members of the community.

—Western Boone FFA Chapter, Indiana



### Feed Store Fun

To bridge the gap between the agriculture department, the school and the community, chapter members started the "Big Boll Feed Store." The store is open Monday-Friday, 8-5, and 8-noon on Saturdays. It is managed and staffed by FFA members. This year, feed store employees marketed products at the Tipton County Teachers Inservice. They answered questions about the products, pricing and hours, and they gave away samples of domestic pet feed. This effort increased the store's customer base by 15 percent.

—Munford FFA Chapter, Tennessee

### Economic Development

The Ravenna FFA Chapter is the only youth organization that is a charter and voting member of the Ravenna Economic Development Corporation. The REDC holds its annual meeting each January and discusses issues that keep Ravenna a thriving community.

—Ravenna FFA Chapter, Nebraska

# Community Environmental

Environmental activities preserve natural resources and develop more environmentally responsible individuals.



## **Fishing Derby**

To foster an interest in natural resources, members conducted a fishing derby by collecting prizes, distributing rules, helping sign up teams and serving as contest officials by weighing, measuring and recording fish caught by each team. The fishing derby attracted 36 teams of two people each. The event required 55 hours of work from 11 members to implement.

—Garretson FFA Chapter, South Dakota

## **Arbor Day/Flood Canal Project**

Chapter members set a goal to improve the environment by restoring a local flood canal to its original condition through a cooperative effort with the Maricopa County Flood District and the Westmarc and Millenium FFA Chapters. The chapter took cuttings from cottonwood trees, which were propagated in the nursery, and planted 50 trees along the flood control district canal.

—Peoria FFA Chapter, Arizona



## **FFA Recycling Bins**

Southmont FFA operates a recycling site for the West Central Solid Waste District. Southmont is one of only three collecting points in Montgomery County. Chapter members collected more than 200 tons of recyclable materials. Members collected from the sites daily, completed logs and mailed monthly reports to the waste district. To educate community members on recycling, mailboxes were put next to the collection bins with information for the community to take. The members also manage a composting demonstration site to decrease the amount of yard wastes going into landfills.

—Southmont FFA Chapter, Indiana

## **Tree City USA**

Every year the chapter plants 5,000 to 10,000 trees. The local tree board helps find a site to plant as well as providing the trees to plant. Through this cooperative effort, Weyauwega has been named a "Tree City USA."

—Weyauwega-Fremont FFA Chapter, Wisconsin



## **Going the Extra Mile**

Chapter members set a goal of cleaning 31 miles of roadside around their town, involve 95 percent of the school's student body, and accomplish the task in one hour. More than 440 students, 54 faculty, 12 FFA alumni, 8 bus drivers and other volunteers collaborated to make the event a success. More than 40 cubic yards of garbage was collected and \$83 worth of aluminum was recycled. Every student involved was allowed to keep the green shirt and leather gloves donated by Exelon and Exxon/Mobile. Waste Management provided dumpsters and donated the hauling and disposal fees. The event ended with an all-school picnic in the park served by volunteers. Students also enjoyed music provided by a local DJ. It was a great way to kick-off spring break.

—Seneca FFA Chapter, Illinois

## **School Landscaping Project**

Two years ago, the Riverside FFA Chapter moved into a new school facility. The new school lacked landscaping, so the chapter tackled the task. Members decided to develop an arboretum around the school, using a minimum of 50 different species of trees and shrubs. They selected species based on the forest and nursery landscaping career development event identification lists. Members worked with the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office, the local extension service and local nursery growers. In addition, members of the greenhouse class grew and planted more than 230 annuals in decorative beds around the school.

—Riverside FFA Chapter, Tennessee



# Community Citizenship

Citizenship activities promote and encourage members to become active, involved citizens of their school, community and country.

## More Community Citizenship Ideas

### Senior Citizen Connection

To enhance relationships between generations, FFA members participated in three visits to a local retirement home. They sang songs along with residents and gave the seniors cards they made and other small gifts. The members also held a bingo game for the residents.

—Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon

### •24 Special Needs, Special Day

Lending a hand at the county-wide special education Christmas party was a rewarding experience for these FFA members. The chapter donated supplies and members helped prepare, serve and clean up after the event. The original intent was to treat the special education students, but it turned out the real treat went to the FFA members in the gratitude they received from these special children.

—Jeff Davis Middle School FFA Chapter, Georgia



### Leukemia Fund Drive

To honor a former FFA member's family in which two children were diagnosed with Leukemia, the chapter raised \$7,000. Members organized and implemented a Sadie Hawkins dance, an FFA cookout, homeroom collections. They also assisted the FFA Alumni with a bean soup and corn bread sale. Every chapter member personally contributed to the fund.

—Apollo FFA Chapter, Kentucky

### Playground Construction

After being approached for assistance by their county commissioners, 22 FFA members donated an entire Saturday to construct a new playground at a local reservoir. Starting with boxes of equipment on a truck and an open lot in the morning, the members saw the impact of their hard work with a finished playground at the end of the day.

—Holton FFA Chapter, Kansas



### Working Together

The chapter participated in a restoration project of the St. Stephen's Church in the Land Between the Lakes national recreation area. Among other projects, the members transplanted mums they had grown in the school greenhouse to enhance the church's landscaping.

—Caldwell County FFA Chapter, Kentucky

### Local Relief

Chapter members were concerned about assisting the less fortunate members of their community during the holiday season. They managed a food drive that resulted in delivery of more than 4,500 food items. Members worked with a local church to assemble and deliver food baskets to 85 area families in time for Christmas.

—Caldwell County FFA Chapter, Kentucky



### Heritage Preservation

Chapter members cleaned up two local abandoned cemeteries. During the summer, members mowed, trimmed and removed brush and debris found in the cemetery. One of sites, the Caldwell Cemetery, is a translocation cemetery, which had been removed from a previous site. It contains the graves of some of the first settlers in Franklin County. Overall, 25 members participated in the project. They received acknowledgement from the local newspaper for their efforts as well as opportunities for character development.

—Union FFA Chapter, Missouri

### Prom-Promise Program

The chapter produced a short video program to educate their peers about the dangers of drinking and driving. The program aired on Channel 1 just before the area schools' hosted their respective proms.

—East Clinton FFA Chapter, Ohio



# Community Citizenship

Citizenship activities promote and encourage members to become active, involved citizens of their school, community and country.



## ZooBoo

The local zoo hosts an annual event trick-or-treat event called the ZooBoo. This free event allows area youth to trick or treat in a safe environment. The FFA chapter solicits pumpkins from local farmers, then holds a pumpkin carving contest. Each student can enter two pumpkins – one carved, one painted. The 100 students who participated carved and painted 300 pumpkins. The members donate the pumpkins to the zoo for use as decorations during ZooBoo. The chapter received county-wide recognition. Many city and county leaders have commented on the FFA members' generosity.

—Wahpeton FFA Chapter, North Dakota



## Community Tractor Pulls

The chapter hosts community tractor pulls for area farmers and youth. The tractor pull committee manages a \$7,000 budget to pay for prizes, insurance, track layout, laser measurements, sled and scale expenditures. Members prepared the track, maintained the grand stands, and improved facilities to provide a safe environment. Classes were held in field, pro-stock and pro-field events and attracted more than 110 participants. More than 75 children under age eight participated in the mini-pull.

—Union FFA Chapter, Missouri

## Senior Parking at Graduation

Parking for the school's graduation ceremony had been chaotic and members wanted to encourage more seniors and handicapped citizens to attend. In response, they organized a parking program and helped seniors and handicapped citizens park their vehicles.

—Norco FFA Chapter, California



## Coat Check for Charity

To provide funds for local charities, the chapter hosted a coat check at the local basketball games and dances. Members charged 25 cents for each coat checked in. The chapter conducted nine coat checks and raised \$237 for charity.

—Western Boone FFA Chapter, Indiana

## Flowers for Seniors

To beautify a local nursing home, members planted patio planters for the entrances. The residents helped plant hanging baskets for their rooms. The members helped the residents and also gained friendships from the activity.

—Southmont FFA Chapter, Indiana

## Live Nativity

FFA members worked with city officials to conduct the Christmas in Garretson project by supervising a live nativity scene complete with sheep, goats and camels. Members were dressed as shepherds for the event.

—Garretson FFA Chapter, South Dakota

## More Community Citizenship Ideas

### Food Drive

As part of the chapter's annual food drive, members place a grocery bag on the doorstep of every house in town. Instructions in each bag asked residents to fill the bag with food and leave them on their doorsteps later in the week for chapter members to collect. The chapter raised \$943 in food for a local food pantry.

—Franklin FFA Chapter, Nebraska

# Human Resources

Human resources activities improve the welfare and well being of members and citizens of the community.

## More Human Resource Ideas

### Christmas Cheer

The chapter sponsored a Christmas dance in the horticultural mechanics shop. The admission price was two cans of food. All of the items collected were given to a local food bank. This contribution, combined with food gathered by other groups on campus, fed 150 families in Peoria over the holidays.

—Peoria FFA Chapter, Arizona

### •26 Pinewood Derby Cars

To promote safe work habits using power tools and general shop safety to future FFA members, the chapter contacted a local Cub Scout leader. The members asked the cub scouts if they would like to work with FFA members to make their pinewood derby cars. As a result, 20 Cub Scouts were assisted by FFA members with their derby cars and received training in tool and shop safety.

—Wahpeton FFA Chapter, North Dakota



### Serving People in Need (SPIN)

Members organized a blood drive in cooperation with United Blood Services. They advertised the drive, set up a schedule of donors and established a collection site. During the drive, 14 FFA members and 48 community members donated 62 units of blood.

—Garretson FFA Chapter, South Dakota

### Holiday Lighting Contest

Members wanted to reduce the stress and anxiety of teachers and students before semester finals, so they organized a classroom lighting and decorating contest before the holiday break. Winning classrooms received prizes and treats.

—Monticello FFA Chapter, Iowa

### Halloween Cheer

Members worked with the Versailles Health Care Center to paint pumpkins for the residents on Halloween. This activity reminded members of their duty as citizens to assist the community's elderly population.

—Versailles FFA Chapter, Ohio



### Raising Awareness of Alzheimer's

FFA members set a goal of raising community awareness of Alzheimer's disease. Called the Alzheimers Project, 23 juniors and seniors wrote news articles that were published weekly in the Ravenna News. Four meetings were held for interested individuals. The FFA chapter received pamphlets and information from the Alzheimer's Association to distribute during the meetings. They applied for a grant to help inform community members about the devastating disease. With the grant money, the students purchased a waterfall/fish tank for Alzheimer's patients to view, a flower planter, a VCR and a CD player for video and music, and lap games appropriate for the elderly at a local retirement facility.

—Ravenna FFA Chapter, Nebraska



### Growing Home

Seneca FFA members cooperated with the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, the USDA/SWCD, the Illinois Department of Forestry and the Cooperative Extension Service to officially open a new "growing home" site. The 10-acre farm will be used to train inner-city homeless persons to effectively raise and market organic produce. The site was mowed four times during the summer, and several hours were spent removing garbage. After a brief dedication ceremony, FFA members worked with the homeless and other volunteers to plant 430 shrubs and 133 trees to create a windbreak around the perimeter. Many members remarked on the influence the other workers had on their outlook. The FFA provided a pork chop lunch and, at least for that day, appreciated the food just a little more.

—Seneca FFA Chapter, Illinois

# Agricultural Awareness

Agricultural awareness activities help the public become better informed about the food system and related agricultural issues.



## Lamb Camp

The chapter hosted a lamb camp to promote a positive image of FFA in the community and teach young people about agriculture. Flyers announcing the camp were distributed in the elementary students' report cards. A registration fee of \$50 was levied, and 96 students attended the lamb camp during four different weeks. The camp counselors were paired with two students to take care of their lamb for a week. The students learned how to take care of lambs, including washing, leading, showing, shearing, feeding and grooming their lambs. On the last day, they had a lamb show. The chapter raised \$4,800 during the event.

—Munford FFA Chapter, Tennessee



## Agriculture in Action

The chapter's goal was to increase agricultural awareness through harvest days. The participating farms provided behind-the-scenes tours to the community while FFA members presented agricultural literacy information. The members also organized a food booth at the celebration as a fundraiser.

—Yelm FFA Chapter, Washington

## FFA Online

Chapter members worked with contacts at KSWO-Channel 7 to produce a website that featured 88 chapters in the station's viewing area. Each week a different chapter was highlighted along with a member of the week, a photo album, and a calendar of events on the station's homepage. A link to the National FFA Organization's website was also included on the site.

—Comanche FFA Chapter, Oklahoma



## Ag Dare

The focus of this activity was to use the concept of a disability to teach injury prevention and safe behaviors. Participating members were assigned mock disabilities. After receiving the proper instruction and prosthetic devices, they had to try to complete their everyday tasks. This activity increased awareness of farm safety and empathy for those with disabilities.

—Wolfe County FFA Chapter, Kentucky

## Day on the Farm

Together with the local FCCLA club, the chapter hosted a day on the farm for area youngsters. Local schools were invited to bring students to the event. More than 900 children from 15 different schools and daycare centers attended.

—Western Boone FFA Chapter, Indiana

## More Agricultural Awareness Ideas

### Emerging Agriculture Technologies

To educate the local community about emerging agriculture technologies and opportunities, the chapter initiated the E.A.T. Project. The chapter wrote a grant request and received funds to create a hydroponics laboratory, in which they grew lettuce, tomatoes and strawberries. They also built an aquaculture laboratory, which is used for catfish production. Local elementary classes and other individuals have toured the facility. Members invested more than 400 hours in the E.A.T. Project.

—Riverside FFA Chapter, Tennessee



# 2002 National Chapter Award Winner ✧ Middle School Innovators

## Jeff Davis Middle School - Hazlehurst, Georgia



### Student Development

- Chapter members and officers evaluated the leadership activities offered and decided to focus on encouraging participation at the local, state and national levels. Two members attended FFA Day at the state capitol and served as pages for their representatives.
- Recreational activities were a strong focus for this chapter. The most popular activity was a scavenger hunt held after school for all FFA members.
- Members' supervised agricultural experience programs ranged from growing plants to showing livestock. Members exhibited livestock at eight fairs throughout the state, including the Georgia Junior Livestock Show.
- Chapter members' achievements in FFA, academics and other activities are recognized at monthly meetings. In addition, Honor Roll members' names are posted on the bulletin board at the school's entrance.
- The chapter hosted a career day to increase student awareness of career opportunities in agriculture. In 2002, two post-secondary institutions and 23 businesses participated.



### Chapter Development

- The officer team set a goal of having 100 percent of members involved in chapter activities. They prepared a slideshow to encourage participation. Additionally, they personally encouraged members to become involved.
- This chapter's philosophy is that fundraising should be fun! They sponsored dances throughout the year for special occasions and holidays as a way of increasing the chapter treasury.
- Before the school year started, the officer team attended a working retreat at nearby Lake Oconee. The officers worked hard and enjoyed water sports.
- Chapter members sponsored a catfish fry to raise money for a fellow member diagnosed with leukemia. The funds raised went directly to the family to assist with unexpected expenses.
- Members conducted an Open House to increase student and parent awareness regarding agricultural education and FFA. Members distributed brochures and led tours of the Agricultural Technology Lab.



### Community Development

- Chapter members donated more than 1,000 cans of food to the community food bank. A local church operates the food bank and assistance is provided on an as-needed basis.
- The chapter hosted a hunter safety course for its members who are interested in wildlife and hunting. Students who successfully completed the activity received their hunter safety card.
- Electricians from Satilla Rural Electric Corporation were invited to visit the school and conduct an electrical safety demonstration.
- The chapter worked with the local chamber of commerce to plan, organize and implement Farm City Day for the county's second-grade students. FFA members serve as station leaders and conduct various demonstrations for the younger students.
- In cooperation with the local Farm Bureau, the chapter sponsored the local Agriculture Day essay contest. All seventh-grade students compete in this activity. Farm Bureau awards prizes to a male and female winner.

# Program of Activities

**S**uccessful FFA chapters understand that success is the result of solid planning and then effectively implementing their plans. They develop a written Program of Activities (POA) to establish and work toward goals for the year. A well-planned and well-executed POA helps students develop planning and leadership skills they need for career and personal success.

A well-planned POA will:

- ensure chapter activities meet members' needs;
- lead to a workable budget;
- provide students with experience in planning;
- serve as a reference point throughout the year;
- provide direction from year to year.



Weyauwega-Fremont FFA Chapter, Wisconsin

## POA Development Steps

The strongest POAs emerge from a committee structure and process that involves every member in setting chapter goals, then planning and carrying out activities. Many chapters use the following steps. Start by using the National Chapter Award video to introduce members to the process. For more details and helpful forms, refer to Chapter Planning and Recognition: A Student Handbook. Both items are available from the National FFA Organization. Call 1-888-332-2668 and request item #PCHP or item #NCAH, respectively.

- The chapter organizes standing, executive and special committees to address the areas of student, chapter and community develop-



Laurel-Concord FFA Chapter, Nebraska

ment. Each member serves on at least one committee.

- Each committee identifies goals and activities related to its purpose or area.
- Committees present their selected activities, including estimated income and costs, to the entire chapter for approval.
- Approved activities and a combined chapter calendar of events are published in the written POA. It is distributed to all members.
- Committees and subcommittees develop detailed plans for each activity.
- Members implement the plans.
- Committees report results and evaluate the activities. They prepare written final reports for each activity, noting costs, income, accomplishments and recommendations.
- Chapter leaders refer to the POA and its results to prepare an application for the National Chapter Award program.

Applying for recognition through the National Chapter Award program is the "icing on the cake." Recognition from the state and national organizations rewards students for their hard work and brings added prestige to the chapter.

## Goal Statement for FFA Chapter Activities

The National FFA Organization encourages chapter activities that provide:

- a balance of experiences inside and outside the classroom, with sensitivity for students who have part-time jobs or work after school;
- opportunities for developing self-confidence, responsibility, citizenship, cooperation and feelings of winning and self-esteem;
- hands-on activities;
- general leadership skills;
- accessibility for all student populations;
- flexibility that will allow students of all abilities to achieve;
- flexibility that will allow chapters from various environments and with various levels of resources to achieve;
- multiple levels of participation and experiences;
- appropriate recognition for all participants;
- relevant educational experiences that expose students to opportunities in the food, fiber and natural resources industries of agriculture.

# Tips for Success

**Y**ou may find the following tips helpful when preparing your National Chapter Award application. They have been gleaned from those involved with the selection process, including judges, advisors, members and national FFA staff.

Follow the developmental process outlined in Chapter Planning and Recognition: A Student Handbook. Identify specific goals that are measurable and realistic; develop a plan that is educational and meets the goals the chapter has set; and evaluate the results achieved and the benefits members experienced. Be sure to include information on how the activity affected the members, chapter, school and community.

- In the application, **every activity should have measurable objectives** and the plan of action should be detailed and reference each objective.
- **Include specific facts** about percentages of membership involved and accomplishments.
- **Keep a file of activities** and notes on areas for improvement within each activity. Students can use this information when they begin planning the year's Program of Activities (POA).

- Many new ideas and ideas for improvement spring to mind when completing the application. **Make a concerted effort to note these spontaneous ideas** and capture them for use during the next POA planning session.
- **Use each activity only once on Form I.** If used more than once, your chapter will not qualify for National Gold recognition.
- **Ask an English teacher to edit and proofread your application.** They will learn more about the FFA and you are bound to submit a better application. Always use the spell-check function on your computer and the grammar-check function if you have it.
- **Don't attach information or materials that are not requested.** Points may be deducted or an application may be disqualified for including supplementary materials not specifically requested in the application.
- Review the application checklist before submitting your application. **Follow instructions carefully.** Please use the FFA award application folder, as pages may be lost if not secured.



Western Boone FFA Chapter, Indiana

- **Photos tell your story and good photography is important.** Plan ahead and have all events photographed well. Getting good photos means shooting ample frames. Your photographer should have some experience in composing the images and exposing the shot correctly. Photos that aren't well-exposed are generally too light, too dark or grainy.
- The National FFA Organization uses photos from the winning entries in printed materials and cannot use scanned or digital images from applications. If your chapter has moved from film to digital photography, **be sure to capture some images of each event at a resolution of at least 300 DPI, so that they may be submitted for publication.** Lower resolution images cannot be reproduced well in printed materials.



# Tips for Success

## National FFA Chapter Program Expectations

The National FFA Chapter Award program guides students to achieve the SCANS foundation skills and competencies by:

- practicing student leadership and citizenship to solve community-based problems
- demonstrating the leadership and human relations skills necessary to become productive members of society;
- developing interpersonal skills by valuing diversity, practicing tolerance and acceptance of others and working cooperatively toward common goals;
- using information-based technologies to complete prescribed forms and documents.



Yelm FFA Chapter, Washington



Top: Caldwell County FFA Chapter, Kentucky

Left: Union FFA Chapter, Missouri

Above: Seneca FFA Chapter, Illinois

# Membership Recruitment Tips

**A** strong FFA Program of Activities and FFA chapter membership work hand in hand. Strong programs attract more members, and full chapter membership makes it possible to undertake a wider variety of in-depth projects.

The FFA chapter also serves as a tool to recruit students into the agricultural education program. Here are some ideas for building your agricultural education program through FFA involvement.

- Ensure the FFA chapter “belongs” to students, that they plan and conduct its activities and receive related recognition.
- Make sure potential students are aware of the opportunities available in FFA. Students who are seeking ways to be involved in activities should look no further than this vibrant, dynamic organization.
- Make FFA an integral part of the agricultural education program. Provide all students with instruction in leadership development. Because career development events (CDEs) are an application of lessons learned in class, all students should likewise be expected to participate in CDEs.
- Encourage timid students to involved. Often, students are reluctant to participate in leadership activities unless personally encouraged to do so. Once involved, however, they quickly develop skills and competencies and often continue their involvement.
- Ask every student to be involved in at least one FFA activity each grading period. Chart their involvement.
- Carefully match experienced students with other students in mentoring relationships for conducting FFA activities. Invite potential members to travel with members to FFA activities.
- Let potential students see firsthand the close relationship that develops between agriculture students and their teacher(s).
- Plan fun FFA events—field trips, in-school barbecues, parties, recreation, etc.—for all students, and work to see that all students attend.



Laurel-Concord FFA Chapter, Nebraska



Weyauwega-Fremont FFA Chapter, Wisconsin



Peoria FFA Chapter, Arizona





Wolfe County FFA Chapter, Kentucky



Union FFA Chapter, Missouri



Weyauwega-Fremont FFA Chapter, Wisconsin



Yelm FFA Chapter, Washington



Caldwell County FFA Chapter, Kentucky

“In education, the journey is what is important, not the end result.  
It’s what you learn in the process that matters, not what prize you receive.  
Concentrate on the journey.”

**Kirk Hutchinson, Advisor, Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon**





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