



UPDATE



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U.S. Department of Education

Dates to Remember:

May 15 - All FFA membership dues and FFA Delegate appt dues date

June 1 - CDE Team Declaration Forms due

June 1 - State Group Housing Deposits Due for 2006 FFA Convention.

June 1 - National Collegiate Agricultural Ambassador applications due

June 6-7 - NRCS Mid-America Grassland Evaluation Content Open to FFA and 4-H Members.

June 10 - State President's Conference Registration Due

June 15 - Alumni Rosters and Legion of Merit Applications Due

June 15 - Final Delegate Allotments presented with any appeals.

June 15 - American FFA Degrees due

Media Center

WLC Song Wins BMA Award...
[Read the full press release here.](#)

THE LATEST FROM FFA

National Collegiate Agricultural Ambassador Program: This June, the National FFA Organization will be looking for college students equipped with presentation and networking skills to promote agricultural understanding and development. Twenty college students will be selected from across the nation to serve the role of an agriculture ambassador. The program's focus is to present agricultural information to urban and rural populations of all demographics. Each ambassador will receive the following to accomplish their objective increasing

- [Official Dress](#)

2006 National FFA Officer Nominating Committee Nominations Open: FFA is now taking online nominations of well-qualified students to serve on the nominating committee. Any Team AgEd member is eligible to nominate an individual they believe is qualified to serve.

- [Login or Register to My FFA](#)
- Click on NomCom Nominations located on the right hand *MyFFA* Menu
- Complete and Submit

Nominations for this committee will be accepted through the online system from May through July, 2006.

A key state leader in each state will review eligible nominations from the state. After reviewing, this contact will approve and submit names of students eligible for the opportunity (by state's standards) to the national FFA officer team for their review. For all inquiries regarding the new selection process contact: [Joshua Bledsoe](#), 317-802-4291,

A full report on the national FFA officer selection process revision is available from national FFA staff upon request. For a copy of the workgroup report contact: [Doug Kueker](#), 317-802-4274

New updates on www.FFAMarketplace.org! The National FFA Organization has introduced a new segment of the web site called the FFA Marketplace. This newly created shopping experience will not only serve online shopping needs, but it also will help support the National FFA Organization's programs and activities. Each time a person starts their online shopping through the FFAMarketplace.org and makes a purchase, FFA will receive a percentage of the amount spent. If you shop online anyway, start with the FFA Marketplace!

MEMBERSHIP

Important Upcoming Dates

May 15, 2006 – Membership must be received by National FFA and paid for or guaranteed by P.O. or credit card to be considered in determination of the State Delegate count.

June 1, 2006 – Preliminary Delegate Allocation presented to state staff for consideration. Appeals of membership counts must be submitted no later than June 10 for consideration.

June 15, 2005 – Final Delegate Allotments presented with any approved amendments based on appeals.

Membership Totals for 2005-2006: The Membership Team would like to say thanks for all the hard work from state staff this year. Through April 15, 2006, we have received 448,438 members, an increase of more than 5% as compared to this time last year. States already exceeding last year's total membership include: Oklahoma, Missouri, Virginia, New Mexico, Nebraska, Montana, Florida, Kentucky, Connecticut, and Illinois.

Important Membership System Outage Information: The Membership System in PeopleSoft will be unavailable to users Aug. 2 through 9 for upgrades. These upgrades are a continued enhancement to make Online Membership more user friendly for advisors and state staff. This lockout will include both LIVE and Training modules.

Indiana Farm Bureau Donates \$250,000 to National FFA Convention ... [Read the full press release here.](#)

FFA Members Featured on Outdoor Life Network ... [Read the full press release here.](#)

National convention rebroadcasts continue on [RFD-TV](#)...[broadcast dates.](#)

Update Links

Links referenced in articles, news & notes

- [Collegiate](#)
- [NLCSO](#)
- [CDE Program](#)
- [Proficiencies](#)
- [American Degree](#)
- [National FFA Convention](#)
- [Move to Indy](#)
- [National Alumni](#)

FFA Unlimited

[Spring Sale](#)

Shop

[FFA Marketplace](#)

Online Links

- [MyFFA Login](#)
- [Website Assistance](#)
- [WebLinks Directory](#)
- [Photo Gallery](#)
- [Media Center](#)

79TH NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION IN INDIANAPOLIS

2006 National FFA Convention - State Housing Blocks: As a friendly reminder, a \$50.00 (non-refundable) deposit per room reserved is due to the National FFA office by June 1, 2006. (Checks should be made payable to the National FFA Organization.) On May 1, you should have received an e-mail verifying your room block (room types and counts). If you have any questions, contact: Ellen Williams, ewilliams@ffa.org, 317-802-4269.

Those states and chapters not participating in the state housing block can still reserve rooms. The forms are included in the ***First Edition Advisor's Planning Guide***, which were mailed April 12. **The deadline for housing forms to be received at the National FFA Center is Sept. 25, 2006.**

Online Convention Registration: Pre-registration for the annual national FFA convention is always your best bet to ensure your chapter obtains opening session tickets, concert tickets and entertainment options. Plus, if you've used the Indianapolis housing block, you'll save \$10 off the standard registration fee when you pre-register (on-site registrations will all be \$40, regardless of whether the group has used the housing block).

This year, pre-registering will be easier than ever before, thanks to online convention registration. Advisors nationwide will have the option to register online, seeing real-time availability of tours, National Day of Service, concerts, parking passes and rodeo tickets. You'll be able to print out a confirmation of your registration online, and, best of all, you'll receive FREE shipping and handling on your convention tickets and registration packet.

Be on the lookout for important instructions in upcoming editions of UPDATE and the ***Second Edition Advisor's Planning Guide*** due out in August. Of course, you can always still FAX a hard-copy registration form to the National FFA Center, but shipping and handling charges will apply to registrations submitted this way. Remember, National Day of Service and Career Success Tours will only be available through online convention registration.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

New Important 2006 CDE Policy Changes:

Please review the complete list of policy changes available online: [Click Here](#).

2006 CDE deadlines reminder:

Deadlines for the 2006 National FFA CDEs are as follows:

- June 1: Team Declaration Forms due
- July 7: Team Certification Forms due
- Student Waiver Forms due
- CDE Special Needs Requests due
- State Assistants Forms due
- State Speaking Judges Forms due
- Aug. 15: Prepared Public Speaking Manuscripts due
- Sept. 15: Agricultural Communications Portfolios due
Agricultural Issues Portfolios due
Job Interview Portfolios due
Marketing Plan Portfolios due
- Oct. 11: Add/Delete Forms due

Visit the [CDE Program online](#) for all forms, dates, revisions and information.

Important Information regarding CDE certification and payment: We are rapidly approaching the deadline for CDE declaration forms (June 1). Several states have submitted their declaration forms, and before we start invoicing states based upon those teams, we wanted to inform all state staff of the processes that will be continued this year to ensure that declaration forms, certification forms, and payments are appropriately processed.

If your state asks the participating chapters to pay the certification fee, we would like to ask if state staff would consider having the chapters pay the state directly and then in turn have the state association pay the National FFA Organization for the total amount. We are unable to process certification forms without proper payment and we would hate to hold your teams back. Paying by one check from the state association ensures the reliability of the certification, expedites the processing time of the certification form, and ensures team orientation packets and other correspondence are sent in a timely manner. Your cooperation with this method of payment would be most appreciated.

After states send in their CDE declaration form, the National FFA Organization will invoice you for the number of teams you declared.

The packet this invoice comes in will include four items:

- a copy of your declaration form
- an invoice based on the number of teams declared (on green paper)
- a large envelope pre-addressed to CDE Certification Coordinator at the National FFA Center (with a pink label "CDE Certification Forms/Waivers")
- a legal size envelope pre-addressed to the Accounts Receivable Department at the National FFA Center (with a green label "CDE Certification Payment")

The large envelope addressed to the CDE Certification Coordinator is for your convenience to mail any certification forms or waivers that you do not send via e-mail.

Please use the separate, legal sized addressed to Accounts Receivable to mail the check and the voucher portion of your invoice. Please remember to include this payment voucher to ensure that payment is processed correctly.

Please do not send this payment to the National FFA Organization lockbox in Cincinnati; as this will undoubtedly delay the certification process!

Our desire is to be pro-active in this process so that forms and checks do not get sent to the wrong places. We do not want to hold up your teams, or have them disqualified because payment was never received. Please help us help you by following the processes outlined above.

Contact: [Jessica Scholer](#), 317-802-4288, with any questions or concerns.

ALUMNI

Washington Leadership Conference scholarships

The 2006 National FFA Alumni WLC student scholarships packets were sent to qualifying state and local affiliates in February. WLC sessions begin the first week of June, be sure any awarded Alumni scholarship is submitted with student registration prior to attendance. Refunds will not be issued for documentation received after registration is completed. Contact: [Betsy Haig](#).

State Leaders Conference

Mark your calendars to attend the 2006 FFA Alumni State Leaders Conference, July 11-16, 2006 in Nashville, TN. **Click here for the [Invitation and Registration Form](#).** Contact your state Alumni leaders about the possibility of being the official state representative! Registration due June 1.

Rosters & Legion of Merit Applications: Remember that alumni rosters are due to the National FFA Center by the May 15 postmark date in order to qualify for grants, awards and delegate counts. Legion of Merit applications are also due on this date.

Grant, Award & Council Nomination Applications: The following applications are due to the National FFA Center by the July 1 postmark date. Local Program Support Grants, Outstanding/Pioneer Affiliate award, Outstanding State FFA Alumni award, Outstanding Achievement Award, National Distinguished Contributor award, scrapbooks and National FFA Alumni Council nominations.

National FFA Alumni Auction: Interested in helping FFA students attend Washington Leadership Conference? Donate an item to the 2006 National FFA Alumni Benefit Auctions to help raise money for student scholarships! Held during national convention the goal of the 2006 Alumni auction is to raise \$100,000 to provide scholarships for FFA members to attend WLC and collegiate scholarships for students pursuing a career in agricultural education. Showcase student projects, local businesses, alumni/supporter talents and help raise us raise \$100,000 for student scholarships! Contact: [Amber Smyer](#). **Click here for the [Auction Donation Form](#).**

STATE STAFF NOTES

NRCS announces Mid-America Grassland Evaluation Contest: This contest is open to FFA and 4-H Members and occurs June 6-7, 2006. **Click here for the [Contest Rules \(.pdf\)](#).**

Ag "Ag"tivities Handbook - THERE IS STILL TIME! The Ag Activities Handbook is still looking for activities you use in the classroom to include in a handbook that will be distributed to anyone who submits an idea. Possible items for the handbook may be (but are certainly not limited to) review activities, enrichment activities, and anything you do in the classroom to help drive home a lesson or content area. For more information or to submit your activity, contact: [Ellen Thompson](#), 320-260-6986. The handbook will be distributed this summer free of charge to those who submitted an activity. Please send your activities by June 5, 2006.

AS SEEN IN PREVIOUS UPDATES

National Convention Judges: The National FFA Organization is accepting nominations for judges for the Agricultural Proficiency Awards, Stars, Agriscience Awards, and National Chapter Awards at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this fall. The Agricultural Proficiency and the Star Awards judging will take place on Thursday, Oct. 26, 2006, and all of the judges will be invited to an awards luncheon on that day. The Agriscience Awards will be judged on Wednesday, Oct. 25 and Thursday, Oct. 26. National Chapter Awards will be judged on Wednesday, Oct. 25. We are not able to cover any expenses for the judges. Submit Nominations to: Rosalie Hunsinger, National FFA Organization, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960, fax: 317-802-5255. **Click here for the [Nomination Application \(.pdf\)](#)**

Host the National Officer Team: The National FFA Organization is seeking a state association to host the entire national FFA officer team in early January, 2007, for the annual National FFA Officer Training Experience Week. This is a terrific opportunity to have all six officers in your state for seven days to interact with FFA members, advisors and supporters. Interested states can request an application by contacting Mark Wilburn, 317-802-4252. Applications are due at the National FFA Center by Sept. 1.

2006 State Leadership Resource Guide Online: The proceedings from the 2006 National Ag Ed Inservice are now available online. This year, we are happy to provide this information online (only), so you will have access to it anytime, anywhere. Please enjoy this great resource! **[Click Here for National Ag Ed Inservice Resources.](#)**

IMPORTANT NOTE: "Due to the large size of some documents, it is advised that you right-click on the desired document link and select 'Save Target As'. Then, save the file to your computer BEFORE you attempt to open it."

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

Advisors: be sure to read about the new advisor program options and registration. Registration begins March 1, 2006. Questions? Contact: Tina Paris, 317-802-4238. **[Click Here for WLC Information & Registration.](#)**

WLC Registration: Due to technical difficulties, please note a change in the fax number for WLC registration. Please fax forms to 317-802-6051 to the attention of T.J. Abbey.

1 Million Hour Challenge: The National FFA Organization is excited to announce the 1 Million Hour Challenge, a special challenge issued to chapters across the country in an effort to unite youth with their communities. Knowing that service learning projects and community development projects can take place throughout the year, FFA chapters will be challenged to document the number of service hours they take part in from Nov. 1, 2005 to Oct. 1, 2006.

The 1 Million Hour Challenge is really very simple, but it can make a great impact. **[Click Here for the Million Hour Challenge Information.](#)**

[UPDATE is available online Click Here](#)

The FFA Mission

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

The Agricultural Education Mission

Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems.

The National FFA Organization is a resource and support organization that does not select, control or supervise state association, local chapter or individual member activities except as expressly provided for in the National FFA Organization Constitution and Bylaws.

The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of all human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer.

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Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

