

UPDATE

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U.S. Department of Education
March 2005

DATES TO REMEMBER

March	
15	T-shirt design contest entries due
16-19	National PAS Conference, Albany, N.Y.
20-26	National Ag Week
April	
1	SAE Intern applications due
15	National FFA Internship applications due

THE LATEST FROM FFA

The Council and FFA issue call on proposed Perkins cuts: The National Council for Agricultural Education has issued a press release drawing attention to the proposed cuts to Perkins funding. In addition, the National FFA Organization has sent a letter to each member of Congress expressing concerns about the proposed cuts and their impact on agricultural education/FFA programs throughout the nation. The Council news release and letter from FFA are being distributed to media and key stakeholders. Copies of each are attached to UPDATE, along with key talking points on Perkins. Please forward them to teachers and others as appropriate. Contact: Bill Stagg, 317-802-4243, bstagg@ffa.org.

Positions available with National FFA: Currently, the National FFA Organization has several staff positions open. These positions are Team Leader, Leadership and Educational Program Delivery; Sr. Financial Accountant and Communication Specialist. Full descriptions of all positions can be found at http://www.ffa.org/about_ffa/html/ffa_jobs.htm. Interested individuals can send a resume to Cindy Driver at cdriver@ffa.org or fax to 317-802-5257. Contact Cindy at 317-802-4257 with any questions.

Internships available with National FFA: Currently, The National FFA Organization has four internships available. These internships are: National FFA Career Development Events Intern; National FFA Product Development Intern; National FFA Chapter & Individual Awards Intern and Washington Leadership Conference Communications Intern. Full descriptions of all internships can be found at http://www.ffa.org/about_ffa/html/ffa_jobs.htm. Interested individuals can send a resume to Cindy Driver at cdriver@ffa.org or fax to 317-802-5257. Contact Cindy at 317-802-4257 with any questions. **Resumes & applications are due to National FFA by April 15, 2005 for all four internships!!**

SAE Internships: The National FFA Organization is offering an internship opportunity for two experienced teachers to work with SAE-based awards and activities this summer. Teachers are encouraged to check the job posting on the website or to review the advertisement in the January and February issues of *FFA Advisors Making A Difference*. Applications for the position must be postmarked by April 1, 2005.

Washington Leadership Conference: The dates for the 2005 Washington Leadership Conference are June 7-12, June 14-18, June 21-26, June 28-July 3, July 12-17 and July 19-24. Student Package: \$550; Advisor Double: \$585; Advisor Single: \$780; Advisor Guest: \$975; Room Only: \$475.

This year's conference will feature high levels of service learning, mentoring and volunteerism

strategies, problem-solving skills, relationship-building skills and character development. This premier leadership conference is shaping up to be the best yet! Registration begins in March 2005. **Information packets were mailed in November.**

Visit www.ffa.org/programs/conferences/html/conf_wlc.htm, e-mail wlc@ffa.org or call 317-802-4312 for more information.

New Proficiency Award for 2006: A new proficiency award area in Agricultural Education will be added in 2006. The National FFA Board of Directors approved the new award for the new revision cycle, stated as:

"Agricultural Education" - Involves students with SAEs related to education and extension, including but not limited to youth mentoring, agricultural education departmental assistants, PALS mentors and student coordinators, students developing informational materials and presentations for civic organizations and school-aged youth, and students who are involved in SAEs that educate the public about the broad topics of agriculture, agricultural education and FFA.

The James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation (www.JFLF.org) and the Lincoln Electric Company have recently made a three-year commitment to fund the Agricultural Education proficiency award as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The James F. Lincoln Foundation was created in 1935 to promote the science and education of arc welding. Its primary functions include the development of welding educational materials and annual awards for students' arc welding projects and engineering papers. The Lincoln Electric Company has been a sponsor of the National FFA for 57 years, providing advanced training opportunities and materials for students and teachers in the area of welding.

Teacher workshops to promote this new award area will be conducted during the 2005 National FFA Convention.

National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS) Conference: Prepare for the experience of a lifetime at the 2005 National PAS Conference, March 16-19, 2005, in Albany, N.Y., hosted by New York PAS. At this conference, PAS will celebrate its 25th anniversary.

The conference preview website, <http://www.nationalpas.org/conference/intro.html>, contains links to help you get to New York, conference registration information, schedules and fun things to do in the beautiful state of New York. As the conference gets closer, you will find details on last-minute preparations to ensure your visit to the conference is a success. Also, take advantage of a pre-conference tour on March 15 to travel to New York City to see famous sites such as the Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero and the Empire State Building. Contact Kristy Miller at 317-802-4220 or kmiller@nationalpas.org.

MERCHANDISING

Official Jacket Update: Jackets currently being shipped feature new emblems that have been updated to restore the design and color of the original FFA emblem. The jacket's front emblem now matches its back emblem, and the color of the thread used for the jacket's embroidery matches the gold in the new emblem. Also, in August 2004, chapters began receiving jackets produced in the original shade of FFA national blue. These changes will move the jacket closer to its original appearance.

The owner of each new jacket will also receive a promotional brochure providing them with free shipping on their next purchase from the blue catalog. This promotion is a thank-you to new members from the National FFA, and we hope it will encourage members to buy more great clothes, accessories and gifts from the blue catalog. The promotion is not for use by chapters; it is for individual members who have just become the proud owner of a new jacket. Contact Lee Anne Shiller at lshiller@ffa.org.

Learn about the Jacket Restoration: http://www.ffa.org/about_ffa/html/ffa_jacket_restore.htm
Order New Jackets Online: <http://store.yahoo.com/ffaunlimited/blue-od.html>.

Shipping Cap for State Association Orders: State association orders for convention plaques, awards, medals and trophies will have freight charges "capped" at \$100 this year, once the total dollar amount of their state convention orders exceeds \$1,500. To qualify, all award orders must be shipped to the same address within three months prior to the state convention date. The only items eligible to qualify for this special offer are plaques, awards, medals and trophies. On each state order, please add a note such as "Part 1 of state convention order," "Part 2...", etc. Rush award orders placed two weeks or less prior the convention date will be charged standard or expedited shipping and are not covered under the freight cap promotion.

This freight cap provides a means for states to submit portions of your total convention order as needs are determined, as winners are selected, as recipients are identified or as state chapter awards are decided, rather than holding all awards for a single large order closer to the convention date. Placing partial orders earlier allows more time for engraving and production, award proofreading and validation of ordered item receipt. Contact Sheridan Gilchrist at sgilchrist@ffa.org.

Fourth Annual T-shirt Design Contest: Encourage your local FFA chapters to get creative and submit a design in the Fourth Annual FFA T-shirt Design Contest (http://www.ffa.org/students/html/tshirt_contest.html). Entries are due March 15, 2005. Winning designs will be featured on T-shirts and sold in the 2005-2006 National FFA blue catalog and at <http://www.ffaunlimited.org/>

The winning chapters will earn 50 percent of the gross profits on their shirt's catalog sales for one year. As of the end of January, the five winning chapters from the 2004-2005 contest had earned a total of \$10,000. The top selling T-shirt, "04-FIVE-WAYS," has already earned \$6,317! See the 2004-2005 winners in this year's National FFA blue catalog (pp. 16-17). For more information, contact Dawn Sharp at dsharp@ffa.org.

Special State Association Plaque and Trophy Forms: It's that time of year to start planning for your state conventions. Attached is the 2004-2005 Special State Association Plaque and Trophy form. We are also offering customized solid walnut plaques in the shape of your state if you are interested in adding something new this year. Please see the attached PDF for details. For more information, contact Heather Rutherford at hrutherford@ffa.org.

New State Convention Merchandise Sales Program: For complete details and this year's changes, please read the attached document carefully. The program is no longer a consignment program. It is now a regular sales order with a 25 percent discount and free shipping as long as no merchandise is returned. Contact Dawn Sharp at dsharp@ffa.org.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Murieta Equine Complex Scholarship: Each year, Murieta Equine Complex offers five \$1,000 scholarships to students interested in an equine-related (or agriculture) career.

Category I: Entering Freshman: Any individual who is an entering freshman in a college, vocational or business school is eligible to apply. The applicant must maintain at least 12 credits per quarter/semester for the year that the scholarship is in effect.

Category II: Continuing Students: Any individual who is currently enrolled in a college, vocational or business school is eligible to apply. Continuing applicants must maintain at least 12 credits per quarter/semester for the year that the scholarship is in effect. Continuing applicants must send a grade report at the end of each quarter/semester, in addition to a statement of progress. Continuing applicants must have maintained a minimum grade point average of 2.5 in order to be considered.

For more information, visit www.murietaequinecomplex.com and click on the scholarship button.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Totals for 2004-2005: The Membership Team would like to thank those states that have already sent or entered their roster information for processing. Through February 15, 2005, we have received 348,596 members. States already submitting 90 percent of last year's total membership include: Arizona, Texas, Kansas, Iowa, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Illinois, Oklahoma, Missouri, Idaho, Nebraska, Iowa, Delaware and Ohio.

Membership Training Via Teleconferencing: The membership team will be holding TelSpan teleconferences in March to assist you in accessing and pulling reports and extracting your membership data from the PeopleSoft Online Membership database. Even if you are an Excel roster state, see where that data is stored and how you have access to the information resource.

March 10, 2005 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST
March 23, 2005 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EST
March 29, 2005 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST

Bring your questions and ideas as to specific information you need. For more information, contact Clay Worley at cworley@ffa.org or 317-802-4274.

New Horizons Magazine Address Update: Subscription deadline dates for members receiving *New Horizons* in 2005 are as follows:

May/June	April 14, 2005
July/August	June 14, 2005
September/October	Aug. 16, 2005
November/December	Oct. 13, 2005
January/February 2006	Dec. 9, 2005

CONVENTION

CDE Web Updates: Look for new and improved CDE forms and electronic files on the State Guide page <<http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/html/stateguide.html>>. Any questions, contact Jessica Scholer, CDE Certification Coordinator, jscholer@ffa.org or 317-802-4288.

National Convention Judges: Nominations are now being accepted for judges for the Agricultural Proficiency Awards, Stars, Agriscience Awards and National Chapter Awards at the 78th National FFA Convention. The Agricultural Proficiency and Star Awards judging will take place on Thursday, Oct. 27, 2005, and all of the judges will be invited to an awards luncheon on that day. Agriscience Awards will be judged on Wednesday, Oct. 26, and Thursday, Oct. 27. National Chapter Awards will be judged on Wednesday, Oct. 26. Nominations can be submitted on the attached form and sent to Rosalie Hunsinger, National FFA Organization, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960 or faxed to 317-802-5255.

The National FFA Organization cannot cover expenses for judges.

2005 CDE deadlines Announced: Deadlines for the 2005 National FFA CDEs are as follows:

June 1:	Team Declaration forms due
July 8:	Team Certification forms, waivers, payments and Special Needs requests due
	State assistants forms due
	State speaking judges forms due
Aug. 15:	Prepared Public Speaking manuscripts due
Sept. 15:	Agricultural Communications portfolios due
	Agricultural Issues portfolios due

Job Interview portfolios due
Marketing Plan portfolios due
Oct. 12: Add/Delete forms due

CDE Program Information: <http://www.ffa.org/programs/cde/>

EDUCATOR NEWS

2005 Edition of The Core Catalog: Be on the lookout for the latest edition of The Core to arrive on your desk in the first week of March. Check out the new products, including the New Professionals Kit (NPK), a tool designed to help teachers assess their program, set goals and create a three-year plan of action!

Teacher educators and state leaders, please let us know if we can provide multiple copies of The Core to you for use with pre-service teachers, partners or student leaders. Requests can be made by e-mailing coreadvice@ffa.org or calling 317-802-4239. When making the request, let us know...

- How many copies you'd like
- Who will be receiving them
- Contact person to send them to
- Mailing address for shipment

The Core: Your First Stop for Agricultural Education Resources! Please contact coreadvice@ffa.org if you don't receive your copy.

AG Educators Online: <http://www.ffa.org/ageducators/>

AG ED Job Posting Website: Have any teaching, state staff or internship opportunities in your state? Post your agriculture-related job openings on our AG ED job posting website: <http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/agedjobs/index.htm>. Contact Michele Gilbert at mgilbert@ffa.org or 317-802-4301.

New Process for Ordering Free Award Medals: The free award medals ordered by advisors for chapter banquets will be ordered on a new form this year. Instead of advisors individually requesting the free proficiency medals, we are pre-packaging the medals in groups by all proficiency award medals (every proficiency award medal in one package). The advisor may order one or two of the proficiency medals and one of the following: star discovery, star greenhand, chapter star farmer, chapter star in agribusiness, chapter star in agricultural placement, chapter star in agriscience, agriscience, prepared public speaking, extemporaneous public speaking and creed speaking. The H.O. Sargent and agri-entrepreneurship award medals are also available by selecting the appropriate box. See attached form.

NREA Grant Writing Institute: The National Rural Education Association is offering an outstanding grant writing opportunity to educators interested in learning how to become more effective and competitive grant writers. The NREA Grant Writing Institute will be May 6-7, 2005 in Oklahoma City, Okla. Registration information and agenda is attached.

Teacher Resources: The FFA Global website has numerous resources available for teachers to utilize in their classrooms. Choose from a wide range of fundraising ideas and interactive global projects. Visit www.ffa.org/programs/global/ or call 317-802-4309.

STATE STAFF NEWS

2005 NLCSO: Plans are in full swing for the 2005 National Leadership Conference for State Officers (NLCSO). Based on recommendations from the NLCSO Task Force (held in November 2004), the conference will have a fresh look and structure for 2005! Check out the task force's full report and conference-specific information such as agendas, objectives and checklists at http://www.ffa.org/programs/conferences/html/conf_officers.html Check back often for updates of the 2005 conference.

NLCSO is sponsored by Monsanto Inc., KRAFT Inc., International Truck & Engine Corp., Wrangler, Intervet, Archer Daniel Midland (ADM), Tractor Supply Company, Wayne Farms LLC and Ariat as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

2005 NLCSO Dates:

June 19-22, 2005	Wyoming NLCSO
June 20-23, 2005	Arkansas NLCSO
June 21-24, 2005	Nebraska NLCSO
June 26-30, 2005	New York NLCSO
June 29-July 2, 2005	Tennessee NLCSO
June 29-July 2, 2005	Oregon NLCSO
July 3-7, 2005	Utah NLCSO
July 5-8, 2005	Illinois NLCSO
July 10-13, 2005	South Carolina NLCSO
August 2-5, 2005	West Virginia NLCSO

For more information, contact Tiffany Sanderson at tsanderson@ffa.org or 317-802-4239.

2005 State Presidents' Conference: State leaders, please join us for the 2005 State Presidents' Conference! Registration materials and conference information are located at http://www.ffa.org/programs/conferences/html/conf_officers.html. Registrations are **due in full** by June 10, 2005, for both the state officers and all state leaders or teachers attending the 2005 conference. Please check the website for updates of the 2005 conference.

The 2005 State Presidents' Conference is sponsored by Chevrolet and GMAC as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

2005 SPC Dates:

July 26-30, 2005 Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C.

For more information contact Tiffany Sanderson at tsanderson@ffa.org or 317-802-4239.

State CDE Plaques Available: Please remember to order plaques for your state's Career Development Events. Orders must be submitted at least 30 days prior to your presentation using the state plaque order form found on the 2005 State Guide page (<http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/html/stateguide.html>). Contact Jessica Scholer at jscholer@ffa.org or 317-802-4288.

American Degree Applications Deadline Change: In 2004, the Board of Directors approved changing the national due date of American Degree applications to **June 15 for 2005** and each year thereafter.

A list of American Degree recipients must be prepared for the July board meeting during the second week of that month. Applications submitted early are welcome and assist us in a timely processing. Due to previous difficulties, we strongly recommend you track your shipment to verify its arrival at the National FFA Center. Send applications to Rosalie Hunsinger, Program Manager, National FFA Organization, 6060 FFA Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46278.
<http://www.ffa.org/programs/degree/>

Star Applicants' Personal History: A reminder that the personal history of any Star applicant should be no more than three double-spaced pages, in at least **10-point font**. In the minimum qualification process before judging, if there are more than three double-spaced pages, the additional pages will be removed from the application before judging.

ALUMNI

WLC Scholarships: National FFA Alumni WLC scholarship packets will be mailed to state/affiliate FFA Alumni representatives in mid-March. Please direct questions to Betsy Haig at

bhaig@ffa.org or 317-802-4293.

Alumni Rosters and Dues: FFA Alumni rosters and dues must be submitted to National FFA by May 15, 2005 to qualify for awards and delegate counts. Legion of Merit applications have a new due date of May 15 to the National FFA Alumni.

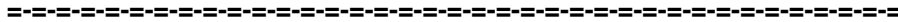
FFA Alumni State Leaders Conference: Make plans to attend the 2005 National FFA Alumni State Leaders conference to be held July 26-31 in Columbus, Ohio. The conference is open to all FFA Alumni members and their families. Watch for additional information in the coming months.

Visit the National FFA Alumni online at <http://www.ffa.org/alumni/>.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN UPDATE

Online Giving: Online giving is now available through the National FFA Foundation. You can make your annual contribution to FFA by visiting <http://www.ffa.org/foundation/>.

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



The FFA Mission

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

The Agricultural Education Mission

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

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

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

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