

UPDATE

Vol. XXXV, No. 1
U.S. Department of Education
January 2005

DATES TO REMEMBER

January

1-22	National FFA Officer Training, FFA Center
4-18	International Leadership Seminar for State Officers
19-22	National FFA Board of Directors meeting, Washington, D.C.
22	National FFA Foundation Trustees meeting, Washington, D.C.
31	Risk Management Essays Due

February

1	Costa Rica proficiency trip applications due
3-6	National Agricultural Education Inservice, Indianapolis, IN
15	Scholarship Applications Due

THE LATEST FROM FFA

2005 Risk Management Writing Contest: Encourage your members to write a personal essay of at least 1000 words on risk management strategies used in a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Program and send it to the Risk Management Essay Contest, National FFA Organization, PO Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Students should analyze the risks involved in their SAE, describe their risk management strategies and indicate which "tools" were used to minimize risk and how they were applied.

All entries must be postmarked by January 31, 2005. Ten lucky winners and their advisors will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., where they will meet with top U.S. Department of Agriculture officials and tour our nation's capital. A resource guide and contest rules were mailed to all chapters in December; contest information and last year's winning essays are posted at www.ffa.org. If you have questions or would like a copy of the Risk Management Essay Contest materials, contact the Risk Management Writing Contest program coordinator at riskmanagement@ffa.org or call 317-802-4288.

This contest is offered by the National FFA Organization, in cooperation with the National Council for Agricultural Education and with funding from the Risk Management Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

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, 317-802-4220, kmiller@nationalpas.org.

Get Ready to "REV It Up" in 2005: You'll be hearing the words "REV It Up" in the coming months, and here's the reason: Thanks to grant funding from the USDA, the National FFA Organization will create and distribute a toolkit of new and redeveloped materials focusing on recruitment, engagement and volunteerism for rural youth. ("REV" stands for Recruitment, Engagement and Volunteerism.) Be on the lookout for additional information about this exciting project prior to the toolkit's targeted release in late spring 2005.

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, [lshiller@ffa.org](mailto:ashiller@ffa.org).

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, sgilchrist@ffa.org.

SCHOLARSHIPS

2005 National FFA Organization Scholarship Program: In 2005 the National FFA Organization's scholarship program will award more than \$2 million to eligible FFA members and other agriculture students enrolling in post-secondary education.

Two examples of the awards offered are:

- Cargill will award 350 scholarships at \$1,000 each to high school seniors who live in a Cargill community. The student must plan to pursue a two- or four-year degree in any major at an accredited post-secondary institution in the fall of 2005. Students are selected based on academic achievement and involvement in extracurricular activities. Applicants must visit their local Cargill facility to obtain a signature from a location manager on their application. Each scholarship recipient's high school may also be eligible for a \$200 library grant.
- Ford dealers across the country have partnered with Ford Trucks and Ford Motor Company to provide more than 600 scholarships at \$1,000 each to FFA members. Scholarship applicants must be planning to attend any accredited two- or four-year institution in any area of study. One lucky chapter will be eligible to receive a two-year lease on a Ford F-Series truck!

Students should check <http://www.ffa.org/programs/scholarships/> for a list of participating dealers to see if their chapter has been identified. Even if a student's FFA chapter is not listed, he or she can still obtain the signature of *any* Ford dealer to be eligible for one of five national Ford scholarships.

Last year approximately one out of every four students who applied for the program received a scholarship. In 2005, more than 7,000 students are expected to apply for approximately 1,700 available scholarships ranging in value from \$1,000 to full tuition at Johnson and Wales University.

More details about these and other National FFA Organization scholarship opportunities, including a guidebook listing eligibility criteria, an application and a list of participating Ford dealers are available at <http://www.ffa.org/programs/scholarships/>.

Contact: scholarships@ffa.org.

Applications must be postmarked by February 15, 2005!

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Training Via Teleconferencing: The membership team will be conducting training through teleconferencing on a variety of topics, including new and improved reports, reports you might not have known existed, to the "how to's" of online membership. Through TelSpan Teleconferencing, training can be done right from your own desk. Each training session will allow

membership agents to work and learn hands-on. If you have any ideas of other trainings you would like to be included, contact your membership representative or Clay Worley at cworley@ffa.org.


Membership Totals for 2004-2005: The Membership Team would like to thank those states that have already started sending 2004-2005 memberships. As of December 15, 2004, we have received 235,501 members.

States already submitting 75 percent of last year's total membership include: Arkansas, Texas, Kansas, Iowa, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Virginia, Kentucky, Illinois and Ohio.

This will allow members to receive the *New Horizons* magazine throughout the remainder of the 2004-2005 school year.

EDUCATOR NEWS

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, mgilbert@ffa.org, 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  ment, chapter star in agriscience, agriscience, prepared public speaking, extemporaneous public speaking and creed speaking. The H.O. Sargent and agri-entrepreneurship award medal are also available when they check those boxes. See attached form.

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

STATE STAFF NEWS

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. If your American Degree applications are ready for submission prior to the due date, please submit them early to assist the process. 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 46268.

National Agricultural Education Inservice: The National Agricultural Education Inservice will be held Feb. 3-6, 2005, at the Indianapolis Hilton (formerly known as the Adam's Mark Hotel) in downtown Indianapolis. The same registration procedure will be followed as last year. For those eager to begin the planning process, please use the attached guidelines when selecting your paid participants.

Future National Ag Ed Inservice dates: Feb. 2-5, 2006 and Feb. 1-4, 2007. In addition, the National New State Staff Inservice (NSSI) will be held Feb. 2-3, 2005, at the Indianapolis Hilton. The NSSI will run from noon Wednesday, Feb. 2, until noon Thursday, Feb. 3. At the conclusion of the NSSI, new state staff will have the opportunity to attend the National Agricultural Education Inservice. Future NSSI Dates: Feb. 1-2, 2006 and Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 2007.

For updated information, visit the State Staff Connection online, <http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/>.

New State Staff, reserve your spot now! Those wishing to attend the NSSI prior to the National Ag Ed Inservice should contact Michele Gilbert, Program Coordinator, National FFA Organization, 317-802-4301, mgilbert@ffa.org.

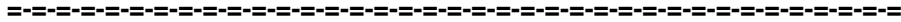
In October, agendas, registration forms and additional information were provided for both the National Ag Ed Inservice and National New State Staff Inservice. Questions regarding the National Ag Ed Inservice can be directed to Tony Small, Local Program Success Manager, National FFA Organization, 317-802-4300, tsmall@ffa.org.

Star Applicants' Personal History: A reminder that the personal history of any Star applications 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.

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 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.