

UPDATE

Vol. XXXIII, No. 4
C. Coleman Harris
U.S. Department of Education
April 2003

DATES TO REMEMBER

May
15 FFA dues and membership rosters due, FFA Center

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FFA

National FFA Awards and CDE Advisory Board Award Revision Process: Every five years, the National FFA Organization's CDEs, award and recognition programs are reviewed to keep them closely aligned with instructional relevance, current technology, industry practices and the mission, vision and strategic direction of Agriculture Education and FFA. This spring, we are beginning another round of this ongoing review process.

Currently, three subcommittees are forming to evaluate award and recognition programs. As the committees begin their review process, the National FFA Organization will keep you up-to-date with the progress and status of the committees and the project timeframe, which is expected to last through 2005. The award revision process whitepaper, timeline and committee updates are available online at <http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/html/awardrevision.html>.

Communication Resource Index on ffa.org: A whole host of communication resources for state and local use is now available online at <http://www.ffa.org/comm/commindex.html>, a handy one-stop shop for state and local communication materials. The new Opening Doors materials are available here, as are standards and guidelines covering topics such as news releases, key messages and frequently asked questions. Throughout 2003 and 2004, we'll be adding new materials to this resource index every quarter, so check back often to see what's new.

2003 National FFA Officer Candidates: The 2003 National Officer Candidate Application is now available as an electronic form on the State Guide to FFA Activities and the "Guide to the National FFA Officer Selection Process." Each state recently received an e-mail containing a private link to the guide. It contains information used during the 2002 selection process along with study references, past written exams and writing exercises. All applications must be submitted in hard copy format by Aug. 1, 2003. Contact: Kelly Horton, 317-802-4248, khorton@ffa.org or Kim Henry, 317-802-4362, khenry@ffa.org.

Washington Leadership Conference: Start planning your trip to Washington, D.C.! There will be six weeks of the Washington Leadership Conference instead of seven this year. The dates are June 3-8, June 10-15, June 17-22, June 24-29, July 8-13 and July 15-20. This year's conference will consist of a brand new curriculum with high levels of service learning, mentoring and volunteerism strategies, problem-solving skills,

relationship building skills and character development. The premier FFA leadership conference is shaping up to be the best yet! For information, e-mail wlc@ffa.org or call 317-802-4312.

Chapter certificate changes: In future correspondence with your local schools, please guide the local FFA advisor to the Teacher Workroom or the Agriscience page on ffa.org for the following message: Due to a misprint in the chapter certificates, the Agriscience certificate header is missing. If you are in need of a chapter Agriscience certificate, Contact: Christy McDaniel, cmcdaniel@ffa.org, 317-802-4402, or Rosalie Hunsinger, rhunsinger@ffa.org, 317-802-4255.

National delegate process info on ffa.org: State leaders and delegates can now review action on 2002 committee reports and start planning for the 2003 delegate processes. There are a few significant changes in the process this year regarding the collection and submission of issues and the scheduling of delegates at the national FFA convention. For full details, visit: http://www.ffa.org/convention/html/del_info.html. Contact: Seth Derner, sderner@ffa.org, 317-802-4413.

Supervised Agricultural Experience Internship: The National FFA Organization is seeking applications from qualified individuals interested in a four- to eight-week summer internship at the National FFA Center in Indianapolis. One position will start on or shortly after June 1, 2003 and end in mid-August, while the second is for the month of July. For more information see job opportunities posted on the FFA website. <http://www.ffa.org/careers/jobs/html/saeintern.html>.

Final days of 75th Medallion Giveaway: FFA is giving away a 75th anniversary medallion FREE with every Internet order of \$250 placed between now and April 15. Enter the coupon code "FFA75TH" at check out. Please pass this special offer onto chapters so they can take advantage of this special promotion.

FREE Confetti with every order: Blue and gold FFA letters and emblems make this confetti the perfect addition to banquet tables and other decorations. Receive a FREE 1 oz. bag with every Internet order placed between April 16 and May 15. Enter the coupon code "CONFETTI" at check out. Please pass this special offer on to chapters so they can take advantage of this special promotion.

Congratulations are in order: It's never too early to begin thinking about the perfect gift for that special FFA grad! From sashes to picture frames to commemorative 75th anniversary merchandise, FFA has great graduation gifts. Order online today at www.ffaunlimited.org or call 1-888-332-2668. See attached document for more information.

Update on Special Needs Assistance Policy and Procedure In National FFA Career Development Events: During the past year the National FFA Organization has taken an intense look into the workings of policies and procedures regarding special needs assistance for students with physical or mental disabilities participating in Career Development Events. As a result, a new policy has been enacted effective for the certification process of all 2003 National FFA Career Development Events. Forms and procedures are being finalized and will soon be sent to State Association CDE certification contacts to be distributed to advisors of state winning teams. Some key points of the new procedure are as follows:

* The National FFA Organization has partnered with the Adaptive Educational Services office at Indiana University/Purdue University – Indianapolis (IUPUI) to serve as an independent source of review for all special needs requests. This office handles the special needs assistance process for the university and has individuals trained and certified to help FFA staff determine what accommodations need to be provided. Once we receive documentation on a participant they will review the documentation and give recommendations of what accommodations should be offered.

* All special needs requests for 2003 National FFA Career Development Events need to be sent to the National FFA Center along with the CDE certification forms. These forms are due July 10th. If we receive special needs requests after that time we cannot guarantee that there will be adequate time to process them. The National FFA Organization is aware that some states certify later than that date but we can make no guarantees that the documentation will be reviewed and accommodations offered for participants whose documentation is submitted later than July 10th.

* There are changes with regard to the type of documentation that must be submitted for a special needs request for a participant in Career Development Events. Acceptable documentation will have to include test results or information regarding the disability from medically certified doctors, psychiatrists, or psychologists. This measure is to ensure that we serve those who truly have a disability and are in accordance with federal legislation regarding serving those with disabilities.

* The purpose of this policy is to adhere to the law while also protecting the integrity of our National FFA Career Development Events. This policy will allow the National FFA Organization to better serve those members with true medical or mental disabilities. Students who do not read on grade level have a learning deficiency, however, this does not constitute a true medical or mental disability.

Within the next month all the forms and final details for the new policy and procedure will be in place. For anyone who is currently in the process of certifying teams or has any questions regarding the new policy and procedure, please contact Mike Honeycutt, mhoneycutt@ffa.org, 317-802-4262, or Alyssa Peterson, apeterson@ffa.org, 317-802-4263.

NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION NEWS

Constitutional amendments to be considered by delegates: During the January 2003 meeting of the National FFA Board of Directors, it was determined that several constitutional amendments should be considered by the delegates to the 2003 National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky., in October 2003. Information outlining the proposed amendments is attached.

National FFA Convention in Indianapolis in 2006: During the National Agricultural Education Inservice in February, Bob Heuvel, site selection committee chair, shared information about moving the convention from Louisville, Ky., to Indianapolis in 2006. Please review the attached document for more information.

2003 National FFA Convention Planning Info on ffa.org: Planning material, including housing information, is now available at <http://www.ffa.org/convention/index.html>. The entire Convention Planning Guide 1st Edition is available on the site, as is housing information

and preliminary convention schedules.

COMPETITIONS

Chapter T-shirt Design Winners: Congratulations to the winners of the 2003 Chapter T-shirt Design Contest. FFA received and judged more than 200 designs! Five T-shirts will be sold in the 2003-2004 catalog and www.ffaunlimited.org store beginning Sept. 1, 2003.

The winners of this year's contest are:

North Carolina State University Collegiate FFA (North Carolina)—“What would you be w/o Agriculture?”

David Crockett FFA (Tennessee)—“75 Years of FFA...Priceless”

Wellington FFA (Ohio)—“After 75 Years...the blue corduroy stays the same.”

Farmington FFA (Minnesota)—“USA/FFA Flags”

Belleville FFA (Kansas)—“FFA Motto”

These chapters will earn 50 percent of the gross profits on the catalog and Internet sales for one year. Be on the lookout for details about next year's contest. For more information about this year's contest, visit www.ffa.org/chapters/html/tshirt_contest.html, e-mail Dawn at dsharp@ffa.org or call 317-802-4271

2003 CDE Rules and Procedures clarifications: Please review attached National FFA Career Development Event (CDE) Update Report: This report will explain event rules and procedure updates that will impact the 2003 national FFA CDEs. This report also contains information that will be implemented at the 2004 National FFA Convention.

2003 CDE deadlines announced: Deadlines have been set for the 2003 National FFA CDEs; all items are due to the FFA Center by the dates indicated. A copy of all forms listed below can be found in the 2003 State Guide. They are as follows:

June 1 - Team declaration forms due

July 10 - Team certification forms and certification fee due (\$25 per team, excluding dairy handlers)

- Waiver forms due (Please include with certification forms)

- Special assistance requests due (Contact: Alyssa Peterson, apeterson@ffa.org 317-802-4263)

- State assistants/volunteers forms due

- State speaking judges forms due

Aug. 15 - Prepared public speaking manuscripts due

Sept. 15 - Agricultural communication portfolios due

- Agricultural issues portfolios due

- Job interview portfolios due

- Marketing plan portfolios due

Oct. 1 - Late membership payments and \$25 processing fee due (for qualification)

Oct. 15 - Add/Delete forms due

Agriscience Fair application change: There are changes to the Agriscience Fair program for 2003. There are two changes to the Agriscience Fair Rules: a) in team divisions, both members are required to be present for judging to qualify for placing and awards. b). rules for use of embryo subjects has been added to “Safety Rules”. The only change to the application is the addition of the Agriscience Fair Certification Form. The revised application is attached. This form should be filled out completely, signed and submitted with the certification and abstracts by Aug. 15 to Christy McDaniel, National

FFA Organization, 6060 FFA Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46268. For more information contact Christy McDaniel, cmcdaniel@ffa.org, 317-802-4402.

EDUCATOR NEWS

2003 WLC Staff Announced: Staff members for this summer's Washington Leadership Conference have been selected. They are: Rick Henningfeld, Kirk Maag, Josie Noah, Kevin Richards, Jon Sellenrick, Abby Spruill, Audrey Stockhoff, Sarah Swenson, Marty Tatman, Juleah Tolosky, and Cara Wiese. Carrie Harp and Robin Niehaus have been selected as assistant managers for the conference. For additional information on the program, contact Andy Armbruster, aarmbruster@ffa.org, 317-802-4308, or Tina Paris, tparis@ffa.org, 317-802-4309.

GLOBE Learning Expedition to be held this summer: The 2003 GLOBE Learning Expedition will be held in Sibenik, Croatia, June 29 through July 4, 2003. The Learning Expedition will be an opportunity for teams of GLOBE students from around the world to meet one another, learn together, and present the results of their GLOBE projects. GLOBE is a worldwide hands-on, primary and secondary school-based education and science program. The conference will feature plenary and parallel sessions in which GLOBE students will present research projects showing how they use GLOBE data. In addition to the student presentations, activities will include a day of fieldwork at the Krka National Park and an excursion by boat to the island of Obonjan. At the Conference Center, an Internet Cafe will enable participants to stay connected to home and to other GLOBE students participating electronically. The Exhibit Hall will include displays from GLOBE Countries and GLOBE schools around the world. For more information, contact Mark Leitman, mleitman@globe.gov or Dr. Carol Conroy, cconroy@globe.gov.

STATE STAFF NEWS

Nominations for judges being accepted: The National FFA Organization is accepting judges' nominations for the Agricultural Proficiency Awards, Star Awards, Agriscience Awards and National Chapter Awards at the 2003 National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky., this fall. The Agricultural Proficiency and the Star Awards judging will take place Thursday, Oct. 30, 2003. All of the judges will be invited to an awards luncheon on that day. The Agriscience Awards will be judged Wednesday, Oct. 29 and Thursday, Oct. 30. National Chapter Awards, Models of Innovation awards will be judged Wednesday, Oct. 29. We are not able to cover any expenses for the judges. Nominations can be submitted on the attached and should be mailed to Rosalie Hunsinger, National FFA Organization, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960 or faxed to her at 317-802-5255.

INTERNATIONAL HAPPENINGS

International Agricultural Education Summer Institute 2003: The Center for the Study of Global Change at Indiana University, Purdue University's School of Agriculture, the Indiana FFA Association, Indiana University's African Studies Program, the Center for International Business Education and Research and Russian and East European Institute are pleased to announce a one-week institute on International Agriculture and Global Food Security. The objective of this program is to introduce agriculture issues to high school agriculture teachers and university agricultural education majors. The program will emphasize pedagogical development and provide information on a wide range of global agricultural problems for incorporation in high school curriculum and individual lesson

plans. The program will address three major themes: the state of international agriculture, the development of global agribusiness, and the roles of food in international security. The IAE Summer Institute will take place at Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind., July 13-19, 2003. The cost of the institute is \$350. For those wishing to apply for graduate credit through Purdue, Professor Mark Balschweid will be the contact. Financial assistance is available. For more information visit: www.indiana.edu/~global/iaeinstitute.html.

International teacher opportunities available: Competitive scholarships are available for agriculture teachers to participate in an international experience through EARTHWATCH. The scholarships are available for use in 2003. EARTHWATCH is a research organization with international expeditions throughout the world. Expeditions take place throughout the year. Participants receive scholarships of up to \$1500 to cover a portion of the expedition costs plus membership to EARTHWATCH. Applications are being accepted and are available online at www.ffa.org/programs/global/.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN UPDATE

LifeKnowledge lessons being test piloted across the U.S.: Instructional lessons, part of the "LifeKnowledge, Real lessons for real life" initiative, are now being test piloted. Lesson authors as well as more than 150 agriculture teachers in middle or secondary school settings are teaching more than 200 lessons about leadership, personal growth and career success. Each lesson is being taught by three different teachers (varied by location, type of program and experience in teaching), and is being evaluated by teachers and students. Evaluations will be collected and shared with authors as they make final revisions on lesson plans.

The three sets of materials - middle school, high school and advanced high school - will be completed by June 1, 2003, and production of the lessons on CD will be completed by fall of 2003. Thanks go to all who nominated teachers to test pilot materials. Every effort has been made to contact each teacher nominated. Additional requests to locate correct e-mail addresses may be made in the next week as a small number of teachers will be needed to review supplementary materials. For information on the development process of the LifeKnowledge instructional materials, contact Seth Derner, sderner@ffa.org, 317-802-4413 or Kelly Horton, khorton@ffa.org, 317-802-4248.

WLC Program task force plans for online instruction: In February, state leaders, FFA members, local teachers and an alumni representative met to discuss plans and articulate the vision for the yearlong, online program available to Washington Leadership Conference participants starting in 2003. The online program will continue to help student leaders solve problems, develop character, make healthy choices, build relationships and lead others through service. Thanks go to task force members Kent Boggs, Donelle Johnson, Donna Moore, Jamie Cano, Norman Gay, Steve Brown, Mark Zimmerman, Carrie Harp, Jon Sellenrick and Jason Lacey. The development of the WLC online program is being made possible by a grant from Philip Morris U.S.A. Youth Smoking Prevention as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Contact: Seth Derner, sderner@ffa.org, 317-802-4413.

FFA Global leadership training available online! FFA Global is looking for agriculture instructors interested in exploring agriculture in our exciting, online learning program about global agriculture. A "real world" storyline allows students to learn about global agriculture and U.S. policy as they follow the lives of two fictional FFA members as they travel to Moldova, Honduras and Ethiopia. Several chapters are already using the

program. If you are interested in learning more about this project, contact FFA Global at 317-802-4309 or global@ffa.org. Visit the FFA Global Leadership Scenarios site at <http://www.ffa.org/scenarios/> today!

UPDATE is also available at www.ffa.org/news/html/ffapubsindex.html#update each month. Attachments are 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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