

UPDATE

Vol. XXXV, No. 2
U.S. Department of Education
February 2005

DATES TO REMEMBER

February

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

March

15 T-shirt design contest entries due
16-19 National PAS Conference, Albany, NY

THE LATEST FROM FFA

National FFA Board of Directors Meeting: The National FFA Board of Directors met January 18-22 in Washington, D.C. Attached is a summary of the meeting.

2005 Edition of *The Core to Arrive March 1*: The 2005 edition of *The Core*, your agricultural education resources catalog, will be arriving during the first week of March. The new edition will feature six new products, including the New Professionals Kit, interactive software to provide new teachers with an electronic calendar, program assessment, goal planning functions and easy-to-access resources to build a successful agriculture education program within the first three years of their teaching career.

Positions available with National FFA: Currently, The National FFA Organization has many staff positions open. These positions are: Team Leader, Leadership and Educational Program Delivery; Local Program Success Specialist (2 positions); Sr. Financial Accountant; Marketing Specialist 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.

New Century Farmer: The National FFA Organization, in partnership with Pioneer Hi-Bred, Int., is once again offering the New Century Farmer Program in 2005. This is an intensive five-day workshop designed for 19-22 year-old students who are majoring in some aspect of production agriculture and plan to return to production agriculture upon graduation. Past speakers at this conference have included Dr. Miley Gonzalez, former undersecretary of agriculture and Mr. Gill Meyers, DuPont Strategic Planning and Visioning. A key goal for the participants to take away is the development of a personal mission and vision regarding their involvement in production agriculture. The conference is July 11-15, 2005 and all expenses -- including travel to and from Des Moines, Iowa, , and meals and lodging while attending the workshop -- are paid for by Pioneer Hi-Bred.

The application is attached and is also available online at <http://www.ffa.org/programs/ncfarmer/index.html>. **All applications must be postmarked by February 14, 2005.**

Contact: Jim Armbruster at 317-802-4334 or jarmbruster@ffa.org.

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.

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 at lshiller@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 at sgilchrist@ffa.org.

The 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. 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.com/>. The winning chapters will earn 50 percent of the gross profits on the shirt's catalog sales for one year. As of the end of January, the five winning chapters from the '04-'05 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. (p. 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, but has changed to a regular sales order with a 25 percent discount with free shipping as long as no merchandise is returned. Questions? Contact Dawn Sharp at dsharp@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 Totals for 2004-2005: The Membership Team would like to thank those states that have already started sending 2004-2005 memberships. Through January 15, 2004, we have received 294,189 members.

States already submitting 75% of last year's total membership include:

Arizona, Texas, Kansas, Iowa, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Virginia, Kentucky, Illinois, Oklahoma, Missouri, Idaho, Minnesota, Nebraska, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Wisconsin and Ohio.

Membership Training Via Teleconferencing: Thank you to all state staff who participated in the first teleconferencing sessions. A special thank-you to Brenda Correll of Ohio, Michelle McCafferty of Illinois, Belinda Niedwick of North Carolina, Keith Eccarius of Wisconsin and Kim LaFleur of Massachusetts for acting as training test subjects and giving valuable feedback for the TelSpan training tool.

If you missed out, additional classes will be held throughout the coming months. Topics include reports, delegate count process and additional online membership items. Contact Clay Worley at cworley@ffa.org if you would like to be included on the Teleconferencing Callout email and if you have any additional ideas for renewed training.

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

March/April	Feb. 10, 2005
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


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 the 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 form attached to this email 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

EDUCATOR NEWS

 **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 medal are also available by selecting the appropriate box. 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. Visit www.ffa.org/programs/global/ or call 317-802-4309.

STATE STAFF NEWS

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. 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.

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.

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.