

UPDATE

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U.S. Department of Education
April 2005

DATES TO REMEMBER

April

11 Delegate count teleconferencing
13 Delegate count teleconferencing
15 National FFA internship applications due
Membership due to National FFA to be processed and invoiced for delegate consideration.

May

6-7 NREA Grant Writing Institute, Oklahoma City, Okla.
15 Membership must be received by National FFA and paid for or guaranteed by PO or credit card to be considered in delegate counts.
Collegiate Agricultural Ambassador applications due
FFA Alumni rosters due

THE LATEST FROM FFA

Collegiate Agricultural Ambassador Program: National FFA is looking for college students equipped with presentation and networking skills to promote agricultural understanding and development. Ten college students will be selected from across the nation as agricultural ambassadors. 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 of increasing agricultural literacy across the country:

- \$3,000 scholarship
- NEW personal laptop
- NEW LCD projector
- NEW personal digital camera
- Reimbursed for all travel expenses
- Once in a lifetime experience

Look for more information to come about this fantastic opportunity on the Collegiate FFA website at www.ffa.org/collegiate.cfm or contact Jill Casten, Program Manager, at 317-802-4356 or jcasten@ffa.org. Applications will be available April 15, 2005 online and will be due by May 15, 2005. The ambassadors will receive training in August and begin in September. Ambassadors must be enrolled in a college or university to apply.

Positions available with National FFA: Currently, The National FFA Organization has many staff positions open. 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 and 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!!**

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 began in March.** For more information and to download a registration form, visit www.ffa.org, e-mail wlc@ffa.org or call 317-802-4312.

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.

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.

Effective immediately, all new tailored jacket orders are being made from the new jacket patterns. The new patterns for standard-sized jackets will be rolled out to everyone beginning in August 2005. If you are placing an order for a tailored jacket, you will want to use the attached forms that will guide you through the new measuring process. Contact: Lee Anne Shiller, 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.

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.

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 March 15, 2005, we have received 392,726 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, Delaware, Arkansas, New Mexico, Utah, Louisiana, Virginia, Kentucky, Connecticut, Maine, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Ohio.

Delegate Count Teleconferencing: Want to keep track of membership totals to be used in delegate counts? The membership department will be conducting two brief half-hour teleconferences via TelSpan to aid state staff in running the reports used to calculate delegate membership.

April 11, 2005 3:00 – 3:30 pm EST
April 13, 2005 10:30 – 11:00 am EST

Contact your membership representative or e-mail Clay Worley at cworley@ffa.org to reserve your spot.

NEW Online Training Information - The Step-by-Step Guide to FFA Online Membership is located at <http://access.ffa.org/index.html>. This new PowerPoint training document, created with the assistance of Pam Kilpatrick of the Alabama FFA Association, offers a step-by-step process for the chapter advisor and a tool for state staff to present online membership.

Preliminary Delegate Allocation: Preliminary Delegate Allocation is due to state staff for consideration on June 1, 2005. Appeals of membership counts must be submitted no later than June 10 for consideration.

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

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

CONVENTION

National FFA Band/Chorus/Talent Applications: The National FFA band, chorus and talent programs are a great way for members to express their creative side while participating in the largest annual youth gathering in the nation. Applications are attached and are due to the national directors by **July 1, 2005**.

National FFA Officer Candidates Information: The 2005 candidate application is now available. It can be found on the State Guide and on the "Guide to the National FFA Officer Selection Process". The guide is available at an unpublished web address, which was sent to state staff via email in late March. The guide has been updated with information used during the 2004 process. All applications must be submitted in hard copy format and must be postmarked by August 1, 2005. Contact: Doug Kueker 317-802-4272, dkueker@ffa.org or Kim Henry 317-802-4362, khenry@ffa.org.

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>>. For questions, contact Jessica Scholer, CDE Certification Coordinator at 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: Deadlines for the 2005 National FFA CDEs are as follows:

June 1	Team declaration forms due
July 8	Team certification forms, waivers, payments and 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

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, 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 take place May 6-7, 2005 in Oklahoma City, Okla. Registration information and agenda are 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

Extra Copies of The Core: 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, include the following:

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

Learn More About Agricultural Education Resources: National FFA wants to ensure that you, your teachers and pre-service teachers are equipped to do your job effectively and efficiently, which means getting you the resources that you need. Contact us if you have a conference, seminar, enrichment activity, meeting or class coming up that you would like to have products from *The Core* featured at. We're happy to set up displays, have staff do workshops on effectively using any of the products and answer all of your and your teachers' questions! To schedule an event, e-mail coreadvice@ffa.org or call 317-802-4239. The summer schedule is filling up quickly, so don't wait to schedule your event!

Electronic CDE Certification Forms Available: NEW CDE certification forms are available in an excel template for 2005. The template includes a certification form and student waiver. Electronic file and step by step instructions can be found on your Ag Ed Inservice CD-ROM. Contact Jessica Scholer, CDE Certification Coordinator at 317-802-4288 or jscholer@ffa.org with any questions.

Student Waiver, Release of Liability, and Consent to Medical Attention Forms: Protect your students and your state association by creating a student waiver form specific to your state or event. We now have a template to help you create your own forms for regional, state or interstate events. If you are interested in creating Student Waiver Forms for your state event, please contact Jessica Scholer, CDE Certification Coordinator at jscholer@ffa.org.

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

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.

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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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