

UPDATE

LATEST NEWS FROM FFA

The New ffa.org

Coming soon to a computer near you: a new look for www.ffa.org! Based on reader feedback, we're enhancing the FFA website for easier use and navigation. A few highlights to note: There will be access to the myFFA login on every page and quick-link access buttons to frequently used pages for core customer groups (middle school, high school, teacher educators, collegiate, state staff, etc). The new website look will debut in late April. Stay tuned.

New FFA Merchandise Center Opens—Plan Ahead!

The Order Entry and Shipping departments will be closed for several days in June:

Order Entry Department

Closed Wednesday, June 13 to Friday, June 15

Shipping Department

Last outbound ship date is Thursday, June 14
Shipments will restart Monday, July 2

The new FFA Merchandise Center is in its last two months of construction. The center will house the Merchandise Operations Division, which includes the merchandising, licensing, call center, operations support and shipping departments. The new 36,000-square-foot building is located only three miles from the National FFA Center in Indianapolis.

The move to the new center will have an impact on merchandise you may need to order during June and early July. It will be critical to plan ahead and place merchandise orders early, no later than June 1. The last day to ship merchandise out of the existing facility will be Thursday, June 14. Over the following three weeks, the staff will be packing, moving, stocking merchandise and completing a full physical inventory of the new facility. Plans are in place to do this as quickly as possible, but we estimate this could take up to three full weeks. If we finish sooner than expected we will post a revised reopening date on the front page of ffaunlimited.org.

The Order Entry/call center department will only be closed for three days; however, merchandise from the warehouse will not be available for shipment until Monday, July 2. Even with overtime, it will take a week to catch up with the backlog of orders. Your help and patience is appreciated.

New state officer jacket orders will be processed as normal. Please place these orders directly with the call center, 888-332-2668.

Please share this information with all chapter advisors to help them anticipate merchandise they may need during the shutdown. Be sure to emphasize the need

to place orders for FFA jackets by Friday, June 8 for those students who will need new jackets during June and early July.

National FFA Center Tours Postponed

Due to the upcoming renovation of the National FFA Center in Indianapolis, no center tours will be given from mid-April through mid-September, 2007. The tours will resume once the renovation is complete. For additional details, visit [ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) and go to the National FFA Center Tours homepage, http://www.ffa.org/about_ffa/html/tour_ffa.cfm.

FFA New Horizons is Now Online

Can't get enough of *FFA New Horizons*? Now you can visit [www.ffa.org/newhorizons.org](http://www.ffa.org/newhorizons) to access the entire magazine online! You can also see additional photos, read more stories with links to tips and other resources, take fun quizzes and hear what's new at FFA. Readers can submit story ideas and photos directly to the magazine's editor, Kim Newsom, and click on the Virtual Magazine to see the most current issue and learn about the site's special features. Another great benefit: You can see what other chapters are doing in the State Scoop section, which also features virtual state inserts. Previous issues of *FFA New Horizons* will be archived on the site as well. Downloads, an Editor's Blog and a link to ffa.org are included, so check back often.

FFA Today! Airs April 16!

The April episode will feature agriscience! CHAPTERS IN ACTION will highlight magnet agriscience programs in Tampa, FL (Middleton High School) and San Antonio, TX (James Madison High School). The ON THE JOB segment will focus on turf grass management and visit a professional baseball field. MAKING THE GRADE tackles the subject of studying for finals, and we'll visit an award-winning ranch in Wyoming. FFA Today airs the third Monday of every month at 7 p.m. (EST) on RFD-TV. Visit [FFA TODAY](http://www.ffa.org) for more information on where you can find RFD-TV.

Speaking of *FFA Today!*, we'd love to hear what you think of the show. Click here to take a quick online survey:

<http://www.questionpro.com/akira/TakeSurvey?id=676308>

Know Someone with a Nose for News?

The National FFA Organization is getting ready for the 80th National FFA Convention. One of our most important tasks is to serve our partners in the media to the best of our ability. We need responsible, motivated and talented college interns to help us successfully run our convention media operations.

An application for the National FFA Convention media internships is attached. Applications are also available at www.ffa.org. This is an excellent opportunity that will provide terrific personal growth and practical learning experience to the right candidates. We are looking for multiple levels of abilities and experience, so please encourage anyone to apply who is responsible and dedicated to doing his or her best. Some evidence of strong writing, organizational, proofreading, interpersonal and interviewing skills is requested from all applicants. For some, sample work and/or professional references may be required to determine final selection. Strength in radio or video production, writing, interviewing, computer graphics and

computerized audio editing are valued qualifications. For all candidates, knowledge of FFA and agricultural education is a significant plus, and a strong commitment to confidentiality is a requirement.

Apply by printing out the online application and mailing it to the address below or e-mailing it as an attachment to media@ffa.org, subject: intern application. Applications must be received by May 25. Once applications are received, we will notify all candidates of our selections by phone, mail or e-mail by July. Contact Kristy Meyer, 317-802-4205 or kmeyer@ffa.org, for more information.

Wanted: Agricultural Ambassadors

This spring national FFA will be looking for college students with presentation and networking skills to promote agricultural understanding and development. Up to 20 college students will be selected from across the nation to serve in the role of a National Collegiate Agricultural Ambassador for one year. Ambassadors must have completed their first year in post-secondary education to be eligible.

The program's focus is to develop and implement a sustainable agricultural awareness program that influences and activates teachers and students at the community level to share the importance of agriculture. Each ambassador will receive the following to accomplish his or her objective of increasing agricultural awareness across the country:

- One-year, \$1,500 scholarship
- New personal digital camera
- Use of a laptop computer
- Use of an LCD projector
- Reimbursement for all travel expenses
- A once-in-a-lifetime experience

Look for more information about this fantastic opportunity on the Collegiate FFA website, www.ffa.org/collegiate.cfm, or contact collegiate programs at 317-802-4356 and jcasten@ffa.org. Applications will be available soon and are due June 1.

Is a Trip to the Galapagos Islands in Your Future?

Toyota has just announced their next international teacher professional development study program to the Galapagos Islands in October 2007. The Toyota International Teacher Program to the Galapagos Islands is a unique study abroad opportunity for U.S. educators. This program to South America aims to inspire collaboration between U.S. and Galapagueño teachers and to build awareness of how to teach sustainability and environmental stewardship through a cross-curricular approach.

Applications are available online to participate in this fully funded 10-day study tour of the Galapagos Islands. Eligible applicants must teach full time in grades 7-12 and must have at least three years teaching experience by April 23, 2007. Twenty classroom teachers of all disciplines will be selected to travel the Galapagos Islands to discover some of the world's most unique animals, explore cutting-edge environmental projects and participate in discussions with experts and community leaders.

Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. sponsors these opportunities with the goal of expanding the global perspectives of all educators and their students. Full-time

classroom teachers in grades 7-12 are encouraged to submit online applications for the Toyota International Teacher Program by April 23. Apply online at <http://www.iie.org/toyota>. Program brochures may be requested by visiting the Toyota International Teacher Program website or by calling the Institute of International Education, 877-832-2457.

One Million and Counting

Advisors: Don't forget about the 1 Million Hour Challenge! Log your chapter's service hours and you could win a special cash award to start another civic engagement project. Download the 1MHC handbook and worksheets for your students to use. Visit [Million Hour Challenge Program](#).

Celebrate Earth Day

Earth Day projects must take place during the month of April, 2007. After your Earth Day project, you can submit your application for up to \$10,000 in awards. Two awards will be given this year: Best Civic Engagement (\$3,000) and Best Impact (\$7,000). FFA chapters can apply for one or both awards. For more information visit [Earth Day/Million Hour Challenge programs](#).

Hotel Discounts Available for State Conventions

FFA advisors: Don't forget that La Quinta hotels offer a special 15 percent discount for FFA members, advisors, families and supporters. The national discount will come in handy for your state convention and other business or leisure travel.

It is easy to save money by following these simple steps:

- If you book directly with a La Quinta hotel or make your reservations by calling 800-531-5900, ask for the National FFA Organization discount.
- If you book online at www.lq.com, use the promotional code NAFFA.

Thank you for supporting the National FFA Organization through this affiliate program.

MERCHANDISING

Remember Blue and Gold

This spring think of the Blue and Gold catalogs when planning your chapter banquets or state conventions. The Blue and Gold catalogs have everything you need: cups, plates, crepe paper, napkins, placemats, plaques, trophies, gifts...the list goes on. Shop www.ffaunlimited.org or contact a customer services representative, 888-332-2668.

Remember: FREE engraving for all award plaques and trophies when you order from the GOLD catalog. Check out the great selection of uniquely designed FFA plaques and trophies.

ALUMNI

National FFA Alumni Membership Due

All National FFA Alumni membership is due to the national FFA office postmarked no later than May 15 to qualify for grants, awards and delegate counts. All Legion of Merit award applications also need to be postmarked by this date. E-mail questions to alumni@ffa.org or call 317-802-4292. Additional membership for the 2006/2007

membership year will be accepted through August 15.

A New Credit Card that Gives Money Back to the National FFA Alumni Association!

Introducing the National FFA Alumni Association Platinum Plus[®] MasterCard[®] Credit Card. Each time you make a purchase with this credit card, a contribution is made to the National FFA Alumni Association--at no additional cost to you. Visit [Alumni Online](#) to learn more.

National FFA Alumni State Leaders Conference

Mark your calendars for the 2007 National FFA Alumni State Leaders Conference July 10-15 in Portland, OR. All FFA Alumni are invited to attend. See the attached invitation, registration form and tentative agenda. For more details contact alumni@ffa.org.

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED

2007 State Convention Merchandise Sales Program

This is a great opportunity to make extra money for your organization and play a key role in your state's convention by providing FFA merchandise to attendees. In the days ahead, you will receive a contact data sheet, our suggested merchandise assortment and a how-to manual that includes recommendations on how to have a successful convention. The assortment includes the best of the best from the 2006-2007 Blue and Gold catalogs. Merchandise selected will be billed and invoiced at a flat 25 percent discount. Return of unsold merchandise is not encouraged and will be subject to a 25 percent restocking fee per item. Early placement of orders is critical. Please allow a minimum of 10 business days to process your order. If you are interested in this sales program or have any questions, please contact Dawn Sharp, merchandise buyer, 317-802-4271 or dsharp@ffa.org.

Shipping Cap for State Association Orders

State association orders for convention plaques, awards, medals and trophies will have freight charges "capped" at \$200 this year for orders exceeding \$1,500 in cumulative total. This freight cap provides a means for states to submit portions of a total convention order as needs are determined, as winners are selected, as recipients are identified or as state chapter awards are decided as opposed to holding all awards for a large, single order closer to the convention date. By placing partial orders earlier, this allows for more engraving and production time, award processing and validation of ordered item receipt.

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 note the following: "Part 1 of state convention order" or "Part 2...", etc. Rush award orders placed two weeks or less prior to the convention date will be charged standard or expedited shipping and are not covered under the freight cap promotion. Contact Sheridan Gilchrist, sgilchrist@ffa.org, for details.

Official Jacket Try-on Sets: Now Available

Not sure what size jacket you need? Ease your mind for only \$25 (the outbound

shipping cost) and order a full set of jackets for your students to try on and find the perfect fit. It's simple! Go to www.ffaunlimited.org and order the SAM-SET for \$1,000 plus shipping. Keep the jackets for two weeks, then pack them up with the provided ARS return shipping labels and call UPS for pick-up. Upon return, your account will be credited the initial \$1,000 leaving only the \$25 shipping cost to be paid by you.

Don't Miss WLC!

It's time to start planning for the Washington Leadership Conference. The 2007 conference dates are June 5-10, June 12-17, June 19-24, June 26-July 1, July 10-15, July 17-22, and July 24-29. Registration prices are: Student \$575, Advisor Double \$610, Advisor Single \$805, Advisor Guest \$1,000 and Room Only \$500. Advisors will not be asked to choose between an option A or B package. For updates, visit [WLC Program Online](#). Contact Cindy Hefner, 317-802-4256 or chefner@ffa.org, for registration questions.

Looking for a Few Good Judges

The National FFA Organization is accepting nominations for judges for the Agricultural Proficiency Awards, Stars, Agriscience Awards and National Chapter Awards at the 2007 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. The Agricultural Proficiency and Star Awards judging will take place Thursday, Oct. 25. All judges will be invited to an awards luncheon that day. The Agriscience Awards will be judged Wednesday, Oct. 24 and Thursday, Oct. 25. National Chapter Awards will be judged Wednesday, Oct. 24. We are not able to cover any expenses for the judges. Submit nominations on the attached form and mail to Rosalie Hunsinger, National FFA Organization, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960. You can also fax your nominations to 317-802-5255.

New and Improved Version of LifeKnowledge® Now Available

LifeKnowledge (LK) just got better! [LK Online](#) has many new features including online access for teachers and students and automatic program updates. Additionally, a precept indicator will measure students' levels of achievement and provide immediate feedback to assess strengths and potential growth areas. An online coaching guide includes more than 275 activities to help integrate LK into existing classroom, FFA and SAE activities. All of the original features of LK will remain, including 257 lesson plans, integration and planning tools, and learning modules.

To subscribe to LK Online, [order online at FFA Unlimited](#) or call FFA at 888-332-2668, fax 800-366-6556. The program will also be available in the 2007–2008 Core catalog. When ordering LK Online, reference item number LK-07.

Name a Conference Room!

You and your chapter can be a part of the new FFA Merchandising Center! The new merchandising facility will open this summer and house the FFA Merchandise Operations Division, which includes the merchandising, licensing and customer and distribution services departments. There will be two conference rooms in the new 36,000-square foot facility, and we want your help to name them. Brainstorm with your chapter on what you think the names should be. Send us your suggested name, along with a 500-word essay on why this name would be a good fit for the conference rooms and how it relates to agriculture.

All essays should be postmarked by Friday, April 27. Send your entries to Kristy

Meyer, 6060 FFA Drive, PO Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960 or e-mail kmeyer@ffa.org. The new names will be announced on the May broadcast of *FFA Today!* So start thinking, brainstorming and writing. You could put your touch on the new Merchandise Center!

Nominations Open for National FFA Officer Nominating Committee

Nominations for individuals to serve on the National FFA Officer Nominating Committee are now being accepted. Any member of Team Ag Ed may submit names of qualified individuals. Submissions must be completed on a common nomination form available through MyFFA. You must be a registered MyFFA user (register on www.ffa.org). Please include the contact information for the nominee and a short statement supporting the nomination. Nominations will be accepted through Aug. 4.

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. Educational materials are developed by FFA in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies.

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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