

UPDATE

LATEST NEWS FROM FFA

Program of Activities Tool, New Professionals Kit and LifeKnowledge® 2.0 Updates Now Available

If you are currently using the Program of Activities (POA) Tool, New Professionals Kit or LifeKnowledge® Version 2.0, check out the latest updates that are now available. These updates help to make these programs operate more effectively and correct any issues that have been brought to our attention. Please see the attached document, "Patch Announcement," for specific instructions on updating your software or visit <http://patch.adayana.com/ffa/>. Contact Tiffany Sanderson, Education Specialist, at 402-742-356 or coreadvice@ffa.org if you have questions.

FFA Today! on May 21

The May episode of *FFA Today!* will feature a special story on bugs, bees and butterflies – a.k.a. entomology! The show also features two chapters in northwest Oregon and tips for getting a great summer job. InsideFFA News highlights several contest winners, including an FFA member who is a Kentucky Derby queen! Airing May 21 at 7 p.m. (EST), the show appears on RFD-TV (RFD-TV is available on Dish Network, DIRECTV, Mediacom cable and NCTC cable).

Programming Notes: RFD-TV's previously scheduled rebroadcasts of the 79th National FFA Convention general sessions will not air on Monday evenings during the months of May and June. We are working with RFD-TV to re-schedule the broadcasts that include sessions 7-9. Check ffa.org for more information. The June episode of *FFA Today!* will air on June 25 (not June 18 as previously scheduled). The show will feature a state Day of Service in New York, careers in veterinary medicine and the start of the Blue Jackets convention series.

Convention Items on Sale!

The 79th National FFA Convention Souvenir Video and *Proceedings* are now on sale for 20 percent off! Check www.ffaunlimited.org for these limited-edition items.

FFA Week Contest Winners Announced!

FFA chapters were invited to participate in a first-ever contest to see who had the best National FFA Week back in February. Entrants had to send pictures and write an essay that included why the activities were unique, how the activities were planned and the success of each event. Twenty amazing entries were received and the top three finishers will be awarded FFA Unlimited gift certificates. First place will also be featured on an episode of *FFA Today!* Thank you to all chapters who entered the contest. Your FFA Week events were truly awesome!

First Place – Rushville FFA (Rushville, IN)

Second Place – Perrydale FFA (Perrydale, OR)

Third Place – Winder-Barrow FFA (Winder, GA)

FFA Staff Updates

Please note the following personnel changes:

J.R. Peterson has been named team leader for corporate contributions for the National FFA Foundation.

Ryan Mills has been named regional director for the National FFA Foundation, working primarily in the western United States.

Bill Hale has been named executive director of the Agricultural Education Learning Center.

Dixie Gray has been appointed to executive director of the Commercial LifeKnowledge team.

For details, visit the [News & Media page](#) on ffa.org.

Proficiency Sponsor Labels

Labels have not been printed for 2007. We will put the sponsor labels on the applications when they arrive for national judging in July. Please do not penalize any application for not having a label. Contact Rosalie Hunsinger, 317-802-4255 or rhunsinger@ffa.org, if you have questions.

American Degree and Proficiency Applications--Reminder

Before mailing your American Degree, Agri-Entrepreneurship and Proficiency award applications, please assure the applications are on the current 2006-2010 application templates. No applications on the 2001-2005 application template will be accepted in 2007. We allowed a one-year lax on this requirement in 2006. If you have any questions, contact Rosalie Hunsinger, 317-802-4255 or rhunsinger@ffa.org.

E-mail Address Required For American Degree Recipients

When submitting your state applications, be sure to include the e-mail address of all American Degree applicants. The American Degree certification form has the field included for your convenience. The application has a line on page 1, line 6 for the e-mail address. If you don't have the applicant's e-mail address, use the advisor's e-mail address for that applicant. The recipients will receive electronic notification to register online with their user ID/password. If you have any questions, contact Rosalie Hunsinger, 317-802-4255 or rhunsinger@ffa.org.

E-mail Address Required for Proficiency Award Applicants

Please be sure to include the e-mail address of all Proficiency Award applicants when submitting your state applications. The field on the applications is on the cover page, line 5. If you are unable to obtain the e-mail address of the applicant, then use the advisor's e-mail address for that applicant. The national finalists will receive electronic notification to register online with their user ID/password. If you have any questions, contact Rosalie Hunsinger, 317-802-4255 or rhunsinger@ffa.org.

Graduate and Re-Certification Credits!

Laboratory Earth: Earth's Natural Resources is an eight-week online graduate course for educators and is being offered through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The purpose of this course is to strengthen teachers' earth science knowledge and improve their ability to teach earth science concepts. Free tuition will be awarded to the first 20 people to register. See the attached informational sheet to learn more about the course and how to register.

Time for Graduation Gifts!

Spring is here, and it is time for state FFA conventions and graduation. Let FFA Marketplace be your easy one-stop shopping destination for graduation gifts. Visit FFAMarketplace.org.

This Month's Must-Haves: Mother's Day E-Gift Cards from Macy's

Give Mom exactly what she wants this Mother's Day – in an instant! The Macy's E-Gift Card is a personalized gift certificate that Mom creates herself. Enter any denomination (from \$10 - \$1,000) and Mom's e-mail address, then add your own gift message during checkout. Your Mom will receive an e-mail within 24 hours containing an E-Gift Card number that she can use to shop for anything she wants, anytime she wants, online at macys.com thru FFAMarketplace.org.

Brickyard Tickets Available

Here's your chance to take part in NASCAR's premier series at the Racing Capital of the World: The 2007 Allstate 400 at the Brickyard! The Indianapolis Motor Speedway is offering all national FFA members, families and supporters a unique ticket package. Visit FFAMarketplace.org for more information.

CONVENTION

Lodging Tax Increase

We have been advised that the lodging tax in Hamilton County increased last month from 9 percent to 11 percent. Hamilton County is located north and northeast of Indianapolis and includes the cities of Carmel, Fishers and Noblesville. The Chapter Housing Hotel List in the recently published *First Edition Advisor's Planning Guide* provided rates for Hamilton County hotels inclusive of a 9 percent tax, rather than 11 percent tax. The hotel listing available on myFFA has been updated. The hotel list has revised rates for the properties marked with an asterisk (*) and located in Section F – North, Section G – Northeast or Section H – Northwest.

If you have already booked rooms at any of these hotels, you will receive an updated acknowledgement from the FFA Housing Bureau reflecting the tax increase. For more information, contact Ellen Williams, 317-802-4269 or housing@ffa.org.

MERCHANDISING

T-shirt Winners Announced

We are pleased to announce the winners of our Sixth Annual T-shirt Design Contest. Several chapters from around the country submitted outstanding designs. Here are the winners:

“Like No Udder” from Garrard County FFA – Lancaster, KY

“Got Ag?” from Holmen FFA – Holmen, WI

“Save the Farmer / Save the World” from Troy FFA – Troy, MO

“Aggie Road” from Sabetha FFA – Sabetha, KS

“Never Blending In” from Callisburg FFA – Gainesville, TX

“I Believe” from LaSalle FFA – Olla, LA

These chapters will receive 50 percent of the profits from the first year’s sales. Check out www.ffaulimited.org during May to purchase one of these prize-winning tees. This contest is a fun and challenging activity in which the entire chapter can participate and an excellent way to earn money. Congratulations to the winners!

Orders Due for the State Convention Merchandise Sales Program

Reminder – Any chapter wanting to participate in our State Convention Merchandise Sales Program must have their order placed by May 25 for shipping by June 8. This is a great opportunity to make extra money and play a key role in you state’s convention by providing FFA merchandise to attendees.

Remember Blue and Gold

Banquet season is here! Think of the Blue and Gold catalogs when planning your banquet 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.ffaulimited.org or contact a customer service representative, 888-332-2668.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED

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.

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, Ore. All FFA Alumni are invited to attend. See the attached invitation, registration form and tentative agenda. For more details e-mail alumni@ffa.org.

Don't Miss WLC!

Registration is now open for the 2007 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. Visit [WLC online](#) for details. Contact Cindy Hefner, 317-802-4256 or chefner@ffa.org, for registration questions.

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 80th 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.

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.

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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Visit www.ffa.org for more information