



NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION UPDATE

JANUARY 2024

Report provided by:
Ben Meyer
Western Region
State Relations Specialist
bmeyer@ffa.org
406-239-1213

2022-25 STRATEGIC PLAN

Three strategic priorities are designed to create a clear plan for meeting and exceeding our collective objectives through 2025. [Learn more](#) about the priorities, goals and talking points of the strategic plan as we evolve, engage and empower a brighter future for all.

BOARD APPROVES DELEGATE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING FFA CEREMONIES

During its May 2023 meeting, the National FFA Board of Directors approved the National FFA Delegates' recommendation to provide optional terminology for official FFA ceremonies. The board approved upholding the tradition of using mister or madam in official ceremonies while adding the option of using officer position and last name based on an individual's preference. The delegate-led Membership Experience Improvement Committee at the 95th National FFA Convention & Expo recommended this change. Read more about this decision on [FFA.org](https://www.ffa.org).

REMOVING BARRIERS TO FFA THROUGH 100% MEMBERSHIP

The National FFA Board of Directors continues to advance plans to enact 100% membership by the 2027-28 school year. Nineteen states currently follow the 100% membership model. State staff have reviewed three unique fee proposals and many states are engaging in conversations about how to enact the program in each state. In late October, state staff at their annual NASAE meetings will review a new fourth model that is a hybrid of earlier models and the current National FFA Affiliation fee table. Visit with your state staff if you have questions or ideas for the program. No specific fee model has been selected.

AFNR STANDARDS REVISION

The National Council for Agricultural Education (The Council) is continuing the process of revising the Agricultural, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) content standards. This process includes revising the eight existing pathways and developing a new pathway focused on agricultural education, communication, and leadership. In addition to revising the content standards, Career Ready Practices, AFNR Cluster Skills, and crosswalks will be updated. The revision process is expected to be complete in the spring of 2024.

NATIONAL QUALITY PROGRAM STANDARDS REVISION

The Council will begin the revision process for the National Quality Program Standards (NQPS) in January 2024 and is seeking volunteers to serve on the project working groups. All meetings will be held virtually and the project will require a 10–15-hour total time commitment from January to June. Those interested should reach out directly to Melissa Rekeweg at mrekeweg@ffa.org.



SAE FOR ALL TRAIN THE TRAINER

The Council, in conjunction with NASAE, is excited to announce the re-rollout of SAE for All Train-the-Trainer events. The Council will host two upcoming events — Jan. 25-26, 2024, and Feb. 8-9, 2024. The January dates will be at the immediate conclusion of the Ag Ed Inservice and the February event will be at the National FFA Center. In addition, a virtual training will be available. The goal is to train at least three individuals from each state, including a teacher educator, state staff and a classroom teacher.

Teachers interested in serving on a state SAE for All team should reach out to their state staff. To learn more about SAE for All, visit: <https://saeforall.org/>.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION CHANGES FOR 2024

Notification of the changes to the awards and recognition areas for future years was shared in August. [Click here](#) to view the full changes for the 2024 award/convention year including CDEs and LDEs, proficiency awards, agriscience fair, and national chapter awards.

VETERINARY SCIENCE CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

The 2024 Veterinary Science Career Development Event (CDE) will focus on two case-based scenarios that blend general knowledge, math, identification, clinical and handling/restraint practicums, and team activity. The two scenarios for 2024 will focus on vesicular lesion Investigations In swine, bovine, and equine and small animal wellness visits. Additional resources on these topics can be found [here](#).

ADDITIONAL CDE/LDE UPDATES

All updates to the 2024 events can be found in the [detailed summary of handbook updates](#). These include agricultural communications, agronomy, floriculture, horse evaluation, milk quality and products, and nursery/landscape career development events.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION TIMELINE OF CHANGES

Over the next two years, the timeline for the release of CDE/LDE updates and handbooks will be adjusted. The new [timeline](#) will be posted on the CDE/LDE webpage. This adjustment results in an earlier announcement of the Planning Guide and the release of final handbooks for the convention year.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The future framework of the National FFA Awards and Recognition Programs will be developed following a list of guiding principles. These guiding principles align with and are outlined in the National FFA Strategic Plan. More information about each of these guiding principles and the awards and recognition revision process can be viewed [here](#).

Any questions related to the guiding principles or revision process should be directed to Dr. Will Waidelich at wwaidelich@FFA.org. In addition, comments and recommendations can be submitted using this [form](#).

NATIONAL FFA WEEK RESOURCES

National FFA Week will be celebrated February 17-24, 2024. Resources including implementation guides and activity posters are available on the [National FFA Week page](#) of the website!



GIVE FFA DAY AMBASSADORS

The ninth annual Give FFA Day is Thursday, February 22, 2024, during National FFA Week. Help National FFA spread the word about the national giving day and the importance of giving back. The National FFA Foundation will choose up to eight passionate Individuals who will commit to helping spread the word through sharing, posting, and emailing what they love most about FFA. The selected individuals will receive an FFA swag bag in exchange for their volunteer service. Email GiveFFADay@FFA.org to receive an ambassador application.

2023 RETIRING ADDRESSES REPLAY AVAILABLE

Each of the retiring addresses of the 2022-23 National FFA Officers are available for replay. Visit the convention keynotes and retiring addresses [page](#) for the videos and activity sheets.

STUDENT HANDBOOK/WORKBOOK

The 17th edition of the National FFA Student Handbook, Workbook and Official FFA Manual are available for purchase or for digital download. Click [here](#) to purchase the handbook, workbook or manual.

The free digital version of the English handbook, workbook and grading key as well as the Spanish handbook and workbook are available [here](#). Online versions include the optional ceremony terminology. The PowerPoint presentations are updated to follow the 17th edition of the handbook.

SPANISH RESOURCES

A wide variety of resources are available [here](#) to support agricultural educators in meeting the instructional needs of Spanish-speaking students. This folder can also be accessed in the Educator Resources.

CHAPTER INSTRUCTIONAL KIT

ShopFFA now offers a chapter instructional kit that contains 10 Official Student Manuals, 10 Student Handbooks, 10 Student Workbooks, one set of student handbook posters and one wall chart. Buy the kit and save!

AgEXPLORER

Students can find their future in agriculture by exploring career focus areas in the new and improved [AgExplorer](#).

- 70 new career profiles
- New educator resources
- Improved MyCareer Quiz (formerly Career Finder)
- Three new career focus areas: sustainability, skilled trades and agricultural technology

SAE VIDEOS/CARDS

Check out new supervised agricultural experience (SAE) [videos](#) from FFA members across the country. The videos feature SAEs in farm research, worm farming, tractor restoration and crop production. This [general worksheet](#) can be used with the new videos.

The collection of SAE Idea Cards can be found in the Educator Guides section of the [Educator Resources](#) at FFA.org.



VALUE STATEMENT LESSON PLANS

[Lesson plans and student activity sheets](#) reinforcing the FFA Value Statements are now available. The value statements create a foundation for FFA to ensure opportunities and platforms are developed that open doors and remove barriers for every individual in agricultural education to experience premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

NEXT GEN CONFERENCES

The Next Gen Conference allows students to explore a specific pathway through informational sessions, panels and tours. Participants will experience new and emerging ideas, trends and products; cutting-edge technology; sustainability; and more. They will delve into literacy and advocacy as well as diversity, equity and inclusion all while exploring various careers in the pathway. The competitive application process is open to high school sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Applications for the agricultural communications conference to be held in March 2024 are closed. Applications for the food products and processing systems conference to be held June 25-29, 2024, close March 15, 2024. Applications for environmental service and natural resources conference to be held September 10-14, 2024, will close May 15, 2024. Application links and additional information can be accessed on the [Next Gen Conference page](#).

WLC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS

The Tribal Agriculture Fellowship is partnering with FFA to sponsor Native American high school students to attend Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) in Washington, DC. The scholarship covers registration fee, flights, and first and last day of travel. Additional information and the application are available [here](#) and must be submitted by February 1.

2024 AG DAY VIDEO ESSAY CONTEST

Students across the country are invited to enter the National Ag Day Video Essay Contest sponsored by the Agriculture Council of America. This year's theme is Agriculture in the Future: If I Had Two Minutes to Talk to a Farmer. Entries are due February 9, 2024. Additional Information about the contest and entries can be found [here](#).

GIVE THE GIFT OF BLUE

The purpose of this program is to gift jackets to members who would not otherwise be able to afford one. Based on the increase in applicants and to ensure each chapter has an equitable opportunity to have an application reviewed and a jacket awarded, there is currently a limit to the number of jackets each chapter is eligible to receive.

Applications are being reviewed and processed as funding becomes available. Typical turnaround time for jacket delivery is three to four weeks. There is still an urgent need for program support. Anyone can support Give the Gift of Blue at FFA.org/giveblue/.



SCHOLARSHIPS

The [National FFA Scholarship application](#) closes January 11, 2024. Check the [resources](#) button for a new How to Guide and FAQs.

Changes for the 2023-24 scholarship year include:

- New management system
- Advisor statement no longer needed
- Advisor receives email when student begins application

As a reminder, the following changes went into effect in the 2022-23 scholarship year:

- Open to FFA members only
- Essays and test scores no longer required
- Ford dealer endorsement no longer required
- One application for all scholarships with no opt-ins
- Scholarships available specifically for skilled-trade training
- Scholarships available specifically for physically disabled members
- Streamlined scholarship award collection process utilizing ACH transactions to institutions
- Members may apply up to four times provided they are of eligible FFA membership age and an undergraduate student
- Provide a personal email address (rather than one tied to a school) to ensure notifications are received
- Acceptance by the student recipient must be completed by May 31 to avoid forfeiting the scholarship funds

LOCAL SUPPORT

Several companies provide local chapter support through award programs and retail programs. Additional information can be found [here](#).

Companies include AGCO, Ram, Syngenta, Bloom for Good, Brevant, Country Meats, Culver's, Southern States Cooperatives, Zoetis and Wix.

ZOETIS INDUSTRY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Zoetis distributors, dealers, and veterinarians are eligible to enroll in the Zoetis Industry Support Program that designates 1% of eligible purchases to the local FFA chapter of their choice. Chapters are encouraged to reach out to express interest in the program and follow up after checks are distributed each fall to express gratitude and make an industry connection with animal health professionals. Enrollment is expected to open in the first quarter of 2024. Find full details and watch for open enrolment on the [Zoetis Industry Support Program flyer](#).

GRANTS FOR GROWING

Grants for Growing are funded by FFA paper emblem sales at Tractor Supply stores during National FFA Week. The grant is designed to support middle and high school FFA chapters in developing and improving project-based or experiential learning opportunities for students. Applications open in the spring of 2024. Learn more on the [Grants for Growing page](#).



LIVING TO SERVE GRANTS

Spring semester-long grant applications are due Feb. 1, 2024. Chapters can be awarded up to \$1200 to implement a service-learning project in their community for the semester. [Apply here!](#)

Mini-Grants provide up to \$400 for alumni or middle/high school chapters to conduct a one-time service event. Mini-grant applications are always open and due on the first of each month. Complete the application [here](#).

NATIONAL TEACHER AMBASSADORS FOR FFA

National Teacher Ambassadors for FFA are equipped to provide training and support related to the many educational resources and experiences offered through National FFA. State staff and agricultural teachers' association leaders are encouraged to view the [2023-24 ambassadors](#) to find teacher ambassadors in your state.

In serving teachers, National Teacher Ambassadors for FFA are expected to do the following:

- Present a minimum of one educational session about educational resources and opportunities on behalf of National FFA.
- Share or promote a resource or opportunity from National FFA every other month via state social media pages, state email lists, Ag Ed Discussion Lab on Facebook, Instagram or other relevant outlets.
- Be a positive, professional example to other teachers and stakeholders throughout the year of service and embody the FFA Value Statements in daily actions.

COMMUNICATION UPDATES

STUDENT EMAIL ADDRESSES

Students are encouraged to use a personal email address rather than a school address for all FFA communication to ensure waivers and contest, program, and/or award information is delivered and accessible. Entering the advisor's address for all students as a short-cut will result in delivery issues later.

CHAPTER AND TEACHER PROFILE

Now is a great time to verify the information in your chapter and teacher profile. New features include allowing advisors to opt-in to email notifications for required actions that need to be completed in the roster or chapter profile, easy chapter-to-chapter transfer of members in the roster system, and the ability to view from 50 to 500 members per page in the roster system. Verify the profiles yearly at <https://profile.ffa.org/Pages/MyProfiles.aspx?Profile=ffachapter>.

ShopFFA CONFIRMATIONS

Watch for a confirmation email shortly after placing an order with ShopFFA if a valid email address has been provided. Advisors are asked to verify spelling, quantities and sizes to ensure correct personalization in the production process. ShopFFA staff is glad to make any needed changes if the error is caught quickly!



AUTOMATED NOTIFICATIONS

Double-check your personal profile in FFA.org to verify notification preferences for distribution of information as well as the method of notification (email, text or both). Agriculture teachers can also opt in to certain notifications via their personal profile in FFA.org. This ensures state staff and teachers are receiving the appropriate bulk communication from National FFA, such as The FFA Weekly, delivered most Fridays. *Be sure to click all email lists you would like to subscribe to, even if you are already receiving emails.

Stakeholders who mention previously receiving this communication but who have not received it recently can be directed to sign up at [FFA.org/subscribe/](https://www.ffa.org/subscribe/).

LICENSING GUIDELINES

Chapters, state associations and state foundations have permission to use the FFA Name and Marks (including the FFA Emblem) to publicize and promote FFA through public information, promotions and publicity events, educational programs, and motivational programs. However, chapters and associations seeking to create and order items bearing the FFA Name and Marks should [complete a Transfer License Request](#). Not sure if the licensing transfer is needed? Reach out to licensing@ffa.org.

BRAND GUIDELINES

The [FFA Brand Guidelines](#) have been condensed into this [easy-to-use guide](#) to help members, advisors and state staff create engaging visual designs that are clean, consistent and brand appropriate.

POLITICAL EVENT GUIDELINES

Members, chapters and state associations interested in advocating and engaging in the law-making process are encouraged to review [this guide on representing FFA](#) without compromising the integrity of the organization.

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

This [social media guide](#) has been developed as a resource for evaluating content being considered for sharing via social media. This is a great tool for state officer teams, state staff and teachers promoting agricultural education and FFA through social media platforms.

ALUMNI UPDATES

ALUMNI CHAPTER GRANTS

Two different grant opportunities are available through the National FFA Alumni and Supporters. The Give Back to Your Roots Grant, supported by Nutrien Ag Solutions, allows local FFA Alumni and Supporters chapters to support local agricultural education programs. The Legacy Grant, supported by Tractor Supply Company, can be used to create local FFA Alumni and Supporters chapters or improve existing local FFA Alumni and Supporters chapters. Find more information on the [Chapter Opportunities page](#).



ALUMNI CHAPTER BENEFITS

A local FFA Alumni and Supporters chapter provides support to the agricultural education program and FFA chapter. Alumni and supporters chapters can provide memberships, services and benefits to an unlimited number of supporters for an annual fee. The \$100 annual fee allows a local alumni and supporters chapter to do the following:

- Use the FFA trademark emblems under the FFA Trademark Policy.
- Use the FFA 501(c)(3) status (application required, not automatic).
- Use the FFA membership management system.
- Create a local chapter network within the Forever Blue Network to help network and engage alumni and supporters worldwide.
- Use FFA brand and marketing materials.
- Attend educational training and member opportunities and events.

2024 ALUMNI CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

National FFA Alumni and Supporters Conferences provide chapter development opportunities with idea sharing, feedback collection, advocacy training, leadership, chapter business operations and more. During the Regional Development Conferences, a social gathering is held on Friday night for all who want to join.

Regional Development Conferences

- March 15-16, New Hampshire
- May 10-11, Iowa
- June 21-22, Alaska
- August 2-3, Tennessee

Remote Development Conferences

- April 1-4, 12-1 p.m. EDT
- July 15-18, 12-1 p.m. EDT

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

Register for the Alaska Experience with National FFA Alumni and Supporters! Participants will experience a four-day journey from June 22-25, 2024, in Anchorage, Alaska, that includes a variety of excursions. For additional information, visit the FFA Alumni and Supporters Events [page](#). The registration deadline is May 15, 2024.

NEW CENTURY FARMER

Each year the National FFA Organization selects an elite group of FFA alumni between the ages of 18 and 24 to attend the New Century Farmer Conference. New Century Farmer provides participants with an opportunity to advance leadership, personal and career skills. During the five-day conference, future producers will learn from each other and industry experts discussing the topics and issues that affect today's production agriculturists. Applications open Dec. 15, 2023, for the 2024 conference to be held in Des Moines, Iowa, on July 21-25. Additional information can be found on the New Century Farmer Conference [website](#).

NEED ALUMNI ASSISTANCE?

Contact alumni@FFA.org for support with any National FFA Alumni and Supporters programs.