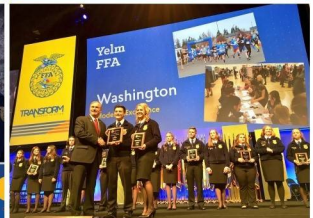
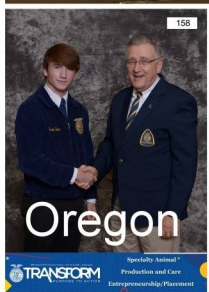
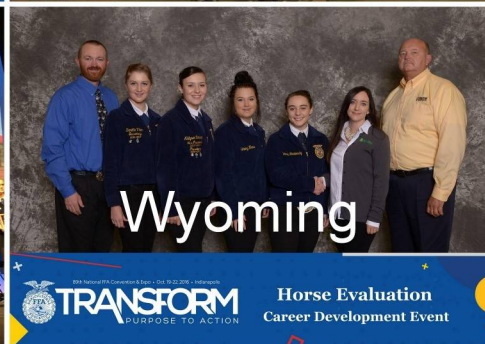




NATIONAL
FFA ORGANIZATION

Western Region LPS Update

Winter 2017



National Champions from across the West

1st place winners and champions from six states

The 89th National FFA Convention and Expo was a resounding success for western states crowning nine chapter and five individual national champions.

Convention reached 64,094 participants with 3,780 American FFA Degrees awarded and 1,188 members participating in the National Day of Service.

See the rest of the west's success on page 8.

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NAAE Region I Convention Winners and Photos

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Alumni Updates and Region I Conference

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National Ag Day Essay Contest

Page 20

News from the National FFA with a focus on the states of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming

FFA Environmental Grants Awarded

FFA chapters in 26 states and representing 42 communities were awarded grants for developing plans that address environmental issues in their communities. The grants will help them implement their plans. Chapters received up to \$2,000 in funds from FFA's Living to Serve: Environmental Grant Program.

The grants are provided through funding from CSX and Bayer as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Each winning project includes plans to invest the time of FFA members, community members and local leaders in a service-learning project that tackles issues of environmental work, sustainability, and/or restoration. Learn more [here](#).

WESTERN CHAPTERS RECEIVING GRANTS INCLUDE:

- California - Clarksburg-Delta FFA and Sunny Hills FFA
- Idaho - Deary FFA and Raft River FFA
- Utah - Granite Mountain FFA

Future Agriscience Teacher Symposium

Congratulations to the 18 preservice agricultural education majors who received stipends to attend the Future Agriscience Teacher (FAST) symposium November 29-December 3rd in Las Vegas, NV. FAST participants took part in targeted professional development and attended business sessions and networking events with agriculture teachers from across the country.

FAST Participants from the West included:

Noah Crosson - University of California - Davis

Andrew Miles - Oregon State University

Bailey Riedel - Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo

Jason Wetzler - Oklahoma State University (from Oregon)

Nevada earns top honors at Western National Range CDE

TEAMS REPRESENTING FOUR STATES INCLUDING ID, NV, UT, AND WY

The fifth annual Western National Rangeland CDE took place November 7-8 in Hailey, ID. As a cooperative project of the University of Idaho Rangeland Center, University of Nevada - Reno, Utah State University, the University of Wyoming, and the Idaho Rangeland Resource Center, the event focuses on five areas of western rangeland management. The CDE provides a career exploration component involving direct interaction with rangeland professionals from multiple local, state, federal, and private agencies.

The 2016 event saw 1st and 3rd place go to Wells and Ruby Mountain, Nevada while the team from Gooding, Idaho took 2nd place.



LOCAL PROGRAM SUCCESS

Local Program Success is an initiative of the National FFA Organization founded in the seven keys of [local program success](#). LPS specialists work in conjunction with staff at the National FFA Center to promote the programs, initiatives and mission of the National FFA Organization. LPS specialists help serve as an initial point of contact for state staff, ag educators, and stakeholders for a wide variety of issues.

In the west, your Local Program Success Specialist is Ben Meyer based in Stevensville, MT; bmeyer@ffa.org 317-802-4347.

Ben started with the National FFA in 2013 after serving four years as Idaho's state ag education supervisor. Before that, Ben was a high school ag teacher in Montana and North Dakota.





National FFA Foundation

LOCAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS = MONEY FOR YOUR CHAPTER AND STUDENTS

What is a local engagement program?



Local engagement programs, formerly known as dealer programs, are those that connect local businesses with local FFA chapters. They help build strong communities by developing relationships between the local business, the community and the chapter.

Additionally, local engagement programs are a great resource for chapters to secure funding, mentorship and engagement opportunities as well as develop long-term sustainable relationships. There is no limit to the number of programs or amount of money you can secure for your chapter.

LOCAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM DETAILS, AWARDS AND DATES:

												
Grants	\$800	Based on customer donations				Based on participation	Based on sales	Based on customer donations	\$300 \$400 \$750	\$500 TBD or \$1,000 TBD	Based on participation	Based on sales
Scholarships*	\$1,000		\$1,000	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$1,000				\$1,000 TBD		
Blue Jackets		Coming in 2016							X			
Program Date	Oct.- Nov.	Year-round	Oct.- Dec.	Aug.- Oct.		Aug.- Oct./ May-Aug.	Jan. 1 - March 31	March	March- Nov.	FFA Week	Redeem by April 30	Feb.- April

*To be eligible for scholarships ALL students - members/nonmembers - must apply at www.FFA.org/scholarships by Feb. 1, 2016.

How can I participate?

- Be sure you fully understand the parameters of each program.
- Contact your local qualifying dealer/retailer and let them know of programs that align with their business.
- Engage with your local dealers/retailers by inviting them to chapter meetings/events.
- Approach qualifying dealers/retailers and express interest in fundraising events to be held on location.
- Be sure your local dealer knows that space is limited and sign-ups are time sensitive (where applicable).
- Contact the National FFA Foundation at jedwards@ffa.org for more information.

For more information, visit www.FFA.org/localengagement.

New State Staff in the West

KENDRA DUSTIN - NEW FOUNDATION DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT IN IDAHO



Kendra Dustin has joined the Idaho FFA Foundation as their new Director of Development.

Kendra started at the first of January and looks forward to assisting current foundation executive director, Laura Wilder in growing the donor base and program reach of the foundation.

The Idaho FFA Foundation was recently named the Southwest Idaho region's Small Nonprofit Excellence Award winner.

The Idaho FFA Foundation has a strong history of student support and partnership with

various agricultural commodity groups and the Idaho FFA Alumni Council. Kendra looks forward to further developing these partnerships and growing new ones.

Kendra has a background in fundraising for several Idaho political campaigns and events as well as work experience in event planning and management.

Kendra and her husband Glenn live in Hendersonville, TN where she will work remotely for the Idaho FFA Foundation.

Contact Kendra
kendra@
amgidaho.com
208-859-6780

Alaska FFA Association wins national Hunger Heroes Challenge

NATIONWIDE 37,000 VOLUNTEERS RECORDED 191,322 HOURS OF SERVICE

The FFA Hunger Heroes Challenge encouraged students to help donate 3.5 million meals to local communities before the 2016 National FFA Convention & Expo in October. After each hunger service event, chapters reported impacts and shared their stories to take action and be eligible for a cash drawing. This year, the reported impact was a record-high of 3.8 million meals, with more than 37,000 volunteers recording 191,322 hours of service to fight hunger. Projects varied from community gar-

dens to assembling food baskets for underprivileged families.

This year, the state of Alaska had the highest percentage of chapters that reported impacts. More than 150 members in all middle and high school chapters volunteered 33,919 hours, and more than 35,000 meals and over 37,000 pounds of food were donated.

In addition, the chapters participated in a variety of activities.

One chapter dug up 500 pounds of potatoes and carrots to donate to local families in need while another chapter harvested food from their mobile greenhouse and outdoor garden to donate to the local community.

As a result, Tyson Foods, Inc. will provide a donation to a state-wide Feeding America Food Bank in Alaska.

Check out Alaska's Hunger Heroes overview video at right





NATIONAL
FFA ORGANIZATION

FFA VISION

Grow Leaders
Build Communities
Strengthen Agriculture



2016-17 FACT SHEET

FFA MISSION



Premier
Leadership



Personal
Growth



Career
Success

The National FFA Organization is an integral part of agricultural education by helping make classroom instruction come to life through realistic, hands-on applications. FFA members embrace concepts taught in agricultural classrooms nationwide, build valuable skills through hands-on experiential learning and each year demonstrate their proficiencies in competitions that showcase real-world agricultural skills.

Today's FFA has evolved in response to expanded opportunities available in agriculture and its need to hire skilled and competent employees for 235 unique careers. The organization also helps students prepare for careers in business, marketing, science, communications, education, horticulture, production, natural resources, forestry and many other diverse fields.

The agricultural education program provides a well-rounded, practical approach to learning through three components: classroom education, hands-on supervised agricultural career experiences and FFA, which provides leadership opportunities and tests students' agricultural skills.

FFA MEMBERSHIP

649,355 Student members
7,859 Local FFA chapters in the U.S., Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands
225,891 Alumni members
1,934 Alumni chapters

TOP 6 U.S. STATES

with largest FFA membership



115,630 Texas
83,917 California
40,881 Georgia
27,205 Oklahoma
25,806 Ohio
25,784 Missouri



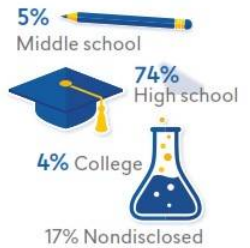
FFA members earn \$4 billion annually through hands-on work experiences and participate in and learn advanced career skills in 47 national proficiency areas that range from food science and technology to wildlife management and production agriculture.

GENDER*

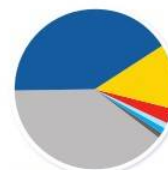


41% Male
32% Female
27% Nondisclosed

GRADE LEVEL*



RACE AND ETHNICITY*



41% White, Non-Hispanic
13% Hispanic/Latino of any race
3% Black, Non-Hispanic
1% American Indian
1% Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
1% Two or more races
40% Nondisclosed



Through 25 national career development events, FFA members are challenged by real-life, hands-on skill tests, preparing them for career success.

*Based on reported data



Find your Future in Agriculture

The National FFA Organization, Discovery Education and AgCareers.com have joined forces to create a robust career website to help students explore the broad range of careers within agriculture. Visit AgExplorer.com to learn more about 235 unique careers in agriculture while watching videos, exploring career pages and completing the interactive Career Finder.

CASE

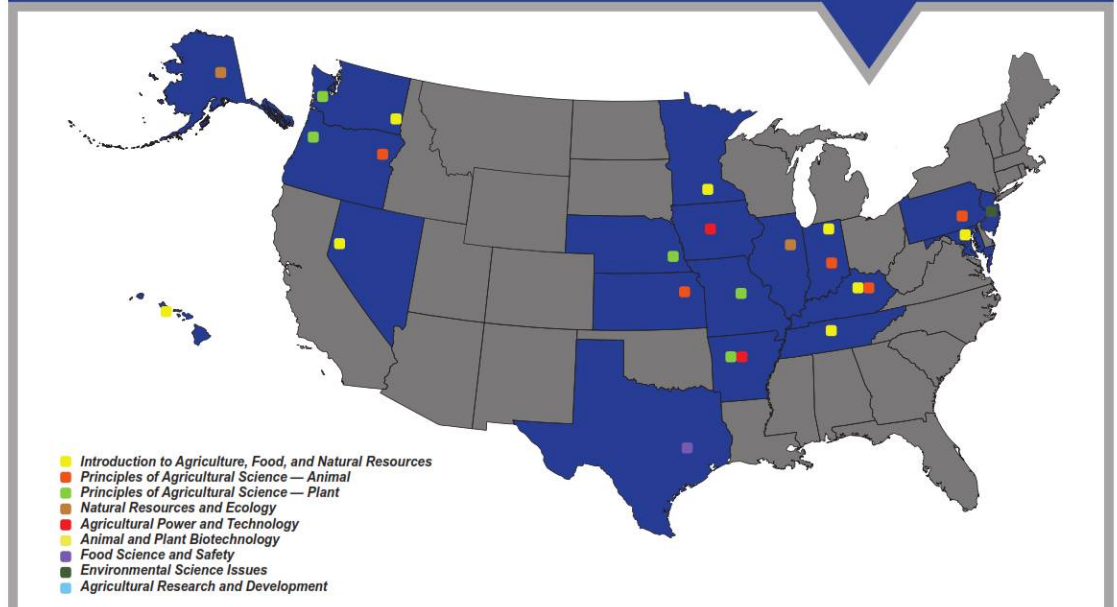
Institute Registration Open

NEW OFFERINGS IN
THE WEST IN ALASKA,
HAWAII, AND NEVADA

Registration is now open for the 2017 CASE Institute professional development series.

Find full details, pricing, dates, and information online at: <http://www.case4learning.org/index.php/professional-development/case-institute/case-institute-offerings>

Where will professional development take YOU this summer?



2017 CASE Institute Map

California Students Named to National Program

The National Agriscience Preservice Teacher Program encourages inquiry-based teaching methods to enhance the science in agriculture to preservice teachers in agricultural education nationwide.

This past fall, preservice teachers applied to attend an interactive, hands-on agriscience training program at the 2016 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN. Selected participants were challenged to develop inquiry-based lessons to use during their student teaching experience, as well as when they enter the teaching profession.

Program participants from the west included:

Noah Crosson and Stacy Stroing both from UC Davis in California

Delegate Recap Documents

During the 89th National FFA Convention & Expo, 466 student delegates from 51 state FFA associations convened in Indianapolis to conduct the business of the National FFA Organization.

This body was charged with reviewing and approving recommendations of standing and special committees, as well as considering changes to the Official Dress Guidelines.

Delegates also set membership dues for the 2017-18 membership year and approved the candidates for the American FFA Degree. To see a full recap of the work of this group, visit www.ffa.org/delegates.

Website Maintenance Information

National FFA will be conducting network updates on January 7. This may result in an inability to access certain information. The following applications/features will be affected by this maintenance window:

- Scholarships (**Please make sure teachers know**)
- National Officer Selection and related tools
- Connectivity of data to AET, JudgingCard and Wiegat Graphics

State membership systems may be affected depending on which data components are using legacy connectivity versus the new options made available this year. Shop FFA may also be impacted on this date. **Please plan accordingly.**

New National FFA Foundation Publication Posted

Be sure to take a look at the newest publications from the National FFA Foundation. The quarterly *Blue Jackets* newsletter is accessible by clicking the graphic below



NATIONAL
FFA FOUNDATION

Blue Jackets. Bright Futures!

Winter 2016

SAE Grant winners named in five western states

The SAE is a required component of a total agricultural education program and intended for every student. Through their involvement in the SAE program, students are able to consider multiple careers and occupations, learn expected workplace behavior, develop specific skills within an industry, and are given opportunities to apply academic and occupational skills in the workplace or a simulated workplace environment. Through these strategies, students learn how to apply what they are learning in the classroom as they prepare to transition into the world of college and career opportunities. Each fall \$1,000 grants are made available to students in grades 7-11 thanks to generous donors and the National FFA Foundation.

Congratulations to these western states' winners!

Alaska Matthea Boatright and Zachary Winther, Midnight Sun FFA and Andrew Martucci, Silent Springs FFA

California Emily Cullings, Citrus Hill-Perris FFA; Benjamin Hesser and Ava Mosley, San Andreas-Calaveras FFA; and Laila Souza, Corning FFA

Oregon Madison McDowell, Enterprise FFA

Utah Isaac Evans, Salem Hills FFA; Brittany Grover, San Juan FFA; and Garrett Grow, Weber FFA

Washington Mackenzie Shattuck, Connell FFA

2017 Scholarship Application is live

Students access the application through **FFA.org**. FFA members create **FFA.org** accounts using an **Invite** code or **FFA ID**. (Invite codes are obtained from their FFA advisors.) Students with existing FFA.org accounts sign in using those credentials.

DEADLINES: The 2017 scholarship application must be submitted prior to 5 p.m. EST Feb. 1, 2017. Signature Pages must be mailed postmarked no later than Feb. 8, 2017. **Note that the ffa.org site may be unavailable for scholarship submissions on January 7 due to website maintenance.**

For more information on scholarships, refer to the 11/5/16 email from Teri Buchholtz. Email Scholarships@ffa.org for more information.



2.2 MILLION AVAILABLE!

1 APPLICATION, MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES

1 in 4 students who apply obtain scholarships!



National FFA Convention Western Region Highlights

A LOOK AT TOP PLACING FFA CHAPTERS AND INDIVIDUALS FROM THE 10 STATE WESTERN REGION

Alaska

Gold individual in Environmental and Natural Resources; Agustin Pineda, North Pole FFA

California

National winning team in Agricultural Issues Forum; Galt FFA

National winning team in Agricultural Tech. & Mechanics; Bear River FFA

National winner in Extemporaneous Public Speaking; Andrew Skidmore, Atwater FFA

National winning team in Marketing Plan; Atwater FFA

National winning team in Parliamentary Procedure; O'Neals-Minarets FFA

National winner in National Chapter Award Program-Model of Innovation: Community Development; Exeter FFA

Hawaii

2nd place Gold individual in Plant Systems Agriscience Division II; Kacie Kajihara, Kalani FFA

Idaho

National winner in Diversified Livestock Production-Ent/Plc Proficiency; Ross Blattner, Kuna FFA

1st place Gold individual in Farm Business Management; Harrison Jansen VanBeek, Middleton FFA

Montana

2nd place Gold individual in Agricultural Sales; Nathan Wildeboer; Missoula FFA

Wyoming

National winning team in Horse Evaluation; Cheyenne Frontier FFA

National winning team in Meats Evaluation & Technology; Casper FFA

1st place Gold individual in Meats Evaluation & Technology; Sheridan Stewart; Casper FFA

National winner in Prepared Public Speaking; Trey Campbell, Casper FFA

Nevada

2nd place Gold team in Environmental and Natural Resources; Wells FFA

Washington

National winner in Equine Science-Ent Proficiency; Caleb McMillan, Wilson Creek FFA

National winner in National Chapter Award Program-Model of Excellence; Yelm FFA

National winner in National Chapter Award Program-Model of Innovation: Chapter Development; Omak FFA

Oregon

1st place Gold individual in Agricultural Sales; Ryan Berhorst, Yamhill-Carlton FFA

National winner in Specialty Animal Production-Ent/Plc Proficiency; Jake Bobo, Baker FFA

Utah

National finalist (top four) in American Star in Agriscience; Kaitlin Hallam, Spanish Fork FFA



89th National FFA Convention & Expo • Oct. 19-22, 2016 • Indianapolis

TRANSFORM

PURPOSE TO ACTION

YOUR FUTURE, TODAY!



Need to build a resume
but don't know where to start?
Use the FFA Resume Generator!

What is the Resume Generator?

The National FFA Resume Generator is your tool for saying goodbye to guesswork and writer's block and hello to success when creating your resume by:

- Focusing on your strengths
- Describing your experiences and skills
- Developing a polished resume

Visit **My Journey**
within *FFA.org*.

Development work of My Journey has been funded
in part by the following Cornerstone Sponsors:



FFA.org
f t i n o y

© 2015, National FFA Organization

NAAE Region I Winners

OVER 200 NAAE MEMBERS FROM THE WEST GATHERED IN LAS VEGAS, NV NOV 29-DEC 3 FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, PROGRAM PLANNING, AND RECOGNITION OF PREMIER EFFORTS



Agriscience Teacher of the Year Idaho's Trent Van Leuven



Outstanding Agriculture Education Teacher Montana's Tom Andres



Outstanding Secondary Agriculture Program California's Tulare HS



Reported attendance by state at NAAE Region I meeting role call

- Alaska - 2**
- Arizona - 7**
- California - 38**
- Hawaii - 0**
- Idaho - 21**
- Montana - 12**
- Nevada - 14**
- Oregon - 79**
- Utah - 13**
- Washington - 15**
- Wyoming - 13**

Workshop presentations from western NAAE members

California

Anna Bates, Jodi Evans, Erin Gorter, and Lauren Peterson

Idaho

Max Blitman, Dr. Jeremy Falk (x3), Dr. Kasee Smith, and Dr. Kattlyn Wolf

Nevada

Cody Sanders

Oregon

Dr. Kristopher Elliot and Dr. Misty Lambert

Utah

Megan Cooper

Outstanding Post-Secondary Program Oregon's Treasure Valley CC



Lifetime Achievement

Oregon's Dale Crawford



Ideas Unlimited

Arizona's Curtis Willems



NAAE Region I Winners

OVER 200 NAAE MEMBERS FROM THE WEST GATHERED IN LAS VEGAS, NV NOV 29-DEC 3 FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, PROGRAM PLANNING, AND RECOGNITION OF PREMIER EFFORTS



Oregon's Nick Nelson elected to top NAAE post

Delegates at the 2016 NAAE Convention elected Oregon's Nick Nelson to the position of president-elect on the final day of the annual gathering.

Nick will rotate through a three position service appointment serving in 2017 as president-elect, 2018 as president, and 2019 as past-president of the 7,800+ middle, secondary, and post-secondary agriculture educator professional organization.

Nick grew up in southern Oregon, obtained his undergrad in California, a masters degree from Oregon State University and started teaching secondary ag ed in 2002.



In 2007, Nick moved into the postsecondary system where he is an agriculture instructor at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton, OR.



Outstanding Young Member California's Natalie Ryan

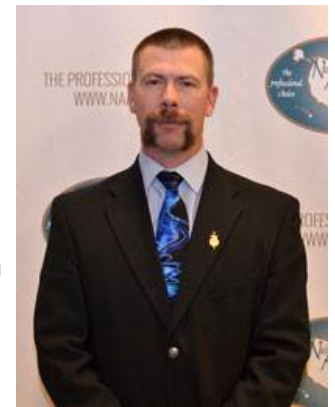


Teacher Mentor Oregon's Leah Smith



Montana Teachers fill Leadership Posts for NAAE Region I

Bringing nearly two decades of teaching experience to the role, Montana's Chad Massar will serve a three-year term as the NAAE Region I Vice President. During this time, Chad will represent the western 11 state block at the national level. Chad will coordinate the annual Region I meeting (Wyoming in 2017, Utah in 2018, and Alaska in 2019) and make presentations at various ag teacher professional development conferences and meetings throughout his three year term.



Eric Tilleman will serve as the Region I NAAE secretary. This one-year renewable post will see Eric helping Chad with various meeting logistics and record keeping duties at both the regional conference and national event during his term of service.

Eric has been an ag educator at Cascade High School south of Great Falls, MT since 2004. Eric is the captain of his town's volunteer fire department and the 2014 Montana CTE Teacher of the Year.

2017 TSC Grants for Growing



GRANTS FOR GROWING™

TSC IS PROUD TO SUPPORT FFA!



DOES YOUR FFA CHAPTER OR AG DEPARTMENT

NEED \$500?

APPLY TO WIN FROM 1/13-2/13
PROGRAM RUNS DURING NATIONAL FFA WEEK (2/17-2/26)

See details on reverse side.

WHAT IS IT:

Grants for Growing is a competitive grant process where chapters submit an application outlining a new or existing ag project. The grants are to be used to enhance Ag Ed programs by providing money to complete or improve current sustainable projects or start new sustainable Ag Ed projects where the Tractor Supply Company name can be incorporated. These chapter grants will allow for a greater impact in local communities and enhance a chapter learning experiences.

WHEN IS IT:

Application period – Jan. 13 – Feb. 13, 2017

Fundraising – FFA Week/February 17 – 26

Winners announced – Early April

Checks mailed – Late April

WHERE IS IT HAPPENING:

Application - online at ffa.org/grantforgrowing – login required

Promotion - social media, list serves, web sites, radio, television, flyers

Fundraising - Tractor Supply Company & Del's retail locations

Projects - Local communities, high schools

WHO DOES IT INVOLVE:

FFA chapters

- Apply for chapter grants to support existing or start new ag projects
- Promote and engage at TSC store (when possible) during the Grant for Growing fundraising period

State Foundation

- Encourage local chapters to apply for Grant for Growing chapter grant
- Receive 10% of the funds raised in their state during FFA
- Help promote during the Grants for Growing fundraising period

Tractor Supply Company & Del's retail locations nationwide

- Partner with local FFA chapters during FFA Week to encourage donations of \$1 or more at check out
- Retail staff to ask customers making purchases to include donation of \$1 or more raise funds in support of the Tractor Supply Company Grant program, Grants for Growing

WHY IS IT HAPPENING:

Impact communities and as many FFA chapters as possible where Tractor Supply Company Stores are located.

HOW IS IT FUNDED:

The funds will be raised through student interactions in the stores, which will help to drive sales of paper emblems at checkout for \$1 or more. Additional fundraising opportunities, approved by store management, may also be available.

Transitions

CALIFORNIA'S JEANETTE LOWE

After 16 years as the regional supervisor for California's Superior Region in the north eastern corner of the state, Jeanette Lowe is moving on to new opportunities.

Jeanette grew up in northern California and had a very successful 13 year teaching career at Hamilton High School, a small community west of Chico.

Jeanette oversaw growth and progress during her time managing and leading the ag education programs in northeastern California.



MONTANA'S CAROL PERISHO

After two good years as the Development Director for the Montana FFA Foundation to return to secondary education as a high school counselor.

Carol joined the Montana FFA Foundation in 2014 and helped the non-profit grow with record breaking years and new corporate and individual donors.

Carol helped usher in a new era for the foundation including the hiring of additional staff and programs to support youth in FFA.



WYOMING'S JENNIFER WOMACK

Jen took on the management of the Wyoming FFA Foundation in 2010 and never looked back. Now after seven years as its leader, Jen is stepping aside as she looks forward to spending more time with her kids as they enter middle and high school.

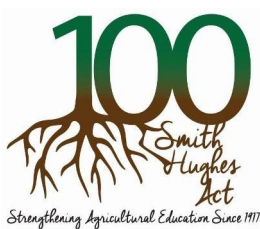
Jen led the Wyoming foundation to impressive growth in part, thanks to creative programs she developed including *Bulls for Blue*, *Blue Jeans Ball*, and various western themed golf events.



State Officer Leadership Continuum

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO STATE OFFICER PROGRAMS?

At the 2015 National FFA Inservice, Shane Jacques and Austin Large unveiled an ambitious plan to redesign the State FFA Officer Leadership Continuum by 2018. While no changes will happen in 2017, the two education specialists are excited to report that the project remains "on track" with curriculum revision beginning this month. Shane and Austin are planning a full unveil of the new continuum at this January's inservice in Indianapolis which will include a special "prototype" experience unique to each state. Those state staff who are responsible for coaching, developing and managing state FFA officers will want a front row seat for this session! **All state staff who manage state officers are asked to bring a list of annual state officer events to the inservice session**



Smith-Hughes at 100!

2017 marks the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the Smith-Hughes Act. This legislation had a profound and lasting impact on Career and Technical Education. Stay tuned for more information on activities and celebrations during National FFA Week. Check out the video.



FFA Brand Center

OVER A DOZEN DOWNLOADS AVAILABLE IN A WIDE VARIETY OF FORMATS

Visit and login to the new www.ffa.org to see and download the refreshed FFA emblem along with tools and resources for student, alumni, advisor, and state staff publishing and graphic needs. Find a quick start download guide at: <https://www.ffa.org/ffa-brand-center/downloads/>

FFA Emblem General Use | Professional | Web

Instructions on using the FFA emblem (PDF)



YOUR FUTURE, TODAY.

My Journey is your 'Go To' place to **Explore** videos, activities, and personality quizzes; **Build** your own successes for current and future roles and; **Connect** your stories to opportunities and experiences across the country.

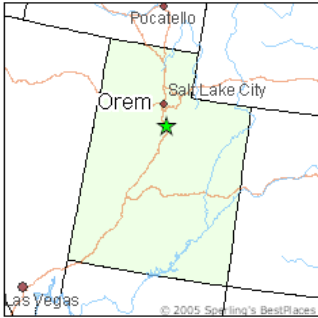


VISIT **MY JOURNEY** WITHIN **FFA.ORG**



FFA Alumni News

ALUMNI PROMOTION, EXTENDED HOURS, AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



Make Your Way To Utah

OREM, UT SET TO HOST 1 OF 2 WESTERN REGION ALUMNI DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCES

Join National FFA Alumni staff and regional leaders in Orem, UT February 3-4 for a free professional development event.

The National FFA Alumni Association is bringing professional, personal and FFA alumni development to the masses. Knowing that not everyone can attend our annual national events, we're hitting the road to host regional development days. These events are meant to engage individual members, local FFA alumni leaders, state FFA alumni leaders, agricultural educators and others involved with agricultural education.

The event format allows for networking and socializing with fellow FFA alumni, idea sharing and collecting feedback to address obstacles, learning and training in areas of advocacy, leadership, affiliate business operations and more

[Download the agenda](#)

[Register here by January 22, 2017](#)

A second western region conference is scheduled for May 19-20 in San Luis Obispo, CA. Watch for details this spring.

2017 FFA ALUMNI
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE
OREM, UTAH
FEB. 3-4, 2017

Schedules and registration for each regional event will be posted online at:
FFA.org/gotordc
#FFArdc

Fall New Visions Newsletter

The Fall Issue is online! [Click here](#) to see this issue as well as past issues anytime.

Modified Hours Business Hours

National FFA alumni staff are available from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST on the first and third Mondays of every month (holidays and the weeks of the National FFA Alumni Development Conference and the National FFA Convention & Expo excluded).

Call 317-802-4204 with your questions on membership, rosters, chartering, reactivating, conferences, tax exempt status, awards applications and more and someone will be happy to assist you. They look forward to hearing from you, FFA alumni!

Be Featured in the Next Issue of New Visions

Do you want to be featured in the next issue of New Visions? The official publication of the National FFA Alumni Association is looking for your examples of what your Alumni Affiliate is doing to help their local FFA Chapter they support. Submit your idea to National FFA staff member, Jada Buchanan at jbuchanan@ffa.org.

2016 State Alumni Winners

Blue Blazer Western States
Oregon and Washington

100% State Officer Alumni Member
Western State - Washington

Alumni Legacy Grant - Kennewick, WA

See full list of winners [here](#).

FFA Board Minutes and More Now Online at FFA Archives

Some new documents have been added to the National FFA archives online collection. Digitized copies of 80 years of FFA board meeting minutes—from 1928 through 2008—are now available at <https://archives.iupui.edu/handle/2450/283/browse?type=dateissued>.

A wealth of information about FFA's history is available 24/7 at the National FFA archives website. You can browse through copies of convention Proceedings here <https://archives.iupui.edu/handle/2450/2398>.

Or, you can read full copies of the *FFA New Horizons* magazine and its predecessor, *The National Future Farmer*, here <https://archives.iupui.edu/handle/2450/2473>.

Trying to remember who won the American Star Farmer Award in 1965? You can find that information here (click on National FFA Award Winners, 1928-2008): <http://www2.ulib.iupui.edu/special/ffa>.

With 104 cartons, 20 flat boxes, 5 cassette boxes and 3 document boxes of materials, plus 166 videotapes and 58 films, the FFA archives is an amazing storehouse of FFA history. Take an online tour or stop by the archives at the University Library on the IU-PUI campus in downtown Indianapolis. Our FFA history comes to life at the FFA archives!

National FFA Living To Serve Grant Changes

2017 WILL SEE CHANGES TO SERVICE GRANTS TO BE MORE INCLUSIVE OF NEW FOCUS AREAS

Project Focus Areas

The Living to Serve Community Development Grant series will launch in January 2017 and applications for the 2017 -2018 school year will open in spring 2017. The FFA: Food For All and LTS: Environmental grants, as they currently exist, will be phased out with the end of their grant cycle in December 2016. Chapters will still be able to apply for funding related to hunger and environmental projects through the new Living to Serve Community Development grant series; however, they may experience a small gap in funding as we shift grant cycles to align with the academic calendar.

FOCUS AREA: COMMUNITY SAFETY

Addresses concerns regarding the safety of community members and the preparation, response and

recovery efforts that relate to emergency preparedness and natural disasters.

*Potential Needs to Investigate**

- Teen safe driving
- Farm safety
- Recreational safety
- ATV
- Hunting/Fishing
- Water
- Emergency Preparedness
- Farm safety mapping
- Mock emergency drills
- Home and community safety plans (fire, flood, tornado, hurricane, etc.)

FOCUS AREA: HUNGER, HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Addresses unmet food insecurity needs, increasing physical activity and improving healthy habits to promote physical and mental well-being of the community.

*Potential Needs to Investigate**

- Food security (production needs)
- Community gardens
- Laying hens
- Other protein sources
- Pork
- Beef
- Chicken
- Fish
- Canning and preservation
- Seed library
- Food security (distribution needs)
- Backpack programs
- Home delivery
- Physical activity
- Healthy food preparation

FOCUS AREA: ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Addresses issues regarding air and water quality, energy and water efficiency, at-risk ecosystems and conservation to protect and sustain the natural systems upon which all life depends.

*Potential Needs to Investigate**

- Recycling (paper, aluminum, electronics, farm materials, etc.)
- Composting
- Wildlife and Animal Conservation

- Pollinator Health
- Spay & Neutering
- Land Preservation
- Restoring Wetlands, Prairies, etc.
- Outdoor Learning Labs
- Soil and Water Quality
- Natural Disaster Recovery

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Addresses matters related to heritage and traditions, connections between community members and

civic responsibility throughout the community.

*Potential Needs to Investigate**

- Inclusion and diversity
- Building accessibility ramps
- "Mix it up at lunch" days
- Ag Literacy
- Tutoring
- Mentoring
- Teen Bullying
- Living History
- Local farmers
- Veterans
- Grandparents and parents
- Neighborhood Enhancement
- Winterization
- Roadside Cleanup
- Beautification

**Not an exhaustive list of needs for focus area*

2017 National Ag Ed Inservice

JANUARY 31- FEBRUARY 2 IN INDIANAPOLIS

Registration for the 2017 National Ag Ed Inservice is now available at <https://register.ffa.org/event/60516>. The event will be at the Sheraton Indianapolis at Keystone. Housing and certain ground transportation options are addressed in the registration system. Stipends are available to provide travel assistance for participants.

Stipends are intended to ensure there are representatives from each state representing the following Team Ag Ed stakeholder groups:

- State Ag Ed Supervisor
- State FFA Executive Secretary
- State FFA Alumni Leader/Council
- State FFA Foundation Director
- State Teachers' Association Leader and/or teacher educator

Information on stipends for your state can be accessed by contacting your states FFA Local Program Success (LPS) Representative. Please note that individuals must register for the conference before receiving their travel stipends. Registration is now \$275.

Please feel free to contact Ben Meyer (bmeyer@ffa.org) or Tony Small (tsmall@ffa.org) for further information on the program or registration.



FFA Week Materials

DELIVERED NATIONWIDE IN DECEMBER

theme "Transform" in the classroom and school. You will also find various flyers and posters educating members about programs available through FFA, scholarship opportunities and enhancements to the FFA.org online experience.

Find downloadables and additional info at: <https://www.ffa.org/participate/events/ffa-week>

Have you had a chance to look at the great material sent to teachers for National FFA Week?

The packet includes materials to promote this year's FFA Week



Leadership and Conference Presenters from the west named to National Teams



Congratulations to the facilitators and leaders recently hired by the National FFA Organization to provide training and leadership at BLAST-Off and NLCSO.

BLAST-Off trainers will work with new state officer teams this spring and summer providing a one-of-a kind CTSO team and individual leadership growth platform

The team of fifteen BLAST-Off trainers includes two from the west:

Christina Lorenz - Oregon

Jason Wetzler - Oregon

NLCSO staff work with current National FFA Officers to deliver team based training to sets of state officer teams this summer.

The team of ten NLCSO facilitators includes three from the west:

Nessie Early - California

Joe Matteo - Oregon

Hannah Nelson - Washington

Levy Randolph - California

Changes in LPS State Assignments

Beginning January 1, 2017 some states will have new LPS Specialists.

Kevin Keith will be covering the New England states (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts). Kevin formerly worked as a LPS specialist serving the eastern US. Kevin has been with National FFA since 1996. He was state staff and an ag teacher in Wisconsin prior to joining the National FFA.

Karen Hutchison will be picking up Virginia, West Virginia, and Ohio. Karen started with the LPS team in 2014 after nearly three decades as state staff in Delaware. She taught secondary ag ed prior to her time as state staff.

Frank Saldana will add Alabama to his area in the south eastern US. Frank is one of the National FFA's most tenured employees starting in 1994. Prior to joining the national staff at the old headquarters site in Alexandria, Virginia, Frank taught high school ag ed in Texas.

Larry Gossen adds Kansas to his list of states. Larry is a Kansas native and former KS ag ed teacher and state supervisor. Larry joined the LPS team and National FFA staff in 2005. States picked up by Frank and Larry were formerly in Nina Crutchfield's region. Nina will continue to serve the south central US. Nina joined the LPS team in 2007 after 15 years as an ag educator in Arkansas

Jim Armbruster will serve Michigan and Indiana. A former Arizona ag ed teacher, Jim started with National FFA in 1998 and has led and managed numerous programs over the years.

Ben Meyer starts his fifth year as a LPS specialist in 2017 and will see no changes to his region.



Local Program Success (LPS) Team



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Effective 1/1/2017

New Names and Faces at National FFA

NEW HIRES* THAT ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE AS YOU DELIVER FFA AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS

**Not inclusive of all new hires. Names below reflect new National FFA staff that may have frequent contact with state staff and local advisors.*

Justin Davis, a past state officer from Kentucky, has joined the leadership development team as a program manager. Specifically, Justin will work with the National Leadership Conference for State Officers and the National FFA Delegate Process. Justin will also coordinate state staff and delegate housing for the National FFA Convention.



New Century Farmer Applications Open

NATIONAL FFA'S PREMIER PROGRAM FOR STUDENT DEVELOPMENT IN TECHNICAL AGRICULTURE

In today's global economy, farming is an exciting, fast-paced and high-tech career. The New Century Farmer conference helps students develop their careers in production agriculture by providing them with an opportunity to advance their:

- Entrepreneurial Leadership
- Practical Knowledge
- Visioning
- Global Perspective
- Continuous Personal Growth

The 2017 New Century Farmer Conference will be held July 16-22, 2017, in Des Moines, Iowa.

How to Apply

Login to FFA.org

[How to create an account](#)

[2017 New Century Farmer application](#)

Complete application [Application Rubric](#)

Verify and submit application on or before Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017.

State FFA Officers to South Africa

OREGON AND WASHINGTON REPRESENTED ON THE TRIP

75 state officers representing 20 state FFA associations will depart the United States on January 4th for Johannesburg, South Africa as part of the 2017 International Leadership Seminar for State Officers. Sponsored by Bunge North America and John Deere, the National FFA Organization's ILSSO program gives state officers a glimpse into global agricultural production as part of a twelve-day experience abroad. State officers completed eight weeks of online coursework leading up to their departure, which will equip them to be culturally intelligent guests of our South African hosts.

Officers will be marking their journey on social media using **#ILSSO17** which will publish to a newsfeed at <https://pulse.ffa.org/> (just click the photo of the rhino). The trip participants will have plenty of information to upload and they hope to interact with supporters back home. They want you to make this a conversation by letting these students "live to serve" the wonder and curiosity of you and your students! Here are a few ideas...

Tweet at us (@FFAShane) with questions for South African farmers and agribusiness leaders.

Comment on Instagram posts and ask us to share what we've learned.

Compare South African commodities with those grown in your communities.

View their travel itinerary at https://www.ffa.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/ilssso_itinerary.pdf. These students are lucky enough to see the world...thanks for enabling them to bring the world to your classroom through the power of social media!

WESTERN OFFICERS PARTICIPATING IN ILSSO:

Oregon - Shea Booster, Liberty Greenlund, Hailee, Patterson, Bryson Price, Raymond Seal, and Zander Seal

Washington - Megan Gould and Luke Moore

Give the Gift of Blue

Do you know any students who need or want a FFA jacket but can't afford to buy one? There are two ways to request a jacket for a deserving student. Encourage students who need jackets to complete the application or nominate students as a teacher or alumni. Go to <https://www.ffa.org/giveblue> to contribute or to access the application.

National FFA is excited to see how so many students and chapters are requesting jackets for deserving students through the Gift of Blue application process. Due to the number of requests, applications may not be processed immediately. All approved applications are filled as funding becomes available.



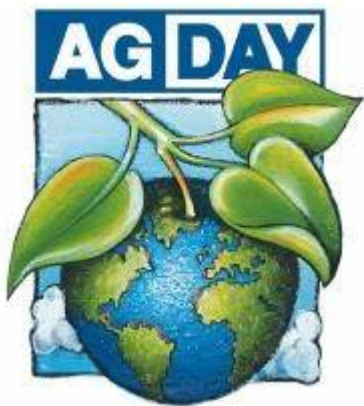
National Ag Day Essay Contest Posted

[2017 Rules](#)

[Essay Contest Entry Form](#)
(Microsoft Word .doc format)

2017 Ag Day Essay Official Contest Rules and Guidelines

Official Topic: "Agriculture: Food for Life "



1. The 2017 Ag Day Essay Contest is divided into two categories of competition: written essay and video essay. Both are national competitions.
2. Contestants must compose an original written essay and/or video essay with limited guidance from adults, teachers or agricultural industry professionals. Interviews with industry professionals are acceptable research; input beyond research is unacceptable.
3. Agriculture Council of America (ACA) will have the right to publish or otherwise duplicate any essay entered in the contest, along with the author's name, without payment to the author.
4. All entries must be **received at the Agriculture Council of America office by midnight CST, January 31, 2017**. Visit <http://www.agday.org/essay-contest> for more information.



NATIONAL FFA
WLC

2017 WLC Information Posted

WLC registration will open on Wednesday, March 1st 2017. Visit <https://www.ffa.org/participate/conferences/washington-leadership-conference> for detailed program information including 2017 prices and dates.

2017 Chapter Tee Contest

The chapter tee contest is back. Entries are due February 24 and should be sent to entries@ffa.org. Check out the complete information on the following website: <https://www.ffa.org/chapter-tee-contest>.



A 2016 Chapter T-Shirt Contest finalist and winner above.

Finalist chapters earn 50% of their shirt's proceeds during the first year of sales.

National FFA Teacher Ambassadors

In the summer of 2016, the National FFA Organization invited 25 motivated ag ed teachers of varying backgrounds to Indianapolis for a week of FFA resource training.

From the west, National FFA Teacher Ambassadors include:

California - Amanda Samons, Willows;
asamons@willowsunified.org

Idaho - Katie Cooper, Salmon;
katie.cooper@salmon291.org

Montana - Brandon Braaten, Corvallis;
brandonb@corvallis.k12.mt.us

Nevada - Michelle Burrows, Reno;
mburrows@washoeschools.net

Oregon - Christina Lorenz, Amity;
clorenz@perrydale.k12.or.us

Washington - Tamara Whitcomb, Deming;
twhitcomb@mtbaker.wednet.edu

National FFA Teacher Ambassadors have extensive training on FFA online resources and educational tools. Invite an ambassador to your states' next professional development event. They're ready to conduct and offer workshops for you.

Great Savings with La Quinta

La Quinta Inns & Suites is offering 10 percent off your stay. FFA friends, families, sponsors - anyone can use the code NAFFA for the discount, and a portion of the proceeds goes to support FFA. The code can be used at participating La Quinta locations. Book now at www.lq.com/naffa.

