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## NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

### State Relations Team NAAE Regional Update 2020

- Agricultural Education for All  
Find [information](#) about Agricultural Education for All including the inclusion, diversity and equity (IDE) roadmap
- 93rd National FFA Convention & Expo, October 27-29, 2020  
Didn't get a chance to visit all of the expo booths, watch all the workshops and general sessions, or travel through the 3D FFA Blue Room virtual experience? No problem! The event platform remains available to those who registered and activated their accounts for the 93rd National FFA Convention & Expo. Anyone can also go to [FFA.org](http://FFA.org) and watch each of the general sessions where members were recognized for their achievements, the band, chorus and talent put on amazing performances, and the new 2020-21 National FFA Officer Team was announced.

Teachers: If you are looking for great ways to incorporate convention content and videos into the classroom, check out the 93rd National FFA Convention & Expo Implementation Guide. ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#)) ([Student Worksheets-Google Docs](#)).

- Student Programming  
We will continue to provide updates as they are made. The best place to stay informed is through Mark's weekly emails and Christine White's weekly emails sent to state FFA staff.
- Educator Resources  
Access hundreds of turn-key, free resources [here](#).
- Teacher Professional Development – Owl Chat Sessions  
Owl Chats are professional development opportunities for FFA advisors. Veteran advisors, state FFA staff, national FFA staff and industry experts present educational resources, leadership strategies and more to help you identify creative ways to manage your chapter and find solutions to common problems. View all archived sessions [here](#).
- Horizon Conference focuses on production agriculture.  
Junior or seniors in FFA, or members who have recently graduated and are passionate about production agriculture, are encouraged to take a look at the Horizon Conference, **Jan. 9-10, 2021**.

The Horizon Conference is a new virtual conference to cultivate the next generation of leaders in production agriculture. More information about this conference, including a schedule and registration information, is coming soon. [Learn more about this conference](#) and sign up to have updates on this conference sent straight to your students' inboxes!

- [Living to Serve Grants](#): Grants available to support a community need that falls within one of four focus areas: community safety; hunger, health and nutrition; environmental responsibility; or community engagement.
  - Day of Service Mini-Grants: rolling grants up to \$400
  - Semester-Long Service-Learning Grants: awards up to \$1,200
  - Yearlong Service-Learning Grants: awards up to \$3,000

- Career and Leadership Challenges

New for 2020-21, Career and Leadership Challenges are designed for individual members to explore, create and have fun while they compete using skills in the areas of agriculture, food and natural resources. Challenges are not a replacement for career and leadership development events, but they will complement them and classroom instruction.

These challenges are designed to be student-led. Top entries will be publicly recognized, and throughout the challenges, members can win FFA swag. To learn more about Advocacy and Literacy Challenges and other future challenges visit [the challenges website](#).

Challenges include:

- Agricultural Advocacy and Literacy Challenges, one challenge held each month from October through May
- Animal Evaluation Challenge, Nov. 9 – Dec. 7
- Power, Structure and Technology Challenge, Dec. 9 – Jan. 13
- Food Product Development Challenge, Jan. 11 – Feb. 1
- Floral Arrangement Challenge, Feb. 5-26
- Animal Health Challenge, March 2-30

- FFA Blue Jacket Programs

FFA chapters can contact their local **Culver's** locations to enroll restaurants in the Culver's Thank You Farmers FFA Blue Jacket Program, which provides blue jackets to local FFA chapters.

FFA chapters can contact their local **Syngenta** retailers to enroll locations in the Syngenta Blue Jacket and Rising Sun Programs, which provides blue jackets and grants to local FFA chapters.

Please observe local social distancing guidelines for contact. For more information, visit the [local engagement programs page](#) now through Jan. 31, 2021.

- FFA Alumni and Supporters News

National FFA is excited to announce that the Forever Blue Network is now available as an app on iOS and android devices! From the Apple Store, download the Graduway Community app and type "National FFA Organization" as your institution. From the Google Play Store, download the Forever Blue Network app. Be sure to check out groups and resources specifically for agricultural education teachers!

All FFA Alumni and Supporters chapters will now pay the flat affiliation fee for both their state (if applicable) and national levels, removing individual member dues. Visit the [Quick Guide to Submitting FFA Memberships](#) for instructions. For help accessing your membership roster, reach out to your state membership contact. There is no longer an exemption from the annual fee for chapters with 25 lifetime members.

The annual fee structure allows alumni and supporters chapters to use:

- Trademark emblems under the National FFA Organization's [Trademark Policy](#).
- The National FFA Organization's [501c3 status \(application required\)](#).
- The National FFA Organization's membership management system.
- The National FFA Organization's [marketing materials, educational trainings, member opportunities and events](#).

If you have any questions or need help accessing your batch detail, please contact your state membership contact or [alumni@FFA.org](mailto:alumni@FFA.org).

- National FFA and COVID-19

- Find the latest information concerning COVID-19 related to National FFA operations at [www.ffa.org/preparedness](http://www.ffa.org/preparedness).

- Give the Gift of Blue

- Nominate or have students complete the application for free FFA jackets and a scarf/tie for qualifying members. Advisor approval is required, [FFA.org/giveblue](http://FFA.org/giveblue).

- Wix Filters Annual Box-Top Redemption Program  
WIX® Filters continues the box top redemption program with FFA where they will donate \$.25 to FFA chapters for every official WIX box top redeemed.

The four chapters that submit the most box tops will receive a \$1,000 bonus. WIX will also send a \$1,000 check to the chapter that shows the highest percentage increase over last year's fundraiser, and bonuses are in addition to the money each chapter earns for each box top.

To help support their local FFA chapters and generate more box tops for donation, participating auto parts stores will display posters and promote the purchase of WIX Filters.

Chapters can collect the box tops all year round.

The local store can work with the chapter by placing a collection box on their counter and letting the customers know they are collecting as part of a fundraiser for the FFA chapter.

**Redemption dates: March 1 to April 30, yearly**

For more information, visit [FFA.org/financial-assistance/](https://www.ffa.org/financial-assistance/).

- AGCO Chapter Grants and Scholarships  
We are excited about our partnership with AGCO for another year of chapter grants and scholarships for FFA chapters. At a cost of \$500 to each dealer, which is then matched by AGCO corporate, this program benefits local FFA chapters. Each dealer can enroll through Dec. 13, 2020 by [clicking here](#).
- Built Ford Tough Scholarships  
We are partnering again this year with Ford for scholarships for local chapters. Each dealer commits \$500 per scholarship, which is then match by Ford corporate. Please connect with your local Ford dealers to encourage them to support your local chapter [through Dec. 13, 2020](#), by [clicking here](#).
- 2021 National FFA Scholarship Application Opened Nov. 1  
All scholarship resources are available and there are two videos to walk students and advisors through completing the application process. Visit the [scholarship website](#) for all the latest information and resources. **Applications deadline is January 14, 2021.**
- Agriscience Fair, American Star and Proficiency Cash Award Claims Due  
All cash award claims are due by Dec. 1. Please remind Agriscience Fair top 3, American Star Finalists and Proficiency Finalists to have this information submitted on time. Failure to submit the information will result in forfeiture of funds.
- Career Development Events  
The [2021 Agricultural Communications Media Plan And Practicums Topics](#) and [2021 Veterinary Science Team Activity Topic](#) have been posted to "Convention Information" on the event websites.  
The National FFA Floriculture CDE committee in cooperation with the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD) has prepared a Teacher/Advisor seminar that offers a series of 11 videos exploring the elements of floral design. Advisors completing the workshop are invited to participate in the AIFD Symposium Scholarship Opportunity which awards scholarships to four teams to participate in the July 2021 AIFD National Symposium in Chicago, IL. [Floriculture Teacher/Advisors Seminar](#)
- Convention Awards Shipping  
This year American FFA Degree Certificates will be mailed directly to the recipient. All other awards (Agriscience Fair, Proficiency, American Star, National Chapter and CDE/LDE National Qualifiers) are being shipped to the chapter. Awards will be sent by the end of November. For questions or if awards do not arrive by January, please email the program staff.
  - Agriscience Fair, National Chapter – Madeline Young ([Myoung@ffa.org](mailto:Myoung@ffa.org))
  - American FFA Degree, American Stars, Proficiency Awards – Jennifer Preston ([Jpreston@ffa.org](mailto:Jpreston@ffa.org))
  - Career and Leadership Development Events- Morissa Meehan ([mmeehan@ffa.org](mailto:mmeehan@ffa.org))