



NATIONAL FFA UPDATES

Summer 2021

New CEO

Scott Stump CEO as of June 21, 2021

- Past ag teacher
- Past state ag ed staff
- Past State FFA Advisor (Colorado)
- Past Assistant Secretary for CTE at the federal level

Full press release at: <https://www.ffa.org/the-feed/scott-stump-named-new-ffa-chief-executive-officer/>

Board Priorities

- Successful in-person 94th National FFA Convention and Expo
- Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Value Statements
- Cooperative work and success of new CEO
- Sustainability
- 100% membership by centennial year of 2028 or sooner

94th National FFA Convention & Expo

In-person convention

- Attendance caps not expected
- Room and venue capacity caps are possible
- All major convention components expected to take place in-person
 - Except for Blue Room – fully virtual in 2021
 - No state and chapter photos
- Lucas Oil Stadium for all sessions
- Housing opens July 14 1pm EDT
 - Both chapter and state housing blocks
 - September 8 – last day for no penalty cancellation
 - Housing closes September 30, 5pm EDT
- Registration opens September 15, 6pm EDT

Report courtesy of:

Ben Meyer
Western and Midwest
State Relations Specialist

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bmeyer@ffa.org

94th National FFA Convention & Expo - continued

- Expect direction on minimizing crowd congestion if this is still required by the venue, city, county, state, and or CDC in October
- Registration
 - Early/in housing block \$70
 - Standard \$90
 - Onsite \$95
 - Daily (early) \$40
 - Daily (onsite) \$48
 - Concert \$55
 - Rodeo \$35
 - Career Success Tours \$23
- Check the FAQ section at: <https://convention.ffa.org/faq/> for ongoing updates and current information

National CDEs and LDEs

Essential to check website frequently if you have a team or individual advancing to the national level in 2021

- <https://convention.ffa.org/awards-recognition/>
- <https://www.ffa.org/cdes/2021-cde-and-lde-status/>

All CDEs and LDEs will have both virtual and in-person components

- Some events will have the number of teams narrowed before the in-person event
- All teams and individuals must be certified by August 2
- Drop/add deadline varies by even
- In-person event reviews and award announcement open to all state winning teams
- Nor formal team photos in 2021
- No awards banquet in 2021
 - Awards recognition program offered in-person and streamed virtual

American FFA Degree

2021 American FFA Degree approved candidates will be announced by mid-August

- A congratulations message, including a link to the convention orientation packet will be sent to each candidate's email, copied to FFA advisors and state staff.
- A list of approved candidates will be posted online to the American FFA Degree webpage of FFA.org as will the orientation packet.
- 2021 National FFA Convention and Expo will include an in-person American FFA Degree Ceremony. Candidates are invited to be present and receive their certificate and key on stage.
 - Information will be sent to the email listed on the application
- Certificates and Keys not picked up will be shipped.

Questions? Please contact americandegree@ffa.org

American Star Awards

2021 Finalists for each star category announced by late July.

- A congratulations email including a link to the finalist orientation packet will be sent to each finalist and copied to their FFA advisor and state staff.
- Finalists will be posted online to the American Star Award webpage of FFA.org as will the orientation packet.
- 2021 Finalist interviews will be conducted remotely via video conference in late August
- All finalists are invited to attend the convention to be recognized live on stage where the winner will be announced.

Questions? Please contact stars@ffa.org

SAE Grants

SAE Grant application system will open the first week of September and closes Nov 15. Grant recipients announced, mid-Dec and money awarded by mid-February, 2022.

- The SAE Grant application is available only through the FFA.org Application Center
- A limited number of competitive grants of \$1,000 each will be available for selected member to start or expand an SAE project.
- The description of available grants and the number of grants available in 2021 will be announced when the application opens.
- Applicants should only complete one application for multiple grants.

Questions? Please contact saegrants@ffa.org

Agricultural Proficiency Awards

2021 Finalists for each agricultural proficiency award area announced by first week of August.

- A congratulations email including a link to the finalist orientation packet will be sent to each finalist and copied to their FFA advisor and state staff.
- Finalists will be posted online to the Agricultural Proficiency Awards webpage of FFA.org as will the orientation packet.
- 2021 Finalist interviews will be conducted remotely via video conference in September.
- All finalists are invited to attend the convention to be recognized live on stage where the winner will be announced.

NEW 2020-21 Agricultural Proficiency Award national competitors will receive bronze, silver or gold national rating medals based on their rank from National Finalist Selection Judging. Medals to be shipped to the chapters post national convention.

Questions? Please contact proficiency@ffa.org

Agriscience Fair

Agriscience Fair project category recommendations/assistance: Teachers, please contact National FFA for recommendations or assistance on project categories. For assistance in determining your project category, fill out the [Category Determination form](#).

- New classroom [resources](#) will be available this summer
- Agriscience Fair Lesson Plans
- Agriscience Fair written report examples

Information regarding Agriscience Fair can be found on FFA.org

Reminders for 2021 Agriscience Fair at Convention:

- National Finalists Results will be posted online to the Agriscience Fair webpage in August
- All finalist interviews will be held virtually in September. Orientation Packets and Interview times will be released online in early August.
- All unclaimed in-person and bronze rating awards will be shipped to chapters after convention.

National Application:

- Data should not be added to projects after state level qualification.
- Data should be current, collected within the previous 12 months, and relevant.
- Manual checklist can be located [here](#)

Agriscience Fair - continued

General Rules

- Applications will be scored during the national finalist selection process in July.
- A maximum of 10 national finalists will be named in each category and division

2021 National finalists will be announced online at ffa.org by Aug 6, 2021

- National finalist interviews will be held virtually in September.
- Interview times and dates will be released with the convention orientation packets online in early August.

Questions? Please contact agriscience@ffa.org

CDEs and LDEs - 2021

The 2021 events are hybrid events. All events will have both virtual and in person components. Hosting hybrid events will leave more time, space and requires fewer resources to produce in person during convention. For some events this will include reducing the number of teams invited to compete in person. CDE & LDE changes and details for 2021 can be located on the event status tracker webpage – [CDE/LDE Status Tracker](#). Virtual component dates will be announced by June 1.

Additional Dates to note:

- Declaration - July 1
- Certification/Uploads due August 2 — 2021 Drop/Add process shared Aug. 3.
- Orientation Packets to be posted on FFA.org approximately one month prior to the first virtual component. All orientation packets will be posted the first week of August.

Even if a team does not advance to the in-person level, all teams are invited to take part in convention awards and activities associated with each event. No student changes will be permitted once the virtual components have started. In person components will require participants to compete in person in Indianapolis. These will not be offered virtually.

Changes to the In Person experience includes the following:

- In person event reviews & award announcements will be open to all event teams in attendance and shared virtually.
- Team Photos: Organized team photos will be replaced this year with photo areas in appropriate areas for students/teams to take their own photos.
- Award Meal Banquets will be replaced with Awards Recognition programs which will be open to all event teams and shared virtually.

CDE and LDE Advance to In-Person Event

CDE/LDE	Who Advances
Ag Comm	Semi-Finals & Final Round
Ag Issues	Semi-Finals & Final Round
Ag Mech	Top 50% after virtual
Ag Sales	Top 50% after virtual
Agronomy	Top 50% after virtual
CCM	Semi-Finals & Final Round
Creed Speaking	Semi-Finals & Final Round
Dairy Cattle	All advance after virtual
Employment Skills	Semi-Finals & Final Round
ENR	Top 50% after virtual
Extemp Speaking	Semi-Finals & Final Round
FBM	Top 50% after virtual
Floriculture	Top 50% after virtual
Food Science	Top 50% after virtual
Forestry	Top 50% after virtual
Horse Eval	All advance after virtual
Livestock	All advance after virtual
Marketing Plan	Semi-Finals & Final Round
Meats	All advance after virtual
Milk Quality	All advance after virtual
Nursery/Landscape	Top 50% after virtual
Poultry	All advance after virtual
Prepared Speaking	Semi-Finals & Final Round
Vet Science	Top 50% after virtual

National Chapter Awards

Are you looking for your students to create new ideas or activities for your program? Are you in a rut? Each year the National FFA National Chapter program releases a publication highlighting the 45 National Chapter Finalists, along with key items in helping chapters with Program planning and developing a quality chapter Program of Activities. The [2020 National Chapter Recognition Guide](#) is available. In addition to the recognition guide, be sure to check out the [Program of Activities Resources](#), to help your chapter get recognized for all the hard work that is done throughout the year.

Reminders for 2021 National Chapter Awards Program:

- All finalist interviews will be held virtually in September. Orientation Packets and Interview times will be released in Early August.

National Chapter Awards - continued

- All unclaimed in-person convention awards will be shipped to chapters after convention Application:
- Form 1 requires a minimum of 9 activities and a maximum of 15 activities. This adjustment was made for this year to recognize the difficulties in planning activities due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Photos of virtual events are appropriate. Screenshots of a zoom meeting or social media "Live" event are acceptable.
- List of potential deductions was revised, and two deductions were removed for the 2022 application.

General Rules

- Applications will be scored, and a final rating will be given during the national finalist selection process in July online judging).
- 10 finalists will be named in the following divisions:
 - Models of Excellence
 - Premier Chapter: Building Communities
 - Premier Chapter: Strengthening Agriculture
 - Premier Chapter: Growing Leaders
- 5 Finalist will be named in the following division:
 - Middle School Model of Excellence

Finalist presentations and interviews will be held virtually in September.

Interview times and dates will be released with the convention orientation packets in early August.

Questions? Please contact nationalchapter@ffa.org

Awards and Recognition Program Committees

Interested in providing guidance and direction for CDEs, SAE awards, Degree programs, etc.? Annually, the Awards and Recognition teams evaluates the needs of their committees. Recruitment of new committee members happens annually in the first quarter of the new year. Be on the look- out for more information in National FFA weekly emails.

Awards and Recognition Program Revisions

All awards and recognition programs are continually being reviewed and updated. Adjustments are made on as needed basis with the larger program changes released the year prior to implementation in the annual mid-year announcement. This allows for states to implement the changes ahead of the national competition. Annual program updates are released just prior to the start of the calendar year. Updates will be provided first to state staff via regular weekly National FFA communications and then posted online. Major event changes will be released in the summer of 2021 and minor changes in the first quarter of 2022. Questions on program revisions, please contact Rebecca Carter at rcarter@ffa.org

Seeking National Judges

Are you interested in serving as a judge for national level applications and events? National FFA Organization is seeking individuals interested in serving as judges for national level Agriscience Fair, CDE/LDEs, National Chapter, Agricultural Proficiency Awards, American Star Awards and SAE grants. Judging opportunities take place both online and in-person.

Sign up to judge at:

<https://form.jotform.com/210693976384065>
Questions? Please contact judges@ffa.org

Roster Enhancements

Reformatting the radio buttons at the top of the name grid to be more intuitive and more easily show student login info

Improved Login to ffa.org

- New steps designed to minimize users creating duplicate accounts
- Increased preventative measures to help members create an account that links to their membership
- Option to allow Facebook or LinkedIn to auto-login
- **Primarily for alumni and non-student users**
- No change for existing accounts

FFA Brand, Look, and Aesthetic

- Refreshed look and visuals for FFA
 - Update roll out started last year
- Free and easy-to-download graphics, headers, icons, colors, etc.
- New fonts that are free and pre-installed in MS Office
- Website update coming
 - Some structural change
- No change to the emblem
- Access graphics, icon, and template library at: <https://ffa.app.box.com/v/Brand-Files-2020>



Leadership Programs

WLC is being planned for 2022

- Expect details, prices, policies for attendance in late 2021
- Normal seven-week schedule
- Revised curriculum including modified and new items
- Find more information at: <https://www.ffa.org/conference/washington-leadership-conference-wlc/>

212°/360° is now the FFA Member Leadership Series: Mission and Impact Conference

- Still a two-part (younger/older) student program
- Curriculum alternates odd/even years
- Individual chapters CAN host these conferences
- Options to bring in national presenters or supply your own presenters and use the national curriculum
- Contact Kate Wehby with interest in hosting a chapter, district, or regional FFA Member Leadership Series Conference; kwehby@ffa.org

Living to Serve Programs

- National Day of Service – moving to nationwide local, in-person program
 - Formerly a single day at National Convention in Indy
 - Now a nationwide opportunity to engage locally
 - Select opportunity to engage in-person at convention too
 - Taking place in October and February, annually
 - Learn more at: <https://convention.ffa.org/national-days-of-service/>
- Continued opportunity for chapter service grants
 - Year long – due in June - \$3,000
 - Semester long – due Sept or Feb - \$1,200
 - Mini grants – rolling monthly deadlines - \$400
 - Learn more at: <https://www.ffa.org/livingtoserve/grants>

Scholarships

- Open to ag majors and non-ag majors
- Expect application to open in November
- Expect due date in January of 2022
- Important to secure Ford dealer sign up during the enrollment window and make the scholarship competitive locally

Scholarship Facts to Consider

Scholarships that support two or four-year degrees	33%
Scholarships that only support certificate or specialized training	<1%
Scholarships that only support only four-year degrees	25%
Scholarships that support any major	26%
Scholarships that support non-ag specific majors	16%
Incoming collegiate freshman who received scholarships	78%
Collegiate sophomores who received scholarships	12%
Collegiate juniors who received scholarships	7%
Collegiate seniors who received scholarships	3%
Scholarships that do not require a minimum GPA	56%
Scholarships that require a minimum GPA of 3.5	44%
Scholarships that require a minimum GPA of 3.0	<1%
Scholarships that require a minimum GPA of 2.5	26%
Average GPA of scholarship recipients in 2021	17%

Merchandise/Conference Billing and Invoicing

- Online access to bill payment and invoice portal forthcoming – not inclusive of membership invoices
- Watch for a new option on your chapter profile to add your “billing contact”
- Billing contact will receive an email invitation to set up online payment and invoice access
- Can be shared with school business clerk
- Invoices from National FFA are first sent via email
- If emailed invoice goes unpaid, hardcopy invoices is mailed
- Update incorrect information at the bottom of any invoice you receive

Local Fundraising Opportunities

2021 Opportunities

AGCO Dealer Chapter Grants

AGCO will match dealer-sponsored chapter grants providing financial assistance to a total of 100 dealer selected local chapters.

Enrollment for dealers: August 9 - December 13, 2021.

Local Chapter Benefit: A chapter will receive \$800 and the state FFA association will receive \$200. Grants will be paid during FFA Week 2022.

Ford Dealer Scholarship Program

Ford will match each \$500 commitment made by their local dealer network to support scholarships for local FFA chapters.

Enrollment for dealers: August 9 - December 13, 2021.

Local Chapter Benefit: A student member in your chapter who fills out the National FFA scholarship application will receive a \$1,000 scholarship

2022 Opportunities (Please note all 2022 opportunities are subject to change)

Culver's Essay Contest

Students may submit written essays (1,000 words or less) and videos (five minutes or less) in response to an annual prompt.

Essay Submission Timeline: February-April

Local Chapter receives: Three winners will be chosen to receive funds for their chapters in the amounts of \$7,500, \$5,000 or \$2,500

Local Fundraising Opportunities - continued

Red Brand Keystone Wire and Steel

Every new order of Red Brand Field Fence, Sheep & Goat Fence, Barbed Wire, Red Brand Non-Climb and Keep safe V-Mesh Horse Fence, Red Brand 2x4 Welded Wire and Red Brand Poultry Netting placed by dealers will result in \$1 donated to a local FFA chapter in the dealer's name (\$.50 for Red Brand 2x4 Welded Wire and Red Brand Poultry Netting).

Enrollment for Retailers: January 1 - March 31

Local Chapter Benefit: For every roll ordered between January 1 – December 31, up to \$1.00 is donated to the FFA chapter designated by the dealer in the dealer's name.

Zoetis Proud to Support FFA Retail Sales

The Zoetis industry support program allows local veterinarians who sell select Zoetis cattle products to choose up to five (5) local FFA chapters or state FFA associations/foundations to receive rebate support.

Enrollment for local vets: January 15 – April 30

Local Chapter Benefit: 1% rebate of that veterinarian's sales of those products up to a maximum of \$1,000 per designated chapter and \$100,000 in total to all designated chapters/state associations.

Ram Dealer Chapter Assistance Program

Ram will match dealer-sponsored chapter grants providing financial assistance to a fixed number of dealer-selected local chapters. Support is for local FFA chapters to support community improvement programs, food drives, and educational opportunities.

Enrollment for Dealers: FFA Week - May

Local Chapter Benefit: \$1,500 per grant

Darling Blue Jacket Program

Darling Ingredients partners with the National FFA to connect local Darling Ingredient facilities to local chapters through a grant and a blue jacket.

Enrollment for Plants: FFA Week - May

Local Chapter Benefit: \$500 grant and blue jacket

Syngenta Rising Sun

Syngenta Seed Retailers partner with the National FFA to support local chapters with financial assistance.

Enrollment for Retailers: FFA Week - May

Local Chapter Benefit: \$500 grant

Local Fundraising Opportunities - continued

Syngenta Blue Jacket

Syngenta Crop Protection Retailers partner with the National FFA to support local chapters with a grant and a blue jacket.

Enrollment for Retailers: FFA Week - May
Local Chapter Benefit: \$1,000 grant and blue jacket

Culver's Blue Jacket

Culver's franchises across the nation have the opportunity to sponsor their local chapter(s) by providing a blue jacket to those members that cannot afford one.

Enrollment for Restaurants: FFA Week - May
Local Chapter Benefit: Blue jacket

Southern States Paper Emblem Sales

After an emblem is purchased, a name can be signed on the line. The emblems will then be displayed in the store for the general public to see. Proceeds are split between the local FFA chapter, the state FFA association and the National FFA Foundation.

Sales Period: March 1 – March 31

Wix Filters

WIX® Filters offers a box top redemption program with FFA in which they will donate \$.25 to a local FFA chapter for every official WIX box top redeemed. Local farmers, truck owners, repair shops, garages and auto parts stores can all help FFA chapters earn money. Collect as many WIX box tops as you can and send them in to redeem.

Redemption Dates: March 1- April 20

Local Chapter Benefit: Each local chapter will receive \$.25 for each box top redeemed. The four (4) 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 year-over-year percentage increase. Bonuses are in addition to the money each chapter earns for each box top.

Syngenta Grow More Experience Sites

Syngenta hosts Syngenta Grow More Experience Site Events with Golden Harvest Agronomy in Action around the country.

Enrollment for Retailers: April - September
Local Chapter Benefit: Chapters who download the Syngenta App and register 20 attendees will receive a \$100 donation from Syngenta.

Local Fundraising Opportunities - continued

Brevant Turn the Bag Blue and Gold

As a part of Corteva Agriscience, Brevant™ seeds is proud to partner with the National FFA Organization on the Turn the Bag Blue & Gold program. Brevant seeds, in partnership with select local FFA chapters, is providing an opportunity for FFA members to learn, gain valuable experience, and raise funds for their local chapters.

Fundraising for Chapters: April - September

Local Chapter Benefit: Brevant seeds will donate proceeds of the Turn the Bag Blue & Gold program to the local participating FFA chapter, as well as aligned state associations and the national organization, based on units sold by the local participating chapter.

Ongoing

Country Meats

Country Meats is here to help you #MeatYourGoals! Their online order form makes it easy for you to choose any combination of more than 12 flavors. You get six bags per case and each bag can be a different flavor.

Local Chapter Benefit: Local chapter receives 45% profit on each snack stick and Country Meats provides ten free snack sticks in each case.

Bloom for Good

Bloom for Good provides local fundraising opportunities for local chapters through the sale of FFA Travel & Saving Membership—a digital coupon platform. The program can be combined with selling physical cards that are personalized for the local chapter. Memberships are valid across the United States so they can be sold to friends and family no matter where they live. There is no money due upfront for local chapters.

Local Chapter Benefit: FFA Travel & Savings Cards are sold for \$20 each and the local chapter keeps \$14 profit per card sold with an additional portion of the proceeds designated to the support of the local chapter's state association and National FFA.

Additional information on all local fundraising programs can be found at

<https://www.ffa.org/financial-assistance/>

Shop FFA

- No more Blue and Gold catalogs
 - Merchandise and awards inserts in the February and August editions of New Horizons
- Lots and lots of custom proficiency, award, contest, and events pins beyond what is offered at the national level
- Merchandise center has been impacted by global pandemic shipping, supply, transportation, and logistics issues
- If you place a “need-by” date on an order, call or email a few days prior to your date to check status
 - This does not offend our customer service staff
 - National FFA would rather you call to check ahead of time versus calling after the date has been missed and there are fewer options to help you
- Call 1-888-332-2668 for order help and customer service

Educator Resources

FFA Student Handbook

Moving to online only. Available now and ongoing in English and Spanish. Download now in the entire handbook format. Individual unit downloads forthcoming

Want a print copy before they're gone? Order at: <https://shopffa.org/item/NSTH17-0000/STUDENT-HANDBOOK-16TH-EDITION/>

Educational Resources: Table of Contents

National FFA has [established a table of contents document](#) with a description of some of the most popular and new resources found in Educator Resources – including an easy reference for using resources online or offline.

<https://ffa.box.com/v/EducationalResources>

The Agriscience Fair classroom resource:

Lesson series to guide students through the Agriscience research process. Skills learned through this process are in alignment with the Agriscience Fair award area. (**the link will be available in mid-June**)

Educator Resources - continued

Resources Translated Into Spanish

National FFA is excited to bring you our newly translated Spanish resources. Thanks to funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, we have translated 15 educational resources, including lessons on the Official FFA Student Handbook and SAE videos; a current events activity sheet; SAE idea cards; and more. Check out the resources at

<https://ffa.box.com/s/t44afpgxghy2e01w9znrfaqpwbrqe0dd2>.

New Horizons Digital Lessons

Check out the newly created lessons based on content shared in the online New Horizons news area. Each lesson has accompanying student activity sheets and are available on a variety of topics: Vineyards, rodeos, engines and much more.

<https://ffa.box.com/s/0dbbakixqly9u7eny08nrxcmm1tfq6>

Alumni and Supporters

Alumni and Supporters Grants

September 1 is the remaining 2021 alumni and supporter grant deadline. These grants can provide \$500 to start or improve alumni and supporters chapters, \$1,000 to partner student and alumni members on projects or \$5,000 to fund student affiliation fees and plant science based projects and classroom materials. All grant recipients must submit a grant report form by February 1. For more information and a copy of the grant application, visit [FFA.org/alumnigrants](https://ffa.org/alumnigrants). Grants can be submitted by email to alumni@ffa.org.

Remote Development Conferences

Join a National FFA Alumni and Supporters Remote Development Conference to share ideas and learn more about how volunteers can help students and teachers at the local and state levels. The remaining 2021 RDC is August 9-12 from 1-2 p.m. EDT. For an agenda and zoom meeting information, visit www.FFA.org/GoToRDC or email alumni@ffa.org.

Alumni and Supporters - continued

Forever Blue Network for Teachers

The Forever Blue Network can be a useful tool for teachers to connect with FFA alumni and supporters, encourage mentorships and share ideas. Teachers can create an account at <https://ForeverBlueNetwork.org>. Using this [WebQuest](#), teachers can also help enroll and engage junior and senior agricultural education students in the Forever Blue Network.

Membership Roster Update

Beginning with the 2021-22 membership year, all FFA Alumni and Supporters chapters will be required to pay the national annual fee and any applicable state fees, along with maintaining a membership roster with a minimum of 10 annual/life members to be considered active annually. The annual fee will no longer be tied to the submission of a membership roster but will be issued at the beginning of the membership year. More details will be sent out closer to the beginning of the membership year. The annual fee covers a chapter's ability to:

- Use the FFA trademark emblems under the FFA Trademark Policy.
- Use the FFA 501c3 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 from around the world.
- Use FFA brand/marketing materials/educational training/member opportunities and events.