



2021 SAE BASED AWARD & DEGREE APPLICATION UPDATES

Please find details of program and application updates made to the American FFA Degree, American Star Award and Agricultural Proficiency Award applications for the 2021 award cycle.

American FFA Degree

- **Submission Deadline:** As previously announced, to ensure applications can be submitted and reviewed prior to the National FFA completion deadline the following changes are now in effect for the American FFA Degree review process.
 - June 15 remains the deadline for state submissions.
 - All nationally requested corrections/clarifications must be re-submitted **by June 30**.
 - State approved applications submitted to National FFA by **March 15** are guaranteed to be reviewed and returned to states at least two weeks prior to the June 30 deadline.
 - Applications submitted by states after March 15 are not guaranteed two weeks notice to make corrections and resubmit if necessary.
- **State Application Review**

To assist in state level review of American FFA Degree applications please remember the following resources, both of which are linked below and available in the State Staff Resources folder in the State Staff Dashboard, neither are new or updated:

 - [Community Service Guidelines for FFA Degrees](#)
 - [American FFA Degree Manual Review Sheet](#)
- **Current & Accurate Candidate Contact Information**

Please help American FFA Degree Candidates realize the importance of ensuring the contact information in their degree application will remain current through March of 2022. This includes phone numbers, email addresses and mailing addresses. This information is vital for National FFA to communicate instructions and information regarding participation in the American FFA Degree Ceremony and to deliver American FFA Degree certificates and keys to any unable to attend convention. Certificates and keys that are returned to National FFA, due to insufficient mailing addresses, will be bundled and sent to the states later in the year.

American Star Award

- No application changes for 2020-2021
- Updated versions of the American FFA Degree with Star applications can be submitted through June 15

Agricultural Proficiency Awards

Submission Process

- July 1 state to national online submission deadline remains unchanged.
- National competing applications will continue to be submitted **electronically** for national level judging. Submission of hard copy applications is not accepted. Detailed instructions for state submission will be coming soon.

Application Updates

- Two minor updates have been made to the Agricultural Proficiency Award application.
 - The requirement to identify gender has been eliminated from the application entirely. This is an automatic change and requires no action.
 - The Supplemental Information section has been altered to allow a single document (PDF) rather than a single page to be uploaded as part of the application. This allows, but does not require, an applicant to upload a multi-page PDF document to support the SAE.

Area Updates

- No changes to the available Agricultural Proficiency Award areas were made for 2020-21.

Award Judging

- Regardless of the type of convention conducted, the 2021 National Finalist Selection (*summer judging*) and National Winner Selection (*formerly judging conducted at convention*) will be conducted virtually for the American Star and Agricultural Proficiency Awards.

National Finalist Selection will take place virtually in July with finalists announced in early August.

National Winner Selection will be conducted via live video conference in September.

- Agricultural Proficiency Awards – interviews
- American Star Awards – interviews

Finalists will be recognized and winners announced during the 2021 convention sessions.

NOTE: The pre-recorded videos used as part of the 2020 award judging will not be used for the 2021 process.