



Greetings!

As a National Teacher Ambassador for FFA, I wanted to share some general updates from National FFA.

As always, please reach out with any questions.

Thank you!

Educational Development & Evaluation Team:

- **NEW! 2023 Fall-Winter FFA New Horizons Teaching Guide – Now Available:** The [latest edition of the FFA New Horizons Teaching Guide](#) is now available. In this guide, you will find activities for seven articles featured in the Fall 2023 FFA New Horizons plus a vocabulary activity utilizing terms from the articles.
- **Now Available: 96th National FFA Convention and Expo Implementation Guide:** [This guide](#) is a resource for advisors to pre-plan and engage all students and various chapter stakeholders during the 96th National FFA Convention & Expo.
- **Job Opening:** Interested in joining the Educational Development and Evaluation Team? [Click here](#) for the latest opening for a Program Specialist – Educational Development.

Merchandise:

- **FFA Jackets for National Convention:** Order official jackets by Sept. 29, 2023, to receive prior to convention!
- **96th National FFA Convention & Expo Tees:** The official [96th National FFA Convention & Expo T-Shirts](#) are available now! Get yours today!
- **FFA Manuals:** The 2022 [Official Manual](#) is on sale! Stock up today at a great price.
- **Everyday Deals:** Looking for items under \$5? Visit the [Everyday Deals](#) category!

Alumni and Supporters:

- **Alumni and Supporter Grants:** Apply by Sept. 1 at <https://www.ffa.org/alumni-and-supporters/chapter-opportunities/> for up to \$1,000 to start or improve an alumni and supporters chapter, up to \$2,500 to partner students and adults on a project or up to \$5,000 to help fund student affiliation fees and plant science-based projects.
- **Alumni and Supporters in Wisconsin:** Meet National FFA CEO, Scott Stump, and Western Region Vice President, Ryan Williamson, at a networking event in La Crosse, WI Sept. 15! Stay for a free Regional Development Conference on Sept. 16 to learn more about alumni and supporters. For more information and to register by Sept. 3, visit <https://www.ffa.org/alumni-and-supporters/events/>.

Awards & Recognition

- **Awards and Recognition Program Notification:** FFA provides information on an annual basis regarding awards and recognition areas for future years. [Click here](#) to view the programs and changes for the 2024 award/convention year.

- **Award Results Posted:** All [Agricultural Proficiency Award](#), [Agriscience Fair](#), [American Star Award](#) and [National Chapter Award](#) results have been published on FFA.org. Orientation Packets for each award have been emailed to finalists and their chapter advisors and are available to download from FFA.org. This information is essential for national finalists and their chapter FFA advisors.
- **Awards and Recognition Program Orientation Packets Now Available:**
 - [American Star Award Finalist Orientation Packets](#)
 - [Agriscience Fair Finalist Orientation Packets](#)
 - [Agricultural Proficiency Award Finalist Orientation Packets](#)
 - [National Chapter Award Finalists Orientation Packets](#)
 - [American FFA Degree Candidate Orientation Packets](#)
- **American Degree Candidates Posted:** The 2023 list of approved American FFA Degree Candidates has been posted to FFA.org. A congratulations message with links to the orientation packet have been sent.

Grants, Scholarships and Service:

- **Fall Semester-Long Grant:** Application Open: This grant provides middle and high school FFA chapters with up to \$1,200 per semester to implement a service-learning project in their community for one semester. The application closes Friday, Sept. 8. [Apply today!](#)

Career and Leadership Development Events:

- **Orientation Packets and Resource Materials Now Posted:** Event orientation packets and resource materials are now available on the [CDE/LDE webpage](#). Event schedules, certification process, accommodation requests and more are provided in each orientation packet.
- **Updated Event Handbooks:** The updated 2024 handbooks for agricultural communications and agronomy are available. These events had components with significant changes impacting the handbook.

Advocacy, Literacy and Ag-Based Experiences:

- **2024 Next Gen Conferences Announced:** The Next Gen conferences for 2024 have been set! Do you have students interested in ag communications, food products and processing systems or environmental services and natural resources? Next Gen provides an opportunity for them to explore pathways through informational sessions, panels and tours. Applications are now open. Visit [here](#) for more information and to apply.
- **Advocacy Resources:** Don't forget to check out the [Advocacy modules](#) on FFA.org. These resources will help teach students about agricultural advocacy and guide them through the execution of their own agricultural advocacy event.

Marketing and Communications:

- **Kickoff the School Year With FFA New Horizons:** The fall/winter issue of FFA New Horizons has arrived, featuring great articles and resources to use in your classroom. Flip through the [digital version](#) or visit [FFA.org/news](#) to read how this FFA member discovered an affinity for beef cattle and FFA in an unexpected place, how [this chapter](#) cultivates a farm that dates back to 1701, how [this alumna](#) turned a leadership development event into a rewarding career, and more. This issue also includes the 2023 Look Book, featuring the latest from [ShopFFA.org](#).
- **Official FFA Manual Is Here:** The new 2023-24 Official FFA Manual is now available to purchase on [ShopFFA.org](#) and download on [FFA.org](#) in English and Spanish.

National FFA Foundation:

- **Tractor Supply's National FFA Convention & Expo Shirts:** The annual Tractor Supply shirts are now available in Tractor Supply stores everywhere. They are the same great price as the past five years — \$12.99 in stores or \$15 at convention. Proceeds benefit the Give the Gift of Blue program, Living to Serve and Alumni Legacy Grants.

Leadership Development Team:

- **Register Now for the Member Leadership Series:** Empower your students with the knowledge to be confident leaders! Registration for the 2023-24 FFA Member Leadership Series is now open. Dates for this series will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't delay. Help us share this great news with the teachers in your areas so they can also register. [Register here](#). For more information, [click here](#). For questions, email mls@ffa.org.