



So I Have an FFA Member. *Now What???*

A Handbook for Parents of ND FFA Members

"The Owner's Manual you never got at birth"

Compiled by Tam Maddock

Sponsored by the NDAAE, ND FFA Foundation, Inc., ND FFA Association,
and ND FFA Alumni Association.



Revised 4.2012

Congratulations! You have entered a new and exciting frontier in parenthood. You are now the proud “owner” of a North Dakota FFA member. Your student is one of nearly 4,500 FFA members statewide and a member of the National FFA Organization now over 500,000 members strong.

North Dakota FFA members, in cooperation with the North Dakota FFA Foundation, Inc., have expressed a need for a handbook to aid members and parents in understanding the vast opportunities FFA has to offer. We’ve organized this handbook by calendar year, with a separate section covering awards and degrees, to assist you and your FFA member on planning their FFA involvement. We hope you will take the time to view this handbook with your FFA member.

Did you know...



Year Founded: 1928

The letters "FFA" stand for Future Farmers of America; however, in 1988 the official name of the organization was changed from "Future Farmers of America" to "The National FFA Organization" to reflect the growing diversity of agriculture.

2008 FFA Membership: 506,199. Members represent all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands

Largest Annual Event: [The National FFA Convention](#)
2009 National FFA Convention Attendance: 53,473

FFA Mission: The National FFA Organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Number of Chapters: 7,429 in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands

Scholarships: National FFA awards over \$2 Million in annual scholarships.

Funding: FFA programs are funded through sponsorships and private donations at the local, state and national level.

FFA is the largest student organization in the world!!!

The story of the blue and gold jackets . . .

FFA members are steeped in tradition and, since 1933, have proudly worn the blue corduroy jacket with the official emblem and colors, national blue and corn gold, as our official FFA dress. Along with the FFA jacket, official FFA dress requirements for male members are black slacks (no jeans), a white collared shirt, official FFA tie, black socks and black dress shoes (no boots, sandals, open-toed shoes or tennis shoes), and female member official dress requirements are a black skirt (black slacks may be worn for traveling and

outdoor activities), black hosiery, a white collared shirt, official FFA blue scarf, black closed-heel and closed-toe dress shoes (no boots, sandals, open-toed shoes or tennis shoes).

FFA jackets have remained affordable after all these years, even so in 2004 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of FFA, the ND FFA Foundation started the **Blue Jackets, Bright Futures** campaign. Since its inception, the generous sponsors of this program have provided over 850 official FFA jackets to deserving students across ND. Go to www.ndffaoundation.com if your son or daughter is interested in this program. Become a sponsor of this great program today by calling Beth at the ND FFA Foundation (701) 224-8390.



What are CDEs?

Career Development Events (CDEs) demonstrate the meaningful connections between classroom instruction and real-life scenarios. CDEs build on skills learned in agricultural classes and the FFA. These events are designed to help prepare students for careers in agriculture. Classroom instruction comes alive as students demonstrate their skills in a competitive setting as an individual and as part of a team.

Why FFA? Over 500,000 FFA members can't be wrong!

How many times have you uttered the phrase, "If I'd only known then what I know now?" Transferrable skills is the answer to, "Why FFA?" The invaluable life and career skills FFA members acquire by participating in CDEs and community service projects sponsored by the FFA is the main reason to participate in the FFA. In addition, the social, career, and networking skills obtained are assets to any young person's portfolio.

How will FFA benefit my child?

In addition to the transferable skills your child learns through their involvement in CDEs, generous contributions made to the ND FFA Foundation make over \$200,000 available annually to ND FFA members in the form of scholarships and awards. In addition, the National FFA Organization awards over \$2 million per year in scholarships.

Leadership

Students can participate in a number of different leadership roles in the FFA. A chapter's executive committee is nominated and elected by the chapter membership. Speak with your son or daughter about considering a position as a chapter officer. The time commitment and dedication it takes to be a chapter officer is well worth the skills obtained by serving the membership.

Each year's program of activities (POA), is planned by the executive committee. A well-planned POA includes a delegation of duties among all the members of a chapter. This initial involvement will prepare your child for future leadership roles.

Membership has its privileges

If your student is enrolled in an agricultural education class in middle or high school and they have paid their annual membership dues, they are an active FFA member. Active members can participate in chapter activities, serve on committees, run for a chapter office, start an SAE project, travel to leadership camps, and compete in CDEs.

FFA is GREAT, but don't take our word for it . . .

"FFA taught organizational and public speaking skills that have stayed with me for more than 40 years. Those have been key to my career and being an active engaged citizen." - Steve Strege

Steve is the Executive Director of the ND Grain Dealers Association and was the State FFA President in 1967-68. Steve was a member of the Wyndmere FFA chapter.

"I learned my first leadership skills in FFA. It was the first time that I was a club secretary and everything that I know about parliamentary procedure I learned in FFA. That fundamental training is still used by me today."
- Al Jaeger, ND Secretary of State and honorary member of the Killdeer FFA chapter.

"Remember the goosebumps you felt when the session was about to start, the music began and the state officers paraded into the Old Fieldhouse during the State FFA Convention? I do. They are the same kind of goosebumps I feel when I see outstanding young people outfitted in their blue and gold corduroy jackets. For me, those jackets symbolize the premier leadership the organization is built around, as well as the bright future in store for American agriculture. My involvement in the FFA provided the foundation for my career. Through the FFA, I developed technical skills, parliamentary procedure know-how and self-confidence that help me in my day-to-day work as a professional." - Julie Ellingson, Executive Vice President ND Stockman's Association, State FFA Sweetheart 1992-93, Mandan FFA chapter.

"I was at Washington Leadership Conference in the summer of 1989. We were just getting off the bus at Arlington National Cemetery and two elderly ladies asked us if we were all in a gang because of our matching official dress. I told them yes we are, to make sure they had good leaders and never went hungry!"

"Judging contests were great! We got to visit with kids from other chapters around the state, travel to new places and really enjoyed the competition!"

"State FFA Convention was what I looked forward to all year long! It was a week with so many other FFA members to visit and learn about them. We competed heavily but learned to play hard too!" - Bridgette Rath
Readel was a state officer in 1991-92 from Wishek.

"My experience in FFA was absolutely life-changing. FFA encourages goal setting and provides abundant opportunities outside the classroom to exercise judgment, leadership, teamwork, cooperation, public speaking and networking with some of the best and brightest youth in the state. In my professional career today, I continuously draw and build upon the many experiences and life lessons gleaned from my days as an FFA member." - Shane Goettle, Commissioner, ND Department of Commerce. Shane was the State FFA Secretary in 1988-89 from the Stanley FFA chapter.

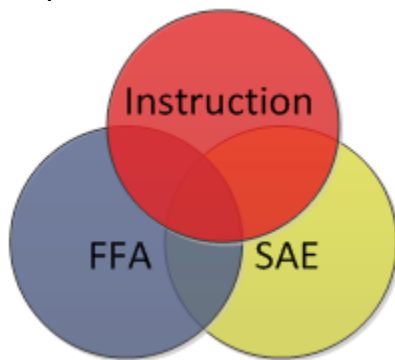
"FFA provided me with the tools and experiences to pursue my dreams and goals in an effective way. As a professor of Animal Sciences at NDSU, I still use the leadership skills learned in FFA every day. Without a doubt, I am a more successful person due to my experiences in FFA." - Robert Maddock, Professor of Animal

Science, North Dakota State University. Rob was State FFA President in 1991-92. His home chapter is Maddock.

FFA, more than a “club”, it’s a partnership. . .

"Don't look at FFA as a competitor of 4-H - they are complimentary youth organizations that together can help develop the potential of our youth in agriculture. Some of the most successful programs have great partnerships between County Extension and Ag Education Programs, 4-H and FFA. My strong background in the Barnes County 4-H program led me to a great career in Agriculture Education." - Doug Vannurden, former State FFA Executive Secretary

SAE and the Three Circle approach to Agricultural Education



Agricultural education is based on the Three Circle Model where the circles are of equal importance within the program. These circles represent instruction, SAE, and the FFA. Classroom and laboratory instruction provide a sound base for on-the-job- training in the form of supervised agricultural experiences (SAE) and intra-curricular leadership organizations like FFA. These programs provide students the opportunity to demonstrate invaluable leadership and job skills in a competitive and educational environment. For more information on SAE, please go to

http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_programs.SAE.

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ND FFA Calendar of Activities



AUGUST

Land Judging

Members participating in land judging will evaluate four sites of land. At each site, students determine the following land characteristics: surface soil texture, internal drainage, depth of soil, slope of the land, erosion hazards and degree of salinity. Using this information, members determine the land classification and select the proper management practices to be used on the sites evaluated.



SEPTEMBER

Range Judging

In North Dakota, over 60% of the land is suitable only for use by livestock and wildlife. This valuable resource is called rangeland. This CDE is designed to teach students to evaluate potential productivity, current condition, and possible treatments that can be utilized to produce forages and grasses most useful to man and animals. The contest includes plant identification and an understanding of each plant's characteristics, identification of the types of range sites and how they respond to grazing, drought, floods, etc. The contest also includes evaluation of the current condition of the range site and how the area has responded to use or overuse. Finally, students make recommendations to improve use, condition, and overall health of the range based on the needs of beef cattle and sharptailed grouse.

District Leadership

ND FFA membership has 4500 members from 78 chapters, composed of 8 districts and 4 regions. Every year, members compete at the district level in the following CDE's for a chance to represent their district at state competition:

* Not a state-qualifying event. All other contests advance two individuals/teams from each district to state competition.

Extemporaneous Public Speaking

In this CDE, students deliver a speech on an agricultural topic. Contestants are given eight topics, from these eight topics they select three to review and finally select one to present after 30 minutes of preparation. It's great practice to learn how to think on your feet and make your case quickly and persuasively. After each speech, judges may ask related questions.

Prepared/Memorized Public Speaking

Prepared Public Speaking requires contestants to write and deliver a six- to eight-minute speech about a current agricultural subject. This experience will help students excel in school, community and career settings. Participants are rated based on the written speech, speech delivery and their answers to judges' questions.

Creed

This CDE is the first national event specifically for FFA members in grades 7, 8, and 9. It's a member's chance to prove her ability to present the FFA Creed from memory and to answer questions about its meaning and purpose. The event is just one way to boost self-confidence, earn recognition, and develop communicate skills in a powerful, organized and professional manner.

Demonstration

The demonstration CDE provides students an opportunity to demonstrate skills and agricultural knowledge as an individual or two-person team. Members are given 5 to 8 minutes to demonstrate an ag related skill followed by a question and answer session.

Quiz

Students answer 100 multiple-choice questions on all things FFA for the opportunity to compete at state competition.

Greenhand Quiz*

This contest is designed specifically for students in grades 8 and 9 and is composed of 50 multiple-choice questions covering FFA history, people, and the basics of FFA.

Job Interview

Students should choose this event to develop and practice their skills in landing a job and launching a career. At the competition, each member submits a resume, completes a job application and participates in an interview via telephone, in person one-on-one, or with a panel of possible employers.

Parliamentary Procedure

This CDE helps students learn and polish parliamentary skills. Teams are composed of a chapter's officers/executive committee. At competition, members complete a written exam. Teams then conduct a mock chapter meeting to demonstrate knowledge of basic parliamentary law and the use of correct parliamentary procedures. Each officer is also scored on their individual office's duties and participation earning them a gold, silver, or bronze officer award and the chance to earn the title of "Officer of the Day" for their office. The top two teams for this CDE advance to state competition in October.



OCTOBER

State Parliamentary Procedure Competition

The top two parliamentary procedure teams from each district's District Leadership competitions compete at ND's state capitol in Bismarck each October for a chance to advance to national competition.

National FFA Convention

October marks the National FFA Convention where 50,000+ FFA members gather for a week of competition, learning, and networking. National FFA convention includes:

- National CDE competitions
- American FFA Degree ceremony
- Industry Tours
- Career Fair
- Famous keynote speakers for opening session



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER



JANUARY

Regional CDEs

January starts a circuit of regional CDEs across the state hosted by local chapters, sponsors, organizations and FFA alumni. Some of these CDEs include crop selection, livestock evaluation, agricultural sales, small animal care, and hippology (not an official FFA CDE), to name a few.

Leadership Conferences

The National FFA Organization offers a series of leadership and personal growth conferences. The only requirement is a desire to grow, learn and have fun.

These conferences are 212°, 360°, and the Washington Leadership Conference. 212° and 360° are conducted by National FFA staff. National FFA staff join us in Bismarck each January for these

high-energy leadership conferences. Both conferences are on a three-year topic rotation. With new topics introduced each year, members are encouraged to attend annually.

For more information, or to register for any of these conferences, talk with your FFA advisor or visit www.ffa.org and visit the conferences link.



212°

- the temperature at which water boils - will focus on taking students to the boiling point of leadership. At 211° water is extremely hot, but just one more degree gets us to the next level. These conferences focus on student development. Students will be challenged to push the limits. Themes for this conference include: Virtues, Growth and Collaboration.

The rotation for the 212° conference is:

2010-2011 Virtues Conference

2011-2012 Growth Conference

2012-2013 Collaboration Conference

2013-2014 Virtues Conference



360°

This conference will take students full circle in chapter leadership development. The conference will cover every angle for developing action plans for their chapters. Themes for this conference include: Vision and Influence. 360° conferences focus on chapter development.

The rotation for the 360° conference is:

2010-2011 Vision Conference

2011-2012 Influence Conference

2012-2013 Vision Conference

2013-2014 Influence Conference

Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) - Please see June and July.

North Dakota FFA 101 Conference

The 101 conference is designed for first year FFA members who wish to develop their leadership skills. Presented by ND's very own state FFA officer team, this conference covers a variety of topics and exposes new FFA members to the many opportunities FFA has to offer.



FEBRUARY

National FFA Week

The week of George Washington's birthday was designated as National FFA Week in 1947 at a National FFA Board of Directors meeting. FFA Week always runs from Saturday to Saturday, and encompasses February 22, Washington's birthday. During this week FFA members from across the nation participate in activities at the local, state, and national levels promoting and celebrating the FFA organization. To see how your business or organization can show your pride for the blue and gold, contact your local FFA chapter.



MARCH

State FFA Crops Show

The ND Winter Show hosts the State FFA Crops Show. Approximately 1,000 samples of North Dakota crops are exhibited annually with over \$5,000 dollars in premiums awarded.

Winter Career Development Events (CDE)

March is the climax for the winter judging CDEs. The North Dakota State Fair grounds hosts more than 800 FFA members for state competition in livestock evaluation, crop selection and the ag sales CDEs. The following is a description of these CDEs.



Livestock Evaluation

This CDE is the North Dakota state contest to determine which team will represent North Dakota at the national level. This event is the climax of the judging season after the conclusion of several regional contests including competitions in Minot, Turtle Lake, Beulah, Dickinson, Fargo, and Rugby along with other regional or district competitions. Over 250 FFA members compete in this CDE annually. The Livestock Evaluation CDE helps students learn to evaluate beef cattle, sheep, and swine and defend their decisions. At the competition, participants evaluate two classes of each species and place these classes based on market and breeding usage, physical characteristics and performance records. Participants also determine keep/cull classes for market and breeding stock and give oral reasons explaining their placing of these classes.

Crops/Agronomy

Students choose this CDE to build and prove skills in agronomic sciences. Participants complete a 50-question written exam (no exam at state contest); identify seeds, plants, diseases, damages, and other agronomic factors. In addition, contestants evaluate market and seed grain classes and grade grain.



Ag Sales

Students in this CDE demonstrate the professional sales process including customer relations, advertising and promotion, telephone skills and product display. At the competition, members complete a 50-question test, present a project summary and make a sales presentation for an agricultural product. Teams also work cooperatively to solve a market analysis problem.

Chapter FFA Banquets

March also marks the beginning of banquet season for many of our local programs. It is a great time of year to gather with community and school administration to celebrate FFA accomplishments.



APRIL

Chapter FFA Banquets

District CDEs – See June, State FFA Convention for descriptions of these events



MAY

Chapter FFA Banquets

District CDEs – See June, State FFA Convention for descriptions of these events



JUNE

State FFA Convention

Basketball, football and wrestling all have their championship games. ND FFA has the State FFA Convention. The first full week of June, 1,200 plus FFA members from across the state of North Dakota gather on North Dakota State University's campus to celebrate North Dakota FFA and compete in the state competitions for their CDEs. Winning CDE teams are awarded travel stipends to National FFA Convention. Students compete in over 40 different award, degree, and CDE events throughout the week. The following services, CDEs, degrees, and awards are presented at the state FFA Convention:

- Chapter Delegates
- Creed
- Prepared/Memorized Public Speaking
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking
- Demonstration
- Quiz
- Officer Books
- State FFA Degree Ceremony
- FFAChorus



SAE Account Book Award

The Supervised Agricultural Experience program is an essential element of any comprehensive Agriculture Education Program. The opportunities to apply knowledge from Ag Ed courses in experience programs designed for each individual student is really what makes our programs so unique in education - and valuable to students. This award gives those students who excel in keeping accurate SAE records the opportunity for worthy recognition and awards.

Each chapter is eligible to enter three books of their choice - one sophomore, one junior and one senior member book. The State SAE record book is the recommended record book, but others, including computer generated record systems are acceptable. Each will be evaluated independently.

Talent

Members willing to share their vocal, instrumental, dance or other talents to entertain are encouraged to compete in the FFA Talent Contest.

Proficiency Awards

Members apply for entrepreneurship and placement proficiency awards in over 40 categories. For specific proficiency award information and application details visit with your chapter's advisor, visit www.ffa.org, or see the *Official FFA Student Handbook*.

Courtesy Corp

A league of assistants, courtesy corp members, work behind the scenes preparing awards, setting up and changing stage designs, welcoming members and visitors to convention, and assist in many other duties to ensure the state FFA convention runs smoothly. Each year three students from the corp are selected to represent ND at the National FFA Convention.

Agricultural Mechanics

This CDE tests both technical and agricultural mechanics skills and a student's ability to work with others while solving problems. During the event, members complete a written exam and demonstrate problem-solving and hands-on performance skills. The event takes a "systems" approach and emphasizes machinery and equipment systems, related industry and marketing systems, energy systems, structural systems and environmental/natural resource systems. ND FFA has three levels of participation in this event. Basic Ag Mechanics is open to 7th, 8th, and 9th graders, Intermediate Ag Mechanics to 9th and 10th graders, and Advanced Ag Mechanics to students who have completed the 10th grade. Students may compete only once at the basic and intermediate levels. The state winning Advanced Ag Mechanics team is eligible to advance to national competition.



Agricultural Communications

Students are challenged in the arena of the agricultural communications field by participating in a simulated news conference, then using the information collected to complete one practical problem which could include: writing a news story and press release, preparing a radio broadcast, developing a graphic design or web design. Participants also complete a written communications quiz or an editing exercise. Finally, each team must develop a communications proposal and presentation.

Agriscience Fair

Students interested in agriscience get an opportunity to showcase their knowledge and talents as an individual or team member at the agriscience. There are junior and senior levels of this competition with the senior category including students in the 10-12th grades. Students can compete in one of five areas pertaining to agriscience: botany, zoology, microbiology, engineering, or environmental science. Students prepare a display of their information/experiment and participate in an interview process.

Dairy Cattle Evaluation

Members should get involved in this CDE to improve skills in dairy cattle selection and herd management. At the competition, members complete a written exam, evaluate dairy cattle on physical characteristics and give oral reasons. Team members also complete activities in linear evaluation, sire selection and pedigree evaluation while cooperatively analyzing a herd record.

Dairy Foods

In this CDE, students learn more about quality production, processing, distribution,

promotion, marketing and consumption of dairy foods. During competition, members complete a written exam, evaluate milk samples, identify cheeses, look for defects in sediment pads and milker parts, and distinguish real from artificial dairy food products.

Farm Business Management

Building management skills and applying economic principles to agriculture and agribusiness is the intent of this CDE. At competition, members complete a written exam and solve farm analysis problems.

Floriculture

This CDE builds knowledge and skills in arranging, propagation and merchandising flowers and foliage. The competition includes plant identification, written test, face-to-face sales practicum, problem solving and floral design.

Food Science and Technology

In this CDE, students complete a variety of learning activities related to food science and technology in the food industry. The competition covers product development and presentation along with food safety issues and identification. Participants use their sensory skills to evaluate and solve problems while applying sound principles in a decision making process.

Meat Science and Technology

Students develop skills for careers in the meat animal industry while completing a written exam; evaluating beef carcasses for quality and yield grade; identifying various meat cuts and placing carcasses, wholesale and/or retail cuts. Participants also complete a meat formulation problem and cooperatively fulfill a customer order.

Nursery/Landscape

This CDE focuses your student's skills in all aspects of producing, marketing, using and maintaining landscape plants and related products, equipment and services, including landscape design. Participants complete a written exam, identify plant materials and equipment and interpret landscape plans. They also demonstrate their skills in landscaping, pest control, merchandising, plant materials measurement, interpersonal relationships and sales.

Horse Evaluation

In this CDE, students evaluate and rank horses on breed characteristics, conformation, and performance. Team members cooperatively complete problems related to equine selection, management, nutrition and production. They also give oral reasons explaining their placing of various classes.



Washington Leadership Conference (WLC)

Approximately 2,300 FFA members converge on our nation's capitol annually to participate in the WLC. While there, FFA members donate 11,000 hours of community

service to help those less fortunate. The focus of this conference is to take members' leadership skills to the highest level by learning to know their purpose, value people, take action and serve others. Located in our nation's capitol, the Washington Leadership Conference is a five-day event that trains FFA members to make a positive impact in their school, local community, state and country. The capstone event of the Washington Leadership Conference is a civic engagement activity, which takes leadership and service learning to new standards.

This conference is held in June and July annually. National and local scholarships are available for this conference. Visit with your student's FFA advisor, the ND FFA Foundation, or visit the National FFA at www.ffa.org and click conferences.



July

North Dakota State Fair (NDSF)

The NDSF is the showplace of North Dakota agriculture. NDSF offers an opportunity to show the citizens of our great state and the thousands of guests just what agricultural education/FFA means to our youth. It is our opportunity to showcase the products of our efforts, and for students to receive valuable recognition and experience.



ND's more than 4,000 FFA members use the NDSF as an opportunity to enhance their background in areas relating to crops, livestock, agricultural mechanics, technology, horticulture, preparing displays, or by testing their skills in a competitive event such as tractor driving. There is an activity and an opportunity for every student who is enrolled in agricultural education/FFA.

Over 20,000 projects are entered for exhibit by FFA members every July at the NDSF. For more information on ND FFA involvement at the NDSF see the NDSF website at www.ndstatefair.com and view the FFA Information State Fair Book under the exhibitors and vendors competition link.

State Tractor Driving

The State Tractor Driving CDE is hosted on the North Dakota State Fair Grounds. Each year participants compete at the district levels in the basic or advanced categories for the opportunity to advance to this state CDE. The CDE requires participants to navigate a tractor and cart through a specially designed course. Contestants also take a general knowledge exam and do problem solving.

Chapter Officer Retreat – Maddock, ND

This overnight event is hosted annually by the Maddock FFA chapter and is a conference where chapter officers gather to share ideas regarding community service, leadership, and general chapter operations.

Chapter President's Conference – Carrington, ND

The Chapter President's Conference is held annually in Carrington. All Chapter President's and Vice President's are invited to attend. This conference focuses on the duties the president will assist with throughout the year including working with fellow officers, recruiting members, obtaining sponsorships, and promoting the FFA. A session is also included on the expectations and duties of a state FFA officers' for those member's interested in pursuing the next step of leadership beyond their chapter.

FFA Proficiencies

The proficiency awards program allows students to focus their SAE program by setting goals and recording the work it's taken to accomplish those goals. Complete SAE records allow students to apply for one of over 40 different proficiency areas. Proficiency awards recognize students in both placement and entrepreneurship experiences. Placement proficiencies are SAE programs where a student works for an individual or business for the experience or pay. Entrepreneurial proficiencies are SAEs that involve ownership of an agricultural production operation or agribusiness enterprise.

For a more detailed explanation of these proficiency award areas ask your student's advisor or visit the National FFA's *Agriculture Proficiency Award Handbook* at www.ffa.org/documents/prof_handbook.pdf.

FFA Star Awards and Degrees



Degrees

The FFA organization recognizes 5 official degrees its members can earn. Below is a brief description of each of these degrees. For more detailed information on how your student can qualify and earn these degrees speak with your chapter advisor or view the *Official FFA Student Handbook*. Students are encouraged to apply for these degrees as they fulfill each degree's requirements.

- **Discovery FFA Degree**
The Discovery Degree is for dues paying members of the local chapter FFA who are in the 7th or 8th grade, have knowledge of FFA, and have participated in local chapter activities.
- **Greenhand FFA Degree**
As a high school member of FFA, the Greenhand Degree is earned by members who have planned a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project, have basic knowledge of the FFA and an understanding of the FFA Creed, motto, and FFA mission statement.
- **Chapter FFA Degree**
Demonstration of their role in the growth and development of their chapter will earn students the Chapter FFA Degree. Other requirements of the degree are an operating SAE project, 180 hours of school instruction in agricultural education above the 9th grade, as well as parliamentary procedure participation, and leadership activities. Chapter FFA Degree recipients must have already obtained the Greenhand Degree.

- **State FFA Degree**
This degree signifies your student's successful completion of their high school FFA participation. Students must have received the Chapter FFA Degree, been an active member for at least two years, demonstrated leadership abilities, and earned or invested \$1000 or worked a minimum of 300 hours for their SAE project.
- **American FFA Degree**
The highest degree attainable in the National FFA Organization, the American FFA Degree shows a member's dedication to their chapter and state associations via their SAE project, their leadership abilities, and community involvement. There are several requirements a student must meet to earn this degree, among them, they must have received the State FFA Degree and have earned and/or productively invested \$7,500 from their SAE.

Star Awards

Chapter Level Star Awards

- Star Discovery – awarded to the most active Discovery FFA Degree recipient
- Star Greenhand – awarded to the most active Greenhand FFA Degree recipient
- Chapter Star Farmer – awarded to the chapter member who has an outstanding SAE in production agriculture and has demonstrated the most involvement in all areas of the chapter's activities.
- Chapter Star in Agricultural Placement – awarded to chapter member who has an outstanding SAE in agribusiness or production agriculture and is actively involved in all areas of the chapter.
- Chapter Star of Agriscience – awarded to the chapter member with an outstanding natural resources or agriscience-based SAE that is active in all areas of chapter activities.

State and National Level Star Awards

District winners of the above chapter star awards compete for the following state star awards at state FFA convention. State winners then represent North Dakota at national FFA convention competing for the national star award: Star Farmer, Star in Agribusiness, Star in Agricultural Placement, and Star in Agriscience.

Other FFA Activities:

Throughout the year, students benefit from their FFA membership with invitations to events like *FFA Day with the Minnesota Twins*, *FFA Day with the Bismarck Bobcats*, and *FFA Day with the NDSU Bison*.

Careers in Agricultural Education

Agricultural education teaches students about agriculture, food and natural resources. Through these subjects, agricultural educators teach students a wide variety of skills, including science, math, communications, leadership, management and technology.

Some of potential jobs for someone graduating with a degree in agricultural education could be:

- High School Agriscience Teacher
- Ag Literacy Coordinator
- Agricultural Education Professor
- Farm Business Management Instructor
- 2-year Technical College Agriculture Instructor
- Adult Agricultural Education Instructor
- Young Farmer Instructor

These are just a few of the opportunities available to students with a degree in agricultural education for more information on preparing and advising your student on how to become an ag education instructor visit www.naae.org/teachag.

How can I support ND FFA?

So how can you as a parent help support the ND FFA?

- Join your local FFA alumni or start one if there isn't one
- Volunteer to chaperone or help coach a CDE team
- Help raise funds to support FFA youth activities
- Volunteer to become a judge at District Leadership or State CDEs
- Make a donation to your local chapter and/or the state FFA Foundation

Thank you for your support of the North Dakota FFA!

Resources:

National FFA Organization

ND FFA Association

The National FFA Student Handbook



Grant/Scholarship OPPORTUNITIES (AKA FREE \$\$\$\$)

There are many opportunities the ND FFA Foundation has for North Dakota FFA Chapters and FFA members. Below are just a few of the programs that could help your chapter with your community service projects, gain insight into farm safety, and help your members obtain leadership skills.

Alliance Pipeline Safety grants -- Due during school year - \$275

ND Ag in the Classroom Mini Grants -- Due Sept. 7 (up to \$500 – \$10,000 to be used for all projects)

Alliance Pipeline's FFA is Here to Learn and Serve grants - Due October 1 (up to \$500 – total is \$8,000)

Blue Jackets Bright Futures - Due Nov. 9 (in 2011 200 jacket were given away)

Beginning SAE Grants – Due Dec. 1 (\$15,000)

Expansion SAE Grants - Due Dec. 1 (\$15,000)

Washington Leadership Conference -- Due May 1 (4 full registrations and 11 \$300 scholarships)

Application for Ag Education Scholarships and Production Ag Scholarships -- Due May 1 (\$13,000)

Alliance Pipeline's Safety in Our Agricultural Communities: Alliance Pipeline is very concerned about safety in North Dakota. Safety in Our Agricultural Communities is a program to promote safe practices to others in our school and communities. Twenty-five FFA chapters will have the opportunity to complete two safety activities during the school year and receive \$275 to be used in leadership activities.

Safety Application – please fill out application and report is due sometime during school year

The ND Ag in the Classroom Mini Grants: The North Dakota Ag in the Classroom Council is offering grants up to \$500 to groups or individuals sponsoring programs or projects that promote agricultural literacy. A total of \$10,000 will be awarded. Grants may be awarded for less than the full amount requested, based upon the discretion of the granting committee and the funds available. The proposed project must be targeted to young people from 5-18 years of age and should enhance student knowledge of the contribution made by agriculture. Proposed projects or events designed to reach large groups of students will be given preference, as will those that involve innovative approaches to promoting agricultural literacy.

Application for Ag in the Classroom Mini Grants - due September 7

Beginning SAE Grant Program (made possible through Bakk Farm funds): Grants for 8th and 9th grade FFA members to develop an SAE project. (\$15,000 to be spent)

Beginning SAE Grant Program Application - due December 1

Alliance Pipeline's FFA is Here to Learn and Serve Program: Alliance Pipeline is working with the ND FFA Foundation to help chapters commit to their communities. We encourage members to take this opportunity and apply for funds.

Blue Jackets - Bright Futures (ND FFA Jacket Fund): A group of former FFA members have donated funds to be used for new FFA jackets for FFA members who currently don't own one. If you know of a fellow FFA member who could use a jacket, please fill out an application.

JACKET APPLICATION – don't forget to fill out both pages - due November 9

Expansion SAE Grant Program (made possible through Bakk Farm funds): Grants for 10th and 11th grade FFA members to expand on an existing SAE project. (\$15,000 to be spent)

Expansion SAE Grant Program Application - due December 1

College Scholarships for Ag Education Majors: If you are an ag education major planning on teaching in ND or going to college and planning on a career in production agriculture, please consider filling out our application for a college scholarship.

Application for College Scholarships (Ag Education and Production Ag) – due May 1

Washington Leadership Conference Scholarships: Are you interested in taking your leadership skills to the highest level? Have you ever thought about how you can influence others to lead? Do you have what it takes to make a positive impact in your local community? If you have ever asked these questions of yourself, then the Washington Leadership Conference is just for you. Located in our nation's capitol, the Washington Leadership Conference is a five-day event that trains FFA members to make a positive impact in their school, local community, state and country. The conference focuses on the following areas: problem-solving, relationship building, living with character, developing an attitude of serving others. The ND FFA Foundation has several scholarships for members.

The application for the WLC scholarships is due May 1
Please type

***For more information on any of these grant and scholarship opportunities visit www.ndffaoundation.com or call the FFA Foundation office at 701-224-8390.**