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To: [AGED-L](#)
Subject: Ag Ed/FFA News Blitz
Date: Friday, September 15, 2017 8:09:19 PM
Attachments: [image005.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)

Good Afternoon,

We are less than two full weeks into school and so much has already happened! Teachers and advisors have gone through in-service, developed lesson plans, taught a full week of lessons and are training teams for regional and national events. National convention registration opened (even with the technical issues), students are here at the Big E competing and many of you are signing up for COLT and preparing to host our National Officer candidate and State Officer Team. We have new chapters joining our organization on a monthly basis it seems and many of you are supporting them as well. Please keep up this yeoman's work and we hope the information below will help make all this a little easier!

AG ED/Professional Development Updates:

The following schools are starting this fall with new teachers of Agricultural Education. If you see these educators in your community or at FFA events, please introduce yourself and offer assistance. **We wish them all the best of luck!**

Alexandria Bay	Catie Dymond
Attica	Michele Barber
Beekmantown	Veronique Kron
Berne Knox Westerlo	Michaela Kehrler
Delaware Academy	Tina James
Dutches BOCES	Rebecca Cossa
Fillmore	Tanya Nickerson
Fonda Fultonville	Kathryn McCarthy
Granville	Brandon Trinkle
Greenville	Lynn Hughes
Groton	Anna Leiss
John Bowne	Jen Plasky
Mt. Markham	Eric Bugbee
Otselic Valley	Roger Barkman
Pavilion	Kylie Smith
Remsen	Rayne Ives
Sherburne	Scott Bugbee
South Lewis	Rachel Humphery
Spencer Van Etten	Celeta Dodge
Tioga Center	Michael Barbieri
Tully	Leann Green
Walton	Erin Boyd Pierce
Warsaw	Hannah Milligan
Waterville	Cindy Gallagher

[Making the Life of an Ag Teacher a Little Bit Easier – Communities of Practice- Are you a member of COP?](#)

We're all busy. Well, "busy" might actually be an understatement, but is there even a word that encompasses everything we do as ag teachers? From lesson planning, to CDE prep, banquet planning, advisory board meetings, and the email your principal just sent about needing you to volunteer to sell concessions at Friday night's football game – it never ends.

While our calendars are filling up with personal and professional duties, it is a relief to know that the ag education family is an excellent resource and support group. Thanks to NAAE's Communities of Practice, ag teachers are able to share ideas, lessons, tips, and so much more! Since its update last summer, CoP now offers many new features that help make it even more user-friendly, including better organization and structure, and a search bar that populates what you are looking for as you type. Even though it may take a few extra minutes of your valuable time, the new CoP is definitely worth a look!

To check out the new Communities of Practice site, [click here](#).



NEW SAE GUIDES

[The Student Guide](#) is designed to help students understand that in agricultural education; learning does not start and stop at the classroom door! It introduces students to the many opportunities to learn and develop real-world skills outside of the classroom and beyond the school day. This guide will provide students and parents:

- Clarity about what an SAE is and how it works
- A roadmap to get on the correct SAE path
- An understanding of how an SAE provides Real Learning for a Real Future!

[The Teacher Guide](#) provides additional clarity and details about expectations for student learning outcomes. It also includes tools and frameworks to guide implementation. It is meant to supplement the SAE for All Student Guide and provide teachers practical guidance, tools and examples to do the following:

- Help students understand what an SAE is, the value it provides and how to get started
- Ensure all students enrolled in agricultural education courses have an SAE
- Connect SAE to school priorities
- Integrate SAE into classroom grading system

Additional work is underway on creation of six implementation guides that address the Foundation SAE along with individual guides for each type of immersion SAEs. These should be released by December of this year.

These links can also be found on the New York FFA website in the [SAE tab](#) for students and under [more resources](#) on the right side bar in the SAE tab for teachers.

National Teach Ag Day

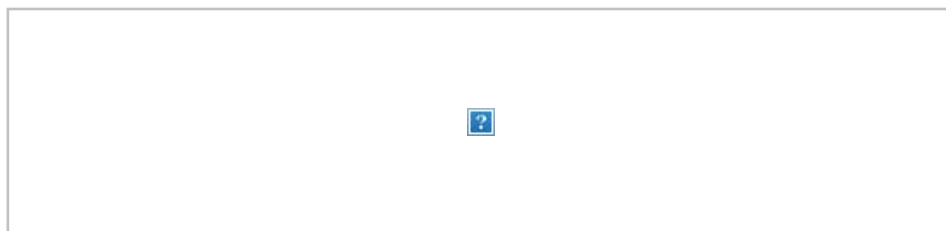
Go ahead and start making your plans to celebrate National Teach Ag Day on Thursday, September 21st! Check out the [Teach Ag website](#) for more information, celebration ideas & so much more!

Agriculture Education Council News

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION (THE COUNCIL)

Make sure you check out The Council's website: <https://www.ffa.org/thecouncil> for weekly updates and news, including National Quality Program Standards and the work of the SAE committee.

AITC Updates:



Fertilizer & Sustainability School Media Contest

Deadline for Submission: September 22, 2017

Winners will be announced on October 13, 2017 - World Fertilizer Day

Calling all creative minds! The *Fertilizer Is At the Root of It* Contest is a creative way to showcase fertilizer and sustainability. The 4R Nutrient Stewardship Program is the cornerstone piece of fertilizer sustainability. How is sustainability implemented in your school while working toward growing enough food to feed a growing population? Express your talents using the 2017 theme: Fertilizer Is At the Root of It.

This program is available to Science and Agriculture Classes (7-12th grades). Each class can submit one video or poster per classroom or entries can also be submitted by individual students. (Each class can have a contest within your school to decide which project is submitted to represent your classroom). The top 5 posters and top 5 videos chosen in each state will state be recognized as winners. The first place winner in each state will go on to compete in the National Contest against other state winners for \$1,000.

The deadline for submission is September 22, 2017. Winners will be announced on October 13, 2017 - World Fertilizer Day. Encourage your classes to participate and your school could win \$1,000!

[Learn more about the contest now!](#)

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New York Association of FFA Updates:

The state officers are helping at the Big E as I am sending you this email. Their roles include State President Intern, banquet officers and the Farma Rama building assistance. We have also had the pleasure of meeting most of the students from New York that are competing here at the Big E. They make us all proud. We can't wait to see the results at Saturdays banquet!

State Officer Tour will be taking place the week of Oct. 2nd-Oct. 6th, 2017. If you are not a host school but would still like your students to be able to participate please reach out to one of the host schools that is closest to you and see if you can participate at their stop. Please visit www.nysffa.org/sot. The officers and I look forward to seeing all the great things that you and your students are doing.

COLT Conference will be held on September 30th at Cornell University. Registration is now open! For more information and to register please visit: www.nysffa.org/colt.

The new **FFA roster** year started on September 1st. There have been many updates and changes to the system. Please read **ALL** of the following information carefully so that this can be as smooth of a process as possible.

The link below will take you to several roster guides that will show you how to do each step of the roster. You can also find this information in the roster system by clicking on the icon that looks like a wrench. **One of the biggest changes is that students can now self-register and all the advisor needs to do is go in and approve them and submit them to state for approval.**

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/issic0bbosxf14k/AADe33Kt86Bsz14RW_WFgdeya?dl=0

Below is a screen shot of the new look. It operates similar to profiles with the left side navigation.

Manage Memberships

Member Type: Student Alumni

Membership Year: 2017-2018

State: All

Chapter: All

Advanced Search

Membership Type: All

Submission Level: All

Batch ID: []

State Association Division: All

Grade: All

FFA ID: []

Gender: All

First Name: []


Last Name: []

Search Reset

Memberships Profiles Location

Select all 3592 memberships

<input type="checkbox"/>	FFA ID	First Name	Last Name	Membership Type	State	Chapter	Membership Year(s)	Status-Batch ID	
<input type="checkbox"/>	602677461	Alexander	Chambers	One Year	AK	AK0007	2017 - 2018	Local	
<input type="checkbox"/>	601855470	Beatrice	Curtis	One Year	AK	AX0011	2017 - 2018	Local	

On each page will be a “wrench” symbol.  **Clicking on the “wrench” will provide you with two training tools.** New this year are video tutorials that will walk you through the functionality of each screen along with a downloadable PDF with written instructions. Below is a screen shot of what you will see when you click on the “wrench” symbol.

Currently there are 10 videos. As we move through the month of September we will be creating more videos based on state and chapter feedback.

Attached are the current PDFs for your reference.

Roster Tutorials

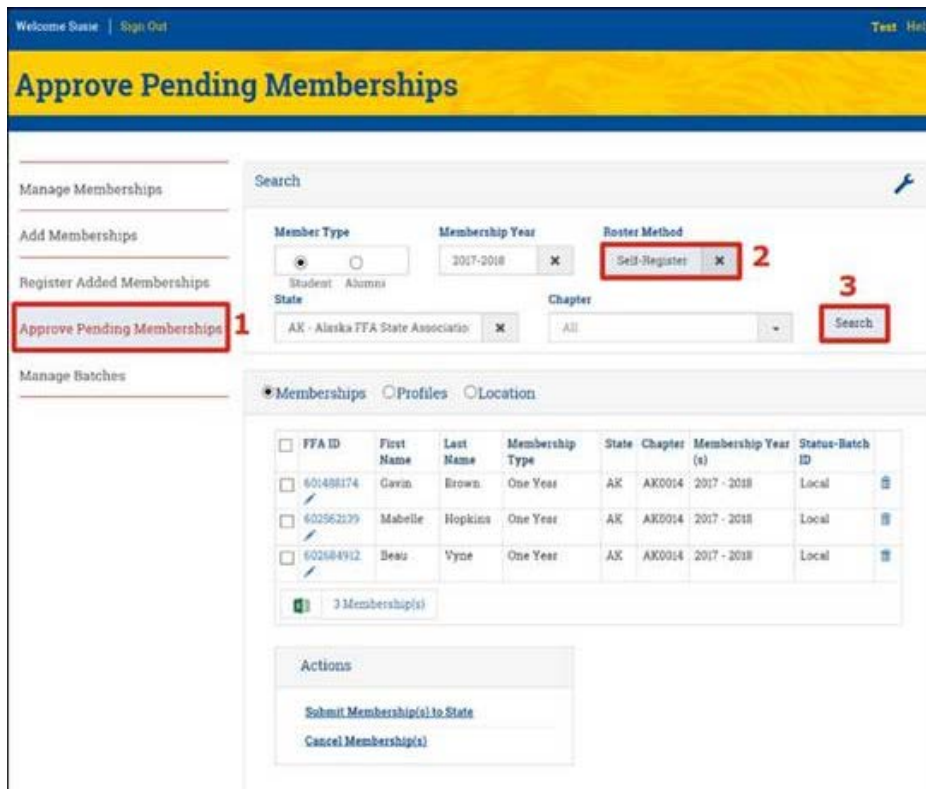
ADD MEMBERSHIPS - IMPORT



The screenshot shows a video player interface. The video title is "Add Memberships – Import" and the subtitle is "NATIONAL FFA ROSTER MANAGEMENT TUTORIAL". The video player has a play button, a progress bar showing 02:43, and a full screen button. Below the video player is a "Written Guide" section. It contains the text "Hardcopy instructions are available through our PDF guides below". There are two buttons: "Add Memberships - Import" and "VIEW PDF". At the bottom of the page, there is a yellow banner with the text "Still having trouble? E-mail membership or call 888-332-2668 for assistance."

Self-Registration-

In the development of rosters this fall we have created an option for individuals to self-register for membership as well as chapter leadership roles. This was developed to continue to move the workload downstream for state and chapter leaders. Individuals that use the self-registration process are able to fill out their personal information and submit the request for membership to their local leader for approval. They may also request a transfer. The same holds true for chapter leaders that would like to use the self-registration process. In the case of chapter leaders, the request is sent to state leadership to approve. Once approved these individuals will appear on the roster no different than if you entered them on the roster as you have in the past. **The advantage to self-registration is that you no longer have to do the work**, just let your members or leaders self-register and approve them in the “Approve Pending Memberships” or “Manage Chapter Leadership” sections. *(Instructions on self-registration will be sent out by end of day Friday 9/1)*



Bad Date-of-Birth-

We have eliminated obvious bad date-of-birthday from the database, such as 1/1/1900. If a profile has lost its DOB it will be required. There are calculations in place to ensure the date is not a random date based on other data points such as graduation year, grade, # of years teaching...

State Staff will be learning this new system along with all of you. We will do our best to help you through this process. We highly recommend that you spend some time learning this system and do not wait until the last minute to add students to your roster. Please, if you have questions feel free to reach out to Catie Rowe or myself and we would be glad to assist you in any way that we can.

212/360: Registration for 212/360 will be open on November 1st. Please be on the lookout for more information to be coming out in the next few weeks.

National FFA Updates:

1. Lend a Helping Hand

Hurricane Irma, the strongest Atlantic hurricane since 2005, massive wildfires are plaguing our Western states, and Texas and Louisiana are still dealing with the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. Please continue to keep those struggling with these natural disasters in your thoughts and prayers. And a big thank you to our FFA chapters that are rising to the challenge to help their communities. Visit our [Crisis Relief webpage](#) to stay up-to-date on how you can help.

2. FFA New Horizons Jobs Issue Hits Homes

By now, you should have received your copy of the fall issue of *FFA New Horizons*. When you have a few minutes, flip through the issue to read about the hot careers that are fueling the future of agriculture. The issue also pays tribute to last year's six Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher award-winners and features Whites Creek Alternative Energy Academy in Nashville, which is doing amazing things with alternative energy. As always, you

can read more about what we're up to on [FFA New Horizons online](#).

3. **New Advocacy and Literacy Specialist Joins FFA**

We would like to welcome back Jordan Henry to FFA as our new education specialist – advocacy and literacy based out of Alexandria, Va., in our National FFA Headquarters operations office. Jordan will rejoin the organization on Monday and will report to Riley Pagett, director of advocacy and government relations.

4. **Teach Ag Day Is Sept. 21**

We are less than a week away from the very important National Teach Ag Day, Thursday, Sept. 21. Our friends at the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) have planned a wonderful day of celebrating ag teachers, including a live webcast from 1 - 3 p.m. EDT at Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences. NAAE's efforts, along with that of the National Council for Agricultural Education, have helped to address the harsh reality that some FFA programs are only one ag teacher away from extinction. At this time, agriculture teacher retention is at its highest level in over a decade at 96 percent. There is an increasing number of agricultural education degree programs and enrollees, even as other education degree areas are experiencing decreases. And, 74 percent of college students graduating from agricultural education/teacher preparation programs are accepting teaching positions in middle schools and high schools around the country, the highest level since the National Teach Ag Campaign, launched by The Council, began in 2011. Be sure to support our agriculture teachers and NAAE on this special day and visit www.naae.org/teachag to join the celebration.

5. **90th National FFA Convention & Expo Early Bird Registration Now Live!**

On Tuesday, early bird registration opened for this year's convention. Early bird rates will last through Oct. 2, and then standard rates will kick in from Oct. 3 - 28. For more information about registration and other convention-related planning information and schedules, visit FFA.org/convention. Less than 40 days to go!

6. **Number of FFA Alumni Chapters Continue to Rise**

We are still finalizing the membership numbers for 2016-17, but we can share some exciting news: 199 alumni chapters chartered or reactivated last year to help local FFA student members across the country! We will have more data, including student and chapter membership figures, soon.

7. **Chapter Leadership Conference Updates**

Our 212° and 360° conferences are underway with a train-the-trainer event happening this week in Illinois. Roughly 30 212° and 360° conferences will occur this fall alone, delivering leadership development to more than 4,300 FFA members. The first of these conferences began Sept. 1; however, most will occur in November and December. 212° and 360° conferences for the 2017-18 school year continue into the spring.

Final attendance numbers are in for the 2017 Washington Leadership Conference (WLC)—2,239 students and 341 advisors and guests. We have compiled and are reviewing evaluations from the participants, but we thought you'd like to see a few of the comments that reflect on the participants' experiences (see attached).

8. **Arkansas State Relations Meeting**

Chief Operating Officer Josh Bledsoe, Convention, Awards and Recognition Director Dale Crabtree and Local Program Success Specialist Nina Crutchfield participated in a state relations meeting with Arkansas on Monday. It was great to hear about all the forward momentum the state's leaders have had through the last 18 months. Stakeholders have been engaged in updating instructional frameworks around the national content standards, growing their state convention with a move to the Hot Springs Convention Center next April, making improvements to their Camp Couchdale, transitioning their collegiate members

to alumni, supporting their early career teachers, and looking for ways to grow their state FFA foundation. It truly is a great time to be a part of Arkansas agricultural education and FFA in the state.

9. **Syngenta to Provide Career Exploration Opportunities Through AgExplorer Virtual Field Trip**

Don't forget to join us live on Wednesday, Sept. 20 at 1 p.m. EDT to meet the professionals working to solve one of the greatest challenges of this century: feeding the globe's growing population. Leaders in agriculture, such as Syngenta, are using innovative science, research and technology to identify solutions to transform how crops are grown to enable millions of farmers to improve global food security. On this virtual field trip, we will transport students to Syngenta's Research and Development Center at Research Triangle Park in Raleigh, N.C., to discover how agriculture is using innovative science, research and technology to revolutionize the way crops are grown. Don't miss this unique opportunity to expose students to a variety of potential career paths that are critical to solving today's real-world challenges. Register today and submit your student questions ahead of time for the chance to have them answered live. Visit AgExplorer.com to [learn more](#) and [register](#).

10. **Incredible Edible Egg Launches Search for Incredible FFA Chapters**

The American Egg Board, an FFA sponsor, has launched the Incredible! FFA Chapter Contest. FFA members are encouraged to nominate their local chapters for a chance to win one of three grants—one for \$2,000 and two for \$1,500. Entries can be submitted via an online submission form, sharing what makes the nominated chapter incredible and how the grant funds would be used to impact the chapter. Submissions will be accepted until 11 p.m. EDT on Friday, Sept. 29. Active FFA members and active FFA chapters that are in one of the 50 states or Washington, D.C., are eligible for entry. Winners will be announced on or after Oct. 14. To enter online and for official contest rules, visit www.aeb.org/educators/educator-overview/ffa-chapter-contest.

11. NATIONAL CONVENTION APP

Be sure to encourage your teachers to check out the information on the FFA Convention website and to download the National FFA Convention app. If you had the app downloaded from previous years you will need to download the new one instead of just updating. The new app has many great new features.

12. REGISTRATION

- Registration opened on September 12. Many improvements and changes have been made to the process. Check out the "How to Guide" on the Convention website for more information. Note the early bird registration fee.
- Registration will again be in Hall K of the Convention Center. If a teacher has a CDE team registered, they may register for Convention at the Fairgrounds.
- It is extremely important that all registered attendees have their name badge on at all times. The National FFA Convention is a "closed convention" which means you must be registered and have a name badge to enter any Convention events.

13. WE ARE FFA

This Convention this year, we would like to feature some of our amazing FFA members in the We Are FFA booth in the Expo Center. The following are the items we are looking for:

1. Hi-Res photo of you in your FFA gear. This could be official dress, FFA gear from Shop FFA or from your chapter.
2. 2-3 bullet points about each of the following:
 - a. Favorite activity outside of FFA

- b. Your background and why you joined FFA
 - c. Favorite subjects in agriculture
 - d. SAE project(s)
 - e. How has FFA made you feel included?
 - f. What skills have you learned or developed that will benefit you in the future?
3. Consent Form

14. COLLEGIATE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Do you know a college student who may be interested in volunteer opportunities during the 2017 National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis? Feel free to share the following information: Click here to apply to be a volunteer with the FFA Educational Development and Assessment Team! Applications are due Sept. 15.

15. AG EXPLORER

Please continue to promote Ag Explorer. Users can learn about more than 250 unique careers in agriculture, search for careers, access educational requirements and link to current job openings. The website also features videos that highlight how each of the eight agricultural pathways and agricultural education are part of the global solutions to feeding the world. It also offers the Career Finder, an interactive assessment designed to help students match careers with their interests.

Visit today, AgExplorer.com.

16. AFFILIATION

Now is a great time to remind chapters that the signup period for affiliation is open. Interested chapters should fill out the attached document and send it back to State Staff by November 1st. State staff must approve all chapter affiliation requests by November 15th. State staff maintains possession of the Chapter Affiliation Agreement (attached). Do not send this to the National FFA Office.

Please note that opting in to affiliation is a long-term decision that must include the support and signature of a chapter's school principal. Chapters should opt-in to promote all three circles of ag education in an effort to ensure that FFA membership is seamless and fully integrated for all. Please review this PDF for more information about affiliation:

https://www.ffa.org/MyResourceDocuments/statestaff_ffa_program_affiliation_operating_policies.pdf

New York FFA is in the process of determining our state affiliation dues payment schedule. If you are an affiliate chapter who has or will be submitting your roster soon, your invoice only has the national dues included. We will follow up with a New York invoice which will include the \$6 per member fee.

If you are considering becoming an affiliate chapter, do not submit your traditional roster until you have made your decision because it can't be switched once it is approved.

17. FFA PODCASTS

Have you taken the time to listen to some of the great stories from "FFA Today" show on Rural Radio SiriusXM Channel 147? If not go to <http://nationalffa.podbean.com/> to hear stories from and about current and past members, teachers, FFA Foundations, as well as chapters from across the country.

18. SCHOLARSHIPS

Information for the 2018 program year will be available November 15, 2017. Make sure interested

students have their ffa.org login and profiles completed.

In 2017, the National FFA Organization awarded over \$2.2 million in scholarships designed to fit the diversity of our applicants.

Scholarships are sponsored by businesses and individuals through the National FFA Foundation and are given for a wide variety of experiences, career goals and higher education plans.

The selection process takes into account the whole student - FFA involvement, work experience, Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), community service, leadership skills and academics.

19. SAE GRANT APPLICATIONS

Applications are now open. To access the application, open the application center in "My Tool Box" on ffa.org, <https://www.ffa.org/participate/grants-and-scholarships/sae-grants>. Applications are due November 15, 5:00 pm EST.

20. IMPORTANT STATEMENT ON AWARDS AND RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

National FFA has released the following statement:

National FFA prohibits the use or research of any federal illegal substances within all awards and recognition programs.

21. LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

Please note the attachments regarding local engagement and the TSC Grants for Growing program.

Here is to an "Indian Summer"! See you all soon!

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FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.