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”

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

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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 4,700 FFA members statewide and a member of the National FFA Organization now over 629,000 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...

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.ndffafoundation.com if your son or daughter is interested in this program. Become a sponsor of this great program today by calling Tamra 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. 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 650,000 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. 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
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. Sites vary in location annually. 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 various environmental factors. 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 4700 members from 84 chapters, in 8 districts across the state. Every year, members compete at the district level in the following CDE’s for a chance to represent their district at state competition:

* Indicates a non-state-qualifying event. All other District Leadership contests advance two individuals/teams from each district to state competition.

Extemporaneous Public Speaking
In this CDE, contestants are given eight articles on agricultural topics, from these eight articles they select three to review and finally select one to present a speech on 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 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, delivery, and their answers to judges’ questions.

Creed
This CDE was 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 communication 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 five to eight 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.

Employment skills
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. See District Leadership in September for details.

*National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN, 2018-2024*
October marks the National FFA Convention where 63,000+ FFA members gather for a week of competition, learning, and networking. National FFA convention includes:
- National CDE competitions
- American FFA Degree ceremony
- Industry Tours
- National Day of Service community service opportunities
- Career Fair
- Famous keynote speakers and first-class leadership workshops

**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 agronomy, 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.

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 are Action and Influence.

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)
State finals for the winter CDEs are held in March. The North Dakota State Fair Grounds hosts more than 800 FFA members for state competition in livestock evaluation, agronomy, and the agricultural 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 last of the judging season after the conclusion of several regional contests hosted by alumni and chapters throughout the state. 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.

Agronomy
Students choose this CDE to build and prove skills in agronomic sciences. Participants complete a 50-question written exam, identify seeds, plants, diseases, damages, and other agronomic factors. In addition, contestants evaluate market and seed grain classes and grade grain.

Agricultural Sales
Students in this CDE demonstrate the professional sales process including customer relations, advertising and promotion, and product display. At the competition, members complete a 50-question general knowledge exam, present a product summary, and make a sales presentation for an agricultural product. Teams also work cooperatively to strategize a marketing campaign for an agricultural product and present this campaign to a panel of judges.
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, more than 1,000 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 CDE competitions. Winning CDE teams are awarded travel stipends to National FFA Convention from the ND FFA Foundation. 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 (*Indicates a district qualifying event. See September for descriptions of some of these CDEs):

- Chapter Delegates –
- *Creed
- *Prepared Public Speaking
- *Extemporaneous Public Speaking
- *Demonstration
- *Quiz
- Officer Books
- State FFA Degree Ceremony
- FFA Chorus

SAE Awards
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 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.

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 categories, information, and application details visit with your chapter’s advisor, visit www.ffa.org, or see the Official FFA Student Handbook.
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 agriculture 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 fair. 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: Animal Systems; Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems; Food Products and Processing Systems, Plant Systems; Power, Structural and Technical Systems; and Social Systems. Students conduct a research project, write a technical paper, and prepare a display of their information/experiment. Participants are then interviewed about their project.

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.
Milk Quality & Products
In this CDE, students learn more about milk 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, a general knowledge exam, a 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 a team presentation along with addressing food safety issues, and an identification practicum. Participants use their sensory skills to evaluate and solve problems while applying sound principles in a decision making process.

Meat Science and Technology
Students obtain knowledge and develop skills related to careers in the meat animal industry by ranking classes of beef or pork carcasses and wholesale and retail cuts according to value. Contestants answer questions about the classes, identifying various retail cuts, including indicating proper cooking methods for the cuts, and quality and yield grading beef carcasses. In addition, students complete a written exam, a meat formulation problem, and describe how to 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 landscape design, 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. 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. While there, FFA members donate 11,000 hours of community service to help those less fortunate. 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 for North Dakota agriculture. NDSF offers an opportunity to show the citizens of our great state, and thousands of guests, just what agricultural education/FFA means. It is our opportunity to showcase the products of our efforts, and for students to receive valuable recognition and experience. ND’s more than 4,700 FFA members use the NDSF as an opportunity to enhance their background in areas relating to agronomy, livestock, agricultural mechanics, technology, and horticulture, or by testing their skills in competitive events like 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 link under the exhibitors tab.

State Tractor Driving
The State Tractor Driving CDE is hosted on the North Dakota State Fair Grounds. Each year participants compete at the district level in the basic or advanced categories for the opportunity to advance to this state CDE. The CDE requires participants to navigate a tractor and implement through a specially designed course. Contestants also take a general knowledge and problem solving exams.
Chapter Officer Retreat – Maddock, ND
This overnight event is hosted annually by the Maddock FFA chapter. This retreat’s focus is to help chapter officers share ideas regarding important components of their Program of Activities (POA) like 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 https://www.ffa.org/sitecollectiondocuments/prof_handbook.pdf

FFA Star Awards and Degrees

Degrees
The FFA organization recognizes five official degrees its members can earn throughout their involvement in the organization. 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, are familiar with their chapter's POA, 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 history, the FFA Creed, emblem, motto, mission statement and code of ethics.
• 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, at least 10 hours of community service, have demonstrated 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. In addition they must have completed at least 25 hours of community service.

• 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 at least $10,000 in their SAE. In addition they must have participated in at least 50 hours of community service.

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.
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.naee.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
The Official FFA Manual
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. For applications and more information visit www.ndffafoundation.com

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

**Community Service 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)

**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

**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

**SAE Grant Program**

**Beginning and Expansion SAE Grant Program (made possible through Bakk Farm funds):**

Beginning Grants are for 8th and 9th grade FFA members to develop an SAE project. Expansion Grants are for 10th and 11th grade FFA members to expand on an existing SAE project. ($15,000 to be spent)

Beginning and Expansion SAE Grant Program Applications - due December 1

All SAE grants must now be applied for via the National FFA application using the member’s AET account. Visit with your advisor about this opportunity or log on to your account at TheAET.com
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

*For more information on any of these grant and scholarship opportunities visit [www.ndffafoundation.com](http://www.ndffafoundation.com) or call the FFA Foundation office at 701-224-8390.