



## Nebraska Agricultural Education

# CONNECTIONS

August, 2009

The greatest challenge to any thinker is stating the problem in a way that will allow a solution.

Bertrand Russell

### The Agricultural Education Mission

Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems.

### Congratulations and welcome to the new Nebraska Agricultural Educators!

School.....	Name .....	Previous Location
Ord .....	Mitch Bredthauer .....	December 2008 Grad UNL
Wilber-Clatonia .....	Anita Wollenburg .....	2008 UNL graduate
Chase County-Imperial.....	Jeremy Vlasin .....	UNL AgEd endorsement
O'Neill .....	Krystl Knabe .....	2009 UNL graduate
Randolph.....	Craig Flaming .....	2008 UNL graduate
McPherson County .....	Tim Negley .....	UNL AgEd endorsement
West Point.....	Lee Schroeder .....	Agribusiness
Elgin.....	Patrick Beres .....	South Dakota
Loup City.....	Luke Kucera.....	Farming
Spalding .....	Abby Knobbe .....	December 2009 Grad/SDSU

### Good luck to those teachers who are teaching in a “new” school this year:

Grand Island Northwest.....	Jessica Hermansen
Fullerton.....	Kevin Wetovick
Centennial .....	Arne Anderson
Burwell .....	Philip Simpson
Cedar Rapids.....	MaKayla Coufal

### FFA Board Actions

The FFA Board of Directors took action on important items that will be implemented during this school year.

#### *Leadership Skills Events*

Judges for preliminaries and finals at State Convention who evaluate Natural Resources and Cooperative Speaking events have commented for the last few years that many students are doing presentations and relying on power point instead of delivering a speech. The FFA Board of Directors discussed this topic at their July meeting and made the following decision:

*Jack moved that in Natural Resources & Cooperative Speaking competitions use of audio-visual is acceptable; however no point changes should result from use or lack of use of audio-visual beginning for 2009-2010.*

*Tonya seconded  
Motion passed.*

Students may still use audio-visual support, but points will not be given nor taken away based on the audio-visual. It will be important for all advisors who have students in these events to have them primarily focus on the speech. Updated rules will be coming out later this fall with the new phrasing regarding scoring.

#### *Protecting Student Identity*

The Board addressed the topic of protecting student identity with addresses and personal information included on applications submitted.

The Board's recommendation is for any teacher, parent or student who is concerned with including personal information (address, phone etc) on an application to include **school** contact information in place of the personal information.

#### *Qualifying two teams/individuals per LSE per district with the 50+ members rule*

During the February Board meeting, there was discussion on changing the 50+ rule (50 members, grades 9-12 ) for having 2 teams/individuals per LSE area.

The FFA Board decided the following:

*Jerome moved that each district be allowed to determine the number of competitors per school per event at the district level. Each district can send a maximum of two teams or individuals from the district to the state event beginning 2009-2010.*

*Tony Tvrdy seconded  
Motion carried.*

This means that each district may determine if each chapter can bring 1, 2, 3 or more individuals/teams to their district FFA leadership skills events. Each district can send a MAXIMUM of two teams or individuals to compete at State FFA Convention. District's may continue to use the 50+ rule or make changes to that qualification based on input from teachers in the district. Please contact your district FFA representative with questions.

### **FFA Chapter Roster/Dues/Registration in Ag Ed Database/Program of Activities/Budget/Constitution and Bylaws**

Again this year, all membership will be entered/revised online via the National FFA membership website after **September 12**. Do not try to log on or enter the membership system before then.

**Your specific chapter password will be provided to you by paper mail. The instructions are unchanged and will be available on the National FFA and Nebraska Ag Ed websites.** All students who were members during the last school year will already appear on the database for your chapter. The Nebraska and National FFA will review the roster submissions before they are finalized. Advisors will be able to print an invoice online. The rosters must be completed on or before **September 30, 2009**.

You will also be required to enter your personal and enrollment information into the ag ed database ([www.neaged.org](http://www.neaged.org)). Part of the process involves creating your own password. This will allow you to register for events on the website throughout the year. The ag ed database also provides the Department of Education with current data for determine the chapters eligible for a second individual/team at district leadership skills events and other important contact data. **This information must be entered in the neaged.org database on or before September 30, 2009.**

Also, please remember it is required that your chapter submits a Program of Activities and Chapter Budget for the year. These may be submitted electronically to [ndeaged@nebraska.gov](mailto:ndeaged@nebraska.gov) or you may send a paper copy into the office. Nebraska does not have a standard program of activities form. Chapters may use any format that works best for them and their needs. An excellent resource for forms and ideas is found in the Program of Activities Tool available for purchase from the national FFA. Look for ordering information in the 2009-2010 CORE Catalog or online at [www.ffa.org/shop/](http://www.ffa.org/shop/).

To provide accountability for local FFA chapters, a current copy of your local chapter bylaws must be on file with the Nebraska FFA. If your chapter made changes to your constitution/bylaws recently, please send it to the Nebraska FFA.

***Rosters, Program of Activities, Budgets, Registration in Ag Ed Database, and Constitution and Bylaws (if revised) are due September 30, 2009!***

**Email Communication**

As in the past, we will be sending information to the schools via email or the web. Messages will contain calendar reminders, needed information and other items of interest. If you have any information to be shared, please email it to Roxie ([roxie.rosenthal@nebraska.gov](mailto:roxie.rosenthal@nebraska.gov)). Please make a habit of checking your email—this will often be the only way to share important information quickly.

**Agricultural Education Directory**

The 2009-2010 Agricultural Education Directory will be provided to you via email and website [www.neaged.org](http://www.neaged.org). Please double check your information for accuracy. If there are any corrections, please contact Roxie at [roxie.rosenthal@nebraska.gov](mailto:roxie.rosenthal@nebraska.gov).

**2009-2010 School Year Calendar**

The calendar is located on the FFA website at [www.neaged.org](http://www.neaged.org). It contains the information as submitted from the districts. If you have other relevant events to add, please email the details to Roxie.

**National FFA Convention**

Congratulations to the following FFA Members/Chapters who will be recognized at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis in October.

**National Proficiency Award Finalists:**

Emily Ibach, SEM—Ag Processing  
Chip Bartos, Verdigre—Beef Entrepreneurship  
Jeremy Brabec, Schuyler—Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production  
Alicia Dather, Bloomfield—Food Science & Technology



**CDE Teams and Individuals:**

<b>CDE Area</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
Ag Communications	Conestoga
Ag Issues	Superior
Ag Mechanics	West Holt
Ag Sales	Waverly
Agronomy	Eustis-Farnam
Creed Speaking	Trent Ronhovde, Waverly
Dairy Cattle	State Event – September 6
Dairy Handlers	State Event – September 6
Environmental/Natural Resources	Lyons-Decatur Northeast
Extemporaneous Speaking	Eric Kamler, Fillmore Central
Farm Business Management	Norris
Floriculture	McCook
Food Science & Technology	Eustis-Farnam
Forestry	Norris
Horse Selection	Laurel-Concord
Job Interview	Meradith Ganow, Norris
Livestock Evaluation	Blair
Marketing Plan	Alliance
Meats	Eustis-Farnam
Nursery/Landscape	West Holt
Parliamentary Procedure	Franklin
Poultry	Verdigre
Prepared Public Speaking	Debra Wray, Ord

**Honorary American Degree:**

Jack Nemece, West Point

**National FFA Chorus:**

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
Green	Kelli	Sutton
Jurgens	Anna	Freeman
Kneifl	Megan	Hartington
Niedermeyer	Lisa	Johnson County Central
Stone	Brittany	Sutton
Buss	Evan	Freeman
Houck	James	Bayard
Janicek	Lyle	Kimball
Shinn	Jarrold	Fairbury
Garcia	Emily	Mead
Lamle	Karisa	Cody-Kilgore
Page	Sarah	Freeman
Ayres	Ashley	Freeman
Klein	Abbey	Freeman
Hardesty	Dillon	Centennial

**National FFA Band:**

Hottovy	Lindsay	Freeman
Korb	Kayla	Sutton
Kalenda	Marcy	Cody-Kilgore

**National Chapter:**

The thirteen Nebraska chapters who competed in this area all received a two-star or three-star rating! Congratulations!

**Model of Innovation:**

Nebraska is honored to have **three** chapters recognized as Chapter Development Finalists:  
 Holdrege—Chapter Development  
 Syracuse-Dunbar-Avooca—Chapter Development  
 Seward—Chapter Development

**National Agri-Entrepreneurship Winners:**

Rachael Arkfeld	Lourdes Central Catholic FFA	National Winner
Colton Hansen	Syracuse Dunbar-Avooca FFA	Gold
Dillon Ocner	Sutton Public Schools FFA	Bronze
Matthew Shafer	Superior FFA	Silver
Sarah Wheeldon	Schuyleruyler Central FFA	Gold

**American Degrees:**

One-hundred eighty-seven (187) Nebraska FFA members will receive the American Degree. An email was provided earlier with the specific names of students.

**SAE Record Books**

Nebraska believes strongly that all students should be engaged in an SAE, and keep accurate records. The computerized record book is mandatory for all applications. If you do not have a copy, please contact Matt Kreifels at [matt.kreifels@blairschools.org](mailto:matt.kreifels@blairschools.org) or visit the Nebraska Agricultural Education website and click on the SAE Record Book menu bar for additional information on the SAE Record Book.

**Local Planning Resource Guide**

All applications and resources from National FFA are web-based. There will NOT be a CD Rom distributed to individual chapters. All materials, resources and information can be downloaded from the Educators page on the National FFA website. Go to [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org), click on the “educators” tab at the top of the home page and it will take you to the page to download the information.

NOTE: We have our own Nebraska State FFA Degree application. Do NOT use the American Degree application on the National FFA web site. We will forward you the current state degree application later this fall.

**IMPACT/Teacher Workshops**

The 2009 IMPACT dates and locations are listed below. The workshops will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at 2:15 p.m.

September 9—Scottsbluff, Panhandle Research and Extension Center  
October 5—Hastings, Central Community college  
October 6—Norfolk, Northeast Community College  
October 14—Curtis, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture  
October 15—Norris, High School  
November 10—Stuart, Auditorium

The state officers will be presenting workshops on FFA opportunities, actions versus words, strengths, ag careers/opportunities, teamwork and service. More detailed information on the day's events and teacher inservice will be coming out later in an email.

## FFA Accounting

Nebraska FFA contracts with an accounting firm to handle all receipts and disbursements. We clearly state on forms and materials that all money should be forwarded (preferably on or before the deadline) to our accountants at:

Grafton and Associates  
5935 S. 56<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A  
Lincoln, NE 68516



Please convey this message to your school accounting staff: **When submitting a check for payment, please include on the check or on an enclosure exactly what is being paid (i.e., membership, COLT Conference, etc.). Checks should be made payable to the Nebraska FFA Association.** It is the most helpful if you have your school's accounting staff include the invoice with the payment when it is sent to Grafton and Associates. The payments are much easier to process when proper documentation is included.

If you need to cancel a student's conference registration after the deadline specified by the Nebraska FFA, you will be refunded the conference cost minus \$20 (i.e., conference cost is \$96, the Nebraska FFA retains \$20, your final refund would be \$76). This is necessary for administration and costs of meals already reserved.



## Nebraska Department of Education Operations

We have three people in the Department of Education that work primarily with agricultural education.

The currently vacant state director position has the primary responsibility for program coordination, curriculum, program standards, Perkins funding, etc.

**Donelle Johnson** is a consultant and also serves as the State FFA Executive Director. Donelle's responsibilities include technical assistance for agricultural education programs as well as managing the Nebraska FFA Association and supervising the State FFA Officers. Her phone number is: 402-471-2441 Email: [donelle.johnson@nebraska.gov](mailto:donelle.johnson@nebraska.gov)

**Roxie Rosenthal** is a professional assistant with FFA. She works with FFA membership, convention, leadership conferences registration and administration and also assists with the financial management of the FFA. Her phone number is: 402-471-2439  
Email: [roxie.rosenthal@nebraska.gov](mailto:roxie.rosenthal@nebraska.gov)