

Colorado Agricultural Education Weekly Update

8/26/2009

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National Quality Program Standards Project & 5 year plan

Last spring we started the NQPS project with all our Colorado programs. In April we asked that each program work with their advisory committees and administration to apply the national standards document to the local ag program they represent. At summer conference we conducted workshops on three of the seven areas of the NQPS and provided best practices that could be used to improve in the areas of Experiential Learning (SAE), Marketing and Partnerships. At this workshop we also provided you copies of the new form to use when creating the local 5 yr plan which is submitted to my office each fall. After a school has completed the NQPS survey we asked that you record your findings on our survey monkey site at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=DdyrjnvRP7wlsbkVedNOFQ_3d_3d

As of today we have input from only 41 of our 98 programs in Colorado. This is not a satisfactory response. I understand that summer may be a difficult time to bring your advisory committee together and in July administrators can be hard to find. That said, I do expect all our programs to complete this process early this fall. School is back in session and this provides you an excellent opportunity to bring committee and administration to the table to take a serious look at the local ag program. After Sept 15th I will start sending notices to teachers to complete the process. Those not completing by October 1 will have administration copied in on subsequent notices. I know you are busy, but it is a great benefit to your program to complete this process. I've attached the NQPS document to this update as well as the new 5yr plan to use after completing the survey. Please don't put this off any longer.

Sept 1 is listed as the due date to submit course outlines and 5 year plans to my office. I have been receiving a few of these so far but there are still a lot to come in. I would appreciate it if you can send them electronically if possible. Those of you who have your course outlines on Coloradocte.org do not need to submit. Please update them if you've made changes to your program approval. If you have not yet completed the NQPS process mentioned above please hold off on submitting your new 5 yr plan. I would rather have it completed based on the survey results and turned in later in the month of

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September. Unlike last year, I will be posting who has submitted these documents. I've posted the new 5 yr plan template on the website. It is listed on the Program Planning section under the teacher resources tab. I've also attached it to this update. [Return to top of document](#)

Online Curriculum Problems

Some of you may be experiencing problems accessing the plant and animal science lesson plans. Something is happening with the PDF table of contents on the website and will not allow you to connect to the word file or power point lessons. We are redesigning this website this year and the original programmer is no longer available for assistance to fix the problem. If you are running into this problem, please use the two attached word documents to access the lessons. These documents contain links that can take you directly to the lessons on the server. [Return to top of document](#)

A new FREE parliamentary procedure E-Bulletin is now available

by clicking on: http://pzen.northwest.net/index.php?main_page=page_503

If you have time, take a look at the tab half way down on the LH side of the page. You'll find good resources that Dr. Dunbar is providing to schools free of charge. [Return to top of document](#)

Preparing for student travel

I received an email today from one of our "senior" teachers wondering if anyone could find the "Travel Permission" document that Steve Karspeck distributed last spring. Since I know what it is like to keep track of forms and papers (I used vertical piling system when I taught) I thought I'd redistribute it again. It's a good example of documentation that you should have on file before taking trips with students. Thanks Steve for providing it. [Return to top of document](#)

Update from Kenton Ochsner

Big Conference (Flyer attached)

We will again be offering the "Becoming Involved as a Greenhand" conference thanks to the Mountain Plains Farm Credit. The flyer is attached. **New this year**, we will have a sample FFA Jacket set at most of the locations for you to use with your students to determine the correct size to order.

Below are the dates and locations:

Monday, September 14--Sterling

Tuesday, September 15--Greeley

Thursday, September 17--Lamar

Friday, September 18--Durango and Grand Junction

Please note that the registration due date has been moved to **September 1**. You should be receiving an email from Survey Monkey, this is the registration for BIG. Payment can be mailed to the State FFA Office or brought to the conference. If you didn't receive the email from Survey Monkey you can find the registration at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=MIHqDc0a4Lhi2QPAapCbcQ_3d_3d

FFA Dues—The State and National dues will be \$13.50 per student. Please remember that the roster must be completed on-line by October 15th and payment must be received by December 1st. We will be

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emailing you the instructions for on-line membership following the State Fair. Should you have any questions, please contact me.

MFE/ALD Conference—This conference will be Saturday, October 3- Sunday, October 4th, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Colorado Springs. The presenters this year will be Rhett Laubach and Kelly Barnes. The hotel rooms will be \$95 plus tax. The registration fee will be \$45 per student. This is a decrease of 25% compared to past years. Please look for more information to follow regarding fees, hotel reservations and registration forms.

Hope to see many of you at the State Fair. [Return to top of document](#)

Kenton Ochsner
State FFA Advisor

Update on FFA Calendar

We are still exploring the capabilities of the Google Calendar program on the website. We hope to provide links to documents and forms within the events that are posted on the calendar. While we are still in the learning mode on this feature we still have the “old school” calendar form available on the website. You can find it at <http://www.ffa.cccs.edu/teachers.htm> or by clicking the teacher resources tab. [Return to top of document](#)

Ag Teacher Directory

You should have received an excel file earlier this week with the current ag teachers directory information. If you haven't yet looked over your contact information yet please do so ASAP. Any changes that need to be made can be sent to me and I'll change the file. My goal is to have the directory information sent out in Excel very soon. The complete directory will follow after Labor Day. FYI if I don't have a picture of you, I may see what I can find online that resembles your likeness. Either send me a mug shot or take your chances! [Return to top of document](#)

Labor law links

It's the SAE startup season again and often questions arise about what is legal and safe work for students to be engaged in. Information on Youth Labor Laws for ag and non-ag jobs can be found at <http://www.dol.gov/dol/topic/youthlabor/Agriculturalemployment.htm>
<http://www.youthrules.dol.gov/index.htm>

Both of these sites contain specific information on what youth can be employed at based on their age. The Youth Rules site is designed well and could be used as a resource by your students to determine what they can and cannot be employed in. I've placed both of these links on the teachers resource page of the website. (Click the teacher resource tab directly, not one of the drop down tabs, to get to this page)

The Colorado Department of Labor will be providing teachers additional information on youth employment later this year. [Return to top of document](#)

News from National FFA

Attached is a letter from acting COO Bill Fleet on an update on the reorganization efforts being made at the national FFA center.

FFA room rates announcement

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On Monday, August 10, the Indianapolis City-County Council voted to increase Marion county's hotel tax rate by 1 percent, effective Sept. 1, 2009. As a result of this legislation, the housing rates for the 2009 convention have increased slightly, as all taxes are included in the FFA published rates. If you have already booked your housing, please note the rates on your acknowledgements are not current. For those who have reserved rooms, you will receive future communications from the FFA housing bureau with the new hotel rates. The chapter housing form posted on ffa.org is current and reflects this tax increase. Should you have questions, please contact the FFA Housing Bureau. They can be reached via e-mail at housing@visitIndy.com or phone at 317-684-2573, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., (Eastern Daylight Time.)

This tax increase will impact those of you who are staying downtown. If you are in hotels in any of the surrounding towns you are outside Marion County and not subject to the increase. [Return to top of document](#)

Update Archives

Starting this year we will be archiving the updates on the FFA website under the teacher resources. The weekly updates will be available as PDF files so you don't have to search email to review past information. Unfortunately we won't be able to archive the attachments, so if you can't find one of those you'll have to drop me a note. I should be able to provide it to you. [Return to top of document](#)

No great thoughts this week. Watch for upcoming updates concerning CTA Reimbursement and changes to the Program Approval Process. These should be coming within the week.

Enjoy the week and safe travels for those heading to Pueblo.