

# Colorado Agricultural Education Weekly Update

RDU

9/16/2009

## [FFA Live Calendar](#)

### September, 2009 Event or Report Due Submit/Mail to or Request Info from:

18 MFE & ALD Registration due [FFA](#)

### October, 2009 Event or Report Due Submit/Mail to or Request Info from:

2-3 State FFA Executive Committee Meeting [FFA](#)

3 Heifer Wrangle Applications **Due at MFE conference** [FFA](#)  
(this is not a postmark due date!!!)

3 New Teacher & Mentor Meeting – Colorado Springs

3-4 MFE & ALD – Colorado Springs [FFA](#)

15 Submit Membership Roster Online [FFA](#)

*Submit by due date to qualify for Superior/National Chapter Award & CDE Participation*

15 Submit FFA Program of Activities - *Requirement of Superior/National Chapter Award*

21-24 National FFA Convention – Indianapolis, IN [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org)

## Topics included this week

- [Update from the National Ag Ed Council](#)
- [Results from Advisory Committee Meeting Last Week](#)
- [Scholarship Opportunity for So Jr or Sr in Ag at CO, WY or KS colleges](#)
- [Horse & Livestock Contest at LCC in Laramie](#)
- [Heifer Wrangle Applications](#)
- [Registration for MFE / ALD](#)
- [New Teacher / Mentor Meeting](#)
- [Colorado teachers highlighted in national magazine](#)
- [Thoughts of great importance from the PD's desk](#)

## Advisory Committee Meeting -- Sept 11

Decisions made at last week's advisory committee meeting;

- Creed CDE rules were changed to comply with national rules. Students are allowed to use the introduction "The FFA Creed was written by E.M. Tiffany." This is the only introduction that may be used. Main motion passed unanimously.
- The Creed score sheet will be modified to provide for judges feedback to individual speakers

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- No changes were made to the rules of any other CDE.
- Allocation of State participation for speaking, quiz and Parli Pro events will remain under the same formula as last year. Data on district level participation will be collected and analyzed for another year.
- Motion to remove restriction on two speakers from the same chapter representing a district at state competition failed on a 6-7 vote. This policy will be reviewed with CCCS legal staff to insure its application isn't increasing our exposure to legal challenges. Until then the policy from last year remains in place. ***No school may send two students to state in a single speaking CDE.***
- Motion to recognize with medals all state CDE participants in bronze, silver & gold individual placing, amended to include "if sponsorship available", passed on a unanimous vote.

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**MFE / ALD Registration Information is attached. Due Friday Sept 18<sup>th</sup>**

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## **New Teacher / Mentor Kickoff Meeting**

New teachers and Mentors will have their first meeting on Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the MFE conference in Colorado Springs. We plan to follow the CVATA meeting on Saturday afternoon and finish up that evening after dinner. Specific information for the meeting will be sent to participants next week from the Don Thorn, program coordinator.

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## **Making a Difference Magazine**

This month's issue of Making a Difference is focused on Finding a Balance Among the Three Circles of Agriculture Education. Colorado has a strong presence in this issue with interviews from several of our teachers. Take a few minutes to hear what our teachers have to say about balancing the program as well as balancing their lives. You can even get the inside scoop on how one Colorado manages teaching school and laundry.

**This is a must read for our new teachers and those of you who married or started a family this past year.**

The magazine also contains a listing of teacher resources as well as updates from the national FFA. Read it all at [Making A Difference](#)

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## **Applications Accepted for Agriculture Scholarships**

The Colorado Conservation Tillage Association (CCTA) is currently accepting applications until December 1, 2009 for Agriculture Scholarships that will be awarded to students majoring in Agriculture degree programs. The scholarships will be awarded at the 2010 High Plains No-till Conference in February, 2010 in Burlington, Colorado. Winners do not need to be present to wind a scholarship

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There will be a \$750 scholarship, sponsored by CCTA, awarded to full time students returning as a sophomore, junior or senior attending a higher institution of learning in Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming or Kansas majoring in Agriculture (excluding animal and equine science). A 2<sup>nd</sup> \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a college student attending Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colorado and majoring in Agriculture Diesel Mechanics, sponsored by Wickham Tractor Company of Fort Morgan, CO.

For an application and details on other qualifications, go to [www.HighPlainsNoTill.com](http://www.HighPlainsNoTill.com) and click the Scholarship button on the Home Page. Applications can be downloaded from the website or send a request to: Kathy Rickart, Conference Co-Coordinator, 219 Cattail Bay, Windsor, CO 80550 or call 970-576-8970.

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**Attached** is the invitation to the LCC Horse and Livestock contest in Laramie on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>. Flyer is attached

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**Heifer Wrangle** The selection of this year's participants will be made at MFE on Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup>. This means that the applications need to be in the hands of committee members prior to their leaving for Colorado Springs unless you bring it to the conference yourself. The deadline is not a postmark date!!! It is a "in the committee's hand date". Due to other obligations by state staff the week of MFE we will not be in the office most of the week. Because of this please ***do not mail your applications to the state office***. If you do this there is a good chance it won't be at the selection meeting. Additional information on the program, and who to send the applications to will be sent out by Jeff Plumb later this week. If you have questions on the program ask a committee member for more information.

[Heifer Wrangle Applications](#)

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## News from Ernie Gill on National Convention Deadlines

Greetings---Hope you have had a productive summer, as you can well guess the tempo of the National FFA office has picked up over the past two weeks. We are just 36 days out. As the Convention gets closer I thought I should share some deadlines and miscellaneous information with you. You may want to share the below information with your teachers. Some of it is new and some of it is ongoing.

CARE Key Contacts: Over the past couple of weeks we have made some adjustments in work assignments, please find attached a document that contains a description for the division, each team and then the specific responsibilities for each staff member. It will also provide you with a valuable visual to keep in touch with us here in Indy, enjoy☺

## Convention Special Needs

**Jim Armbruster**

[jarmbruster@ffa.org](mailto:jarmbruster@ffa.org)

317-802-4334

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Every year we receive phone calls from teachers who will be traveling with individuals who have special needs. Here is a list of special needs services that we provide based on the facility. We also receive phone calls regarding students who have been injured and have a temporary disability due to the injury.

1. **ADA wheel chair access seating General Seating:** Conseco and LOS during general seating sessions have identified locations for participants who are in wheel chairs or mobility carts. Teacher or individual can gain access to these areas in general sessions by asking an usher or facility staff.
2. **ADA wheel chair access ticketed event:** LOS (Concerts) and Pepsi Coliseum (Bulls and Broncs). For ticketed events, a wheel chair access seating ticket and a companion ticket can be secured. Teachers will need to purchase the number of tickets they need and then stop at the box office to trade two tickets for wheel chair access seating areas. If time allows, teachers can contact me by email and we will arrange a swap of tickets.
3. **Hearing impairments:** Sign language interpreters will be present at Conseco Fieldhouse. Ushers or facility staff can direct participants to the seating supported by sign language interpreters. Lucas Oil Stadium – Listening support devices – head set tied into the house sound can be checked out from guest services on the south end of LOS. ICC – Listening support devices are available in Finals Hall.
4. **ADA load and unload zones, complete description and locations for all ADA load and unload zones are included in the advisors planning guide.** [http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c\\_convention.travel](http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_convention.travel)
5. **Parking - All parking facilities by ADA law must provide a number of ADA identified parking spaces. Purchase of a parking pass is required and the appropriate license plate or ADA hang tag must be displayed. LOS has 97 ADA parking spaces on the south side of the stadium. These spaces can be purchased for \$10.00 per entry and are available on a first come first serve bases. Standard vehicles only no buses.**

## SAE Grants

Deborah Sellers

[dsellers@ffa.org](mailto:dsellers@ffa.org)

317-802-4302

SAE grants were announced on Sept. 2. Organic Valley/Organic Prairie grants sponsor six grants and the recipients must have an organic component to their SAE, even if it's something as simple as testing organic vs. non-organic practices in their SAE. There are six grants: Dairy, Diversified Livestock, Poultry, Diversified Crop, Vegetable and Diversified Horticulture. This grant is based on financial need. In the past we have had quite a few apps that do not address this issue. Also applicants must be between the ages of 14 and 17.

Other Grants:

Merial Select- Poultry Production (1)

Novartis Animal Health US, Inc – Beef Production (2)

Dairy Production (2)

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Swine Production (2)  
Veterinary Medicine (2)

Crop Production Services – 5 grants to be chosen from Diversified Crop and Grain

Organic Valley – Div. Crop (1)  
Div. Hort (1)  
Dairy Production (1)  
Div. Livestock (1)  
Poultry (1)  
Vegetable (1)

There is a stipulation on these grants that the recipients must have an organic component to the SAE Tointon Family Foundation – Four grants to members from Colorado.

Chore-Time Brock – Grain Production (1)  
Poultry (2)  
Swine (1)

There is a geographic stipulation on these grants. Members must be from the Midwest/south

## **National FFA Convention Courtesy Corps**

**Mandy Hazlett**

[mhazlett@ffa.org](mailto:mhazlett@ffa.org)

317-802-4312

## **2009 Courtesy Corp Registration NOW OPEN!!!**

The National FFA Convention Courtesy Corps is a great way for members to learn what goes on behind-the-scenes at convention. Members may assist convention staff in a number of different areas, including CDEs, the arena's main stage, the awards office, newsroom and more. Registration is online only at [convention.ffa.org](http://convention.ffa.org).

Please contact Mandy Hazlett, [mhazlett@ffa.org](mailto:mhazlett@ffa.org) with any questions.

Mandy needs help in gathering chapters to fill the Courtesy Corps requests. Please encourage chapters to sign up.

## **Convention Judges:**

**Teri Buchholtz**

[tbuchholtz@ffa.org](mailto:tbuchholtz@ffa.org)

**802-4419**

There are opportunities to provide nominations for convention judges. You should have received the pdf Judges Nomination Form in earlier communications. If not contact Teri. This is an excellent way for state staff to engage potential and current supporters.

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## Scholarship News:

Teri Buchholtz

[tbuchholtz@ffa.org](mailto:tbuchholtz@ffa.org)

802-4419

## 2009 Scholarship Recipients

Acceptance packets have been mailed. If you have not received your packet, please contact [scholarships@ffa.org](mailto:scholarships@ffa.org)

## Convention Housing, Convention Registration and State Housing Blocks

Ellen Williams

[ewilliams@ffa.org](mailto:ewilliams@ffa.org)

802-4269

## National FFA Convention Registration – Opened Mid-August

Advisors need to verify they can access their MyFFA account. If the “Your Current Billing Address” is blank, the advisor needs to STOP and go to bottom of this page and click on “Contact the Web Team”. The advisor needs to fill out the form indicating their MyFFA account is not properly working (“your current billing address” is blank). The webmaster will reset their account and send them an e-mail once this is complete.

Why is this important to have this information? If this area is “blank” something is wrong with their MyFFA account (chances are the advisor did not fill out the information correctly i.e. chapter id should be listed as AB0012 and advisor enters AB 0012 or AB-0012. If information is not entered properly, the system cannot check for number of rooms in housing block, PeopleSoft number.

## National FFA Convention Chapter Housing

### Important Dates and Information

Deadline Date	Important Dates and Information
September 8, 2009	Rooming lists due to the FFA Housing Bureau.
October 9, 2009	Rooms cancelled on or after this date may result in forfeiture of \$50 deposit per room and charge of one night room and tax.
Late Arrivals	If any party will be arriving after the reservation check-in day, please contact the hotel in advance to inform them of the change in arrival date. Not providing advanced notice to the hotel may result in forfeiture of deposit, charge of one night room and tax and loss of rooms.
Early Departures	An early departure fee of one night’s room and tax may be charged to a guest

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	who departs prior to the reserved check-out date. Guests wishing to avoid this fee must advise the hotel at or before check-in of any change in the scheduled length of stay. The hotel will inform the guest of this fee upon check-in, giving the guest the option to change the check-out date upon arrival date upon arrival without penalty.
Purchase Orders	Arrangements to pay final hotel bill by purchase order must be made in advance directly with the hotel. A purchase order may not be an acceptable form of payment at all hotels.

## National FFA Convention State Housing Blocks

### Important Dates and Information

Deadline Date	Important Dates and Information
July 15, 2009	\$50 non-refundable deposit per room due to the National FFA Office. Make checks payable to the "National FFA Organization." A deposit reconciliation form will be provided to you by May 1 that must accompany your deposit check. Any rooms not guaranteed by the \$50 room deposit will be released.
July 31, 2009	To receive the pre-registration convention discount, we need to know who is purchasing registration for your state block. Please advise if the state is purchasing for the entire group. If each chapter advisor is responsible, please submit the chapter ID, chapter name and number of rooms allotted to each chapter.
September 8, 2009	Rooming lists due to the FFA Housing Bureau. Send to Diane Whitsitt at <a href="mailto:dwhitsitt@indianapolis.org">dwhitsitt@indianapolis.org</a> . Please submit your rooming lists only after ALL chapters have reported to you.
October 9, 2009	Rooms cancelled on or after this date may result in forfeiture of \$50 deposit per room and charge of one night room and tax.
Late Arrivals	If any party will be arriving after the reservation check-in day, please contact the hotel in advance to inform them of the change in arrival date. Not providing advanced notice to the hotel may result in forfeiture of deposit, charge of one night room and tax and loss of rooms.
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## CDE News:

Melissa Brown

[mbrown@ffa.org](mailto:mbrown@ffa.org)

802-4288

**\*\*CLARIFICATION:** Waivers can either be mailed directly to Nationals from the chapter OR if the state prefers, they can collect all their teams' waivers and send them to Nationals together. Both modes of submission are acceptable. Starting August 1<sup>st</sup> state staff will receive periodic team verification reports with the waiver and membership status of each team member.

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**2009 CDE deadlines announced:** Deadlines have been set for the 2009 National FFA CDEs. They are as follows:

- June 1: Team Declaration Forms due
- July 7: Team Certification Forms due (postmarked)  
CDE Special Needs Requests due  
Student Waiver Forms due (postmarked)  
State Assistants Forms due (postmarked)  
State Speaking Judges Forms due (postmarked)
- Aug. 15: Prepared Public Speaking Manuscripts due
- Sept. 15: Agricultural Communications Portfolios due  
Agricultural Issues Portfolios due  
Job Interview Portfolios due  
Marketing Plan Portfolios due
- Oct. 7: Add/Delete Forms due (by 5 p.m. EST)

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## Wisdom from the Field

First off, thank you for taking the time to read this part of the update this week. I know your time is valuable so I'll be short and to the point. (a change from the past)

Today as I was reading the newest issue of MaD magazine ( the one from FFA not Alfred E Neuman's) I jumped over to the NAAE Communities of Practice site to look at the Question for the Profession posed by the editor, Nina Crutchfield. While there I saw that Troy Mayfield from Holyoke had posted a comment on the question. I encourage you to visit the site at [http://naae.ca.uky.edu:8080/clearspace\\_community/message/3469](http://naae.ca.uky.edu:8080/clearspace_community/message/3469) and read the wisdom he posted there. I noticed that he had also posted on several other areas of

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the community of practice site. I know many of you have looked at the [Communities of Practice](#) site and have posted on the site with questions or answers over the past year. I encourage those of you who haven't yet registered to do so. It's a great way to connect with ag instructors across the nation, share ideas, resources and advice.

I especially encourage you to post your thoughts on the Making a Difference "Question for the Profession" each month. We created this part of the magazine when I was editor, for the sole purpose to provide a voice to the local ag teacher. It was my belief that we made decisions at the national level based on our assumption of what the local teacher's needs and thoughts were. Providing an opportunity for input from the local level is what the "Question for the Profession" is all about. It allows a voice to the teachers which is shared with other teachers as well as our national ag ed leaders. Your opinion and wisdom is important so take a couple of minutes to share it with the rest of the profession and while you're there read what others have had to say.

Thanks and have a great week.

Mike

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