



## DATES TO REMEMBER

September	
4-6	Delta Fair Livestock Show (Memphis)
8	St. Horse Eval. CDE Reg. Due - Charles Howard
11-20	TN State Fair (Nash.) TN Valley Fair (Knox.)
14	St. Horse Eval. CDE
16	St. Livestock Eval. CDE
15	National Ag Comm., Ag Issues, Job Interview, Marketing CDE Portfolios due to Nat. FFA
17	St. Dairy Eval. & Handlers CDE
22	MT Land Judging Reg. Due - Benny Joe McDonald
29	MT Land Judging
30	TN Team Ag Ed (Nash.)
October	
1	TN Team Ag Ed (Nash.)
3	MT Ag Sales CDE
3	WT Ag Sales CDE & Greenhand Conf.
6	ET & WT Land Judging
21-24	National FFA Convention

## TENNESSEE STATE FAIR NEWS

The TN State Fair will be September 11-20 at the fair grounds in Nashville. This year's fair promises to be one of the best ever, and you and your students can help to make it that way. Here are some important things you need to remember about the fair:

- Fair exhibit set up will be on Sept. 8-10. All exhibits must be set up by Friday morning. **NOTE: JUDGING will be on FRIDAY, SEPT. 11. There was an error in the Fair Catalog that listed the wrong date.**
- Public Speaking Contest is on Mon., 9/14 @ 4:30 pm in the Ag Bldg.
- Floral Design Contest is on Tues., 9/15 @ 4 pm in the Ag Bldg.
- Get all of your State Fair information and news on-line at [www.tennesseestatefair.org](http://www.tennesseestatefair.org).

## STATE HORSE EVALUATION CDE

The State Horse Evaluation CDE will take place on September 14 at the MTSU Miller Coliseum in Murfreesboro. Registration will begin at noon, with the event starting at 1:00 p.m. sharp.

The event will consist of 6 judging classes and 2 reasons classes. Chapters are allowed to register alternates for this event; however, cards will only be provided for one team of alternates. Anything more than that, then they must share or a teacher must bring their own for the students to use. This is for alternates only.

Registration for this CDE is due to Charles Howard by no later than **Tuesday, September 8**. E-mail the form to Charles Howard at [howardc@wescschools.com](mailto:howardc@wescschools.com). All teams NEED to be pre-registered this year to compete. If you do not pre-register we can not guarantee the availability of judging cards or that your team will be ready for the start of the event.

## STATE LIVESTOCK & DAIRY CDE'S

Information on the State Livestock & Dairy Evaluation CDE's has already been sent to all qualifying teams. If you have not yet registered with the state fair and the state FFA office, please do so immediately. These are two separate registrations; so be sure to take care of both.

## STATE DAIRY HANDLING ACTIVITY

For the first time ever, Tennessee FFA will host a state Dairy Handling activity to determine the best Dairy showman in the state and qualify one student to compete at National Convention in the National Dairy Handling activity.

The event will coincide with the State Dairy Cattle Evaluation CDE on Thursday, September 17, 2009. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. in the Ag Building (where the FFA exhibits are), with event orientation beginning at 8:30 a.m. and the event at 9:00 a.m. Registered students will be handling the animals used for the State Dairy Cattle Evaluation CDE judging classes and will be evaluated by a separate judge on how well they handle the animal. Attached is a copy of the national event rules, which will be followed.

If you have a student interested in competing, please fill out the attached CDE Registration Form. Be sure to select "State" as the level and "Dairy Handling Activity" as the CDE area. If you have any questions, please contact our office. Registration is due by no later than Friday, September 11. Alternates will be allowed only if we do not have enough participation from schools.

## ?DOWNLOAD FOLDER?

Are you one of those teachers that always hears about this mysterious download folder, but never knows where to find it? Well look no more! Appearing soon will be a link under "Teacher Resources" on the Ag Ed Program page of the Dept. of Edu. website. We also plan to put a link on the state FFA website too. In the mean time, go to <http://www.tn.gov/education/cte/login.shtml> to login.

## 82ND NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

### REGISTRATION

Registration for the 82nd National FFA Convention is now open! Go to [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) and click on National Convention to stay up to date on everything that will be happening this October. To register, you must have a registered MyFFA account and be logged in. You will then be free to get convention passes, sign up for the Day of Service or Tours, or purchase tickets to one of the many exciting and fun-filled entertainment options.

### HOUSING

There are only a few days remaining to get into the State or National Housing blocks for convention. Currently, we only have 8 rooms available in the state block (none in the downtown area).

- For those of you already signed up for the state block, please be advised of the following items:
- Rooming lists for your group of rooms is due to Nicholas Cole ([Nicholas.cole@tn.gov](mailto:Nicholas.cole@tn.gov)) by this Friday, September 4. Please adhere to this deadline.
  - ROOM RATE CHANGE:** The city of Indianapolis recently voted to increase their city hotel tax by 1%, which means there is an immediate change on rates (note: the base rate does not change, but since all prices were originally listed with tax included, the listed rate will change). This increase is out of the hands of both National and Tennessee FFA. A separate e-mail will be sent to those schools with rooms in the block advising them of the difference.
  - If you are wishing to cancel any rooms, please inform the state office immediately by phone or e-mail.

### TENNESSEE BREAKFAST

The Tennessee FFA Association will once again hold our state breakfast at National Convention for all TN chapters and supporters attending the convention. If you are planning to be in Indy, mark your schedules for **Friday, October 23**. The breakfast will be from 7-9 am in the Grand Ballroom of the Westin hotel (next to the convention center). It is very important that everyone RSVP for this event this year, so that we can get an accurate count for the breakfast. More information on how and when to register will be sent at a later date.

### HALL OF STATES BOOTH

Tennessee FFA is looking for an outstanding chapter to help represent our state at the 82nd National FFA Convention. Each year, every state association has an opportunity to showcase their state's agriculture industry and FFA programs through the Hall of States' exhibits at convention. However, to do this, we need the assistance of an FFA chapter planning to attend the convention. The chapter will need to design the booth, transport (or ship) it to Indianapolis, set it up, and help to secure workers during the convention.

The Hall of States exhibit is a great source of pride for every association, and especially the chapter who puts it together. Last year, the Halls-North Knox FFA Chapter did an outstanding job in representing our state. Mr. Blankenship has even offered to lend some resources for the booth and give guidance to the chapter in charge. This is a great opportunity for your students to experience the convention in a whole new way while representing the state.

The chapter who volunteers to assist will receive \$500 from the state association to help put the booth together and travel to the convention. We will also assist you in connecting with the Department of Agriculture and other businesses who will help to make the booth a great one. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Nicholas Cole at [nicholas.cole@tn.gov](mailto:nicholas.cole@tn.gov) or call 615-253-5207.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

Its the start of a new school year, which can only mean one thing...MEMBERSHIP ROSTERS!! Hopefully you have been gaining new members and holding on to those old one's. But remember, they aren't a member until you put them on the roster and pay their dues.

Membership dues will once again be \$10 for this year (\$5 for TN FFA & \$5 for National FFA). The on-line membership system will not be open until September 10 for you to start inputting your rosters. If you are a new teacher (or maybe even an experienced one) and need help or directions on how to do your membership, please contact Ms. Mary Mitchell at the state office by e-mailing [mary.mitchell@tn.gov](mailto:mary.mitchell@tn.gov) or call 615-253-5711.

## PASSING LITERACY ONWARD (PLOW)

When looking at your Program of Activities for the new school year, be sure that you have the PLOW program included. This literacy program was established 4 years ago to help promote reading amongst our FFA members and other students as well. Make sure your chapter is doing their part to help increase Tennessee's reading scores throughout the state. It always looks good when we have another way to show how agriculture education and FFA are making a positive difference to all of education.

Be on the look out for your 2009-10 program materials coming to a mailbox near you. And don't forget that your chapter can qualify for cash prizes and stage recognition at the 2010 State Convention!

## STATE FFA CONVENTION INFORMATION

### 2009 CONVENTION DVD'S

Many of you have been calling and e-mailing asking about your 2009 convention dvd's. The last word from our production company, is that we should receive these dvd's some time next week. As soon as our office gets them, we will put them in the mail to your chapters. Thank you very much for your patience and know that we are looking for ways to improve this within the coming years.

### 2010 HOUSING

It's never too early to begin thinking about your reservations for the 2010 State FFA Convention. The convention will be March 28-31, 2010 in Gatlinburg, TN.

This year we have a big change in our headquarters hotel for the convention. The Edgewater Hotel has received the contract for 2010-2012 as our main hotel for the convention. Convention staff, along with state officers, and state officer candidates will be housed at this hotel. In addition, all meetings and meal functions, including the state officer election process will take place at the Edgewater. For more information on this hotel, go to [www.edgewater-hotel.com](http://www.edgewater-hotel.com). With over 7,200 square feet of meeting space and over 200 sleeping rooms, the Edgewater is one of the nicest hotels in the city having completed a \$3 million renovation in 2008. Room rates for schools will be \$78.

For those of you use to staying at the Glenstone, they will still remain a priority hotel and will keep room rates at \$78 for the 2010 convention.

In addition to the change of headquarter hotels, we will also be utilizing the Gatlinburg Convention Housing Bureau to secure reservations for all future conventions. This simple, on-line, housing system will allow you to view all the hotels and even some chalets that have chosen to extend a special rate for the state convention. Be on the look out for more information as to how to secure your rooms through this process.

## TN FFA ALUMNI NEWS

### HARVEST FOR AMERICA

The Harvest for America program is an outstanding way to serve your community through collecting food for food banks and those in need. The program is being sponsored by Tractor Supply Company and Carhart; and Tennessee was selected as one of five states to pilot the program. We were selected, not only because TSC is in our own back yard, but because we have a great reputation for being a "volunteer" state and one that works so hard for FFA programs; and now is our chance to prove it.

- By participating in this program, here are some of the benefits you and your students can receive:
- Opportunity to receive a free WLC (Washington Leadership Conference) scholarship
  - Opportunity to receive a free SLC (Alumni State Leaders Conference) scholarship
  - Gift certificates and discount coupons to shop with Carhart and Tractor Supply Company
  - Recognition on stage at the 82nd Tennessee FFA State Convention
  - Outstanding National Chapter Award & POA activity
  - Deeper connection and working relationship with local TSC store, which could lead to other opportunities
  - Strengthen or begin a new local Alumni chapter (\*You do not have to have a local Alumni affiliate to participate)
  - Satisfaction of knowing you helped a community in need

Attached is an overview guide of how the program works and how to become involved. If you are interested, there is a participation form attached that must be filled out and sent to Jerry Wood, TN FFA Alumni President, at [jerrywoodffa@yahoo.com](mailto:jerrywoodffa@yahoo.com) or fax 731-968-9399. The kick-off for this program is September 28, so don't wait.

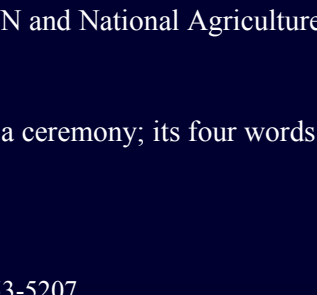
### FFA ALUMNI PRINT THANK YOU CARDS

Want your own set of mini FFA Alumni prints? Well now they can be yours, and your chapter's too. The TN FFA Alumni Council recently decided to thank you cards with each of the 5 FFA Alumni prints on them. You can buy your own to use personally or for your FFA chapter. Look for more information to come on how you can be one of the first to order these originals. It's a piece of TN FFA history, you'll be sure to want to own.

## TN FFA FOUNDATION NEWS

### "HEART OF COUNTRY" CD FUNDRAISER

The Tennessee FFA Foundation along with Sony and Nashville To You are joining together to create a new fundraising opportunity for Tennessee FFA. It will involve the sale of "The Heart of Country" CD which contains tracks from some of Sony's top artists including Kenny Chesney, Carrie Underwood, Brooks & Dunn, Martina McBride, and Brad Paisley. This CD is not available in stores. The cost to chapters is \$5.00 each including tax and shipping. CDs are then resold to FFA supporters for \$10. From one CD, Sony will receive \$5, the chapter will receive \$4, and the TN FFA Foundation will receive \$1.



There will also be prizes awarded for top sellers. The 5 top selling individuals will receive an autographed acoustic guitar, and the 5 top selling chapters will receive a Commemorative Plaque like the ones pictured below. If we reach a goal of 10,000 units ordered, Sony and N2U have agreed to conduct a concert by one of the "Heart of Country" artists (schedule permitting) at our State FFA Convention! **Click here for an order form.** For more information, e-mail Jimmie Loftis at [jrloftis@mttech.edu](mailto:jrloftis@mttech.edu) or call 931-372-6050.



### FFA POSTER FUNDRAISER

ADVISORS!!!! Here is a great way to publicize your FFA chapter in the community, and make money at the same time! Foxwood Sports, a marketing company in Arkansas, is offering to design an FFA poster just for your chapter! You can feature outstanding students, award winners, or your schedule of activities on it. Even better, you'll receive several FREE copies of the poster to hang around school and your community to help publicize all the great things your chapter is doing. Oh, wait, did I mention that it is all FREE!!!!

"But how is it Free?" "And how do I make money?"...Simple! Foxwood Sports does all the work for you. They find local and statewide sponsors willing to purchase ads that are placed on the posters that help their businesses. Then Foxwood gives a large portion of the proceeds back to the local chapter. All you have to do is sign up, provide a little bit of creative help in the designing of your poster and then sit back as Foxwood Sports does the rest of the work. We told you it was easy...and FREE!

For more information on how to sign up for this awesome fundraising opportunity, contact the State FFA Office by calling 615-253-5207 or 615-532-2847.

## TN AG ED NEWS

### NEW AG ED CURRICULAR STANDARDS

The new Agricultural Education curricular standards, student competency profiles and class profiles for the 2009-2010 school year can be downloaded from the State Ag Ed web page at <http://www.tn.gov/education/cte/standardscurr/ag0910.shtml>.

### PORTAL

The Tennessee Ag Ed Portal that was highlighted during the CTE conference is now on the State FFA web site at [www.tnffa.org/association/download/index.php](http://www.tnffa.org/association/download/index.php). This portal is a great teaching resource with several links to some outstanding web sites. If you know of a website that is a great teaching resource, please send us the web address using the e-mail button at the top of the portal page. We want to thank Michael Coley, Mt. Juliet FFA Advisor, for developing and managing this resource tool.

## "HERE BY THE OWL...OPPORTUNITIES, WISDOM & LEADERSHIP IN AG ED"

The program has created a new monthly newsletter that will make its debut this month. It will feature "Opportunities" for teachers to get involved, enhance their professional development, or improve their programs. You will see "Wisdom" from other teachers as they share best practices from their years of experience. And you'll get "Leadership" tips and ideas about what's going on in the world of TN and National Agriculture Education.

So the next time you're saying "Here by the OWL", remember its not just a part in a ceremony; its four words that have a whole lot of meaning, tradition and purpose behind them.