

# Weld Central Agriculture Program

## Keenesburg, CO



# Parent/Student Handbook and Information Guide

Welcome to the Weld Central FFA Parent-Student Handbook. You'll notice that it is not just a handbook for the FFA, but for the entire Agriculture Education Program, including Ag Ed Classes, FFA, and Supervised Agricultural Experience – these are integral components of the program that really can't be separated.

This handbook, should answer any questions you have about our program and all of the opportunities that we have planned for the coming school year. If you have any questions that are not addressed in the handbook, always feel free to contact the FFA Advisors Brittney Wright by phone at 303.536.2184 or by email at [brittneywright@re3j.com](mailto:brittneywright@re3j.com) or Sarah Madsen at 303.536.2181 or by email at [sarahmadsen@re3j.com](mailto:sarahmadsen@re3j.com)

## Program Description

The Agricultural Education Program is much more than a class. Classroom instruction gives students the knowledge and skills they need for success in today's world, and students get a chance to practice and apply these knowledge and skills in their Supervised Agricultural Experience Projects (SAE) and through the National FFA Organization. When the three parts are properly integrated, student education is maximized. Students learn important academic, career, technical, and life skills when all types of instruction are used. To make the most of the Agricultural Education Program, all students should participate in FFA and have an SAE project.

<b><u>SAE</u></b> <i>(Supervised Agricultural Experience)</i>	<b><u>Ag Ed Classes</u></b>	<b><u>FFA</u></b> <i>(formerly Future Farmers of America, now known as the "National FFA Organization").</i>
<p>An SAE project is any experience outside of regularly scheduled class time in which the student gains new skills or practices skills in agriculture. Students could hold an ag related job, job shadow an Ag professional, or own any agribusiness enterprise such as an animal or plant project or agricultural service business.</p> <p>The student should select their project based on their career and interests, as well as the amount of time they are willing to spend. The type of project and duration of the project is up to the student.</p> <p>Students should have at least one SAE project each year that they are enrolled in the Ag Ed/FFA program. This can be the same or different projects.</p> <p>Students are required to keep records on their SAE projects – the records are graded and included in their class grades. See page 4 for more information on SAE.</p>	<p><b>Ag Ed I</b> (intro to FFA, production ag &amp; industry)</p> <p><b>Animal Science</b> <b>Vet Science</b> <b>Plant Science</b> <b>Horticulture</b> <b>Ag Mechanics I</b> <b>Ag Mechanics II</b> <b>Fabrication</b> <b>Ag Business</b> <b>Work study</b></p> <p>Public Law 740 defines SAE and FFA as <i>integral</i> parts of Agricultural Education classes. This means that class grades will include FFA and SAE activities. Again, the student's level of participation can only give them more opportunities and keep them eligible for the scholarship at the end of their senior year.</p> <p>Students enrolled in Ag Ed Classes that want to be an active member will pay a \$25 fee for FFA Dues and will be required to have an SAE Project.</p>	<p>The Weld Central FFA Chapter offers a multitude of opportunities to get involved in leadership projects, community service, recreation, competitive events, scholarships, and skills development. This handbook explains many of the opportunities available this school year.</p> <p>Students do not have to participate in all FFA activities – they can pick the activities that they want to get involved in. All FFA members should plan at minimum to attend all monthly meetings and the Annual FFA Banquet.</p> <p>A student's level of involvement and participation in FFA can boost their experiences not hurt their grade.</p>

# What is SAE?

## Supervised Agricultural Experience

An SAE program is the actual, hands-on application of agricultural skills outside the classroom. Students are supervised by agricultural education teachers, parents, employers, and other adults who assist them in the development and achievement of their educational and career goals.

SAE is a time honored and tested form of work-based learning. An SAE program can be whatever the student wants it to be—an agricultural business of his/her own, a job shadowing experience, or placement in a paid or unpaid job using agriculturally-related skills and competencies. It is a program designed cooperatively by the student, advisor and parents.

We encourage a student to use their 4-H projects as their SAE. They can still show through 4-H because that has no bearing on their SAE. Some examples of recent SAE projects conducted by FFA Members:

- Unpaid veterinary internship
- Raising & selling pumpkins
- Working in a greenhouse
- Selling vegetables for farmers' markets
- Custom hay baling business
- Breeding & selling purebred dogs
- Training horses
- Lawn mowing business
- Volunteering at an animal shelter
- Working at a meatpacking plant
- Landscaping projects at home
- Job shadowing an ag broadcaster
- Working at a flower shop
- Raising a garden
- Working at a grain elevator
- Grocery store produce department
- Work hunting & trapping (wildlife mgt.)
- Working on any farm
- Turf care at a golf course
- Restoring a tractor
- Raising livestock

Students keep records (including pictures) for each SAE project, and these records are submitted every semester to the Ag Ed instructor as part of the Ag Education class grade. Livestock-based projects may be entered and exhibited at the county and state fairs, but this is not required. (see "individual opportunities for FFA members" section). Students are rewarded for successful SAE projects through the FFA's Proficiency Award Program. (See "Proficiency Awards" section). SAE's are also one component of selection to the various levels of FFA membership, also known as Degrees. (See "Degrees of Membership" Section).

# FFA Participation

FFA is an INTRA-curricular activity - not extracurricular like football, Spanish club, drama, or speech. This means that it is a part of the class you are taking and that you are expected to be in FFA. This expectation is similar to what is expected of students enrolled in vocal or instrumental music classes --participation in performances is required and is a part of the students' grades. The difference is that in Ag Ed classes you aren't required to participate in activities unless they want to increase their points required for the scholarship.

All students will keep track of their FFA points on the FFA points paper and we will total up and look at them before banquet to determine lettering. Students need to pay the \$25 activity fee to Weld Central High School in order for the students to participate in activities.

## FFA Scholarship and Lettering Requirements

Effective 8/29/2017

Weld Central FFA offers active FFA members the opportunity to earn a scholarship of \$250 and an FFA letterman's letter/bar for each year of active participation in the FFA. Scholarships will accumulate each year the student qualifies up to the total amount of \$1000. The scholarship must be used the immediate following academic year the student graduates from high school unless the student is serving as a state FFA officer. In order to receive the scholarship, the student must prove enrollment in an academic institution and request the scholarship be paid by the chapter. In order to qualify for this scholarship, members must meet the qualifications each year:

1. Attend 80% of regularly scheduled FFA meetings
  - a. Excusal for prior arranged school activities will not count against the attendance
1. Actively participate in at least 2 FFA fundraisers during the year
  - a. One of fundraisers must be the FFA Labor Auction
1. Be an active practicing member of a CDE/LDE event
  - a. Must compete at district contest to be considered active member
2. Maintain an agricultural course GPA of 2.0 and pass all courses with a C or better grade
3. Applied for and earned the highest FFA degree possible to the member during that year
4. If degree cannot be earned member must apply and turn in a proficiency to the state.
5. Pay the \$25 activity fee and turn in activity paperwork

# Weld Central FFA Calendar

\*May change due to unforeseeable circumstances\*

All changes will be communicated through announcements, Remind, Facebook, and Instagram

## Fall

9/20---Back to school BBQ  
9/20---Big Conference  
10/5---Homecoming Bonfire  
10/6-10/8---MFE/ALD  
10/18---FFA Chapter Meeting  
10/23-10/28---National Convention  
11/8----FFA Meeting  
11/13----District Speaking Contest  
11/15---NWSS Heifer Wrangle application due  
12/6---District Leadership Conference  
12/13----FFA Chapter Meeting  
12/15----Santa Comes to town

**ALL CONTEST TEAM PRACTICES  
WILL BE ANNOUNCED  
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

**CHECK THE BOARDS IN  
CLASSROOMS, REMIND,  
FACEBOOK, AND INSTAGRAM!**

## Spring

1/6-1/26---National Western SS  
1/10---Member Auction  
1/17-1/18---FFA Day at NWSS  
1/23-1/25---Colorado Farm Show  
2/1--State FFA Scholarships Due to State Office  
2/7---District Parli Pro + Quiz Bowl Contest  
2/14---FFA Meeting  
2/15---Proficiency Applications Due to State Office  
2/20---Thank a Farmer  
2/21---Teacher Breakfast, Food 4 America  
2/22---Barnyard Days  
2/23---Ag Olympics  
3/2---Weld Central CDE's  
3/7---State Degree Review  
3/14---FFA Meeting  
3/15---State FFA Degrees Due  
4/4---District CDE's  
4/10---Awards Banquet  
4/5---FFA Blood Drive  
6/5-6/7---State Convention-CSU Pueblo

# Eligibility for FFA Membership

FFA membership is limited to students who are enrolled in Agricultural Education courses. Because FFA is an intra-curricular activity (not extra-curricular) it is considered part of a class. If a student wants to join FFA, they must enroll in at least one Ag Ed class during the school year. There is no “way around” this policy – it is federal law.

The “FFA Year” begins on the first day of school and ends on the last day of summer vacation. Therefore, a student enrolled in any Ag Ed class for the 2017-2018 school year (regardless of which semester or quarter) is eligible for FFA membership beginning on the first day of school and lasting throughout the entire school year and the following summer.

Also, the school district requires you to pay \$25 activity fee that must be paid for the student to be considered an ‘active’ member of the Weld Central FFA. The Weld Central FFA Chapter pays all local, state, and national FFA dues for every student in the program.

## Periods of Ineligibility

The Weld Central School District’s Good Conduct Policy (see the high school student handbook) applies to FFA. This is true even though FFA is not an extra-curricular activity. If a student has been declared ineligible for extra-curricular activities due to a good conduct violation, for academic reasons, or any other reason, this period of ineligibility applies to FFA as well. In athletics, an ineligible student may practice with the team but may not compete. Also, the student must be in school all day in order to attend any FFA event after school including meetings.

Above and beyond the high school student handbook we will also adhere to the following policy:

If a student is suspended or expelled, that student will be put on probation for 365 days and will miss the next closest event or activity in the FFA that is outside of class time. If the student is suspended or expelled within the 1 year probation then they will be ineligible to attend any FFA event outside of class time for 365 days and will not be eligible for the FFA scholarship or lettering that year.

## FFA Activities that Everyone Should Attend

FFA is different from other intra-curricular activities that are part of a class such as Band or Choir because members of FFA get to select what activities, performances, competitions, and projects they become involved in. FFA members are not expected to do everything – you decide what to do based on your interests.

However, there are a few things that every FFA member should plan to do in order to letter and receive the scholarship their senior year. They are:

- 1) Attend the **Annual FFA Banquet**
- 2) Attend the **Monthly FFA Meetings**
- 3) Take part in at least **Leadership Development Event or Career Development Event** a year.
- 4) Take part in at least **two fundraisers including Member Auction** a year.

An explanation of each follows. Please consult the FFA activity calendar for the dates of these events, and write these dates on your family calendar and make plans to attend:

**The \*Annual FFA Banquet** - The annual FFA banquet is the highlight of the year for the FFA – all members, families, Alumni, and supporters should plan to attend.

Following the meal, we will hold the evening's program, which generally includes a speaker and the following presentations: Star Greenhand, Star Chapter Farmer, Agribusiness, Placement, Agriscience Awards, Sub-District/District/State Activity and CDE Recognition, Chapter Proficiency Awards, Leadership Awards, Scholarship Awards, Recognition of past FFA Chapter Officers and introduction of the new Chapter Officer Team. Note: Applications for most of these awards are available from the advisor .

**°Monthly FFA Meetings - FFA meetings are the SECOND WEDNESDAY of every month at 6:00 PM, unless otherwise specified.**

Appropriate dress is required at FFA meetings, meaning that the school's code of dress is in force. Students needed to attend a full day of classes in order to attend the meeting. Also student needs to have paid the \$25 activity fee to the high school.

Monthly meetings are conducted using official FFA opening and closing ceremonies and correct parliamentary procedure. The agenda may include new and old business, guest speakers, activities and fun competitions, the formation of committees, door prize drawings, and announcements of upcoming opportunities. Most months there is some type of snack or activity provided at the meeting.

Parents and guests are always invited to attend FFA meetings, although they may not participate in discussion unless called upon by a member, and may not vote. Emails will be sent out periodically by the advisor, provided a parental and/or student email address has been furnished to the advisor. Emails will contain reminders about upcoming meetings and activities. We also use Remind to send out reminders about meetings and events.

## **Career Development & Leadership Development Events**

To find out more about each event, please visit [www.coloradoffa.org](http://www.coloradoffa.org) Click on the CDE Rules and Resources link on the left-hand side of the page. The CDE webpage will provide objectives and rules for each event. Official dress is required for all leadership CDEs except when specified different but are required for awards ceremonies.

We start practicing for each CDE by no later than January. If students would like to practice before then they need to ask an advisor.

**Creed Speaking** - The Creed CDE seeks to develop the ability of interpretation and self expression of beginning FFA members. The event is open to first year FFA members.

**Ag Sales** - The member will have to convince a panel of judges to purchase their chosen product.

**Extemp Speaking** - To develop the ability of FFA members to express themselves on a given subject without having prepared or rehearsed its content in advance. Topics shall be prepared by the State FFA Staff. Topics will be from the following three areas: Agriscience and Technology, Agrimarketing, Production Agriculture and International Agricultural Relations.

**Public Speaking** - To develop the ability of young FFA members to competently express themselves during a prepared speech about an ag-related topic of their choice.

**Job Interview** - To provide FFA members the opportunity to demonstrate their ability in completing a job application form, writing a letter of application, preparing a resume, interviewing, and completing a follow-up letter. The participant will select one of the eight full-time, entry-level job openings and apply for the position.

**Parliamentary Procedure** – A team of five members demonstrate knowledge of parliamentary procedure to conduct an orderly/efficient meeting and to transact business and to present logical, realistic, and convincing discussion. Each member shall serve as the chair for one ability.

**Quiz Bowl**-A team of 3 will compete in a written basic knowledge test of agriculture technology and production. They will then compete in a knowledge bowl type contest answering questions. Only open to first year FFA members.

**Ag Issues** - Six team members role play to represent different sides of an ag-related issue. The team consists of a community resident, an ag professional, an environmentalist, an elected official, a farm manager and a moderator. Members dress according to their role.

**Ag Sales**- Four team members will develop a plan to sell a product to a panel of judges in an allotted time as a team event. Individually they will take a written test on their knowledge of communications.

**Ag Communications**- Three team members will develop a written media plan that they will present to judges. Individually students will be tasked with a written communication problem, a media publication development, and a visual design promotion.

**Dairy Cattle Evaluation**- Four team members will judge 4 classes of dairy cattle and will present a set of reasons on one class. They will also take a written test over dairy industry knowledge.

**Envirothon**- Four team members will problem solve multiple environmental issues including aquaculture, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife management, and ecology.

**Farm Business Management**- Four team members will take a written exam covering business skills including balance sheets, income statements, cash flow, marketing, and futures market.

**Field Crops/Agronomy**- Four team members will ID crops, weeds, equipment, soils, and issues in the agronomy field. They will take a written test and also have a team event.

**Floriculture**- Four team members will arrange a flower piece based on a scenario given to them by a judge. They will also ID plants and tools used in the floral industry plus take a written test about the industry.

**Horse Judging**-Four team members will judge 4-6 classes of horse in halter and performance. They will then give reasons on one class and take a written exam about the horse industry.

**Land Judging/Soils**-Four team members will ID soils, inclines, and horizons of fields and determine proper use for the land. Students will also take a written test over soils knowledge.

**Livestock Judging**-Four team members will judge 8 classes of livestock and present 2 sets of reasons to a judge. They will also take a written test over the industry.

**Meat Evaluation**- Four team members will ID meat cuts, fat content, and area plus take a written test over the industry.

**Milk Quality & Products**- Four team members will taste milk samples and score them based on taste. They will also ID different types of cheeses and take a written test over the liquid milk industry.

**Vet Science**-Four team members will ID supplies, tools, breeds, diseases, parasites, and equipment used in the vet industry. They will also do an oral presentation on rope tying, proper animal handling, and role play a client vet relationship.

## FFA Fundraisers

The need to raise funds is a reality for all student organizations. We would not be able to provide so many great opportunities for our students if it were not for our fund raising activities. Here is a short summary of what our FFA chapter does to raise funds for our programs. Other activities are conducted on an as-needed or as-available basis.

**FFA Labor Auction** – Parents, farmers and other business people are invited to come and bid on our FFA members, who will be put “on the auction block” for 8-hour block. Typically, 20-30 members are sold. The labor auction is held in January in conjunction with a dinner. All money from the fundraiser goes directly into the scholarship fund for students to receive a scholarship when they graduate from high school.

**Peach Sales** - Held within the first 3 weeks of school in August. 3 boxes sold is considered a fundraiser.

**Flower Sales**- Held in May, members sell flowers from Mizzotti greenhouses in Hudson for 2 Saturdays (weather permitting)

## Proficiency Awards

The Agricultural Proficiency Awards program like the FFA motto helps you set goals and learn practical skills. The program rewards FFA members at the local, state and national levels for exceptional accomplishments and excellence in a [Supervised Agricultural Experience \(SAE\)](#) program. What are the proficiency award areas? Awards are available to all FFA members enrolled in high school agriculture, including special needs students. There are 47 or more award areas.

For more information and applications log on [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org)

**Proficiency awards are given in the following areas:**

Ag. Communications	Forest Mgt. & Products
Ag Education	Fruit Production
Ag Mechanics Design & Fabrication	Grain Production
Ag. Mechanics Repair & Maintenance	Home or Community Development
Ag. Mechanics Energy Systems	Landscape Management
Ag. Processing	Nursery Operations
Ag. Sales	Organic Production
Ag. Services	Outdoor Recreation
Aquaculture	Poultry Production
Beef Production	Sheep Production
Dairy Production	Small Animal Prod. & Care
Diversified Ag. Prod.	Specialty Animal Prod.
Diversified Crop Prod.	Specialty Crop Prod.
Diversified Horticulture	Swine Production
Diversified Livestock Prod.	Turf Grass Management
Emerging Ag. Technology	Vegetable Production
Environ. Sci & Nat. Resource	Wildlife Management
Equine Science	
Fiber and/or Oil Crop Prod	
Floriculture	
Food Science & Tech	
Forage Production	

Agricultural Proficiency Awards are available to all FFA members enrolled in high school agriculture. Students must meet the following eligibility requirements: Must apply while in high school or within 1 year after graduation from high school. If a high school graduate you must have completed at least 3 full years of instruction in agricultural education or program of agricultural education offered in school last attended. At minimum, must have kept 1 full calendar year's worth of records as an FFA member to apply for a district, state, or national level proficiency award. This does not apply to local awards.

## FFA Degrees

### Greenhand FFA Degree

As a high school member of the FFA, receiving the Greenhand FFA Degree shows that you have opened the door to the many exciting opportunities that the National FFA Organization has to offer. When you qualify for the Greenhand FFA Degree, you have earned the first of four degrees that build on each other leading the way to the highest degree achievable in the FFA, the American FFA Degree.

**Application: October, 1<sup>st</sup> year of FFA membership**

Do you qualify?

- o I am a FFA member enrolled in agricultural education class.
- o I have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program.
- o I learned and can explain the FFA creed, motto, salute, and FFA mission statement.
- o I can describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and colors.
- o I can demonstrate knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics and proper use of the FFA jacket.
- o I can demonstrate knowledge of the history of the organization, the chapter constitution and bylaws and the chapter Program of Activities
- o I personally own or have access to the Official FFA Manual and the FFA Student Handbook.
- o I submitted a written application for the Greenhand FFA Degree.

### Chapter FFA Degree

Whether it is helping plan your chapter's next activity, working hard on your SAE or discussing a motion during a chapter meeting, chapter involvement is vital to your future successes in FFA. The root of the National FFA Organization is its chapters. By receiving the Chapter FFA Degree, you demonstrate your role in your chapter's growth and development. **Application: December, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year of FFA membership**

Do you qualify?

- o Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
- o Must have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least 180 hours of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, have in operation an approved supervised agricultural experience program, and be enrolled in an agricultural education course.
- o Have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the chapter Program of Activities.
- o Have earned and productively invested at least \$150 by the member's own efforts or worked at least forty-five hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof, and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural experience program.
- o Have taken part in at least one skills and/or one leadership CDE
- o Have effectively led a group discussion for 15 minutes.
- o Have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.
- o Show progress toward individual achievement in the FFA award programs.
- o Have a satisfactory scholastic record.

- o Submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.
- o Have recorded more than 10 hours of community service projects.

### State FFA Degree

Like a high school diploma, the State FFA Degree celebrates your high school FFA career. Awarded by your state FFA association, this degree is a symbol to the members of your entire state FFA association that you are chapter leaders. As a State FFA Degree recipient, you have taken your FFA involvement beyond the chapter level and have a successful supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program. With your State FFA Degree, you are one step away from achieving the highest degree attainable in the FFA, the American FFA Degree. **Application: February, Usually during the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year of FFA Membership**

Do I qualify?

- o Have received the Chapter FFA Degree.
- o Have been an active FFA member for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree.
- o While in school, have completed the equivalent of at least two years (360 hours) of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program.
- o Have earned and productively invested at least \$1,000, or worked at least 300 hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof, in a supervised agricultural experience program.
- o Demonstrate leadership ability by:
  - \*Performing 10 procedures of parliamentary law.
  - \*Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or the FFA.
  - \* Serving as an officer, committee chairperson, or participating member of a chapter committee.
- o Have a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the local agricultural education instructor and the principal or superintendent.
- o Have participated in the planning and completion of the chapter Program of Activities.
- o Have participated in at least five different FFA activities above the chapter level. The percentage of the total state membership which may receive the State FFA Degree and other requirements may be established by the state FFA association.
- o Have recorded more than 25 hours of community service projects.

### American FFA Degree

As the highest degree achievable in the National FFA Organization, receiving the American FFA Degree shows an FFA member's dedication to his or her chapter and state FFA associations. It demonstrates the effort FFA members apply toward their supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program and the outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement they experienced throughout their FFA career. American FFA Degree recipients show promise for their future and have above and beyond to achieve excellence. **Application: During the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> year following high school graduation.**

Do I qualify?

- o Have received the State FFA Degree, have been an active member for the past three years (36 months) and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities on the chapter and state levels.
- o Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least three years (540 hours) of systematic secondary school instruction in an agricultural education program or have completed the program of agricultural education offered in the school last attended.
- o Have graduated from high school at least 12 months prior to the national convention at which the degree is to be granted.
- o Have in operation and have maintained records to substantiate an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program through which a member has exhibited comprehensive planning, managerial and financial expertise.
- o Have earned and productively invested at least \$10,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 1050 hours in excess of scheduled class time. Any combination of hours times a factor of \$3.33 plus dollars must be equal to, or greater than the number 9,000. Hours used for the purpose of producing earnings reported as productively invested income shall not be duplicated as hours of credit to meet the minimum requirements for the degree.

- o Have a record of outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement and have achieved a high school scholastic record of C or better as certified by the principal or superintendent.
- o Have recorded more than 50 hours of community service projects.

## **FFA Conferences and Camps**

The Weld Central FFA takes multiple trips to leadership conferences, conventions, and competitions throughout the year. As a rule, high school students must be eligible according to Weld Central's Good Conduct Policy as well as academically eligible in order to participate in these trips. Any student currently failing a class or have 2 D's when eligibility is pulled, will not be allowed to miss school for FFA-related activities.

On all FFA trips, students pay for their own meals (with a few exceptions as noted) and incidental costs such as souvenirs. On some trips, FFA members are asked to pay a fee to the chapter to cover a portion of the expenses. The reason we do this is so we have an accurate number of students attending since we can't get a refund after registration and hotel rooms have been booked. Also students need to have paid the \$25 activity fee to the high school to attend as well.

### **State FFA Convention**

Students have the opportunity to attend State FFA Convention every June. If a student is being recognized for an award or State Degree they receive first priority to attend. Then it will be open up to the rest of the students wanting to attend. There will be a fee attached to go but this is to cover registration. The chapter will cover hotel and some meals.

While at state convention students will attend workshops, see award ceremonies, tour the career fair, and listen to motivational speakers. These conventions are held at colleges so students also get to see college campuses in Colorado.

### **National FFA Convention**

Students who have "earned their way" to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN by earning awards or competing in contests have first priority. Once we have determined how many students have "earned their way" we will know how many other students we will be able to take, based on chapter budget, transportation available, and the number of hotel rooms allocated to our chapter.

Other students wishing to attend will fill out an application and be put through a selection process will be determined, based on priority. There will be a \$750 fee to attend and that covers transportation and lodging. Student will need to supply money for extras and some food.

Highlights of the convention may include the Convention Sessions, the National, FFA Career Show; National Contests; Leadership Workshops; Field Trips to area attractions. Visit the FFA web site at <http://www.ffa.org/convention/> for more information.

Students will miss four days of school to attend the National Convention, so they must get assignments in advance from their teachers.

### **Washington Leadership Conference**

From your local FFA chapter to the nation's capital, that's where you'll be headed if you join hundreds of other FFA members at the Washington Leadership Conference. Set in Washington D.C., this week-long summer conference takes your leadership skills to their highest level. Focusing on problem-solving, relationship building, and character and serving others, WLC teaches you how to have a positive impact on you school, chapter, community, state, and country. While you are practicing all these skills, you will also take in such historical sites as the Jefferson Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, and World War II Memorial. Plus, you'll meet lots of new friends from around the country.

## **BIG Conference**

This conference is open to Ag I students only and will take place for 1 day at Morgan County Fairgrounds in Brush. There is no charge to students to attend. While there they will attend leadership workshops throughout the day organized by State FFA Officers. They will be provided lunch and transportation to and from the conference. It is the Ag I students opportunity to experience what FFA is and meet other FFA members from the region.

## **MFE/ALD Conference**

This 2 day conference is held in Colorado Springs, normally a Saturday/Sunday. Students will be attending a leadership conference organized by a professional motivational speaker. The chapter will provide transportation to and from the conference as well as the lodging. While attending the conference the students will be immersed in leadership building and communication skills while meeting students from across Colorado. Students will need to pay \$40 to attend this conference and will need some money for meals.

## **National Western Stock Show**

Students wishing to attend National Western Stock Show, not showing an animal there, will need to buy a ticket which will give them admission and a rodeo ticket. While there students will be watching livestock shows and taking in all the attractions Stock Show has to offer. This is a 1 day event and the chapter will provide transportation to and from Denver.

## **Risk Management Essay Contest**

Once your supervised agricultural experience is up and running, the Risk Management Essay Contest, helps you protect your investment of time and money. In this program, you will look at the principles of risk management and how they apply to your SAE project. You will discover ways to minimize risk and maximize profits. The best part about the Risk Management Essay Contest is that all winners and their advisor receive an all expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. for a special USDA Risk Management Agency/FFA Day. To learn more, talk to your advisor or visit [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org).

# **Individual Opportunities for FFA Members**

## **National FFA Band and National FFA Chorus**

The National FFA Band and Chorus provide entertainment at sessions, workshops, meal functions, and other events associated with the National FFA Convention. These very skilled musicians are selected through a highly competitive process that includes a recommendation from the local music instructors, the state FFA band or chorus directors, and an audition tape. Application materials can be downloaded from <http://www.ffa.org/convention/>. The deadline is typically in late April or early May. Members selected for the National Band or Chorus will travel to the convention site several days earlier than the rest of the chapter in order to practice. Because this is an individual activity, the chapter encourages students to participate, but does not provide financial support or supervision. Chaperones are provided by the National FFA Organization. The individual member is responsible for transporting instruments, paying any fees to the National FFA for music, hotel, etc. and for their meals.

## **Chapter Officer**

Students can run for chapter office after they have completed one year of ag ed. There is an application and interview process where the students will be asked various questions about their participation in FFA as well as leadership skills they have. Students normally run for chapter office in the spring and are inducted in at the Spring Banquet. Chapter Officers are required to participate in all chapter's POA and anything else where Weld Central is being represented. If student is applying for Chapter Office they must also sign an Officer Contract.

## For More Information

Feel free to contact the FFA advisor with any questions via email or school, cell, or home phone. The advisor also sends out periodic emails, so if you have an address that is checked regularly please get your address to the advisor. We also use a variety of internet communication tools, including [www.facebook.com/weldcentralffa](https://www.facebook.com/weldcentralffa) and [www.instagram.com/weld\\_central.ffa](https://www.instagram.com/weld_central.ffa) to provide copies of pictures, news and information, documents, applications and the POA. The Weld Central website will also have the FFA schedule on it – sign up to receive notices of date changes or additions. To learn more about National FFA Organization or the Colorado FFA Association, check out the following websites: [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) and [www.coloradoffa.org](http://www.coloradoffa.org)



## How Can I Get Involved?



At Weld Central there is the start of FFA Alumni Affiliate. This group functions as a sort of booster club for the agriculture education program. Although the group is only a year old, so far members have helped to provide meals at FFA activities such as the member auction, banquet; served as coaches for various CDE teams (and also mock customers/interviewers/judges) for students to practice. An alumni member is part of chapter officer nomination process. Alumni members also assist with classroom activities – providing resources and contacts for certain subjects that the instructor may need help with. There are state conferences specifically for Alumni members. Our alumni affiliate can qualify us for awards, student scholarships and many more items from the FFA Alumni organization. This is a professional group, providing networking opportunities, leadership development for adults, and increasing agricultural awareness among the community. One myth about the Alumni is that you can only join if you were an FFA member yourself. Don't let the name deceive you – membership is open to ANYONE who has interest in the agriculture education program and FFA organizations.