

National FFA Organization Update NASDCTEc Board of Directors Meeting April 2009

National FFA Membership is 507,763, a 31-Year High.

The National FFA Organization reports that this year there are 507,763 members in 7,439 FFA chapters across the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The all-time record national FFA membership was 509,735 in 1976-1977. Since that time, the percentage of members living on farms has decreased. Today, 27 percent of FFA members live in rural farm areas, whereas 40 percent live in rural nonfarm areas and the remaining 33 percent live in urban and suburban areas. FFA chapters are found in 16 of the 20 largest U.S. cities including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Philadelphia. Women make up 38 percent of FFA members and hold more than 47 percent of state leadership positions.

National FFA Convention Will Alternate Between Louisville and Indianapolis

The National FFA Organization announced in December 2008 that its annual convention will alternate between Louisville, Ky., and Indianapolis, Ind., for the foreseeable future. Starting in 2013, Louisville will share hosting duties with Indianapolis on a three-year rotational basis. Louisville will host the convention 2013 through 2015. The convention will then return to Indianapolis for 2016 through 2018. Louisville will be given the first right of option for 2019-2021; Indianapolis in turn will have the option for 2022-2024. The 2009-2012 national FFA conventions will be held in Indianapolis. This past year 54,731 members, teachers, parents and guests attended the 81st National FFA Convention.

National FFA Awards and Recognition Revision

The National FFA Organization is in the process of revising the ninety-two national award and recognition programs. The revision process will include input from agricultural educators at the secondary and post secondary levels, as well as business and industry and other appropriate stakeholders. The National FFA expects each revision committee to identify and align all applicable initiatives with Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource (AFNR) National Content Standards and related academic content standards, and to use the National Quality Programs Standards for Secondary (Grades 9-12) Agricultural Education to guide all applicable initiatives. The award and recognition revisions are expected to be shared with state leaders and local agricultural education teachers in early 2011.

National FFA Organization Names Acting Chief Operating Officer

The National FFA Organization named Bill Fleet of Lititz, Pa., to become acting chief operating officer effective April 1, 2009. When sharing the news, National FFA Advisor and CEO Larry D. Case, Ed.D. said, "Bill Fleet brings to FFA a wealth of experience in the agriculture industry and the agricultural education/FFA program."

Fleet retired in 2006 as vice president of North America Sales for Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., Johnston, Iowa. At Pioneer, Fleet planned, organized and oversaw operating and capital budgets for nine sales markets for the North America sales organization. Prior to joining Pioneer in 1982, Fleet taught agricultural education for four years at the high school level and served as both FFA advisor and advisor for adult farmers in the Dover Area School District, Dover, Pa. As an agriculture teacher, he developed curriculum for Farm Management, Agronomy, Soil Management, Dairy Production and Animal Nutrition. Fleet also developed and implemented educational programs for adult farmers in the areas of Crop Production, Dairy Nutrition, Soil Management, Beef and Swine Management, Machinery Management and Enterprise Analysis.

Fleet replaces outgoing COO Douglas Loudenslager who left the organization March 31 after a five-year tenure at FFA. The National FFA Organization has begun the executive search process to secure a fulltime chief operating officer, and it is expected to take 4-6 months.