



# Missouri FFA Association

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Missouri Ag Ed Family:

## **FFA Event Next Steps**

The State FFA Leadership Team is currently developing contingency plans based on specific Governor's directives, CDC recommendations, DHSS recommendations, host site restrictions and student travel restrictions. Evaluating alternative platforms for FFA events in order to keep Missouri students engaged in FFA over the next couple of months is a primary goal. On some of our upcoming events the factors used to make a decision on whether to postpone, redesign or cancel have become clearer since the last update. In the update you will see that FFA Camp, AOI, HYMAX, PSA and HYPE have significant updates. We will share further updates as things become more defined.

***National Officer Candidate and State Officer Mentor*** applications are still due on May 8th. The interviews are currently scheduled for Thursday, May 21st at the Missouri Cattleman offices in Columbia.

***State Officer Selections*** on the area level have been completed using an online virtual process. Currently, the state level state officer interviews are currently scheduled for May 21-23 at Cattleman's in Columbia. Details will be shared with candidates and teachers as we get closer to the interview date.

***State Convention 2020*** will be delivered using a virtual platform later this summer. The State officer team is currently working on how to virtually conduct necessary business and recognize the achievements of FFA members, stakeholders and chapters. The details of the virtual convention will be shared once they are finalized. By September we expect to have a clearer financial picture of convention related expenses the FFA will have incurred, even though our scheduled event in April has been cancelled. At that point we will determine how to proceed with reimbursement or invoicing of fees.

***Proficiency Awards*** have been judged. Plans are to announce all area proficiency winners including 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place through video and press releases the week of April 20-24.

***National Chapter Awards*** have been judged. Results by category earned (Gold, Silver, Bronze) will be announced through video and press releases the week of April 20-24. Plans are to announce final placings at a virtual state convention this summer.

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***Agriscience Fair*** 2020 will be presented and judged online, NO face-to-face event. Students should submit their written reports on JudgingCard July 1st. We will plan to judge using zoom during the month of July. Students will present online, not in person. Students will need access to a webcam, microphone, and internet and will sign up for a time to visit with judges. No boards will be created or judged this year, but a simple google slides or PowerPoint can be used as a screen share in zoom. Plans are for state winners to be announced via press release and potentially video release after the July judging.

***State Star Farmer, Placement, Agribusiness and Agriscience*** applications have been judged. The top 4 candidates (finalists) in each category have been determined. Plans are for the FFA Star final four to be announced via press release and video release the week of April 20-24. Finalists will be contacted after the video release to set up virtual interviews in early May. State winners will be announced at a virtual state convention this summer.

***Career Development Events*** will be converted to an online/virtual platform. After evaluating all the risk factors associated with an in person event for our State CDE's this summer we have determined that our only valid choice is virtual. The virtual platform we are currently exploring should eliminate the need for district CDE events. Currently, we are looking to conduct these events in late August once schools are back in session and teachers have contact with students. We are working on the parameters of the content and method of delivery for each event. We plan to reach out to the CDE committee for input soon and will share details as information is available.

***Leadership Development Events*** will be converted to a video/on line/virtual platform. After evaluating all the risk factors associated with an in person event for our State LDE's this summer we have determined that our only valid choice is virtual. Currently, we are planning to conduct these events in early August. Our goal is to have districts determine qualifying individuals/teams by July 15<sup>th</sup>. District and Area leadership will need to reach out to district supervisors for assistance in identifying district qualifying teams. We plan to contact the CDE committee soon and will share details as information is available.

***LEAD Conferences*** for Chapter Officers scheduled for May have been cancelled. We are currently working on developing a virtual training program that can be used by schools for officer training later in the year. All LEAD Conference registration fees received will be returned to chapters.

***Leadership Camp*** sessions scheduled for June and July at Camp Rising Sun have been cancelled. We are currently working to develop a virtual leadership camp experience to mirror many of the leadership components students would have participated in at camp. As we develop more details we will be sharing them with you. All camp registration payments will be refunded or checks returned.

***Public Speaking Academy*** scheduled for June has been cancelled. Any payments related to PSA will be refunded or returned.

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**Area Officer Institute** scheduled for June has been cancelled. We are currently looking at the possibility of holding a one day AOI in late summer.

**HYMAX Academy** originally scheduled for June 12-14 at Camp Rising Sun is being moved to a hybrid of online instructional workshops, with meeting face to face at the end to celebrate the Academy members and their accomplishments. Throughout June and July, workshops will held via Zoom, recorded, and posted to a protected YouTube site for future playback. Small Group sessions will be held via interactive zoom sessions where key concepts from the large zoom workshops will be reinforced and applied in an engaging way. Small Group Leaders will also mentor HYMAX Academy members with their Ag Issue presentation, as done in previous years. In addition, two HYMAX Academy Small Group Mentors have been added to assist the Small Group Leaders with questions they may have. At the year-end celebration, HYMAX Academy members will come together in person to practice and present their Small Group presentations to teachers, family, friends, and other agriculture leader stakeholders.

**HYPE Academy** originally scheduled for June 23-25 is being moved to a hybrid of online instructional workshops, with a face to face meeting at the end to celebrate the HYPE Academy members and their accomplishments. Throughout the summer, workshops will held via Zoom, recorded, and posted to a protected YouTube site for future playback. As in previous years, HYPE members will be broken up into Teams. Those meetings will be held via interactive zoom sessions where key concepts from the large zoom workshops will be reinforced and applied in an engaging way. Team Leaders will mentor HYPE Academy members for their Legislative Hearing for their assigned Agriculture Issue, as done in previous years. Staff members will work with Team Leaders and Teams throughout the summer, to assist in guiding the teams for success. At the year-end celebration, HYPE Academy members will fine tune and present their Team Legislative Agriculture Hearings to Legislators. Thanks to the sponsorship of MO Corn, the Missouri FFA HYPE Academy will continue to help FFA members prepare for excellence.

**Missouri Young Farmer Tour** originally scheduled for August 2020 is postponed to August 2021.

#### **National Application Deadlines:**

**American Degree and American Stars** - May 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 (no change) - In order for state staff to properly review the applications prior to forwarding to NFFA and still allow time for local schools to make any necessary corrections we plan to stay on the original timeline for American Degrees.

**National Chapter (Gold) and Proficiency Awards (State winning)** – July 1, 2020 (change from June 16).

Robin Horstmeier will be providing feedback on Chapter Activity and Proficiency applications as she has in the past. The one-on-one conferences will be done via conference calls and zoom meetings rather than in person.

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## **National FFA Updates**

### ***Washington Leadership Conference Status***

For this summer, all seven sessions of the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) in Washington, D.C., have been canceled.

### ***2020 National FFA Convention & Expo Chapter / State Housing Delayed***

The opening of chapter and state housing for the 2020 National FFA Convention & Expo is now Wednesday, June 10. This allows our attendees to have more time to prepare and assists our hotel partners as they navigate an uncertain time. The no-penalty cancellation date for housing reservations will also be extended to Wednesday, Aug. 19.

### ***Shop FFA***

Despite the temporary closure of the Shop FFA distribution center in Ohio, our customer service team – working remotely – stands ready to support you. If you're planning to order awards or items for later this spring or summer, we recommend getting your order in the queue to ensure it can be processed as soon as the distribution center reopens. We will continue to offer a \$200 cap on freight charges for any award orders shipped via ground.

### ***FFA Scholarships*** -Changes in Timeline and Additional Announcements

April 15, 2020 – FFA Advisors and State Staff notified of winners electronically

May 1, 2020 – Winners and their parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified by email of their scholarship

In order to ensure that scholarship winners receive their notification during this unprecedented time, recipients this year will also receive their award notification via mail by **May 15, 2020**

The award letter will also provide information on how to call in to accept the scholarship if student's do not have access to internet/computers

May 1, 2020 - Acceptance portal opens (this date has not changed)

September 15, 2020 – *NEW DATE* Acceptance portal closes

This adjustment allows for students to have access to computers either from a library or their school to accept their scholarship.

## **Closing Comments**

Just as soon as additional details of future FFA events are available we will share that information with everyone. As we look ahead we realize that using alternative methods of delivering FFA to our members will have its challenges. We also know it's important to continue to provide as many opportunities as we can for our students. When planning events our number one priority will always be the safety and best interest of our students and stakeholders.

Leon Busdieker

State Advisor

Missouri FFA Organization

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