Missouri FFA Event - Next Steps

_National Officer Candidate and State Officer Mentor_ applications are still due on May 8th. The interviews will be conducted virtually in late May.

_State Officer Selections_ will be using a virtual format this year. In early May all candidates will have their Personal Interview and Stand and Deliver recorded via zoom for the nominating committee to use along with a test score and writing exercise score, to select the candidates moving into the final round of interviews. During the first week of June the final round of interviews will be held via live zoom calls with the nominating committee. The sixteen 2020-2021 state officers will be announced once they are selected.

_State Convention 2020_ will be delivered using a virtual platform with a target date of mid-June. 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 was cancelled. At that point we will determine how to proceed with reimbursement or invoicing of fees.

_State Degree Ceremonies_ will be part of Session 4 during our virtual state convention.

_Proficiency Award_ state winners will be provided the opportunity to work with Dr. Robin Pieter-Horstmeier to help them prepare their National Applications. First drafts are due to Robin and DESE Ag Ed office by May 22nd. Critiques will be done May 22–June 12. Individual Zoom or FaceTime etc. meetings will be set up during June 12-26.

_National Chapter Awards_ final placings will be announced at our virtual State Convention. As in past years Dr. Robin Pieter-Horstmeier will provide feedback to all schools preparing applications for national competition. Robin plans to reach out to schools with critiques May 1 – 22.

_All Plaques, Pins and Medals_ normally presented at state convention will be distributed by district supervisors in the fall.
**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** Finalists virtual interviews are scheduled for early May. State winners will be announced at our virtual state convention.

**Career Development Event** content and method of assessment for the virtual platform is being determined. The CDE committee has had several virtual meetings to gather input. Once all of the details have been finalized they will be shared. The State CDE Committee along with state staff have recommended that students who compete in the 2020 online/virtual CDE event will be eligible to compete in the 2021 event unless they are the state winner going on to represent Missouri at the 2020 National FFA events. With the exception of 2020 seniors, who by National FFA CDE rules will be ineligible following the 1st National FFA Convention after their graduation from high school. Additional recommendations are that CDE participation be limited to 2 per student and State Degree points be awarded for event participation.

**Leadership Development Event** will be using a virtual/self-recorded platform for the preliminary round and current plans are to use a virtual/live zoom meeting format for the final round of six. Our goal is to have the district determined qualifying individuals/teams self-recorded video links submitted to state LDE coordinators by July 15th. District and Area leadership have been working with district supervisors to identify district qualifying teams/individuals. Plans are for students who compete in the 2020 virtual LDE event in the areas of Advanced Prepared Public Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, Employment Skills, Ag. Issues and Parliamentary Procedure to be eligible to compete in 2021 event unless they are a top 6 finalist in 2020

**LEAD Conferences** for Chapter Officers is currently being transitioned to 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** is transitioning to a virtual leadership experience designed 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.

**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 is currently being transitioned to a virtual hybrid experience for this summer. Details have been shared with all participants. Due to the change of format no registration fee is required. Any payments related to HYMAX will be refunded or returned.

HYMAX Academy will be a virtual hybrid experience in 2020. Details have been shared with all participants.

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

Missouri Ag Ed Calendar and Annual Area and District Report updates need to be sent to Lisa Evans. We realize the current situation could make getting information to us in a timely manner a challenge. We would appreciate area and district leadership keeping our office and district supervisors up to date on your status.

Mid America Grasslands has been cancelled for 2020.

National Application Deadlines:
American Degree and American Stars - May 1st 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).

National FFA Updates

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.

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

Growing Leaders – Building Communities – Strengthening Agriculture