



Washington Agriculture Education Update

If it's possible for the life of an agriculture teacher to get busier, that time is now. Sub-district and district FFA competition, preparation for plant sales, SAE visitations....the list goes on. Your dedication to your profession, and most importantly to your students does not go unnoticed—you are appreciated.

Preparation has begun for State FFA Convention, to be held May 15-17 on the campus of Washington State University in Pullman, WA. A year's worth of work cumulates in the opportunity for our students to be recognized for success in career development events, degrees achieved, and proficiency awards highlighting SAE projects that are among the best in the state. It's a time of celebration and reflection of another year of growing our students far beyond the classroom doors.

Online registration for state convention is open, and many applications are coming into the office daily. If you have any questions, or I can be of any help— please let me know.



ENROLLMENT OPEN FOR ZOETIS FFA SUPPORT PROGRAM

By partnering with local veterinarians and animal health suppliers, the Zoetis FFA Support Program has provided more than \$5.3 million to FFA chapters since 2008. These contributions help put equipment in the classroom and on the Chapter farm, fund leadership/ career development events and projects, secure blue jackets, send members to their first National Convention and more. The Industry Support Program runs Feb. 1 through April 30, 2014. Each individual reseller location must enroll by May 5 to be eligible. Encourage your veterinarian and animal health supplier to enroll in support of your chapter http://www.pfizerprogramdetails.com/FFA/asp/FFA_ContributionForm.asp

STATE OFFICERS VISIT THE LEGISLATURE



State officers got a chance to discuss agriculture, FFA, and agricultural education with Senator Mark Schoesler of the 9th District. Senator Schoesler has been a long time supporter of the FFA, and is a former state FFA officer, serving on the 1975-76 team.

The association would like to thank Senator Schoesler for being so welcoming and open to meeting with the officer team. We appreciate the support of the many elected officials that took the time to meet with our members during the CTSO legislative day. Pictured from left, Hayley Huber, Michael Heistuman, Andy Zahl, Johnathan Kelley, Bailey Peters, and Laine Utter, in front: Senator Mark Schoesler.

Special points of interest:

- Opportunities for FFA chapters
- FFA members advocate through legislative visits
- Spotlight on: WA-ACTE
- Spotlight on: Sedro-Wooley FFA Chapter

Washington FFA Website:
www.washingtonffa.org



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FFA HUNGER HEROES CHALLENGE VIDEO CONTEST

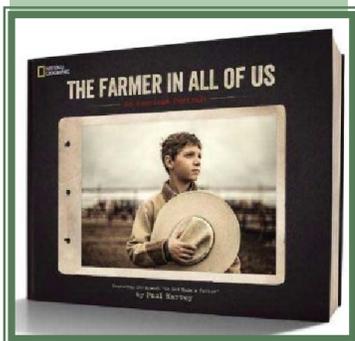
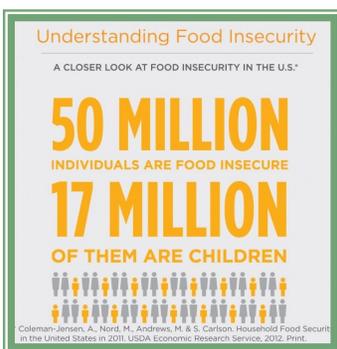


FFA members can create and submit a video focused on hunger awareness, with the goal of inspiring and motivating others to join the fight against hunger. The deadline for video submission is April 11, 2014, and chapter's could win a prize of \$1,000.

To be eligible for the \$1,000 prize, your chapter must meet the following requirements:

1. Must be a middle school or high school chapter
2. Video must be a minimum of 1 minute, and a maximum of 2 minutes in length.
3. Video must focus on hunger awareness, utilize hunger statistics, and make a call to action that will inspire others to act!
4. The video should be submitted through a YouTube video link, and should open with a sign or visual including the “Feeding Our World– Starting at Home” Logo, as well as your chapter name, city, and state.
5. Appropriate language is required, and FFA attire is preferred, either casual or official dress.
6. Must have signed release forms submitted for all video participants.

Interested chapter should visit <https://www.ffa.org/fowsah/videocontest.html> to find the required release form, and a video contest rubric.



THE FARMER IN ALL OF US: AN AMERICAN PORTRAIT

As part of the “Give The Gift of Blue” National Jacket Program, the purchase of “The Farmer in All of Us: An American Portrait,” supports a minimum donation of \$25,000 by Ram Trucks to the National FFA Organization to help provide official jackets to FFA members who might not otherwise have the opportunity to own one. The book features more than 200 photographs that focus on the many faces of the American farmer, and follows the themes of the Paul Harvey speech, “So God Made a Farmer.” For more information about the book, or the Give the Gift of Blue campaign, please visit www.ffa.org.

FFA MEMBERS CAN WIN WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP WITH USFRA

FFA members are encouraged to draft and post a brief social media friendly “essay” (no more than 400 words) that starts with the writing prompt, “I am the future...”

This post should incorporate #FarmlandFilm — *Farmland* is an upcoming film by James Moll, which gives an up-close-and-personal look at six farmers and ranchers who are taking generational responsibility for the running of their family business — and describe the role you can play in the future of agriculture. The U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance is looking for FFA members in grades 9-12, aged 13-18 to participate. Once the post is made, entrants must fill out an application form. An entry will be selected at random on or around March 5 to receive an all-expense paid trip for the winning FFA member and two guests to Washington, D.C., for Ag Day.

During this trip, the winner and guests will also have the chance to attend an invite-only, sneak peak of *Farmland*. To learn more visit the USFRA website or the link at <http://www.fooddialogues.com/2014/02/14/usfra-is-engaging-todays-next-generation-of-farmers-and-ranchers>



SPOTLIGHT ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: WA-ACTE

WA-ACTE Awards:

Last year's winners in the areas of New Teacher of the Year, Teacher of the Year, and Community Service Award were all agricultural educators. Please consider nominating someone deserving, or applying yourself. The nomination and award applications are all online, please consider applying, and if you

The deadline for the WA-ACTE 2014 Excellence Awards is May 1, 2014.

Awards:

Teacher of The Year,
Administrator of the Year,
New Teacher of the Year
Career Guidance Award
Community Service Award
Lifetime Achievement Award
For more information visit:
<http://wa-acte.org/awardprog.php>

What is it? Washington ACTE is the largest state education association dedicated to the advancement of education that prepares students for successful careers. Washington ACTE is well-known for its leadership in legislative advocacy. We work year-round with education policymakers and organizations, building support and funding for Career and Technical Education. Washington ACTE members also enjoy many benefits and services that help members make a personal difference to improve their schools, programs, students, and their own careers. The core values of WA-ACTE are: advocacy, lifelong learning, collaboration, accounta-

bility, service, and diversity.

The next professional development opportunity will be Summer Conference, August 3-6 in Yakima, Washington. If you are interested in attending, please visit the WA-ACTE website for more information. If you are interested in presenting at the conference, please submit your application to present by March 25.

Membership in WA-ACTE costs \$60 annually, and you will join many others in representative WAAE in this related association. For more information about the WA-ACTE contact wa-acte@wa-acte.org or (360) 786-9286.

Interested in serving? WAAE has an opening to serve on the Awards Committee Contact WAAE representative, Dan Tedor dtedor@rochester.wednet.edu if interested.

Value of Membership:	The Benefits of Belonging	Why Join?:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Offer a collective, strong voice *Access relevant and current information *Recognition of profession *Provide professional development *Trusted access to wisdom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Is your voice on issues that are important to you *Facilitates your networking needs with colleagues across the state on various issues *Keeps you current professionally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Protect your livelihood *Keep current on the latest information and techniques *Network with experts across the state *Be part of your professional group



Washington Association for Career and Technical Education

Did you know? The Official FFA Manual is available online—for FREE!
Visit www.ffa.org for the online manual in English and Spanish

FFA MEMBERS REPRESENT AT CTSO DAY OF ACTION



The Washington State FFA Officer Team is joined by members proudly representing the FFA at the CTSO Legislative Day from the Rochester and Elma FFA Chapters

To the Right: Top: Supt. Of Public Instruction Randy Dorn
Bottom: WA-ACTE Director Tim Knue

FFA members took part in the first annual CTSO Action Day on the Hill. Members from each of the state's Career and Technical Student Organizations attended a morning session with greetings from Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn, and tips on how to speak to legislators from Greg Williamson, Director of Student Support, and an update on bills and policy that affect CTE and CTSOs from Tim Knue, Executive Director of WA-ACTE.

In the afternoon, tables were set up in the mezzanine with information about each of the CTSOs, and members met with senators and representatives to advocate for their associations and CTE education.

Congratulations to all members who took part in this worthy event.

The legislative action day will take place next year on February 4, 2014, all members are welcome to take part in this opportunity.



SEDRO WOOLEY FFA HONORED WITH SENATE RESOLUTION 8685



Led by "Fearless Leader" Wayne Ramsey, members of the Sedro Woolley Nursery Landscape and Floral teams visited the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn during their visit to Olympia.

SENATE RESOLUTION 8685 - adopted by the Senate February 20, 2014—by Senator Pearson WHEREAS, The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization of 557,318 student members as part of 7,498 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands; and WHEREAS, The National FFA Nursery Landscape Career Development Event (CDE) is a competitive event where FFA members test their knowledge and skills in nursery practices and landscaping; and WHEREAS, Participants must complete a general knowledge exam testing horticultural principles including plant anatomy, production, marketing, turf, landscaping design, and maintenance; and WHEREAS, Each participant must complete practicums involving landscape estimating, plant propagation or potting, identification of plants, disorders, and equipment; and WHEREAS, Each team competed on local and state levels to earn the privilege of representing their state at the National FFA Convention and Expo; and WHEREAS, Sedro-Woolley High School students traveled to Louisville, Kentucky to compete and represent the State of Washington at the national convention; and WHEREAS, The student nursery/landscaping team from Sedro-Woolley High School represented the State of Washington, placed 4th in the nation, and earned a gold plaque in floral design against schools twice Sedro-Woolley's size; and WHEREAS, The students from Sedro-Woolley defeated top national teams from Ohio, Missouri, Arkansas, Oregon, Minnesota, and Florida; and WHEREAS, Wayne Ramsey, the fearless leader of Sedro-Woolley's national champions, works to develop and cultivate the future of the top horticultural leaders of America; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize Karlie Lodjic, Alec Solemslie, Nicole Snyder, Rachel Marsh, Ryan Solemslie, Kristin Ramsey, Cory Peterson, Raynee Hayes, Troy Peterson, and Kayla Overby for their successes at nationals; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate celebrate in congratulating the students, Mr. Ramsey, and all of Sedro-Woolley in a truly remarkable victory.



Sedro Woolley FFA members on the Senate floor with Senate Resolution sponsor, Senator Kirk Pearson, Lt. Governor Brad Owen, Representatives Dan Kristiansen and Elizabeth Scott, and Advisor Wayne Ramsey.



Governor Inslee Proclamation Signing for Career and Technical Education Month on February 12, 2014

Course Approvals

Have a course you want to teach next year that is not currently approved? These courses are due no later than April 15.

Upcoming Dates of Interest:

March 1: State Convention Registration Open Online
 March 1: State Degree, State Officer Applications, Nominating Committee, N.O Candidate Due
 March 7: Spring Exec FFA Meeting in Wenatchee, WA
 March 8: State Degree and Proficiency Review in Wenatchee, WA
 March 13: FFA Board of Directors and Foundation Meeting in Olympia, WA
 April 1: Applications Due: National Chapter, 100% Membership, American Degree, FFA Delegate Issues
 April 5: National Chapter Scoring in Ellensburg, WA
 April 14-15: Ag Ed NGSS Training in Olympia, WA
 April 15: Applications Due: Citizenship Award, FARM,