

**Central Lyon FFA Chapter
Central Lyon CSD**

Parent/Student Handbook and Information Guide

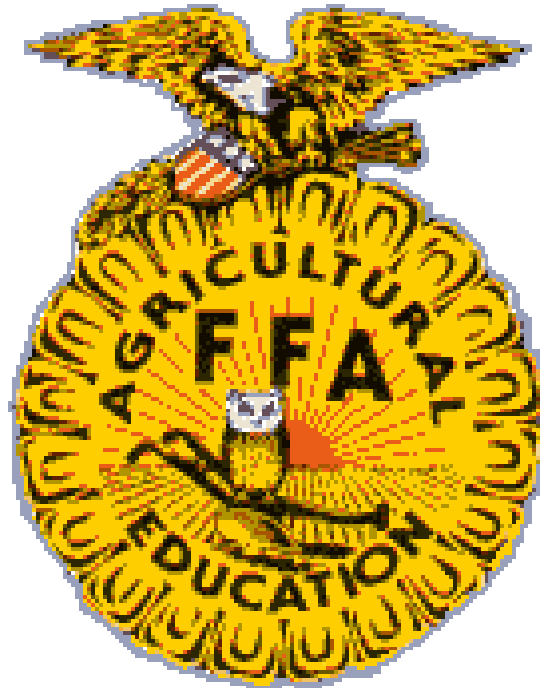


Table of Contents

Ag Ed Program Description

- SAE Projects
- Ag Ed Classes
- FFA Organization

What is SAE?

FFA Participation/SAE Project

FFA Calendar

Eligibility for FFA Membership

- Good Conduct Policy-Periods of Ineligibility

FFA Activities that Everyone Should Attend

- Annual Banquet
- Monthly Meetings

FFA Point System

Leadership Skills Events

- Description of Contests

Career Development Events

- Description of Contests

Fundraisers

- Fruit Sales
- Krispy Kreme

Proficiency Awards

FFA Degrees

- Greenhand
- Chapter
- State
- American

FFA Conferences and Camps

- Sub-District
- District CDE
- State FFA Convention
- National FFA Convention
- Chapter Officer Leadership Training (COLT)

Individual Opportunities for FFA Members

- Exhibiting at the Lyon County Fair
- Exhibiting at the Iowa State Fair
- FFA Senior Trip
- State FFA Chorus
- National FFA Band and FFA Chorus

Welcome to the Central Lyon FFA Handbook

Welcome to the Central Lyon 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 our FFA Advisor Josh Rockhill by phone at (712) 472-2664 or by Email at jrockhill@centrallyon.org

Get involved, participate, and have a great year!

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.

<p align="center">SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience)</p>	<p align="center">Ag Ed Classes</p>	<p align="center">FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America, now known as the "National FFA Organization").</p>
<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>Intro to Agriculture Animal Science Advanced Animal Science Veterinary Technology Agribusiness Ag Metals Crop Science Ag 8 Alternative Agriculture</p> <p>Public Law 740 defines SAE and FFA as <i>integral</i> parts of Agricultural Education classes. Students enrolled in Ag Ed classes and or FFA will pay a \$20.00 fee for FFA Dues and will be required to have an SAE Project.</p>	<p>The Central Lyon 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, but will never reduce, a student's grade in Ag Ed Class.</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.

Some examples of SAE projects that can be conducted by Central Lyon FFA Members:

Unpaid Veterinary Internship
Raising & Selling Pumpkins
Working in a Greenhouse
Creating & Selling "Beta Vases"
Custom Hay Baling Business
Breeding & Selling Purebred Dogs
Training Horses

Lawn Mowing Business
Volunteering at an Animal Shelter
Working at Sunshine in Meat Dept.
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 Dept.
Work Hunting & Trapping (wildlife mgt.)
Working on a Dairy Farm
Turf Care at a Golf Course
Restoring a Tractor
Raising Sheep, Cattle, or Hogs

Students keep records (including pictures) for each SAE project, and these records are submitted annually 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)

Round 1: Each student's application gets revised to compete against others in the chapter.

Round 2: Students that earn the first place in their category will advance to District proficiency judging to compete against other FFA members across the district in that area.

Round 3: Students that earn first and second place in their category at districts will compete against other members across the state at state proficiency judging.

FFA Participation

FFA is an INTRA-curricular activity - along with 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 all activities, just certain activities which are assigned. Therefore, your participation in FFA will never reduce your grade.

All students will keep track of their FFA points on the FFA point system, which is due at each monthly FFA meeting (or before) and will be checked at the end of each term.

SAE Project

All students are required to have at least one Supervised Agricultural Experience project and maintain records on this project. Records will be graded periodically and will be used in some class-related projects.

FFA Calendar

Date	Event	Location
June 1	COLT Conference	Dordt College
July	Lyon County Fair	Lyon County Fairgrounds
July	Lyon County Fair Clean up	Lyon County Fairgrounds
August	Antique Tractor Pull	Lyon County Fairgrounds
September	Homecoming supper	Central Lyon High School
September	District Livestock Judging	Clay County Fair
October	Greenhand Fire-up	MOC-FV
October-November	Fruit Sales Minimum \$750.00	Central Lyon High School
October	National FFA Convention	Indianapolis
August-December	SAE Workdays	Central Lyon High School
August-May	Monthly FFA Meeting	Central Lyon High School
August-May	Committee Meeting	Central Lyon High School
August-August	Chapter Officer Meetings	Central Lyon High School
December 8	Chapter Proficiencies Due	Central Lyon High School
December 13	Chapter Proficiency Judging Night	Central Lyon High School
December 15	FFA Fruit Sales Deliveries	Moon Creek Vet
January	Legislative Symposium	Des Moines
January	Sioux Empire Farm Show	Sioux Falls
January	Chapter Officer application	Central Lyon

February	State Degree Due	Dordt College
	State Officer Nominating Application Due	
February	Proficiency Evaluation	Dordt College
March	State Degree Interviews	Des Moines
Feb. 13	FFA Scholarship	Online
February/March	Proficiency Results State Degree Candidates	Online
February	National FFA Week	Central Lyon
March	State Officer Applications Due Honorary State FFA Degree (teachers and supporters) National Chapter Form 1, 2, 3 Agriscience Student of the Year Chapter Natural Resources Award Courtesy Corps Ag Technology Presentations Manuscripts for each LSE	Online
March	District CDE	NW District
March	Pre-Interview-state officer	Des Moines
March	Officer Interviews	Central Lyon
April	State FFA Convention	Ames
May	American FFA Degree Application Due	Online
July	Chapter Officer training	Central Lyon

Eligibility for FFA Membership

FFA membership is limited to students who are enrolled in Agricultural Education courses and certain graduates. Because FFA is an intra-curricular activity (not only 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.

Graduates who were FFA members during their senior year and participated in FFA for two years during high school may continue to be members of FFA. If the graduated student elects to retain membership, he or she must pay their dues by the established deadline, which is generally at the first FFA meeting of the year. Graduate membership must be continuous membership; therefore, if a graduate decides not to retain membership, he or she may not change their mind later and re-join. Again, there is no “way around” this policy – it is federal law.

Periods of Ineligibility

The Central Lyon School District's Good Conduct Code (see the high school student handbook) applies to FFA. This is true even though FFA is an intra-curricular activity. If a student has been declared ineligible for extracurricular 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. How does this translate for FFA? The following chart will give several examples:

An Ineligible Student May . . .

Attend Monthly FFA Meetings
Attend CDE Team Practices

Serve on a committee

Accumulate FFA Points

Participate in some
designated local activities

An Ineligible Student May Not . . .

Compete on a CDE Team or as an individual
Chair the committee or miss school due to committee
work

Get the advisor's signature on any applications (awards,
offices, degrees, fair livestock I.D.'s etc), even if the application applies
to an activity that will happen after the period of ineligibility.

Represent the chapter in public.

Participate in activities at the county, sub-district, district, state, or
national levels, or in local activities that are "for fun" or rewards only
(recreation, trips, etc.)

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 couple of things that every FFA member are required to do. They are:

- 1) Attend the Annual **FFA Banquet**, with their family.
- 2) Attend the 7 out of 9 **Monthly FFA Meetings**.

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:

1) 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 move to the evening's program, which generally includes a speaker and the following presentations:

- Star Greenhand
- Star Farmer
- Sub-District/District/State Recognition
- Chapter Proficiency Awards
- Leadership Awards
- Scholarship Awards
- Installation of new FFA Chapter Officers

*** Note: Applications for most of these awards are available from the advisor – the deadline to turn them in is AT OR BEFORE THE APRIL FFA MEETING.

Visitors from other FFA chapters often comment how “short” our banquet seems compared to other chapters – this is because we place a special emphasis on making these presentations fast-paced, informative, and exciting. Our goal is to maximize the recognition that our students get while minimizing down-time.

2) Monthly FFA Meetings

Every FFA member should attend the monthly meetings. In an effort to avoid conflicts and provide for maximum participation, meetings are not held on a particular day of the week or month. Even the time of day varies – some are held at 7:00 p.m., others during accessible times during the school day, while others will be held in the evening after athletic practices. Check the FFA Activity Calendar for the dates and times of this year's meetings.

Appropriate dress is required at FFA meetings, meaning that the school's dress code is in force. Many students choose to wear comfortable clothes to be able to participate in events'

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 activity after the meeting such as recreation, food, committee meetings, etc.

Typically, deadlines for various FFA award applications, convention applications, sign-ups for trips, and other due dates will be at the time of a monthly FFA meeting. If an application is due at a meeting and a student is not able to attend that meeting, then they should plan ahead and turn those materials into the Advisors sometime *before* the meeting. *Please understand:* If the deadline states “at the meeting” and you turn it in the following morning, IT IS TOO LATE, you have missed the deadline.

Students may only claim their FFA Points for the past month by filling out a point system at the monthly meeting. If a student knows in advance that they cannot attend a monthly meeting, they can see the advisor during the day of the meeting to fill out a point system.

All FFA meetings are listed in the school calendar as well as the FFA Activity calendar, which is provided to each FFA family and is available online. 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.

Keep in mind that this could change and most certainly will be added to as the year progresses. We suggest that you write all of these dates on your calendar early in the school year in order to schedule other obligations around the monthly meetings

FFA Point System

To reward FFA members for participating in FFA activities, they are awarded points on the FFA point system. These points will determine certain FFA awards and will be a determining factor in some FFA trip selections. In addition, FFA points may improve a student’s grade in their Ag Ed Classes. Students’ grades will never be penalized because of a lack of FFA points. Points vary for each activity and are determined monthly by the Officer team. Members of the Officer team are not eligible for point-system related awards, other than the non-competitive Leadership Pin. To receive full point value, you need to be on time to each event!

The following list includes several point-earning activities from past years. Remember, this is only an example, since the points are determined monthly by the executive committee. Points will be calculated up at the end of the school year and will start again at the start of the Lyon County Fair.

Leadership Activities

- 10 **Attendance at Monthly FFA Meetings**
add 5 if member wears FFA T-shirt
add 10 if member wears Official FFA Dress
- 5 **Committee Meetings**
- 25 **District Leadership Contest**
add 25 if 1st or 2nd place in any leadership contest
Includes: Creed, Public Sp., Extemp, Parli Pro, Job Interview, etc
- 25 **District Career Development Events**
add 25 if 1st or 2nd place in any skills contest
Includes: Livestock, Floriculture, Horse, Dairy, other skills contests
- 20 **State FFA Convention**
add 25 if a voting delegate
add 35 if in FFA Band, Chorus, or Talent
add 45 if an officer candidate
add points for competitions
add points for Iowa FFA Degree-see SAE & Degree Section
- 20 **National FFA Convention**
add 35 if in FFA Band, Chorus, or Talent
add points for competitions
add points for proficiency awards-SAE & Degree Selection
- 20 **Other**-districts, state, or national leadership activities that are not listed elsewhere on this page

Special Activities

Points determined by Advisor/Officer Team

Family & Member Participation

- 50 **FFA Banquet**
add 10 if one or more family members attends
- 50 **Parent Joins the FFA Parents & Alumni Group**
add 25 if more than one parent or relative joins (maximum of 75 pts)
add 5 for each Alumni Meeting or an Event Attended by parent(s).
- 25 **Parent volunteers at any other specific FFA Function event**

Fundraisers & Service Projects

- Top 10 Fruit Sales:** 50 pts
\$1,000.00-11th place: 25 pts
\$500.00-\$999.00: 15 pts
- Krispy Kremes:**
75-100 boxes: 50
50-74 boxes: 25
25-48 boxes 15 pts
10-24 boxes 5 pts

10 **Points Per Hour For FFA Community Service Projects**

SAE Projects & Degrees

- 20 **Proficiency Award (local, district, state, national)**
- 10 **Greenhand FFA Degree**
- 20 **Chapter FFA Degree**
- 100 **Iowa FFA State Degree**

State and County Fair Exhibits (FFA Shows Only)

- 15 (per exhibit) Beef, Dairy, Swine, Sheep, Horses
- 5 (per exhibit) Rabbits, Poultry, Horticulture, Floriculture, Photography

FFA Members who obtain 80% of points throughout their high school career will earn your way to the Senior FFA trip.

How to Collect Your Points

At each monthly meeting, FFA members will be given a point system sheet that lists all of the activities that they could have chosen to participate in since the last meeting, plus any other point-earning opportunities. Members will check off their points and turn the sheet in at the meeting. Points will accumulate from month to month.

Students who are not able to attend a monthly meeting may request a point system from the advisors during school the day of the meeting, fill it out and turn it in before the meeting. Any FFA point systems turned in after the monthly meeting (even if it is first thing the next morning) will be considered late – the student will receive zero points for the preceding month.

Leadership Skills Events

To find out more about each event, please visit www.iowaffa.org . Click on CDE tab on the middle margin and go to CDE. The CDE web page will provide objectives and rules for each contest.

These contest are all state qualifying contests.

Ag Broadcasting

This event is intended to foster an understanding and create an interest in the field of broadcast journalism

Ag CSI (Career & Science Investigation)

This experiential-learning career development event is designed as a classroom activity to emphasize career exploration and integration of academics. Learning activities will focus on: agricultural literacy, career exploration, personal development, and integration of academics. Participation in this activity is also designed to fulfill the SAE component of middle school FFA membership.

Ag Discussion Meet

The Ag Discussion Meet is an FFA event initiated only for “out-of-school” active FFA members. Although the participants participate in groups of about three to eight, similar to a panel, they are not judged collectively, but are judged on an individual basis. The participants are seated similar to a panel, but they do not operate as a panel with the moderator starting and stopping each participant. Rather, they function in freewheeling style with no order of participation and with freedom of discussion as if a few people were sitting around a table discussing as agricultural topic.

Ag Impact

This experiential-learning career development event is designed as a classroom activity to emphasize the importance of agriculture in our state, region and community. Learning activities will focus on: agricultural literacy, career exploration, personal development, and integration of academics. Participation in this activity is also designed to fulfill the SAE component of middle school FFA membership.

Ag Issues and Perceptions

The purpose of this event is to give students the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned during the past year while studying “Agricultural Issues” as a part of their agricultural education program.

Ag Sales (Individual)

The purpose of this event is to prepare FFA members in developing skills and techniques important toward becoming successful salespersons of agricultural products.

Chapter Activity Exhibit

This event is to provide an opportunity for chapters to display information on the one chapter project or activity. This information should include how this one feature of the annual program was organized and conducted and what results were secured. FFA members and advisors attending the conference may thus secure information of value in developing more effective chapters in the state. Any project of an educational nature which contributes directly to training for success in a farming or agribusiness occupation may be portrayed.

Chapter Program of Activities

This event is designed to emphasize group activity and accomplishments, and to recognize cooperative undertakings and leadership, growing out of an organized program in schools and communities. Its importance is indicated by the fact that the event is based on the chapter program and achievements for the event year beginning January 1st and running through December 31st of the previous year and involves the entire chapter membership. The target audience for this CDE is a formal, professional adult audience. For example: school board meeting, Farm Bureau meeting, etc. Evaluation of this CDE should be based in part on the appropriateness of the materials and presentation for the aforementioned audience.

Chapter Website

This event is provided to encourage the development of a website to promote the local FFA chapter. It is designed to stimulate the technological implementation of computer skills and webpage design. Individually, any number of members may be responsible for the development of the website.

Conduct of Meetings

This event is intended to develop the skills of young members in properly conducting an FFA meeting. Participants must be FFA members in grades 7-10. This event aids the development of leadership abilities of young members for present and future chapter activities.

Experience the Action

This event is designed to emphasize the major exciting aspects of Agricultural Education and the FFA. By participating in this activity, chapters should develop enthusiastic presentations, which market Ag Ed/FFA. Its purpose is to motivate students to enroll in Ag Ed programs and become FFA members. In addition, this

program may serve to inform and educate the general public regarding the benefits and activities of Ag Ed/FFA programs.

Extemporaneous Speaking

This event is designed to encourage the development of FFA members in the ability to speak, to think and to answer questions readily before an audience. The plan and rules have been organized according to those in use in the regional and national events. The winner in the state event is eligible to compete in the national event.

Topics shall be prepared by the State FFA Staff. Topics will be from the following five areas:

Agriscience and Technology	Agricultural Relations
Food and Fiber Systems	Urban Agriculture
Agrimarketing and International Agriculture	

FFA Creed Speaking

This event is designed to develop leadership and the ability to appear before groups by students in grades 7- 9, as they become members of the FFA. Emphasis will be placed upon knowledge of the FFA Creed as adopted at the 3rd National FFA Convention and revised at the 38th and 63rd National FFA Conventions. This event also supplements the public speaking event in developing leadership.

State FFA Greenhand Quiz

Two 1st year members in FFA can be selected to participate in the State FFA Greenhand Quiz. These members must be in the 9th grade.

Job Interview

This event was established to provide FFA members an opportunity to demonstrate their ability in completing a job application form, writing a letter of application, preparing a resume, interviewing properly, answering questions clearly, and presenting the proper impression.

The participant will select one of the following full time job openings and apply for the position:

Agricultural Computer Operator	Agricultural Supply Store Salesperson
Farm/Ranch Manager	Greenhouse/Nursery Employee
Large Equipment Mechanic	Meat Processing Employee
Veterinary Technician	Wildlife/Conservation Officer

Parliamentary Procedure

This event is intended to recognize the importance of developing leadership abilities. It provides trained officers and informed members on the correct conduct of organization affairs. It provides training in democratic procedure. This demonstration will indicate the abilities to be mastered. It also suggests ways in which chapters may organize their own training program in parliamentary procedure. The event is a test of parliamentary procedure abilities and discussions and thus more limited than in usual business meetings.

Prepared Public Speaking

This event is designed to develop rural and agricultural leadership, to provide for member participation in agricultural public speaking activities and to stimulate interest along such lines. The plan and rules have been organized according to those in use in the regional and national event. The winner in the state event is eligible to compete in the national event.

Reporter's Scrapbook

This event is provided to encourage the collection and display of newspaper clippings, pictures, and other materials showing the activities engaged in the local chapter. It is designed to stimulate and develop the preparation of materials and the use of photography showing achievements of members and the chapter. Individually, the reporters and members will have the opportunity to learn various procedures in reporting news.

Secretary's Book

This event is designed to stimulate the keeping of complete and accurate records of the chapter's activities. An opportunity is provided members and others to observe the record books maintained by chapter secretaries.

Treasurer's Book

This event is designed to stimulate the keeping of complete and accurate records of chapter's finances. Members and others may observe the record books maintained by chapter treasurers.

Career Development Events

To find out more about each event log on to <http://www.iowaffa.com/leadershipcderules.aspx> .

- State Qualifying Events ****
- Contests that are done before state convention are underline. Not a district contest.
- Career Development Events are open to any student who is enrolled in an agriculture education class or is an FFA member.
- Career Development Events may have more than one team enter. For example: I have the ability to enroll 2 welding teams.

Ag Issues ***

Ag Communication ***

Marketing Plan ***

3 person team

Ag Mechanics ***

4 person team

Ag Sales ***

4 person team

Agriscience

4 person team (freshman only)

Agronomy

4 person team

Farm Management

4 person team

Floriculture ***

Districts: 6 person team

State: 4 person team

Food Science ***

4 person team

Livestock Management***

Team can consist of 4-6 people

Livestock Selection ***

4 person team

Meats

4 person team

Natural Resources

4 person team

Nursery and Landscape ***

4 person team

Welding ***

3 person team in each welding area (Arc, MIG, and O/A)

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 summary of what our FFA chapter does to raise funds for our programs:

FFA Fruit sales –

Every year the FFA students are in charge of selling fruit sales to various people in our communities. Each student is responsible for selling the minimum dollar amount that is determined prior to the start of fruit sales.

Krispy Kreme

In March of that school year the FFA members do a small fundraiser to help pay for their trip to the State FFA Convention. Each member is required to sell 10 dozen donuts but are encouraged to sell more.

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? Proficiency Award Areas

Awards are available to all FFA members enrolled in high school agriculture, including special needs students. There are 47 Award areas.

For more information and applications log on www.ffa.org

Proficiency awards are given in the following areas:

Ag. Communications

Ag Education

Ag Mechanics Design & Fabrication

Ag. Mechanics Repair & Maintenance

Ag. Mechanics Energy Systems

Ag. Processing

Ag. Sales

Ag. Services

Aquaculture

Beef Production

Dairy Production

Diversified Ag. Prod.

Diversified Crop Prod.

Diversified Horticulture

Diversified Livestock Prod.

Emerging Ag. Technology

Environ. Sci & Nat. Resource

Equine Science

Fiber and/or Oil Crop Prod

Floriculture

Food Science & Tech

Forage Production

Forest Mgt. & Products

Fruit Production

Grain Production

Home or Community Development

Landscape Management

Nursery Operations

Outdoor Recreation

Poultry Production

Sheep Production

Small Animal Prod. & Care

Specialty Animal Prod.

Specialty Crop Prod.

Swine Production

Turf Grass Management

Vegetable Production

Wildlife Management

See the following two pages for more detailed descriptions of what types of projects fit into each one of the above award areas.

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 award.

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: 1st 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: January, 2nd or 3rd 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 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.

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 3rd or 4th 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.

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 1st, 2nd, 3rd 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 \$7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 2,250 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.

FFA Conferences and Camps

The Central Lyon FFA takes multiple trips to leadership conferences, conventions, and competitions throughout the year. As a rule, high school students must be eligible according to Central Lyon's Good Conduct Policy as well as academically eligible in order to participate in these trips.

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 rule of thumb is: If it is a trip that ALL FFA MEMBERS can participate in, the chapter pays the registration, entry fee, etc. for everyone. If it is a trip that ONLY SOME FFA MEMBERS are selected to participated in, then a fee is charged to the student for a portion of the total expenses. Certain trips have specific policies that have been adopted by the chapter members. They are as follows:

Sub-District Career Development Events

Sub-District Leadership Events are held annually in the month of February. This is Central Lyon FFA student's first level of competition in designated areas.

Students will miss the last part of the day of school, so they must get assignments in advance from their teachers.

All students participating in a contest may attend. There are no entry fees or costs other than your meal. Parents are invited to come and watch the students in competition.

District FFA Convention

The District FFA Convention is held in early March at the designated school selected by the District Advisors. It is the 2nd level of competition for FFA Leadership Contests. The chapter will pay each member's registration fee, which includes their lunch. Parents and others are encouraged to attend and support the Central Lyon FFA in competition.

State FFA Convention

Most years, a large number of students have "earned their way" to the State FFA Convention at Central Lyon by earning awards or competing in contests. These students 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 and the number of hotel rooms allocated to our chapter. Other students wishing to attend must fill out an application, and will be selected through a competitive process based on the quality of their application. Applications are judged by a committee of FFA Parent & Alumni Association members.

There is no limit to the number of times a student may attend state convention. However, in order to make sure that only active and dedicated FFA members attend the convention, the chapter has the following restrictions: **1)** To be selected to attend, a member must have attended either sub-districts or district CDE's this year, **AND 2)** To be selected to attend, a member must have attended at least 7 FFA meetings this school year. This information will be verified by the advisor. **3)** All students must have previously earned a gold or silver in their CDE and sold their minimum in Fruit Sales.

Students will miss 2 days of school, so they must get assignments in advance from their teachers. All students attending the State Convention (including those who have "earned their way") will pay a \$75 fee and or sell Krispy Kreme donuts

Applications can be picked up from the advisor. Applications are due at or before the March FFA Meeting.

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.

Being selected for the National FFA Convention is an honor. Students selected are chosen based on Seniority and points earned.

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 3-5 days of school to attend the National Convention, so they must get assignments in advance from their teachers. All students attending the National FFA Convention (including those who have “earned their way”) will pay a fee in the range of \$165-185 depending on the total cost of the trip.

Applications are due at or before the September FFA Meeting.

Chapter Officer Leadership Trip (COLT)

Each year, the newly elected FFA officers travel to a different location to spend a days sharpening their leadership skills, planning for the coming year, and learning to work as a team. The dates and location of this trip varies based on the schedules and interests of the students. Sightseeing and recreation are also a part of this trip. All officers are expected to participate, in this event because they were chosen to represent our chapter in all professional events.

212 and 360 Leadership Conference

Each fall, FFA members from all over Iowa travel to the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny to attend the 212° Conference! The 212° Conference is a leadership conference created by National FFA and is open to FFA members in **9th or 10th grade**. At 211° water is extremely hot, but just one more degree takes it up another level!

Each fall, FFA members from all over Iowa travel to the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny to attend the 360° Conference! The 360° Conference is a leadership conference created by National FFA and is open to FFA members in **11th or 12th grade**. 360° takes students full circle through chapter leadership development. Attendees will learn how to develop action plans for their chapters at every angle!

Washington Leadership Conference

Summer, Washington D.C.

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.

Legislative Symposium _____ January, Des Moines

Legislative Symposium is designed to build character and promote citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism. More than 300 members from 50 FFA Chapters across the state of Iowa will gather at the FFA Enrichment Center and State Capitol to learn about the legislative process, discuss agricultural issues and advocate for Agricultural Education and FFA.

Individual Opportunities for FFA Members

Exhibiting at the Lyon County Fair

Members of the Central Lyon FFA may exhibit livestock, mechanical, and other projects at the Lyon County Fair in July. Projects exhibited must be a part of the student's Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program and records should be maintained on this project. Participants can pick up livestock ID forms, entry forms, premium books, etc from the FFA Advisor. All forms should be turned into the FFA Advisor by the established deadline, NOT directly to the Madison County Extension Office.

Because the County Fair is an Individual FFA Activity, the chapter encourages participation, but does not provide financial support, transportation of livestock, or supervision.

Important dates to remember for the Lyon County Fair include the Market Beef Weigh-In; Lamb Weigh-In, and the Livestock ID Deadline.

Exhibiting at the Iowa State Fair

Members of the Central Lyon FFA may exhibit Beef, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goats, Rabbits, Horse, Mechanics/Technology, Horticulture, Floriculture, Photography, Sheep, and Swine projects at the Iowa State Fair in August. With the exception of Photography exhibits, all entries must be a part of the student's Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program and students must have record books on the projects exhibited.

Because the Iowa State Fair is an Individual FFA Activity, all FFA members under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or a responsible adult designated by the parent. The chapter encourages participation, but does not provide financial support, transportation of livestock, or supervision of students. There are three

exceptions to this: 1) The chapter will provide exhibitors with a reasonable and adequate number of “chapter stalls” at the chapter’s expense, at the request of the exhibitors, if the exhibitors plan to have some sort of display to promote the chapter. 2) The chapter will provide reasonable supplies for students to build their chapter display at the chapter’s expense, at the request of the exhibitors.

For more information go to www.neaged.org

State FFA Chorus

The State FFA Chorus provide entertainment at sessions and other events associated with the State 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 www.iowaffa.org . The deadline is typically during January

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. Because it is a great honor for the chapter to have a member selected to the band or chorus, the chapter will pay for the cost of transporting band or chorus members to and from the convention in a way that is most cost effective for the chapter. The individual member is responsible for transporting instruments, paying any fees to the National FFA for music, hotel, etc. and for their meals.