

## State FFA Officers

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## National FFA Organization Membership at 19-Year High

INDIANAPOLIS -Today, nearly a half-million young people nationwide, as well as in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, are living the legacy of the National FFA Organization. By becoming members of FFA, 464,267 students are serving their communities and exploring more than 300 careers in agriculture thanks to the opportunities provided by FFA.

"The increase of our membership is a reflection of the dedication and deep commitment of teachers in agricultural education," said National FFA Advisor Dr. Larry Case. "These teachers reach out to all

students and develop a mentoring relationship resulting in student success. Together with state leadership, they are bringing the legacy of FFA to new students."

As the membership roster expands to a 19-year high, the legacy of FFA continues to influence new generations. "Our increasing membership can be traced to the growing opportunities of agricultural education and skills learned in the FFA," said Tim Hammerich, national FFA president. "Today's membership reflects more than 300 different career interests, members in rural, urban and suburban settings, and the cultural diversity found throughout

this great nation."

FFA is a national organization of 464,267 members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture with 7,194 local chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education. Visit [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) for more information.

## President's Message

Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association in the state of Utah appreciates the opportunity of having its members attend the open hearings held throughout the state on competency-based education. It has been an important avenue for us to inform ourselves about the proposed standards for competency-based education, as well as, the new proposed graduation requirements (Performance Plus). Applied Technology Edu-

cation (ATE) prides itself in having used competency-based education for many years and continues to do so throughout our curriculum. As your board and subcommittee now deliberates the issues from these open hearings, we ask you to consider allowing ATE and Agriculture Education a premier role in these important proposed changes.

Agriculture education and ATE is not for students who "can't succeed" in academic courses. These

courses have been developed to offer high-tech, high demand course work that is meeting the needs of employers for a highly skilled workforce.

Over the past twenty years, agriculture education has revised and updated traditional coursework so that it can be applied both in the workforce as well as in the core academic areas. Recently agriculture education has been updating non-traditional courses and assuring they

## IMPORTANT!!

In order to qualify for the Superior Chapter rating, your first Membership Roster and Program of Activities must be submitted to the Executive Secretary by November 30, 2003. You may add members to your roster up through May 10, 2004. Any Chapter not qualifying for the Superior Chapter can compete in but not win a State Career Development Event.

can be applied not only to the math and science, but to fine arts as well. We, as agriculture educators, understand the importance of core academic courses and are striving to have our courses meet these standards.

Agriculture education for many years has been training youth in financial literacy by involving our students in supervised agriculture experience projects (SAE). Throughout the course of these SAE's, students are required to develop budgets, maintain records, and learn the importance of managing their money.

Agriculture education has already implemented a lot of the proposed changes of the new graduation requirements and therefore, we would like to be involved with implementing any proposed new changes.

However, there are some concerns that we would like to express to you at this time. Agricultural education courses are considered "elective" by state standards. With the possibility of having elective credits cut by one whole credit, the change is going to affect our programs considerably. We know that several districts have done extensive research and comparisons to determine how this proposal will affect their teachers. Having courses cut entirely because of being electives, or removed because of lack of students due to the

requirement of a focused elective, is going to be detrimental to specific programs in our schools.

Teaching applied technology courses not only includes classroom instruction, but also hands-on activities and projects. The block schedule with the minimum of eighty-minute class periods is preferred, because it allows students extra time to work on projects and lab experiments. The recommendation of changing block schedules to fifty-five minute periods will result in ATE programs not being able to address the necessary course materials for students to learn at competency level.

Our last concern is focused electives. Of course, we as agriculture educators would like to see all students focused on agriculture education. Therefore, we are concerned that once students select a focus area, they will not have the ability to change this focus later on in their academic careers.

When students complete an ATE course, they have better employment and earning potential than other students. This was noted by the Southern Regional Education Board at the Southern State consortium. Students in ATE courses who receive effective guidance and advisement services are

much more likely to complete a rigorous curriculum in English, science and math and have attained higher test scores than those who have not received such guidance. I am including the website in hopes that you will investigate the findings further. (<http://www.sreb.org/programs/hstw/career/careerindex.asp>)

Clearly, when students are involved in ATE courses in conjunction with core academic programs, they are more likely to pursue postsecondary education, have a higher grade point average in college, and are less likely to drop out in the first year.

We as agriculture educators would like to be part of the solution and applaud your efforts in improving the education system in Utah. We hope that you will consider the points we have outlined and look forward in hearing from you in addressing our concerns.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Gowans, President  
Utah Vocational Agriculture Teachers  
Association

### Greenhouse Tip: by Charles Bigo

For control of Fungus Gnats use parasitic nematodes (microscopic). They can be obtained from Hummert Greenhouse Suppliers. Visit [www.Hummert.com](http://www.Hummert.com) and go to "Soil Pest Controls".

# 2003-2004 State FFA Officer Chapter Assignments

<b><u>Tiffany Clegg - President</u></b> American Fork Bear River Box Elder Cedar Davis Duchesne Manti Panguitch Park Valley Parowan Wasatch	<b><u>Bill Munns - Vice President</u></b> Clearfield Fremont Grantsville Monticello Monument Valley Mt. Crest San Juan Sky View Spanish Fork Tooele	<b><u>Tanya Vanderstappen - Secretary</u></b> Altamont Dixie Granite Mountain Hurricane Kanab Layton Long Valley Pine View Springville Weber Woods Cross
<b><u>Cash Williams - Treasurer</u></b> Bingham Delta Emery Gunnison Manila Mt Nebo North Sevier North Summit Richfield Riverton South Sevier	<b><u>Sonrisa McGuire - Reporter</u></b> Beaver Jordan Tech Lehi Lone Peak Milford Orem Payson Provo Wayne West Jordan	<b><u>Todd Kelly - Sentinel</u></b> Copper Hills Enterprise Millard Morgan North Sanpete Pleasant Grove Roosevelt South Summit Tabiona Uintah

The state officers are ready, willing and eager to visit your chapters. They have set a goal to visit each chapter twice. Ideally one visit is to be an all day visit teaching in your classroom to every class possible. The other visit is to attend one of your chapter activities. Ideally the classroom visit will take place as early in the school year as possible to have maximum recruiting impact.

Each of the state officers has reported to me that they have sent letters and emails to each of their assigned chapters asking you to contact them to schedule visits. They are also attempting phone calls to you. The officers have expressed some frustration at the extremely low number of advisors who have responded to their contact efforts. In order to use your valuable time and thier valuable time as efficiently as possible I am encouraging you to contact your state officer as soon as possible to schedule their chapter visits. Please remember as you work with the officer to schedule their visits to provide as much advance notice as possible. Each officer has 10 or more chapters to visit and other duties as well so contacting them and asking them to attend and activity 1 or 2 days in advance is not a recommended practise.

When the officers visit your chapter they will ask you to complete an evaluation form on their visit. This form provides you the opportunity to critique thier performance and provide them insight for improvement. You may discuss this form with them personally or you may send the form directly to me and I will review it with them. Your input is greatly appreciated and respected.

Thank you for your attention to these matters and for all of your hard work and efforts in making the FFA work for our students.

Brett Evans

Utah FFA

**2003-2004 Utah FFA Association Calendar of Events**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Call for Information</b>
Oct 8, 2003	Utah Council of Farmer Cooperatives Coop Quiz Competition (Cooperator of the Year Award Presentation)	Thanksgiving Point	Brett Evans/Devon Bailey
Oct 14	Snow College Field Day	Snow College	Jack Anderson
Oct 16	UEA Teacher Conference	Lone Peak H. S.	Mike Gowans
Oct 28 - Nov 1	National FFA Convention	Louisville, Ken-	Brett Evans
Nov 20, 2003	Utah Farm Bureau Convention (Presentation of Member of the	Salt Lake City	Brett Evans
Dec 5, 2003	Utah Cattlemen's Assoc. Conv. (Presentation of Cattleman of the Year Award)	Salt Lake City	Brett Evans
Dec 5-6	Utah Leadership Conference I Utah Leadership Conference II	Provo	Brett Evans
Jan 16-17, 2004	UACTE Teacher Conference	Saint George	Buddy Deimler
Jan 24	Collegiate FFA State Officer Candidate Training		USU Collegiate FFA
Jan 28	Area Contest - Area I Area Contest - Area V	Fremont H.S. Spanish Fork H.S.	Craig Demorest Kasee Sweat
Feb 3	Area Contest - Area VI Area Contest - Area IX Area Contest - Area X	Manila H. S. SUU SUU	Bill Schell Bryan Wood Dellas Sorenson
Feb 10	Area Contest - Area IV Area Contest - Area VII Area Contest - Area VIII	Pleasant Grove H. S. Emery H. S. South Sevier H. S.	Jennifer Miller Corrine Dalton Steve Peterson
Feb 11	Area Contest - Area III	Riverton H. S.	Sonja Burton
Feb 12	Area Contest - Area II	DATC	Frank Koon
Feb 21-28			
March 18-20,	Utah FFA Association State Convention	Cedar City	Brett Evans
April 20-21,	Utah FFA Association State Career Development Events	USU	Brett Evans
May	Utah Envirothon (Utah Environmental Science State CDE)		Jennifer Hines
May	CDE Host & Chair Dinner	Logan	Brett Evans
May	National FFA Officer Candidate Selection	Logan	Brett Evans
<i>June 6-8, 2004 (Tentative)</i>	<i>ATELO Leadership Training Institute</i>	Provo	Brett Evans
	<i>ATE Teachers Conference</i>	Cedar City	Mike Gowans
<i>-July 4-9, 2004</i>	<i>Four Corners National Leadership Conference for State Officers</i>	Colorado	Brett Evans
August 2004			
Sept 9-19,	Utah State Fair (FFA Barnyard Friends)	Salt Lake City	Brett Evans

*Italicized events are State Association activities for the general information of the chapters but may not include direct chapter involvement.*