

Please take a moment, when you can, to read this message from beginning to end as a vast majority of information applies to every chapter in Iowa. Consider saving this email (it will also be posted on the Advisor's Page).

0--MMR OMISSION:

--Gene Bomgaars @ Sheldon is short 3 textbooks for Intro to Agriscience, 4th Edition, "Burton, Cooper"

--Email: gbomgaars@sheldon.k12.ia.us or Cell: [712-348-1951](tel:712-348-1951)

1--VERIFY CHAPTER DATA

--Thank you to many of you who have replied back to my requests for updates to our directory.

--I still need information--or a message that says "no changes"--from 15 chapters.

2--MEMBERSHIP DUES

--Similar to last year, State Dues are \$7.50 per member and National Dues are \$7.00 per member. Dues are set at the respective previous conventions.

--All 6 Districts charge dues as well and will be invoiced through the State FFA...more on that later.

3--AFFILIATION DUES

--This is an alternative option to individual membership. FFA Chapters can choose to pay one amount for dues to have every Ag Ed student be an FFA member.

--The information about this option and form to do this is found in the Membership Management section on the Advisor's Page. The form is due to me by SEPTEMBER 23.

--The form can either be submitted via the paper form or in a google doc. Both are available in the Membership Management section on the Advisor's Page.

--Last year, 36 Iowa FFA Chapters chose this option instead of membership dues and is growing in popularity in Iowa (the previous year there were 28 chapters).

--If you have questions about Affiliation Dues, please talk to one of the following "spokespeople" about the program, as they are Advisors of FFA Chapters who actually use this option. These advisors are:

--West Lyon FFA: Cathy Doorneweerd <cdoorneweerd@wlvildcats.org>

--Chariton FFA: Susan Greubel <susan.greubel@chariton.k12.ia.us>

--Prairie Valley FFA: Steve Kehoe <kehoes@gowrie.k12.ia.us>

--Iowa Falls-Alden FFA: Doug Dodd <ddodd@ifacadets.net>

--Of course, you are welcome to talk about Affiliation Dues with anyone else you might know who uses it.

4--MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

--Every year there are questions about students' eligibility for membership.

--Please know that the Iowa FFA Constitution states that "the Agricultural Education Instructor shall be the FFA Advisor."

--The black and white explanation is: "A high school student who takes the equivalent of one semester of ag coursework from an Ag Ed Instructor is eligible for FFA membership."

--For middle school students, they must receive some sort of agricultural instruction from the Ag Ed Instructor. The structure of course work is more flexible than for high school students due to the diversity of exploratory ag arrangements across the state (see Discovery Degree language in the constitution for details).

--There are other unique scenarios that are addressed in board policy #31 found here: <http://www.iowaffa.com/ffaboardpolicies.aspx>. The board policy discusses how to initiate, retain (after graduation), and maintain (through HS) membership.

--If you have a question about membership, please check the board policy FIRST, THEN ask Dale or I if you still have that question.

5--CHAPTER FEE AND DISTRICT DUES

--The Chapter Fee was created about 13 years ago and is an annual charge to all FFA Chapters in Iowa to help off-set operational costs of the Iowa FFA Association.

--The amount charged is on a graduated scale based on your membership from the previous year. Larger chapters pay a higher fee and smaller chapters pay a lesser fee.

--Fee amounts range from \$65 to \$250. The fee schedule can be found on the Affiliation Dues Form in the Membership Management section on the Advisor's Page.

--For the first time, all Districts will be invoicing District dues through the Iowa FFA Association. You will receive one invoice in October that will have both the chapter fee and district dues on it. District dues range from \$30-\$50 per chapter depending on the district. FFA Chapters that utilize Affiliation Dues will also be invoiced at that time.

6--MANAGING AG CN & THE FFA ROSTER

--The Ag CN roster management process should be available for the 2013-14 school year in early September. National FFA is currently targeting September 1st.

--All FFA Advisors should have an Ag CN account. If you still need one, complete the on-line request form found in the Membership Management section of the Advisor's Page.

--User-Guides and resources can be found in the Membership Management section on the bottom right of the Advisor's Page.

--Once you have your list of members added to the roster, the "AgCN Roster Submission Process" might be helpful in getting your roster submitted correctly.

--I am unable to put together a webinar as of yet because it is my understanding that there will be some structural changes to Ag CN after September 1st (I don't want to make a webinar on something that is obsolete before it is even used).

7--REQUESTS FROM ME REGARDING MEMBERSHIP

--Using the one year membership (Type M) renewal option is significantly easier to manage on the State Association end based on the reports I can generate as state staff (it's actually the lack of reports that I get that make managing 3-year and 3+1 year membership difficult).

--NO MEMBERSHIP ROSTER WILL BE APPROVED IF ADDRESS AND GRADE INFORMATION ARE MISSING. Our on-line system and the State Fair entry system need this information.

--When adding new members on Ag CN, learn how to use the long form of the clipboard, particularly if you have a significant number of members to add.

--When you THINK you are done and have your roster submitted, complete the google form titled "Roster Submitted Notification" found in the Membership Management section on the Advisor's Page. Why? If the submission to state process is not done correctly by the advisor, I don't see that Chapter XXX has submitted members to state and therefore have no idea that memberships need to be processed on my end and therefore cannot help them...OR...if your roster work is a 3-4+ day process, I do not want to process your roster until all your work on the roster is done.

8--HOW DO I KEEP MY CHAPTER IN "GOOD STANDING?"

--Your FFA Chapter must be in good standing with the Iowa FFA Association to be able to participate in any event above the local level. Your chapter must have the following submitted to me by November 1 (Delinquent December 1):

--Email me (pdf or word) your POA. DO NOT mail a paper copy.

--Email me (pdf or word) your Chapter Constitution. DO NOT mail a paper copy.

--Submission of your Chapter's FFA Roster to the state (done on-line through Ag CN)

--Payment of FFA Membership Dues (or Affiliation Dues)

--Payment of the Chapter Fee

--Completion of the FFA Annual Report must also be done annually, but that is due July 1st and coordinated through Dale Gruis, State FFA Advisor.