

Plan of Work year 2014 – 2015
FFA
State of Vermont

1. State and National Conferences:

- + NLCSO – July 2014, Camp Oswagatchie, New York
- + **State Presidents Conference** – July 2014, Washington, DC.
- + **National Convention** – October 26 – November 2, Louisville, Kentucky
- + **NASAE Conference** – October 26 – October 28, 2014
- + **Farm Show** – January 28, 2015, Champlain Valley Exposition, Colchester, VT
- + **VT State Convention**, May 4 – 5, 2015 Shelburne Farms and Inn
- + **Blast Off** – June 27 – July 2, 2015 Camp O New York

Actions: The FFA State Officer Team, along with their Executive Director, will meet regularly to plan and implement their administrative duties in regard to these conferences and state appearances. We will keep in continuous contact via face to face meetings, telephone calls, text messages, email and electronic web chats/video meetings.

Alignment with Industry Standards and Program Competencies:

- + All state competitions are either currently aligned or are being aligned with industry standards.
- + All national competitions are aligned with industry standards and common core stds. nationally.
- + All test development is overseen by the educational staff at national FFA in conjunction with industry and secondary educational consultants.
- + National FFA executives serve on National industry boards as well as the National Agriculture Committee. By sitting on these boards they keep our standards current with industry and make sure that our competitions are aligned appropriately.
- + FFA local advisors are required to make sure that their curriculum is aligned in a like wise manner, for them to teach.

Goal: To increase the numbers of chapters and members that participates in State convention and state activities. Blast Off, NCLSO, and SPC are only for state officer training. Our goal for the year is to see that one new chapter participates at Farm Show, State Convention and National Convention. We also wish to see an additional 5% of the membership participate at all events.

Assessment: The national conventions use their own methods for obtaining feedback from participants to increase the success of the conventions from year to year. The State Officer team along with the Executive Director will work to design and implement an assessment questionnaire at the conclusion of each state event, specific to that year's event, for our members to complete.

2. Membership:

Goal: To bring one chapter out of hiatus and return as a functioning chapter, to see membership statewide improve by 10%.

Rationale: There are 17 Technical Educational Schools within the State of Vermont with many students taking diesel, automotive, agriculture business, to name a few. Our present membership consists of 19 chapters, 1 collegiate, 5 with no instructors listed and 464 members. There is always room for more members and advisors.

Actions:

- ✚ The State Officer team along with their Executive Director will make a concerted effort to visit the 4 chapters that are in question.
- ✚ The State Officer Team will devote time to visiting a minimum of 4 chapters and make presentations to increase the awareness of FFA as well as the benefits of being a member.
- ✚ State Officers will present information about FFA and its leadership components to agriculture students at the Vermont Farm Show.

Assessment:

Our work will be assessed in the number of new members that are signed up through AgCn and the number of chapters that go from in-active to active.

3. Leadership Development:

Goal: Build and assist chapter officers and local members in building comprehensive leadership skills.

Actions:

- ✚ State Officer Team will bring their leadership skills learned from Blast Off and NLCSO to the the Vermont Farm Show and the VT State Convention.
- ✚ Add information to the state web site about running for and being a state officer.
- ✚ Schedule and meet with local chapter officer teams to promote building leadership skills, involvement and communication.
- ✚ Plan and implement the State of Vermont FFA Convention – held annually in May.
- ✚ Plan and help organize a Leadership Conference for Vermont in January or February, entitled This is My Story.
- ✚ Plan, organize and implement the visit of a National Officer during a week in September/October.
- ✚ State Officer Meetings: Monthly leadership meetings.
- ✚ Executive Director will write a hand book for future State Officers with input from previous officers.
- ✚ Executive Director will write a handbook, describing the position and how to organize each event, contacts, etc...

Assessment: The team will use exit interview questions at the end of each event for feedback from the participants.

4. Career Development:

Goal: Move agricultural awareness to the forefront, showing that agriculture is used in every aspect of our day to day life.

Rationale: There are more than 4,000 students enrolled in our 17 technical high schools within Vermont. Every aspect of technical education relies in one way or another on agriculture.

Actions:

- ✚ Bring in alumni to speak with various classes and technical centers about how agriculture affects our lives.
- ✚ Work with the Department of Agriculture in connecting FFA Advisors and members with the Farm to Plate initiative.
- ✚ Alumni to speak on how their experiences in FFA growing up shaped their life decisions and their careers.
- ✚ Recruit local business owners and employees from agriculture industries to be judges at our local competitions
- ✚ Set up partnerships with local businesses through window displays in support of National FFA week.
- ✚ Work with Foundation to connect with alumni and set up a data base for informational interviews, judges, etc.
- ✚ Work with Alumni to increase their participation and to set up local chapters in support of current FFA members.

5. Local Advisor Skills:

Goal: To make sure that all advisors have a clear understanding of how to use AgCn, and use it.

Actions:

- ✚ The Executive Director will provide workshops for the local advisors on how to use the AgCn web site.
- ✚ The Executive Director will be the go between when a local advisor has an issue with AgCn.
- ✚ The Executive Director will keep local advisors up to date on any changes or issues that result in them not being able to access this website.

Assessment: All local chapter advisors and agriculture teachers will be able to enter their student rosters in a timely manner. The number of roster related questions will decrease. The Executive Director will also employ FAP techniques throughout the workshop to insure that all participants are learning and comprehending.

6. Communications:

Goal: To establish and maintain effective communication with all chapters and agricultural teachers.

Rationale: The key to a well-functioning group is through effective communication

Actions:

- + Create, distribute and update contact list by Vocational Center of State Officers, Chapter Officers and Advisors. The list will be complete with school addresses, email addresses and phone numbers (both cell and home/school).
- + Update the current FFA website with links to forms, applications and minutes from the State Officer meetings.
- + When the VATA establishes their web site, place the link on the state web page.

7. Connections with Employers:

Goal: To continue to develop partnerships between FFA and Vermont businesses.

Rationale: Develop awareness in businesses that may not see the connection between FFA and their business and how the two can benefit from each other.

Actions:

Work with 2 to 3 businesses to connect them as sponsors of FFA.

8. Integrating CTSO Activities/Events with CTE Programming:

Goal: All CTSO activities at the local, state and national level are considered intra-curricular for FFA. Therefore, by implementing all actions within this POW the goal will be achieved.

9. National CTSO Event Connections:

Goal: To increase the number of chapters participating at National Convention by 1 and the percentage of members attending by 10%

Actions:

- + The State Officers will promote the convention at all of their events and as they visit chapters.
- + The State Officer team will disseminate information that they received at Blast Off and NLCSO so that chapters can plan their year and are involved in national initiatives. Example: “My story”, Feed the Hungry.

- ✚ The Executive Director will speak with the Agriculture teachers and VATA about the benefits of attending the national convention to members.
- ✚ The Executive Director will email and make personal contact with advisors encouraging them to go.
- ✚ The Executive Director will provide the infrastructure necessary to facilitate local chapter participation in the annual convention.

Assessment: The numbers attending will tell the story if the work that the State Officer Team along with their Executive Director was helpful. However, we do acknowledge that in today's economic times, not all chapters have enough money in their accounts to send individuals to the national convention.

10. Budget:

Goal: To develop and implement a fiscally sound and responsible budget that meets the needs of VT FFA.

Rationale: It is the duty of the Vermont Executive Director to make a budget, establish its purpose and maintain that budget. All financial records should be available to its members.

Actions:

- ✚ The Executive Director will approve all requests for payments.
- ✚ The fiscal day to day accounting will be maintained by: River Bend Career and Technical Center, 36 Oxbow Drive, Pvt., Bradford, VT 05033. Contact: Anita Locke
- ✚ The Executive Director will be responsible for making sure that all dues (state and national) are paid in a timely manner per the bylaws.
- ✚ Will finalize returning the Association to good standing with the IRS and state tax department, by producing records to claim back its 501(c)3 status.
- ✚ To insure that the Association has an insurance policy that covers all events and the Executive Director.
- ✚ A treasurer's report will be prepared and presented to the membership at the State Convention and at the state Farm Show.
- ✚ An annual audit and financial report will be available to inform members as to income and disbursements of funds.
- ✚ The fiscal year of FFA will be July 1 through June 30th.