



FFA Terminology

Acronyms: On first reference, the full phrase is always used and the initials are included in parentheses. On second reference, only the letters are needed. The exception to this is "FFA" since we do not use "Future Farmers of America." Do not use periods within acronyms or abbreviations: MFE, not M.F.E.

Advanced Leadership Development Conference	ALD
American Agricultural Editors' Association	AAEA
American Association for Agricultural Education	AAAE
Agricultural Relations Council	ARC
Building Leaders and Strong Teams of Officers	BLAST Off
Career Development Event	CDE
Experiencing Discovery, Growth and Excellence	EDGE
International Leadership Seminar for State Officers	ILSSO
Local Program Success	LPS
Made For Excellence	MFE
National Agri-Marketing Association	NAMA
National Association of Agricultural Educators	NAAE
National Association of Agricultural Journalists	NAAJ
National Association of Farm Broadcasters	NAFB
National Association, Supervisors of Agricultural Education	NASAE
National Young Farmer Educational Association, Inc.	NYFEA
National Leadership Conference for State Officers	NLCSO
National Council for Agricultural Education	The Council
National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization	PAS
New Century Farmers	NCF
New Farmers of America	NFA
Partners in Active Learning Support	PALS
State Presidents' Conference	SPC
Supervised Agricultural Experience Program	SAE
Washington Leadership Conference	WLC
World Experience in Agriculture	WEA

Advisor: Always advisor, not adviser. The proper term for the agriculture instructor when he or she is performing FFA-related responsibilities.

Agricultural/agriculture: When used as an adjective (e.g., describing something), the term "agricultural" is appropriate (it's always agricultural education). When used as a noun, the term "agriculture" is correct. Note: always use agriculture

teacher/instructor (remember that the teacher isn't agricultural, she's human! She teaches agriculture.)

*The agricultural industry encompasses more than 300 careers.
There are more than 300 careers in the industry of agriculture.*

Agriculture: Do not abbreviate to the slang "ag." The term "science, business and technology industry" is acceptable.

Agriscience: Agriscience is the term for common use in reference to curriculum or career areas. Do not hyphenate.
Steve McCallion teaches bioengineering and genetics in his agriscience classes.

Agriscience Teacher of the Year program: Agriscience Teacher of the Year program is the official name. It may be agriscience program or agriscience winner in second reference.
Linda Rist was named the Agriscience Teacher of the Year.

Alumni: National FFA Alumni Association on first reference. Second reference should be FFA Alumni. States may be New Jersey FFA Alumni or New Jersey alumni. The term "alumni" can be used to designate all past members of the FFA rather than just those who are dues-paying members of the FFA Alumni; it is a generic, not a specific, term.

Affiliate: Term used in reference to local alumni groups. It should be capitalized only when used as part of a proper noun.
The Denmark FFA Alumni Affiliate
Local FFA alumni affiliates should submit dues by Oct. 15.

Awards: Set styles for some of the many FFA awards include:
VIP Award
Distinguished Service Citation
Honorary American FFA Degree
American Star Farmer
American Star in Agribusiness
American Star in Agri-Placement
American Star in Agriscience
National Chapter Award

Band, chorus and talent: Should be written as follows in first reference:
National FFA Band
National FFA Chorus
National FFA Talent
In second reference, use national band. (e.g., The National FFA Band is terrific.
The national band members love music.)

Career development events: Career development events should be written as follows:

*National FFA Floriculture Career Development Event
floriculture career development event.*

Note: in this case, as with all FFA programs, the use of "FFA" determines if the name is capitalized in "body copy."

(FFA member) participated in the career development event.

Convention: Refer to the annual meeting of FFA as "2001 National FFA Convention" for first reference; the national FFA convention or the national convention on second reference. Do not capitalize national convention unless accompanied by the specific year or convention number.

Using the convention number is also acceptable in first reference but the other form is preferable, especially to external audiences.

(e.g., the 73rd National FFA Convention)

Degrees: FFA degrees should be written as follows:
Greenhand FFA Degree, Chapter FFA Degree, State FFA Degree, American FFA Degree, Honorary American FFA Degree.

ffa.org ffa.org is the official name for the national FFA website it is no longer referred to as National FFA Online.

FFA Week: Should be written as follows: FFA Week or National FFA Week
The 2001 theme is "FFA-Discover the Power."

Food For America: Refer to the program to teach young people about food as Food For America. Do not abbreviate.

National FFA Center: Always capitalize when used as National FFA Center. Do not capitalize center when used alone.

They will meet at the center.

National FFA Organization: Refer to the organization by the acronym. For further clarification, "formerly Future Farmers of America" may be used but only parenthetically.
The National FFA Organization (formerly Future Farmers of America) is located in Indianapolis.

Officers: Refer to the national FFA officers as follows:

Trent McKnight, national president

National FFA President Trent McKnight

*Lowercase officers when they stand alone. (e.g., The national president spoke at the banquet.)

*Do not hyphenate vice president.

*The year may be used if the story is about a former officer. (e.g., 1999-00 National FFA President Chris Vitelli)

publications: FFA publications should be written as follows:

FFA Advisors Making a Difference
FFA New Horizons
UPDATE
FFA Today
Proceedings
FFA Chapter Catalog or Student Catalog
Official FFA Manual

Proficiency awards: Proficiency awards should be written as follows:

National FFA Agricultural Communications Proficiency Award
national agricultural communications proficiency award

Program: When referring to the activities conducted by FFA members as part of their "SAEP," the "P" stands for program not project. "Projects" have a definite beginning and ending whereas "programs" have a definite beginning but are continuous and evolve throughout the time a student is enrolled in an agricultural education program.

Program of Activities: Activities specified by the three standing committees which are to be accomplished by the local chapter, district, region, or state association. It is not referred to as the "Program of Work."

SAE: The acronym for "supervised agricultural experience" is defined as the individualized experience program designed in cooperation with the student, parents, agriculture instructor and, in some cases, employers to provide each student the opportunity to practice, in as near a real-life situation as possible, that which has been learned in the classroom. Correct use is supervised agricultural experience program (SAE).

SCANS: Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills. This is a Department of Labor report.

School-to-Career: A national education initiative stressing connections between school and careers. In "school-to-career language" FFA key components are: school-based or contextual learning-classroom/laboratory instruction; work-based learning-SAE; a connecting activity-FFA.

Star awards: Chapter Star Farmer, State Star Farmer and American Star Farmer, and Chapter Star in Agribusiness, State Star in Agribusiness and American Star in Agribusiness. Stars are named, not awarded. (e.g., Michael Springer was named American Star Farmer.)