

# 2011

Act Today-Impact Tomorrow

# SOCS

State Officer Candidate School



The Pennsylvania FFA Association makes a positive difference in the lives of nearly 8,000 students by developing their potential for *premier leadership, personal growth and career success* through agricultural education.

# Preface

The SOCS notebook was developed to increase the level of understanding of what the duties, responsibilities and commitments of the Pennsylvania FFA State Officers are. We hope that over time, as awareness increases, the talent level of officer candidates will also increase. Therefore the high quality state officers will be more prepared so that the FFA members are served at greater levels and the mission of the FFA is better fulfilled.

This notebook was originally prepared and published by the Pennsylvania FFA Association as a special project from the 1996-97 State Officer Team. It was continued by succeeding State Officer teams to better educate and serve future State Officer Candidates. This manual was updated and revised by the 2010-2011 State Officer Team.

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# ***SOCS??? Aren't they just for official dress???***

No silly! We're talking about State Officer Candidacy School! You're already wearing your socks (we hope) and your official dress and here you are, ready to learn about being a State FFA Officer. SOCS was designed to let you find out:

- what it takes to be a State FFA Officer
- whether or not being a state officer is for you
- what skills, qualities, attitudes and traits a state officer needs
- how to develop those needed skills, qualities, attitudes and traits

Remember, every person in this room has the ability to develop themselves into a State FFA Officer, however, not everyone will invest the necessary time and effort to do so.

## **Table of Contents**

Establishing Connections . . . . .	4
PREPARATION	
Preparing to Run Top 10 List . . . . .	5
What You'll Need, In a Nutshell . . . . .	8
The Big Ten . . . . .	9
RESPONSIBILITIES/DUTIES	
Responsibilities of State Officers . . . . .	10
Qualities of a Successful State Officer. . . . .	11
A Month in the Life (a State Officer's Calendar) . . . . .	13
PROCESS	
The State Officer Selection Process . . . . .	14
Partial List of Dates . . . . .	17
Directions for June 16 <sup>th</sup> (Just in case you're elected) . . . . .	19
KNOWLEDGE	
FFA General Knowledge Questions . . . . .	20
Samples of Interview Rounds . . . . .	30

# Establishing Connections

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## Other References:

*State Officers*

*Past State Officers*

*Agricultural Educators*



# Top 10 Preparation List

## 10. Savings

State officers are reimbursed for things they use "on the job," but they need to have something to start with. Just like being in high school or college, you will have limited amount of time to have a job, yet the personal expenses don't stop. (i.e. holidays, entertainment, clothing, food, etc.)



## 9. Needed Belongings

There are many items which could be very helpful if you are elected. However, they are in no way required to be elected. You will have to attain some of the following though if you are elected: MAC card or credit card, wardrobe, dependable car, a computer, access to email/internet and a cell phone.

## 8. Separation

As a state officer, you must be willing to put the good of the Pennsylvania FFA Association above what you would prefer for your chapter, county or area – you must separate yourself from your chapter. Now, your chapter shouldn't be forgotten all together, but your focus should be moved to the bigger picture. It is not an option to mingle with ONLY your old chapter at conferences. Activities must be planned with the good of all members in mind. When the state officer team votes at board meetings it must be focused on the state, not only your chapter. When a chapter activity that you would like to attend conflicts with the state officer needs, guess which has to fall to second priority...you get the idea.

## 7. Skills

There are numerous skills and talents which you can work to develop, that will make you a far more effective state officer and will be very useful in other areas of life as well: patience, communication, flexibility, etiquette, professional, etc. However, no one can be the best at everything, so be realistic as you set your goals, and concentrate on the skills that will benefit yourself and those around you the most.

## 6. College/Post-Secondary Education

There is no guarantee that you will be elected as a state officer, so please don't make the mistake of saying you will enroll in school next year. Nearly all colleges and other post-secondary schools are highly accommodating and with a simple letter will allow you to defer a year without any problems.



Both school and state office are full time commitments, be prepared for both!

## 5. Knowledge

People expect state officers to know just about everything because they have business cards, jackets and titles. Be familiar with the history of the FFA, the agricultural industry, names, faces, rules, regulations, FFA missions, FFA policies and new technology. Be prepared to talk about these 24/7 whether you are talking to public while pumping gas, buying workshop supplies or at an official event, you must be knowledgeable.

## 4. Experience

You will find the only things you really regret in life are the opportunities you don't take. To really understand the FFA and agriculture, try to experience as much of it first-hand as you can. Such time will be well spent and will assist in developing the skills and knowledge necessary. Nothing is worse than a missed opportunity.

## 3. Keystone Degree & Requirements

There are a few requirements that are set in stone and will automatically disqualify you from running for a state office. Not having your state degree is one of them. Plan ahead so that you can be sure that your SAE qualifies you for your state degree, the Keystone Degree. You also must be graduated from high school, and have some form of transportation.



## 2. Priorities

As time comes closer during your time before you run for state office, make every attempt to place yourself in a position where you can make the FFA your first priority. State office must be your first priority over post-secondary education, jobs, chapter involvement, dating, hanging with friends, and family business responsibilities.

Now don't panic. Being a state officer doesn't mean you can't have a job, spend time with your family and friends or go back to your chapter for special events, but it does mean that when schedule conflicts arise, the FFA is priority number one!!!

## 1. Attitude

Every officer team has different individuals with different skills and different challenges. SOCS can only give you a starting point on what to expect and how to function – the reality is, it is now up to you and the only thing which draws the line between success and failure is your attitude.

- Are you committed to the FFA and its members?
- Will you be able to be a state officer in and out of the jacket?
- Will you stick with the job for all 365 days not just when it is easy and fun?
- Are you willing to give up your friend's sports game and other activities for an event?
- What are you committed to?
- Will you help to develop the potential of others?
- Are you prepared to help make a positive difference in the lives of students?

If you are willing to control your own attitude and not simply let it be controlled by the circumstances, you will have a great year as a state office. The circumstances are not always ideal. All though, if you are willing to put aside ideas of power, prestige and press and are willing to put first the development of others, making a positive difference it will be rewarding and successful.





# What You'll Need . . . In a Nutshell

*The Short and Sweet List of What You Need (both Material and Non-Material) to Prepare to Be a State FFA Officer*

## What You NEED:

- Your Keystone Degree
- Ability to devote many hours to the FFA
  - Flexible work schedule
  - College classes strongly discouraged during this year: 12 credit hours per semester **maximum**.
    - *However there is a chance you may not be elected so make your college plans as usual. It is quite easy to defer college for a year but nearly impossible to sign up to attend school at the last minute.*
- Dependable Car/ Transportation
  - You will travel a LOT this year.
  - Make doesn't matter, dependability does!
- Valid Drivers License
  - It is not necessary for you to have your driver's license just some form of transportation whether it is a parent, train or bus.
- Willingness to work **HARD!**
  - State office is fun, but it's NOT a vacation.
- Commitment
  - FFA comes before your job, school events, and, yes, even dating!
- Good Attitudes
  - Your attitude is contagious!
  - Cooperation and teamwork are a must
    - There will be 6 other officers
    - Every day of your year will be a team effort
- Knowledge of the FFA and Agriculture
- **A love for the FFA and it's members!**

## How Should I Prepare?

- Study
  - Harder in the areas where you are weak – it will help you prepare for challenges you will face.
  - The habits and attitudes of successful people you meet.
  - The history of the FFA at the National, State, and Local levels (you can't understand what FFA is all about unless you know where it came from).
  - The many areas of agriculture – it's ALWAYS changing!
- Participate
  - Activities outside of FFA help to make you a well rounded, knowledgeable individual.
  - Any and all FFA activities; from CDE's to SAE's to conferences and anything in between!
- Save
  - You will have little time, or even less to work, so make sure you have savings to fall back on, because you are reimbursed for (*most*, not all of) your expenses, and sometimes unexpected expenses pop up too.
- Be Yourself!
  - Know who you are and what you're good at and don't worry about the rest. It's not about being good at everything; it's about using your talents to make a positive difference!
- **“Don't prepare to run for a state office – prepare to *be* a state officer.”**  
– D. Joe Caffee, 1995-96 National Vice President FFA

# Top 10 Duties

## *Of a State Officer*



### **10. Develop Personal Skills**

State officers help members develop their potential, but a state officer must continue develop his or her potential even *after* they are elected.

### **9. Team Building**

Each officer will bring different but important talents to the team. The challenge is identifying and *using everyone's* talents, regardless of any personal flaws.

### **8. Helping Raise Money for the Members**

The Pennsylvania FFA Foundation does a great job at raising the funds but sometimes they can use a few extra hands at different events.

### **7. Strong Public Relations**

Besides promoting FFA through your daily activities with chapters, there are special events with other organizations which you will attend. These may include trade shows, agricultural and/or business meetings, and much more.

### **6. National Convention**

State FFA Officers make up the voting delegate body and active committees at National FFA Convention. They discuss and vote on issues which are sent to the National Board for approval and then implemented by the National Staff.

### **5. Board Meetings**

The group of individuals which makes the final decisions about what happens in the PA FFA is the board of directors, of which state officers make up half.

### **4. State Conferences & Events**

Mid-Winter Convention, SLLC, ACES, SOCS, and Summer Convention don't just suddenly happen. Brainstorming begins in June when officers are elected and planning goes on all year.

### **3. Chapter Banquets and Special Events**

Throughout the year many chapters request state officers to take part in their special events. From banquets to pig roasts to ag Olympics, be prepared to go anywhere, participate and HAVE FUN!!

### **2. Chapter Visits**

One of the most effective endeavors a state officer can be a part of is to meet the members "on their own turf", in their own classrooms. Chapter visits give the members a chance to meet the state officers in a more personal setting and present leadership workshops.

### **1. To Make a Positive Difference...**

Above all, the main responsibility of a state officer is, in everything and at all time, *in and out of the jacket*, to be available at all times to "make a positive difference in the lives of students." Their year is not to be focused on personal gain (although it will come), but focused on recognizing and developing the potential of students by introducing them to the opportunities in the FFA and making those FFA opportunities and experiences the best they can possibly be. **Remember, state officers exist to serve the members!**

# Responsibilities

In addition to the numerous other responsibilities which state officers encounter along the way, there is a huge amount of behind the scenes work which must take place daily to make all of the above occur smoothly and effectively. From the time state officers are elected in June, the team immediately begins brainstorming about themes, missions, conferences, etc. It is not unusual and in fact is very needed, to begin planning the state convention at which you will retire within a few weeks after you are elected.

As a state officer, you must be willing to put in far more work behind the scenes than in the spotlight. For every moment in the spotlight, a hundred more must be spent:

- Sending emails
- Preparing workshops, speeches, welcomes and reflections
- Making phone calls
- Typing letters and agendas
- Putting together notebooks
- Practice, practice, PRACTICE!



All of the above, and much more, must be done behind the scenes in order to make those few moments up front of the crowd possible. But don't worry, the preparation is often as much, or even more fun, than the actual event. From inside jokes, to telling stories and laughing until you cry, the preparation will be as much fun as your attitude is willing to let it be!

A year as a state FFA officer is definitely not a boring one. **The responsibilities fall equally on ALL state officers.** Don't assume that you can run for an office that comes with fewer responsibilities and simply slide by. All state officers spend nearly all their time fulfilling the same responsibilities as every other officer. The president must be just as willing to sweep the floor as the sentinel, and the vice president just as willing to type letters as the secretary. A successful state officer team does NOT occur because of a few great individuals, but DOES occur because of eleven dedicated FFA members who are devoted to making a positive difference, and doing so by a team effort. There is no such thing as an "easy" state office. Thankfully, though, there is also no such thing as a boring, lonely or dull state office either.

Prepare to be **PROFESSIONAL!** You are a state officer and represent the FFA and the Agriculture Industry both in and out of the jacket. You will be well recognized. People will be watching you all the time. You must be a role model with your actions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and during ALL of your 365 days as a state officer.

## Qualities of a Successful State FFA Officer

Being a State FFA Officer is a very big and demanding job. Because of this, we have compiled a list of some very important qualities a successful state officer needs to have and use.

- ✓ *Patience* – A good amount of a state officers job is ceremonial, in other words, we attend many events to remind sponsors, community members, other attendees of what the FFA is (an organization to help students develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success!) and to make a good impression. Often this means there are many times where you “hurry up and then wait,” which requires patience with a **SMILE**.
- ✓ *Punctuality* – Few things make a person look like they don’t care, like being late – even if you really were caught in traffic. If in doubt, do NOT hit that snooze button; that five extra minutes of sleep is not worth the stress and hassle of being late. And remember when one person on the team is late it makes the entire team look bad. “To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and **to be late is unacceptable.**”
- ✓ *Flexibility* – When we say flexible, we mean in *everything*! Often times plans get modified at the last minute: go with the flow. At times a state officer must sacrifice little things he or she is used to having. This includes and is not limited to eating food you may not care for, finding out you are giving a speech five minutes before you have to give it, not getting as much sleep as you’re used to, changing jobs/assignments, giving up habits like chewing gum, etc. But don’t worry, its worth it!
- ✓ *Perseverance* – Being a state officer is not all fun and games; there will be days when you’re mad at a team mate, tired, feel sick, stressed, bored, hungry, or maybe, just maybe your feet hurt (imagine that!). We feel your pain, but its your job to smile and bear it so that **nobody** knows that something is wrong (except for maybe your team mates and Mr. Brammer, but even then, don’t make their lives miserable either). Remember a state officer represents all 8,000 PA FFA members even on less than perfect days.
- ✓ *Professionalism* – This is that polish on top of everything! Professionalism includes looking good (from shiny shoes and wrinkle-free official dress to making sure your hair doesn’t look like you just rolled out of bed) **AND** taking the role! Some important aspects to remember – NO swearing, NO questionable language, NO talking about teammates or members and NO questionable conversations from the time you leave your front door until you return again because you never know who is listening. Also, NO BICKERING – state officers don’t always get along 100% of the time. Venting or “having-it-out” with each other should NEVER happen until after you have left the event you are attending.

✓ **Upbeat** – State officers have tremendous influence not only on members but also on sponsors, teachers, administrators, and any other people they interact, so being upbeat and pleasant is a must.

✓ **Organization** – You don't have to be the most perfectly organized human being on the planet, but having some type of organization will make your life so much easier. You don't want to miss an event due to not being organized.

✓ **Dedication** – “If a job is worth doing, its worth doing right.” Being dedicated takes hard work and effort and its not always easy, but Coty Back, the 2006-07 National FFA Eastern Region Vice President suggested that whenever we don't feel like living up to the office we've been elected, to remember the members who weren't elected and the 8,000 members we serve and think of how they'd feel if they knew we were slacking off.

✓ **Public Speaking Skills** – Not every state officer was a first place winner in a public speaking CDE: that's why we go through training. Just be aware that state officers are often asked to speak (and many times at the last minute) at various events through out the year.

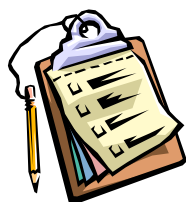
✓ **Creative Thinking** – From coming up with an extra and relevant workshop activity to fill time to planning for ACES, some creative thinking is needed to make what you're doing fun and interesting for all those who are involved.

✓ **Servant Attitude** – State officers exist to serve the members. Never forget that! Always be willing to lend an extra hand, stay a little longer, have a smile, etc. and maintain a humble attitude the whole time. Your attitude speaks louder than anything you say.

✓ **Sacrifice**—It is very important throughout the year that you will have to sacrifice your own activities for the FFA. You may not be able to take part in other clubs, organization, or other events. Many times you will have to sacrifice your own time due to your commitment to the FFA.

✓ **Ag Knowledge** – We all know that not every FFA member is from an agricultural or farming background. However, State FFA Officers represent an agricultural organization it is their responsibility to know what is going on in agriculture. We suggest getting your hands on some newspapers ( such as the *Lancaster Farming*, *Farm shine*, etc ...)

Not every person possesses each and every one of these qualities, and believe us, that is ok. What's really important is that each team member is willing to identify their strengths and weaknesses and then as a team agree to use those talents and develop those weaknesses into strengths!



# A Month in the Life...

## February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
This is an actual event calendar from a State Officer.		1 ACES Reflection Due	2	3 Deliver Letters to the Capital	4	5
6	7 FFA Commercial	8 CTSO Week at Capital and Dinner	9 CTSO Breakfast Pa Young Farmers Convention	10 Team Meeting for ACES	11 ACES	12 ACES
13 ACES	14 Williamsburg Chapter Visit	15 Meeting on House Floor	16 Milton Hershey Chapter Visit	17 Shippensburg Chapter Visit	18 ACES	19 ACES
20 ACES	21	22 Food Bank Meet your SO at Hoss's	23 Shippensburg Teacher Appreciation Breakfast	24 Dover Pig Roast Gettysburg Social	25 Hatfield Industry Visit	26
27	28					

- All though this may look busy there may be a few months were its not this busy, or some officers are not as busy as others during certain times.

## State Officer Selection Process

Nominating Committee members will be asked to report at 10:00 a.m. on the first day of FFA Activities Week for a training session. The training session will be conducted by the adults and state officers, which will be working with the nominating committee as well as the Executive Manager. Lunch will be served during the training. Committee members' chapters that cannot arrive by 10am should provide separate transportation for that member.

All candidates will be interviewed up through round III during the two days. On the first day of interviews, interviews shall start at 11:30am. Interviews may also take place after the first session in the evening, completing both rounds one and two on the first day. The third round and selective interviews will take place on the following day with the committee no longer having to interview all candidates.

### **The selection committee will consist of the following:**

Eight members selected by a committee as assigned by the State Officer team and the Executive Manager.

Including two members from each region

One of those members will then be chosen as the chairperson.

Two Business and Industry Reps. from alternating regions when possible.

One Board member as appointed by the FFA Adult Board President

One Past State Officer (minimum – two years out of office).

These Four adults should represent all four regions equally. They will have no vote.

The Pennsylvania FFA Executive Manager (No vote).

The Pennsylvania FFA State Vice-President (No voice or vote. Serves as the facilitator).

### **The Interview Rounds to be conducted are as follow:**

#### **1. Personal Interview**

Each officer candidate should come with a prepared 3-5 minute speech introducing themselves and their achievements to the committee. The information should relate past experiences to the State Officer position.

**Time limit for this round is 5 minutes**

After eight candidates have presented their personal introductory speech, all eight will return to the interview room for a one on one interview with each student member of the nominating committee. Here, follow-up questions based on comments from the candidates speech and application will be conducted. Each candidate will sit with each student member of the nominating committee for five minutes for one-on-one interviews.

**Time limit for this round is 5 minutes with each Nominating Committee Member**

#### **2. Extemporaneous speaking**

This round will consist of a five-minute preparation time for a maximum of

five minutes to speak on a topic assigned by the nominating committee  
Ex. Candidate A will begin preparation on a topic. After five minutes, Candidate A will begin to present their speech while Candidate B begins their five-minute preparation time. This will continue until all candidates have spoken to the nominating committee. Example topics can be found at the end of this book.

**The time limit for this round is 5 minutes.**

### **3. Involvement In and Conducting FFA Activities**

This round will consist of a group dynamics activity designed to evaluate the individuals and how well they work together. The committee will select their own activity for each group to present. There are usually 3-4 members per group. Example group activities can be found at the end of this book.

**The time limit for each activity is 10 minutes.**

**All rounds after round three are optional. The nominating committee may ask for call backs with some candidates. They will either conduct any of the following if needed or they will conduct their own form of an interview. For more information on the nominating committee please see the next page.**

### **4. Agriculture Education and the FFA**

The candidates should be knowledgeable on the following topics: FFA and their relationship with the International Agriculture Exchange Program, Advancements in Pennsylvania FFA and Pennsylvania Agriculture, and the State Officer Candidacy School Manual Content. Candidates will be asked random questions on all the above topics. Each candidate needs to provide defensible answers based on factual information.

**The time limit for the round is 5 minutes.**

### **5. Agriculture in the World Around You**

Candidates should come prepared with knowledge on the current agricultural topics in their community and the world. Each candidate needs to provide defensible answers based on factual information. For example it is suggested to watch CNN and/or read newspapers.

**The time limit for this round is 5 minutes.**

### **6. Optional interview**

This round will be used to break any ties created during the interview process.

**There is no time limit for this round.**

### **Other items to be scored:**

#### **Test**

The test will consist of multiple choice, short answer, a writing piece acronym questions. Questions for this test were taken from the SOCS Manual. Names of individuals are very important and will most likely be seen on the test.

#### **Writing assignment**

Candidates should come prepared with a letter thanking an FFA sponsor

The letter should be in a professional format and be on official FFA letterhead. Be sure to check the FFA website for further information about the writing assignment. Candidates may be asked to create their own letterhead.

### **Lunch with the Nominating Committee**

On Wednesday the candidates will have lunch with the entire nominating committee. This is the time for the nominating committee to socialize with each of the candidates.

### **What happens when candidates are not being interviewed?**

During interviews candidates are held in one room, interacting with each other, and socializing. Once a candidate has completed an interview they will go to another room with only those who have completed that round. During sessions, candidates are asked to sit in the front row (note: the nominating committee will be seated directly behind the candidates). When candidates are not in interview rounds or sessions, they are free to mingle with members. During meals be sure to mingle and relax (note: the nominating committee is encouraged to sit with each of the candidates during meals). Candidates are to be following all rules and regulations as all other FFA members, or they will be disqualified. For example if they miss curfew they could be disqualified.

### **What is the Nominating Committee doing?**

They arrive before the candidates to be trained and review the applications. Once interviews start they sit, listen, and take notes. They do not discuss any candidates until the first three rounds have been completed. During the round robin they will sit one on one and ask appropriate questions. Sample questions that may be asked are found at the end of this book. After the round robin and all introductions the committee will select a topic for the extemporaneous round as well as select the topic for the group round (Examples of past selections can be found at the end of this book). Keep in mind they have not started to discuss any candidates yet. Once again they will sit, listen, and take notes. During the group round they may get up and move around in order to listen to the groups plan and work together. Once all three rounds are completed they will then review what they have heard, seen and evaluated throughout the rounds. Then they will discuss. The committee selects the team of seven officers first. Then they are assigned officer titles. Once all is completed they have selected a state officer team to represent the Pennsylvania FFA in the upcoming year. During sessions the committee sits in the second row directly behind the candidates. During meals they are encouraged to sit with the candidates too.

## DATES INVOLVING 2011 - 2012 STATE OFFICERS PARTIAL LISTING

Listed below is a partial, projected listing of dates involving State FFA Officers which are known at the present time. Many others will be added. Items with an \* require **ALL** officers to attend. The other items require specific Officers to be in attendance, such as banquets, chapter visits, etc., as invited or needed. **THESE ARE TENTATIVE DATES.**

### 2011

*June 20-27	Orientation Training	
	Blast-Off - State Training	Wengers' Cabin-Bethel
*July 27	FFA Foundation Golf Tournament	Lancaster
*July 7-8	Western Leadership Conf	Somerset County
*July 11-14	PAAE Summer Conference	Bradford County
*July	FFA Board of Directors meeting	
July 26-30??	State Presidents Conference	Washington DC
*July 31-August 5	PANTS	Philadelphia
*August 15-18	Ag Progress Days (Display)	State College
*August	Team Meeting	Harrisburg
*September	2 day Officer Workshop	Harrisburg
*September 15-17	Big "E"	Massachusetts
*September	Board Meeting	State College
September	PA All American Dairy	Harrisburg
*October	Fall regional PAAE meetings	
October	Chapter Visits	
*October	2 Day Officer Workshop	Harrisburg
*Oct. 15-23	National Convention	Indianapolis
November	Chapter Visits	
*November 14-16	Farm Bureau Annual Meeting	Hershey
*November	Board Meeting	State College
*December	2 Day Workshop	Harrisburg
*December	Christmas Party	
*December	Mid-Winter Conv. Practice	Harrisburg
*December	ACES Planning	

### 2012

*January 7-14	PA Farm Show	Harrisburg
*January 9	Mid-Winter Convention	Harrisburg
January	Chapter Visits	
*January	SLLC Planning	
*January	FFA Week Planning	
*January	Summer Convention Planning	Harrisburg

*February	Board Meeting	State College
February	Chapter Visits	
*February 10-12 (tentative)	ACES	Harrisburg
*February 17-19 (tentative)	ACES	Harrisburg
*February 18-25	FFA Week	
March	Chapter Visits	
March	Chapter Banquets	
*March 10-13??	SLLC	Harrisburg
*March	Summer Convention Planning	Harrisburg
March	Agriculture Week	
April	Chapter Banquets	
*April	Summer Convention Planning	Harrisburg
	2-Day Workshop	
*April	Spring Regional PAAE Meetings	
	SOCS Seminars	
April	Chapter Visits	
May	Chapter Banquets	
May	Chapter Visits	
*May	Board Meeting	Harrisburg
*May	Summer Convention Planning	Harrisburg & State College
*May	State Officer Retreat	????????????
*June 8-11	Convention Retreat	Wengers Cabin
*June 11-14	Summer Convention	State College

**“Stay Tuned – More To Come!!”**

## **STATE OFFICER CANDIDATES THAT ARE ELECTED ON THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2011**

**The following is a list of items that you will be responsible for immediately after you are elected to State Office:**

- 1. The newly elected President will say a few remarks on behalf of the new team.**
- 2. The newly elected President, Secretary, and Chaplain will perform closing ceremonies.**
- 3. Pictures will take place immediately following closing ceremonies.  
REPORT BACK STAGE IMMEDIATELY.**
- 4. The New State Officer reception will take place immediately after pictures. We will go to the reception, as a group. Immediately following the reception, there will be a mandatory team meeting for you to get handouts and schedules for you and your parents.**
- 5. You will report to Wengers' Cabin (directions available when elected) on Monday June 20, 2011. You will be there until Monday, June 27th. Everyone should car pool as much as possible.**
- 6. Each of you will be assigned to bring meals and cook them for the entire team. An assignment sheet will be given to you upon your election.**
- 7. You must bring "Me In A Box" - a small box of three or four items that describe you and who you are. We will be sharing these with each other during that week. Recommended that you bring three or four items ONLY.**
- 8. Bring sleeping bags or cots, just in case they are needed.**
- 9. You must bring towels, toiletries, paper towels, toilet paper, and eating utensils (plates, napkins, cups, plastic ware, etc.)**
- 10. On Saturday, June 25, there will be a past State Officer picnic at the cabin.**
- 11. On Sunday, June 26, there will be a family picnic at the cabin, starting at 1pm. Each family is asked to bring a covered dish and dessert, so let your families know now.... JUST IN CASE!!!! THIS EVENT IS TENTATIVE**
- 12. On Tuesday, June 21, Blast-Off will begin. We will travel daily to and from and take our lunch with us.**
- 13. Sometime during the week, we will go shopping for Official and casual dress.**
- 14. You must learn your part for opening and closing ceremonies – we will rehearse while at the cabin. COME PREPARED!!**

## FFA FACTS - QUESTIONS

1. Name the FFA colors
2. The Greenhand pin is made of what material?
3. What symbol does the chapter president have at his/her station?
4. The advisor has what symbol at his/her station?
5. The vice-president has what symbol at his/her station?
6. What symbol does the chapter secretary have at his/her station?
7. What symbol does the chapter treasurer have at his/her station?
8. The FFA creed must be learned to receive what degree?
9. What year was the Future Farmers of America founded?
10. What symbol does the chapter reporter have at his/her station?
11. What symbol does the chapter sentinel have at his/her station?
12. In what city is the Pennsylvania Mid-Winter Convention held each year?
13. Name the five FFA degrees an FFA member can earn?
14. The salute to the flag is used during what part of an FFA meeting?
15. How many times does the chair tap the gavel when he/she wants the group to stand?
16. How many medals may a member properly wear on his/her jacket?
17. What officer, elected by the Pennsylvania FFA Association, is not provided for in the National FFA Constitution?
18. What part of the FFA emblem represents the national scope?
19. On the emblem, what does the cross section of the ear of corn represent?
20. What is the name of the National FFA Magazine?
21. In what city and state was the National FFA Convention held from 1928-1999?
22. In what city and state is the National FFA Convention going to be held this year?
23. Recite the FFA motto
24. Recite the first line of the creed
25. Name the first Future Farmer of America's President and the state he was from
26. Name the three things that appear on the back of most every FFA jacket
27. Name the first two words of every paragraph of the FFA creed
28. Name the medals which may be properly worn of the FFA jacket
29. Who wrote the FFA creed?
30. Name the four kinds of membership in the FFA
31. Who was the only FFA member to become president of the Nation?
32. Who can be an active FFA member?
33. Name the two birds that appear on the FFA jacket
34. Who is known as the "Father of the FFA?"
35. Explain the importance of the Smith- Hughes Act
36. What year were girls admitted into the FFA?
37. What year was the creed adopted?
38. What year was the Pennsylvania FFA Association chartered?
39. What does the acronym WEA stand for?
40. What is the instrument for maintaining order during a chapter meeting?
41. What was the name of the organization for black agricultural students prior to 1965?
42. Name the six parts of the FFA emblem
43. In Pennsylvania, which two public speaking contests are designed for Greenhands?
44. What does the acronym SAE stand for?
45. What does the acronym SLLC stand for?
46. What does the acronym MFE stand for?
47. What does the acronym WLC stand for?
48. What does the acronym ACES stand for?
49. What does the acronym SOCS stand for?
50. What does the acronym CDE stand for?

## Answers

1. National Blue and Corn Gold
2. Bronze
3. The rising sun, block and gavel
4. The owl
5. The plow
6. The ear of corn
7. The emblem of Washington
8. Greenhand
9. 1928
10. The United States of America Flag
11. The Handclasp
12. Harrisburg
13. Discovery, Greenhand, Chapter, State (Keystone), American
14. Closing Ceremonies
15. Three
16. Three
17. Chaplain
18. The American Eagle
19. Unity within the Nation
20. FFA New Horizons
21. Kansas City, Missouri
22. Indianapolis, Indiana
23. Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve
24. "I believe in the future of Agriculture....."
25. Leslie Applegate, New Jersey
26. State, Chapter, and Emblem
27. "I believe"
28. Highest degree, current office, and highest award
29. E. M. Tiffany
30. Active, Honorary, Alumni, Collegiate
31. Jimmy Carter
32. Anyone enrolled in an agriculture class
33. Owl, Eagle
34. Henry Groseclose
35. Started vo-ag programs in high school
36. 1969
37. 1930
38. 1929
39. Work Experienced Abroad
40. Gavel
41. New Farmer of America
42. Cross section of corn, rising sun, plow, owl, eagle, and words Agriculture Education
43. Creed and Junior Prepared Public Speaking
44. Supervised Agriculture Experience
45. State Legislative Leadership Conference
46. Made for Excellence
47. Washington Leadership Conference
48. Agricultural Cooperation Establishes Success
49. State Officer Candidacy School
50. Career Development Event

## Questions

51. What does the acronym PAEE stand for?
52. What does the acronym NAAE stand for?
53. What are the State Association dues?
54. Which officer is called after the reporter in opening ceremonies?
55. After what part of the Pledge of Allegiance do you not pause?
56. What is the proper procedure for introducing a motion?
57. Who is the National FFA executive secretary?
58. What is the National FFA Mission Statement?
59. Explain the significance of Public Law 740.
60. Where was the National FFA Center first located?
61. Where is the National FFA Center presently located?
62. Who is the current President of the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation?
63. When was the first National FFA Convention held?
64. How long after high school may a member remain active as an FFA member?
65. What year did the Future Farmers of America become the National FFA Organization?
66. Who is the current Secretary of Agriculture in Pennsylvania?
67. How many FFA chapters are there in Pennsylvania?
68. Where is the Pennsylvania FFA office located?
69. Who is the Pennsylvania FFA Executive Secretary?
70. One state has the Chaplain's position, name that state?
71. Name the largest public and private FFA chapters in the state
72. Who is the Pennsylvania representative for the National FFA Alumni?
73. What is the proper way to start an official FFA function?
74. What year was the Smith-Hughes Act enacted?
75. Who created the FFA jacket and what was the name of the first chapter to wear it?
76. Name the National FFA advisor
77. What state FFA organization served as the model for the Future Farmers of America?
78. What symbol does the Chaplain have at his/her station?
79. To receive the chapter degree, how much money must you earn from your project?
80. What state received the first FFA charter?
81. How much money must you earn from your projects to receive your state degree?
82. How much money must you earn from your projects to qualify for the American Degree?
83. What is the speaking requirement for the chapter degree?
84. What is the speaking requirement for the state degree?
85. How is the use of the FFA emblem protected?
86. What degree must you hold to become a National FFA officer?
87. What is the highest degree the local chapter can confer upon a member?
88. How often are state officers elected?
89. What does the rising sun represent on the FFA emblem?
90. According to the state constitution, what percentage of FFA members in Pennsylvania are eligible for the state degree each year?
91. What part of the FFA emblem represents labor and tillage of the soil?
92. Where and when is the Pennsylvania FFA Convention held annually?
93. What metal is the chapter degree made of?
94. During what month is National FFA week held?
95. What national holiday is always during National FFA week?
96. Name six purposes of the FFA
97. Who originally owned the land where the first FFA Center stood?
98. What is the FFA Foundation?
99. How many FFA regions are there in Pennsylvania?
100. Is the FFA intra or extra curricular?

## Answers

51. Pennsylvania Association of Agricultural Educators
52. National Association of Agricultural Educators
53. \$12.00
54. Treasurer
55. “ One Nation”
56. Be recognized by the chair and then begin motion with I move
57. Dr. Steve Brown
58. FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth, and career success** through agricultural education.
59. Charter to start agriculture education
60. Alexandria, Virginia
61. Indianapolis, Indiana
62. Mr. Mark Lowery
63. 1928
64. Four National conventions after high school graduation
65. 1988
66. George Greig
67. 144
68. Harrisburg, in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture building
69. Mr. Mike Brammer
70. Pennsylvania
71. Public: Walter Biddle Saul, Private: Lancaster Mennonite High School
72. No one
73. Opening Ceremonies
74. 1917
75. Agriculture Instructor J.H.Lintner, Fredericktown chapter of Ohio
76. Dr. Steve Brown
77. Virginia
78. The Book of Life
79. \$50.00
80. Virginia
81. \$1000
82. \$7500
83. Lead a fifteen minute discussion
84. Give a five minute speech
85. Registered trademark in the US Patent Office
86. American Degree
87. Chapter Degree
88. Once a year
89. Progress and confidence in the future
90. There are no limits upon the number of keystones that can be conferred
91. The plow
92. Penn State University in June
93. Silver
94. February
95. George Washington’s Birthday
96. Leadership, Scholarship, cooperation, thrift, citizenship, self-confidence, ag occupation, home improvement, improvement of agriculture, character, patriotism
97. George Washington
98. An organization that sponsors FFA programs, awards and the FFA
99. Four
100. Intra

## Questions

101. Name the FFA regions in Pennsylvania
102. Who decides what the dues will be in each individual chapter?
103. What metal is the state degree made out of?
104. What National FFA region is the commonwealth of Pennsylvania in?
105. Name the FFA regions in the Nation
106. How many American degree applications can a state submit?
107. How many official delegates can a state have at the National Convention?
108. Who are the FFA jackets ordered from?
109. Name the three requirements for the Greenhand Degree
110. Explain why there are 52 state associations
111. What is the FFA Program of Work?
112. Who is the National FFA President?
113. Who is the National FFA Eastern Region National FFA Vice-president?
114. Who is the National FFA Central Region National FFA Vice-president?
115. Who is the National FFA Southern Region National FFA Vice-president?
116. Who is the National FFA Western Region National FFA Vice-president?
117. Who is the National FFA Secretary?
118. Who is the State FFA President?
119. Who is the State FFA Vice-president?
120. Who is the State FFA Eastern Region Vice-President?
121. Who is the State FFA North Central Region Vice-President?
122. Who is the State FFA South Central Region Vice-President?
123. Who is the State FFA Western Region Vice-President?
124. Who is the State FFA Secretary?
125. Who is the State FFA Treasurer?
126. Who is the State FFA Reporter?
127. Who is the State FFA Sentinel?
128. Who is the State FFA Chaplain?
129. What is an FFA proficiency award?
130. What is parliamentary procedure?
131. How many National FFA Officers are there?
132. What parliamentary procedure is used to change a motion?
133. How many state officer positions are to be filled each year in Pennsylvania starting 2011?
134. Name ten CDE's held at Pennsylvania Activities Week
135. Name the FFA offices held in the local chapter provided by the National Constitution
136. At which convention is the state degree presented?
137. What is a quorum?
138. Name three types of Public Speaking CDE's used in Pennsylvania?
139. Name three types of project books used in Pennsylvania
140. What is the primary aim of FFA?
141. When are State Officers elected in Pennsylvania?
142. Name the three qualifications required for a Pennsylvania State Officer Candidate
143. How many delegates may a chapter have at the state convention?
144. Name three functions of delegates to the summer convention?
145. At which convention is the official business of the Pennsylvania FFA Association transacted?
146. Name three companies that are major contributors of the FFA Foundation
147. Name three United States Presidents who have addressed the National Convention.
148. Name four National CDE's
149. What are the three levels of awards in the National Chapter rating contest?
150. Name the Pennsylvania FFA Facilitator

# Answers

101. Eastern, Northern, South-Central, Western
102. The members
103. Gold
104. Eastern
105. Eastern, Central, Southern, Western
106. No Limit
107. Each state may have one delegate per one thousand members
108. National Supply Service – FFA Unlimited
109. Be in ag class, have plans for a project, learn creed, recite motto, know the official colors, know FFA history, know emblem symbols, proper use of jacket and pay dues
110. All fifty states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands
111. A list of activities for the year
112. Riley Pagett
113. Tiffany Rogers
114. Wyatt DeJong
115. James Flatt
116. Shannon Norris
117. Landan Schaffert
118. Kerri Wickard
119. Matthew Reutling
120. Jillian Gordon
121. Adam Folk
122. Andrew Roth
123. Vacant
124. Caitlin Clarke
125. Howard Poole
126. Caleb Grove
127. Cassie Gutshall
128. Benjamin Shughart
129. An award for excellence in a given area
130. The proper way to run a meeting
131. Six
132. Amendment
133. Seven
134. List can be found on the PA FFA web site
135. President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, Advisor
136. Mid-Winter Convention in Harrisburg during the Pennsylvania Farm Show
137. The number of members required of run a meeting one more than half
138. Creed, conservation, extemporaneous, prepared and junior prepared
139. Wildlife, work experience, production, skills and tasks greenhouse
140. To develop leadership, citizenship, and cooperation
141. In June at the summer convention
142. Have a state degree, have approval of advisors, principal, and parents, and complete the application
143. One for each one hundred members
144. Elect state officers, adopt a budget, and conduct official business
145. Summer convention in June
146. Hatfield, Hoss's Steak and Sea House, Columbia Gas, Wenger's of Meyerstown, and Range Resources to name a few
147. Jimmy Carter, George Bush, Gerald Ford
148. List can be located on National FFA Website
149. Gold, Silver, Bronze
150. Mr. Cliff Day

## Questions

151. At which National Convention was the Creed adopted and what year?
152. What years was the creed revised and what conventions?
153. If the back of your jacket has only a large emblem, what position do you hold?
154. Who is the State Agriculture Education and FFA Advisor?
155. Name the Pennsylvania FFA adult treasurer
156. Who may become an honorary member of the FFA?
157. What FFA publication was first printed in 1952?
158. Who governs the National FFA Organization?
159. In what year was Public Law 740 passed?
160. By what means does an FFA chapter conduct its official business
161. Which chapter officer sits to the immediate left of the President in correct meeting room arrangement?
162. What officer uses the following part in the opening ceremonies, "I shall call the roll of officers..."?
163. Who says the following part in the opening ceremonies, "To practice brotherhood, honor agricultural opportunities..."?
164. To be eligible for the Superior Chapter Award a chapter must have a minimum of how many meetings per year?
165. "The owl is the time-honored emblem of knowledge and wisdom..." is spoken by who in the opening ceremonies?
166. What is the proper function of CDE's for FFA members?
167. To receive the State FFA Degree the student must have been a FFA member for how many years?
168. Which proficiency award would a student who is working in a garden supply store apply for?
169. What proficiency award would a student who is working on a farm apply for?
170. When a student is selected as a State Proficiency award winner, he/she receives what types of awards?
171. What percent of the State Superior Award winning chapters may receive the National Chapter Award?
172. What parliamentary procedure would be used to bring an item of business up for consideration at a chapter meeting?
173. What parliamentary procedure would be used to change the wording of a motion?
174. Name three ways a motion can be changed
175. In a properly conducted meeting, how many topics may be discussed at a time?
176. Name two motions that require a two-thirds vote
177. To be worn properly, the FFA jacket must be
178. What is the biggest seller from the National FFA Supply Service (FFA Unlimited) Blue and Gold catalog each year?
179. What are two degrees available to members at the chapter level?
180. Which State Association has the most members?

## Answers

151. Third in 1930
152. 38th in 1965 and 63rd in 1990
153. National Office
154. Mr. Chris Weller
155. Mrs. Penny Brammer
156. Anyone that supports FFA or Ag.
157. National Future Farmers
158. A board of directors and the delegates at the National conventions
159. 1950
160. Parliamentary Procedure
161. The secretary
162. The vice president
163. All FFA members
164. Twelve
165. The advisor
166. to educate FFA members
167. Two
168. Ag Sales and Services
169. Placement in Ag Production
170. A plaque and a check for \$250
171. 10%
172. A main motion
173. An amendment
174. Added to, deleted from, both
175. one
176. Suspend the rules, Previous question, limit debate, rescind
177. Zipped to the top
178. The FFA jacket
179. Greenhand and Chapter
180. Texas

## Questions

181. Judges are allowed how many minutes to ask questions at the end of each speech FFA public speaking contests?
182. The creed public speaking contest is open to all members: True or False
183. How many divisions of work are there?
184. The American FFA Degree candidates must have graduated at least how many months prior to the National Convention at which it is to be received?
185. Candidates for the State Degree can meet requirements by working a minimum of how many hours?
186. What is the governing body of the Pennsylvania FFA?
187. New Mexico, Arizona, and Montana are members of which National FFA Region?
188. Mississippi, Georgia, and Louisiana are members of which National FFA Region?
189. North Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas are members of which National FFA Region?
190. How many candidates for a National Office may a state recommend each year?
191. What is the official membership year for the National FFA?
192. Each chapter decision is subject to review to be sure that it conforms to the chapter's constitution's by-laws: True or False
193. Which chapter officer is responsible for setting up the meeting room and greeting visitors?
194. The chairperson uses how many taps of the gavel to call the meeting room to order?
195. Name the five "W's" of any good news articles
196. Preparing the agenda for a chapter meeting is the responsibility of which officer?
197. The chapter roster is prepared and submitted by the chapter secretary and what other officer?
198. Who is the Treasurer of the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation?
199. Who is the Administrative Director of the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation?
200. Name the Secretary of Education in Pennsylvania
201. Pennsylvania FFA has what charter number?

## Answers

181. Five Minutes
182. False only 9th and 10<sup>th</sup> grades
183. Fifteen
184. Twelve
185. 600
186. Board of directors
187. Western
188. Southern
189. Central
190. One
191. September 1 through August 31
192. True
193. Sentinel
194. Two
195. Who, What, When, Where, Why
196. Secretary
197. Treasurer
198. Steve Kline
199. Mrs. Stephanie Shirk
200. Ronald J. Tomalis
201. 26th

## **SAMPLE Questions – Round 1**

- Tell us if you consider State Office more of an honor or a duty.
- Give an example of the best advice a FRIEND has ever given you
- Describe a situation where you felt pressured to do something against your morals and values. Did you give in?
- Describe a situation where you DID do something against your morals and values and were satisfied with the outcome?
- Tell us what you consider your ONE greatest accomplishment.
- Tell us what motivates you to achieve your goals.
- Give an example of a FFA experience that you were not 100% focused on.
- Describe a “busy day” for you.
- Tell us about any coaching experience you have had. Why do you coach?
- Tell us when you first felt reliable during your lifetime
- Describe what initiative action you have taken that you are most proud of
- In all the activities you are involved with, tell us which one you would drop first. (Why are you involved in that certain activity anyway?)
- Tell us which activity/activities you would never give up.
- Tell us when you felt you have made the greatest sacrifice in your life.
- Describe how you practice humility in your everyday life.
- How do you handle criticism?
- How have you benefited from being a FFA member up to this point in your life?
- Describe how agricultural education is different in urban areas and rural areas
- Describe the activities that State Officers participate in
- What would you do if you saw a FFA member wearing his/her jacket improperly?
- How did you begin your SAE? How have you benefited from your SAE?
- How do you stay organized? Do you keep a planner?
- Describe a conflict that you have had on a team. How was the conflict resolved?

- Describe the most tedious task that you have ever had to complete
- How do you keep yourself motivated and awake when running on little sleep?
- Have you ever had a mentor? If so, describe the relationship you had with them?
- Describe the best team experience you have ever had. What made it so great?
- Describe the worse team experience you have ever had.
- What do you do when faced with a difficult decision?
- Describe the jobs you have held in your life so far. How have you benefited from them?
- Describe any weaknesses you might have.
- Describe your strengths.
- What is your favorite CDE and why?
- What is your favorite SAE and why?
- How did you encourage involvement among the members/parents of your chapter?
- Why are community activities important for FFA members?
- How would you promote Proficiency awards? Have you ever applied?
- How would you promote involvement in CDE's?
- What is your biggest accomplishment and why?
- If you could select an office to hold, which one would you pick and why?
- What is the most important moral issue that you have ever had to deal with?
- What does being a State Officer mean to you?
- Is there anything more important than having fun after becoming a State Officer?

**PENNSYLVANIA FFA ASSOCIATION NOMINATING COMMITTEE  
ROUND TWO - STAND AND DELIVER PRACTICUM  
SAMPLE SCENARIO LIST**

1) Press Conference

The Secretary of Agriculture is present at a county agriculture meeting discussing the issue of farmland preservation. As you entered the room, you notice that several reporters are present including a TV crew. The Secretary calls you out of the crowd to give a few remarks about FFA and Agricultural Education as they relate to farmland preservation.

2) Radio Interview

You have just returned from the National FFA Convention. Describe to the audience what happened for you personally, PA FFA and FFA as a whole.

3) Generation Next Conference

You have just been introduced at the Generation Next Conference to give remarks on behalf of the Pennsylvania FFA Association at a discussion panel. Describe FFA's program areas. Specifically how they are unique to the needs of your program area and how they are similar to other VSO's (Vocational Student Organizations).

4) Open House

You have been in contact with Ms. Smith, an agricultural education teacher at Northern Wake FFA, regarding speaking at her school's Open House. She would like you to give an overview of FFA with the reasons why students should join.

5) Legislative Breakfast

It is FFA week and you are at a breakfast in honor of several elected Pennsylvania officials. Provide a personal introduction to everyone with an overview of what FFA is and current happenings.

6) School Board Meeting

The Office of Agricultural Education is concerned that Eastern Randolph High School's agriculture instructor has changed many times within the last few years. Due to the various instructors, the FFA chapter has become inactive and the land labs are falling apart. The school and school board would like to close down the program completely since they do not see a need for agricultural education. As a State Officer, you have been permitted to speak at the next school board meeting. Prepare your comments for why Eastern Randolph High School should continue to have an agricultural education program and the relevance to today's youth in Pennsylvania.

### **ADDITIONAL Scenarios**

1. There are three circles that make up agricultural education: Classroom Learning, SAE, and FFA. Describe why each of these circles is an essential component to a successful agricultural education program.
2. As a FFA member and agricultural education student, you are approached about giving a presentation on what careers are available in the agricultural industry.
3. Pennsylvania FFA is extremely close to reaching our goal of over 8,000 members. As a state officer, how do you feel this goal can be reached? What would you do during your year of service to contribute to this goal?

## Round 3 Scenario - Option 1

### For Group of 4 Candidates,

You are a group of State Officers that have just completed a successful chapter visit. You are all planning on staying for the evening's greenhand ceremony, which begins in one hour. Until then, the ag teacher asks you to divide up to speak to four different groups who are attending the ceremony-green hand recipients, the chapter officer team, members' parents (who are considering starting a local alumni), and the school's administrators. Each group is expecting to meet with a state officer, so you must decide who is going to speak with each group.

Once decided who is going to what group, verbally explain why you have divided up the way you have. Also, explain what you would do with your group for that one hour.

### For Group of 3 Candidates,

You are a group of State Officers that have just completed a successful chapter visit. You are all planning on staying for the evening's greenhand ceremony, which begins in one hour. Until then, the Ag teacher asks you to divide up to speak to four different groups who are attending the ceremony-greenhand recipients, the chapter officer team, members' parents (who are considering starting a local alumni), and the school's administrators. Each group is expecting to meet with a state officer, so you must decide who is going to speak with each group. The ag teacher will be speaking with whichever one of the four groups you did not select.

Once decided who is going to what group, verbally explain why you have divided up the way you have. Also, explain what you would do with your group for one hour.

### **Additional Scenarios**

As a State Officer, you will have the opportunity to interact with a wide variety of people, from joking with students to conversing with politicians to talking to the Secretary of Agriculture. What key messages would you like to leave with the each of the following groups if you only had a couple minutes with them? As a group perform the task.

-FFA Members

-Agricultural Education Instructors/FFA Advisors

-School Administrators

-Your local politicians

-Possible FFA Foundation Sponsors