RE: SD FFA COVID-19 Contingency Plan

From: Jeanette Klein & Jonathan Linke, Interim Executive Secretaries
       Michelle Nelson, State Advisor

Greetings,

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the South Dakota FFA Association has made the decision to hold the 92nd State FFA Convention virtually. The convention will take place on May 12th-14th. However, convention is not the only program being affected by our state’s current situation. Please read below for details regarding all of our upcoming events that will be changing.

Agriscience Fair
   a. The State Agriscience Fair will be held virtually. The paperwork is currently being judged, and on April 26th the top 3 in each division will be announced.
   b. The top 3 from each division will submit a video presentation to be judged. Videos will need to be submitted by Sunday, May 3rd.
   c. Guidelines for video content and submission will be sent out to all competing students by April 22nd.
   d. Results will be announced in conjunction with our virtual state convention.

Leadership Retreats
   e. Due to the cancellation of all SDSU sponsored events and the recommendations of the Department of Education; both 2020 Leadership Retreats have been cancelled.
   f. To make up for the absence of these events, the Association is working to plan alternate events that would have similar content. No dates or details have been set, but we are looking at different options to deliver the Leadership curriculum that is typically delivered at camp.

Career Development Events
   a. The CDE Committee announced that the state level contest will be held online this year May 6-7th. Results will be announced during the virtual state convention. If you have any questions, please reach out to Dani Herring or your CDE district representative.

Registration Fee
   a. Though convention and CDE’s look very different this year, there are still various costs associated with putting them on. The amounts have not been decided yet but will be relayed to advisors once it’s finalized.
State Convention

1. Sessions
   a. Virtual general sessions will be broadcasted live at 7:00pm CT on the evenings of May 12th, 13th, & 14th. Sessions will be broadcasted live through Facebook, YouTube, and the Virtual State Convention page on www.sdaged.org (not yet published).
   b. Some content will be posted to our Facebook page separate from the sessions.

2. Nominating Committee & Election of Officers
   a. The nominating committee process will be conducted May 1-3rd virtually. The election of the 2020-2021 State Officer Team will take place virtually during the 3rd Session on May 14th. Additional details will be relayed directly to the State Officer Candidates and their advisors.

3. Ambassador Interviews & Election
   a. State Ambassador interviews will take place virtually on Saturday, May 2nd. Elections will be done virtually during the 3rd Session on May 14th. Additional details will be relayed directly to the State Ambassador Candidates and their advisors.

4. Business Session
   a. Due to not having an in-person event, the business session will instead be held during our state LDE contest in December. For chapters not represented at this event, there will be a virtual tune-in option. If any business arises that needs to be addressed by the delegate body before then, we will gather the delegate body as able to vote.
   b. Delegate Committees, made up of the District Officers and led by the State Officers, will take place via Zoom prior to the election of new District Officers.

5. STAR Interviews and Announcements
   a. STAR Interviews will take place virtually on Sunday, April 19th.
   b. A video highlighting all the STAR finalists’ projects will be posted separate to the virtual general sessions.
   c. The winners of each STAR Areas will be announced during the 2nd General Session on the evening of Wednesday, May 13th.
   d. District STAR Greenhands will also be recognized during the 2nd General Session on the evening of Wednesday, May 13th.

6. Proficiencies
   a. The finalists for all Proficiency areas were announced in early March. The final placings of the Proficiency areas will be announced during the Virtual State Convention. This will NOT be included in the general sessions, but will be announced in a separate video within the duration of convention. The 1st place individual will receive brief additional recognition during one of the general sessions.

7. State Degrees
   a. All State Degree applications have been approved and shared with advisors. The State Degree recipients will be recognized during the Virtual State Convention. This will NOT be included in the general sessions, but will be announced in a separate video within the duration of convention.
8. **American Degree**  
   a. The 2019 American Degree recipients will be recognized during the Virtual State Convention. This will **NOT** be included in the general sessions, but will be announced in a separate video within the duration of convention.

9. **National Chapter**  
   a. The National Chapter winners will be announced during one of the general sessions of the Virtual State Convention.

10. **New Chapter Charter**  
   a. All new chapters will be recognized during a virtual general session.  
   b. They will all be invited on stage to receive their charter during the 2021 state convention.

11. **Scholarships**  
   a. The scholarship applicants will be notified via email on whether or not they have received a scholarship. All scholarship recipients will be recognized during one of the virtual general sessions.

12. **Talent & Choir**  
   a. The 2020 SD FFA Talent Show and State Convention Choir will be canceled. We encourage all those that applied to apply for the 2021 State Convention Talent & Choir. Current seniors will still be eligible to do so next year as long as they maintain membership.

13. **Past State Officer Recognition**  
   a. Only the major anniversary teams (5, 10, 25, 50, 75) will be recognized during a virtual general session.

14. **Keynote/Retiring Addresses**  
   a. There will still be Keynote addresses during our general sessions. Specific names and details will be posted on our Facebook leading up to convention.  
   b. The State Officer Retiring Addresses will be broadcasted during the general sessions.

15. **Workshops**  
   a. Various virtual workshops will be offered throughout the week of our virtual state convention. These will be offered via Zoom or a similar platform. The schedule will be released closer to convention.  
   b. We encourage all FFA Advisors to encourage their students to participate!

16. **Honorary State Degree & Distinguished Service Awards**  
   a. All Honorary State Degree & Distinguished Service recipients will be recognized during the 2021 State FFA Convention.  
   b. All nominations will carry over and do not need to be submitted with next year’s District Reporting Forms. Additional nominations for 2021 will still be accepted.

17. **Scrapbook**  
   a. There will be no scrapbook contest during this year’s convention.

18. **2020 Award Recipients**  
   a. If not already specified above, some of the award recipients listed in this document may have the opportunity to be recognized on stage during the 2021 State FFA Convention. Details will be relayed to those individuals next year.