



AFFILIATED FEE FFA PROGRAM
POSSIBLE FUNDING OPTIONS
MARCH 9, 2010

Below are several options for funding the affiliation fee options for all students enrolled in the agricultural education program at the local level. The program is designed for all students to experience all aspects of the leadership education component FFA of the three circle model. This fee will allow every student, in every classroom, every day, the option to be active in all events, award opportunities, degrees and scholarships entitled to all dues paying members. The difference in the affiliation fee option is that students are not asked to pay FFA dues.

Some recognized benefits to the affiliation fee option:

- Teachers/Advisors do not need to spend valuable class time collecting dues writing receipts and handling money.
- Every student has access to all benefits to FFA programs and activities as long as they are in good standing with the advisor and school policies.
- Students who may not see the value when they enter the program can gain information that will later show them what they have access to as an FFA member. (Rather than encouraging students to join the first few days of class, teachers have the ability to mentor and provide education to guide students toward premier leadership, personal growth and career success as the year moves forward.)
- FFA is then truly integral to the program and can no longer be looked at as a club as it is for every student, every class, every day and serves as the leadership education component to the three circle model for agricultural education.
- Automatically makes the program exemplary in Standard 3: Leadership Development, Quality Indicator #1 of the National Quality Program Standards for Agricultural Education approved by the National Council of Agricultural Education. For a copy of NQPS use the following link.
http://www.agedhq.org/Printfriendly/NQSfor2ndAg_Ed.pdf
- Many more you will discover over time.

Even with the benefits listed above there may be teachers or school officials wanting to understand how these funds can be provided or acquired. The following promising practices are ideas local programs have used to meet their needs. Knowing everyone's needs are different and sometimes unique you may find one of these useful or develop a new idea that will work well for you. If you use a different idea please provide us with your promising practice as we would like to share it with others. Please share it with you LPS specialist or email Tony Small at tsmall@ffa.org or Clay Worley at cworley@ffa.org



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EXAMPLES

The local school district sees the value it provides to the program and students.

The school district covers the cost just as they would for an athletic or school activities affiliation or required participation association. Being for all students in the program they see the value in leadership education and the integral nature of it being a part of the total program. In this model teachers must be able to show the school officials the three circle model and provide an understanding of why your program needs to include this component for all students. The teacher's ability to communicate the need and show the results will determine the support by the administration and the local advisory council.

The local Alumni chapter provides the support for all students to experience FFA.

There are many local alumni chapters that would see this as a huge opportunity to support their local agricultural education program and the students. Their ability to provide this support will ensure all students are ready to be mentored and provided opportunities they may not have had if left up to the student to pay dues. Donations, supporting fundraisers and funding drives are all alumni functions that can support the local programs with making sure the affiliation fee is covered so students and teachers can concentrate on leadership education and engagement of students to become successful with premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

The local FFA chapter includes in their annual program of activities a fundraiser to support all students in the program by paying the affiliation fee.

Your ability to provide opportunities for every student and engage them in the activities of the program will develop students and meet the goals of your program. The National Chapter Award program recognizes chapter's development and the use of a written Program of Activities (POA) that addresses quality standards in three divisions of which student development is one. Division I - Student Development: Includes personal and group activities that improve life skills and address quality standards in: Leadership activities that help the individual develop technical, human relations and decision-making skills to enhance personal success. Healthy lifestyles, supervised agricultural experience, scholarship and agricultural career skills are also programs designed to enhance student development in this area. What a great way to use proceeds from fundraising to make a difference in all your students by engaging them in student development activities.

Local sponsor support provides resources to ensure every student in the agricultural education program has the opportunity to experience the total program, which includes leadership education/FFA.

There are always local and regional supporters looking for ways to provide dollars that will impact students of the community. With the heritage agricultural education and FFA have



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provided many supporters over the years and those who experienced the program themselves understand the positive impact their contribution can make to students towards premier leadership, personal growth and career success. With sponsors understanding the need provided by a volunteer or advisory council member you may receive the resources supporting every student in the program.

Educational grants are also a possible option.

There are chapters that have applied for and received grants to support leadership education from a variety of sources. The local teacher may need to search them out from local resources and industry. One example was state Fish and Game Fines being turned back for educational use. Some states set these up to be used in the county they were collected. These are usually simple grant applications that ask how you will use the funds to benefit students. Walmart has a local program at their stores called a general manager's grant for up to \$1,500 - this might qualify for affiliation fees, especially if the local program plans a chapter community service effort. You would want to write the request to provide results to be more than just affiliation fees, but having impact on the community. These are examples, and depending on where you are there may be additional opportunities for funding. This is another way your advisory council and alumni can assist you in providing valuable information.

Civic organizations have funding available for leadership based youth organizations.

The local Optimists Club is a good example. They are all about youth and youth opportunities and may be looking to adopt a youth group like FFA. A progressive chamber of commerce or community board may provide grants to a chapter that is benefitting the community by doing projects. The donation they provide may be to support the program by ensuring all agricultural education students are able to be part of the program addressing service learning as a form of leadership education.