

February 9, 2026 WV Team Ag Ed Bulletin

GENERAL

Important Deadlines & Links:

- WV FFA Foundation Scholarship App (Due Feb. 15)
[FFA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION.pdf](#)
 - Submission Link: <https://forms.gle/vEkxzYX4c2R3nqQt5>

- WV FFA State Band & Choir App (Due Feb. 18)
 - Band:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfoCSfZUW6O_XPK8wy3f2OgCoxuey-dfDXR2j2QdMkr-Xi0oA/viewform?usp=dialog
 - Choir:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdakMCxil_8MallI4sz-b3ROtclbIK-01E489cesJGw8SHbiw/viewform?usp=publish-editor

- [Scholarships – The West Virginia Nursery and Landscaping Association](#)

WVSU 1890 Scholarship Programs

The WVSU 1890 Scholarship Program provides scholarships to eligible students majoring in food, agriculture and natural resource-related degree programs. [WVSU 1890 Scholars accepted may receive a full or partial scholarship, including tuition, fees, books, room and board.](#) All applicants must be a US citizen or legal resident, possess a 3.0 GPA or better at the time of application, and maintain at least a 3.0 GPA while receiving scholarship support and major in one of the following options and concentrations: **Bachelor of Science in Biology: Option in Plant and Soil Science, Bachelor of Science in Chemistry: Option in Applied, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration: Concentration in Agribusiness, or Bachelor of Arts in Economics: Concentration in Agricultural Economics.** The application form and additional information can be found at: <https://wvstateu.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/wvsu-1890-scholarship/> or email 1890scholarship@wvstateu.edu

USDA 1890 National Scholars Program

February 9, 2026 WV Team Ag Ed Bulletin

The **USDA 1890 National Scholars Program** offers scholarships to U.S. citizens who are seeking a bachelor's degree at one of the nation's 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions in any field of study in agriculture, food, natural resource sciences or other related disciplines.

The USDA 1890 National Scholars Program is available to eligible high school seniors entering their freshman year of college as well as rising college sophomores and juniors. Young people around the country are invited to complete and **submit their applications online** through an e-application. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) 1890 National Scholars Program application period for the 26/27 Academic Year is open from January 7, 2026 through March 8, 2026.

<https://wvstateu.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/usda-1890-scholars-program/>

NEXT Gen Scholarships at WVSU

Through partnerships between **West Virginia State University (WVSU)**, the **West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA)**, and the **West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE)**, the NextGen program focuses on fostering the growth of the future workforce in food, agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences (FANH).

Next Gen Scholarship at WVSU: As you know it is a great opportunity for our West Virginia Agriculture Education completers. We invite Seniors to apply by the Due Date of March 31, 2026.

Some of the highlights are as follows: NextGen Scholar Benefits, Paid Tuition Paid Room and Board for On-Campus Students, Paid Course Fees and Books, 1,500 Hours of Paid Internship with WVDA Agencies, Paid Meal Plan for Commuter Students. Please see the link for more information and to access the application

<https://wvstateu.edu/nextgen/>

Contact Connie Dewhurst-Adkins for more details. connie.dewhurst@wvstateu.edu

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WV FFA Advisory meeting minutes: [WV FFA Advisory Meeting Minutes](#)

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How to access WV Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources Content Standards:

- Link: [Career Exploration & Student Engagement - West Virginia Department of Education \(wvde.us\)](#)

February 9, 2026 WV Team Ag Ed Bulletin

- Scroll Down to Blue Box - "CTE Programs & Standards," click View Standards (you may have to request access)
 - Then "Program Standards" to the left...
 - Then click the "AFNR" tile to access all ag. completer pathways.
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WVAE/NAAE Updates & Opportunities

WVAE is accepting feedback for future convention please complete this brief survey <https://forms.gle/uASkAzkPK4AsH6BV8>

Now is the time to **join or renew your membership** with the West Virginia Association of Agricultural Educators (WVAE). Membership connects you to a strong network of peers, professional development opportunities, advocacy efforts, and leadership experiences—both at the state level and through the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE). [Join online https://www.wvae.org/](https://www.wvae.org/) Previous lifetime members, do not need to take action at this time.

Types of Membership Available:

- **Active** - anyone who is professionally qualified to teach agriculture in K-12 or postsecondary public or private schools or state staff. **This is where ag teachers, state staff, WVU, and WVSU staff would be.**
- **Lifetime Active Membership** – NEW option! Just **\$78/month for 10 months** and you're a member for life – no annual renewals required.
- **Associate** - anyone engaged in agricultural education who is not professionally qualified to teach agriculture
- **Retired** - anyone qualified to be an active or associate member who has retired from the profession — Life active members who retire will automatically be moved to Retired Life membership without any additional payment
- **Student** - undergraduates or full-time graduate students training for careers related to agricultural education

One of the benefits to joining WVAE are the benefits through NAAE including

\$100,000 in-dues professional liability insurance coverage. In-dues coverage does not include job protection benefits. For all benefits check out <http://naae.org/members/get-involved/member-resources-and-benefits/>

Please remit NAAE dues nationally to <https://www.naae.org/members/membership/join-renew/>

February 9, 2026 WV Team Ag Ed Bulletin

Please refer all WVAAE inquiries to Allyson Lewis @ aelewis@k12.wv.us

The Latest National FFA News

Ag Day Essay Contest

Students in grades 9-12 are invited to enter the [National Ag Day Video Essay Contest](#). This year's theme is American Agriculture: Imagining the Next 250 Years. All entries must be received by midnight this Friday, Feb. 6, 2026.

National Teacher Ambassadors for FFA: 2026-27 Application Open

Applications are now open for the 2026-27 National Teacher Ambassadors for FFA cohort. Applications close on March 1. The National Teacher Ambassadors for FFA are selected and provided training from the National FFA on various educator resources and experiences offered by the organization. Once trained, teacher ambassadors serve in their home state as a resource for other agricultural educators and answer questions related to educator resources and experiences. [Apply today!](#)

Resources Now Available on African Swine Fever

USDA APHIS has developed a campaign, [Protect Our Pigs](#), to help students learn about animal health and how to protect U.S. swine from African swine fever. Interactive tools and [educational materials](#) are available now. In addition, encourage your students to participate in the ["Protect the Pigs" photo contest](#), which runs through March. 6. [Sign up](#) today for updated information.

Veterinary Science Scenario Guide Now Available

The [Veterinary Science 2026 Scenario Guide](#) is available and can also be found in the [handbook](#) and the [2026 Focus Areas announcement](#).

New Century Farmer Application Deadline Approaching

The deadline for [2026 New Century Farmer](#) participant and facilitator applications is February 15. Eighteen to 24-year-old FFA Alumni members can attend this conference in Indiana for free, July 18-22, for a hands-on opportunity to learn from each other and industry experts as they discuss the topics and issues that affect today's production agriculturists. [Apply](#) today!

February 9, 2026 WV Team Ag Ed Bulletin

Last Week's National FFA News

Grants Now Available from EPA The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced [grants](#) are available for hands-on projects that help people better understand environmental changes in their community and how to address them. [Funded projects](#) will focus on environmental education efforts that use modern tools and equip participants with the skills to make informed decisions and take responsible actions toward environmental stewardship. [Applications](#) are due March 3. [Apply](#) today!

National Days of Service - Project Implementation Guide Now Available Did you create a paracord pet leash at the On-Site Service Project during the 98th National FFA Convention and Expo? Check out the [project implementation guide](#) to create a similar project in your community this February.

AES Chapter Grant Program The AES Chapter Grant Program supports local FFA Chapters advancing education, sustainability, and mental health in agriculture. Grants of up to \$5,000 fund initiatives in agribusiness education, agricultural and energy innovation, or mental health. Applications are reviewed biannually, with the first funding cycle open Jan. 12–March 15.
<https://form.jotform.com/dealerprograms@ffa.org/aes-chapter-grant-program>

Regional Development Conference Registration Open [Registration](#) is now open for the 2026 National FFA Alumni and Supporters Regional Development Conferences. The first [event](#) will be held in Willmar, Minn., March 20-21 and will include local ag industry tours, a networking event at Willmar High School, and workshops about how volunteers can better help students and teachers at the local, state and national levels. [Register](#) for free by March 8.

American FFA Degree Application Reminders to Share with Candidates and Advisors To help with the American Degree application, please keep the following in mind:

- Ensure the candidate's contact information (email and phone number on the application cover page is accurate and will remain so at least through October 2026 BEFORE generating the application version to be submitted.
- The candidate should provide a personal email address and not a school email address
- Click the "Refresh" link above the "Chapter Advisors" information on the application cover page. Ensure this information is current.

News from West Virginia FFA

February 9, 2026 WV Team Ag Ed Bulletin

New Advisors-If you need access to your chapter's FFA account, you must follow these steps, so we can get you approved. You need to do this ASAP, so we can ensure you are able to enter membership! [Request administrative access to a chapter - FFA Help Center](#)

State Officer Request Form Link- <https://forms.gle/ZRLbLkJytNpFXpHG9>

***Don't forget to email kari.brown@k12.wv.us when you submit!

WV FFA Chapter Voting Delegate Allotment - 1 Delegate per 25 members.

2026 State Fair of WV - Chapter Pictures Submission (up to three). Submit your pictures here: <https://forms.gle/AJVybjDdzwTnyyt48>

WVU & AGEE Updates

March CDES - We will need chapters to re-register in Judging card

JudgingCard.com .

Registration is currently open. Also, when you have a chance, please fill out the Qualtrics survey https://wvu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1XIQLvVT74eZClg so I know how many lunch tickets and parking passes to order, as well as any accommodations needed throughout the events.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns, I am so excited to see these events back on the calendar and we are all looking forward to welcoming your FFA Chapters to campus soon,

Thank you for supporting CDEs, **(Schedule is below)**

Elizabeth

February 9, 2026 WV Team Ag Ed Bulletin

Other Upcoming Deadlines & Dates:

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 - **Submission Link:** <https://forms.gle/vEkxzYX4c2R3nqQt5>
- **WVDA Agriculture & Conservation Day at the Legislature** - Feb. 18
- **CTE Day at the Legislature** - Feb. 20, 2026
- **National FFA Week** - Feb. 21-28, 2026
- **WV State Ham, Bacon, & Egg Show & Sale** - March 8-9, 2026
- **Winter CDE Make-up** - March 25-27, 2026 JudgingCard.com
- **WV Beef Expo** - April 10, 2026
- **WV FFA Ag. Ed. Summit** - Stonewall Resort - April 12-14, 2026
 - Register Here: <https://forms.gle/wkyNeBG2yJdyGJG76>
 - Booking Link:
<https://be.synxis.com/?Hotel=35494&Chain=21123&arrive=2026-04-12&depart=2026-04-14&adult=1&child=0&group=894876>
 - Both registrations are due by March 6
- **WV Envirothon** - Camp Caesar - April 16-17, 2026
- **State Officer & Nom Com Applications** - Due June 1 - [Programs](#)
- **“Be the Impact” Essays** Due emailed to KB-S by June 1 (details below)
- **WV FFA State Convention** - July 8-11, 2026

February 9, 2026 WV Team Ag Ed Bulletin

<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>Room</u>	
<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Entomology</u>	<u>1:00pm</u>	<u>Meet: South Ag Science 1021</u>	
<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Plant Pathology</u>	<u>12:00pm</u>	<u>Ag. Sciences G06</u>	
<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Ag Sales</u>	<u>12:00pm</u>	<u>Meet Allen Hall 712</u>	
<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Vet Science Practicums</u>	<u>1:00 pm</u>	<u>Meet: Ag. Sciences 2004</u>	
<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Veterinary Science Exam</u>	<u>4:00pm</u>	<u>South Ag Science 1021</u>	
<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Teacher Break Room</u>	<u>Beginning at noon</u>	<u>Ag Sci 4004</u>	
<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Milk Quality</u>	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>Meet at Ag Sciences G10</u>	
<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Farm Business Management</u>	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>Ag Sciences 2004</u>	
<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Veterinary Science Presentations</u>	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>Meet at Ag Sciences 4004</u>	
<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Floriculture Practicums</u>	<u>10:00am</u>	<u>Greenhouse</u>	
<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Milk Quality Exam</u>	<u>11:00 am</u>	<u>Ag Sciences G06</u>	
<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Ag. Mech CDE</u>	<u>3:00 pm</u>	<u>Ag Annex 142</u>	

February 9, 2026 WV Team Ag Ed Bulletin

<u>Thursday</u>	<u>7th & 8th Grade Agriscience</u>	<u>3:00pm</u>	<u>AGS G06</u>	
<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Floriculture Exams</u>	<u>5:00pm</u>	<u>South Ag Science 1021</u>	
<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Teacher Break Room</u>	<u>All day</u>	<u>Ag Sci 4004</u>	
<u>Friday</u>	<u>Food HS & MS Practicums</u>	<u>9:00am</u>	<u>Ag sciences G10</u>	
<u>Friday</u>	<u>Food Exam</u>	<u>12:00pm</u>	<u>G06</u>	
<u>Friday</u>	<u>Teacher Break Room</u>	<u>All day</u>	<u>Ag Sci 4004</u>	
<u>Friday</u>	<u>CDE Awards</u>	<u>TBD</u>	<u>TBD</u>	

February 9, 2026 WV Team Ag Ed Bulletin

2026 4th Annual “Be the Impact” Advisor Appreciation Competition

West Virginia is home to some of the best agriculture teachers and FFA Advisors in the country. Our students are fortunate to have the opportunity to learn from teachers that genuinely care about their success. To recognize these hard-working individuals, we are holding the annual essay competition called, “Be the Impact.”

Competition Rules and Procedures:

1. West Virginia FFA members may submit an essay using the prompt, “How has your agriculture teacher/FFA Advisor positively impacted your life?”
2. More than one member of a chapter may submit.
3. Essays must be in Times New Roman, 12-point font, and should not exceed 500 words.
4. The essay should include the name of the advisor, the chapter, and the name of the student submitting the essay.
5. Essays are due to Kari Sampson at kari.brown@k12.wv.us by June 1.
6. Advisors who are the subject of a member’s essay will be formally recognized at the State FFA Convention and presented with a framed copy of the essay.
7. Essays will be judged by an outside individual(s). One essay will be chosen as the “Be the Impact” award winner and will receive special recognition at the State FFA Convention.