



NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION
October 22-25, 2008

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NEWS RELEASE

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Lucas Oil Stadium Offers Food, Fun for FFA Members

By Geoffrey Miller

INDIANAPOLIS – The main convention arena at Conseco Fieldhouse is closer than you might think to Indianapolis’ newest, and largest, sports stadium.

Head west out of the fieldhouse, take a left on Pennsylvania St., then a quick right on Georgia St. (otherwise known as FFA Way this week) and follow it for three blocks. From there, take a left on Capitol Ave. and when you emerge from the tunnel with the old Union Station overhead, well, Lucas Oil Stadium (LOS) is hard to miss.

The venue -- a massive brick structure that opened just two months before the 81st National FFA Convention -- is the home of the National Football League Indianapolis Colts.

During the national FFA convention, though, it’s the home of good eats and good times for FFA members in Indy.

There’s a food court of concession stands, a “Discover Indiana” display area with plenty of giveaways from Hoosier tourism interests, and a small concert stage sponsored by Chevrolet where Joe Nichols will perform a free concert Friday afternoon. On the other side of a huge black curtain that splits the 63,000-seat stadium is a concert stage set up for young country music star, and former FFA member, Taylor Swift. Swift is set to perform for FFA members Wednesday night.

Some permanent highlights inside the stadium include race cars, motorcycles, boats and even a Top Fuel dragster engine pulled apart for all visitors entering through the north entrance to see.

A group of FFA members from Sullivan, Ill., were more than impressed with Indianapolis' new stadium Wednesday afternoon.

"I really like the atmosphere inside here," said Sullivan FFA member Jared Ferguson. "I'm more of a Colts fan than anything, too, so that makes it cool."

Cheyenne Davis, another Sullivan FFA member, visited Indianapolis for last year's convention and said LOS is a big improvement over the RCA Dome that's now being torn down in favor an expanded convention center.

"It's a lot more open, but a little bit out of the way," said Davis.

The Sullivan FFA members made the trip to LOS -- only a few blocks south of the Indiana Convention Center and the FFA National Agricultural Career Show -- thanks to FFA member Cody Weaver having a display in the Agriscience Fair being held at field level of the \$715 million facility.

Weaver's display, coincidentally, examines the pollution effects of biofuels versus fossil fuels.

"I tested five different fuels and found that the biofuels burn cleaner and are much less acidic," said Weaver. "To me, that proves that biofuels are the way to go."

FAST FACTS ABOUT LUCAS OIL STADIUM

- LOS is 77 feet taller than the RCA Dome, standing a lofty 270 feet.
- The 63,000-seat capacity is roughly 7,500 seats larger than the dome.
- 665 toilets fill the facility's restrooms.
- It takes roughly nine minutes to open the LOS roof.
- The window wall on the north end of the stadium can be opened in good weather.

- Saturday (Oct. 27) will be the first time the American Degree Ceremony will be held in LOS.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

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