

# 2009 National FFA Delegate Process

## Committee Research Findings

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### Committee #4- Program Affiliation Options

*The purpose of this committee is to discuss and determine whether a program affiliation fee program should be pursued by the National FFA Organization and offered as an option to all state associations within the organization.*

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National FFA Organization strongly supports the Three Circle Model of Agricultural Education – Classroom and Laboratory Instruction, a Supervised Agricultural Experience (experiential learning), and Leadership Training (FFA) encouraged by the United States Department of Education. Program Affiliation allows all agricultural education students to be eligible to participate in FFA as one of these key components of the total program.

#### **What are the cost-benefits of program affiliation versus dues? State and National?**

The Program Affiliation option is offered to eliminate the cost of dues to the individual student. Affiliated schools would pay a fee so all students would have the opportunity to benefit from the Three Circle Model.

In turn, the teacher would no longer have to use class time to collect dues and would reduce the need to handle money inside the classroom. With the need to use valuable class time for instruction the affiliation process will save teachers time to do what is important for student success.

On the state level, time is again the cost benefit. Currently state staff members are burdened several times annually with processing rosters as well as the need to verify contest, scholarship, state fair, etc. participants. The Program Affiliation presents the state the opportunity to streamline this process by verifying the chapter is an affiliate and all students are eligible. The program offers state staff and quicker way to present rosters and helps eliminate tedious individual verifications.

The cost benefits at the National are minimal. The National FFA Organization sees no real dollar benefit in the first few years. The top priority of this program is to promote agricultural education's three circle model to all agricultural education students.

Beyond the first few years, the potential for increase in FFA membership could lead to more opportunities for revenue streams, including the exposure to new sponsors for organizational activities due to a larger student population.

#### **Based on the 10 by 15 goal, how will program affiliation affect the quality of members?**

Engagement of students in FFA programs and activities remains and will always be in the hands of the student and their advisor. The affiliation program will not change this basic philosophy. It does reinforce the importance of the Three Circle Model, by allowing EVERY agricultural education student in a classroom the chance to participate and see the value FFA programs and activities provide. As stated before, eliminating the burden of collecting individual student dues, teachers will have more time to devote to agricultural education and its components. Teachers will have more time to devote to all students. They will also have more time to identify ways to engage these students in FFA activities with the hours saved in collecting dues.

Although Program Affiliation allows every student to be a member, it is not proposed to create a RIGHT for all to participate. Much like a state issued driver's license, that right is held in the hands of the individual and the advisor. Should a student abuse this privilege, an advisor has the option to remove this right.

Ultimately, Program Affiliation allows students who may not have participated to see the value and their opportunity and get involved. They no longer take the approach I am not a member as their option to all activities current dues paying members may have. There are also a number of students that currently use not paying dues as a way to ensure they do not need to get involved in activities in FFA or any other school organization. As a young student they sometimes need that extra boost to get involved in school and community activities. This may be the answer for many students who choose not to join for whatever reason. Reasons that have been identified include economic status, diversity reasons, and educators never engaging them with options or expectations.

**How many states are using the pilot affiliation program or already experimenting with the program?**

For 2009-10, five states will participate in the Program Affiliation pilot, with three additional working through the approval process.