Awards, Recognition, Grants and Scholarships

Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE)
An SAE program is a required component of an agricultural education program and intended for every student. Through their SAE programs, students are able to consider careers and develop skills. With help from their agriculture teachers, students can develop an SAE program in one or more of the SAE categories: Experiential, Placement/Internship, Ownership/Entrepreneurship, Research, School-Based Enterprise or Service-Learning.

SAE Grants
Money to help FFA members start or improve their SAE programs is available through applying for an SAE grant. Grants are awarded through the national organization to members in grades 7th-11th on a competitive basis. Applications are available each year in November.

Degree Program
The FFA degree program rewards active FFA members for progress in leadership, skills and occupational development. Degrees are awarded to all members who qualify. The Discovery FFA Degree, the Greenhand FFA Degree and the Chapter FFA Degree are awarded at the chapter level. State associations award top members with the State FFA Degree. The highest degree, the American FFA Degree, is conferred upon an elite group of members at the national level.

Star Awards
The Star awards are presented at the local chapter, state and national levels. Star winners are the best of the best among thousands of FFA degree recipients. Star recipients have mastered skills in production, finance, management and/or research. At the national level, 16 finalists—four in each category—are declared and then a winner is chosen from each category. These are the most prestigious awards an FFA member can receive and are presented each year at the National FFA Convention & Expo.

Agricultural Proficiency Awards
National FFA Agricultural Proficiency Awards honor FFA members who, through their SAEs, have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers. Students can compete for awards in 47 areas covering everything from agricultural communications to wildlife management. Proficiency awards are won at the local, state and national levels.

Agriscience Fair
The National FFA Agriscience Fair recognizes student researchers studying the application of agricultural scientific principles and emerging technologies in agricultural enterprises. The agriscience fair is for middle and high school students. Participation begins at the local level and progresses to state and national levels.

Career and Leadership Development Events (CDE and LDE)
CDEs and LDEs are local, state-wide and national competitions allowing all FFA members to show off their skills. Students can compete in 25 different areas, from forestry to mechanics. Some events allow students to compete as individuals, while others allow them to compete in teams.

National Chapter Award Program
The National Chapter Award program recognizes FFA chapters that actively implement the mission and strategies of the organization. These chapters improve chapter operations using the National Quality FFA Chapter Standards and a Program of Activities that emphasize growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture. Chapters are rewarded for providing educational experiences for the entire membership. This application process assists chapters in assessing their accomplishments.

National Scholarships
Each year, the National FFA Organization awards more than $2 million in scholarships designed to fit the diversity of applicants. Scholarships are sponsored by businesses and individuals through the National FFA Foundation and are given for a wide variety of experiences, career goals and higher education plans. The selection process takes into account the whole student—FFA involvement, work experience, SAE, community service leadership skills and academics. Applications are available Nov. 15 and are due Feb. 1.

Living to Serve Community Development Grants
Service engagement is a vital component to community development. In an effort to continue our support of the FFA vision of building communities, the Living to Serve team is launching a new series of grant opportunities beginning with the 2017-18 school year. The grant funding will support more diverse service focus areas that include community safety; environmental responsibility; hunger, health and nutrition; and community engagement.

The Living to Serve Community Development Grant series will provide an opportunity for FFA chapters (middle and high school, collegiate and alumni) and state FFA associations/foundations to seek funding to support various types of service and service-learning projects through a competitive application process. This innovative funding approach will allow interested FFA chapters and state associations/foundations to choose an area of need to be addressed as well as the duration needed to provide a positive impact to build stronger communities.

FFA MISSION
FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Visit FFA.org for more information.