

*Forging a Partnership between
The FFA and The Soybean Board
In the Commonwealth of Virginia*

PROJECT TITLE: Agronomy Career Development Event

PROJECT BACKGROUND: The Virginia FFA Association hosts an annual career development event focused on developing agronomy and crops evaluation skills for FFA members. The objective of this event is to provide an opportunity for FFA members to display their knowledge of agronomic sciences while evaluating and demonstrating their skills in this area through competition. Students explore meaningful connections between classroom education and career opportunities in the agronomy industry.

PROJECT DETAILS: The contest is held at the State FFA Convention at Virginia Tech. Teams of four students are tested in their knowledge and skill in several areas of agronomy and crops evaluation including evaluation of crop specimens and a verbally delivered justification for their placing selection. Students are also required to take a written test in addition to the hands-on aspect of the contest. The teams participating in state competition will compete for plaques as well as a travel scholarship to the National FFA Convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana (1st place) or the Big E in Massachusetts (2nd Place).

PROJECT FUNDING: The Virginia FFA Foundation is seeking funding for award pins, publicity, and travel to the National FFA Convention for the winning team. The annual budget for the career development teams is as follows:

Team Travel to National FFA Convention and The Big E	\$2500.00
Plaques and Pins	\$ 300.00
<u>Publicity, Promotion & Organization</u>	<u>\$ 200.00</u>
Total Need	\$3000.00

The Virginia FFA Foundation is requesting funding for this event at \$3,000.00

PARTNERSHIP RECOGNITION: Sponsors of each of the state awards will receive written thank you notes acknowledging the partnership along with recognition as a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Star Foundation Sponsor. These sponsors will be listed in our State FFA Convention program as well as reports to the membership from the Foundation Board. We highly encourage the winning students to express their written appreciation to the sponsor of their event and make a personal visit if possible.

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Should you have any questions or require further information regarding this sponsorship opportunity, please contact Andy Seibel at (540) 231-3823.

Thank you for investing in the future of agriculture in the Commonwealth!



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PROJECT TITLE: Fiber and Oil Crop Production Proficiency Award

DATE: Awards are presented annually during the Virginia State FFA Convention.

OBJECTIVES: To award FFA members for their hard work and dedication in developing a successful Supervised Agricultural Experience Program that includes the act of organizing, managing and assuming the risk of a business enterprise. Also includes an advancement in knowledge or skill; the process of receiving competencies through training and practice.

JUSTIFICATION/PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE: The Agricultural proficiency awards program helps students to set goals and learn practical skills. The program rewards FFA members at local, state and national levels for exceptional accomplishments and excellence in a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Program. A number of essential skills that are necessary in the Fiber and Oil Crop Production field cannot be taught in the classroom. The Fiber and Oil Crop Production Proficiency Award seeks to award individuals who go above and beyond the agricultural curriculum. The state and area winning applicants include students that own the enterprise, work for a business or do research and experimentation which includes the best management practices available to efficiently produce and market crops for fiber and/or oil.

BACKGROUND: Each year students are given the opportunity to apply for Proficiency Awards. Since awards are given at the local level by the advisors, there is no way to determine the exact number of participants statewide, however up to ten applications are judged on the state level each year. There are two types of proficiency award areas, placement and entrepreneurship. Placement recognizes students for work or experience (paid or unpaid) while entrepreneurship involves the ownership of an agricultural production or business enterprise. The Fiber and Oil Crop Production Proficiency is for both entrepreneurship and placement experiences.

PROCEDURES: The SAE's are supervised at the local level by agricultural educators, award applications are then submitted at the area level and area winners move on and are judged at the state level. State winners are announced at state convention and receive a monetary award along with a state plaque.

The state and area winning applicants of the Fiber and Oil Crop Production Proficiency Award are identified for using the best management practices available to efficiently produce and market crops for fiber and/or oil; such as, cotton, sisal, hemp, soybeans, sesame seed, flax, mustard, canola, castor beans, sunflower, peanuts, dill, spearmint, and safflower.

*View more information about FFA's proficiency Award Program at
http://www.ffa.org/documents/prof_handbook.pdf*

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BUDGET: The Virginia FFA Foundation is seeking funding for state winning plaques, pins, cash awards, and reception. The annual budget for Proficiency Awards is as follows:

Plaques, Pins & Reception	\$ 275.00
First Place State Winner	\$ 100.00
Second Place State Winner	\$ 50.00
Five Area Winners	\$ 125.00
Total Requested	\$ 550.00

PARTNERSHIP RECOGNITION: Partners of Virginia FFA will receive recognition on numerous occasions to show how much their support and dedication means to the organization and to the countless FFA members whose lives are changed by a partner's support. Some of this recognition includes: receiving written thank you notes from FFA members, announcement of the partnership when the respective proficiency is awarded at the Virginia State FFA Convention, special recognition at the Virginia FFA Foundation Reception, and acknowledgement of the partnership in the State Convention Program as well as on the Virginia FFA website, just to name a few.

In order to be recognized in the 2013 convention program sponsorships must be received by April 15, 2013. Payment can be sent to 1660 Litton Reaves (0343) Blacksburg, VA 24061.

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