

Homer Agriscience & FFA Department
Homer Community Schools
403 South Hillsdale Street, Homer, Michigan 49245

August 27, 2009

Dear Parents,

I hope your summer has been eventful and exciting. I am writing today to prepare for this upcoming year's events and activities with the Homer FFA Chapter. Your child(ren) have been members of the Homer FFA in the past and I would like them to participate in the FFA this year and in the future.

Enclosed is important information about the Homer FFA, including a calendar of activities for this year. If your child(ren) are interested in joining FFA and being a part of this diverse organization, they simply need to pay yearly dues of \$15 and fill out an annual permission form. These dues are good for one year from Sept. 1st of 2009 until Sept. 1st of 2010. They can also participate in fundraisers to help offset this cost and the others associated with FFA membership. As the year goes by we will have fundraisers, including selling poinsettias, fruit, nut, candy, calendars, cookbooks and the "Homeropoly" board game, as well as plants/flowers in the fall. The \$15 dues is split between the National FFA (\$8), Michigan FFA (\$5) and Homer FFA (\$2) and includes the national magazine "New Horizons" and state magazine "Creed." You can join FFA at any time, although in the fall, we try to have all members signed up by November 1st or sooner. After Nov. 1st we will have a Bowling Party for those who are official Homer FFA members.

Depending on how active your child(ren) has been in FFA in the past, you may know that the Homer FFA is a very busy and active chapter with over 40 activities each year. Many of these activities are overnight trips and day trips to other cities and locations, beyond Homer. On these trips, typically 5 to 30 members attend any given trip. Of course, as advisor I attend the trips, but many times I need additional help with parents attending to serve as chaperones and drivers. Ideally, for each event we need to have one to two parents assisting. This is where you may be of assistance. Please let me know if you are interested in chaperoning.

I would also like to invite you to a Parent's Informational Meeting about the Homer FFA Chapter, National FFA Organization and Homer Agriscience Department. We will be having this meeting on **Thursday, September 10th, from 5 to 5:45 pm** in the Ag Room at Homer Community Schools.

During the meeting, I present a brief PowerPoint about the Agriscience Department and the Homer FFA Chapter. I will explain the importance of the three components of agriscience education: classroom/instruction, leadership (FFA) and supervised agricultural experiences (SAE). I will also review the Program of Activities (POA) for the year and answer questions about FFA events and activities. If you are new to the FFA and Ag Department, it is highly encouraged that you attend this meeting at least once. It is especially important for parents of 7th, 8th and 9th graders.

FFA is based on premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. In 1988, they changed the name from Future Farmers of America to The National FFA Organization to be more encompassing of all agriculture and natural resources. Many of our activities focus on community service, leadership and learning to be a responsible young adult, not just on

farming and agriculture. Any student, in 7th through 12th grade, enrolled in a school with agriscience classes may join the FFA chapter. After high school they may extend their membership until age 21.

Also, as a reminder, FFA members need to be thinking and deciding if they would like to participate in the Broiler Contest, attend National FFA Convention and/or attend the Fall Leadership Conference.

- Broilers: Any member in grades 7-12 can participate in the Broiler Contest, where you raise 25 broiler chickens at home or another location (i.e. grandpa's house). You raise them from one-day old chicks to about 6 week old broilers. We then take the broilers to a contest in Fowlerville in November. The deadline to sign up is **Friday, September 11th**. See me for more information.
- Nationals: Active 2nd year FFA members in 11th and 12th grade are eligible to attend. If you are eligible, see me for more information. Indianapolis, Indiana. October 21-24, Cost is \$100, deadline to sign up and turn in the paperwork & \$100 is **Thursday, September 10th**.
- Fall Leadership Conference: Any members in grade 7-12 are eligible to attend. Great conference on leadership & teamwork. Lansing, Nov. 10-11, Cost is \$35, deadline to sign up and turn in paperwork and \$35 is **Thursday, September 10th**. See me for more information.

Again, parents, I encourage you to attend the Parent's meeting on Sept. 10th, if you have not in the past, and especially if your son/daughter is new to the program, such as in 7th, 8th or 9th grade, and you would like to learn more about the FFA Chapter and Agriscience Department.

Also coming up is the School Open House. Stop by the Ag Room during the Open House on Wednesday, September 2 from 6 to 8 pm to say "hi!"

Sorry to inundate you with so many details and information, but the school year is fast approaching and I want it to be the best ever!

If you have any questions, whatsoever, either big or small, do not hesitate to call or email me and ask. My contact information is listed below. The members, alumni, school administration and I all appreciate your support in the past and thank you in advance for your continued assistance.

Sincerely,

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