



FFA & AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FACTS

National FFA Organization
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THE 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. The National FFA Organization motto is: Learning to Do; Doing to Learn; Earning to Live; Living to Serve.

MEMBERSHIP

The FFA membership of 461,043 and 7,308 chapters represent all 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. FFA is a diverse organization, operating in rural, urban and suburban schools. Students aged 12-21 enrolled in agricultural education programs are eligible for membership.

SCIENCE, BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

The organization changed its name in 1988 from Future Farmers of America to the National FFA Organization to reflect its evolution in response to expanded agricultural opportunities encompassing science, business and technology in addition to production farming. FFA members, who may enter the workforce directly or pursue higher degrees through technical schools and four-year universities, are preparing for careers in agricultural marketing, processing, communications, education, horticulture, production, natural resources, forestry, agribusiness and other diverse agricultural fields.

FEDERALLY CHARTERED

The FFA was organized nationally in 1928 in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1950, Congress granted the FFA a federal charter, making it an integral, intracurricular part of public agricultural instruction under the National Vocational Education Acts. Two of the top three FFA executives are employed by the U.S. Department of Education.

STRUCTURE

The FFA operates on local, state and national levels. Student members belong to chapters organized at the local school level. Agricultural education instructors serve as chapter advisors. Chapters are organized under state associations headed by an advisor and executive secretary, often employees of the state department of education. States conduct programs and host annual conventions. The National FFA Organization, governed by a board of directors, charters state associations; provides direction, programmatic materials and support; and hosts the national FFA convention, which draws over 45,000 attendees annually. The National FFA Alumni Association assists more than 42,000 students annually in the continued growth and development of active FFA programs.

CAREER PREPARATION

The agricultural education program provides a well-rounded, practical approach to learning through three components: classroom education in agricultural topics such as plant and animal sciences, horticulture, forestry, agrimarketing, etc.; hands-on supervised agricultural experience such as starting a business or working for an established company; and FFA, which provides leadership opportunities and tests students' agricultural skills.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Local, state and national FFA programs and activities help members develop public speaking skills, conduct and participate in meetings, manage financial matters, strengthen problem-solving abilities and assume civic responsibility. Degrees earned at local, state and national levels recognize members' increasing accomplishments.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

FFA members elect their own officers and plan and conduct activities with supervision from their chapter advisors. A team of six national officers, typically college students taking a year out of their studies, plays a key role in planning the national convention and other events, traveling more than 100,000 miles during their year of service representing FFA.

HEADQUARTERS

The National FFA Organization is located at the National FFA Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. The National FFA Organization Headquarters Operations is located in Alexandria, Virginia and shares its offices with two other agricultural education organizations – the National Council for Agricultural Education and the National Association of Agricultural Educators.

FFA FOUNDATION

The National FFA Foundation, headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana, works with business and industry, organizations and individuals to raise funds to recognize FFA achievements and support activities at local, state and national levels. The foundation's address is P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960. Telephone: 317-802-6060. Fax: 317-802-6061.

MEDIA CONTACT

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The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of all human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer. Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems. The National FFA Organization is a resource and support organization that does not select, control or supervise state association, local chapter or individual member activities except as expressly provided for in the National FFA Organization Constitution and Bylaws.