

FFA History

In the beginning...

- 1917 – Smith-Hughes Act was passed – establish vocational classes in public high schools
 - Ag for boys, home economics for girls
- 1925 – Henry Groseclose established a club for boys called the Future Farmers of Virginia
 - Groseclose is considered the Father of FFA

- 1926 – The American Royal Livestock and Horse show in Kansas City, MO invited boys from different states to compete in livestock judging
- 1928 – The Future Farmers of America was founded
 - First president was Leslie Applegate
 - Dues were \$.10
 - 5 states originally chartered

- 1929 – Georgia FFA was chartered – 10th state to receive a charter
 - First state president was Billy Bowdain
 - Official Colors adopted – National Blue and Corn Gold
- 1930 – FFA Creed was adopted – written by Erwin Milton Tiffany
 - Official Dress was adopted

- 1932 – Charter granted to Puerto Rico
- 1933 – Corduroy Jacket adopted as official dress
- 1935 – New Farmers of America was established for black boys in Tuskegee, AL
- 1949 – First international exchange program for FFA members began with Great Britain
- 1950 – Public Law 740 – granted the FFA a federal charter allows the FFA to own land and copyright the emblem

- 1952 – National Future Farmer magazine published for members
- 1965 – The NFA merged with the FFA
- 1969 – Girls were allowed membership
- 1971 – FFA Alumni was started
- 1973 – Official Dress standards created

- 1974 – Fred McClure is the first black officer of national FFA
- 1976 – Julie Smiley, first female national officer
- 1976 – Alaska became last of the 50 states to obtain a charter
- 1982 – Jan Eberly is the first female national president
- 1988 – The Future Farmers of America changed its name to The National FFA Organization
 - Lose the stigma of being called ‘farmers’

- 1989 – The magazine, The National Future Farmer, changed its name to FFA: New Horizons
- 1994 – Corey Flournoy – first black FFA president
- 1998 – The National FFA Convention moved from Kansas City, MO to Louisville, KY
- 2003 – Javier Moreno is the first Puerto Rican elected as national president
- 2006 – National FFA Convention moved to Indianapolis, IN
- 2013 – National FFA Convention returns to Louisville, KY

Today, there are 557,318 FFA members, aged 12–21, in 7,498 chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

- 44% of FFA members are female; women hold approximately 50% of state leadership positions.
- 73% of our membership is White; 15% is Hispanic/Latino; 7% is Black/African-American; 5% is American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander.
- 9% of FFA members are currently enrolled in grades 7-8; 87% of FFA members are currently enrolled in grades 9-12; 4% have already graduated from high school and may be engaged in postsecondary studies.
- FFA chapters are in 18 of the 20 largest U.S. cities, including New York, Chicago and Philadelphia.
- The top five membership states are Texas, California, Georgia, Missouri and Oklahoma.
- The 2012 National FFA Convention was host to 56,167 members, FFA advisors and FFA supporters.

Maybe you've heard of them...

- Jim Davis – creator of Garfield
- Lucas Black – Sling Blade, Friday Night Lights
- Don Henley – Singer in The Eagles
- Tim McGraw, Willie Nelson, Taylor Swift – Singers
- Jimmy Carter – Former President
- Bo Jackson – pro football and baseball player
- Jordan Goss, Brad Meester, Jordy Nelson, Maurkice Pouncey – pro football players

Activity

- Spin the wheel!