



FFA Century of Success

1910s

1917

The Smith-Hughes National Vocational Education Act establishes vocational agriculture courses.

1920s

1928



During the National Livestock Judging Contests, 33 students from 18 states establish Future Farmers of America to provide leadership training for high school students of vocational agriculture.

During the first annual convention, Leslie Applegate of Freehold, N.J., is elected president and dues are set at 10 cents annually. The national convention was held in Kansas City 1928-1998.

1929

The official colors national blue and corn gold are adopted. They are still used today.

1930s

1933



FFA members from Fredericktown, Ohio, arrive at the national convention in blue corduroy jackets with the FFA emblem on the back. Official delegates vote to adopt the jacket as the organization's official dress. Members still wear the nationally recognized jackets.

Members celebrated the first National FFA Day. In 1948, this would be changed to FFA Week and be celebrated during George Washington's birthday, to recognize his contributions to American agriculture.

1934

All states except Rhode Island and Alaska have chartered associations. Rhode Island would charter an association in 1950 and Alaska in 1976.

1940s

1944

The National FFA Foundation, Inc., was established in Washington, D.C., to raise money for FFA programs.

Today, the Foundation is located in Indianapolis, Ind., and raises more than \$7.3 million annually.

1950s

1953



FFA celebrates its silver anniversary. President Dwight D. Eisenhower is the first sitting president to address a national FFA convention.

The U.S. Post Office issues a special stamp to commemorate the founding of the FFA. Future presidents Richard Nixon (1968), Gerald Ford (1974), Jimmy Carter (1978) and George H.W. Bush (1991) would each speak at a national convention and Ronald Reagan (1988) would address the national convention via a pre-recorded message.

Harry S. Truman would address the national convention in 1957, four years after leaving office.

1960s

1969

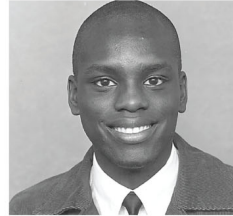
Women are allowed national membership, which makes it possible for them to hold office and participate in competitive events.

Prior to this amendment, women were permitted membership only at the local and state level. Today, 35% of FFA membership are female, while 47% of state leadership positions are held by women.

1970s

1974

Fred McClure of Texas is elected national FFA secretary, becoming the organization's first African-American national officer.



McClure would later serve on President George Bush's staff in Washington, D.C.

1980s

1982



Jan Eberly is the first female elected National FFA President.

1988

Delegates to the national FFA convention change "Future Farmers of America" to "National FFA Organization."

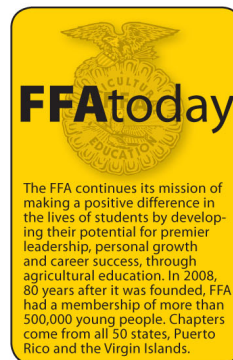
Delegates also opened FFA membership to middle school students.

1990s

1999



The national FFA convention is held in Louisville, Ky., for the first time and will stay in Louisville through 2005. Attendance was 46,918.



The FFA continues its mission of making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success, through agricultural education. In 2008, 80 years after it was founded, FFA had a membership of more than 500,000 young people. Chapters come from all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

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