



News Release

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National FFA Organization Announces Dr. Steve Brown as New National FFA Executive Secretary

INDIANAPOLIS – The National FFA Organization announced today that Dr. Steve A. Brown of Missouri has been named the new National FFA Executive Secretary. He will begin his position as Agricultural Sciences Program Specialist with the U. S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C., effective March 3, 2008. Brown replaces C. Coleman Harris, who retired in September after 46 years of service to agricultural education.



As national FFA executive secretary, Brown will provide leadership for FFA and agricultural education, while coordinating all meetings of the National FFA Organization Board of Directors and the National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees. He will assist National FFA Advisor and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Larry Case in overseeing, developing, maintaining and implementing policy for the National FFA Organization and the National FFA Foundation.

Brown has dedicated more than 27 years of service to agricultural education and FFA. He has served as the Missouri state FFA executive secretary and district supervisor for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education since 1985.

As part of his current duties, Brown manages the annual Missouri FFA Convention, which attracts more than 8,000 attendees, and supervises secondary and

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postsecondary agricultural education programs in the state. During his tenure as state executive secretary, Missouri FFA membership increased by 30 percent to more than 24,000 members statewide.

Prior to becoming state executive secretary, Brown taught agricultural education and served as one of two FFA advisors for five years at Macon Area Vocational School in Macon, Mo. He shared in coordinating chapter activities and fundraising in addition to developing and delivering coursework and leadership development programs. Brown currently serves on the National FFA Board of Directors, a consultant to the National Council for Agricultural Education and is a former member of National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees.

Brown received his doctorate in Agricultural Education, as well as his master's and bachelor's degrees, from the University of Missouri. He and his wife, Rhonda, have four daughters and two sons-in-law, and are the proud grandparents of two strapping grandsons. During the coming weeks, Brown and his wife will relocate from Missouri to the Washington, D.C., area as he assumes his duties with the U.S. Department of Education and FFA.

“As executive secretary of the National FFA Organization, Steve will play an important leadership role in the organization's work as we strive to increase the quality, depth and breadth of agricultural education across the country,” said Douglas D. Loudenslager, national FFA chief operating officer.

Dr. Terry Heiman, director of agricultural education for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, agreed. “Dr. Brown is a proven national leader in Agricultural Education. His roots and his heart are in this profession. Steve brings to this venture unmatched experience, expertise, great energy and a true passion for the success of all students,” Heiman said.

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“It has been my pleasure to work with Steve Brown in various capacities during the past two decades,” said Dr. Larry Case, national FFA advisor and chief executive officer. “I look forward to collaborating with him on a daily basis, and I know his vision, solid leadership and character will serve the National FFA Organization and agricultural education well in the years to come.”

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 500,823 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,358 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Founded in 1928, the National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988 in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

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