

# Frequently Asked FFA Questions

## WHAT IS THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION?

FFA is a positive example of what works in education. The National FFA Organization is a dynamic youth organization that changes lives and prepares students for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. Today, almost half-a-million student members are engaged in a wide range of agricultural education activities, leading to more than 300 professional career opportunities. Student success remains the primary mission of FFA.

*Please note: Although FFA was created in 1928 as Future Farmers of America, the name was changed in 1988 to represent the growing diversity of agriculture. The National FFA Organization is our official name on first reference, FFA on all succeeding references.*

FFA is not extracurricular! The program completes a three-part model of education. Classroom instruction is applied to hands-on opportunities called supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs). SAEs include activities such as starting a business or working for an established company. Classroom learning and SAEs are further reinforced through curriculum-enhancing programs within the community.

FFA holds a federal charter. Two of the top three FFA executives are employed by the U.S. Department of Education.

FFA results in tangible rewards! Last year, FFA awarded \$1.9 million in scholarships and one out of every eight students who applied received one. Many former FFA members credit their involvement in FFA directly to their current career success.



## HOW DOES FFA MAKE AN IMPACT?

FFA uses agricultural education to create real-world success. Agriculture teachers become advisors to local FFA chapters, which students join. More than 7,000 FFA chapters are currently in existence; their programs are managed on a local, state and national level. Each chapter's Program of Activities is designed with the needs of the students in mind. Activities vary greatly from school to school, but are based in a well-integrated curriculum. Chapter activities and FFA programs concentrate on three areas of our mission: premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

FFA is celebrating 75 years of achieving student success. For 75 years, our ability to develop the social, practical and academic strengths of youth has made FFA a model for educational programs worldwide. Beginning in October at our 75th National FFA Convention, we will be celebrating this incredible impact with the millions of individuals FFA has changed forever. As we anticipate the next 75 years and beyond, we recognize that it is the magic of FFA programs, the professional skill of our educators, the lasting devotion of our sponsors and the undeniable support of countless



communities that has enabled so many young people to realize the best of all that life has to offer.

## WHO BELONGS TO FFA?

FFA members can be found in every kind of community, from downtown Chicago and New York City to Throckmorton, Texas. Any student in grades 7-12 who is enrolled in an agriculture course at a public school may join FFA. More than 70 percent of our members are from rural non-farm, urban and suburban areas, with the remaining 30 percent coming from farming communities.



## WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR A MEMBER OF FFA?

FFA members can look forward to unlimited success in life. FFA students are future chemists, veterinarians, government officials, entrepreneurs, international business leaders, teachers and premier professionals in numerous other careers. The personal growth, leadership, and career success skills developed through FFA serve a student well throughout life, regardless of the individual career path.

## HOW IS FFA FUNDED?

FFA programs are funded through private donations and sponsorships at the local, state and national level. The National FFA Foundation, a separately registered non-profit organization, works with business and industry, organizations and individuals to raise funds to recognize FFA achievements and support activities. National dues for each FFA member are only five dollars a year.

## WHERE IS FFA LOCATED?

The National FFA Organization business operations and National FFA Foundation are located at the National FFA Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. Headquarters operations for the National FFA Organization are located in Alexandria, Virginia. More than 7,000 FFA chapters exist in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

## 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.

