



NATIONAL  
FFA ORGANIZATION

## Introduction to the Congressional Charter of the National FFA Organization

In 1950, the 81<sup>st</sup> Congress of the United States, recognizing the importance of FFA as an integral part of the program of vocational agriculture, granted a federal charter to FFA. Congressional supporters believed a charter would give legal stability to the organization, protect the name and emblem and clarify the relationship between FFA and the Office of Education.

Over the years, the federal charter has served to publicly tie FFA and school-based agricultural education to the national priority of maintaining a safe and abundant food supply while protecting our natural resources. The role of education in securing a skilled, sustainable workforce in agriculture is underscored through the leadership provided by the U.S. Department of Education on the National FFA Board of Directors. The charter also provided federal authority to create an interagency working agreement between the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Agriculture focused on strengthening FFA and school-based agricultural education.

Today, the federal charter clarifies the purposes of the organization and ensures the “student voice” is incorporated into the organization’s administration through the leadership provided by FFA members on the national level; supports the engagement of business and industry; and promotes the development of productive citizens. It provides the foundation that makes FFA an integral part of the 3-Component Model of School-Based Agricultural Education.

In 1998, the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States reviewed and passed technical amendments. These revisions are now expressed in the organization’s current charter known as Public Law 105-225 (formerly Public Law 81-740).