



NATIONAL
FFA ORGANIZATION

Future Farmers of America. This followed an act of Congress that prohibited segregation in public schools. Four years later, delegates at the 1969 National FFA Convention voted to allow women to be members of FFA.

In 1976, Alaska became the 50th state to obtain a state charter. A membership high was recorded in 1977, with 509,735 members in 8,148 chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

By the 1980s, the Future Farmers of America had become more than an organization for rural farm students. In 1988, the delegates at the 61st National FFA Convention voted to change the organization's official name from Future Farmers of America to the National FFA Organization. This change was made to recognize that FFA is not only for those interested in farming, but it is also for those with more diverse interests in the industry of agriculture, encompassing science, business and technology in addition to production farming.

The late 1990s marked a period of location changes for the National FFA Organization. The National FFA Center was moved from Alexandria, Va., to Indianapolis, Ind., where a new building was dedicated on July 20, 1998. And after 70 years in the same city, the national FFA convention was held for the last time in Kansas City, Mo., in 1998. The 72nd National FFA Convention in 1999 moved to Louisville, Ky., where it remained for seven years; in 2006, the national FFA convention moved to Indianapolis. Attendance at the national convention and expo reached an all-time high in 2012 when 56,167 FFA members, advisors and supporters came to Indianapolis for the 85th National FFA Convention & Expo. From 2013 - 2016, the convention and expo will take place once again in Louisville and then return to Indianapolis in 2017.

Over the years, FFA has shown the value it places on service to country and community. This was never more evident than in 2005. Following Hurricane Katrina, the National FFA Organization raised more than \$835,000 through their Seeds of Hope campaign to help FFA members, chapters and agricultural education facilities affected by the hurricane.

Today, the National FFA Organization is a premier youth leadership organization with more than 610,000 members in 7,600+ chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. 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.

For more information about the history of the National FFA Organization, visit the website of the National FFA Archives at Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI):