



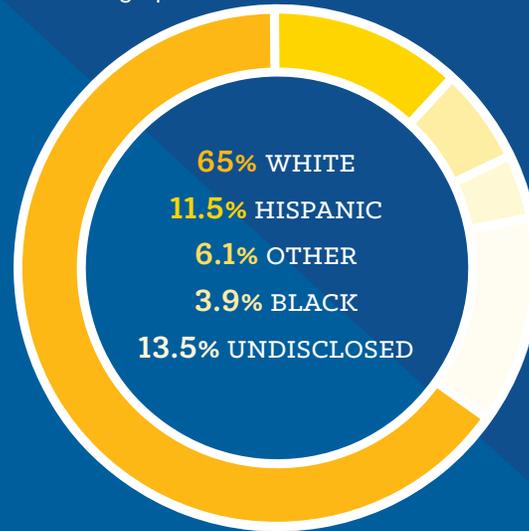
ICAN.WEWILL.

2017 NATIONAL FFA FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

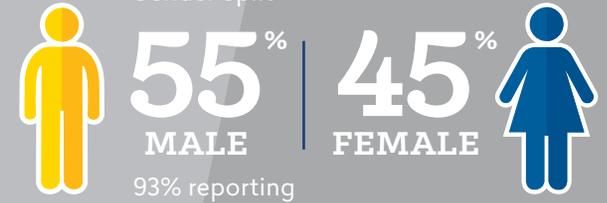
Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue



Race Demographics

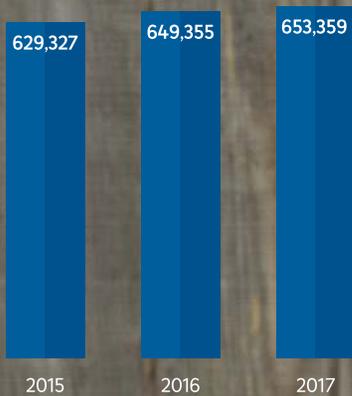


Gender Split

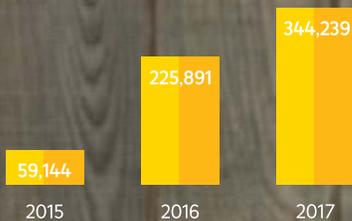


**OURS IS A DIVERSE,
FUTURE-ORIENTED
AND EVER-GROWING
MEMBERSHIP.**

MEMBERSHIP



ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP



DID YOU KNOW?

The majority of U.S. agriculture companies employ FFA Alumni today.



FFA has seen a **31 percent increase** in membership in the past decade, gaining an average of **more than 15,000 members annually.**



**YOUR COMMITMENT
AND GENEROSITY
STRENGTHEN THE
FUTURE AND
PURPOSE OF FFA.**

BECAUSE OF YOUR GIFT...I CAN. WE WILL.

One of my favorite experiences as a state and national FFA officer was getting to meet other officers from across the country. Catching up with a friend of mine in Washington, D.C., a few weeks ago reminded me of just how impactful these life-changing experiences can be—all of which are possible because you gave to the National FFA Foundation.

Because of your gift, many students get opportunities similar to my own, from attending conferences to competing in career and leadership events to earning the American FFA Degree. FFA reminds its members of their abilities, enhances their strengths, and addresses their fears and weaknesses, while also enabling connections with diverse, passionate students from across the state, nation, and world—all in the name of agriculture.

EVERY TIME AN FFA MEMBER RETURNS FROM A CONFERENCE, TAKES PART IN AN FFA PROGRAM, OR USES A TOOL OR RESOURCE DESIGNED TO HELP THEM SUCCEED, THEY HAVE A GREATER BELIEF IN THEMSELVES AND THEIR ABILITIES.”

Every time an FFA member returns from a conference, takes part in an FFA program, or uses a tool or resource designed to help them succeed, they have a greater belief in themselves and their abilities. Because of that, we can collaborate with others to be more impactful than we could alone. Thank you for your support of FFA. Because of your gift, I can grow as an individual, and together, we will build up our communities and achieve career success.



Sincerely,

David Townsend
2016-17 National FFA President

GALT FFA IS GROWING LEADERS.

The National FFA Agricultural Issues Forum Leadership Development Event (LDE) requires students to analyze a controversial local issue in agriculture. Participants research the pros and cons of the issue and present their findings and theories in a series of local/state forums to educate and inform the community. This event helps students develop critical thinking, problem solving and formal communication skills.

Galt FFA analyzed Assembly Bill 1066, which created stricter requirements surrounding overtime for agriculture laborers in California, a controversial bill that sparked anger and a passion-filled debate after it was presented.

But beyond the research and theories they needed to present, Galt FFA had a unique challenge when it came to perfecting public speaking for this competition.

Four of the six members of the 2017 team from Galt High School are native Spanish speakers, who needed to verbally present their findings to the judges panel, making a potential win even more challenging.

“These students worked incredibly hard,” FFA chapter advisor Dane White said. “You have to field so many questions in this competitive contest, and your response has to make sense. For some of these students, they have to work twice as hard to make their responses translate correctly.”

Their hard work and dedication paid off in the end, as the Galt FFA Agricultural Issues Forum LDE team proudly walked away with the national title, the 2017 winning team.

YOU HAVE TO FIELD SO MANY QUESTIONS IN THIS COMPETITIVE CONTEST, AND YOUR RESPONSE HAS TO MAKE SENSE. FOR SOME OF THESE STUDENTS, THEY HAVE TO WORK TWICE AS HARD TO MAKE THEIR RESPONSES TRANSLATE CORRECTLY.”

— Dane White, Galt FFA Advisor

For teams like Galt FFA, overcoming challenges with growth and success might never be possible if financial challenges stand in the way. This is where the dreams of a former LDE judge by the name of Dan Nafziger come in.

**YOUR GENEROUS
GIFTS CREATE
PROGRAMS THAT
NURTURE AND INSPIRE.**



**FFA PROVIDES
EXPERIENCES AND
OPPORTUNITIES
THAT GROW LEADERS.**

A LEGACY LIVES ON.

When Dan Nafziger judged the Agricultural Issues Leadership Development Event at the National FFA Convention & Expo, he knew he was looking at the future of agriculture.

After Nafziger passed away in 2016, the Nafziger family decided to help more students with their futures through the Dan Nafziger Memorial Convention Endowment. This \$200,000 endowment will provide about \$10,000 annually toward scholarships for students to attend national convention based on both merit for students who qualify for the agricultural issues LDE as well as need.

“He could tell those students were changing the world,” his wife, Sandy, says. “If we can help more students get on that stage or go to national convention, he would want that.”

Nafziger wasn’t an FFA member himself, but he saw the impact it had.

“We knew FFA was the place to carry out my husband’s dreams,” Sandy said. “There was nothing he loved more than seeing students pursue agriculture.”

FFA alumni impacted
16,220 FFA members with



\$417,328

toward **leadership development** at the local, state and national levels.



375+

state FFA officers committed as **lifetime alumni** in 2017.

**OUR ALUMNI
PAY IT FORWARD
BY INVESTING THEIR
TIME AND MONEY
IN TODAY'S FFA.**



123,557

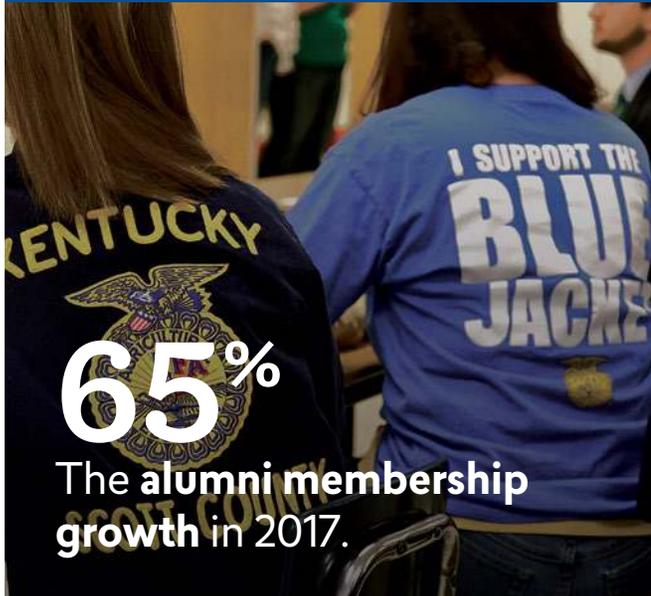
The number of service hours donated by just 261 of the alumni chapters in 2017 for an economic impact of \$5.3 million.



There are **2,051**
FFA alumni chapters in



**EVERY STATE,
PUERTO RICO
AND THE U.S.
VIRGIN ISLANDS.**



65%

The alumni membership growth in 2017.

Chapter Location

55%

19%

12%

5%

RURAL

TOWN

SUBURB

CITY

9% unknown

**THE HEART OF FFA
CAN BE FOUND IN
EVERY MEMBER,
EVERY CHAPTER.**



212,829

students are impacted at the local level through participation in the National Chapter Award program.

And it's not just alumni. You'll find student chapters in

*based on major metropolitan areas

ALL 50 STATES,

Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands and in

24 of the 25

largest U.S. cities.*



76

The average number of FFA members per chapter.



84%

of chapters are in publicly funded schools.

71%

of chapters are high school chapters.



FFA MEMBERS LIVE TO SERVE BY BUILDING COMMUNITIES.

In 2017, many FFA members learned that some of life's greatest lessons can come from tragedy.

When the grass wildfires in March 2017 ravaged rural farm areas in several states across the Great Plains, FFA chapters across the country shucked off their blue jackets for work clothes to help. Chaparral FFA in Kansas and Leedey FFA in Oklahoma were just two of the 20 FFA chapters that jumped in to help.

Fifteen members and advisors from Chaparral FFA in Kansas volunteered to help a rancher in Ashland whom they had never met. "It feels good just being able to help these people," said junior Ryan Rucker. "They've lost a lot, so it's nice to be able to help." The chapter spent the day picking up the remains of a destroyed barn and tearing down and repairing burned fence lines.

IT FEELS GOOD JUST BEING ABLE TO HELP THESE PEOPLE. THEY'VE LOST A LOT, SO IT'S NICE TO BE ABLE TO HELP."

— Ryan Rucker, Chaparral FFA Junior

Members of Leedey FFA in Oklahoma drove more than 100 miles to Sitka, Kan., to deliver a load of fencing materials donated by their community. Over the next two days, the chapter tore out and hauled away more than 2 miles of destroyed fencing.

These are just a few examples of how FFA members and chapters embrace the idea of giving back to our communities by living out the final line of the FFA motto: Living to Serve.

Yet, there is more to this story. How did they do it?

**YOUR GENEROUS
GIFTS EMPOWER FFA
TO REACH OUT
AND HELP OTHERS.**



**FFA MEMBERS
WORK TO IMPROVE,
FURTHER AND HELP
BUILD COMMUNITIES.**

RED BRAND AND FFA BRIDGE GAPS AND MEND FENCES.

In 2016, FFA corporate sponsor Keystone Steel and Wire—Red Brand launched a relief effort to help those affected by the wildfires in Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas.

The Wildfire Relief Program helps individuals affected by wildfires tear down or rebuild damaged fencing.

FFA members donate their time and labor to complete the projects and in exchange, Red Brand donates \$500 to the chapter.

“It’s a win-win for everyone,” said Trey Tennell, marketing category manager at Red Brand. “We told FFA chapters to go find a neighbor in need, and they responded in huge ways.”

More than 20 chapters have contributed so far, including Chaparral FFA and Leedey FFA.

“Some people don’t know where to begin,” Tennell said. “When we tell them 30 FFA members are coming to help, they’re at a loss for words.”



FFA state officers return from an educational, cultural experience in South Africa.

FFA member leaders share the message of agriculture on Capitol Hill.



Cargill hosts its first Virtual Field Trip on AgExplorer.com.

FFA members participate in a virtual Town Hall with U.S. Secretary Sonny Perdue.

FFA award winners tour Ireland and gain perspective on global agriculture.

Washington Leadership Conference instills the importance of growth, leadership and community service in thousands of FFA members throughout the country.

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

FFA celebrates Career and Technical Education Month in collaboration with the Association for Career and Technical Education.

More than 9,380 FFA members in 140 chapters volunteer 30,000 service hours during National FFA Week, for a total economic impact of \$702,000.

Tractor Supply Company, sponsor of National FFA Week, donates a record \$731,000 to the National FFA Foundation through its Grants for Growing program.

Thanks to the generosity of 275 donors, the foundation raises \$110,000 on Give FFA Day.



National FFA awards more than \$2.7 million in scholarships to more than 1,800 recipients, thanks to the generosity of donors and sponsors.

National FFA Central Region Vice President Valerie Earley represents FFA members nationwide on a Farmer Roundtable at the White House.





National FFA receives the deed to 400 acres in Texas from a gift of land.

JUL

AUG

SEPT

OCT

NOV

DEC

Fifty FFA members committed to pursuing a career in production agriculture participate in the intensive seminar New Century Farmer in Johnstown, Iowa.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and National FFA sign a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on short- and long-term agriculture initiatives.

American Farm Bureau Federation and National FFA sign a Memorandum of Understanding to grow leaders, build communities and strengthen agriculture.



FFA chapters from 42 communities in 26 states receive up to \$1,200 from the Living to Serve: Environmental and Emergency Preparedness Grant Program, funded by CSX.

CHS Foundation announces a \$3.8 million commitment to National FFA, growing its support to a platinum sponsorship level.

BRANDT adorns its No. 7 ag car, driven by Justin Allgaier, with the FFA and 4-H emblems at Chicagoland Speedway to celebrate the future of agriculture.

National FFA announces a record-high student membership of 653,359 FFA members in 8,568 chapters.

FFA Alumni membership jumps to 344,239 members in 2,051 chapters.

More than 67,000 converge on Indianapolis for the 90th National FFA Convention & Expo.

National FFA selects 2017-18 national officer team.



YOUR GIFT IS AN INVESTMENT

BECAUSE OF YOU, I CAN.

“Thank you for your support of the National FFA Organization. I’ve been able to discover who I am and my purpose through my FFA experience. FFA opens doors to so many endless opportunities and again, I would like to thank you for being a part of my success.”

— Christle Tindall, South Carolina FFA Association

“On behalf of the Tennessee FFA Association, I thank you for your support of the National FFA Organization. As a student who started with a limited agricultural background, this organization has opened my eyes to the world of possibilities in agriculture and given me so many incredible opportunities to develop myself as a leader. Your support of our organization ensures that over 600,000 FFA members have similar opportunities, no matter their background.”

— Julia Knaggs, Tennessee FFA Association

With your support, National FFA operates on a balanced budget. Supporters like you make up most of our operating revenue.

\$25,245,710

**TOTAL NET
ASSETS**

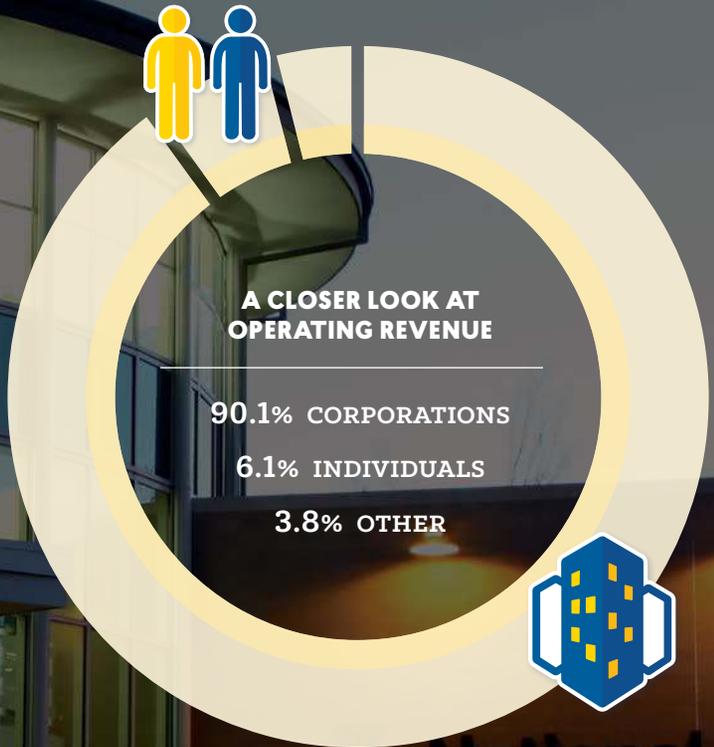
\$22,394,720

**OPERATING
REVENUE**

\$19,217,516

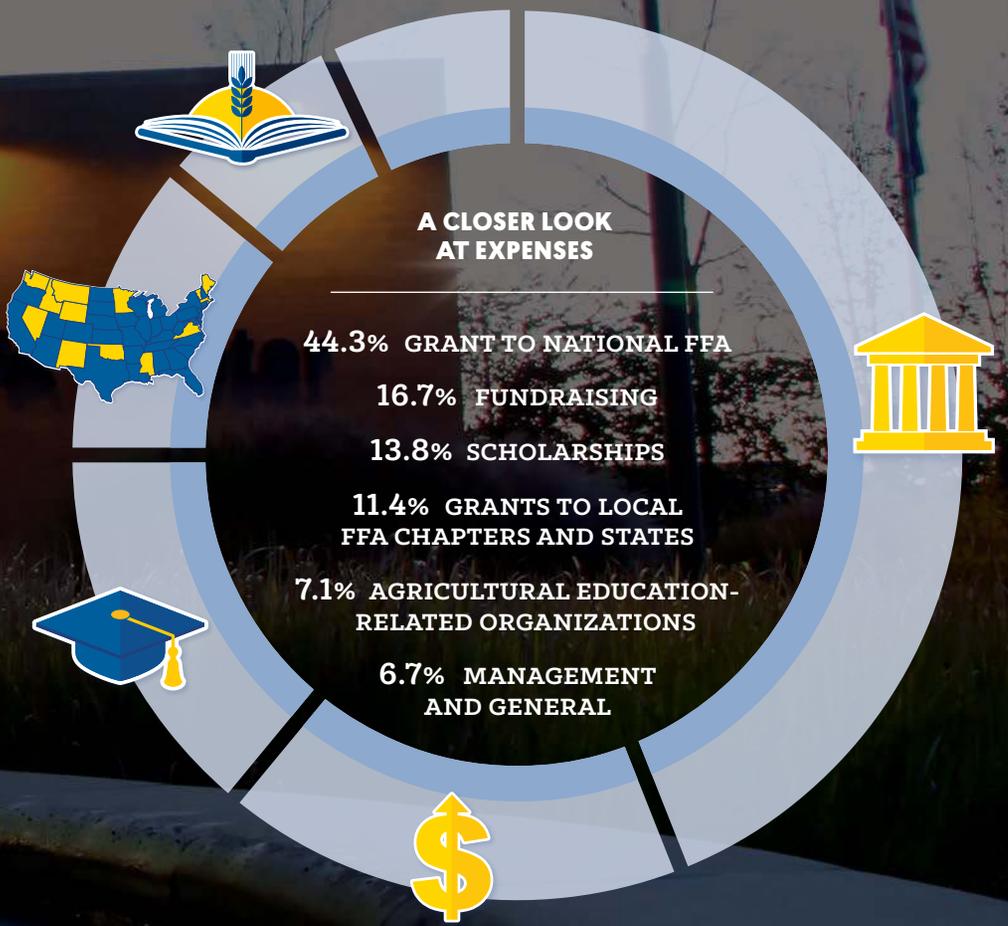
EXPENSES

Audited financial statements for 2017 are available by writing to:
National FFA Foundation, 6060 FFA Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46268



Nearly three-quarters of the revenue we bring in goes directly to program support. That's **over \$14 million straight to grants, scholarships and agricultural education-related organizations.**

Because of your gift, National FFA continues to make an impact on the nation—communities and individuals around the country through **more than 8,500 chapters in countless towns and cities.**





GIVE THE GIFT OF BLUE.

For 85 years, the iconic blue corduroy jacket has been the continuous thread woven through a fabric of generations, from the young farmer living in the rolling hills of Nebraska to the rooftop gardener high above New York City.

But for many reasons, not everyone can afford a jacket. The Give the [Gift of Blue](#) program is changing that.

Since 2014, more than 5,000 blue jackets were gifted through the Give the Gift of Blue program, giving members the chance to be part of the tradition and securing a bright future in agriculture. More than 400 individual and corporate donations have been received to date. Don and Mira Ball's donation created an endowment to the National FFA Foundation for the program.

In 2018, National FFA is committed to providing 2,000 additional jackets.

**YOUR GENEROUS
GIFTS REPRESENT
YOUR SUPPORT
FOR AGRICULTURE.**

FFA STRENGTHENS AGRICULTURE THROUGH EDUCATION AND UNDERSTANDING.

WITH A JACKET, I CAN...

FFA members who apply or FFA advisors who nominate members for a jacket through the Gift of Blue program are asked to share what the jacket means to them. Below are some of their responses.

Own the confidence to open doors

Joshua comes from a low-income part of the county in his state. Like many students at this school, his family struggles to get by and cannot afford to pay for a jacket. Whenever we go on field trips, the only way he can go is to receive a sponsorship from community members who help to pay his way. This program is the only way Joshua will be able to get an FFA jacket, which means a lot to him. Joshua has gone from being someone who at first wasn't very interested in being an outgoing leader among our members to rarely missing an event. Joshua has participated in numerous chapter events throughout the year and plans on running for a chapter office this spring.

THIS JACKET REPRESENTS GENERATIONS OF SUCCESSFUL AND HARDWORKING AGRICULTURISTS.”

Represent the success and hard work in agriculture

The FFA jacket represents strength and integrity. Wearing my jacket means that I am not only representing the leader that I am becoming but a strong, hardworking, intelligent leader who is privileged enough to take part in an amazing experience with the agricultural community. This jacket represents generations of successful and hardworking agriculturists. I want my jacket so that I can be a bigger part of representing all of the hard work and joy agriculture brings to this world. I want to wear my own FFA jacket, with my name on it to represent my agricultural experience, my community, and our nation.

Don a symbol of the pride I feel in my accomplishments

When I need to wear [a jacket], I borrow one from my chapter or from a friend who has graduated already. Having my own jacket for myself would mean a lot to me because it will help show my accomplishments in FFA. When I put on the blue jacket, it makes me feel proud for what I have accomplished in agricultural education and in my FFA chapter. Every time I wear the jacket, it makes me want to strive even farther to better myself for a future career in agriculture. If I would have a jacket of my own, it will be that extra sense of pride to put into my work in FFA and my plans in agriculture. I have a desire to study agricultural science for forestry at Southern Illinois University. I take great pride in my education and having a jacket of my own will help me feel like I have something to show for the hard work I have put into my chapter and education.

DID YOU KNOW?

Through the **Gift of Blue** program, an **average of 1,250 blue jackets** have been provided annually over the last four years to those in need.



750,000+

The number of subscribers who receive **FFA New Horizons** each issue.

**YOUR GIFTS
MAKE AN IMPACT
ON FFA MEMBERS
AND CHAPTERS.**



\$20

Invests in **teacher and classroom resource packets** for FFA chapters.

\$20



\$120

Invests in one **chapter subscription** to **FFA New Horizons** magazine for one year.

\$120

\$80

Invests in one **official FFA blue corduroy jacket** for a member who cannot afford their own.

\$80



2,540+

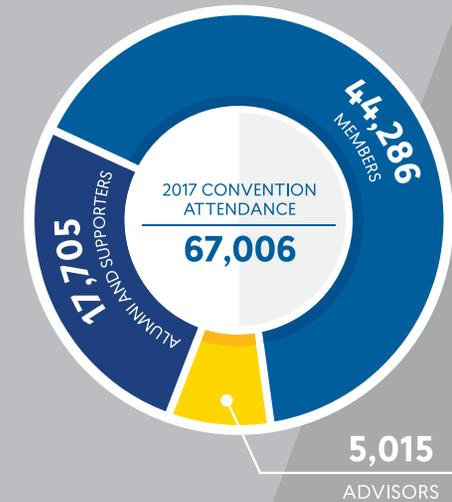
FFA members attended WLC in 2017.

**YOUR GIFTS
MAKE AN IMPACT
ON OUR COUNTRY
AND OUR WORLD.**

2,000+

FFA members devoted **6,000** hours during **National Days of Service** in 2017.

2017 National FFA Convention & Expo Attendance



\$250

Invests in sending one FFA member to **Washington Leadership Conference (WLC)**.



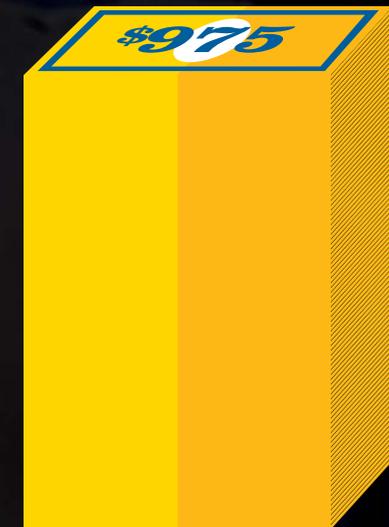
\$500

Invests in a **Day of Service Mini-Grant** for an FFA chapter.



\$975

Invests in sending one FFA member to **National FFA Convention & Expo**.



BECAUSE OF YOU, I CAN.

“FFA has helped in shaping me into the leader, agriculturist and person I am today—someone I never dreamed of being. I am thankful for every opportunity and experience I have been given. I know that our future is bright with the knowledge and skills FFA has provided FFA members across the nation!”

— Renée Stillwell, New Jersey FFA Association

“I am so thankful for your support of our amazing organization. Over the past four years, this program has turned me into the leader I have always wanted to be. This organization changes lives, and you are a major part of that! Thank you so much.”

— Craig Sickmen, Texas FFA Association

BECAUSE OF YOU, WE WILL BE THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE.

Thank you for believing in the future of agriculture—our future. Your generosity helps support and sustain FFA at the local, state and national levels. Charitable donations to the National FFA Foundation enable scholarships for individual students and grants for FFA chapters, programs to recognize member achievements and develop young leaders, and resources for educators and learning opportunities to advance the future of agricultural education. **For a listing of all our corporate sponsors and individual donors, please visit [FFA.org/2017HonorRoll](https://www.ffa.org/2017HonorRoll).**



**THANK YOU
IS JUST THE
BEGINNING**

FOR A LIST OF OUR EXTRAORDINARY DONORS AND SPONSORS, VISIT FFA.ORG/2017HONORROLL

PRESIDENTS CIRCLE DONORS DONATE \$50,000+ ANNUALLY.

C. DEAN AND SANDRA CARLSON
THOMAS AND PAULA DILLE
EDYTHE MARSHALL
PAUL AND VALERIE MULHOLLEM
CRAVENS FOUNDATION

THE NAFZIGER FAMILY
ROBERT AND PAULINE WELLS
HERMAN AND BOBBIE WILSON

**AGRICULTURE IS OUR WISEST
PURSUIT, BECAUSE IT WILL IN
THE END CONTRIBUTE MOST
TO REAL WEALTH, GOOD
MORALS AND HAPPINESS.”**

— Thomas Jefferson

PLATINUM SPONSORS DONATE \$1,000,000+ ANNUALLY.



**FFA IS ONLY POSSIBLE WITH
THE HELP AND SUPPORT OF
OUR DONORS AND SPONSORS.
FOR A COMPLETE LIST, VISIT
FFA.ORG/2017HONORROLL.**

*The printing of this annual report has been graciously donated by One Point.
www.startatonepoint.com*

FFA VISION

Students whose lives are impacted by FFA and agricultural education will achieve academic and personal growth, strengthen American agriculture and provide leadership to build healthy local communities, a strong nation and a sustainable world.

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.

THE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION MISSION

Agricultural education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems.

The National FFA Organization is a resource and support organization that does not select, control, or supervise state association, local chapter or individual member activities. Educational materials are developed by FFA in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies.

The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of all human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer.

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