



## THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

### Using Agricultural Education to Create Real-World Success



Founded in 1928, the National FFA organization represents the relevancy to the core areas offering students opportunities that changes lives and prepares students for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. Founded in 1928, the FFA organization represents a large diversity of over 300 careers in the food, fiber and natural resources industry. The organization changed its name in 1988 to the National FFA Organization to reflect the expanding career field of agriculture.

Today, the National FFA organization's mission is to offer an array of programs that make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. To accomplish this mission, the organization continually works to expand the nation's view of "traditional" agriculture and seeks to find new ways to infuse agriculture into the classroom.

#### National Importance

In 1950, the 81st Congress of the United States, recognizing the importance of the FFA as an integral part of the program of vocational agriculture, granted a Federal Charter to the FFA. In 1998, the 105th Congress of the United States reviewed and passed technical amendments.

### Three-pronged Approach to Agricultural Education

Kansas FFA is an integral part of a diverse, yet coordinated approach to agricultural education. Components include classroom instruction, supervised agricultural experience and FFA.

#### Critical Juncture

In a world of growing shortages of fossil fuel and the expanding role of agriculture in fueling our economy, the FFA's mission of expanding agricultural education and innovation is especially critical. Instructors are encouraged to integrate FFA into their curriculum and classrooms.

#### Accomplishing the Mission

In Kansas, the mission of the FFA is accomplished by:

- Encouraging excellence in academics and promoting citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism
- Increasing the awareness and importance of agriculture and its contribution to our individual and national well-being
- Encouraging achievement in supervised agricultural experiences
- Promoting the intelligent choice of agricultural careers
- Encouraging wise management of economic, environmental and human resources

- Developing interpersonal skills in teamwork, communications, human relations and social interaction
- Strengthening the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work

#### Learn by Doing

Under the guidance of agricultural educators who serve as chapter advisors, Kansas FFA members participate and learn advanced career skills in more than 45 proficiency areas ranging from food science and technology to agricultural communications to wildlife management to production agriculture.

By participating in career development events, Kansas FFA members can gain and extend their industry knowledge.

#### Membership

Since 1928, millions of agriculture students have donned the official FFA jacket and championed the FFA creed. FFA has opened its doors and its arms to minorities and women, ensuring that all students could reap the benefits of agricultural education.

FFA's membership has grown to over 500,000 students in over 7,300 chapters across the nation in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Geographically, 27% of FFA members live in rural farm areas, while 39% live in rural non-farm areas and 34% live in urban and suburban areas.

Members are affiliated with Kansas FFA through local FFA chapters at schools they attend. Currently, Kansas FFA has approximately 7,200 high school members. In addition, we have multiple collegiate and alumni members across the state.

#### Financial Benefits

Kansas FFA offers \$20,000 in scholarships annually for high school seniors and post secondary members. In addition, the National FFA Organization awards more than \$2 million in scholarships to members each year. Scholarships are given for a wide variety of experiences, career goals and higher education plans. Different awards may be used at colleges, universities and post secondary agricultural programs.

If you are interested in finding out more about the National FFA, please visit:

National FFA – [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org)

Kansas FFA Association – [ksffa.org](http://ksffa.org)

FFA members are part of a complete agricultural education program. The three components of the program consist of classroom/laboratory instruction, supervised agricultural experience and the FFA. These three essential components work together to ensure that FFA members receive the personal, academic and career experiences necessary for success.

#### Career Development Events

All Kansas FFA members are encouraged to participate in local, district, state and national competitive events and recognition programs. Team and individual opportunities include:

- Agriculture Communications
- Agriculture Issues
- Agriculture Mechanics
- Agriculture Sales
- Agronomy
- Creed Speaking
- Dairy Cattle
- Dairy Foods
- Entomology
- Environmental & Natural Resources
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking
- Farm Business Management
- Floriculture
- Food Science & Technology
- Forestry
- Horse Evaluation
- Job Interview
- Livestock Evaluation
- Meats Evaluation & Technology
- Nursery & Landscape
- Parliamentary Procedure
- Poultry Evaluation
- Prepared Public Speaking
- Scrapbook
- Web Site Development