



# **OHIO FFA CENTER ARCHIVE**

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# Founding Years...

Post-World War I America and her people were ready for progress in the late teens. The war effort had been as intense on the home front as on the front lines. Every American felt the effects of the battle for freedom, and was ready to work for a better day.

The war effort of World War I created a need for more and better food production, improvement in the building trades and a strengthening of family life. This led to the passage of the Smith-Hughes Act by Congress on February 23, 1917. This act provided for vocational training in public schools in the areas of agriculture, home economics and the building trades.



**Senator Hoke Smith**



**Senator Dudley Hughes**

As the nation's first vocational education legislation, Smith-Hughes recognized and funded vocational agriculture courses in secondary schools. This is the reason SAE is a required, integral element of agricultural education. Section 10 of the Smith-Hughes act reads, "that such schools shall provide for directed or supervised practice in agriculture, either on a farm provided for by the school or other farm, for at least six months per year."

Soon after the establishment of Vocational Agriculture in 1918, it became apparent that youth activities were to become a part of the program. Groups organized under various names, all over the Nation. Some became quite active and were organized at area and state. One group – "Future Farmers of Virginia", was especially well organized and instrumental in organizing FFA on a National basis.

Dean Alford Vivian, Dean of the College of Agriculture at The Ohio State University, was interested in the new program and was instrumental in getting it established in Ohio. He persuaded Wilber F. Stewart of Wisconsin to come to The Ohio State University and implement it as supervisor and teacher-trainer. Dr. Stewart was very effective in setting up a quality program and in 1921 became chairman of the teacher education department. Ray Fife, his assistant, became head state supervisor.

Vocational Agriculture enjoyed great acceptance from schools and communities from the very beginning. The new educational concept of “Learning by Doing” was practical and effective. The teachers’ interest and participation in the activities of the community were appreciated. The “Ag Room” soon became a popular place in the community and the program grew.

**Ohio was an early innovator. By January 1, 1918, 19 Ohio communities had incorporated Vocational Agriculture into their school system.**

The first 19 programs and instructors:

Fayette, L.J. Smith	Berlin, J.M. Whitney
Paulding, H. Atwood	Wooster, H.W. Zercher
Versailles, A.W. Nisonger	Hebrow, F.H. Smith
New Bremen, O.P. Gossard	Worthington, W.W. Montgomery
Bellefontaine, W.T. Ryan	Painesville, A.B. Williams
Harmony Twp., J.R. Allgyer	Medina, A.C. Kennedy
Hillsboro, T.E. Berry	Liverpool Twp., E.W. Budd
Gibsonburg, R.B. Kinkead	Wadsworth, R.B. Simon
Montgomery Twp., G.K. Swaslin	Millersburg, O.D. Henry
Pleasant Twp., E.B. Haws	

In 1922, the first annual Vocational Agricultural Teachers Conference was held. Followed by the founding of the Ohio Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association (OVATA) in 1925 and in 1926 the OVATA Executive Committee was established.

**National Congress for Vocational Agriculture students formed – Momentum grew!**

In 1926 the “National Congress for Vocational Agriculture Students” was established with its primary purpose being the operation of judging contests on a national level. These judging events were very popular then, as they are today.

First judging events in Ohio...  
early records of judging contests are limited and often contradicting. While there are reports of local and even state level events as early as 1920, actual records indicate the first official state judging contest was held in 1924 at the Experiment Station in Wooster. The second contest in 1925 was also held at Wooster and the third event in 1926 was moved to the State Fairgrounds in Columbus. Livestock and Meats judging became popular and competition created interest.

## Kansas City Welcomes FFA ...A New Agricultural Youth Organization is founded!

Considerable thought preceded the founding meeting. Preliminary discussions began a year earlier and a sample constitution, purposes and other items were developed and distributed to the states for study. All founding sessions were held at the third National Congress for Vocational Agriculture Students in the Baltimore Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri in November, 1928.



Left: Founding location memorial located on original site of Baltimore Hotel.

Right: Authentic photograph of judging banquet where announcement was made to dissolve the “National Congress of Students of Vocational Agriculture” and begin the new and broader FFA Organization.

### Early Leader...

Lawrence Augenstein of Ashley, Ohio was one of the strong leaders in developing the National FFA Organization. He received the first American Degree pin ever presented, was Vice President on the first National FFA Officer team (1928-1929) and did much of the early development of the new FFA Organization.

**“On Tuesday, November 20, 1928, at 2:00 p.m. the 33 delegates from 21 states met as a body and the Future Farmers of America was for real. Motions for adopting the name, emblem, Constitution and By-Laws were presented and approved.”**

***~Lawrence Augenstein, Ohio Delegate to the Founding Meeting***

### FFA Ignited Vocational Agriculture...

The founding of the FFA organization has had a profound effect of the Vocational Agriculture program in Ohio. In addition to supplementing the educational process, FFA has added motivation, pride, leadership and personal development to the total program. Many thanks are due to the founding leaders whose early vision resulted in the FFA program we enjoy today.

## The Founding of FFA in Ohio – February 7-8, 1929

The official organizational meeting was held February 7-8, 1929 in University Hall at The Ohio State University. It was a two-day meeting with 80 delegates from 52 Ohio Departments of Vocational Agriculture in attendance. Ralph Howard was temporary chairman. Reports on the National Organization were given by Lawrence Augenstein, R.B. Warner and Robert Shaw. Considerable discussion followed. Clair Swan of Wayne County, moved to adopt a proposed constitution and Warren Davis of Butler County, seconded. The motion passed and FFA was established in Ohio.



Founding place of the Ohio FFA Association  
University Hall, The Ohio State University  
February 7-8, 1929

Ohio – the 14<sup>th</sup> state to charter with the National FFA Organization – Charter Date, April 20, 1929

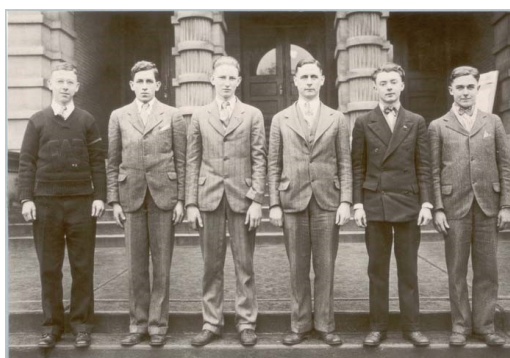
Ohio's First Chartered Chapters:

Ashley, Delaware County	Monroe Twp., Richland County
Atwater Twp., Portage County	Mt. Vernon, Knox County
Bloom Twp., Seneca County	Paulding, Paulding County
Caldwell, Noble County	Prospect, Marion County
Freeport, Harrison County	Savannah, Richland County
Holgate, Henry County	Sunbury, Delaware County
Huntsburg, Lake County	Union Twp., Butler County
Jackson Twp., Franklin County	Washington Twp., Hancock County
Jackson Twp., Seneca County	Wesley Twp., Washington County
Lemon Twp., Butler County	Worthington, Franklin County
Madison Twp., Lake County	York Twp., Van Wert County
Marietta, Washington County	

The first State FFA Convention was held on May 30-31, 1929, less than four months after the founding meeting. It was felt that the many matters associated with the establishment of a new organization made such a meeting necessary and also the month of May was thought to be the ideal time for a year-end convention. This convention established that pattern.

### **1<sup>st</sup> State FFA Convention Highlights – May 30-31, 1929**

- 1<sup>st</sup> State President Lawrence Augenstein presided
- Roll call of chapters and seating of delegates
- Minutes of Founding Meeting were read and approved
- Treasurer's report given
- By-Laws adopted
- Dues increased from \$.20 cents to \$.30 cents per member
- State Degrees presented and approved
- State Officers for 1<sup>st</sup> full year (1929-1930) elected
- First Honorary Members elected



First State FFA Officer Team

The acceptance of the new FFA organization in 1929 resulted in students wanting to identify with FFA in a positive way. One such identification was the development and usage of an official FFA uniform. It was approved in 1929 and was in use soon thereafter. Note: With the development of the FFA Jacket in 1933, the complete uniform was phased out in favor of the popular Blue and Gold Jacket.

By the end of the 1920's the three integrated components of vocational agricultural education came together; formal in-school instruction, supervised agricultural experience and the Future Farmers of America.

### **State Leadership**

State Advisor – Ray Fife, 1929-1936

First State FFA Executive Secretary (1929-1936) and First State FFA Advisor (1936-1950) – Ralph A. Howard

Early Skills Contest Coordinator – Hershel Nisonger

Early Skills Contest Coordinator – Harold Kenestrick

Early Skills Contest Coordinator – Chester Hutchison



# 1930's

Solid Growth in the 1930's...

The late 20's and early 30's were difficult times for the nation due to the great depression. However, Vocational Agriculture flourished due to its vital role in making agriculture more productive and efficient. Enrollment increased by nearly 1,000 students each year. The high school and adult programs grew in size and scope and FFA, now sitting on a solid foundation established in its founding days, made remarkable growth.

Developing skills in mechanics was an important part of the training program. The "farm shop" class was very beneficial and a popular part of the Vocational Agriculture program.

**"I was fortunate to be a part of Vocational Agriculture in the 30's and 40's and remember it well as being a time of steady growth and development, even during the depression years. Agriculture was especially important in those years, and Vocational Agriculture served an important need. 'Food will win the war and write the peace'- was a slogan frequently heard during World War II. The Vocational procedure of teaching new and better farming methods in the classroom and then implementing them on the farm, proved to be an effective procedure and made a vital contribution to the development of sound Agriculture in Ohio."**

**~Warren G. Weiler, State FFA Executive Secretary, 1937-1950**

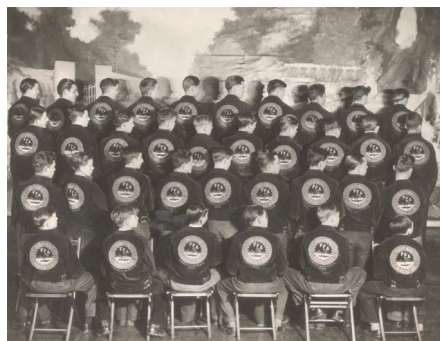
Rural America at the time was in need of strong leadership as it weathered the Depression years. A characteristic of strong leadership is the ability to communicate. As a result the Ohio FFA Association started the first State Public Speaking Contest.



One of the very first FFA Manuals  
Printed April 1930 by the Farm Journal Magazine.

## **It's Official...the First FFA Jackets, 1933**

### **Fredericktown, Ohio FFA Chapter**



This is the first group of FFA jackets, modeled by Fredericktown FFA members prior to their departure for Kansas City.

### **The 1930's Timeline**

- 1930-Ralph Bender, elected to National FFA Office (Vice President)
- 1930-First State Public Speaking Contest held
- 1931-First Issue of State FFA Magazine, The Ohio Future Farmer
- 1931-First Parliamentary Procedure Manual written by W.F. Stewart
- 1932-First FFA Float in State Fair parade
- 1932-Fredericktown Band played at Ohio and National FFA Conventions
- 1932-First Ohio FFA News published
- 1933-National FFA Chapter contest started
- 1933-Bobby Jones, Radnor, elected to National FFA Office (President)
- 1934-Original State FFA Constitution revised for first time
- 1935-Reporters Contest started
- 1935-Ohio FFA Chorus organized
- 1935-New Farmers of America is founded in Tuskegee, Alabama for African-American students
- 1936-First mention of a State FFA Camp, Earl Blayney
- 1936-Stanley Tschantz, Dalton, elected to National FFA Office (Vice President)
- 1937-First U.S. Regional Public Speaking winner, Virgil Harrison
- 1937-First U.S. Regional Star Farmer from Ohio, William Stiers
- 1937-Meats contest started
- 1938-William Stiers, Alexandria, elected to National FFA Office (Vice President)
- 1938-State officers stated chapter visits
- 1938-District Officers training started
- 1939-State Chapter Contest started
- 1939-Charles Mehaffey, elected Regional Star Farmer

### **New State Leadership**

- State FFA Executive Secretary – Warren G. Weiler, 1936-1950
- Skills Contest Coordinator – E.O. Bolender, 1938-1962

# 1940's

On the home front, every man, woman and child joined an intense war effort in support of their loved ones overseas. Gas rationing, tire shortages, war bonds, victory gardens and blood drives were the talk of the day. FFA members joined the effort of serving their communities by holding scrap metal drives, helping with victory gardens, canceling activities to save gas, and buying enough war bonds to purchase a bomber, which was christened "The Ohio Future Farmer".

FFA activities were continued in the war years in a determined but restricted basis. Travel was especially reduced.

Although progress was sometimes difficult, Vocational Agriculture and FFA experienced continued growth during WW II. The post-war period was a time of increased activity with larger enrollments and program expansion. FFA developed at an unprecedented rate.

First State FFA Camp approved...

Momentum for a state-wide FFA camp built throughout the late 30's and early 40's, until on October 4, 1941, an Ohio FFA camping program was established. The site was the grounds of the Muskingum Conservation District on Leesville Lake in Carroll County



Early images of FFA Camp Muskingum

**In 1943, Camp Muskingum was secured. Greatly improved facilities became available in 1943 when the National Youth Administration (NYA) Camp became available from the Federal Government. Through the efforts of businessmen Bryce Browning, Trent Sickles and others, FFA secured a continuing lease for the excellent facilities and FFA camping became "first class" in Ohio.**

Ohio FFA members engaged in the International Foreign Youth Exchange (IFYE) program sponsored by the National FFA Organization.

In 1940, the State Parliamentary Procedure contest was started. Even at this time, parliamentary procedure was considered to be a valuable tool that helped assure that business meetings were effective, yet gave consideration to everyone's opinions.

Although adult education was provided since the founding of vocational agriculture in 1918, the first known educational class, provided especially for young farmers, was held at Grove City High School in 1938. Evening educational classes for young farmers grew and additional activities developed in the late 1930's and early 1940's. In 1948, momentum had built to the point that a statewide Young Farmers Meeting/Conference was held. That first conference was a two-day meeting, held February 6-7, 1948, in Ives Hall on The Ohio State University campus. This conference is recognized as the official founding of the Ohio Young Farmer Association.



Supervised Occupational Experience Programs were strong in the 40's

#### **Vocational Agriculture/FFA Statistics-1940's**

242 Schools

8,769 Students

212 Adult Classes

8,433 Adults enrolled

#### **New State Leadership**

Ohio Young Farmers Association Executive Secretary – Floyd J. Ruble, 1948-1961

### **1940's Timeline**

- 1940-Dresden won the National Livestock Judging Contest (Ohio's 1<sup>st</sup> winner)
- 1940-Parliamentary Procedure contest started on state level
- 1940-State Chapter Contest started
- 1941-State Officer Jackets authorized
- 1941-"Executive Committee Members" became known as "Sectional Vice-Presidents" on the State Officer team
- 1941-Parents invited to State Convention for first time
- 1942-Carl Fought, Fremont, elected to National FFA Office (Vice President)
- 1942-Chapters were assessed a pro-rated camp fee
- 1942-Ralph Bender became first teacher to receive Honorary State FFA Degree
- 1942-First FFA Camp was held starting August 2, 1942 at the old camp site
- 1943-Kroger and Firestone started strong FFA support
- 1943-Current FFA Camp facilities were secured
- 1944-First Camp sessions held in current facility
- 1944-FFA started affiliation with Farm and Home Safety Council
- 1944-State FFA Convention cancelled due to war effort
- 1945-Gorden Eichorn, Marion Pleasant, became Ohio's first Farmer of America
- 1945-Memorial Services Held: 14,000 former FFAers served in Armed Services  
(324 killed, 542 missing in action, 1,770 injured)
- 1946-State FFA Safety Contest was initiated
- 1946-FFA Dues were raised to \$.50 cents from \$.35 cents
- 1946-Phil Shoher elected to National FFA Office (Secretary)
- 1947-Ohio's Corn Picker Safety Campaign earned National attention
- 1947-TAES sponsored Public Speaking awards
- 1947-First Exchange Student for Ohio, Bill Edge, England
- 1948-First State Officer Reunion was held
- 1948-Fair booth exhibits started at State Fair
- 1948-First FFA Week was held
- 1948-The Ohio Young Farmer Association was founded
- 1949-FFA Dues were raised to \$.75 cents
- 1949-Glenn Lackey, Berlin Delaware Co., elected to National FFA Office (Vice President)

# 1950's

Many activities were held in honor of FFA's Silver Anniversary. Governor Frank J. Lausche presented an official proclamation. Other youth organizations, adult organizations, press and radio saluted "FFA at 25". Local chapters conducted numerous activities and state convention featured the anniversary.

The notoriety afforded to FFA in recognition of its Silver Anniversary helped propel the program to new heights. Student interest was strong and their good work paid off in many successes. The 50's were good years for FFA in Ohio.

## Official FFA Stamp...

Recognition of FFA as one of the Nation's major youth organizations was indicated when the U.S. Postal Service issued a commemorative postage stamp in honor of FFA's Silver Anniversary. The announcement of this honor was done with much fanfare and afforded considerable visibility, prestige and impetus to the FFA program.

## FFA on the grow...

Good Students emerge

Chapter-wide activities develop

Early FFA Conventions held in men's gym at OSU

Lighter Moments – Tri-State Leadership Conference, Detroit



Ohio FFA members active on National Level (Dallas High-4<sup>th</sup> from left, John Foltz, 3<sup>rd</sup> from right)

## Quality Revealed...

The quality of the Vocational Agriculture program became obvious, as more and more Ohio FFAers were successful in U.S. Regional and National Award competition. Good work paid off in many successes.

The Ohio FFA sponsored its first international project of its own in support of the Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP). The first project was sending Jersey heifers to Lebanon to help increase available food in

The Ohio FFA Foundation formed in 1957. Since 1957, the Ohio FFA Foundation has existed as a positive venue for education, business, industry and motivated individuals to support and inspire FFA members through continued funding of FFA programs, scholarships and other incentives. During that first year of existence, the Foundation raised \$3,737 from 101 contributors.

### **Vocational Agriculture/FFA Statistics-1950's**

295 Schools

11,485 Students

242 Adult Classes

9,465 Adults enrolled

### **New State Leadership**

State FFA Advisor – Warren G. Weiler, 1950-1967

State FFA Executive Secretary – D. Ray Purkey, 1950-1963

State FFA Foundation Director – D. Ray Purkey, 1957-1958

State FFA Foundation Director – L.B. Fidler, 1958-1962

### **1950's Timeline**

1950-The Ohio FFA Band was started

1951-Dallas High, Ohio City, elected to National FFA Office (Vice President)

1951-Elton Parks, Westerville, won National Farm Mechanics award

1951-Jon Greeneisen, Marysville, became Ohio's First National Speaking winner

1952-Wayne Vogel named Star Farmer, Ohio's second

1953-First State Banquet held at State Convention

1953-Postage Stamp was printed in honor of FFA Silver Anniversary

1953-FFA Silver Anniversary was celebrated

1954-Extemporaneous Speaking was started in Ohio

1954-Dennis O'Keefe, Westerville, became Ohio's second National Speaking winner

1955-Safe Driving Contest held for First Time

1955-Ohio FFA Association started support of CROP/Church World Service

1955-Dale Ring, Wooster, elected to National FFA Office (Vice President)

1956-Archie McNutt, father of seven sons who made State FFA Degree, honored with State Honorary Degree

1957-Lloyd B. Fidler became editor of "The Ohio Future Farmer"

1957-Ohio FFA Foundation was founded

1958-The honor of the First contribution to the Ohio FFA Foundation went to Farmers Merchantile and Elevator Company, Lindsey, Ohio

1958-The Ohio FFA Association received the National FFA Safety Award

1959-First Tour of Ohio by National FFA Officer team

1959-Warren Weiler, Ohio, organized first National FFA Courtesy Corps

# 1960's

## New Legislation – New Programs...

In 1963 the U.S. Congress passed legislation that was to have a major effect on Vocational Agriculture. The new law, PL88-210, commonly known as the Vocational Agriculture Act of 1963, provided for the preparation of students of high school age for careers in off-farm agriculture industries in addition to the well-established program of preparing students for farming. This legislation had far-reaching effects on the Vocational Agriculture Program.

The new instructional programs were strongly directed toward career placement at the vocational level. Employment surveys were made to determine job availability before a program was established and potential employers helped determine course content. Employers, thus, had a source of employees with appropriate training and preparation for employment.

Agricultural Equipment and Mechanics	Environmental Management	Processing
Agribusiness Sales and Service	Forestry	Production Agriculture
Animal Production and Care	Horticulture	Resource Conservation

When Vocational Agriculture expanded in the 1960's to include training for agricultural business occupations, the FFA awards program also expanded. The Star in Agribusiness recognition was developed as a counter part to the Star Farmer award. Ohio has had several individuals achieve this high honor.

In Ohio, if FFA was to be as viable to the “new” students of vocational agriculture as it was to the farm-based members, it was imperative that adaptations be made. This was done and a new “relevant and flexible” FFA resulted. Some of the adaptations were:

- All students were made to feel a part of FFA
- “FFA” terminology replaced “Future Farmers of America” in common usage
- New appropriate awards were developed (often before National)
- The FFA magazine was changed from “The Ohio Future Farmer” to “The Ohio FFA News”
- Girls were included and accepted on a 100% equal basis
- All printed FFA materials were adapted to the new FFA, stressing “FFA” terminology
- Numerous other changes were made to blend the new students together

With these changes and others, FFA became relevant to all students pursuing agricultural careers and a “new” FFA, more vigorous than ever, resulted.



**A Girl in an FFA Jacket?** The news of girls in FFA was so astonishing that the Columbus Dispatch carried a cover picture and a major article in it's April 1965 Sunday magazine. In 1966, girls were declared eligible for FFA membership in Ohio.

The organization and growth of FFA Citrus Sales in Ohio and the Nation...

The first citrus sales program in Ohio was conducted by the South Charleston FFA Chapter in Clark County in 1961 by James R. Beckley, advisor. The first countywide program was held in Licking County as a result of James R. Beckley moving to Northridge FFA. All FFA chapters in Licking County joined to conduct the first countywide citrus sales program in Ohio and the Nation. Citrus was secured on a local basis. In 1969, Merlin A. Wentworth, who had been a student teacher in Licking County, became the teacher at Amanda in Fairfield County and carried the idea to those teachers and worked through the Florida Citrus Commission and Sealdsweet Growers Inc. to conduct a strong citrus sales program. The success of the program became widely known and Ohio soon became a role model for FFA Citrus Sales throughout the Nation. The FFA Citrus Sales program has proved to be a major boost to the financing of chapter activities throughout Ohio thanks to those leaders who saw great potential in having fresh citrus available for the holiday season.

#### **Vocational Agriculture/FFA Statistics – 1960's**

305 Schools

14,828 Students

385 Teachers

233 Adult Programs

11,671 Adults enrolled

62 Young Farmer Chapters

1,120 Young Farmer Members

2 FBPA Programs

169 Farmers enrolled

#### **New State Leadership**

State FFA Executive Secretary – Earl F. 'Doc' Kantner, 1963-1984

State FFA Advisor – James E. Dougan, 1967-1979

State FFA Foundation Director – Earl F. 'Doc' Kantner, 1963-1981

Ohio FFA Camp Director – John H. Davis, 1968-1987

Skills Contest Coordinator – John Starling, 1963-1967

Skills Contest Coordinator – John Watkins, 1968-1984

Ohio Young Farmer Association Executive Secretary – Herbert D. Brum, 1961-1966

Ohio Young Farmer Association Executive Secretary – Richard Hummel, 1966-1989

### **1960's Timeline**

1960-Jerome Donovan, Jr., elected to National FFA Office (Vice President)  
1963-Nine (9) instructional programs (taxonomies) formulated in Vocational Agriculture  
1964-Production Horticulture award started  
1964-Horticulture contest started  
1965-New Farmers of America merges with Future Farmers of America  
1966-Girls afforded FFA membership in Ohio  
1966-Keaton Vandemark, elected to National FFA Office (Vice President)  
1967-First Buckeye Breakfast at National FFA Convention  
1967-Ornamental Horticulture Proficiency award started  
1967-Creed Contest started in Ohio FFA Association  
1968-State FFA Magazine changed to Ohio FFA News  
1969-Roger Phelps earns Star Agribusinessman of America (Ohio's first)  
1969-Girls afforded FFA membership nationally  
1969-First OVATA Teachers Directory published  
1969-FFA Washington Conference (now called Washington Leadership Conference or WLC) begins

# 1970's

The Golden Anniversary celebration marked one of FFA's greatest achievements in history. FFA membership reached nearly 24,000 and program quality was at an all-time high.

A grand statewide celebration was held at the 1978 State FFA Convention. Leaders in Ohio Agriculture and Education joined over 3,000 FFAers, teachers, parents and friends to honor FFA...one of Ohio's major youth organizations, on its Golden Anniversary.

1976 Star Winners – The first two girls to win top honors in Ohio, Jodi Peacock-Star Agribusinessperson of Ohio, Medina JVS FFA and Sharon Mangun-Star Farmer of Ohio, Carrollton FFA.

## FFA Matured in the 70's – Great Growth and Development

### Adult Programs Grow...

Short Course and evening adult education, an important part of Vocational Agriculture from its inception in 1918, continued strong in the 70's. With a rapid increase in specialization and technology, enterprising farmers needed new and modern information, and got it at adult meetings in the "Vo-Ag room" in their local community.

The Farm Business Planning and Analysis Programs (FBPA) developed strongly in the 70's. This financial management program for farm owners and operators is credited with increasing efficiency and income of farmer participants. By 1979, 27 instructors were involved with nearly 1,000 farm owners and operators participating.

Agricultural policy opened world markets and farming was very prosperous. Demand was great and production was expanded. However, inflation was out of control. Farmers went in debt to buy land and were paying the debt with inflated dollars. This was good until the central bank raised the interest rates as high as 20%, which put the agricultural economy into a tailspin.

An FFA Alumni organization much-discussed for many years was brought about by the National FFA Organization in 1971 with the official establishment of a National FFA Alumni organization. Mr. Jay Benham, Vocational Agriculture teacher and a past State FFA Officer from Ohio, was employed as the first Administrative Secretary and developed the format for the new organization.



State President's Car, 1979-80, Sponsored by Production Credit Association

### **New State Leadership**

State FFA Advisor – Darrell L. Parks, 1979-1982

### **Vocational Agricultural/FFA Statistics – 1970's**

360 schools

23, 599 students

753 teachers

80 Young Farmers/Farm Wives Programs

1,950 Young Farmers enrolled

381 Adult Programs

16,156 Adults enrolled

## **1970's Timeline**

1971-First American Royal Queen from Ohio, Debbie Carey, Elgin  
1971-Ohio FFA Alumni chartered  
1971-Dennis C. Sargent, Bradford, elected to National FFA Office (Secretary)  
1972-First Ohio FFA Alumni meeting held at Ohio FFA Convention  
1972-Miami East was the first Ohio FFA Alumni affiliate (one of the first in the nation)  
1972-State FFA Degree given by instruction program  
1972-Citrus sales started statewide in Ohio  
1972-Tractor Trouble Shooting contest started  
1972-Timber Cruising contest started  
1972-Small Engines contest started  
1972-Mechanics Skills contest started  
1972-Floriculture contest started  
1973-Horse Judging contest started  
1973-Diane Pullins became first female State FFA Officer in Ohio  
1973-FFA Official Dress standards are created  
1974-State Parliamentary Procedure contest held for first time in many years  
1974-First time 3,000 attended State FFA Convention Banquet  
1974-Lumber Grading contest started  
1974-Waterfowl Identification contest started  
1974-First African-American elected to National FFA Office  
1975-Mammal Identification contest started  
1975-Horse Proficiency award started  
1975-Doug Loudenslager, Ridgedale, elected to National FFA Office (Vice President)  
1975-Third National Public Speaking winner, Mark Sanborn, Grand Valley  
1975-OVATA celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1976-Farm Management contest started  
1976-Richard (Rick) McDaniel, Wynford, elected to National FFA Office (Vice President)  
1976-Ohio's second American Royal Queen, Holly Stefanyk, Hillsdale  
1976-First female elected to National FFA Office  
1977-Urban Soil Judging started  
1977-Entomology Contest started  
1977-Ohio earned eight (8) National winners, a new all time record  
1977-Rob Hovis, Lakota, elected to National FFA Office (Vice President)  
1978-FFA's Golden Anniversary celebrated  
1978-Odell C. Miller elected as National FFA Alumni President  
1978-Mark Sanborn, Grand Valley, elected to National FFA Office (President)  
1979-Big Walnut named National BOAC Winner  
1979-Ohio earned six (6) National winners, topping all states

# 1980's

## New Careers, New Technology in Vocational Agriculture

- Agri-Business
- Agri-Equipment and Service
- Animal Production and Care
- Conservation Natural Resources
- Environmental Management
- Food Processing
- Forestry
- Horticulture
- Production Agriculture

### The Agriculture of the 80's...

The Nation's most important industry, the farm front and directly related services, experienced some difficult times in the 80's. Surpluses brought on a period of declining market prices and land values. Farm consolidations continued the trend of the 70's and government programs were improved to protect the family farm. Other segments of Ohio Agriculture, including Horticulture, Forestry, Resource Conservation, Supplies and Services and others continued to be a vital part of the Ohio, National and World economy.

The Agricultural industry of the 80's was on the cutting edge of a better tomorrow. Bio-genetics, hi-tech procedures and practices and an efficient production and marketing plan assured a continued supply of high quality food and fiber for the Nation, as well as for a major portion of the World's 4 Billion people (which doubles every 25 years). Vocational Agriculture and FFA continued to provide leadership and trained personnel for a dynamic 21<sup>st</sup> Century Agricultural Industry.

### Needed – Enthusiastic, Well-Trained, Young People for Careers in Ohio Agriculture!

Over 20% of Ohio's jobs are located in Ohio Agriculture and closely related industries, with thousands of replacements needed each year. There are over 200 career choices in the broad and diverse agricultural industry, with personal and technical preparation necessary for nearly all of them. The responsibility and challenge of preparing young people of high school age for these positions is that of the high school vocational agriculture program.

Learning by Doing, through Supervised Occupational Experience (SOE)...

The educational process of “Learning by Doing”, 1980’s style, is an effective teaching procedure. Quality classroom instruction followed by actual “hands-on” experience provides students with a practical preparation for employment. SOE programs are experienced in the specific agricultural industry that is of interest to the student and is instrumental in the actual employment of graduating seniors.

**“We in Vocational Agriculture are pleased to be a part of Ohio’s Agricultural Family. Our role as a member of the team is clear—to prepare young people of high school age for entry level employment in the various agricultural industries. We also provide continuing education for young and adult individuals in an effort to improve their occupational skills and abilities. We take great pride in carrying out our particular part of the Ohio Agricultural Industry”**

**~John H. Davis, State FFA Advisor, 1987-1992**



Snowbowl of 1987 – First time in history that Judging Skills Contests were cancelled because of weather.

### **New State Leadership**

State FFA Executive Secretary – Robin C. Hovis, 1984-1988

State FFA Executive Secretary – James P. Scott, Jr., 1988-1994

State FFA Advisor – James E. Cummins, 1982-1987

State FFA Advisor – John H. Davis, 1987-1992

State FFA Foundation Director – Robert M. Freeze, 1982-1983

State FFA Foundation Director – Earl F. ‘Doc’ Kantner, 1984-1991

Skills Contest Coordinator – James P. Scott, Jr., 1985-1988

Skills Contest Coordinator – Steven J. Gratz, 1989-1991

Ohio Young Farmer Association Executive Secretary – John Miley, 1989-1995

### **Vocational Agriculture/FFA Statistics – 1980’s**

326 Schools

17,679 Students

75 Young Farmers/Farm Wives programs

1,600 Young Farmers enrolled

195 Adult Education programs

15,230 Adults enrolled

40 FBPA programs

2,590 Farm owners and /or operators enrolled

### **1980's Timeline**

- 1980-Susie Barrett, Warren, elected to National FFA office (Vice President)
- 1982-Bruce Kettler, Anna, elected to National FFA office (Vice President)
- 1984-Jay Householder elected as National FFA Alumni President
- 1985-Entomology contest combined with Agronomy
- 1985-Natural Resources Management contest started (combining Mammal and Waterfowl)
- 1985-Forestry contest started (combining Timber Cruising and Lumber Grading)
- 1985-Official Name changed from "Vocational Agriculture Judging Contests" to "FFA Judging Contests"
- 1985-Established a Contest Review Policy on a 3-year cycle
- 1986-Nature Interpretation contest established
- 1986-Equine Management contest started on trial basis
- 1987-Official Name changed to "State Skills Contests"
- 1987-Rick L. Metzger elected as National FFA Alumni President
- 1988-Wildlife Management contest established
- 1988-Future Farmers of America changes its name to National FFA Organization
- 1988-Agriscience Student Recognition program is introduced
- 1988-Warren Boerger, Fairbanks, elected to National FFA office (Vice President)
- 1989-Dan Schroer, New Bremen, elected to National FFA office (Vice President)



# 1990's

## Trends in Agricultural Education

- Change in dominant culture, nations population is becoming more diverse.
- Urban agricultural program growth becomes more aggressive.
- The movement of curriculum integration causes an emphasis in agricultural education curriculum to identify connections to basic reading, science, and math foundations.
- Curriculum expansion reflects new dimensions and career paths in the agricultural industry.
- Accountability for agricultural education program impact.
- Program relevance for Agricultural education, FFA, and Supervised Agricultural Experience with current and potential stakeholders.
- Upgrading teacher education. Key to learning is facilitation, teachers are the ultimate facilitator.

In the early 1990's, Agricultural Education experienced the push towards agriscience instruction with programs building greenhouses and agriscience fairs taking shape.

Ohio Agricultural Educators experience a shift in curriculum models from Occupational Competency Analysis Profile (OCAPs) to Integrated Technical and Academic Competencies (ITACs) In the mid-1990's, employers demanded that students be taught in ways that reflected the higher-order academic and technical competencies that students need for career success. In 1998, Ohio began the process of shifting from competency-based curriculum to an integrated curriculum model.

A quality program begins in the classroom. Considerable attention is given the development and administration of a quality curriculum in Agricultural Education. Rapid technology advances give rise to a constant flow of new information that is imparted to students in a timely and effective way. The curriculum and its implementation through excellence in teaching is the heart of it all.

**“An FFA international experience is the best way you can expose yourself to another culture. When you come home, you will never be the same again. You will look at life in America in an entirely different way.”**

**~Matt Smith, 1999-2000 State FFA President**

While FFA Camp continued to provide FFA members with fond memories, FFA Camp Muskingum experienced upgrades to facilities and celebrated a golden anniversary. In 1992, FFA Camp Muskingum celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Adventure center was built and dedicated in 1995 allowing camp to expand its programming opportunities. Lastly, the Conference Center in 1998 was remodeled to provide a space for large group gatherings.



Preble Shawnee FFA members and advisors rode their bikes 115 miles from Camden, Ohio to Indianapolis, Indiana, for the dedication of the new National FFA Center.

### **Agricultural Education/FFA Statistics – 1990's**

325 Schools

21,750 Students

658 Teachers

29 FBPA Teachers

### **New State Leadership**

State FFA Executive Secretary – Steven J. Gratz, 1994-2010

State FFA Advisor – Robert D. Sommers II, 1992-1996

State FFA Advisor – Isaac Kershaw IV, 1996-2012

State FFA Foundation Director – Bernadette Siekman, 1992-1996

State FFA Foundation Director – Dennis C. Swartz, 1996-1998

State FFA Foundation Director – Cheryl Bachman Majors, 1998-2003

Ohio FFA Camp Director – Todd Davis, 1996

Skills Contest Coordinator – Dwain Sayre, 1992-1993

Skills Contest Coordinators – Jim and Carol Ogden, 1993-2013

Ohio Young Farmer Association Executive Secretary – Betty J. Thornton, 1996-1998

Ohio Young Farmer Association Executive Secretary – Valerie Parks Graham, 1998

Ohio FFA Alumni Executive Secretary – Lexie Poulson, 1995-2014

### **1990's Timeline**

1990-Roxann Sommers elected as National FFA Alumni President  
1992-New Agriscience programs in schools  
1992-Job Interview contest established  
1992-Rick Perkins, Sentinel CC, elected to National FFA office (Vice President)  
1992-FFA Camp celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1994-Blue and Gold FFA Alumni Golf Classic was held for the first time  
1994-Animal Health contest established  
1994-Animal Management contest established  
1994-Aquarium Management contest established  
1994-Dog Grooming contest established  
1994-Lee Schroeder, Leipsic, elected to National FFA office (Vice President)  
1995-The Adventure Center was built and dedicated at FFA Camp  
1995-The Ohio FFA Association website was launched  
1996-Holly Bentley, East Clinton, elected to National FFA office (Secretary)  
1997-First Agri-Entrepreneurship Awards are presented  
1997-Shannon Wilcox, Fort Frye, elected to National FFA office (Secretary)  
1998-Greenhand Quiz established  
1998-Grain Merchandising contest established  
1998-Emily Buxton, River View, elected to National FFA office (Vice President)  
1998-National FFA Convention held in Kansas City, Missouri for last time  
1998-First Puerto Rican elected to National FFA office  
1999-OVATA evolved into Ohio Association of Agriculture Educators (OAAE)  
1999-The National FFA Convention is held in Louisville, Kentucky for the first time  
1999-Joe Shultz, Indian Lake, elected to National FFA office (Vice President)

# 2000's

## Agricultural Education of the 2000s.....

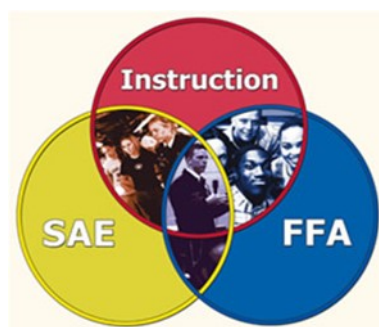
New programs, gender balance, new curricula, new technology, new activities, expanded leadership development activities, and new professional development opportunities are all taking form. However, the foundation principles of Agricultural Education have not given way:

- Experiential/Problem based education
- Career Exploration in and about Agriculture
- Knowledge and skills in and about Agriculture
- Personal Growth and Leadership Development
- Teamwork/Cooperation and Citizenship

Technological changes are moving so fast that simply keeping up is not only a full time job, it is impossible. Demographic changes in our country are altering what we mean by American. The economy is changing rapidly to meet the demands of a global economy and vastly improved communication and shipping industries.

## The Three-Circle Model...

Agricultural Education is a systematic program of instruction available to students desiring to learn about the science, business, technology of plant and animal production and/or about the environmental and natural resources systems. The three integrated components of a Vocational Agricultural Education program that came together by the end of the 1920's still are the foundation components of a Agricultural Education program in the 2000's. The three components of Agricultural Education working in combination - **Supervised Agricultural Experience, Classroom/Laboratory Instruction (contextual learning)** and **FFA** - provide FFA members with an advantage in the job market, in attaining scholarships and college enrollments, in starting their own businesses and in developing a plan for success in life.



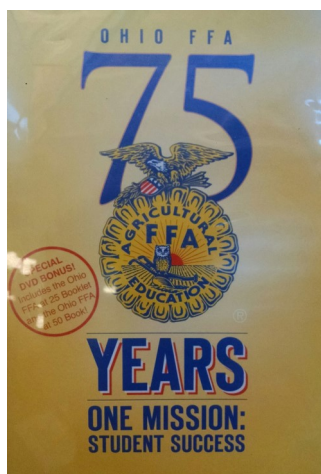
The Ohio FFA Foundation established a special FFA license plate program through the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. A minimum of 1000 plates must be sold annually to keep this program active. A portion of each FFA license plate purchased goes directly to the Ohio FFA Foundation Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund helps sponsor the programs and activities of the Ohio FFA Association.

#### Ohio's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration...

On Thursday, May 1, 2003, State FFA President Marlene von Stein called the 75<sup>th</sup> Ohio FFA Convention to order in the Celeste Center on the grounds of the Ohio Exposition Center. Over 700 FFA members, parents, and guests were on hand at the convention's banquet and opening session. Seventy-five years of "One Mission: Student Success" was evident as generations of the FFA were present for the opening of the time capsule which had been closed during the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ohio FFA.

The 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention awarded numerous FFA chapters and members for their outstanding efforts and achievements, with 5,624 parents, members, and guests in attendance. The 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention came to a close with the election of the 2003-2004 Ohio FFA Officer Team. However, the next year would be devoted to celebrating the 75 years of student success through agricultural education and the FFA.

To properly commemorate the past 75 years, the Ohio FFA Association had numerous activities planned. One of the more prominent activities occurred during the 76<sup>th</sup> Ohio FFA State Convention. A special competition was held state-wide on the subject of the history of the Ohio FFA. A variety of presentation styles were recommended and students from all across the state took advantage of using their creative talents through the contest. From skits, to power-points, the presentations were enthusiastic and energetic. Students commemorated 75 years of success with a bit of their own.



Ohio FFA 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary DVD was another special project of the Ohio FFA Association. The 4 Disc DVD set captured the 75 years of rich tradition and history of the Ohio FFA Association.

The 76th Ohio FFA State Convention brought an end to a year-long celebration of 75 years. The Norwayne FFA Chapter from Wayne County, Ohio, designed and constructed the new time capsule after a bicentennial barn in Wayne County. This is symbolic of our nation's agrarian heritage and the thick roots of Agriculture that still run deep within. Each chapter had the opportunity to place items in the time capsule throughout convention. State President, Lindsey Calhoun, closed the capsule for the next 25 years.

#### **Agricultural Education/FFA Statistics – 2000's**

309 Schools

23,442 Students

623 Teachers

24 FBPA Teachers

#### **New State Leadership**

State FFA Foundation Director – John Collet, 2003-2006

State FFA Foundation Director – Melissa Bell, 2006

#### **2000's Timeline**

2000-Katy Poth, Liberty Union, elected to National FFA office (Vice President)

2001-First Star in Agriscience is awarded

2001-First Star in Agricultural Placement is awarded

2001-Ag Communications contest established

2001-Food Science contest established

2002-Official Dress standards are revised

2002-Julie Tyson, Hillsdale, elected to National FFA office (Vice President)

2003-Ann Knapke, Talawanda, elected to National FFA office (Vice President)

2004-Northwestern Skills Classic contest established

2005-Southwestern Skills Classic contest established

2006-Endorsement of agricultural education's long-range goal of 10,000 quality Agricultural Education programs by 2015, where every student is a member of FFA and has a relevant SAE

2006-Nursery and Landscape Contest Finals held for first time

2007-Environmental Natural Resources contest established

2008-Animal Behavior, Welfare and Husbandry contest established

2008-Online Testing was used for CDE's for first time

2008-Hannah Crossen, Hillsdale, elected to National FFA office (Vice President), Ohio's 31st

2009-FFA celebrates the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of women being admitted into the FFA

2010-General Livestock Finals with Oral Reasons held for first time