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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  
  Hebro, 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.

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 14th state to charter with the National FFA Organization – Charter Date, April 20, 1929

Ohio’s First Chartered Chapters:

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

1st State FFA Convention Highlights – May 30-31, 1929
- 1st 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 1st 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
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

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 1st 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 Shober 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)
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

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 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.

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 counterpart 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.

Agricultural Equipment and Mechanics                Environmental Management                Processing
Agribusiness Sales and Service                       Forestry                                Production Agriculture
Animal Production and Care                           Horticulture                           Resource Conservation
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 Sealdsweat 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
Ohio FFA Camp Director – John H. Davis, 1968-1987
Skills Contest Coordinator – John Starling, 1963-1967
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
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 50th 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
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 21st 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”


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 Foundation Director – Robert M. Freeze, 1982-1983
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

Snowbowl of 1987 – First time in history that Judging Skills Contests were cancelled because of weather.
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 50th 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 – 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 50th Anniversary
1992-Blue and Gold FFA Alumni Golf Classic was held for the first time
1992-Animal Health contest established
1992-Animal Management contest established
1992-Aquarium Management contest established
1992-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)
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 75th Anniversary Celebration...
On Thursday, May 1, 2003, State FFA President Marlene von Stein called the 75th 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 50th Anniversary of the Ohio FFA.

The 75th Annual Convention awarded numerous FFA chapters and members for their outstanding efforts and achievements, with 5,624 parents, members, and guests in attendance. The 75th 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 76th 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 75th 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 40th Anniversary of women being admitted into the FFA
- 2010-General Livestock Finals with Oral Reasons held for first time