Agricultural Education Numbers and Facts

* What is the FFA and what do the letters F-F-A stand for? The FFA is a national organization dedicated to preparing members for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. Local, state and national activities and award programs provide opportunities to apply knowledge and skills acquired through agriculture education. During the 2009-10 academic year, the Ohio FFA Association had 23,364 members in 300 chapters.

FFA is a dynamic youth organization within Agricultural Education that changes lives and prepares students for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. Although FFA was created in 1928 as Future Farmers of America, the name was changed in 1988 to the National FFA Organization to represent the growing diversity of agriculture. Today, more than half a million student members are engaged in a wide range of agricultural education activities, leading to over 300 career opportunities in the food, fiber and natural resources industry. Student success remains the primary mission of FFA.

* Career Development Events. FFA has worked to create CDEs that demonstrate the meaningful connections between classroom instruction and real-life scenarios.

CDEs build on what is learned in agricultural classes and the FFA. The events are designed to help prepare students for careers in agriculture. Classroom instruction comes alive as students demonstrate their skills in a competitive setting.

Ohio currently offers almost 40 different Career Development Events.

* Supervised Agricultural Experience. An SAE program is a planned practical agricultural activity, which supports skill and competency development, career success and application of specific agricultural and academic skills a student has learned through classroom instruction in agricultural education.

A SAE program is the actual, hands-on application of concepts and principles learned in the agricultural education classroom. Students are supervised by agricultural education teachers in cooperation with parents, employers and other adults who assist them in the development and achievement of their educational and career goals.
National FFA Membership Statistics and Facts

* Today (2010), **there are 506,199 FFA members**, aged 12-21 in 7,429 chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

* 41% of FFA members are female; women hold more than 50% of state leadership positions

* 77% of our membership is Caucasian; 17% is Hispanic and 4% is African-American

* 89% of FFA members are in grades 9-12; 6% are in grades 7-8; 5% are high school graduates

* 27% of FFA members live in rural, farm areas; the remainder live in rural non-farm (39%), urban and suburban areas (34%)

* FFA chapters are in 11 of the 20 largest cities, including New York, Chicago and Philadelphia

* The top five membership states are California, Texas, Georgia, Oklahoma and Ohio

  • The 75th National FFA Convention was host to 51,338 members, advisors and supporters

Education:

*More than 11,000 teachers deliver an innovative, cutting-edge and integrated curriculum to students. 92% offer agriscience; 71% offer advanced agriscience and biotechnology; 59% offer agricultural mechanics; 49% offer horticulture; 43% offer animal science; and, 24% offer environment-related In 2001, 59% of qualified agricultural education graduates pursued teaching as a career; over 35 agriculture programs closed due to lack of a qualified teacher and 365 agriculture teachers teach in more than one school 23% of teachers have five or fewer years of teaching experience

The shortage of qualified agriculture teachers is the greatest challenge facing FFA and agricultural education
Career Exploration:

* Members participate in a hands-on work experience allowing them to apply knowledge learned in class

* Collectively, FFA members earn $4 billion annually through their hands-on work experience

* Members participate and learn advanced career skills in 45 national proficiency areas based on their hands-on work experience ranging from food science and technology to agricultural communications to wildlife management to production agriculture

* According to the student magazine readership study, 87% of our students are interested in learning about career exploration, 81% about college preparation and 81% about technology

• Through 23 national career development events, such as public speaking, environment and natural resources and meats evaluation and technology, FFA members extend and test their industry knowledge in a variety of career fields

Industry Support:

* Agriculture is the nation's largest employer, with more than 22 million people working in some phase. FFA prepares members for more than 300 careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture.

* National FFA Foundation has raised more than $132 million for the National FFA Organization since 1944.

* 1,900 sponsors provided more than $8.7 million for FFA and agriculture programs and activities in 2003

* FFA scholarships have awarded more than $22 million

* 1,500 students of agricultural education benefited from FFA Scholarships in 2004
Average Annual Employment Opportunities for College Graduates in the Food and Agricultural Sciences, United States, 1995-2000:

* Marketing, Merchandising and Sales Representatives: 14,353

* Scientists, Engineers and Related Specialists: 13,922

* Managers and Financial Specialists: 5,613

* Communication and Education Specialists: 5,295

* Social Service Professionals: 4,862

* Agricultural Production Specialists: 3,873

Today's Agriculture:

* Agriculture is the nation's largest employer with more than 22 million people working in some phase—from growing food and fiber to selling it at the supermarket.

* There are 2.19 million farms in the United States. The average size of U.S. farms in 1999 was 432 acres.

* There are 165,102 farms operated by women in the United States.

• Individuals, family partnerships or family corporations own 99% of U.S. farms with fewer than 10 stockholders. Non-family corporations own only 0.4% of America's farms and ranches.