



NATIONAL FFA WEEK

February 22-29, 2020

In 1928, 33 students from 18 states gathered in Kansas City, Mo., to form the Future Farmers of America.

The roots of FFA originate from a time when boys were losing interest and leaving the farm. Walter S. Newman, who in September 1925 became the Virginia State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, sought a solution to the problem with Edmund C. Magill, Harry W. Sanders and Henry C. Groseclose, staff members of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute Agricultural Education Department.

Newman proposed forming an organization that offered farm boys "a greater opportunity for self-expression and for the development of leadership. In this way they will develop confidence in their own ability and pride in the fact that they are farm boys."

Groseclose immediately began work on a constitution and bylaws for the new organization, and he later suggested a name: Future Farmers of Virginia.

The idea was presented during an annual vocational rally in the state in April 1926, where it was met positively. The Future Farmers of Virginia was born.

Two years later, the idea reached the national stage during the American Royal Livestock Show in Kansas City, Mo. That's when 33 young students from 18 states gathered at the Hotel Baltimore to establish the Future Farmers of America. The group elected Leslie Applegate of Freehold, N.J., as its first president and adopted the original Virginia emblem - a mark similar to that of the original Virginia emblem - during the new organization's first convention.

In 1929, national blue and corn gold became the official colors of FFA. A year later, delegates adopted the official FFA Creed and by 1933 the familiar Official Dress of blue corduroy jackets was adopted after convention delegates were enthralled by the jackets worn to Kansas City by members of the Fredericktown, Ohio, FFA chapter.

The New Farmers of America

Less than a decade after the formation of the Future Farmers of America in 1928, a national organization for African-American boys interested in agriculture formed in Tuskegee, Ala. The New Farmers of America was modeled after another Virginia organization - the New Farmers of Virginia - and began in 1935. The New Farmers of Virginia was instrumentally started by G.W. Owens and J.R. Thomas, teacher-educators in agricultural education at Virginia State College, and Dr. H.O. Sargent, a federal agricultural education official who later proposed NFA.

The NFA and FFA shared common beliefs. The NFA Creed had six paragraphs, each beginning with "I believe," and its emblem featured only one stylistic difference: an outline in the shape of a cotton boll instead of an ear of corn. A total of 13 states received NFA charters, and by 1965 the NFA and FFA consolidated in recognition of shared missions for agricultural education.

In 1973, Texas' Fred McClure became the first African-American national FFA officer, and in 1994 Chicago's Corey Flournoy became the first African-American national FFA president.

FFA Motto: The FFA motto gives members 12 short words to live by as they experience the opportunities in the organization.

Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.

FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Burlington Chapter



File Photo

Front row L to R: Cody Beal, Bryce Birk, Gavin Finnerty, Chrissy Hall, Bryleigh Isch, Halle Finnerty, Bren Reavis, Drue Thorp, Sponsor Julie Carden. Second row: Alex Smith, Camren Honn, Elliott Burns, Jordan Hartpence, Addison Varvel, Kyrie Boswell, Taylor Jones, Rose Spence, Kenyon Duffy. Third row: Casey Bland, Kyanna Lankton, Serenity Washburn, Becky Asay, Mikayla Meierhoff, William Salava, Alice Buckridge, M.J. Huff, Chaelyn Webber, Easton Burns, Shawn Crouch. Fourth row: Gabbi Bruger, Wayne Rohrer, Nicholas Bartley, Damon Hoback, Daniel Bartley, Garreth Palmer, Christian Smith, Toby Reavis, Owen Marchant. Fifth row R: Gavin Conkle, Eric Hockett, Brian Payer, Jaden Majors, Wyatt Wilson, Grant Hegg, Lily Rolf, Jaren Garland.

Lebo Chapter



File Photo

Front row L to R: Mackenzie Smith, Adelyn Tackitt, Sarah Sergeant, Lauren Williams, Hannah Proehl, Abby Peek, Chalie Crouch, Demi Schrader, Darcy Simpson. Middle row: Kaden Ott, Avery Peek, Caleb Fehr, Wyatt Weiss, Evan Combes, Blayne Linsey, Allie Moore, Jadin Crouch, Quintin Combes. Back row: Colton Crouch, Isaac Durst, Ben Monroe, Devan McEwen, Luke Davies, Kyle Reese, Zane Edelman, Colin Whalen.

SCC Chapter



File Photo

Front row L to R: Mackenzie Adcock, Madeline Spencer, Ross Snovelle, Colleen Decker, Alycia De Anda, Josie Weers, Sabra Clements, Macie Patterson. Back row: AJ De Anda, Ethan Herrera, Cody Brite, Cody Heslop, Isaac Houston, Dalton Harmon, Wade Gleue, Jameson Chapman Jr, Aiden Voorhees, Mitchyl Walters, Brayton Lind, Brock Williams, Raleigh Decker.

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