



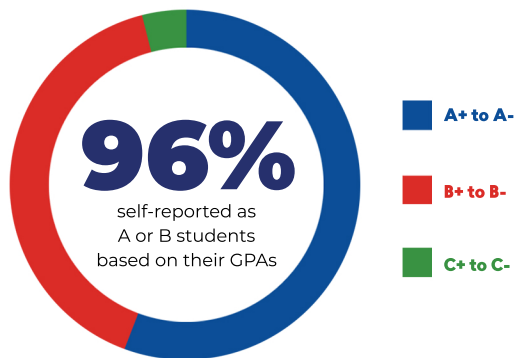
## FFA PROGRAMS AND EVENTS DIVISION

### PROGRAM EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

## FOLLOW-UP: GRADUATING FFA SENIORS ARE COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READY.

In 2018, a collaborative study between Purdue University and the National FFA Organization<sup>1</sup> explored the relationship between involvement in FFA and college and career readiness. Then in September 2019, National FFA conducted a follow-up study with a new sample of graduating FFA members during the first semester of their senior year in high school. Results show that FFA seniors continue to be college- and career-ready, as seen below.

#### Letter Grade Based on GPA



No reported grade point averages indicated that members earned below a C average.

#### IMPRESSIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGES SET FFA SENIORS APART.

National FFA asked surveyed seniors to report their GPA. On a 4.0 unweighted scale, self-reported GPAs remain high among FFA seniors, with an average GPA of **3.59 out of 4.0**. Ninety-six percent of graduating seniors reporting their GPA have an A or B average. In the previous study, the average self-reported GPA was 3.69, with the same percentage of graduating seniors being A or B students.

#### FFA SENIORS' CRITICAL THINKING CAPABILITIES MATCH WITH EMPLOYERS' EXPECTATIONS.

A 2015 survey found that employers believe critical thinking is among the top five most important skills they look for when hiring college grads.<sup>2</sup> Senior FFA members in 2018 and 2019 completed an assessment<sup>3</sup> to measure their engagement, cognitive maturity, and innovativeness—otherwise known as the three elements of critical thinking. Collectively, senior FFA members scored a **109 out of a possible 130**.

**109**  
**130**

<sup>1</sup>Copeland, Britt A. (2019). *Exploring the employability skills and academic success of the National FFA membership*. Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.

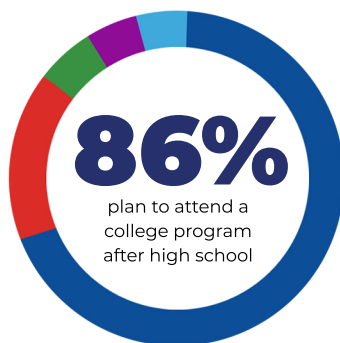
<sup>2</sup>Hart Research Associates (2015). *Falling short? College learning and career success* [Electronic version]. Selected findings from online surveys of employers and college students conducted on behalf of the association of American colleges and universities. Retrieved from <https://www.aacu.org/sites/default/files/files/LEAP/2015employerstudentsurvey.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>EMI: Critical Thinking Disposition Assessment (Ricketts & Rudd, 2005).

## FFA SENIORS AIM HIGH.

### Plans for After High School

- Attend a four-year college or university
- Attend a two-year college
- Enter the workforce
- Attend a training or vocational school
- Join the military/armed forces



The majority of respondents said they plan to attend a college program after high school.

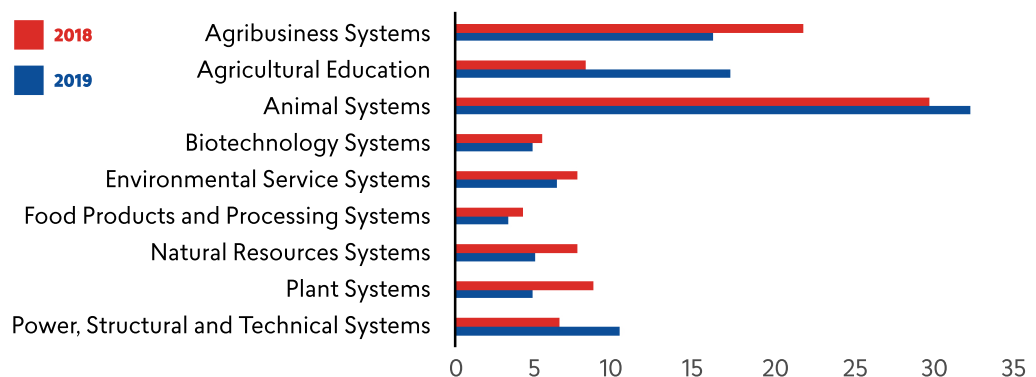
## FFA SENIORS WILL FILL THE AGRICULTURE CAREERS PIPELINE.

Eighty-three percent of graduating FFA seniors said they are interested or might be interested in pursuing an agricultural career pathway. The most frequently selected career focus area by those who are interested in or might be interested in pursuing an agricultural career pathway is **animal systems**. **Agricultural education** and **agribusiness systems** were the second and third most frequently selected.

### INTERESTED IN PURSUING AN AGRICULTURAL CAREER PATHWAY



## AGRICULTURAL CAREER FOCUS AREA PREFERENCES, 2018 AND 2019



Animal systems was the most frequently selected career focus area by graduating seniors in 2018 and 2019.