



TRENDING TOPICS

Each year, National FFA researches and determines 3-5 topics trending in agriculture, education and FFA. These topics are used throughout the advocacy and literacy platform, allowing us to provide better resources and education to FFA members.

Agriculture

- Reauthorization of [the Farm Bill](#)
 - The Farm Bill is a legislative package that is reauthorized (or passed) approximately every five years in Congress. The last version was signed into law by President Trump in 2018. The lion's share of the work falls on updating the statute falls to the Committee on Agriculture in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry in the U.S. Senate. The committees have started their work now, listening to constituent groups to infuse needed changes based on today's marketplace and the needs of producers and consumers.
 - "The future of food and farm policy," by The Hill; <https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/3586694-the-future-of-farm-and-food-policy/>
 - U.S. House Committee on Agriculture: <https://agriculture.house.gov/>
 - U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: <https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/>
- Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Carbon
 - The word carbon is commonplace in today's conservation conversations. Further, the role that agriculturists play in sustaining productive soils while serving as a solution for reducing America's carbon footprint has been a key piece of legislation. Farm groups and policymakers are engaging in deeper conversations about how producers can benefit from implementing best management practices (or BMPs) to support the environment. As of August 5, 2020, the U.S. Senate plans to move a major piece of legislation to invest nearly \$40 billion into the agricultural industry.
 - [Agriculture Provisions on Inflation Reduction Act](#)
 - [Carbon Credits](#)
 - [Cargill Sustainability](#)
 - [Climate Solutions](#)
 - [American Farmland Trust](#)
- Disruptions in the Supply Chain
 - The agricultural industry continues to feel the ripple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic through the supply chain. From increased prices on used farm equipment, shortages in microchips used in new equipment increased input costs and shifts in commodity prices (in part due to the war in Ukraine), farm economics are experiencing major challenges.
 - Association of Equipment Manufacturers statement on "CHIPS Bill" Passage: <https://newsroom.aem.org/aem-applauds-passage-of-historic-investment-in-domestic-semiconductor-production/>
 - Used Farm Equipment Market: <https://farmtario.com/machinery/used-farm-equipment-sees-big-demand/>

- War in Ukraine: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/russia-ukraine-war-farmers-economic-impact/#:~:text=Spring%20planting%20season%20has%20begun,and%20equipment%20%E2%80%94but%20especially%20fertilizer.>
 - Purdue University Ag Economy Barometer: <https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/ageconomybarometer/>
- Plant-based foods
 - The plant-based “meat” category has increased in popularity as an option for consumers. However, many questions remain on the regulatory end of food safety. The impact on the animal-based protein industry has not been measured, but the movement is gaining traction.
 - [Successful Farming](#)
- BIPOC agriculturalists
 - Black, Indigenous, and People of Color pioneered many farming methods that respected and cared for the land long before industrial agriculture. With the change in the country’s landscape, the re-emergence of BIPOC agriculturalists and their contributions are appearing and how to provide a stable plan to allow these groups to thrive and provide resources.
 - [Influential BIPOC agriculturists](#)
 - [Land Stewardship Project](#)
 - [Purdue roundtable](#)
 - [USDA Committee on Minority Farming](#)
 - [USDA Office of Tribal Relations](#)

Education

- Teacher Recruitment and Retention
 - The lack of supply and high demand for qualified teachers has always concerned school-based agricultural education. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the issue has become more troublesome for all subjects.
 - U.S. Department of Education Teacher Shortages Page: <https://tsa.ed.gov/#/reports>
 - [National Teach Ag Campaign](#)
- CTE
 - Career and Technical Education applies to schools, institutions, and **educational** programs specializing in skilled trades, applied sciences, modern technologies, and **career** preparation. The acronym CTE is not new to those in education, but how this program is engaged to meet workforce development needs continues to unfold.
 - [ACTE Policy](#)
 - [Perkins V \(Advance CTE\)](#)
 - [STEM](#)
 - [Workforce development](#)
 - [Post-pandemic needs and changes Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) education](#)
 - [Work-based learning](#)
 - [Industry-based certifications and credentialling](#)
 - [Inclusion of learners with exceptionalities](#)
- [Soft skill training](#)
- Technological trends in teaching and learning
 - [Hybrid vs. Online vs. In-person learning](#)
 - [Facilitated learning vs. teaching](#)
 - [Microlearning](#)
 - [Alternative assessments](#)
 - [Neuroeducation](#)

- Student trends:
 - [Learning loss](#)
 - [Social and emotional gap](#)
 - [Decreasing attention spans](#)
 - [School choice including and charter schools](#)
 - [Home schooling](#)

FFA

- [The National FFA Caucus](#)
 - The National FFA Organization has been honored to have the support of Congress via the establishment of the bi-partisan and bi-cameral FFA Caucus. A sincere thank you to co-chairs Representative Jimmy Panetta (D-California), Representative Tracey Mann (R-Kansas), Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-Michigan), and Senator John Boozman (R-Arkansas).
- [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#)
 - National FFA recognizes the need to be a welcoming place for all. With chapters located in the most suburban to most rural, how can National FFA ensure its membership is representative of the school's population and those in our country?
- [SAE for All](#)
 - Supervised agricultural experiences (SAE) are an integral part of the three-component model of agricultural education. The experiential service and/or work-based learning program allows members to explore their passions and career interests. The roadmap includes launching a foundational SAE and eventually transitioning to an immersion SAE. These changes in the program have initiated conversations with the National FFA staff and delegates about making programmatic adjustments to the following:
 - American Degree
 - Proficiency Awards
- [FFA Strategic Plan 2022-25](#)
 - To keep our programs flexible, engaging, and inclusive, we updated FFA's strategic plan for 2022-25, creating a clear path to meet and exceed our objectives in the next three years.
- [Student Involvement](#)
 - Student involvement is the driving source for participation in FFA; however, involvement has steadily declined recently. Whether it is the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the shift to affiliate memberships in states or student burnout, advisors in a recent survey mentioned areas where they would like assistance. They include:
 - Student motivation
 - Recruitment and retention
 - Chapter officer training
- Middle school agriculture education and FFA chapter program growth