



TRENDING TOPICS

National FFA researches and determines 3-5 topics trending in agriculture, education and FFA each year. 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 by Congress. The last version was signed into law by President Trump in 2018 and extended until September of 2024. While the Committee on Agriculture in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry in the U.S. Senate have been diligently working on updates to the law, action is necessary before the current law expires. Twelve titles are included in the bill, and each has a broad impact on the future of agriculture.
 - [“The future of food and farm policy” by The Hill](#)
 - [U.S. House Committee on Agriculture](#)
 - [U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry](#)
- Career Opportunities and “Brain Drain” in Rural America
 - According to USDA, the agriculture and food sectors represent 10.4% of US employment. As agriculture and related industries become more technologically advanced, rural America continues to struggle to retain college-educated young people. Numerous studies suggest this phenomenon impacts the rural economy, rural health, and other factors.
 - [Define Rural Brain Drain](#)
 - [Rural college graduates: Who comes home?](#), National Library of Medicine
 - [Rural America's "brain drain": How student debt is emptying small town](#), CBS News:
- Status of the Farm Economy
 - Current inflation on inputs and a projected decrease in net farm income has many farm economists concerned about a potential “cliff” in the farm economy. Numerous places track the farm economy:
 - [Purdue Ag Economy Barometer](#)
 - [USDA Economic Research Center](#)
- Ag Labor
 - Though technology continues to make advancements, ensuring a skilled workforce for production remains a consistent challenge. Often, farmers rely on foreign guest workers to meet the physical portions of the growing season and production cycle. However, current immigration laws are restrictive and don't meet the current needs of producers.
 - [American Farm Bureau Federation Analysis](#)
 - [USDA farm labor](#)
 - [Agriculture Workforce Coalition](#)
- Trade
 - American farmers are very efficient. In many commodity areas, producers grow more than American consumers can use, making exports highly valuable to ensure strong markets for farmers. However, trade negotiations to reach a final agreement are

complex and take into consideration many geopolitical factors. Trade has been a long-standing concern and will continue to be in our global society.

- [American Farm Bureau Federation Analysis](#).
- [Office of US Trade Representative](#)
- [World Trade Organization](#)

Education

- Career Cluster Framework Revision
 - In 2022, Advance CTE announced the relaunch of an initiative to modernize the National Career Clusters Framework. The new framework is expected to be finalized and released in Fall 2024. It is designed to provide structural alignment and a common language to bridge education and work, empowering learners to explore, decide and prepare for dynamic and evolving careers.
 - [CTE Framework](#)
- Federal Funding
 - Each year, the federal Government appropriates (or spends) approximately \$1.4B on state formula grants (basic state grants), directly impacting the flow of dollars into local career and technical education programs. As this number expands and contracts through the federal budgeting process, the investment made at the local level has a corresponding relationship. Groups like the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) advocate annually for increased investment in Perkins.
 - [Senate 2025 Education Funding Bill](#)
 - [House 2025 Education Funding Bill](#)
 - [Perkins Collaborative Resource Network – State Allocations](#)
 - [Perkins V \(Advance CTE\)](#)
- Teacher Recruitment and Retention
 - Recruiting and preparing future agriculture teachers through traditional and nontraditional licensure pathways, including teachers with and without agricultural experiences, is essential for the viability of school-based agricultural education. Many of today's future teachers have limited firsthand agricultural experiences beyond that which they can glean from their own high school agriculture programs. This also includes preparing industry-experienced teachers (lateral entry/alternative licensure) to be effective in the classroom, with SAE, and with FFA.
 - [U.S. Department of Education Teacher Shortages Page](#):
 - [National Teach Ag Campaign](#)
- The Council for Agricultural Education revisions
 - Classroom standards – Coming Fall 2024

FFA

- [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.
 - Evolve
 - Awards and Recognition Revision Advancements and Timeline
 - [Revision site](#)
 - [CDE delegate committee](#)
 - [Region delegate committee](#)
 - Engage
 - Belonging and Engagement
 - [Statement of Belonging](#)
 - [FFA Value Statements](#)
 - Opportunities to engage more students
 - [Million membership](#)
 - Middle school agricultural education and FFA chapter program growth

- Article V, Section B: Student Membership - To be eligible for membership in a chartered FFA chapter, a student must be enrolled in a state-approved school-based agricultural education program, not below the 5th-grade level. This was adopted last year at the 95th National FFA Convention and was put into effect for this membership year.
 - [Delegate committee](#)
- [Removing barriers](#) - 100% Membership Initiative, which fits into multiple strategic plan priority areas
- [State belonging cohorts](#)
- Empower:
 - Teacher recruitment
 - [Ambassador program](#)
 - [Teacher resources](#)
 - State leader support and development
 - [State Relations FFA page](#)
- 100th anniversary celebration – Celebrating history while looking at the future
 - [Delegate report](#)