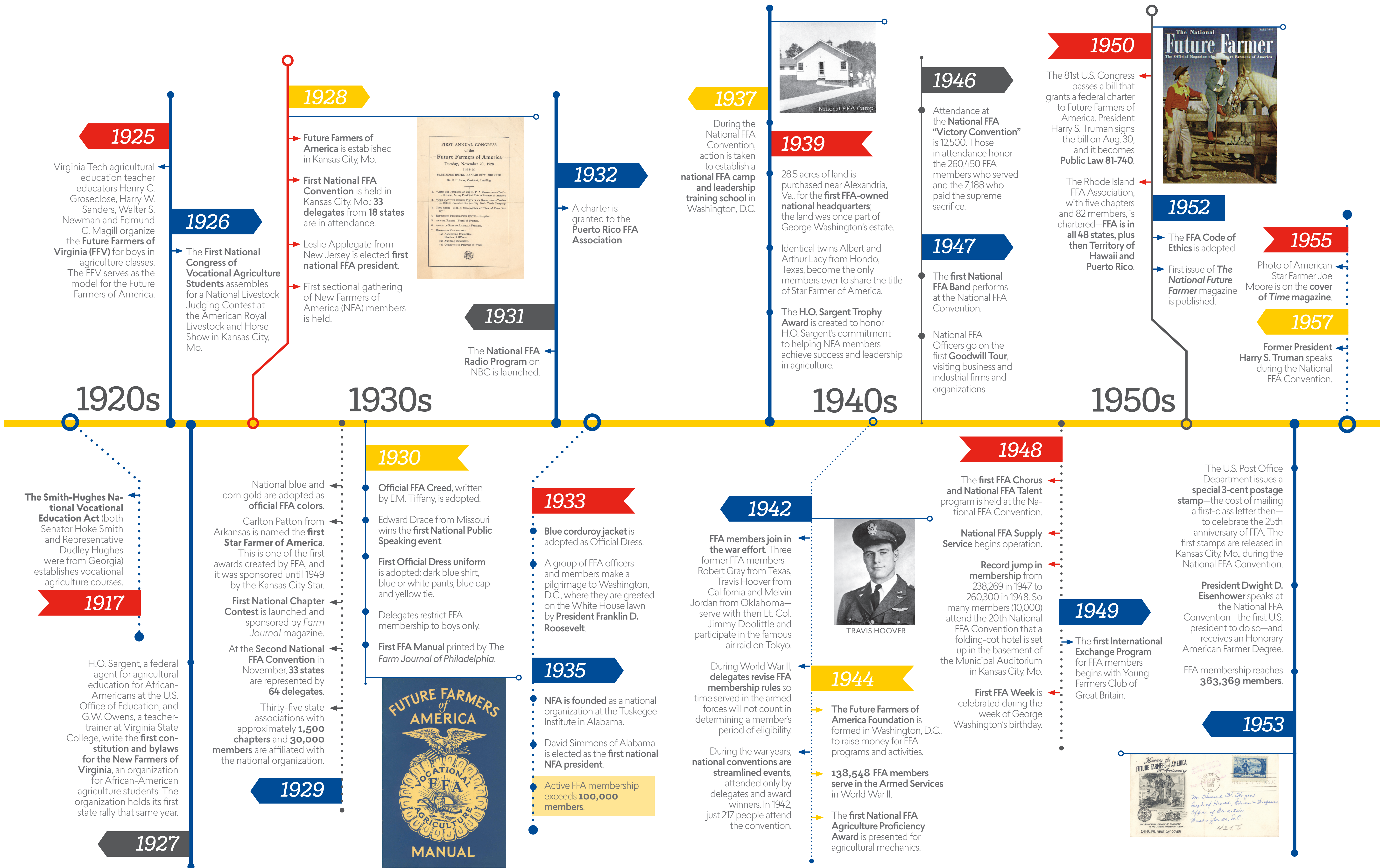




1925

Virginia Tech agricultural education teacher educators Henry C. Groseclose, Harry W. Sanders, Walter S. Newman and Edmund C. Magill organize the **Future Farmers of Virginia (FFV)** for boys in agriculture classes. The FFV serves as the model for the Future Farmers of America.

1926

The **First National Congress of Vocational Agriculture Students** assembles for a National Livestock Judging Contest at the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show in Kansas City, Mo.

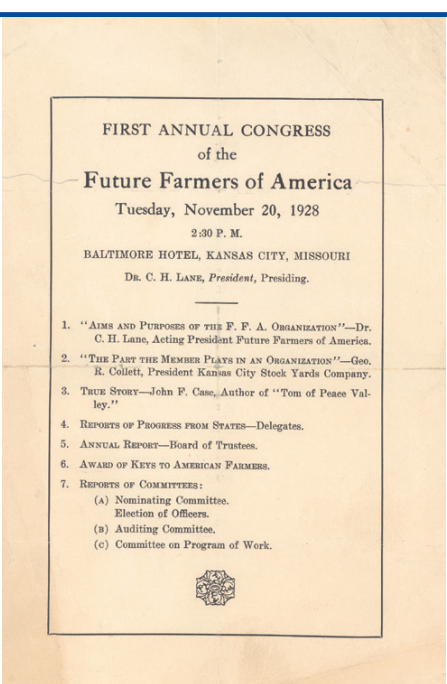
1928

Future Farmers of America is established in Kansas City, Mo.

First National FFA Convention is held in Kansas City, Mo.: **33 delegates** from **18 states** are in attendance.

Leslie Applegate from New Jersey is elected **first national FFA president**.

First sectional gathering of New Farmers of America (NFA) members is held.



1932

A charter is granted to the **Puerto Rico FFA Association**.

1931

The **National FFA Radio Program** on NBC is launched.

1930s

1930

Official FFA Creed, written by E.M. Tiffany, is adopted.

Edward Drace from Missouri wins the **first National Public Speaking event**.

First Official Dress uniform is adopted: dark blue shirt, blue or white pants, blue cap and yellow tie.

Delegates restrict FFA membership to boys only.

First FFA Manual printed by *The Farm Journal of Philadelphia*.



1929

National blue and corn gold are adopted as **official FFA colors**.

Carlton Patton from Arkansas is named the **first Star Farmer of America**. This is one of the first awards created by FFA, and it was sponsored until 1949 by the Kansas City Star.

First National Chapter Contest is launched and sponsored by *Farm Journal* magazine.

At the **Second National FFA Convention** in November, **33 states** are represented by **64 delegates**.

Thirty-five state associations with approximately **1,500 chapters** and **30,000 members** are affiliated with the national organization.

1927

The **Smith-Hughes National Vocational Education Act** (both Senator Hoke Smith and Representative Dudley Hughes were from Georgia) establishes vocational agriculture courses.

1917

H.O. Sargent, a federal agent for agricultural education for African-Americans at the U.S. Office of Education, and G.W. Owens, a teacher-trainer at Virginia State College, write the **first constitution and bylaws for the New Farmers of Virginia**, an organization for African-American agriculture students. The organization holds its first state rally that same year.

1937

During the National FFA Convention, action is taken to establish a **national FFA camp and leadership training school** in Washington, D.C.



1939

28.5 acres of land is purchased near Alexandria, Va., for the **first FFA-owned national headquarters**; the land was once part of George Washington's estate.

Identical twins Albert and Arthur Lacy from Hondo, Texas, become the only members ever to share the title of **Star Farmer of America**.

The **H.O. Sargent Trophy Award** is created to honor H.O. Sargent's commitment to helping NFA members achieve success and leadership in agriculture.

1940s

1946

Attendance at the **National FFA "Victory Convention"** is 12,500. Those in attendance honor the 260,450 FFA members who served and the 7,188 who paid the supreme sacrifice.

1947

The **first National FFA Band** performs at the National FFA Convention.

National FFA Officers go on the first **Goodwill Tour**, visiting business and industrial firms and organizations.

1950

The 81st U.S. Congress passes a bill that grants a federal charter to Future Farmers of America. President Harry S. Truman signs the bill on Aug. 30, and it becomes **Public Law 81-740**.

The Rhode Island FFA Association, with five chapters and 82 members, is chartered—**FFA is in all 48 states, plus then Territory of Hawaii and Puerto Rico**.

1952

The **FFA Code of Ethics** is adopted.

First issue of *The National Future Farmer* magazine is published.



1955

Photo of American Star Farmer Joe Moore is on the **cover of Time magazine**.

1957

Former President **Harry S. Truman** speaks during the National FFA Convention.

1950s

1948

The **first FFA Chorus and National FFA Talent** program is held at the National FFA Convention.

National FFA Supply Service begins operation.

Record jump in membership from 238,269 in 1947 to 260,300 in 1948. So many members (10,000) attend the 20th National FFA Convention that a folding-cot hotel is set up in the basement of the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Mo.

First FFA Week is celebrated during the week of George Washington's birthday.

The U.S. Post Office Department issues a **special 3-cent postage stamp**—the cost of mailing a first-class letter then—to celebrate the 25th anniversary of FFA. The first stamps are released in Kansas City, Mo., during the National FFA Convention.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower speaks at the National FFA Convention—the first U.S. president to do so—and receives an Honorary American Farmer Degree.

FFA membership reaches **363,369 members**.

1953



1942

FFA members join in the war effort. Three former FFA members—Robert Gray from Texas, Travis Hoover from California and Melvin Jordan from Oklahoma—serve with then Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle and participate in the famous air raid on Tokyo.

During World War II, **delegates revise FFA membership rules** so time served in the armed forces will not count in determining a member's period of eligibility.

During the war years, **national conventions are streamlined events**, attended only by delegates and award winners. In 1942, just 217 people attend the convention.



TRAVIS HOOVER

1944

The **Future Farmers of America Foundation** is formed in Washington, D.C., to raise money for FFA programs and activities.

138,548 FFA members serve in the **Armed Services** in World War II.

The **first National FFA Agriculture Proficiency Award** is presented for agricultural mechanics.

1960s

1958

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis presents NFA with a Certificate of Appreciation.

1959

First **National FFA Center** is dedicated in Alexandria, Va., on land that was once part of George Washington's estate and had been being used as the national FFA camp.

FFA holds its first **National Leadership Training Conference for state officers** in Washington, D.C. (now State Presidents' Conference - SPC).

1966

First **FFA National Agricultural Career Show** (now called Expo) is held at the National FFA Convention to highlight educational and career opportunities in agriculture.

1967

Elmer J. Johnson helps develop the **FFA archives** at the National FFA Center.

1968

Presidential candidate **Richard M. Nixon** speaks at the National FFA Convention. Nixon is elected U.S. president the following month.



1969

FFA opens membership to **females**, making it possible for them to hold office and participate in competitive events at regional and national levels.

Ken Dunagan from Arizona is named the **first American Star in Agribusiness**.

The **Washington Conference** (now Washington Leadership Conference—WLC) begins.

The delegate body of the National FFA Convention establishes **alumni class of membership** as part of the constitution.

1970s

The **National FFA Alumni Association** is established.

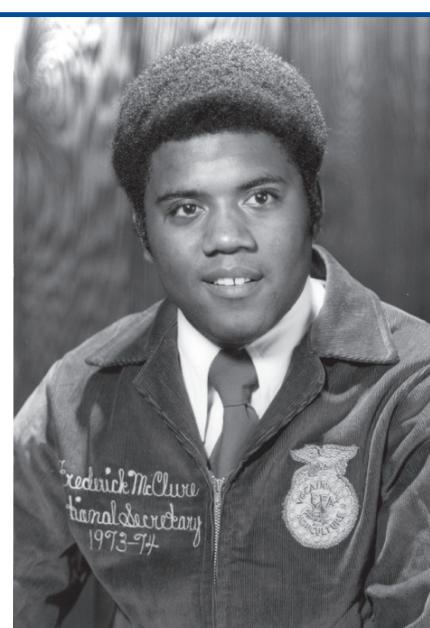
The **Building Our American Communities (BOAC)** program begins.

1971

1973

FFA **Official Dress standards** are created.

National FFA Secretary **Fred McClure** from Texas is the **first African-American** elected to a national FFA office.



FRED MCCLURE

Julie Smiley from Washington is elected national FFA vice president and is the **first female** to hold a national FFA office.

Alaska becomes the **last of the 50 states** to obtain a national charter.

1976

Photo of American Star Farmer **Joe Moore** is on the **cover of Time** magazine.

Christe Peterson from Wisconsin wins the **first Extemporaneous Public Speaking Event**.

1979

President **Gerald Ford** speaks at the National FFA Convention. The speech is carried live on network television.

1975

Food for America program launches.

Jimmy Carter, former Georgia governor and a former member of the Plains (Ga.) FFA Chapter, speaks at the National FFA Convention. Carter was elected U.S. president the following year.

First FFA Student Handbook is published.

1974

1980

The National FFA Foundation raises **\$1 million** in one year for the first time.

1982

Jan Eberly from California becomes the **first female national FFA president**.



JAN EBERLY

President **Jimmy Carter** speaks at the 51st National FFA Convention again, this time as a U.S. president.

The **commemorative marker** noting the site of the organization's founding is unveiled in Kansas City, Mo.

1978

1980s

1983

The **Ag Ed Network**, the organization's computerized information service, launches.

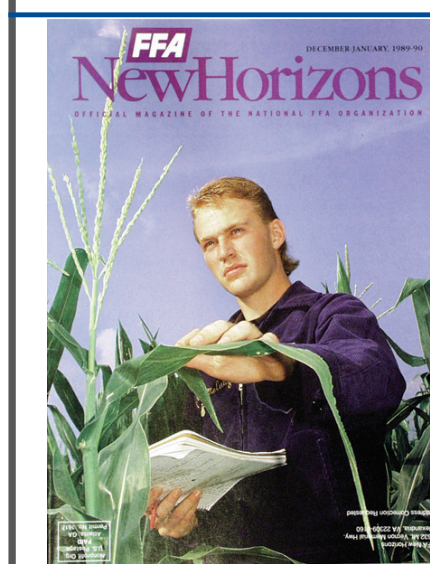
1984

The first FFA TV **public service announcements** air.

1986

The first **Agriscience Teacher of the Year Award** is presented to **Steven McKay** from Boonville, Calif.

1989



The **National Future Farmer** magazine changes its name to **FFA New Horizons**.

Seventh and eighth grade students are permitted to become FFA members.

The **Agriscience Student Recognition Program** is introduced.

President **Ronald Reagan** speaks at the National FFA Convention via a pre-recorded message.

1988

1990

The **Partners in Active Learning Support (PALS)** program launches.

National convention delegates vote to **raise the number of official voting delegates** to 475 based on proportional representation.

Delegates vote "**no**" to a new **FFA Creed** during the 63rd National FFA Convention.



COREY FLOURNOY

The **first national television satellite broadcast** of the National FFA Convention airs.

Vice President **George H.W. Bush** speaks at the National FFA Convention. Bush is elected U.S. president the following year.

1987

1990s

1991

FFA chapters in the **U.S. Virgin Islands** and **Guam**, along with five chapters in **Micronesia**, are chartered.

1994

Corey Flournoy from Illinois is the **first African-American** to be elected **national FFA president**; he is also the **first urban student leader**.



NATIONAL FFA CENTER

1997

The **first Agri-Entrepreneurship Award** is presented.

1996

H.O. Sargent Award is **reinstated**, promoting diversity among chapters.

FFA announces its decision to **move the National FFA Center** from Alexandria, Va., to Indianapolis.

FFA announces its decision to move the National FFA Convention from Kansas City, Mo., to Louisville, Ky., in 1999.

The official website for FFA, **FFA.org**, debuts.

1998

The **National FFA Center in Indianapolis** is dedicated on July 20.

The **Agricultural Education National Headquarters** is dedicated in Alexandria, Va.

The **National FFA Convention** is held in **Kansas City, Mo.**, for the last time.

Jose Santiago from Puerto Rico is elected national FFA vice president. He is the **first member from Puerto Rico** to serve as a national FFA officer.

Public Law 81-740 is revised through the 105th Congress and replaced by **Public Law 105-225** on Aug. 12.

1999

The **National FFA Convention** is held in **Louisville, Ky.**, for the first time with 46,918 in attendance.

Michael Van Winkle from Arkansas wins the **first National Creed Speaking event**.



NATIONAL
FFA ORGANIZATION

2000s

2000

The **National FFA Archives** at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) opens.

Delegates at the National FFA Convention approve the **Discovery FFA Degree** for middle school students.

2002

The 75th National FFA Convention is held in Louisville, Ky. To celebrate this special event, the **time capsule from the 50th National FFA Convention is opened**. Special guest **Muhammad Ali** is recognized at Reflections to honor the growing diversity of the National FFA Organization.

Karlene Lindow from Wisconsin is named **American Star Farmer**. Lindow is the **first female** to receive this award.

Official Dress standards are revised.

2007

The **FFA Merchandise Center** opens in Indianapolis.



2006

The **79th National FFA Convention** is held in Indianapolis for the first time, with **54,589** in attendance.

The National FFA Foundation announces its **first \$1 million contribution** from the Ford Motor Company.

FFA membership exceeds the half-million mark with **500,823 members** in 7,358 chapters.

FFA New Horizons adds online feature—**FFAnewhorizons.org**.

2010s

2010

Dr. Larry Case retires after 26 years as national FFA advisor.

FFA celebrates the **75th anniversary of the founding of NFA**.

Six college-age FFA members travel to Zambia for the **FFA Global Outreach: Africa** program.

2012

Patrick Gottsch donates **\$1 million on behalf of RFD-TV** to the National FFA Organization, the single-largest unrestricted donation in the organization's history.

National FFA Foundation receives a record of more than **\$16.2 million** in support of FFA.

FFA members and supporters **pack 1,005,048 meals** during the national convention and expo's **FFA Rally to Fight Hunger**.

FFA celebrates Latinos/Hispanics in FFA, agriculture and agricultural education during the national convention and expo.

2016

Membership hits an all-time high with **649,355 members** in **7,859 chapters**.

National FFA Alumni membership jumps to **225,891 members**, up from 62,705 in 2015.

FFA, Discovery Education and Ag-Careers.com partner to create **AgExplorer**, a career website to help students explore 235 unique careers in agriculture.

2017

Convention delegate recommendations to **alter Official Dress and the opening ceremony** get approval from the National FFA Board of Directors.

2014

FFA members earn a record **3,765 American FFA Degrees**.

Five FFA jackets donated to Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

The **Give the Gift of Blue** program begins.

2015

The **88th National FFA Convention & Expo** in Louisville has a **record attendance of 65,173** members, advisors, supporters and guests.

FFA announces the **national convention and expo to move to Indianapolis** from 2016-24.

First Lady Michelle Obama gives video greetings to attendees at the national convention and expo.

Membership in the National FFA Alumni Association reaches **62,705 alumni**.

The organization's official website, **FFA.org**, is updated to include a new look, a personalized dashboard, the resource My Journey, the FFA Resume Generator and the FFA Brand Center. **The FFA emblem is also newly refreshed** to modernize the FFA brand.



FFA.org



2008

The FFA member networking site, **FFA Nation** (now defunct), launches.

The FFA board of directors makes the decision to **rotate the National FFA Convention** between Louisville and Indianapolis, beginning with Louisville in 2013.

2011

The **National FFA Alumni Association** celebrates its **40th anniversary**.

FFA celebrates **Native Americans in FFA**, agriculture and agricultural education during the 84th National FFA Convention.

Dr. Steve A. Brown is named national advisor.

2013

Sherene Donaldson is named **first female national FFA executive secretary**.

Ram Trucks' **"So God Made a Farmer"** Super Bowl commercial exceeds 18 million views on YouTube; company donates **\$1 million** to FFA.

'FFA Today' Radio Show debuts on SiriusXM's RURAL RADIO channel.

2003

Javier Moreno from Puerto Rico is elected national FFA president; he becomes the **first person with a native language other than English and the first Puerto Rican** elected to this office.

"Only Blue Will Do!" launches. The campaign focuses on restoring the official FFA jacket colors to the true national blue and corn gold, as well as providing a superior-fitting jacket.

"FFA Live!" launches on RFD-TV.

2004

The first **live webcast of the National FFA Convention** premieres on FFA.org.

2005



National FFA launches **Seeds of Hope**, a fundraising campaign to rebuild Gulf Coast states' agricultural education and FFA programs following Hurricane Katrina; \$835,699 in donations is distributed to affected programs.

The National FFA Foundation tops the **\$10 million** mark in raising money in one year for FFA programs and services.

2009

FFA celebrates **40 years of women** in the organization.

HISTORICAL FFA TIMELINE

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