

The History of Agriculture Education in High Schools across America

1. 1917 The Federal Smith- Hughes Act established funding for high schools across the U.S. to start classes in agriculture. These classes started in small rural schools and only farm boys were allowed in the classes.
2. 1928 The Future Farmers of America (FFA) was established nationally as a youth group organization for students taking ag. classes.
3. 1970's Agriculture Classes moved into the larger towns and cities across America. The traditional farm boys were no longer the only students in ag. classes. Girls, Black students, Hispanic students, and town kids all wanted to be in this program. Ag. classes changed the curriculum to meet the needs of the students. Horticulture, fish production, lawn care, mechanics, all became apart of the expanded ag. curriculum in high schools.
4. 1988 The Future Farmers of America changed its name to The National FFA Organization so it could more closely represent all the varied student interests across America. We still use the letters FFA today to represent our nationally known organization.

History of FFA at Fairfield Union H.S.

1. Vocational Agriculture as it was known in 1962 started with 2 teachers and 65 boys in 4 different Ag. courses. Former and current Ag. teachers at Fairfield Union: Phillip Pope, Darrell Clark, James Ketcham, Loren Young, Ray Stemen, Joe Koehler, Keller Moore, Jena Kemmerer, Judd Baker and Christine Balint.
2. In the early 70's a few girls started to join the Agriculture Education (New Name) classes.
3. By the year 2000, 35% of the students in Ag. Ed. Classes were girls at F.U.
4. Starting in the fall of 2015 the high school Industrial Arts program combined with the current Agriculture Education program to form one of the largest High School Vocational Agriculture Programs in the State of Ohio. Today F.U. has over 300 total students in the Agriculture Science Program (Newest Name). (half are girls and half are boys)
5. Advisors today are Jena Kemmerer, Judd Baker and Christine Balint.