

## **Fairfield Union FFA at “50” (A reflection of our past)**

At the end of this school year the Fairfield Union FFA will have completed 50 years of serving the young men, young women and the agricultural community in our school district. The Fairfield Union FFA was a result of combining three former FFA chapters (Bremen, Rushville, and Pleasantville) into one new chapter. Boys who were accustomed to competing against each other were now competing together as a team. And oh yes it was just boys only. Girls were not allowed into FFA at the national level until 1969. The new chapter charter was signed on September 25, 1962 by then State FFA President Robert Kraner Jr. from the Pickerington FFA Chapter. The Pickerington chapter has been gone since the late 1970's.

Fairfield Union FFA started out in the fall of 1962 with 55 boys and two Ag. teachers. R.M. Foltz who was the long time Ag. teacher at Bremen was to lead the transition from the three small schools to the one “big” chapter. The second teacher was Phil Pope who was a first-year teacher out of Ohio State. He was from the Gallipolis area in southern Ohio. All was going smoothly in the summer of 1962 until R.M. had a heart attack. R.M. decided to retire from teaching and that left Phil and a sub teacher Mr. Drake to get our program started that first fall. Remember 50 years ago this community was still split on the idea of consolidating the three former schools. But as the years have passed that original dislike of the consolidation has faded away and we are now one united school, community and chapter. In 2012, the chapter consisted of 240 students with 121 boys and 119 girls.

Written by Loren Young – April 2012; Updated June 2024