

The History of Agriculture Education in High Schools across America

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.

1928 - The Future Farmers of America (FFA) was established nationally as a youth group organization for students taking ag. classes.

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 a part of the expanded ag. curriculum in high schools.

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.