

People across the country are celebrating National FFA Week from Saturday, February 15, through Saturday, February 22. This event gives the organization’s more than one million members, as well as alumni and supporters, the opportunity to come together with the common goal of sharing FFA’s value and impact from their own hometown.

The National FFA Organization works to develop young leaders through classroom instruction in agricultural education, leadership opportunities, and hands-on learning (known as SAEs or Supervised Agricultural Experiences). This is the first time National FFA Week has been celebrated since the record-breaking announcement of the organization’s milestone of reaching more than one million members.

“National FFA Week serves as a powerful reminder of the vital role that agricultural education and leadership development play in shaping our future,” said National FFA Advisor Dr. Travis Park. “It’s a time of celebration and reflection as FFA members, advisors, and supporters come together to honor the impact of this extraordinary organization. National FFA Week strengthens the bond between members and their communities, ensuring the legacy of agriculture and education thrives for generations to come.”

The six National FFA Officers will connect with chapters throughout the week by leading workshops, delivering keynotes and interacting with students on a more personal level. President Thad Bergschneider will be traveling to South Dakota. Secretary Luke Jennings will be traveling to Washington. Central Region Vice President Mary Schriener will be traveling to South Carolina. Eastern Region Vice President Caroline Groth will be traveling to North Dakota. Western Region Vice President Abigale Jacobsen will be traveling to Missouri. Southern Region Vice President Jack Lingenfelter will be traveling to Pennsylvania.

“FFA Week is a celebration of what makes our organization impactful... and what is it? What turns shy, reserved middle schoolers and freshmen into confident communicators? What learning could possibly result in hours of bus rides after school, working when it is not required, and serving when it is not asked for?” said Thaddeus Bergschneider, 2024-25 National FFA President. “For me, it’s answered with three gavel taps and a room full of united voices saying, ‘to practice brotherhood, honor agricultural opportunities and responsibilities, and develop those qualities of leadership which an FFA member should possess.’ That statement is the way we start every meeting, and I find it pretty fitting to

kick off our 2025 FFA Week with the same reminder. Let’s enjoy the brotherhood and community of our organization, honor the industry that challenges us to change the world, and let’s dedicate ourselves to exemplifying the character of our organization.”

GET INVOLVED IN NATIONAL FFA WEEK

Each day of National FFA Week is marked by a unique opportunity to get involved:

Saturday, February 15 – FFA Week kicks off

Sunday, February 16 is SAE Sunday – an opportunity to showcase the hands-on learning and supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs) that each FFA student participates in

Monday, February 17 is the Day of Service – each chapter is encouraged to serve their local community

Tuesday, February 18 is Alumni Day – celebrating the role alumni and supporters play in the success of students and local chapters

Wednesday, February 19 is Advisor Appreciation Day – a chance for students and alumni to recognize the agriculture teachers who have made an impact on their lives

Thursday, February 20 is Give FFA Day – a day dedicated to raising money to support FFA and agricultural education on local, state, and national levels

Friday, February 21 is Wear Blue Day – people are encouraged to show FFA pride by wearing blue, the color of the iconic FFA jacket

Saturday, February 22 is the last day of FFA Week

Several chapters across the country will be participating in their own special events to commemorate the occasion.

The Norfolk FFA Chapter in Massachusetts will create quilts to donate to local care centers that serve expecting mothers and foster children as part of a fiber and agricultural education service project.

The Bergman FFA Chapter in Arkansas is setting up a petting zoo at its elementary school and kicking off a “Hunger Games”-style event where students compete to collect the most food for students in need.

The Odessa FFA Chapter in Delaware will continue its “Read to Lead” tradition, bringing FFA members into kindergarten through fifth-grade classes to read agriculture-related books to young students.

This year’s National FFA Week will also include the 10th Annual Give FFA Day on Thursday, February 20. During the 24 hours of giving, the National FFA Organization has the goal of raising \$1.5 million. The money raised supports special programs and events, provides iconic FFA blue jackets to students, supplements travel costs for career and leadership opportunities, and pays for teacher support and resources. To receive a text alert on Give FFA Day to donate directly to the National FFA Organization, visit FFA.org/GiveFFADay.

The National FFA Organization is a school-based national youth leadership development organization with more than 1,027,200 student members as part of 9,235 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Mexico FFA



Members in Indianapolis for the National FFA Convention got to view cool places in the city including Monument Circle!



Members that went to National Convention got to tour Traders Point Creamery.



Members that went to National Convention got to tour the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.



Grant, Zane, and Garrett carve their engine light pumpkin after our October FFA Meeting.



Chapter officers attended National FFA Week Career Exploration event at the capital.

As a chapter, Mexico FFA helped serve food at the Mexico Young Farmers Truck and Tractor Pull.



Wyatt and Mrs. Terry celebrate their accomplishment of decorating the Mexico FFA homecoming float.



For Tyronn Lue Day of Service, Mexico FFA donated 640 items to the local Help Center!

FFA Week

February 16th- FFA Sunday

February 17th- Food Insecurity Day

February 18th- 8th grade Recruitment Day

February 19th- Supporters & Members Lunch

February 20th- Degree Ceremony

February 21st- Rewards Trip

Officer Spotlight


Jace DeVault

Jace is a junior serving as the 2024-2025 Mexico FFA President. Jace has also previously served as chapter Farm Manager.

Jace has competed on the 2024 agronomy CDE team. His agronomy team went to compete at state!

Jace has many SAE Projects. He has a ownership SAE where he owns and takes care of swine. He also has 3 placement SAE projects where he works at Twillman’s Feed and Seed, DeVault Farms, and a local lawncare business!

Jace plans on attending a trade school program after high school. After trade school he hopes to return to his family farm!



Members pictured are: Kinser Groves, Jace DeVault, Lydia Van Schyndel, Miah Sprock, Kami Jolly, Sara Jenkins, Stephen Kerr, Myles Yancey, Ethan Heaton, Samuel DeVault, Gatlin Denham, Grant Wilt, Aaden Kuda, Garrett Wilburn, Ava Scheiner, Ellie Gard, Bryson Regot, Andrew Feger, Emma Layton, Gabriel Lassell, Zane Meyer, Wyatt Troesser, Emma McCune, Alyssa Beal, Riley Hanley, and the Mexico FFA Chapter Advisor, Mrs. Christina Terry.



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Pictured (left to right) Front Row: Garrett Hopke, Brandon Kurz, Reece Culwell, Rebecca Motley, Erin Childs, Khloe Wallace, Jackson Fisher, Makayla McCurdy, Mylee Keller, Chloe Zumwalt; **Second Row:** Claire Lavy, Brady Puls, Slade Keller, Trenton Jennings, Corbin Roed, Gabe Freie, Micah Bailey; **Third Row:** Faith Griffith, Elaina Brogden, Emma Freie, Autumn Donaldson, Elliott Utterback, Madelyn Carman, Kylie Miller, Kaylynn Wallace; **Fourth Row:** Kinize Carman, Payton Kirn, Grace Smith, Megan McCurdy, Addi Kirkpatrick, Carly Hunn, Adrianna Craven, Kylie Dameron, Bryleigh Gaw; **Fifth Row:** Maxx Schuckenbrock, Dillion Miller, James Hays, Kaden Whiteaker, Bryce Reading, Lukas Foster, Nathan Conrick. **Last Row:** Pacey Reading, Dalton Dameron, Jaykob Green, Landon Flowers, Ty Evans, Easton Sharp, Evan Utterback.

We believe in the future of agriculture.

Our Van-Far FFA chapter is growing great leaders that will one day have a great impact on our community. As we move to the future, we see there is a need for leadership. Our FFA chapter is getting students ready for what is to come, teaching them how to be great leaders, and getting them involved in our community. This year, our chapter consists of 74 FFA members in grades ninth through twelfth.

We believe in leadership.

This year, our 2024-2025 officer team planned some great events while celebrating FFA week to get members active and excited about FFA. From our traditional events such as the annual FFA Barnwarming, FFA Church Sunday, the Community and Supporters Breakfast, Area V Battle of the Chapters, and the annual FFA BBQ. The officer team and advisors have worked hard to make these events great! Although these all sound like fun events, our members have worked hard to go on trips by raising money from our annual fruit sales, plant sales, and the

annual BBQ. These events would not be possible without the endless support of our community!

We believe in experiences.

Our students have experienced many once in a lifetime trips through our chapter. Some of those trips include the State FFA Convention, National FFA Convention, FFA Camp, and HYMAX academy. This year we had FFA members participate in many different community service events including, serving at the Historical Society Card Party and hanging Christmas lights at the local nursing home.

We believe in career development.

This year we have high hopes for our CDE and LDE contests, as we already have members studying hard! Students will be participating in multiple CDE's and LDE's including Nursery Landscaping, Ag Mechanics, Public Speaking, and many more. Outside of contests, we have our trapshooting team. Our trapshooting team competed throughout the fall in various trap shoots around the area and will be competing at state again in April.



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>>> Van-Far Ag Leaders <<<

Name: Erin Childs
Parents: Kurt & Amy Childs
What are your future plans? To attend the university of Missouri - Columbia to study Nutrition and Exercise Physiology
What is your favorite FFA memory? Going to state in food science CDE
What is your SAE? I own my own eBay company called Erin's Agricultural Emponium
How has FFA impacted your life? FFA has given me many opportunities that have helped me grow as a leader, build amazing relationships, and impact my community. FFA has made me who I am today, and I am very thankful for its impact on my life.

Name: Rebecca Motley
Parents: Kevin & Beth Motley
What are your future plans? Attend the university of Missouri - Columbia
What is your favorite FFA memory? Attending National Convention
What is your SAE? I work in food services at Dairy Queen
How has FFA impacted your life? FFA brought me many friends, opportunities and memories that i will forever cherish

Name: Reece Culwell
Parents: Shannon Culwell Jr. (Deceased) and Felicity Culwell (Deceased)
What are your future plans? Attend Mizzou and major in Agrriculture
What is your favorite FFA memory? Going to State in Food Science
What is your SAE? Crop production
How has FFA impacted your life? It has taught me how to be a leader and strive to accomplish my goals.

Name: Abbie Shelton
Parents: Chris & Christy Shelton
What are your future plans? Go to college and become a nurse practitioner
What is your favorite FFA memory? National Convention
What is your SAE? My job at the nursing home
How has FFA impacted your life? It has helped me meet new people, set goals to hold myself to a higher standard, and has helped me get involved in our chapter and community

Name: Emma Schambach
Parents: Dean & Gina Schambach
What are your future plans? Attend the University of Missouri - Columbia and get my Bachelor's in Health Science in Clinical and Diagnostic Science with an emphasis in Radiography
What is your favorite FFA memory? Attending National Convention
What is your SAE? DG Market
How has FFA impacted your life? FFA has brought me many opportunities and has me to branch out of my small circle

Name: Gabe Freie
Parents: Tiffany Hale & Mark Frieie
What are your future plans? Attend UCM, Athletic Training
What is your favorite FFA memory? Working in the shop
What is your SAE? Lawn mowing
How has FFA impacted your life? Helped me understand agriculture and more

Name: Kylie Miller
Parents: David & Kelly Miller
What are your future plans? Becoming a Veterinarian
What is your favorite FFA memory? National Convention

What is your SAE? Livestock
How has FFA impacted your life? Gives me the opportunity to meet new people, become active in agriculture and builds connections and life lessons for the future.

Name: Kaylynne Wallace
Parent: Kassie Scott
What are your future plans? Animal Care Specialist
What is your favorite FFA memory? National Convention
What is your SAE? Baptist Homes of Tri-County
How has FFA impacted your life? FFA has pushed me out of my comfort zone and has made me do things I wouldn't normally do. It has connected me to different people and showed me how important agriculture is.

Name: Grace Smith
Parent: Alan Smith
What are your future plans? Become a Radiology Technologist
What is your favorite FFA memory? Going to state Convention for contest
What is your SAE? Working at the nursing home
How has FFA impacted your life? Improved my public speaking skills as well as improving my drive to do greater things.

Name: Madelyn Carman
Parents: Melody and Mark Carman
What are your future plans? Go to MACC and become a veterinarian assistant
What is your favorite FFA memory? Going to FFA camp
What is your SAE? Swine production and working at County Market
How has FFA impacted your life? By giving me an organization to expand

my knowledge of animals and allow hands-on experience for me and my peers.

Name: Kaden Whiteaker
Parents: Kassandra Barclay
What are your future plans? Higher Education
What is your favorite FFA memory? Getting first in entomology Sophomore year.
What is your SAE? For my SAE I work at Dairy Queen
How has FFA impacted your life? It made me find what I wanted to do in the future and helped me grow a love for trucks and tractors, leading me to want to be a diesel mechanic.

Name: Autumn Donaldson
Parents: Samantha Day and Matthew Donaldson
What are your future plans? To become a nurse
What is your favorite FFA memory? National Convention
What is your SAE? The nursing home and owning pigs and chickens.
How has FFA impacted your life? I have met new people and came out of my comfort zone to talk to others and explore more into the agriculture industry.

Name: Zyah Griffith
Parents: Janessa Lee and Kenneth Griffith
What are your future plans? Attend College and study Law
What is your favorite FFA memory? Barnwarming
What is your SAE? My job at Walmart
How has FFA impacted your life? It has helped me interact with people I didn't think I would and has helped me be more involved.



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TRAPSHOOTING: (left to right) Front Row: Garrett Hopke, Kaden Whiteaker, Slade Keller, Maxx Schuckenbrock. Second Row: Brady Puls, James Hays, Elaina Brogden, Makayla McCurdy, Chase Mcfee. Third Row: Micah Bailey, Dalton Dameron, Jackson Fisher, Claire Lavy.



DEGREE CEREMONY: Freshman students were awarded their Greenhand Degree. This is the first step in a successful FFA career.



MUD VOLLEYBALL: Students kicked off the school year with our annual mud volleyball tournament.



FOOD FOR AMERICA: Van-Far FFA Members held their annual Food For America this Fall at the elementary school. Members hosted stations to talk about agriculture and allow the students to learn about the agriculture industry.



AMERICAN DEGREES: Abby Carlyle receiving her American Degree



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North Callaway FFA Trap Shooting Team.



Greenhand FFA members explored agriculture careers at the Bradford Career Exploration Day.



Twenty members of our chapter attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN.

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North Callaway FFA Week 2025

February 16th: FFA Sunday

February 18th: FFA Official Dress Day & Ice Cream

February 19th: Tractor Day , Dress Up Day & BBQ

February 20th: Community & Teacher/Staff Breakfast & Chapter T-Shirt Day

February 23rd: Barnwarming

March 4th: SAE Day

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Chapter members shared their agricultural knowledge and Supervised Agricultural Experience projects with elementary students at Food For America.



The chapter hosted a Senior Citizen's Prom. Students mingled and learned new dance moves from the senior citizens!



Hunter Fansler, Laine Smith and Adrienne Bryant received their American FFA Degrees at National FFA Convention.



Sophie Geppert, North Callaway FFA President, is also serving as the 2024-2025 Area IV President. Greenhands attended the Area IV Leadership Conference in September.

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FUN FFA FACTS

1. The organization's official colors – national blue and corn gold – were adopted in 1929. The blue pays tribute to our nation's flag, while the gold gives a respectful nod to agriculture, symbolizing golden fields of ripened corn.

2. The signature blue-and-gold FFA jacket was adopted as the organization's Official Dress all the way back in 1933, and it remains an FFA tradition 85 years later! More than 50,000 FFA jackets are manufactured every year.

3. Ever wonder which states have the most FFA members? The top five membership states are Texas, California, Georgia, Oklahoma and Missouri. FFA operates in all 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

4. The national FFA emblem consists of five meaningful symbols. The emblem's foundation is the cross-section of an ear of corn, a symbol of unity because corn grows in every state. The red rising sun symbolizes progress and opportunity. The blue plow signifies labor, the backbone of
- agriculture. The eagle serves as a reminder of our freedom, and the owl represents the wisdom and knowledge required for success in agriculture.

5. Did you know females were not allowed to be FFA members until 1969? Today, nearly half of all FFA members are girls. To be exact, females make up 45 percent of FFA's total membership and hold about half of all state leadership positions. Talk about girl power!

6. With 669,989 members, the National FFA Organization is the largest youth organization in the country. There are 8,630 local FFA chapters operating in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. FFA continues to grow every year!

7. Over the years, several celebrities and politicians have been involved in FFA. Former FFA members include 39th president Jimmy Carter, athlete Bo Jackson, actor Matthew Fox, and musicians Tim McGraw, Taylor Swift and Easton Corbin.



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The Central Missouri Ronald McDonald House provides a home away from home for families who have children who are receiving medical treatment at Columbia area hospitals. Centralia FFA members Drew Korb, Kayne Walters, Elizabeth Romine and Cassidy Collier participated in the house's meal program. The members made a chilli and cornbread dinner for the residents evening meal. The chapter members also donated 116 items for the house's pantry to be used during the year by residents.



Centralia FFA member, Jaden Decker, was one of 10 national finalists selected for the National AgriScience Fair in the Animal Systems Division. Jaden put his scientific investigation skills to analyze data from the National Hereford Association to develop an Expected Progeny Difference (EPD) indicator for show ring success in Hereford cattle. The EPD can be used to help cattlemen to select animals that should be more structurally sound and in turn be more profitable.



During the annual Centralia Pumpkin Festival, Centralia FFA members embarked on a mission to educate community members about livestock production in our community. Abby Asbury, a Centralia FFA member, spoke with community members about meat goat production. Abby raises Boer cross goats as part of her Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). Chapter members spoke with over 200 individuals during the event and showcased five different animal species.



The agricultural industry offers a variety of career options for individuals who want to pursue a career in agriculture. In order to expose members to various career opportunities, the Centralia FFA hosts Breakfast Bunch once a month before school. In February, Kim Sydenstricker, from Sydenstricker/Nobbe spoke to members about careers in the agricultural equipment sales field.



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