



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
THURSDAY, July 3, 2020

CONTACT: Kelsey Rose  
OFFICE: 931-372-6050

### TENNESSEE FFA ASSOCIATION REACHES AFFILIATED STATUS

COOKEVILLE, TN – The Tennessee FFA Association, upon unanimous approval and funding from the Tennessee FFA Foundation Board of Directors, is now an affiliated state association within the National FFA Organization. The National FFA Affiliation Fee Program allows students who are currently enrolled in secondary agricultural education programs (grades 7th-12th) who have met the local, state and national requirements to be eligible for all the benefits and opportunities offered through FFA. Under the affiliation program, all enrolled students in local agricultural education programs will be considered official FFA members. Ben Byler, Chairman of the Tennessee FFA Foundation, expressed his excitement toward affiliation: “It has long been the goal of the Tennessee FFA Foundation to provide support for Affiliate Membership. All Agricultural Education students will now have opportunities for leadership and personal development through the FFA. This is a history-making moment for Tennessee FFA.”

Involvement in FFA is an integral part of an agricultural education program and therefore should not be optional. Affiliation marks significant progress in implementing the recommendations of the Tennessee Agricultural Education and Youth Participation Task Force. Ann Johnson, Munford High School Agriculture Educator and Task Force representative, shared, “The Tennessee FFA Foundation should be proud of their decision to take on the financial obligation for membership affiliation for our members. Many students that are in agriculture education courses do not join our organization because of the financial burden it would place on their families. It warms my heart to know that in these trying times our leadership had the foresight to help make a difference in over 30,000 members' lives across this state. This step by the Tennessee FFA Foundation is the first step towards achieving the mission and ideas that the Task Force has set forward.” Tennessee FFA membership will increase from 13,917 members, as reported in the 2018-2019 school year, to over 30,000 members across the state. Tennessee FFA will also become the fourth largest state association within the National FFA Organization.

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Nationally, there are 700,170 FFA members, aged 12-21. To learn more about FFA, visit [www.tnffa.org](http://www.tnffa.org).

###

Tennessee FFA Foundation  
Box 5034, TTU  
Cookeville, TN 38505