

TENNESSEE FFA: TRADITION AND TRANSFORMATION

BY

Savannah Grandey and Carroll Van West

— MTSU Center for Historic Preservation —



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This booklet is a project of the
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, the Tennessee
Future Farmers of America, and the Tennessee FFA Foundation
Text by Dr. Carroll Van West and Savannah Grandey.
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— SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT —



John E. Mayfield, Tennessee FFA Historic Preservation Sponsor

Learning to Do. Doing to Learning. Earning to Live. Living to Serve. The FFA motto serves as a compass for FFA members past and present. Last year, FFA was introduced to a man who, despite having no prior FFA experience, lives to serve and has adopted the FFA mission of developing student potential as his own.

John Mayfield believes in serving the children of the world by providing them with opportunities to advance in ways that may have otherwise been beyond their reach. Though never an FFA member himself, Mayfield believes in FFA's mission. "It matters that students remain motivated through high school to be active in organizations like FFA," said Mayfield. "I want to see students involved in FFA through graduation so they will continue learning the values of responsibility and hard work into adulthood."

To motivate student involvement in FFA, Mayfield established a Tennessee FFA Foundation scholarship in 2015 for students to study agriculture in college. In 2016, Will Gregory of the East Robertson FFA Chapter was named as the first recipient of the John E. Mayfield Scholarship.

Mayfield moved from Knoxville to Cheatham County in 1985 and almost immediately impacted the community through his involvement with Kiwanis International, Tennessee 4-H Foundation, Girl Scouts, Habitat for Humanity, Imagination Library, and the Community Foundation. For 27 years he owned Mayfield's Book Store in Ashland City. When the bookstore closed recently, John donated all of the remaining books to local schools and charities. He has also been involved with the Red Cross, American Legion and founded the John E. Mayfield Foundation in 1986.

Over the past 16 years, Mayfield has awarded more than 230 scholarships and endowed 18 scholarship funds primarily to benefit Cheatham County students. Now, FFA has been added to the list of organizations impacted by Mayfield.

As a teen, John graduated from Baylor School in Chattanooga, attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and served in the United States Army Reserves for six years.

Because John has been so heavily involved in the betterment of the world around him, he has been frequently honored by his peers and community with numerous honors and awards. Mayfield still seeks more to do. As President-Elect for the Kiwanis International Foundation his impact on the lives of young people will spread across the globe.

Donors like Mayfield make the important work done by the Tennessee FFA Foundation, Inc. possible. We thank him for his generosity in sponsoring the printing of this book.

Chelsea Rose

Tennessee FFA Foundation, Inc.

TENNESSEE FFA: TRADITION AND TRANSFORMATION

— PREFACE —

Those who have worn the blue jacket of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) can still remember the pride they felt the first time they put it on. The pride they feel is not only in the accomplishments of their personal journey while enrolled in agriculture education classes, but also pride in the FFA tradition. It is a pride steeped in history that unites them with other students who have studied agriculture in high school classrooms for the past 100 years.

Every student has a story. Hundreds of thousands, possibly as many as two million, Tennesseans have participated in the FFA, each with a unique story of how the organization shaped them into who they became as adults. While this publication contains only a sampling of members' stories, no doubt millions of people have felt agricultural education's positive impact over the last century. We hope sharing these representative stories will enlighten the reader on some of the remarkable aspects of our collective story.

A work such as this could never be produced without the contributions of several important partners. While it is impossible to thank everyone involved, it is important to highlight the efforts of those without whose assistance this work could have never been accomplished.

The idea of organizing the Tennessee FFA Archives began with a financial contribution from the 1980-81 state officer team. This funding led to a partnership with Middle Tennessee State University's Center for Historic Preservation (CHP), directed by Dr. Carroll Van West. Special thanks to Dr. Kevin Cason, a graduate of the CHP who worked from 2011 to 2014 compiling and archiving the thousands of documents, photos, and artifacts that make up the current archives collection. Savannah Grandey, also a CHP graduate, did a fantastic job researching our records to compile this booklet, all with the desire to help us convey the importance of the FFA to agriculture in Tennessee. In addition to the Tennessee FFA Association, the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, the Tennessee FFA Alumni, the Tennessee FFA

Foundation, and several individual donors have provided the financial backing for this project.

Finally, thanks goes to one of the true legends of the FFA in Tennessee, Mr. Kenneth K. Mitchell. As the state FFA advisor for more than twenty-seven years, Mitchell worked tirelessly to collect, compile, and protect most of the historical photographs and documents that are now preserved in the Tennessee FFA Archives. Mr. Mitchell was known for his famous “thoughts for the day” that he willingly shared in his travels across the state. I close with one that he used quite often, as I think it appropriate to introduce this publication: “We have a past to uphold and a future to mold.” It is our hope that you will enjoy learning more about the rich history of the Tennessee FFA and will join with us in continuing to propel this organization to an even brighter future.

Mark D. McBride

Chairman, Tennessee FFA Historic Preservation Committee

— INTRODUCTION —

Wearing the blue jacket of the Future Farmers of America is a powerful statement of excellence in leadership, training, and achievement. Hundreds of thousands of Tennesseans have proudly worn that jacket, and their record of service to Tennessee history should be acknowledged and celebrated.



Since 1928, educators, students, and farmers across Tennessee have strived to make our farms more productive and our communities stronger through their involvement and commitment to FFA. It is time to acknowledge and celebrate their achievements. For without FFA, Tennessee would be a far diminished place. Generations of FFA leaders have shaped our economy, our government, and the very landscape we share as Tennesseans.

This history booklet only begins to explore the many legacies of how young men and women helped to transform the state through the FFA. We trace the beginnings of the organization and how even the dire years of the Great Depression did not dampen the movement forward. We look at the generation following World War II and how they brought new ideas and new technology to Tennessee farms. We look at the 1960s when long-established divisions between white and black, and boys and girls, came to a close, and the FFA re-established itself as a much stronger force. Finally, we consider the changes brought by the 21st century. Americans, no matter how far away from a farm they may

be, still trust that farmers will keep food on their table and provide the raw materials for products that make their lives better.

It is a big story, but Tennessee FFA today, as in the past, is up to the challenge of building stronger farms, better communities, and a successful Tennessee. As we approach the 100th anniversary of the landmark Smith-Hughes Act—legislation that not only spurred the development of FFA but that gave state and local governments necessary incentives to develop the public high school system that has benefited us ever since—it is again time to consider how agriculture and agricultural education shape the lives of our citizens and serve as a foundation for our future.

Carroll Van West

Tennessee State Historian

Director, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

TENNESSEE FFA: A HISTORY

By Savannah Grandey and Carroll Van West

— MTSU Center for Historic Preservation —

Can tradition and transformation coexist? A look at the history of FFA in Tennessee says yes! One hundred years ago, experts saw farmers in trouble and became concerned agriculture was destined to live in the shadows of booming business and industry. Farmers were down, but not out. They took progressive agricultural methods, science, and technology to their fields and their homes. Soon, no one spoke just of farming but boasted instead of agribusiness. Today, agriculture is a booming business. More than ever before, farmers find themselves in networks with scientists, engineers, environmentalists, and politicians to provide food, fiber, and energy to our nation and the world.

You wouldn't know it from the television or newspaper, but agriculture continues to change and is more important now than ever before because of the world's growing population. For a century, agricultural education students have played a major role in this transformation. Founded in 1928, the FFA strengthened vocational agriculture's impact through progressive agricultural programs and activities that were both educational and recreational. Though the organization has evolved, its rich tradition lies in its adherence to principles that are still relevant today.

The impact of the FFA is a reflection of its state associations. Beginning in 1927, the local chapters that made up the Future Farmers of Tennessee impacted rural communities by training students to be confident leaders, efficient agriculturists, and involved citizens. By affecting their communities, they affected the state. This is still taking place. The 14,000 FFA members in Tennessee today are part of a nearly century-old tradition of keeping agriculture relevant, sustainable, and flexible enough to meet the challenges of the future. As a member, alumni, or supporter of the FFA in Tennessee, you are an agent of both tradition and transformation.

■ The Roots of Modern Agriculture, 1862-1916

In 1862—in the midst of the tragedy of the American Civil War—Congress established the U.S. Department of Agriculture and passed the Morrill Land-Grant Act, launching a new era in American agriculture. Under the Morrill Act, states could obtain land, sell it, and establish agricultural and mechanical colleges with the money.

Although East Tennessee University (now the University of Tennessee) already existed, it expanded its curriculum to include agriculture and mechanics and thus became Tennessee's land-grant university.¹ The establishment of these colleges reflected the idea that farmers needed to move away from traditional methods toward the science and efficiency that made industry successful. Land-grant colleges across the country helped modernize agriculture by introducing students to the science and technology of making a successful farm.

The land-grant colleges were the first spoke in the wheel of agricultural progress. Next came the Hatch Act of 1887, which provided federal funding specifically for agricultural experiment stations. By the turn of the century, experiment stations operated across the country and seasonal demonstrations helped farmers learn about new crops, new breeds of livestock, and how to improve their agricultural operations. More spokes were added to the wheel of progress.

In 1914, Congress almost completed the wheel by approving the Smith-Lever Act that supported extension efforts to educate rural people that did not attend the colleges. But the wheel of modern agricultural improvement would not be complete without the push of the next—and future—generations, and that could only happen by improving agricultural education in the nation's schools.

■ The Impact of Vocational Agriculture

The Smith-Hughes Act of 1917, also known as the National Vocational Education Act, made a lasting federal commitment to agricultural education, providing matching dollars to states to establish vocational education departments for agriculture, mechanical arts, and home economics in high schools. Finally, the wheel of agricultural progress was completed through sustained vocational education.

When the Smith-Hughes Act was enacted, the Henry County Board of Education became the first in Tennessee to qualify its existing agriculture program at E.W. Grove High School under the new law. In addition to this program, other early vocational agriculture departments included those at Bradley County High School, Davidson County's Central High School, Farragut High School, and McLemoresville High School. The first African American vo-ag departments were established at Bruce High School in Dyersburg, Fayette County Training School, Haywood County Training School, Lauderdale County Training School, Orchard-Knob in Chattanooga, Shelby County Training School, and Wilson County Training School.²

The state of Tennessee made no provisions for the matching federal funds, requiring local school systems to provide all matching funds. It was not until 1919 that the General Assembly provided state matching funds to qualify agricultural programs for funding under the Smith-Hughes Act.³

Dudley M. Clements, the principal and agriculture teacher at E.W. Grove High School in 1917, became the first teacher of vocational agriculture in Tennessee and has long been recognized as the first vo-ag educator in the nation. Born on May 12, 1889, at Fort Deposit, Alabama, he grew up on a large farm where he developed a love for agriculture and rural living.



Postcard courtesy of authors

Clements attended Auburn University, graduating in 1910 with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. In 1911, he was hired to teach agriculture at the Robert B. Jones High School in Lynnville, Tennessee. The principals of the school hoped that courses in agriculture would

“attract sons of good farmers in that fertile section of Tennessee.”⁴

Clements did graduate work at the University of Wisconsin in 1912 and later received his Master of Arts degree in 1927 from George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville. In 1915, Clements left Lynnville to serve as agriculture teacher at E. W. Grove High School in Paris, Tennessee.⁵

N.E. Fitzgerald, a member of the agriculture education staff at the University of Tennessee, served as state administrator of the program from 1917 to 1919. When the state provided funds to qualify agricultural programs, the Tennessee board of education selected Clements to replace Fitzgerald as the first permanent state supervisor of agricultural education. Clements worked tirelessly to establish vocational agriculture departments in Tennessee, carrying the case for vocational agriculture to the county courts, school boards, and to the people of the state.⁶



Photo courtesy of National FFA Archives, Indiana University-Purdue University Library Archives

Dudley Clements

As supervisor, Clements traveled to schools across the state to promote the establishment of vocational agriculture departments. To help meet the goal of establishing more vo-ag departments, he worked

with the University of Tennessee to provide more classes for potential vocational agriculture teachers.⁷ Clements constantly encouraged teachers to do a better job. One man remembered, "He could get more work out of a group of men and make them like it more than any person I ever knew."⁸



*Tom Graham, evening student,
thinning 5 acres of corn*

Under his leadership, the number of vo-ag departments in Tennessee grew to 145 in white schools and to nineteen in black schools. In 1936, he left Tennessee to become the federal agent for agricultural education in the Southern states and Puerto Rico. During his six years in this position, enrollment in vocational agriculture in the region nearly doubled.⁹

Progressive Farmer magazine named Clements the "Man of the Year in Service to Southern Agriculture" in 1943 for his work in rural communities spreading knowledge about food production and preservation. In 1949, he became the assistant chief of agricultural education in the U.S. Office of Education. One day after his death on July 25, 1950, Congress passed Public Law 81-740, a bill Clements helped prepare that granted the FFA a federal charter, making it one of the few youth organizations in the country to receive such an endorsement from the federal government.¹⁰ Today, the state FFA camp is named Camp Clements in his honor.

Clements's devotion to the spread of vocational agriculture was timely. The new programs, like calls for experiential education in general, emphasized the value of "learning by doing" and suggested that education supplemented by outside experience produced students that are "prosperous and independent."¹¹ Vocational agriculture departments helped spread progressive agricultural concepts because the curriculum required students to participate in innovative farming methods.

Through these new vo-ag departments, teachers used the latest information from the land-grant experiment stations to design farm programs in which students worked on farms under adult supervision. Within these programs, students participated in cooperatives, raised livestock, cultivated crops, and experimented with soil and water conservation methods and modern farm implements. The work was done on school farms or on the home farms of students.



Danny Shinliver plowing in the field

Vocational departments multiplied under the Smith-Hughes Act. By 1926, there were 124 in Tennessee. The departments, in turn, became a source of pride and camaraderie, encouraging the formation of high school "agricultural clubs." These early groups almost immediately took on social and recreational purposes. Group events included fishing and camping trips and father-son banquets. The educational and social

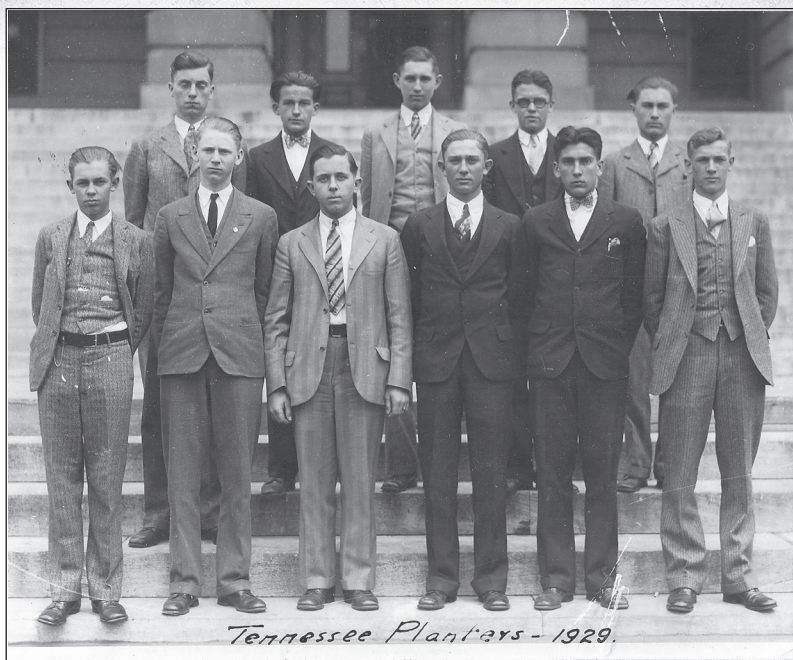
benefits of these clubs were especially important in the late 1920s, when farmers across the country faced increasingly hard times and young people in rural areas looked more anxiously to pursue jobs and lives away from the farm.¹²

The benefits of vocational agriculture reached beyond the classroom and student social circles. "Vocational agriculture is doing more for the health and sanitation of our farm people than any other agency," commented John Cates, principal of Happy Valley High School in Elizabethton.¹³ The vocational agriculture department in McKenzie tried to establish a cooperative creamery, but the project there generated so much interest that the community established a \$200,000 milk plant instead. A resident of Alexandria commented that the local department had done "more to help our community than anything we ever had."¹⁴

Students' desire to have their own formal organization, communities' support of vocational agriculture, and Clements's enthusiastic leadership helped advance the idea of the Future Farmers of Tennessee. Following Virginia's example, Tennessee became one of the first states in the nation to establish a statewide organization for vo-ag students. The vocational agriculture supervisors and teachers in Tennessee organized the Future Farmers of Tennessee (FFT) on November 18, 1927. Membership in the organization was open for white male students enrolled in vocational agriculture classes. The Alpine Progressives in Overton County became the first local chapter.

The FFT held its first state convention in Nashville, meeting at the House of Representatives chamber in the state capitol in April 1928. In the FFT's first five months, 1,028 members formed forty-one local chapters. The FFT elected four state officers: Donald Moore, from the Highlander's chapter at the Tennessee Polytechnic Institute (now Tennessee Tech) in Cookeville, president; Eugene Darnell, from the Clarksville chapter in Montgomery County, vice president; Harold Austin from the Volunteer chapter in Portland, secretary; and Odell Mabry from the Hardin County chapter in Savannah, treasurer.

The FFT state organization predated the Future Farmers of America national association by a year. Students and state advisors attending the third annual conference of the National Congress of Vocational Agriculture Students established the national Future Farmers of America in Kansas City, Missouri, in November 1928.¹⁵



Tennessee planters

■ FFA: A Student-Led Organization

Developing students' leadership and cooperative skills, the FFA is an organization "run by youth under adult guidance."¹⁶ The FFA has three tiers: local chapters, state associations, and the national organization. All active members in local chapters vote on chapter officers. Delegates from each local chapter then select state officers at the state conventions. At each national convention, a delegate body made up of representatives from state associations elects six national officers—a president, four vice presidents, and a secretary. One vice president comes from each of the administrative regions: eastern, western, central, and southern.

Fourteen Tennesseans have served as national officers: ten as national vice presidents and four as national secretaries.

The current record of five national officers in seven years is a testament of the quality program that has been built in Tennessee.

National FFA Officers from Tennessee

Name	Chapter	Hometown	County	Year	Office
Wallace Bryan	Green Gale	Lebanon	Wilson	1931-32	VP
E. K. Waters, Jr.	Green Gale	Lebanon	Wilson	1932-33	VP
Elmo Johnson	Horace Maynard	Maynardville	Union	1936-37	Secretary
Tom Vaughan	Yorkville	Yorkville	Gibson	1944-45	VP
Max Cobble	Blue Springs	Mosheim	Green	1948-49	Secretary
Lee Todd	Bells	Bells	Crockett	1958-59	VP
Marvin Ray Gibson	Everett	Maryville	Blount	1963-64	VP
Dean Norton	Doyle	Knoxville	Knox	1978-79	VP
Jaye Hamby	Polk County	Benton	Polk	1988-89	VP
Chelsea Doss Rose	Eagleville	Christiana	Rutherford	2009-10	VP
James Flatt	Wilson Central	Lebanon	Wilson	2010-11	VP
Mitch Baker	Baxter	Cookeville	Putnam	2013-14	Secretary
Stephen McBride	Coffee County	Beech Grove	Coffee	2014-15	VP
Nick Baker	Baxter	Cookeville	Putnam	2015-16	Secretary



Tennessee's first national officer, seated on far left, Wallace Bryan, 1931–32.



Tennessee FFA officers, 1947-48)



*Tennessee FFA officers at state capitol,
1970-71*

Tennessee's state officers include one president, one vice president from each Grand Division, a secretary, treasurer, reporter, and sentinel. Each of the three Grand Divisions also elects its own six regional officers.



Lee Todd, 1958–59 national vice president, with singer Rosemary Clooney

In his memoirs, Todd recalled: “While traveling to Detroit, my fellow officers and I were on the ABC national network TV program, The Red Foley Show. This hour-long country and western music show was telecast before a live audience and sponsored by the Massey Ferguson farm equipment company. The special entertainers that evening were Eddie Arnold, a fellow West Tennessee boy, and Rosemary Clooney.”

Students largely create and administer the programs and activities on all levels of the organization. The agriculture teacher is the advisor of the local chapter, while the state supervisor of agricultural education is advisor for the state association. The National FFA Board of Directors is made up of the national advisor, secretary, and treasurer; representatives from the U.S. Department of Education; and one state supervisor from each of the four administrative regions. Per the FFA Constitution, the board has ultimate authority but most actions taken

are the result of recommendations from the national officers.¹⁷

To pursue both agricultural education and community uplift, Tennessee officers follow the organization's eight purposes—first listed by state president Robert Moon (Blue Grass Chapter, Nashville, 1931–32) in a 1932 radio address:

To promote thrift.

To promote scholarship and rural leadership.

To establish the confidence of the farm boy in himself and his work.

To promote vocational agriculture in Tennessee high schools.

To create more interest in the intelligent choice of agricultural pursuits.

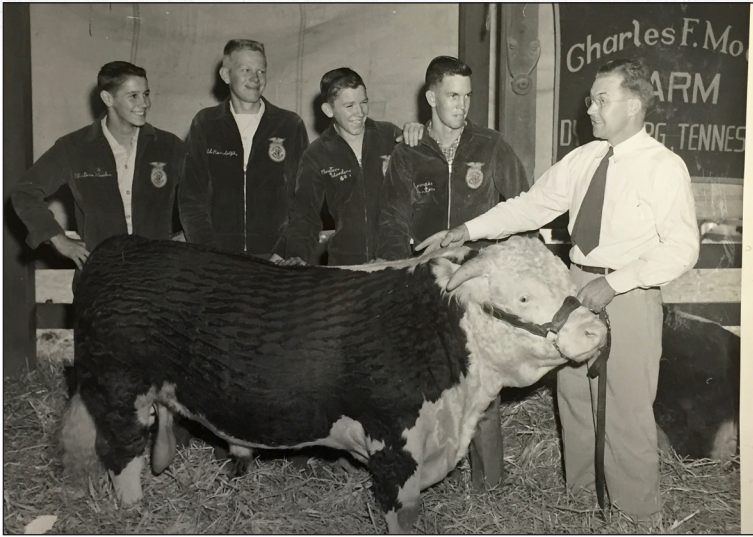
To cultivate an appreciative attitude toward cooperation through participation.

To provide recreational and educational entertainment for vocational agriculture students.

To create and nurture a love for country life.¹⁸



FFA-FHA homecoming float, 1963–64



Vo-Ag Instructor Gives Pointers on Judging Cattle, c. 1960

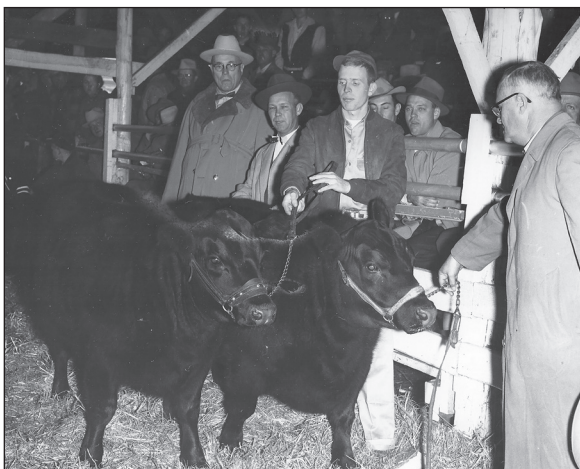
The community focus of those early decades has remained constant. In 1971, the FFA began the Building Our American Communities program. Under this initiative, the Bradley chapter helped beautify public spaces, worked with the sheriff's department and Farm Bureau to mark and register farm equipment, helped community members diversify their vegetable gardens, and assisted the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency in helping maintain wildlife populations.¹⁹

The Nicholas Blackwell chapter in Bartlett won the Gold Emblem Award at the 1988 national convention for its five-phase safety program that included placing speed limit signs on campus, working with the Neighborhood Watch, and promoting public awareness of the dangers of tick and flea infestation to the public. The same year, the Woodbury chapter from Cannon County won the national Silver Emblem Award for running a tractor safety campaign and working to reduce the number of ATV accidents in the community.²⁰

Although the FFA began with a rural focus, it never intended to "take any stand for anything that [would] divide [the] rural people from the urban people."²¹ Instead, the FFA sought to connect rural and urban areas together so that Tennessee "may be the most progressive in the nation."²² Members help communities in urban and suburban areas grow vegetable gardens and establish greenhouses. Urban chapters

prepare students for careers in horticulture, landscape architecture, agricultural engineering, and agribusiness.²³

Aside from projects designed specifically for community improvement, the FFA transforms communities by transforming students. Moon, state president in 1932, noticed that county courts, school boards, and legislatures were becoming filled with FFA alumni. During World War II, members promoted and led efforts to establish victory gardens. FFA members were and still are often involved in local farm and livestock organizations. In terms of agricultural change, the modern methods FFA members use on their home farms and in collaboration with others for school and community projects make them role models for both good citizenship and good farming.²⁴



Nashville Fat Cattle Show, 1955

FFA members exhibit livestock at shows across the state and participate in establishing livestock sales. In 1958, FFA members played a major role in planning Tennessee's first tri-county feeder pig sale, which attracted farmers from Mississippi, Arkansas, and other parts of Tennessee. Members of the Peabody chapter in Trenton, Jere Cooper chapter in Dyersburg, and Crockett Mills chapter in Crockett Mills worked with their chapter advisors to ensure the quality of the livestock and conduct the sale in Trenton. These kinds of events helped farmers establish relationships within and outside of the state and created interest in obtaining top-quality animals.



Jackson County Fat Cattle Show scene



Meeting with state officers, Kenneth Mitchell, and others

Local chapter officers and state officers gain experience in leading their peers, planning chapter activities, and representing the FFA at events. State officers conduct Goodwill Tours and visit government offices, civic organizations, and businesses to maintain a wide audience of FFA activities and progress. The state officers also travel throughout the state to visit local chapters and build rapport among members.²⁵



FFA Officers at Hercules Powder Co.

The activities of the FFA give members experience in parliamentary procedure, cooperation, and business principles. Many FFA alumni become prosperous farmers, leaders at agricultural companies, and businesses owners. Several return to classrooms across the state to become advisors themselves and continue in the tradition of turning students into leaders.²⁶

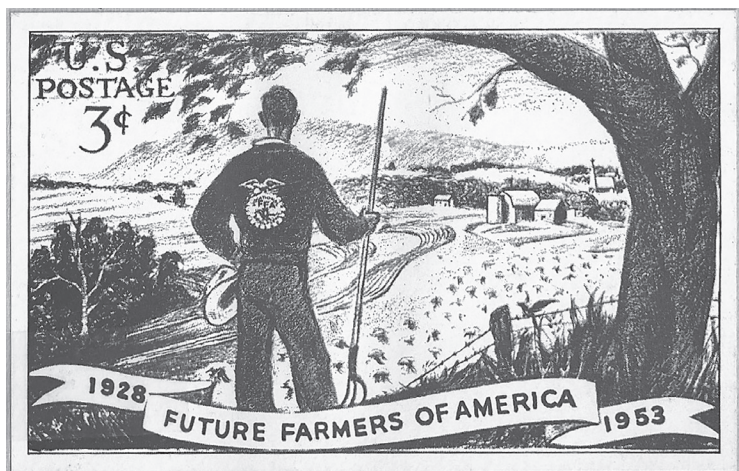


Paris chapter with agriculture sign



John McKee with FFA mailbox

These purposes, principles, and practices of FFA have created and sustained a robust statewide program, from the very beginning. Even in the midst of the Great Depression, the Tennessee association had over 5,000 members in 1936, and that number more than doubled to 11,885 FFA members by 1941. A decade later, there were over 14,000 students in 262 chapters by 1950. In 2015, there are 14,084 dues-paying members in 216 local chapters. Sadly, not all students studying agriculture in Tennessee are members of the FFA. In fact, more than 37,400 students were enrolled in agriculture classes in Tennessee's middle and high schools in 2015, leaving a potential for more than 23,000 additional members. In order to provide the FFA experience to as many students as possible, the Tennessee FFA Foundation is currently seeking financial sponsorships to enable all students of agriculture to become FFA members.



Commemorative FFA Silver Anniversary postage stamp

A basic reason behind the expansion of FFA was that membership meant something. An enduring aim of the Tennessee FFA is to constantly challenge students as they pass through the different levels of membership. Degrees of membership include the Discovery Degree for seventh- and eighth-graders. In high school, students become Greenhands and advance to Chapter Degrees, State Degrees, and American Degrees. Advancement is dependent upon achievement and length of time in vocational agriculture courses. States are allowed

to nominate members to receive the American Degree (formerly American Farmer). The American FFA Degree is awarded to members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to FFA and made significant accomplishments in their supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs). Less than one-half of one percent of FFA members earn this prestigious honor, the highest degree of membership.



Joe Moore on Time Magazine

Two first-time achievements accentuated the Tennessee FFA's silver anniversary in 1953. Tennessee's John W. Reynolds of Goodlettsville (Davidson County) won the Southern Regional Star Farmer Award in 1952. In 1955, Joe Moore of Jackson County (Gainesboro) was the first Tennessean to receive the Star Farmer of America Award. Before Moore received the Star Farmer Award, he served as the 26th state president. Moore and his father, Donald, who was Tennessee's first state president, became the first father and son to both serve as state officers.

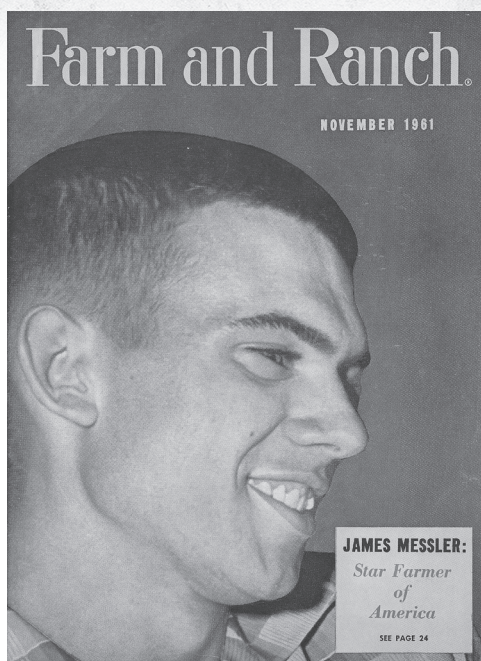
Several other families have multiple members who have served as state officers. Like the Moore family, the McBride and Baker families have enjoyed similar generational successes, both with three family members elected to state offices. Mark McBride (Paris chapter, Henry County) served as state president in 1980–81 and was followed by two sons who also were elected state president: Matthew (Liberty chapter, Madison County) in 2006–07 and Stephen (Coffee County chapter) in 2012–13. Phillip Baker (Gordonsville chapter, Smith County) was state secretary during 1986–87 and then had two sons representing the Baxter chapter in Putnam County who also served as state secretaries: Mitch in 2012–13 and Nick in 2014–15.

Mitch Baker and Nick Baker additionally have the distinction of being the first siblings from Tennessee to both serve as national officers. Each was elected as national secretary, Mitch in 2013–14 and Nick in 2015–16.

While a number of siblings have been elected as state officers, only two families have had three siblings serve. Walter Hunt Jr. (1932–33), Warren Hunt (1937–38), and Wayne Hunt (1939–40) were from the Peabody chapter in Trenton (Gibson County) and all served as state presidents. Sisters Karen Newsom Tinkle (state secretary 1998–99), Kim Newsom Holmberg (state president 2000–01), and Kris Newsom (state secretary 2008–09) were from the Dyersburg chapter (Dyer County).

After Joe Moore was named Tennessee's first American Star, several FFA members in Tennessee have received national awards including those in agribusiness, forestry, agricultural mechanics, and home improvement. Besides Moore, two other students have earned the title of American Star Farmers, James Isaac Messler of Greenback High School (Loudon County) in 1961 and Warner Ross of Bolivar Central High School (Hardeman County) in 1962.

In 1969, the American Star in Agribusiness was added. Two Tennessee students have earned this award, Todd Wilkinson of the White House Chapter (Sumner County) in 1986 and Chad Wells from Warren County in 1992. The American Star in Agriscience was added in 2001, and Warren County's Adam Franklin Newby was named national winner in 2002.



Farm and Ranch cover photo of James Isaac Messler, 1961 Star Farmer of America



Warner Ross, 1962 Star Farmer of America

The challenge of competition is another reason teenagers want to join FFA. Different career development events at the local chapter, state, and national levels engage students in competitions that teach them the importance of preparation and developing their decision-making and cooperative skills. The annual state convention agenda is full of competition. Local chapters compete to be named best chapter in the state based on their achievements and current activities. Livestock, dairy, crop, and land judging contests, and parliamentary procedure and FFA Creed competitions have been hallmark events of the Tennessee FFA since its beginning. In 1946, Governor Jim Nance McCord declared the week of the state convention FFA Week in Tennessee. Two years later, the National FFA declared the week of George Washington's birthday FFA Week and Tennessee moved its week to align with the national one.²⁷



Land judging team, 1970

Competition helps to groom leaders. The most popular competitions concern public speaking. FFA students compete in both prepared and extemporaneous public speaking competitions at local chapter events and state and national conventions. Students must choose a subject, compose the content, and deliver the speech to an audience. Awards and competitions became such a central part of the FFA in Tennessee that The Tennessee Future Farmer began printing a special issue each

year devoted to contests and awards.²⁸ Public speaking competitions also have been an integral part of the FFA program since its earliest national conventions. While numerous Tennessee students have seen significant success as national finalists, nine have been named national winners.

FFA Public Speaking Award Winners from Tennessee

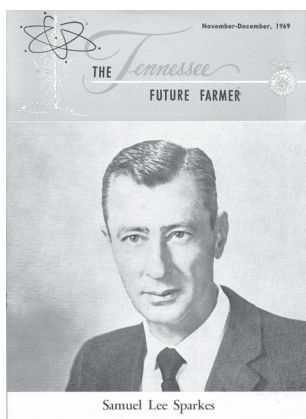
Student	Chapter	County	Year	Contest
Marvin Ray Gibson	Everett	Blount	1961	Prepared
Donald Pilkinton	Waverly	Humphreys	1968	Prepared
Joe Huffine	David Crockett	Washington	1982	Extemporaneous
Kenneth Coleman	Lexington	Henderson	1986	Extemporaneous
Jeff Gilliam	Lexington	Henderson	1987	Extemporaneous
Steven Gibson	Bolivar Central	Hardeman	1988	Extemporaneous
Mark Jones	White House	Sumner	1990	Extemporaneous
Davey Lopez	Brighton	Tipton	2001	Creed
Rachel Klamer Graves	Munford—Big Boll	Tipton	2002	Prepared

The last national winner from Tennessee was Mark Jones of the White House chapter (Sumner County) in 1990. Davey Lopez of Brighton High School (Tipton County) is Tennessee's only winner in Creed Speaking (2001), a competition reserved for grades 7-9 which began on the national level in 1999.



FFA national convention, 1955

Membership also meant learning about your peers' achievements statewide. Tennessee's first official FFA magazine was *The Tennessee Planter*, which started publishing in 1932. The name changed to *The Rising Sun* in 1934 and again to the *Tennessee Future Farmer* in 1946. These magazines highlight the achievements of students, teachers, and alumni and keep members aware of the goings-on in different chapters across the state. Sending magazines to alumni, honorary members, school officials, businesses, and other potential supporters has been a way for the FFA to keep a large number of agriculturists in the loop and create goodwill among potential partners.²⁹



Tennessee Future Farmer



Tennessee state officers, 2002-03

■ Expansion and Unification: the 1960s

The federal government recognized the need for vo-ag education to expand when it passed the Vocational Education Act of 1963. The passage of this act embodied the “education for employability trend” and reawakened interest in and commitment to vocational education in agriculture and other fields. It expanded the scope of vo-ag education to reach beyond the farm by no longer requiring programs to include farm work. Under the new law, vo-ag education was to include any occupation that had to do with agriculture. In Tennessee, this expansion included training having to do with agricultural supplies and products, farm electrification, agricultural technology, soil and water management, ornamental horticulture, agricultural resources, and forestry.³⁰

Like the FFA, the first state association of the segregated New Farmers of America (NFA) formed in Virginia in 1927. G.W. Owens and J.R. Thomas, both agricultural education teachers at Virginia State College, and Dr. H.O. Sargent, a federal education official, were responsible for establishing the NFA for black students. Other states soon followed suit, and members held a national conference in Tuskegee, Alabama, in 1935. Here, they established the national NFA organization. After that, the national convention rotated to African American land-grant colleges established by the second Morrill Act of 1890 before settling in Atlanta in 1949.

The NFA and the FFA participated in many similar activities including supervised farm work, contests, and community improvement projects. Contests included judging, quiz, quartet, and talent competitions. The organization had four levels of membership: Farm Hand, Improved Farmer, Modern Farmer, and Superior Farmer. NFA colors were black and gold, and national NFA week was celebrated during the week of Booker T. Washington's birthday.



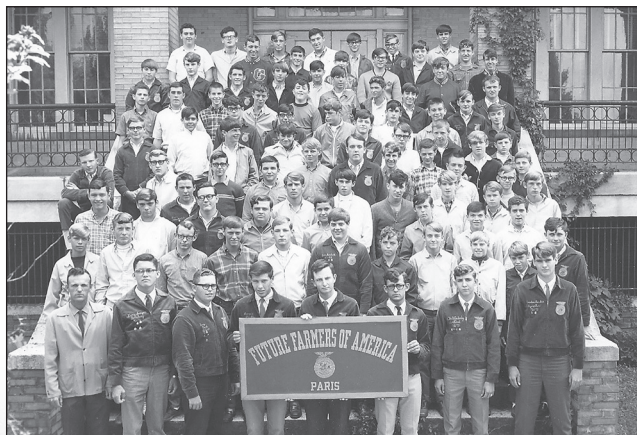
New Farmers of America reached its membership peak in 1963 with 58,132 members in fifteen states.³¹ The Tennessee Association of the NFA consisted of thirty-four chapters. In 1963, it began publishing its own newsletter, *The NFA Broadcaster*. The organization dedicated the first issue to Dr. Walter Strother Davis, who served as state advisor to the Tennessee NFA for ten years beginning in 1933 before becoming the executive secretary of the national organization and the president of Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State University (now Tennessee State University). Ties to the university were strong and benefitted the Tennessee NFA by providing a platform for the organization and resources for program development. The advisor that succeeded Dr. Davis, Dr. W. A. Flowers, became the field services and extension director at Tennessee A&I after his time as supervisor. Both men remained advocates of the NFA during their tenure at the university.³²

Similar to the Tennessee FFA, members of the Tennessee NFA consistently represented the state at the national level. Nine Tennesseans served a total of eleven years as national officers of the NFA. For four consecutive years in the 1940s, Tennessee had a national NFA officer. Two Tennessee NFA members served as national NFA presidents, E. Porter (1937–38) and Robert Boone (1963–64). Porter was also the first NFA national officer from Tennessee, serving on the 1936–37 team. Other Tennessee students who served as national NFA officers: Ferdinand Holmes (1938–39 and 1939–40); E.L. Mullins (1943–44); James Hudson (1945–46); Charles Flippin (1946–47); Walter Caldwell (1947–48); Frank Harris (1948–49); and James Tatum (1957–58).³³

In the midst of the civil rights movement in the 1960s, the national FFA and NFA organizations merged in 1965. Before this, five of the seventeen NFA state associations had already combined with those of the FFA. The FFA established the H.O. Sargent Award in 1995 in honor of the NFA and one of its founders. While this award has since been retired, it recognized those who promoted and encouraged diversity in agricultural education and programs. The two organizations in Tennessee quietly merged in the spring of 1965.³⁴ The 1965 consolidation with the New Farmers of America, the African American counterpart to the FFA, boosted Tennessee's membership to over 20,000 in 1966 by adding 1,886 NFA members. This unification was long overdue but had not been allowed by the laws of segregation in Tennessee and in Tennessee education.



Billy Joe Wiley, TN FFA, receives a check from Larry Reece, TN NFA, completing the merger between the two organizations in 1965.



Paris chapter in the 1960s



Tennessee state officers, 1977–78

FFA became a fully inclusive organization in 1969 when delegates at the National FFA Convention voted to allow female membership. Delegates elected Debbie Jennings of the South Greene chapter as state reporter in 1973, making her the first female in Tennessee to fill a state office. In 1984, Pam Farmer from the Paris chapter in Henry County made history by being the first female state president. Today, females make up a substantial portion of FFA membership and are well represented in local, state, and national offices.³⁵ In fact, in both 2005–06 and 2011–12, every member of the state officer team was female.



Tennessee FFA officers, 2011–12



Governor Ned McWherter was an FFA member from Dresden. The McWherter monument commission worked with the Tennessee FFA Foundation to raise the money for his statue, which sits in front of the Weakley County Courthouse in Dresden. The FFA has the responsibility for maintaining the statue. McWherter was a tremendous supporter of the FFA during his political career, stating on numerous occasions that “the parliamentary procedure I used as speaker of the House came from my training in FFA.”



Tennessee state officers 1986–87, with Governor Ned McWherter

FFA Today

In 1988, the Future Farmers of America changed its name to the National FFA Organization to encompass science, technology, and business. Dedicated to training students in all spheres of agriculture, the FFA encourages its students to pursue careers in agricultural marketing, processing, education, agribusiness, and related fields. Today, FFA Career Development Events give members an opportunity to hone their professional skills in order to more successfully market themselves to employers. Career and trade shows at the annual national and state conventions enable members to exchange ideas, speak with representatives from various companies, and collect professional contacts.

The FFA of today is not just a domestic affair. Since its beginning, the FFA has served as a model for similar programs overseas. Students also participate in international tours and exchange in order to understand agriculture in transcontinental context. Once enrolled in agriculture classes, exchange students in Tennessee high school may take part in the FFA as well. In 1973, Covington High School hosted Jerome Sabourin of Cars, France, who quickly got involved in the FFA and was granted honorary membership in the school's FFA chapter.

After his time in the United States, Sabourin returned to France to go to agricultural school and work at his father's winery.

In 1957, Lemmy Wilson of Cocke County became the first Tennessean to be selected for the annual exchange program in Great Britain. In the summer of 1986, Tennessee's Todd Wilkinson, a Star Agribusiness of America winner from White House, toured Luxembourg, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany in a 16-day tour that included twenty-seven other FFA members.

Today, members continue to cross borders. National officers and state officers go abroad to tour farms and agricultural companies and to develop leadership skills in diverse situations. The FFA is now involved in the Agricultural Education Global Engagement Strategy, which aims to train teachers and students to think globally, embrace diverse ideas and techniques, and promote awareness of international events that are relevant to agriculture.³⁶

FFA Symbols

There are five symbols included in the national FFA emblem. The ear of corn, which serves as the emblem's foundation, is representative of the role of corn in American agriculture and also represents unity since corn is grown in every state. The rising sun symbolizes newness and opportunity. The plow embodies the labor that agricultural pursuits require. The eagle is a symbol of freedom and also flexibility that enables the FFA to explore new paths. The owl represents the knowledge that agriculture requires and the wisdom that it grows.



*Loudon chapter officers and Ralph Alexander,
1965-66*

In 1933, the FFA adopted the blue corduroy jacket with the FFA emblem on the back as the club's official dress. The blue jacket has become iconic and is especially recognizable, even to those who are not members—so much so, that a blue corduroy jacket without the FFA emblem looks odd. Future Farmer Supply Service began selling the blue FFA jackets in 1948, increasing the consistent availability of the jacket that has been worn by members for over 80 years.³⁷

Camp Clements



Camp Clements entrance

On November 28, 1928, the Future Farmers of Tennessee acquired 25 acres in Van Buren County as a gift from the Norman Anderson Ward Family for the purpose of setting up the first FFA-owned camp in the country. The land sits on the Caney Fork River at the base of the Cumberland Mountains. As early as 1926, Ray S. Ward, son of Norman Anderson Ward, while serving as agriculture teacher at Central High School in Cookeville, began hosting several FFT chapters to camp on the very land that his family later deeded to the Future Farmers of Tennessee.³⁸ At the first state convention in 1928, D.M. Clements fielded ideas about “a training center and haven of rest” for members.³⁹ FFT members and advisors answered with almost unanimous approval, and chapter supervisors formed a committee to make the camp a reality. At the convention, local chapters pledged monetary investments and thus began their “first big job.”⁴⁰



Chapter officers leaving for camp, 1964-1965

In one year, members had saved \$6,400 and building began in 1930. The camp opened in 1931 and saw 543 attendees the first year. Camp facilities included two buildings with electric lights and indoor plumbing, tennis courts, a baseball field, volleyball court, and two piers running into the Caney Fork River equipped with seven boats. The original administration building served the camp for more than fifty years. At camp, members attended a daily program, participated in friendly competitions, and enjoyed rest from farm work.⁴¹ Camp Clements today continues to serve FFA members with more than one thousand students attending each summer.



Old administration building at Camp Clements

By 1958, over 20,000 FFA members had visited the camp. The camp closed for two years, but delegates to the 1960 state convention voted to reopen the camp as a leadership-training center. Under this new focus, attendees participated in leadership exercises and safety

programs, planned their chapters' activities, and heard guest speakers. The transition from a purely recreational camp to one centered on leadership reflected the paths and positions that former FFA members were taking as adults.

In 1963, the state of Tennessee appropriated funds to purchase an additional 25 acres of land and make improvements including remodeling of facilities and building additional sleeping cottages and a new administration building. Since then, the Tennessee FFA has continued to make improvements, and the campus now includes an administration building, cafeteria, amphitheater, staff and student lodging, a gymnasium, a game room, and sports fields. Despite the evolution of Camp Clements, it remains a place where members can find rest from the normal routine and training for the tasks that lay ahead.⁴²

Invaluable Guidance

Agriculture departments are only as good as their instructors. Without enthusiastic advisors such as D.M. Clements, it is doubtful that agriculture education and the FFA would have achieved such success in the past or be able to look ahead to a bright future. Chapter advisors put in countless hours overseeing the planning of projects and events, going to Camp Clements, as well as guiding the schoolwork of students. Local chapters, state associations, and the national organization award outstanding vocational agriculture teachers with Honorary Chapter, State, and American FFA Degrees, respectively. Since so much of the FFA's success depends on involved and encouraging advisors, the achievements of students tell a lot about the dedication of advisors.



Ralph Alexander with students in field

For example, Robert Fox of Jackson County High School received honorary State Farmer and American Farmer degrees in 1957. While he was vo-ag teacher and FFA advisor, the chapter produced sixty-one State Farmers, three American Farmers, and Joe Moore who won the Star Farmer of America award in 1955. Local chapters and the state association have granted thousands of honorary memberships to vo-ag teachers, parents, government officials, newspaper editors, and businessmen who have gone out of their way to help FFA members in Tennessee succeed.⁴³



Kenneth Mitchell

Kenneth Mitchell was an invaluable member of the FFA community. On February 15, 1961, after a ten-year career as vo-ag teacher at Dickson High School, Mr. Mitchell was asked to join the state staff as educational consultant and state FFA advisor. A native of Anderson County, he was the first state advisor to have actually been a vo-ag student and FFA member. He did much during his time as state FFA advisor to help the organization transition and expand to include science and technology. He also played a major role in shifting the focus of Camp Clements from recreation to leadership development.

It was Camp Clements that Mitchell credited with moving the Tennessee FFA to great heights. In an interview after his retirement he said, "I credit Camp Clements with developing our students to a higher level of competition than many of our sister states. You know Camp Clements went through a complete transformation in the '50s and early '60s. In fact, the camp was closed for almost three years as we

researched and decided exactly what type of program would be best. Prior to 1961, camp was set up primarily for recreation. In 1961, it was totally redesigned as a premier leadership training center. That's what's made the difference for Tennessee FFA members. That has been our advantage. We have done a better job training our students in ways to be successful, and we have all benefited from it."⁴⁴

Mitchell received several awards for his contributions including an Honorary American Farmer Degree, National FFA VIP Award, and the FFA Lifetime Achievement Award. He also received the Outstanding State Supervisor of Agriculture Education in the United States award in 1990 and was named Progressive Farmer magazine's Man of the Year in 1991. His legacy lives on. He played a major role in the formation of the Tennessee FFA Foundation, which has strengthened the FFA since its establishment in 1983. Mitchell understood the importance of recordkeeping for future generations. The excellent Tennessee FFA archive that made this publication possible is largely a result of his foresight. Today, the Tennessee FFA grants two scholarships in his name to FFA students that are pursuing agricultural paths in college.⁴⁵



Third annual convention of the Tennessee FFA Alumni, War Memorial Building, Nashville, April 1936, Tennessee FFA Archives, Box 82.

Alumni

In an article published in January 1934 in *The Tennessee Planter*, the monthly newsletter of the Tennessee Association of Future Farmers of America, state FFA advisor D.M. Clements urged chapters to enlist former FFA members to form an alumni association. In the article he stated that he felt a FFF (Former Future Farmers) organization would be beneficial to Tennessee FFA. The next month he issued a call for each chapter to bring a former member to the state FFA convention in April, to serve as an official delegate to the first FFA Alumni convention. When the convention was held, Jack Ezell, Jr., a former state FFA reporter from Davidson County, was elected as the first state president of the Tennessee FFA Alumni.⁴⁶

Tennessee was the first state in the nation to organize a FFA alumni organization and worked to assist other states to organize theirs. Clements also called for a national organization for FFA Alumni, a dream that finally became reality in 1972.

Today, the FFA Alumni Association operates much like the student organization. Members elect officers, hold state conventions, and are advocates for progressive agriculture in their communities. Members of the organization help to ease the workload of local FFA advisors by recruiting new FFA members, fundraising, and helping with events, conferences, and conventions.

The National FFA Alumni Association is organized into four administrative regions, much like the national FFA. Tennessee is in the southern region. In 1974, membership in the national alumni association was opened to all those interested in promoting and supporting the FFA, not just former members. The state and national associations provide alumni a way to “give back” and contribute to the program that made such an impact on them and their communities, creating a cycle of service and tradition.⁴⁷ In 1981, Harold Lineberry, a former Tennessee state FFA officer and chapter advisor, was the first Tennessean elected as president of the National FFA Alumni.

The Tennessee FFA Alumni Association has provided financial incentives for FFA members throughout its history. In 2005, the group made a bold step by commissioning wildlife artist and Tennessee native Ralph McDonald to produce a series of prints, selling them to support the Tennessee FFA. To date, a total of nine prints have been produced raising more than \$200,000, primarily for scholarships to FFA members.

FFA Foundation

Established in 1983, the Tennessee FFA Foundation serves as Tennessee FFA's own development department. The Foundation helps to build and maintain the financial stability of the FFA by providing a mechanism for the organization to receive contributions and grants from government, businesses, individuals, and other foundations. By providing the private sector a way to contribute to the development of FFA programs in Tennessee, the foundation enables individuals and organizations to directly invest in the future of the state's agriculture.

In addition to financial assistance, the foundation hosts internships and awards scholarships to FFA members and has committed itself to supporting an important place in the state's FFA program for Camp Clements. The Tennessee FFA Foundation also established an endowment, ensuring the FFA's ability to pursue new paths in the future. As of 2015, the Foundation had total liabilities and net assets of just over \$5.1 million.⁴⁸

A Proud Past – An Even Brighter Future

The Future Farmers of Tennessee began as a relatively exclusive organization created to develop members into successful farmers. Today, any student wishing to pursue any of the hundreds of careers having to do with agriculture is wise to join. Not only that, but there is not a person in Tennessee today that cannot contribute to Tennessee FFA, and in doing so, participate in the tradition of creating a bright future for the state's agriculture. Today, the mission of FFA remains much the same as it was back in its infancy—to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

Agriculture education operates on a three-circle model incorporating the classroom/laboratory experience, the student's personal supervised agricultural experience program, and the opportunities afforded as members of the FFA. Current and former FFA members consistently exhibit the competencies gained through this teaching model. Countless FFA alumni credit their career success to their participation in agriculture education and FFA while in high school. No doubt, the future of our nation, the agricultural industry as a whole, and of this amazing youth organization will continue to shine brightly as current students move into challenging future careers and put into practice the values and skills learned while participating as members of the FFA.

Past State Presidents of the Tennessee FFA

1928-29	Donald Moore, The Highlander's (TPI-Cookeville)	County (Henderson)
1929-30	Kenneth McPherson, Coleman-Brown (Bellevue)	
1930-31	Everett Bates, Polk County	
1931-32	Robert S. Moon, Blue Grass (Nashville)	
1932-33	Walter Hunt, Jr., Peabody (Trenton)	
1933-34	Conrad Sullivan, Bledsoe (Pikeville)	
1934-35	Robert Marsh, Nicholas Blackwell (Bartlett)	
1935-36	Elmo Johnson, Horace Maynard (Maynardville)	
1936-37	Nelson Maddux, Baxter	
1937-38	Warren Hunt, Peabody (Trenton)	
1938-39	Rodney Purnell, Green Gale (Lebanon)	
1939-40	Wayne Hunt, Peabody (Trenton)	
1940-41	G.L. Carter, Jr., Hambleton County (Morristown)	
1941-42	Elmer Counce, Hardin County (Savannah)	
1942-43	John A. Yates, Lexington	
1943-44	Bobby Annis, Bledsoe (Pikeville)	
1944-45	Billy McClain, Mill Creek (Antioch)	
1945-46	Keith Patterson, Chester	
1946-47	Max Cobble, Blue Springs (Mosheim)	
		<i>Max Cobble was a student of Elmo Johnson's at the Blue Springs Chapter in Mosheim. Advisor and student both had the honor of being national finalists in public speaking and served as National FFA Secretaries.</i>
1947-48	Andy Hunter, Columbia	
1948-49	Billie Flatt, Trimble	
1949-50	O.J. Brewer, Bradley (Cleveland)	
1950-51	John Reynolds, Jr., Goodlettsville	
1951-52	Curtis Free, Collierville	
1952-53	Alvin Banner, John Sevier (Erwin)	
1953-54	Joe Moore, Jackson County (Gainesboro)	
1954-55	Emmett Barker, Peabody (Trenton)	
1955-56	Lemmy Wilson, Pigeon Valley (Newport)	
1956-57	Charles Wilson, Mt. Juliet	
1957-58	Tommy Walker, Jere Cooper (Dyersburg)	
1958-59	Jerry Lowery, Polk County	
1959-60	Rex Kimbro, Dickson	
1960-61	Nathan P. Griffith, Rose-Bol (Bolton)	

1961-62	Gerald Ellison, Pigeon Valley (Newport)	1981-82	Joey Caldwell, Westerview (Martin)
1962-63	Ronnie Fielder, Dickson	1982-83	Tim Spry, Woodbury
1963-64	Larry Vick, Camden	1983-84	Joe Comer, Lebanon
1964-65	Jim Lillard, Meigs County (Decatur)	1984-85	Pam Farmer, Paris (Henry County)
1965-66	Billy Joe Wiley, Fayetteville	1985-86	Andy Nash, White House
1966-67	Hale Moss, Mt. Juliet	1986-87	Jaye Hamby, Polk County (Benton)
1967-68	Lee Austin, Maury City	1987-88	Randy Sutherland, White House
1968-69	Donald Pilkinton, Waverly	1988-89	Leah Carden, David Crockett (Jonesborough)
1969-70	John Thomas Holland, McEwen	1989-90	Brad Mosley, White House
1970-71	Mike Fairless, Bradford	1990-91	Melissa Thompson, Lebanon
1971-72	Mark McKee III, Sumner County (Gallatin)	1991-92	Josh Guthrie, Bradley (Cleveland)
1972-73	Noel W. Thomas, Huntingdon	1992-93	Jim Barbour, Dyersburg
1973-74	Beauford Wilson, Calhoun	1993-94	Benny Joe McDonald, Mt. Juliet
1974-75	Randy Yarbrow, Kenton	1994-95	Jeff Lewis, Johnson County
1975-76	Tommy P. Hunt, Paris (Henry County)	1995-96	Ben Moore, Dresden
1976-77	Don Lawson, Meigs County (Decatur)	1996-97	John Marshall, Riverdale (Murfreesboro)
1977-78	Jim Moore, Marshall County (Cornersville)	1997-98	Jake Hubbell, Culleoka
1978-79	George McDonald, Smith County (Carthage)	1998-99	Russ Bragg, Westerview (Martin)
1979-80	Mark Hayes, Lebanon	1999-00	Adam Comer, Riverside (Parsons)
1980-81	Mark McBride, Paris (Henry County)	2000-01	Joe Greene, McEwen

- 2001-02 Kim Newsom, Dyersburg
- 2002-03 Will Bird, Halls
- 2003-04 Chris Vessell, Lincoln
County
- 2004-05 Adam Tipton, Lincoln
County
- 2005-06 Heather McLean,
Dyer County
- 2006-07 Matthew McBride,
Liberty (Jackson)
- 2007-08 Chelsea Doss, Eagleville
- 2008-09 Peyton Harper,
Wilson Central
- 2009-10 James Flatt,
Wilson Central
- 2010-11 Emily Buck,
Wilson Central
- 2011-12 Peyton Graham, Munford
Big Boll
- 2012-13 Stephen McBride,
Coffee County
- 2013-14 Sarah Best, Cookeville
- 2014-15 Kevin Robertson,
Wilson Central
- 2015-16 Chelsea Sanders,
Wilson Central
- 2016-17 Mackenzie Clark,
Scotts Hill

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⁴⁴ Tennessee FFA Archives, Box 41, Folder 63.

⁴⁵ Kevin Cason, *FFA Archival Project News*, Vol. 2, Issue 5, accessed March 15, 2015, <https://www.tnffa.org/DocDownload.aspx?ID=505>.

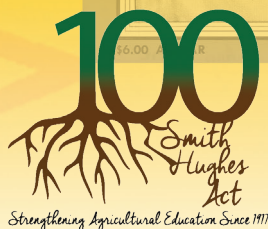
⁴⁶ Tennessee FFA Archives, Box 51, Folder 4.

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⁴⁷ *Annual State Report of the Tennessee Association Future Farmers of America*, 1936, 13, Box 57, Folder 6, Tennessee FFA Archives, Farm Bureau, Manchester, TN; The FFA at 50: A Golden Past, A Brighter Future, 71.

⁴⁸ Tennessee FFA Foundation, Inc., Quarterly (December 31, 2015).

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