

Resource Guide: Protecting the Future of the FFA

I. Introduction

Why We're Speaking Up

We are alumni, teachers, students, and advocates bound by a shared belief in the power of agricultural education and leadership. For generations, the FFA has been a launchpad for young Americans—building character, instilling values, and preparing future leaders of agriculture, business, and public service.

But the heart of the FFA—its connection to agriculture, community, and tradition—is at risk. And we are stepping forward to say: enough.

We're not doing this out of nostalgia. We're doing it out of duty. The future of American agriculture—and the civic readiness of the next generation—depends on strong, grounded, mission-focused agricultural education.

It's time to defend the blue and gold.

A Word from the Creed

"I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task."

This isn't just a belief—it's a commitment. Now is the time to act on it.

II. The Mission at Risk

What's Changed

In recent years, the FFA has taken concerning turns—shifting its focus away from agriculture and leadership development toward more alternative educational experiences and national-level bureaucratic growth.

- **Dilution of Agricultural Focus:** Core programs related to production agriculture and farm-based education are being under-prioritized.
- **Member Rights Under Assault:** Proposals such as universal affiliation and the rise of un-elected decision-making committees undermine the foundational



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principle of student leadership, stripping local members of their voice and authority in shaping the direction of their own organization.

- **Loss of Local Control:** National policy shifts have sidelined teachers and local advisors—the backbone of FFA chapters.
- **Overemphasis on DEI Initiatives:** The National FFA has increasingly used diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts to promote a new ideological agenda that often conflicts with the organization’s longstanding values rooted in agriculture, merit, and personal responsibility.

What’s at Stake

- **The Future of American Agriculture:** Without a clear and unapologetic focus on agriculture, FFA risks becoming just another extracurricular—disconnected from the land and the people who feed the country.
- **Opportunities for Agricultural Youth:** FFA once offered students the best shot at college scholarships, leadership roles, and life-changing mentorship. That promise is fading for many.
- **National Food Security:** Fewer students learning about agriculture today means fewer farmers, ranchers, agronomists, and advocates tomorrow. That’s not just an education issue—it’s a national security issue.

III. Core Principles Worth Defending

Tradition and Legacy

FFA’s strength is its roots. For over 90 years, its mission has been shaped by America’s founding values, hands-on learning, and real-world leadership. Those traditions aren’t outdated—they’re essential.

Leadership and Service

True leadership begins with service. FFA has historically prepared students to lead in their churches, communities, and counties—not just on resumes or social media. Let’s get back to leadership that matters.

Agricultural Literacy and Stewardship



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FFA should remain the nation’s best tool for educating young people about where food comes from, how land is stewarded, and why it all matters. This is the core—not a side note.

IV. How to Advocate for the FFA

Speak to Decision-Makers

You have more influence than you think. Use your voice where it counts.

Contacting Officials

- **Start Local:** Begin with your school board, FFA chapter advisor, and state ag education directors.
- **Go Upstream:** Reach out to your state legislators, governor’s office, and members of Congress.

Talking Points

- “FFA changed my life. I want today’s students to have the same opportunity.”
- “Agricultural education must remain central to FFA’s mission.”
- “We need leadership, not branding—real programs, not generic slogans.”

Methods

- Write a personal letter. Keep it to 3 paragraphs and include your connection to FFA.
 - Call their office. Leave a respectful, clear message.
 - Request a meeting. Bring a friend, bring a story, and bring a copy of this guide.
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Be Visible in Your Community

Your story is powerful—don’t keep it quiet.

Op-Ed Tips

- Share how FFA prepared you for success in life, agriculture, or leadership.
- Keep it 500–700 words. Include a call to action.
- Submit to local papers, ag newsletters, or school board bulletins.



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Public Presence

- Attend school board and PTA meetings when ag programs are discussed.
- For members, show up in your jacket. Let your presence speak.

Social Media Samples

- “Agricultural education built my foundation. Let’s not water it down. #ProtectFFA”
 - “FFA isn’t just a logo—it’s a legacy. Keep it rooted. #AgFirst #BlueAndGoldProud”
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Join or Start a Local Advocacy Group

When one person speaks, they make noise. When a group speaks, they get heard.

How to Start

- Reach out to 3–5 local FFA alumni or teachers.
- Host a first meeting to define shared concerns and set goals.

Sample Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. What’s Changing in FFA (Share the Facts)
3. Why It Matters (Personal Stories)
4. Action Planning: Letters, Events, Meetings
5. Next Steps & Communication Plan

Organizing Tips

- Meet monthly, even virtually.
 - Keep a running contact list.
 - Rotate leadership to keep energy up.
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If you're ready to turn concern into commitment, this guide is your starting place.

FFA.doesn't.need.reinvention;.It.needs.re_commitment;



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