

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE NATIONAL FARMERS UNION
AND
THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into between the National Farmers Union (NFU), 20 F. Street N.W., #300, Washington, D.C. 20001, and the National FFA Organization (FFA), 6060 FFA Drive, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, Indiana 46268.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to formalize a nonbinding agreement of enhanced cooperation between NFU and FFA (collectively, the Parties).

II. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND MUTUAL BENEFITS

Agricultural education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems. Through agricultural education, agricultural education students are provided opportunities for leadership development, personal growth, and career success. Agricultural education instruction is delivered through three major components: classroom/laboratory instruction, supervised agricultural experience programs or work-based learning, and leadership development. NFU and FFA believe in working together to recognize the role of school-based agricultural education.

NFU represents nearly 200,000 family farmers, fishers and ranchers across the country, with formally organized divisions in 33 states. Founded in 1902, NFU has always worked to protect and enhance the economic well-being and quality of life for family farmers, fishers, ranchers and rural communities through the formation of cooperative business models, educational outreach and the advocacy of policy positions developed by the grassroots membership. We are working towards a world in which farm families and their communities are respected, valued, and enjoy economic prosperity and social justice.

The National FFA Organization is growing the next generation of leaders who will change the world. FFA is the world's largest student-led organization with nearly 670,000 student members in 8,630 chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Washington, D.C. The FFA mission is 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.

III. NFU INTENDS TO:

1. Recognize the role of school-based agricultural education in motivating and preparing young people to pursue careers in agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resources systems.

2. Support the extensiveness of “agriculturally related careers” to encompass the uniqueness and vastness of careers in agriculture.
3. Support an increased profile for youth in food and agriculture through appropriate legislation, research, and policy.
4. Coordinate with FFA on existing and new cooperative curriculum as a resource to agricultural education instructors.
5. Connect local, state, and regional NFU divisions with local FFA chapters and state FFA associations.
6. Extend invitations for FFA members to attend annual events, including fall legislative Fly-In, NFU convention, and National Farmers Union Foundation education programming to build a stronger connection between general farm organizations and the next generation of food and agriculture.
7. Work with FFA to incorporate federal priorities in NFU’s talking points for FFA members in attendance at NFU’s annual Fall Legislative Fly-In.
8. Work with FFA to arrange for the NFU president, or his/her surrogate to, on at least one official occasion, meet with FFA members and agricultural education students.
9. Work with FFA to explore the option of becoming a non-traditional National FFA alumni and supporters affiliate.
10. Work with FFA to create an annual shared communications plan.

IV. FFA INTENDS TO:

1. Work with NFU and others to attract, educate, inspire, and prepare students to enter careers in the agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resources industry.
2. Work to broaden the definition of “agriculturally related careers” and “agricultural workers” to encompass the uniqueness and vastness of careers in agriculture.
3. Coordinate with NFU on legislation, research, and policy supporting an increased profile for youth, where appropriate.
4. Collaborate with other NFU programs and initiatives to extend the reach, access, and efficiency of efforts to educate and inform young people about and promote the awareness of the agricultural industry.
5. Provide link for NFU as a resource on FFA.org’s Agricultural Literacy & Advocacy site under the Develop section of the FFA Plan-Develop-Do-Reflect advocacy model.
6. Connect local FFA chapters and state FFA associations to local, state, and regional NFU associations.
7. Work with NFU to incorporate federal priorities with NFU talking points for FFA members in attendance at NFU’s annual Fall Legislative Fly-In.
8. Work with NFU to arrange for the NFU president, or his/her surrogate to, on at least one official occasion meet with FFA members and agricultural education students.
9. Work with NFU to explore the option of becoming a non-traditional National FFA alumni and supporters affiliate.
10. Work with NFU to create an annual share communications plan.

V. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY ALL PARTIES THAT:

1. The Parties will work together to create annual plans of work as it relates to these terms.
2. The Parties will work together to evaluate annually the effectiveness and impact of the plan or plans of work and partnership between the Parties.
3. Except when otherwise provided in a supplemental agreement, in writing, all costs resulting from cooperation under this MOU will be borne by the party that incurs them.
4. Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services or property among the Parties to this MOU will require execution of separate agreements or contracts.
5. This MOU in no way restricts any of the Parties from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public or private agencies, organizations, or individuals.
6. This MOU does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity, by persons who are not parties to this agreement, against NFU or FFA, their officers or employees, or any other persons. This MOU does not apply to any person outside of NFU and FFA. Additionally, this MOU is a voluntary agreement that expresses good-faith intentions of the Parties. It is not intended to be legally binding, does not create any contractual obligations, and it not enforceable by any party.

VI. MODIFCATION/DURATION/TERMINATION

This MOU will take effect upon the signature of the Parties and remains in effect for three years. It shall thereafter be extended for one-year periods unless otherwise terminated as provided herein. This MOU may be modified at any time, through the mutual written consent of the parties. Additionally, a party may terminate its participation in this MOU at any time by providing written notice to the other party at least thirty (30) days in advanced of the desired termination date.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the last signature date written below.

National Farmers Union

National FFA Organization

Roger Johnson
President
National Farmers Union

Mark Poeschl
Chief Executive Officer
National FFA Organization