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News Release

FFA in Iowa Sets Historical Record in Consecutive Years

ANKENY – The future of agriculture is bright in Iowa and youth across the state want to be a part of it—in record numbers. The Iowa FFA Association has achieved a new plateau in membership by setting an all-time record with 14,857 members in 225 high schools across Iowa during the 2014-15 school year. This is the highest membership for the Iowa FFA Association since the charter of the organization in 1929 and surpassing the previous record set during the 2013-14 school year with 14,318 Iowa FFA members.

“The increase of our membership is a reflection of the dedication of our agriculture teachers and the appeal of leadership programs pertaining to all facets of the agriculture industry,” said Iowa FFA Advisor Dale Gruis. “The rigorous combination of agricultural education classes, experiential learning through supervised agricultural experience projects, and the FFA provided by our agriculture teachers provides students with relevance to their futures and helps them to build relationships within their communities.”

The Iowa FFA Association has experienced a recent surge in membership with an increase of over 20% over the last four years. The new membership record is also 69% larger than 25 years ago in 1988-89 when there were only 8,748 members.

Iowa FFA President Michael Tupper added, “Our increasing membership is the result of growing opportunities available to all our students. These opportunities range from hands-on learning, leadership experiences, and over \$2 million of scholarships offered through the National FFA Scholarship program annually. There are so many doors that are open to members of the Iowa FFA.”

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About Iowa FFA Association

The Iowa FFA Association is a youth organization of over 14,800 student members as part of 225 local FFA chapters across Iowa. 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. The Iowa FFA Association was organized by delegates from 23 schools at Iowa State College on May 17, 1929 and is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The Iowa Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to local agricultural education programs. For more, visit the Iowa FFA Association online at IowaFFA.com, on Facebook, and Twitter.