



2026 State Officer Candidate Exam Resource

1. The Morrill Act of 1862 established land-grant colleges in each state for teaching agriculture among other subjects
2. The first trade school was opened in 1881 in New York.
3. The Smith-Hughes Act provided for annual appropriations starting with \$1,655,586 the first year and increasing annually until the maximum of \$7,161,726 was reached in 1926.
4. The Smith-Hughes Act was first proposed to the United States Senate by Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia December 7, 1915.
5. The Smith-Hughes Act became effective July 1, 1917.
6. The Federal Board for Vocational Education was created after the Smith-Hughes Act became effective. This board was required to make reports, studies, and investigations of the various fields of vocational education.
7. The three-circle model consisting of Classroom/Laboratory, FFA, and SAE serves as a representation of how students are able to grow in agricultural education.
8. SAE's are an experiential learning tool implemented that are essential to all ag education programs. These experiences allow students to gain the application of their knowledge and learning, outside the classroom environment.
9. Over 800,000 students are enrolled in secondary agriculture courses across the country.
10. Over 8,000 agricultural science education programs are in high schools across the Nation.
11. During the early 1980's, it became apparent that a mechanism was needed through which the various stakeholders could coordinate in developing strategies to guide the agricultural education community into the 21st century. Out of this need, The Council on Agriculture Education was formed.
12. The National Council for Agricultural Education consists of representatives from the following Agricultural Education Related Organizations (AERO):
 - o American Association for Agricultural Education (AAAE)
 - o Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE)
 - o Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)
 - o Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS)
 - o National FFA Organization
 - o National FFA Foundation
 - o National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE)
 - o National Farm & Ranch Business Management Education Association (NFRBMEA)
 - o National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS)
13. The Agriculture Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Career Cluster Content Standards provide state agricultural education leaders and educators with a high- quality, rigorous set of standards to guide what students should know and be able to do after completing a program of study in each of the AFNR career pathways.
14. The AFNR Career Cluster Content Standards were originally developed as part of the 2003 United States Department of Education (USDE) Career Clusters Project. In 2009, The Council first reviewed and revised the content standards. The 2015 revision focused on ensuring that the content standards reflect essential and up-to- date knowledge and skills that students need to be ready for early-career success in a variety of AFNR disciplines. The 2025 revision added new crosswalks and updated technical content.
15. There are eleven (11) pathways within the National AFNR Content Standards as established by The Council:
 - o Agribusiness Systems
 - o Animal Systems
 - o Biotechnology Systems
 - o Career Ready Practices
 - o Education, Communication, and Leadership
 - o Environmental Sustainability Systems
 - o Food Products and Processing
 - o Foundational Pathway Skills
 - o Natural Resources Systems
 - o Plant Systems
 - o Power, Structural and Technical Systems



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16. The Agricultural Education Vision, according to the National Council for Agricultural Education, is "Agricultural education envisions a world where all people value and understand the vital role of agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resources systems in advancing personal and global well-being."
17. The Agricultural Education Mission is "Agricultural education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems."
18. The FFA Vision: FFA provides the next generation of leaders who will change the world.
19. The FFA Mission: 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.
20. FFA was organized nationally in 1928 in Kansas City, MO. In 1950, Congress granted FFA a federal charter, making it an integral part of public agricultural instruction under the National Vocational Education Act
21. The State Advisor position is employed through the Iowa Department of Education (DE) as a result of the public charter being held by the DE.
22. Iowa's Team Ag Ed consists of the Iowa FFA Association, the Iowa FFA Foundation, The Iowa Association of Agricultural Educators (IAAE), Postsecondary Agricultural Students Organization of Iowa (PAS), Iowa FFA Alumni.
23. The Iowa Council on Agricultural Education is a bipartisan effort that is charged to review, develop, and recommend standards for secondary and postsecondary agriculture education in Iowa.
24. In Iowa, legislation H.F. 2392 that was passed in 2016 requires that career and technical education programs have approved standards in place for their program.
25. More than half of Iowa's high school agricultural education instructors have less than eight years of teaching experience.
26. Agriculture teachers rely on 802,412 FFA Alumni members in 2,060 Alumni chapters and countless volunteers to help ease the outside commitments of teaching.
27. The STAR program exists to assist states in developing sustainable and effective recruitment and retention plans based on historical data, real-time trends, and individual state needs. STAR activities included Teach Ag workshops, state-based websites, internship programs, student-teacher scholarships, state program tours, teacher professional development support, ambassador programs, teacher recognition, campus ag ed events, mentoring programs and parent-based programs, to name a few.
28. Curriculum for Agriculture Science Education (CASE) provides professional development to teachers for each course to ensure they have the background and expertise to utilize CASE curriculum resources.
29. 64% of Iowa's Ag Educators are female and 36% are male.
30. There are more than 36,000 Iowa Ag Ed students from Middle and High School.
31. Iowa Ag Ed students invested more than 4.3 million hours in experimental learning outside of school hours.
32. Ag Ed Students in Iowa earned more than \$39.5 million through their career experiences (SAE).
33. Collectively, FFA members earn more than \$4 billion annually through their hands-on work experience nationally.
34. The National FFA Center is located in Indianapolis, IN.
35. Today, there are 1,042,245 FFA members, aged 10-21, in 9,407 chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
36. Today, females represent nearly 50 percent of FFA members and roughly half of all state leadership positions. In 1976, Washington's Julie Smiley became the first female national FFA officer. California's Jan Eberly became the first female National FFA President in 1982. In 2002, Wisconsin's Karlene Lindow became the first female FFA member to earn the prestigious American Star Farmer Award.
37. Through 24 national career development events and one activity, FFA members are challenged to real-life, hands-on tests of skills used to prepare them for 300+ unique careers in agriculture.
38. In 1929, national blue and corn gold became the official colors of FFA. A year later, delegates adopted the official FFA Creed and by 1933 the familiar Official Dress of blue corduroy jackets was adopted after convention delegates were enthralled by the jackets worn to Kansas City by members of the Fredericktown, Ohio, FFA chapter.
39. Less than a decade after the formation of the Future Farmers of America in 1928, a national organization for African-American boys interested in agriculture formed in Tuskegee, AL. The New Farmers of America was modeled after another Virginia organization – the New Farmers of Virginia – and began in 1935. The New Farmers of Virginia was instrumentally started by G.W. Owens and J.R. Thomas, teacher-educators in



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agricultural education at Virginia State College, and Dr. H.O. Sargent, a federal agricultural education official who later proposed NFA.

40. In 1973, Texas' Fred McClure became the first African-American national FFA officer, and in 1994 Chicago's Corey Flournoy became the first African-American national FFA president.
41. Girls were restricted from the earliest forms of FFA membership by delegate vote at the 1930 national convention. It wasn't until 1969 that females gained full FFA membership privileges by vote of the national convention delegates, despite many state associations permitting female members long before. New York's Anita Decker and New Jersey's Patricia Krowicki became the first two female delegates to the national convention in 1970.
42. The National FFA Creed, written by E.M. Tiffany, was adopted by the Future Farmers of America in 1930.
43. The blue corduroy jacket was first adopted in 1933. In 2017, national delegates voted to have non-gendered official dress styles.
44. The National FFA Convention was first held in Kansas City, MO in 1928 and remained there for 71 years. The event is now taking place in Indianapolis, IN.
45. 1942- During World War II, when tens of thousands of FFA members served in the armed services, national FFA conventions was streamlined with events where only delegates and award winners attended. In 1942, just 217 people attended the convention.
46. 1988- Future Farmers of America changed its name to the National FFA Organization to reflect the growing diversity in the industry of agriculture.
47. 1988- National FFA permitted seventh and eighth grade students to become FFA members.
48. The National Officer team is made up of 6 American-Degree recipient members from across our nation. The team consists of 4 Vice Presidents representing the Eastern, Southern, Central, and Western regions as well as a President and Secretary from anywhere in the FFA. Each association may only be represented by one candidate for national office.
49. Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) is the ultimate leadership experience for FFA members. It provides hands-on experiences that help attendees learn how to apply leadership skills to real-life situations. This conference focuses on personal development, diversity, advocacy and service. There are seven, one-week sessions each summer in Washington D.C.
50. The Iowa FFA Today is a video publication created and produced by the State Reporter and Secretary that shares current events within Iowa FFA.
51. At the 2024 Iowa State Fair, there were more than 2,263 FFA exhibitors who exhibited more than 9,332 projects.
52. The Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference is one of the largest of its kind in the National FFA Organization.
53. There are 270 local FFA Chapters across the state of Iowa.
54. In 2024, the Iowa FFA Leadership Conference had 7,077 members, advisors, and guests in attendance.
55. There are 32 district officers elected across Iowa who represent and lead each of the 6 districts (Northwest, North Central, Northeast, Southwest, Southeast, South Central).
56. The FFA New Horizons is the official member magazine of FFA. Published quarterly, the magazine is mailed to FFA members, agricultural educators, lifetime FFA Alumni and Supporters of FFA. Every issue is filled with information about agriculture, career possibilities, chapter and individual accomplishments and news on FFA.
57. The top 5 membership states in the National FFA Organization are Texas, California, Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina.
58. At National FFA Convention, 475 delegate members from across the nation meet in committees and vote on how to address current issues in the National FFA Organization.
59. Roughly 46.7% of FFA Membership in Iowa is female with 49.4% being male.
60. As of the 2024-25 Iowa FFA Membership Report, about 12.8% of membership in Iowa FFA consists of Middle School members.
61. The Iowa FFA Board of Directors is a concurrent board that consists of the nine state officers, an agricultural education instructor representative of each FFA district, representatives from IAAE and Alumni, the past state president, the Iowa FFA Foundation Executive Director, Business and Industry representatives, an administrator representative and an Iowa State University representative.
62. In order to receive the Iowa FFA Degree, a member must have participated in at least 2 years of Ag Education, serve their community, and productively earn and invest \$1,500 in their SAE.



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63. AgExplorer.com: The National FFA Organization, Discovery Education and AgCareers.com have joined forces to create a robust career website to help students explore the broad range of careers within agriculture. Visit AgExplorer.com to learn more about 235 unique careers in agriculture while watching videos, exploring career pages and completing the interactive Career Finder.
64. Iowa has roughly 86,000 farms and 157,000 farm producers. More than 90% of Iowa farms are owned by families.
65. Iowa farms grow more corn, raise more pigs, and produce more eggs than any state in the nation. They also rank second in soybeans, fourth in cattle marketed, ninth in sheep and lambs, seventh in turkeys, and twelfth in milk production.
66. Iowa has a growing grape industry, with 300 commercial vineyards and 100 commercial wineries. The state ranks second nationally in farmers markets per capita.
67. Agriculture accounts for 1/3 of the dollars driving Iowa's economy.
68. Farmers also help Iowa generate over 62% of its electricity from wind, the highest production in the nation.
69. Iowa farmers harvested approximately 13.2 million acres of corn for grain in 2025. Iowa corn crop values \$11.37 billion.
70. Iowa harvested 9.3 million acres of soybeans, in 2025.
71. In 2025, there were 24.3 million hogs, 4 million cattle, 155,000 sheep and 60 million chickens in Iowa.
72. In 2024, a little more than 10.9 million turkeys were produced in Iowa.
73. Iowa has 35.7 million acres of land. Almost 86% of Iowa's land is used for agriculture.
74. Iowa's 42 ethanol plants and 2 cellulose plants have a combined annual capacity of 4.5 billion gallons of ethanol annually. Iowa produces more than 30% of the nation's ethanol.
75. Iowa's dairy industry produced an estimated 501 million pounds of milk monthly in 2025. The average milk produced per cow was 22,785 pounds.
76. The Iowa Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a highly targeted, performance-based water quality program focusing on the reduction of nitrate loads to surface waters through the restoration of strategically designed and located wetlands that intercept tile drains from upper-lying cropped lands.
77. 2 million farms dot America's rural landscape. About 98 percent of U.S. farms are operated by families.
78. One U.S. farm feeds 166 people annually in the U.S. and abroad. The global population is expected to increase by 2.2 billion by 2050, which means the world's farmers will have to grow about 70 percent more food than what is now produced.
79. The pounds of feed (grain, forage, etc.) a dairy cow needs to eat to produce 100 pounds of milk has decreased by more than 40 percent on average in the last 40 years.
80. Farm and ranch families comprise just 2 percent of the U.S. population.
81. Total U.S. corn yield (tons per acre) has increased more than 360 percent since 1950.
82. About 25 percent of U.S. farm products by value are exported each year.
83. Cattle and calves, corn, and soybeans are the top 3 U.S. farm products.
84. About 8 percent of U.S. farms market foods locally, through direct-to-consumer or intermediated sales.
85. The millennial generation (people ages 29-44) makes up 14,986 of Iowa farmers.
86. The number of farm operators of Spanish, Hispanic or Latino origin is higher than ever, up 13 percent to 112,451. There also are more African Americans (45,508, up 2 percent). Women make up 36 percent of the total number of U.S. farmer operators.
87. Iowa farmers currently have nearly 1.6 million acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), which assists with taking environmentally sensitive land out of production by planting long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and develop wildlife habitat.
88. Cover crops can reduce nutrient and pesticide runoff by 50% or more.
89. Farm programs typically cost each American just pennies per meal and account for less than one-half of 1 percent of the total U.S. budget.
90. In 1959, it took eight pigs (including breeding stock) to produce 1,000 pounds of pork. Today it takes just five pigs.
91. According to the Pork Checkoff, data from the past 50 years shows that today's pig farms use 78% less land and 41% less water to produce a pound of pork.
92. The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy is a science and technology-based framework to assess and reduce nutrients to Iowa waters and the Gulf of Mexico. It is designed to direct efforts to reduce nutrients in surface water from both point and nonpoint sources in a scientific, reasonable and cost-effective manner.



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All information was found using these links:

Agriculture Education

- CASE (Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education): www.case4learning.org
- NAAE (National Association of Agricultural Educators): <https://www.naae.org/whoweare/index.cfm>
- Iowa FFA Annual Report: <http://www.iowaffa.com/annualreport.aspx>
- The Council for Agriculture Education: thecouncil.ffa.org
- Iowa Team Ag Ed: Iowa FFA Association, Iowa FFA Foundation, Iowa Association of Agricultural Educators, Postsecondary Agricultural Students of Iowa, Iowa FFA Alumni
- Association for Career & Technical Education <http://www.acteonline.org/>

Agriculture

- Iowa Ag Facts (by Iowa Farm Bureau): www.iowafarmbureau.com/public/167/ag_in_your_life/ag_facts
- Farm Bureau:
[https://www.fb.org/newsroom/fast-facts#:~:text=The%20pounds%20of%20feed%20\(grain,in%20the%20last%2040%20years.](https://www.fb.org/newsroom/fast-facts#:~:text=The%20pounds%20of%20feed%20(grain,in%20the%20last%2040%20years.)
- Iowa Agriculture Quick Facts: <https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/>
- Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers: www.iowaagriculture.gov/quickfacts.asp
- Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy: <http://www.nutrientstrategy.iastate.edu/>

FFA

- Iowa FFA Association Website: www.iowaffa.com
- National FFA Organization Website: www.ffa.org
- Iowa FFA Today: www.iowaffa.com/iowaffatoday.aspx
- FFA Student Handbook (latest edition)
- Official FFA Manual (latest edition)