

National FFA Week

February 22-29



National FFA Week kicks off Feb. 22

From the food we eat to the clothes we wear, agriculture is a part of our daily lives. More than 700,000 FFA members will celebrate the role agriculture plays in our lives while sharing the message of agricultural education as part of National FFA Week (Feb. 22-Feb. 29).

National FFA Week is a time for FFA members to host activities that raise awareness about the role FFA plays in the development of agriculture's future leaders and the importance of agricultural education. National FFA Week always runs Saturday to Saturday and encompasses Feb. 22, George Washington's birthday.

The National FFA Board of Directors designated the weeklong tradition, which began in 1948, in recognition of Washington's legacy as an agriculturist and farmer. A group of young farmers founded FFA in 1928, influencing generations that agriculture is more than planting and harvesting — it involves science, business and more. The organization's mission is to prepare future generations for the challenges of feeding a growing population.

Today, FFA continues to help the next generation meet new agricultural challenges, develop unique

talents and explore a broad range of career pathways. Today's FFA members are tomorrow's future biologists, chemists, veterinarians, engineers and entrepreneurs.

National FFA Week is a time for FFA members to share agriculture with their fellow students as well as their communities. Chapters also give back to their communities through service projects and recruit students to become FFA members. For example, Salem Tech FFA hosts a Jersey Fresh Cook-Off, challenging members to bring in New Jersey-grown products to prepare meals for state officers, local businesses and county ag agents. In West Virginia, Spring Valley FFA collaborated with the Facing Hunger Foodbank and educated the entire high school on food security issues. On Monday of FFA Week, members are invited to the Indiana State House to participate in Indiana Page Day and work

alongside legislators. These are just a few examples of the service events during the week. Read more on what FFA chapters are doing during the week.

During National FFA Week, the six national officers will visit chapters across the country. Western Region Vice President Lyle Logemann will visit Wyoming and Nevada; Tess Seibel, eastern region vice president, will visit New York and West Virginia; Mamie Hertel, central region vice president, will visit Delaware and Maryland; Yomar Roman, southern region vice president, will visit North Carolina and Missouri; Kourtney Lehman, national secretary, will visit South Dakota and Hawaii; and National FFA President Kolesen McCoy will visit the U.S. Virgin Islands.

National FFA Week is also a time for alumni and sponsors to advocate for agricultural education and FFA. On Tuesday, Feb. 25,

the National FFA Foundation will celebrate Give FFA Day, a 24-hour campaign encouraging the public to support various needs impacting FFA members.

On Wednesday, Feb. 26, alumni and supporters will celebrate Alumni Day. Friday, Feb. 28, FFA members and supporters are encouraged to wear blue and show their FFA pride on National Wear Blue Day!



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South Ripley has strong FFA program



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured above are members of South Ripley FFA.

South Ripley FFA Week Schedule

- **2/24** - Blue & Gold Day with Line Dancing Lessons after school with Indiana FFA State Secretary Caitlyn Lewis
- **2/25** - Patriotic day with Drive Your Truck Day
- **2/26** - Official Dress Day (Black & White) with a breakfast for teachers and staff before school
- **2/27** - Hobby Day with Drive your Tractor Day and a spoons tournament after school
- **2/28** - Green Day while hosting ABCs of Ag event for Preschool, Kindergarten and First Grade with Indiana FFA State Secretary Caitlyn Lewis



SUBMITTED PHOTO

FFA members of South Ripley prepare breakfast during 2019 National FFA Week.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Last year's Drive Your Tractor Day was a big success for National FFA Week.

South Ripley FFA Members

Members of South Ripley FFA, led by their advisor Erin Padgett are (listed alphabetically): Tyler Adams, Brad Arthur, Zack Arthur, Casey Back, Cale Beck, Braze Bilins, Abby Bradley, Austin Brunner, Emily Brunner, Rebekah Brunner, Kobe Bush, Hunter Chapin, Arianna Smith, Chris Couch, Maddy Crusier, Dominic Demaree, Darcie Diem, Andrew Dobbs, Grace Einhaus, Kaitlyn Ellison, Raven Field, Cassie Franklin, Cody Franklin, Destiney Garvey, Cherokee Goddard, Kyle Grigsby, Lillyana Guerra, Ethan Hansen, Rory Heffelmire, Wesley Hildebrand, Brenna Huesman, Jayden Hunger, Georgia Iceberg, Josh Johnson, Jaelyn Kessen, Chloe

Kirkland, Seirra McCain, Wyatt McCain, Logan McGee, Ryan Miller, Hailey Mills, Jake Morehead, Lexi Mozingo, Anthony Mulford, Andrea Myers, Lanie Nicholson, Adelle Nuxoll, Dreama Nuxoll, Korynn Ondera, Wade Patton, Chaise Puckett, Mackenzie Robinson, Katie Rork, Olivia Sams, Rachel Sams, Braelyn Scarber, Abbie Schmidt, Steven Schmidt, Paige Scott, Alexis Sevier, Brooklyn Shepherd, Braydon Sides, Bree Sides, Brooke Sides, Mark Snell, Zander Stephen, Jessika Thomas, Evan Vickers, William Wagner, Ellie Waldron, Kaleb Werner, and Carly Zoller.



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MELINDA STARKEY PHOTO

Local FFA groups gather for a picture after helping at Ag Day

FFA chapters from South Ripley, Jac-Cen-Del, Milan and Batesville joined together at the Ripley County Fairgrounds in October to help with Ag Day, where local third grade students visit stations to learn about agriculture.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

FFA members were honored on the house floor on Monday, February 17.

FFA honored by senators

State Sens. Jean Leising (R-Oldenburg) and Chip Perfect (R-Lawrenceburg) present House Concurrent Resolution 32, which honors The National FFA Organization for its work to advance the quality of agricultural education, at the Statehouse Monday, February 17. FFA is a dynamic youth organization that changes lives and prepares members for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The National FFA Organization was established in 1928 and Indiana FFA was started in 1929. Currently, there are

211 chapters in Indiana with 12,500 members.

"Farmers are often underappreciated for their talents, working in hazardous and stressful conditions to provide for us," Leising said. "HRC 32 pays respect to an organization that goes above and beyond to educate and encourage our future agricultural workforce. Farmers in Indiana contribute more than \$31.2 billion to our economy, making our state one of the largest agricultural exporters in the nation. Our state is better because of the young men and women in the National FFA Organization, and I commend them for their accomplishments."

"I applaud Hoosier youth who join their local FFA chapter," Perfect said. "as a former member of the FFA many of the ideals I learned through the program I actively practice today. I was awarded several opportunities I would not have otherwise had, if I had not joined FFA and I encourage those passionate about agriculture to consider joining this program."

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