

Senate File #1669

Minnesota FFA

Minnesota FFA new and expanded access for Minnesota FFA members involved in art-and-history-related FFA activities appropriation

“Growing Minnesota for 100 Years”

Minnesota FFA 100th Anniversary Celebration Proposal for Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund

Project Overview

In 2029, the Minnesota FFA will commemorate 100 years of fostering leadership, agricultural education, and community service across the state. This milestone provides an opportunity to celebrate and preserve Minnesota’s agricultural heritage, emphasizing its cultural impact and the role of youth leadership in shaping rural communities. We seek funding from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF) to support a multi-faceted celebration, including the creation of a history book, video storytelling series, and an in-person arts-focused event.



Project Components

1. 100-Year History Book

Objective: To document and preserve the rich history of Minnesota FFA over the past century.

Description:

- A professionally designed and bound publication highlighting key moments, stories, achievements, and local FFA chapter sections.
- Inclusion of photographs, archival materials, personal interviews with past members and leaders, and reflections on the cultural impact of FFA in Minnesota.
- Chapters dedicated to themes such as leadership development, agricultural innovation, and the role of rural youth in community building.

Outcomes:

- A comprehensive historical record that will serve as an educational resource and cultural artifact.
- Distribution to libraries, schools, and agricultural organizations across Minnesota.

2. Video Storytelling Series: “Growing Minnesota”

Objective: To celebrate the past and present of Minnesota FFA through compelling video content.

Description:

- A series of short documentary-style videos featuring:
 - Interviews with past and current FFA members, including multi-generational families.
 - Stories of innovation and leadership in agriculture.
 - Artistic storytelling elements, such as animation and archival footage.
- Professional production to ensure high-quality visual storytelling.

Outcomes:

- Videos will be shared on social media, educational platforms, and during celebration events.
 - Accessible digital content for future generations.
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3. In-Person Arts Celebration Event

Objective: To bring together FFA members, alumni, artists, and the public to celebrate Minnesota’s agricultural heritage through the arts.

Description:

- A day-long event featuring:
 - Visual art exhibits depicting FFA history and agricultural life, including examples such as photography, wood and metal sculpture, crop art, and more
 - Live performances, including music, spoken word, and storytelling.
 - Student-led creative presentations and competitions.
 - Keynote speakers highlighting the intersection of agriculture, education, and culture.
- Partnerships with local artists and arts organizations to curate exhibits and performances.

Outcomes:

- Engagement of diverse audiences in celebrating agricultural culture.
- Strengthened community connections through shared cultural experiences.

Alignment with ACHF Goals

- **Preservation of History:** The 100-year history book and video series will document and preserve Minnesota's agricultural and educational history.
- **Promotion of Arts & Culture:** The in-person event and creative storytelling elements will celebrate the arts as a vital part of Minnesota's rural identity.
- **Community Engagement:** Partnerships with artists, educators, and community members will foster meaningful connections between agriculture and culture.

Project Timeline

- **Year 1:** Planning, research, and initial content creation.
- **Year 2:** Production of the history book and videos; event planning.
- **Year 3:** Launch of history book, release of video series, and in-person celebration event.

Community Impact

- Preservation and sharing of Minnesota's agricultural and cultural heritage.
- Enhanced awareness of the arts in rural communities.
- Opportunities for youth and artists to collaborate and showcase creative work.

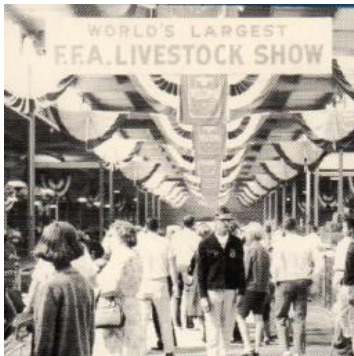
Conclusion

This project offers a unique opportunity to honor 100 years of Minnesota FFA while celebrating the arts and cultural heritage that define our rural communities. With the support of ACHF, we will create lasting resources, foster artistic expression, and engage diverse audiences in this historic milestone.

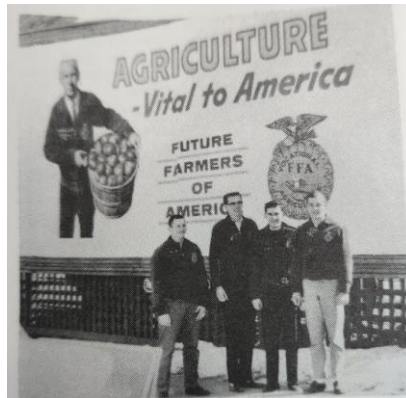
We request support to partner with ACHF in bringing this meaningful celebration to life.



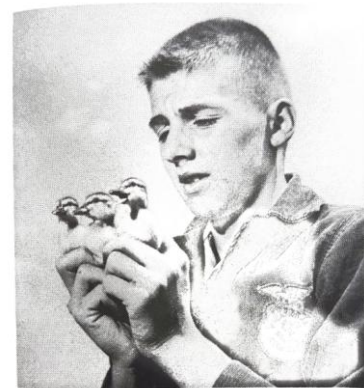
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The Minnesota FFA National Convention exhibit on the health hazards of smoking is displayed. As a result of this exhibit, several executive secretaries from tobacco states threatened to put up a display showing the health hazards from eating Minnesota butter if the display was not taken down.



Over 200 outdoor billboards, provided rent-free by the Minnesota Advertising Association, were displayed during the 1962 FFA Week. Minnesota was among the first states to use billboards to publicize National FFA Week.



The 1966 FFA mallard-rearing program was termed by state and federal conservation and wildlife services as the most successful youth conservation program ever attempted in the nation.



A story in the October-November issue of the *National Future Farmer* entitled, "Farm-City Week Project," featured the Minnesota State Fair FFA Children's Barnyard. The author of the article, John Farrar, national FFA Information Specialist, credited Minnesota with being the first state to sponsor an FFA children's barnyard.

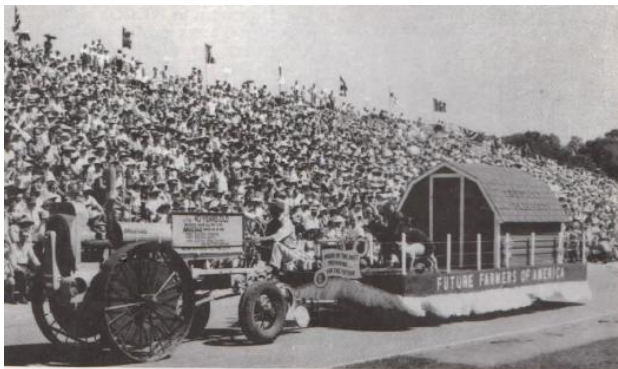


Lawrence Askelson, Albert Lea, and Merle Funk, Worthington, won the first talent contest held at the State FFA Convention.



The First State FFA (mail-order) Band. L. C. Wogenson, director (right).

Learning to Do
Doing to Learn
Earning to Live
Living to Serve



FFA float in the Minneapolis Aquatennial Centennial Parade.



Land judging and contour line-laying contests were established in 1953.



J. V. Raine, Staples, directed the first State FFA Chorus.



Dairy cattle were added to the Minnesota State Fair FFA Livestock Show in 1949.



Development of skills in Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources career pathways.

Initiated MN's Agricultural License Plate.