

DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Office of Education
Washington 25, D.C.

January 5, 1960

VERY IMPORTANT

N O T E

Sent to: Head State Supervisors of Agricultural Education

Sent by: W. T. Spanton, Director, Agricultural Education Branch

Subjects: 1. Possible change in dates from October to Summer months
(July or August) for holding National FFA Convention.
2. Possible change in size of memberships on FFA Board of
Directors or FFA Foundation Board of Trustees.

1. As many of you know, there has been concern expressed by School Administrators and the Sub Committee on "Contests and Student Activities" of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, because of the large size of our National FFA Conventions and the resulting fact that so many thousands of FFA members loose from a week to 10 days or more from school attendance while attending the convention.

As a result of conferences with this Sub Committee, which has the responsibility for approving or disapproving all High School Student Contests and Activities, I agreed to contact all of the States to get their reactions to the possibility of holding the FFA Conventions during the Summer months, or limiting attendance at National Conventions.

Accordingly, I am enclosing a brief summary of the possible advantages and disadvantages of holding the conventions during the Summer months. I have not attempted to make a similar analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of limiting attendance. Much could be said on both sides of this question.

Will you please let me have your reactions to these matters on Part I of the enclosed questionnaire at your earliest convenience, but not later than January 21, so that the reactions of all the States can be tabulated and presented to the FFA Boards of Student Officers and Directors, and the FFA Foundation Board of Trustees at their annual meeting the last week of January.

ANALYSIS OF ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF A SUMMER NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

ADVANTAGES

1. FFA members would not be absent from school while attending FFA Conventions.
2. Will prevent possible disapproval of FFA Contests and Activities by the Sub Committee on Contests of the National Association of Secondary School Principals.
3. Some school men and others feel that FFA members would gain more from an educational standpoint by remaining in school than they would from a week or 10 days while attending a National FFA Convention.

DISADVANTAGES

1. Many FFA members have supervised farming programs in operation during the growing season of the summer months making it very difficult and sometimes impossible for them to leave the farm for a week or 10 days at a specified time.
2. It would prevent many FFA members from having the opportunity to attend the American Royal Live Stock Show.
3. In many instances the dates for the National FFA Convention would undoubtedly conflict with: State Summer Conferences for Teachers of Vocational Agriculture; State FFA Conventions; Summer School Sessions being attended by teachers of Vocational Agriculture; and State and County Fairs participated in by FFA members.

2. For some time there has been agitation in favor of combining the FFA Board of Directors and FFA Foundation Board of Trustees into one Board, which would serve as a Board of Directors of the FFA and Board of Trustees of the FFA Foundation, having the same individuals serve as members of each Board.

Since the FFA Board of Directors is composed of 9 members, and the FFA Foundation Board of Trustees is composed of 15 members, the question then arises as to the number of individuals who should serve as members of each Board. In other words, should this new (combined) Board consist of 9 or 15 members? In arriving at a decision, consideration should be given to the following:

- (1) If the new Board is to consist of 15 members, (the same number as now provided for in the Articles of Incorporation of the Foundation) then an Amendment to P. L. 740 of the 81st Congress would have to be adopted by the Congress and signed by the President of the U. S. since 9 members of the Board of Directors are specified in our Federal Charter.
- (2) If the new Board is to consist of 9 members (the same number as the present FFA Board of Directors as provided for in P. L. 740 in our Federal Charter) then the Articles of Incorporation for the FFA Foundation would have to be amended accordingly, since the present Charter granted by the District of Columbia provides for 15 members. However, this could easily be done by action of the present FFA Foundation Board of Trustees, through preparation of an Amendment to its present Charter and its submission to the office of the Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia.
- (3) If the FFA Board of Directors is increased from 9 to 15 members, and also serves as the Foundation Board of Trustees, then the cost of travel of the 15 Board members will be almost trebled, since the Board of Directors meets three times per year (January, July, and October); whereas, the FFA Foundation Board of Trustees meets only once per year (in January).

Will you therefore, give me your reactions to this matter on Part II of the enclosed questionnaire at your earliest convenience, but not later than January 21, so that your reactions can be tabulated and presented to the FFA Board of Student Officers and Directors and the FFA Foundation Board of Trustees at their January meeting?

Enclosure

Please Let Me Have Your Answers To The Following
Questions Not Later Than January 21, 1960

Name of State _____

Name of Supervisor _____

Check your answers in the "Yes" or "No" columns to the right of
this page, after reading the preceding pages.

PART I

- | | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|--|------------|-----------|
| 1. When should the National FFA Convention be held: | | |
| (a) In October just prior to the American Royal, as at present? | _____ | _____ |
| (b) During the late Summer months? | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Should there be <u>any</u> restriction of attendance of FFA members at the National Convention? | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Should attendance of FFA members at National Conventions be restricted: | | |
| (a) To approximately 1,000 individuals consisting of the following groups: National Officers, Official Delegates, State Officers, National and Regional Foundation Award Winners, American Farmer Candidates, Judging Contestants, National Band and Chorus? | _____ | _____ |
| (b) To all groups in (a) above, plus a maximum of <u>one</u> FFA Officer from each local Chapter in the State? | _____ | _____ |
| (c) To all groups in (a) above, plus a maximum of <u>5</u> chapter members from each local chapter in the State, regardless as to whether they are local chapter officers or not? | _____ | _____ |

PART II

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|--|-------|-------|
| 1. Should a separate FFA Board of Directors of <u>9</u> members and a separate FFA Foundation Board of Trustees of <u>15</u> members to continued as at present? | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Should one Board be responsible for the duties of both the FFA Board of Directors and the FFA Foundation Board of Trustees? | _____ | _____ |
| 3. If your answer to question (2) above is Yes, should a Board of <u>9</u> men (consisting of the same 9 men who serve on the FFA Board of Directors) also serve as the FFA Foundation Board of Trustees? or | _____ | _____ |
| 4. If your answer to question (2) is Yes, should a Board of <u>15</u> members (consisting of the same 15 men who serve on the FFA Foundation Board of Trustees) also serve as the FFA Board of Directors? | _____ | _____ |