

Bringing FFA History to Life through FFA History Central

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Introduction/Need for Innovation or Idea

Can you explain how corn clubs, a plan to buy a B-29 bomber during WWII, and Miss America of 1950 are a part of FFA history? Most agriculture teachers and even teacher educators probably can't. Since the origin of the Future Farmers of America in 1928, and even earlier, there are numerous individuals, organizations, and events that have contributed to the rich history of the National FFA Organization. And in agriculture classrooms across the country, one unit that is sure to be taught is on FFA History. However, this unit often falls short due to limited curriculum and readily available resources. For example, a review of [State] curriculum found the FFA history content was limited to a brief description of nine important dates, a timeline assignment, and a matching activity. In response, a website was developed as a resource to support teachers' efforts to provide more detailed and engaging instruction on FFA history.

How it Works

The website, <https://sites.google.com/a/ncsu.edu/ffa-history-central/>, was developed using Google Sites and is publicly accessible via the web. The site currently includes the following tabs: Presentations, Media, Articles, Trivia, and Classroom Resources. The Presentations tab includes PowerPoint presentations developed by an expert on agricultural education history. The Media tab consists of various documents and photographs of important individuals and artifacts. The Video tab contains videos available via YouTube such as the history of the FFA Jacket and the history of the FFA Creed and access to a link for the movie, *The Greenhand*. The Articles tab provides access to historical research published in the *Journal of Agricultural Education* and the *Agricultural Education Magazine*. The Trivia tab includes 95 FFA History questions along with answers and the Classroom Resources tab provides access to potential student assignments, a webquest, and banks of Kahoot! questions.

Results to Date/Implications

The FFA History Central website has been live since November 2015. To date, this website has been shared with teachers who attended the FFA History workshop offered at the NAAE Convention in November and also with undergraduate and graduate students at [State University] as a course resource.

Future Plans/Advice to Others

In the initial development of the site it was important to learn about the sharing permissions, especially with inclusion of documents in Google Drive. The authors plan to continue adding content to the site and sharing it as a resource with agriculture teachers and teacher educators across the country. A number of historical documents will be scanned and

added to the site along with links to existing FFA historical documents in the FFA Archives and documents in the public domain. Also, noted FFA historians will be contacted and invited to share documents and presentations via the site. One of the goals is to have this site to be a major repository of NFA (New Farmers of America) documents such as the NFA Guide and state NFA histories. Google Sites provides options for analytics and a future goal is to add analytics in an effort to learn more about the site users.

Costs/Resources Needed

The primary cost for this innovation was in the form of time, especially in the initial creation of the website. Fortunately, the authors had prior experience in developing websites using Google Sites, so minimal time was required to initiate the FFA history site. Additional time was needed to acquire and organize various documents from computer files and search the archives of the *Journal of Agricultural Education*. In the future, more time will be invested to continue building the site, add additional resources, and publicize the existence of this helpful resource through various channels.

References

FFA History Central. (2016). Retrieved from <https://sites.google.com/a/ncsu.edu/ffa-history-central/>