



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND
THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) is made and entered into between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. and the National FFA Organization (FFA), 6060 FFA Drive, Indianapolis, Indiana.

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a general framework for cooperation between USDA and FFA—who propose to work together toward the common goals of advancing the public interest through developing a highly prepared workforce for unique careers within the industry of agriculture and who propose to seek mutually beneficial opportunities for USDA, FFA members, and agricultural education students nationwide.

II. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL INTEREST:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides leadership on agriculture, food, natural resources, rural infrastructure, nutrition, and related issues through facts-based, data-driven, and customer-focused decisions. We have a vision to do right and feed everyone.

The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization of more than 650,000 student members as part of local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

III. USDA WILL:

1. Recognize the importance of school-based agricultural education and youth-serving organizations in motivating and preparing young people to pursue careers in the agriculture, food, and natural resources systems.
2. Work to help build awareness of the reach and importance of agriculture, across a diversity of fields and disciplines.
3. Identify short-term and long-term interests of USDA and provide opportunities, resources, input, and coordination with USDA programs and agencies to FFA, including the development of internship opportunities.
4. Share, internally and externally, the extent to which active steps are being taken to encourage collaboration with, and support of, FFA- and school-based agricultural education initiatives.

IV. THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION WILL:

1. Work with USDA and others to attract, educate, inspire, and prepare students to enter careers in the agriculture, food, and natural resources industries.
2. Collaborate with the Secretary and his designees to identify areas in which mutual interests may be addressed.

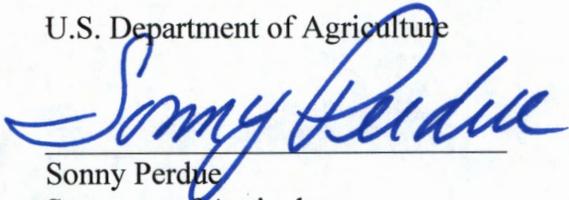
3. Work with USDA to provide at least one opportunity, but ideally multiple opportunities, for the Secretary to meet with student and adult leaders of FFA to share messages and obtain direct feedback.
4. Provide feedback to USDA relative to implementation of Federal programs for training, resource, guidance, and other related purposes.

V. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY BOTH PARTIES THAT:

1. Implementation of the MOU will occur at the national levels of USDA and FFA.
2. Both parties will work together to create an annual plan of work as it relates to these terms, and develop a reporting system that reflects the effectiveness and impact of the partnership between the parties.
3. The Department of Agriculture and FFA and their respective agencies and offices will handle their own activities and utilize their own resources, including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing these objectives. Each participant will carry out its separate activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner.
4. Nothing in this MOU shall obligate either the Department of Agriculture or FFA to obligate or transfer any funds. Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property among the various agencies and offices of the Department of Agriculture and FFA will require execution of separate agreements and be contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Such activities must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This MOU does not provide such authority. Negotiation, execution, and administration of each such agreement must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations.
5. This MOU takes effect upon the signature of the Department of Agriculture and FFA and shall remain in effect for 4 years from the date of execution. This MOU may be extended or amended upon written request of either the Department of Agriculture or FFA and the subsequent written concurrence of the other(s). Either the Department of Agriculture or FFA may terminate this MOU with a 60-day written notice to the other(s).
6. This MOU is not intended to, and does not create, any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.
7. Either party may not use or reference the name or logo of the other or any of its component agencies in any context, manner, or media now or hereafter to service as an endorsement of the other party, or its employees, agents, parents, subsidiaries, and related companies, or any of its programs or products.
8. This MOU in no way restricts either party from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals. Nothing in this agreement may be interpreted to imply that either party endorses any product, service, or policy of the other.

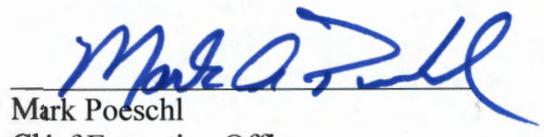
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the last signature date written below.

U.S. Department of Agriculture


 Sonny Perdue
 Secretary of Agriculture

Date: JUL 26 2017

National FFA Organization


 Mark Poeschl
 Chief Executive Officer

Date: JUL 26 2017