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FLANAGAN-CORNELL AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

# BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE



**EMBARK ON A TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY AT OUR HIGH SCHOOL, WHERE AGRICULTURE LIES AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY'S IDENTITY. WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CUTTING-EDGE AGRICULTURE BUILDING, WE CAN FORGE A PATH TOWARDS INNOVATION AND EDUCATION. THIS NEW FACILITY WILL NOT ONLY SERVE AS A HUB FOR HANDS-ON LEARNING AND RESEARCH BUT ALSO AS A TESTAMENT TO OUR COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING OUR AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE AND EMPOWERING FUTURE GENERATIONS. JOIN US AS WE SOW THE SEEDS OF KNOWLEDGE AND CULTIVATE A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOGETHER.**

# THE SCOPE & GROWTH OF OUR DEPARTMENT

## AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

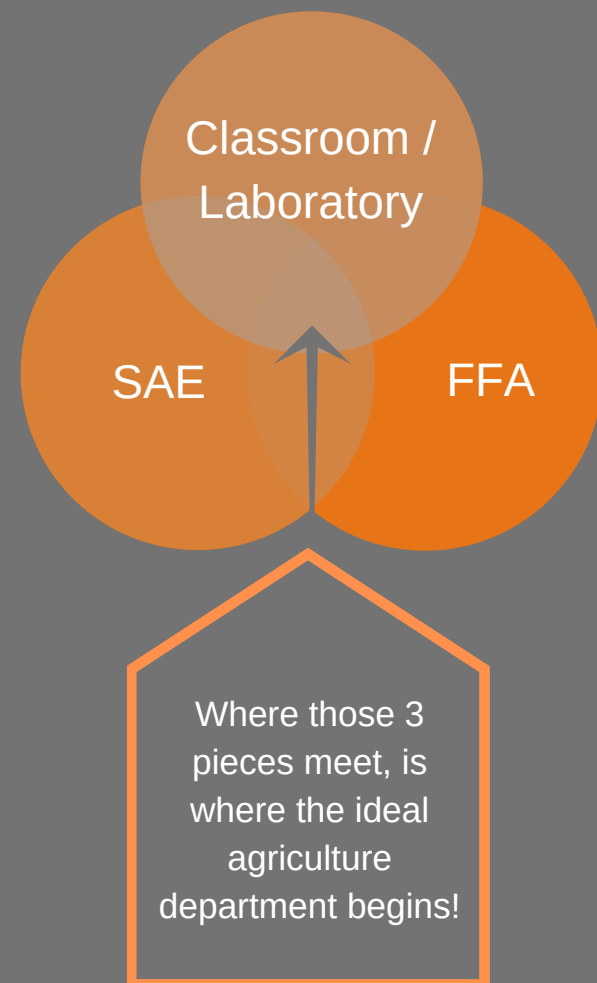
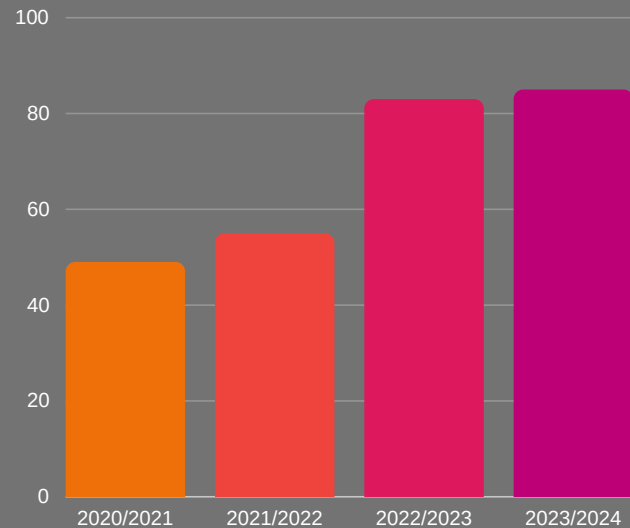
### BACKGROUND

The Flanagan-Cornell High School Agriculture Department was founded in 1948 and has seen significant growth and accomplishment throughout the last 75 years. Typically, enrollment in agriculture classes encompasses 50% of the student body, but in the past few years (as seen in the graph to the right), enrollment has increased to at least 75% of the student body. The demographics of the school match that of our agriculture program making it important to educate students about how agriculture production affects each and every person, not just those involved in production agriculture. To accomplish this goal, the three-circle model of agricultural education is fully implemented, with each student not only enrolling in an agriculture course but also being an active FFA member with an established immersion and/or foundational SAE project.

Currently, the agriculture department is led by two agriculture teachers, Mrs. Jessica Chipman and Ms. Carley Zimmerman. Mrs. Chipman has taught at the district since 2014 after the retirement of Mr. Dan Faber, who dedicated so much time and energy to the department and remains an integral part of the community today. In 2021, the district added a second teaching position to meet the needs of growing numbers within the department and Ms. Zimmerman joined the department.

Learning areas of the Agriculture Department include 2 classrooms, an agricultural mechanics shop and agriscience lab space, and a 30' x 60' greenhouse. Students can use all facilities to receive hands-on learning in agricultural education. The main objective of the program is to expose students to the many facets of agriculture and how it makes a daily impact on human lives.

### 4 YEAR COURSE ENROLLMENT TREND



# MISSION STATEMENT & GOALS

## AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

### **FLANAGAN-CORNELL HIGH SCHOOL AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT MISSION**

The Flanagan-Cornell Agriculture Department is dedicated to fostering the growth of students' career and educational abilities in agricultural and horticultural sciences. This aims to equip them for prosperous careers in agriculture or further education.

### **FLANAGAN-CORNELL HIGH SCHOOL AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT GOALS**

1. Our department prepares students for the workforce or post-secondary education by offering comprehensive academic and vocational training, emphasizing practical skills, critical thinking, and career exploration. Through partnerships with industries and mentorship programs, students transition confidently into their chosen paths.
2. Our department develops agricultural knowledge among students and community members through engaging curriculum, experiential learning, and partnerships with experts.
3. Our department integrates community service and awareness initiatives into our curriculum, we instill in students a sense of empathy and civic responsibility fostering a spirit of service and global citizenship that extends beyond the classroom.
4. Our department prioritizes the development of leadership and communication skills in students to prepare them for success after graduation. Through FFA, students cultivate confidence, collaboration, and effective communication, enabling them to inspire others and drive positive change in their communities and beyond.

# PAST AG PROGRAM SUCCESS

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



The students enrolled in agricultural education at Flanagan-Cornell High School are an integral part of the Flanagan-Cornell FFA Chapter and the agricultural program stresses the importance of leadership development. The core of our FFA chapter success comes from developing a complete Program of Activities (POA) and National Chapter Award (NCA) centered around the FFA vision of Growing Leaders, Building Communities, and Strengthening Agriculture. Students have organized and participated in projects such as our chapter officer leadership retreat, HERDS mentorship program, game night, College & Career Night, partnering with Master Gardeners, Penny Wars, Farmer Appreciation Lunch, Rake and Dash, Christmas Vendor Show, Advocating for Agriculture on social media, Meet and Greet, 8th grade recruitment lunch, teacher appreciation lunch, FFA Alumni Auction, and Ag in the Classroom projects, and much more. Students also have active participation in Career and Leadership Development Events at the section, district, and state level.



### PRE 2010

- 35 State Degree Recipients
- 2 Section 9 FFA Presidents
- Section 9 Winner in Student Development Development
- Multiple Sectional Winning CDE Teams in Parliamentary Procedure

### 2010-PRESENT

- 19 State Degree Recipients
- 3 Section 9 FFA Presidents
- 1 Illinois State FFA President
- Premier Chapter Runner Up (2023)
- 8 Years as National Chapter Award National Finalist Recognition
- 6 3 Star Chapter Awards @ National Level (2018-2023)
- 2 2 Star Chapter Awards @ National Level (2016-2017)
- Section 9 Premier Chapter Award (2023)
- Section 9 Growing Leaders Winner (2023)
- Section 9 Strengthening Agriculture Winner (2023)
- Section 9 Winner in Community Development (2016)
- Section 9 Land Use High Team (2021)

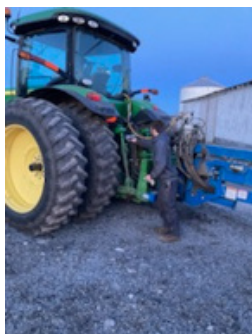


# PAST AG PROGRAM SUCCESS

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Supervised Agriculture Experience programs have been the foundation of experiential learning in the agriculture classroom. 100% of students within the agriculture program create and maintain an SAE project that highlights their experiential learning within the classroom. Using the National FFA SAE for All initiative, Mrs. Chipman and Ms. Zimmerman have encouraged students to discover career opportunities, learn about important components of workplace safety, develop financial management, and engage in agricultural literacy. Students' SAE projects range from simple foundation-level career research projects to operations that include multiple agricultural commodities. Many students also secure work-based learning experiences and internships that provide endless opportunities for employment after high school. Below is a review of students' SAE success through FFA award programs.

- On average, 10-15 chapter proficiency participants per school year
- Over 50, Section 9 Proficiency Winners
- Over 15, District 2 Proficiency Winners
- 12 State Proficiency Winners including most recently:
  - Karson Kimpling, Agricultural Sales (2018) \*National Finalist\*
  - Rosalee Zehr, Dairy Production (2020) \*National Finalist\*
  - Grace Brown, Diversified Livestock Production (2022) \*Silver National Ranking\*
  - Aidan Harner, Ag Mechanics Repair & Maintenance (2022) \*Silver National Ranking\*
  - Sam Jones, Nursery Operations (2022) \*National Finalist\*
  - William Weber, Service Learning (2022) \*Silver National Ranking\*
  - Wyatt Zehr, Dairy Production (2022) \*Gold National Ranking\*
- 6 Section 9 STAR Award Recipients including most recently:
  - Emily Friese, STAR Farmer (2018)
  - Karson Kimpling, STAR in Ag Business (2018)
  - Rosalee Zehr, STAR Farmer (2020) \*District 2 Winner\*
  - Aidan Harner, STAR in Ag Placement (2022) \*District 2 Winner\*
  - Wyatt Zehr, STAR Farmer (2022)



# FLANAGAN-CORNELL AG DEPARTMENT

## COURSE OPTIONS

### **EXPLORATORY** +Core Class Option

#### **INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURE**

This course is an introduction to agriculture and the FFA organization. Students will have the opportunity to learn theory and practical application in basic plant and animal science, leadership, communication, record keeping, and agriculture carpentry.

Computer use will be integrated into various topics in the course. After students take this course, they will be much more knowledgeable about the basics of the agricultural industry as well as how it can be used in their future.

### **SPECIALIZATION**

#### **+AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE**

Ag Science is designed to expand upon the knowledge gained in Introduction to Agriculture. The class gives students knowledge in the areas of animal science, soil science, crop science, and food science. The course focuses on the science aspect of each concept and students gain experience using the Scientific Method through conducting labs and other hands-on activities. This course covers basic knowledge about production agriculture and how it relates to being an educated consumer.

#### **AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS**

This course is designed for students to learn the concepts and practical application of basic agricultural mechanics technologies. The course covers basic instruction in shop safety, carpentry, electricity, welding, and small engines.

Major units of study include personal safety, hand tools, power tools, and construction skills in carpentry, electricity, and painting. The course covers careers in different trade areas including construction, electricity, plumbing, concrete work, safety specialists and other related careers.

#### **BASIC HORTICULTURE SCIENCE**

This course is designed to introduce the horticulture industry. The course covers careers in the industry, as well as plant identification and classifications. Students study plant anatomy and physiology as well as basic plant requirements and reproduction including propagation.

Students learn floral design techniques and implement those techniques in their own arrangements. Also, covered is greenhouse production including types of greenhouses, bedding plant production, and basic marketing skills, including working in the greenhouse.

#### **AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

This course is designed to give students an opportunity to learn about the skills necessary to manage personal finances and develop into a successful entrepreneur or businessperson, as well as skills in agriculture sales and marketing. Students learn about influences in agriculture and how to be an advocate. Students gain knowledge in business ownership types, entrepreneurship, managing and operating an agribusiness, managing personal financials, record keeping, and financial management. Students gain experience in developing a marketing plan, pricing, advertising, selling products or services, and communicating with customers. Commodity marketing, economic principles, and the international agriculture economy are covered. Students develop employability skills and leave with a finished resume and cover letter.

#### **ADVANCED HORTICULTURE SCIENCE**

In this course, students will delve deeper into plant science including plant anatomy and physiology as well as soil science. Students will experience many of these concepts through hands-on activities and labs. This course also focuses on greenhouse management, floral design and landscape design. Major units of study include floriculture plant identification and the production of greenhouse crops.

Students will also expand on their knowledge of floral design and create floral arrangements for multiple holidays. Agribusiness units will be introduced in merchandising, advertising, sales, and operating a retail greenhouse. Improving computer and workplace skills will be a focus.

# FLANAGAN-CORNELL FFA CHAPTER

TENTATIVE FUTURE AG BUILDING

## FC 74 AGRICULTURE EDUCATION BUILDING

### Classroom A for Ag Teacher Number 1

- Current bottom southwest FCHS classroom
- Direct connection to Ag Classroom B

### Dedicated Multifunction Lab Space

- Universal lab space used by both teachers
- Storage for microscopes and lab supplies

### Classroom A for Ag Teacher Number 2

- Current bottom west FCHS classroom
- Direct connection to Ag Classroom A

### Kitchen Space for Curriculum Expansion

- Expand curriculum into “Farm To Table”
- Equipped with stoves, fridges, and appropriate storage

### Shop Space

- Shop space for mechanical, metals and woods courses
- Overhead door allows for ease of material movement

### Other Amenities

- Restrooms
- Storage and custodial closet
- Hallway area featuring sponsors





# FLANAGAN-CORNELL FFA CHAPTER

TENTATIVE FUTURE AG BUILDING



**Tentative Location of Flanagan Cornell  
Agricultural Education Building**

**Location of Flanagan Cornell  
High School**



# FLANAGAN-CORNELL FFA CHAPTER

## FUNDRAISING PROJECT

This flyer was created to promote our project and showcase the different donation tiers available to support the program's development. Your donations will celebrate **student accomplishments**, foster **ongoing learning**, and assist our school district in **achieving its goals**.



## FOUNDATION LEVEL BUY-A-BRICK PROGRAM

Those individuals, foundations, or companies contributing a minimum of \$250 to our building projects will be designated as Foundation Level sponsors. These sponsors will be featured with personalized bricks in the lobby of the Flanagan Cornell Agricultural Education Building.

## BLUE AND GOLD SPONSOR MURAL PROGRAM

Those individuals, foundations, or companies contributing a minimum of \$251 to our building projects will be designated as Blue and Gold sponsors. These sponsors will be listed alongside an FFA Mural at the entrance of the lobby in the Flanagan Cornell Agricultural Education Building.

**Bronze Sponsor-** \$251-\$999

**Silver Sponsor-** \$1,000-\$4,999

**Gold Sponsor-** \$5,000-\$9,999

**Platinum Sponsor-** \$10,000-\$24,999

**Diamond Sponsor-** \$25,000-\$99,999



## THREE STAR ROOM SPONSORS



Those individuals, foundations, or companies contributing a minimum of \$100,000 to our building projects will be designated as Platinum Room Sponsors. These sponsors will have a specialized plaque that hangs alongside one of the main rooms. The plaque will highlight a short biography with information on the individual or organization. Room sponsors will be for each of the ag classrooms, agriscience lab, shop space, kitchen, and board room.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Flanagan Cornell Unit 74 is a charitable organization under section 501(C)(3) and contributions are tax deductible.
- Tax Exempt Number: **E99326140**
- All checks may be payable to "Flanagan Cornell Unit 74 - Ag Building Fund"
- A multi-year contribution agreement may be signed upon request

# FLANAGAN-CORNELL FFA CHAPTER

## PROJECTED GOALS AND TIMELINE



**Summer 2025**

Meet  
Fundraising Goal



**June 17th 2024**

Launch Fundraising  
Campaign



**Fall 2025**

Begin Construction



**Summer 2026**

Ag Building  
Ribbon Cutting

