Alabama FFA History

1880 Booker T. Washington established and agricultural school for young black farmers in Tuskegee consisting of a one-room schoolhouse and 100-acre farm.

1889 The Alabama legislature establishes Congressional District Agricultural Schools.

1917 Smith-Hughes National Vocational Education Act passes, providing support for agriculture education.

1919 Alabama holds a state livestock judging contest for vocational agriculture students, 10 years before the establishment of the Alabama FFA Association.

1927 Agricultural supervisors and teacher trainers at the Southern Regional Conference of the Agricultural Education Service call for the organization of future farmers clubs for vocational Ag students in the region.

Alabama becomes one of the first states to organize a New Farmers of America Association, an organization for African American Ag students.

1928 The Southern States Regional Conference calls for a regional federation of state future farmers clubs known as the Future Farmers of Dixie. Though it was never established due to the rapid development of the Future Farmers of America, the 4 degrees of membership were incorporated into the FFA.

1929 The Alabama Association of the Future Farmers of America is organized in July and the first state officers are elected. Nine members from Uriah, Ozark, Reform, Isabella, and Collinsville chapters become the first recipients of the State Farmer Degree (now State FFA Degree).

The Alabama FFA Association receives a charter on December 10th, the 36th chartered association

1930 Earl Solom of Uriah, Alabama's first state FFA president, becomes the first Alabama member to receive the American Farmer Degree (now American FFA Degree).

At the end of the 1929-30 school year, Alabama has 1,249 members in 69 chapter.

The first state convention is held at Alabama Polytechnic Institute (now Auburn University).

The Alabama FFA begins printing an official publication, *News Letter*.

1932	The *Alabama Future Farmer* replaces *News Letter* as the official publication of the association.
1934	Several chapters organize districts to encourage cooperation and friendly competition among chapters; all chapters eventually join district organizations.
1935	The National New Farmers of America is organized at a national conference held in Tuskegee. David Simmons of Alabama is selected as the first national president.
1938	Bradley Twitty of Cherokee is selected as Southern Region VP, Alabama's first national FFA officer.
1941-45	During WWII, AL FFA members sell $758,753.21 in war bonds, collect nearly 6 million pounds of scrap metal and grow 20, 866 victory gardens. Nearly 2,400 active members served in the armed forces and 156 active and past members were killed.
1942	Alabama FFA members begin a massive tree planting project, resulting in 5 million pine seedlings being planted by 1952 (10 years).
1945	Alabama FFA sponsors its first quartet contest; won by Hanceville.
1947	State convention is held at Phillips High School in Birmingham.
	The State Advisor, Robert E. Cammack and *Progressive Farmer* editor, H.O. Coffey are the first Alabama recipients of the Honorary American Farmer Degree.
1948	State Convention returns to Alabama Polytechnic Institute.
1952	Honorary State Farmer Degree Recipient John Sparkman receives the Democratic Vice Presential nomination.
1954	Alabama FFA 25th Anniversary.
1958	Former Alabama FFA member and *Alabama Future Farmer* editor, Wilson Carnes becomes editor of the *National Future Farmer*, a position he held for several decades.
1965	The New Farmers of America merges with the Future Farmers of America
	Alabama FFA expands its officer team to six officers; with the exception of 1945 and 1946, every team had five.
1968	Jerry Batts of Clements is selected as National FFA Secretary.
1969	State convention moved from Auburn to Montgomery's Garrett Coliseum.
	Future Farmers of America opens membership to females.

1971 Sammy Peebles of the W.S. Neal chapter becomes the Southern Region Vice President.

1972 The *Alabama FFA Reporter* replaces the *Alabama Future Farmer* as the official publication.

1973 Spencer Means of Carver is selected as State Treasurer, Alabama's first African American state officer.

1974 The office of State Second Vice President is established, expanding the state officer team to seven. The office is abolished in 1977.

1976 Tony V. Pollard becomes the first Alabama member to be recognized as National FFA Star Agribusinessman.

Pamela Tate of Semmes is elected Second State Vice President, becoming the first female state officer.

1977 State convention moves to the Montgomery Civic Center.

FFA Supporters, led by State Advisor, J. C. Hollis, establish the Alabama FFA Foundation.

1978 At FFA's golden anniversary, Alabama is the 2nd largest association with 27,000 members.

1985 Robert Weaver of Falkville is elected Southern Region Vice President.

1986 Jayme Feary, of Falkville is selected Southern Region Vice President. Falkville is the first FFA chapter in the nation to have back-to-back national officers.

1989 Kim Sanders of Marbury becomes Alabama FFA's first female State President.

Brad Lewis of Elkmont is selected Southern Region Vice President.

1991 Shane Black of Clements becomes Southern Region Vice President.

1995 Clara-Leigh Horn of the Ashville chapter is selected as Southern Region Vice President.

1996 Charlie Jones of Billingsley chapter becomes Southern Region Vice President.

1997 Amber Miller of Louisville is chosen as Southern Region Vice President.

1998 State Executive Secretary Troy Newton organizes the first state FFA career show at state convention.

National convention was held in Kansas City for the last time with record breaking attendance of 49,240 members, guests, and supporters.

The National FFA Center was moved from Alexandria, Virginia to Indianapolis, Indiana. It houses the National FFA Organization, Foundation, and Alumni Association. Approximately 1,000 guests attended the dedication ceremonies on July 20, 1998. Much like the 1959 dedication, members participating in the State Presidents Conference placed a cup full of soil from their respective states at the base of the flagpole.

Jose Santiago is elected to national office; he is the first member from Puerto Rico to serve as a national FFA officer.

1999 National Convention is held in Louisville, Kentucky and will remain there until 2005.

2000 FFA Discovery Degree becomes available to middle school members.

Jennifer Edwards of Gaston becomes National FFA Secretary.

2001 Thomas Hall of Isabella launches the original Alabama FFA website.

2002 Alabama State Legislature passes HJR3, officially designating the week of February 22 as FFA Week.

2003 Javier Moreno of Puerto Rico, is elected national FFA president; he becomes the first Puerto Rican and the first person with a native language other than English elected as national FFA president.

2004 State convention moves back to Auburn University.

2005 National FFA launches Seeds of Hope, a fundraising campaign to help rebuild Gulf Coast states' agricultural education and FFA programs following Hurricane Katrina; $835, 699 in donations is distributed to affected programs.

FFA Foundation breaks the $10 million mark in raising money for FFA programs and services.

The Alabama state FFA officers Alumni Association opens membership to all

former FFA members.

State officers Matt Wilson of Jacksonville and Jordan Hamilton of Sand Rock

reestablish the Alabama FFA website.

2006 The National FFA Foundation receives its first million-dollar donation, from the Ford Motor company.

National Convention in held in Indianapolis, Indiana for the first time.

Jennifer Himburg of the Ariton chapter is selected National Southern Region Vice

	President.
2007	Membership breaks the half-million mark with 500,823 members in 7,358 chapters.
2009	Delegates to the state convention vote to allow high school graduates to serve as state officers.
2010	State convention moves back to Montgomery.
2012	Wiley Bailey become National FFA Southern Region Vice President.
2013	National Convention moves back to Louisville, KY.
2018	Jordan Stow elected Southern Region Vice President.
2019	Alabama FFA membership is 15, 286
2025	Dr. Catherine ‘Kitty’ Davis becomes the first female Alabama FFA Executive Secretary.