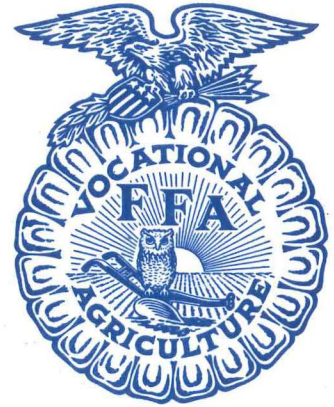


# NEWS RELEASE



from: The National FFA Center -- P.O. Box 15160  
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## 42<sup>nd</sup> National FFA Convention

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### GIRLS ADMITTED TO THE FFA

In a close vote, delegates to the 42nd National Future Farmers of America Convention voted to amend their constitution to admit girls into their membership. The amendment which required a two thirds vote passed by only two votes; 76 delegates voting for and 35 members against, the change.

The amendment to allow girls in the national organization has met stiff resistance when it has been introduced in five previous conventions. This year's close vote came after nearly 20 minutes of spirited debate. The amendment was voted on by 115 FFA student delegates representing the 450,000 member organization for students of vocational education.

Two delegates from each State are sent to the convention except in States where membership in the FFA exceeds 10,000. States which have over 10,000 members are allowed to send additional delegates in proportion to the number of members over this quota.

In recent years, vocational agriculture programs have broadened to include studies in horticulture, and other agribusinessess which appeal to both male and female vocational agriculture students. Although girls have been allowed to take vocational agriculture courses they have never been able to enjoy the benefit of leadership training, awards programs, and contests of the Future Farmers of

-- more --

America organization. The amendment to the constitution will make these rights and privileges available for the first time to girls interested in agriculture related vocations.

The amendment merely eliminates the word "male" in Article IV, Section B, which until today has read: "Active Membership - any male student who is regularly enrolled in vocational agriculture is entitled to become an active member of any chartered FFA chapter."

The FFA is the national organization for students studying vocational agriculture in public secondary schools under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Act. The FFA is self governed entirely by students under adult counsel and guidance. Its purpose is to motivate and vitalize the systematic instruction of students of vocational agriculture and to provide further training in agriculture, leadership, cooperation and citizenship.

The Future Farmers voted on the amendment change at the third session of their 42nd National Convention now in progress in Kansas City, Missouri.

END