



Key Moments in History | North Carolina FFA

- 1911** NC General Assembly passed the County Farm Life School Act, which appropriated \$25,000 a year to build ten schools. The Craven County Farm Life School in Vanceboro was the first school established to teach agriculture in North Carolina
- 1917** US Congress passed the Smith Hughes Act, which established vocational agriculture in public schools
- 1927** Work began to establish a club for boys enrolled in vocational agriculture classes



First State FFA Convention held at NC State



An early agriculture classroom

- 1928** First State Convention was held; 300 delegates, representing 110 rural high schools from 66 counties attended meetings at NC State; convention was held here for 18 years

Young Tar Heel Farmers Association was chartered

17 members became the first to receive the Carolina Farmer Degree (now the State FFA Degree)

The Future North State Farmers was organized for African American students enrolled in agriculture

Young Tar Heel Farmers began a camping program at White Lake, NC; this is the oldest FFA Camp in the nation

- 1929** The transition from Young Tar Heel Farmers to FFA was implemented when the National FFA Organization officially chartered the North Carolina Association of Future Farmers of America

Wade Turner was elected as the 2nd National FFA President; the first national officer from North Carolina

- 1935** Due to polio outbreaks, state convention and the camping program was not held

- 1940** Tom Browne FFA Camp was developed and established in Barnardsville (Buncombe County)

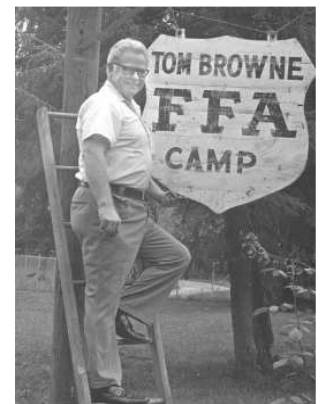
- 1947** 19th State Convention was moved for the first time to downtown Raleigh and held at the Sir Walter Raleigh Hotel

- 1949** A collegiate FFA chapter with 105 active members was organized at State College

- 1957** Clarence Chappell of Perquimans County became the first member from NC to be named Star Farmer of America

- 1958** The S.B. Simmons NFA Camp was officially opened in Swansboro (Onslow County)

- 1965** The FFA and NFA merged both nationally and in North Carolina



Tom E. Browne next to the camp sign



Chappell looks over his Star Farmer application with his advisor

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Peeler and his wife just after the naming of the camp in his honor

- 1966** The NC FFA Camp name was changed to the RJ Peeler FFA Camp to honor the retirement of the executive secretary
- 1968** North Carolina reached its highest ever recorded membership total of 31,869 members
- 1969** Girls were officially admitted into the FFA

Alvin Ray Hickman of Acme Delco, became the first African American member elected as a State FFA Officer
- 1972** The North Carolina FFA Alumni Association was formed
- 1976** The North Carolina FFA Foundation was chartered
- 1979** The Tom Browne FFA Camp was sold to Buncombe County; funds from the sale built the girls dorms at the RJ Peeler FFA Camp



Alvin Ray Hickman

- 1980** Beth Smith of Ledford, became the first female elected as a State Officer; she also became the first female from NC to receive the American Farmer Degree (now the American Degree)
- 1985** The RJ Peeler FFA Camp added a new meeting facility sponsored by the Alumni Association
- 1989** A historic marker was presented to the FFA Camp at White Lake
- 1990** Kelly Butler of Bartlett Yancey became the first female elected as State FFA President
- 1991** S.B. Simmons Camp was transferred to the NC Association of Vocational Educators and Other Professional Workers

Charles Keels began a 3 year term as the National FFA Treasurer
- 1993** The RJ Peeler FFA Camp was changed to the NC FFA Center
- 1994** The NC FFA Center added new lodge facilities
- 1996** Staff and services for Agricultural Education and FFA were established to the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education at NC State University by special action of the North Carolina General Assembly. Program staff were previously headquartered at the NC Department of Public Instruction
- 2002** 74th State Convention was moved to the Tally Student Center at NC State University
- 2005** Tanisha Glover of Eastern Randolph, became the first black female member elected as a State FFA Officer
- 2008** The NC FFA Center added new dining and recreational hall facilities

Courtney Clapp of Eastern Randolph, became the first African American female to be elected State FFA President
- 2009** 81st State Convention was moved to downtown Raleigh and held at the new Raleigh Convention Center



Charles Keels



Raleigh Convention Center from Salisbury Street