

SENATE RESOLUTION 23

(By Senators Thorne, Hart, Rose, Deeds, and
Chapman)

[Introduced January 30, 2026]

1 Designating February 2, 2026, as Future Farmers of America Day at the Legislature.

2 Whereas, In 1917, Congress passed the Smith-Hughes Act providing funds for teaching
3 vocational agriculture in high schools. In 1925, Virginia Tech agricultural education teachers Henry
4 Groseclose, Harry Sanders, Walter S. Newman, and Edmund C. Magill organized the Future
5 Farmers of Virginia (FFV) for boys in agriculture classes. Interest in the organization increased
6 and spilled over into other states; and

7 Whereas, The FFV served as the model for the Future Farmers of America. The Future
8 Farmers of America was established in 1928 in Kansas City, Missouri, with the first National FFA
9 Convention, assembling 33 delegates from 18 states. Over the years, the organization grew to
10 include chapters from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands and is designed to serve
11 middle, high school, and college students with an interest in agriculture; and

12 Whereas, FFA provides a platform for students to compete and showcase skills gained
13 from the classroom and real-world, hands-on learning. Students acquire leadership skills through
14 the organization as well. In 1965, FFA merged with the New Farmers of America, which was the
15 agricultural club for African American males at the time. Females were allowed membership in the
16 FFA in 1969; and

17 Whereas, In 1988, Future Farmers of America officially changed its name to The National
18 FFA Organization to reflect the growing diversity in the agriculture sector. There are currently over
19 one million members nationally. FFA was chartered in West Virginia in 1928, and the state

1 association was organized with the first state officer team during that year. In West Virginia there
2 are currently 91 agriculture education programs, serving over 7,489 members across the state;
3 therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Senate:*

5 That the Senate hereby designates February 2, 2026, as Future Farmers of America Day
6 at the Legislature; and, be it

7 *Further Resolved,* That the Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to
8 the West Virginia Farm Bureau organization.