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October 12, 2026

Via Electronic Mail

Scott Stump, Chief Executive Officer
National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46278
expo@ffa.org

RE: Fellowship of Christian Farmers International (FCFI) FFA Expo Exhibitor Application

Dear Mr. Stump:

By way of introduction, Liberty Counsel is a national nonprofit litigation, education and public policy organization with an emphasis on First Amendment liberties. We write in the above-captioned matter to request approval of the application submitted by our client Fellowship of Christian Farmers International (“FCFI”), which has applied for exhibit space at the 2026 National FFA Convention and Expo (“Expo” or “FFA Expo”), and additional assurances. National FFA Organization (“FFA”) may not deny equal access to the FFA Expo because FCFI or any other applicant is Christian or has a Christian religious affiliation. **Please respond by October 14, 2026, that FCFI has been approved to exhibit at the FFA Expo.** If we do not receive this response, we intend to take further action on behalf of FCFI.

I. FACTS

For approximately 25 years (prior to 2018), FCFI exhibited at National FFA’s Expo without FFA claiming that FCFI’s presence created an Establishment Clause concern.

In February 2018, FCFI was contacted by Lori Randle, Senior Regional Director, National FFA, stating specifically that FCFI “does not meet the National FFA’s diversity, equity, and inclusion goals” and that if FCFI applied for a booth again it would “likely be denied.” FCFI asked for this position in writing, but FFA never sent one. When FFA disinvited FCFI, FCFI started attending state FFA expos and conferences. FCFI now attends over 30 state FFA events annually. Since 2018, FCFI has attended zero (0) National FFA Expo events.

In 2020, the National FFA Organization stated, “**No matter where you come from, what gender you identify with, what race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic background, or agriculture background you have, there is a place for you in FFA.**”¹

¹ Bev Flatt, A Rich Future of Women FFA, Nat’l FFA Org. (Sept. 8, 2020), <https://www.ffa.org/50-years-of-women-in-ffa/a-rich-future-of-women-ffa/> (quoting Molly Ball, president and chief marketing officer of the National FFA Foundation).

In 2026, FCFI once again applied to be an exhibitor at the FFA Expo being held in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 21-24, 2026; and once again, FFA denied FCFI's participation – solely on the basis of “religious affiliation,” notwithstanding its 2020 claims of inclusivity, including “religion.”

On August 27, 2026, the FFA Expo sent FCFI an “Application Update” email:

After carefully reviewing your application, we have decided not to move forward with your participation in this year's Expo. Per the National FFA Convention & Expo Exhibitor Terms and Conditions, **organizations with political or religious affiliations or advocacy are not eligible to exhibit at the Expo.** Based on our review, your organization does not meet these exhibitor eligibility requirements.

(Emphasis added). The August 27 email invoked the Exhibitor “[Terms and Conditions](#)” policy purporting to exclude organizations with “political” or “religious” affiliations or advocacy under Section 13² (indeed, categorizing “religion” with “violence,” “drugs,” “sexual activity” and others), while completely ignoring Section 5 of that same policy, making “religion” a protected class: all “employees, contractors, representatives, and agents performing any aspect of the Agreement at the Expo and Shopping Mall:”

- b. will abstain from all **abusive, disruptive, offensive, discriminatory, or other inappropriate behavior**, including but not limited to, **hostility or threatening message to or behavior toward any individual or group because of** ...religion, ...expression or viewpoint, ...or other status.

See Nat'l FFA Org., 2026 National FFA Convention & Expo: Exhibitor and Shopping Mall Vendor Terms and Conditions (effective Mar. 3, 2026), Section 5 (emphasis added).

On September 17, 2026, FCFI Executive Director Dan Janzen appealed the denial. His letter to FFA explained that FCFI sought equal exhibitor access and voluntary conversations at its booth, with students or other attendees who choose to stop at its booth. FCFI does not ask FFA to sponsor worship, compel student participation, or endorse its faith. It seeks the same opportunity to exhibit at FFA Expo afforded other agricultural and educational organizations, corporate America, and U.S. Government agencies. FCFI intends to abide by all other generally applicable rules governing participation (with the exception of Terms and Conditions Rule 13 – prohibiting “**any item(s), attire, displays or printed materials containing words, emojis, symbols, photos, graphic materials, or other content related to ... religion...**”).

On September 28, 2026, FFA responded, expressly reaffirming that religious affiliation was the reason for exclusion:

“As stated in the August 27, 2026 Application Update email, the request was declined because it is the National FFA policy to deny exhibition space for organizations with

² See Nat'l FFA Org., 2026 National FFA Convention & Expo: Exhibitor and Shopping Mall Vendor Terms and Conditions (effective Mar. 3, 2026), Section “3. Right to Restrict Exhibit: FFA shall have the right to restrict, alter, or close any exhibit which, because of ... any...reason, becomes objectionable or otherwise detracts from or is out of keeping with the character of the Expo and Shopping Mall as a whole. Such restrictions may be applied to persons, things, conduct, or printed materials. **Under no circumstances will any item(s), attire, displays or printed materials containing words, emojis, symbols, photos, graphic materials, or other content related to violence, political affiliation, religion, weapons, drugs, sexual activity or alcohol be permitted.**” (Bold emphasis original).

political or religious affiliations. There is no appeal process, and we consider that decision to be final.”

FFA’s response also claimed that other groups had been denied for political or religious affiliations, that FFA’s policy is “to be neutral to all political or religious affiliations,” and that FFA promotes agricultural education “in a manner that makes it accessible to all [sic].” But, an exclusion expressly based on religion is not neutral treatment, and purporting to exclude multiple religious organizations does not cure the discrimination against each of them.

On August 29, 2026, media published additional FFA public statements as to why it was again disinviting FCFI. FFA now stated that its federal charter from Congress and status as a school-based youth development organization required compliance with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which FFA asserted “prohibits school-sponsored religious activity.” FFA represented that its exhibitor policies “apply consistently and equally to all groups.”

“The National FFA Organization is a federally chartered, school-based youth development organization,” Meyer told UNWON. “As such, we are required to comply with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, which prohibits school-sponsored religious activity. Our exhibitor policies reflect that legal obligation and apply consistently and equally to all groups.”

“The National FFA Organization is committed to fostering a welcoming, supportive, engaging and growth-focused environment for all students. Students, advisors, and chapters retain the freedom to express their faith—that has not changed. For 98 years, FFA has welcomed and served students of all backgrounds, and that remains true today.”³

On October 1, 2026, USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins posted the FFA denial letter on X.com,⁴ expressing disapproval at the religious discrimination evinced by the FFA Expo denial of FCFI’s application. Subsequently, detractors of FCFI began making statements attempting to shift blame to FCFI, away from FFA’s explicit religious-basis denial, falsely claiming that FCFI was “aggressive” or “would not follow the rules” and other slanderous statements, inconsistent with the black-and-white written response of FFA “to deny exhibition space for organizations with...religious affiliations” based on FFA’s legally incorrect read of what the “Establishment Clause of the First Amendment” requires.

FFA’s claims here are belied by the 2026 National FFA Expo Exhibitor List⁵ (alphabetical numbered list attached hereto), which includes three-hundred and fifty-nine (359) approved Exhibitors, including Ariat International, Bayer, Caterpillar, Ducks Unlimited, Domino’s Pizza, Ford Motors, Kubota Tractor Corporation, John Deere, Microsoft, Tyson Foods, Tractor Supply Company, and various government agencies and entities, including NASA, U.S. Border Patrol, Bureau of Land Management Freedom 250, the U.S. Air Force Recruiting Service, and the U.S. Army.

³ Keely Covello, National FFA Convention Again Bars Christian Group from Hosting Booth, UNWON (Sept. 30, 2026), <https://www.americaunwon.com/p/national-ffa-convention-again-bars> (quoting Kristy Meyer, communications manager for National FFA).

⁴ <https://x.com/SecRollins/status/2105597881902088555>

⁵ Nat’l FFA Org., *Exhibitor Directory/Show Map*, <https://ffa.ungerboeck.com/prod/app85.cshhtml?aat=74384d774a667038784955356f585a714b724d584c325144504a7579624e4842516f6e5a774f6a6d5164673d> (last visited Oct. 8, 2026).

Moreover, FFA's published exhibitor directory lists institutions with a Christian religious viewpoint as approved exhibitors: Marian University (Booth 2441), Dordt University (Booth 2747), and Huntington University (Booth 3008). Marian identifies itself as a Catholic university in the Franciscan Christian religious tradition; Dordt identifies its Reformed Christian mission; and Huntington identifies its Christian mission. Their Christian religious affiliations are publicly stated. FFA cannot reconcile their admission with a categorical rule that a religious affiliation disqualifies FCFI.⁶

FFA also lists the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (Booth 965), Tribal Agriculture Fellowship (Booth 111), and National Farmers Union (Booth 602). The Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative advances tribal food sovereignty and conducts policy and legal analysis affecting its members. Tribal Agriculture Fellowship promotes American Indian tribal perspectives and the agricultural legacy of these communities. National Farmers Union expressly engages in agricultural public-policy advocacy. These organizations' published missions and activities demonstrate that a perspective on public policy or sovereignty does not itself prevent inclusion. The inclusion of exhibitors with American Indian, tribal, or other political or policy advocacy missions undermines any suggestion that an agricultural organization becomes ineligible merely because it advances a distinctive political viewpoint or advocates public policy within its members' interests.⁷

II. APPLICABLE LAW

A. Federal Law

Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("The Act" or "Title II") prohibits public accommodations (like FFA's Expo) from discriminating against anyone on specified grounds. The Act provides that "All persons shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations of any place of public accommodation, as defined in this section, without discrimination or segregation on the ground of race, color, religion, or national origin." See 42 U.S.C. § 2000a(a) (emphasis added).

Places of public accommodation fall into four broad categories: (1) establishments that provide lodging to transient guests; (2) facilities selling food for consumption on the premises; (3) **places of exhibition or entertainment**; and (4) **facilities that include a place of public accommodation, or are on the premises of a public accommodation, which hold themselves out as serving the patrons of such public accommodation**. See 42 U.S.C. § 2000a(b). In an action for injunctive relief brought under Title II, "the court, in its discretion, may allow the prevailing party ... a reasonable attorney's fee as part of the costs." See 42 U.S.C. § 2000a-3.

The Act defines a place of public accommodation as, *inter alia*, "any ... place of exhibition or entertainment" whose "operations affect commerce ..." 42 U.S.C. § 2000a(b)(3). The Club is clearly a "place of entertainment." In *Daniel v. Paul*, 395 U.S. 298... (1969), the Supreme Court held that a recreational facility offering swimming, boating, and miniature golf qualified as a place of entertainment under Title II. **The Court reasoned that "entertainment" encompasses direct participation in a sport**

⁶ FFA Exhibitor Directory; <https://www.marian.edu/faith/>; <https://www.dordt.edu/about-dordt/mission-vision-history> ; <https://www.huntington.edu/about/mission>.

⁷ FFA Exhibitor Directory; <https://indigenousfoodandag.com/policy/>; <https://taffellows.org/> <https://nfu.org/advocacy/>

as well as the viewing of sports activities as a spectator. Under *Daniel's* reasoning, the Club is a place of entertainment because its members directly participate in a sport.

...

The cases have held clubs to be actually open to the public despite the existence of one or more of these formal admission requirements. See *Tillman*, supra (membership ceiling); *Wright*, supra (2 member sponsorship & board approval requirements); *Nesmith*, supra (substantial annual dues & membership committee); *Eagles*, supra (2 member sponsorship & board approval requirements, membership committee). The crucial inquiry is whether formal admission procedures operate in practice to make the Club's membership selective. *Nesmith*, supra at 101.

See *Brown v. Loudoun Golf & Country Club, Inc.*, 573 F. Supp. 399, 401–03 (E.D. Va. 1983)(emphasis added); *Daniel v. Paul*, 395 U.S. 298, 306 (1969)(public accommodation covered participants “in some sport or activity” as well as “spectators or listeners”); accord, *PGA Tour, Inc. v. Martin*, 532 U.S. 661, 681 (2001)(spectators and participants covered); *Dad Delphine Alfred Duncan Found. for Deaf & Hard of Hearing v. Delaware N. Companies Inc.*, 805 F. Supp. 3d 815, 825 (E.D. Mich. 2025)(“Volunteers not only confer benefits on the recipients of their charitable work, but receive benefits themselves” and are within protections of law governing “public accommodation”).⁸

The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, which has jurisdiction over Indiana, has adopted a totality-of-the-circumstances approach to evaluate assertions of private-club status. See, e.g., *Welsh v. Boy Scouts of Am.*, 993 F.2d 1267, 1276–77 (7th Cir. 1993) (internal citations omitted) (discussing, “in order of relative importance, ... (1) the extent membership is genuinely selective on some reasonable basis; (2) measure of control the members have over the operations of the establishment; (3) manner in which the membership corporation was created; (4) purpose of the membership corporation existing; (5) formalities which many private clubs observe; and (6) general characteristics which many private clubs possess”); cf. *Nesmith v. Young Men's Christian Ass'n of Raleigh*, 397 F.2d 96, 101 (4th Cir. 1968) (“In determining whether an establishment is in fact a private club, there is no single test. A number of variables must be examined[.]”).

Here, the FFA Nat'l Organization is open to virtually any student, and virtually any interested exhibitor. FFA explains at <https://www.ffa.org/how-to-join/> that it is open to any student “enrolled in an agriculture course at [his or her] school.” FFA operates the FFA Expo at which currently at least 359 organizations (constituting a veritable “who’s who” of agricultural corporate America, including as well Ford Motors, numerous universities, and government agencies) exhibit to attendees and participate in agricultural education and related activities. The FFA Expo brings exhibitors and thousands of attendees together from across the country. FCFI and its representatives seek the benefits and advantages of participation in that exhibition on equal terms. FFA may not deny those advantages on the basis of “religion,” any more than it could on the basis of “race,” “color” or other categories.

See *Smith v. YMCA of Montgomery*, 462 F.2d 634, 636 (5th Cir.1972) (YMCA gymnasiums, health club and swimming pools); *Nesmith v. YMCA of Raleigh, N.C.*, 397 F.2d 96, 99-100 (4th Cir.1968) (same); *United States v. Lansdowne Swim Club*, 713 F.Supp. 785, 790 (E.D.Pa.1989), aff'd, 894 F.2d 83 (3rd Cir.1990) (club operated a swimming pool); *Durham v. Red Lake Fishing & Hunting Club, Inc.*, 666 F.Supp. 954, 959 (W.D.Tex.1987) (club owned 400 acres of land for hunting and

⁸ *Martin* and *Duncan* address public-accommodation protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act and are instructive by analogy concerning participation; Title II's own statutory coverage remains the basis of the religious-discrimination claim here.

fishing); *United States v. Slidell Youth Football Ass'n*, 387 F.Supp. 474 (E.D.La.1974) (a youth football league owned a recreational facility with fields, grandstand and a concession stand); *Auerbach v. African Am. Teacher's Ass'n*, 356 F.Supp. 1046, 1048 (E.D.N.Y.1973) (**organization held public meetings in a public school auditorium**)⁹; *Wesley v. City of Savannah*, 294 F.Supp. 698, 701-02 (S.D.Ga.1969) (city operated a public golf course and was barred from hosting a racially discriminatory golf tournament); *Williams v. Rescue Fire Co.*, 254 F.Supp. 556, 563 (D.Md.1966) (a non-profit association operated a swimming pool and skating rink). In each of these cases, Title II was found applicable because the organization conducted public meetings in public facilities or operated facilities open to the public like swimming pools, gyms, sports fields and golf courses.

Here, FFA holds its Expo in a venue quintessentially open to the public – the Indiana Convention Center, at 100 South Capitol Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46225. In addition, the FFA Expo exhibitor application process does not, by itself, turn the FFA Expo into a genuinely private club. The relevant inquiry concerns how the event and its admission requirements operate in practice. The FFA Expo offers exhibit opportunities to outside organizations and invites a broad national audience to its convention and exhibition – in this case, 359 approved exhibitors, including national corporations like Ford Motors. On these facts, the FFA Expo is and is held in a place of exhibition affecting commerce, and FCFI's exclusion because of its Christian affiliation presents a Title II claim.

Nothing in FFA's federal charter authorizes this religious discrimination. FFA's charter, found at 36 U.S.C. §§ 70901–70914, contains no religious-affiliation exclusion for exhibitors and no exemption from public-accommodation law. Section 70902(6) instead directs FFA to seek and promote inclusion and diversity in its membership, leadership, and staff. Section 70908(b) restricts FFA and persons acting on its behalf from contributing to, supporting, or assisting a political party or candidate for public office. That provision does not exclude religious exhibitors or equate agricultural public-policy advocacy with support for a political party or candidate. FCFI's application for equal exhibit access implicates nothing prohibited by FFA's Congressional charter.¹⁰

Nor does the FFA charter itself make a private exhibitor's speech "government-sponsored religious activity." Even accepting at face-value FFA's claimed concern about its school-based activities, providing an exhibitor opportunity to FCFI for the FFA Expo does not implicate the "Establishment Clause" in the slightest. Nothing in an exhibitor approval requires FFA or a school at which FFA meets to conduct religious worship or endorse Christianity. FCFI's voluntary booth conversations are its own speech. FFA has identified no charter provision requiring (or permitting) FCFI's exclusion. The assertion that federal law requires rejection of all religiously affiliated exhibitors is not only baseless, but is also wholly inconsistent with the FFA Expo's approval of three (3) religiously affiliated universities.

FFA's Establishment Clause justification also rests on an outdated and incorrect understanding of governing Supreme Court law. In *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*, 597 U.S. 507, 534–36 (2022), the Court made clear that it had "long ago abandoned *Lemon* and its endorsement test offshoot." *Id.* at 535. The Establishment Clause must instead be interpreted by reference to "historical practices and understandings," with an analysis focused on original meaning and history that faithfully reflects the Founders' understanding. *Id.* at 535–36. The *Lemon* test is no longer governing law. A concern that

⁹ Aside from the FFA Expo, FFA operates at numerous public school buildings around the country.

¹⁰ National FFA Organization federal charter; <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2024-title36/html/USCODE-2024-title36-subtitleII-partB-chap709.htm>.

observers might perceive endorsement of religion does not, by itself, require suppression of private religious expression. The Court rejected that rationale even in the public-school setting.

Shurtleff v. City of Boston, 596 U.S. 243, 258–59 (2022), likewise rejected the exclusion of a private group’s Christian flag from a flag-raising program open to other private speakers. Once the Court determined that the flag raisings were private speech, Boston’s exclusion based on the group’s religious viewpoint violated the Free Speech Clause. Justice Gorsuch, joined by Justice Thomas, separately explained that *Lemon* had bypassed the Establishment Clause’s original meaning and that the Court had abandoned it in favor of an approach centered on the Constitution’s original meaning. *Id.* at 276–77 (Gorsuch, J., concurring in the judgment). *Shurtleff* was a Liberty Counsel case, in which we achieved a 9-0 unanimous Supreme Court victory for our clients against the City of Boston. The City engaged in religious discrimination against Christians, in allowing 284 other flag raising ceremonies, while denying the request for a Christian flag raising ceremony. That discrimination resulted in the City of Boston paying to Liberty Counsel \$2,125,000 in attorneys’ fees. Had the City responded favorably to the letter sent to it by the undersigned, it might have avoided this outcome.

These decisions answer FFA’s claimed constitutional justification for a categorical religious-affiliation exclusion. Equal access for FCFI’s exhibit where it will share its mission with willing individuals who voluntarily stop by and seek interaction at the booth does not become government-sponsored worship merely because public school students may encounter it. FCFI seeks neither compulsory religious participation nor governmental endorsement. Even if governmental involvement makes the Establishment Clause relevant to the FFA Expo, FFA must apply the historical standard described in *Kennedy* rather than presume that religious affiliation alone creates an “establishment of religion.”

B. Federal USDA Regulation

USDA’s equal-treatment regulations provide an additional prohibition where covered USDA assistance is involved. Under 7 C.F.R. § 16.1(b), Part 16 applies to recipients and subrecipients of USDA assistance under USDA domestic social service programs, including the covered Commodity Credit Corporation assistance specified there.¹¹

Where that coverage exists, 7 C.F.R. § 16.3(a) provides that religious organizations are eligible on the same basis as other organizations and prohibits USDA and governmental or other intermediaries receiving funds from discriminating in the selection of service providers based on religious character, motives, or affiliation. Section 16.3(d)(3) bars disqualification through grant conditions or administering policies based on religious affiliation, or religious conduct that would not disqualify a similarly situated secular organization. Section 16.3(e) requires intermediaries selecting providers to ensure compliance by subrecipients. Thus, if the FFA Expo’s exclusion of FCFI is related to provider access under a covered USDA-assisted program, it cannot disqualify FCFI because FCFI is religious.

Part 16 permits a participating religious organization to retain its religious identity, subject to the restrictions governing explicitly religious activities and direct Federal financial assistance. See 7 C.F.R. §§ 16.2, 16.3(b), (d)(2). *Arguendo*, even if there were a restriction on FFA using direct Federal assistance for explicitly religious activities, this does not authorize FFA Expo to issue a blanket exclusion based on religious affiliation of FCFI or others.

¹¹ USDA equal opportunity for religious organizations regulations, <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-A/part-16>.

C. Indiana State Law

Indiana law separately protects equal access to public accommodations without religious discrimination. Indiana Code § 22-9-1-2(a) declares that it is state policy for equal opportunity of “access to public conveniences and accommodations” without regard to religion, and “to eliminate segregation or separation based solely on...religion;” subsection (b) makes equal access to and use of public accommodations a civil right. Indiana Code § 22-9-1-3(l)(1)–(2) defines discriminatory practices to include exclusion or unequal treatment because of religion and a discriminatory system excluding persons from equal opportunities. That subsection makes discrimination in public accommodations unlawful unless specifically exempted.¹²

A “public accommodation” is “any establishment that caters or offers its services or facilities or goods to the general public.” Ind. Code § 22-9-1-3(m). The statutory definition of “person” includes associations, organizations, and corporations. Ind. Code § 22-9-1-3(a). This broader state definition independently reaches the FFA Expo’s publicly offered services and facilities, apart from Title II. Denying FCFI and its representatives the opportunity to use those services because of religious affiliation is precisely the unequal treatment the statute prohibits. FFA’s nonprofit status or educational focus does not establish an exemption from these requirements.

The Indiana Civil Rights Commission’s public-accommodations guidance expressly identifies religion as a protected characteristic and denial of access or unequal terms of service as forms of discrimination. Calling the exclusion an exhibitor “policy,” or applying it to several religious applicants, does not change the unlawful discriminatory nature of the “policy.”

D. Indianapolis City Ordinance

The Revised Code of the Consolidated City and County of Indianapolis and Marion County supplies an additional, local prohibition. Section 581-103 defines a “discriminatory practice” to include exclusion, refusal to extend equal opportunities, or different treatment by reason of religion. It defines a “public accommodation” as an establishment offering services, facilities, or goods to the “general public,” and “person” includes associations and organizations. Section 581-403 declares those discriminatory practices unlawful unless specifically exempted. Section 581-401(4) applies the chapter to public-accommodation discrimination occurring within the city and county. FFA’s denial of access to its Indianapolis Expo on religious grounds falls within those provisions on the facts described above.¹³

Section 581-404(a) exempts certain entities, including nonprofit associations organized exclusively for fraternal or religious purposes, church-affiliated institutions, and exclusively social nonprofit clubs not in fact open to the general public. FFA, on the other hand, is an agricultural educational organization offering to any student “enrolled in an agriculture course at [his or her] school” the chance to “join FFA.”¹⁴ the general public the chance to attend the FFA Expo and accepting outside exhibitors is not an exempt entity.

¹² Indiana Civil Rights Commission public accommodations guidance, <https://www.in.gov/icrc/enforcement/public-accommodations/>; Indiana Civil Rights Law, https://www.in.gov/icrc/files/Chapter_1.pdf.

¹³ Indianapolis and Marion County Revised Code Chapter 581, available at https://library.municode.com/in/indianapolis_-_marion_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TITIIPUHEWE_CH581HUREEQOP

¹⁴ <https://www.ffa.org/how-to-join/>

Section 581-405(a)(3) permits a public-accommodation complaint against the owner or person in charge of the establishment, or both. Section 581-415(c) permits the administrator, in the name of the Equal Opportunity Advisory Board, to seek temporary judicial relief to prevent irreparable harm pending resolution of a complaint. The ordinance therefore provides a means to address an exclusion whose harm will become irreversible when the FFA Expo occurs.

III. CONCLUSION

FFA has expressly denied FCFI's FFA Expo application because of religious affiliation, while its directory lists religiously affiliated universities and similarly situated organizations. FFA's federal charter neither commands nor authorizes that exclusion. Federal public-accommodation law, applicable USDA equal-treatment rules, Indiana law, and the Indianapolis nondiscrimination ordinance require FFA to immediately reverse its discrimination against FCFI, rather than declare it "final." **For the foregoing reasons, we hereby request that FFA provide confirmation in writing no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on October 14, 2026, as follows:**

1. FFA will rescind its denial and approve FCFI's 2026 National FFA Convention and Expo exhibitor application.
2. FFA will promptly provide exhibit space and all ordinary exhibitor access, listing, credentials, and logistical information, without disadvantage attributable to the discriminatory denial or resulting delay.
3. FFA will not disqualify FCFI because of its Christian religious viewpoint or religious affiliation and will permit voluntary conversations and otherwise lawful booth activities on the same terms afforded other exhibitors.
4. FFA will rescind the unlawful blanket prohibition on "religion," religious "attire" (including clothing or religious jewelry like cross lapel pins or cross necklaces) and other items listed in Section 13 of the FFA Expo Exhibitor Terms & Conditions.

If FFA declines to provide the confirmations requested above, please preserve FCFI's application, all communications concerning its denial and appeal, all versions of the FFA Expo Exhibitor Terms and Conditions, records of the adoption and application of the political or religious affiliation policy, exhibitor approval and denial records, and records of USDA assistance relevant to the FFA Expo or exhibitor program. Preservation should include electronic messages (including text messages or messenger apps) and attachments, internal deliberations, and records concerning the comparators identified in this letter.

If we do not receive the requested responses, Liberty Counsel intends to take additional action to prevent continuing irreparable harm to FCFI and its representatives. But as FCFI only seeks equal treatment and an amicable relationship going forward, FFA can resolve this matter promptly by approving FCFI's application and providing equal access.

We look forward to FFA's response.



Attachments

c.

[Redacted]

Fellowship of Christian Farmers International

[Redacted]††
[Redacted]††

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Governor Mike Braun
Office of the Governor
Statehouse, Room 206
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2797
[Redacted]

Hon. Todd Rokita
Office of Indiana Attorney General
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302 W. Washington St., 5th Floor
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Lieutenant Governor Micah Beckwith
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Representative Mike Aylesworth
Indiana House District 11
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Indiana Civil Rights Commission
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Senator Jean Leising
Indiana Senate District 42
200 W. Washington Street
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† [Redacted]
†† [Redacted]

2026 National FFA Expo Exhibitor List

More than 357 Directory Entries, retrieved September 30, 2026 from the 2026 National FFA Expo directory available at

<https://ffa.ungerboeck.com/prod/app85.cshtml?aat=74384d774a667038784955356f585a714b724d584c325144504a7579624e4842516f6e5a774f6a6d5164673d>.



The list is in alphabetical order, including exhibitors, vendors, FFA program booths, and may include facility or placeholder entries.

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|-----|--|
| 1. | 4-D Ag Fashion | 13. | Agri Spray Drones |
| 2. | A Hustle Worth Having | 14. | Agriculture Future of America |
| 3. | AALAS Foundation | 15. | Agriscience Fair |
| 4. | Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College | 16. | AgriSompo |
| 5. | ADM | 17. | Akralos Animal Nutrition - MoorMan's ShowTec |
| 6. | AES | 18. | Alpha Gamma Rho |
| 7. | Ag Consortium of Texas | 19. | American Association of Swine Veterinarians |
| 8. | Ag Educational Solutions, Inc. | 20. | American Dairy Goat Association |
| 9. | AGCO Corporation | 21. | American Farm Bureau Federation |
| 10. | AgPv Engagement Zone | 22. | American Farmland Trust |
| 11. | Agra Tech, Inc. | | |
| 12. | AgrAbility, Purdue University | | |

2026 National FFA Expo Exhibitor List

- | | |
|---|--|
| 23. American Quarter Horse Association | 62. Christian Kropf |
| 24. American Rental Association | 63. CHS Inc. |
| 25. American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers | 64. CLAAS North America |
| 26. American Welding Academy | 65. Clemson University |
| 27. American Welding Society | 66. CNH Industrial |
| 28. AmeriCorps VISTA | 67. College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, North Carolina State University |
| 29. Anatomy in Clay® Learning Systems | 68. Colorado State University |
| 30. Animal Health International | 69. Concession Ltd. |
| 31. Arclight Dynamics | 70. Conley's Greenhouse MFG and Sales |
| 32. Ariat International, Inc. | 71. Connors State College |
| 33. Arkansas State University - Beebe | 72. CoopWorx Feed & Water Silos |
| 34. Arkansas Tech University | 73. Cornell University |
| 35. Atlas Greenhouse, LLC | 74. Corteva Agriscience |
| 36. ATP/Power Distributors | 75. Country Lights |
| 37. Auburn University | 76. Country View Family Farms |
| 38. AuctionTime.com / TractorHouse | 77. Cowpokes Work and Western |
| 39. A-V INTERNATIONAL | 78. CropKing Inc |
| 40. B&W Trailer Hitches | 79. Culver's |
| 41. B's Boutique | 80. Custom Fundraising Solutions |
| 42. Barefoot Athletics | 81. Cutting Edge Curriculum |
| 43. BASF Agricultural Solutions | 82. Dairy Farmers of America |
| 44. Basil & Burch | 83. Dairyland Donkey Ball, LLC |
| 45. Bayer | 84. Darling Ingredients |
| 46. BDA - Caterpillar | 85. Delaware Valley University |
| 47. BEaSURVEYOR | 86. Dining Area |
| 48. Beck's Hybrids | 87. Dirt to Dinner: In the Classroom |
| 49. BigIron Auctions | 88. Domino's Pizza |
| 50. Black Hawk College | 89. Dordt University |
| 51. BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program | 90. Double B Wild Rags |
| 52. BOOTH HOLD | 91. Dryshod Waterproof Footwear |
| 53. Brandt Ag Division | 92. Ducks Unlimited |
| 54. Cajun Bling Boutique and Gifts | 93. Durable Corporation |
| 55. Cal Poly CAFES | 94. Eastern New Mexico University Agriculture, Food Science, and Kinesiology |
| 56. CareerSafe | 95. Eastern Oklahoma State College Agriculture |
| 57. Cargill | 96. EDP Renewables |
| 58. CASE 4 Learning | 97. EF Educational Tours |
| 59. Case IH | 98. Envision |
| 60. CAT Workwear | |
| 61. Caterpillar | |

2026 National FFA Expo Exhibitor List

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|---|---|
| 99. Epic Threads | 136. Hands On Originals |
| 100. Equipment & Engine Training Council | 137. Hawkeye Community College |
| 101. Equipment Dealers Foundation | 138. Helena Agri- Enterprises, LLC |
| 102. Exhibitor Lounge | 139. Hiwassee Products LLC |
| 103. Exhibitor Workspace | 140. Hobart Institute of Welding Technology |
| 104. Explorations by Thor | 141. Hooey Brands |
| 105. FairBound LLC | 142. Hooked and Loaded Outdoors |
| 106. Faith Technologies Incorporated | 143. Hoosier National Forest |
| 107. Farm Credit | 144. Horse Creek Outfitters |
| 108. Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance | 145. Hummert International |
| 109. FarmHouse Fraternity, Inc. | 146. Huntington University |
| 110. Farm-To-Power | 147. iCEV |
| 111. Fastenal | 148. IEA - Interscholastic Equestrian Association |
| 112. FBFM (Farm Business Farm Management) | 149. IFYE |
| 113. Fern Expo | 150. Illinois College |
| 114. Ferrum College | 151. Illinois State University |
| 115. Field & Stream Pack Provisions | 152. Indiana Construction Roundtable Foundation - Build Your Future |
| 116. FLORIDA FARM BUREAU MARKETING DIVISION | 153. Indiana High School Rodeo Association |
| 117. Floyd's Wooden Animals | 154. Indiana State Fair Foundation and LEAP Foundation |
| 118. Ford Motor Company | 155. Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative |
| 119. Forever Branded | 156. International Brotherhood of Boilermakers |
| 120. Fork Farms | 157. Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences |
| 121. French's Shoes and Boots | 158. Ironworkers/IMPACT |
| 122. Front Porch Apparel & Accessories | 159. John Deere |
| 123. Fulbright U.S. Student Program | 160. John Wood Community College |
| 124. GGS Structures Inc | 161. Joliet Junior College |
| 125. Goatie.app | 162. Kalmbach Feeds |
| 126. Golf Course Superintendents Association of America | 163. Kansas State University College of Agriculture |
| 127. Goodheart-Willcox | 164. Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine |
| 128. Greenhouse Megastore | 165. Kentucky Equine Management Internship, Inc. |
| 129. Gretsch Foundation | 166. Kentucky Horseshoeing School |
| 130. Grizzly Industrial | 167. Kentucky Welding Institute |
| 131. Groom Curriculum | |
| 132. Growcer | |
| 133. GROWMARK | |
| 134. GrowSpan | |
| 135. H&H FARM TOYS | |

2026 National FFA Expo Exhibitor List

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| 168. Kimes Ranch | 202. Mud Hole Custom Tackle |
| 169. King Kutter INC | 203. Murray State University Hutson School of Agriculture |
| 170. Kirkwood Community College | 204. NAAE #TeachAg |
| 171. Kubota Tractor Corporation | 205. NAAE #TeachAg Escape Room |
| 172. Labcorp | 206. NASA |
| 173. Lake Land College | 207. National Auction Association |
| 174. Land Improvement Contractors Association | 208. National Farmers Union |
| 175. Lincoln Electric | 209. National FFA Alumni and AgCareers Booth |
| 176. Lincoln Land Community College | 210. National FFA Blue Jacket Video |
| 177. Lincoln Tech | 211. National FFA Educator Resources Booth |
| 178. Linfield University Center for Wine Education | 212. National FFA Experience Booth |
| 179. Liz Maree Boutique | 213. National FFA Living to Serve Booth |
| 180. Louisiana State University - College of Agriculture | 214. National FFA Mega Store |
| 181. Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory | 215. National FFA Sales Store |
| 182. Major Tool & Machine | 216. National FFA Spark Studio |
| 183. Make48 | 217. National FFA Sustainability Booth |
| 184. Marian University | 218. NATIONAL GRANGE |
| 185. Maverick Minute Foundation | 219. National PAS Organization |
| 186. McGill University - Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences | 220. National Technical Honor Society |
| 187. Meals of Hope | 221. NAU Country Insurance Company |
| 188. Merced College | 222. NCCCO Foundation |
| 189. Merck Animal Health | 223. NCCER |
| 190. Microsoft | 224. NCF-Envirothon |
| 191. Middle Tennessee State University | 225. New Holland |
| 192. Midway University | 226. New Mexico State University- College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences |
| 193. Miller Poultry | 227. Newt's Hat Co |
| 194. Milwaukee Tool | 228. Next Generation in Trucking |
| 195. MINDS-i Drone Demonstration | 229. NoireSTEMinist Educational Consulting, LLC |
| 196. MINDS-i Education | 230. North Dakota State University |
| 197. Mississippi State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences | 231. Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College |
| 198. Missouri State University Darr College of Agriculture | 232. Northern Tool & Equipment |
| 199. Moly Manufacturing, LLC. | 233. Northwest Missouri State University |
| 200. Montana State University | 234. Nutrien Ag Solutions |
| 201. Motorola Solutions, Inc. | 235. Oklahoma State University Ferguson College of Agriculture |

2026 National FFA Expo Exhibitor List

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| 236. One Less Thing | 269. Southeast Lineman Training Center |
| 237. OPCMIA | 270. Southern Illinois University - College of Agricultural, Life, and Physical Sciences |
| 238. Oregon State University - College of Agricultural Sciences | 271. Spectrum Technologies, Inc. |
| 239. O'Reilly Auto Parts | 272. Standardbred Harness Racing |
| 240. Ozark Delight Candy | 273. Stephen F. Austin State University |
| 241. PBS Animal Health | 274. Stine Seed Company |
| 242. Penn State University | 275. Stock Show Gear |
| 243. PNEU-DART | 276. Stockyard Style |
| 244. PRO Landscape+ | 277. Stoops Freightliner |
| 245. Progressive Agriculture Foundation | 278. Stukent CTE |
| 246. Prospiant | 279. Sullivan Supply |
| 247. Purdue Extension Farm Stress Team | 280. SUNY Cobleskill Ag & Tech |
| 248. Purdue University College of Agriculture | 281. SurePoint Ag Systems |
| 249. Purdue University Veterinary Hospitals and Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostics Laboratory | 282. Syngenta |
| 250. Purina Animal Nutrition | 283. Tarleton State University |
| 251. Quanta Services | 284. Texas A&M - College of Agriculture & Life Sciences |
| 252. Ram Professional | 285. Texas Tech University Davis College |
| 253. Realityworks, Inc. | 286. The AET |
| 254. Rimol Greenhouse Systems | 287. The Baden Baldy Boutique |
| 255. Risk Management Agency | 288. The Barbed Rocker |
| 256. Rodeo Time Inc | 289. The Certified Agriculture Group |
| 257. Rooted Ag Educator | 290. The Herbert College of Agriculture |
| 258. Rose Acre | 291. The Market Ky |
| 259. RUDD Equipment | 292. The Ohio State University - College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences |
| 260. Safety in Ag for Youth | 293. The Owl's Nest |
| 261. Salt Creek Market & Apparel LLC | 294. The Shop Indy |
| 262. School of Automotive Machinists & Technology | 295. The Vet Tech Institute of Indiana |
| 263. Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) | 296. TN Tech University |
| 264. Sherman College of Chiropractic | 297. Tower Garden LLC |
| 265. Showman | 298. Tractor Supply Company |
| 266. Society of American foresters | 299. Tribal Agriculture Fellowship |
| 267. Society of Lake Management Professionals, Inc. | 300. Truss Services LLC |
| 268. South Dakota State University College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences | 301. Tyson Foods |
| | 302. U.S. Army |
| | 303. U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc. |
| | 304. U.S. Poultry & Egg Association |

2026 National FFA Expo Exhibitor List

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| 305. United Animal Health | 329. University of Tennessee-Martin |
| 306. United Association of Plumbers and Fitters International Training Fund | 330. University of Wisconsin River Falls |
| 307. United Greenhouse Systems, Inc. | 331. University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences |
| 308. United Rentals | 332. University of Wyoming College of Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Natural Resources |
| 309. United States Air Force Recruiting Service | 333. University Tees |
| 310. United Welding Institute | 334. US Border Patrol Detroit Sector |
| 311. University of Arizona, College of Agriculture, Life & Environmental Sciences | 335. USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| 312. University of Arkansas Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences | 336. USDA APHIS: Protect Our Pigs |
| 313. University of Findlay | 337. USDA Farm Service Agency |
| 314. University of Florida | 338. Utah State University Quinney College of Agriculture & Natural Resources |
| 315. University of Georgia College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences | 339. Vernier Science Education |
| 316. University of Idaho - College of Agricultural and Life Sciences & College of Natural Resources | 340. Virginia Tech |
| 317. University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences | 341. Visit Indiana |
| 318. University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine | 342. Wadsworth Controls |
| 319. University of Illinois Retzky Chicago College of Pharmacy | 343. Wandering Maverick Boutique |
| 320. University of Kentucky | 344. Ward's Science |
| 321. University of Kentucky Southeast Center | 345. We Work the Waterways |
| 322. University of Louisville, Equine Industry Program | 346. Weaver Livestock |
| 323. University of Minnesota Twin Cities (CFANS) | 347. West Texas A&M University Dept. of Ag |
| 324. University of Missouri - College of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources | 348. West Virginia University Davis College of Agriculture and Natural Resources |
| 325. University of MN Crookston | 349. Western Illinois University |
| 326. University of Mount Olive | 350. Western Kentucky University |
| 327. University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources | 351. Western Luxe Esthetics & Hat Bar |
| 328. University of Northwestern Ohio | 352. Westmoor Mfg - Rock & Roll Denim/Panhandle Slim |
| | 353. Wilmington College |
| | 354. Wisconsin Greenhouse Company |
| | 355. WIX Filters |
| | 356. Wrangler |
| | 357. ZeeCraft |



NATIONAL
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September 28, 2026

Dan Janzen
Executive Director
Fellowship of Christian Farmers International



Dear Mr. Janzen:

Thank you for your letter of September 17, 2026 on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Farmers in which you requested an appeal of the National FFA Organization's denial of the application for exhibition space at the 2026 National Convention and Expo. As stated in the August 27, 2026 Application Update email, the request was declined because it is the National FFA policy to deny exhibition space for organizations with political or religious affiliations. There is no appeal process, and we consider that decision to be final.

Your letter invites the National FFA to debate the history and premise for its policy, but National FFA declines to do so in response to your letter. It is important to note, however, that many of the statements set forth in your letter concerning the history and adoption of the National FFA policy are inaccurate or incomplete. The National FFA follows a process for the adoption of policies, and National FFA will adhere to that process.

Finally, please understand that the Fellowship of Christian Farmers is not being singled out in the denial decision. Other groups have applied for exhibitor space and have been denied for the reason that the organizations had political or religious affiliations. The National FFA's policy is to be neutral to all political or religious affiliations. The National FFA is proud of its purpose, which is to promote agricultural education and FFA in a manner that makes it accessible to all.

Sincerely,

Scott Stump
Chief Executive Officer
National FFA Organization



September 17, 2026

Scott Stump
Chief Executive Officer
National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46278

Re: Appeal of exhibitor denial — 2026 National FFA Convention & Expo

Dear Mr. Stump:

Thank you for the August 27, 2026, notice from expo@ffa.org declining the application of Fellowship of Christian Farmers International to exhibit at this year's National FFA Convention & Expo. The stated ground is that organizations with political or religious affiliations or advocacy are not eligible under the Exhibitor Terms and Conditions.

My understanding is that National FFA has subsequently expanded its explanation:

“The National FFA Organization is a federally chartered, school-based youth development organization. As such, we are required to comply with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, which prohibits school-sponsored religious activity. Our exhibitor policies reflect that legal obligation and apply consistently and equally to all groups.

The National FFA Organization is committed to fostering a welcoming, supportive, engaging and growth-focused environment for all students. Students, advisors, and chapters retain the freedom to express their faith — that has not changed. For 98 years, FFA has welcomed and served students of all backgrounds, and that remains true today.”

In your subsequent explanation, you state that “students, advisors, and chapters retain the freedom to express their faith.” That assurance does not match FFA’s written limits on religious expression.

Under the current National FFA policy entitled “Statement of Inclusion: Guidelines for National FFA Organization Personnel”, the religious liberty of National FFA volunteers and elected staff (including members elected to national office) is restricted. Your policy, which also cites the

Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, states specifically “Verbal reflections as part of any organized FFA meeting or event, including an attitude of appreciation prior to a meal are to be free of faith-based perspective, reference, or prayer as not to exclude any FFA member, stakeholder or guest.”

We accept that a public school or school-sponsored program may not require students to participate in religious worship or use governmental authority to establish or coerce religious practice. That principle is not the same as a requirement to exclude religious organizations, or religious viewpoints, from an otherwise generally available exhibitor forum. It is also not a requirement that FFA silence the religious speech of its own student officers and volunteers.

The Establishment Clause prohibits government establishment of religion. It does not require removal of religious expression from public life. The First Amendment pairs the Establishment Clause with the Free Exercise Clause. The governing principle is governmental neutrality toward religion, not exclusion of religion.

That distinction matters in light of FFA’s own history. The FFA Creed, adopted in 1930 and still published by National FFA, states:

“I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds...”

The same Creed refers to “the life abundant”, an obvious reference to John 10:10. Those words have been part of FFA identity for nearly a century. Historical FFA materials have also described chaplain functions, invocations, and spiritual development in connection with FFA activity. That record is relevant because the Supreme Court in *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*, 597 U.S. 507 (2022), directed that Establishment Clause questions be resolved by reference to historical practices and understandings, not the former *Lemon* framework.

It is therefore difficult to maintain that the Establishment Clause itself requires National FFA to bar a religious organization from an exhibitor opportunity solely because the organization is religious.

There is an important constitutional distinction between FFA sponsoring a religious activity and FFA permitting a private religious organization to participate in an otherwise generally available forum like other vendors under the principle of equal access. We are not asking National FFA to sponsor Christian worship, endorse Christianity, or require any student to engage with us. We ask only to exhibit and to speak with students who choose to stop at our booth.

That request also raises a viewpoint-neutrality question. National FFA says members may express their faith. Its 2018 Inclusion Statement then bars national officers and other official speakers from a faith-based perspective, reference, or prayer in FFA-controlled settings. Excluding a religious exhibitor from the Expo extends that same limit to a private organization that would speak only with students who stop. Neutrality toward religion is not the same as exclusion of religion.

This is especially important given FFA's stated commitment to diversity and inclusion.

True diversity includes diversity of worldviews. Religious students are not made more welcome by being told that they may personally express their faith while organizations representing that faith may be excluded because they express it publicly.

If FFA genuinely intends to welcome students "of all backgrounds," that should include students whose understanding of agriculture, service, leadership, morality, and human purpose is informed by religious faith.

The answer cannot simply be that religious expression is welcome when it comes from an individual but unwelcome when an organization openly identifies the religious foundation of its mission.

National FFA's federal charter, now codified at 36 U.S.C. §§ 70901 et seq., as amended by Public Law 116-7, describes the organization as "a resource and support organization that does not select, control, or supervise State association, local chapter, or individual member activities." The charter and FFA's school-based character are important facts. They do not, standing alone, establish that the Establishment Clause requires a categorical ban on religious exhibitors.

We therefore ask National FFA to **identify the specific legal authority holding that the Establishment Clause requires exclusion of a religious organization from an otherwise generally available exhibitor opportunity**. That is a different proposition from the settled rule that a school or governmental entity may not itself sponsor or coerce religious activity.

The constitutional question should therefore not be, "How do we remove religion from FFA?" Rather, it should be how FFA can avoid establishing religion without discriminating against religious expression. That is the standard of neutrality we ask National FFA to apply.

We also respectfully request FFA reconsider the August 27 denial. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this distinction with National FFA leadership and to work toward a policy that protects every student's freedom of conscience while treating religious organizations on the same basis as other organizations.

Respectfully,

Dan Janzen
Executive Director
Fellowship of Christian Farmers International

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

cc: [REDACTED]