



For Immediate Release

Contact:

Shannon Latham
The FFA Enrichment Center
515-371-0450
shannonllatham@yahoo.com

Laurie E. Groves
Iowa Farm Bureau
515-225-5414
lgroves@ifbf.org

**FFA ENRICHMENT CENTER RECEIVES \$1 MILLION
FROM IOWA FARM BUREAU**

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa – May 23, 2005 – Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) believes investing in Iowa’s youth and providing leadership development can turn the tide of Iowa’s “brain drain.” That’s why IFBF is donating \$1 million to help build The FFA Enrichment Center on the Ankeny campus of Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC).

“The Iowa Farm Bureau believes in cultivating individuals with great character, a strong work ethic and exceptional leadership skills. That’s why we’re pleased to support Iowa FFA members through our contribution to The FFA Enrichment Center,” says Craig Lang, president, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. “By investing in youth, we’re investing in the future of Iowa.”

Agriculture will play an even more vital part of the economy and culture by 2019, according to findings unveiled in the American Farm Bureau Federation’s “Making American Agriculture Productive and Profitable”(MAAPP) study. According to the research, there is a significant need for increases in funding for research and technology by private, university and government sectors to give agriculture new affordable products to grow and market.

With approximately 75,000 square-feet of classrooms, greenhouses and laboratories, The FFA Enrichment Center will provide those educational development and leadership programs for more than 12,000 Iowa FFA members and 245 agricultural education instructors.

Not only will The FFA Enrichment Center enhance employment opportunities for Iowa FFA members, but Ed Wiederstein, chair of the Capital Campaign Committee for The FFA Enrichment Center, says its partnership with DMACC will help all Iowa youth pursue their chosen ag-related careers or help them uncover new paths in Iowa agricultural science.

“The FFA Enrichment Center will provide resources, such as state-of-the-art agriscience laboratories, that will enhance learning opportunities currently available to Iowa FFA members,” says Wiederstein. “With its sponsorship of The FFA Enrichment Center, the Iowa Farm Bureau is truly making a positive and strong statement regarding its beliefs in the future of agriculture in Iowa and in its up-and-coming leaders.”

“By supporting and promoting key areas such as education and technology as outlined in our strategic plan, Iowa Farm Bureau is working to help ensure a good quality of life for all of us,” adds Lang. “The FFA Enrichment Center, with its focus on leadership development, career exploration and agricultural education including science and technology, will help ensure more vital rural communities for our state. ”

The FFA Enrichment Center will feature conferencing and meeting facilities, agricultural and biotech science labs, the Pioneer Agriscience Computer Laboratory, vet technology labs, greenhouses utilizing current technology, resource and exhibition facilities and the Cargill Communications Center with fiber optic connectivity.

For more information about The FFA Enrichment Center or its capital campaign, contact:

Mary Boote
309 Court Ave., Suite 214
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-274-0800 phone
mjboote@courtavenuesuites.com

###

EDITOR’S NOTE: For additional background information about The FFA Enrichment Center, please visit <http://myffa.us>. For more information about the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, please visit www.iowafarmbureau.com.