

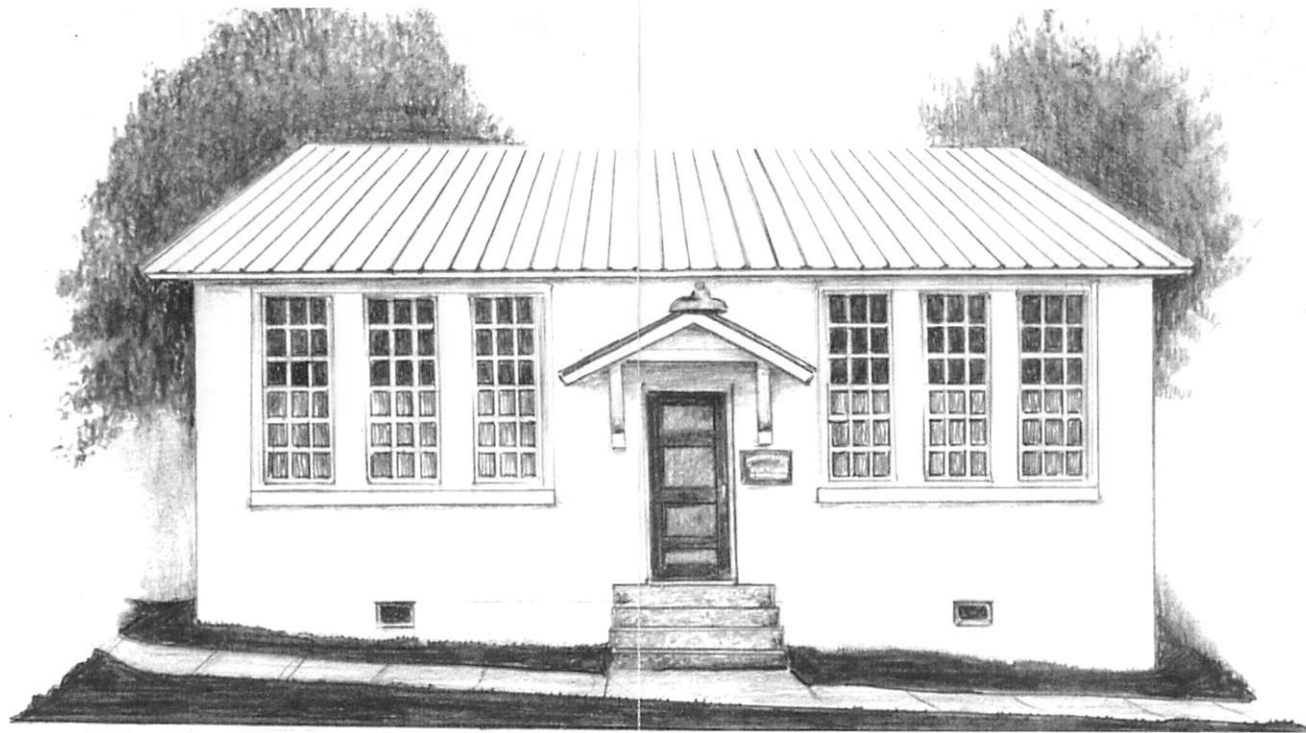
# The FFA

Agriculture education got its start in 1917 when Congress passed the Smith-Hughes National Vocational Education Act. This act allowed students to take classes in production agriculture. These first students desired to be part of an organization with its roots in vocational agriculture. Henry C. Groseclose, known as the father of the FFA, established the FFV, or the Future Farmers of Virginia in the early 1920s for boys. The idea took hold almost immediately.

In 1926, the American Royal in Kansas City, Missouri, invited students in vocational agriculture classes to take part in its livestock judging contests. Just two years later, in 1928, a national organization, called the Future Farmers of America, was formed and the first National FFA Convention was held in Kansas City.

THE GREEN HAND, "A Story of the FFA" by Paul Chapman (Lippincott Company, Chicago, 1932) wrote of Mr. Groseclose in the book dedication as follows:

"The Far Visioned Cavalier from Virginia who gave new meaning to FFV and conceived the plan which led to the organization of the Future Farmers of America".



## The Museum

The museum is located in the former Agriculture Building on the campus of Ceres School, which was closed in 1991.

A Ceres Alumni Association was formed in 2000, and the Association has renovated the building and is maintaining it in honor of Mr. Groseclose and the Future Farmers of America.

The Classroom contains artifacts relating to FFA Chapters, including the Original Chapter Banner, the Stations of the FFA officers and unique silk scarves worn by each officer.

Many items and personal effects belonging to Mr. Groseclose (many donated by the Groseclose Family) are on display. Of special interest is the Constitution and Bylaws Mr. Groseclose wrote while a patient at Walter Reed Hospital.

The Shop area of the building is used to show antique farm machinery tools and items made by the class members before the school was closed as a high school in 1961.

The Association also maintains a gift shop should you wish to purchase a memento of your visit.

Ceres is the Greek Goddess of Grain. What a fitting name for the birthplace of the boy who would grow to become the Father of the Future Farmers of America



Also located nearby is the Sharon Luthern Church, the burial place of Mr. Grosclose and the Sluss Family Massacre Burial Ground.

**Open by Appointment**  
**276-682-4380 or 276-682-4587**  
**If no answer, Leave a message & your call will be returned**



Nearby points of interest:  
Scenic Saltville  
Hungry Mother Park  
Big Walker Lookout  
Burkes Garden and  
The Crab Orchard Museum.

**Henry C. Grosclose**  
**The father of the**  
**Future Farmers of America**



**FFA and**  
**Agriculture Museum**  
**Ceres, Virginia**  
Just off State Route 42  
the Bluegrass Trail