

The 1920s

The agriculture department at Peoria High School got its start in the 1920s with the opening of Peoria High School. The start of the Peoria FFA is recorded in the article below from the *Arizona Republic* on October 28, 1928. The title of the newspaper article was "Chicken Dinner Given Classes by Instructor." The text of the article is below. Please note that Peoria is the first FFA chapter in the state of Arizona.

Mark Bliss, vocational agriculture instructor at the Peoria High School gave a chicken dinner to his two agricultural classes last Tuesday evening at his home.

Principal Jantzen was a guest of honor. Herbert W. Miller, the State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, was present to assist Bliss and the boys in the organization of the "Future Farmers of Peoria" club.

This is the first club of Future Farmers to be organized in Arizona. The boys took the matter of organization into their own hands after an explanation of its operations and methods of organization as given by Bliss and Miller.

Cecil Smith was elected president, Virgin Lewis, Vice-president, Dwight Patterson, secretary, and Howard Lydic, treasurer.

The Future Farmer movement originated in Virginia in the organization of all vocational agricultural boys into local Future Farmers of Virginia chapters. These in turn formed a state organization. This movement has now spread to what is known as the "Future Farmers of America."

Each high school that had a vocational agricultural department may organize a local chapter; the local chapters through their delegates in turn form a state organization and the states in turn form a national organization.

The purpose of the movement is to teach cooperation, high ideals, and the development of character to the agricultural boys of the country, with a view to the scientific improvement of agricultural practices, and the study and adaptation of economic principles.