

The 2000s

The 2000s marked the construction of the nursery, kindly named “Mulcahy’s Nursery.”

It was also during the 2000s (2000-2001) that the new agriculture building was constructed. It would be quite a change as faculty and students moved from the old metal building just west of the Performing Arts Center to a much more spacious facility near the art building. The new agriculture building included a large shop, multiple classrooms, a biotech lab, and more. Also included in the construction of the new building were new spaces for drafting, auto, and building trades programs.

2003 FFA Chapter Officers

Bottom Row: Jose Cruz—Vergara, Mara Nusbaum, Kristyona Mullins, Charles Fisher, Jeff Dinges

Middle row: Lindsey Goodwin, Christie Corporon, Teresa Donovan, Reily Loerzel,

Top Row: Josh Morgan, Rachael Spradling, Sarah Goodell, Kellie Christensen, Katie Loerzel, Mike Neagle



2004 yearbook included testimonies from FFA members about the impact of FFA on their lives. Here is a testimony from FFA officer Teresa Donovan.



**The FFA is an amazing
student leadership
organization that
changes the life of
many students.**

**-Teresa Donovan, Peoria
FFA Reporter**

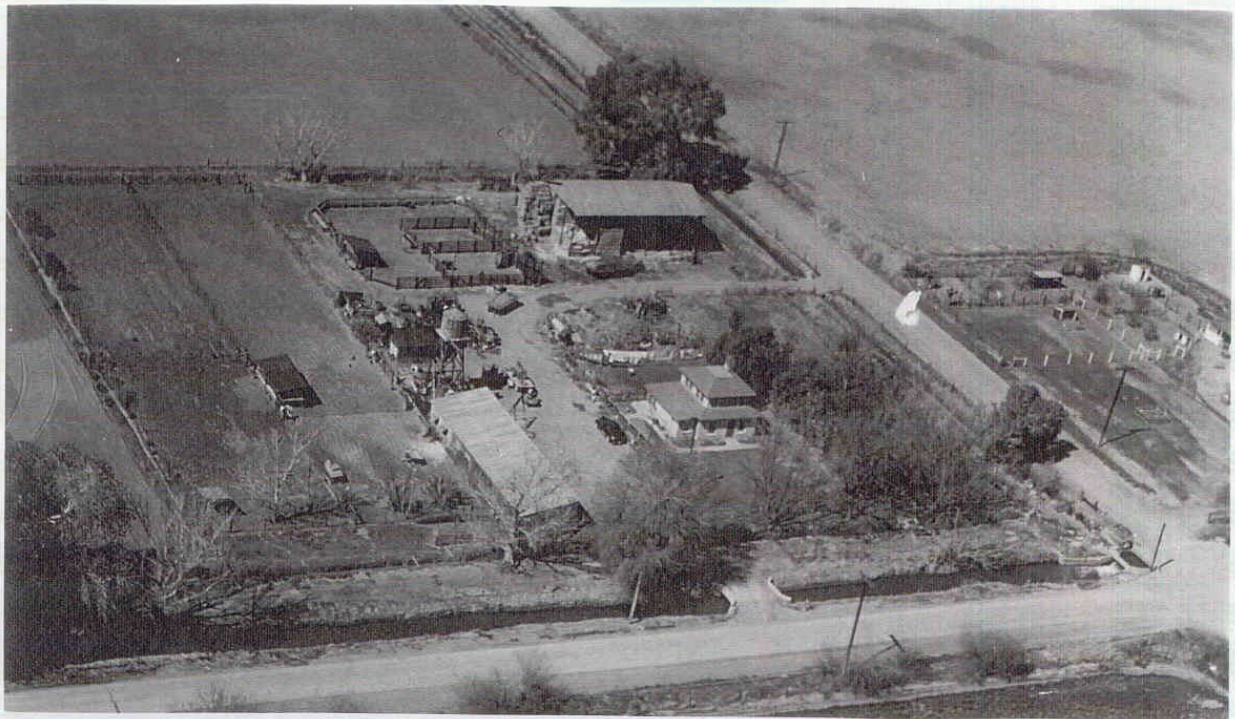
It was during the 2000s, that the Ralph Baskett Family make a substantial donation to the Peoria FFA that would ensure ongoing scholarships for years to come.

Ralph Baskett was an active Peoria FFA member and All-State Basketball player who graduated in 1941. He received a scholarship to play Basketball at the University of Arizona, but after one year joined the Navy Air Corps to fight in World War II. After the war, he returned to Peoria to work on the farm.



Even though he never finished college, he never stopped learning. He took classes on mechanics so he could do his repairs. When welding came along, he took classes on that and then bought himself a machine and continued to do his work. He learned metal lathe and bought one and in the later years even mastered the computer for his needs.

The picture you see is of the family farm. The road on the bottom of the picture is 75th avenue and on the right is Thunderbird. For you youngsters in the audience this is what is now mostly an empty lot, and the KFC-Taco Bell would be at the top of the picture.



**The Baskett Farm on the SW corner of 75th Avenue and Thunderbird Road
where Ralph, Jr. lived from 1925-1977**

In what is now the Old Main Lecture Hall on the PHS campus Ralph first met a young lady while watching a school play. He later married her. Ralph and Katie had three children Ralph III, Bruce, and Beverly (who all went through Peoria High). There are nine grandchildren and even two great-grandchildren.


Ralph passed away in December of 2007. In his will, he left a very sizable donation to the Peoria FFA students. That money is managed by the Peoria Education Foundation and generates over \$40,000 per year that goes to FFA Scholarships sending students to State Camp, WLC, and Post-Secondary education.

Of course, the trip to the annual FFA National Convention was and is always a highlight for FFA members. Shown below are the members, instructors, and chaperones that attended the 2004 National FFA Convention.



Jarod Bicolis is featured in the 2009 PHS yearbook. He served as chapter president and would later return to PHS as an agriculture teacher. He was also elected as State FFA President in 2009.

MEETING with



Jared Bicolis

Jared Bicolis was never one of those "farmer kids" until freshman year. Now, Jared is a senior and has become the President of F.F.A. He loves Peoria's Agriculture Program and says that he lives for F.F.A. Jared explained that the people in F.F.A. are like his family and the AG Department is like a second home to him. He puts all his time and effort into this group and is so proud of everything he has accomplished with F.F.A.

The 2009-2010 Chapter president is inducted into office by President Jared Bicolis and advisors Brian Fuller, James Kaltenbach, and Kevin English.



Mr. President

2009-10 Chapter President Joseph Franzmeier, 12, is inducted to office by Mr. Fuller, Mr. Kaltenbach, Jared Bicolis past-President, and Mr. English.