

What is **SOFA** - **Speak Out For Agriculture**

Middle and high students in Adair County and other Southwest Iowa counties were not aware of career opportunities in agriculture outside of farming. They had limited knowledge of careers or post-secondary educational options in the field of agriculture. There were few chances to develop and build their communication skills and virtually no opportunities for them to partner with adults to address their needs or interests.



In 1994 a group of adults and youths from Adair, Cass and Audubon counties met to find a way address the problem and **SOFA (Speak Out For Agriculture)** was born. During the first four years **SOFA** consisted of a communications skill development day and a career day field trip. **SOFA** went “on the road” in 1999 becoming a jam packed 2 day career adventure trip. The trip consists of ag related tours and workshops at community colleges and universities. A planning committee of teens with guidance from Extension staff design, organize, and lead the program.

