

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 3, 2026

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Mr. Stump:

We write to you to discuss concerning features of the National Future Farmers of America Organization's ("National FFA") programs and operations. Under the last Chief Executive Officer, Mark Poeschl, the FFA entered into a partnership¹ with Chinese Communist Party ("CCP") controlled Syngenta Group² and pushed to prioritize Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion ("DEI") efforts.³ Even though the initiation of this CCP partnership and the adoption of DEI policies began under your predecessor, the Committee on Ways and Means ("Committee") and the Congressional Future Farmers of America Caucus ("FFA Caucus") are concerned as to the direction of the National FFA and your decision to continue these programs.

Tax Exempt Status

Pursuant to Rule X, clause 1(t) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has jurisdiction over matters related to tax-exempt organizations.⁴ Oversight authority of the Committee's jurisdiction is delegated to the Committee under Rule X, clause 2 of the Rules of the House of Representatives.⁵ The National FFA operates as a 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"),⁶ a designation that falls squarely within

¹ Press Release, National Future Farmers of America Organization, National FFA and Syngenta Partner for Inaugural Executive in Residence, (Feb. 14, 2022), <https://www.ffa.org/press-releases/national-ffa-and-syngenta-partner-for-inaugural-executive-in-residence/>, [hereinafter, "Syngenta and FFA Partnership"].

² See Michael Shields, *ChemChina Clinches Landmark \$43 Billion Takeover of Syngenta*, REUTERS, (May 5, 2017), <https://www.reuters.com/article/world/chemchina-clinches-landmark-43-billion-takeover-of-syngenta-idUSKBN1810CM/>, [hereinafter, "Reuters Article"].

³ Spencer Chase, *FFA Moving Towards Greater Diversity, Inclusion – from Agri-Pulse*, Planting Seeds Blog, CALIFORNIA DEPT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE., (Aug. 29, 2022), <https://plantingseedsblog.cdfa.ca.gov/wordpress/?p=24817#:~:text=The%20FFA's%20CEO%2C%20Scott%20Stump%2C%20says%20that,in%20a%20quickly%20and%20rapidly%20diversifying%20workplace.>

⁴ Rule X, clause 1(t), Rules of the House of Representatives, (119th Cong.).

⁵ Rule X, clause 2, Rules of the House of Representatives, (119th Cong.).

⁶ Nonprofit Explorer: National FFA Organization, PROPUBLICA, [https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/540524844#:~:text=Type%20of%20Nonprofit,a%20501\(c\)\(3\)&text=Donations%20to%20this%20organization%20are%20tax%20deductible](https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/540524844#:~:text=Type%20of%20Nonprofit,a%20501(c)(3)&text=Donations%20to%20this%20organization%20are%20tax%20deductible) (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

the Committee's jurisdiction. With this designation, comes both generous tax benefits, as well as certain requirements under the law and regulations promulgated under Section 501 of the IRC.⁷

If more than an insubstantial part of an organization's activities is not in furtherance of a tax-exempt purpose outlined in IRC 501(c)(3), the organization is not operated "exclusively" for such exempt purpose.⁸ The Supreme Court has held that "the presence of a single [nonexempt] purpose, if substantial in nature, will destroy the exemption regardless of the number or importance of truly [exempt] purposes."⁹

From the international funding sources and activities of tax-exempt entities in the U.S., and the role of certain organizations in fostering antisemitism in American society, the Committee has engaged in continuous oversight ensuring all tax-exempt organizations are abiding by their exempt status and are avoiding actions that may erode, evade, or violate the purposes for which their tax-exempt status was granted.¹⁰ The National FFA is an organization that is dedicated to educating America's youth in "leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education."¹¹ This mission is critical to the future of American farming, as over one million student members, across more than nine thousand state and local chapters in the United States, look to the National FFA for guidance.¹² Working with our nation's foreign adversaries and prioritizing woke policies over your mission raises serious concerns regarding whether the National FFA is complying with the requirements to maintain tax-exempt status.

Congressional Future Farmers of America Caucus

The FFA Caucus is a group of Members of the United States House of Representatives dedicated to ensuring the next generation of agricultural leaders is prepared to grow as leaders, build strong communities, and strengthen the nation's food and agriculture system. The FFA Caucus provides Congress with an opportunity to exercise oversight of career and technical education legislation and to ensure American agriculture and nutrition policies reflect the needs and perspectives of youth. Through its work, the FFA Caucus monitors, evaluates, and

⁷ See 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3); see also Treas. Reg. § 1.501(c)(3)-1.

⁸ TREAS. REG. 1.501(c)(3)-1(c)(1).

⁹ *Better Business Bureau of Washington, D.C., Inc. v. United States*, 326 U.S. 279 (1945).

¹⁰ Letter from Jason Smith et al., Chairman, H. Comm. on Ways and Means, *Request for Information: Understanding and Examining the Political Activities of Tax-Exempt Organizations under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code* (Aug. 14, 2023), <https://gop-waysandmeans.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/UPDATED-RFI-on-501c3-and-c4-Activities-FINAL.docx87.pdf>; Press Release, H. Comm. on Ways and Means, Ways and Means Chairman Smith Demands IRS Revoke Tax-Exempt Status of Organizations Fueling Chaos, Illegal Conduct, and Antisemitic Activity in U.S., including those with Possible Ties to Terrorist Networks (Sep. 24, 2024), <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/2024/09/24/ways-and-means-chairman-smith-demands-irs-revoke-tax-exempt-status-of-organizations-fueling-chaos-illegal-conduct-and-antisemitic-activity-in-u-s-including-those-with-possible-ties-to-terrorist-ne/>.

¹¹ *FFA Mission and Motto*, <https://www.ffa.org/about/who-we-are/mission-motto/> (last visited Jan 14, 2026).

¹² Press Release, National Future Farmers of America Organization, National FFA Organization Announces New Membership Numbers, (Aug. 11, 2025), <https://www.ffa.org/press-releases/national-ffa-announces-membership-numbers/>.

strengthens relationships between Congress and agricultural education teachers, FFA members, and other leaders across the food and agriculture sector.

Both the Committee and the FFA Caucus are working with the Trump Administration to prioritize both farm and food security within our national security infrastructure and ensure our future farmers—the ones that will be tasked with our nation’s food security—are best served by the organization federally chartered to educate them. As the United States Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) Secretary Brooke Rollins stated in the USDA National Farm Security Action plan – “Farm security is national security.”¹³

Connection to the Chinese Communist Party

Our interest in the National FFA’s relationship with Syngenta is informed by the Committee’s history of work on tax-exempt entities who have established problematic relationships with the CCP and its allies, as well as into direct CCP attacks. In April of 2024, the Committee sent a letter to then Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) Commissioner Werfel, raising concerns about foreign adversaries’ influence over American-based tax-exempt organizations, calling on the IRS to conduct rigorous oversight of individuals with ties to the CCP.¹⁴ In December of 2024, the Committee reviewed information related to the Chinese intelligence agencies that hacked into the United States Department of Treasury during the Biden Administration.¹⁵ Most recently, on September 4, 2025, the Committee sent a letter to the People’s Forum, a tax-exempt organization alleged to have acted as a foreign agent of the CCP and received millions of dollars from Neville Roy Singham, a known CCP ally.¹⁶

National FFA’s relationship with Syngenta is concerning to both the Committee and the FFA Caucus as Syngenta has been a wholly owned subsidiary of the China National Chemical Corporation (“ChemChina”), a chemical company under the umbrella of Sinochem Holdings Corporation Ltd. (“Sinochem Holdings”), since ChemChina acquired the company in 2017.¹⁷ Sinochem Holdings is a Chinese state-owned multinational conglomerate that was the result of a 2021 merger between Sinochem Group Co. Ltd. and China National Chemical Corp. Ltd.¹⁸ Both ChemChina and Sinochem Holdings focus on the chemical industry, and specifically, agrochemicals.¹⁹ During the first Trump Administration, both ChemChina and Sinochem Group,

¹³ National Farm Security Action Plan, U.S. DEP’T OF AGRICULTURE, (Dec. 30, 2025), <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/farm-security-nat-sec.pdf>.

¹⁴ Letter from Jason Smith et. al, Chairman, H. Comm. on Ways and Means, to Daniel Werfel, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, (Apr. 24, 2024).

¹⁵ See Press Release, H. Comm. on Ways and Means, Smith: America Will Not Tolerate Chinese Cyber Attacks, (Dec. 31, 2024), <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/2024/12/31/smith-america-will-not-tolerate-chinese-cyber-attacks/>.

¹⁶ Letter from Jason Smith, Chairman, H. Comm. on Ways and Means, to Manolo De Los Santos, Executive Director, The People’s Forum, (Sep. 4, 2025).

¹⁷ Reuters Article, *supra* note 2.

¹⁸ Lou Guoping et. al, *China Finalizes Merger of Two Largest State Chemical Firms, Creating Sinochem Holdings*, CAIXIN GLOBAL, (May 10, 2021), <https://www.caixinglobal.com/2021-05-10/china-finalizes-merger-of-two-largest-state-chemical-firms-creating-sinochem-holdings-101709281.html>.

¹⁹ *Id.* See also, Reuters Article, *supra* note 2.

the predecessor to Sinochem Holdings, were listed as “Communist Chinese Military Companies” who operate in the United States and are prohibited from receiving U.S. government grants, awards, as part of countering China’s Military-Civil Fusion strategy.²⁰

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs raised concerns regarding China’s control of Syngenta to the Biden Administration’s Department of Treasury in 2021,²¹ however President Biden’s Department of Defense unceremoniously removed all these Communist Chinese military companies from the designation in June of 2021.²² Despite this national security misstep by the Biden Administration, Syngenta was redesignated as a Chinese Military Company in 2022.²³ Companies and nonprofits in the United States should continue to proceed with caution and avoid business dealings and relationships with these Communist Chinese military companies.

The National FFA’s relationship with Syngenta has unfortunately continued, even though states, along with the USDA, have recognized the concerns of engagement with CCP-owned companies. In 2023, the state of Arkansas required Syngenta Seed LLC., a subsidiary of Syngenta Group, to divest itself of 160 acres of agricultural land in the state.²⁴ Just last year, USDA Secretary Rollins announced an initiative to work with the states to ban the sale of United States farmland from perspective buyers in China and other countries—citing national security risks.²⁵ Not only is Syngenta a CCP-owned company, it is already attempting to throttle competition in the agricultural industry, increasing costs for American farmers.²⁶

Syngenta’s extensive ties²⁷ to the National FFA are problematic due to the potential influence the CCP may exert over the company through its ownership, and the corresponding

²⁰ Press Release, DEP’T OF DEFENSE, DOD Releases List of Additional Companies, In Accordance with Section 1237 of FY99 NDAA, (Jan 14, 2021), <https://www.war.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/2472464/dod-releases-list-of-additional-companies-in-accordance-with-section-1237-of-fy/>, [hereinafter “DOD Press Release”] (Qualified entities under Section 1237 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 refer to the Dept. of Defense designating companies as “Communist Chinese military companies” who operate directly or indirectly in the United States in accordance with the statutory requirements in the Act).

²¹ Letter from Michael McCaul et. al, Chairman, H. Comm on Foreign Affairs, to Janet Yellen, Secretary, U.S. Dep’t of Treas., (Apr. 9, 2021), [hereinafter “Foreign Affairs Committee Letter”].

²² DOD Press Release, *supra* note 20.

²³ DEP’T OF DEFENSE, ENTITIES IDENTIFIED AS CHINESE MILITARY COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE UNITED STATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 1260H OF THE WILLIAM M. I(MAC”) THORNBERRY NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 (Public Law 116-238), <https://media.defense.gov/2022/Oct/05/2003091659/-1/-1/0/1260HCOMPANIES.PDF>.

²⁴ Press Release, Arkansas Governor’s Office, Sanders Administration Holds China Accountable, (dec. 13, 2023), https://governor.arkansas.gov/news_post/sanders-administration-holds-china-accountable/.

²⁵ Patrick Thomas, *USDA Says It Is Working to Ban China from Buying U.S. Farmland*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, (Jul. 8, 2025), <https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/stock-market-today-dow-sp-500-nasdaq-07-08-2025/card/usda-says-it-s-working-to-ban-china-from-buying-u-s-farmland-PhU12G7w0Z7dV2zwg0h6?>.

²⁶ Todd Neely, FTC Pursues Trial on Crop Loyalty Case, PROGRESSIVE FARMER, (Dec. 29, 2025), [https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/crops/article/2025/12/29/trump-administration-12-states-see,](https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/crops/article/2025/12/29/trump-administration-12-states-see, (The Trump Administration and twelve states recently requested a trial date for later this year related to a 2022 lawsuit filed against Syngenta Crop Protection, a subsidiary of Syngenta Group, alleging the company paid distributors to block its’ competitors from being able to sell less-expensive products to farmers).) (The Trump Administration and twelve states recently requested a trial date for later this year related to a 2022 lawsuit filed against Syngenta Crop Protection, a subsidiary of Syngenta Group, alleging the company paid distributors to block its’ competitors from being able to sell less-expensive products to farmers).

²⁷ Press Release, National Future Farmers of America Organization, Three New Member Named to National FFA Board of Directors, (Dec. 16, 2024), <https://www.ffa.org/press-releases/three-new-members-added-to-the-national->

influence that Syngenta may wield over the National FFA. The CCP has a well-documented history of “economic espionage to steal biotechnology and agriculture-related intellectual property,”²⁸ and the fact that the National FFA has provided one of their state-owned companies direct access to the future leaders of America’s farming industry is alarming. The ties and access afforded to Syngenta may create a credible risk that CCP messaging and propaganda could infiltrate FFA education and guidance, posing a direct threat to our Nation’s farm and food security.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Practices

Furthermore, the prioritization of DEI goals in the latest National FFA Strategic Plan provides cause for concern regarding the organization’s direction, even more so considering Syngenta was selected in 2022 as the Partner for Inaugural Executive in Residence tasked with implementing this DEI agenda.²⁹ This is more evidence indicating Syngenta is attempting to gain greater insight into and influence over the internal operations of your organization, at the expense of educating future farmers on safeguarding U.S. agriculture and agricultural intellectual property from foreign adversaries. With the upcoming release of the organization’s 2027-2031 Strategic Plan, the Committee and the FFA Caucus are concerned that the next Strategic Plan will not only be influenced by Syngenta, whose priorities are clearly out of line with yours, but also will include more of the same DEI policies that will further highlight individual groups based on race or gender, and further marginalize and divide your students based on immutable characteristics. The goal of the National FFA should be to bring student members together as a community – not force them into specific categories, as Syngenta appears to be encouraging.

Since the partnership with Syngenta began in 2022, the National FFA has rebranded its DEI program to “Belonging and Engagement,” accepted a 2025 convention delegate proposal regarding diversity compliance and rewards, required your national officers to support DEI, and invited guest speakers suggesting FFA hide DEI activities under a new name to avoid “anti-DEI” focus. The Committee and the FFA Caucus are concerned that Syngenta is driving the National FFA’s focus away from agricultural education to enhance the future of American farms and farmers, towards focusing on identity politics that have been proven to drive a wedge in our communities.

Conclusion

It is clear that the National FFA’s purpose is to serve its’ student members and their respective chapters, rather than play identity politics and cozy up to Communist China. However,

ffa-board-of-directors/, (naming a senior human resources generalist at Syngenta as a member for the National FFA Board of Directors); Press Release, Syngenta, Syngenta Repeats as Highest Corporate Donor for Give FFA Day Fundraiser, (Jun. 5, 2025), <https://www.syngenta-us.com/newsroom/syngenta-repeats-as-highest-corporate-donor-for-give-ffa-day-fundraiser>; See Press Release, National Future Farmers of America Organization, National FFA Alumni & Supporters Honor Outstanding Chapters and States, (Oct. 30, 2025), <https://www.ffa.org/press-releases/176273/>, (providing the “Outstanding Corporate FFA Alumni and Supports Chapter” Award to Syngenta FFA Alumni and Supporters, NC), [hereinafter “Syngenta and FFA Connections”].

²⁸ Foreign Affairs Committee Letter, *supra* note 21.

²⁹ Syngenta and FFA Partnership, *supra* note 1.

the continuation of this relationship with Syngenta³⁰ and promotion of DEI policies, such as prioritizing DEI in the National FFA's Strategic Plan and directing the organization's executives to push these initiatives,³¹ calls into question your commitment to the student members your organization intends to serve.

Due to the partnership with Syngenta, the alarming features of the CCP-owned company's ties to the National FFA, and the company's leadership of your organizations DEI policies the Committee, in coordination with the FFA Caucus, requests that you provide answers to the following questions by February 17, 2026. If you have any questions, please contact Ways and Means Majority staff at (202) 225-3625.

1. Please provide information and documents³² related to any partnership, contract, or agreement with Syngenta Group.
2. Please provide information and documents³³ related to employees of Syngenta, or any of the company's subsidiaries, that serve in a leadership capacity at the National FFA or any individual state or local FFA chapter.
3. Please provide the internal recommendations for the DEI strategy and programs created, recommended, or reviewed by Syngenta since 2020.
 - a. Please provide information and documents related to how the National FFA Organization's DEI policy plays a role in hiring, promotions, and other employee advancement at the organization.
4. Please provide the dollar amount of contributions received by National FFA or any individual state or local FFA chapter that were provided by Syngenta, or any related organization.

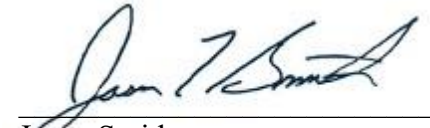
³⁰ Syngenta and FFA Connections, *supra* note 13.

³¹ Syngenta and FFA Partnership, *supra* note 1 (highlighting Syngenta being "Executive in Residence" for DEI policy); Strategic Plan 2022 to 2025 Summary and Talking Points, National Future Farmers of America Organization, at page 4; *see* FRIENDS OF THE RISING SUN, *Pentagon Tosses DEI; Why is the National FFA Now Doubling Down*, <https://rising-sun.org/pentagon-tosses-dei-why-is-the-national-ffa-now-doubling-down/>, (lasted visited Jan. 15, 2026).

³² "Information and documents" include all written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data, calendar entries, inter-office and intra-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether they resulted in final documents).

³³ *Id.*

Sincerely,



Jason Smith
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means



Tracey Mann
Co-Chair and Co-Founder
Congressional FFA Caucus



David Schweikert
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Oversight