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# Member and Chapter Awards and Programs

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## ***Discovery FFA Degree***

Optional degree program awarded by the local chapter. The Discovery FFA Degree offers a planned recognition program for eighth-grade FFA members without requiring this degree to be achieved to attain higher degrees.

## ***Greenhand FFA Degree***

Awarded by the local chapter. It is recommended that the Greenhand Degree be awarded during the ninth-grade year.

## ***Chapter FFA Degree***

Awarded by the local chapter.

## ***Chapter FFA Officers***

Article XI, Section C, of the National FFA Constitution states: “*If a chapter has been chartered for two years or more, all chapter officers shall have attained the Chapter FFA Degree.*” The National FFA Organization or Oklahoma FFA Association does not recommend any particular procedure for electing chapter officers. However, it is recommended that any change in the current chapter officer election process be approved by a vote of the local FFA members at any regular meeting of the chapter.

## ***State FFA Degree***

Application, record books, and scrapbook/portfolio due February 1 (February PI Meeting). Awarded by the Oklahoma FFA Association at the State FFA Convention. If an FFA member goes through the PI State FFA Degree check process in February and is recommended by the PI Group to receive the State FFA Degree but dies (between the PI check and State Convention), the member is awarded the degree posthumously. If the member’s death occurs before the February PI State FFA Degree check, the member is ineligible for the Degree.

## ***Honorary State FFA Degree***

Local FFA chapters may nominate individuals for the Honorary State FFA Degree by completing the required application and submitting it at the February PI meeting of Ag-Ed instructors. Each PI Group will rank the applications submitted and forward their ranking to the state office. Each PI Group is guaranteed their top two nominees. If PI Groups do not fill their quota, additional nominees may be considered. Under normal circumstances, the State FFA Executive Committee will not approve an application of a current school administrator, current state legislator, or the spouse of a current agricultural education instructor. The applicant must be living at the time the application is submitted at the February meeting. A complete listing of all previous recipients of the Honorary State FFA Degree is available at [www.okffa.org](http://www.okffa.org). Click on “About Oklahoma FFA.”

## ***Honorary State FFA Degree Teacher***

A local Agricultural Education teacher will automatically receive the Honorary State FFA Degree if one of the following should occur: The local FFA chapter is selected as a National Three-Star Chapter. The local instructor coached a national proficiency award finalist. The local instructor coached an American Star finalist. The local instructor coached a National Gold Emblem CDE Team or National Gold Emblem CDE Individual. The local instructor received the Honorary American FFA Degree. Any teacher that moves to another school, or leaves the profession, is automatically eligible to receive the Degree based on it being earned at the school they last served.

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## ***State Star Farmer, State Star in Agribusiness, and State Star in Agricultural Placement***

Each of the five FFA districts will select the outstanding production, agribusiness, and agricultural placement member from the State FFA Degree candidates in their district. These 15 District Stars will interview at the State Office in late March or early April. One will be selected as the State Star in each category. The announcement of the winners and their awards will be made at the State FFA Convention.

## ***State FFA Officer Candidate***

With the exception of the office of state president, state officers must be elected annually from the approved list of members who are receiving the State FFA Degree at the current convention. Candidates must file the appropriate information with the state office by February 1. An interview process will precede the State FFA Convention to reduce the number of candidates. Guidelines are listed elsewhere in this publication.

## ***American FFA Degree***

The completed application and check sheet must be postmarked or hand delivered to the state FFA office no later than May 15. The local chapter advisor and applicant assume full responsibility that the check sheet has been properly completed and that the application is in good order. The state FFA office will sign the application and forward it to the National FFA Organization for final approval. The Oklahoma FFA Association does not accept unpaid hours as earnings to meet American FFA Degree requirements. Awarded at the National FFA Convention.

## ***Stars Over America Competition***

The state staff is charged with the responsibility of selecting the outstanding American FFA Degree candidates for Star Farmer, Star in Agribusiness, Star in Placement, and Star in Agriscience. The applications of these candidates are then submitted to the National FFA Organization as Oklahoma's candidates for Stars Over America competition. Awarded at the National FFA Convention.

## ***National FFA Officer Candidate***

Oklahoma's candidate for National FFA office will be selected from the approved list of American FFA Degree candidates. The state staff is charged with the responsibility of selecting the candidate. The selected candidate will receive a new FFA jacket and reimbursement for air travel and hotel accommodations at the National FFA Convention. If our candidate is selected as one of the six national FFA officers, the Oklahoma FFA Alumni Association will provide a check to the officer for \$500. The Oklahoma FFA Foundation will also provide a check to the officer for \$500.

## ***State and National Proficiency Awards Program***

FFA provides opportunities for members in numerous proficiency areas. Applications are due in the state office February 15. The top three placings in each area will be awarded at the State FFA Convention. The state winner in each area will be submitted for national consideration. Members may apply in more than one area but will receive recognition in only one proficiency award each year. State winners are ineligible to compete in an area they have previously won. Eighth-grade FFA members cannot win first place in a state proficiency award area because they are ineligible to compete on the national level.

## ***State Secretary and Reporter Awards Program***

These award areas recognize chapter reporters and secretaries for outstanding performance. Chapter reporters must submit their chapter scrapbook to the state office by March 1. Chapter secretaries must submit their official FFA Secretary Book to the state office by March 1. The guidelines for these two awards are listed elsewhere in this publication. Previous state winners are ineligible to compete.

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## ***National Band, Chorus, and Talent Applications***

Applications and audition tapes in each area must be submitted to the national office by July 1. Selected members will be notified by the National FFA Organization. Selected members are responsible for their own transportation, uniform, and lodging expenses. Students may participate in the national band and/or chorus for a maximum of two years. Currently, the Oklahoma FFA Alumni Association is providing a \$100 cash award to each selected member.

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## ***State Chorus and Talent Applications***

Applications and audition tapes for state chorus are due in the state office February 1; state talent applications and audition tapes are due March 1. Selected members are responsible for their own meal and lodging expenses. Students may participate in both chorus and talent but must submit separate applications and tapes for each.

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## ***State Superior Chapter Application***

This application, found in the Blue Book, is required at the end of the school year from all FFA chapters in Oklahoma. Must be in the state FFA office postmarked June 1 to receive recognition as a State Superior Chapter.

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## ***Membership Eligibility***

Any student in Grades 8-12 must be regularly enrolled in a year-long course of study in Agricultural Education at school in order to be eligible to participate in any FFA activity. For the purpose of this section, at school is defined as physically present and supervised in a classroom by a certified agricultural education instructor. Exceptions are granted to students who attend a school with block scheduling and who, therefore, may have completed a year-long course of study in Agricultural Education in one semester. Students in the seventh grade are not eligible for FFA membership in Oklahoma. Annual local, state, and national FFA dues must also be paid in order to be eligible to participate in any FFA activity.

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## ***Food For America Grant and Award Program***

The Oklahoma Pork Council provides up to 10 \$200 grants to FFA chapters who promote pork as a nutritious, healthy food product as a part of its Food For America program. Grant applications are due in the state office September 1. Cash awards to the top three programs are presented at the State FFA Convention. Chapters do not have to receive a grant to be eligible for state awards. State winning chapters (1st place) are eligible to apply for a grant in the following year but will not be eligible for state awards.

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## ***State Career Development Events***

A team of four FFA members enrolled in agricultural education may represent a chapter in each state event area (unless otherwise stated). The score of the high three members will constitute the team. Seniors who have graduated from high school in the current year can compete until September 1 of the current year for awards and recognition.

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### ***National Career Development Events***

The winning team in the National Qualifying Event will represent Oklahoma at the National FFA Convention. The National Qualifying Event for all areas will be the OSU Interscholastics, with the exceptions of Forestry and Environmental Science and Natural Resources. Any member who has represented Oklahoma in a national career development event or national awards area as a 4-H or FFA member is ineligible to compete again in the National Qualifying Event for that area as an FFA member. A member is eligible to compete in only one national career development event per year.

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### ***National Land, Homesite, and Range Career Development Event***

The top five land judging teams at the OSU Interscholastics Event are eligible to compete in the National Land Judging Event held in Oklahoma City each May. All chapters are eligible to participate in the Range Event held at the same time. If any state qualifies and registers five teams for the National Land Judging Event, that state can bring an additional two Homesite teams. Students on the Homesite teams may have participated on a previous National Land Judging team, as long as they were not a National Champion or National Reserve Champion Land Judging team or individual. For more information on the national event, go to [www.landjudging.com](http://www.landjudging.com).

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### ***National Livestock Career Development Event Opportunities***

The first-place livestock judging team at the State FFA Interscholastics in Stillwater has the first option to select either the National Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event during the National FFA Convention or the American Royal Livestock judging contest in Kansas City, Missouri. The second-place livestock judging team at the State FFA Interscholastics will be given the opportunity to participate in one of the events listed above that was not selected by the first-place team. The first-place livestock judging team at the Tulsa State Fair will be given the opportunity to represent Oklahoma FFA at the National Western Livestock judging contest in Denver, Colorado.

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### ***State Parliamentary Procedure Career Development Event***

This event encourages FFA chapter members to carry out their chapter meetings in an orderly and constructive manner using proper parliamentary procedure and constructive, logical discussion. Two divisions are available for junior and senior competition. Official FFA dress is required.

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### ***State Public Speaking Career Development Event***

Eleven divisions are available to members at the state level. Members may participate in more than one division, provided they give a different speech. Read the definition of a “different speech” in the public speaking guidelines. Two members from each district will advance to the state event. Any member that wins a state speaking event is ineligible to speak again in that division. Official FFA dress is required.

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### ***FFA Greenhand Quiz Career Development Event***

This event is for freshman members only. First-year FFA members participating in this event must be in the ninth grade (sophomores who are first-year FFA members are not eligible). The top two participants in each PI group are eligible for the state event. Any state-qualifying participants who move from their PI district before the state event are ineligible to participate. The third-place PI participant may then qualify for the state event. The five participants with the highest scores on the written test at the state event will advance to the finals to be held in Stillwater in November. In determining the legitimacy of a question or the correctness of an answer, the decision of the designated judges is final. Materials for the quiz event will be taken from the following current items: FFA Manual, FFA New Horizons, FFA Student Handbook, State FFA Constitution. Official FFA dress is required.

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### ***Freshman Agriscience I Quiz Bowl and Animal Science Quiz Bowl***

These team events are designed to test the knowledge of members in Agricultural Education curriculum. The event is patterned after the academic bowls and includes a buzzer and light system per team. Each team must have four members. Each District is responsible for a play-off system that determines the teams to represent that District at the state contest. Official FFA dress is required.