

# Constitution of the Future Farmers of America Oklahoma Association

## Article I. Name and Purposes

Section A. The name of this organization shall be the “Future Farmers of America, Oklahoma Association.” Members and local chapters are hereinafter referred to as “Future Farmers of America.” The letters “FFA” may be officially used to designate the organization, its units, and members thereof.

Section B. The purposes for which the organization is formed are as follows:

1. To develop competent, aggressive, rural and agricultural leadership in Oklahoma.
2. To create and nurture a love of country life.
3. To strengthen the confidence of students of agricultural education in themselves and their work.
4. To create more interest in the intelligent choice of farming and other agricultural occupations.
5. To encourage members in the development of an individual farming program and establishment in farming.
6. To encourage members to improve the farm home and its surroundings.
7. To participate in worthy undertakings for the improvement of agriculture.
8. To develop character, train for useful citizenship, and foster patriotism.
9. To participate in cooperative efforts.
10. To encourage and practice thrift.
11. To encourage improvements in scholarship.
12. To provide and encourage the development of organized rural recreational activities.
13. To encourage and practice conservation of all natural resources affecting agriculture.

## Article II. Organization

Section A. Future Farmers of America, Oklahoma Association, is a state organization with local chapters only in high schools having organized instruction in agricultural education. Such chapters shall operate as an integral part of the instructional program of agricultural education under the responsibility of the local school system. Where agricultural education has been discontinued, members may remain active for three additional years, if approved by the Agricultural Education Division of the Oklahoma Department of *CareerTech*.

Section B. Such agricultural education students shall meet, organize, adopt the State Constitution as their own, elect officers, set up a program of work, and then apply to the State Executive Secretary for membership in the State Organization. Upon receipt of a charter from the State Association, the chapter and its members may then be known as Future Farmers of America.

Section C. Each chapter shall consider itself a unit in the State Organization. It shall use the State Constitution as its own constitution and have like officers and committees performing the same duties for the chapters that the State Officers and committees perform for the State Organization.

Each subdistrict is encouraged to organize and elect officers. Such subdistricts shall consist of chapters located in a county or professional improvement group of agricultural education teachers.

The organization shall set up its schedule of activities and use the State Constitution as its constitution and have like officers and committees performing the same duties for the subdistrict that the State Officers and committees perform for the State Organization.

Section D. No chapter shall be considered active unless it has duly elected officers and has submitted its major objectives, programs of activities, FFA dues, and membership roster to the State Office, as stipulated in Section B of Article II. In case any local chapter is not in good standing with a State Association at the time of the opening of a State Convention, the delegates in State Convention shall have the power, upon recommendation of the State Executive Committee, to withdraw or suspend the charter and refuse such chapter official representation at the State Convention. When and if such action is taken, the chapter in question and members thereof shall be denied the regular privileges of the organization. By meeting the requirements for good standing, a chapter may be reinstated by action of the State Executive Committee no earlier than ten days after the closing of the State Convention during which it was not in good standing.

### **Article III. Membership**

Section A. Members in this organization shall be active, alumni, collegiate, and honorary.

Section B. Any student not over 23 years of age who is regularly enrolled in agricultural education is entitled to become an active member of a chartered FFA Chapter. An active member, upon graduation, may retain active membership until November 30, following the fourth National FFA Convention after graduating from high school. No individuals, however, may retain their active membership beyond their 23rd birthday.

Members who are in good standing at the time they are inducted into the armed forces of the United States of America shall be in good standing during the period of their induction without further payment of dues or attendance at meetings. Time spent in the armed forces shall not be considered as elapsed time in determining the maximum period of four national conventions following graduation from or leaving high school. Members making use of this waiver of service time, for the purpose of maintaining active membership for application for advanced degrees, must resume active participation within six months after having been honorably discharged from service, indicating such a desire by payment of dues and attendance at meetings.

The State Association and/or chapter shall have the authority to revoke membership of any member who brings discredit to our organization on the state, district, or local level.

Section C. Alumni Member - Membership shall be open to former active, collegiate, or honorary FFA or NFA members, both present and former professional agricultural education educators, and other friends of the FFA upon payment of annual dues.

Section D. Collegiate - Collegiate chapters may be established in two-year or four-year institutions where agricultural courses are taught. Membership shall be open to both students who are enrolled in agricultural courses and those who are pursuing career objectives in the industry of agriculture.

Each collegiate chapter shall be chartered by and maintained under the authority of the respective state association.

All activities of the collegiate chapter of FFA should be in harmony with the purposes, principles, and ideals of the FFA organization. Activities for FFA collegiate chapter members shall be based upon the needs and interests of its members. Collegiate chapter members shall pay State and National FFA dues.

Collegiate membership may include students enrolled in agricultural courses and former active members of chartered local chapters who are enrolled in a two-year or four-year institution having a collegiate chapter.

Section E. Honorary Membership - Instructors, school superintendents, principals, teachers, businessmen, farmers, and others who are helping to advance agricultural education and FFA work in Oklahoma, and who have rendered outstanding service, may be elected to honorary membership by a majority vote of the members present at any chapter meeting. Honorary members shall not vote and rank the Chapter Degree. Delegates to any state convention may also confer the Honorary State FFA Degree to those individuals who have rendered outstanding service to promote the Oklahoma FFA Association.

#### **Article IV. Officers**

Section A. Officers in the State Association shall be elected annually at the State FFA Convention and shall hold the office for one year. All candidates for State Office must file for office by submitting a maximum two-page resume to the State FFA Executive Secretary by February 1 of each year. In the event that no candidates file for an office by February 1 preceding a State Convention, the FFA Executive Committee has the authority to declare the nominations open for such an office from those meeting the following eligibility requirements:

1. With exception of State President, State Officers must be elected annually from the list of members who are receiving the State FFA Degree at the current convention. (The State FFA President may or may not be elected from this group.)
2. No person who has ever held or is currently holding a State Office may run for any office except that of State President.
3. No person shall be elected twice to the same office.
4. An FFA member may file for only one office.

Section B. State officers of this association shall consist of a President, a Vice President from each Supervisory District, a Secretary, and a Reporter. In case the State President is unable to complete an elected term, the State Secretary shall complete the term of office of the State President, and the Reporter shall then serve out the term of the State Secretary. In case the elected State Reporter is unable to fulfill his/her term, the State Reporter position would be filled using the following guidelines in the order in which they appear:

1. Shall be opened to all eligible candidates that ran for a statewide office at the last State Convention and shall be chosen by the State Executive Committee.
2. Shall be opened to any member of the FFA whose name appears on the State FFA Degree list of the last annual State Convention, meets the requirements for State Office, and meets any special requirements as decided by the State Executive Committee. In the case that the office of State Reporter is not filled by the criteria above, the Office will remain vacant for that term and shall be filled at the next State Convention. In the case of a vacancy of a Vice President's office, the same guidelines shall be used, but eligible candidates will be restricted to the District in which the vacancy occurred.

The State Supervisor or Assistant State Supervisor shall assume the responsibility of State Advisor, and an Executive Secretary-Treasurer from the State Staff may also be named by the State Advisor. These officers shall comprise the State Executive Committee.

Section C. Election of Officers

1. Officers of the State Organization shall be elected by the delegates at the Annual State FFA Convention. Each state chapter shall be allowed two delegates at regular business sessions of the State Convention. One of these should be the President, but the second delegate may be any other chapter member. They will represent their local chapter in selecting State Officers, candidates to be advanced to the State FFA Degree, and all other official matters that come before the convention.
2. Officers of the local chapters may be elected at any regular meeting of the chapter after April 1 and may be installed prior to the close of school and shall hold office for one year. Officers shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, and Advisor. The agricultural education teacher shall serve as the advisor to the chapter.

## **Article V. Meetings**

- Section A. A meeting of the State Organization shall be held at the time of the Annual State FFA Convention. The purpose of the State Convention shall be to conduct the business of the State Organization and to recognize outstanding achievements of FFA members and chapters.
1. Delegation to the State Convention shall be determined in the following manner: Each state chapter, regardless of membership, shall be allowed two delegates.
  2. All official delegates, State FFA Degree Candidates, and award recipients shall wear the official dress on the floor of the State FFA Convention.
  3. Official dress for male members is black slacks or black, pleated jeans; white shirt; official FFA tie; black dress shoes or boots; black socks; and official jacket zipped to the top. Black slacks or pleated jeans noticeably worn or faded are not acceptable.
  4. Official dress for female members is a black skirt, white blouse, official FFA scarf, black dress shoes, and official jacket zipped to the top. The black skirt shall be no shorter than one inch above the knee.
- Section B. Local chapters shall hold a minimum of one meeting per month at such time and place as may be designated by their respective executive committees.
- Section C. There shall be a meeting of the State Executive Committee at least three times a year, at such time and place as the President and State Advisor shall designate. Necessary expenses for such meetings shall be paid from general FFA funds, unless otherwise provided.

## **Article VI. Dues**

- Section A. State dues shall be \$12 per member, payable annually to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the State Association. Dues for the first-semester students shall be paid not later than November 30 and for second-semester students not later than February 1 to retain eligibility. Seven dollars of the state dues will be for national dues. National dues, including the *FFA New Horizons* magazine and the official Oklahoma insert in the *FFA New Horizons* magazine, are included in the state dues.
- Section B. Dues of any local chapter shall be fixed by a majority vote of the membership.

## **Article VII. Amendments**

- Section A. Amendments to the State Constitution shall be submitted in writing at the State FFA Executive Secretary's office on or before February 2, preceding the Annual State Convention. Amendments may be adopted at the State Convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present, provided they are not in conflict with any part of the National Constitution.
- Section B. Bylaws may be adopted to fit the needs of any local chapter, provided that they do not conflict with the State Constitution, which is also declared to be the constitution of each chapter.

## **Article VIII. Emblem**

- Section A. The emblem of the National FFA Organization shall be made up of five symbols, namely: (1) the plow, representing tillage of the soil, the basis of modern agriculture; (2) the owl, representing wisdom; (3) the rising sun, representing progress; (4) a cross section of an ear of corn, representing common agricultural interests, since corn is native to America and is grown in every state; and (5) an American eagle surmounting the cross section of the ear of corn indicating the national scope of the organization. The emblem shall also carry the three letters FFA and the words Agricultural Education.
- Section B. Emblems shall be uniform in all chapters, and all members shall be entitled to wear the emblem of their respective ranks.

## Article IX. Membership Degrees and Privileges

Section A. There shall be five degrees of active membership based on individual achievement. These are the Discovery FFA Degree, Greenhand FFA Degree, Chapter FFA Degree, State FFA Degree, and the American FFA Degree. The National FFA Organization shall set the minimum qualifications for each degree. The Discovery FFA Degree is intended for use in state associations and local chapters where middle school membership is offered. Receipt of this degree is not necessary in order to obtain the Greenhand FFA Degree or subsequent degrees.

All Greenhands are entitled to wear the bronze emblem pin. All Chapter FFA Degree recipients are entitled to wear the silver emblem pin. All State FFA Degree recipients are entitled to wear the gold emblem charm. All American FFA Degree recipients are entitled to wear the gold emblem key.

Section B. Discovery FFA Degree: Minimum qualifications for election.

1. Be enrolled in agricultural education class while in the 8th grade.
2. Have become a dues-paying member of the FFA at local, state, and national levels.
3. Participate in at least one local FFA chapter activity outside of scheduled class time.
4. Have knowledge of agriculturally related careers and entrepreneurial opportunities.
5. Be familiar with the local FFA chapter program of activities and submit written applications for the degree. This degree need not be attained for a member to receive the Greenhand, Chapter, State, or American Degree.

Section C. Greenhand FFA Degree: Minimum qualifications for election.

1. Be regularly enrolled in a class in agricultural education and have satisfactory and acceptable plans for a supervised agricultural experience program.
2. Be familiar with the purposes of the FFA and the program of activities of the local chapter.
3. Recite from memory the Creed of the National FFA Organization and explain the FFA motto and salute.
4. Describe the FFA emblems, colors, and symbols.
5. Receive a majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting of the local FFA chapter.
6. Explain the proper use of the official FFA jacket.
7. Have satisfactory knowledge of the history of the organization.
8. Know the duties and responsibilities of FFA members.
9. Personally own or have access to the official FFA Manual or Students Handbook.
10. Submit a written application for the degree for the Chapter Records.

Section D. Chapter FFA Degree: Minimum qualifications for election.

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least 180 hours of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, have in operation an approved supervised agricultural experience program, and be enrolled in an agricultural education course.
3. Have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the chapter Program of Activities.
4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$150 by the member's own efforts and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural experience program.
5. Have effectively led a group discussion for 15 minutes.
6. Have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.
7. Show progress toward individual achievement in the FFA award programs.
8. Have a satisfactory scholastic record.
9. Have participated in at least 10 hours of community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.
10. Submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.
11. Receive a majority vote of the members present at a regular chapter meeting.

Section E. State FFA Degree: Minimum qualifications for election.

1. Must have held the Chapter FFA Degree for at least one year preceding election to the State FFA Degree, have been an active member of the FFA for at least two years, and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities of the local chapter.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed at least two years of instruction in agricultural education, have in operation an outstanding Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program, and be an active member of the local FFA Chapter.
3. Be familiar with the provisions of the Constitution of the State Association and National Organization.
4. Must have an SAE earning (net profit) of at least \$1,200 delivered from the supervised agricultural experience program during the period of time the student is in Agricultural Education. **(Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year: Must have an SAE earning (net profit) of at least \$2,000 delivered from the supervised agricultural experience program during the period of time the student is in Agricultural Education. If any part of the \$2,000 is derived from wage earning (placement), an official employer verification form is required.)**
5. Must have productively invested at least \$1,200 in an agricultural program (in either production agriculture, agribusiness, or a combination of both) on January 1 of the year the application is submitted. **(Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year: Must have productively invested at least \$2,000 in SAE assets, savings accounts or checking accounts on December 31 of the school year the application is submitted. If any part of the \$2,000 in assets is from savings or checking accounts, documentation is required from a financial institution that verifies the savings or checking accounts.)**
6. Must have a minimum equity (net worth) in agricultural investments of \$1,200. **(Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year: Must have a minimum equity (net worth) in agricultural investments of \$2,000.)**
7. Only FFA members who are graduating seniors in high school or out-of-school members are eligible to apply for the State FFA Degree.
8. Demonstrate leadership ability by:
  - a. Performing ten parliamentary procedure activities.
  - b. Giving a six-minute speech.
  - c. Serving as an officer, chairman, or active member of a major committee.
  - d. Participating in the planning and completion of the chapter program of activities.
  - e. Represent the local FFA chapter in a minimum of 20 different FFA activities above the chapter level. These 20 activities may include any combination from at least two of the following categories:
    - A maximum of 10 fair and livestock show activities above the chapter level.
    - A maximum of 10 career development event activities above the chapter level.
    - A maximum of 10 leadership camps, conferences and conventions above the chapter level.
    - A maximum of 10 speech contests and/or proficiency award applications submitted above the chapter level.]
    - f. Having a satisfactory record of 2.0 (C) overall average with a 3.0 (B) average in agricultural courses on the 4.0 (A); 3.0 (B); 2.0 (C); 1.0 (D) basis.
9. Must have at least three letters of recommendation from local citizens covering character, agricultural experience program, leadership, and cooperation in chapter and community activities; one of these letters must be from either the superintendent or principal.
10. Written records of achievement certified by the local advisor shall be submitted to the State Advisor by the local chapter's governing body by February 1 prior to the State Convention. The State Advisor will then review the records and submit his recommendations to the State Executive Committee of the State Association. This body will nominate at the regular State Convention the candidates who have been found most worthy to receive the honor. The State FFA Degree will be awarded to the candidates upon approval by the delegates.
11. No candidate will be elected to the State FFA Degree if the application contains more than ten errors. The application must be typewritten or filled out in ink.

12. All candidates applying for the State FFA Degree shall submit either an Official FFA Scrapbook or an Official FFA Portfolio. Specific guidelines for preparation of a scrapbook and portfolio are to be provided by the state FFA office. Scrapbooks and portfolios will be evaluated by a committee of three to five agricultural education teachers at each Professional Improvement Meeting and will receive a pass or fail rating. A pass rating is required to receive the State FFA Degree.
13. Must have participated in at least 25 hours within at least **two** different community service activities. (15 more than the Chapter FFA Degree.)
14. All candidates making application for the State FFA Degree with an Agricultural Placement (wage-earning) supervised agricultural experience program must meet the following requirements:
  - a. The applicant must have a total wage-earning income of at least \$5,000 derived from the supervised agricultural experience program during the period of time the student is enrolled in Agricultural Education.
  - b. The applicant must submit official documentation from a financial institution that verifies the student has a savings or investment account that has had an increase in investment of \$1,200 derived from the Agricultural Placement supervised agricultural experience program from the period of time the student enters Agricultural Education until the time the student makes application for the State FFA Degree.
  - c. The applicant must submit a completed form provided by the state FFA office entitled "Agricultural Placement Employer Verification and Check Sheet."

**(Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, all of item 14. will be deleted.)**

Section F. American FFA Degree: Minimum qualifications for election.

1. Have received the State FFA Degree, have been an active member for the past three years (36 months) and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities on the chapter and state levels.
2. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least three years (540 hours) of systematic secondary school instruction in an agricultural education program or have completed at least the equivalent of 360 hours of systematic secondary school instruction in agricultural education and one full year of enrollment in a postsecondary agricultural program or have completed the program of agricultural education offered in the secondary school last attended.
3. Have graduated from high school at least 12 months prior to the national convention at which the degree is to be granted.
4. Have in operation and have maintained records to substantiate an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program through which a member has exhibited comprehensive planning, managerial and financial expertise.
5. Have earned and productively invested at least \$7,500.
6. Have a record of outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement and have achieved a high school scholastic record of "C" or better as certified by the principal or superintendent.
7. Have participated in at least 50 hours of community service, within at least three different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.

*The following amendment will replace Section F, item 5 effective January 1, 2015. Those members applying for their American Degree after January 1, 2015, must meet this requirement.*

5. *A student after entering agricultural education must have earned at least \$10,000 and productively invested at least \$7,500.*

**Article X. Compliance with National Constitution**

Section A. No part or provision of this constitution shall be in conflict with any part or provision of the National Constitution, as adopted or amended by qualified delegates in any official National Convention.

**Article XI. Citations**

Section A. Citations - Plaques, certificates, trophies, and other special awards may be presented to those individuals who are doing outstanding work in helping to advance the FFA. These awards may be made on the local and state levels.

**Article XII. Parliamentary Procedure**

Section A. All local, district, and state meetings and activities, where parliamentary procedure is involved, of the Future Farmers of America, Oklahoma Association, shall be governed by *Robert's Rules of Order*.

**Article XIII. Parliamentarian**

Section A. Position of Parliamentarian for State and District meetings and activities defined in Article XII shall be appointed by each duly elected District Vice President. State and District Parliamentarians shall serve a period of not more than one year.