

Constitution and By-laws of Tennessee Association Future Farmers of America

Revised at the 80th State Convention, 2008

Constitution

Article I. Name and Purpose

Section A. The name of the Association shall be “The Tennessee Association of the Future Farmers of America and/or FFA.” The association shall hereinafter be referred to as “The Future Farmers of America” or “The Tennessee Association FFA.”

Section B. The purposes for which this Association was formed are as follows:

1. To promote agriculture education in the high schools of Tennessee
2. To create more interest in intelligent agricultural pursuits in the various counties of the state
3. To create a love of country life
4. To provide recreation and educational entertainment for students in agriculture education
5. To promote thrift
6. To afford a medium for cooperative marketing and buying.
7. To establish the confidence of the agriculture education student in him/herself and his/her work
8. To promote scholarship and rural leadership
9. To foster an appreciative attitude toward cooperative through participation in its work

Article II. Organization

The constitution and by-laws of the National Organization of Future Farmers of America are used by the Tennessee Association FFA as its own.

Section A. The Tennessee Association FFA is a state association with local chapters in schools having organized instruction in agriculture education.

Section B. FFA Chapters shall not be organized in schools where organized instruction in agriculture education is not given.

Section C. Students of agriculture education shall meet, organize, and adopt this constitution as their own, elect officers, set up a program of work, and then apply to the State Advisor for membership in the state association. The chapters and members may then be known as Future Farmers of America/FFA.

Section D. Each chapter shall consider itself a unit in the State Association. It shall use the State Constitution and By-laws as its own and have a like number of officers and committees performing the same duties for the chapter that state officers and committees perform for the State Association, except that there shall only be one Vice President and no Executive Secretary in the local chapters. Other committees may be created by chapters to meet their varying activities (i.e., Committee on Marketing, Banquet Committee, Program Committee, etc.).

Article III. Membership

Section A. Membership in this Association shall be four kinds:

1. Active
2. Alumni
3. Collegiate
4. Honorary

Section B. Any student regularly enrolled in agriculture education is entitled to become an active member upon receiving a majority vote of the members present at any chapter meeting. A member may retain his/her active membership until November 30 following the fourth National Convention after graduating from high school. No individual member may retain active membership beyond their twenty-third birthday (refer to National Constitution).

Section C. Alumni Membership

Following the termination of active membership status, a former member becomes eligible for alumni membership, as well as others who are interested in supporting the FFA.

Section D. Collegiate Membership

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

Section E. Honorary Membership

1. Instructors, school principals, superintendents, businessmen, and others who are helping to promote agriculture education and the FFA may be elected to honorary membership by a majority vote of the

members present at any meeting. Honorary members shall not vote, nor shall they hold any office except that of “advisor”.

2. Honorary State FFA Degrees elected by any annual convention shall not exceed 10 percent of the active State FFA Degrees elected.

Section F. There shall be five degrees of active membership based on achievement.

These are: 1. Discovery 2. Greenhand 3. Chapter FFA Degree 4. State FFA Degree 5. American FFA Degree.

1. Discovery FFA Degree - To be eligible to receive the Discovery FFA Degree from a chapter, the member must meet the following minimum requirements:

- a. Be enrolled in agricultural education class for at least a portion of the school year while in grades 7-8.
- b. Have become a dues paying member of the FFA at local, state and national levels.
- c. Participate in at least one local FFA chapter activity outside of scheduled class time.
- d. Have knowledge of agriculturally related career, ownership and entrepreneurial opportunities.
- e. Be familiar with the local FFA chapter program of activities.
- f. Submit written applications for the degree.

2. Greenhand Degree

- a. Must be regularly enrolled in agriculture education class and have satisfactory and acceptable plans for a program of

supervised farming and/or other agricultural experience program.

- b. Learn and explain the FFA Creed, Motto, and Salute.
- c. Describe the FFA emblem, colors, and symbols.
- d. Explain the proper use of the FFA jacket.
- e. Have a satisfactory knowledge of the history of the organization.
- f. Know the duties and responsibilities of FFA members.
- g. Personally own or have access to an official FFA manual.
- h. Submit written application for the degree.

3. Chapter FFA Degree

- a. Must have received the Greenhand Degree and have a satisfactory record of participation in the activities of the local chapter.
- b. Must have satisfactorily completed at least one semester of instruction in agriculture education, have in operation an improved supervised farming and/or other agriculture experience program and be regularly enrolled in an agriculture education class.
- c. Must be familiar with the constitution, purposes, and programs of activities of the chapter, state and national organizations.
- d. Have satisfactorily completed three official functions in the chapter program of activities.

- e. Demonstrate five parliamentary procedure abilities.
 - f. Be able to lead a group discussion for fifteen minutes.
 - g. Must have earned at least \$150 by his/her own efforts from his/her supervised farming and/or other agricultural experience program and have it productively invested or work 180 hours in the case of directed laboratory experience in agriculture and/or agribusiness.
 - h. Demonstrate progress toward achievement of an agricultural proficiency award on a local level.
 - i. Have a satisfactory scholastic record in an agriculture course.
 - j. Submit application for the degree.
4. State FFA Degree
- a. Must have received the Chapter FFA Degree, have been an active member of the FFA for at least two years (24 months) and have a record of satisfactory participation in activities of the local chapter.
 - b. Must have satisfactorily completed at least two years of instruction or 360 hours in agriculture education, have in operation an outstanding supervised farming and/or other agriculture program, and be regularly enrolled in agriculture education classes, or if out of high school, have satisfactorily completed at least three years of instruction of 525 hours in agriculture education offered in school last attended. Students

who are enrolled in high school and having completed three years or 525 hours of instruction in agriculture education are eligible to receive the State FFA Degree.

- c. Be familiar with the provisions of the Constitution of the State Association and National Organization.
- d. Perform ten parliamentary procedure activities.
- e. Be able to give a five-minute speech.
- f. Must have earned at least \$1000 by his/her supervised farming or other agriculture experience program and have it productively invested or have worked (other than scheduled class time) at least 300 hours in the case of directed laboratory experience programs or a combination thereof.
- g. Show outstanding ability as evidenced by his/her leadership and cooperation in student, chapter, and community affairs, demonstrated competency in an agriculture occupation, and have a satisfactory scholarship record certified by the local school superintendent or principal.
- h. Must have participated in five FFA activities above the chapter level
- i. Must have served as a chapter officer, and/or committee chairman, or participating member or a major committee.

- j. The number elected each year to receive the State FFA Degree shall not exceed 2.5 percent of the active members of the association

Article IV. Emblem

Section A. The emblem of the Future Farmers Of America shall be the official emblem for the Tennessee State Association and the local chapters of the association. The description of the emblem and symbolic meaning of its parts are found in Article VIII, Section A of the National Constitution and By-Laws.

Article V. Officers

Section A. The officers of the State Association shall be a President, three Vice-Presidents (one from each grand division of the state), Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, and Advisor. The Advisor shall be the State Supervisor of Agriculture Education

Section B. Chapter Officers

1. Officers of local chapters are limited to members who have received the Chapter FFA Degree or above after the chapter has been established in any given school for one year.
2. Local chapters are encourage to elect officers annually prior to the State convention and in no case be elected later than the first week in October and shall hold office for one year.

Section C. State Officer Election

1. A nominating committee composed of members appointed by the Board of Directors shall interview all eligible state officer candidates.
2. The nominating committee shall place in nomination a candidate for each office as listed in Article V, Section A.
3. FFA members who have completed all the requirements for state officer as outlined in Article V, Section C, may be nominated by any official delegate.
4. When more than one member is nominated for the same office, the following questions shall be asked each candidate before the delegates:
 - a. What have you done for the FFA?
 - b. Why do you want to be a state officer?
5. The officers of the State Association shall be elected at the regular annual convention of the association by a majority vote cast by the delegate present and voting.

Section D. The Board of State Officers shall consist of the officers of the Association.

This committee shall perform the usual duties of an executive committee- review receipts and disbursements, conducts business of the organization between conventions, and be responsible for the welfare of the association.

Section E. Governing Body

1. The governing body of the State Association which shall exercise the powers granted to the State Association FFA in Public Law 740 shall be a Board of Directors composed of:

- a. The state FFA advisor who shall act as chairman
 - b. Three State Department of Education staff members- one from each grand division appointed by the State Advisor.
 - c. Six teachers of agriculture education authorized to serve on the Board of Directors shall be elected (two from each of the grand divisions of the state) by the agriculture education teachers of the respective divisions annually. A teacher may serve for only two consecutive years.
 - d. A representative of each Tennessee Agricultural Education Institution.
 - e. The current Tennessee Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association President or representative.
 - f. The current State FFA President
 - g. The current State FFA Alumni President or representative
 - h. One representative of the Tennessee FFA Foundation
2. At least one meeting a year should be held at least one month prior to the convention to assist in planning the convention and the business of the Association.
 3. Other meetings may be called at the discretion of the State Advisor.

Article VI. Meetings and Conventions

Section A.

1. A convention of the State Association shall be held annually; time and place to be determined by the governing body.

2. Each local chapter of the FFA, in good standing in the State Association, shall be entitled to two voting delegates who shall represent their local chapter in balloting for officers, and other matters requiring vote.

Section B. Local Chapters shall hold their meetings monthly, or more often, and at such times as may be decided by the Executive Committees of the local chapter.

Section C. The State Association FFA Officers will serve as official voting delegates at the National Convention. Additional delegates will be based on the state's membership percentage, and the Board of State Officers of the Association shall select delegates to serve in their stead.

Section D. Any chapter that does not pay its state dues by December 1 will be suspended until all dues appear and a \$50 penalty is paid to the State Association treasury. Members joining and paying dues after December 1 are not included in this penalty. Second semester dues are due by February 15.

Article VIII. Amendments

Section A. Amendments to the state constitution and by-laws shall be submitted in writing thirty days prior to the annual convention of the State Association. The proposed amendment will be read before the convention assembly and held until the next annual convention when it may be adopted by two-thirds affirmative vote of the delegates present.

Section B. By-laws may be adopted by a local chapter to fit their needs providing they do not conflict with the State Constitution which is also the constitution of each chapter.