

**Wyoming FFA Association.**  
**Official Constitution**  
*(As amended September 2012)*

**Article I. Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Wyoming FFA Association. Members are herein after referred to as the "FFA". The letters "FFA" may be officially used to designate the organization, its chapters or members thereof.

**Article II. Objectives of the Organization**

The purposes for which this Association is formed are as follows:

1. To develop competent and aggressive agricultural leadership.
2. To create and nurture a love of rural and urban life.
3. To strengthen the confidence of young people in themselves and their work.
4. To create more interest in the intelligent choice of agricultural programs and establishments in agriculture.
5. To encourage members in the development of individual agricultural programs and establishments in agriculture.
6. To encourage members to improve the 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 encourage and practice thrift.
10. To participate in cooperative effort.
11. To encourage improvement in scholarship.
12. To provide and encourage the development of organized recreational activities.

**Article III. Organization**

**Section A**

The Wyoming FFA Association, Inc. is a State Association of affiliated local chapters in schools having organized instruction in agriculture education under the provisions of National Acts.

**Section B**

Collegiate chapters may be established in two or four year institutions where agriculture courses are taught. Membership shall be opened to students enrolled in agricultural courses, or who are pursuing career objectives in the industry of agriculture.

Each collegiate chapter shall be chartered by and maintained under the authority of the Wyoming FFA Association, Inc.

All activities of the collegiate chapter of FFA shall be in harmony with the purpose, 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.

### **Section C**

Members of local chapters shall meet, organize, and adopt a constitution not to conflict with State or National Constitutions, elect officers, pay State and National dues, set up a Program of Activities and then apply to the State Advisor for membership in the State Association. After this application has been approved by the Board of Directors the members of the local chapter may then be known as Future Farmers of America, or FFA members.

### **Section D**

Local FFA chapters shall be organized only in schools where systematic instruction in agriculture education is given under the provisions of National Acts.

More than one chapter may be chartered in a school where deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

## **Article IV. Procedures for Determining Standing of State Associations and Chapters**

### **Section A**

A chapter shall be in good standing with the state association when the following conditions are met:

1. All annual, state and national dues have been paid by the date determined by the state association.
2. All reports have been submitted as requested by the state association.
3. Provisions of the chapter constitution do not conflict with the State or National FFA Constitutions and chapter activities are in harmony with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization.

The Wyoming FFA Board of Directors of the state association shall have the power to suspend the charter of any chapter which violates the state or National FFA Constitution and Bylaws. A report on all suspensions shall be presented to the delegates at the next succeeding state convention. In the event a chapter is not in good standing with the state association at the time of the opening of a state convention, the delegates in session at that state convention shall have the power, upon recommendation of the state association governing body, to withdraw the charter and refuse such chapter official representation at the state convention. When such action is taken, the chapter in question and members thereof shall be denied the privileges of membership in the state association. Upon meeting the requirements for good standing, a chapter may be reinstated by action of the state association governing body.

In the event a local department of agricultural education is discontinued, its chartered FFA chapter may officially operate for a period not to exceed three years (36 months) from the date of discontinuance, provided proper supervision is given by a person having the approval of the local school administrator and the state FFA advisor. The chapter's charter must be surrendered to the state advisor at the end of the three-year period if a local department of agricultural education is not in operation in the school at that time.

## **Article V. Membership**

### **Section A**

Membership in the Wyoming FFA Association, Inc. shall be of four kinds: active, alumni, collegiate and honorary.

### **Section B**

Active Membership –

To be eligible for active membership in a chartered FFA chapter, a student must be enrolled in a secondary agricultural education program. Wyoming FFA Association, Inc. considers “secondary agricultural education programs” to be grades seven-12. To become an active member and retain membership, a student must:

1. While in school, be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study; either course must include a supervised agricultural experience program, the objective of which is preparation for an agricultural career.
2. Show an interest in the affairs of the organization by attending meetings, striving for degrees of membership and participating in other organized activities of the chapter.
3. Pay all current state and national dues by the date determined by the chapter.
4. Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the Wyoming FFA Association, Inc.

A member may retain active membership until November 30, following the fourth National FFA Convention after graduation from high school.

A member in good standing at the time of induction into the armed forces of the United States of America or into the FFA international program shall be in good standing during the period of active service without further payment of dues or attendance at meetings. Time spent in the armed forces or FFA international program shall not be considered as elapsed time in determining the maximum period of four conventions following graduation from high school or leaving high school. Members using this waiver of service time for the purpose of maintaining active membership for application for advanced degrees of membership must resume active participation within six months after having been honorably discharged from military service or completing their FFA international program and indicate such a desire by paying dues and attending meetings.

Members participating in a six-month armed services program or participating in the FFA international program for six months shall be eligible for one full year of extended membership. No individual may retain active membership beyond his or her 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

### **Section C**

Alumni Membership –

Membership shall be open to former active members, collegiate and honorary members, present and former professional agricultural educators, parents of FFA members and others interested in and supportive of FFA.

## **Section D**

Collegiate Membership –

Collegiate membership shall be open to students who are enrolled in agricultural courses or who are pursuing career objectives in the industry of agriculture or have an interest in the future welfare of the industry of agriculture at a two- or four-year postsecondary institution having a collegiate FFA chapter.

## **Section E**

Honorary Membership –

Farmers, school superintendents, principals, members of boards of education, chapter advisors, teachers, staff members in agricultural education, business people and others who are helping to advance agricultural education and FFA and who have rendered outstanding service, may be elected to honorary membership by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting or convention. Honorary membership shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree in the local chapter, and the Honorary State FFA Degree in the state association.

## **Article VI. Degrees and Privileges of Active Membership**

### **Section A**

There shall be five degrees of active membership based on individual achievement. These are the Discovery FFA Degree, Greenhand FFA Degree, the Chapter FFA Degree, the State FFA Degree, and the American FFA Degree. The national 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.

### **Section B**

Discovery FFA Degree –

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

1. Be enrolled in agricultural education class for at least a portion of the school year while in grades seventh - eighth.
2. Have become a dues paying member of 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 career, ownership and entrepreneurial opportunities.
5. Be familiar with the local FFA chapter program of activities.  
Submit written application for the degree.

### **Section C**

Greenhand FFA Degree –

To be eligible to receive the Greenhand FFA Degree from the chapter, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Be enrolled in agricultural education and have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience program.
2. Learn and explain the FFA Creed, motto, salute and FFA Mission Statement.
3. Describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and colors.
4. Demonstrate a knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics and the proper use of the FFA jacket.
5. Demonstrate a knowledge of the history of the organization, the chapter constitution and bylaws and the chapter Program of Activities.
6. Personally own or have access to the Official FFA Manual and the FFA Student Handbook.
7. Submit written application for the Greenhand FFA Degree.

## **Section D**

Chapter FFA Degree –

To be eligible to receive the Chapter FFA Degree from the chapter, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

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 or worked at least 45 hours in excess of scheduled class time or a combination thereof and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural experience program.

**The following amendment will replace Section D item 4 effective January 1, 2015**

4. **A student after entering agricultural education must have:**
  - a. **earned and productively invested at least \$150 by the member's own efforts;**
  - or**
  - b. **worked at least 45 hours in excess of scheduled class time; or**
  - c. **a combination thereof 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 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. Other requirements may be established by the chapter and/or the state FFA association.

## **Section E**

State FFA Degree –

To be eligible to receive the State FFA Degree from the state association, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Have received the Chapter FFA Degree.
2. Have been an active FFA member for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree.
3. While in school, have completed the equivalent of at least two years (360 hours) of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program.
4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$4000 through personal efforts from supervised farming and/or other agricultural experience programs, or have worked (other than class schedule time) at least 2,000 hours in the case of directed laboratory experience program, or a combination thereof. Hours used for the purpose of producing earnings reported as productively invested income shall not be duplicated as hours of credit to meet the minimum requirements for the degree.
5. Demonstrate leadership ability by:
  - a. Performing 10 procedures of parliamentary law.
  - b. Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or FFA.
  - c. Serving as an officer, committee chairperson or participating member of a chapter committee.
6. Have a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the local agricultural education instructor and the principal or superintendent.
7. Have participated in the planning and completion of the chapter Program of Activities.
8. Have participated in at least five different FFA activities above the chapter level.
9. Have participated in at least 25 hours of community service, within at least two different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.
10. Student candidates for the State FFA Degree will be required to submit \$51 if dues are paid their senior year or \$37.50 if paid the following fall to secure three years of active FFA membership which will commence the year after they graduate from high school. The membership package shall include State and National dues for the three year period.
11. Any member of the Wyoming FFA Association, Inc. that meets the minimum requirements for the State FFA Degree **and** their advisor verifies their application and project **and** the member receives a satisfactory evaluation from the State Officers visiting the project then those members shall receive their State FFA Degree upon approval by the delegates of the State Convention.

## **Section F**

American FFA Degree –

To be eligible to receive the American FFA Degree from the National FFA Organization, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

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 to 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 or have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time. Any combination of hours times a factor of 3.33 plus dollars must be equal to or greater than the number 9,000. Hours used for the purpose of producing earnings reported as productively invested income shall not be duplicated as hours of credit to meet the minimum requirements for the degree.

**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: a. earned at least \$10,000 and productively invested at least \$7,500; or**

**b. earned and productively invested \$2,000 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time. Any combination of hours, times a factor of 3.56, plus actual dollars earned and productively invested must be equal to or greater than the number 10,000. Hours used for the purpose of producing earnings reported as productively invested income shall not be duplicated as hours of credit to meet the minimum requirements for the degree.**

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.

## **Article VII. Procedure for Selecting American FFA Degree Recipients, Star Candidates, and National Officer Candidate from Wyoming**

### **Section A**

All American FFA Degree applicants from the Wyoming FFA Association meeting the minimum requirements and having their project verified by their chapter advisor and one additional advisor, shall submit their completed applications to the Wyoming FFA State Advisor. All completed and verified American FFA Degree applications shall be submitted to the National FFA Organization.

### **Section B**

The selection of the National Officer Candidate, the Star Farmer Candidate and Star Agribusiness Candidate shall be made by a six member committee as follows:

- a. One representative from each FFA region in the State of Wyoming making a total of five representatives.
  - i. Each of the above representative committee members must hold the State FFA Degree, or knowledge of the State FFA Degree.
  - ii. Must have taught at least three years.
- b. Shall have one member selected at large. This representative shall:
  - i. hold the State FFA Degree
  - ii. be an active FFA member
  - iii. not be a present state officer

Selection of the National Officer candidate will be made after the list of American FFA Degree recipients has been finalized.

Each candidate shall be interviewed by the committee during the selection process.

- a. The interview will be based on a format developed by the selection committee.
- b. This score will help candidate designation.

## **ARTICLE VIII OFFICERS**

### **Section A**

The officers of the Wyoming FFA Association, Inc. shall be: president, vice president, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president, 3<sup>rd</sup> vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, sentinel, and parliamentarian. The elected officers shall constitute the board of student officers.

The state FFA advisor will be hired by the Wyoming Department of Education. An executive secretary, executive treasurer, executive secretary-treasurer and/or other state FFA officials may be named by the state advisor subject to approval by the Board of Directors. All state FFA officers shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the delegates present at any regular convention of the state association.

These officers shall be elected annually from the successful candidates for State FFA Degree during the conference their degree was conferred and the next annual conference following. No more than two officers may be nominated from a chapter each year and the officer must attend school in the State of Wyoming. They shall be elected by a majority vote of the delegates present at a regular State Convention of FFA. The officers shall perform the usual duties of the respective offices. Each local chapter shall be entitled to two delegates in the State Convention, who shall represent the local chapter in transacting the business of the convention. The State Director of Agricultural Education shall be the State Advisor of the Wyoming FFA Association, Inc. No State Officer shall be eligible for more than one term of office. In case of vacancies in the state officers' positions, it shall be the duty of the State Advisor to appoint officers to fill these positions or leave them vacant.

### **Section B**



Wyoming State FFA officers will participate at local chapter functions if requested by the local chapters. The local chapters will pay the officers expenses to these functions.

## **Article IX. Emblem**

### **Section A**

The official emblem of the National FFA Organization shall include five symbols, namely: the plow, representing labor and tillage of the soil; the owl, representing wisdom; the rising sun, representing progress; a cross-section of an ear of corn, representing common agricultural interests; and an American eagle surmounting the cross-section of the ear of corn, representing the national scope of the organization. The emblem shall also include the letters “FFA” and the words “Agricultural Education.”

### **Section B**

The emblem shall be uniform in all state associations and recognized units thereof. All members shall be entitled to display the emblem.

### **Section C**

Greenhand FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official bronze emblem pin; Chapter FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official silver emblem pin; State FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem charm; and American FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem key.

### **Section D**

Honorary Chapter FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear either the official silver or gold emblem pin; Honorary State FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem charm; and Honorary American FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem key.

### **Section E**

Collegiate FFA chapter members and FFA advisors shall be entitled to wear the official gold owl pin.

## **Article X. Meetings and Conventions**

### **Section A**

Except in case of an extreme emergency declared by the Board of Directors, a convention of the Wyoming FFA Association, Inc. shall be held annually. The purpose of the state convention shall be to conduct the business of the state association and to recognize outstanding achievements of FFA members and chapters. The State FFA Convention will be held annually and at least 45 days prior to the meeting of the National Convention of FFA, at such time and place as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

### **Section B**

Fifty-one percent of active chapters present at the state convention shall constitute a quorum.

## **Article XI. Committees**

The State FFA Advisor shall appoint three regular committees annually: the Nominating Committee, which shall place in nomination the candidates for the state officers; the Auditing Committee, which shall review the financial accounts; the Constitution committee, which shall review the state Constitution and Bylaws.

## **Article XII. Wyoming FFA Board of Directors**

### **Section A**

#### Governing Body

1. The governing body of the organization shall be the Wyoming FFA Board of Directors, which shall consist of: the state FFA advisor, who shall serve as chairperson; five agricultural education teachers; one state officer; and one university, community college or business/industry leader.
2. Additional state staff (executive secretary, executive treasurer) shall serve as ex-officio members of the Wyoming FFA Board of Directors.
3. The terms of office of members of the Wyoming FFA Board of Directors and the method of selection of such members, other than the ex-officio members, shall be prescribed in the bylaws.
4. The Wyoming FFA Board of Directors shall meet quarterly at such time and place as may be prescribed by the board.

## **Article XIII. Dues**

### **Section A**

Membership dues in the State Association shall be fixed by the Board of Directors subject to approval by a majority vote of the delegates present at the State Convention of FFA. In the event the annual state convention is not held and/or the official delegates fail to set dues, the annual membership dues of the state association will remain the same as the previous year. The Board of Directors shall submit its recommendation concerning dues to each chapter at least 45 days prior to the State FFA Convention.

### **Section B**

Dues will include national and state dues, FFA New Horizon subscription and other assessments approved by the delegate body at state convention. Ten percent will be added to the amount of dues submitted after January 1.

### **Section C**

The dues of any local chapter shall be fixed by a majority vote of the membership of that chapter.

### **Section D**

The membership year of the National FFA Organization shall be from September 1 to August 31.

## **Article XIV. Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall

govern the National FFA Organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution and bylaws, any special rules of order the National FFA Organization may adopt and any statutes applicable to this organization that do not authorize the provisions of this constitution and bylaws to take precedence.

## **Article XV. Amendments**

### **Section A**

Proposed amendments to the Wyoming FFA Constitution and Bylaws may be submitted by a chapter who is in good standing. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the state association by January 1 for review by the Board of Directors. All proposed amendments to the state association Constitution and Bylaws must be submitted by the state advisor to the local chapters by March 1. The state officers shall present their recommendations concerning each amendment to the delegates at the state convention.

### **Section B**

An amendment to the Wyoming FFA Association Constitution may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the official delegates at the State FFA convention. An amendment to the bylaws shall require a majority vote of the official delegates at the State FFA Convention.

### **Section C**

Amendments to the bylaws must not conflict with the National FFA Constitution.

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