



FFA Creed

By E. M. Tiffany

I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words, but of deeds--achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.

I believe that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.

I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of progressive agriculturists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil.

I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so-- for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.

I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence on my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.

The creed was adopted at the 3rd National Convention of the FFA (1930). It was revised at the 38th (1965) National FFA Convention and the 63rd (1990) National FFA Convention.

FFA Colors:

As the blue field of our nation's flag and the golden crops of ripened corn unify our country, the FFA colors of national blue and corn gold give unity to the organization.

FFA Motto:

Learning to Do,
Doing to Learn,
Earning to Live,
Living to Serve.

FFA Emblem:

- The **cross section of the ear of corn** serves as the emblem's foundation just as corn has historically served as a foundation crop in American agriculture. Corn is also a symbol of unity because it is native to America and is grown in every state.
- The **rising sun** appears in the center of the emblem and symbolizes progress in agriculture and the confidence FFA members have in the future.
- The **plow** is the symbol of "Labor and Tillage of the Soil."
- The **owl** represents knowledge and wisdom.
- The **eagle** is perched on top of the emblem, and serves as a reminder of our freedom and ability to explore new horizons for the future of agriculture
- The words "**Agricultural Education**" surrounding the letters "**FFA**" indicate that FFA is an important part of the agricultural education program.

FFA Salute:

The Pledge of Allegiance is the official FFA salute, and is an integral part of each meeting's closing ceremony. To properly conduct the salute, face the United States flag, place the right hand over the heart, and repeat the pledge. (Please note: there is no comma between "nation" and "under," so there is no pause.)

FFA Purpose:

"To practice brotherhood, honor agricultural opportunities and responsibilities, and develop those qualities of leadership, which an FFA member should possess."

FFA Mission:

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

FFA Vision:

Students whose lives are impacted by FFA and agricultural education will achieve academic and personal growth, strengthen American agriculture and provide leadership to build healthy local communities, a strong nation and a sustainable world.

FFA Code of Ethics:

1. Develop my potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.
2. Make a positive difference in the lives of others.
3. Dress neatly and appropriately for the occasion.
4. Respect the rights of others and their property.
5. Be courteous, honest and fair with others.
6. Communicate in an appropriate, purposeful and positive manner.
7. Demonstrate good sportsmanship by being modest in winning and generous in defeat.
8. Make myself aware of FFA programs and activities and be an active participant.
9. Conduct and value a supervised agricultural experience program.
10. Strive to establish and enhance my skills through agricultural education in order to enter a successful career.
11. Appreciate and promote diversity in our organization.

Southeastern FFA Constitution and By-Laws

Article I – Name, Mission, and Strategies

Section A. The name of this organization shall be the Southeastern Chapter of the National FFA Organization. Members are herein referred to as “FFA,” and the letters “FFA” may be used to designate this chapter, its activities, or members thereof.

Section B. The mission and strategies for this chapter are as follows:

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for *premier leadership, personal growth, and career success* through agricultural education.

1. Develop competent and assertive agricultural leaders
2. Increase awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being.
3. Strengthen the confidence of students in themselves and their work.

4. Promote intelligent choice and understanding of agricultural careers.
5. Encourage achievement in Supervised Agricultural Experience programs.
6. Encourage wise management of economic, environmental, and human resources of the community.
7. Develop interpersonal skills in teamwork, communication, human relations, and social interaction.
8. Build character and promote citizenship, volunteerism, and patriotism.
9. Promote cooperation and cooperative attitudes among all people.
10. Promote healthy lifestyles.
11. Encourage excellence in scholarship.
12. Encourage improvement of home and community.

Article II – Organization

- Section A. The Southeastern Chapter of the FFA is a chartered local unit of the Ohio FFA Association which is a chartered unit of the National FFA Organization.
- Section B. This chapter accepts in full the provisions in the constitution and by-laws of the Ohio Association of the FFA as well as those of the National FFA Organization.

Article III – Membership

- Section A. Membership in this chapter shall be of three kinds: 1) Active, 2) Alumni, and 3) Honorary, as defined by the National FFA Constitution.
- Section B. The regular activities of this chapter shall be carried on by the active membership.
- Section C. Honorary membership shall be limited to the Honorary FFA Degree.
- Section D. Active members in good standing may vote on all business brought before the chapter. An active member shall be considered in good standing when:
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 option must

- include a Supervised Agricultural Experience program, the objective of which is preparation for a possible career in agriculture.
2. Show an interest in the affairs of the organization by attending meetings, striving for degrees of membership, and participating in organized activities of the chapter.
 3. Pay all current local, state and national dues.
 4. Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization.
 5. Have read, agreed to, and signed the terms of the FFA Code of Conduct, and will abide by the FFA Code of Conduct.
 6. A member is not absent for two consecutive meetings without an excused, written notice by 12:00pm the day of the meeting and/or event to the chapter advisor(s) or will not be considered in good standing and will not be permitted to participate in out-of-class FFA activities until their next attended meeting. Excused absences may include family emergencies, sports (school-affiliated games only), absence from school, or medical appointments; they do NOT include sports practices, failure to obtain rides home, or failure to schedule off of work.

Article IV – Emblems

- Section A. The emblem of the FFA shall be the emblem for the chapter.
- Section B. Emblems used by the members shall be designated by the National FFA Organization.

Article V – Degrees and Privileges of Active Membership

- Section A. There shall be five degrees of active membership based on individual achievement. These degrees are: 1) Discovery FFA Degree, 2) Greenhand FFA Degree, 3) Chapter FFA Degree, 4) State FFA Degree, 5) American FFA Degree. Degrees are earned by the requirements listed in Article V, Sections B-F.
- Section B. Discovery FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:
1. Be enrolled in an agriculture class for at least a portion of the school year while in grades seventh – eighth.
 2. Is a current dues-paying member of FFA at local, state and national levels.

3. Participate in at least one FFA chapter activity outside of scheduled class time.
4. Have knowledge of agricultural-related careers, ownership and entrepreneurial opportunities.
5. Be familiar with the local FFA chapter's Program of Activities.
6. Submit a written application for the degree.

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

1. Be enrolled in an agricultural education course and have satisfactory plans for a Supervised Agricultural Experience program.
2. Is a current dues-paying member of FFA at local, state and national levels.
3. Learn, recite, and explain the meaning of the FFA Creed, Motto, and Salute.
4. Describe the meaning of the FFA emblem and colors.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics
6. Understand the proper use of all components of the FFA official dress.
7. Demonstrate a knowledge of the history of the organization, the chapter constitution and by-laws, and the chapter Program of Activities.
8. Have access to the Official FFA Manual and the FFA Student Handbook.
9. Submit a written application for the Greenhand FFA Degree.

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

1. Must have 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. Is a current dues-paying member of FFA at local, state and national levels.
4. Must have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the chapter Program of Activities.
5. Must actively participate on at least one standing chapter committee.
6. Must have earned and productively invested at least \$150.00 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.

7. Must have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.
8. Must show progress toward individual achievement in the FFA award programs.
9. Must have a C average in current agricultural course and a 2.0 overall GPA.
10. Must have completed at least 10 hours of community service activities.
11. Must submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.

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

Qualifications for the State FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the Ohio FFA Association and the National FFA Organization, which can be accessed via the Ohio FFA and National FFA websites.

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

Qualifications for the American FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the National FFA Organization, which can be accessed via the Ohio FFA and National FFA websites.

Article VI – Chapter Officers

Section A. The offices of the Southeastern FFA Chapter shall be: President, Vice President of Growing Leaders, Vice President of Building Communities, Vice President of Strengthening Agriculture, Treasurer, Secretary, and Reporter. Other offices may be elected as deemed appropriate by the advisor and/or nominating committee. The instructor(s) of agricultural education shall be the FFA advisor(s). Chapter officers shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the members present at any official chapter meeting or in lieu of an in-person meeting, vote by electronic means of voting (i.e. Google Forms) .

Section B. Officers will be elected by May 15 of each year. Applicants must have a minimum 2.0 GPA, be passing all subjects, and be eligible at the time of election.

Section C. The process for officer election shall consist of an application, an interview with a nominating committee arranged by the advisor(s), and a brief review period (written or verbal) of the proposed officer slate with

the active members at the election meeting. Officers shall be elected by plurality vote of the members by general consent if a slate is proposed by the nominating committee (or by ballot-voting means for other elections).

- Section D. Honorary members shall not vote, nor shall they hold any office, with the exception of the advisor(s).
- Section E. An interviewing/nominating committee consisting of no less than three individuals shall handle the duties of slating candidates for each office. The committee shall be selected by the advisor(s) with consultation of school administration and the current FFA officers. No immediate family of current members will serve on the committee (with the exception of an advisor as a third party participant).
- Section F. Officer candidates must hold the Greenhand FFA Degree to be considered for office. Candidates for president must: a) be a returning officer or b) is an upperclassman (junior or senior) that has previously held a leadership role in the chapter during his/her FFA membership.
- Section G. Chapter officers must give 24-hours notice to the chapter advisor(s) for missing any officer or regular chapter meeting, with exception to emergency or prearranged situations. Officers with two unexcused meeting absences and/or tardies will be dismissed from the officer team. They may be replaced by re-election, as defined in Section H.
- Section H. The re-election process shall consist of a written (re)application and an interview with a panel chosen by the chapter advisor(s). They will be limited to apply for the vacant spot only, as the rest of the team will remain in the positions in which they were installed.
- Section I. Any officer who is declared academically ineligible, has been suspended in or out of school, or is detained by the law for disciplinary action(s) shall automatically be brought under review for possible removal/dismissal. Severe situations may call for automatic dismissal from the officer team by the advisor(s) with consultation of school administration.
- Section J. All officers elected must agree to fulfill the duties of his/her office and attend the new officer orientation or retreat. Any officer not attending officer retreat will be dismissed from the officer team, except in emergency situations which will be decided upon by the current officer team.

Article VII – Meetings, Delegation, and Committees

- Section A. Regular chapter meetings shall be held no less than four times per year. Committee meetings shall be held each month. There shall also be a Greenhand induction meeting held on an evening decided by the members and/or officers during the autumn semester, as well as a meeting prior to the annual FFA chapter banquet in April (or May). Special meetings may be called at any time.
- Section B. Delegates to the Ohio FFA Convention shall consist of the two highest ranking officers available. If no officers are available, then delegates will be chosen by the advisor(s).
- Section C. All members shall serve on a standing committee, either by choice or by appointment of the advisor(s) and/or officers.
- Section D. Robert's Rules of Order and parliamentary procedure shall be used to conduct meetings. Minutes must be kept by the secretary at every meeting.
- Section E. Three committees shall make up the chapter Program of Activities, according to the National FFA Chapter Planning and Recognition Handbook; Growing Leaders, Building Communities, and Strengthening Agriculture. Each committee shall include active members and will have a committee chair designated and appointed by the officer team and/or advisor. Each committee shall also have the corresponding elected Vice President to serve as an ex-officio member and advisor to the committee.

Article VIII – Dues

- Section A. Local dues in this chapter shall be fixed annually by a majority vote of the active members.
- Section B. Full local, state, and national dues shall be paid by all active members. Students on a free or reduced lunch plan will be considered for dues coverage by the active chapter on an individual, case-by-case basis.
- Section C. Members not paying dues shall be deemed ineligible for FFA activities and voting privileges.

Article IX – Amendments

- Section A. The constitution may be amended or changed at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of the active members present providing the amendment does not conflict with the constitutions of the Ohio FFA Association and

the National FFA Organization.

Section B. Bylaws may be adopted to fit the needs of the chapter at any regular chapter meeting by a two-thirds vote of the active members present providing such bylaws do not conflict with those of the Ohio FFA Association and the National FFA Organization.

Section C. Proposed amendments and/or bylaws must be posted no less than two weeks prior to the meeting where it will be proposed.

Southeastern FFA By-Laws

Article I – The by-laws for the Southeastern FFA are those referenced in the Ohio FFA and National FFA Constitution and by-laws. Therefore, be it resolved that the Southeastern FFA by-laws are adopted from those within the National and Ohio FFA by-laws and be it further resolved that the Southeastern FFA chapter will follow and utilize said by-laws.

Southeastern FFA Committee Purposes and Goals

Growing Leaders Committee: *Promote personal and group activities that improve life skills.*

1. Leadership: Activities that help the individual develop technical, human relations and decision-making leadership skills to enhance personal growth.
2. Healthy Lifestyle: Activities that promote the well-being of the student, mentally or physically, in achieving the positive evolution of the whole person.
3. Career Success: Activities that promote student involvement and growth through agriculture related experience and/or entrepreneurship.
4. Scholarship: Activities that develop a positive attitude toward lifelong learning experiences.
5. Personal Growth: Activities are conducted that improve the identity and self-awareness of FFA members. These activities should reflect FFA members' unique talents and potential by reinforcing their human and employability skills. The activities should strive to enhance the quality of life of and contribute to FFA members' life goals and development.

Strengthening Agriculture Committee: *Encourage students to work together to promote agricultural literacy.*

1. Chapter Recruitment: Activities conducted to increase agricultural education enrollment

2. Safety: Activities that enhance safety in the community.
3. Agricultural Advocacy: Activities conducted to articulate and promote agricultural programs, practices, policies and/or education to elicit action.
4. Agricultural Literacy: Activities that help consumers become better informed about the production, distribution and daily impact of food, fiber and fuel.
5. Support Group: Activities conducted to develop and maintain positive relations among FFA members, parents and community leaders interested in supporting agricultural education

Building Communities Committee: *Cooperate with other groups to make the community a better place to live and work.*

1. Economic Development: Activities conducted to improve the economic welfare of the community.
2. Environmental: Activities conducted to preserve natural resources and develop more environmentally responsible individuals.
3. Human Resources: Activities conducted to improve the welfare and well-being of members and citizens of the community.
4. Citizenship: Activities conducted to encourage members to become active, involved citizens of their school, community and country.
5. Stakeholder Engagement: Activities conducted to develop teamwork and cooperation between the local chapter and stakeholders.