



**VIRGINIA**  
**FFA ASSOCIATION**

Virginia FFA Association  
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# **Chapter Constitution and Bylaws for Virginia Association of Future Farmers of America**

## **Chapter Constitution**

### **Article I. Name**

The name of this organization shall be the \_\_\_\_\_ chapter of Future Farmers of America. Recognized units of the organization may officially use the letters “FFA” and/or the words “Future Farmers of America” to designate the organization, its units and/or members.

### **Article II. Objectives of the Chapter**

The objectives of the organization shall be consistent with Section 3 of the national organization’s federal charter, Public Law 105-225. The organization shall cooperate with national and state government agencies and officials in career and technical education to accomplish the following objectives:

1. To be an integral part of the organized instructional programs in agricultural education which prepare students for a wide range of careers in agriculture, agribusiness, and other agriculture-related occupations.
2. To strengthen the confidence of students in themselves and in their work by developing desirable work habits and the effective usage of their time; by learning to assume responsibility; and by developing competencies in communications, human relations, and other social abilities leading to the intelligent choice of a career and successful employment or entrepreneurship in the agricultural industry.
3. To provide agriculture-related programs and activities, which will develop pride, responsibility, leadership, character, scholarship, citizenship, patriotism, and thrift, and which will improve the economic, environmental, recreational, and human resources of the community.
4. To encourage and recognize achievement in supervised agricultural experience programs, scholarship, leadership, and other individual and group activities by providing awards to deserving members and chapters.

### **Article III. Organization**

#### **Section A**

The \_\_\_\_\_ chapter is the organization of, by, and for students enrolled in agricultural education programs enrolled in the local chapter and is a chartered unit of the Virginia FFA Association which is a chartered member of the National FFA Organization.

#### **Section B.**

This chapter accepts in full the provisions in the constitution and bylaws of the Virginia FFA Association of FFA and the National FFA Organization. Chapters of the Virginia FFA Association shall be chartered only in such schools where recognized systematic instruction in agricultural education is offered under the provisions of federal career and technical education legislation. Such chapters shall operate as an integral part of the instructional program of agricultural education.

## **Article III. Membership**

### **Section A.**

Membership in the Virginia FFA Association shall be of three types: (1) Active, (2) Alumni, and (3) 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. The Virginia FFA Association considers “secondary agricultural education programs” to be grades 6-12. 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<sup>5</sup>; 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 Virginia FFA.
4. Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization.

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 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 shall not be considered as elapsed time in determining the maximum period for 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 and indicate such a desire by paying dues and attending meetings. Members participating in a six-month armed services program shall be eligible for one full year of extended membership. No individual may retain active membership beyond his or her twenty-third birthday.

### **Section C.**

Alumni Membership — Membership is open to former active members, and honorary members, present and former professional agricultural educators, and parents of FFA members, and others interested in and supportive of the FFA.

### **Section D.**

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 the FFA and who have rendered outstanding service, maybe 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, Honorary State FFA Degree in the state association, and the Honorary American FFA Degree in the national organization.

## **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 by 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 7-8.
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 career, ownership and entrepreneurial opportunities.
5. Be familiar with the local chapter program of activities.
6. Submit a 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 regularly enrolled in agricultural education and have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience program.
2. Recite 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 knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics and proper use of the FFA jacket.
5. Demonstrate 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 Official FFA Manual and 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 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 maintained 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.

## **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 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 \$1000; or worked at least 300 hours in excess of scheduled class time; or a combination thereof, in a supervised agricultural experience program.
5. Demonstrate leadership ability by:
6. Performing 10 procedures of parliamentary law.
7. Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or the FFA.
8. Serving as an officer, committee chairperson, or a participating member of a chapter committee.
9. Have a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the local agricultural education instructor and the principal or superintendent.
10. Have participated in the planning and completion of the chapter Program of Activities.
11. Have participated in at least five FFA activities above the chapter level.
12. Have participated in at least 25 hours within at least two different community service activities (Note: 15 more hours than Chapter Degree.) These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.
13. Written records of achievement of all requirements, verified by the chapter FFA advisor, shall be submitted to the state association at state judging. The state advisor shall provide for review of the records and submit a recommendation to the state association governing body, which shall nominate at the state FFA convention the candidates who have been found worthy to receive the honor. The State FFA Degree will be conferred upon the candidates subject to approval by the delegates at the state convention.

## **Section F.**

American FFA Degree—Minimum qualifications for election are those set forth in the Constitution of the National FFA Organization.

## **Article VIII. Emblem**

### **Section A.**

The official emblem of the Virginia FFA Association 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 chapters 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 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.

## **Article IX. Chapter Officers**

### **Section A.**

The elected officers of the local chapters shall be president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, and sentinel. Other officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the local advisor and/or governing body. The teacher(s) of agricultural education shall be the FFA advisor(s). The members present at any regular meeting of the chapter shall elect chapter officers annually or semi-annually.

## **Article X. Chapter Officers**

### **Section A.**

The officers of an FFA chapter shall be: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, and sentinel. Other officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the local advisor and/or governing body. The teacher(s) of agricultural education shall be the FFA advisor(s). Chapter officers shall be elected annually or semi-annually by the members present at any regular meeting of the chapter.

### **Section B.**

If a High School chapter has been chartered for two years or more, all chapter officers shall have attained the Chapter FFA Degree.

## **Article XI. Dues**

### **Section A.**

Local dues in this chapter shall be fixed annually by a majority vote of the active members. Annual membership dues of the Virginia FFA Association and the National FFA organization shall be paid by all active members.

### **Section B.**

The membership year of the Virginia FFA Association shall be from September 1- August 31.

## **Articles XII. Amendments**

All proposed amendments to the chapter Constitution and Bylaws must be submitted to the local advisor to the FFA chapters at least 45 days prior to the vote. The chapter officers shall present their recommendations concerning each amendment to the membership. An amendment to the Chapter Constitution may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the official chapter membership. An amendment to the Bylaws shall require a majority vote of the official chapter membership. Amendments to the Bylaws must not conflict with the Virginia FFA Constitution.

## **Articles XIII. Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the Virginia Association of Future Farmers of America in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution and bylaws, or any special rules of order the State FFA Association may adopt.

## Bylaws

### Article I. Relationships to the Constitution

The bylaws shall be a part of the Constitution of the local chapter.

### Article II. Duties of Chapter Officers

#### Section A.

President. It shall be the duty of the president to preside over meetings of the chapter. The president shall appoint all committees and may serve as an ex-officio member of these committees. Should the office of president become vacant, the secretary shall assume the duties of the president, followed in turn by the vice president(s), treasurer, reporter, and sentinel.

#### Section B.

Vice-Presidents. It shall be the duty of each vice-president to represent the membership of the chapter and assist in the coordination of the committees

#### Section C.

Secretary. It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep minutes of the meetings of the FFA executive committee and the state convention, and perform other duties as directed by the chapter advisor.

#### Section D.

Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to assist the chapter advisor in keeping the financial records of the state association.

#### Section E.

Reporter. It shall be the duty of the reporter to prepare news articles of interest to the chapter for publication and broadcast, to coordinate the work of the chapter reporters, to arrange for participation in state radio and/or television programs, and to serve as public relations officer of the state association.

#### Section F.

Sentinel. It shall be the duty of the sentinel to see that the meeting place is properly set up, to care for chapter paraphernalia and equipment, to attend the door and welcome visitors during the meetings, to take charge of candidates for degrees during initiations, and to assist with entertainment features of programs.

### Article III. The Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the local chapter shall be July 1 through June 30 of the next succeeding calendar year.

### Article IV. Inspection of Books and Records

Books and records of the local chapter may be inspected by any member or member's agent at any reasonable time. Arrangements for such inspection shall be made with the Chapter FFA advisor.

