

MICHIGAN FFA ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS



REVISED: 2024

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF FFA

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

NAME AND PURPOSE

Section A. The official name of the organization shall be the Michigan Association of FFA. 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.

Section B. The objects and purposes of the FFA organization are set forth in Section 3 of the organization’s Charter, Public Law 81.740.

The organization and the State Association shall cooperate with national and state governing agencies and officials for agricultural education in accomplishing these objects and purposes and the following aims and activities, which the governing body has determined, pursuant to Section 3 (8) of the organization’s Charter, to be appropriate aims and purposes established by the organization’s Charter:

1. To be an integral part of the organized instructional programs in agricultural education which includes preparation for occupations in production agriculture; agricultural supplies and services; agricultural mechanization; agricultural products, processing and marketing; horticulture; renewable natural resources; forestry; and others, representing those programs that qualify for assistance under federal vocational occupational education legislation.
2. To build the confidence of students in themselves and their work by developing desirable work habits and the effective use of their time by learning to assume responsibilities and by developing personal and occupational competencies in communications, human relations, and social abilities leading to intelligent choices of careers and successful employment, including entrepreneurship in agriculture.

3. To foster programs and activities which will develop occupational pride and responsibility, leadership, character, scholarship, citizenship, patriotism, thrift, and the improvement in community life by encouraging members to improve the community, including its economic, environmental, and human resources.
4. To recognize achievements in supervised agricultural experience programs, scholarship, leadership, and other individual and group achievements by providing awards to deserving members.

ARTICLE II ORGANIZATION

Section A. The Michigan Association of FFA is a state association of, by, and for students of agricultural education for agricultural occupations. It includes affiliated local chapters in public secondary school programs having approved systematic instruction in agricultural education under the responsibility of the local school system. This association accepts in full the provisions in the constitution and bylaws of the National FFA Organization.

Section B. Schools with large enrollments and/or multiple programs in agricultural education may establish mini chapters as a subdivision of the regular chapter. Each mini chapter shall be organized and operated in accordance with all the provisions of the state and local constitutions. When mini chapters are operated as subdivisions of the regular (parent) chapter, they shall be coordinated by the officers and advisors of the parent chapter.

Section C. Members of local chapters shall meet, organize, and adopt a constitution and bylaws, not in conflict with the state and national constitutions; elect officers; set up a program of activities; and then apply to the State Advisor for membership in the association. After this application has been approved by the State Executive Committee, the members of the local chapters may then be known as FFA members.

ARTICLE III

STATUTE OF CHAPTERS

Section A. A chapter of FFA shall be considered in good standing with the State Association when the following conditions are met: (1) all current annual state and national dues paid to the treasurer as prescribed in the Michigan FFA Bylaws, (2) all state reports submitted to the State Executive Committee as requested, (3) the chapter constitution is not in conflict with the state or national constitutions in any of its provisions, (4) activities are in harmony with the ideals and purposes of the national organization. Any active member shall be considered in good standing when: (1) they attend local chapter meetings with reasonable regularity, (2) they show interest in and take part in the affairs of the chapter, (3) pay their dues annually, and (4) conducts themselves in a manner supported by the FFA Code of Ethics as outlined in the FFA Official Manual.

Section B. In case any local chapter is not in good standing with the State Association at the time of the opening of the State Convention, the delegates at the 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 State Association. Upon meeting the requirements for good standing, a chapter may be reinstated by action of the State Executive Committee not earlier than ten days after the closing date of State Convention during which time it was not in good standing.

Section C. In case a local program of agricultural education for agricultural occupations in which a chartered chapter of FFA is located is discontinued, the chapter so involved may be permitted to operate officially for a period not to exceed thirty-six months from date of discontinuance of the department in the school concerned, providing proper supervision and guidance can be given to the chapter work by a member of the school faculty, having the approval of the local school administrator and the State Advisor. Local chapter charters must be surrendered to the program of agricultural education for an agricultural occupation if not in operation again at that time.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Membership. Membership in this organization shall be active, alumni, and honorary. It shall be the policy of the Michigan Association of FFA that no person, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, or marital status shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination. This policy of non-discrimination shall also apply to otherwise qualified handicapped individuals.

Section B. Active Membership. Any student who is regularly enrolled in an agricultural education course, grades 7-12, is entitled to become an active member of any chartered FFA chapter.

To retain membership while in school, the member must be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the school year. In-school members unable to enroll in at least one agricultural education course may retain membership for one year by continuing a supervised agricultural experience program approved and supervised by the agriculture education teacher. Out-of-school members may retain their active membership until November 30, following the fourth National FFA Convention after graduating from high school.

A member who is 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 of four conventions following graduation from high school 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. Members participating in the six-months Armed Service Program shall be eligible for one full year of extended membership. No individual, however, may retain active membership beyond their 23rd birthday.

Section C. Alumni Membership. Alumni membership is open to former active, or honorary FFA or NFA members, present and former vocational agriculture instructors, parents of FFA members, and others interested in the FFA.

Section D. Honorary Membership. Supervisors, school superintendents, principals, members of boards of education, instructors of agricultural education, business persons, farmers, and others who are helping to advance agricultural education for agricultural occupations and the FFA and who have rendered outstanding service may be elected to honorary membership. Honorary members may be elected by majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting or convention.

Honorary members of the various degrees shall not vote, nor shall they hold any office except that of advisor in the local chapter and that of Executive Secretary Treasurer and Advisor in the State Association of FFA, nor shall they be subject to chapter, state, or national dues. Honorary membership shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree in the local chapter and to the Honorary State FFA Degree in the State Association.

ARTICLE V

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP DEGREES AND PRIVILEGES

Section A. Degrees. There shall be five degrees of active membership based upon achievements. These degrees are:

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

Section B. Discovery FFA Degree. On meeting the following minimum qualifications, the Discovery FFA Degree may be conferred by the chapter:

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 FFA chapter's program of activities.
6. Submit written application for the degree.

Section C. Greenhand FFA Degree. On meeting the following minimum qualifications, the Greenhand FFA Degree may be conferred by the chapter:

1. Be regularly enrolled in an agricultural education course for an agricultural occupation and have satisfactory and acceptable plans for a program of supervised agricultural experience.
2. Learn and explain the FFA Creed, motto, salute.
3. Describe the FFA emblem, colors, and symbols.
4. Explain the proper use of the FFA jacket.
5. Have satisfactory knowledge of the history of the organization.
6. Know the duties and responsibilities of FFA members.
7. Personally own or have access to the official FFA manual.
8. Submit written application for the degree for chapter records.

Section D. Chapter FFA Degrees. On meeting the minimum qualifications, the Chapter FFA Degree may be conferred by the chapter:

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed 180 hours of instruction in agricultural education, have in operation an approved supervised agricultural experience program, and be regularly enrolled in an agricultural education course.
3. Have satisfactory knowledge of the local constitution and of the local program of activities.
4. Satisfactorily participated in at least three official functions in the chapter program of activities.
5. 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.

6. Demonstrate ability to effectively lead a group discussion for 15 minutes.
7. Demonstrate five parliamentary abilities.
8. Demonstrate progress toward the achievement of an Agricultural Proficiency Award on the local level.
9. Have a satisfactory scholastic record in an agricultural course.
10. Submit application for the Degree for chapter records.
11. Must have participated in at least ten (10) hours of community service activities. These hours cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.
12. Meet other requirements established by the chapter.

Section E. State FFA Degree. On meeting the following minimum qualifications, the State FFA Degree may be conferred by the State Association.

1. Have received the Chapter FFA Degree.
2. 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.
3. Have been an active member for at least 24 months in a four-year program or an active member of a two-year program for at least 16 months.
4. Candidate's supervised agricultural experience program shows two completed years if a graduating senior or three years if a graduate or one completed year if enrolled in a two-year program.
3. Have earned and productively invested at least \$2,000 or worked at least 500 hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof, in a supervised agricultural experience program.
4. Demonstrate leadership ability by:
 - I. Performing ten parliamentary procedure abilities.
 - II. Giving a five-minute speech.
 - III. Serving as an officer and/or committee chairperson, or a participating member of a major committee.
5. Has demonstrated competency in an agricultural occupation and has a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the agricultural education instructor and principal or superintendent.
6. Participate in the planning and completion of the chapter's program of activities.
7. Participate in five (5) FFA activities above the chapter level.
8. Must have participated in at least 25 hours of community service, within at least two (2) different community service activities. These hours cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.

9. Meet other requirements as established by the State Association.

Section F. Active Membership Degrees and Privileges. All members who meet the minimum qualifications for the State FFA Degree may be entitled to receive the degree in one year. Written records of achievement verified by the local advisor shall be submitted to the State Advisor at least one month prior to the State Convention. The State Advisor shall then review the records, and submit recommendations to the State FFA Executive Committee. This committee will nominate at the regular State Convention the candidates who meet the minimum qualifications. Briefs of records shall be made available to the delegates when the candidates are nominated. The delegates shall then proceed to elect to the State FFA Degree, all candidates who qualify.

Section E. American FFA Degree. The American FFA Degree is conferred by the National FFA Organization. For qualification see the constitution of the National FFA Organization. The Michigan Association of FFA may submit annually as many applications as meet the minimum qualifications of the National FFA Organization. Minimum qualifications are as follows:

“A student after entering agricultural education must have:

1. Earned at least \$10,000 and productively invested at least \$7,500; or
2. 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.”

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS

Section A. State Officers. The officers of the Michigan Association of FFA shall consist of President, Ceremonial Vice President, two Vice Presidents At-Large, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, and Advisor. These officers, with the exception of the Advisor, shall be elected by a plurality vote (the candidate receiving the highest number of votes) of the entire

delegate body at the annual State Convention for a term of one year. The State Supervisor (Chief) of Agricultural Education is the State FFA Advisor. An Executive Secretary-Treasurer or Deputy Advisor and the state professional staff may also be named, where necessary, by the State Advisor, subject to the approval of the State Executive Committee. The State Executive Committee shall have power to appoint an officer of the Michigan Association of FFA to fill any office, which becomes vacant between state conventions.

Section B. Chapter Officers. Chapter officers shall consist of at least a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel. Other officers may be deemed appropriate by the local chapter. The agricultural education teacher(s) shall be the local advisor(s). Chapter officers of the local chapter shall be elected annually or semi-annually at a regular meeting of the local chapter.

Section C. State Board of Directors. The Michigan FFA Board of Directors is the governing body of the Michigan Association of FFA. The board shall consist of: the eight state FFA officers (elected by Michigan FFA Association general membership), State FFA Advisor (Chair of State Board of Directors), six local FFA advisors (one representing each FFA region and elected by Michigan Association of Agricultural Educators General Membership), one representative of the Michigan Horticultural Teachers Association (appointed by the MHTA board), one representative from Michigan State University (appointed by Agriscience faculty), a maximum of four representatives from industry, and one representative appointed from the Michigan FFA Belonging and Engagement Committee. Ex-officio, non-voting members of the Board will include: State Executive Secretary-Treasurer, FFA Foundation Director and FFA Alumni Director, past state officers, local school administrators and a representative from the Michigan State University Ag Ed Club. The board of directors shall formulate and approve all policy and shall be the governing body for the state association.

Section D. Qualifications of State Officers. All state officers, except the Advisor and Executive Secretary-Treasurer, shall have attained the State FFA Degree.

Section E. Qualifications for Chapter Officers. Officers in the local chapter must not rank lower than the Chapter FFA Degree after the chapter has been established for one year.

ARTICLE VII

DUTIES OF STATE OFFICERS

Section A. State President. It shall be the duty of the President to preside over the State Convention of the Michigan Association of FFA and over all meetings of the State Executive Committee. They shall appoint all committees and be an ex-officio member of each committee. They shall issue the call for the annual State Convention and such other meetings of the State Association as approved by the majority vote of the State Executive Committee. They shall issue the call for the meetings of the State Executive Committee upon approval.

Section B. State Vice President. It shall be the duty of the Vice President to perform the duties of the President whenever the President is incapacitated or absent from a meeting. The Vice President shall also perform other officer responsibilities as needed to carry out the work of the Michigan FFA Association.

Section C. State Vice Presidents At-Large. The Vice Presidents At-Large shall perform the duties of the Vice President during the Vice President's absence. The Vice Presidents At-Large shall also perform other officer responsibilities as needed to carry out the work of the Michigan FFA Association.

Section D. State Secretary. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep an accurate record of the sessions of the State Executive Committee and the State Convention, and to furnish a copy of the same to the State Advisor for permanent records. They shall perform other duties as may be directed by the members of the Executive Committee and the State Advisor.

Section E. State Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep a record of receipts and disbursements of the State Association, to co-sign checks, to pay all bills authorized by the Executive Committee, to make a complete report of all the finances of the Michigan Association of FFA at the meetings of the Executive Committee and to the annual State Convention.

Section F. State Reporter. It shall be the duty of the Reporter to supply public information, gather and submit all interesting news to the local and state papers and radio stations, assist the State Executive Secretary-Treasurer in keeping scrapbooks of pictures and articles published

concerning the State Association and its program of activities and to compile the State Association history.

Section G. State Sentinel. It shall be the duty of the Sentinel to welcome guests, set up the meeting room, take care of all equipment and paraphernalia, and assist the President, Advisor, and Executive Secretary-Treasurer in any manner they request.

Section H. State Advisor. The Advisor is an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee. It is the duty of the State Advisor to advise the Executive Committee, the delegates, and the committees on matters of policy and assist the state officers in conducting meetings, and carrying on programs; to review all applications for the State FFA Degree and prepare a brief of all qualifications of candidates submitted to the State Executive Committee with their recommendations; and to review all applications for the American FFA Degree and approve those submitted for the degree.

Section I. State Executive Secretary-Treasurer. The Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for collecting dues, issuing receipts, paying all bills by checks co-signed by the Treasurer and Executive Secretary-Treasurer, and for delegated duties assigned by the State Advisor.

ARTICLE VIII

MEETINGS

Section A. State Meetings. The State Convention of the Michigan Association of FFA shall (except in case of extreme emergency) be held annually at Michigan State University, or at such other place as may be deemed advisable by the State Executive Committee. 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 Convention must be held at least forty-five days prior to the National Convention. Other meetings shall be called by the President upon the approval of the majority vote of the State Executive Committee.

Section B. Chapter Meetings. Local chapters shall hold their meetings monthly or more often throughout the calendar year and at such time and place as may be decided by the officers of the local chapter.

Section C. Representation. The Michigan Association of FFA is entitled to send the number of delegates allowed by the National FFA, and who possess the State FFA Degree, to the National Convention. The delegates shall be selected by the State Executive Committee. Each local high school or career center chapter is entitled to send two delegates from active membership to the State Convention. Chapters that have more than 75 members are entitled to send three delegates to the State FFA Convention. At least twenty-five percent of the local chapters shall have delegates reported at the State Association to constitute a quorum.

Section D. Committees. The President of the Michigan Association of FFA shall appoint the following regular committees annually: the Resolutions committee, the Auditing committee, and the State Program of Activities committee. Other committees may be appointed as necessary.

The process for appointing the nominating committee will be outlined in the Michigan FFA State Officer Selection Process Guide.

The Nominating committee shall place in nomination the candidates for president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, and sentinel.

The Resolutions committee shall organize the resolutions to be presented to the delegates.

The Auditing committee shall examine the books of the Treasurer and the Executive Secretary-Treasurer and the official State Association Audit. The committee shall present its report at the State Convention.

The State Program of Activities committee shall set up the annual objectives and goals of the State Association and suggest ways and means of attaining them.

ARTICLE IX

DUES

Section A. State Dues. Annual membership dues in the Michigan Association of FFA shall be fixed by the State Executive Committee subject to approval of the majority vote of the delegates present at the State Convention of the Michigan Association of FFA. The FFA membership year shall be July 1 to June 30.

Section B. Chapter Dues. The dues of any chapter shall be fixed by majority vote of the membership of that chapter.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

Section A. Constitutional Amendments. Amendments to the State Constitution may be offered in writing by any chapter, official delegate, or officer of the State Association to the State Executive Committee at least thirty days prior to the State Convention. Proposed amendments must be reviewed by the State Executive Committee who will submit them to the delegates of the State Convention at least fifteen days prior to the State Convention. A two-thirds vote of the State Delegates is required for the adoption of an amendment to this constitution.

Section B. Bylaw Amendments. In order to secure flexibility, bylaws may be adopted to fit the needs of the State Association and of the local chapters, provided that they do not conflict with the State and National Constitutions.

ARTICLE XI EMBLEM

Section A. The emblem of the FFA shall be made up of five symbols, namely (1) plow, representing the tillage of the soil; (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 grown in every state; (5) the 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. The emblem shall be uniform in the State Association and all chapters. All members in good standing are entitled to wear the emblem.

Section C. "Greenhands" are entitled to wear the regulation bronze emblem degree pin; "Chapter FFA Degree Members" are entitled to wear the regulation silver emblem degree pin; "State FFA Degree Members" are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem key.

Section D. “Honorary Chapter FFA Members” are entitled to wear the regulation silver emblem degree pin; “Honorary State FFA Members” are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem charm; “Honorary American FFA Members” are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem key.

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF FFA

BYLAWS

All provisions contained in the constitution of the Michigan Association of FFA shall be considered to be a part of these bylaws, to the same extent as though fully set forth herein.

ARTICLE II

LOCATION OF PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The principal office of the Michigan Association of FFA shall be in the city of East Lansing, Michigan, Michigan State University, Department of Community Sustainability.

ARTICLE III

STATE AND NATIONAL DUES

Each chapter shall, before members participate in an FFA event at the district, regional state or national level, add the members name to the local, state and national roster and pay dues to the Michigan Association of FFA. Chapters will pay dues based on total high school agriscience education enrollment in the previous year; as well as the number of middle school, post graduate and high school students not in an agriscience class that are on the FFA roster the previous year. The amount of dues per student will be on a graduated scale which will be maintained by the Michigan FFA Association State Office.

ARTICLE IV

THE FFA YEAR

The FFA year shall be from July 1 to June 30. The state FFA officers-elect shall assume their duties on July 1. Annual reports shall be for the FFA year.

ARTICLE V

OFFICIAL CEREMONIES

Revisions were made to adopt Official Ceremonies as submitted by the FFA Manual Revision Committee, and approved by the delegates at the 95th National FFA Convention.