

Middle school members are allowed to exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair, FFA Division providing that their dues are paid to the Nebraska FFA Association prior to exhibiting and that they are in good standing with the Nebraska State Fair. They may also exhibit at county/local fairs if the fair rules allow.

Middle school members are allowed to complete SAE records to contribute towards high school SAE awards applications if the following requirements are met while maintaining records in middle school:

1. Full state, national, and local dues are paid
2. An Agricultural Education course as recognized by NDE is completed for each year of membership and collected records
3. Only up-to-date years of membership may be used meaning that a member cannot pay back dues to add middle school records to a high school awards application if membership was not while the student was a middle school member.

2020 – first year that 8th grade records may be included for award application evaluation as a freshman student

2021- first year that 7th grade records may be included for award application evaluation as a freshman student

2025 – first year that members may submit up to 7 years of SAE records in an awards application as a high school graduate

(Middle School records for applications, adopted 11.2.18)

Section VII. Degrees and Applications

A. State Staff Review/Printing of Applications and Degrees

State staff shall have the ability to review and print any applications and degrees generated through the FFA Degree/Application Manager.

B. State Degree Qualifications and Requirements

The FFA State Degree is the highest degree the Nebraska FFA Association may bestow upon a member. FFA members must submit two years (24 months) of consecutive SAE record books, complete the FFA State Degree application and meet all minimum qualifications as well as earn a passing score of at least 70% on a State Degree assessment in order to be awarded the FFA State Degree. The state degree may be earned at any state convention after meeting qualifications and occurring prior to the fourth national convention following the student's graduation from high school.

FFA members who have outstanding SAE programs may apply to be a State Star in Production, Agribusiness, Placement or Agriscience at the time of completing the FFA State Degree application, but only up to one year out of high school. Additionally, the following items must be met:

1. All items the Nebraska FFA State Degree Candidate Checklist must be answered "Yes" for the candidate to qualify for the degree.
 - a. Candidate must have been an active FFA member for at

- least the immediate past 24 months
- b. Candidate must hold the Greenhand and Chapter FFA Degrees.
 - c. Applicant must have completed at least two full years (360 hours) of agriculture courses, or all of the agriculture courses offered at the school last attended.
 - d. Non-cash income and expense must be balanced each
 - e. Accuracy Check for the Balance Sheet & Growth must be "Met."
 - f. Candidate has a record of at least 25 hours of community service in at least two different activities.
 - g. Student must qualify for the degree with earnings, productively invested and hours.
 - i. A student must have productively invested at least \$1,000 and must show SAE earnings of at least \$3,000
or
 - ii. A student must have productively invested at least \$3,000 and must show SAE earnings of at least \$1,000
or
 - iii. A student must have productively invested at least \$1,200 and must show SAE earnings of at least \$1,200 and must show that [(3.56 factor x quantity of unpaid hours) + value of productively invested assets] = at least 5,000 and must show that [(3.56 factor x quantity of unpaid hours) + SAE earnings] = at least 5,000.
 - h. Candidate must have performed at least 10 procedures of parliamentary law.
 - i. Candidate must have presented at least a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or FFA.
 - j. Candidate must have participated in planning and completing the chapter Program of Activities.
 - k. Candidate must have earned at least 500 points for FFA activities.
 - l. Candidate must have earned at least 150 points for FFA activities above the chapter level.
2. All items must be "Met throughout the application.
 3. All signatures must be collected and included on the application.
 4. A minimum of two years of consecutive records for a comprehensive SAE which correlates to a current agricultural proficiency award area and AFNR pathway must accompany the application in a printed form.
 5. All record book components included on the Nebraska FFA State Degree Candidate Checklist must be included in the record book.
 - a. Resume
 - b. Agricultural Science Courses
 - c. FFA Offices (must have been an officer or served on a committee)
 - d. POA Committees

- e. Journal (minimum leadership points and service hours are verified in the State Degree application)
- f. SAE Summary (must have the following for each experience)
 - i. SAE Plan (SAE agreements)
 - ii. Journal – Experience related
 - iii. Operating Expenses
 - iv. Operating Income
 - v. Profit/Loss Report
- g. Non-Current/Capital Inventory (if applicable)
- h. Income and Expense Unrelated to Experiences (personal)
- i. Profit/Loss Statement (combines all experiences and years)
- j. Balance Sheet (combines all experience and years)

A motion moved and passed on July 2, 2015 rescinded a previous motion granting FFA members in second year active chapter status the ability to apply for and earn the FFA State Degree based on compliance with the National Constitution. The exception to this is if a student was first part of an established chapter and has a completed set of 24 months of consecutive records for their SAE.

C. State Degree Denials and Appeals

Should a student be denied their State Degree, the district review committee must complete the State Degree Denial form for each candidate not qualified for the degree. The reason for the denial must be clearly defined. District FFA Board representatives must retain a copy of the denial form and provide the denied student a copy of the form. The district board representative must keep the denied student's record books and application and bring them to the spring FFA Board meeting.

A denied candidate may choose to appeal the denial by submitting the State Degree Denial form along with supporting information to the state office no later than five days following the district review. All appeals will be considered during a spring board meeting prior to the state convention.

D. Record Books

Effective beginning in 2017, all record books, State Degrees, and Proficiency Applications must be submitted using AET. *(adopted 7.7.2016)*

1. The American Degree application shall be locked to the AET record system beginning with the 2020 application. *(adopted*

7.7.2016)

E. State Star Award Program Eligibility

A student may apply as a State Star candidate at the same time that they apply for their state degree, but may not apply as a State Star candidate beyond one year after graduating from high school. A Star applicant must choose which area in which they wish to be considered: Production, Placement, Agriscience or Agribusiness. Only nationally-recognized SAEs, based on the National FFA Proficiency Award list, may be applied toward the Star awards. All items on the State Star Qualification Checklist must be marked "Yes" for a candidate to be eligible.

F. Star Award Program Areas

Star in Production: The SAE consists of an entrepreneurship program in production agriculture; the student must own and/or operate his or her program. Only entrepreneurship SAE information will be considered for Star in Production.

Star in Placement: The placement SAE may be in production agriculture, agribusiness or directed lab that is not agriscience based. This placement does not have to be a paid position, although the applicant must have enough earnings and investment from their SAE to qualify to receive the FFA State Degree. Only SAE placement information will be considered for Star in Agricultural Placement.

Star in Agriscience: The SAE program is in natural resources or is research/experimentation or science based. These may be entrepreneurship or placement experiences. Placement experiences need not be paid positions, but the student must have enough earnings and investments from their SAE to qualify to receive the FFA State Degree.

Star in Agribusiness: The SAE program is entrepreneurial and is not production agriculture. The student owns and operates a non-production agriculture-based business. Only entrepreneurship SAE information will be considered for Star in Agribusiness.

G. Star Award Program District Selection

Each district may nominate two Star candidates per area, and/or 10% of the applicants in that area – whichever is greater. Districts are not required to send applicants in each area. If a district does not have candidates worthy of Star consideration, they should not forward those applications to the state level. Following the district selection of Star candidates, candidates may revise and edit their record books and applications based on the feedback received during