

**BYLAWS
OF
NEBRASKA FFA ASSOCIATION**

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the “Nebraska FFA Association.” However, the words “Future Farmers of America” may be officially used to designate the Association, its affiliated chapters or members thereof.

ARTICLE II

OFFICES

The principal office of the Nebraska FFA Association (the “Association”) shall be located at Lincoln, Nebraska. The Association may have such other offices, either within or without the State of Nebraska, as the Board of Directors may designate from time to time. The registered office of the Association shall be set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and may be changed from time to time by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE III

MISSION AND STRATEGIES

The mission of the Association is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

To accomplish this mission, the Association will develop, promote, organize, sponsor and support activities, conferences, competitions, conventions and educational programs which:

- (a) Develop competent assertive agricultural leadership;
- (b) Increase awareness of the global technological importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being;
- (c) Strengthen the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work;
- (d) Promote the intelligent choice and establishment of an agricultural career;
- (e) Encourage achievement in supervised agricultural experience programs;
- (f) Encourage wise management of economic, environmental and human resources;
- (g) Develop interpersonal skills, teamwork, communications, human relations and social interaction;

- (h) Build character and promote citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism;
- (i) Promote cooperation and cooperative attitudes among all people;
- (j) Promote healthy lifestyles; and
- (k) Encourage excellence in scholarship.

ARTICLE IV

EMBLEM

The Association's emblem shall be the same as the National FFA Association's emblem, which shall include the following symbols:

- (a) The plow, representing labor and tillage of the soil;
- (b) The owl, representing wisdom;
- (c) The rising sun, representing progress;
- (d) A cross-section of an ear of corn, representing common agricultural interests; and
- (e) An American eagle surmounting the cross-section of the ear of corn, representing the national scope of the organization.

The emblem shall also carry these three letters "FFA" and the words "Agricultural Education." The emblem shall be uniform as to all chapters and members which are affiliated with the Association, and all members are entitled to display the emblem.

ARTICLE V

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Section 1. National Organization. The Association is a chartered member of the National FFA Association.

Section 2. State Organization. The Association is an organization of affiliated local FFA chapters which have received charters from the Association.

Section 3. Local FFA Chapters. Local FFA chapters affiliated with the Association shall be established only in those schools within the State of Nebraska which provide systemic instruction in agricultural education and which comply with the plans and policies adopted by the Nebraska Department of Education. A local FFA chapter must have a Nebraska certified agriculture-endorsed teacher and meet minimum program qualifications as outlined by Nebraska Department of Education to remain active. Each local FFA chapter shall operate as an integral part of the instruction program of agricultural education provided by the applicable local school system.

Section 4. Multiple Chapters. Schools within the State of Nebraska, which have large enrollments and/or provide multiple agricultural education programs to students, may establish one

or more subsidiary FFA chapters which shall operate as subdivisions of the regularly established local FFA chapter. Each subsidiary chapter shall be organized and operated in accordance with these Bylaws, the Constitution and Bylaws of the National FFA Association and the Constitution of the local FFA chapter. Subsidiary chapters shall be organized and managed by the officers and advisors of the regularly established local FFA chapter.

Section 5. Issuance of Charters. Local FFA Chapters within the State of Nebraska shall apply for affiliation with the Association. Members of the local FFA chapter shall meet, organize and adopt a chapter Constitution which shall not conflict with these Bylaws or the Constitution and Bylaws of the National FFA Association. Members of each local FFA chapter shall also elect officers, establish a program of activities and complete the appropriate application for affiliation with the Association. After the application has been received and approved by the Board of Directors, the members of the local chapter may then be known as an FFA chapter of the Association. A charter will be granted pursuant to this Section by the Association upon the Board of Directors' receipt and approval of the following:

- (a) A copy of the proposed Constitution (and Bylaws where applicable) of the local chapter;
- (b) A copy of the chapter FFA Program of Activities;
- (c) Full payment of applicable State and National dues;
- (d) A list of all chapter officers and a current membership roster; and
- (e) Any other materials requested by the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Chapters in Good/Bad Standing. A local FFA chapter will be considered in good standing with the Association when all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) The Association receives full payment for all State and National dues;
- (b) All reports, rosters, organizational documents and materials requested by the Nebraska FFA Association are received and approved by the Nebraska FFA Association; and
- (c) The local chapter's Constitution (and Bylaws where applicable) do not conflict with these Bylaws or the Constitution and Bylaws of the National FFA Association.

If a local FFA chapter is not in good standing (has delinquent materials and/or payment), the chapter will be assessed a fine that must be paid in order to participate in district and state events as determined by Nebraska FFA Board of Directors. A chapter may be reinstated as a chapter in good standing by receipt of assessed fine and delinquent materials by the Nebraska State FFA Advisor.

Section 7. FFA Districts. FFA districts within the State of Nebraska, comprised of local FFA chapters affiliated with the Association, may be established and modified from time to time by the Board of Directors in collaboration with NAEA.

ARTICLE VI

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Types of Membership. Local FFA chapters affiliated with the Association shall have three types of membership: (I) Active; (ii) Alumni; and (iii) Honorary.

Section 2. Active Membership. Any student who is regularly enrolled in a secondary agricultural education program is entitled to become an active member of his or her locally chartered FFA chapter. Secondary agricultural education programs shall be defined as those programs provided to students in grades 7-12. To retain active membership during high school, the member must:

- (a) Be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study for an agricultural occupation which includes a supervised agricultural experience program, the objective of which is preparation for an agricultural career. Members may retain their active membership until the 30th day of November following the fourth National FFA Convention which occurs after the member graduates from or leaves high school.
- (b) Show an interest in the affairs of the Association by attending meetings, striving for advanced degrees of membership and participating in other organized activities of the member's local FFA chapter and of the Association.
- (c) Pay all current local, state, and national dues in a timely manner.

Section 3. Degrees of Active Membership. There shall be five degrees of active membership available based upon individual achievement. The five degrees of active membership shall be: i) Discovery FFA Degree; ii) Greenhand FFA Degree; iii) Chapter FFA Degree; iv) State FFA Degree; and v) American FFA Degree. The standards and requirements for attaining the Discovery FFA Degree, Greenhand FFA Degree, Chapter FFA Degree and American FFA Degree shall be established by the National FFA organization. The Nebraska State FFA Degree requirements will be established by the following process: FFA Board of Directors provides recommendation to Delegates at annual State FFA Convention and Delegates vote on recommendations. Any proposed changes to state FFA Degree requirements must start through the FFA Board of Directors and follow outlined process.

Section 4. Service in Armed Forces. An active 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 his or her 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 national conventions following the member's graduation from high school or leaving high school. In order to maintain active membership and apply for advanced degrees of membership, members serving in the armed forces must resume active participation (paying all applicable dues in a timely manner and attending meetings) within six months after having been honorably discharged from military service. Members participating in a six-month Armed Services program shall be eligible for one full year of extended membership. No individual, however, may retain active membership beyond his or her 23rd birthday.

Section 5. Alumni Membership. Alumni membership shall be open to (I) former active and honorary members, (ii) present and former professional agricultural educators, (iii) parents of FFA members, and (iv) all other persons interested in and supportive of FFA and the Association.

Section 6. Honorary Membership. Counselors, school superintendents, principals, instructors, business people, farmers, and others who are helping to advance agricultural education and the FFA, and who have rendered outstanding services to a local FFA chapter or the Association, may be elected to honorary membership by a majority vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting of a local FFA chapter or by a majority vote of the State FFA Executive Committee.

Section 7. Degree Emblems. Discovery FFA Degree recipients are entitled to wear the official Discovery Degree Pin. Greenhand FFA Degree recipients are entitled to wear the official bronze emblem degree pin. Chapter FFA Degree recipients are entitled to wear the official silver emblem degree pin. State FFA Degree recipients are entitled to wear the official gold emblem charm. American FFA Degree recipients are entitled to wear the official gold emblem key. 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. Honorary American FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem key.

Section 8. Annual State Convention. The Association shall hold a State Convention annually within the State of Nebraska. The State FFA Executive Committee shall be responsible for planning, organizing and coordinating the Annual State Convention. The purpose of the Annual State Convention shall be to conduct the business of the Association and to recognize outstanding achievements of local FFA chapter members. Each local FFA chapter in good standing with the Association shall be entitled to be represented by two voting delegates at all official business sessions during the Annual State Convention.

Section 9. National FFA Convention. The Association shall be represented by delegates at the Annual National FFA Convention in the manner prescribed by the National FFA Association's Constitution and Bylaws. The delegates representing the Association at the National FFA Convention shall be chaired by the State FFA President. Other delegates will be selected by the State FFA Advisor.

ARTICLE VII

OFFICERS

Section 1. State FFA Officers. The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, a Secretary, and one or more Vice Presidents. Each officer must be a member in good standing of a local chapter which is affiliated with the Association. No more than one member of any local chapter may serve as an officer of the Association at any fixed point in time. Each local FFA chapter of the Association may annually submit one candidate from its membership to serve as an officer of the Association. Each local FFA chapter may develop or establish its own procedure for designating the chapter's candidate. No individual shall hold more than one office in the Association.

Section 2. Election and Term of Office. The officers of the Association shall be appointed annually by the Nominating Committee (as defined in Section 3 of this Article) during the Association's Annual State Convention. Each appointment made by the Nominating Committee shall be approved by a majority vote of delegates present at the Association's Annual State Convention. Each officer shall hold office until his or her successor is duly appointed and qualified.

Section 3. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of nine to eleven members representing the following: active members of local FFA chapters; past State FFA officers; alumni members of the Association or of a local Nebraska FFA chapter; adult advisors representing agricultural education and/or agricultural business and industry in the State of Nebraska. The Nebraska FFA Board of Directors shall approve the Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Section 4. Removal. Any officer of the Association may be removed by the Board of Directors whenever, in its judgement, the best interests of the Association would be served thereby.

Section 5. Vacancies. A vacancy of any office, because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, may be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term so vacated.

Section 6. Compensation. Officers of the Association shall serve without compensation, except that they shall be allowed and paid their actual and necessary expenses.

Section 7. President. The President shall, in general, supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the Association. The President shall preside at all meetings of local FFA chapter delegates which occur during the Association's Annual State Convention. The President shall also preside at all meetings of the State FFA Executive Committee. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, the President shall appoint the members of all committees and may serve as an ex officio member of all committees. The President may sign with the Secretary, or any other state officer or agent of the Association authorized by the Board of Directors have authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Directors, these Bylaws or by statute to some other officer or agent of the Association. The President shall fulfill all other duties as directed by the Board of Directors.

Section 8. Secretary. In the absence of the President, the Secretary shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President. The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of local FFA chapter delegates and of the State FFA Executive Committee; see that all notices are duly given in accordance with these Bylaws or as required by law; serve as custodian of the Association's records; and, in general, perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him or her by the President or by the Board of Directors.

Section 9. Vice Presidents. The number of Vice Presidents shall be determined by the Board of Directors from time to time. All Vice Presidents of the Association shall fulfill all duties as directed by the Board of Directors.

Section 10. State FFA Advisor. The State FFA Advisor, shall, in general, be responsible for the overall growth and development of the Association and shall oversee and coordinate the Association's activities and programs. The State FFA Advisor shall serve as a liaison between the Board of Directors and the Nebraska Department of Education. The State FFA Advisor shall have overall responsibility for day-to-day operations of the Nebraska State FFA Association.

Section 11. State FFA Executive Committee. The State FFA Executive Committee shall consist of the State FFA Advisor, State FFA Officer Manager, Director of Agricultural Education, and the State FFA Officers. The members of said committee shall be responsible for carrying out the day-to-day operations of the Association in a manner which is consistent with these Bylaws and all resolutions and policies adopted by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Composition of Board. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of:

- (a) One local FFA chapter advisor from each FFA district within the State of Nebraska. Each Director representing an FFA district shall be elected by a majority vote of advisors of local FFA chapters located within the applicable FFA district. Each Director elected in this manner shall serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors.
- (b) A current representative of the State FFA Officer team, as appointed by the State FFA Officer Manager shall serve as a non-voting ex officio member of the board.
- (c) The State FFA Advisor, who shall serve as a non-voting ex officio member of the Board.
- (d) Consultant members of the Agricultural Education Section, Nebraska Department of Education, who shall serve as non-voting ex officio members of the Board.

The number of Directors may be increased or decreased from time to time by amendment to these Bylaws. No decrease in the number of Directors shall have the effect of shortening the term of any incumbent Director.

Section 2. Responsibilities. The responsibilities of the Board of Directors shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following: (i) maintaining general direction and control over the affairs of the Association, and ensuring that policies are enforced and carried out; (ii) establishing and developing policies for the sound management and operation of the Association; (iii) providing advice and direction to the State FFA Advisor, State FFA Officer Manager, and Director of Agricultural Education to carry out the policies, program and goals of the Association and to ensure the financial viability of the Association; and (iv) consulting with the State FFA Advisor, State FFA Officer Manager, Director of Agricultural Education, and State FFA Officers to plan and coordinate leadership workshops, conferences, conventions, and other activities of the Association.

Section 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors may be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining Directors. A Director appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor in office.

Section 4. Regular Meetings. The Board of Directors may provide, by resolution, the time and place either within or without the State of Nebraska for the holding of regular meetings of the Board without other notice than such resolution.

Section 5. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by, or at the request of, the State FFA President or any two Directors. The person or persons authorized to call special meetings of the Board may fix any place, either within or without the State of Nebraska, as the place for holding any special meeting of the Board of Directors called by them.

Section 6. Notice. Notice of any special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given by written notice delivered personally or sent by mail or electronic mail to each Director at such Director's address as shown by the records of the Association at least 10 days prior to the meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the Director at his or her address as it appears on the records of the Association, with postage thereon prepaid. Any Director may waive notice of such meeting. The attendance of a Director at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where a Director attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened. The business to be transacted at the meeting need not be specified in the notice or waiver of notice of such meeting, unless specifically required by law or these Bylaws.

Section 7. Quorum. A majority of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 8. Manner of Acting. The act of a majority of the Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors, unless the act of a greater number is required by law or these Bylaws.

Section 9. Compensation. Directors shall not receive any stated salaries for their services but, by resolution of the Board, expenses may be allowed for attendance at regular or special meetings by the Board.

Section 10. Non-Liability of Directors. The Directors shall not be liable for the debts, liabilities or other obligations of the Association.

Section 11. Action Without Meeting. Any action which may be taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors may be taken without meeting if authorized in writing, signed by all Directors and filed with the State FFA Advisor or by documented electronic mail from each Director and sent to/filed with the State FFA Advisor.

Section 12. Telephone Conference. Directors may participate in a meeting through the use of conference telephone or similar communications equipment so long as all Directors participating in such meeting can hear one another. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this Section shall constitute presence in person at the meeting.

Section 13. Chairperson. An elected member of the Nebraska Agricultural Educators Association (NAEA), shall be appointed to serve as the ex-officio, non-voting chairperson of the Board of Directors by an at-large majority vote of the NAEA membership at their annual meeting. The chairperson may serve for up to two consecutive two-year terms. The Board of Directors may select an interim chairperson in the instance of a vacancy.

ARTICLE IX

COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committees of Directors. The Board of Directors, by resolution adopted by a majority of the Directors in office, may designate one or more committees, each of which shall consist of two or more Directors, which committees, to the extent provided in said resolution, shall have and exercise the authority of the Board of Directors in the management of the Association; provided, however, the designation of such committees and the delegation thereto of authority shall not operate to relieve the Board of Directors, or any individual Director, of any responsibility imposed by law.

Section 2. Other Committees. Other committees not having and exercising the authority of the Board of Directors in the management of the Association may be designated by a resolution adopted by a majority of the Directors present at a meeting where quorum is present. The chairperson of the Board of Directors shall appoint the members of such committee (which may consist of any number of Directors, local FFA chapter advisors, local FFA chapter members or officers, State FFA Officers, or any other person deemed appropriate by the chairperson). Any member thereof may be removed by the chairperson of the Board whenever, in his or her judgement, the best interests of the Association shall be served by such removal.

ARTICLE X

CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS AND FUNDS

Section 1. Contracts. The Board of Directors may authorize any agent or agents of the Association to enter into any contract or to execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Association, and any such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 2. Checks, Drafts or Orders for Payment. All checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Association shall be signed by such officers or agents of the Association and in such manner as shall be from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors. In the absence of such determination by the Board of Directors, such instruments shall be signed only by the State FFA Advisor, or the State FFA Advisor's designee.

Section 3. Deposits. All funds of the Association shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Association in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Board of Directors may select.

Section 4. Dues and Fees. The Board of Directors shall establish annual dues and/or fees which must be paid to the Association annually by affiliated chapters (and their members) in order to qualify for and maintain membership in the Association.

ARTICLE XI
MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. Books and Records. The Association shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall also keep minutes of all actions taken during the Annual State Convention and all meetings of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on the first day of September and end on the last day of August in each year.

Section 3. Waiver of Notice. Whenever any notice is required to be given under the provisions of the Nebraska Nonprofit Corporation Act or under the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws of the Association, a waiver thereof, in writing, signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

Section 4. Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the Association in all applicable cases so long as such rules are not inconsistent with these Bylaws or any applicable statute or rule of law.

Section 5. Delegate Selection and Procedures. Each chapter will select two delegates to represent their chapter by March 15 immediately preceding that year's state FFA convention.

Local FFA chapter and the State FFA Executive Committee may submit written proposals for changes to the Association by February 1 of the convention year, using the form provided by the FFA Association.

The State FFA Executive Committee will prioritize the submitted delegate items and provide the items to the Board of Directors at the board meeting immediately preceding state FFA convention, at which time the Board of Directors will approve items to be discussed and acted upon by the delegate body. Following approval by the Board of Directors, the State FFA President or his/her designee will communicate delegate issues to the selected delegates prior to that year's state convention.

Delegates attending the state FFA convention will discuss and act upon the issues presented to the delegate body and the Board of Directors will act upon the delegate items during the annual board meeting immediately following that year's state convention.

ARTICLE XII
AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new Bylaws may be adopted at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors. Suggestions for the amendment or revision of these Bylaws may be provided to the Board of Directors for consideration if the suggested amendment or revision is approved by at least two-thirds of the voting delegates present at any Annual State Convention of the Association. The Board of Directors must consider any such suggested amendment or revision, but shall not be obligated to approve and adopt the same.