

# NEW MEXICO FFA ASSOCIATION

## STATE CONSTITUTION

*Updated 06/01/2022*

### ARTICLE I-NAME

**SECTION A** The name of this organization shall be the New Mexico FFA Association. Recognized units of the association may officially use the letters "FFA" and/or the words "Future Farmers of America" to designate the association, its units and/or members.

### ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

**SECTION A** The objectives of the organization shall be consistent with the organization's federal charter, Public Law 116-7 (formerly Public Laws 105-225 and 81-740). 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 component of instruction in agricultural education, including without limitation, agriculture, food, and natural resources. As such, the corporation shall be intra- curricular to the agricultural education program, and will work with contextual classroom/laboratory instruction and work-based experiential learning in furtherance of a complete and comprehensive agricultural education program;
2. To be an integral component in agricultural education, to prepare students for successful entry into productive careers in agriculture, food and natural resources, or connect students to relevant postsecondary educational pathways, focusing on the complete delivery of classroom and laboratory instruction, work-based experiential learning and leadership development;
3. To be a resource and support organization that does not select, control or supervise state association, local chapter or individual member activities. The corporation will develop educational materials, programs, services and events as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies;
4. To seek and promote inclusion and diversity in its membership, leadership and staff to reflect the corporation's belief in the value of all human beings;
5. To create, foster and assist subsidiary chapters in state-or territory-approved agricultural educational programs and associations of those chapters in the States, territories, and possessions of the United States;
6. To build character and develop competent and assertive agricultural leadership;
7. To increase awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture, food and natural resources and its contribution to our well-being;
8. To promote the intelligent choice and establishment of a career in agriculture, food and natural resources;
9. To make available to state associations, local chapters and members, all official supplies, equipment, programs and services of the corporation;

10. To cooperate with others, including state boards and officials for career and technical education, in accomplishing the foregoing purposes; and
11. To engage in other activities, consistent with these purposes, determined by the governing body to be for the best interests of the corporation.

### **ARTICLE III - ORGANIZATION**

**SECTION A** The New Mexico FFA Association is the association of, by and for students enrolled in agricultural education programs. It shall consist of chartered local chapters located in New Mexico schools that provide organized instruction in agricultural education. More than one chapter may be chartered in a school when deemed appropriate by the association.

**SECTION B** Chapters of the New Mexico FFA Association shall be chartered only in such schools where recognized systematic instruction in agricultural education is offered under the provisions of federal vocational education legislation. Such chapters shall operate as an integral part of the instructional program of agricultural education.

Schools with large enrollments and/or multiple programs in agricultural education may establish subsidiary chapters of the parent chapter. Each subsidiary chapter shall be organized and operated in accordance with all provisions of the national, state and local constitutions. Subsidiary chapters shall be coordinated by the officers and advisors of the parent chapter.

**SECTION C** Collegiate chapters may be chartered in two- or four-year post-secondary institutions where agricultural courses are taught.

Each chartered collegiate chapter may adopt a constitution which shall not conflict with that of the National Organization or the State Association. Collegiate chapters may elect officers and establish a Program of Activities.

Collegiate chapter members shall pay state and national FFA dues.

**SECTION D** Members of local chapters shall meet, organize and adopt a constitution not in conflict with state or national constitution, elect officers, set up a program of activities, and then apply to the state association for membership in the state association and national organization. After the local constitution has been approved by the state FFA Board of Directors and Trustees, the chapter is eligible for a charter, and the members of the local chapter who are in good standing may then be recognized as FFA members.

**SECTION E** The local chapters of the State shall be divided into districts. Delegates from local chapters within a district may meet, organize, elect officers, and set up a program of activities in keeping with the New Mexico State FFA Association and the National FFA Organization.

**SECTION F** The New Mexico FFA Association is a resource and support organization that does not select, control, supervise or approve local chapter or individual member activities, except as expressly provided for in the New Mexico FFA Constitution and Bylaws.

### **ARTICLE IV - PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINING STANDING OF CHAPTERS AND MEMBERS**

**SECTION A** A local chapter shall be in good standing with the state association when the following general conditions are met:

1. All annual state and national dues have been paid by a date specified by the State Association
2. All reports have been submitted as requested by the state association.
3. Provisions of the chapter constitution do not conflict with the State or National FFA Constitutions and chapter activities we in harmony with the ideals and purposes of the State Association and National Organization.

The New Mexico State FFA Board of Directors and Trustees shall have the power to suspend the charter of any chapter which violates State or National FFA Constitutions and By-Laws. A report on all suspensions shall be presented to the delegates at the next succeeding state convention. In the event a chapter is not in good standing with the State Association at the time of the opening of a state convention, the delegates in session at that state convention shall have the power, upon recommendation of the board of directors and trustees, to withdraw the charter and refuse such chapter official representation at the state convention. When such action is taken, the chapter in question and members thereof shall be denied the privileges of membership in the state association. Upon meeting the requirements for good standing, a chapter may be reinstated by action of the Board of Directors and Trustees.

In the event a local department of agricultural education is discontinued, its chartered FFA chapter may officially operate for a period not to exceed three years (36 months) from the date of discontinuance, provided proper supervision is given by a person having the approval of the local school administrator and the state FFA advisor. The chapter's charter must be surrendered to the state advisor at the end of the three year period if a local department of agricultural education is not in operation in the school at that time.

**SECTION B** An active member shall be considered in good standing when:

1. The member attends local chapter meetings while enrolled in the school where the local chapter is established.
2. The member shows an interest in, and takes part in the affairs of the chapter.
3. The member pays dues regularly and acts in a manner consistent with the ideals of the organization.

## **ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION A** Membership in the New Mexico FFA Association shall be of four kinds: active, alumni, collegiate and 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.

Secondary agricultural education program - Secondary agricultural education programs are considered to be those programs provided by New Mexico Schools in grades 5-12.

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; 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 the chapter.
4. Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the FFA.

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 of 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 must resume active participation within six months after having been honorably discharged from military service and indicate such a desire by payment of dues and attendance at meetings. Members participating in a six-month armed service 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 shall be open to former active members, collegiate and honorary members, present and former professional agricultural educators, parents of FFA members and others interested in and supporting the FFA.

**SECTION D Collegiate Membership** -- Collegiate membership shall be open to students who are enrolled in agricultural courses or who are pursuing career objectives in the industry of agriculture at a two- or four-year post secondary institution having a collegiate FFA chapter.

**SECTION E 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, may be 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 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 grades of active membership based upon achievements. These grades are: (a) Discovery FFA Degree, (b) Greenhand FFA Degree, (c) Chapter FFA Degree, (d) State FFA Degree and (e) American FFA Degree.

**SECTION B** Discovery FFA Degree: On meeting the minimum qualifications as set forth in the National Constitution, the Discovery FFA Degree may be conferred by the chapter.

**SECTION C** Greenhand FFA Degree: On meeting the minimum qualifications as set forth in the National Constitution, the Greenhand FFA Degree may be conferred by the chapter.

**SECTION D** Chapter FFA Degree: On meeting the minimum qualifications as set forth in the National Constitution, the Chapter FFA Degree may be conferred by the chapter.

**SECTION E** State FFA Degree: On meeting the minimum qualifications as set forth in the National Constitution, the State FFA Degree may be conferred by the State Association.

**SECTION F** American FFA Degree: On meeting the minimum qualifications as set forth in the National Constitution, the American FFA Degree may be conferred by the National Organization.

Only members who have been elected to the State FFA Degree are eligible to hold state offices. One year after the local organization has been chartered, all local officers shall have attained the "Chapter FFA Degree".

Honorary members are eligible to election to any degree provided they have done outstanding work in promoting agricultural education and the Future Farmers of America.

## **ARTICLE VII - PROCEDURE FOR SELECTING AMERICAN FFA DEGREE RECIPIENTS**

**SECTION A** Applications for the degree must be approved by the state advisor or representative(s) thereof and be received by the National Organization not later than midnight of June 30, or show by postmark or other reliable evidence, to have been mailed to the National Organization on or before June 15, prior to the National FFA Convention at which the degree is to be received.

**SECTION B** Applications must be submitted on the official form provided by the National FFA Organization.

**SECTION C** The National FFA Board of Directors shall review the American FFA Degree applications and recommend those candidates meeting the minimum qualifications. Final approval of the candidates shall be given by the delegates present at the National FFA Convention.

## **ARTICLE VIII - EMBLEM**

**SECTION A** The official emblem of the FFA shall include five symbols : 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 local chapters. All members shall be entitled to display the emblem.

**SECTION C** Discovery FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official bronze with blue enamel pin; 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 Degree 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; Honorary State FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem charm; and Honorary American FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem key.

**SECTION E** Collegiate FFA chapter members and FFA advisors shall be entitled to wear the official gold owl pin.

## **ARTICLE IX - OFFICERS**

**SECTION A** The officers of the New Mexico FFA Association shall be President, Secretary, one Vice President from each district, and advisor. The Vice Presidents shall be selected from the districts with only one officer from each district. The state officer elected from each district will also serve as the district President. The President and Secretary shall be selected from the membership at large. The advisor shall be the state supervisor for agricultural education/FFA, housed at New Mexico State University. Any member elected as a State Vice President may not be re-elected except to the office of the President or Secretary and serve only one year in this capacity. Officers will be elected annually by a majority vote of the delegates present at the regular state FFA convention. The officers shall perform the duties assigned.

**SECTION B** The board of directors of the New Mexico State FFA Association shall consist of the state officers and the immediate past state president. This board shall perform the usual duties of a Board of Directors, review and approve receipts and disbursements, and be responsible for the welfare of the association.

**SECTION C** Should any state or national emergency prevent the calling and/or holding of a regular state association convention, the state association officers will continue to serve until the next regular convention.

**SECTION D** State officers shall have attained the State FFA Degree, and have fully completed and submitted the official state officer application. The application and state degree must be turned in by the deadline set forth by the State FFA office. State president and secretary candidates are required to be out of high school to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of their office. District presidents are allowed to be in high school or college aged. Officers in the local chapter must not rank lower than the Chapter FFA Degree, one year after the chapter is chartered.

**SECTION E** A state executive secretary, an executive treasurer, an executive secretary-treasurer, and/or an assistant advisor from the state professional staff may also be named by the state advisor subject to the approval of the state governing body.

**SECTION F** The officers of the districts shall be: a state officer who shall serve as district president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, and sentinel. Other district officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the district advisors and/or governing body. The New Mexico FFA Board of Trustee members shall serve as the district's advisor during their term. All district officers except the president shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the delegates at a regular district meeting.

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

**SECTION H** In the event the State FFA President is unable to perform his or her duties, the State Secretary will then assume the duties and role as State President. Should the State Secretary be unable to perform these duties or if no State Secretary is in office the board of Trustees will make the final decision in naming an eligible candidate for the office of State President.

**SECTION I** Officers may be suspended by the State Agriculture Education Director/State FFA Advisor or their appointee for violations of the officer code of conduct, student officer disciplinary policy, association ethics policies or other relevant policies pursuant to policies and procedures enacted by the State FFA Association. Officers may be discharged by the State Association for serious violations of applicable policies in accordance to policies and procedures enacted by the State Association. Policies governing suspension and removal shall include provisions for appropriate disciplinary steps, due process and appeals.

## **ARTICLE X - STATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **SECTION A** Governing Body

1. The supreme governing body of the association with full power and authority shall be a board of trustees consisting of the state supervisor of agricultural education, who shall act as chairman, assistant state supervisor and teachers of agricultural education from the districts of the state, as provided in the by-laws of the association.

2. There shall be a subsidiary board of directors consisting of the student state officers of the New Mexico FFA Association as provided in the by-laws.

3. The terms of office of members of the board of trustees and board of directors and the method of selection of such members other than the ex officio members are prescribed in the by-laws.

## **ARTICLE XI - MEETINGS**

**SECTION A** A meeting of the state convention of FFA members will be held annually and at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of the National FFA Convention, at such time and place as may be determined upon by the State Board of Directors and Trustees.

**SECTION B** Local chapters shall hold their meetings monthly or more often and at such time and place as may be decided upon by the governing board of the local chapter.

**SECTION C** Each local chapter in good standing shall be entitled to four delegates to any regularly called state convention, who shall represent the local chapter in transacting all business of the convention. A quorum at any regularly called state convention shall be at least 51 percent of the maximum number of delegates entitled to be seated at the convention.

**SECTION D** The state association will be represented in activities of the national organization including attendance at national conventions, in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and by-laws of the national organization.

**SECTION E** Districts shall hold their meetings throughout the calendar year and at such time and place as maybe decided upon by the district governing board or delegates assembled in any regular meeting.

## **ARTICLE XII - DUES**

**SECTION A** Membership dues in the state association shall be fixed by the State Board of Directors and Trustees, subject to approval by a majority vote of the delegates present at the New Mexico State FFA Convention.

## **ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION A** Amendments to the constitution must be submitted in writing by one or more chapters or the New Mexico FFA Association Board of Trustees, for presentation at any annual state convention. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the state advisor at least sixty (60) days in advance of the forthcoming convention. The advisor shall in turn distribute amendments to local chapters at least thirty (30) days in advance of the forthcoming state convention. Amendments may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present, provided the total number of delegates present represents a quorum. Voting on amendments at the state convention must be preceded by a report from the State Board of Directors and Trustees on the amendments with a recommendation as to adoption or rejection.

**SECTION B** In order to secure flexibility, by-laws may be adopted and/or changed at any regular convention of the state association to fit the needs of the state association, provided they are not in conflict with the National and/or State FFA Constitutions. Bylaws may be adopted or changed by a majority of delegates present, provided they represent a quorum.

#### **ARTICLE XIV – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern the New Mexico FFA Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution and bylaws, any special rules of order the New Mexico FFA Association may adopt and any statutes applicable to this organization that do not authorize the provisions of this constitution and bylaws to take precedence.



## **BY-LAWS**

### **ARTICLE I**

**SECTION A** All provisions of these by-laws shall be considered a part of the constitution of the New Mexico FFA Association.

### **ARTICLE II - LOCATION OF PRINCIPAL OFFICE**

**SECTION A** The principal office of the New Mexico FFA Association shall be located on the New Mexico State University Campus in the city of Las Cruces, State of New Mexico.

### **ARTICLE III - PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING STATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**SECTION A** The board of trustees of New Mexico FFA Association shall be composed of one agricultural education teacher from each district of the state, elected by the agricultural education teachers in the district for a term of four years with staggered terms. An alternate will be elected by each district to serve in cases where the regularly elected member cannot serve or attend.

### **ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS AND DUTIES**

**SECTION A** The officers shall perform the usual duties of the corresponding offices of any parliamentary organization. The state advisor shall be an ex-officio member of committees. There may be an adult executive secretary appointed by the head state supervisor who may assume any appropriate responsibilities delegated by the advisor. It shall be the duty of the state officers acting under the direction of the president, to look after the welfare of the FFA association in the districts of the state and to serve as president of their respective district. Each district will present its nominee for state officer to the convention delegates. The state officers elected from each district will serve as vice president.

### **ARTICLE V - PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING STATE OFFICERS**

**SECTION A** Before the first day of any regularly called convention at which state officers shall be elected, the state president and secretary shall appoint a nominating committee to consist of the immediate past president and past state secretary as co-chairpersons and two members from each of the FFA districts. The president and secretary also have the option of selecting a committee to consist of Past New Mexico FFA State Officers. The nominating committee(s) will interview prospective candidates for district and state president, and secretary. The nominating committee may present at least one nominee for each office based upon attainment of a minimum qualification score. Nominations of eligible candidates may be made from the floor at the time the elections are held. Voting shall be by ballot. Candidates must be interviewed by the nominating committee. Only candidates who have completed the entire nominating process may have their name listed on the election ballot.

**SECTION B** The nominating committee for State FFA officers be give an Ex-Officio vote when necessary to break a tie when electing State FFA Officer.

**SECTION C** The nominating committee process, not the election, for State FFA Officers be a direct replication of the National Officer Nominating Committee selection process. The Past State President and Secretary shall serve as the Chairperson(s) of the committee.

## **ARTICLE VI - REPORTS**

**SECTION A** Each chapter shall submit to the state association reports as requested concerning officers of local chapters, amendments to chapter constitutions and bylaws, a list of official delegates to the state convention, an annual FFA report, report of chapter activities and any other reports set up by delegates of state board of directors and trustees.

## **ARTICLE VII - PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING CANDIDATES FOR THE STATE FFA DEGREE**

**SECTION A** Election to the State FFA Degree shall be from the candidates at large. Applications shall be submitted as required by the state constitution and candidates shall be voted on as required by the state constitution.

## **ARTICLE VIII - PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINING CHAPTERS IN GOOD STANDING**

**SECTION A** Any FFA Chapter whose active membership numbers less than 50 percent of the eligible membership during a given school year shall be placed on probation at the Annual FFA Convention. If membership is not increased to a level above 50% by the next Annual Convention, the charter of that FFA Chapter may be revoked by a majority vote of the delegates present.

## **ARTICLE IX - PROCEDURE FOR PROVIDING A LOCAL CHAPTER ADVISOR**

**SECTION A** Each school operating an FFA Chapter within the State of New Mexico shall have an agricultural education program approved by the state supervisor of agricultural education and employ a certified instructor for no less than eleven months. It shall be the duty of the agricultural education instructor to supervise agricultural experience programs, verify records and applications and supervise FFA meetings during the regular school year and during the summer months. A school not meeting these requirements may have its FFA charter suspended at any annual convention of the New Mexico FFA Association by a majority vote of the delegates present.

## **ARTICLE X - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

**SECTION A** Grievances--Any decision of the New Mexico State FFA Advisor by which a student and/or school is aggrieved shall be heard by the New Mexico State FFA Association Board of Trustees.

Such a grievance shall be submitted in writing. Within fifteen days after notification is received, the New Mexico State FFA Association Board of Trustees shall act on the grievance.

**SECTION B** Right of Appeal--Any decision of the New Mexico State FFA Board of Trustees by which a student and/or school is aggrieved shall be appealed to the Review Board of the New Mexico Activities Association, if appealed, and such appeals shall be heard "de novo."

**SECTION C** Appeal Procedure--If aggrieved by the determination of the Executive Director of the New Mexico Activities Association, the student and/or school shall have a right to appeal that decision to the Review Board of the New Mexico Activities Association. Such an appeal shall be initiated by a simple letter from the school. Such a letter shall request the decision be reviewed by the Review Board, sent to the New Mexico Activities Association within five (5) days after notification is received of the New Mexico State FFA Advisor indicating determination of the New Mexico State FFA Board of Trustees. If such letter

of request is postmarked within five (5) days after receipt of notification, it shall be timely. Failure to appeal within the time specified is a waiver of any right to appeal.

New evidence will not be allowed unless not in existence at the time of the decision by the New Mexico State FFA Board of Trustees or which, although in existence at that time, was not discovered, although due diligence was exercised.

The appeal procedure is not a prerequisite for an appeal to the New Mexico State Board of Education as provided by the laws of the State of New Mexico.

#### **ARTICLE XI - THE FISCAL YEAR**

**SECTION A** The fiscal year of the association shall be July 1 through June 30 of the next succeeding calendar year.