

Lake Dallas
FFA
Handbook

2009-2010

CONSTITUTION OF THE LAKE DALLAS FFA

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Lake Dallas FFA Association, hereinafter referred to as the Lake Dallas FFA Association/Lake Dallas Association of Future Farmers of America. 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

The objectives of the Association hereinafter referred to as the organization shall be consistent with Section 3 of the National FFA Organization's federal charter, Public Law 81-740. The Association shall cooperate with national and state government agencies and officials for career and technology education in accomplishing the objectives as set forth in Article II of the National FFA Constitution.

ARTICLE III. ORGANIZATION

Section A. The Lake Dallas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America is the organization of, by, and for students enrolled in Agricultural Science and Technology programs. It shall consist of local chapters chartered by the Lake Dallas FFA Association. More than one chapter may be chartered in a school when deemed appropriate by the State FFA Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV. PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING STANDING OF CHAPTERS

Section A. A chapter shall be in good standing with the Texas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America when the following conditions are met:

1. All annual District, Area, State, and National dues have been paid to the Lake Dallas FFA by November 1 for Fall semester and March 1 for Spring Semester. The Lake Dallas FFA membership year runs from September 1 to August 31.
2. All reports have been submitted as requested by the Texas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America.
3. Provisions of the chapter constitution do not conflict with the Texas or National FFA Constitution and chapter activities are in harmony with the ideals and purposes of the Lake Dallas FFA Association and the National FFA Organization.

Section B. Any chapter not meeting the requirements for good standing shall be suspended and reinstated in the following manner.

The Executive Board of the Texas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America shall warn local chapters on receipt of evidence of a violation to the State or National FFA Constitution and/or Bylaws, and shall have the power to suspend charters of chapters warned when violations are not corrected. (Non-payment of FFA dues and failure to submit a chapter program of activities on request are examples of violations to the State and National Constitution and/or Bylaws.) A report of 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 Lake Dallas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America at the time of the opening of a state convention, the delegates in session at the state convention shall have the power, upon recommendation of the State FFA Board of Directors, 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 Lake Dallas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America. Upon meeting the requirements of good standing, a chapter may be reinstated by action of the Lake Dallas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America Board of Directors.

In the event a chapter is to be suspended, the State FFA Executive Director will notify the superintendent and the local advisor of the school where the chapter is located, explaining the action taken and corrective measures the chapter must adopt for the charter to be reinstated. In the event a local department of Agricultural Science and Technology 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 Executive Director. The chapter's charter must be surrendered to the State FFA Executive Director at the end of the three-year period if a local department of Agricultural Science and Technology is not in operation.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Membership in this organization shall be of two kinds: (1) Junior and (2) Active

Section B. Junior Membership -- Active chapters of the Lake Dallas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America may form Junior FFA Chapters for the purpose of enhancing and encouraging the education of younger students who are interested in the agricultural industry.

Membership in the Texas Junior FFA organization shall consist of students enrolled in public schools who are in the third grade and eight years old and may continue until they become eligible to enroll in the Agricultural Science and Technology program. Junior members must be affiliated with a chapter in the school district in which they are enrolled unless the school district approves a waiver for out of district students. School superintendents must approve and certify in writing out of district students to participate in the junior FFA program(s) of their district. Such waivers must be submitted annually.

Section C. Active Membership -- To be eligible for active membership in a chartered FFA chapter, a student must be enrolled in a secondary Agricultural Science and Technology program. The Lake Dallas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America considers "secondary Agricultural Science and Technology programs" to be grades 7-12.

To retain membership, a student must:

1. Be enrolled in a least one Agricultural Science and Technology 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 to gain experience in agriculture related careers.
2. Show an interest in the affairs of the Association by attending meetings, striving for degrees of membership, and participating in other organized activities of the chapter.
3. Pay all current District, Area, State and National dues by the date determined by the chapter.

4. Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the Lake Dallas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America.

A member may retain active membership until November 30 following the fourth National FFA Convention after graduation 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 or the FFA international program shall be in good standing during that period of time without further payment of dues or attendance at meetings. Time spent in the armed forces or FFA international program 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 time for the purpose of maintaining active membership for application for advanced degrees must resume active participation within six months after completing their FFA international program or armed service duty, indicating such a desire by payment of dues and attendance at meetings. Members participating in a six-month armed services program or participating in the FFA international program for six months shall be eligible for one full year of extended membership. No individual may retain active membership beyond his or her nineteenth birthday.

ARTICLE VI. DEGREES AND PRIVILEGES OF ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Section A. There shall be five degrees of active membership based on individual achievement. These are the Discovery FFA Degree, Greenhand FFA Degree/Greenhand Degree, the Chapter FFA Degree/Chapter Farmer Degree, the State FFA Degree/Lone Star Farmer Degree, and the American FFA Degree. The Discovery FFA Degree is intended for use in local chapters where middle school membership is offered in local credit classes. Receipt of this degree is not necessary in order to obtain the Greenhand FFA Degree or subsequent degrees.

Section B. Discovery FFA Degree – To be eligible to receive the Discovery FFA Degree from a chapter, the member must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Be enrolled in agricultural education class for at least a portion of the school year while in grades 7-8.
2. Have become a dues paying member of the FFA at local, state and national levels.
3. Participate in at least one local FFA chapter activity outside of scheduled class time.
4. Have knowledge of agriculturally related career, ownership and entrepreneurial opportunities.
5. Be familiar with the local FFA chapter program of activities.
6. Submit written applications for the degree.

Section C. Greenhand FFA Degree/Greenhand Degree -- To be eligible to receive the Greenhand FFA Degree from the chapter, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Must be enrolled in Agricultural Science and Technology and have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience program.
2. Have learned and explained the FFA Creed, Motto and Salute.
3. Have described and explained the meaning of the FFA emblem and colors.

4. Have demonstrated a knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics and the proper use of the FFA jacket.
5. Have demonstrated a knowledge of the history of the Organization, the chapter constitution and bylaws, and the chapter Program of Activities.
6. Have access to or personally own a copy of the Official FFA Manual and the FFA Student Handbook.
7. Have submitted an application for the Greenhand FFA Degree.

Section D. Chapter FFA Degree/Chapter Farmer Degree -- To be eligible to receive the Chapter FFA Degree from the chapter, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least two semesters of systematic school instruction in Agricultural Science and Technology at or above the ninth grade level, have in operation an approved supervised agricultural experience program, and be enrolled in an Agricultural Science and Technology course.
3. Have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the chapter Program of Activities.
4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$50 and worked at least fifty hours in excess of scheduled class time and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural experience program. The combination of hours and dollars must equal or exceed the number 200.
5. Have effectively led a group discussion for fifteen minutes.
6. Have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.
7. Have shown progress toward individual achievement in the FFA awards program.
8. Have a satisfactory scholastic record.
9. Have submitted an application for the Chapter FFA Degree.

Section E. State FFA Degree/Lone Star Farmer Degree -- To be eligible for the State FFA Degree from the State Association, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Have received the Chapter FFA Degree.
2. Have been an active FFA member for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree.
3. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least four semesters of systematic school instruction in Agricultural Science and Technology at or above the ninth grade level, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program.

4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$200 and worked at least 200 hours in excess of scheduled class time, in a supervised agricultural experience program. The combination of hours and dollars must exceed or equal the number 800.
5. Have demonstrated leadership ability by:
 - a. Performing ten procedures of parliamentary law.
 - b. Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or the FFA.
 - c. Serving as an officer, committee chairperson, or participating member of a major committee.
6. Have a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the local agricultural science and technology instructor and the principal or superintendent.
7. Have participated in the planning and completion of the chapter program of activities.
8. As of April 1, have completed ten activities above the chapter level in at least three of six different categories: leadership development events, career development events, conventions and meetings, project shows, student awards and leadership and service as described in policies adopted by the Board of Directors.

Written records of achievement of all requirements, verified by the chapter FFA advisor, shall be submitted to the State Association at least one month prior to the state FFA convention at which the State FFA Degree is to be received. The State FFA Executive Director shall provide for a review of the records and submit a recommendation to the State FFA Board of Directors, which shall nominate at the State FFA convention the candidates who have been found worth to receive the honor. The State FFA Degree will be conferred upon the candidate subject to approval by the delegates at the state convention.

Section F. American FFA Degree -- To be eligible to receive the American FFA Degree from the National FFA organization, the members must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Have received the State FFA Degree, have been an active member for the past three years (36 months), and have a record or satisfactory participation in the activities on the chapter and state levels.
2. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least three years (540 hours) of systematic secondary school instruction in an Agricultural Science and Technology program or have completed the program of Agricultural Science and Technology at the school last attended.
3. Have graduated from high school at least twelve months prior to the national convention at which the degree is to be granted.
4. Have in operation and have maintained records to substantiate an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program through which a member has exhibited comprehensive planning, managerial and financial expertise.
5. Have earned and productively invested at least \$7,500 or earned and invested at least \$1,500 and worked at least 2250 hours in excess of scheduled class time. Any combination of hours x \$3.33 plus

dollars must be equal to or greater than the number 9000. 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 of the degree.

6. Have a record of outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement and have achieved a high school scholastic record of "C" or better as certified by the principal or superintendent.

ARTICLE VII. EMBLEM

Section A. The official emblem of the Lake Dallas FFA Association and the Texas Association of Future Farmers of America shall be the same as that of the National FFA Organization. It shall include five symbols, namely: the plow, representing the 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 recognized units of the Lake Dallas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America. All members shall be entitled to display the emblem.

Section C. Greenhand FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official bronze emblem pin; Chapter FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official silver emblem pin; State FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem charm; and American FFA 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 VIII. AREA, DISTRICT, AND CHAPTER OFFICERS

Section A. The offices of the Area FFA Associations shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel. Other officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the Area Association. Area officers shall serve no more than one full term. The advisor of the area president shall be the Area Advisor. If an officer moves out of his or her respective area, the office will be vacated and replacement will be elected according to Area Constitution.

Section B. The offices of the District Association shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel. Other officers may be elected as deemed necessary by the District Association. The advisor of the district president shall be the District Advisor. If an officer moves out of his or her respective district, the office will be vacated and replacement will be elected according to District constitution.

Section C. The offices of Chapter Associations shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel. Other officers may be elected as provided for by the Chapter constitution. The advisor of the chapter shall be the Agricultural Science Teacher(s) in that school. If an officer moves to

another chapter, the office will be vacated and replacement will be elected through according to Chapter constitution.

Section D. If an Area, District, or Chapter Association has been chartered for two or more years, officers shall have attained the Chapter FFA Degree.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS

Section A. Except in case of an extreme emergency declared by the State FFA Board of Directors a convention of the Texas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America shall be held annually. The time and place of the convention shall be determined by the governing body Board of Directors, but must be held at least 60 days prior to the National Convention.

Section B. At the State Convention, each local chapter shall be entitled to send one delegate from its active membership, plus one additional delegate for 50 members, or any fraction thereof, above the first 50 members. A quorum shall exist when at least 51% of the delegates representing at least 51% if the chapters in the state are present.

Section C. Except in cases of extreme emergency, Area conventions shall be held annually prior to the State Convention at a time selected by the Area Association.

Section D. Cumulative and proxy voting are prohibited. In election processes requiring two votes, a ballot must have two votes cast to constitute a legal ballot.

ARTICLE X. COMMITTEES

Section A. The Lake Dallas FFA President shall appoint all student committees with the advice and consent of the Advisor. In such cases which present potential conflict of interest in committee appointments, such committees shall be appointed by a consensus of the FFA student body with the consent of the Advisor.

ARTICLE XI. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. The membership and fiscal year of the Lake Dallas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America shall be from September 1 to August 31.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

Section A. Amendments to the Lake Dallas FFA Constitution and/or Bylaws may be submitted by an Area FFA Association, the Board of Student Officers, or State FFA Board of Directors. The proposed amendments to the State Constitution and/or Bylaws from an Area Association must be submitted in writing to the Lake Dallas FFA at least 60 days prior to the next State FFA Convention for review by the State FFA Board of Directors and the Board of Student Officers. All proposed amendments to the Lake Dallas FFA Constitution and/or Bylaws must be submitted by the State Executive Director to the local chapters at least 30 days prior to the next State FFA Convention. The State FFA Officers shall present the delegates at the State Convention. An amendment to the State FFA Constitution may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the votes cast by the official delegates at the State Convention. An amendment to the Bylaws shall require a majority vote of the official delegates at the State FFA Convention. Amendments to the Bylaws must not conflict with the State or National FFA Constitutions.

ARTICLE XIII. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Section A. The "Parliamentary Guide for FFA" by Jarrell D. Gray shall be used as the final authority in governing the actions of all State FFA meetings.

Section B. The acting parliamentarian for all Texas State FFA meetings shall be the advisor of the winning Senior Chapter Farmer Chapter Conducting team of the previous State Leadership Contests.

ARTICLE IX. CONSEQUENCES AND LEGAL ACTION

Section A. Any posted rule or regulation that is violated during the time of membership of the Lake Dallas FFA Association will result in suspension from the program. Any state/federal laws that are violated will result in immediate ejection from the program and possible legal action. The Lake Dallas FFA reserves the right to overtake any agricultural projects if they see fit to.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

Section A. Amendments to the Lake Dallas FFA Constitution and/or Bylaws may be submitted by an individual with at least one supporter, a parent, or FFA member. The proposed amendments to the Constitution and/or Bylaws from an FFA member must be submitted in writing to the Lake Dallas FFA at least 10 days prior to the next FFA meeting for review by the Advisor and Officers. An amendment to the Lake Dallas FFA Constitution may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the votes cast by the officer and members at the next meeting. An amendment to the Bylaws shall require a majority vote of the official delegates at the said meeting. Amendments to the Bylaws must not conflict with the State or National FFA Constitutions.

I understand and agree to abide by the following rules and if I do not comply, I am subject to suspension or removal from the program.

Signature of Student

Date

Signature of Parent

Date

2009-2010 FFA Officers

President- Zane Collins..... 940-391-5529

Vice President- Greg Mullins..... 972-533-4515

Secretary- Anna Lorimer..... 940-300-7302

Treasurer- Katie Reeves..... 214-298-5985

Reporter- Colton Parrigin..... 214-797-9250

Sentinel- Whitney Rupe..... 940-442-3076

Historian- Keith Bird.....940-232-1736

Advisor- Chris Bean..... 940-497-1448

For current chapter information visit

www.lakedallasffa.org

