

July 2022

**HORSESHOE BEND FFA ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS
ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSES**

SECTION A. The name of this organization shall be the "**Horseshoe Bend FFA Chapter AL0179.**" The letters "FFA" and/or the words "Future Farmers of America" and/or "The National FFA Organization" may be officially used to designate the organization, its chapters and/or members.

SECTION B. The objectives of the Horseshoe Bend FFA Chapter AL0179 shall be consistent with Section 3 of the National FFA's federal charter, Public Law 105225 "(formerly Public Law 81740)." The organization shall cooperate with national and state government agencies and officials for career and technical education in accomplishing the following objectives:

1. To be an integral part of the organized instructional programs in agricultural education which prepare students for a wide range of careers in agriculture, agribusiness, and other agriculture related occupations.
2. To strengthen the confidence of students in themselves and in their work by developing desirable work habits and the effective usage of their time; by learning to assume responsibility; and by developing competencies in communications, human relations, and other social abilities leading to the intelligent choice of a career and successful employment or entrepreneurship in the agricultural industry.
3. To provide agriculture related programs and activities which will develop pride, responsibility, leadership, character, scholarship, citizenship, patriotism, and thrift, and which will improve the economic, environmental, recreational, and human resources of the community.
4. To encourage and recognize achievement in supervised agricultural experience programs, scholarship, leadership and other individual and group activities by providing awards to deserving members and chapters.

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION

SECTION A. Horseshoe Bend FFA Chapter AL0179 is the local organization of, by, and for students of agriscience education. It shall consist of student members chartered by the Alabama FFA Association.

SECTION B. Students of the Horseshoe Bend FFA Chapter AL0179 shall be chartered only in this school where recognized systematic instruction in agriscience technology education is offered under the provisions of federal vocational education legislation. This chapter shall operate as an integral part of the instructional program of agriscience education.

SECTION C. Students enrolled in agriscience education may meet in the local chapter, adopt a constitution, which shall not conflict with that of the Alabama Association or the National Organization, elect officers, develop a program of activities, and apply to the state association for a charter.

SECTION D. Alumni chapters may be chartered by the State FFA Association through proper channels in accordance with the Alabama FFA Alumni Association, having been approved by the parent chapter and amended in the Horseshoe Bend FFA Chapter AL0179 Constitution and Bylaws. Each chartered Alumni chapter may adopt a constitution which shall not conflict with that of the National Organization or the respective State FFA Association, or the Parent Chapter and may elect officers and establish a program of activities.

ARTICLE III. PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINING STANDING OF LOCAL CHAPTERS AND MEMBERS

SECTION A. A local chapter shall be considered to be in good standing with a State FFA Association when the following conditions are met:

- 1 All current state and national dues have been paid by February 1 each year.
2. All reports have been submitted as requested by the State FFA Association.
3. Provisions of chapter constitution do not conflict with the State and National FFA Constitutions. Activities are in harmony with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization.
4. The governing body of a State FFA Association shall have the power to suspend local charters upon receipt of evidence of infringement of the provisions of the State or National FFA Constitution and Bylaws. A report on all suspensions shall be presented to the delegates the next succeeding state convention.
In case any local chapter is not in good standing, the chapter will be placed on a six month probation and the appropriate school officials notified by the Alabama FFA Executive Secretary. In the event that the chapter does not fulfill the requirements to be in good standing following the probationary period, the charter will automatically be suspended for the school year and participation in any FFA activity above the chapter level will be denied. Chapters having only one FFA advisor will be extended a one year grace period for the year following a change in chapter advisor.
In the event of local department of agriscience education is discontinued, its chartered FFA chapter may officially operate for a period not to exceed 36 months from date of discontinuance, provided proper supervision is given by a person having the approval of the local school administrator and the State Advisor.
The chapter's charter must be surrendered to the State Advisor at the end of the 36-month period if a local department of agriscience 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 shows 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.
2. The member pays all current local, state and national dues.
3. The member displays conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A. Membership in the Horseshoe Bend FFA Chapter AL0179 shall be of three kinds: Active, Alumni, and Honorary.

SECTION B. Active Membership. To be eligible for active membership in a chartered FFA chapter, a student must be enrolled in an agriscience education program. To retain membership during school, the members must be enrolled in at least one agriscience 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. Members may retain their active membership until November 30, following the fourth National FFA Convention after graduating from high school.

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 supportive of the FFA.

SECTION D. Honorary Membership. Farmers, school superintendents, principals, members of boards of education, chapter advisors, teachers, staff members in agriscience education, business people, and others who are helping to advance agriscience 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 and the Honorary State FFA Degree in the State Association.

ARTICLE V. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP DEGREES AND PRIVILEGES

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. The 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.

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 application for the degree.

SECTION C. The 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.

1. Be enrolled in agricultural education and have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience program.
2. Learn and explain the FFA Creed, motto, salute and FFA Mission Statement.
3. Describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and colors.
4. Demonstrate a knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics and the proper use of the FFA jacket.
5. Demonstrate a knowledge of the history of the organization, the chapter constitution and bylaws and the chapter Program of Activities.
6. Personally own or have access to the Official FFA Manual and the FFA Student Handbook.
7. Submit written application for the Greenhand FFA Degree.

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.

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least 180 hours of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, have in operation an approved supervised agricultural experience program and be enrolled in an agricultural education 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 \$150 by the member's own efforts or worked at least forty-five 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.

The following amendment will replace Section D item 4 effective January 1, 2015

4. A student after entering agricultural education must have:
a. earned and productively invested at least \$150 by the member's own efforts; or
b. worked at least 45 hours in excess of scheduled class time; or c. a combination
there of and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a
supervised agricultural experience program.

5. Have effectively led a group discussion for 15 minutes.
6. Have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.
7. Show progress toward individual achievement in the FFA award programs.
8. Have a satisfactory scholastic record.
9. **Have participated in at least 10 hours of community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours. (Effective January 1, 2011)**
10. Submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.

Other requirements may be established by the chapter and/or the state FFA association.

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.

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. 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, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program.
4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$1,000 or worked at least 300 hours in excess of scheduled class time or a combination thereof, in a supervised agricultural experience program.

The following amendment will replace Section E item 4 effective January 1, 2015

4. A student after entering agricultural education must have:

- a. earned and productively invested at least \$1000; or**
- b. worked at least 300 hours in excess of scheduled class time; or**
- c. a combination thereof, in a supervised agricultural experience program.**

5. Demonstrate leadership ability by:

- a. Performing 10 procedures of parliamentary law.
- b. Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or the FFA.
- c. Serving as an officer, commit-tee chairperson or participating member of a chapter committee.

6. Have a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the local agricultural education instructor and the principal or superintendent.

7. Have participated in the planning and completion of the chapter Program of Activities. 8 Ratified 1/27/2010

8. Have participated in at least five different FFA activities above the chapter level.

9. Have participated in at least 25 hours of community service, within at least 2 different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours. (Effective January 1, 2011)

The percentage of the total state membership which may receive the State FFA Degree and other requirements may be established by the state FFA association.

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 advisor shall provide for review of the records and submit a recommendation to the state association governing body, which shall nominate at the state FFA convention the candidates who have been found worthy to receive the honor. The State FFA Degree will be conferred upon the candidates subject to approval by the delegates at the state convention.

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.

1. Have received the State FFA Degree, have been an active member for the past three years (36 months) and have a record of 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 education program or to have completed at least the equivalent of 360 hours of systematic secondary school instruction in agricultural education and one full year of enrollment in a postsecondary agricultural program or have completed the program of agricultural education offered in the secondary school last attended.
3. Have graduated from high school at least 12 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 have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time. Any combination of hours times a factor of 3.33 plus dollars must be equal to or greater than the number 9,000. 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.

The following amendment will replace Section F item 5 effective January 1, 2015. Those members applying for their American Degree after January 1, 2015 must meet this requirement.

5. **A student after entering agricultural education must have:**
 - a. **earned at least \$10,000.00 and productively invested at least \$7,500.00; or**
 - b. **earned and productively invested \$2,000.00 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.**
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.
7. **Have participated in at least 50 hours of community service, within at least 3 different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours. (Effective January 1, 2011)**

ARTICLE VI. EMBLEM

SECTION A. The official emblem of the National FFA Organization shall include five symbols, namely: (1) the plow, representing labor and 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; and (5) an American eagle surmounting the cross-section of an ear of corn, representing 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 all chapters throughout the State Association. 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; and "State FFA Degree" recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem charm.

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.

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

ARTICLE VII. CHAPTER OFFICERS

SECTION A. The offices of an FFA chapter shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel. Other officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the local advisor and/or governing body.

1. A nominating committee will interview officer candidates. Based on answers to the questions the nominating committee will award points.
2. Officer Candidates will be awarded points based on officer application.
3. Officer Candidates will receive points based on participation in FFA activities throughout the year.
4. Points will be totaled for Interview, application and participation to determine the top 6 officers in order of highest points to lowest points.

SECTION B. Only members who are still in high school and enrolled in agriscience education may be elected Chapter officers. Officers may be removed from office when duties are neglected or the Chapter Advisor sees fit.

SECTION C. Appointments to vacant chapter offices

The advisor or the nominating committee may nominate an interim active member in good standing to fill a vacant office until the nominating committee may seek a replacement for the vacant office.

SECTION D. Chapter officers shall be confirmed annually by accepting the nominating committee report at any regular meeting of the chapter by the members present.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS AND BANQUETS

SECTION A. A Chapter FFA Banquet shall be held annually, except in case of an extreme emergency by the Chapter officers or Chapter advisor. The purpose of the Chapter meeting will be to conduct the business of the chapter and to recognize outstanding achievements

of FFA members. The time and place of meetings shall be determined by the Chapter officers and the Chapter Advisor at the beginning of each fiscal year.

SECTION B. The Horseshoe Bend FFA Chapter shall determine the delegate to the state convention.

SECTION C. Local chapters shall hold their meetings monthly or more often throughout the calendar year and at a time and place to be determined by the local chapter.

SECTION D. All Chapter and State FFA Degree Candidates and award recipients shall wear the official dress while conducting official business during the State FFA Convention.

ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES

The president of the Horseshoe Bend FFA Chapter shall appoint all committees. The student advisor is an ex-officio member of all committees. Only such committees as are needed to carry on the work of the chapter shall be appointed.

ARTICLE X. DUES

SECTION A. Annual Chapter FFA membership dues to the State FFA Association will be \$200 which is set by the State Association.

SECTION B. The dues of any chapter shall be fixed by the chapter officers.