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**CONSTITUTION**  
of the  
**FLORIDA FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA, INC.**  
*(As Amended at the 88th State Convention, June 2016)*

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**ARTICLE I**  
Names and Purposes

9 Section A - The name of this association shall be "The Florida Future Farmers of America, Inc." Members are hereinafter  
10 referred to as "FFA members." The letters "FFA" may be officially used to designate the Corporation, its chapters,  
11 or members thereof.

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13 Section B - The objectives and purposes of Florida FFA, Inc. are set forth in Section 3 of the National Organization's Charter,  
14 Public Law 105-225 (formerly Public Law 81-740). Florida FFA, Inc. shall cooperate with national and state  
15 governing agencies and officials in vocational education in accomplishing these objectives and purposes and the  
16 following aims and activities, which the governing body has determined, pursuant to Section 3(8) of the  
17 Organization's Charter, to be appropriate aims and activities within the framework of objectives and purposes  
18 established by the Organization's Charter:

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1. To be an integral part of the organized instructional programs in agriculture, agribusiness and renewable natural resources as qualify for assistance under federal vocational occupational education legislation.
  2. To build the confidence of students in themselves and their work by developing desirable work habits and the effective use of their time by learning to assume responsibilities and by developing personal and occupational competencies in communications, human relations and social abilities leading to intelligent choices of careers and successful employment in agriculture.
  3. To foster programs and activities which will develop leadership, character, scholarship and occupational pride, training for useful citizenship, patriotism, thrift and the improvement in community life by encouraging members to improve the home and its surroundings and to develop and improve the community, including its economic, environmental, and human resources.
  4. To recognize individual achievement in scholarship and occupational experience programs and other individual achievements by providing awards to deserving members.
  5. To procure for and distribute to federations, local chapters, and members, official FFA supplies and equipment.
  6. To publish official communication and publications for the members of Florida FFA, Inc.
  7. To cooperate with others, including the Department of Education, in accomplishing the above purposes, to engage in other activities, consistent with the foregoing purposes, determined by the Governing Board to be in the best interest of Florida FFA, Inc.

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**ARTICLE II**  
Organization

48 Section A - Florida FFA, Inc. is an affiliated association of the National FFA Organization of, by, and for the students of  
49 agricultural education. It shall consist of local chapters chartered by Florida FFA, Inc. in the State of Florida,  
50 as authorized by the National FFA Organization, in accordance with the provisions in its by-laws.

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52 Section B - Active chapters of the FFA for students enrolled in schools of less than college grade shall be chartered only  
53 in schools where recognized systematic instruction in agricultural education is offered under the provisions  
54 of the federal vocational education legislation.

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56 Section C - Collegiate chapters may be chartered by the state association in two-or-four year postsecondary institutions  
57 where agricultural courses are taught.

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Each chartered collegiate chapter may adopt a constitution which shall not conflict with that of the national organization or the respective state association, elect officers, and establish a Chapter Plan.

The collegiate chapter shall submit to the State Advisor an annual report covering program of work and achievements for the current school year, along with payment of State and National dues.

Section D - Any group of agricultural education students whose number is not less than ten and where a chapter of FFA is not already established, may meet, draw up a constitution not in conflict with the State Constitution, elect officers, set up a Chapter Plan, and then apply to the State FFA Advisor for affiliation with Florida FFA, Inc. and the National Organization. Upon receipt of a charter from Florida FFA, Inc., the local chapter and the members thereof will be recognized as a unit and members of Florida FFA, Inc.

Section E - Federations - All activities of the FFA federation and members thereof shall be in harmony with the purposes, principles and ideals of the National FFA Organization.

**ARTICLE III**

**Procedure for Determining Standing of Chapters and Members**

Section A - A local chapter shall be considered in good standing with Florida FFA, Inc. when the following general conditions are met:

1. All current state and national dues have been paid by a date to be specified by State Board of Directors.
2. All reports have been submitted as required by Florida FFA, Inc.
3. No provisions of the chapter constitution are in conflict with the State and National Constitutions or PL 105-225 (formerly PL 81-740). Activities are in harmony with the ideals and purposes of Florida FFA, Inc.
4. The Board of Directors of Florida FFA, Inc. shall have the power to suspend local chapter charters upon receipt of evidence of infringement on the provisions of the State or the National Constitutions. A report on all suspensions shall be presented to the next succeeding State Convention.

In case any local chapter is not in good standing with Florida FFA, Inc. at the time of the opening of the State Convention, the delegates to the State Convention shall have the power, upon recommendation of the State Board of Directors, to withdraw the charter and refuse such chapter official representation in Florida FFA, Inc. Upon meeting the requirements for good standing, a chapter may be reinstated by action of the State Board of Directors, not earlier than 10 days after the closing date of the State Convention during which it was not in good standing.

In case a local department of agricultural education in which a chartered chapter of FFA is located is discontinued, the chapter so involved may be permitted to operate officially for a period not to exceed 36 months from date of the discontinuance of the department, providing proper supervision and guidance can be given to the chapter work by a person having the approval of the local school administrator and the State Advisor. Local chapter charters must be surrendered to the State Advisor at the end of the 36 month period, if a local department of agricultural education is not again 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 conducts him/herself in a manner becoming a member of Florida FFA, Inc.

**ARTICLE IV**

**Membership**

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Section A - Membership in Florida FFA, Inc. shall be of four kinds: (1) Active; (2) Alumni; (3) Collegiate, and (4) Honorary.

Section B - Active membership. Any secondary student who is enrolled in agricultural education is entitled to become an active member.

A member who is in good standing at the time of induction into the Armed Forces of the United States of America or into the FFA international program, shall be in good standing during the period of induction 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 having been honorably discharged from military service indicating such a desire by payment of dues and attendance at meetings. Members participating in the six months' 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, however, may retain active membership beyond the twenty-third birthday.

To be eligible for participation in the FFA contests and awards programs, a participant must meet one (1) of the following criteria:

1. Be an active, paid-up member of good standing in the local chapter for the school year during which the contest is held and enrolled in agriscience and natural resources education.
2. Be currently enrolled or have completed one or more agriscience and natural resources courses offered in a program sequence during the previous year and be an active, in school, paid-up member of good standing in the local chapter.
3. Be officially scheduled for or enrolled in agriscience and natural resources education during the current school year and be an active, paid-up member of good standing with the local chapter.
4. Be a high school graduate and retain active membership for four national conventions following graduation from high school (these members are not eligible to participate in judging contests with the exception of those members on a state winning team as a graduating senior competing in national competition).

A member who is a former state winner, either individual or team, in a particular FFA contest or award is not eligible to compete in that contest or award again.

Section C - Alumni membership. Following the termination of active membership status, a member becomes eligible for active alumni membership.

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 postsecondary institution.

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 and the Honorary State FFA Degree in Florida FFA, Inc.

ARTICLE V

Active Membership Degrees and Privileges

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Section A - There shall be five degrees of active membership based on individual achievement. These are: Discovery FFA Degree; Greenhand FFA Degree; Chapter FFA Degree; State FFA Degree; and American FFA Degree. The national organization shall set the minimum qualifications for each degree.

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

1. Be enrolled in agricultural education and have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience program.
2. Learn and explain the FFA Creed, Motto, and Salute.
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 by-laws, and the Quality Chapter Plan.
6. Personally own or have access to the Official FFA Manual and the FFA Student Handbook.
7. Submit written application for the degree for the chapter records.
8. Meet other requirements as established by the chapter.

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

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 regularly enrolled in an agricultural education course.
3. Have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the Quality Chapter Plan.
4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$150.00 by the member's own efforts or worked 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. Changes to the specifications by the National FFA Organization to earn the degree shall become effective at the time designated by the National FFA Organization, and shall be reported to the delegates at the next State Convention.
5. Have effectively led a group discussion for 15 minutes.

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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. Submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.
  10. Meet other requirements as established by the chapter.

238 Section E -

238 State FFA Degree - To be eligible to receive the State FFA Degree from the state association the member must  
239 meet the following minimum qualifications:

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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 \$1,250, or have earned and productively invested at least \$150.00, and worked (other than class scheduled time) at least 376 hours, or a combination thereof, in a supervised agricultural experience program. Any combination of hours x \$3.33 plus dollars must be equal to, or greater than, the number 1402. 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. Changes to the specifications by the National FFA Organization to earn the degree shall become effective at the time specified by the National FFA Organization, and shall be reported to the delegates at the next State Convention.
  5. Demonstrate 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 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 Quality Chapter Plan.
  8. Have participated in at least five FFA activities above the chapter level.

274 The percentage of the total state membership which may receive the State FFA Degree and other  
275 requirements may be established by Florida FFA, Inc.  
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277 Written records of achievement of all requirements, verified by the chapter FFA advisor, shall be submitted to  
278 Florida FFA, Inc. at least one month prior to the state FFA convention at which the State FFA Degree is to be  
279 received. The state advisor shall provide for review of the records and submit a recommendation to the state  
280 association governing body, which shall nominate at the state FFA convention the candidates who have been  
281 found worthy to receive the honor. The State FFA Degree will be conferred upon the candidates subject to  
282 the approval by the delegates at the state convention.  
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Section F - American FFA Degree - To be eligible to receive the American FFA Degree from the National FFA Organization, the member 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 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 have completed the program of agricultural education offered in the 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 an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program through which a member has exhibited comprehensive planning, managerial, and financial experience.
5. Have earned and productively invested at least \$7,500, or have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 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 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. Changes to the specifications by the National FFA Organization to earn the degree shall become effective at the time designated by the National FFA Organization, and shall be reported to the delegates at the next State Convention.
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 VI**

Procedure for Choosing Candidates for the American FFA Degree

Section A - Applications for the degree must be approved by the state advisor or representative/s thereof and, must 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 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 VII**

Emblem

Section A - The official emblem of Florida FFA, Inc. 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 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 emblems shall be uniform in Florida FFA, Inc. and recognized units thereof. 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

340 entitled to wear the official gold emblem charm; and American FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to  
341 wear the official gold emblem key.

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343 Section D - Honorary Chapter FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear either the official silver or gold emblem pin;  
344 Honorary State FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem charm; and Honorary  
345 American FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem key.

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347 Section E - Collegiate FFA chapter members and FFA advisors shall be entitled to wear the official gold owl pin.  
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## 349 **ARTICLE VIII**

### 350 **Officers**

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352 Section A - The officers of Florida FFA, Inc. shall consist of a president, a secretary at-large, six vice presidents and a state  
353 advisor. The State Supervisor of Agriscience and Natural Resources Education shall be the State Advisor.

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355 The FFA Director shall serve as the FFA Executive Secretary. There shall be a state FFA Board of Directors and a  
356 Governing Board, as described in Article XIII of this Constitution.

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358 Section B - In the conduct of the business of the annual State Convention, each qualified delegate shall have one vote.  
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360 Section C - Chapter officers shall consist of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, sentinel, and  
361 advisor. Other officers may be designated if desirable. The local teacher of agricultural education shall  
362 assume the responsibilities of the local advisor. Officers of the local chapter shall be elected annually or semi-  
363 annually at a regular meeting of the local chapter.

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365 Section D - In order to be elected to a state office, a member must hold the State FFA Degree. An elected state officer is  
366 not eligible to participate in local FFA chapter activities, contests, or awards. After the chapter has been  
367 established in any given school for one year, officers in the local high school chapters must not rank lower  
368 than the Chapter FFA Degree. In schools having junior chapters, the chapter officers may hold the  
369 Greenhand FFA Degree.

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371 Section E - The state officer, for any given year, must be elected from the high school graduating senior class receiving the  
372 State FFA Degree either at the current year's state convention or at a preceding state convention.

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374 Section F - A sub-district chairperson shall be elected each year at the Sub-District Contest. The sub-district chairperson  
375 shall hold the rank of Chapter FFA Degree, except in a sub-district where all chapters are either junior or  
376 middle school chapters. The sub-district chairperson shall assume the duties of sub-district activities. A sub-  
377 district chairperson alternate shall be elected separately and is not to be the runner-up in the chairmanship  
378 voting. The sub-district chairperson and alternate chairperson shall be a junior or less and have one  
379 remaining year of eligibility in the sub-district the member is elected to represent.

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381 The chairperson and alternate chairperson will be elected at the Sub-District Contest and shall serve as the  
382 sub-district chairperson-elect (alternate chairperson-elect) until the following state convention where they  
383 will then assume the responsibility of their elected office. They will serve for the length of one year from the  
384 time they assume the duties of their office.

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386 Section G - The twelve district presidents shall be elected each year at the annual State Convention. The district  
387 presidents shall hold the rank of Chapter FFA Degree. The district presidents shall assume the  
388 responsibilities of their office as outlined in the Florida FFA Guide.

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390 The twelve district secretaries will be elected each year at the annual State Convention. The district  
391 secretaries shall hold the rank of Chapter FFA Degree. The district secretaries shall assume the  
392 responsibilities of their office as outlined in the Florida FFA Guide.  
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**ARTICLE IX**  
Duties of the State Officers

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398 Section A - President. It shall be the duty of the president to preside over the State Convention of Florida FFA, Inc., and  
399 over all meetings of the one state convention each year, on such date and at such place as shall be fixed by a  
400 majority vote of the State FFA Board of Directors. The president shall appoint all committees and may serve  
401 as an ex-officio member of these committees.  
402

403 Section B - Secretary-at-Large. It shall be the duty of the secretary-at-large to keep minutes of the meetings of the state  
404 FFA officers and the state convention, and perform other duties as directed by Florida FFA, Inc. Board of  
405 Directors and/or the FFA Executive Secretary.  
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407 Section C - Vice presidents. It shall be the duty of the six vice presidents, acting under the direction of the president, to  
408 look after the welfare of Florida FFA, Inc. the State. In case the office of president becomes vacant by  
409 resignation or otherwise, the first vice president (who shall serve as the constitutional vice president) shall  
410 assume the president's duties, followed, in turn, as occasion demands by the second, third, fourth, fifth, and  
411 sixth vice presidents in the order named.  
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413 Second vice president. The second vice president shall assume the duties of the student-parliamentarian, and  
414 shall serve as a member of the State FFA Board of Directors, along with the other state officers. The second  
415 vice president shall fill the place of parliamentarian in the ceremonies of Florida FFA, Inc.  
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417 Third vice president. The third vice president shall assume the duties of student treasurer. The student  
418 treasurer shall present to the delegates at the annual State Convention the treasurer's report. The third vice  
419 president shall fill the place of treasurer in the ceremonies of Florida FFA, Inc.  
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421 Fourth vice president. The fourth vice president shall assume the duties of the student reporter, who shall be  
422 charged with the responsibility of supplying news articles to various magazines, and otherwise publicize the  
423 activities of Florida FFA, Inc. The fourth vice president shall fill the place of reporter in the ceremonies of  
424 Florida FFA, Inc.  
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426 Fifth vice president. The fifth vice president shall assume the duties of the student sentinel, who shall be  
427 charged with the responsibility of preparing the meeting places and taking care of the FFA paraphernalia.  
428 The fifth vice president shall fill the place of the sentinel in the ceremonies of Florida FFA, Inc.  
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430 Sixth vice president. The sixth vice president shall assume the duties of student chaplain and shall serve as a  
431 member of the State FFA Board of Directors, along with the other state officers. The sixth vice president shall  
432 fill the place of chaplain in the ceremonies of Florida FFA, Inc.  
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434 Section C - The State Advisor. The State Advisor is an ex-officio member of the State Governing Board. It is also the  
435 Advisors duty to advise the State FFA Board of Directors, delegates and committees on matters of policy, and  
436 assist the state officers in conducting meetings and carrying out programs. The State Advisor receives all  
437 applications for the Florida State FFA Degree, and all American FFA Degree applications, to be submitted  
438 from the State to the National Board of Trustees. The State Advisor shall prepare a report on the credentials  
439 of the candidates for State FFA Degrees.  
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441 Section D - The FFA Executive Secretary. The duties of the FFA Executive Secretary shall be performed by the FFA  
442 Director as designated by the State Advisor. The FFA Executive Secretary shall:  
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- act as an agent of Florida FFA, Inc. and of the State FFA Board of Directors.
- issue charters to local chapters, when ordered to do so by the State FFA Board of Directors.
- keep records of the membership and progress of Florida FFA, Inc.
- receive reports from local chapters, review them and inform the State FFA Board of Directors of any  
446 proceedings which appear to be in conflict with the provisions of the State Constitution.
- submit a budget of proposed expenditures to the FFA Board of Directors annually.
- be in charge of arrangements for the annual State Convention, and may perform such other duties as  
449 requested by the FFA Board of Directors.

  
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451 The Executive Secretary shall work in cooperation with the state professional staff that supervises the state  
452 program of agriscience and natural resources education, under the provisions of the National Vocational  
453 Education Act, or the Vocational Education Act of 1946 (Public Law 347, Sixty-fourth Congress, Public Law  
454 586, Seventy-ninth Congress, and Public Law 88-210, Eighty-eighth Congress).

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457 **ARTICLE X**

458 Procedure for Electing State Officers

459  
460 Section A - The Screening Committee shall study and review the qualifications of each student member who is eligible  
461 and whose application has been approved by their chapter advisor for consideration as a state officer. This  
462 committee shall report during the state convention. Election of officers shall require a majority vote.

463  
464 Section B - The president and secretary at-large shall be elected from the membership at large and shall serve statewide.  
465  
466 The election of vice presidents shall follow a yearly rotational cycle. The area from which the second vice  
467 president comes during the current year, shall be entitled to a first vice president the succeeding year, and so  
468 on for the other areas.

469  
470 Section C - State officers shall be elected to serve from one state convention through the next succeeding state convention  
471 and state student officers shall not be re-elected, nor be eligible for election to another student office. If, in  
472 the case of extreme emergency, a state convention is not held in any given year, the Board of Directors shall  
473 have the power to appoint temporary officers to fill any office. The Board of Directors will also have the  
474 power to fill vacancies which occur between state conventions.

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476 Section D - State officers may be removed, suspended from official duties, or placed on inactive status for any  
477 documented reason that would prevent said officer from performing the duties of the office, for failure to  
478 comply with conditions of the Oath of Office (attached and included as Appendix 1 to the Bylaws.), for  
479 failure to abide by the FFA Code of Ethics (attached and included as Appendix 2 to the Bylaws.), for failure to  
480 perform the duties of the office, or for commission of any act deemed to be illegal, unethical or immoral. The  
481 State FFA Executive Secretary and the State FFA Advisor shall consider all factors presented to them  
482 regarding the conduct or condition of said officer. The State Advisor and Executive Secretary shall take such  
483 action as shall be deemed to be in the best interests of the officer, the officer team, and the Florida FFA  
484 Association. At the next regular meeting of the Governing Board, they shall report their actions regarding  
485 removal or suspension of an officer or officers. The Governing Board shall have authority to ratify or reverse  
486 the actions of the State Executive Secretary and State Advisor.

487  
488 **ARTICLE XI**

489 Meetings and Conventions

490  
491 Section A - A State Convention of Florida FFA, Inc., shall be held annually, and at least 45 days prior to the National  
492 Convention, except in case of an emergency declared by FFA Board of Directors. The time and place of  
493 meeting shall be determined by the FFA Board of Directors.

494  
495 Section B - Florida FFA, Inc. shall be entitled to send two official delegates to the National FFA Convention from ~~its~~ its  
496 active membership plus additional delegates determined by the state's membership represented as a  
497 percentage of the total national membership. Calculations shall be based on the previous year's active  
498 membership according to National FFA Organization membership records and a fixed national delegate  
499 assembly of 475 delegates. The delegates shall be selected as provided in the By-Laws.

500  
501 Section C - Each chapter is entitled to send two delegates from its active membership to the State Convention, such  
502 delegates to be selected as provided in the chapter constitution or by-laws. One more than 50% of the  
503 delegates, at the rate of two delegates per chapter, must be present to constitute a quorum at the State  
504 Convention. Also, a quorum for the State Convention shall be delegate representation from a majority of the  
505 chartered and active FFA Chapters.

507 Section D - Local chapters shall hold their meetings monthly, or more often throughout the calendar year, and at a time  
508 and place to be determined by the governing body of the local chapter.  
509

510 **ARTICLE XII**  
511 Committees  
512

513 The president of Florida FFA, Inc. shall appoint regular committees annually. The first eight of the following  
514 nine committees are Florida FFA Program of Work Committees. The ninth committee is a function of the  
515 Screening Committee prior to the State FFA Convention. Other committees may be appointed as necessary.  
516

- 517 1. Alumni Relations Committee shall work closely with the Florida and National FFA Alumni and  
518 shall propose changes and recommendations for the alumni organization.  
519
- 520 2. The Audit Committee shall examine the books of the Treasurer.  
521
- 522 3. The Chapter Awards Program Committee shall propose ways of improving the Chapter Awards  
523 program (forestry, safety, co-op, etc.).  
524
- 525 4. The Career Development Event Committee shall propose ways of improving Career Development  
526 Events and ideas for new Career Development Events.  
527
- 528 5. The Marketing Committee shall propose changes for the betterment of the various FFA publication  
529 and other marketing strategies.  
530
- 531 6. The Foundation Relations and Awards Committee shall work closely with the Florida FFA  
532 Foundation and shall recommend ways to improve the overall awards program and shall propose  
533 changes and recommendations for the Florida FFA Foundation.  
534
- 535 7. The Program of Activities Committee shall set-up the annual objectives and goals of Florida FFA,  
536 Inc., and suggest ways and means of attaining them.  
537
- 538 8. The Resolutions and Changes Committee shall propose changes and redirection in the overall FFA  
539 program and shall propose resolutions concerning those changes and/or resolutions to persons,  
540 businesses or organizations as statements on behalf of Florida FFA, Inc.  
541
- 542 9. The Screening Committee shall screen applicants for state FFA office and shall recommend to the  
543 delegate body those applicants qualified to run for State FFA office.  
544

545 **ARTICLE XIII**  
546 The FFA Board of Directors and The Governing Board  
547

548 Section A - The FFA Board of Directors:  
549

- 550 1. The FFA Board of Directors of Florida FFA, Inc. shall consist of the two state FFA officers, the State  
551 Advisor (non-voting member), the FFA Executive Secretary, six teacher representatives(one from each  
552 area), one agriscience education staff member from the state university system to be appointed by the  
553 Advisor, the Executive Director of the Florida FFA Foundation, the President or designee of the Florida  
554 Association of Agriculture Educators, and the President or designee of the Florida FFA Alumni. The six  
555 remaining state FFA officers shall serve as ex-officio non-voting members. Consultants (non-voting  
556 members) from industry, supporters, and organizations deemed to have positive influence on Florida  
557 FFA shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. Such consultants are valued for their advice and  
558 support, and may offer comments during meetings of the Board of Directors, may serve as members of  
559 committees, but shall not hold office on the Board of Directors.  
560
- 561 2. The FFA Board of Directors shall assume the duties of conducting annual FFA activities.  
562

- 563 3. The terms of office of the members of the FFA Board of Directors and the method of selection of such  
564 members, other than ex-officio members, are prescribed in the By-Laws.  
565  
566 4. Florida FFA, Inc. shall meet at least once each year, at such time and place as may be prescribed in the  
567 By-Laws. Special meetings may be called at any time by the chairperson.  
568  
569 5. The officers of Florida FFA, Inc. Board of Directors shall be elected from the teacher representatives on  
570 the Board of Directors, and have the power to authorize the seal of Florida FFA, Inc. to be affixed to all  
571 papers which may require it.  
572  
573 6. The quorum of the FFA Board of Directors shall consist of a majority of the voting members and a  
574 majority of the ex-officio non-voting members.  
575

576 Section B - The Governing Board:

- 577  
578 1. The Governing Board of Florida FFA, Inc. shall be composed of: (a) the State Supervisor of Agriscience  
579 and Natural Resources Education as the State Advisor, who shall serve as a non-voting member; (b) the  
580 President of the FFA Board of Directors who shall act as the chairperson; (c) the Secretary of the FFA  
581 Board of Directors; (d) the Treasurer of the FFA Board of Directors; (e) the State FFA President, and the  
582 President-elect of the FFA Board of Directors and (f) the FFA Executive Secretary who will act as the  
583 Secretary of the Governing Board.  
584  
585 2. The Governing Board, in the event of an emergency or if an issue arises that does not allow time for the  
586 Board of Directors to meet, shall have and exercise the powers of the Board of Directors, subject to their  
587 direction, and have the power to authorize the seal of Florida FFA, Inc. to be affixed to all papers which  
588 may require it, or to take such actions as are deemed to be in the best interests of the Florida FFA  
589 Association. Any action taken shall be reported to the Board of Directors at its next meeting, and such  
590 action is subject to ratification or repeal.  
591

592 **ARTICLE XIV**

593 Dues

594  
595 Section A - Annual membership dues in Florida FFA, Inc. shall be fixed by a majority vote of the delegates present at the  
596 State FFA Convention.  
597

598 Section B - The dues of any chapter shall be fixed by a majority vote of the membership of that chapter.  
599

600 **ARTICLE XV**

601 Amendments

602  
603 Section A - Proposed amendments to the State Constitution must be submitted in writing by authorized representatives of  
604 local chapters to the FFA office at least 45 days prior to the annual State FFA Convention. These proposed  
605 amendments must be reviewed by the FFA Board of Directors which shall, in turn, submit them to the delegates at  
606 the State Convention with recommendations. Amendments may be adopted or revisions made in the State  
607 Constitution at any State FFA Convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates.  
608

609 Section B - By-Laws of the State Constitution may be adopted by the FFA Board of Directors to fit the needs of Florida FFA,  
610 Inc. or any unit thereof, provided they are not in conflict with the State or National Constitution. These  
611 adoptions or changes shall be reported to the delegate body at the next regular convention.  
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**BY-LAWS**  
of the  
**FLORIDA FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA, INC.**  
*(As Amended at the 88th State Convention, June 2016)*

**ARTICLE I**  
Intent of Constitution and By-Laws

All provisions contained in the Constitution of Florida FFA, Inc. shall be considered to be a part of these By-Laws to the same extent as though fully set forth herein.

**ARTICLE II**  
Location of Principal Office, Description of Regions, Areas, and Districts

- Section A - The principal office of Florida FFA, Inc. shall be designated by the FFA Board of Directors.
- Section B - Areas, and districts.
1. The twelve districts will consist of those chapters which have been granted charters and annually submit a Quality Chapter Plan and a membership roster to the FFA Executive Secretary by October 31, and a National Chapter Award Application to the FFA Executive Secretary by April 15.
  2. The state shall consist of six areas; areas shall be used only for the purpose of state officer elections and administrative purposes. Changes to the boundaries of the Areas or Districts shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for action.
  3. A chapter may petition the FFA Board of Directors for transfer from the District or Area assigned, to an adjacent District or Area.

**ARTICLE III**  
Procedures for Electing Teacher Representatives  
to the Board of Directors of Florida FFA, Inc.

- Section A - The teacher representatives on the Board of Directors shall be teachers of agricultural education (one from each area in the state), elected by the local advisors at the Annual State FFA Convention each year.
- Section B - The teacher representatives on the Board of Directors will be elected on a rotational basis to serve three years. Elected Board members shall not serve more than two consecutive three year terms.
- Section C - The term of office of the six local chapter advisors, who serve on the Board of Directors, will begin at the conclusion of the State FFA Convention.
- Section D - Whenever a vacancy occurs among the teacher representatives on the Board of Directors, other than from expiration of their term of office, the remaining teacher representatives on the Board of Directors shall appoint a local advisor from the area in which the vacancy occurs to serve until a successor has been elected and notified.
- Section E - All teacher representatives on the Board of Directors shall continue in office until their successors have been chosen and qualified.

**ARTICLE IV**  
Governing Board

- Section A - Refer to Article XIII, of the Constitution.

**ARTICLE V**  
The Fiscal Year

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Section A - The fiscal year of Florida FFA, Inc. shall commence on the first day of July, each year, and shall end on the thirtieth day of June of the next succeeding calendar year.

Section B - All books and records of Florida FFA, Inc. may be inspected by any member, or his agent or attorney, at any time.

**ARTICLE VI**  
Board Meetings

Section A - Annual and other meetings of the Governing Board shall be held in or at such place or places as may be prescribed by the FFA Board of Directors.

Section B - Special meetings of the Governing Board may be called at any time by the chairperson.

Section C - Notice of meetings shall be given by notifying each member of the Board not less than thirty days prior to any regular meeting, and not less than five days prior to any special meeting.

**ARTICLE VII**  
Reports to the Executive Secretary

Section A - Each local chapter shall submit the following information to the State Executive Secretary:

1. A list of the newly elected chapter officers should be indicated by using the code on the membership roster.
2. A report on any changes in, or amendments to, the chapter constitution and by-laws, shall be submitted immediately following any chapter meeting at which a change has been enacted.
3. Any reports requested by the Executive Secretary on any activities and progress, as may be deemed advisable and called for by the FFA Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
Procedure for Issuing Charters to Local Chapters

Section A - Local chapters shall apply through the Executive Secretary for affiliation with Florida FFA, Inc., using the form furnished by the Executive Secretary. The application shall be signed by the local chapter president, advisor and principal, and the state president, secretary, and advisor. The following materials shall accompany the application for a chapter charter:

1. A list of members with officers properly indicated on the official FFA roster.
2. A copy of the proposed local chapter constitution and by-laws.
3. A copy of the Quality Chapter Plan for the year.
4. Proper amount of state and national dues for each member with the check made payable to the Florida FFA.

Any school with ninth grade and below may charter only one chapter. There may be two chapters in a school with grades 7-12 inclusive. The second chapter will be chartered under the same name as the original chapter with the word "junior" applied to that name. In order to charter a junior chapter at a school with grades 7-12 inclusive, there must be at least sixty members in the original chapter and two teachers in the department. This junior chapter will be comprised of all the members in the ninth grade and below. Nothing in this section shall prevent any chapter from electing "junior officers" who shall participate in a leadership training continuum.

726 A Middle school may charter an FFA Chapter provided that the conditions of Article II of the Florida FFA  
727 Constitution are met.

728 A school containing grades that would be inclusive of middle school, junior high school, and high school  
729 grades, or any combination thereof, may charter such chapters as are appropriate for those grade levels.  
730

731 A senior chapter may include members from grades 7-12 where a junior chapter does not exist in that school.  
732 The words "senior chapter" must be used if there is a junior chapter in existence in that school. Some contest  
733 and award programs in Florida are restricted to certain grade levels. To compete in grade-restricted events, a  
734 chapter must be chartered which will comply with the event restrictions.  
735

## 736 ARTICLE IX

### 737 Election Guidelines for State Officer Elections

738  
739 Section A - A screening process shall be established whereby no more than 2(two) qualified candidates for each office  
740 shall appear on the ballot. Prior to the screening process, each potential candidate shall have made available  
741 to them a copy of the duties of the office, a copy of the Oath of Office, and a copy of the FFA Code of Ethics.  
742 Potential candidates shall be informed that candidacy for state office is a voluntary process, and compliance  
743 with the terms and conditions of the referenced documents shall be expected.  
744

745 Section B - Upon conclusion of the screening process, the names of the qualified candidates shall be forwarded to a  
746 person or persons appointed by the State Advisor and/or Executive Secretary who shall prepare a sample  
747 ballot to be submitted to the State Advisor and Executive Secretary for approval. Upon approval of the ballot,  
748 the designated person or persons shall arrange for printing of the ballots. On all ballots, the candidate names  
749 for each office shall be listed in strict alphabetical order. For purposes of alphabetizing, the legal name of the  
750 candidate shall be used. Ballots shall remain secured until immediately prior to the District meetings at the  
751 Annual State Convention.  
752

753 Section C- The State FFA Executive Secretary and the State Advisor, or any person or persons properly designated by  
754 them, are declared to have full authority over the election. Such person or persons shall prepare all voting  
755 materials, and shall remain in control of access to such materials prior to and at the conclusion of the  
756 election.  
757

- 758 1. Canvassing of votes shall be done immediately after closing of the polls and securing of all election  
759 materials.  
760
- 761 2. No ballots, marked or unmarked, may be added to the ballots cast after the board of canvassers has  
762 determined that all legally cast ballots have been collected.  
763
- 764 3. Ballots will be canvassed according to a double accounting system. Canvassers will be divided into teams  
765 of two. One person will read off the names of those persons receiving votes while the other ~~tallies~~  
766 records the votes cast. When all the ballots assigned to a team have been counted, the team members will  
767 reverse duties and count again. Totals from both counts must agree.  
768
- 769 4. In the event that a ballot is improperly marked or marked in a manner as to make it unclear as to the  
770 intent of the voter, that vote will not be counted.  
771
- 772 5. Votes shall be counted only for those candidates whose names appear on the official ballot. Write in  
773 candidates shall not be considered, and shall be counted as non-votes in the canvassing of ballots cast.  
774
- 775 6. In the event of a tie or deadlock, the State FFA Executive Secretary and/or the State FFA Advisor shall  
776 appoint someone to break the tie using a method that involves pure random chance.  
777
- 778 7. Election results shall be reported only to the State FFA Executive Secretary and the State FFA Advisor.  
779 Members of the canvassing committee shall consider all their proceedings to be confidential.  
780

## 781 ARTICLE X

### 782 Delegates to the National FFA Convention

- 783  
784 Section A - The official delegates to the State Presidents' Conference in Washington, D.C. shall be the student President  
785 and Secretary at-large.  
786  
787 Section B - The primary delegates to the National FFA Convention will be the same delegates that attended the State  
788 Presidents' Conference.  
789  
790 Section C - Other delegates, as needed, shall be the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth vice presidents, in order.  
791  
792 Section D - Additional delegates will be selected from the immediate past state officers and the ranks of the 24 district  
793 officers based on a competitive application and a selection committee appointed by the State Advisor or  
794 designee. Eligibility shall be limited to high school juniors and seniors. Certification/ approval by  
795 appropriate school authorities and parents must be included in the application.  
796

797 **ARTICLE XI**  
798 Amendments  
799

- 800 Section A - These By-Laws, except those provisions included in the Constitution of Florida FFA, Inc., may be submitted  
801 for amendment by the Governing Board or Board of Directors at any meeting, and such amendments shall be  
802 promptly reported to the local chapters and at the next State Convention.  
803  
804 Section B - Proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws must be submitted in writing by authorized  
805 representatives of local chapters to the FFA office at least 45 days prior to the State Convention of Florida  
806 FFA, Inc.  
807  
808 These proposed amendments must be reviewed by the State Board of Directors, which shall, in turn, submit  
809 them to the delegates at the State Convention with recommendations. Amendments or revisions may be  
810 adopted at the State Convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present. Errors of spelling,  
811 punctuation, grammar or usage may be corrected by the Board of Directors. Official name changes of  
812 programs and activities may be changed by the Board of Directors, and such corrections and changes shall be  
813 reported to the delegates at the next state convention.