

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
EAST CENTRAL FFA**

Revised April 2010
Adopted May 3, 2010

**EAST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE/AGRIBUSINESS**

Article I - NAME AND PURPOSE

Section A: The name of this organization shall be the "East Central Chapter of The FFA." The letters "FFA" may be used to designate the chapter, its activities, or members thereof.

Section B: The purposes for which this chapter has been formed are as follows:

1. To develop competent, aggressive agricultural leaders.
2. To develop an awareness of the global importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being.
3. To strengthen the confidences of agriculture students in themselves and their work.
4. To promote the intelligent choice and establishment of an Agriculture career.
5. To stimulate development and encourage achievement in individual agricultural experience programs.
6. To improve the economic, environmental, recreational and human resources to the community.
7. To develop competencies in communications, human relations and social abilities.
8. To develop character, train for useful citizenship, and foster patriotism.
9. To build cooperative attitudes among agricultural students.
10. To encourage wise management of resources.
11. To encourage improvement in scholarship.
12. To provide organized recreational activities for agricultural students.

Article II - ORGANIZATION

Section A: The East Central Chapter of FFA is a chartered local unit of The Texas FFA Association which is chartered by the National FFA Organization.

Section B: This chapter accepts in full the provisions in the constitution and by-laws of the Texas Association of FFA as well as those of the National FFA Organization.

Article III - MEMBERSHIP

Section A: Membership in the chapter shall be of four kinds: (1) Active, (2) Junior, (3) Alumni, and (4) Honorary, as defined by the National FFA Constitution.

1. Active membership is open to students enrolled in East Central High School, grades 9-12.
2. Junior membership is open to students enrolled in an East Central ISD school, grades 3-8.

Section B: The regular work of this chapter shall be carried on by the active & eligible junior membership.

Section C: Honorary membership in this chapter shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree.

Section D: Active members in good standing may vote on all business brought before the chapter. An active member shall be considered in good standing if they:

1. Attend local Chapter meetings with reasonable regularity.
2. They show an interest in and take part in the affairs of the chapter.
3. Pay their dues regularly.
4. Abide by the FFA Code of Ethics.
5. Be enrolled in a Agricultural Science class during the school year.

Section E: Junior members in good standing may vote on all business brought before the chapter. A junior member shall be in good standing if they:

1. Attend 75% of Chapter meetings.
2. They show an interest in and take part in the affairs of the Chapter.
3. Pay their dues regularly.
4. Abide by the FFA Code of Ethics.
5. For voting purposes a junior member must complete 1 year of membership to vote on any business.

Article IV - EMBLEMS

Section A: The emblem of the FFA shall be the emblem for the Chapter.

Section B: Emblems used by the members shall be uniform and those obtained from concerns officially designated by the national FFA Organization.

Article V – ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP DEGREES AND PRIVILEGES; JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

Section A: There shall be four degrees of active membership in the Chapter. These degrees are (1) The Greenhand FFA Degree, (2) The Chapter FFA Degree, (3) Lone Star FFA Degree, and (4) American FFA Degree. All Greenhands are entitled to wear the regulation bronze emblem pin. Chapter FFA wears the Silver emblem degree pin, Lone Star - gold charm, and American - gold key.

Section B: GREENHAND: MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTION

1. Be regularly enrolled in a class in Agricultural Education class, and have satisfactory plans for a supervised experience program.
2. Learn and explain the FFA creed, motto, and FFA Mission Statement.
3. Describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and colors.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics and explain 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 Official FFA Manual.
7. Submit a written application.

Section C: CHAPTER FFA: MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTION

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed at least 180 hours of systematic instruction in Agricultural Education at or above the ninth grade level, and have in operation an approved supervised agricultural experience program and be enrolled in an agricultural science program.
3. Have participated in the planning and conducting of at least 3 official functions in the chapter Program of Activities.
4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$150 by the members own efforts or worked at least forty five hours in excess of scheduled class time, or combination thereof, and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement.
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 Program.
8. Have a satisfactory scholastic record.
9. Submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.

Section D: STATE FFA DEGREE – Qualifications for the State FFA Degree are those set forth in the Constitution of the State Association.

Section E: AMERICAN FFA DEGREE - Qualifications for the American FFA Degree are those set forth in the Constitution of the National FFA Association.

Section F: ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

Privileges may include one or all of the following:

1. Enter and exhibit projects at fairs and shows through the East Central FFA.
2. Participation on leadership development teams(leadership teams).
3. Participation on career development teams(judging teams).
4. Applying for advanced degrees, awards and scholarships.
5. Attending district, area, state & national leadership activities.
6. Participation in any other activity that requires FFA membership.

Section G: JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

Privileges may include one or all of the following:

1. Enter and exhibit projects at fairs and shows through the East Central FFA.
2. Participation on judging teams at contest allowing junior participation.
3. Participation in local leadership activities.
4. Participation in any other activity that requires junior FFA membership.

Article VI - OFFICERS

Section A: The officers of the chapter shall be as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, Student Advisor, and Historian. The advisor shall be the teachers of Agricultural Science in the school where the chapter is located. Officers shall perform the usual duties of the respective officers as listed in the Official FFA Manual.

Section B: Officers shall be elected annually. Members will rank the candidates as to their preference for each constitutional office.

Section C: The officers of the chapter together with the chairmen in charge of the major sections of the annual program of activities shall constitute the Chapter Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have full power to act as necessary for the Chapter in accordance with actions taken at chapter meetings and various regulations or by-laws adopted from time to time.

Section D: Honorary members shall not vote nor shall they hold any office in the chapter except that of advisor.

Section E: Chapter officers must hold the degree of the Chapter Farmer and have satisfactory scholastic standing and a commendable citizenship and conduct record.

Article VII - MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS

Section A: Regular Chapter meetings shall be held at least once a month during the school year at such time and place as is designated by the Chapter Executive Committee and the Chapter may hold at least one regular meeting during the summer. Special meetings may be called at any time.

Section B: Standard meeting paraphernalia shall be used at each meeting. All regular meetings shall open and close with the official ceremonies. Parliamentary procedure shall be used in transacting all business at each meeting.

Section C: Delegates, as specified by the state constitution, shall be elected annually from active membership to represent the chapter at the state convention. Other delegates may be named as necessary in order to have proper representation at various other FFA meetings within the state.

Section D: A majority of active members listed on the secretary's membership roll shall constitute a quorum, and a quorum must be present at any meetings at which business is transacted or a vote taken committing the chapter to any proposal or action.

Article IX - AMENDMENTS

Section A: This constitution may be amended or changed at any regular chapter meeting by a two-thirds vote of the active membership present providing it is not in conflict with the State Association Constitution or that of the National Organization.

Section B: By-laws may be adopted to fill the needs of the chapter at any regular chapter meeting, by a two-thirds vote of the active members present providing such by-laws conflict in no way with the constitution and by-laws of either the State Association or the National Organization.

BY-LAWS TO LOCAL CONSTITUTION

I. OFFICER ELECTIONS

A. The chapter officers will be composed of eight (8) active members and will carry out the official business of the chapter.

B. Chapter officers must apply for the office they seek. The applications must be submitted by stated date.

C. Officers will be interviewed by a committee and ranked.

D. Officers will take a written test over the FFA and Parliamentary Procedure.

- E. Officers will be voted upon by the members attending the specially held meeting.
- F. The percentages that the interview, test and elections will be determined by the current years' officer team prior to the election.

II. OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS

- A. All officer candidates are to know and agree to abide by the FFA Code of Ethics.
- B. All officer candidates are to have knowledge of The Mission and Strategies of the FFA Organization.
- C. All officer candidates are to have commendable citizenship and conduct records.
- D. All officer candidates shall have their official FFA dues paid.
- E. Officer candidates shall meet the following respective scholastic requirements:
 - (a) Chapter officer candidates must have an average of "B" or better in past Agricultural Science courses and have an overall average of "B" or better in courses taken the semester immediately preceding officer elections.
- F. All officer candidates are to have a sincere desire to carry out the duties of the office to which they are elected.
- G. All officers must agree to abide by the FFA Officer Rules as created each year by the Chapter Executive Committee and sign a statement agreeing to abide by them.

III. Officers are to carry out their duties as outlined in the official FFA Manual and as assigned by the President and approved by the Advisors.

IV. TERM OF OFFICE

- A. The terms of office shall be for one year, ending after the newly elected officers are installed.

V. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

- A. Officers may be removed from office for failing to meet the qualifications stated in the constitution.
- B. Officers must meet the same qualifications for holding office the second school semester as they did when elected; otherwise their term of office will expire.

- C. An officer will be entitled to a full and impartial review and hearing by the executive committee. They may be temporarily or permanently dismissed from office. A decision will be based upon the facts.

VI. GENERAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

- A. Membership may be temporarily or permanently denied for failure to abide by the code of Ethics.

VII. OFFICIAL FFA CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

- A. Each individual member takes upon themselves the responsibility of wearing official clothing and accessories with dignity and pride so as not to reflect any bad criticism upon himself, the school, the FFA Organization, or the Local chapter.

VII. OFFICIAL FFA AND SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

- A. All members will show pride in the FFA Organization in his/her school by properly caring for and using the facility, its equipment, and official paraphernalia in a proper, dignified manner.

IX. PUBLIC RELATIONS BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Each individual FFA member is to realize that they are a personal representative of their school and FFA Chapter. The image of their school and chapter are reflected through and by them as an individual. Aim for and achieve excellence.