Alabama Association
FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSES

SECTION A. The name of this organization shall be "The Alabama Association of Future Farmers of America". Members herinafter referred to as "Future Farmers". The letters "FFA" may be officially used to designate the organization, its chapters or members.

SECTION B. Aim and Purposes of the FFA. The primary aim of the Future Farmers of America is the development of agricultural leadership, cooperation, and citizenship. The specific purposes for which this organization was formed are as follows:

1. To develop competent, aggressive, rural and agricultural leadership.
2. To create and nurture a love of country life.
3. To strengthen the confidence of farm boys and young men in themselves and their work.
4. To create more interest in the intelligent choice of farming occupations.
5. To encourage members in the development of individual farming programs and establishment in farming.
6. To encourage members to improve the farm home and its surroundings.
7. To participate in worthy undertakings for the improvement of agriculture.
8. To develop character, train for useful citizenship, and foster patriotism.
9. To participate in cooperative effort.
10. To encourage and practice thrift.
11. To encourage improvement in scholarship.
12. To provide and encourage the development of organized rural recreational activities.

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION

SECTION A. The Alabama Association of Future Farmers of America is the State organization for students of vocational agriculture. It shall consist of local chapters chartered by the Alabama Association.

SECTION B. Active chapters of the Future Farmers of America for students enrolled in schools of less than college grade shall be chartered only in such schools where recognized systematic instruction in vocational agriculture of the all-day or day-unit type is offered under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts.
SECTION C. Collegiate chapters, designed primarily for training prospective teachers of vocational agriculture in their duties as local advisors of the FFA, may be established only in institutions for the training of teachers of vocational agriculture officially recognized in State plans for vocational education approved by the Office of Education, Federal Security Agency.

All activities of collegiate chapters of Future Farmers of America and members thereof shall be in harmony with the purposes, principles, and ideals of the Future Farmers of America organization.

Each collegiate chapter shall submit to the State Advisor an annual report covering program of work and achievements for the current school year.

Collegiate chapters shall be chartered by and be maintained under the authority of State Associations of Future Farmers of America in the State concerned.

The work of collegiate chapters shall be carried on with the regular equipment and paraphernalia of the Future Farmers of America, except that members of collegiate chapters who were not FFA members in high school shall not be entitled to wear the regular insignia of the Future Farmers of America.

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 Association when the following general conditions are met:
1. All current State and National dues have been paid by a date to be specified by each State Association.
2. All reports have been submitted as required by the State Association.
3. No provisions of chapter constitution is in conflict with the State and National Constitutions or P. L. 740. Activities are in harmony with the ideals and purposes of the National organization.
4. The governing body of a State Association shall have the power to suspend local 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 the State Association at the time of the opening of a State Convention, the delegates in State Convention shall have the power, upon recommendation of the State governing body, 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 regular privileges of the State Association. Upon meeting the requirements for good standing, a chapter may be reinstated by action of the State governing body, not earlier than 20 days after the closing date of the State Convention during which it was not in good standing.

SECTION B. An active member shall be considered in good standing when:
1. He attends local chapter meetings while enrolled in the school where the local chapter is established.
2. He shows an interest in, and takes part in, the affairs of the chapter.
3. He pays his dues regularly and conducts himself in a manner becoming a member of the organization.
ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A. Membership in this organization shall be of four kinds: (1) Active; (2) Associate; (3) Collegiate; and (4) Honorary.

SECTION B. Active Membership. Any male student who is regularly enrolled in an all-day or day-unit class in vocational agriculture is entitled to become an active member of any chartered FFA chapter upon receiving a majority vote of the chapter membership at any local chapter meeting. A member may retain his active membership continuously throughout his entire high school career and for three years after the first National Convention following graduation from high school, or leaving high school, or until he becomes 21 years of age, whichever length of time is greater. No individual, however, may retain his active membership beyond his 25th birthday. (Statement in National Constitution regarding members inducted into the Armed Forces applies.)

SECTION C. Associate Membership. Following the termination of active membership status, a member automatically becomes an associate member.

SECTION D. Collegiate Membership. This may include all trainees preparing to teach vocational agriculture and former active FFA members of chartered local chapters who may be enrolled in an institution having a collegiate chapter.

SECTION E. Honorary Membership. Supervisors, school superintendents, principals, members of boards of education, instructors, teachers of agriculture, business men, farmers, and others who are helping to advance vocational agriculture 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 Farmer Degree in the local chapter, and the Honorary State Farmer Degree in the State Association.

ARTICLE V. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP
DEGREES AND PRIVILEGES

SECTION A. There shall be only four degrees of active membership based upon achievement. These are: (1) Green Hand; (2) Chapter Farmer; (3) State Farmer; and (4) American Farmer. The National Organization shall set the standards for the several degrees.

SECTION B. Green Hand Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:
1. Be regularly enrolled in a vocational agriculture class and have satisfactory and acceptable plans for a program of supervised farming.
2. Be familiar with the purposes of the FFA and the program of work of the local chapter.
3. Recite the Creed of the Future Farmers of America.
4. Receive a majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting of a local chapter of the Future Farmers of America.

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SECTION C. Chapter Farmer Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:
1. Must have held the degree of Green Hand preceding election to the Degree of Chapter Farmer and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities of the local chapter.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed at least one year of instruction in vocational agriculture, have in operation an improved supervised farming program, and be regularly enrolled in a vocational agriculture class.
3. Be familiar with the purposes and programs of work of the State Association and National Organization.
4. Be familiar with the provisions of the Constitution of the local chapter.
5. Be familiar with parliamentary procedure.
6. Be able to lead a group discussion for fifteen minutes.
7. Must have earned by his own efforts from his supervised farming program and deposited in a bank or otherwise productively invested at least $50.
8. Receive a majority vote of the members present at a regular local chapter meeting.

SECTION D. State Farmer Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:
1. Must have held the degree of Chapter Farmer preceding election to the Degree of State Farmer, have been an active member of the FFA for at least two years, and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities of the local chapter.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed at least two years of instruction in vocational agriculture, have in operation an outstanding program of supervised farming, and be regularly enrolled in a vocational agriculture class or have completed all the vocational agriculture offered in the school last attended.
3. Be familiar with the provisions of the Constitution of the State Association and National Organization.
4. Demonstrate proficiency in parliamentary procedure.
5. Be able to lead a group discussion for forty minutes and pass some occupational or FFA test provided by the governing body of the State Association.
6. Must have earned by his own efforts from farming or other agricultural work and deposited in a bank or otherwise productively invested at least $500 (at least two-thirds of the amount must be derived from his supervised farming program).
7. Show outstanding ability as evidenced by his leadership and cooperation in student, chapter, and community activities, and have a satisfactory scholarship record certified by the local school superintendent or principal.
8. Must have participated in an outstanding way in activities for community improvement and the development of agriculture.

SECTION E. American Farmer Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:
1. Must have held the Degree of State Farmer preceding election to the Degree of American Farmer, have been an active member of the FFA continuously for at least 36 months, and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities of the local chapter and State Association.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed at least three years of instruction in vocational agriculture, or have completed all of the vocational agriculture offered in the school last attended, have been out of high school for at least 12 months prior to the Convention at which the Degree is granted, and have in operation an outstanding program of supervised farming. Productive projects must show comprehensive planning, continuation, growth, and increase in scope with records to substantiate such accomplishments.
3. During the period covered by his application, the candidate must have earned by his own efforts from farming and other agricultural work and have deposited in a bank or otherwise productively invested at least $1,000, provided that at least two-thirds of the amount is derived from his supervised farming program. In the cases where the applicant has assisted in the support of dependents, the amount so expended, in the judgement of the National Board of Student Officers, may be considered as an investment.

4. Show outstanding ability as evidenced by his leadership and cooperation in student, chapter, and community activities, and have a satisfactory scholarship record certified by the local school superintendent or principal.

ARTICLE VI. EMBLEM

SECTION A. The emblem of the Future Farmers of America shall be made up of five symbols, namely: (1) the plow, representing tillage of the soil, the basis of modern agriculture; (2) the owl, representing wisdom; (3) the rising sun, representing progress; (4) a cross-section of an ear of corn, representing common agricultural interests, since corn is native to America and is grown in every state; and (5) an American eagle surmounting the cross-section of an ear of corn indicating the National scope of the organization. The emblem shall also carry the three letters "FFA" and the words "Vocational Agriculture".

SECTION B. Emblems shall be uniform in all chapters throughout the State Association. All members are entitled to wear the emblem.

SECTION C. "Green Hands" are entitled to wear the regulation bronze emblem degree pin; "Chapter Farmers" are entitled to wear the regulation silver emblem degree pin; and "State Farmers" are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem charm.

SECTION D. "Honorary Chapter Farmers" are entitled to wear either the regulation silver emblem degree pin or a similar pin in gold; and "Honorary State Farmers" are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem charm.

SECTION E. Collegiate chapter members and advisors are entitled to wear an owl pin of official design.

ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

SECTION A. The officers of the State Association shall consist of a President and five Vice-Presidents, Advisor and Executive Secretary. The Vice-Presidents shall be assigned responsibilities to carry on the work of the organization. The Supervisor of Agricultural Education shall be State Advisor. An Executive Secretary from the State professional staff shall be named by the State Advisor. This group shall constitute the State Executive Committee.

SECTION B. Chapter officers shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel and Advisor. Local Teachers of vocational agriculture shall be the local Advisors. Officers of the local chapter shall be elected annually or semi-annually at a regular meeting of the local chapter.

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SECTION C. Only members who have been elected the Degree of State Farmer are eligible to hold State Offices. Officers in the local chapter must not rank lower than the grade of Chapter Farmer after the chapter has been established in any given school for one year.

ARTICLE VIII

DUTIES OF STATE OFFICERS

SECTION A. The President. It shall be the duty of the President to preside over the State Convention of Future Farmers of America. The President shall call one State Convention each year on such date and at such place as shall be fixed by the Executive Committee. The President shall appoint all committees and may serve as an ex-officio member of these committees.

SECTION B. The Vice-President. It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to assist the President in any way that he can. In case the office of President becomes vacant by resignation or otherwise, the Vice-President shall assume these duties. The Vice-President shall perform such other duties as directed to perform by the Executive Committee.

SECTION C. The Secretary. The Secretary shall perform the duties common to that office, such as keeping an accurate record of the State Convention and meetings of the State Executive Committee. He shall perform such other duties as directed to perform by the Executive Committee and by the Executive Secretary.

SECTION D. The Treasurer. The Treasurer, assisted by the Executive Secretary, shall be responsible for the custody of all funds and other assets of the organization. They shall keep correct and complete books and records of accounts concerning all financial transactions of the organization. He shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee.

SECTION E. The Reporter. The Reporter shall perform the duties common to that office, such as preparing news stories pertaining to activities of the FFA organization. He shall perform such other duties as directed by the State Executive Committee.

SECTION F. The Sentinel. The sentinel shall perform the duties common to that office, such as set up meeting room, care for paraphernalia and equipment, and other duties as may be prescribed by the State Executive Committee.

SECTION G. The Advisor. The Advisor is an ex-officio member of all committees. It is his duty to advise the Executive Committee, the Advisory Council, and other committees on matters of policy, and assist the State Officers in conducting meetings and carrying out programs. The Advisor reviews all applications for the State Farmer Degree and submits them to the State Executive Committee with his recommendations.

SECTION H. The Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall assist the Advisor in looking after the welfare of the FFA organization in Alabama, and shall act as agent for the State Executive Committee. He shall keep the official records of membership and progress of the association. He shall receive all reports from local chapters, review them, and inform the Executive Committee of any proceedings which appear to be in conflict with the provisions of the State Constitution. He shall submit a budget of proposed expenditures to the Executive Committee annually and keep or have kept correct and complete minutes of the proceedings of the members, the Executive Committee, the Advisory Council, and of any other officially convened
meeting of members or officers charged with the transaction of any business affecting the organization. He shall be in charge of arrangements for the annual State Convention and may perform such other duties delegated to him by the Executive Committee and the State Advisor.

ARTICLE IX. PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING STATE OFFICERS.

A Nominating Committee, appointed by the President shall study and review the qualifications of members who are candidates for State Office. All candidates under consideration shall be given a personal interview, either by the Nominating Committee or by a sub-committee. The nominating committee shall report during the State Convention. One officer will be elected from each district that has three or more candidates. Where a district has less than three, the candidates from this district will be interviewed by the State Executive Committee along with one candidate from each of the other districts that have three or more. The Executive Committee will nominate one candidate from this combined group. Election of the officers shall require a majority vote by the delegates present.

State officers shall be elected to serve from one State Convention through the next succeeding State Convention and shall not be re-elected. The State Executive Committee shall have power to appoint temporary officers to fill any office declared vacant between State Conventions, with the approval of the State Advisor.

ARTICLE X. ADVISORY COUNCIL

SECTION A. The State FFA Advisory Council shall be composed of six local Advisors.

One member will be elected from each district by the local Advisors of that district. Length of term shall be three years with not more than two expiring in any one year. No member shall succeed himself after serving a full term.

SECTION B. Purposes

1. To provide a clearing house for ideas relative to FFA policies and practices and to advise the Executive Committee in such matters.
2. To study and make recommendations on matters referred to the Council by the Executive Committee.
3. To function as an advisory rather than an executive body.

ARTICLE XI. MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS

SECTION A. A state Convention of Future Farmers of America shall be held annually, except in case of an extreme emergency declared by the Executive Committee. The time and place of meeting shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

SECTION B. The State Executive Committee shall determine the number of delegates to the State Convention.

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SECTION C. The State Convention shall, except in case of extreme emergency, be held annually and at least 45 days prior to the National Convention at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Committee.

SECTION D. 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.

ARTICLE XII. COMMITTEES

The president of the Alabama Association, shall appoint three regular committees annually: The Nominating Committee; the Auditing Committee; and the Committee on Program of Work. Other committees may be appointed as necessary.

The Nominating Committee shall place in nomination the candidates for the various State Offices.

The Auditing Committee shall examine the books of the treasurer.

The Committee on Program of Work shall set up the annual objectives and goals of the State organization and suggest ways and means of attaining them.

ARTICLE XIII. DUES

SECTION A. Annual membership dues of the State Association shall be fixed by the State Executive Committee, subject to approval by a majority vote of the delegates present at the State Convention.

SECTION B. The dues of any chapter shall be fixed by the chapter officers subject to a majority vote of the membership of that chapter.

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS

SECTION A. A proposed amendment to the State Constitution must be submitted in writing to the State Office at least 60 days prior to any State Convention of the Future Farmers of America. A proposed amendment must be submitted by the State Advisor to the local chapters at least 30 days prior to the next succeeding State Convention, be reviewed by the Executive Committee, and submitted by the State officers with recommendations to the delegates at the State Convention. An amendment to the State Constitution may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present.

ARTICLE XV. PROCEDURE FOR ISSUING CHARTERS TO LOCAL CHAPTERS

The Secretary of the local organization shall submit with his application to the State Office for charter the following information:

1. A copy of the proposed local constitution or adoption of State Constitution.
2. A copy of the local chapter Activity Program.
3. A list of all local members with check to cover State and National Dues.