



NATIONAL  
FFA ORGANIZATION

# Affiliation Fee Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### AFFILIATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

During fact-finding for the affiliation fee program – as the student delegates, taskforce committee, steering committee, staff and board members worked through the developmental process – many questions came to our attention. To help answer those questions, we have developed the following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document to provide you with a better understanding of how the affiliation fee program works.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### **Q: What are the main purposes behind the affiliation fee program?**

**A:**

- Provides opportunities to every student in every classroom every day.
- Provides equal opportunities for all students in all parts of the school-based agricultural education model (classroom, supervised agricultural experience [SAE] and FFA).
- Repositions FFA as an integral part of agricultural education in the classroom and removes the club connotation.
- Creates more efficient use of class time and resources (cost per student, teacher's time, less money-handling in dues collection).
- Opens access for alternative funding sources to pay just one fee covering all students enrolled in the agricultural education program at the local level.
- Improves budget planning; fee structure is based on agricultural education enrollment as of Aug. 31 annually.

#### **Q: Why do we need an alternative to the current dues payment we have used for years?**

**A:** The affiliation fee program provides all students in agricultural education with the FFA experience they may not choose to seek out on their own. Incoming students may not understand the value of what FFA has to offer; they may not be able to afford to pay the dues; and they may not have the mentoring or reinforcement at school or home that would encourage them to become involved. There are many scenarios that would apply.

The affiliation program provides educators the opportunity to engage all students in the three-circle model and make a difference to every student in the program by providing them with new opportunities on a daily basis. Now educators may use valuable class time to engage students rather than worry about the mechanics of membership (encouraging students to pay dues, collecting dues and writing receipts). No more handling dues money and processing accounting paperwork. Time can now be spent on what educators do best – making a difference in students' leadership education.

#### **Q: How do I determine my chapter size?**

**A:** Chapter size for the affiliation fee program payment is determined by the following:

- Number of secondary school students enrolled in all agricultural education classes and/or eligible for active FFA membership.
- All graduated students wishing to continue active FFA membership in order to be qualified for degrees, FFA-sponsored activities and scholarships.
- All **students enrolled in an agricultural education exploratory class (less than nine weeks)** who have met local, state and national membership requirements. Please refer to **state and national membership** policies.

**Q: *Where is the income from increased numbers going?***

**A:**

- Being a nonprofit, FFA will use any additional dollars to provide increased opportunities for the increased number of members.
- The fixed cost of \$2.25 for every student will go toward providing students with *FFA New Horizons*, the organization's official member magazine, four times a year.
- Additional revenue will be used to provide additional tools and resources for teacher and members to use. These will include My Journey, the FFA Resume Generator, and career exploration and planning tools.

**Q: *How do I pay the affiliation fee if I do not collect dues from students?***

**A:** There are a number of options. Every program will need to assess the situation to see what works best. Below are a few ways that have been used successfully:

- The school administration pays the fees just like they would activities and association dues for athletics, debate, music or other school activities and associations at the state and national levels.
- The local FFA Alumni chapter picks up the costs.
- Local supporters donate the fees to ensure agricultural education's future in the community.
- The chapter has fundraisers to support the investment for all students.

**Q: *How do you know my count is correct?***

**A:** The National FFA membership team will work closely with state staff. State staff will provide the National FFA membership team with the approval of those programs taking part in the affiliation process. As a result, your state staff will have the ability to ensure your membership matches your class count from documents such as the state report.

**Q: *Does this change my membership reporting system? What do I do with my postgraduate members?***

**A:** There will be no difference in the process if you use the membership roster and pay dues or you use the affiliation fee program. The forms are virtually the same with the exception of a couple of check boxes. The only difference is you will include every student in all of your classes and those postsecondary students remaining active for competitive events, awards, offices and degrees on the roster.

**Q: *What are the benefits for a state to be 100 percent affiliated?***

**A:**

- The waiver of penalty fees for programs with missing membership verifications (American FFA Degree, career development events, etc.).
- The waiver of the CDE/agriculture certification fee.
- The waiver of the National FFA Band, Chorus and Talent certification fee.
- A special promotional e-newsletter to highlight the benefits and promising practices for affiliate programs.
- Special pricing on FFA merchandise as identified by the FFA Merchandise Team annually.
- A discount on total Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) registration costs.
- Discount will only apply to member registrations.
- Registrations must be submitted through the online registration system by state leadership and invoiced to the state association.
- To qualify for discounts, state associations must be in good standing with no outstanding invoices at the time registration is submitted.
- Discount percentages will be determined annually by FFA program staff.
- The discount does not apply to WLC bus groups, advisor, guest or room-only registrations.
- A discount on the total registration cost for National FFA Convention & Expo registrations completed by and invoiced directly to the state association. To earn discounts, state associations must be in good standing with no outstanding invoices at the time registration is submitted. Discount percentages will be determined annually by FFA program staff.

***Q: What are the benefits for the local chapter that adopts the affiliation fee program?***

***A:***

- The waiver of penalty fees for programs with missing membership verifications (American FFA Degree, CDE, etc.).
- The waiver of the CDE/agriculture certification fee.
- The waiver of the National FFA Band, Chorus and Talent certification fee.
- A special promotional e-newsletter to highlight benefits and promising practices for affiliate programs.
- Special pricing on FFA merchandise as identified by the FFA Merchandise Team annually.
- A discount on the total registration cost for National FFA Convention & Expo registrations completed by and invoiced directly to the affiliated chapter. To earn discounts, the chapter must be in good standing with no outstanding invoices at the time registration is submitted. Discount percentages will be determined annually by FFA program staff.
- A discount on total WLC registration costs.
  - Discount will only apply to member registrations submitted by the local chapter advisor.
  - Registrations must be submitted through the online registration system by a local advisor and invoiced to the chapter account.
  - To qualify for discounts, chapters must be in good standing with no outstanding invoices at the time registration is submitted.
  - Discount percentages will be determined annually by FFA program staff.
  - The discount does not apply to WLC bus groups, advisor, guest or room-only registrations.

***Q: What if I only have a student for one year, use a block schedule or have one-class students?***

***A:*** These students are only counted for the time they are involved. Even if the student is engaged with the three-circle model for only a year, it will still benefit their education. We hope they see the value and enroll in additional classes. Encouragement, mentoring and involvement will provide the opportunity for this to become reality.

***Q: How do I add students to the roster through the year?***

***A:*** Just like you do now, with a supplemental form or online, determined by your state.

***Q: What about students who transfer into the program?***

***A:*** The student who transfers from a chapter that was participating in the affiliation fee program will not need to pay national or state dues, as they already have been covered for the year. For students who transfer from a school paying dues to a school in the affiliation fee program, they will be added to the roster at no charge.

***Q: How do I turn in student names?***

***A:*** Just like you do now. The names of students will need to be placed on the roster, and all required fields will need to be completed so students receive all benefits. All students will receive FFA New Horizons magazine and have the same benefits as an active FFA member. For states that use a third party provider to manage their membership, please refer to your state leadership for instructions on submitting student names

***Q: Can I upload my class roster?***

***A:*** There is a process by which an Excel spreadsheet can be mapped and uploaded into the roster system as long as your school registrar can provide an Excel file or an export file that can be imported. Teachers also have the option to download the FFA's Excel template and use this to gather student information for bulk upload into the membership roster system.

***Q: When is my roster due?***

***A:*** Currently roster due dates have not changed. The state will determine when rosters are due.

***Q: Will each student still have a membership number?***

***A:*** Yes, students will be assigned a membership number just as every member has been provided in the past.

**Q: Will the affiliation fee program numbers affect the delegate counts for states.**

**A:** Yes, every student who is a part of the affiliation process will be added to the overall total membership number for a state. If all states participate, the changes may be minimal, but the 475 delegates are determined by the total percentage of membership from a state of the overall organization total.

**Q: Activities, programs and awards need to be established in order to serve the interests and needs of nontraditional and/or short-term students. Is this being addressed for all students including those being added from the affiliation fee program?**

**A:** Yes, National FFA is currently reviewing all activities, programs and awards to establish more opportunities for all members, especially at the local level. We will continue to update teachers and state staff as these opportunities become available.