May 2025

ALABAMA FFA ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSES

SECTION A. The name of this organization shall be the **"Alabama FFA Association."** The letters "FFA" and/or the words "Future Farmers of America" may be officially used to designate the organization, its chapters and/or members.

SECTION B. The objectives of the Alabama FFA Association shall be consistent with the organization's federal charter, Public Law 116-7(formerly Public Laws 105-225 and 81-740). The organization shall cooperate with national and state government agencies and officials in career and technical education to accomplish the following objectives:

1. To be an integral component of instruction in agricultural education, including without limitation, agriculture, food, and natural resources. As such, the organization shall be intra-curricular to the agricultural education program, and will work with contextual classroom/laboratory instruction and work-based experiential learning in furtherance of a complete and comprehensive agricultural education program;
2. To be an integral component in agricultural education, to prepare students for successful entry into productive careers in agriculture, food and natural resources, or connect students to relevant postsecondary educational pathways, focusing on the complete delivery of classroom and laboratory instruction, work-based experiential learning and leadership development;
3. To be a resource and support organization that does not select, control or supervise local chapter or individual member activities. The organization will develop educational materials, programs, services and events as a service to local agricultural education agencies;
4. To seek and promote inclusion and diversity in its membership, leadership and staff to reflect the organization's belief in the value of all human beings;
5. To create, foster and assist subsidiary chapters in state-or territory-approved agricultural Educational programs and associations of those chapters in the States, territories, and possessions of the United States;
6. To build character and develop competent and assertive agricultural leadership
7. To increase awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture, food and Natural resources and its contribution to our well-being;
8. To promote the intelligent choice and establishment of a career in agriculture, food and natural resources;
9. To make available to local chapters and members, all official supplies, equipment, programs and services of the organization where applicable;
10. To cooperate with others, including state boards and officials for career and technical education, in accomplishing the foregoing purposes;
11. To engage in other activities, consistent with these purposes determined by the governing body to be for the best interests of the organization.

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION

SECTION A. The Alabama FFA Association is the state organization of, by, and for students of agriscience education. It shall consist of local chapters chartered by the Alabama FFA Association. More than one chapter may be chartered in a school when deemed appropriate by the state Executive Committee.

SECTION B. Chapters of the National FFA Organization shall be chartered only in such schools where recognized systematic instruction in agriscience technology education is offered under the provisions of federal vocational education legislation. Such chapters shall operate as an integral part of the instructional program of agriscience education. Each chapter shall be organized and operated in accordance with all provisions of the national, state, and local constitutions.

SECTION C. Students enrolled in agriscience education may meet in state convention, adopt a constitution, which shall not conflict with that of the National Organization, elect officers, develop a program of activities, and apply to the National Organization for a state association charter. Upon receipt of a charter from the National Organization, the State Association shall be a part of the National FFA Organization and shall be empowered to charter local chapters.

SECTION D. The Alabama FFA Association shall be comprised of a number, to be determined by the Executive Committee, of geographic regions, called “districts”. The geographic limits of the districts will be defined by the Executive Committee. These districts may adopt a constitution defining their organizational structure as long as it does not conflict with the State or National FFA Constitutions.

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

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

1 All current state and national dues have been paid annually by the due date stated on the FFA calendar, when applicable.
2. All reports have been submitted as requested by the State FFA Association.
3. Provisions of chapter constitution do not conflict with the State and National FFA Constitutions. Activities are in harmony with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization.
4. The governing body of a State FFA Association shall have the power to suspend local charters upon receipt of evidence of infringement of the provisions of the State or National FFA Constitution and Bylaws. A report on all suspensions shall be presented to the delegates the next succeeding state convention.

In case any local chapter is not in good standing, the chapter will be placed on a six month probation and the appropriate school officials notified by the Alabama FFA Executive Secretary. In the event that the chapter does not fulfill the requirements to be in good standing following the probationary period, the charter will automatically be suspended for the school year and participation in any FFA activity above the chapter level will be denied. Chapters having only one FFA advisor will be extended a one year grace period for the year following a change in chapter advisor.

In the event of local department of agriscience education is discontinued, its chartered FFA chapter may officially operate for a period not to exceed 36 months from date of discontinuance, provided proper supervision is given by a person having the approval of the local school administrator and the State Advisor.

The chapter's charter must be surrendered to the State Advisor at the end of the 36-month period if a local department of agriscience education is not in operation in the school at that time.

SECTION B. An active member shall be considered in good standing when:

1. The member shows an interest in the affairs of the Organization by attending meetings, striving for degrees of membership, and participating in other organized activities of the chapter.
2. The member pays all current state and national dues when applicable.
3. The member displays conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A. Membership in the National FFA Organization shall be of three kinds: Active, Alumni and Supporters, and Honorary.

SECTION B. Active Membership. To be eligible for active membership in a chartered FFA chapter, a student must be enrolled in an agriscience education program. To retain membership during school, the members must be enrolled in at least one agriscience education course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study. Either course must include a supervised agricultural experience program, the objective of which is preparation for an agricultural career. Members may retain their active membership until November 30, following the fourth National FFA Convention after graduating from high school.

SECTION C. Alumni and Supporters Membership. Membership shall be open to former active members, collegiate and honorary members, present and former professional agricultural educators, parents of FFA members, and others interested in and supportive of the FFA.

SECTION D. Honorary Membership. Farmers, school superintendents, principals, members of boards of education, chapter advisors, teachers, staff members in agriscience education, business people, and others who are helping to advance agriscience education and the FFA, and who have rendered outstanding service, may be elected to honorary membership by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting or convention. Honorary membership shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree in the local chapter and the Honorary State FFA Degree in the State Association.

ARTICLE V. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP DEGREES AND PRIVILEGES

SECTION A. There shall be five grades of active membership based upon achievements. These grades are: (a) Discovery FFA Degree, (b) Greenhand FFA Degree, (c) Chapter FFA Degree, (d) State FFA Degree and (e) American FFA Degree.

SECTION B. The Discovery FFA Degree: On meeting the minimum qualifications as set forth in the National Constitution, the Discovery FFA Degree may be conferred by the chapter.

SECTION C. The Greenhand FFA Degree: On meeting the minimum qualifications as set forth in the National Constitution, the Greenhand FFA Degree may be conferred by the chapter.

SECTION D. Chapter FFA Degree: On meeting the minimum qualifications as set forth in the National Constitution, the Chapter FFA Degree may be conferred by the chapter.

SECTION E. State FFA Degree: On meeting the minimum qualifications as set forth in the National Constitution and have completed their sophomore year in high school, the State FFA Degree may be conferred by the State Association.

SECTION F. American FFA Degree: On meeting the minimum qualifications as set forth in the National Constitution, the American FFA Degree may be conferred by the National Organization.

ARTICLE VI. EMBLEM

SECTION A. The official emblem of the National FFA Organization shall include five symbols, namely: (1) the plow, representing labor and tillage of the soil; (2) the owl, representing wisdom; (3) the rising sun, representing progress; (4) a cross-section of an ear of corn, representing common agricultural interests; and (5) an American eagle surmounting the cross-section of an ear of corn, representing the national scope of the organization. The emblem shall also carry the three letters "FFA" and the words "Agricultural Education."

SECTION B. The emblem shall be uniform in all chapters throughout the State Association. All members shall be entitled to display the emblem.

SECTION C. "Greenhand FFA Degree" recipients shall be entitled to wear the official bronze emblem pin; "Chapter FFA Degree" recipients shall be entitled to wear the official silver emblem pin; and "State FFA Degree" recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem charm.

SECTION D. "Honorary Chapter FFA Degree" recipients shall be entitled to wear either the official silver or gold emblem pin. "Honorary State FFA Degree" recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem charm.

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

ARTICLE VII. STATE, DISTRICT, AND CHAPTER OFFICERS

SECTION A. The offices of the State FFA Association shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel. Other officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the State Advisor and/or State FFA Executive Committee.

SECTION B. The offices of the Districts of the Alabama Association shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel. Other officers may be elected as deemed appropriate the District Specialist and the District Advisory Council. District officer elections shall be determined by a nominating committee consisting of at least three individuals other than the District Specialist. The District Specialist and the District Advisory Council shall be responsible for the selection of the nominating committee representatives.

SECTION C. The offices of an FFA chapter shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel. Other officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the local advisor and/or governing body. The teacher(s) of agriscience education shall be the FFA advisor(s). Chapter officers shall be elected annually or semi-annually by the members present at any regular meeting of the chapter.

SECTION D. Only members who have attained the State FFA Degree are eligible to hold state offices. Officers in the local chapter shall have attained the Chapter FFA Degree after the chapter has been established in any school for one year.

SECTION E. Only members who are still in high school and enrolled in agriscience education or freshmen attending an institution of higher learning in the state of Alabama may serve as a state officer. State officer candidates must be in high school at the time of application.

SECTION F. The elected state officers, the State Advisor, the State Executive Secretary shall constitute the Executive Committee. The Student Advisor (immediate past state president), the remaining State Agriscience Staff, the chairperson of Alabama Team AgEd, and the President of the Alabama FFA Alumni Association shall serve as an ex-officio (non-voting) member of the committee. It shall be the duty of this committee to implement leadership programs and the contests and awards program, including the State FFA Convention. The committee shall be chaired by the State Advisor or his/her designee.

ARTICLE VIII. DUTIES OF STATE OFFICERS

SECTION A. The President. It shall be the duty of the President to preside over the State FFA Convention. 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/she can. In case the office of President becomes vacant by resignation or otherwise, the Vice President shall assume his/her 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. The Secretary shall perform such other duties as directed to perform by the Executive Committee and 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. The Treasurer 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 organization. The reporter 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 setting up meeting room, caring 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 or her 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 FFA Degree and submits them to the State Executive Committee with his or her 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 or she shall keep the official records of membership and progress of the association. He or she 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 or she shall submit a budget of proposed expenditures to the Alabama FFA Board of Directors annually and keep or have kept correct and complete minutes of the proceedings of the members, the Alabama FFA Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, the Advisory Council, and of any other officially convened meeting of members of officers charged with the transaction of any business affecting the organization. He or she shall be in charge of arrangements of the Annual State Convention and may perform such other duties delegated to him or her by the Executive Committee and the State Advisor.

SECTION I. The Student Advisor. The Student Advisor (immediate past state president) will serve as a student leader to advise current State Officers as the need arises. They will serve as an ex-officio member of any committee suggested by the President. The Student Advisor shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IX. PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING STATE OFFICERS

A Nominating Committee consisting of 3 FFA members not applying for a State Office now, or in the future (one representing each district), 3 Past State Officers (one representing each district), and 3 Advisors (a combination of current or past advisors) (one representing each district), none representing the same chapter, appointed by the Executive Committee, shall study and review the qualifications of members who are candidates for state office. An advisor (rotating annually from each of the districts) will serve as committee chairman to oversee the process. All candidates under consideration shall be given a personal interview either by the Nominating Committee or by a subcommittee. The Nominating Committee shall report during the state convention. Each district shall nominate 4 candidates for state office. One officer shall be elected from each of the districts. The State Association shall elect six state officers. 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 two local advisors from each of the districts.

Members will be elected from each district by the local advisors of that district. Length of term shall be three years with not more than three expiring in any one year. No member shall succeed him or herself 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 FFA Convention shall be held annually, except in case of an extreme emergency as defined by the Executive Committee. The purpose of the state convention will be to conduct the business of the state organization and to recognize outstanding achievements of FFA members and chapters. The time and place of meetings shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

SECTION B. The State Executive Committee shall determine the number of delegates to the state convention and set the time, date, and location for delegate business session(s). A quorum for any delegate business session(s) shall be at least 50 percent of registered delegates plus one.

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 should hold their meetings monthly or more often throughout the calendar year and at a time and place to be determined by the local chapter.

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

SECTION F. The newest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall serve as the parliamentary authority of the Alabama FFA Association. It shall be used as the parliamentary authority to conduct all meetings of the Alabama FFA Association. In cases where Robert's Rules and the constitution conflict, the constitution shall take precedence.

ARTICLE XII. COMMITTEES

The state president of the Alabama FFA Association shall appoint all committees. The student advisor is an ex-officio member of all committees. Only such committees as are needed to carry on the work of the association shall be appointed.

ARTICLE XIII. DUES

SECTION A. Annual membership dues in the State FFA Association shall be fixed by a majority vote of the delegates present at the State FFA Convention. The Alabama FFA Board of Directors shall submit their recommendations concerning dues to each chapter 45 days prior to the next succeeding state convention. Dues should be submitted by May 1 of each school year, which is also the deadline for the National FFA Convention delegate count.

Membership rosters submitted to the state will include a $200 annual chapter membership fee. $175 of this fee is to be used to cover costs of the state FFA convention and $25.00 of this fee will be used to cover the cost of district and state contest materials. Of these funds, $175.00 must be used for the Alabama State FFA Convention as the first priority. After all costs for the convention are covered, as decided by the Alabama FFA Board of Directors, excess funds may be used for contest and award costs.

SECTION B. The dues of any chapter shall be fixed by the chapter officers, also allowing for affiliated membership if a chapter should so choose, 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 FFA Convention. A proposed amendment must be submitted by the State Advisor to the local chapters at least 45 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/her 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.

ARTICLE XVI. NATIONAL OFFICERS AND PROCEDURES FOR ELECTION

SECTION A. A state may recommend one candidate for national office each year. The state's candidate shall be approved by the State Advisor. Anyone desiring to be a candidate should do so by writing the State Advisor by February 1. In the event more than one desires to seek national office, the State Advisor shall appoint a committee to recommend who the candidate will be.

SECTION B. The national officers shall hold the American FFA Degree at the time of their election and must be active members for the duration of their term in office.

ARTICLE XVII. Board of Directors

SECTION A. The governing body of the Alabama FFA Association shall be the Alabama FFA Board of Directors, which shall consist of: the state FFA advisor, who shall serve as chairperson; all State Agriscience Education Specialists/State FFA Staff whom are employed by the Alabama State Department of Education; the Past President, Current President, and President-Elect of the Alabama Association of Agricultural Educators; the Chairperson of Alabama Team Ag Ed; the

President of the Alabama FFA Foundation; and a representative of Collegiate Alumni and Supporters chapter in Alabama. It shall be the duty of this committee to conduct the business of and make final policy decisions for the Alabama FFA Association regarding all legal and financial matters. This committee serves to represent the best interests of the Alabama FFA Association and its members.

SECTION B. Meetings of the Board

1. The Alabama FFA Board of Directors shall meet at least once each year at such time and place as may be prescribed by the board and shall present an annual report.
2. Special meetings of the Alabama FFA Board of Directors may be called by the chairperson.
3. Notice of meetings shall be given to each member of the board not less than 30 days prior to any regular meeting and not less than five days prior to any special meeting.
4. A proxy may be sent to the meeting provided a written letter is sent to the state advisor identifying who the proxy will be and is submitted prior to the meeting.