

Newman FFA Constitution and Bylaws

Adopted 1998, Revised 2023

Article I- Name and Purposes

Section A. The name of this organization shall be the "Newman FFA Chapter" Members are hereinafter referred to as "Future Farmers of America." The letters "FFA" may be used to designate the chapter, it's activities, or members thereof.

Section B. The purposes for which this organization is formed are as follows:

1. To develop competent, aggressive, rural, and agricultural leadership.
2. To strengthen the confidence of boys/girls in himself/herself and his/her work.
3. To create more interest in the intelligent choice of a farming occupation.
4. To create and nurture a love of agricultural life.
5. To improve the rural home and its surroundings
6. To encourage cooperative effort among students of vocational education in agriculture.
7. To promote thrift among students of vocational education in agriculture.
8. To promote and improve scholarship
9. To encourage organized recreational activities among students of vocational agriculture.
10. To supplement the regular systematic instruction offered to students of vocational education in agriculture.
11. To advance the cause of vocational education in agriculture the public schools of California.
12. To encourage members in the development of individual agriculture projects.

Article II-Organization

Section A. The Newman FFA Chapter is a chartered local unit of the California Association of FFA that is chartered by the National organization of FFA.

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

Article III-Membership

Section A. Membership in this chapter shall be of two kinds:

1. Active
2. Honorary
3. Alumni

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

Section C. Honorary membership in this chapter shall be limited to honorary chapter farmer degree. After being elected to an Honorary Degree, he shall remain an honorary member indefinitely.

Section D. Active members may vote on all business brought before the chapter. An active member shall be considered in good standing as set forth in the bylaws.

Article IV-Emblems

Sections A. The emblem of the National and State FFA shall be the emblems for the chapter.

Article V-Membership, Grades and Privileges

Section A. There shall be (4) grades of active membership in this chapter. These grades are: (1) The Greenhand degree; (2) The Chapter Farmer degree; (3) The State FFA Degree; (4) The American Farmer Degree.

Section B. The Newman Chapter of FFA shall have the right to award the first two of these degrees.

Section C. The Greenhand Degree: minimum qualifications for election.

1. Be regularly enrolled in an agriculture class.
2. Possess facilities for, and have, a satisfactory program of supervised agricultural experience.
3. Recite from memory the creed of the FFA. (Not all will do this.)
4. Be familiar with the purposes of the FFA and the local program of work.
5. Receive a majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting of a local chapter of FFA.

Section D. Chapter Farmer Degree: minimum qualifications for election:

1. Must have held the degree of Greenhand for at least one year of instruction in vocational agriculture immediately preceding election to the Degree of Chapter Farmer and have 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, having 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 parliamentary procedure.
6. Be able to lead a group discussion for 15 minutes.
7. Must have earned by his/her own efforts from his supervised farming program and deposited in a bank or otherwise productively invested at least \$100.00
8. Receive a majority of votes of the memberships present at a regular local chapter meeting.

Section E. Special committees shall review the qualifications of members and make recommendations to the chapter concerning degree advancement.

Article VI - Officers

Section A. The executive officers of the chapters shall be as follows: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, and Advisor. The advisor shall be a teacher of vocational agriculture in the school where the chapter is located. Officers shall perform the usual duties of their respective office.

Section B. The other chapter officers shall include: Historian/ Public Relations, Chaplain, and Parliamentarian. These offices will perform their usual duties, as well as any duties assigned to them by the chapter advisory or executive chapter officer team.

Section C. Officers shall be elected annually by a three part process including: Application score, Interview score, and voting by the entire chapter membership based on responses to questions provided by the advisors.

Section D. Honorary members shall not vote or hold an office in the chapter except that of advisor.

Section E. The officers of the chapter 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 F. Chapter officers must hold the degree of chapter farmer or be receiving their chapter farmer degree in the same year.

Section G. In the event an officer cannot fulfill their duty or resigns, the position will be opened to the general membership. They shall complete an application and participate in an oral interview with the current officer team. The general members shall vote at the next regular meeting.

Article VII – Meetings

Section A. Regular chapter meetings shall be held once a month during the school year and when necessary during the remaining time. Special meetings may be called at any time.

Section B. Two delegates shall be elected annually from the active membership to represent the chapter at the state convention. Other delegates' may be named at various other FFA meetings within the state.

Section C. A majority of the active members present at the monthly meeting shall constitute a quorum and quorum must be present at any meeting at which business is transacted or a vote taken committing the chapter to any proposal.

Article VIII – Dues

Section A. A full, state and national dues shall be paid by Incentive Grant or VEA funds by the Ag. Department.

Article IX – Amendments

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

Section B. By-laws may be adopted to fit the need 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 THE CONSTITUTION OF NEWMAN FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

I. General Rule

- A. The regular monthly meetings will be scheduled at the executive officer summer meeting/ officer retreat.
- B. Election of officers will take place at at the annual FFA Awards Banquet.
- C. To be eligible to purchase a jacket, members must be a Greenhand member or higher.

II. Officer Requirements

A. All officers must meet all four requirements. If each officer does not meet these requirements steps maybe taken to remove an officer.

1. All officers must attend 100% of all regularly planned meetings. Officers may only be excused if participating in a school function that is approved by an advisor ahead of time or a family emergency.

2. Officers must attend all required events, meetings, fundraisers, etc throughout the school year. This includes Camp Sylvester, Officer Retreat, Sectional Opening/ Closing, etc.

3. All officers must maintain a C average in Agriculture class that will be checked quarterly.

4. Officers must meet 95% of individual officers duties.

5. Quarterly Officer Review

B. Personal Office Requirements

1. President

a. In charge of constitution and by-laws.

b. Must make sure officers are aware of all activities and meetings.

c. Running Meeting

2. Vice President

- a. Must have a point award done every month.
- b. In charge of creating committees for each scheduled event and watching them to make sure they are working efficiently.
- c. Assist president in running meetings.

3. Secretary

- a. Agenda must be prepared in advance four school days prior to a meeting.
- b. Minutes must be done in four school days after meeting.
- c. Membership roster must be done by October 1st.
- d. Officer attendance/Review-sign-in sheet

4. Treasurer

- a. Must keep up to date records of all chapter accounts.
- b. Present current balance at every meeting.
- c. Verify with the school with the school accountant for the current balance one week prior to meetings.

5. Reporter

- a. Submit minimum of 1 article in New Horizon.
- b. Submit at least two articles per quarter in the West Side Index/Farm Bureau.
- c. Quarterly submissions to scrapbook.
- d. Oversee historian and scrapbook.
- e. Submit activity Req. to student Council

6. Sentinel

- a. Have paraphernalia set up 15 minutes prior to meeting time.
- b. Have a minimum of one game prepared prior to meeting.
- c. Create a detailed list of all games played.
- d. Have a list of attendees typed up four days post meeting for the secretary's record.
- e. Have refreshments and utensils. All items purchased will be reimbursed only with a receipt.
- f. Assistant secretary with any correspondence needed.

7. Historian/ Public Relations

- a. Have the scrapbook finished and ready to show at the annual awards banquet.
- b. Have responsibility for the Chapter camera at all FFA events.
- c. Prepare an end of the year slideshow for the annual awards banquet.

d. Help prepare the degree recipients at the Chapter Degree Ceremony.

8. Parliamentarian

- a. Be proficient with parliamentary procedure
- b. Rule on all questions of parliamentary conduct at chapter meetings
- c. Conduct parliamentary procedure workshops at the chapter level