



## Graford FFA Handbook

Dear Graford FFA Members & Parents:

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year and the Graford FFA Department. It is exciting to see the new and returning students in our program. This year's program of activities is loaded with a wide array of challenges and activities for your participation.

The Agricultural Science Program consists of three elements: Classroom Instruction, Supervised Agricultural Experience and the FFA. This is a unique program and we believe it will be a life-changing experience for you. We offer a variety of opportunities to develop leadership skills as well as experience personal growth throughout your participation. With your participation, this should be a fun and exciting year for all of us.

I look forward to each of you attending the many activities and meetings available. It is a great way to make new friends and create camaraderie which will last a lifetime. Remember, as with any endeavor you pursue, you only get out of this organization what you put into it. I am here to offer guidance and support for each of you. This handbook is designed to answer many questions you might have for this upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jennings, Graford Agriculture Science Teacher

## **Graford FFA Membership Dues**

The dues for 2017-2018 year will be \$25.00 for students enrolled in an Agriculture Science Class. The dues pay for each student to be a FFA member at the chapter, district, area, state, and national level. It also pays for a subscription to New Horizons magazine for each student at the high school level.

## **Graford Jr. FFA Membership Dues**

Membership dues for Jr. FFA are \$15.00. Jr. FFA membership is open to Graford students 8 years old and in grades 3-8 who are enrolled in a Graford ISD school or who live in the district attending private or homeschool. Joining the Jr. FFA allows the member to participate in local meetings as well as show at county and major stock shows under the supervision of the Graford ISD Agriscience Teacher. They will not be allowed to participate in official FFA LDEs or CDEs because they are not enrolled in high school Agriscience classes.

## **FFA Jackets**

FFA Jackets and ties/scarves will be ordered through the agriculture science teacher. Currently they are \$75. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. All members are encouraged to purchase an FFA Jacket to wear during LDE and CDE competitions, meetings, camps, conventions, and other official events.

## **FFA Official Dress**

The uniform worn by FFA members at local, district, area, state and national functions is referred to as official dress. It provides identity and a distinctive, recognizable image for the Organization.

### **Female Members Should Wear:**

Official FFA Jacket and Scarf  
White collared, button up shirt  
Straight black skirt (solid black) – below the knee with no embellishments  
Black nylon hosiery  
Black dress shoes – closed toe and heel

### **Male Members Should Wear:**

Official FFA Jacket and Tie  
White collared, button up shirt  
Black slacks and plain dress belt  
Black Socks (height of calf or taller)  
Black Shoes (Low top dress shoes, no embellishment)

## **CDE Dress for Contests and Livestock Shows\*\***

Button down, collared shirt or Polo is preferred  
Nice jeans or slacks that fit at the waist and are free of fading or holes  
Closed toe shoes are required  
Some CDEs require specific dress and will be addressed for that specific contest

## ***What is the FFA?***

- ☐ FFA is the largest youth organization in the world with over 695,950 members.
- ☐ The national FFA Organization was founded in 1928.
- ☐ FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agriculture education.

## ***Opportunities***

### **Leadership Development Events**

- FFA Leadership Development Events (LDE's)
- ☐ Officer elections for student led organizations
- ☐ Chapter and above chapter level meetings
- ☐ Leadership conferences

### **Career Development Events**

- FFA Career Development Events (CDE's)
- ☐ Team and individual awards
- ☐ Individual scholarships

### **FFA Student Livestock Exhibition**

- ☐ Graford Community Livestock Show (Fall)
- ☐ Palo Pinto County Livestock Show (January)
- ☐ Texas Junior Livestock Association Sanctioned Shows (year round)
- ☐ Major livestock Shows
  - West Texas Fair or Four States Fair (September)
  - State Fair of Texas or West Texas Fair (October)
  - Fort Worth/Southwestern Livestock Exhibition (January)
  - San Antonio Livestock Show (February)
  - San Angelo Livestock Show (February)
  - Houston Livestock Show (March)
  - Austin/Star of Texas Livestock Show (March/April)

### **FFA Student Award Recognition**

- ☐ Star FFA Degrees and Scholarship (9-12 grade)
- ☐ Proficiency Awards and Scholarships (11-12 grade)
- ☐ Texas FFA Scholarship and National FFA Scholarships (12 grade)
- ☐ Student Participation Awards
- ☐ Top Hand Award
- ☐ Retiring Officer Awards
- ☐ FFA Parent Recognition

## Supervised Agriculture Experience Program (SAEP)

Nothing takes your skills to the highest level faster than putting them into practice.

Through an SAE, you can create your own landscaping business, conduct a scientific research project, grow crops, or raise livestock. You **do not** have to raise an animal to be in FFA. However, we strongly encourage students who are able to participate to raise an animal or participate in another SAE established through their advisor.

An SAE is valued by an hour system that provides students the opportunity to acquire the required 75 "in class" and 35 "outside class" hours per semester per Agri-Science class to receive credit. All students enrolled in an Agricultural Science class will be required to keep and maintain a record book tracking their hours. This will be counted as a major grade for each grading period.

### *Example of SAE Projects:*

*Raising Livestock*

*Unpaid work at a welding shop*

*Paid job at a feed store*

*Volunteering at an animal shelter*

*Planting a garden/Raising Crops*

*Baling Hay*

*Tutoring*

*Canning/Making Jelly*

*Beautifying the community park*

*Volunteering at a horse therapy center*

*Breeding a litter of cats*

*Training a hunting dog*

**Students will keep records on their SAE projects in the classroom and may be eligible to apply for individual awards and scholarship money based off the quality of their project.**

**\*April – Applications for awards due**

**\*April-June – Selection process (District, Area, State levels)**

**\*July – Awarded at the State FFA Convention**

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### **Where is a good place to buy my animal?**

There must be an understanding that we are purchasing show animals, not commercial grade livestock. The Agri-Science advisors can lead you to breeders or assist you in purchasing your animal. All poultry projects for the entire state are purchased through one hatchery.

## Awards Program

The Graford FFA Chapter has several award opportunities in which members can participate. Each spring, Graford FFA hosts an Awards Banquet to recognize the achievements of FFA members.

The following awards may be awarded at the chapter level:

### **Star Awards**

- Star Greenhand
- Star Chapter Farmer
- Star Lone Star Farmer
- Top Hand, Blue and Gold Award, Leadership in Action Award, Outstanding Student

### **LDE/CDE Participation Recognition**

- Members will be awarded certificates for their participation and accomplishments in Leadership Development Events (LDEs) and Career Development Events (CDEs)

### **Greenhand Degree\***

- 1) Be enrolled in an agriculture science class (at least one semester during the course of the year), pay your FFA Dues and be in good standing with the Sheldon FFA Chapter, and have a SAEP.
- 2) Learn and explain the FFA Creed, FFA Mission and Motto, and FFA salute.
- 3) Describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and FFA colors.
- 4) Demonstrate an understanding of the FFA Code of Ethics and the proper use of the FFA jacket.
- 5) Complete at least 5 hours of community service.
- 6) Submit a written application for the Greenhand FFA Degree.

### **Chapter Farmer Degree\***

- Be enrolled in an agriculture science class (at least one semester during the course of each year), pay your FFA Dues and be in good standing with the Sheldon FFA Chapter, and have a SAEP.
- Previously received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
- Participate in at least three official FFA chapter activities.
- Have a satisfactory academic record.
- Complete at least 10 hours of community service.
- Submitted a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.

The following is awarded at the state level only:

## Lone Star Farmer Degree\*

- Members who are applying for their State Degree and are enrolled in an Agriculture Science Class
- Received a Chapter FFA Degree.
- Have been an active FFA member for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree
- Have completed at least 2 years (360 hours) of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, which includes an SAE.
- Have earned and productively invested at least \$1,000, or have worked at least 300 hours outside of schedule class time through an SAE.
- Demonstrated leadership ability by performing 10 parliamentary law procedures, giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or FFA, and serving as an FFA officer, committee chairperson, or committee member.
- Have a satisfactory academic record, certified by the agriculture teacher and the school principal or superintendent.
- Participated in the planning and implementation of the chapter's Program of Activities.
- Participated in at least five different FFA activities above the chapter level.
- Complete at least **25 hours** of community service in a minimum of two different activities. All community service hours are cumulative, i.e. the 10 community service hours used to obtain the chapter degree can be used toward the state degree.

**\* Students will apply for each degree to receive the award.**

**\*\* Students may apply for Proficiency awards, Lone Star FFA Degree, and Star Awards beyond the chapter level based upon their completed record books for their FFA experience. Requirements for these awards are located in the Nation FFA Manual and the Texas FFA Degree Selection Procedures. This information is kept on file in the Agri-science teacher's office. Please contact Mrs. Jennings if you wish to apply for advanced awards or for further information.**

# Scholarship Opportunities

## 1. Scholarship Opportunities through Texas FFA Association Scholarship Programs

Graduating Seniors apply during the Spring Semester at the District Degree Check. Scholarships are based on academic rank (must be in top 25% for Houston, top 50% for the others), SAT/ACT scores (minimum 950 on SAT, minimum of 20 on ACT), and FFA activities. Students will interview at the Area Degree Check. Selected members from the Area Association will advance to state interviews to compete for these awards.

- ★ San Antonio Livestock Show \$16,000 (4 offered)
- ★ Houston Livestock Show \$15,000 (70 offered)
  - You do not have to be an Agricultural or Life Science Major to receive this scholarship.
- ★ Dick Wallrath Scholarship \$10,000 (70 offered)
- ★ Jim Bob Norman Memorial \$10,000 (2 offered)
- ★ C.J. "Red" Davidson \$ 8,000 (2 offered)
- ★ Southwestern Exposition \$ 4,000 (2 offered)
- ★ Farm Credit Bank of Texas \$ 2,000 (4 offered)
- ★ Texas Agricultural Education Fund \$ 2,000 (1 offered)
- ★ Young Farmers of Texas \$ 2,000 (1 offered)

## 2. National FFA Scholarships

Graduating seniors apply for various scholarships. Students may obtain an application from [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org), the National FFA website. Eligibility requirements and awards amounts are listed as well. Deadline for applying is normally February 15<sup>th</sup>.

## 3. State Fair of Texas Scholarship

Graduating seniors must complete an application and submit it prior to deadline. More information can be obtained at [www.bigtex.com](http://www.bigtex.com).

## 4. Agriscience Fair Competition

The Agriscience Fair offers the opportunity for members to demonstrate their agriscience abilities through a science fair competition. Scholarships are awarded on the state and national levels. Teams may also compete for \$12,000 in the San Antonio Agriscience Fair competition in February.

## 5. Proficiency and Star Awards

Students can obtain various scholarships through participation in advanced awards. Students who win on the state and national levels will receive scholarships.

## 6. Career Development Events

Students can win various scholarships at various contests if they win high individual honors. Additionally, colleges scout judging team members and offer those students with exceptional abilities scholarships to judge at their university or college, respectively.



# \*SAMPLE TEXAS FFA SCHOLARSHIP\*

## Scholarship Summary

FFA AREA .....	2
NAME OF APPLICANT .....	Taylor
COLLEGE .....	Texas Tech University
MAJOR .....	Agricultural Business

### I. ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: SCHOLASTIC DATA

A. Numerical Rank in Class .....	24
B. Number in Graduating Class .....	150
C. Percentage Rank in Class .....	16.00%
D. Unweighted Grade Average .....	91.25
E. Number of College Credit Classes .....	6
F. Number of College Credits Earned .....	18

### II. ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

A. SAT Total Score .....	0
B. ACT Composite Score .....	24

### III. ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Semesters of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources .....	8
2. Number of semester courses completed .....	6

### IV. FFA LEADERSHIP AND ACHIEVEMENT

<b>A. Leadership and Development Events</b>	
1. Number of Participations .....	2
2. Number of Different Events .....	1

<b>B. Career Development Events</b>	
1. Number of Participations .....	14
2. Number of Different Events .....	4

<b>C. Individual Leadership</b>	
1. Highest FFA Degree Achieved .....	Chapter
Candidate Currently Applying for State Degree? .....	Yes
2. FFA Leadership .....	Secretary
Highest Local Office/Chairmanship .....	
Highest Office Above Local Level .....	
3. Number of Committee/Officer Participations .....	6

<b>D. Other FFA Activities</b>	
1. Number of Other FFA Sponsored Activities .....	8

<b>E. SAEP</b>	
1. Kinds of SAEP's (list) .....	Placement in Floriculture, Horticulture, and Fiber/Oilseed
2. Highest SAE Honor .....	FFA Floral Manager
3. Total Return to Capital, Labor & Management from Entrepreneurial and/or Placement .....	\$1,280.00
4. Total unpaid hours from internships, research applied activities, etc. ....	270

### V. FINANCIAL NEED

<b>A. 1. Expected Family Contribution</b>	
2. Father/Guardian's Occupation .....	\$35,368.00
3. Mother/Guardian's Occupation .....	Safety Coordinator
4. Total Number of Siblings .....	Pipeyard Manager
4. Total Number of Siblings in College .....	1
B. Checking Account Available .....	1
C. Savings Account Available .....	\$225.00
D. Total Other Available Assets .....	\$1,000.00
E. Expected Total Parental Contribution .....	\$0.00
F. Expected Family Contribution (From FAESA) .....	\$16,000.00

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IS ESSENTIAL IN OBTAINING FFA AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS. STUDENTS MUST BE SUCCESSFUL ACADEMICALLY AS WELL AS PARTICIPATE IN FFA ACTIVITIES.