

(Approved 07-16)

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
KENTUCKY YOUNG FARMER ASSOCIATION

(Constitution)

ARTICLE I NAME AND PURPOSES

Section A – The name of the organization shall be the “Kentucky Young Farmer Association.” Members are hereinafter referred to as “Young Farmers of Kentucky.” The letters “YFA” may be officially used to designate the organization, its units, or its members. The “Kentucky Young Farmer Association” is an organization of, by, and for young farmers participating in programs of systematic instruction in Agriculture Education.

Section B – Purposes for which the Association is formed: The primary purpose of the Association is to assist in promoting and improving the program of Instruction in agriculture education for the young farmers in Kentucky. In attaining the primary purpose, the Association shall help provide guidance and leadership to the local young farmer chapters in their efforts to:

- A. Aid and interest out-of-school youngfarmers in a systematic and organized educational program in agriculture.
- B. Provide an organization for young farmers which will bridge the gap between high school and the time when they normally take part in adult farmer organizations.
- C. Assist the teacher of vocational agriculture in planning and carrying out a program of classroom and on-farm Instruction designed to meet the needs of young farmers.
- D. Cooperate with agencies and organizations in activities that contribute to the improvement of agricultural life.
- E. Provide opportunity for young farmers to develop their ability to participate effectively in group activities.
- F. Participate in worthwhile community activities.
- G. Provide wholesome social and recreational activities for young farmers and their families.
- H. Develop an understanding of how to secure and utilize services available to farmers in improving their social and economic status.
- I. Make the young farmer program an integral part of the program of the school.

ARTICLE II ORGANIZATION

Section A – The Kentucky Young Farmer Association is a state organization for the benefit of out-of-school young people who are engaged in an agriculture occupation and are enrolled in young farmer classes in agriculture education. It shall consist of affiliated local chapters that are chartered by the Association.

Section B – Chapters of young farmers of Kentucky may be chartered in schools or communities where instruction in agriculture education is offered for young farmers under the provisions of the plan for vocational education in the state of Kentucky, subject to the policies of the local boards of education and the Technical College Branch of the Kentucky Community & Technical College System.

Section C – The State Director of Adult and Postsecondary Education in Agriculture shall be the Advisor of the Association. The State Director of the Agriculture Education Branch in the office of Secondary Vocational Education, Kentucky Department of Education, shall serve as Associate Advisor of the Association.

Section D – The teacher of vocational agriculture shall be the advisor of the local chapter of young farmers.

Section E – The fiscal year for the Association shall be January 1 to December 31.

Section F – Local chapters may become and remain affiliated with the State Association by complying with the provisions of its constitution and bylaws.

Section G – The Kentucky Young Farmer Association will be self-governing in all matters.

ARTICLE III CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Section A – Membership in local chapters shall be of three (3) kinds: Active, Honorary and Life.

Section B – Active Membership Young Farmers who are enrolled in a young farmer class for systematic instruction in vocational agriculture are eligible for active membership. A young farmer is accepted as a member upon receiving a majority vote of the members present at an official business meeting and payment of state and local dues. Payment of National Dues is optional. Membership will be open to any dues paying person regardless of age.

Section C – Honorary Membership Individuals who are helping to advance young farmer work and who have rendered outstanding service may be elected to honorary membership by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting.

Section D—Life Membership
Available to members for a one-time payment of \$100

ARTICLE IV DEGREES OF ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Section A – There shall be two (2) degrees of active membership, based on years of membership and active participation in the program of systematic instruction in agriculture: One-year Degree and Three-year Degree.

Section B -One-year Degree

Minimum qualifications for election:’

1. Be regularly enrolled in a young farmer class in Agriculture Education and have a satisfactory farming program in operation.
2. Have attended at least four (4) meetings of a young farmer class and one (1) business meeting of the local young farmer chapter within any one (1) year.
3. Have an earnest and sincere desire to become a member.
4. Receive a majority vote of members present at a regular meeting of the local chapter.
5. Pay state and local dues as required by the constitution and bylaws.

Section C -Three-year Degree

Minimum qualifications for election:

1. Have completed three (3) years of active participation in a local young farmer class and chapter, as confirmed by the chapter advisor.
2. Must have attended more than half of the class meetings each year and over half of the organization meetings each year.
3. Be familiar with provisions of the constitution and by-laws of the local and State Young Farmer organization.
4. Receive a majority vote of members present at a regularly scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE V -STATE DEGREES

Section A. Kentucky Young Farmer Degree

Young farmers who have made an outstanding contribution to and participated actively in the chapter and State Young Farmer Association are eligible. Members are to receive this degree upon recommendation of the local chapter with approval from the State Young Farmer Association. Applicants shall have received the Three-year Degree.

Section B -Honorary Degree

Individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the Kentucky Young Farmer Association and to the Improvement of agriculture in the state may, upon recommendations of the State Executive Committee, be awarded an honorary degree by a majority vote of the delegates present at a State Convention. Such persons shall not vote or hold office in the organization.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS

Section A -State Officers

The officers of the Kentucky Young Farmer Association shall be: President, First Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, President-Elect, and Advisor. A vice-president may be elected from each region. Each officer, except the Advisor, must hold the State Degree or be a candidate for the Degree at the convention when a candidate for an office. Not more than two (2) officers may be elected from a region in one (1) year.

ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES

Section A -State Executive Committee

Elected officers of the Kentucky Young Farmer Association, retiring President and Secretary, the State Advisor, and the Associate State Advisor shall constitute the State Executive Committee.

Section 8 -Nominating Committee

This committee shall be appointed annually by the Executive Committee.

Section C -Special Committees

Special committees may be appointed as the need arises.

ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS

Section A -A convention of the State Association of Kentucky Young Farmers shall be held annually, at a time and place to be determined by the State Executive Committee.

Section B -A business meeting shall be held at least once annually at a time and place to be determined by the State Executive Committee. All Chapters will be made aware of upcoming business meetings at least one month in advance to insure delegates from each active chapter are given the opportunity to attend.

Section C -An annual Young Farmer Executive Committee meeting and special meetings shall be held at a time and place to be determined by the committee.

Section D -Two (2) delegates shall be appointed by the chapter to represent the local chapter at the State Convention and at other business meetings.

Section E -A quorum consists of delegates from a majority of the active chapters registered for the event. (For Example, if 10 chapters are Pre registered for the event, there is a possible 20 delegates, therefore 11 delegates will need to be present to have quorum)

Section F -A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of a majority of the members of the committee. A quorum must be present at a meeting for business to be transacted.

Section G -Parliamentary procedure at all meetings of the Association shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Section H -Special meetings of the State Association may be called at a time and place to be designated by the President, with approval of the majority of the Executive Committee.

Section I -Neither the State Association nor a local chapter may enter into a contract or agreement with private or organized groups if the contract or agreement serves to endorse a product or service.

ARTICLE IX -EMBLEM AND COLORS

Section A -The emblem of the Kentucky Young Farmer Association shall be an outline of the state of Kentucky with appropriate inserts to reveal agricultural interests. Outside the state outline the words "Kentucky Young Farmer Association" shall be appropriately placed.

Section B -The official colors of the Association shall be national blue and white.

ARTICLE X -AMENDMENTS

Section A - Proposed amendments of the state constitution and bylaws shall be approved by chapters and shall be submitted in writing by an authorized representative of the chapter to the State Executive Committee 60 days prior to any business meeting. The proposed amendments then shall be submitted to all local chapters at least one (1) month before any business meeting. The proposed amendments shall be reviewed by the State Executive Committee.

The amendments shall be submitted by the Committee to the delegates to the state business meeting with recommendations, Amendments to the state constitution and bylaws may be adopted at a state business meeting, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present. A quorum shall be present for a vote.

ARTICLE I DUTIES OF OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Section A –Duties of officers shall be as follows:

1. President

- a. The President shall preside over meetings of the Kentucky Young Farmer Association and the meetings of the State Executive Committee.
- b. The President shall call special meetings of the Association or of the Executive Committee when requested to do so by a majority vote of the State Executive Committee or by the State Advisor.
- c. The President shall appoint special committees and shall serve as an ex-officio member of these committees.

2. First Vice-President

The First Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President if that office becomes vacant. The First Vice-President shall preside over the meetings in the absence of the President and shall assume such other duties of the President as are assigned by the State Executive Committee.

3. Secretary

The Secretary shall perform the duties common to the office of Secretary such as keeping a record of the minutes of the State Association or of the Executive Committee. One (1) copy shall go to the State Advisor for the permanent files and a copy kept for the Secretary's files. A copy shall be sent to each chapter advisor.

4. Treasurer

- a. The Treasurer shall perform the duties common to such an office and other duties as directed by the State Advisor and the Executive Committee.
- b. The Treasurer shall serve as chairperson of the Budget Committee.

5. Reporter

It shall be the duty of the Reporter to assist in preparing publications of the Association and in collecting data for an official state report and to prepare news notes for publications on meetings of the Association. Other duties may be assigned the Reporter by the Executive Committee

6. President - Elect

- a. The President-Elect shall become President the year following the term as President-Elect.

- b. The President-Elect shall study the special duties of the President and shall Become acquainted with all aspects of the Association in preparation of assuming the office of President the following year.
- c. Any other duties and responsibilities shall be determined by the State Executive Committee.

7. Vice-President

Responsibilities of Vice-President shall be determined by the State Executive Committee.

8. State Advisor

- a. The Advisor is an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee and other committees of the Association. It is the Advisor's duty to advise the committees on matters of policy and to assist the State Officers in conducting meetings.
- b. The Advisor shall review official state reports, pass on applications for charters, applications for State and National honors, and other business of a state-wide nature. The Advisor's decision shall be final in the interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws. The Advisor or a designee shall review reports from the local chapters and inform the Executive Committee of any proceedings which appear to be in conflict with the State Constitution and Bylaws (or the State Plan for Agricultural Education~

9. Associate Advisor

- a. The Associate Advisor shall be and ex-officio member of the State Executive Committee and special committees.

ARTICLE II – DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

Section A – Duties of Executive Committee

It is the responsibility of the committee to plan and conduct the annual Kentucky Young Farmer Convention, determine procedures for chartering local chapters, and perform other duties common to an executive committee.

Section B – Duties of Nominating Committee

It shall be the responsibility of this committee to set up a procedure for local regions to select three (3) young farmers as nominees for state offices. Additional responsibility includes interviewing the regional nominees to select young farmers who will be presented to the delegate assembly as state officer nominees.

Section C – Special Committees

Duties and responsibilities shall be specified by the appointing group or individual.

ARTICLE III – PROCEDURES FOR ELECTING OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Section A – Offices:

1. A Member may serve up to three terms as a regional vice President on the Executive board without regard to term limits of constitutional offices.
2. A member may serve a maximum of three terms of the constitutional offices of President (President Elect), Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Reporter.
3. The Offices of the Treasurer and Reporter shall be 2 year terms.
4. The Offices of secretary and president shall complete the office of past president and past secretary the year after their last year of services.
5. Any Member who was previously ineligible because of term/year limitations and who is eligible under all the other guidelines will be able to serve under this new rule.
6. No more than 2 officers may be elected from the same chapter per year.
7. No more than 3 officers may be seated on the state board from the same region.

Section B – President-Elect

A President-Elect shall be elected annually and shall be a member of the Executive Committee. The President—Elect shall assume the office of President the year following the term as President-Elect. If the President-Elect should be unable to do so, the Nominating Committee shall present the name of a qualified member for the office of President, subject to the rules contained in Article III, Section C,

Section C – Officers

Each region may send forth up to three nominees to be considered for state office. The State Nominating Committee, before each state annual young farmer convention, shall, in an interview, study the regional nominees to determine their qualifications as officers and recommend to the delegate body assembled. Nominations may be made from the floor of the convention following the report of the Nominating Committee. Only young farmers nominated by regions are eligible for Constitutional state offices.

Section D – Officer Vacancies

1. When an office, other than that of President or President—Elect, becomes vacant, the President shall appoint a member to complete the term of office, subject to approval of the Executive Committee of the Kentucky Young Farmer Association.
2. If the office of President-Elect becomes vacant, it shall remain vacant for the remainder of the term. The subsequent election of a new President shall be

Conducted according to the procedures outlined in Article III, Section C.

Section E - Committees

1. Special Committees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee or the delegate body at the State Convention or by the State President as the need arises.
2. Executive Committee (See Article VII, Section A, of the Constitution.)
3. Nominating Committee shall be appointed annually by the Executive Committee. With the Immediate Past-President of the Association serving as chairperson. Present Executive Committee members may be appointed on the Committee. The Nominating Committee shall present the name of one (1) qualified member for each state office, except for the offices of President and Past President. The Committee meetings shall be restricted to committee members and the State Advisor or a person designated by the Advisor.

ARTICLE IV - CHARTERING CHAPTERS AND RENEWING MEMBERSHIP

Section A - Young farmer chapters shall apply through the State Advisor for affiliation with the Kentucky Young Farmer Association, using available forms. Applications shall be signed by the superintendent of schools, principal of the school, young farmer president, secretary, and the teacher of vocational agriculture. The following things shall accompany the application for charter:

1. A copy of the proposed chapter constitution and bylaws.
2. A copy of the annual chapter program of activities.
3. A list of chapter officers and their addresses.
4. A list of active and honorary members and their addresses.
5. A remittance of \$5.00 to cover cost of issuing the charter.
6. Five dollars (\$5.00) state dues for each member.

Section B - A charter shall be granted by the State Executive Committee at its next meeting, provided the proposed chapter constitution and bylaws are not in conflict with the Kentucky Young Farmer Constitution and Bylaws.

Section C - The delegates at any state convention have the power to suspend local chapter charters upon receipt of valid evidence of violation of the provisions of the Kentucky Young Farmer Constitution and Bylaws.

Section D - Membership in the State Association will be renewed annually upon continued fulfillment of requirements of the charter, provided these things are on file with the State Advisor:

1. Revisions of local constitution and bylaws.
2. List and addresses of members and payment of state dues for active members.
3. Copy of current program of activities.
4. The above things must be certified by a signature of the local president and secretary.

Section E - Chapters of young farmers may be chartered in schools for counties where instruction is offered for out-of-school young farmers under the provisions of the State Plan for Vocational Education.

Section F - The Kentucky Young Farmer Association or local chapters shall not endorse or become involved in political, economic, or controversial issues at the state, regional, or community level. Charters and memberships shall be declared null and void upon evidence of such endorsements or participation. Young farmer members are free to act as individuals in any way they desire, and local chapters are encouraged to inform their members of both sides of political, economic, and controversial issues that affect the welfare of farmers.

ARTICLE V- ROBERT'S RULE OF ORDER

Section A—Robert's Rules of Order shall be the official rules. However, variations from Robert's Rules of Order may be adopted upon two-thirds vote of the delegate body assembled during an annual young farmer convention business session.

ARTICLE VI—ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section A—The order of business at a regular meeting shall be: call to order, reading of minutes, reports of officers, reports of committees, unfinished business, new business, special events, adjournment.

ARTICLE VII—DETERMINING THE STANDING OF LOCAL CHAPTERS

Section A—A local chapter of young farmers shall be considered in good standing with the Kentucky Young Farmer Association when the following general conditions are met and maintained:

1. At least eight (8) Young Farmers are enrolled in a course of systematic instruction in vocational agriculture for young farmers.
2. The local chapter constitution and bylaws are not in conflict with the State Constitution and Bylaws.
3. The activities of the chapter are in harmony with the purposes of the State

Association.

4. Reports are submitted to the State Advisor as requested.
5. Membership dues are paid for at least eight (8) young farmers and for any other young farmers who are officially enrolled in the young farmer class.

If a chapter is not in good standing at the time of the opening of the State Convention, the delegates at the convention shall have the power, on recommendation of the State Executive Committee, to suspend its charter and refuse the chapter official representation at the annual Convention. When such action is taken, the members of the chapter in question shall be denied the regular privileges of the Association. Upon meeting the requirements for good standing, a chapter may be reinstated by action of the State Executive Committee no earlier than ten (10) days after the close of the State Convention during which it was not in good standing.

Chapter charters must be surrendered to the State Advisor under the following circumstances:

When a local department of vocational agriculture, under whose jurisdiction there is a chartered chapter of young farmers, is discontinued, the chapter will be permitted to operate officially for not more than six (6) months after the discontinuance of the department, provided proper supervision can be given by a member of the school faculty and that this person has been approved by the State Advisor.

ARTICLE VIII - DETERMINING THE STANDING OF MEMBERS

An active member is considered to be in good standing and is eligible to be a delegate to the State Convention provided the member:

1. Attends class meetings regularly. (Active membership cannot be retained longer than six (6) months after the member discontinues attending class meetings.)
2. Attends chapter meetings regularly.
3. Shows an interest in and takes active part in the affairs of the chapter.
4. Pays dues regularly.
5. Meets other requirements for active membership.

ARTICLE IX—MEMBER PARTICIPATION

Contest eligibility will be open to all members regardless of age except Member of the Year, Rural Leadership, and the Executive Committee. These three (3) items will continue to be limited to persons no older than forty (40) years of age as of January 1st following the Contest Year.

(End Constitution and By-Laws)