

Nebraska FFA Association

Membership/Eligibility Policies

The membership and eligibility policies of the Nebraska FFA Association have been approved by the delegates to the annual State FFA Convention and by the Nebraska FFA Board of Directors. These policies govern the district and state levels of the organization. Local policies shall not be in conflict with the state association, but may be more restrictive.

Active Membership Defined

Article VI of the Nebraska FFA Bylaws reads as follows:

Active Membership. Any student who is regularly enrolled in a secondary agricultural education program is entitled to become an active member of their local chartered FFA chapter. Secondary agricultural education programs shall be defined as grades 7-12. To retain membership during high school, the member must:

1. be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study for an agricultural occupation which includes 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 or leaving high school;
2. show 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;
3. pay all current local, state, and national dues by the date established by the chapter;

A member who is in good standing at the time of induction into the armed forces of the United States of America shall be in good standing during the period of active service without further payment of dues or attendance at meetings. Time spent in the armed forces shall not be considered as elapsed time in determining the maximum period of four national conventions following graduation from high school or leaving high school.

Members using this waiver of service time for the purpose of maintaining active membership for application for advanced degrees of membership, must resume active participation within six months after having been honorably discharged from military service, indicating such a desire by paying of dues and attending meetings. Members participating in a six-month armed service program shall be eligible for one full year of extended membership. No individual, however, may retain active membership beyond their 23rd birthday.

Junior High FFA Membership Defined

The delegates at the 61st State FFA Convention adopted a policy to allow junior high students (7th or 8th grade) FFA membership. The following guidelines govern this membership:

1. *Membership*—Any seventh or eighth grade student who is enrolled in an agricultural education class will be eligible for membership in the Nebraska FFA Association. The decision about what constitutes an agricultural education class will be made by the local agricultural education instructor.
2. *Career Development Events/Awards*—Career development events and award programs may be of a local, district, or state level, depending on what the local instructor feels is in the best interest of the program. The Nebraska School Activities Association rules do not allow junior and senior high students to compete for recognition.
3. *Exhibiting at Fairs*—Junior High FFA members are allowed to exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair, FFA Division providing their dues are paid to the Nebraska FFA Association prior to exhibiting. They may also exhibit as county/local fairs if the fair rules allow.

Eligibility for Nebraska FFA Leadership Skills Events

Nebraska FFA Leadership Skills Events are open to all Nebraska FFA members who are enrolled in an agricultural education class one or both semesters during the school year in which the district and/or state leadership skills event is held.

Members who have competed in the state level of a specific event (excluding Junior Parliamentary Procedure, Senior Parliamentary Procedure, and Agricultural Demonstration) are not eligible to compete again in that event on the district or state level. Members of a state winning team in the Junior Parliamentary Procedure, Senior Parliamentary Procedure, or Agricultural Demonstration events are ineligible to compete again on the district or state level of that event. The Junior Parliamentary Procedure and Junior Public Speaking events are limited to freshmen or sophomore FFA members. The Creed Speaking event is limited to freshmen or sophomores who are in their first year of FFA membership.

A member's eligibility for the FFA Leadership Skills Events ends when the member receives a diploma signifying graduation from high school. A mid-term graduate is eligible if they have not yet received their diploma at the time of the district/state event.

Chapters with 50 or more in-school members (grades 9-12 only) on their initial roster (submitted by September 30) are eligible for a second individual or team in the district leadership skills events.

Eligibility for Agricultural Education Career Development Events on the District/State Levels

All career development participants must be undergraduates, be under 21 years of age and be bona fide high school students in regular attendance.

To be eligible for any of the career development events, the student must be having or have had instruction in agricultural education for at least one semester within the school year previous to the career development event entered.

To be eligible to compete, students shall be doing passing work in at least fifteen credit hours of high school work per week. They shall have credit on the school records for fifteen credit hours of school work for the last preceding semester in school.

Students who have participated in interstate, national, or the annual Nebraska high school agricultural education career development events are ineligible for further competition on similar teams. Any infractions of this rule will result in that team forfeiting any awards or honors.

No team or team members planning to compete in any of the annual Nebraska agricultural education judging career development events may use, observe, or observe being used, any of the livestock, equipment or supplies of the UNL College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources in preparation for career development events. This rule does not apply to teams or team members that have won a state career development event and are preparing to enter a national career development event. Proof will be necessary to satisfy the department involved.

FFA Chapter Eligibility

FFA chapters shall be considered eligible for Nebraska FFA activities providing the following criteria is met as outlined in the Nebraska FFA Bylaws.

Section 6.00 Chapters in Good/Bad Standing:

A local FFA chapter will be considered in good standing with the Association when all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) The Association receives full payment for all State and National dues;
- (b) All reports, rosters, organizational documents and materials requested by the Board of Directors are received and approved by the Board of Directors; and
- (c) The local chapter's constitution (and Bylaws where applicable) do not conflict with these Bylaws or the constitution and Bylaws of the national FFA Association.

If a local FFA chapter is not in good standing, the local chapter:

- (a) Will not be eligible to receive any chapter award during the applicable school year;
- (b) Will forfeit all delegate seats for the Annual State Convention;
- (c) May not be represented by any teams or individuals in the State FFA Leadership Skills Events, and
- (d) May not allow any individual or team to represent the Association in national competition.

The Board of Directors shall provide notice to local chapters as to whether said chapters are in good or bad standing. The Board of Directors may reinstate a local chapter's good standing upon receipt of delinquent materials from the chapter and/or upon the completion of any other remedial action which the Board of Directors deems appropriate, in its sole discretion.

Nebraska FFA Membership and Chapter Eligibility Policies:

A minimum of 10 members at one attendance center is required to establish and maintain an FFA Chapter.

A minimum of two agricultural education courses (year-long or 4 semester courses) taught by a Nebraska certified agricultural education instructor, including FFA and SAE, shall constitute an agricultural education program.

The Nebraska certified agricultural education instructor at the school of their employment shall be the official FFA advisor.

Discontinuance Policy

In the event an approved agricultural education program is discontinued at a school, the FFA chapter may continue to exist for one year beyond the discontinuance provided an FFA sponsor is employed by the school system with the approval of the State FFA Executive Director.

Eligibility for Land and Range Evaluation Career Development Events

Participants must be FFA members in good standing and must have not participated in the national competition of the career development event they wish to enter on the area or state level.

Eligibility for Proficiency Awards

Nebraska FFA members may apply for district and state level proficiency awards through their first year after graduation from high school. Members who are two or more years out of high school are no longer eligible for proficiency awards. The students must be bona fide FFA members in good standing with their local FFA chapters.

Eligibility for Agriscience Student of the Year Awards

Nebraska FFA members may apply for the Agriscience Student of the Year award through their first year after graduation from high school. Members who are two or more years out of high school are no longer eligible for this award.