

INTERPRETATIONS OF MINIMUM
QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE
CONTAINED IN SECTION E OF THE NATIONAL F.F.A. CONSTITUTION AND BY THE
NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
December 1941

The Advisory Council calls attention to the term "minimum" and the way in which it is used in the National F.F.A. Constitution. To secure the American Farmer Degree a candidate must meet each and every one of the minimum qualification requirements for this Degree. High qualifications in one or more of the requirements cannot be used to offset or make up for less than the minimum qualifications in another requirement.

I. Paragraph 1 of Section E of the F.F.A. Constitution in setting up minimum qualifications for the American Farmer Degree provides that the candidate must "have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities of the local chapter and State association."

A. "Satisfactory" participation in the local chapter is interpreted to mean that the candidate must show a list of not less than six local F.F.A. chapter activities appearing in the program of work of the local chapter and in which he has participated as an active member during the period covered by this application. See pages 33 and 34 of F.F.A. Manual for types of activities.

B. "Satisfactory" participation in the activities of the State association is interpreted to mean that the candidate must have attended not less than two F.F.A. activities of the State association or any of its recognized subdivisions above the local chapter level during the period covered by his application.

4. It was the recommendation of the National Advisory Council that its elected members who are now elected annually, should be re-elected to succeed themselves so as to provide for a minimum two year term of service. This term of office should be from July 1 to June 30 of the next succeeding year.

While no specific action was taken it appeared to be the opinion of a majority of those present:

1. That the matter of collecting national dues in Collegiate chapters should be stressed at this time.

2. That Advisory councils should be encouraged in States and local chapters but that direct provision for such be kept out of the national constitution.

3. That copies of appropriate Civilian Defense material should be sent to States for the use of F.F.A. and N.F.A. chapters.

D. J. Howard, National F.F.A. Treasurer, appeared before the Council and gave a rather detailed explanation as to the present financial status of the organization as well as how the financial records of the organization were kept.

Messrs. Jackson, Hall and Fetterolf were taken to the National F.F.A. Camp on Thursday p.m. Following this trip there was a general discussion of plans and procedures in connection with the further development of the Camp and the operation of the Old Mill.

Revisions in the 1940-41 American Farmer application blank were discussed at length and suggestions offered. All suggestions unanimously agreed upon by the Council were incorporated in the 1941-42 blank to be prepared and distributed by the National Executive Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m. Saturday, December 6.

W. A. Ross
National Executive Secretary

MINUTES
NATIONAL F.F.A. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
Washington, D. C. December 1-6, 1941

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. on Monday, December 1 by Dr. Spanton, the Council Chairman. Those present, besides Dr. Spanton, were Sam Hitchcock of Wyoming, S. M. Jackson of Louisiana, H. C. Fetterolf of Pennsylvania, H. T. Hall of Iowa, C. H. Lane, J. H. Pearson, D. M. Clements and W. A. Ross. On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week D. J. Howard of Virginia was also present. W. P. Beard was able to attend only a few sessions.

Since the meeting ran continuously from Monday, December 1 through Saturday, December 6 these minutes cover the total period rather than setting forth the business taken up by days.

The first item of business disposed of was that of a review of the changes in the national constitution to be recommended to the Board of Trustees for consideration at the 1942 National Convention. A complete copy of the constitution which includes the recommended changes is attached to these minutes.

The second important item of business taken up was that of interpretations regarding the minimum qualification requirements for the American Farmer Degree. A summary of these interpretations is also attached to these minutes.

Other specific actions taken by the Council were:

1. Moved by Jackson, seconded and carried, that a recommendation be made to the Board of Trustees that the F.F.A. national program of work be set up on a long time rather than an annual basis.

2. It was agreed in connection with the \$150.00 offered by Hugh Curtis of SUCCESSFUL FARMING for manuscript prizes on the National Public Speaking Contest that a three paragraph letter should be sent by the National Adviser thanking Curtis, explaining that ample provision for the National Contest is already made, asking whether the Company had any further suggestions for the use of the \$150.00; and asking whether suggestions from our office were desired.

3. Moved by Clements, seconded and carried, that a recommendation to the Board of Trustees be made that: in the National Public Speaking Contest one set of three judges for manuscript and delivery be used; that each judge prepare three questions on the manuscript of each speaker; that not more than three questions to be finally selected by the judges prior to the contest to be asked by a person other than a judge at the time of the contest (questions to be repeated once and no comment to be made); and that the final decision of the judges be made on the basis of the score card and conference combined. Results of mathematical calculations on the score card not to be given out to the contestants or the general public.

mean that a boy must have had during the year in which he is a candidate for the American Farmer Degree and at the time his application is submitted, personal responsibility for the management, actual operation, and financing of his "outstanding supervised farming program."

A boy will not be considered as having an "outstanding program of supervised farming" unless one or more of his productive enterprises, constituting his farming program, show at least two years continuation. A candidate's supervised farming program will not be considered "outstanding" unless it shows improvement in quality or expansion, or both, and that he is becoming established in a specific type of farming or farming occupation.

C. The latter part of paragraph 2 of Section E of the National F.F.A. Constitution requires that a boy's supervised farming program shall be substantiated by "complete, accurate, and neat records." These records should be sufficiently clear, legible, and orderly, so as to be read easily and understandingly. It is suggested that these records be carefully checked in the State office and certified to by the State adviser as to completeness and accuracy before the applications are submitted to the national office.

III. Paragraph 3 of Section E of the National F.F.A. Constitution requires that candidate for the American Farmer Degree "must have earned by his own efforts from farming and other agricultural work and deposited in the bank or otherwise productively invested at least \$500."

A. This statement is interpreted to mean that a boy will not be considered as having met this financial requirement unless at least two-thirds of the \$500 or \$333.33, required to be earned from his supervised farming program, was actually earned by him during the years he was enrolled in high school as a student of vocational agriculture.

B. A boy will not be considered as having \$500 "productively invested" unless this money has been used to purchase livestock, invested in a growing crop, used to purchase land, agricultural equipment, buildings and supplies, or used to pay premiums on life insurance policies or to buy stocks and bonds, or invested in notes and mortgages or savings and thrift accounts. Miscellaneous expenditures for such items as musical instruments, bicycles, guns, school books, automobiles for personal use, radios, travel, and college or school expenses for self or others, including fees, will not be considered as productively invested and should not be listed in the application.

C. The latter part of paragraph 3 of Section E of the National F.F.A. Constitution provides that "in cases where the applicant has assisted in the support of dependents, the amount so expended, in the judgment of the National Board of Trustees, may be considered as an investment." "Support of dependents" is interpreted to mean actual cash or its equivalent, which belongs to the candidate, and which has been given toward the support (food, clothing, shelter, and medical care), relief or comfort of immediate members of the family.

IV. Paragraph 4 of Section E of the National F.F.A. Constitution requires that a candidate must "show outstanding ability in leadership and cooperation." This statement is interpreted to mean that a candidate will not be considered as:

A. Showing outstanding ability in leadership -

1. Unless he has participated in and been declared a first place individual or member of a winning team in some local county, district, area, or State contest that is recognized as a bona fide vocational agriculture contest such as public speaking, parliamentary procedure, dairy, livestock, poultry, and farm mechanics teams, etc.
2. Unless he has (a) held some constitutional office in the local chapter, or (b) served as chairman of one of the committees responsible for a major division of a local chapter's program of work.
3. Unless he has had leadership experience beyond the level of the local chapter such as serving as a delegate to or office holder in a county, district, area or State convention.

B. Showing outstanding ability in cooperation -

1. Unless he has actively participated in at least three different group activities such as (a) cooperative buying and/or selling of agricultural products, (b) conducting F.F.A. recreational activities, (c) conducting educational tours, etc. etc. At least one of these activities must be of such a

nature as to require group financing in cash (or in kind) such as furnishing potatoes for F.F.A. banquet, clothes for the needy.

V. Paragraph 5 of Section E of the National F.F.A. Constitution requires that a candidate must "Be in the upper 40 percent of his class in all school subjects during the entire period of his secondary school instruction."

A. "Upper 40%" means the numerical rank (such as 1st, 4th, 25th, etc.) and not the quartile standing or average grade of the individual.

B. The word "class" is interpreted to mean the total number of boys and girls in a candidate's high school class (example: Junior) during the last year he was in school.

C. "All school subjects" is interpreted to mean all subjects such as English, Mathematics, Biology, and vocational agriculture subjects for which the candidate was enrolled for credit.

VI. Section D, By-Law VIII states that "Applications for the Degree shall be forwarded by the State adviser so as to reach the national F.F.A. office not later than May 1 prior to the national convention at which the application will be considered."

This regulation should be adhered to strictly. In the event applications are not received in the office by May 1, evidence must be submitted that applications were in the mail or express office by April 20 if the candidate is to be given consideration for the Degree.