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#21

July 31, 1929.

Mr. Henry C. Groseclose  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
Department of Agricultural Education  
Blacksburg, Virginia

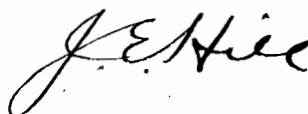
Dear Mr. Groseclose:

I have your letter of July 22 stating it would be agreeable for us to apply for our charter without sending in the exact number of chapters and members at this time. I shall send this information to you in September after school starts because I believe that we would have a very incomplete list previous to that time.

Under separate cover I am mailing you a copy of the meeting of our group at the University last summer at which time they elected officers, boys to the third degree and recommended two boys for the fourth degree. Doctor Lane was with us at our meeting and we followed his suggestions so far as our numbers are concerned. I am quite certain that we will have enough members to entitle us to more ~~in~~ <sup>State</sup> farmers than we have elected.

I am enclosing a check for \$5.00 with the application for charter. I shall appreciate any suggestions which you see fit to make relative to this organization.

Yours very truly



J. E. Hill  
State Supervisor of  
Agricultural Education

JEH:S

THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

#21

Application for Charter

To Henry C. Groseclose,

Blacksburg, Va.

We, Homer Edwards....., President; Wilson Bryant....., Secretary; and J. E. Hill....., Adviser, officers of the State organization known as Ill. Assn. of Future Farmers of America..... a State organization for students of vocational agriculture, having at present ..... chapters and ..... members, and being empowered to act for this organization, do hereby make application to be chartered as a branch of the "Future Farmers of America".

We are attaching to this application (1) the proposed State constitution and by-laws under which we desire to work; (2) a copy of our State program of work for the year; (3) a list of all local chapters and a statement of the total membership of each; and (4) a check for \$5 to cover cost of issuing charter.

The names and addresses of our State officers are as follows:

President:	<u>Homer Edwards</u> .....	<u>Antioch, Ill.</u> .....	<u>State Farmer</u> .....
	name	address	grade of membership
Sec.-Treasurer	<u>Wilson Bryant</u> .....	<u>Waverly, Ill.</u> .....	<u>State Farmer</u> .....
Vice-Presidents	<u>Edwin Dumphy</u> .....	<u>Amboy, Ill.</u> .....	<u>State Farmer</u> .....
	<u>Darrel Wessen</u> .....	<u>Sandwich, Ill.</u> .....	<u>State Farmer</u> .....
	<u>Leland Anderson</u> .....	<u>Wyanet, Ill.</u> .....	.....
	<u>Raymond Crowell</u> .....	<u>Georgetown, Ill.</u> .....	.....
	<u>Harold Lyon</u> .....	<u>Alexis, Ill.</u> .....	<u>State Farmer</u> .....
	<u>Roy Lumley</u> .....	<u>Princeville, Ill.</u> .....	.....
	<u>Harold Thomas</u> .....	<u>Heyworth, Ill.</u> .....	.....
	<u>Harold Dixon</u> .....	<u>Chrisman, Ill.</u> .....	.....
	<u>Elmer Searls</u> .....	<u>Jerseyville, Ill.</u> .....	<u>State Farmer</u> .....
	<u>Arthur Priddle</u> .....	<u>Litchfield, Ill.</u> .....	.....
	<u>Lester Rutledge</u> .....	<u>Hutsonville, Ill.</u> .....	.....
	<u>Dan Johnson</u> .....	<u>Harrisburg, Ill.</u> .....	.....

If granted a charter, we promise to comply with the national constitution and by-laws of the Future Farmers of America and to work for the success of the organization.

We certify that the information given in this application and attached hereto is correct.

Signed: ..... *Homer Edwards* .....  
State President  
..... *Wilson Bryant* .....  
State Secretary  
..... *J. E. Hill* .....  
State Adviser

PROPOSED  
~~AMENDED~~ STATE CONSTITUTION

Article I. Name and Purposes of the Organization.

Section A. The name of this organization shall be the Illinois Association of "Future Farmers of America". Members of local chapters are hereinafter referred to as the "Future Farmers of America."

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

1. To promote vocational education in agriculture in the public schools of the State of Illinois.
2. To create more interest in the intelligent choice of farming occupations.
3. To create and nurture a love of country life.
4. To encourage recreational and educational activities for students in vocational agriculture.
5. To promote thrift.
6. To encourage cooperative effort among students of vocational agriculture.
7. To strengthen the confidence of the farm boy in himself and his work.
8. To promote scholarship among students of vocational agriculture.
9. To develop rural leadership.

Article II. Organization.

Section A. The Illinois Association of "Future Farmers of America" is a State organization of affiliated local chapters in schools having organized instruction in vocational agriculture under the provisions of the Smith-Hughes Act.

Section B. Local "Future Farmer" chapters shall not be organized in schools where systematic instruction in vocational agriculture is not given under the provisions of the Smith-Hughes Act.

Section C. Members of local chapters shall meet, organize, and adopt the State constitution as their own, elect officers, set up a program of work, and then apply to the State secretary for membership in the state organization. After this application has been approved by the State secretary the members of the local chapter may then be known as "Future Farmers of America."

Article III. Membership.

Section A. Membership in this organization shall be active, associate and honorary.

Section B. Active membership. Any student of vocational agriculture, who is regularly enrolled in a part-time, day-unit, or all-day class, is entitled to active membership in "Future Farmer" chapters upon receiving a majority vote of the members present at any chapter meeting. A member may retain his active membership for three years after completing his systematic instruction in vocational agriculture.

Section C. Associate membership. Any former student of vocational agriculture may be elected to associate membership upon receiving a majority vote of the members present at any chapter meeting. Any former active member of a "Future Farmer" chapter may be elected to associate membership upon receiving a majority vote of the members present at any chapter meeting.

Section D. Honorary membership. Instructors, school principals, superintendents, business men, and others who are helping to promote vocational agriculture may be elected to honorary membership by a majority vote of the members present at any meeting.

Article IV. Membership Grades and Privileges.

Section A. There shall be four grades of membership based upon achievement. These grades are (1) Green hand, (2) Future farmer, (3) State farmer, and (4) American farmer. (These terms to be used until approved or modified by the First National Congress).

Section B. "Green Hand". Qualifications for Election:

1. Fourteen years of age.
2. Be regularly enrolled in a class in vocational agriculture.
3. Possess facilities for and have a satisfactory program of supervised practice.

Section C. "Future Farmer". Qualifications for Election:

1. Satisfactory completion of at least one year in vocational agriculture, including a program of supervised practice.

2. Earn and deposit in a bank, or otherwise productively invest at least \$25.

Note:- Any modification of (2) above must be approved by the State adviser.

3. Be regularly enrolled in vocational agriculture with an amplified supervised practice program.

4. Recite from memory the "Future Farmers" creed.

5. Be able to lead a group discussion for ten minutes.

6. Executive committee of local chapter shall determine who is eligible for membership.

Section D. "State Farmer Degree". Qualifications for Election.

The qualifications for election are left to the various State organizations. The following qualifications are simply suggestive:

1. At least two years of systematic instruction in vocational agriculture with an outstanding supervised practice program in operation.

2. Pass some occupational test supplied by the State staff.

3. Earn and deposit in a bank, or productively invest at least \$200. This may include the \$25 saved while advancing to the grade of "Future Farmer."

4. Be familiar with parliamentary procedure by having held office in the local chapter.

5. Be able to lead a group discussion for forty minutes.

6. Make the school judging team, debating team, or some other team representing the school.

7. Show marked attainment in scholarship in all school subjects (grade 85 or above).

8. Possess qualities of leadership as shown by having held responsible positions in connection with student and chapter activities.

9. The State shall be entitled to elect 10 qualified individuals but where the State membership exceeds 500, not more than 2 per cent of the total State membership may be elected, fractions counted to the nearest whole number. Only copies of written records of achievement verified by the local adviser shall be submitted to the State adviser by the local executive committee at least one month prior to the State convention. The adviser will then review the records and submit his findings to the State Executive Committee. This committee will nominate at the regular State Convention the candidates who have been found most worthy to receive the honor. Synopses of these records shall then be read by a member of the Executive Committee when the students are nominated. The delegates shall then proceed to elect to the "Third degree" the number of candidates to which the State is entitled.

Section E. "American Farmer". Qualifications for election.

1. Hold the degree of "State farmer."
2. Be engaged in a farming occupation or have definite plans for becoming a farmer.
3. Possess demonstrated ability to farm by having conducted an outstanding program of supervised practice throughout the period of vocational training.
4. Earn and deposit in a bank or otherwise productively invest at least \$500.

Note:- In cases where the applicant had 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.

5. Must have held office in a State organization or have represented a State in a national contest.
6. Possess demonstrated ability to work with others by having participated in some agricultural cooperative enterprise or movement.
7. Be recommended by the National Board of Trustees and receive a majority vote of the delegates present at a National Congress of "Future Farmers of America."

Section F. Associate and honorary members shall not vote nor shall they hold any office except that of adviser in the State and local organizations and that of Executive Secretary-Treasurer and Adviser in the National Organization. Exceptions to this provision are permitted during the first two years of a chapter's existence.

Section G. Only members who have been elected to the grade of "American Farmer" are eligible to hold national offices after 1929. One year after the Illinois organization has been chartered all State officers shall have attained the "State Farmer degree." Officers in the local chapters must not rank lower than the grade of "Future Farmer".

Section H. Associate and honorary members are eligible to election to any degree provided they have done outstanding work in promoting vocational agriculture and the organization of Future Farmers of America.

#### Article V. Officers.

Section A. 1. The officers of the Illinois Association of "Future Farmers of America" shall consist of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, adviser, and reporter. These officers shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the delegates present at a regular State convention of "Future Farmers." The officers shall perform the usual duties of the respective officers. Each local chapter shall be entitled to two delegates in the State convention, who shall represent the local chapter in balloting for officers and members who are nominated to be advanced to the grade of "State Farmer".

2. Officers of the local chapter shall be identical with those for the State organization and shall be elected annually at a regular meeting of the local chapter.

Section B. The executive committee of the State organization of "Future Farmers of America" shall consist of the State officers ex-officio, President of Agriculture Teacher's Association and Head of the Teacher-Training Department at the University of Illinois. This committee shall perform the usual duties of an executive committee, review and approve receipts and disbursements, act as a nominating committee, and be responsible for the welfare of the organization.



Article VI. Meetings.

Section A. A meeting of the State Convention of "Future Farmers of America" will be held annually and at least 30 days prior to the meeting of the National Congress of "Future Farmers of America", at such time and place as may be determined upon by the State Executive Committee.

Section B. Local chapters shall hold their meetings monthly or oftener and at such time and place as may be decided upon by the Executive Committee of the Local Chapter.

Article VII. Delegates.

Each local chapter shall be entitled to two delegates to the State Convention. The delegates present at the annual Convention shall select from those active members present holding the degree of State Farmer, the officers of the State Association and two delegates to represent the Association at the Annual Convention of the "Future Farmers of America."

Article VIII. Dues.

Section A. Membership dues in a State organization shall be fixed by the State Executive Committee subject to approval by a majority vote of the delegates present at the State Convention of "Future Farmers of America."

Section B. The dues of any local chapter shall be fixed by a majority vote of the membership of that chapter.

Article IX. Amendments.

Section A. Amendments to the State constitution shall be submitted in writing by the delegates from any chapter at any annual State Convention of "Future Farmers." Amendments may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present.

Section B. In order to secure flexibility by-laws may be adopted to fit the needs of the State organization or local chapter, providing they are not in conflict with the State constitution, which is also the constitution for each chapter.

Article X. Insignia.

Section A. The insignia of the "Future Farmers of America" shall be made up of four symbols, namely (1) cross section of an ear of corn, representing common agricultural interests, since corn is native to America and grown in every State; (2) the owl, representing wisdom; (3) the plow, representing tillage of the soil, the basis of modern agriculture, and (4) the rising sun, representing progress.

Section B. All active, associate, and honorary members shall be entitled to wear the insignia. All "Green hands" are entitled to wear a bronze insignia. All "Future farmers" are entitled to wear a gold insignia. All members elected to the degree of "State farmer" are entitled to wear the gold insignia on a key. All members elected to the degree of "American farmer" are entitled to wear the gold insignia directly mounted on a key and surmounted by the American eagle.

II. FUTURE FARMERS WHO WERE ELECTED TO THE DEGREE OF "STATE FARMER".

1.	Wilson Bryant	-	Waverly
2.	Ivan Hieser	-	Minier
3.	Darrel Wessen	-	Sandwich
4.	Earl Legan	-	Herrin
5.	Harold Line	-	Alexis
6.	Maurine Weber	-	Pittsfield
7.	Hirlo Hicks	-	Dunlap
8.	Elmer Searls	-	Jerseyville
9.	Homer Edwards	-	Antioch
10.	Edwin Dumphy	-	Amboy
11.	Elmer Williams	-	Dixon
12.	Edwin Johnson	-	Assumption

III. FUTURE FARMERS WHO WERE RECOMMENDED FOR DEGREE OF "AMERICAN FARMER" ELECTED DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTION OF "FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA".

1.	Elmer Williams	-	Dixon
2.	Edwin Johnson	-	Assumption

IV. STATE PROGRAM OF WORK.

1. The State Association will endeavor to keep the public informed of its plans, purposes and work.
2. A state wide oratorical contest will be held during next year. Elimination contests to be held in each of the 12 sections, and the finals during the Annual Association meeting at the University in June.
3. Suitable awards to be provided for achievement.
4. Plans contemplated for a State encampment.
5. Suggestions will be made for programs of work for local chapters.

## V. BUSINESS

### Dues:

The dues for the State Association was fixed at 25 cents for each member per year. The dues for the National Organization of 15 cents per member will be taken out of the State dues and forwarded to the National Treasurer. Annual dues are paid for each fiscal year ending June 30.

### Charter Fees:

The fee of \$1.00 will be charged to each local chapter for the expenses of issuing the charter to the local chapter.

### State Association Annual Meeting:

The Annual Meeting of the State Association of the Future Farmers of America will be held at the time and place of the State Judging Contest.