

MINUTES
F.F.A. NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
President Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri
October 17, 1941

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Dr. W. T. Spanton, Chairman of the Advisory Council. Council members present were: C. H. Lane, J. H. Pearson, D. M. Clements, W. P. Beard, Sam Hitchcock (Wyo.), H. C. Fetterolf (Penna.), H. T. Hall (Iowa), and S. M. Jackson (La.). Also present were W. A. Ross and D. J. Howard. Both forenoon and afternoon sessions were held.

The first subject under discussion was special cases in connection with the 1941 applications for the American Farmer Degree. After a long discussion the following actions were taken covering all cases in question:

Resolution Interpreting Article II of By-Laws
of National Constitution and By-Laws
Future Farmers of America

WHEREAS, the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Future Farmers of America in Article II of By-Laws provides that the National Advisory Council shall "interpret the National Constitution of the Future Farmers of America," and

WHEREAS, the interpretation of the original information supplied by a supplementary letter in the case of Otto J. Brittain of Lufkin, Texas, did not in the opinion of the National Advisory Council, fall in the category of "additions or corrections" and was necessary for the purpose of clarification and in no way changed the original record of the qualifications of the application,

Therefore, be it resolved that the National Advisory Council assembled in Kansas City, Missouri this 17th day of October, 1941

recommend to the National Board of Trustees that the American Farmer Degree be awarded to Otto J. Brittain of Lufkin, Texas.

Signed W. T. SPANTON
W. T. Spanton
National Adviser
Future Farmers of America

Resolution Interpreting Article II of By-Laws
of National Constitution and By-Laws
Future Farmers of America

WHEREAS, the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Future Farmers of America in Article II of By-Laws provides that the National Advisory Council shall "interpret the National Constitution of the Future Farmers of America," and

WHEREAS, the applications for the American Farmer Degree of certain boys were received shortly after May 1st, and

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Advisory Council those whose responsibility it was to comply with Section D of Article VIII did so in so far as their interpretations of the intents and purposes of Section D Article VIII are concerned, and

WHEREAS, failure of the applications to reach the national office by May 1, 1941 was due in some instances to factors beyond their control.

Therefore, be it resolved that the National Advisory Council assembled in Kansas City, Missouri, this 17th day of October, 1941 recommend to the National Board of Trustees that the American Farmer Degree be awarded to the following applicants:

J. D. Branscome -	Duck Hill, Mississippi
Darwood Lawrence Kirk -	Doddsville, Mississippi
Johnson Ormen -	Winnborn, Mississippi

Winfred Guess -	Route 2, Kevil, Kentucky
William Dale Johnson -	Route 3, Stamping Ground, Kentucky
Seth T. Posey, Jr. -	Route 2, Henderson, Kentucky
S. D. Weakley, Jr. -	Route 3, Shelbyville, Kentucky
Charles H. White, Jr. -	Garrard, Kentucky
William Leach -	Route 3, Georgetown, Kentucky
Wilmot McDowell -	Route 2, Union City, Michigan
Donald Smith -	Stockbridge, Michigan
Lyle Joseph Campbell -	Gays Mills, Wisconsin
Richard J. Delorit -	Route 1, Forrestville, Wisconsin
George Erickson, Jr. -	Route 3, Box 54, Eau Claire, Wisconsin
Robert Louis Gefke -	Oregon, Wisconsin
Francis Ptacek -	River Falls, Wisconsin
Don B. Sawyer -	Waupaca, Wisconsin
Jack A. Vennes -	Wheeler, Wisconsin

Signed W. T. SPANTON
W. T. Spanton
National Adviser
Future Farmers of America

The second main item of business for the day was the discussion of possible changes in the National F.F.A. Constitution for 1942. This constitution was read in its entirety, section by section, and various suggested changes noted. It was the consensus of the meeting that these changes should be discussed further at the next Council meeting. Check records of all suggested changes were kept by the National Adviser and National Executive Secretary.

Other actions taken by the Council were as indicated below:

Moved by Jackson, seconded and carried, that information be obtained from the States regarding their wishes in connection with F.F.A. merchandise as a guide to making new contracts in 1942. Clements and Jackson designated to prepare check sheet suitable for use at Regional Conferences.

Moved by Fetterolf, seconded and carried, that the Board of Trustees require all official F.F.A. merchandising concerns to justify any increases in prices requested on the merchandise they supply under present contracts.

Moved by Jackson, seconded and carried, that the Advisory Council recommend to the Board of Trustees that consideration be given to placing in the 1941-42 budget of the national organization of F.F.A. an item covering publicity at the national convention and that a publicity man's expenses at the national convention be defrayed, if necessary.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

W. A. ROSS
National Executive Secretary

*As presented to
F.F.A. Advisory
Council March
27, Dec 1941,*

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

The Advisory Council calls attention to the term "minimum" and the way in which it is used in the 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 program activities in which he has participated as an active member.

B. "Satisfactory" participation in the activities of the State association is interpreted to mean that the candidate must have attended not less than three F.F.A. activities of the State association or any of its recognized subdivisions above the local Chapter level.

II. Paragraph 2 of Section E of the F.F.A. Constitution provides that the candidate must "have satisfactorily completed at least three years of instruction in vocational agriculture (or have completed all the vocational agriculture offered in the school attended)."

A. This statement is interpreted to mean that a boy will be considered as having satisfactorily met this requirement when he has for a period of three years, or during the time required to take "all the vocational agriculture offered in the school attended," completed the requirements for a passing grade in vocational agriculture including his supervised farming program in the school which he attends. The current year's supervised farming program of any candidate will not be considered as one of the three years of supervised farming required, since it is not possible to be completed by May 1 on any given year. This same provision applies in the case of candidates attending schools where less than three years of vocational agriculture are offered.

A candidate who has had only two years of vocational agriculture must show in his application that the school he attended offered only a total of two years of vocational agriculture while he was enrolled.

B. Paragraph 2 of Section E of the F.F.A. Constitution also provides that a candidate must "have in operation an outstanding program of supervised farming, which shows comprehensive planning, continuation, growth, and increase in scope." "Have in operation" is interpreted to 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 F.F.A. Constitution requires that a boy's supervised farming program shall be substantiated by "complete, accurate, and neat records." This statement is interpreted to mean that a boy's supervised farming program will not be considered as "substantiated by complete, accurate, and neat records" (1) if there are more than three instances of incomplete or contradictory financial entries; (2) if there are more than three mathematical errors; (3) if the total of any one or all mathematical errors exceeds 5 per cent of the total labor income; and (4) if the records are not sufficiently clear, legible and orderly to be read easily and understandingly.

III. Paragraph 3 of Section E of the 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 other ^{wise} 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, 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 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 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 team winner in some local, county, district, area, or State contest that is recognized as a bona fide vocational agriculture contest.
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, or (c) been a delegate to a county, district, area or State convention.
3. Unless he has had leadership experience beyond the level of the local chapter.

B. Showing outstanding ability in cooperation -

1. Unless he has actively participated in at least ³~~five~~ *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.

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

A. "Upper 40 per cent" 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 or Senior) during the last year he was in school.

C. "All school subjects" is interpreted to mean all subjects (academic and vocational) for which the candidate was enrolled for credit.