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#6

State of Nebraska

DEPARTMENT OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
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November 27, 1928.

Mr. Henry C. Groseclose,
Acting Supervisor of
Secondary Education,
State Board of Education,
Richmond, Virginia.

My dear Mr. Groseclose:

Enclosed is a copy of our state constitution of the F. F. A. This constitution is identical with the one which Mr. Lane set up as a national constitution. This will meet the approval of the teachers in this state because we acted on the suggested national constitution last year at our annual state conference.

It will be impossible for us to elect a state president and a state secretary until at our annual meeting of boys next April. If, however, in making this application it is necessary to have these officers, I will appoint boys who will act in that capacity. These would be the boys who had been in Kansas City. Alvin Reimber, Beatrice, who was elected vice-president of our national organization, would be appointed acting president, and Andrew Walberg, Eagle, would be appointed acting secretary.

We are anxious to have our state charter because we have a number of growing local organizations that are making application for charters. Find enclosed a check for \$5.00 to cover the cost of issuing the charter.

Yours very truly,

J. H. Pearson

JHP:ON

A CONSTITUTION FOR STATE AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS
OF "FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA"

Article I. Name and Purposes of the Organization.

Section A. The name of this organization shall be the Nebraska 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 Nebraska.
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 Nebraska 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.
4. Receive a majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting of the local chapter of "Future Farmers of America".

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 \$25.00.

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. Receive a majority vote of the members present at a regular local chapter meeting of "Future Farmers of America".

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

1. At least two years of systematic instruction in vocational agriculture with an outstanding supervised practice program in operation.
2. Earn and deposit in a bank, or productively invest at least \$200. This may include the \$25.00 saved while advancing to the grade of "Future Farmer".
3. Be able to lead a group discussion for forty minutes.
4. Make the school judging team, debating team, or some other team representing the school.
5. Show marked attainment in scholarship in all school subjects (grade 85 or above).
6. Possess qualities of leadership as shown by having held responsible positions in connection with student and chapter activities.
7. Each 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 State organization or have represented 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 Nebraska organization has been chartered all Nebraska 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 Nebraska 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 and three active members elected by the delegates in State convention. 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 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. Dues.

- Section A. Membership dues in the Nebraska 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 VIII. 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 IX. 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 rectangular key base. All members elected to the degree of "American farmer" are entitled to wear the gold insignia directly mounted on a key.

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