

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association Revised: 11-29-99

CONSTITUTION

Article I – Name and Purpose

Section A: The name of this organization shall be the South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association. Members are hereinafter referred to as “Young Farmers and Agribusinessmen.”

Section B: The Purposes for which this association is formed are:

1. Aid and interest adults through a systematic and organized educational program to become satisfactorily established in farming or agri-business occupations.
2. Cooperate with all agencies and organizations whose objectives are the improvement of the economic, educational, and social conditions of farm life and inform members of the services provided by such agencies and organizations.
3. Develop abilities in parliamentary procedure, conduct of meetings, public speaking, and other ~~rural~~ leadership activities.
4. Provide wholesome social and recreational activities.
5. Keep the membership informed of desirable farm and agri-business opportunities.
6. Keep the membership informed on measures affecting the welfare of agriculturalists on local, state, national, and international levels.
7. Plan and render worthwhile community services based on the needs of the community.
8. Promote, plan and improve farm family living.

Article II – Organization

Section A: The South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association is a State organization for out-of-school young people who are engaged in agriculture. It shall consist of affiliated local chapters that are chartered by the State Association and organized in conformity with its constitution and by-laws.

Section B: Chapters of the Young Farmer and Agribusiness shall be chartered only in schools where recognized systematic instruction is offered for Adult Agricultural Education groups under the State Agricultural Education Provisions.

Section C: The State Supervisor of Agricultural Education shall be the advisor of the South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association.

Section D: The local teacher of agriculture education shall be the advisor for the local chapter of The Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association.

Section E: The fiscal year for this association shall be January 1 to December 31.

Section F: Local chapters may become and remain affiliated with the State Association by complying with the procedures outlined in the by-laws.

Article III - Membership

Section A: The membership of this association shall be of two kinds:

1. Active
2. Honorary

Section B: Active Membership

Any young farmer over sixteen years of age who is out- of- school and enrolled for organized systematic instruction in an Adult Agricultural Education class is eligible to become an active member of a local chapter of the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association-upon receiving a majority vote of the members at any local chapter meeting.

Section C: Honorary Membership

Individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association-and to the general improvement of agricultural conditions in the State may, upon recommendation of the State Executive Committee, be elected to honorary membership by a majority vote of the delegates present at any State Convention.

Article IV – Officers

- Section A: The officers of the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association shall be:
President,
President-Elect, a Vice-President from each supervisory district, treasurer and advisor.
Officers of this association shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the delegates assembled in the annual State Convention of the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association except the State Advisor shall be the State Supervisor of Agricultural Education. A member of the-state supervisory staff shall serve as Executive Director.
- Section B: Honorary members shall not vote or hold any office.
- Section C: Elected officers of the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, the retiring President, and the State Advisor shall constitute the State Executive Committee. This committee conducts the business of the association in accordance with action taken in State Conventions.

Article V – Meetings

- Section A: A convention of the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association shall be held annually at a time and place to be determined by the State Executive Committee.
- Section B: Two delegates from each chapter in good standing shall be elected annually from the active membership to represent the chapter at the State Convention.
- Section C: The delegates from a majority of the chartered chapters in the State shall constitute a quorum, and a quorum must be present at any meeting at which business is transacted or a vote taken committing the association to any proposal of action.
- Section D: A quorum for the Executive Committee shall consist of a majority of the members of the committee. A quorum must be present at any meeting at which business is transacted.
- Section E: Parliamentary procedure at all meetings of this association shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Article VI – Dues

Section A: Annual membership dues in the State Association shall be fixed by the State Executive Committee, subject to approval by a majority vote of the delegates present at the State Convention of The Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association-

Section B: The dues of any local chapter shall be fixed by the Chapter Executive Committee, subject to approval of a majority vote of the active members of the chapter.

Article VII – Emblems and Colors

Section A: The emblem of the South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association shall be:

State of South Carolina – Tractor Plow – Rising Sun and with farm products around borders with the following inscription around and near the edge of the emblem: South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association

Section B: Emblems shall be uniform in all chapters in the State.

Section C: The colors of the South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association shall be Corn Gold and Velvet Green.

Article VIII – Amendments

Section A: Proposed amendments to the State Constitutions or By -Laws must be submitted in writing by authorized representatives of a local chapter of to the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association the State Executive Committee at least 60 days before the Annual State Convention of Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association.

The proposed amendments then must be submitted to local chapters in the State at least one month prior to the next annual State Convention. When this procedure is followed, amendments to the State Constitution or By -Laws may be adopted at any State Convention by a two -thirds vote of the delegates present, provided they represent a quorum.

BY-LAWS

Article I – Duties of Officers

- Section A: President – It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association and to serve as chairman of the State Executive Committee. The President shall appoint all committees and may serve as an ex officio members of these committees. He shall call a State Convention each year at such time and place as shall be decided by the Executive Committee.
- Section B: President-Elect – It shall be the duty of the President-Elect to preside at all meetings in the absence of the President and assist the President at all times in carrying out the work of the Association.
- Section C: Vice-Presidents – The Vice-Presidents shall work for the Association on the district level and shall assist the President in conducting the business and work of the State Association
- Section D: Advisor – The State Advisor is the ex officio member of all committees. He/she is an active member of the State Executive Committee of Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association and assists State Officers in conducting meetings and other affairs of the Association. He/she reviews actions taken by all committees and the State Convention to determine whether or not they are in conformity with policies, plans, and regulations pertaining to the program of agricultural education as approved by the State Agricultural Education Department.
- Section E: Treasurer – The State Treasurer will be responsible for monitoring the annual budget. He/she will write checks for approved purchases based upon budgetary allowances and in consultation with the Executive Secretary. He/she will assist in ensuring records are audited in a timely manner.
- Section F: Executive Director – The Executive Director will assist in the organization of Executive Committee meetings, keep accurate minutes of all executive committee meetings, assist in the organization of any state sponsored function, provide proper correspondence to members of the South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association and correspond with the

National Young Farmer Education Association as needed.

Section G: Executive Committee – The Executive Committee shall conduct the business of the State Association, subject to such regulations, by-laws, and State Program of Work as have been adopted by delegates, and in conformity with the policies and plans governing the administration of Agricultural Education in the State.

Article II – Committees

Section A: The President of the South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint three regular committees annually: The Nominating Committee, The Auditing Committee, and the Program of Work Committee. Other special committees may be appointed.

Section B: The Nominating Committee, after careful consideration of the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association personnel, shall place in nomination candidates for the various state offices.

Section C: The Auditing Committee shall examine annually the books of the Treasurer and report their findings to the delegate body assembled in State Convention.

Section D: The Program of Work Committee shall set up the objectives and goals of the State Association and suggest ways and means of attaining them.

Article III – Procedures

Section A: Election of State Officers

The Nominating Committee, which usually shall consist of one member from each of the administrative districts in the State but not less than five members, shall study and review the qualifications of members for the various offices in the Association. This committee shall nominate well qualified active members for State Office. Nominations may also be made from the floor of the convention following the report of the Nominating Committee.

Where qualified candidates offer for election one Vice-President shall be elected from each administrative district. Vice-Presidents are to be elected for one year terms, may be

eligible for reelection a second year, and can be re-elected a third year as President-Elect only. The President-Elect shall be elected from the State at large and shall have served on the State Executive Committee for at least one year. The President-Elect shall automatically be elevated to the office of President. The advisor shall be the State Supervisor of Agricultural Education. A member of the Agricultural Education State Staff shall serve as Executive Director.

Should the office of the President be vacated, the office shall be filled by the President-Elect. Should the office of President-Elect become vacant, it shall be filled by a Vice-President elected by the Executive Committee until the next annual convention at which time the Association shall elect a President. Should the office of a Vice-President be vacated, the Executive Committee shall elect a replacement upon the recommendations of the State Advisor.

Young Farmer Members past the age of forty-five as of May 31 shall not be eligible to serve as a State Officer.

Section B: Membership of the Executive Committee

The officers of the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, the retiring President, and the State Advisor are members of the State Executive Committee.

Section C: Issuing Charters to Chapters

Local Chapters of the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association shall apply through the State Advisor to the Executive Committee for affiliation with the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association. Such applications shall be signed by the Chapter President, the Secretary and the local advisor. The following material shall accompany the application for a chapter charter:

1. A copy of the proposed constitution and by-laws.
2. A copy of the annual program of work.
3. A list of the active membership.
4. A list of chapter officers and address of each.
5. A remittance of \$5.00 to cover cost of printing and mailing charter.

Section D: Determining Standing of Chapters

A local chapter of the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association shall be considered in good standing with the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association provided the following general conditions are met:

1. Local members are enrolled each year in a course of systematic instruction in Agricultural Education.
2. The local chapter constitution is not in conflict with the State constitution.
3. The activities of the chapter are in harmony with the purposes of the State Association.
4. All current reports are submitted to the State Advisor as requested.
5. All membership dues are paid.

In the event a chapter is not in good standing at the time of the opening of the State Convention, the delegates in the Convention shall have the power, on recommendation of the State Executive Committee, to withdraw or suspend its charter and refuse such chapter official representation at the State Convention. When, and if, such action is taken, the members of the chapter in question shall be denied the regular privileges of the Association. By meeting the requirements for good standing a chapter may be reinstated by action of the State Executive Committee no earlier than 10 days after the close of the State Convention during which it was not in good standing.

Where provisions of the constitution are not or cannot be met by a local chapter, an appeal by the chapter must be made to the State Executive Committee stating the circumstances. After analyzing the situation, the State Executive Committee will rule on the standing of the chapter and notify them within ten days the decision of the State Executive Committee.

Section E: Determining the Standing of Members

An active member is considered to be in good standing provided:

1. He /she attends class meetings regularly. Active membership cannot be retained for longer than one year after he discontinues attending class meetings.
2. He/she attends chapter meetings regularly.
3. He/she shows an interest and takes part in the affairs of the chapter.
4. He/she pays dues regularly.

Article IV – Meetings

Section A: Regular and special meetings of the State Executive Committee shall be held at such time and place as determined by a majority of the Executive Committee.

Section B: Special meetings of the State Association may be called at any time by the State President with the approval of a majority of the Executive Committee.

Section C: Local chapter meetings shall be held once a month throughout the year at such time and place as designated by the Chapter Executive Committee.

Section D: The order of business at regular meetings shall be: Call to order, roll call, reading of the minutes, report of officers and committees, unfinished business, new business, special events and adjournment.