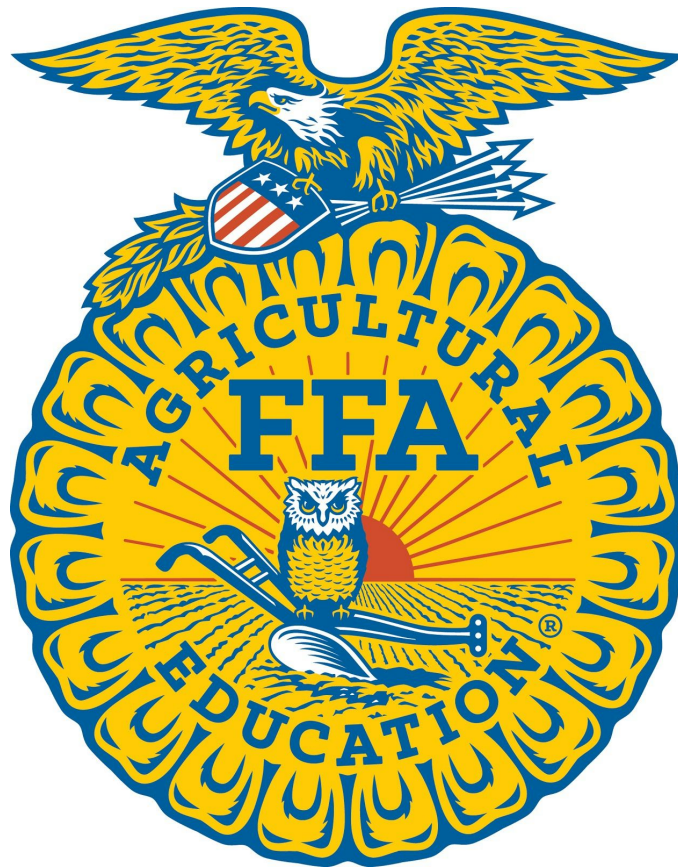


# 2018-2019 Owasso FFA



## Member's Handbook

## **The Mission Statement**

**The National FFA Organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.**

**To accomplish its mission, FFA:**

- Develops competent and assertive agricultural leadership.
- Increases awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being.
- Strengthens the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work.
- Promotes the intelligent choice and establishment of an agricultural career.
- Encourages achievement in supervised agricultural experience programs.
- Encourages wise management of economic, environmental and human resources of the community.
- Develops interpersonal skills in teamwork, communications, human relations and social interaction.
- Builds character and promotes citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism.
- Promotes cooperation and cooperative attitudes among all people.
- Promotes healthy lifestyles.
- Encourages excellence in scholarship

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## **Active Involvement**

To fully experience the FFA, it's important to be as active as you can. When an opportunity arises don't be afraid to participate. Stepping out of your comfort zone is often uncomfortable but you'll soon realize that it is your new comfort. Getting involved will open doors and establish connections that can be beneficial later on in life.

## **General Rules**

The FFA is an intra-curricular student organization for students regularly enrolled in Agricultural Education classes. In order to participate and represent Owasso in any FFA activity, an individual must be a member of the FFA who is regularly attending school and enrolled in an Agricultural Education class.

**Academic Eligibility:** In order to participate in any competitive or leadership activity, a student must remain academically eligible. Each school site conducts eligibility checks on a weekly basis. Students must maintain passing grades in all classes to remain eligible. Any student who fails two or more classes for the semester will be academically ineligible for the first six weeks of the following semester. In order to be eligible for the Tulsa State Fair or Oklahoma Youth Expo, a student must be eligible on the first day of the event, regardless of the day of their participation.

**FFA Dues:** By being involved in the Owasso FFA Chapter the FFA Dues are covered. By paying these dues the Owasso FFA members are recognized as a National FFA member, therefore enabling them to compete in all FFA activities. As a result of these dues being paid by the chapter, all members are expected to participate in both fall and spring meats sales fund-raisers.

**Official Dress:** Members who participate in FFA leadership activities will be expected to have their own official dress consisting of the following:

### **Male**

Standard Official Jacket	\$55
(ordered through advisors or on-line)	
Black dress slacks	
White collared dress shirt	
Official FFA tie	\$24.50
Black socks	
Black dress shoes	

### **Female**

Standard Official Jacket	\$55
(ordered through advisors or on-line)	
Black dress skirt (within 1" of the knee)	
White collared dress blouse	
Official FFA scarf	\$12.50
Jet Black hose	
Black dress shoes (Closed toe, plain)	

**Note: Tailored jackets are \$80 and require extra time for shipping**

For livestock shows, members are to wear show dress, which consists of the Official FFA Jacket, white collared dress shirt, dark jeans, and dark footwear.

The Jacket is only to be worn by members participating in official FFA activities. It is not to be worn casually or by non-members. When it is worn, it must be zipped up all the way or not worn at all.

We believe a member's appearance is extremely important when representing the Owasso FFA and our community, as well as, their family and themselves. Because of this, members are expected to have conservative hairstyles with natural color and be neat in appearance when representing our chapter.

### **SAE (Required for all students by state law (OK HB3006))**

**Students enrolled in Agricultural Education are encouraged to conduct their own Supervised Agricultural Experience.** Upon entering the ninth grade, a student must conduct an SAE in order to remain in the program the following year. Individual SAE programs can vary greatly and there are limitless opportunities for these experiences. In order to be considered a valid SAE, it must fit into one of the National Proficiency award areas that can be found on the National FFA website located at [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org).

The Owasso FFA shows three species of livestock at FFA sponsored livestock shows: swine, sheep, and beef cattle. Students who choose these show projects as their SAE must individually own and care for their animal. In order to show in the spring shows in January-March, students must own their animals by December 1st. In order to show in the fall shows in August-October, animals must be owned by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Each member must show their own animal and may not show an animal that belongs to someone else. The only exception to this rule would be in the event a member has two animals in the same class, or in the event they have a serious injury that prevents them from physically showing their animal. They must be present at the event in order for their animal to be shown.

FFA members who need housing for show projects may be able to house their animals in the FFA Alumni facilities. Specific rules and regulations for use of the barn will be available through the FFA advisors. Members who have facilities available elsewhere are encouraged to use their own facilities to free up space for those who do not have any facilities of their own.

### **Livestock Entry Deadlines:**

The Advisors will notify a student when pre-entry is necessary for shows. Both the Tulsa State Fair and the Oklahoma Youth Expo have nomination and pre-entry requirements that must be met in order to participate. Nominations and entries in these shows must be done through the FFA Advisors. Oklahoma Youth Expo deadlines can be found at [www.okyouthexpo.com](http://www.okyouthexpo.com) and Tulsa State Fair deadlines can be found at [www.tulsastatefair.com](http://www.tulsastatefair.com). Nomination orders, completed nominations, and actual entries will have a deadline to be turned in to the advisors from 2 days to 1 week earlier than the deadline listed on the website. These deadlines will be announced to

students during class, and are necessary for the advisors to process all entries by the show deadline. **Nominations or entries turned in after the advisor's deadline will not be accepted.**

The school sponsored shows that will be attended as a chapter are:

**Tulsa State Fair – October**

**Owasso FFA Local Show – Early February**

**Owasso Invitational Show – Late January-the first of February**

**Sperry Invitational Show – February**

**Skiatook Invitational Show – Late January**

**Tulsa County Spring Livestock Show – March**

**Oklahoma Youth Expo – March**

There are numerous other shows that are not sponsored nor sanctioned by the chapter. Members are encouraged to seek advice from the advisors about attendance at other shows to prevent possible illness or undue stress to their animals or those that may be housed around them in the FFA Alumni facilities.

### **Record Books**

As a part of their SAE, members are required to complete records of their project. Record keeping instruction will be given as a part of regular classroom instruction and members are expected to maintain accurate records of their project by utilizing the Agriculture Experience Tracker, an on line database for Ag Ed students. These entries must be made routinely and will be a significant part of a student's grade in each class.

### **Proficiency Awards**

Members may submit Proficiency awards to receive recognition for their accomplishments on the local and State level. Local applications are due by April 6<sup>th</sup> for recognition at the annual chapter Banquet. Members who choose to submit applications on the State level must submit these applications to advisors by December 15<sup>th</sup> so that changes and corrections may be finished in time to submit on the State level by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **State FFA Degree**

The State FFA degree is the highest degree of membership to be attained on the state level. It is based on a member's participation in FFA activities, community service, and their SAE. Members who meet the minimum standards may apply for this degree during their Senior year. Applications and record books for those members applying are due to advisors by December 15<sup>th</sup>. The degree is presented to those who receive it at the State FFA Convention in May. The minimum requirements are:

- **\$2000 earned from the SAE (profit, not actual income)**
- **\$2000 invested in or from the project (inventory or savings)**
- **25 hours community service activities**
- **20 activities above the chapter level from these areas: Fairs and Shows, Public Speaking, CDE events, and Leadership camps, conferences, and conventions. (Maximum of 10 activities in any one area)**
- **Complete a portfolio or scrapbook**
- **Serve as a chapter officer or committee chair**

## **Career Development Events (CDEs)**

Members may participate in Career Development Events as a part of their FFA experience. In order to maintain quality and competitiveness, we have chosen to participate only in Public Speaking, Opening Ceremonies, Parliamentary Procedure, and Sporting Clay contests. The advisors may add any of the other 24 CDE contests on a yearly basis based on their discretion.

### **Public Speaking**

The Owasso FFA has a rich tradition and is widely recognized for our students' success in the area of Public Speaking. We believe this is the best activity a member can participate in to prepare them for their future. The chapter will attend several contests in the spring of the year leading up to the State qualifying contests on the PI and District levels. In order to participate in Public Speaking, members must research and prepare a rough draft of a written speech on a current agricultural issue and submit it to the advisors by December 1<sup>st</sup>. The final copy of the speech must be finished by January 1<sup>st</sup>. Members who want to go to contests must have their speech totally memorized before they may participate in a contest. The divisions that are available to speak in are:

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Agricultural Exploration**

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade FFA Opportunities**

**FFA Creed (9<sup>th</sup> grade members only)**

**8-9-10<sup>th</sup> General Agriculture**

**Animal Science**

**Plant Science**

**Natural Resources**

**Agribusiness**

**Agricultural Policy**

**Agriscience**

**Extemporaneous Public Speaking**

### **Opening Ceremonies**

Opening Ceremonies contests are held in the fall each year for 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade members. In order to participate, members must wear Official Dress and they must memorize an officer's speaking part in the FFA Opening and closing ceremonies. There are six members on each team, and the top two teams from Owasso will represent the chapter at the State qualifying PI contest on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Parliamentary Procedure**

Members may participate on either Jr. or Sr. Parliamentary Procedure teams. The Jr. contest is for members in 8-10<sup>th</sup> grade with 6 members on a team. The Senior team is comprised of six individuals. Both contests demonstrate member's knowledge of Parliamentary procedure and their ability to conduct a meeting utilizing Parliamentary Procedure terms. The Jr. contest allows members to memorize their order of speaking and the terms they will use while the Senior contest is much more extemporaneous and unplanned.

## **Leadership Camps, Conferences and Conventions (Non-refundable on all)**

Leadership development is an important part of the FFA. Because of this, members are afforded opportunities to attend various leadership activities throughout the year. The following list is those activities that have a significant cost:

- **Made for Excellence/ Advanced Leadership Development**  
These leadership conferences are held the first weekend of December in Tulsa hotels on a Saturday and Sunday. The cost is \$95 and must be paid by August 15th to ensure a spot. Members participate in leadership development activities and network with members from other chapters across the state.
- **State FFA Convention**  
The State FFA Convention is held each May in Oklahoma City. The chapter takes the top 40 or 50 members in our point system to convention, depending on availability of chapter funds. The cost to members is primarily the cost of their meals and souvenirs that they may want to purchase.
- **FFA Alumni Leadership Camp**  
The greatest leadership camp a member can attend! It is held at camp Tulakogee on lake Ft. Gibson each July. It is a 4-day 3 night camp focusing on leadership development, personal growth, and fun! The cost to attend is \$200 and must be paid by February 1<sup>st</sup> in order to secure a ticket to the camp. Questions about payment options or possible scholarships should be brought to the advisors.
- **Washington Leadership Conference**  
This week-long conference is held the first full week of June in the nation's capitol. It is primarily for members who have completed their junior year. The cost is \$1200 and a minimum deposit of \$600 should be paid by January 15<sup>th</sup> to ensure a seat on the bus. Scholarships and other financial assistance may be available to attend.

The chapter may attend other conferences sponsored by individual chapters throughout the year. The advisors reserve the right to select individual members to attend these conferences.

## **Premium Money**

The Owasso FFA Alumni presents premium money to members who are involved in showing livestock or involved in Public speaking or Parliamentary Procedure. The main fundraising activity for premium money is the annual Pancake Breakfast held on the fourth Saturday in January. Members who wish to receive premium money must be present to assist with the breakfast. Official Dress is required for members during this event. In addition, members are expected to sell 10 tickets each for this event in order to be eligible to receive premium money.

### **Livestock**

Premium money for livestock exhibitors is earned based on participation in the five school sponsored shows listed on page 2. A member may receive premium money on a maximum of two animals per year. The FFA Alumni board will determine the amount of premium money paid each year.

Points are awarded on the following basis:  
Participation.....5 points per show  
Placing 1<sup>st</sup> in class.....5 additional points per show

Placing 2 <sup>nd</sup> in class.....	4 additional points per show
Placing 3 <sup>rd</sup> in class.....	3 additional points per show
Placing 4 <sup>th</sup> in class.....	2 additional pints per show
Placing 5 <sup>th</sup> in class.....	1 additional point per show
Placing Breed Champion.....	5 additional points
Placing Reserve Champion.....	4 additional points
Placing Grand Champion.....	5 additional points
Placing Reserve Grand.....	4 additional points
Showmanship participation...	5 points
Placing 1 <sup>st</sup> in showmanship....	5 additional points
Placing 2 <sup>nd</sup> in Showmanship...	4 additional points
Placing 3 <sup>rd</sup> in Showmanship...	3 additional points
Making final Cut or lineup.....	2 additional points

The advisors will provide point sheets each week following the shows. It is the member's responsibility to be sure that these forms are filled out each week. A member must earn a minimum of 25 points per animal to be eligible to receive premium money. Also, if their animal is housed in the barn, their pen must be cleaned out by the deadline listed in the barn contract.

### **Public Speaking and Parliamentary Procedure**

Members who participate in Public Speaking or Parliamentary Procedure at the PI level or above will be awarded premium money. The amount of money to be distributed each year will be determined by the FFA Alumni Board. Members will receive a base amount for participating in the PI contest, an additional amount if they qualify for District, and an additional amount if they qualify for the state contest.

## **Chapter FFA Fundraisers**

Each year our FFA chapter conducts two fundraisers. The chapter utilizes a fall and spring meat sales as the primary source on income to conduct a variety of chapter FFA activities including chapter FFA meeting, Blue & Gold Bonanza, State FFA Convention trip, as well as our annual chapter FFA banquet. As result of active participation in meat sales, students have a better opportunity to attend state FFA convention at the end of April or the beginning of May each year.

## **Chapter FFA Point System**

As a way to reward our most active and well-rounded FFA members, a point system has been implemented, as a way to select which FFA members will be eligible to attend the state FFA convention each spring. Each student will be given a points sheet to fill out in class. The points sheets will be filled out and updated two times per year: once in December and again in April. The point system in based on participation of the following criteria:

Livestock Shows.....5 (Max).....	20 pts/each.....	100pts
Public Speaking.....8 (Max) .....	20 pts/each.....	160pts
Chapter Meetings.....(No limit) .....	25 pts/each.....	no limit
FFA Contests.....5 (Max) .....	20 pts/each.....	100pts



Leadership Conferences.....(No limit).....	25 pts/each.....	no limit
Meat Sales.....(No limit).....	1pt/\$10 sold.....	no limit
1st Semester Grades.....(6 Periods).....	10pts/A, 5pts/B.....	60pts
State Proficiency Awards.....(3 areas).....	25pts/each.....	75pts
Event Volunteer.....(3).....	5pts/hr, 3hr max/event.....	45pts

### **Annual Chapter Banquet**

The chapter hosts an annual awards banquet in May each year. All members who participate in meat sales and their families are invited to attend. The banquet is a dress up occasion, so members are expected to be in Official Dress. Applications for awards to be presented at the banquet will be available through the advisors beginning after spring break.

### **Officer Election Process**

The Owasso FFA chapter elects six chapter officers each year prior to the annual FFA banquet. In order to run for chapter office, a member must be completing Ag I at the time of application. They must be a member in good standing, having participated in fund raising activities and must not have been suspended from school for any reason. In addition, they must have a minimum of a 2.0 GPA in order to run. There are three steps to the process:

1. Application: Members wishing to run must complete an application including a resume. The resumes of all candidates will be independently ranked by a minimum of three other Ag teachers from other schools. These rankings will be combined to get one final ranking of candidates based solely on their resume.
2. Interviews: Members who complete the application will be asked to attend an interview session consisting of two interviews. The first will include a 2-4 minute presentation on why they wish to serve as a chapter officer followed by questions from 2-3 interview committee members. The second interview session will be a sit down session lasting approximately 10 minutes with a committee of 2-3 people. The people selected to be on the interviewing committee will be selected from former chapter or state officers, FFA Alumni members, School faculty or administration, or local business professionals. At the conclusion of the interviews, committee members will independently rank the candidates. These rankings will be combined to get one final ranking of all candidates based solely on the interviews.
3. Member popular vote: The top ten candidates from the combined interview and resume rankings will be placed on a ballot to be ranked individually by the members at an election meeting to be held prior to the banquet. The rankings on these ballots will be combined to arrive at a final ranking based solely on the member vote.

Final ranking: The top six members based on the combined rankings from the resumes, interviews, and member vote will be announced as the new Chapter Officers as the last order of business at the chapter banquet. The order of officers will be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel.