Maroa-Forsyth FFA CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - Name, Mission and Strategies

Section A. The name of this organization shall be the Maroa-Forsyth Chapter of the National FFA Organization.

Section B. The mission and strategies for this chapter are as follows:

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.

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

ARTICLE II – Organization

Section A. The Maroa-Forsyth Chapter of FFA is a chartered local unit of the Illinois Association of FFA which is chartered by the National FFA Organization.

Section B. This chapter accepts in full the provisions in the constitution and bylaws of the Illinois Association of FFA as well as those of the National FFA Organization.

ARTICLE III – Membership

Section A. Membership in this chapter shall be of two kinds: (1) Active and (2) Honorary, as defined by the National FFA Constitution.

Section B. The regular activities of this chapter shall be carried on by the active membership.

Section C. Honorary membership in this chapter shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree.

Section D. Active members in good standing may vote on all business brought before the chapter. An active member shall be considered in good standing when:

1. While in school, be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study. Either course must include a supervised agricultural experience program, the objective of which is preparation for an agricultural career.
2. Show an interest in the affairs of the organization by attending meetings, striving for degrees of membership, and participating in other organized activities of the chapter.
3. Pay all current state and national dues by the date determined by the chapter.
4. Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization.

Section E. Names of applicants for membership shall be filed with the membership committee.

ARTICLE IV – Emblems

· **Section A.** The emblem of the FFA shall be the emblem for the chapter.

Section B. Emblems used by the members shall be designated by the National FFA Organization.

ARTICLE V - Degrees and Privileges of Active Membership

· **Section A.** There shall be four degrees of active membership based on individual achievement. These degrees are (1) Greenhand FFA Degree, (2) Chapter FFA Degree, (3) State FFA Degree, and (4) American FFA Degree.

All "Greenhands" are entitled to wear the regulation bronze emblem pin.
All members holding the Chapter FFA Degree are entitled to wear the regulation silver emblem pin. All members holding the State FFA Degree are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem charm. All members holding the American FFA Degree are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem key. However, no member other than Major State Officers may wear any level of degree on a gold chain.

· **Section B.** Greenhand FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election: (Refer to National Constitution)

1. Be enrolled in agricultural education and have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience program.
2. Learn and explain the meaning of the FFA Creed, Motto, and Salute.
3. Describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and colors.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics and the proper use of the FFA jacket.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the history of the organization, the chapter constitution and bylaws, and the chapter Program of Activities.
6. Personally own or have access to the Official FFA Manual and the FFA Student Handbook.
7. Submit a written application for the Greenhand FFA Degree.

· **Section C.** Chapter FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election: (Refer to National Constitution)

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.

2. Must have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least 180 hours of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, have in operation an approved supervised agricultural experience program, and be enrolled in an agricultural education course.
3. Must have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the chapter Program of Activities.
4. Must have earned and productively invested at least $150 by the member's own efforts or worked at least forty-five hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof, and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural experience program.
5. Must have effectively led a group discussion for 15 minutes.
6. Must have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.
7. Must show progress toward individual achievement in the FFA award programs.
8. Must have a satisfactory scholastic record.
9. Must submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.

· **Section D.** State FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for selection:

1. Qualifications for the State FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the Illinois Association FFA and National FFA Organization.

· **Section E.** American FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for selection.

1. Qualifications for the American FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the National FFA Organization.

ARTICLE VI - Chapter Officers, Qualifications, Election Process, and Protocols

· **Section A.** The offices of the Maroa-Forsyth FFA chapter shall be: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, sentinel, and historian making the officer team consist of a total of 7 officers

· **Section B.** Other offices can be added or removed by completing the following protocol

a)Recommendation is made by the currently serving president or advisor(s)
b) 2/3 vote is obtained from the currently serving officer team at any regular or special office meeting
c)2/3 vote is obtained from the general membership of active members (as described in article I, Section D, Parts I-IV)

· **Section C.** Qualifications for nomination to office

a)Candidates must be in good standings at the local, section, state, and national levels
b)Candidates for president must at minimum hold the chapter degree or be recommended to receive it at the chapter banquet for which they would be installed
c)Must have been enrolled in 1 agriculture education class or be enrolled in one for the coming school year.
d)Must have been enrolled in FFA for at least six(6) months prior to the opening date of officer applications

· **Section D.** Officer election process timeline-may the follow serve as a mandate for setting dates

a)2nd week of March-Officer application too be made available to membership
b)1st week of April-Officer applications are due
c)2nd week of April-Selection Committee will conduct business with candidates

d)3rd week of April-Elections will be conducted before the general membership

· **Section E.** Format of Officer Selection Committee

a) The purpose of selection committee is to, with the chapters best interests in mind, eliminated additional qualified candidates beyond the total number of offices which are up for election in that current year.

b) Each Selection Committee room may consist of *up to* three(3) business and industry leaders including alumni who's have been graduated for three(3) years or more, one(1) senior member of alumni of less then three(3) years graduated, and two(2) current FFA members.

c) No committee may contain more than six(6) total persons but must contain at least three(3)

d) In a time where it is necessary to obtain more judges to meet the minimums extra judges may be added that don't meet the requirements in article VI, Section E., Part b when they are excepted by a major vote in a regular or special officer meeting

e) When at all possible judging candidates should not have any family ties or relations directly with candidates but if all other options to obtain judges are exhausted then each candidate will be allowed to select one judge to serve that is or isn't directly related to them

f) A complete list of all judges participating in selection committee must be presented and excepted by a major vote at a regular or special officer meeting

g) Candidates will be placed into a schedule created by the serving chapter president

h) Once the slate of judges is approved by the currently serving officer team the currently serving chapter president and advisor will work cohesively to place judges into judging committees

i) The committee will consist of between three (3) to six (6) sub committees

j) There will be an application judging which will meet at the same time as the rest of the committee meets but doesn't count as one (1) of the three (3) to six (6) total sub committees

k) Of the three (3) to six (6) committees one of them must be a mock impromptu interview like something they would encounter as an officer and an interactive activity i.e. building a flyer, or filling out an application

l) Candidates will be kept in a holding room before the start of judging however once a candidate exits to begin judging they may not interact with any other candidate until they have all finished the selection committee process

m) The chapter president will tabulate the scores from each room finding the gross score for each candidate under the supervision and aid of the advisor and any judges who volunteer to stay

n) If a chapter president is running for election they are effectively relieved of all their duties within selection committee and the advisor or another member selected by the advisor will take on their responsibilities

o) Selection Committee must reduce the number of candidates to exactly the number of offices up for reelection

p) The top individuals will be determined by gross score

q) In the event of a tie for the last position that will be advanced to the delegate body the tie will be broken by the officer team having time to ask the candidates questions regarding their qualification to serve and then the officer team voting on a closed ballot, in this circumstance only the president either may or may not

vote in order to make the total number of voters uneven in order to achieve a decision-making vote.
r) If a tie occurs where both candidates would advance no matter the braking of the tie it isn't necessary to brake the tie.

- **Section F.** Format of Officer Election by the general body
  - **a)** The general membership body will elect officers to their respective offices
  - **b)** Members who are eligible to vote must be in good stands at the local, section, state, and national level and considered an active member
  - **c)** Officers will be elected by a majority vote, if a majority is not reached then a revote will occur until a majority is reached
  - **d)** Candidates may choice which offices they would like to run for and which ones they wouldn't
  - **e)** If no candidate voluntarily commits their candidacy to an office then all remaining candidates will be required to run for that office
  - **f)** The candidates first speech for office may range between 2-3 minutes and every proceeding speech should be 1-2 minutes
  - **g)** Candidates may use note cards in their speech but nothing else

ARTICLE VII - Dues

Section A. Local dues in this chapter shall be fixed to fifty (50) dollars.

Section B. Full local, state and national dues shall be paid by all active members or be payed for them by the chapter or school depending on what the officer team votes that year.

Section C. No member shall be considered as active and in good standing unless he/she pays full local, state and national FFA dues.

ARTICLE VIII - Amendments

Section A. This constitution may be amended or changed at any regular chapter meeting by a two-thirds vote of the active members present providing it is not in conflict with the state association constitution or that of the National FFA Organization.

Section B. Bylaws may be adopted to fit the needs of the chapter at any regular chapter meeting by a two-thirds vote of the active members present providing such bylaws conflict in no way with the constitution and bylaws of either the state association or the national organization.