

Waterloo FFA Chapter



Parent / Student Handbook and Survival Guide

Table of Contents

Page 3	Welcome to Waterloo FFA
Page 4	What is SAE
Page 6	FFA Participation
Page 9	FFA Meetings and FFA Point System
Page 11	FFA Jacket
Page 13	CDEs - Career Development Events
Page 16	FFA Fundraisers
Page 17	Proficiency Awards
Page 19	FFA Degrees
Page 22	Leadership Conferences, conventions, and camps
Page 25	Individual opportunities for FFA members
Page 26	Scholarships
Page 27	Course Descriptions
Page 30	Helpful Information
Page 30	Alumni Membership

Welcome to the Waterloo FFA Handbook

Welcome to the Waterloo FFA Parent-Student Handbook. You will notice that this is not just a handbook for the FFA, but for the entire Agriculture Education Program, including Ag Ed Classes, FFA, and Supervised Agricultural Experiences. These are all integral components of the program and really can't be separated from each other.

This handbook should answer many questions you might have about our program. It will help explain many of the opportunities that we have planned for the coming school year and help you become involved and successful in our program. If you have any questions that are not addressed in the handbook always feel free to contact our FFA advisors, Tim McDermott and Carrie Koester, at the information in the chart below. Check out our department webpage at <http://whsag.weebly.com/> for information and pictures from classes and information about FFA events. Join the Waterloo IL FFA Facebook group and follow us on Twitter @WaterlooFFA to stay informed about upcoming events.

Get involved, participate, and have a great year!

Tim McDermott 618-939-3455 ext 415 (school) 217-417-3622 (cell) tmcdermott@wcusd5.net	Carrie Koester 618-939-3455 ext 414 (school) 618-973-6607 (cell) ckoester@wcusd5.net
---	--

Program Description

The Agricultural Education Program is much more than a class. Classroom instruction gives students the knowledge and skills they need for success in today's world. Students are able to practice and apply acquired knowledge and skills in their Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE), in Career Development Events (CDE), and at various FFA events. Students learn important academic, career, technical, leadership, and life skills when they are part of our program.

To make the most of the Agricultural Education Program, all students are encouraged to participate in FFA activities, be active learners in the classroom, and conduct a SAE program.

What is SAE?

Supervised Agricultural Experience

An SAE program is the actual, hands-on application of agricultural skills outside the classroom. Students are supervised and/or advised by agricultural education teachers, parents, employers and other adults who assist them in the development and achievement of their educational and career goals.

SAE is a time honored and tested form of work-based learning. An SAE program can be whatever the student wants it to be—an agricultural business of his/her own, a job shadowing experience, or placement in a paid or unpaid job using agriculturally-related skills and competencies. It is a program designed cooperatively by the student, advisor and parents.

Some examples of recent SAE projects conducted by FFA Members:

Working at animal hospital	Agriculture communications
Hay baling	Agriculture education
Working at flower store	Working on a dairy farm
AgriScience research	Golf course work
Working at tractor dealership	Restoring a tractor
Training horses	Raising sheep
Lawn mowing	Raising cattle
Raising a garden	Raising pigs
Trapping wildlife	Raising chickens
Aquaculture	Caring for family pets
Working in school greenhouse	Restaurant server

Students keep records (including pictures) for each SAE project, and these records are submitted annually to the Ag Ed instructor as part of the Ag Education program.

Livestock-based projects may be entered and exhibited at the Section FFA Fair, but this is not required. (see “individual opportunities for FFA members” section)

Students are rewarded for successful SAE projects through the FFA’s Proficiency Award Program. (See “Proficiency Awards” section)

SAE’s are also one component of selection to the various levels of FFA membership, also known as Degrees. (See “Degrees of Membership” Section)

SAE programs typically fall into the following classifications:

- Entrepreneurship- Own and operate an agricultural business (e.g. a lawn care service, a pay-to-fish operation, holiday poinsettia production and sales.)
- Placement- Get a job or internship on a farm or ranch, at an agriculture-based business, or in a school or factory laboratory.

- Research and Experimentation- Plan and conduct a scientific experiment. (e.g. Determine whether the phases of the moon affect plant growth, or test and determine the efficacy of different welding methods.)
- Exploratory- Explore careers in agriculture by attending an agricultural career fair, or creating a report or documentary on the work of a veterinarian.

All students are encouraged to have at least one Supervised Agricultural Experience project and maintain records on this project. Records will be reviewed periodically and may be used in some class-related projects.

FFA Participation

FFA is an INTRA-curricular activity - not extracurricular like sports, Scholar Bowl, drama, or student council. This means that it is a part of the class you are taking and that you are strongly encouraged to be in FFA. This expectation is similar to what is expected of students enrolled in vocal or instrumental music classes --participation in performances is required and is a part of the students' grades. The difference is that in Ag Ed classes you aren't required to participate in all activities, just certain activities which you select or are directly related to the class you are taking.

FFA participation is tracked in our point system. A Google spreadsheet has been created and shared with students. All students are encouraged to keep track of their participation and double check the point system for accuracy.

FFA participation is a part of the grade in all agriculture classes. The FFA portion of the grade will be determined by one of the following methods. 1) If you decided to become an FFA member and participate in 3 FFA events (contests, working in the greenhouse, chapter events) you can earn an A for the FFA portion of the quarter grade. 2) If you decide not to become an FFA member this grade will be based on completing a 4-page essay each quarter on an agriculture related topic. Public law (HB 4986) states that FFA is an integral component of agriculture courses.

Terminology

Section 22 – is comprised of 17 schools – Waterloo, Valmeyer, Red Bud, Sparta, New Athens, Central, Wesclin, Freeburg, Lebanon, Mascoutah, Marissa, Columbia, Gibault, Steelville, East St. Louis, LoveJoy, Belleville East, and Belleville West.

District – Each district is comprised of 5 Sections. In our case, District 5 is comprised of Sections 21-25 and covers the southern part of Illinois.

State – There are 5 Districts in Illinois.

Eligibility for FFA Membership

FFA membership is limited to students who are enrolled in Agricultural Education courses and certain graduates. Because FFA is an intra-curricular activity (not extra-curricular) it is considered part of a class. If a student wants to join FFA, they must enroll in at least one Ag Ed class during the school year. There is no “way around” this policy – it is federal law.

The “FFA Year” begins on the first day of school and ends on the last day of summer vacation. Therefore, a student enrolled in any Ag Ed class for the 2015-2016 school year (regardless of which semester or quarter) is eligible for FFA membership beginning

on the first day of school and lasting throughout the entire school year and the following summer.

Graduates who were FFA members during their senior year and participated in FFA for two years during high school may continue to be members of FFA. If the graduated student elects to retain membership, he or she must pay their dues by the established deadline, which is generally at the first FFA meeting of the year. Graduate membership must be continuous membership; therefore, if a graduate decides not to retain membership, he or she may not change their mind later and re-join. Again, there is no “way around” this policy – it is federal law. Graduates would typically only maintain membership if they desire to earn their American FFA Degree.

Periods of Ineligibility

The Waterloo High School’s Athletic Code, Activity and Athletic Guidelines (see the high school student handbook) applies to FFA. This is true even though FFA is not an extra-curricular activity. If a student has been declared ineligible for extra-curricular activities due to a conduct violation, for academic reasons, or any other reason, this period of ineligibility applies to FFA as well. In athletics, an ineligible student may practice with the team but may not compete. How does this translate for FFA? The following chart will give several examples:

An Ineligible Student May . . .

Attend bi-monthly FFA Meetings
Attend CDE Team Practices

Serve on a committee

Accumulate FFA Points

Participate in most local activities

An Ineligible Student May Not . . .

Compete on a CDE Team or as an individual

Chair the committee or miss school due to committee work

Represent the chapter in public.

Participate in activities at the section, district, state, or national levels, or in local activities that are for fun or rewards only (recreation, trips, etc.)

FFA Activities that Everyone Should Attend

FFA is different from other intra-curricular activities that are part of a class such as Band or Chorus because members of FFA get to select what activities, performances, competitions, and projects they become involved in. FFA members are not expected to do everything – you decide what to do based on your interests.

However, there are a couple of things that every FFA member should plan to do. They are:

- 1) Attend the Annual FFA Banquet, with their family
- 2) Attend monthly FFA Meetings.
- 3) FFA Week activities (dinner, auction, fun activities all week)

An explanation of each follows. Please consult the FFA activity calendar for the dates of these events, and write these dates on your family calendar and make plans to attend:

Annual FFA Banquet

The annual FFA banquet is the highlight of the year for the FFA – all members, families, Alumni, and supporters should plan to attend.

Following the meal, we will move to the evening's program, which generally includes the following presentations:

Star Greenhand	500 point club
Star Farmer	1000 point club
Section/District/State Recognition	Outstanding Sophomore, Junior, and
Chapter Proficiency Awards	Senior
Leadership Awards	Outstanding member
Community Recognition	Many more...
Scholarship Announcements	

The banquet is usually held in early April. The meal is provided by the FFA chapter at no cost to those in attendance to thank our members, families, and supporters for their hard work during the year.

FFA Meetings

Every FFA member should attend the monthly meetings. Our chapter meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month unless that happens to be a school holiday. If the meeting falls on a school holiday the meeting is moved to the next day. During the meetings, we inform our members on the past and upcoming events, as well as asking the members to sign up for committees and events to help enhance our chapter. After the business portion of the meeting the chapter does an activity such as dodgeball or team building workshops.

FFA Point System

To reward FFA members for participating in FFA activities, they are awarded points on the FFA point system. These points will determine certain FFA awards and will be a determining factor in some FFA trip selections. Students must participate in at least three events per quarter for their class grade. The point system is a separate point tally to help keep track of our overall member participation.

Points vary for each activity and are determined at the start of the year by the officer team.

How to Collect Your Points

Students earn points for nearly all FFA events that we conduct during the school year. The officer team will have a sign in sheet at each event and it is the student's responsibility to be sure their name is on the sign in sheet at the event. The officers then take the sign in sheet and enter it into our point system in Google Drive.

The point system will be shared with all students and they can check their points/participation at any time during the year.

The following list is the point system for this year.

WHS FFA Point System

1. Membership			
a.	Second year member	20	
b.	Third year member	35	
c.	Fourth year member	50	
d.	Have a relative become an Alumni member		100
2. Attendance			
a.	Attending chapter meetings	50	
b.	Attending the banquet	100	
3. Chapter Activities			
a.	Attending a chapter organized event		30
b.	Working at a chapter organized event		60
c.	Each junior high student you bring to an event	20	
4. Fundraising			
a.	Participation in chapter sales	50	
b.	Top salesperson	100	
c.	2 nd top salesperson	75	
d.	3 rd top salesperson	50	
e.	4 th top salesperson	25	
5. Supervised Agricultural Experience Projects			
a.	First year	150	
b.	Second year	300	
c.	Third year	450	
d.	Fourth year	600	
6. Leadership Roles			
a.	Chapter officer	150	
b.	Section officer	300	
7. Committee			
a.	Chairperson of an active committee	50	
b.	Member of an active committee	35	
	1. (attend ½ of the meetings)		
8. Contests			
a.	Attending a CDE	100	
b.	Placing top within our team	50	
c.	Placing first in the section	75	
d.	Placing second in the section	50	
e.	Placing third in the section	25	
f.	Attending district	100	
g.	Placing first in the district	100	
			h. Placing second in the district 75
			i. Attending a state CDE 200
			j. Placing first in state 500
			k. Placing second in state 425
			l. Placing third in state 350
			m. Signing up for a CDE and not attending
			a. without a two day notice -100
9. Conventions and Conferences			
a.	Attending a convention	200	
b.	Attending a conference	200	
			c. Attending Section 22 LTS 100
10. Awards			
a.	Chapter proficiency award	25	
b.	Section proficiency award	75	
c.	District proficiency award	175	
			d. State proficiency award 350
			e. National proficiency award 750
			f. Student of the Week 25

FFA Jacket

Some of our FFA events require students to wear Official FFA Dress. If you are thinking about being a long term FFA member getting a jacket might be in your best interest. The FFA Jacket is a requirement for official dress. You wear this to any contest, convention, workshops and at the end of the year banquet. This jacket is customized for you! It has your name on it and your chapter on it as well. To get a jacket first thing you need to know is that they are \$50 and you need to talk to Mr. McDermott or Mrs. Koester. They will let you try on a jacket and make sure you get the right size. Also apart of Official dress is a FFA tie or scarfs. They run \$12.50 for the ties and for the scarves \$10.50. If for some reason you cannot get a jacket, we do have extra jackets you may borrow as needed.

A jacket order form is on the next page.

Waterloo FFA Chapter
FFA Jacket Order Form

The FFA Organization requires FFA Official dress for many of the competitions, conferences, and events that our students attend. FFA official dress is an FFA jacket, white button down shirt, black pants/skirt, and a dark tie/scarf. We encourage FFA members that are planning to become active members of our organization to purchase their own FFA jacket to wear during these events. The FFA jacket is embroidered with their name on the front and Waterloo, Illinois on the back.

You can view images of the jackets and ties at www.shop.ffa.org. Jackets should be ordered through the agriculture department, but there are a lot of other FFA related items available for purchase from the shop FFA site.

If you would like to purchase an FFA jacket please complete the order form below and return it with payment for the order. Checks made payable to Waterloo FFA.

We will try jackets on at school and/or measure students to determine the best size jacket to order for the student. We try to determine the size jacket that will allow for growth during high school.

Item	Price	Quantity	Total Price
FFA Jacket	\$50.00		
Tie - FFA Woven	\$12.50		
Tie - striped silk	\$24.50		
Scarf - Waterfall design	\$10.50		
TOTAL			

Please PRINT your name as you want it on the jacket:

Career Development Events

To find out more about each event log on illinoisffa.org and go to the downloads section. Select CDE and then look for the Rules.

- Career Development Events are open to any student who is enrolled in an agriculture education class and is an FFA member.
- Career Development Events may have more than one team enter.

CDE	Number per team	Estimated Time	Description of event
Horse	3-5	September	Students learn how to judge horses based on performance and conformation. Performance classes range across a wide spectrum of classes: English and Western.
Food Science	3-5		Students learn a number of different scents, food service safety, and how to pick out foods that are different from the rest.
Ag Sales	4		Students learn the skills needed in the Agriculture sales industry. Students take a test on what sales include and are graded on selling a certain agriculture product.
Agronomy (Crops)	5 – plus practice team	December	Students learn the life cycles of insects, plants, and weeds. Students have to memorize the weeds and are given actual samples and are asked which ones they are.
Dairy Foods	5		Students are judged on their knowledge of the dairy industry students taste and smell a ring of 10 cups of milk and judge it on flavors and odors Students also need a well backed knowledge on cheese are asked to identify a ring of 10 cheeses..
Ag Issues	3-7		Participants in the Agricultural Issues Forum CDE research the pros and cons of an agricultural issue and present their findings and theories to a panel of judges. The event helps students to develop critical thinking, problem solving and formal communication skills.
Poultry	5		The Poultry Evaluation CDE test students' skills in the production, processing, and marketing of chickens, turkeys, processed

			poultry products and eggs.
Parliamentary Procedure	6	January – Prepare in November	Students demonstrate their knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order by taking a short test, do a 10 minute mock meeting, and answer questions given from the judges.
Novice Parliamentary Procedure	6	January – Prepare in November	Freshmen members only - Students demonstrate their knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order by taking a short test, do a 10 minute mock meeting, and answer questions given from the judges
Ag Communications	5	December – prepare in October	Students demonstrate their knowledge on writing articles, creating radio broadcasts, and designing a web page on a 3 person team.
Job Interview	2 Varsity and 2 JV	October - prepare in September	Students learn to create a resume and job application. The students are then interviewed by a judges based on the job they are applying for.
Quizbowl	5 – we can have more and sub	October - prepare in September	Freshmen, Greenhand members learn information about the FFA organization and compete as a team against other schools/chapters.
Land Use (Soils)	5 – plus practice	October – prepare in September	Students present their knowledge on the different layers and materials of soil.
Creed Speaking	2 individuals	February - prepare in Dec/Jan	Freshman, Greenhand members memorize and recite the 6 paragraphs of the FFA Creed. You are also asked questions based on your knowledge of the Creed.
Prepared Speaking	2 – varsity and 2 JV	February - prepare in Dec/Jan	Students prepare a speech that is 6 to 8 minutes long that is related to agriculture. The speech is then presented to judges.
Extemp Speaking	2 – varsity and 2 JV	February - prepare in Dec/Jan	Students prepare a 3-5 minute speech on an agriculture related topic. Students have 20 minutes to research and prepare their materials.
Horticulture	5	March	Students learn to how to judge a plant based on its color, foliage, and number of buds. As well as judging students take a test on the horticulture industry, memorize plants, and make a boutonniere, and

			corsage.
Livestock Evaluation	5 – plus practice team	April	Students learn how to judge cattle, goats, and pigs. Animals are judged based on conformation.
Dairy Evaluation	5 plus practice team	April	Students learn how to judge dairy cattle and then put their skills to work at the contest. Students grade them on their characteristics and their makeup.
Ag Business Management	5	May	The agriculture business management CDE consists of two parts. The first part consists of multiple choice questions related to applying principles of farm management, farm records, farm credit, budgets, break-even problems and costs. The second part consists of problems related to applying principles of farm management, farm records, farm credit, budgets, break-even problems and costs
Ag Mechanics	5	May	Contest that allows 5 students to test and apply their knowledge in carpentry, electricity, small engines, electricity, and welding

FFA Fund Raisers

The need to raise funds is a reality for all student organizations. We would not be able to provide so many great opportunities for our students if it were not for our fund raising activities. Our main fundraisers are explained below with an estimated date for the event.

FFA Labor & Pork Chop Dinner –

Parents, and other local people are invited to attend this annual event that is held the Sunday night of FFA Week in February. Our alumni helps sponsor this event and plans the pork chop dinner and silent auction. We ask businesses and individuals to donate items for the auction to help raise money for the alumni scholarship funds. We ask our community to support of program by making an auction donation in exchange for our FFA members providing 8-hours of work. All members are encouraged to attend and offer for their labor to be sold.

Jerky Sales –

FFA members sell jerky in the fall and spring. This is a quick fundraiser that offers students, family, and friends a cheap snack.

Fruit Sales –

Our FFA members sell fresh Florida citrus fruit each year. This is one of our major fundraisers that allow us to participate in all the events that we do during the year. We take orders in early November and the fruit is delivered in early December.

Plant Sale –

Plants are grown in the greenhouse as a learning project for our horticulture class. The greenhouse generates money to pays for the materials including seeds, small plants, trays, pots and fertilizers for this class. The sale of the plants is used to cover costs and ensure a budget for plants the following year. Our horticulture class grows and sells Fall Mums, Poinsettias for the holidays, and spring bedding plants and vegetables.

Proficiency Awards

The Agricultural Proficiency Awards program, like the FFA Motto, helps you set goals and learn practical skills. The program rewards FFA members at the local, state and national levels for exceptional accomplishments and excellence in a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program.

What are the proficiency award areas?

Program description: Fifty-six award areas (as of December 2012) are supported by the National FFA Foundation and/or the Illinois Foundation FFA. The award programs are intended to be incentives to develop high quality experience programs and record keeping abilities.

- Star in Agribusiness
- Star in Agriculture Placement
- Star in AgriScience
- Star Farmer
- Agricultural Communications – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Agricultural Education - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Agricultural Mechanical Design and Fabrication – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Agricultural Mechanics Energy Systems – Entrepreneurship/ Placement
- Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Agricultural Processing – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Agricultural Sales – Entrepreneurship
- Agricultural Sales – Placement
- Agricultural Services – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Agriscience Animal Systems Research
- Agriscience Plant Systems Research
- Agriscience Integrated Research
- Diversified Research
- Environmental Service Systems/Natural Resource Systems Research
- Food Products and Processing Systems Research
- Power, Structural and Technical Systems Research
- Social Sciences Research
- Beef Production – Entrepreneurship
- Beef Production – Placement
- Dairy Production – Entrepreneurship
- Dairy Production – Placement
- Diversified Agriculture Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Diversified Crop Production – Entrepreneurship
- Diversified Crop Production – Placement
- Diversified Horticulture – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Diversified Livestock Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Electrical Technology – Entrepreneurship/Placement *State Level Only

- Emerging Agricultural Technology – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Equine Science – Entrepreneurship
- Equine Science – Placement
- Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Food Science and Technology – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Food Service – Entrepreneurship/Placement *State Level Only
- Forage Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Forest Management and Products – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Fruit Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Goat Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Grain Production – Entrepreneurship
- Grain Production – Placement
- Home and/or Community Development – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Landscape Management – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Nursery Operations – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Outdoor Recreation – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Poultry Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Safety – Entrepreneurship/Placement *State Level Only
- Sheep Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Small Animal Production and Care – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Specialty Animal Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Specialty Crop Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Swine Production – Entrepreneurship
- Swine Production – Placement
- Turf Grass Management – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Vegetable Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Veterinary Science – Entrepreneurship/Production
- Wildlife Production and Management – Entrepreneurship/Production

**Placement means the student works for someone, Entrepreneurship means they have their own business

Agricultural Proficiency Awards are available to all FFA members enrolled in high school agriculture. Students must meet the following eligibility requirements: At minimum, must have kept one full calendar year's worth of records as an FFA member to apply for a section, district, state, or national level proficiency award.

FFA Degrees

Greenhand FFA Degree

As a high school member of the FFA, receiving the Greenhand FFA Degree shows that you have opened the door to the many exciting opportunities that the National FFA Organization has to offer. When you qualify for the Greenhand FFA Degree, you have earned the first of four degrees that build on each other leading the way to the highest degree achievable in the FFA, the American FFA Degree.

Do you qualify?

All 1st year Waterloo FFA members can earn their Greenhand degree if you have met the minimum participation requirements of at least 3 activities per quarter.

We encourage our members to work towards meeting the National FFA standards for the greenhand degree which include the following:

- Enrolled in agricultural education class.
- Plans for a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program.
- Learned and can explain the FFA creed, motto, salute, and FFA mission statement.
- Can describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and colors.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics and proper use of the FFA jacket.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the history of the organization, the chapter constitution and bylaws and the chapter Program of Activities
- Own or have access to the Official FFA Manual and the FFA Student Handbook.
- Completed five hours of community service.

Chapter FFA Degree

Whether it is helping plan your chapter's next activity, working hard on your SAE or discussing a motion during a chapter meeting, chapter involvement is vital to your future successes in FFA. The root of the National FFA Organization is its chapters. By receiving the Chapter FFA Degree, you demonstrate your role in your chapter's growth and development.

Do you qualify?

All 2nd year Waterloo FFA members can earn their Chapter degree if they have met the minimum participation requirements of at least 3 activities per quarter.

We encourage our members to work towards meeting the National FFA standards for the Chapter Degree which include the following:

- Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
- Must have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least 180 hours (1 year) 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.
- Have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the chapter Program of Activities.

- 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.
- Have effectively led a group discussion for 15 minutes.
- Have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.
- Show progress toward individual achievement in the FFA award programs.
- Have a satisfactory scholastic record.
- Submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.
- Complete 10 hours of community service.

State FFA Degree

Like a high school diploma, the State FFA Degree celebrates your high school FFA career. Awarded by your state FFA association, this degree is a symbol to the members of your entire state FFA association that you are chapter leaders. As a State FFA Degree recipient, you have taken your FFA involvement beyond the chapter level and have a successful supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program. With your State FFA Degree, you are one step away from achieving the highest degree attainable in the FFA, the American FFA Degree.

Application: January, during the 3rd or 4th year of FFA Membership

Do I qualify?

- Have received the Chapter FFA Degree.
- Have been an active FFA member for at least two consecutive years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree.
- While in school, have completed the equivalent of at least two years (360 hours) of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program.
- Have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500, or worked at least 750 hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof, in a supervised agricultural experience program.
- Have productively invested \$1000
- Demonstrate leadership ability by:
 - Performing 10 procedures of parliamentary law.
 - Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or the FFA.
- Serving as an officer, committee chairperson, or participating member of a chapter committee.
- Have a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the local agricultural education instructor and the principal or superintendent.
- Have participated in the planning and completion of the chapter Program of Activities.
- Have participated in at least five different FFA activities above the chapter level during the student's FFA career.
- Complete 25 hours of community service.

American FFA Degree

As the highest degree achievable in the National FFA Organization, receiving the American FFA Degree shows an FFA member's dedication to his or her chapter and state FFA associations. It demonstrates the effort FFA members apply toward their supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program and the outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement they experienced throughout their FFA career.

American FFA Degree recipients show promise for their future and have above and beyond to achieve excellence.

Application: January in the year following high school graduation.

Do I qualify?

- Have received the State FFA Degree, have been an active member for the past three consecutive years (36 months) and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities on the chapter and state levels.
- Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least three years (540 hours) of systematic secondary school instruction in an agricultural education program or have completed the program of agricultural education offered in the school last attended.
- Have graduated from high school at least 12 months prior to the national convention at which the degree is to be granted.
- Have in operation and have maintained records to substantiate an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program through which a member has exhibited comprehensive planning, managerial and financial expertise.
- Have earned and productively invested at least \$7,500 OR have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time. Any combination of hours times a factor of \$3.33 plus dollars must be equal to, or greater than the number 9,000. Hours used for the purpose of producing earnings reported as productively invested income shall not be duplicated as hours of credit to meet the minimum requirements for the degree.
- Have a record of outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement and have achieved a high school scholastic record of C or better as certified by the principal or superintendent.
- Complete 50 hours of community service.

FFA Conferences and Camps

The Waterloo FFA takes multiple trips to leadership conferences, conventions, and competitions throughout the year. As a rule, high school students must be eligible according to Waterloo High School Good Conduct Policy as well as academically eligible in order to participate in these trips.

On most FFA trips, students pay for their own meals (with a few exceptions as noted) and incidental costs such as souvenirs. On some trips, FFA members are asked to pay a fee to the chapter to cover a portion of the expenses. Certain trips have specific policies that have been adopted by the chapter members. They are as follows:

State FFA Convention

The State FFA Convention is held the second week of June in Springfield, IL. We leave on Tuesday morning and return Thursday evening. Students are charged \$50 upfront – to help cover the cost of the registration and hotels. The students will have breakfast at the hotel and the chapter will pay for one meal during the day. The chapter pays the remainder of the registration and hotel costs. There is no limit to the number of times a student may attend state convention. Official dress is required.

National FFA Convention

Students who have “earned their way” to the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky by earning awards or competing in contests have first priority. Once we have determined how many students have “earned their way” we will know how many other students we will be able to take, based on chapter budget, transportation available, and the number of hotel rooms allocated to our chapter. We typically take 12 students that have earned the most FFA points and have not already attended convention. National Convention is an awesome experience and we try to get as many of our active members to attend as possible so we have limited students to one trip to convention unless the qualify to compete in an event.

Highlights of the convention may include the Convention Sessions, the National, FFA Career Show; National Contests; Leadership Workshops; Field Trips to area attractions. Visit the FFA web site at <http://www.ffa.org/convention/> for more information.

Students will miss three days of school to attend the National Convention, so they must get assignments in advance from their teachers. All students attending the National FFA Convention (including those who have “earned their way”) will pay a fee of \$50 to help cover the registration costs. The FFA chapter provides one meal for all members attending.

Convention falls at the end of October or early November and typically coincides with volleyball regionals or football playoffs. We recommend to athletes they should make every attempt to attend as underclassmen if they are concerned about their sports playing time. Official dress is required.

212 Conference

Freshman-Sophomores

If personal growth interests you, then 212 may be the conference for you. Focused on building your confidence and competence, you have the opportunity to build a foundation of excellence through your own talents, skills and will power. 212 will help you grow personally and realize what it takes to be a premier leader. Official dress is required. The FFA chapter and FFA alumni pay for the registration cost of up to 8 of our members to attend. There is an Illinois FFA Alumni scholarship application that one of our members can submit to earn a scholarship for the conference costs. This conference is usually a Friday and Saturday in January.

Washington Leadership Conference - Summer, Washington D.C.

From your local FFA chapter to the nation's capital, that's where you'll be headed if you join hundreds of other FFA members at the Washington Leadership Conference. Set in Washington D.C., this week-long summer conference takes your leadership skills to their highest level. Focusing on problem-solving, relationship building, and character and serving others, WLC teaches you how to have a positive impact on you school, chapter, community, state, and country. While you are practicing all these skills, you will also take in such historical sites as the Jefferson Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, and World War II Memorial. Plus, you'll meet lots of new friends from around the country. Typically open to sophomores and juniors. A scholarship application is available from the State FFA Alumni. This conference is outstanding but it is expensive. In the past students that have been interested in attending have applied for the state scholarship and coordinating a fundraiser to help offset the costs.

Farm Bureau Youth Conference – March or April

This is a state wide leadership conference attracted approximately 450 students and is sponsored by the Illinois Farm Bureau. This conference is open to juniors in high school. Members attend participate in a career fair, college exploration, leadership sessions, personal development, team building activities, networking, and a lot of FUN!

IGNITE leadership – Fall

This is a Waterloo FFA Chapter event that is designed to promote and encourage our members to take a more active leadership role in our chapter. The chapter officer team selects 14 individuals that they feel demonstrate the potential to have a positive impact on our chapter. The group spends a day together on a weekend participating in a team building and challenge course. We encourage the members selected to take an active role in our committees and to pursue an officer position the following year.

Leadership Training School

LTS is a section level event that is open to all FFA members. The purpose of the event is to allow members to meeting students from the other schools in our section while increasing their leadership, communication, and teamwork skills.

Heritage Program and Trip

The Illinois Farm Bureau sponsors the Heritage program. Call it your roots, your history, or your heritage... there will always be part of you that's grounded in what has happened in your family, community, and country – and of course, your love for agriculture. The YEA! Heritage Program helps you tap into this history to better understand your rights and what it takes to be a good citizen. As a result, you'll be able to take your place as a new voice in Washington, Springfield, and even your own backyard.

Cooperative program and trip

The Illinois Farm Bureau sponsors this program. Cooperatives are businesses that are owned and operated by the very people who use it's products and services. Plus, when profits are made, everyone in the co-op shares them. Cooperatives have been very important to the agriculture industry because it helps turn a bunch of "little guys" into one powerhouse. For example, a farmer with a few cows won't buy enough vitamins to qualify for the bulk discount. But when several of these dairies buy their feed supplements together, the amount is large enough to get a price break. You can carry on this American tradition by creating and running a co-op in your school or community. To do it right, you'll need to work on it all year long and take it seriously.

Each section winner is able to send a student to the Heritage and Coop award tour. The Illinois Farm Bureau and Affiliates Heritage/CO-OP Tour takes you to Washington D.C. and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. In Washington, you'll see the monuments, memorials, museums, and magnificent architecture that abound in Washington. Heck, you might also meet a famous politician or two. You'll travel through picturesque country to Gettysburg, a town steeped in history. You'll see the battleground of the largest battle ever fought on U.S. soil and Cemetery Ridge where Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous Gettysburg Address.

Individual Opportunities for FFA Members

Exhibiting at the Section 22 FFA Fair

Members of the Waterloo FFA may exhibit livestock, mechanical, and other projects at the fall FFA Fairs. Projects exhibited must be a part of the student's Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program and records should be maintained on this project. Students can earn premium money from showing their projects at the FFA fair. The fair is typically held the second weekend in September and is hosted at the Monroe County Fairgrounds.

State FFA Chorus & Band

The State FFA Chorus & Band provide entertainment at sessions and other events associated with the State FFA Convention. These very skilled musicians are selected through a highly competitive process that includes a recommendation from the local music instructors. Application materials can be downloaded from www.illinoisffa.org. The deadline is mid-spring.

State FFA Talent

FFA members can apply to be part of the FFA State Convention Talent Show. Students who have special talents – singing, dancing, juggling, acapella group, piano playing, etc – can complete an application and submit a video of them performing their talent. If selected they will be by the Illinois FFA the members will perform their talent during the State FFA Convention.

Chapter Officer

Students can be part of our leadership team by running for a chapter officer position. In order to hold an office in the Waterloo FFA Chapter, members must: be a junior or senior in high school during their year of service as an officer and have received their Chapter Degree. Members interested in becoming a chapter officer must complete an officer petition and submit it to an FFA Advisor by a date agreed upon by the executive committee.

Committee member or chairperson

The Waterloo FFA Chapter has established several committees to help develop the leadership opportunities for our members. These committees typically focus on a specific event and the members of the committee are asked to provide the leadership necessary to plan and prepare for the FFA event. If a student is interested in serving on a committee they should talk to the advisors or a chapter officer.

Scholarships

Being a FFA member provides many scholarship opportunities to students. Active participation in FFA events is highly regarded on many applications. The FFA has a reputation of providing students experiences that allow students to grow as individuals. The Waterloo FFA chapter provides a list of agriculture related scholarships to our students and parents each year and encourage our members to apply for these scholarships. Some of the available scholarships include:

The FFA Scholarship @ the National FFA website - more than 1800 scholarship opportunities

Cargill Community Scholarship
Monroe County Farm Bureau
Waterloo FFA Alumni
Illinois Beef Association
Sam Taylor Memorial Agricultural Education Scholarship
Waterloo Optimist
Farm Credit Services
Daughters of American Agriculture
Monroe County Soil and Water
William Hern Foundation
Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship
Waterloo Foundation for Excellence in Education
Mikayla Hoeffft Memorial
Monsanto Grow Ag Leaders
George Obernagel Agricultural Scholarship

MANY more scholarships are available

FFA accomplishments can lead directly to college scholarships.

The University of Illinois College of Agriculture, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences (ACES) offers the following scholarships for FFA member accomplishments:

Section FFA Officer	\$2500 per year
State FFA Officers	\$5000 per year
State Proficiency (Record Book) Award Winner	\$2500 per year

SIUC provides scholarship assistance for State FFA Officers

Classroom Instruction

The Waterloo Agriculture department offers students a variety of classes to help prepare students for life after high school. Our curriculum allows students to explore many aspects of the agriculture industry and is designed to help prepare students for a college or career path related to the agriculture industry.

The agriculture classes available at WHS include:

INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

This orientation course provides an opportunity for students to learn how the agricultural industry is organized; its major components, the economic influence of agriculture at state, national, and international levels; and the scope and types of job opportunities in the agricultural field. Basic concepts in animal science, plant science, soil science, horticulture, natural resources, agribusiness management, agricultural mechanics, agricultural biotechnology, food science technology, environmental science and aquacultural science and technology will be presented. Improving computer and workplace skills will be a focus. Participation in FFA student organization activities and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration and reinforcement of academic concepts.

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS

In this course, theory and hands-on experiences provide opportunities for students to develop basic knowledge and skills in agricultural mechanics. Instructional areas include the basic fundamentals of maintaining and repairing small gasoline engines, basic electricity, welding, construction, cold metal work, and operating agricultural equipment safely. Improving computer and workplace skills will be a focus. Participation in FFA student organization activities and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration and reinforcement of academic concepts.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE APPLICATIONS IN AGRICULTURE (BSAA)*

This course is designed to reinforce and extend students' understanding of science by associating basic scientific principles and concepts with relevant applications in agriculture. Students will examine major phases of plant and animal agriculture, as well as specific biological science concepts that determine management decisions in the plant and animal industries. Topics of study are in the areas of growth and development of animals – embryology, zoology, nutrition, and processing animal products – preservation, fermentation, and pasteurization; initiating plant growth – germination, plant sensory mechanisms, enzyme action, absorption, and managing plant growth – photosynthesis, respiration, translocation, metabolism, and growth regulation. Participation in FFA student organization activities and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration and reinforcement of academic concepts. It is strongly recommended that students going into BSAA have already completed a traditional Biology course. Recommendation to this class will be based on the following: 1 year of lab science, biology or instructor consent.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE APPLICATIONS IN AGRICULTURE (PSAA)*

This course is designed to reinforce and extend students' understanding of physical science and the scientific process by associating scientific and math principles and concepts with relevant applications in agriculture. Topics of study are in the areas of scientific investigations, environmental /natural resource systems, agricultural production systems, agricultural structural systems, energy and power systems, agricultural mechanics and machine systems, and food processing systems. The course will be valuable preparation for further education and will increase the relevance of science through the applied setting of agriculture by enhancing literacy in science and the scientific process. Improving computer and workplace skills will be a focus. Participation in FFA student organization activities and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration and reinforcement of academic concepts. Recommendation to this class will be based on the following: 1 year of science and math.

GREENHOUSE PRODUCTION AND FLORAL DESIGN C

This course is designed to develop knowledge and skills in the following areas: using soil and other plant growing media, identifying horticultural plants, propagating horticultural plants, basics of growing horticultural plants in greenhouse and nursery settings, care and handling of cut flowers and floral design. Improving computer and workplace skills will be incorporated. Participation in FFA student organization activities and Supervised Agricultural Experience projects is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration and reinforcement of academic concepts. Enrollment for all sophomore students is allowed; however, only students who are 16 or turning 16 during the semester of enrollment may receive dual credit through SWIC.

AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT H

This course will develop students' understanding of the agricultural industry relating to the United States and World marketplace. Instructional units include: marketing and trading of agricultural products, international agriculture, imports and exports, agricultural law, taxes, governmental regulations and policies, and advanced computerized record keeping. Student skills will be enhanced in math, reading comprehension, and writing through agribusiness applications. Employability skills will be developed with resume writing and interviewing techniques to gain employment. Post-secondary education will be explored at agricultural colleges and universities. Improving computer and workplace skills will be a focus. Participation in FFA student organization activities and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration and reinforcement of academic concepts. Successful completion of both semesters of this course will meet the State resource management requirement for graduation. Adult Living, Co-op, and Resource Management also satisfy the resource management requirement.

PRINCIPLES OF ENGINEERING

This survey course of engineering exposes students to some of the major concepts they will encounter in a postsecondary engineering course of study. Students have an opportunity to investigate engineering and high-tech careers and to develop skills and understanding of course concepts. Students employ engineering and scientific concepts in the solution of engineering design problems. They develop problem-solving skills and apply their knowledge of research and design to create solutions to various challenges. Students also learn how to document their work and communicate their solutions to peers and members of the professional community.

* Students taking Honors will be required to complete independent research and study to earn honors credit. All projects in the class require all students to complete an engineering notebook to document the project's progress. Students in honors will have a more detailed reflection component to the engineering notebook requirements.

BIOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING

The major focus of this course is to expose students to the diverse fields of biotechnology including biomedical engineering, molecular genetics, bioprocess engineering, and agricultural and environmental engineering. Lessons engage students in engineering design problems related to biomechanics, cardiovascular engineering, genetic engineering, agricultural biotechnology, tissue engineering, biomedical devices, forensics and bioethics. Students, usually 11th and 12th grade level, apply biological and engineering concepts to design materials and processes that directly measure, repair, improve and extend living systems.

* Students taking Honors will be required to complete independent research and study to earn honors credit. All projects in the class require all students to complete an engineering notebook to document the project's progress. Students in honors will have a more detailed reflection component to the engineering notebook requirements.

Board approved curriculum not currently scheduled for 2015-2016 school year:

HORTICULTURE PRODUCTION AND GREENHOUSE MANAGEMENT

This advanced course offers instruction in both the floriculture and landscape areas of horticulture. Units of study include plant identification, greenhouse management, culture of greenhouse crops, advanced floral design. Also included are landscape design and installation, horticultural mechanics, nursery management, operating a horticultural business, pricing work, advertising and sales. Improving computer and workplace skills will be incorporated. Participation in FFA student organization activities and Supervised Agricultural Experience projects is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration and reinforcement of academic concepts.

Helpful Information

1. Agriculture department website – whsag.weebly.com This site contains information about our program and a calendar of FFA events.
2. Facebook – Waterloo IL FFA Facebook Group
3. Twitter - @WaterlooFFA
4. FFA records books - <http://ezrecords.aces.illinois.edu/>
5. Remind texting – text @ffawhs to 81010

FFA Alumni

The Waterloo FFA Alumni is a group of parents, community members, business leaders, and former FFA members that support agriculture and the FFA. The Waterloo FFA Alumni serves as the “booster club” for the Waterloo FFA.

The alumni helps send students to leadership conferences and conventions. They have purchased the FFA activity bus that allows our FFA chapter to have transportation to all of the events that we attend during the year. The Waterloo FFA Alumni provides scholarships each year to four senior FFA members.

You DO NOT have to be a former FFA member to become a member of the FFA Alumni. It is a support group for our program and anyone can become a member. We encourage parents with students in the program to become part of the alumni at least while their kids are in the program to help support agriculture education and the FFA activities.

FFA Alumni meetings are held at the same time as our chapter meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm. To become a member come to a meeting or talk to one of the FFA advisors. FFA Alumni dues are \$15 annual or \$210 for lifetime membership.

If you are interested in be part of the Waterloo FFA Alumni you can contact one of the agriculture teachers.

Advice from Senior FFA members

- Be open minded and try new activities
- Be yourself
- You can always find a way to fit in
- Do a SAE (recordbook)
- Take every chance you can to participate in events