

Fruitvale ISD Ag-Science Dept. & FFA Handbook



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Welcome

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year and the Fruitvale FFA. It is enlightening to see the new and returning students in our program. Our program of activities is loaded with a wide array of opportunities and activities for your participation. What you choose to do with these opportunities is up to you. The Agricultural Science Program consists of three elements: Classroom Instruction, Supervised Agricultural Experience and the FFA. This is a unique program, and if you choose to take these opportunities, we believe it will be a life-changing experience. Through each aspect of our program, you will experience personal growth and develop leadership skills which will be to your benefit in your future lives. We encourage you and look forward to each of you taking these opportunities and making the best of them while you can.

Remember, as with any endeavor you pursue, you only get out of this organization what you put into it. We are here to push you to the limits, offer guidance and support your endeavors as you grow and develop through our program. Please, do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance.

All Communication will be done on the Band App. Please download and scan the QR Code below to join.

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FFA/Jr. FFA Membership

Fruitvale FFA is an affiliated member of the National FFA Organization, meaning each student enrolled in an Agricultural Science Course is an active FFA Member. Being an affiliated school, allows membership dues to be paid by Fruitvale ISD. The FFA Roster and dues must be paid by November 1st each year. To receive membership each year, students must be enrolled in an agricultural science course for each year. Fruitvale ISD students have the ability to be FFA members from their 9th grade year until the conclusion of their senior year.

Junior FFA Membership is for any student ranging from 3rd to 8th grade. A yearly fee of \$10.00 must be paid to Fruitvale FFA by November 1st. The school does not pay dues for Junior FFA members as they are not included in the affiliated membership. Once junior members have paid their dues, they are allowed to participate in show projects and/ or any meetings of the Fruitvale FFA Chapter.

FFA and Junior FFA members are highly encouraged and invited to attend the Fruitvale FFA Banquet at the end of the school year to receive any recognition they may have earned during the current school year.

Non Discrimination Policy

Public Notifications of non discrimination in FFA

Fruitvale Independent School District (FISD) offers career and technical education programs in agriculture, education, health science, STEM, arts and humanities, and multidisciplinary. Admission to these programs is based on student interest, prerequisite courses, availability of classes, and age appropriateness. It is the policy of FISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. It is the policy of FISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. FISD will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs. For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Rebecca Bain at bainr@fruitvaleisd.com, (903) 896-4729, and/or the Section 504 Coordinator, Remica Bigham at bighamr@fruitvaleisd.com, (903) 896-4729.

En Espanol:

(Notificación Publica de No Discriminación en Programas de Educación Técnica y Vocacional)

Fruitvale Independent School District (FISD) ofrece programas de educación técnica y vocacional en agricultura, educación, ciencias de la salud, STEM, artes y humanidades, y multidisciplinario. La admisión a estos programas se basa en interés de los estudiantes, cursos de requisitos previos, disponibilidad de clases y adecuación a la edad. Es norma de FISD no discriminar en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales y brinda igualdad de acceso a los Boy Scouts y otros grupos juveniles designados por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

Es norma de FISD no discriminar en sus procedimientos de empleo por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, la ley de Discriminación por Edad, de 1975, según enmienda; y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda. FISD tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso del inglés no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales. Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos de quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX en (dirección), Rebecca Bain, (bainr@fruitvaleisd.com, (903) 896-4729 y/o el Coordinador de la Sección 504 en (dirección), Remica Bigham, bighamr@fruitvaleisd.com, (903) 896-4729

Official Dress

The uniform worn by FFA members at local, district, area, state, and national functions is called official dress. It provides identity and a distinctive, recognizable image to the organization.

Female members should wear:

Black skirt – hem should be below the knee

White Collared blouse

Official FFA Scarf

Black Nylon hosiery

Black dress shoes – closed toe and closed heel

Official FFA Jacket – zipped to top

Male members should wear:

Black pants or slacks

White collared shirt

Official FFA Tie Black socks

Black Shoes (low top dress shoes)

Official FFA Jacket – zipped to top

CDE Dress for contests

- ◆ Buttoned down, collared shirt
- ◆ Nice Jeans or Slacks that fit at the waist and are free of fading or holes.
- ◆ Closed Toe Shoes are required

Official Dress for Livestock Shows

- ◆ Buttoned Down, Collared Shirt
- ◆ Nice Jeans that fit at the waist and are free of fading or holes.
- ◆ Closed Toe Shoes are required – NO Tennis Shoes. Belt should be worn
- ◆ No Caps or Hats Hair should be pulled away from face and look orderly.

In addition to the previous guidelines, the Fruitvale ISD Student Dress Code is in effect at all FFA activities and competitions. If it is inappropriate to wear to school, it is inappropriate to wear to an FFA activity.

Competitive Team Activities

Competitive teams, such as Leadership Development and Career Development Events, are used to develop skills related to public speaking, decision making, responsibility, etc. Each contest has a respective number of participants allowed for each team and school. Any student is welcome to try-out and/or practice for any team they would like. However, just as in athletic events, only a certain few will be named as the team for the contest. Team members will be chosen based on their knowledge, skills, dedication to practice and abilities regarding the contest.

Leadership Development Events Career Development Events

Fall Semester

- ◆FFA Skills Demonstration Sr.
- ◆FFA Skills Demonstration Jr.
- ◆FFA Quiz Team
- ◆Sr. FFA Quiz Team Sr.
- ◆Creed Speaking Jr.
- ◆Creed Speaking
- ◆Radio Broadcasting Team FFA
- ◆Public Relations

Spring Semester

Livestock Judging
Nursery and
Landscape Applied Ag
Engineering Range
Vet Tech
Floriculture

***these are available competitions; our participation will be based on several factors (# of students trying out, preparedness of students, retention of information, etc.)**

Supervised Agriculture Experience Program

A unique aspect of the Agricultural Science Program is the Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program. It enables students to feed and exhibit livestock projects, develop agricultural crops or horticultural enterprises or experience the other aspects of the agricultural industry including shop projects/research/etc. The SAE is a powerful tool that teaches responsibility, time management, commitment, teamwork and sound financial practices.

Estimated Cost of Livestock Projects

Species	Time	Duration*	Cost	Feed/Tack
Cattle	12 mo.	March-March	\$3,000	\$1000
Swine	6 months	Oct. -March	\$400**	\$500
Sheep	9 months	July-March	\$500**	\$500
Goats	9 months	July-March	\$500	\$500
Broilers	7-8 weeks	Jan -March	\$1.50/head	\$600
Rabbits	9 Months	Sep. -March	\$100	\$100

All time durations will vary depending on the shows being purchased for and the locating of the project.

Cost of this animal may vary depending on the quality of livestock and location purchased. ***Animals are not required to be kept at the FISD Project Center. Facility use charges include equipment use fees, and pen maintenance costs. *This charge is assessed on a per head basis.* The above costs do not reflect any charges that can occur for veterinarian fees, medication, validation, entry fees, bedding, etc. These would be additional expenses for the project

Students will not be charged a housing fee for housing their animals at the school farm. However, during the year and at the end of the year, students are expected to clean their pens and feed/tack areas to the standards of the ag teachers. Failure to do so will result in a fine of \$100 to Fruitvale FFA and loss of privilege of housing animals at the school farm.

All Students showing animals with Fruitvale ISD must have a Quality Counts number on record. You may not move an animal into the barn until the training is complete.

Fruitvale ISD Project Center Rules

The Fruitvale Independent School District maintains the Fruitvale FFA Project Center located behind the CTE Building. This center is provided for those students who do not have facilities at home to keep their projects. This is an FISD learning facility; all school rules and policies are in effect and shall be enforced. This facility is open and available for housing swine, sheep, goats, and rabbits. A feeder animal project can be kept only for a period of one (1) school year at the facility. No male animals capable of reproduction will be allowed at the facility. Female animals capable of breeding may stay at the FISD facility provided they are eligible to show. The following rules are currently in force. Any new rules that may become necessary will be effective immediately upon notification of the Agriscience students by the Agriscience teachers.

Failure to abide by the following rules will result in:

1st Offense- Verbal Warning

2nd Offense- Written Warning

3rd Offense- Eviction of Project *

*There will be a one week written notice to move out an animal or the animal will become property of FISD Ag Department.

These rules are to be followed by students and parents.

- All projects to be kept at the facility must be approved by the student's Agriscience teacher. The number of animals a student may raise at the FISD facility is limited to the available space. No more than two per student and high school students will have priority. The teacher will assign a stall or pen where the project animal will be kept.
- Each student is responsible for the feeding and caring of his/her project on his/her own time and not during school time. Raising a project animal is to be a learning experience for the student. The student showing the project is to be the primary care provider for the animal. Parents are allowed to feed from time to time. Other students are NOT allowed to feed your animal unless prior approval is given from the Agriscience teacher(s). Students and family members may not feed, move, water, or provide any other care, regardless of the intent, to help another student's project(s) without permission from the owner. Advisor(s) cannot assess the health and care of the individual animal if others are caring for it. Please do not make it your business to feed or care for another person's animal or to complain about the care of the project. You may not be there when they are or they may come and go at different times than you. The Advisor(s) will monitor the projects.
- Each project must be cared for in a proper manner (i.e., daily and sufficient feeding/watering/cleaning). A student's animal may be removed from the facility after the third documented incident of neglect. No excuses.
- Students will be responsible for keeping their individual project stall or pen clean at all times. Make sure that spilled/uneaten feed is cleaned up and manure is scooped daily. This will cut down on flies and rodents. In addition, it is the individual student's responsibility to keep his/her animal in the assigned pen. It is OK to turn your animal out in the exercise/tie out area out back, but keep in mind this is temporary and should not be used overnight. You may not change pens without the approval of the Ag teacher(s). Trash is to be placed inside feed sacks, then into trash barrels on site. Manure/bedding is to be dumped outside in designated areas. NOTE: feed sack tops/stitching is NOT to be dumped with manure. It is to be placed in trash containers.
- Persons responsible for intentional damage/vandalism (to the property or equipment) may be held financially responsible for repair of the damage and may have their project removed from the barn.
- Any visitor taken to the facility is the sole responsibility of the Agriscience students accompanying the visitor. The gate code or any fobs must NOT be given to anyone who is not the primary care provider for any animal being housed at the facilities. Any breeders or fitters must be approved by the AST. We will need to know who will be at the barn and when they will be there
- Feed rooms, store rooms, wash rack, walkways, common areas and facility grounds will be kept clean by the students using the facility. According to fire code, the walkways must remain clear of tack/feed/equipment. Please empty wheelbarrows at least 100 feet from the end of the barn (a designated area will be marked). Wheelbarrows/shovels/rakes should be parked/stored in the feed room.
- A fine of \$100 and loss of privileges to house at the school farm will be issued, if students fail to clean their pen(s) and feed/tack area to the standard of the ag teachers at the conclusion of their show season.

- The abuse/neglect of any animal will not be tolerated. Animals should have adequate feed, water and bedding at all times. Death of an animal due to abuse or neglect will result in no longer being allowed to show with the FFA Chapter.
- State law prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages, use of narcotic drugs or controlled substances, use of tobacco products, and the use of profane or abusive language at any school facility. In addition, all school policies will be in effect and enforced at the Agriscience facility. Failure to comply will result in permanent suspension from the facilities.
- The student will keep their feed and equipment locked in a locker, trash can or similar container. The container will be located in the feed room or locker. Personal Items should also be labeled. The school will not be liable for stolen items.
- Insurance for animals kept at the facility is not maintained by the school district, Agriscience Departments, or FFA Chapter. The loss of animals will not be the responsibility of the school district, Agriscience Department, Agriscience Instructors or FFA Chapter.
- Due to safety concerns, the students are only allowed to be at the facilities between the hours of 6am and 11pm. Anyone present during closed hours will be considered trespassing. It is also highly recommended that no individual (student, parent, or teacher) be at the barn alone after dark. If you must be at the facility after dark, please take someone with you.
- All project animals are required to be removed from the barn one week after the completion of show season.
- Any agriscience student who does not house his/her animals at the facility may use the facilities and/or equipment at any time provided he/she has obtained prior approval from the Agriscience Instructors and all facility rules and policies are followed.
- Animal ownership may not change without teacher approval.
- NO additions, subtractions, modifications, or construction relating to electricity, carpentry, plumbing, metal work/welding, or location may be made without approval by the AST.
- In the event of a stall flooding: you are responsible for cleaning out the wet shavings and laying new shavings down for your animal, whether it is your stall or a neighbor that has flooded your stall. You are responsible. It is suggested that if your stall caused the flooding, regardless of the cause (broken water line, stuck float or turned on by animal or person) that person should offer to help clean up the mess out of common courtesy. But regardless of what problems may occur, each stall is the responsibility of the leasee.
- The facility may be monitored by video surveillance at any time and viewed by a member of Fruitvale ISD Administration
- Hay bags are not permitted in stalls as they can pose a safety hazard to the animal.
- Fans, heat lamps and/or outside panels must be pre-approved by the Advisor(s). No cords shall be left in the alley for the animals to be tangled up with. Fan cords may NOT be left hanging where animals may chew on them. They could be electrocuted from chewing these cords.
- Radios shall not be played from the vehicle loudly or while feeding your animals. This facility will not be used as a loitering area or "hang out" for individuals. Any such events will be addressed as a disciplinary issue.

- In the event of an emergency/ evacuation the owner is responsible for the animal's welfare.
- Student/Parent shall administer medications or have the animal viewed by a veterinarian when advised by the AST. Failure to do so could affect the health of other projects.
- Student/ Parent is responsible for providing bedding for animals.
- Problems and chain of command – When a problem or concern arises, the best way to resolve it is by following the “chain-of-command”. Always begin with the Ag teacher, then Principal, then Superintendent.
- The agriculture science teachers for each program / species may create rules in addition to these rules that are specific to their program / species.
- No negative posts or comments concerning the ag barn, people housing animals in the ag barn, AST or FISD administration on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)
- The Advisor(s) reserve the right to make decisions concerning the project center rules/ projects and barn in the best interest/ residents/ livestock at any time. These rules will be assessed, reviewed and amended by the Advisor(s) as needed and written notification will be given to notify you of any changes made to this agreement.

The STUDENT is responsible for:

1. The general and medical care of his/her project and project area.
2. Informing the teacher regarding any problems and/or progress of the project.
3. The entry fees needed for all stock shows.
4. The payment of feed and animal costs.
5. Attendance of ALL mandatory barn clean ups from start to finish.

The PARENT is responsible for:

1. The general supervision of the project on a day-to-day basis.
2. Communication with the teacher should a question or problems arise concerning the project or student's performance.
2. The transportation of students to the complex for care of the animal.
3. The transportation and accommodations of students at all stock shows.
4. Making sure all payments are made by the student in a timely manner.

The AGRICULTURE TEACHER is responsible for:

1. Any problems that may occur with the animal project during normal working hours. The teacher is not required to take emergency calls after hours for the purpose of treating sick or injured animals, but will make every effort to assist when needed with those problems.
2. The teacher will visit all projects on a regular basis, in accordance with FISD & FFA guidelines.
3. The teacher will assist in giving medications when possible. The teacher will NOT be held liable for injury to livestock while assisting the student with their project. This includes but is not limited to: giving medications, castration, dehorning, docking, worming, trimming or any other activity directly involving the teacher and animals.
4. The FFA sponsor will provide transportation if needed for all FFA projects to approved shows entered by the chapter. The chapter will only haul two majors shows per species.

** All correspondence and requests for maintenance and/or grounds work needs to be presented to the Ag Teachers to initiate the request.

** The Agri-Science Department, Agriculture Science Teachers, FFA Chapter, FISD, or teachers are not responsible for any loss or damage to any person, property, or livestock, which may occur on the project center. Students and parents assume all risks, and should consider insurance policies which cover animal projects and other property.

** If you would like to buy insurance on your animal, let your AST know and we can assist you in where to go to get that taken care of. It is not required but it is recommended, especially with breeding animals.

** In the event of an emergency/evacuation the owner is responsible for the animal's welfare.

** The Ag teachers reserve the right to make decisions concerning the project center rules/projects & barn in the best interest of residents, livestock, or Fruitvale High School. These rules will be accessed, reviewed and amended by AST as needed

Lambs

Supplies Needed:



Bedding for Pins
IT takes two bags to fill the pen.



Optional Supplement



Water Bucket
Must be cleaned everyday



Feed: The purple bag can be bought at Tractor Supply or at Potts in Emory. Do NOT buy pellets, you need textured feed!!
Yellow bag is Jacoby red tag sheep feed and you can buy it in Mineola at Big Country feed.



Halter



Carabiner to lock gates



Feed Trough that Hangs



Muzzle for shows



Blanket



Spandex and leg covers

Goats

Supplies Needed:



Bedding for Pins
IT takes two bags to fill the pen.



Optional Supplement



Water Bucket
Must be cleaned everyday



Feed The gray bag can be bought at Tractor Supply or at Potts in Emory. Do NOT buy pellets, you need textured feed!! Yellow bag is Jacoby red tag sheep feed and you can buy it in Mineola at Big Country feed.



Halter



Carabiner to lock gates



Feed Trough that Hangs



Muzzle for shows



Blanket



Spandex and leg covers

Rabbits

Supplies Needed:



Water Bottle or Bowl
Must have your name written on them!



Two bowls that attach to cage.
One for food, one for supplement



Rabbit Foot Pad
Protects from sore hocks



Rabbit Brush
Brush once a week



Sweet Potatoes
if your rabbit doesn't weigh enough



Manna Pro Feed
Can be bought at Tractor Supply



Rabbit conditioner
Apply when brushing

Pigs

Supplies Needed:



Bedding for pens
It takes two bags to fill pen



Carabiner to lock gates



PVC Waterer



Feed: Brown Bag Potts in Emory Orange Bag
Mineola at Big Country



Show Whip



Feed Trough that Hangs



Brush



Conditioner

Livestock Show Guidelines

Stock Show Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in any livestock show, students must meet the following requirements:

1. Be enrolled in an agricultural science class
2. Be a member in good standing of the Fruitvale FFA Chapter (Dues paid for current year)
3. Meet TEA guidelines for academic eligibility
4. Have paid entry fees on time and meet show requirements
5. Have approval of agricultural science teacher
6. Passing all courses according to UIL rules - No pass, No play

Show Entries

The agricultural science teachers will assist in making arrangements for participation in the Van Zandt County Fair and be approved for two major shows per species. Entry meetings for the show will be designated by the Ag Teachers. It is the responsibility of the student/family to make arrangements to attend these meetings, if they are wanting to show at any of the approved shows.

Travel to and from Shows

1. Fruitvale ISD Policy governs transportation procedures. Parents and Students should check with Agricultural Science Teachers for clarification before any livestock shows. The Ag Teachers will arrange travel plans for any student traveling to a show. Any Fruitvale FFA student must travel and stall with Fruitvale FFA.
2. Students showing through Fruitvale FFA will only be allowed to travel with the Ag Teachers or their parents, provided they are there. If any other arrangements need to be made for student travel, they must be approved by the Ag Teacher.
3. Uber, Lift or any other ride share services are not and will not be approved by Fruitvale ISD or the Ag Teachers. Students must ride with a parent, legal guardian or approved family member, or the Ag Teachers.
4. The Fruitvale Ag Teachers will only haul students 8th grade and up without a parent. All younger members must have a parent on the trip. Only High school students will have rooms paid for. If staying with your parent you forfeit your room being paid for by the FFA Chapter

Discipline While at Shows

1. Livestock shows are an extension of the Fruitvale ISD Classroom; therefore students will be responsible for their personal conduct. All school rules are in effect at these shows. Students are expected to be at the show, feed and water at any given time provided by the agricultural science teacher.

Animal Care at Shows

1. While at livestock shows, each student will be responsible for all feeding, care and grooming of his/her respective animal(s). Students are expected to feed, water, weigh, check-in, and practice at the given times of the Ag Teacher.

Equipment/Trailer Use

1. Arrangements must be made for the use of any equipment belonging to the FFA. Clippers, blowers, etc. must be returned in a diligent manner so that others may be able to use them. The use of livestock trailers will be limited to the agricultural science teachers and others as deemed necessary. Anyone using a livestock trailer, should have their driver's license and proof of insurance on file in the Superintendent's office. Any equipment lost, stolen or destroyed while in the possession of a student will be replaced at the expense of the student.
2. Trailer must be cleaned out and all bedding, manure, etc. removed after each use.

Specific Show Rules

1. It is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor to be familiar with all rules pertaining to his/her livestock project (this information may include weight limits, entry requirements, age, etc.) This information may be obtained from the Agriscience teachers or by visiting the web sites of the shows you are entering (See Website Reference pages).

Recommendations for Feeding and Care for Animals

The feeding and care of the animals is a very important aspect of the livestock project.

Feeding is responsible for at least 50% of the success or failure of a project. Below is a list of several proven practices ,which if done consistently, will lead to success in the show ring.

Daily Care and Feeding

The daily routine of feeding and care is very important . All animals respond well to an organized routine. They should be fed twice daily in most cases. Normally this will require at least 30 minutes in the morning and 30 minutes in the evening (6:00-7:30 am-4:30 pm 7:00 pm at project center) Your feeding program will be tailored to your particular animal as recommended by your ag-science teacher. Your choice of feeds will be up to you based upon your particular situation. It is best to discuss with your ag-science teachers the feeding program that you are going to use.

Halter Breaking ,Walking and Showmanship

One of the more important considerations that arise early in the feeding period is teaching the calf, lamb or goat to lead with a halter or collar, or pig to walk with a whip. The animal must be worked daily. This is no easy task and sometimes can be very time consuming. Consistency is the key. Some animals learn more quickly than others do, but normally this can be accomplished in the first several weeks. The animal must also be trained to stand correctly and calmly. This is critical, as in some cases the judge may want to handle the animal. This practice will require several additional hours each week.

The Agriculture Teachers will set a weekly schedule for students to attend in order to improve showmanship skills and abilities. Students will be required to attend a certain number of practices in order to show.

Disease Prevention

Your animal's pen must be kept clean on a daily basis. This will help reduce fly problems and help in keeping the animals clean as well. Regular deworming for internal parasites and vaccinations for more serious diseases is recommended. A close examination of your animal's feces, appetite, and attitude can help you assess its general health . All medication should follow withdrawal guidelines for market animals.

Approved Livestock Surgical Practices

Many times it will be necessary to perform surgical procedures on livestock which improve their general appearance. It is recommended to contact a veterinarian to assist with any dehorning, castration procedures, etc. However, please realize there is always the possibility for complications. The owner must accept all risks of illness or death of the animal.

Weighing on a Regular Basis

Knowing your animal's weight and weighing on a regular schedule is a very important . Weight gain or loss is a good indicator of how well the animal is progressing. Animals should be weighed as often as feasible . It is particularly important near show time ,as weight limits and weight classes are sometimes critical to placing an animal. It is also important to know the minimum and maximum weight limits for the species you are showing and show you are entering. Please post your weights on the charts provided each week.

◆Market animals are required to be weighed weekly and must be reported to the agriculture teacher.

Grooming Livestock for the show

During the latter part of the feeding period, much time must be devoted to grooming the animal. Brushing and combing your animal is an important daily routine. Washing and clipping will also be done on regular intervals to get a good view of how the animal is growing and progressing. In most cases,all animals will be clipped prior to the show to meet maximum hair requirements of the show that you are entering. This does not apply to lambs . DO NOT wash lambs until it is time to shear or show.

Overnight Policy

The opportunity to participate in the Fruitvale FFA is a privilege extended to FISD students. Participation in the Fruitvale FFA places a student in a position of recognition and often bestows the position of role model upon the member. Any student who elects to accept the privilege of participating in the Fruitvale FFA must recognize that he/she is a representative of the school and district, and will be held to a higher standard of conduct than that applied to the general student body. This applies to school related and non- school related activities. The member is subject to state law, school district policies, school rules and regulations, the Fruitvale FFA Constitution and By-laws, and University Interscholastic League (UIL) rules. Fruitvale ISD policy governs all trips taken by FFA members. Any student found in violation of these policies will be disciplined accordingly. To view FISD's overnight policy please go to

<https://www.fruitvaleisd.com/page/open/2889/0/Overnight%20Trip%20Protocols.pdf>

Letterman Jackets and Graduation Cords Policy

Letterman Jackets

FFA does not offer letterman jackets

Graduation Cord Policy:

- ◆ Students must have been a member of Fruitvale FFA for a minimum of two (2) years.

AND

Complete one of the following

- ◆ Students must have competed on a Leadership Development Event at the district level for a minimum of two (2) years.
- ◆ Students must have competed in a Career Development Event for a minimum of two (2) years.
- ◆ Students must have had an active Supervised Agricultural Experience for a minimum of two (2) years. SAEs can remain the same for all four years OR may change each year.
- ◆ Students must have competed in floral cups minimum of two (2) years.
- ◆ Students must have competed in Ag Mechanics minimum of two (2) years.

FFA Fundraising Activities

The FFA provides many activities throughout the year that require money. The entry fees for contests, community service projects, the food and refreshments at meetings, travel/lodging, and supplies for the banquet require a large sum of money. You are asked to participate in whatever fundraising activity that we have. The more money that our group makes, the more activities we can provide to you. We are allowed two major fund-raisers per school year.

We will also be selling food products. We will be offering FreshCountry meat and dessert items. These products will be delivered in time for Thanksgiving orders.

There could be a second Fundraising option to be determined by Advisors and Officers. This may be apparel, plant sale, Ag mechanic project sale, etc.

If you plan to travel with the Fruitvale FFA and want your hotel room paid for you must sell at least 5 items. Failure to do so will result in you paying a fee for your hotel room.

Forms

The attached pages contain forms that need to be returned to the agriscience teachers. If you are going to participate in any FFA activity, we must have the permission slip and emergency information. If you are raising an animal we need the animal welfare agreement. If you plan on using a pen at the barn we need the pen agreement. Finally, the Acknowledgement form indicating you have received the handbook needs to be completed and returned to your Agriscience teacher by September 15.

Fruitvale FFA Project Center Rules and Regulations

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE READ THE PROJECT CENTER RULES AND
AGREE TO COMPLY WITH EACH ONE OF THEM FULLY.

STUDENT

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PARENT

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

ADVISOR

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

(Return this form to Agricultural Department)

Student and Parent Acknowledgement

This Fruitvale FFA & Agricultural Science Department Handbook has been published to help your son or daughter gain the greatest possible benefit from his/her agricultural science/FFA experience. The FFA needs your cooperation. It is very important that each FFA member understands the opportunities and regulations outlined in this handbook. Parents are to encourage their son/daughter to abide by all rules or regulations set forth in this handbook. Please go over all agreements outlined in this handbook and return them to your Agriscience teacher. Your signature and that of your child acknowledge the fact of the FFA Member Handbook being posted on the school website available for viewing at any time and the agreement to take full advantage of all the opportunities that are available to members.

Printed Name of Student

Date

Student Signature

Date

ParentSignature

Date

Date Received_____Received by:_____

*

*(Return to Ag Dept) ***Also Note Per Fruitvale ISD Student Handbook*

Sponsors of student clubs and performing groups may establish standards of behavior---including consequences for misbehavior---that are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the Student Code of Conduct or by local policy will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization.

Fruitvale ISD

FFA Animal Project Welfare Agreement

As a student member of the Fruitvale FFA Chapter who is currently raising a project animal, I know the importance of the humane treatment of our livestock, and rabbit projects.

I agree that my project(s) must be fed on a twice daily basis throughout the feeding period with a feed ration approved for my animal(s) and on a consistent feeding schedule.

I agree that their stall, pen or coop must be cleaned by me daily by removing any manure and any soiled bedding.

I agree that they should be provided with fresh water daily with all watering and feeding equipment remaining clean.

I agree that my project(s) should be dewormed regularly and be provided veterinary attention when their health deems necessary.

I agree not to be abusive or use excessive force on my project, especially when training or exercising my animal.

I agree not to use any drugs (or unnatural alteration techniques) on my animal without the approval of a veterinarian and my advisor.

In the event that I am feeding with a group of other students, I agree that I should share the feeding and cleaning responsibilities when it's my turn.

I know that failing to meet the standards set by my FFA Advisor(s) and those listed above will be grounds for removal of my project following the second verbal or written warning from my advisor.

FFA Member

Parent or Guardian

Fruitvale FFA Ag. Mechanics Project Contract

This contract is between the purchasers: _____

And the builder: Fruitvale FFA Ag. Department. _____

For the construction of: _____.

The purchaser shall be responsible for the following:

- The purchase of all materials needed for the construction of the project.
- Arranging to have accounts set up with vendors to have materials billed directly to the purchaser.
- Arrange for the delivery of needed materials to the Fruitvale FFA Ag. Department.
- Labor donation and consumable charges regardless of material cost, are payable at delivery of the project.
- The Purchaser will sign off on the final construction plans.

Purchaser shall understand the estimate is given only as a rough estimate of the amount of materials needed for the project. This amount may change due to the varying markets and or changes in the design by the purchaser, both of which are out of the builder's control.

Purchaser shall understand that any changes suggested after 30 days from the start of the build, must be approved by the Advisor and a change fee may be imposed.

Purchaser shall understand the project is constructed by the Fruitvale FFA Ag. Department students and therefore, understand that Fruitvale ISD, Fruitvale High School, Fruitvale Ag. Department, Fruitvale FFA, and or AC Pruett, advisor of projects shall be released from all liability or warranty from said project after delivery is accepted.

Purchaser is bound by this contract to accept delivery on the said date and pay all stated charges.

The builder shall be responsible for:

- Said project was constructed and delivered to the buyer on or by the end of the Van Zandt County Fair.
- Construction of the project as stated in the agreed-upon construction plans.

Estimated cost of project: _____

Purchaser: _____

Builder: FISS FFA A. Dept. AC Pruett _____

Fruitvale High School Principal _____

Fruitvale Ag. Mechanics Student Contract

Student or Students _____

Project: _____

I understand that the project I am constructing is a learning project and by signing I accept full responsibility for construction. I know the project must be completed by the Fort Worth Ag Mechanics show in order for me to participate. I also realize by allowing anyone other than the above listed to work on this project will be in violation of the rules. I realize Mr. Pruett will check my progress daily. I also realize the quality of my project must meet the standards set by the chapter and Mr. Pruett, or I will not be allowed to show.

Student _____

As a parent, I realize my son or daughter's Ag mechanics project is a learning tool. I will commit to assisting them in any way, other than construction. I realize by signing, if someone other than my son or daughter or myself, constructs this project. It will not be allowed to be exhibited with the Fruitvale FFA chapter. In the event this happens, I understand the show official will be made aware of this ineligible project. I also understand our entry fees will not be returned.

Parent: _____

Student: _____

Fruitvale FFA Ag. Dept.
A.C. Pruett

Ag. Mechanics Projects

FFA members may participate in Ag. Mechanics project shows as individuals only. Participation may be limited to the **number of** individual students traveling per contest. Advisor will determine the team.

Individual Projects:

1. Individual project is defined as a project that is financed by and constructed by that person or persons, and entry fees paid by that person. Individual projects may be constructed at school.
2. All students must have an advisor or parent with them at all times while working in the school shops
3. The school reserves the right to deny access to shop space and use of tools.
4. Individual projects may not include more than one person.
5. Individual project exhibitors will be allowed to keep all prizes, awards, and scholarships won at the contest.

All Projects:

1. All participants must be a FFA member in good standing with the chapter.
2. All participants must purchase and wear team uniforms, and will be required to meet a dress code, which may be more strict than the school code.
3. Participation may be limited to students traveling per contest. Advisor will determine the team.
4. All projects must meet a quality approval check before being allowed to attend a show. Any project not meeting a quality check completed by the Advisor will forfeit the entry fee and any other expense acquired.
5. Participants may be required to participate in additional activities as seen fit by the advisors. Members not meeting activity requirements will not be allowed to attend the contest.
6. Advisor and the school retain the right to refuse student participation in any or all contests or events.

Fruitvale FFA Officer Contract

(This Contract is subject to change per Advisor's discretion)

1. A Fruitvale FFA Officer must be enrolled in at least one Agriculture Science course per semester during the 2026-2027 school year, and be a dues paying FFA member IN GOOD STANDING.
2. As a Fruitvale FFA Officer you must fulfill duties as assigned to you, including position & committee responsibilities. All officers will be assigned a primary responsibility that they will be required to live up to as set by the Chapter Advisors.
3. All officers are responsible for knowing their lines for opening and closing ceremonies during all meetings. Officers must know their lines by the 1st fall semester student meeting. Officers not able to perform their lines at the time may be removed from their chapter post.
4. As a Fruitvale FFA Officer you must own and wear official dress, as stated by the Official FFA Manual, to all activities unless otherwise stated by advisors. Officers MUST be present at all official chapter functions unless prior approval has been given. This applies to UIL/School Activities.
5. Fruitvale FFA officers are responsible for knowing and obeying the FFA Code of Ethics, found in both the Official FFA Manual and the Fruitvale FFA Constitution.
6. Fruitvale FFA officers MUST attend all Chapter and Officer Meetings, as well as other duties and activities assigned to ensure the success of the chapter. Not more than one (1) activity can be missed due to an unexcused absence or the officer will receive one demerit. Officer meetings are to be held on set dates to insure the success of the chapter.
7. Excused absences are defined as school related events, death in the family or life threatening issues, church related activity, and/or community service which has been approved, IN ADVANCE, by all of the Fruitvale FFA advisors. Attendance of each Fruitvale FFA Officer to chapter-sponsored activities is critical to the development of the program; excused absences are limited to two per semester. *When planning absences, realize the chapter members are looking to you as an example and your choice of priorities.
8. Officers must respectfully represent the Fruitvale FFA at all times and serve the organization in a manner that is acceptable. Disrespect shown by Fruitvale FFA officers to each other and/or others will not be tolerated and could result in an automatic demerit or dismissal. Disrespect is defined as the lack of respect and not being a team player when decisions are made by the officer team/advisors. Respect is defined as esteem; regard; honor; courtesy. This applies to all aspects of social media as well as text messages.
9. All Fruitvale FFA officers must meet the NO PASS NO PLAY requirements for eligibility. Eligibility grades are those at the end of each grading period. If a student receives a grade below 70% in a regular academic/elective class or below a 60% in an Advanced Placement (AP) class at the end of a/any grading period (Six Weeks) they will receive one demerit.
10. All officer candidates must be passing throughout the entire time of the election process.
11. Fruitvale FFA officers cannot use, possess, or be under the influence of any

illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco either on or off campus. Violation of this rule will constitute removal from office.

12. Fruitvale FFA Officers must maintain their personal appearance and hygiene in a professional manner. Fruitvale FFA Officers will be prohibited from wearing articles of clothing that advertise alcohol, tobacco, drug use or sexual connotations.

13. Fruitvale FFA Officers will be removed from office if he/she receives two detentions or one (1) or more ISS or gets sent to alternative school in the year of service.

15. The Fruitvale FFA Officer team will consist of no less than six (6) chapter officers. The officer positions are as follows: President, Vice- President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel. Additional officer positions may be added on any given year. Advisors have the right to amend this rule on a yearly basis.

16. All officers must compete in one (1) Leadership Development Event in the fall AND one (1) Career Development Event in the spring of the academic year that they are an officer not doing so will result in a dismissal.

17. Fruitvale FFA Officers must participate in ALL Chapter Fundraising activities. You will be removed from office if you do not participate.

18. If for any reason an officer is removed from or forfeits his or her position, the replacement officer will be assigned by the Chapter Advisors, except in the case of the President where the Vice-President will assume the duties of the chair.

19. If any of the above rules are broken, the Fruitvale FFA Officer will receive one demerit, unless otherwise noted.

20. A Fruitvale FFA Officer must have met the requirements for the Fruitvale FFA Chapter degree.

If elected to an FFA Office, I will:

1. Be totally dedicated to the total program of agricultural education and the FFA.

2. Be willing to fulfill the commitment of State Officer activities, including all trainings.

3. Work untiringly through preparation and practice to develop myself into an effective public speaker.

4. Project a desirable image of FFA at all times and hold true to the standards of our organization. Even outside of school hours and on social media.

13. Work constantly to improve my ability to carry on meaningful and enjoyable conversations with individuals of all ages and lifestyles.

14. Accept and seek out constructive criticism and evaluation of my total performance.

15. Keep myself up-to-date on current events.

16. Evaluate constantly my personality and attitudes and make every effort to improve myself.

18. Serve as a member of the team and always maintain a cooperative attitude.

19. Be willing to take and follow instructions as directed by those responsible for me.

21. Follow the State Officer Code of Ethics:

a. To abstain from the use of all alcohol, illegal drugs, controlled substances, and

tobacco/e-cigarette products throughout my year of service – regardless of my age.

b. To treat all FFA members equally by not favoring one over another to eliminate any bias and any preferential treatment, including close friendships, personal relationships, and family members.

c. There is no tolerance for harassment, bullying (including cyber bullying), and discrimination in any form.

d. To behave in a manner that conveys and commands respect without an air of superiority.

e. To maintain dignity while being personable, concerned and interested in my fellow members.

f. To avoid places or activities that in any way would raise questions as to my moral character or conduct.

h. To use wholesome, appropriate, non-discriminatory, non-suggestive pictures, songs, language when posting to social media. Be mindful and proactive about promoting your personal (current and past) and professional image in electronic communication, social media, casual activities and formal FFA events.

i. To use wholesome, inclusive, and positive language in all speeches, formal and informal writing/social media posts, and informal conversations. All conversations and interactions with FFA members, teachers, staff and public will remain professional at all times.

j. To avoid participation in and actively discourage any conversations which belittle or downgrade fellow FFA members, officers or teachers at all times.

k. To be well-groomed, practice personal hygiene and maintain proper dress for all occasions.

Suspension May Occur When:

1. Officer fails to attend two officer meetings/ chapter meeting

4. Officer misses a required event without prior notice and approval by the FFA Director.

5. Officer does not attend officer retreat or state convention.

6. Officer fails to comply with any part of the Qualifications & Prerequisites listed above, particularly the Officer Code of Ethics.

7. Officer is engaged in activities that raise suspicion about adherence to the Code of Ethics (ex: is present at events with underage drinking or drug use).

Agreement to the Fruitvale FFA Officer Team Requirements

I have read, studied and understood the above points. If elected to a Fruitvale FFA office position, I will carry out my responsibilities in accordance with these statements and understand that I can be removed from office by the Fruitvale FFA Officer team and/or Advisor if I do not satisfactorily follow these established standards. I also understand that if I become an Officer and I am not compliant with the rules that have been set forth, I will receive demerits, unless otherwise noted. If I receive 3 demerits, I understand that I will be removed from the Fruitvale FFA Officer Team.

Signature of Officer Applicant Date

As the parent/guardian of the above named officer, I understand and support the above mentioned duties and responsibilities of being an officer in Fruitvale FFA.

Signature of Applicant's Parent/Guardian Date

Fruitvale FFA Chapter Constitution

Adopted/Revised on 10/15/2024

ARTICLE I - Name, Mission and Strategies

Section A. The name of this organization shall be the Fruitvale FFA Chapter of the National FFA

Organization and the Texas FFA Association.

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 Fruitvale Chapter of FFA is a chartered local unit of the Texas Association of FFA,

which is chartered by the National FFA Organization.

Section B. This chapter accepts in full the provisions in the constitution, bylaws and policies of the Texas Association of FFA and the National FFA Organization and the

policies and regulations of the Fruitvale Independent School District.

ARTICLE III - Membership

Section A. Membership in this chapter shall be of four kinds: (1) Active; (2) Alumni; (3) Honorary and (4) Junior, as defined by the National and Texas FFA Constitutions and by Texas FFA Association membership policies.

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

Section C. To be eligible for active membership in this chapter, a student must meet the membership eligibility requirements of the National FFA Organization and the Texas FFA Association. Active members in good standing may vote on all business brought before the chapter. An active member shall be considered in good standing when he or she:

1. While in school, be enrolled in at least one agriculture, food and natural resources course, as defined in Texas FFA Association membership policies, 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 agriculture, food and natural resources career.
2. Shows 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. Pays all current local, district, area, state and national dues by the date determined by the chapter.
4. Displays conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization, Texas FFA Association and with the school district's code of student conduct.
5. Meets all other local standards and requirements described in this chapter's bylaws and policies.

Section D. This chapter may elect to have a junior FFA organization. Junior members must meet all junior FFA membership requirements described in the Texas FFA

Association

Constitution and policies. A junior member shall be considered in good standing when he or she:

1. Shows an interest in the affairs of the organization by attending junior member meetings.
2. Pays local and state dues by the date determined by the chapter.
3. Displays conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization and with the school district's code of student conduct.
4. Meets all other local standards and requirements described in this chapter's bylaws and policies.

Section E. Names of applicants for membership shall be filed with the secretary and/or the

chairman of the membership committee.

Section F. The membership year for this chapter shall begin on August 1 and end on July 31 of

each year.

Section G. Honorary Membership – Farmers, school superintendents, principals, school board trustees, advisory committee members, chapter advisors, teachers, staff members in agriculture, food and natural resource education, business peoples, support group members and others who are helping to advance agricultural education and FFA and who have rendered outstanding service may be elected to honorary membership by a majority vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting.

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

Honorary Chapter FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official silver or gold emblem pin. Procedures for nominating and electing honorary members shall be described in this chapter's bylaws or rules.

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 five degrees of active membership based on individual achievement.

These degrees are: (1) Discovery FFA Degree, (2) Greenhand FFA Degree, (3)

Chapter FFA Degree, (4) State FFA Degree and (5) American FFA Degree. All

Discovery FFA members are entitled to wear the regulation bronze and blue emblem

pin. 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.

Section B. Discovery FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:

(Refer to Texas FFA Constitution)

1. Be enrolled in a local credit agriculture, food and natural resources class for at

least a portion of the school year while in grades 7-8.

2. Have become a dues paying member of the FFA at local, state and national levels.

3. Participate in at least one local FFA chapter activity outside of scheduled class time.

4. Have knowledge of agriculturally related career, ownership and entrepreneurial opportunities.

5. Be familiar with the local FFA chapter program of activities.

6. Submit written applications for the degree.

Section C. Greenhand FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:

(Refer to Texas FFA Constitution.)

1. Be enrolled in agriculture, food and natural resources course as defined by

Texas FFA membership policies for high school credit 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 a 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 D. Chapter FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:

(Refer to Texas FFA Constitution.)

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least two semesters of systematic school instruction in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at or above the ninth grade level, have in operation an approved supervised agricultural experience program, and be enrolled in an Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources course.
3. Have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the chapter Program of Activities.
4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$150 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. The combination of hours multiplied by a factor of 3.33 and dollars must equal or exceed the number 150.
5. Have effectively led a group discussion for fifteen minutes.
6. Have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.
7. Have shown progress toward individual achievement in the FFA awards program.
8. Have a satisfactory scholastic record.
9. Have participated in at least 10 hours of community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid labor.
10. Have submitted an application for the Chapter FFA Degree.

Section E. State FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for selection:

(Refer to Texas FFA Constitution)

1. Have received the Chapter FFA Degree.

2. Have been an active FFA member for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree.
 3. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least four semesters of systematic school instruction in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at or above the ninth grade level, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program.
 4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$1,000 or worked at least 300 hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof in a supervised agricultural experience program. The combination of hours, multiplied by a factor of 3.56 and dollars must exceed or equal the number 1000.
 5. Have demonstrated leadership ability by:
 - a. Performing ten procedures of parliamentary law.
 - b. Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or the FFA.
 - c. Serving as an officer, committee chairperson, or participating member of a major committee
 6. Have a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the local Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources instructor and the principal or superintendent.
 7. Have participated in the planning and completion of the chapter program of activities.
 8. As of May 15, have completed ten activities above the chapter level in at least three of six different categories: leadership development events, career development events, conventions and meetings, project shows, student awards and leadership and service as described in policies adopted by the Board of Directors.
 9. As of May 15 of the year the member is to receive the degree, have participated in at least 25 hours of community service within at least two different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.
- Written records of achievement of all requirements, verified by the chapter FFA advisor, shall be submitted to the State Association at least one month prior to the state FFA convention at which the State FFA Degree is to be received. The State FFA Executive Director shall provide for a review of the records and submit a

recommendation to the
State FFA Board of Directors, which shall nominate at the State FFA
convention the
candidates who have been found worthy to receive the honor. The State
FFA Degree
will be conferred upon the candidate subject to approval by the delegates
at the state
convention

Section F. American FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for selection:

(Refer to Texas FFA Constitution)

1. Have received the State FFA Degree, have been an active member for
the past
three years (36 months), and have a record or satisfactory participation in
the
activities on the chapter and state levels.
2. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least three years (540
hours)
of systematic secondary school instruction in an Agriculture, Food and
Natural
Resources program or have completed the program of Agriculture, Food
and
Natural Resources at the school last attended.
3. Have graduated from high school at least twelve months prior to the
national
convention at which the degree is to be granted.
4. 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.
5. A student after entering agricultural education must have: a. earned at
least
\$10,000 and productively invested at least \$7,500; or b. earned and
productively invested \$2,000 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of
scheduled
class time. Any combination of hours, times a factor of 3.56, plus actual
dollars
earned and productively invested must be equal to or greater than the
number
10,000. 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.
6. 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.

7. Have participated in at least 50 hours of community service, within at least

three different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and

cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.

8. Submit an application and supporting documentation pursuant to the deadlines

and requirements described in Texas FFA policies and procedures.

ARTICLE VI – Officers and Executive Committee

Section A. The offices of an FFA chapter shall be: president, vice

president, secretary, treasurer,

reporter and sentinel. Other officers may be elected as deemed

appropriate by the

chapter. The teacher(s) of agriculture, food and natural resources shall be the FFA

advisor(s). Chapter officers shall be elected annually by the members

present at a

regular meeting or called special meeting of the chapter. Procedures for

electing officers

and specific duties of each office are described in the bylaws of this

chapter.

Section B. Pursuant to the provisions of the national and state

constitutions, all chapter officers

shall have attained the greenhand FFA degree.

Section C. Officers shall serve from the end of the chapter meeting at

which they are installed to

the end of the next succeeding chapter meeting at which officers are

installed.

Section D. The elected officers of the chapter shall constitute the

executive committee which shall

convene to plan the activities of the chapter. Standing committee

chairpersons may also

be named as members of the executive committee. All policy decisions of

the executive

committee must be approved by the chapter. Telephone conferences of

the executive

committee may be called and considered meetings provided that all

participating

members may participate and be heard simultaneously.

Section E. Pursuant to the applicable constitutional, bylaw and policy

provisions of the district, area

and state associations and of the National FFA Organization, this chapter may nominate candidates for offices above the chapter level in a manner consistent with the provisions of its bylaws and policies. Candidates for district and area office shall have attained the chapter degree at the time of the district or area election. Candidates for state office shall hold the state degree at the time of the state election. Candidates for national office shall hold the American Degree at the time of their election to office.

ARTICLE VII - Committees

Section A. The standing committees of the chapter shall be described in the bylaws. The chapter

may, at any meeting, create additional standing committees.

Section B. The chapter president shall appoint all committees and committee chairs. The terms of all committees shall expire on a date described in the chapter's annual strategic action plan. Committee expiration may vary depending on duties but no standing committee term shall extend past the end of the fiscal year. The president shall have the authority to remove or reassign any committee chairperson or member, with the consent of the advisor.

Section C. No committee shall have the authority to expend chapter funds (unless expressly authorized to do so), amend the chapter's constitution, bylaws or policies, appoint or remove a committee member, or take any action outside the scope of authority delegated to it by the chapter.

ARTICLE VIII - Dues

Section A. Local dues in this chapter shall be fixed annually by a majority vote of the active

members.

Section B. Full local, district, area, state and national dues shall be paid by all active members.

Section C. No member shall be considered as active and in good standing unless he/she pays full

local, district, area, state and national FFA dues.

ARTICLE IX - Meetings

Section A. Meeting dates and times shall be fixed by the chapter's executive committee with the advice and consent of the chapter advisor. Special meetings may be called by the president, by a majority vote of the executive committee or by the chapter advisor(s).

Meeting agendas shall be posted in a manner consistent with operating rules or procedures adopted by the chapter.

Section B. A quorum shall exist when 40% of the chapter membership is present.

Section C. Proxy and cumulative voting are prohibited.

ARTICLE X - Amendments

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

Association constitution, bylaws or policies Amendments must not conflict with the policies and/or regulations of the Fruitvale Independent School District. Members shall

be notified by mail, electronic mail or classroom announcement at least 30 days prior to a meeting at which any constitutional amendment is to be considered.

Section B. Bylaws may be adopted to fit the needs of the chapter at any regular or special chapter meeting by a majority vote of a quorum of active members present providing such bylaws do not conflict in any way with the constitution, bylaws or policies of the Texas

FFA Association, National FFA Organization or the Fruitvale Independent School

District. Members shall be notified by mail, electronic mail or classroom announcement

at least 30 days prior to a meeting at which any amendment to the bylaws is to be

considered.

ARTICLE XI – Parliamentary Procedure

Section A. The Parliamentary Guide for FFA by Jarrell D. Gray shall be used as a guide for all chapter meetings. The latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order shall be the final authority in governing the actions of all chapter meetings.