# **Denton ISD FFA Handbook**

2020-2021



May 18, 2020 Authored by: Ruge, Carla D

# Denton ISD FFA Handbook

2020-2021

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#### FFA Information

#### Structure of FFA

The FFA operates on local, state and national levels. Student members belong to chapters organized at the local school level. Agricultural education instructors serve as chapter advisors. Chapters are organized under state associations headed by an advisor and executive secretary, often employees of the state department of education. States conduct programs and host annual conventions.

The National FFA Organization, governed by a Board of Directors and a Board of Student Officers, charters state associations; provides direction, programmatic materials and support; and hosts the National FFA Convention, which draws more than 45,000 attendees each Fall. The National FFA Alumni Association's more than 40,000 members in 1,200 affiliates assist in the continued growth and development of active FFA programs.

# **Applied Learning**

The agricultural education program provides a well-rounded, practical approach to learning through three components: Classroom education in agricultural topics; hands-on supervised agricultural experience, and FFA.

# Agricultural Department and FFA Membership

Denton ISD adheres to guidelines and policies provided by the Texas FFA Association. Texas FFA allows local discretion of the school district to adopt more stringent membership guidelines as deemed necessary.

Texas FFA Guidelines: https://www.texasffa.org/

National FFA Guidelines: <u>https://www.ffa.org/About/WhoWeAre/Pages/The-Official-FFA-Manual.aspx</u>

# **FFA Dues**

Annual FFA dues are set by each individual chapter. This includes dues for Local, District, Area, State, and the National FFA Associations. Membership also includes a subscription to the FFA Horizons Magazine which will arrive sometime after January 1st. According to Texas FFA guidelines, members must be enrolled in an Agricultural Science Class to be an FFA member and participate in activities.

# **FFA Jackets**

FFA Jackets and ties/scarves can be purchased through the National FFA website. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. All members are encouraged to purchase a FFA Jacket if they have plans of competing on LDE's or CDE's. Please ask your advisor for help in ordering your jacket online.

#### Denton Junior FFA

Jr. FFA membership is open to Denton ISD students in grades 3 (8 years old)-8. Dues for Jr. Members will be based on the home campus chapter dues. Joining the Jr. FFA allows the member to participate in local meetings as well as showing at school sponsored stock shows under the discretion and supervision of the Denton Independent School District Home High School Agriculture Teacher. Since they are not enrolled in a high school Agriculture class, they are not allowed to participate in LDE's or CDE's.

# FFA BASICS

# The FFA CREED

- I believe in the future of agriculture with a faith born not of words but of deeds achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in the promise of better days through better ways even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.
- I believe that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.
- I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of progressive agriculturists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil.
- I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.
- I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.

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**FFA Motto** Learning to Do Doing to Learn Earning to Live Living to Serve

# **FFA Code of Ethics**

We will conduct ourselves always to be a credit to our organization, chapter, school and community by:

- Dressing neatly and appropriately for the occasion
- Showing respect for others and being courteous always
- Being honest and not taking unfair advantage of others
- Respecting the property of others
- Refraining from boisterous talk, swearing and other unbecoming conduct
- Demonstrating good sportsmanship
- Attending meetings promptly
- Taking pride in our organization and its functions
- Sharing with others experiences and knowledge by attending state and national meetings

# **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:

White collared blouse Black skirt – hem below the knee Official FFA Scarf Black Nylon hosiery Black dress shoes Official FFA Jacket – zipped to top

#### Male members should wear:

White collared shirt Black pants or slacks Official FFA Tie Black socks Black Shoes/Black Boots (low top dress shoes) Official FFA Jacket – zipped to top

# Other Related FFA Associations

#### **Denton FFA Booster Clubs**

The mission of the Denton FFA Boosters is to support and advocate for agricultural education and FFA through gifts of time, talent and financial resources at the local, state and national levels.

Membership dues to the Denton FFA Boosters are set by the Denton ISD FFA Home Campus Chapters. **Prior membership in the FFA is not a requirement for membership in the Denton FFA Boosters**; anyone wanting to support the FFA, agricultural education and the future of agriculture is welcome.

#### **Denton County Livestock Association**

The purpose of the Denton County Livestock Association is to promote the breeding, improvement, and sale of purebred and commercial livestock; to encourage producers to produce the highest quality of livestock; to establish and maintain a friendly spirit between members of the Association by a friendly exchange of information and ideas on all subjects pertaining to livestock, poultry and their products. The DCLA meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00pm, location is usually at Rudy's BBQ but TBA

This organization sets policy for the Denton County Youth Fair. All parents with children participating in the youth fair are encouraged to become active members of this organization. Dues must be paid by the September meeting. If students are planning to participate in the DCLA youth fair all animals must be state validated in order to show. Your campus Agriculture Science Teachers will have further information regarding tag-in dates and tag orders.

#### **Blue Ribbon Club**

The Blue-Ribbon Club is the support group for FFA and 4-H members in Denton County who participate in the Denton County Youth Fair. The Blue-Ribbon Club adds money onto animal that do not make the premium sale. Any parent wishing to participate in this organization is encouraged to do so. The Blue Ribbon Club meets every 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the Month or TBA.

#### Campus Incentive Programs

#### FFA Graduation Chords/Awards Incentive Program

Students of Denton ISD FFA are eligible for FFA Graduation Chords as an incentive program sponsored by the home campus FFA Booster Club. It is up to the Home Campus Agriculture Science Teacher's discretion to follow this criterion to award these incentives.

- 1) Have a minimum of 2 years of FFA membership
- 2) Accumulate a minimum of 300 points from participation in various FFA activities. All activities have a point value, depending on the level of participation.
- 3) All students must have activities recorded in The AET Record Book Tracker Local/chapter activities 5 points/activity

District/County activities	10 points/activity
Area activities	15 points/activity
State activities	20 points/activity
National activities	25 points/activity
Inv Eational contests	10 points/activity
Community Service activity	10 points/activity
Maximum of 50 points/year on livestock sho	ows (Jackpot=local; County=district)
CD€/LDE practices	10 points for perfect attendance
Dent	

SAE project: 1 project/year count one)

25 points (Students with multiple projects can only

#### Scholarship Opportunities

# Texas FFA Association Scholarship Program:

Graduating seniors apply during the spring semester for these scholarships. The completed application follows a series of checks and must advance from each level to be awarded. Scholarships are based on academic rank (must be in top 25% for Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, top 50% for others), SAT/ACT scores (minimum 950 on SAT, minimum of 20 on ACT) and FFA activities. Students must also interview at each level. These scholarships total over \$2.0 million awarded. Each year the number and amounts may vary.

# National FFA Scholarships:

Graduating seniors apply for a variety of scholarships. Applications are available at www.ffa.org. Deadline is February 15.

# Denton County Livestock Show:

Students participating in the Denton County Junior Livestock Show are eligible to apply for these scholarships. The application will be available in Ag Science classes, please see your Campus Ag Teacher for these opportunities.

# Agri-Science Fair Competition:

Students participating in the Agri science Fair competition are eligible for scholarships. Competition is held in several locations and as much as \$10,000 scholarships are available.

# Proficiency, Public Speaking and Star Awards:

Scholarships are available to State and National winners.

# Career Development Events:

Top High Individual Honors can bring scholarships at various competitions up to \$10,000. Colleges also scout these contests for scholarship recipients.

#### **FFA Team Events**

#### Leadership Development Events:

- Greenhand Chapter Conducting
- Senior Chapter Conducting •
- **Greenhand FFA Skills** •
- **Chapter FFA Skills** •
- Greenhand FFA Quiz
- Chapter FFA Quiz
- Greenhand Creed Speaking •
- Chapter Creed Speaking •
- Agricultural Issues Forum •
- **Public Relations**
- FFA Radio
- Job Interview

# LDE Dress for Contests

Please see the National FFA Official Dress. Some contests may vary depending on what team you are a part of check with the home campus Ag Teacher.

\*Teams trained may vary year to year.

# **Career Development Events:**

- **Agricultural Mechanics** •
- Agricultural Sales
- Cotton
- **Dairy Foods Evaluation** •
- Dairy Cattle •
- Entomology •
- Floriculture
- Food Science
- Horse •
- Livestock Evaluation
- Poultry Judging •
- Meats Evaluation •
- Nursery/Landscape •
- Wildlife
- Wool •

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# **CDE Dress for Contests**

- Wool
   Veterinary Science
   Veterinary Science
   CDE Dre
   Buttoned down, collared shirt
   Nice Jeans or Slacks that fit at the vertex of the second stress of the second s Nice Jeans or Slacks that fit at the waist and are free of fading or holes.
- Closed Toe Shoes are required
- Denton | No Caps or Hats (except hard hats in meats contest)

# **Speaking Events:**

- Greenhand Prepared Public Speaking •
- **Chapter Prepared Public Speaking**
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking
- Soil Conservation Public Speaking

# **Speaking Events Dress for Contests**

Please see the National FFA Official Dress. Some contests may vary depending on what team you are a part of check with the home campus Ag Teacher.

\*Teams trained may vary year to year.

# Supervised Agriculture Experience Projects

# Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs

A unique aspect of the Agricultural Science Program is the Supervised Agricultural Experience Program (SAEP). It enables students to care for and exhibit livestock projects, develop agricultural crop or horticultural enterprises or experience the other aspects of the agricultural industry. The SAEP 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 months	FebMarch	\$3000**	\$3000
Swine	5 months	Nov. – March	\$750**	\$1000
Sheep	9 months	July-March	\$750**	\$300
Goats	9 months	July-March	\$750**	\$300
Broilers	3 months	Jan – March	\$2.00/head**	\$150
Rabbits	2 months	Feb-March	\$250**	\$100

# Estimated Cost of Livestock Projects

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

\*\*Costs for animals may vary depending on quality of livestock and location purchased.

\*\*\*Animals are not required to be kept at the DISD Project Center. The above costs do not reflect any charges that can occur for veterinarian fees, medication, validation, entry fees, state tags, etc. These would be additional expenses for the project.

#### **Supervising SAE Teachers**

Cattle: Ms. Laci Harbor Iharbor@dentonisd.org

Ms. Shannon McCuistion smccuistion@dentonisd.org

**Poultry:** Mrs. Laura Reed Ireed@dentonisd.org

**Rabbits:** Mrs. Taylor Alcorn talcorn@dentonisd.org

Ms. Elissa Cooke ecooke@dentonisd.org

Sheep/Goats: Mrs. Laura Reed Ireed@dentonisd.org

Mrs. Ellen Todar etodar@dentonisd.org

Swine: Mrs. Peggy Nichols pnichols@dentonisd.org

Ms. Hailey Weaver hweaver@dentonisd.org

Ag Mechanics: (Campus Based) Ms. Hailey Weaver (BHS) hweaver@dentonisd.org 20 Ms Shannon McCuistion (DHS) sm&cuistion@dentonisd.org

Mrs Tracy Nurenberg (GHS) tnuenberg@dentonisd.org Mr. Danny Walton (RHS) dwatton@dentonisd.org Denton ISD

#### Policy and Guidelines:

#### Information

The following policies and guidelines apply to the Denton ISD Agricultural Department and Denton ISD FFA Chapters (Braswell High School, Denton High School, Guyer High School, Ryan High School). As a leadership organization, students must be in good standing in and out of the school and are subject to dismissal from the organization for problems in any of the following areas: insubordination, truancy, cheating, drinking, sexual misconduct, drugs, the use of tobacco products or vapes and violations of the DISD student code of conduct or major breaches of the FFA code of ethics.

The FFA advisor and/or Director of Career and Technical Education reserve the right to add or amend these guidelines and rules as deemed necessary. This document will be kept updated and located on the DISD district website. It will be the responsibility of FFA advisors, students and parent to utilize the district website to obtain and/or refer to the most current version of this document.

#### Student Expectation

#### **Travel for School Activities**

Before students can travel to any school sponsored activity the teacher must have on file a field trip release form, and extracurricular medical permission form and any other documentation required by Denton ISD.

# Visitors

Any visitor accompanying a Denton Independent School District FFA student and/or parent and attending a Denton ISD sponsored event or activity, must adhere to appropriate conduct outlined in this document. Please allow 48 hours 'notice to your Agriculture Science Teacher for professional fitters, breeders, or groomsmen to enter our facility. Any student who has a visitor or non-Denton ISD member or guest at the facility takes full responsibility for their visitor's actions or misconduct.

#### Misconduct

Any infraction of district rules, policies or guidelines as set forth in the DISD Student Code of Conduct, DISD Student Co-Curricular/Extracurricular Contract, and/or the DISD FFA Policy Handbook will result in disciplinary action and may cause immediate removal from the program. The Ag science teacher(s) in collaboration with campus administration will have the authority to suspend or remove any member for any infractions. All content of this document is at the discretionary interpretation of campus administration and Director of CTE for determining consequences for inappropriate behavior. These terms are as follows:

A "Three Strike" discipline system is used by the DISD FFA advisors. Any student failing
to fulfill the obligations of the project in accordance to the rules and guidelines set forth
by the project advisor will receive a "strike". Infractions include, but are not limited to,
missing a project meeting/weigh day without prior notice, neglect of animal (feeder empty,
not feeding on time, pen not cleaned, etc.), failure to perform required duties before

and/or during the fair. Once a student has received three strikes, he/she forfeits his/her privilege to show within the Denton ISD FFA Program.

- Other disciplinary problems may result in the removal of exhibitor and animal from the school farm (if housed there) or stockshow, and/or loss of showing privileges with Denton ISD FFA for one or more years.
- Major infractions for immediate removal from Denton ISD FFA Programs include but are not limited to: insubordination, truancy, cheating, drinking, sexual misconduct, drugs, the use of tobacco products or vapes and violations of the DISD student code of conduct or major breaches of the FFA code of ethics.

# Eligibility to Participate

Eligibility in the Denton ISD FFA organizations is based on the UIL eligibility standards found in TEA code 33.081 "no pass, no play."

However, eligibility waivers for International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, Honors, or dual credit classes are accepted for only one grading period during the school year for any FFA events above the chapter level. To be eligible for a waiver in these classes the following criteria must be met:

- 1) One failing grade 50 or above OR 2 failing grades 60 or above
- 2) There can be no zero's or missing assignments during that grading period.

# Access to Denton ISD Ag Barn Facilities

To protect the safety and security of DISD students and animal projects, all individuals seeking access to the Agriculture Facilities <u>will be required to complete a Volunteer Application with the Denton ISD Central Office Administration.</u> NO PERSON will be allowed access to these facilities without a security pass from our local application process. Only individuals with DIRECT connection to a Denton FFA student WITH a project at their specific facility will be granted permission to access. This includes immediate family members and parents/guardians. This does not include classmates or fellow FFA members who do not have an animal at the facility unless prior permission from their home Agriculture Science Teacher. This application is located at http://www.Dentonisd.net/parents/volunteer/.

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# **Open Communications**

Please maintain open communication with your Ag Science teacher regarding your participation in the program. Every effort will be made to insure consistent communication with everyone in the program. Every Teacher has their preferred way of communication, it is up to the discretion of the Teacher on how that it is done ie... Remind 101, Email, Group Text Messaging or individual folders. First and foremost, the goal is to make sure the students have a positive learning experience, and it is encouraged that you bring any situations or problems that are negatively impacting our students through the proper chain of command. All communication must be conveyed by the Ag Science Teacher to the Student back to the parent. Communication between the student and parent must be an integral part of the day-to-day activities. All questions and suggestions by the Ag Science Teacher and the student will be dogumented in the preferred way of their campus instructor. Ag Science Teachers may use their personal phones to contact parents unless it is an emergency. Every animal is fed, cared for, and evaluated separately. All suggestions concerning individual students and animals will be written in folders held at the barn. Gossip and assumptions can be very negative, and it is encouraged for everyone to avoid both.

#### **Social Media**

Any negative public comments (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) may result in removal from the barn and/or the program pending any possible disruption to the school setting. This decision shall be made by campus administration.

#### **Conflict Resolution**

Personality conflicts and personal disagreements will arise, but we encourage adults to resolve their issues between themselves in a mature manner. Public arguments at Denton ISD FFA functions and facilities (meetings, stock shows, Ag barn, etc.) will not be tolerated. Such situations may result in one or both parties being ejected from the area and the future participation of that person and/or the student may be in jeopardy. Please refer to the Chain of Command when needing to address any conflicts that arise.

#### **Facilities Care and Respect**

We have been provided very nice and very expensive facilities and equipment. If you choose to keep your animal(s) at the Denton ISD Ag Barn Facilities or to use Denton ISD equipment (clippers, pens, etc.), you will need to respect and take care of it. Persons responsible for intentional damage/vandalism (to the property or equipment of the facility, district or other students) will be held financially responsible for repair of the damage, disciplinary actions will be taken, and project removal from the barn will occur.

#### **Denton ISD Equipment**

Any equipment owned by Denton ISD is to be used by DISD Ag science teachers or under the direct supervision of DISD Ag science teacher. Equipment is not to leave the Ag Barn facilities unless being used by the Ag science teacher or a student has been granted permission to use the equipment off site. This may include but is not limited to trailers, show boxes, fans, stall set-ups, blowers, hoses, dividers, pig boards, trim tables, chutes, etc.

#### Parent Expectation

Denton ISD and campus administration reserve the right for discretionary interpretation of the contents in this guide. Any disciplinary action or violation of this document will be at the sole discretion of Denton ISD and campus administration.

**Parent Responsibilities:** Your assistance as a parent of a student involved in a Denton ISD FFA Program is very important and valued. To help promote teamwork, good citizenship and success the following must be adhered to:

- Review the contents of the DISD FFA handbook with your child frequently.
- Ensure your child accurately completes and turns in all required paperwork on time to their respected Ag Teacher
- Refrain from the use of tobacco, alcohol, and profanity at all FFA and livestock events.
- Support the decisions and instructions given by FFA advisors, administrators, and other **Denton ISD employees**
- Provide positive support of your child and the other members of the Denton ISD FFA Programs
- Ensure that your student is on time to all required meetings and that they follow all FFA contract guidelines.
- Provide transportation and accommodations for your student to all required events.
- Use of alcoholic beverages is forbidden on school property, including the Denton ISD Ag barn facilities. In addition, please remember that stock shows and other FFA events are family experiences and also an extension of school grounds when attending under Denton ISD FFA. Adults are not allowed to consume or have in their possession alcoholic beverages in or around the primary/general areas at ANY FFA event/function.
- Parents/students may be asked to leave any DISD FFA sponsored event for inappropriate misconduct, aggressive or disrespectful behavior towards advisors, other parents, students, or any behavior that brings discredit to our organization.
- Any decisions or instructions made by the Ag Science teacher at a school-sponsored event/function are final. Any concerns should be addressed through the chain of command prior to leaving for an event or upon immediate return following an event.

# **Problems and Chain of Command**

When a problem or concern arises, the best way to resolve it is by following a set "chain-of command." Always begin with the supervising teacher.

- 5/18/Campus Ag Science teacher
- Lead Ag Science Teacher: Shannon McCuistion
- **Assistant Principal** 
  - o GHS: Michael Parker
    - DHS: Mark Goggins
  - RHS: Adrian Eaglin
  - BHS: Zephiniah Smalley
- SD FFA Handbook **Campus Principal**
- Director of CTE: Carla Ruge
- Denton

#### Student and Parent Acknowledgement

- My student and I accept responsibility for accessing, reading and following the policies in the Denton ISD FFA Policy Handbook on the Denton ISD website.
- I understand that the Denton ISD FFA Policy Handbook and Denton ISD Student Code of Conduct contain information that my student and I may need during the school year. All students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in both documents. If I have questions regarding the Denton ISD FFA Policy Handbook, please contact the high school Ag Science teacher or the CTE Director.
- I allow my student's name and photograph to be used in any FFA and/or Denton ISD publications.
- I allow the Home High School Agriculture Science Teacher to effectively communicate with my student via group text message or the most efficient way possible.

Student Name:	
Student Contact Information:	
Student Signature:	
Parent Signature:	
Parent Contact Information:	
Date	

# **Denton ISD FFA**

Medical Release Form	
	dian of each member. This form is required of all members of the event that any of the information should change. participate in the FFA activities.
STUDENT'S NAME	GRADE
DATE OF BIRTH	ID #
FFA ACTIVITIES	
HOME ADDRESS	
CITY	ZIP
TELEPHONE #	
MOM'S WORK #	DAD'S WORK #
PARENT'S EMAIL ADDRESS	
INSURANCE CARRIER	
PHONE #	
ID NUMBER	
GROUP #	
PLAN #	
Alternative Emergency Contact	
Name and phone number of relative or friend wh parent/guardian is unavailable	o can be contacted in case of emergency when
NAME	PHONE #
RELATION	
NAME	PHONE #
RELATION	
FAMILY DOCTOR	PHONE #
DENTIST	PHONE #
If in the judgment of any representative of the so	chool the above student needs immediate care and treatment

If, in the judgment of any representative of the school, the above student needs immediate care and treatment as a result of any injury or illness, I do hereby request, authorize, and consent such care and treatment as may be given to said student by any medically qualified representative. I do hereby, agree to indemnify and save harmless the school and any school representative from any claim by any such person of such care and treatment of said student.

#### **DENTON ISD FFA**

#### FIELD TRIP PERMISSION FORM

FOR PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL SANCTIONED EVENTS DURING THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR AS A MEMBER OF THE DENTON FFA / AGRISCIENCE DEPARTMENT

STUDENT \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

The above named student has my consent to travel to and/or from each event participated in by this organization during this school year including all errands and activities related to duties and assignments made to members enrolled in the FFA / AGRISCIENCE CLASS. The mode of transportation will be provided by Denton ISD transportation.

- 1. All students must abide by state, district and campus policies at all FFA/AGRISCIENCE sponsored events, whether held during normal school hours, after school hours, or on weekends and holidays.
- I understand that students who violate said policies will be subject to disciplinary consequences in accordance with the STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT, including possible removal from future participation in FFA events.
- 3. I understand that infractions to any of these said policies which include theft, vandalism, and possession of illegal substances will result in notification of parent/guardian and my child being returned to school at the parents' expense with no reimbursement of funds.
- 4. I agree to, and hereby, release Denton Independent School District and its trustees, employees, sponsors and volunteers from all legal responsibility from liability resulting from any activities of this organization, including liability caused by or related to the negligence of any such party.

This form must be signed and returned to the sponsor before the student will be permitted to participate in any activities of this organization.

Student's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

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