

THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE RICEBELT DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

ARTICLE I- NAME AND MISSION

- Section A. The name of this organization shall be the “Ricebelt District Association of the National FFA Organization.” Members are hereinafter referred to as “FFA members” and the letters, “FFA” may be used to designate the Association, its activities, or members thereof.
- Section B. The Mission for which this Association is formed are as follows:
1. Develops competent and assertive agriculture 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 Ricebelt District Association of FFA is a chartered district unit of the Area IX Association of FFA, which is chartered by the Texas and National FFA Organization.
- Section B. This Association accepts in full the provisions in the constitution and by-laws of the Area IX Association of FFA as well as those of the Texas and National FFA Organization.

ARTICLE III- MEMBERSHIP

- Section A. Membership in this Association shall be of four kinds: (1) Active (2) Alumni (3) Collegiate, and (4) Honorary as defined by the National FFA Constitution.

Section B. Each local chapter shall be entitled to send one delegate from its active membership, plus one additional delegate for 50 members, or any fraction thereof, above the first 50 members. A quorum shall exist when at least 51% of the delegates representing at least 51% of chapters in the district are present.

<u>Active Membership</u>	<u>Number of Delegates</u>
1-50.....	1
51-100.....	2
101-150.....	3
151-200.....	4
201-250.....	5
251-300.....	6
etc.....	etc

Section C. Honorary membership shall be limited only to those who have received Honorary Degrees in their local chapters.

Section D. All chapters in good standing are members of the Ricebelt District Association.

ARTICLE IV- EMBLEMS

Section A. The emblem of the FFA shall be the emblem for the Association.

Section B. Emblems used by the members shall be uniform and those obtained from concerns officially designated by the National FFA Organization.

ARTICLE V- MEMBERSHIP AND PRIVILEGES

Section A. There shall be five grades of active membership in the Ricebelt District Association: (1) Discovery FFA (2) Greenhand FFA (3) Chapter FFA (4) State FFA and (5) American FFA Degree.

Section B. The qualifications for the five degrees of active membership shall be in accord with the Area, State, and National FFA Constitutions.

ARTICLE VI- OFFICERS

Section A. Each Chapter within the District is entitled to have one District, one Area, and/or one State officer candidate.

Section B. The officers of the Ricebelt Association shall be as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, Historian, and Parliamentarian.

- Section C. The president shall be elected annually at the designated district meeting by a test and a majority vote of the voting delegates. The test will consist of questions from the FFA Manual and the Parliamentary Guide. The test will be worth 30% of the election process; popularity vote will be 70%.
- Section D. The Executive Committee shall be the Rice Belt District VATAT Officers, the highest ranking Rice Belt District Advisor and the Rice Belt District FFA President. The Executive committee shall have full power to act as necessary for the District Association in accordance with actions taken at District Association meetings and various regulation or by-laws adopted from time to time.
- Section E. Honorary members shall not vote nor shall they hold any offices in the association other than that of the Advisor.
- Section F. District officers must hold the Chapter FFA Degree and must be at least a sophomore when elected. A member may only serve one term as any District officer.

ARTICLE VII- MEETINGS

- Section A. Regular District Association meetings shall be the District Officer Leadership Workshop and the District Convention.
- Section B. Special meetings shall be determined by the District Executive Committee with 30 days prior notice.

ARTICLE VIII- DUES

- Section A. District Association dues shall be \$.50 per member in each local chapter.
- Section B. No Chapter shall be considered as active and in good standing unless they pay full District, Area, State, and National FFA dues.

ARTICLE IX- LEADERSHIP

- Section A. One team from each local FFA Chapter will be eligible to compete in each Leadership Development Event, provided that these schools are in good standing with the District Association. State rules will be followed.
- Section B. Speaking Career Development Events shall be held annually at the designated district meeting preceding the Area Convention. State rules will be followed.
- Section C. Career Development Events shall be set up according to the State FFA guidelines.
- Section D. Candidates for Area shall be elected at the designated district meeting preceding the Area Convention.

ARTICLE X- AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to the District Constitution or By-Laws must be submitted in writing to the Area Coordinator at least 60 days prior to any District meeting. These proposed changes must in turn be submitted in writing to the local chapters of the district at least 30 days prior to the next succeeding district meeting, be reviewed by the district officers, and submitted by them to the delegates in the district with recommendations. Amendments may be adopted or revisions made in the District Constitution at any District meeting by a two-thirds vote of the official delegates present.

*****BY-LAWS*****

Two winners from the Ricebelt District for Area Officer Elections, Speaking Career Development Events, and Talent Contest shall be elected to represent the Ricebelt District at the Area Convention.

District Leadership Development Events, Career Development Events, Talent and District, Area, State Officer Candidates shall follow the State Rules.

The District Sweepstakes award for the Leadership Development Events shall be determined by the following formula:

- 1st place team---10 points
- 2nd place team----9 points
- 3rd place team----8 points
- 4th place team----7 points
- 5th place team----6 points
- 6th place team----5 points
- 7th place team----4 points
- 8th place team----3 points
- 9th place team----2 points
- 10th place team---1 point

Adoptions and Revisions

- 4/28/58---Adopted
- 9/ /70---Amended
- 4/17/80---Amended
- 2/07/95---Amended
- 2/06/97---Revised & Adopted
- 2/28/05---Amended
- 1/09---Revised & Adopted