

2022-2023 Chapter Handbook

A Member/Parent Guide to the McLouth FFA

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FFA Mission: The 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.

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

The McLouth FFA Chapter strives to meet that mission through the activities planned and conducted each school year. The best way to learn as an FFA member is by actual participation and “Doing” as outlined in our motto. Our hope is that every member develops a desire to serve in their local communities along the way. Below is a listing of the major chapter activities and the policies and practices by which the McLouth FFA Chapter operates.

Membership-- FFA is an integral component of the Ag Ed and provides many chances to learn and enhance what is happening in the classroom. Students enrolled in an agricultural class are encouraged to pay the yearly dues to become a member because they will have additional opportunities to apply what they are learning in the classroom at various competitions. Students not in an agricultural class may also be in FFA, but it is their responsibility to stay apprised of upcoming events.

Involvement-- Most all activities the chapter undertakes is open to all members to become involved in. There are a few competitions and events that the number of participants is limited due to the nature of the event. All members are encouraged to participate in as many activities that they can. Many of these events are very different from anything that they have experienced in their past school years. Students need to be willing to attend activities and competitions the first time to find out what it is like and whether they like doing it. Some activities students do are a part of their ag class, others will happen during the school day, evening, or weekend. Level of participation is up to the individual student, and the advisor uses a positive reinforcement approach. Any student attending events earn sweepstakes points.

Chapter sponsored activities—Each year the officers and older members determine the activities that the chapter will be conducting. The McLouth FFA Chapter has been one of the top chapters in state and the nation the past 19 years, based on the activities and projects they have accomplished at the local level. Activities are planned in each of three areas. Student Development, Chapter Development and Community Development. Each of these activities have a committee in charge of the development of the goals and steps to achieve those goals.

Scholarships (McLouth FFA Alumni)- The chapter conducts a scholarship program for its graduating seniors. There is no scholarship application, it is based off the current year’s sweepstakes points. The highest sweepstakes earner is given a scholarship provided through the fundraising efforts of the chapter. The second place earner is given a scholarship provided by the alumni.

Scholarships (State and National FFA)- Each year the National FFA Foundation gives over \$2 million in college scholarships to deserving FFA seniors. Applications are due February 15th each year and the best preparation a member can do is to have a well rounded FFA career and leadership record throughout high school, a good SAE program, a strong GPA, and solid ACT score. An agriculture major in college is preferred, but not a requirement. The Kansas FFA also has sponsors that award scholarships for students entering specific Ag career areas and most state scholarships require members to have been in FFA for all 4 years of high school.

Scholarships (Other)- It has been proven time and time again that being active in FFA helps students be more competitive in most any college scholarship in which they apply. The community service, leadership skills, and variety of activities FFA members are involved in make them strong candidates for local community scholarships as well as larger foundations or college departmental scholarships. In addition, the communications skills members develop can be a strength in the written applications as well as interviews and presentations that are a part of some selection processes. Finally, there are a number of state community colleges that are looking for former FFA members for their junior college judging teams. These scholarships in areas like Meats, Livestock, or Horse Judging are equivalent to athletic scholarships given at those same schools. In summary, active involvement in FFA can pay off for many students wishing to further their education after high school.

FFA Sweepstakes Points System (Most Active Member Awards) – The sentinel tracks participation throughout the year. Participation points are awarded for students that compete in CDE’s, excel in fundraisers, and attend chapter social and leadership events. The top earners will be given the opportunity to attend National FFA Convention in the fall. The number of students taken each year is determined by the year's fundraising success. The high point seniors receive a scholarship. The basic belief is you will get the most from the program by being involved. Points are divided into two categories- blue and yellow. Blue points are awarded for chapter driven events (CDEs/LDEs, chapter tours, etc). Yellow points are awarded for community driven events (fundraisers, community service, etc). Students must have two yellow sweepstake points to be able to utilize chapter funds for activities the following FFA year.

Sweepstakes guidelines for points

Point System	Points		State CDEs	
Officer Application (chapter or district)	2		1-5 Place Ind	8
Chapter Events	1		6-10 Place Ind	6
CDE attendance	1		11-15 Place Ind	4
District CDEs 1st Place Ind.	3		16-20 place Ind	2
District CDEs 2nd-5th Place Ind.	2		top 10 team	1
District CDEs 6th-10th Place Ind.	1		attendance	2
District CDEs 1st-3rd Team	1			
Officer Rubric	up to 6			
Volunteering (per 2 hour shift)	1			
Meeting Attendance	1 point per semester			
Fundraising- poinsettias	1 per 6 plants			
Fundraising- raffle tickets	1 per \$100			
Proficiency Applications	2			
NATIONAL CONVENTION Top 12 underclassmen	min of 6 pts from prev. year	*10 points = free trip	6-10 sliding pay scale	

REWARDS TRIP	min. of 3 pts from current year			
SENIOR TRIP	minimum of 10 pts cumulative			
SCHOLARSHIPS- top 4 cumulative points	\$1000, \$800, \$500, \$250			
WLC scholarship- min of 20 cumulative pts	\$500			
Senior banner	min. of 10 pts cumulative			

Officer Selection: Any FFA member has the opportunity to fill out an officer application. Selection is based on popular vote, teacher ranking, community vote (based on the application), and if there are more than six applicants there will also be an interview. The applicant receiving the lowest amount of points will be given a choice of what office he or she desires and so on. Officers must be enrolled in an ag class, attend weekly officer meetings, and attend officer retreat in the summer.

National FFA Convention – The National FFA Convention is held each October. This year it’s in Indianapolis, IN from Oct. 26- Oct. 29.

State FFA Convention – This event is held at Kansas State University, Wednesday thru Friday the week of Memorial Day. All members have an equal opportunity to attend this convention but must in official dress.

State FFA Band and Chorus – The State FFA Band and Chorus perform at State FFA Convention each year. These are a “Select” or “Honor” band and chorus comprised of FFA members from across the state. McLouth FFA members interested in participation, must contact the FFA Advisors for the application due March 15th and have the recommendation of their music instructor.

Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) – This week long conference is conducted over the summer by the National FFA Organization. The cost of the conference, meals, and travel is approximately \$1,100. Although it may seem pricey, it is actually not a bad value considering the quality of this premier leadership conference, a chance to see all of the sights of Washington DC, and the opportunity to network with FFA members all across the country. Students normally attend the summer before their senior or junior year, so any juniors or sophomores interested in attending should start planning and saving now as well as communicating with the FFA advisors. The Kansas FFA group is confirmed in February or March. The State FFA Alumni has a scholarship program where students can apply for part of the cost of the conference in December.

Career Development Events and Leadership Development Events (CDEs/LDEs) - These are the competitive events that we used to refer to as judging contests. The McLouth FFA competes in several different CDE’s at the district, state and national levels each year. All members are encouraged to attend the CDE’s as they occur and especially those that fit their interest areas or possible future career options. After initial exposure in the Ag Classroom, workouts for CDE preparation are held during advisory and sometimes before or after school at the ag classroom. CDE workouts are scheduled for the week and posted on the board in the ag classroom. Attendance at the workouts is optional but there are sometimes requirements to attend a certain number of workouts to attend the event, this is done to ensure that the member has a grasp of what they will be doing at the competition.

The McLouth FFA is a member of the Northeast District, which is made up of 26 other high schools (comparable to “League” in athletics). We can usually take as many members to a district CDE as we want

in most events. Events have A Team (Varsity) and B Team (Junior Varsity Divisions). Top 3 Team plaques are awarded and Top 5 medals are awarded in each event and division.

Participation at State CDE's are limited to one 3 or 4 member team per chapter with the following exceptions listed below. To qualify for a state CDE/LDE team the member must place in the top three at the district event and be committed to preparing to the best of their abilities with their teammates. The State CDE's are held at KSU in early May. If a team wins the state CDE they qualify for National CDE competition the following fall in Indianapolis, IN. State competitors will receive a custom jacket upon completion of their first state CDE/LDE. *Exceptions - Parliamentary Procedure is a 6 member team with only the top 2 teams at leadership school qualifying for state convention. State Convention Leadership CDE qualifiers are limited to the top 5 Senior Prepared, top 5 Extemporaneous, top 2 in job interview and top 2 Creed speakers at the district level competition.* Below is a listing of the career development events for this year:

- Entomology
- Ag Sales
- Ag Communications
- Dairy Cattle
- Dairy Products
- Discussion Meet
- Leadership
 - Parliamentary Pro
 - Opening Ceremonies
 - FFA Leadership Info
- Prepared public speaking
 - Freshmen – 2-3 min
 - Sophomore - 3-5 min
 - Junior – 4-6 min
 - Senior – 6-8 min
- Extemporaneous public speaking
- Creed speaking (freshman only)
- Meats
- Livestock Judging
- Ag Mechanics
- Floriculture
- Horse Evaluation
- Food Science
- Job Interview
- Vet Science

The FFA Chapter has a high standard for participation in competitive events and field trips. If a student is on the D/F list 24 hours before the designated leave time, they are unable to travel with the FFA Chapter. It is important the members maintain their grades if they desire to be active in FFA.

All coaching decisions made in terms of CDE team member make up, individual event selection, and district or state participation/qualification/eligibility is made by the FFA Advisors based on a wide variety of factors with the best interests of the students, teams, chapter, and school in mind. All decisions made by the advisors are final.

FFA Jackets & Official Dress – There are some events during the year when members are required to wear the FFA jacket and official dress. These events are the State & National Conventions, District banquet,

events involving the community and certain LDE's involving speaking. If a member plans to be active in the Chapter, spending the money to purchase the jacket is encouraged. If they are unsure about their level of participation then do not buy one until they know for sure that they want to be involved. The cost of the jacket is \$65.00, which includes the official tie or scarf. The rest of the official dress consists of black slacks or skirt, white shirt or blouse and closed toed black shoes. If a member wishes to participate in an activity that requires the jacket they can borrow one from the chapter if they do not have their own.

FFA T-Shirt – Every member will receive a chapter T-Shirt once they pay their dues. Please keep the shirts in good condition throughout the year and do not alter or cut off the sleeves until the year is over. This shirt is to be worn to FFA events at the local and district levels.

McLouth FFA Banquet - The FFA Banquet is held each year. All members are required to attend with invitations also sent to families. The banquet is where senior scholarships, chapter leadership awards, proficiency awards, most active member, Greenhand and Chapter degrees and FFA Honorary members are awarded. It is a time to look back over the past year's accomplishments of the chapter and our members. The banquet is MAY 3, 6:30pm.

FFA Degree Program – Members can progress through the FFA Degree program as a part of their FFA career. Freshmen or first year members have the opportunity to receive the Bronze Pin of the Greenhand FFA Degree by meeting certain requirements. Anyone that receives the greenhand degree can move to the Silver Pin of the Chapter FFA Degree the following year. Juniors and Seniors earning and investing of \$2000 or more and meeting other requirements can earn the Gold Charm of the State FFA Degree. Graduates can follow their state FFA degree with the American FFA Degree upon earning even more from their SAE program and increased leadership involvement.

Lettering- FFA members have the opportunity to letter through FFA with the minimum requirements: receive your chapter degree, attend a majority of meetings, participate in a CDE, participate in a club activity/community service project.

Recordbooks/Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) – As a part of their Ag Ed classes, all students have the opportunity to document their records through Ag Experience Tracker (AET). Students are expected to conduct some sort of SAE program outside of school that can be as large or simple as the student desires, depending on their goals. Some students do chores for their parents or family, some work at local businesses, and other students own their own farming or agribusiness operations. The advisors will work with each student and their parents to pick a SAE that is right for them.

FFA Proficiency Awards – Each year, the chapter awards proficiency awards to members with outstanding SAE programs in many different areas. Every student completing a district proficiency award, will be named a chapter winner. District winners can advance to state and even national competition. Cash prizes are available to winners at the district, state, and national level as well. Example proficiency award areas: Beef Production, Ag Sales Placement, Veterinary Medicine, Forage Production, and Turf Grass Management. As students participate in good learning opportunities at home or develop new skills, it is helpful to have picture documentation along the way to include in proficiency applications.

Member Responsibility – A critical requirement for the success of the McLouth FFA Chapter is the individual responsibility of the member. We encourage members to run for offices, assume committee chairs, and become involved in chapter activities. Along with this involvement comes the requirement to fulfill responsibilities and commitments that they assume. In the past too much of the work of the chapter has been performed by too few members. While these members probably gained much from their involvement, many others who did not participate gained little. The National FFA, Kansas FFA Association and the McLouth FFA Chapter offer fantastic opportunities for high school students to grow and develop

into mature, responsible and capable citizens. It is our desire for all students in the ag program to benefit from the FFA, not just a few over-worked members. Encourage your son or daughter to become involved, take leadership roles and most importantly become not only a responsible FFA member, but responsible students of MHS and responsible citizens of our society.

More Information – If you have any questions about FFA events or programs feel free to call the MHS office and ask to either talk to the FFA Advisors or one of the members of the chapter leadership team.

2022-2023 McLouth FFA Leadership Team

President- Kennedy Coffin

Vice-President- Corissa Bandel

Secretary- Henry Cloyd

Treasurer- Jaysen Delaet

Reporter- Jillian Holwock

Sentinel- Ella Gantz

Advisor – Mrs. Nicole Hinrichsen, hinrichsenn@mcclouth.org

Advisor - Mrs. Marie Umphenour, umphenourm@mcclouth.org

2022-2023 FFA Calendar

August 28	Back to School BBQ Bash	Rose Park, McLouth
September 9	Deadline for FFA membership	\$20
September 14	Greenhand Conference	Silverlake
September 16	Senior trip	TBD
September 21	Entomology	Holton
September 24	Mutt and Strut	McLouth
October 5	Dairy Cattle Judging	Axtell
October 26-29	National FFA Convention	Indianapolis, IN
November 14	Leadership School (par law)	Holton
November 30	Horse CDE	Seneca
December 7	Middle School Academy/Discussion Meet	Perry
January 11	Speech/Job Interview CDE	Marysville
February 1	Meats CDE	Troy
February 16	Pancake Feed during PT Conf.	McLouth
February 18-25	National FFA week	McLouth
February 28	State degrees/National Chapter/Proficiencies due	
March 29	Ag Mechanics CDE/Ag Sales	Wamego
April 12	Superday CDE (dairy foods, vet science, food science, floriculture)	Highland
April 19	Livestock Judging	Seneca
April 24	District Banquet	Wamego
April 30-May 2	State CDEs	Manhattan
May 3	Work Auction/Banquet	McLouth
May 15	Rewards Trip	McLouth
May 31-June 2	State Convention	Manhattan

2nd Wednesday of every month: FFA meeting

FFA Alumni: 2 evening meetings a year designed to help guide and support the program

*This is an adult group designed to support McLouth FFA kids. To be included in the email list please let Mrs. Hinrichsen know

FFA dues are \$20 (t-shirt included). Due by September 9.

*If a student is experiencing financial struggles, please let Mrs. Hinrichsen know. The FFA Alumni is willing to pay the dues of students in need.

**Must have taken or are currently enrolled in an ag class to join FFA

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