

Ruby Valley FFA Chapter Constitution and Bylaws

Revised September 2011

Article I. Name

- A. The name of the organization shall be the **Ruby Valley FFA Chapter** of the Montana FFA Association of the National FFA Organization.
- B. The Ruby Valley FFA shall be the student organization of the Sheridan High School Agriculture Education classes.
- C. The Ruby Valley FFA Chapter is a local organization of agriculture education students and graduates of Sheridan High School, Twin Bridges High School and Whitehall High School or transfer students in good standing from other chapters. It is a charter of the Montana FFA Association.

Article II. Object

- A. The purposes for which this chapter is formed are as follows:
 - 1. To develop competent and aggressive agriculture leadership.
 - 2. To create and nurture a love for the production agriculture lifestyle or other agricultural pursuits.
 - 3. To strengthen the confidence of students in agriculture education in themselves and their work.
 - 4. To create more interest in the intelligent choice of agricultural occupations and an interest in post-secondary training.
 - 5. To encourage members in the development of individual Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs (SAEs).
 - 6. To encourage members to improve their home and/or farm and its surroundings and community.
 - 7. To participate in worthy undertakings for the improvement of agriculture.
 - 8. To develop character, train for useful citizenship and foster patriotism.
 - 9. To practice in cooperative efforts.
 - 10. To encourage and practice thrift among members.
 - 11. To encourage improvement in scholarship.
 - 12. To provide and encourage the development of organized recreational activities.
 - 13. To promote premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agriculture education.

Article III. Membership

- A. Active Membership
 - a. Any student of agriculture education, who is regularly enrolled and in good standing with the administration of Sheridan High School, or enrolled in the agricultural leadership class, shall be eligible to become an active member.

- b. Active members must pay dues, and receive at least one half credit of agriculture education classes each year of membership and attend meetings.
 - c. Officers must be enrolled in a full year of agriculture education classes either one half credit or one full credit.
 - d. Dues.
 - i. The amount of dues shall be voted on at the September meeting and shall include state and national dues. The treasurer and advisor shall be responsible for paying all state and national dues and having them in on time.
 - ii. Dues shall be paid by the end of October.
 - e. Any member not paying their dues shall be suspended from all activities until their dues are paid.
 - f. Junior High students may be involved in all FFA activities by being enrolled in one quarter of Junior High Shop Class. Must meet all minimum qualifications to participate. Students may work fundraisers and have money in their individual FFA account. Junior High members are not eligible for a chapter office.
- B. SAEs, CDEs, POA
 - a. Each member is strongly encouraged to have an SAE.
 - b. Career development Events and other FFA activities will follow the Activities and Awards Bulletin as approved by the state agriculture teacher association and will follow other national guidelines as published. The chapter Program of Activities will outline chapter activities and events for the current school year and it is to be updated by the vice president.
 - c. Chapter members are expected to wear complete official dress as outlined in the Official FFA Manual when representing the chapter at career development events, leadership workshops and other FFA events unless otherwise stated by the advisor.
- C. Degrees
 - a. There shall be two degrees of active membership awarded by the chapter. These degrees, based on achievement are the Greenhand FFA Degree and the Chapter FFA Degree.
 - i. Greenhand FFA Degree
 - a. Must meet requirements as listed in Article 6, Section B of the National FFA Constitution.
 - ii. Chapter FFA Degree
 - a. Must meet requirements as listed in Article 6, Section C of the National FFA Constitution.
- D. Alumni Membership may be granted by the Ruby Valley FFA Alumni Affiliate and is open to former active members, collegiate and honorary members, present and former professional agriculture educators, parents of FFA members and others interested in and supportive of the FFA.
- E. The Honorary Chapter FFA Degree can be bestowed to honorary members as elected by the chapter members and proven to contribute to and support FFA.
- F. Disciplinary Procedures

- a. The executive committee shall act as a disciplinary court in the event that a member is involved in a proven or admitted infraction of the law, FFA rules or school rules. The action to be taken will be at the discretion of the executive committee.
- b. All members shall be held accountable to and abide by the FFA Code of Ethics as found in the Official FFA Manual. This includes abstaining from drugs and alcohol.
- c. Infractions by members are also subject to school rules-training regulations, eligibility, and chemical use policy as found in the student handbook.

Article IV. Officers

- A. The officers of the chapter and student council representatives is selected, shall be as listed below:
 - 1. President
 - 2. Vice President
 - 3. Secretary
 - 4. Treasurer
 - 5. Sentinel
 - 6. Reporter
 - 7. Advisor
- B. The duties of the officers are as found in the Official FFA Manual.
- C. Officers shall be selected by a nomination committee comprised of advisor, senior members, and alumni and approved by a 2/3rds majority vote at the May meeting and installed at the annual chapter awards banquet. Selections will be based on application, interview, points board, and leadership.
- D. All officers must be enrolled in agriculture education during their full term
- E. Officer meetings will be held before regular monthly meetings.

Article V. Meetings

- A. Regular meetings shall be called on the first Monday of the month during the school year. Summer meetings will be at the discretion of the executive committee.
- B. The chapter should submit two attendees to each alumni meeting and the alumni should submit two attendees to each chapter meeting.
- C. A quorum shall represent over half of the active members present at any meeting.
- D. Members who do not attend meetings without a valid excuse as determined by the advisor are considered inactive for the month and may not attend traveling events unless cleared by the executive committee.

Article VI. Executive Committee

- A. The executive committee shall be composed of officers as outlined in Article IV. All decisions must be cleared by the school administration if there is any doubt regarding their effect upon the well being of the chapter.

- B. The executive committee shall review questions of attendance and decide action for disciplinary infractions.

Article VII. Committees

- A. Special committees shall be appointed by the president or as otherwise specified when the committee is formed.
- B. The vice president is responsible for and chairman of the standing Program of Activities committee.
- C. Other recommended standing committees are as follows:
 - a. Community Service – chaired by the chapter president
 - b. Public Relations – chaired by the chapter reporter
 - c. Alumni Relations – chaired by the chapter secretary
 - d. Finances and Fundraising – chaired by the chapter treasurer
 - e. Recreation and Membership Recruitment – chaired by the chapter sentinel

Article VIII. Parliamentary Authority

- A. Any questions of parliamentary procedure can be cleared using Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

Article IX. Amendments

- A. Amendments must be presented in writing prior to the meeting at which it is to be voted on.
- B. Amendments must pass by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a regular meeting.

Article X. Fundraising

- A. Profits from fundraising will be divided among those who work. Individual accounts will be kept by the treasurer. Funds will be subtracted from each account for expenses to cover registration and hotel rooms for FFA functions.
- B. If a member owes \$50 or more they cannot participate in any FFA activities until paid up. Senior members must pay up their account before being cleared for graduation. Problems paying money back need to be take to the advisor.
- C. Additional funds left after seniors graduate will be given to the student as a scholarship. The senior must have their Greenhand FFA degree or have participated in at least 50% of activities on the points board.