

# Requirements for Establishing an Agriculture Education Program and FFA Chapter

Career technical education programs in Agriculture are offered at over 300 secondary schools in California. These programs provide instruction that engages students in learning through diverse methods of instruction. These programs integrate academic and career technical competencies into a learning model that creates awareness in all students of the role agriculture plays in our world and prepares them for postsecondary learning opportunities and successful careers in this vital industry.

The base requirements to establish a secondary (Grades 9-12) Agricultural Education program are as follows:

✓ **Curriculum:** the curriculum offered must provide:

- Organized classes in the study of agricultural sciences and technology
- A student-supervised occupational experience program in agriculture
- A program of leadership, organization, and personal development for all students

Student learning activity developed to supplement these components shall be considered curricular and shall contribute to the grade of the participating student when those activities are integral to assisting the student to achieve the career objectives of the class or course.

✓ **Instructor:** the instructor(s) must hold a credential authorizing them to teach agriculture career technical education in California and serve as the advisor(s) to the FFA student organization chapter. Authorizing credentials are: Single Subjects credential in Agriculture and an Agricultural Specialists Credential in Agriculture, or a Designated Subjects credential with a designation in an agricultural subject or pathway.

✓ **FFA Chapter:** local chapters of the California Association of FFA shall be chartered only in such schools where recognized systematic instruction in agricultural career technical education is offered under the provisions of federal vocational education legislation. These provisions require that state adopted content standards for Agriculture and Natural Resource programs are the basis of sequential instruction of not less than 300 hours in duration. Such chapters shall operate as an integral part of the instructional program of agricultural education and must not be in conflict with provisions of the State FFA Constitution which can be found at:

<http://www.calaged.org/sites/default/files/ffa/State%20FFA%20Constitution%20Revised%20April%202011.pdf>

Complete and submit an application for a charter for a local chapter of the California Association, Future Farmers of America. The application can be found at: <https://www.cognitofirms.com/californiaffaassociation/caffachaptercharterapplication>

✓ The application must be complete and include the following:

- Copy of the local chapter's constitution and bylaws which are not in conflict with the state or national constitution and bylaws
- Copy of the local chapter's Program of Work for the coming year
- Names of the officers of the local chapter
- Names and addresses of each chapter member (members must include all students enrolled in agricultural education program)
- Signatures of the President, Secretary, and Advisor of the chapter and the school Principal
- \$5.00 fee to cover the cost of the charter issuance