

National Young Farmers Educational Association Constitution

A Non-Profit Corporation

~~NYFEA is organized on the national level to provide consistent, efficient coordination of programs. The presence of the national organization allows for sponsors, advertisers, instructors and participants to participate in quality programs that maximize the return on the dollar.~~ NYFEA, the National Young Farmer Educational Association (a 501(c) (3) organization), is the official adult and student organization for agricultural education as recognized by the United States Department of Education. As an association that educates agricultural leaders, NYFEA unites members from the individual farmer to large corporations.

~~States are encouraged to organize local chapters and be represented at the national organization by a delegate assembly. The number of delegates provided is based on the membership strength of the state organization. The delegate assembly annually selects a national secretary and national president elect who serve on the board of directors.~~

~~Other members of the board include: president, past president, national institute/convention chair, immediate future institute chair, a representative from the state executives, a representative from the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers' Association, a representative from the American Association of Agricultural Educators, a representative from the National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education, a member representing the Young Farmer Founders Committee (the organization's fund raising arm), a member representing the Ag Leaders Club (the advanced membership level), a representative of the corporate community from the President's Council, and the National Advisor from the U.S. Department of Education.~~ The fifteen member board, [the break down of offices/representatives need not be spelled out in an introductory paragraph, but detailed later here or in the By-Laws] in conjunction with the delegate assembly, is the governing body of the association. The executive ~~director~~ vice-president is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the association. The association also has advisory/fund raising boards. The President's Council, a corporate entity, meets twice annually to assist in the development and growth of the organization. The Council of Ag Leaders and the Young Farmer Founders are bodies formed of select members who serve in an advisory/fund raising capacity. They focus on leadership training and community service initiatives.

~~National Young Farmer Educational Association, Inc.—Constitution and Bylaws~~

Constitution

Article I - Name

Section A: The name of the corporation shall be ~~the,~~ "National Young Farmer Educational Association, Inc.". Doing business as ~~the~~ NYFEA, and hereinafter, for the purposes of this document, will be referred to as the association.

Section B: Place of Business - The principal office for the transaction of the activities and affairs of this corporation is located at P. O. Box 20326, Montgomery, AL, 36120.

Article II – Purposes of Corporation

The primary purposes of this corporation are as follows:

Section A: ~~The mission of the NYFEA is~~ To promote the personal and professional growth of all people involved in agriculture, ~~agri-business, ag education, or anyone who is interested in agriculture.~~

Section B: ~~The purpose of the NYFEA is~~ To develop leaders, inspire service, strengthen communities, and enhance the success potential for American agriculture, especially the beginning farmers ~~and producers.~~

Section C: ~~The objective of the NYFEA is~~ To accomplish this ~~mission~~ through programs and services designed to provide:

- a national framework to inspire personal achievement;
- educational opportunities to build business and environmental stewardship skills; ~~and~~
- leadership and service opportunities for living and working in a local and global community.

Section D: The vision of the ~~NYFEA~~ Association is a world where all people value and understand the vital role of agriculture, food, fiber and natural resource systems in advancing personal and global well being.

Section E: The core business goals for ~~the Association NYFEA~~ should include the following:

- provide quality products that are perceived by members, ~~Young Farmer~~ advisors/teachers and educational and business partners as adding value to lives of ~~the Association NYFEA~~ members.
- continually build ~~human resources through~~ a highly motivated, committed national board, national officers ~~team~~, national delegate assembly, and national staff.
- build and maintain a solid delivery system.
- build a ~~member customer~~ base that includes all people involved in agriculture, food, fiber and natural resource systems.
- establish and maintain a secure financial base.

Article III - Organization

Section A: This corporation was incorporated ~~as a 501(c)3 non-profit on~~ September 17, 1982 and assigned Certificate #66556 under the General Not-For-Profit Corporation Act, State of Illinois. [does all of this info still hold true? Is the certificate # equal the ID for NYFEA?]

Section B: The duration of the Association is perpetual unless dissolved by a vote of the delegates. [should B & C be combined?]

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Section C: In the event of dissolution, the Association's assets shall be transferred to the member state organizations which, at the time, qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(-c-)3 of the Internal Revenue code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States revenue Law) in proportion to the individual memberships held by each qualified member State Association at the time of dissolution of the Association **or by assignation of the voting delegate body.**

Section D: No portion of the property, real or personal, nor any part of the income or principal of the Association shall inure to the benefit of any member of the board of directors, officer or members of the Association or to any individual having a personal or private interest in the activities of the Association, nor shall any member of the board of directors, officer or member or other individual receive, or be lawfully entitled to receive, any pecuniary profit from the operation thereof.

Section E: The private property or the private funds of the incorporators or members of the board of directors shall not be subject to the payment of debts of the Association**s.**

Article IV - Membership

Membership of this organization shall be: ~~A-~~ Active,; ~~B-~~ Contributor,; ~~C-~~ Inactive,; ~~D-~~ Corporate,; ~~E-~~ Honorary,; ~~F-~~ Life.

Section A: Active Membership

~~a1-~~ Any State Association which:

- a. accepts the provisions of this constitution and by-laws-
- b. adopts a constitution and/or by-laws and submits it/them for the approval of this Association-
- c. furnishes the national executive **vice-president director** with the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the officers and delegates-
- d. submits annual dues-

~~b2. State Associations with active membership in the Association are entitled to one (1) voting delegate in the Association's delegate assembly for the first 49 members, two (2) voting delegates in the Association's delegate assembly for a membership total between 50 – 499, three (3) voting delegates in the Association's delegate assembly for a membership total between 500 – 999, and four (4) voting delegates in the Association's delegate assembly for a membership total of 1000 or more. States with over 1500 members will have the option of appealing to the national delegate assembly for an additional delegate for each 500 members above the 1500 total. Life members are counted in the membership total; however, a minimum of 10 active annual members is necessary for a state to maintain its charter and be eligible to seat delegates. [This section was moved to the By-Laws under seating of delegates.]~~

~~c3. Individual members of State Associations with active memberships are eligible to hold office in the Association. [This section was moved to the By-Laws under officers/eligibility to run for national office.]~~

~~d4. Application for membership shall be voted upon at the next regular meeting of the delegate assembly. [This section doesn't makes sense to me. Does it belong here?]~~

Section B: Contributor Membership

~~a1-~~ Any individual who;

- a. accepts the provisions of this constitution and by-laws.
- b. furnishes the national executive **vice-president director** with his/her name, address and telephone number.
- c. submits annual dues.

~~2-Note:~~ State organizations chartered from contributor members' fall under the following guidelines:

- a. If they have organized outside the umbrella of agriculture education and still meet the requirements for a charter, the state organization is classified as a Contributor State Association. The Contributor member state is entitled to the same delegate seating guidelines as Active member states. To be chartered the Contributor State Association must meet the requirements for charter and show a legitimate educational, service and otherwise consistent plan of work.
- b. application for state association membership under this category shall be voted on at the next delegate assembly.
- c. if a Contributor State Association shows that they have legitimately attempted to gain the support of that state's educational system for three (3) consecutive years, they may appeal to the delegate body for certification as full voting, active state associations.

~~b2.~~ States chartered at the time of the passage of this constitution which are not under the umbrella of the agriculture education family, will be grandfathered in to Active status. They will have full voting privileges. **[should this be moved to the Active membership section?]**

Section C: Inactive Membership

Inactive membership occurs when

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~~1a. an~~ active state fails to pay the required dues or otherwise falls outside the provisions of the constitution and by-laws. Upon being classified as Inactive, a state loses its voting privileges. If a state fails to regain active status for a period of five (5) consecutive years, the board of directors may pull its charter.

~~2b.~~ If a state becomes Inactive, its previous individual members become eligible for Contributor membership in the NYFEA.

Section D: Corporate Membership

~~1a.~~ Corporate members are individuals ~~and or~~ businesses who have made an annual contribution to the ~~corporate membership of the~~ Association.

~~2b.~~ Corporate members are not eligible to vote or hold office.

~~3c.~~ Notice of renewal for their membership shall be sent to State Associations annually ~~by the Association NYFEA~~ for its share of each state's Corporate membership dues.

Section E: Honorary Membership

~~4a.~~ Individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the Association and to the general improvement of agricultural conditions may be elected to Honorary membership of the Association by a vote of the delegates at a regular or special meeting of the delegate assembly.

~~2b.~~ Honorary members are not required to pay dues and are not eligible to vote or hold office.

Section F: Life Membership

~~4a.~~ Life membership is open to all individuals who make the required payment.

~~2b.~~ Life members who are also members of an Active and/or Contributor state association are represented in the delegate assembly by their state association's voting delegates.

~~3c.~~ A Life membership purchased by an individual is not transferable.

~~4d.~~ A Life membership purchased by a business is transferable upon notice to the national office.

~~5e.~~ State Associations with Active members in the Association will not be required to pay annual membership dues on behalf of Life members in that state.

~~Section G: The delegate assembly shall conduct the business of the Association.~~ [this is the membership section – this section moved to the By-Laws]

~~Section H: The Association's fiscal year shall be November 1 to October 31.~~ [this is the membership section – this section moved to the By-Laws]

Section I: Affiliate Membership :

~~4a.~~ Any local/state/national organization who:

~~a1.~~ accepts the provisions of this constitution and by-laws.

~~b2.~~ furnishes the national executive ~~director vice-president~~ with names, addresses, telephone numbers and appropriate contact data of all participating individuals in the respective entity.

~~e3.~~ submits annual dues.

~~2b.~~ Affiliate Members fall under the following guidelines:

~~a1.~~ ~~They~~ they are an organized group which desires to engage in the ongoing learning, service and recognition programs of ~~the~~ Association ~~NYFEA~~.

~~b2.~~ ~~P~~participation as an affiliate organization provides the entities participants with the opportunity to:

i) seat delegates,

ii) attend national meetings,

iii) participate in educational and service programs,

iv) participate in Salutes, Awards and Recognitions

v) receive an annual report of the ~~Association organization~~ in an annual mailing.

~~e3.~~ ~~P~~participation as an affiliate organization does not provide participants with the benefit package.

~~3c.~~ Affiliate membership dues require all-inclusive participation.

Article V - Amendments

~~Section A: Amendments shall be presented in writing and submitted to the delegates at least thirty (30) days prior to the winter business meeting.~~

~~Section B: The constitution may be amended only at the spring business meeting of the Association.~~

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Section C: Amendments to the constitution shall be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the delegates who are present.

{The following acknowledgement was contained in the document sent for amending, but there is no listing for any action taken on these documents within that listed timeframe. - Created by B. Hampton and J. Peake, The University of Georgia, 2005 [http://www.uga.edu/alec]}

NYFEA Constitution				
Date	Action	Issues Adressed	Work Done by:	Results
July 24, 1982	Creation			Adoption of document at SBM by a unanimous vote
December 12 & 15 1982	Amended	[unknown as to whether the amendments were to the Constitution or to the By-Laws]	[unknown]	Passed at Institute/winter meeting
July 17, 1983	Amended	[unknown as to whether the amendments were to the Constitution or to the By	[unknown]	Passed at summer meeting
July 25, 1985	Amended	[unknown as to whether the amendments were to the Constitution or to the By	[unknown]	Passed at summer meeting
December 6, 1985	Amended	[unknown as to whether the amendments were to the Constitution or to the By	[unknown]	Passed at Institute/winter meeting
July 18, 1987	Amended	[unknown as to whether the amendments were to the Constitution or to the By	[unknown]	Passed at summer meeting
July 8, 1989	Amended	[unknown as to whether the amendments were to the Constitution or to the By	[unknown]	Passed at summer meeting
June 30, 1990	Amended	[unknown as to whether the amendments were to the Constitution or to the By	[unknown]	Passed at summer meeting
July 13, 1991	Amended	[unknown as to whether the amendments were to the Constitution or to the By	[unknown]	Passed at summer meeting
July 6, 1995	Amended	[unknown as to whether the amendments were to the Constitution or to the By	[unknown]	Passed at summer meeting
July 6, 1997	Amended	[unknown as to whether the amendments were to the Constitution or to the By	[unknown]	Passed at summer meeting
July 1999	Amended	[unknown as to whether the amendments were to the Constitution or to the By	[unknown]	Passed at summer meeting
July 2000	Amended	[unknown as to whether the amendments were to the Constitution or to the By	[unknown]	Passed at summer meeting
July 2001	Amended	[unknown as to whether the amendments were to the Constitution or to the By	[unknown]	Passed at summer meeting
July 2008	Amended	[unknown as to whether the amendments were to the Constitution or to the By	[unknown]	Passed at summer meeting
July 2009	Amended, edited; document; split into individual documents	Constitution and By-Laws were split into stand-alone documents; contents of each were amended/updated; references to NALC/summer meeting changed to actions occurring at spring meeting	Jeff McClellan-PA, C.J. Fleenor-IN, Mary Ann Hooker-CA	