**Highland Agriculture Education and FFA Program**

Ault, CO



**Parent/Student Handbook and Information Guide**

**Table of Contents**

**Ag Ed Program Description 3**

SAE Projects

Ag Ed Classes

FFA Organization

**Ag Ed Classes 4**

**What is SAE? 5**

**FFA Participation 5**

**FFA Calendar 6**

**Eligibility for FFA Membership 7**

Academic and Behavior Ineligibility in FFA

**FFA Activities that Everyone Should Attend 7-8**

Annual Banquet

Monthly Meetings

**Leadership & Career Development Events (CDEs) 8-9**

**Major Fundraisers 9**

Labor Auction

**Official Dress 9**

**Proficiency Awards 10**

**FFA Degrees 10-12**

Greenhand

Chapter

State

American

**FFA Conferences and Camps 12-14**

District 17 Leadership Conference

District 17 Speaking Conference

District FFA CDE Contests

State FFA CDE Conference

CO State FFA Convention

National FFA Convention

Chapter Officer Leadership Training

Washington Leadership Conference

Becoming Involved as a Greenhand

Aspire to Grow, Leadership for Women

**Individual Opportunities for FFA Members 14**

Exhibiting at the Weld County Fair

Exhibiting at the Colorado State Fair

**The POA and Officers 14-15**

**For More Information 15**

**How Can I Get Involved? 15**

**Welcome to the Highland Ag Ed Handbook**

Welcome to the Highland FFA Parent-Student Handbook. You’ll notice that it is not just a handbook for the FFA, but for the entire Agriculture Education Program, including Ag Ed Classes, FFA, and Supervised Agricultural Experience – these are integral components of the program that really can’t be separated.

This handbook, should answer any questions you have about our program and all of the opportunities that we have planned for the coming school year. If you have any questions that are not addressed in the handbook, always feel free to contact our FFA Advisor Guy Kuntz by phone at 970.834.2816 or by email at gkuntz@weldre9.k12.co.us

**Program Description**

The Agricultural Education Program is much more than a class. Classroom instruction gives students the knowledge and skills they need for success in today’s world, and students get a chance to practice and apply these knowledge and skills in their Supervised Agricultural Experience Projects (SAE) and through the National FFA Organization. When the three parts are properly integrated, student education is maximized. Students learn important academic, career, technical, and life skills when all types of instruction are used. To make the most of the Agricultural Education Program, all students should participate in FFA and have an SAE project.

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| **SAE*****(Supervised Agricultural Experience)***An SAE project is any experience outside of regularly scheduled class time in which the student gains new skills or practices skills in agriculture. Students could hold an ag related job, job shadow an Ag professional, or own any agribusiness enterprise such asan animal or plant project or agriculture service business. The student should select their project based on their career and interests, as well as the amount of time they are willing to spend. The type of project and duration of the project is up to the student. \*The project does not have to be agricultural based.Students should have at least one SAE project each year that they are enrolled in the Ag Ed/FFA program. This can be the same or different projects.Students are required to keep records on their SAE projects – the records are graded and included in their class grades. See page 4 for more information on SAE. | **Ag Ed Classes****Introduction to Agriculture****Agricultural Business\*****Animal Science\*****Plant Science\*****Food Products and Processing\*****Agricultural Mechanics\*****Advanced Welding\***Public Law 740 defines SAE and FFA as ***integral*** parts of Agricultural Education classes. This means that class grades will include FFA and SAE activities. Again, the student’s level of participation can only increase his or her grade; lack of participation cannot decrease it.Students enrolled in Ag Ed Classes will be required to have an SAE Project.\*Requires a Prerequisite  | **FFA*****(Formerly Future Farmers of America,******now known as the******“National FFA Organization”).***The Highland FFA Chapter offers a multitude of opportunities to get involved in leadership projects, community service, recreation, competitive events, scholarships, and skills development. This handbook explains many of the opportunities available this school year.Students do not have to participate in all FFA activities – they can pick the activities that they want to get involved in. All FFA members should plan at minimum to attend all monthly meetings and the Annual FFA Banquet.A student’s level of involvement and participation in FFA can boost, but will never reduce, a student’s grade in Ag Ed Class. |

**Agricultural Education Classes**

Introduction to Agriculture

Introduction to Agriculture is designed for students who are interested in Agri-business, Production Agriculture, Ag mechanics, and Ag Science. Emphasis will be placed on exploring careers available in agriculture, animal science, plant science and skill development in Ag mechanics. Students will be required to pay for their final project in the Ag Mechanics unit. Leadership development is included in the FFA. Students will begin a Supervised Agricultural Experience Program in the area of their choice. FFA enrollment is required for all students.

Animal Science

Animal Science is a focus on animal systems, as it pertains to the agriculture industry. Topics include animal growth and development, anatomy and physiology, digestion, reproduction, animal health, animal behavior, breed identification and meat science. Students will develop skills in evaluating animals and analyzing the animal agriculture industry. Prerequisite of Introduction to Agriculture is required. FFA enrollment is required for all students .

Plant Science

Plant Science is a focus on the plant industry in agriculture. Students will cover topics that include: Taxonomy, plant external and internal anatomy, plant physiology, basic soil science, Plant nutrition, Plant growth and its environment, plant improvement and basic genetics. Students will develop skills in landscape design and development, hydroponics, floral design, and basic agricultural business skills. Prerequisite of Introduction to Agriculture is required. FFA enrollment is required for all students.

Agricultural Business

Agricultural Business is an all-encompassing class that has the student develop skills in financial management, ag marketing, personal finance and economics. Students will be required to develop skills in financial data analysis. Students will develop skills in public speaking, communication, and leadership. Prerequisite of Introduction to Agriculture is required. FFA enrollment is required for all students.

Food Products and Processing

Food Products and Processing is a class that explores “Food from Farm to Table.”  This course incorporates the many aspects of meat, dairy, and vegetable processing and preservation. This course includes food safety and sanitation, HACCP principals, canning, dehydration, cheese and butter making. FFA enrollment is required for all students.

Agricultural Mechanics

Agricultural Mechanics will allow students to develop their skills in welding, project design and construction, tool use, and carpentry. Welding skills include: GMAW, SMAW, and Oxy-Acetylene. Students will learn how to read plans, figure a bill of materials, and time management skills. Students will be taught basic electrical and plumbing skills. This class is a very self-paced class that is very “hands on”. Students will be using their skills learned in this class to build different projects during the school year. Students will be required to pay for their personal project. Prerequisite of Introduction to Agriculture is required. FFA enrollment is required for all students.

Advanced Welding

Students will continue to advance the skill development in welding and metal working. Students will learn position welding with SMAW, GMAW, Oxy-Acetylene, and TIG welding. Other areas of skill development are in Plasma Cutting, and AutoCAD Design. Culmination of skills learned will be to build metal projects. Prerequisite of Agricultural Mechanics is required. FFA enrollment is required for all students.

**What is SAE?**

**Supervised Agricultural Experience**

An SAE program is the actual, hands-on application of agricultural skills outside the classroom. Students are supervised by agricultural education teachers, parents, employers, and other adults who assist them in the development and achievement of their educational and career goals.

SAE is a time honored and tested form of work-based learning. An SAE program can be whatever the student wants it to be—an agricultural business of his/her own, a job shadowing experience, or placement in a paid or unpaid job using agriculturally-related skills and competencies. It is a program designed cooperatively by the student, advisor and parents. Student’s SAE do not have to be in the agricultural industry, they just need to be related to their career interest. Students may have as many SAEs as they would like, as long as they can manage them all.

Some examples of recent SAE projects conducted by FFA Members:

Unpaid veterinary internship

Raising & selling pumpkins

Working in a greenhouse

Selling vegetables for farmers’ markets

Custom hay baling business

Breeding & selling purebred dogs

Training horses

Lawn mowing business

Volunteering at an animal shelter

Working at Heritage Market in the meat department.

Landscaping projects at home

Job shadowing an ag broadcaster

Working at a flower shop

Raising a garden

Working at a grain elevator

Grocery store produce department

Work hunting & trapping (wildlife mgt.)

Working on any farm

Turf care at a golf course

Restoring a tractor

Raising livestock

Working at a Hardware Store

Working in Construction

Students keep records (including pictures) for each SAE project, and these records are submitted every semester to the Ag Ed instructor as part of the Ag Education class grade. Livestock-based projects may be entered and exhibited at the county and state fairs, but this is not required. (see “individual opportunities for FFA members” section). Students are rewarded for successful SAE projects through the FFA’s Proficiency Award Program. (See “Proficiency Awards” section). SAE’s are also one component of selection to the various levels of FFA membership, also known as Degrees. (See “Degrees of Membership” Section).

**FFA Participation**

FFA is an ***INTRA-curricular activity*** - not extracurricular like sports, Spanish club, FBLA or Robotics Club. This means that it is a part of the class you are taking and that you are expected to be in FFA. This expectation is similar to what is expected of students enrolled in vocal or instrumental music classes --participation in performances is required and is a part of the students’ grades. The difference is that in Ag Ed classes you aren’t required to participate in all activities, just certain activities which are assigned. Therefore, your participation in FFA will never reduce your grade, however extra credit points will be assigned for activities participated in. These points will also determine eligibility to participate in certain events, such as stock show.

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**Eligibility for FFA Membership**

FFA membership is limited to students who are enrolled in Agricultural Education courses and certain graduates. Because FFA is an intra-curricular activity (not extra-curricular) it is considered part of a class. If a student wants to join FFA, they must enroll in at least one Ag Ed class during the school year. There is no “way around” this policy – it is federal law.

The “FFA Year” begins on the first day of school and ends on the last day of summer vacation. Therefore, a student enrolled in any Ag Ed class for the 2016-2017 school year (regardless of which semester or quarter) is eligible for FFA membership beginning on the first day of school and lasting throughout the entire school year and the following summer.

Graduates who were FFA members during their senior year and participated in FFA for two years during high school may continue to be members of FFA. Graduate membership must be continuous membership; therefore, if a graduate decides not to retain membership, he or she may not change their mind later and re-join. Again, there is no “way around” this policy – it is federal law. Students may retain their membership until the fourth National Convention after graduation.

**Periods of Ineligibility**

The Highland High School’s Special Activity Policy (see the high school student handbook) applies to FFA. These rules state that the advisor may set the rules or guidelines on eligibility for the program. A student will be deemed ineligible if they have 2 D’s or 1 F. If a student has 1 D in a class, they will be eligible, any more, they will be considered ineligible. If a student has been declared ineligible for extra-curricular activities due to a good conduct violation, for academic reasons, or any other reason, this period of ineligibility applies to FFA as well. In athletics, an ineligible student may practice with the team but may not compete. How does this translate for FFA? The following chart will give several examples:

An Ineligible Student May . . . An Ineligible Student May Not . . .

Assist with the work of the chapter Serve as an officer during the period of ineligibility

Attend monthly FFA meetings Represent the chapter in public

Attend CDE team practices Compete on a CDE team or as an individual

Serve on a committee Chair the committee or miss school due to committee work

Accumulate FFA points Get the advisor’s signature on any applications, even if the application applies to an activity that will happen after the period of ineligibility.

Participate in most local activities Participate in activities at the county, sub-district, district, state, or national levels, or in local activities that are for fun only (recreation, trips, etc.)

Attend the chapter banquet Speak or present at the chapter banquet

**FFA Activities that Everyone Should Attend**

FFA is different from other intra-curricular activities that are part of a class such as Band or Choir because members of FFA get to select what activities, performances, competitions, and projects they become involved in. FFA members are not expected to do everything – you decide what to do based on your interests.

However, there are a few things that every FFA member should plan to do. They are:

**1)** Attend the **Annual FFA Banquet\***, with their family.

**2)** Attend the **Monthly FFA Meetings°**.

**3)** Take part in at least **one Skills and one Leadership** **Career Development Event** during their FFA career.

**4)** Take part in at least **one community service project** during their FFA career.

An explanation of each follows. Please consult the FFA activity calendar for the dates of these events, and write these dates on your family calendar and make plans to attend:

**The \*Annual FFA Banquet -** The annual FFA banquet is the highlight of the year for the FFA – all members, families, Alumni, and supporters should plan to attend.

Following the meal, we will hold the evening’s program, which generally includes a speaker and the following presentations:

Greenhand and Chapter Degrees; District and State Activity and CDE Recognition, Chapter Proficiency Awards, Leadership Awards, Scholarship Awards, Introduction of the new Chapter Officer Team. Note: Applications for most of these awards are available from the advisor .

**°Monthly FFA Meetings - FFA meetings are the SECOND MONDAY of every month at 6:30 PM, or unless otherwise specified.**

Appropriate dress is required at FFA meetings, meaning that the school’s code of dress is in force. Many students choose to wear FFA T-shirts, and some even wear their FFA jackets to meetings. This is not required, but does improve the professionalism amongst the group.

Monthly meetings are conducted using official FFA opening and closing ceremonies and correct parliamentary procedure. The agenda may include new and old business, guest speakers, activities and fun competitions, the formation of committees, door prize drawings, and announcements of upcoming opportunities.

Parents and guests are always invited to attend FFA meetings, although they may not participate in discussion unless called upon by a member, and may not vote. Emails will be sent out periodically by the advisor, provided a parental and/or student email address has been furnished to the advisor. Emails will contain reminders about upcoming meetings and activities.

**Leadership and Career Development Events (LDEs & CDEs)**

To find out more about each event, please visit [www.ffa.cccs.edu](http://www.agiowa.org). Click on the Events link on the top of the page and then click on Career Development Events. The CDE webpage will provide objectives and rules for each event. Official dress is required for all leadership CDEs.

**Creed Speaking -** The Creed CDE seeks to develop the ability of interpretation and self expression of beginning FFA members. The event is open to first year FFA members.

**Extemporaneous Speaking -** To develop the ability of FFA members to express themselves on a given subject without having prepared or rehearsed its content in advance. Topics shall be prepared by the State FFA Staff. Topics will be from the following three areas: Agriscience and Technology, Agrimarketing and International Agriculture Relations.

**Public Speaking -** To develop the ability of young FFA members to competently express themselves during a prepared speech about an ag-related topic of their choice.

**Parliamentary Procedure –** A team of five members demonstrate knowledge of parliamentary procedure to conduct an orderly/efficient meeting and to transact business and to present logical, realistic, and convincing discussion.

**Career Development Events (CDEs)**

To find out more about each event log on to www.ffa.cccs.edu and go to the Events tab at the top of the page and click on Career Development Event.

Ag Communications

Agricultural Issues

Ag Mechanics

Ag Sales

Dairy Cattle

Envirothon (Environmental & Natural Resources)

Farm Business Management

Field Crops

Floriculture

Horse Judging

Job Interview

Land Judging

Livestock Judging

Marketing Plan

Meat Evaluation

Milk Quality & Products

Nursery Landscape

Vet Science

**FFA Fund Raisers**

The need to raise funds is a reality for all student organizations. We would not be able to provide so many great opportunities for our students if it were not for our fund raising activities. Here is a short summary of what our FFA chapter does to raise funds for our programs. Other activities are conducted on an as-needed or as-available basis.

**FFA Labor Auction** – Parents, farmers and other business people are invited to come and bid on our FFA members, who will be put “on the auction block” for an 8-hour block. Typically 40-60 members are sold. The labor auction is held in March in conjunction with a Rocky Mountain Oyster Dinner

**FFA Official Dress**

Students at some events will be required to wear FFA Official Dress. Times that students will need to wear Official Dress will be determined by the FFA Advisor. You will be required to purchase these items of clothing for the Official Dress. If you do not have the ability to purchase these items, the FFA has some items of clothing that can be borrowed, but these items are limited.

Males: Official FFA Jacket, Official FFA Tie, Black Slacks, Black Shoes, Black Socks, White Dress Shirt, Black Belt.

Females: Official FFA Jacket, Official FFA Scarf, White Collared Dress Shirt, Black Skirt (must be knee length and straight), Black Pantyhose, Black Closed-Toed Closed-Heeled Shoes. Black Slacks are only appropriate at activities when the advisor deems that they are okay.

**Proficiency Awards**

The Agricultural Proficiency Awards program like the FFA motto helps you set goals and learn practical skills. The program rewards FFA members at the local, state and national levels for exceptional accomplishments and excellence in a [Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE)](http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_programs.SAE) program. What are the proficiency award areas? Awards are available to all FFA members enrolled in high school agriculture, including special needs students. There are 47 or more award areas.

For more information and applications log on [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org)

**Proficiency awards are given in the following areas:**

Ag. Communications

Ag Education

Ag Mechanics Design & Fabrication

Ag. Mechanics Repair & Maintenance

Ag. Mechanics Energy Systems

Ag. Processing

Ag. Sales

Ag. Services

Aquaculture

Beef Production

Dairy Production

Diversified Ag. Prod.

Diversified Crop Prod.

Diversified Horticulture

Diversified Livestock Prod.

Emerging Ag. Technology

Environ. Sci & Nat. Resource

Equine Science

Fiber and/or Oil Crop Prod

Floriculture

Food Science & Tech

Forage Production

Forest Mgt. & Products

Fruit Production

Grain Production

Home or Community Development

Landscape Management

Nursery Operations

Organic Production

Outdoor Recreation

Poultry Production

Sheep Production

Small Animal Prod. & Care

Specialty Animal Prod.

Specialty Crop Prod.

Swine Production

Turf Grass Management

Vegetable Production

Wildlife Management

Agricultural Proficiency Awards are available to all FFA members enrolled in high school agriculture. Students must meet the following eligibility requirements: Must apply while in high school or within 1 year after graduation from high school. If a high school graduate you must have completed at least 3 full years of instruction in agricultural education or program of agricultural education offered in school last attended. At minimum, must have kept 1 full calendar year's worth of records as an FFA member to apply for a district, state, or national level proficiency award. This does not apply to local awards.

**FFA Degrees**

Greenhand FFA Degree

As a high school member of the FFA, receiving the Greenhand FFA Degree shows that you have opened the door to the many exciting opportunities that the National FFA Organization has to offer. When you qualify for the Greenhand FFA Degree, you have earned the first of four degrees that build on each other leading the way to the highest degree achievable in the FFA, the American FFA Degree.

**Application: February, 1st year of FFA membership**

Do you qualify?

* I am a FFA member enrolled in agricultural education class.
* I have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program.
* I learned and can explain the FFA creed, motto, salute, and FFA mission statement.
* I can describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and colors.
* I can demonstrate knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics and proper use of the FFA jacket.
* I can demonstrate knowledge of the history of the organization, the chapter constitution and bylaws and the chapter Program of Activities
* I personally own or have access to the Official FFA Manual and the FFA Student Handbook.
* I submitted a written application for the Greenhand FFA Degree.

Chapter FFA Degree

Whether it is helping plan your chapter’s next activity, working hard on your SAE or discussing a motion during a chapter meeting, chapter involvement is vital to your future successes in FFA. The root of the National FFA Organization is its chapters. By receiving the Chapter FFA Degree, you demonstrate your role in your chapter’s growth and development. **Application: December, 2nd or 3rd year of FFA membership**

Do you qualify?

* Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
* Must have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least 180 hours of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, have in operation an approved supervised agricultural experience program, and be enrolled in an agricultural education course.
* Have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the chapter Program of Activities.
* Have earned and productively invested at least $150 by the member's own efforts or worked at least forty-five hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof, and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural experience program.
* Have taken part in at least one skills and/or one leadership CDE
* Have effectively led a group discussion for 15 minutes.
* Have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.
* Show progress toward individual achievement in the FFA award programs.
* Have a satisfactory scholastic record.
* Submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.
* Have recorded more than 10 hours of community service projects.

State FFA Degree

Like a high school diploma, the State FFA Degree celebrates your high school FFA career. Awarded by your state FFA association, this degree is a symbol to the members of your entire state FFA association that you are chapter leaders. As a State FFA Degree recipient, you have taken your FFA involvement beyond the chapter level and have a successful supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program. With your State FFA Degree, you are one step away from achieving the highest degree attainable in the FFA, the American FFA Degree. **Application: February, Usually during the 3rd or 4th year of FFA Membership**

Do I qualify?

* Have received the Chapter FFA Degree.
* Have been an active FFA member for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree.
* While in school, have completed the equivalent of at least two years (360 hours) of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program.
* Have earned and productively invested at least $1,000, or worked at least 300 hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof, in a supervised agricultural experience program.
* Demonstrate leadership ability by:
\*Performing 10 procedures of parliamentary law.
\*Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or the FFA.
\* Serving as an officer, committee chairperson, or participating member of a chapter committee.
* Have a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the local agricultural education instructor and the principal or superintendent.
* Have participated in the planning and completion of the chapter Program of Activities.
* Have participated in at least five different FFA activities above the chapter level. The percentage of the total state membership which may receive the State FFA Degree and other requirements may be established by the state FFA association.
* Have recorded more than 25 hours of community service projects.

American FFA Degree

As the highest degree achievable in the National FFA Organization, receiving the American FFA Degree shows an FFA member’s dedication to his or her chapter and state FFA associations. It demonstrates the effort FFA members apply toward their supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program and the outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement they experienced throughout their FFA career. American FFA Degree recipients show promise for their future and have above and beyond to achieve excellence. **Application: During the 1st, 2nd, 3rd year following high school graduation.**

Do I qualify?

* Have received the State FFA Degree, have been an active member for the past three years (36 months) and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities on the chapter and state levels.
* Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least three years (540 hours) of systematic secondary school instruction in an agricultural education program or have completed the program of agricultural education offered in the school last attended.
* Have graduated from high school at least 12 months prior to the national convention at which the degree is to be granted.
* Have in operation and have maintained records to substantiate an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program through which a member has exhibited comprehensive planning, managerial and financial expertise.
* Have earned and productively invested at least $7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least $1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time. Any combination of hours times a factor of $3.33 plus dollars must be equal to, or greater than the number 9,000. Hours used for the purpose of producing earnings reported as productively invested income shall not be duplicated as hours of credit to meet the minimum requirements for the degree.
* Have a record of outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement and have achieved a high school scholastic record of C or better as certified by the principal or superintendent.
* Have recorded more than 50 hours of community service projects.

**FFA Conferences and Camps**

The Highland FFA takes multiple trips to leadership conferences, conventions, and competitions throughout the year. As a rule, high school students must be eligible according to Highland High School’s and Highland FFA Chapter’s Eligibility Policy as well as academically and behaviorally eligible in order to participate in these trips. Any student currently failing a class will not be allowed to miss school for any FFA-related activities.

On all FFA trips, students pay for their own meals (with a few exceptions as noted) and incidental costs such as souvenirs. On some trips, FFA members are asked to pay a fee to the chapter to cover a portion of the expenses. The rule of thumb is: If it is a trip that ALL FFA MEMBERS can participate in, the chapter pays the registration, entry fee, etc. for everyone. If it is a trip that ONLY SOME FFA MEMBERS are selected to participated in, then a fee is charged to the student for a portion of the total expenses. They are as follows:

**District 17 Leadership Conference**

District 17 Leadership Conference is held annually in Mid-November, typically on a Monday. This is Highland’s first level of competition in areas such as Parliamentary Procedure, and Quiz Bowl. At Districts, Highland competes against the other five chapters in District 17. These schools include Eaton, Platte Valley, Greeley West, Briggsdale, and Grover. The top school in each area of competition advance to State. All students participating in a CDE may attend. There are no entry fees or costs other than your meal. Parents are invited to come and watch the students in competition.

**District 17 Speaking Contest**

The District 17 Leadership Conference is held annually in Mid-October, typically on a Wednesday night. This is the district level competition for the Creed, Extemperaneous, and Prepared Public Speaking Contests. The winners of these contests will advance to the State.

**District FFA CDEs**

The District Career Development Contests held on the first Wednesday in April at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, CO. At the District CDE Competition, students will compete in their chosen CDE event, such as Livestock Evaluation, Horse Evaluation, and Soils. Any student that in on a CDE team will go to these competitions.

**State Career Development Events**

After competing in the District Career Development Events, students are able to go to the State Career Development Event Contests, held the first Sunday and Monday of May. Any student that is on a CDE team will go to these competitions.

**Colorado FFA State Convention**

The Colorado FFA State Convention is held annually in the first week in June. The conventions rotate between different cities in the State of Colorado. Any student may go to the Colorado FFA State Convention. There is no limit to the number of times a student may attend state convention; however, in order to make sure that only active and dedicated FFA members attend the convention, the chapter has the following restrictions: **1)** The member must have attended at least 5 FFA meetings during that school year, and **2)** the student must be academically and behaviorally eligible during the last eligibility period in the school year. This information will be verified by the advisor.

All students attending the State Convention will pay a $60-100 fee, depending on the costs of the convention trip.

**National FFA Convention**

Each year, students will be able to have the opportunity to attend the National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY. Any student may attend the National FFA Convention. There is a limit of only 10 students that can attend the conference. Students who have “earned their way” to the National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY by earning awards or competing in contests have first priority. Once we have determined how many students have “earned their way” we will know how many other students we will be able to take.

Other students wishing to attend must turn in an application, which will go through a selection process that will be preformed by the Highland AgEd’s Advisory Committee which is made up of community members.

Highlights of the convention may include the Convention Sessions, the National, FFA Career Show; National Contests; Leadership Workshops; Field Trips to area attractions. Visit the FFA web site at http://www.ffa.org/convention/ for more information.

Students will miss five days of school to attend the National Convention, so they must get assignments in advance from their teachers. All students attending the National FFA Convention (including those who have “earned their way”) will pay for the cost of their transportation, plus a fee of approximately $100 to cover registration, hotel, transportation, and other costs. Students will also have to pay for some of their meals while they are at the National FFA Convention.

**Washington Leadership Conference (Chapter President and Vice-President Only)**

From your local FFA chapter to the nation’s capital, that’s where you’ll be headed if you join hundreds of other FFA members at the Washington Leadership Conference. Set in Washington D.C., this week-long summer conference takes your leadership skills to their highest level. Focusing on problem-solving, relationship building, and character and serving others, WLC teaches you how to have a positive impact on you school, chapter, community, state, and country. While you are practicing all these skills, you will also take in such historical sites as the Jefferson Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, and World War II Memorial. Plus, you’ll meet lots of new friends from around the country.

**Becoming Involved as a Greenhand Conference (BIG)**

“Greenhands” or otherwise known as First Year Members, will attend the BIG Conference, usually held in Greeley, CO during the month of September. Students that attend this conference will be able to gain leadership experience, learn about Agricultural Education, and learn about the opportunities available to them through the FFA.

**Aspire to Grow Conference for Women in Agriculture**

Aspire to Grow is a leadership conference only available to female FFA members. Typically, only female officers attend this conference. This conference shows students how to excel in the agricultural as a woman by developing their leadership skills, communication skills, and as well as identifying their strengths and weaknesses.

**Made for Excellence/Advanced Leadership Development**

MFE/ALD is a weekend conference in the beginning of October that will further develop student’s leadership ability. Students will be able to meet other FFA Members from around the State of Colorado. Being that this is a much smaller conference that others that the Highland FFA Chapter participates in, students are able to get a more individualized experience in leadership development. Students will be expected to pay part of the registration and travel costs, which will be determined before the event.

**Individual Opportunities for FFA Members**

**Exhibiting at the Weld County Fair**

Members of the Highland FFA Chapter may exhibit livestock, mechanical, and other projects at the local fair. Projects exhibited must be a part of the student’s Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program and records will be maintained on this project. Participants can pick up livestock ID forms, entry forms, premium books, etc from the Weld County Extension Office. All forms should be turned into the Weld County Extension Office by the established deadlines. Because the County Fair is an Individual FFA Activity, the chapter encourages participation, but does not provide financial support, transportation of livestock, or supervision. It is required that the FFA Advisor make a visit in the month of May or June to evaluate the project. If this does not happen the student will not be able to show at fair

**Exhibiting at the Colorado State Fair**

Members of the Highland FFA Chapter may exhibit Beef, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goats, Rabbits, Horse, Mechanics/Technology, Horticulture, Floriculture, Photography, Sheep, and Swine projects at the Colorado State Fair in August. With the exception of Photography exhibits, all entries must be a part of the student’s Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). Recordbooks will be maintained throughout the students SAE. Intent to show at the Colorado State Fair must be communicated to the advisor and the students must pick up all necessary forms from the Weld County Extension Office. Students will be responsible for all deadlines throughout the course of the event. Because the Colorado State Fair is an Individual FFA Activity, all FFA members under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or a responsible adult designated by the parent. The chapter encourages participation, but does not provide financial support, transportation of livestock, or supervision of students.

**Program of Activities Committees and Officers**

Each student has the opportunity to serve on one Program of Activities (POA) committee. The committee members work to organize the events related to that area. All members can take part in any activity, but committee members are ultimately responsible for organization.

The following list is the fifteen POA committees students can choose to serve on. We try to have at least one student from each grade on each committee, limiting committee size to six students. Each committee elects its own chairperson to provide leadership for the group.

*Student Leadership*

*Healthy Lifestyles*

*Ag Career Skills*

*SAE*

*Scholarship*

*Recruitment*

*Financial*

*Public Relations*

*Chapter Leadership*

*Support Groups*

*Economic Development*

*Environmental & Natural Resources*

*Human Resources*

*Citizenship*

*Ag Awareness*

The Program of Activities is a large document that is revised annually. Students are given a copy of the POA in October.

Officers are elected in April; officer candidates must fill out an application, and participate in an interview Our chapter has nine constitutional officers. They are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, Historian, Parliamentarian and Chaplain and Executive Committee. The FFA Advisor must be the agriculture education instructor. Students may also consider running for a District 17 (District), Colorado (State) and/or National Officer positions. The advisor has all information for those opportunities.

**For More Information**

Feel free to contact the FFA advisor with any questions via email or school, cell, or home phone. The advisor also sends out periodic emails, so if you have an address that is checked regularly please get your address to the advisor.



**How Can I Get Involved?**

At Highland FFA Chapter there will be a local FFA Alumni Affiliate – “Highland FFA Alumni.” This group will function as a sort of booster club for the agriculture education program. You do not have to be a alumni of any FFA Chapter to be involved in the Highland FFA Alumni Chapter. This group will work hard to raise funds for the Highland FFA Chapter to provide opportunities for members in the way of activities and scholarship opportunities. If you have any questions about the Highland FFA Alumni please contact either Guy Kuntz at (970) 834-2816 or at gkuntz@weldre9.k12.co.us or Chance Kanode at (970) 371-4621.