

# **Liberty Ranch Agriculture Student/Parent Handbook**



**2019-2020**

## **Section I Agriculture Course**

### **Sustainable Agricultural Biology**

**Taught By: Mrs. Cahill**

Hands-on laboratory course meets the CSU and UC Life Science requirement. Students will discover what molecular biology principles guide sustainable agriculture and how to maximize sustainable agricultural practices within a functioning ecosystem. Due to the co-curricular nature of FFA and SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) students will be required to participate in FFA activities as a graded component of the course.

### **Agriculture Chemistry and Soils**

**Taught By: Mrs. Giannone, Mrs. Cahill**

This hands-on course meets the CSU and UC Physical Science requirement. Students will discover the chemical nature and relationship between soil, plants, and animals and their connection to current agricultural practices. Using course knowledge, students will create a soil management plan for local community agricultural producers. Due to the co-curricular nature of FFA and SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) students will be required to participate in FFA activities as a graded component of the course. *Prerequisites: Satisfactory completion of Sustainable Agricultural Biology*

### **Agriscience Systems Management**

**Taught By: Mrs. Giannone**

Students in Agriscience Systems Management will see first-hand how our state and nation's agricultural production operates. From the production of swine to the cultivation of crops and new agricultural technology, students in this course will be involved in agricultural production through labs and engaging projects. Students will apply scientific knowledge to real life production simulations and see how the scientific concepts they have learned are involved in producing food, fiber, and bio-resources. This course will meet CSU and UC Life Science graduation requirements. Due to the co-curricular nature of FFA and SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) students will be required to participate in FFA activities as a graded component of the course. *Prerequisites: Satisfactory completion of Agriculture Biology and Agriculture Chemistry*

### **Introduction to Elements and Principles of Floral Design**

**Taught By: Mrs. Garner**

This course meets the UC/CSU F requirement for Visual and Performing Arts. This course emphasizes the necessary knowledge and skills to provide the student with an understanding of artistic perception, creative expression, historical and cultural context(s); aesthetic valuing and connections, relations and applications of the visual arts. Students will apply the elements and principles of design to different shapes and styles of floral arrangements. Through practical skill development the student will become familiar with material selection, design mechanics, maintenance and design evaluation. Due to the co-curricular nature of FFA and SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) students will be required to participate in FFA activities as a graded component of the course.

### **Advanced Floral Design**

**Taught By: Mrs. Garner**

This course allows students to learn professional florist skills for employment in the floral field. Students will explore the floriculture industry on a more technical and advanced level including the proper care and

handling of flowers, plants, and foliage; evaluate floral materials and arrangements; utilize floral tools, supplies and products to apply design principles to floral medium; construct arrangements for all occasions; display, price and market floral designs; and preserve floral materials as students run their own floral shop. The art elements and principles of design will serve as a foundation for each unit covered. After completion of this class, students will be prepared to secure a job in the floral industry. Students will be exposed to careers in Agriculture Business. Due to the co-curricular nature of FFA and SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) students will be required to participate in FFA activities as a graded component of the course. **Prerequisite:** *The Elements & Principles of Floral Design.*

### **Introduction to Agriculture Mechanics Skills and Technology**

**Taught By: Mr. Dodson**

This course designed to provide fundamental skills and competencies in vocational pathway areas related to agricultural mechanics. After thoroughly preparing students with the knowledge to work and operate safely in a mechanics environment, students have the opportunity to gain hands-on skills in the areas of tool identification and use, electrical wiring, plumbing, woodworking, metalworking, masonry and power machine operation. **This course meets graduation elective requirements.** Due to the co-curricular nature of FFA and SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) students will be required to participate in FFA activities as a graded component of the course. This course may be repeated for credit

### **Agriculture Metals and Welding**

**Taught By: Mr. Feuerbach, Mr. Dodson**

This is a one-year course for second year Agriculture Mechanic students. Students will learn basic skills in; welding safety, shielded metal arc welding, electrode selection, oxy-acetylene welding and oxy-fuel cutting. Due to the co-curricular nature of FFA and SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) students will be required to participate in FFA activities as a graded component of the course. **Prerequisite:** *Introduction to Agriculture Mechanics Skills and Technology or teacher recommendation*

### **Agricultural Welding and Fabrication ROP**

**Taught By: Mr. Feuerbach**

This course is designed to prepare students for entry-level employment in the field of agriculture mechanics, welding, and fabrication. Students will be instructed in safety and metal fabrication. Students will learn specialized welding skills and practices including the nature and identification of metals, concentration on out-of-position Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW, GMAW (MIG) with micro and core wire, GTAW (TIG) of non-ferrous metals (aluminum & stainless steel), cast iron welding, hard surfacing, plasma arc cutting, and freehand and automatic shape burning. Due to the co-curricular nature of FFA and SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) students will be required to participate in FFA activities as a graded component of the course. **Prerequisites:** *Agriculture Metals and Welding or teacher recommendation.*

### **Leadership in Agriculture**

**Taught By: Mrs. Porter**

This course is designed to engage students in experiential activities which further their personal development and premier leadership skills. The curriculum consists of integrated performance activities that will assist in the development of critical thinking, extemporaneous speaking, conflict resolution, consensus-building and group communication abilities. Written and oral skill development will be emphasized through individual and collaborative projects. Due to the co-curricular nature of FFA and

SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) students will be required to participate in both FFA activities and SAE involvement, both of which are graded components of the course.

### **Agriculture Food Science From Farm to Fork**

**Taught By: Mrs. Porter**

This course is designed to allow students to apply plant science concepts as they learn to grow their own food in their garden plot. Students will practice various processing, packaging, and food preparation techniques to ultimately eat local, healthy, fresh food. This class will teach students about nutrition, farming, and cooking allowing students to experience first-hand the process from Farm to Fork.

### **Environmental Horticulture Science**

**Taught By: Mrs. Garner**

This hands-on course meets the CSU and UC Physical Science requirement. This course is designed to instruct students in the growth, production, and care of plants for ornamental and environmental purposes. Students will learn plant taxonomy, physiology, reproduction, growth, identification, propagation, soils, integrated pest management, landscape design, vegetable production, pomology, and floral design. Students will be introduced to careers in environmental plant science as it is one of the fastest growing sectors in the agricultural industry. *Prerequisite: The Elements & Principles of Floral Design and Advanced Floral Design*

### **American Government – Ag**

**Taught By: Mrs. Porter**

This is a college preparatory course for students interested in pursuing agricultural studies in college, with emphasis on the application of democratic, civic and economic principles to agricultural practices including units on marketing, agriculture law, credit and finance, government programs, responsibilities of citizenship, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the courts, the Legislative and Executive Branches, and State and Local Government. Due to the cocurricular nature of FFA and SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) students will be required to participate in both FFA activities and SAE involvement, both of which are graded components of the course. *Prerequisite: Economics in Agriculture must be taken concurrently.*

### **Economics in Agriculture**

**Taught By: Mrs. Porter**

In economics, students will examine the foundation of our economic system. This class is designed to give students the big picture of economic principles, while preparing them for living in a world in which they work, buy, sell, and actively participate as citizens who make choices. This class will stress critical thinking and problem solving skills students need for making economic decisions that will affect them for the rest of their lives. The following economic areas will be emphasized: economic systems, price determination, market structures, investment and credit, types of business organizations and labor, economic data and problems, taxes, monetary and fiscal policy, and international trade. *Prerequisite: American Government - AG must be taken concurrently.*

### **Agriculture Power Mechanics I**

**Taught By: Mr. Dodson**

This course is designed for students who have a strong interest in engines and power systems. Students will continue to build upon their knowledge and skills in engine repair and maintenance, while expanding their knowledge through working with multiple cylinder engines and diesel. **Prerequisite:** *Introduction to Agriculture Mechanics Skills and Technology*

## **Section II Department Policies and Procedures**

### **FFA Activity Grade Requirement**

The California Education Code defines the FFA and leadership development as an intra-curricular part of all secondary Agricultural Education programs. Due to the intra-curricular nature of FFA and leadership development, FFA involvement is a graded component of every Liberty Ranch Agriculture Course. Each student will be graded on their FFA involvement each academic quarter. Each student is required to attend two(2) FFA Activities per quarter, which will comprise 10% of their quarterly grade.

### **Supervised Agriculture Experience(SAE) Grade Requirement**

The California Education Code defines the Supervised Agriculture Experience program as an intra-curricular part of all secondary Agricultural Education programs. Due to the intra-curricular nature of SAEs, SAE involvement is a graded component of every Liberty Ranch Agriculture Course. Each student will be graded on their SAE participation each academic quarter. Each student is required to maintain a sound SAE project, which will comprise 10% of their quarterly grade.

### **FFA Activity Code of Conduct Contract**

Every student in our program is strongly encouraged to get involved! However, if a student plans to attend one of our events, there are certain behavioral expectations that must be met. If students cannot meet these expectations, they will be asked to leave. See Appendix for FFA Activity Code of Conduct

### **Fair Exhibitor Contract**

Exhibiting at fair is a privileged, not a right in our program! If a student desires to exhibit livestock, or any other project, they must meet a detailed set of criteria. See Appendix for Fair Exhibitor Contract.

### **CDE/LDE Participation Contract**

One of the most impactful ways to get involved in the FFA is to join and compete on a team. If a student desires to be on a team, they must meet criteria. See Appendix for CDE/LDE Participation Contract.

### **Chapter FFA Officer Requirements**

The opportunity to serve the chapter as a Chapter FFA Officer is one open to all Liberty Ranch FFA members, so as they meet the following requirements:

1. Completed Chapter FFA Officer Application submitted on time
2. Be a current Sophomore or Junior
3. Have a 2.5 GPA @ Third Quarter Grading Period
3. Signed copy of Officer Contract

The Liberty Ranch FFA Officer Application can be found on the Liberty Ranch FFA website [www.libertyranchffa.com](http://www.libertyranchffa.com)

### **School Farm Use**

The Liberty Ranch and Galt Agriculture Programs currently share a school farm facility. The facility is available to a limited number of students who need housing for a pig, lamb, or goat. Due to the limited number of available spots, an application process is used to determine those who are accepted. The School Farm Application can be found on the Liberty Ranch FFA website [www.libertyranchffa.com](http://www.libertyranchffa.com)

## **Section III Supervised Agricultural Experience Program**

### **SAE Program**

The Supervised Agriculture Experience Program is an intra-curricular part of every Agricultural Education program. The SAE program is designed to provide students with the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained in class on outside of class projects. Example SAE projects include: market livestock, breeding livestock, work experience for agriculturally-related business, community garden, crop production, floricultural design, agricultural fabrication, and machine operation and repair. Students keep track of their SAEs using the Agricultural Experience Tracker online ([www.theaet.com](http://www.theaet.com)). SAE participation is a graded component for all 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> year FFA members.

### **Exhibiting Livestock**

Liberty Ranch FFA members have the opportunity to exhibit livestock at the Sacramento County and California State Fair, so as they meet the Fair Exhibitor requirements. Exhibiting livestock teaches students about responsibility, record keeping, livestock evaluation, nutrition, fitting, showing and health management. To be eligible to exhibit livestock one year post graduation, students must have earned their State FFA Degree.

### **OH Area and Community Garden**

For students interested in plants and crop production, a great SAE opportunity is the OH Area and Community Garden. Students will have the opportunity to work in the greenhouse, shade house, and garden area to grow plants and produce food. The Community Garden aims to provide opportunities for

Liberty Ranch FFA members to learn about production agriculture, while providing for those in need in our community. The Community Garden uses the Liberty Ranch Agriculture Facility and student volunteers to grow and produce fresh food that is donated to local food banks and shelters. Interested students should sign up at the beginning of the year.

### **Open Shop/Project Construction**

Students enrolled in the Agricultural Mechanics pathway have the opportunity to attend after school open shop and utilize the skills they've learned to build projects. Project could be personal or those intended to be sold at the Steak and Oyster Feed, Crab Feed, plant sale or on line though the Liberty Ranch FFA website.

### **Project Competition**

Students with exceptionally strong SAE projects are encouraged to participate in the Project Competition contest. The Project Competition contest evaluates student SAE project on scope, responsibility, skills learned, and overall project strength. Students are interviewed by a set of judges, who also score each student's Record Book. If you are interested, please speak to your Ag teacher about getting involved.

### **Proficiency Awards**

The Agricultural Proficiency Awards honor FFA members who, through their SAEs, have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers. Students can compete for awards in 53 areas covering everything from Agricultural Communications to Wildlife Management. Each award area has two categories, placement and entrepreneurship. Placement proficiency awards are given to those who's SAEs are related to employment, apprenticeships, or internships at an agribusiness or agriculture-related organization. Entrepreneurship proficiency awards are given to those who's SAEs are related to ownership of an agribusiness or agriculture-related organization. Proficiency awards are given out at the local, sectional, regional, state and national levels. Proficiency award applications can be found on the Liberty Ranch FFA Website [www.libertyranchffa.com](http://www.libertyranchffa.com)

## **Section IV FFA Office and Leadership**

### **Chapter FFA Office**

As mentioned above, the opportunity to serve as a Chapter Officer is open to all Liberty Ranch FFA members, so as they meet the requirements. The FFA Chapter Officer team is responsible for the planning and implementation of all chapter activities; including FFA Meeting, Banquets, community service, and fundraisers. Application can be found at [www.libertyranchffa.com](http://www.libertyranchffa.com)

### **Sectional FFA Office**

Much like the chapter, the Sacramento Section elects officers to serve the Section. The Sacramento Sectional Officers oversee the activities of the section including awards ceremonies, leadership development at the Chapter Officer Leadership Conference (COLC), and other sectional events. Interested candidates must submit a completed Sacramento Section Officer Application to the Sectional Advisor by the due date. Candidates then participate in an interview at the Spring Sacramento Section FFA Meeting. The interview panel slates two(2) officers at each position. The slated candidates give a speech in front of the chapter delegates, the chapter delegates vote, and a candidate is elected to each position. Interested FFA members should speak to the FFA advisor to express their interest and gain more information.

### **Central Region FFA Office**

Much like the chapter and section, the Central Region elects officers to serve the Region. The Central Region Officers oversee the activities of the section including awards ceremonies, leadership develop at the Chapter Officer Leadership Conference (COLC), Regional Meetings, and other regional-level activities. Interested candidates must submit a completed Central Region Officer Application to the Regional Advisor by the due date. Candidates then participate in an interview with the out-going Regional Officers. The interview panel slates two(2) officers at each position. The slated candidates give a speech in front of the chapter delegates at the Spring Regional meeting, the chapter delegates vote, and a candidate is elected to each position. Interested FFA members should speak to the FFA advisor to express their interest and gain more information.

### **California State FFA Office**

Much like the chapter, section, and region, the California FFA Association elects officers to serve the FFA members and programs across the state. The California State FFA Officers oversee the activities of the state including awards ceremonies, leadership develop at various conferences, chapter visits, National Convention delegate process, and State Conference. Interested candidates must submit a completed California FFA Officer Application to the State Advisor by the due date. Candidates then participate in an interview at the State Conference. The interview panel slates two(2) officers at each position. The slated candidates give a speech in front of the chapter delegates, the chapter delegates vote, and a candidate is elected to each position. Interested FFA members should speak to the FFA advisor to express their interest and gain more information.

### **National FFA Office**

Much like the before-mentioned levels, the National FFA Association elects officers. Applications can be found on the National FFA Website [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org)



## **Section V CDEs and LDEs**

The FFA offers several Career Development Events(CDE) and Leadership Development Events(LDEs) that help students build technical knowledge and skills in various areas of agriculture and/or challenge members to grow as leaders. Below are the CDE and LDE provided through Liberty Ranch FFA:

### **Agriculture Welding Team**

**Coached by: Mr. Feuerbach**

The Welding Team challenges students to demonstrate their ability to welding using a variety of welding processes and position. Students who participate are usually enrolled in the Agricultural Mechanics II or ROP courses, but don't necessarily have to be.

### **Creed Speaking Contest**

**Coached by: Mrs. Garner**

The FFA Creed is a great introduction to the FFA speaking contests. Students memorize a five paragraph essay, recite, and answer 3 questions about it. Only freshman can compete in this contest.

### **Impromptu Speaking Contest**

**Coached by: Mrs. Giannone**

Calling all sophomores! This is the contest for you and only you! Learn how to think on your feet! In this speaking contest for beginners, you'll learn how to organize your thoughts on a particular topic for one minute, then be able to give a two minutes speech on it off the top of your head! It's quick, fun, and exhilarating!

### **Prepared Public Speaking Contest**

**Coached by: Mrs. Cahill**

The Prepared Public Speaking Contest requires students to write and memorize a 6-8 minute speech on an agricultural topic. After the speech is presented to a panel of judges, three questions are asked about the speech topic. The Prepared Public Speaking contest prepares students to become excellent platform speakers and knowledgeable about agriculture issues.

### **Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest**

**Coached by: Mr. Dodson**

The Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest is one of the most challenging speaking contests the FFA offers. Students must have a diverse knowledge of agricultural issues and have the ability to articulate their knowledge of the issues. Students select a topic, are given thirty minutes to prepare, and then deliver a 4-6 minute speech on the topic.

### **Job Interview Contest**

**Coached by: Mrs. Porter**

This contest is one of the most valuable and useful speaking contests the FFA offers. Students prepare a cover letter, resume, and job application for a fictitious job. Then students participate in a mock interview with a panel of judges.

### **Agriscience**

**Coached by: Mrs. Cahill**

Ever wonder what fruit has the most Vitamin C? Or why plant roots grow down while the stem grows up? If you have a curious mind, Agriscience is for you! Develop your very own science fair project and answer those burning questions! You'll have the chance to compete locally as well as statewide!

### **Floriculture Team**

**Coached by: Mrs. Garner**

The Floriculture will prepare you to be a professional floral designer. The contest includes corsage design, vase or vertical arrangement design, identification, flower judging, and flower reasons. Students enrolled in the floriculture class are eligible to compete.

### **Advanced Parliamentary Procedure Team**

**Coached by: Mr. Dodson**

Parliamentary Procedure or "Parli Pro" is one of the most competitive contests offered through the FFA. Students must be smart, hard-working, and dedicated. The team consists of six members, who demonstrate a mock FFA meeting, making motions and debating topics. The Advanced level is for students who have competed before. Tryouts take place in the fall so if you are interested, come see Dodson!

### **Novice Parliamentary Procedure Team**

**Coached by: Mrs. Porter**

Parliamentary Procedure or "Parli Pro" is one of the most competitive contests offered through the FFA. Students must be smart, hard-working, and dedicated. The team consists of six members, who demonstrate a mock FFA meeting, making motions and debating topics. The Novice level is for students who have never competed before and are freshman or sophomores. Tryouts take place in the fall so if you are interested, come see Porter!

### **AET Farm Record Book**

**Coached By: Mrs. Cahill**

The Farm Records team challenges students' knowledge of recording keeping through the FFA Record Book. Students will utilize the AET program to effectively input a scenario-based problem regarding a student's SAE project, as well as apply their knowledge of the Farmers Tax Guide.

### **Food Science and Technology**

**Coached By: Mrs. Garner and Mrs. Giannone**

The purpose of the contest is to promote learning activities in food science and technology related to the food industry and to assist students in developing practical knowledge of principles used in a team decision-making process. The contest includes individual practicums and sensory evaluation, as well as a team-based product development and safety/sanitation activity.

## **Section VI Awards and Recognition**

### **Greenhand FFA Degree**

The Greenhand FFA Degrees are given out at the chapter level. The Greenhand Degree is designed to recognize first-year members for their achievements and development within the FFA. To receive a Greenhand FFA Degree, members must meet the following requirements:

1. Enroll in an agricultural education program and have satisfactory plans for a Supervised Agricultural Experience(SAE).
2. Learn and explain the FFA Creed, FFA Mission and Motto, and FFA salute.
3. Describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and FFA colors.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the FFA Code of Ethics and the proper use of the FFA jacket.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the history of the organization, the chapter constitution and bylaws and the chapter Program of Activities.
6. Own or have access to the Official FFA Manual and the Official FFA Student Handbook.
7. Submit a written application for the Greenhand FFA Degree.

Students will receive help applying for the Greenhand Degree in their agriculture classes.

### **Chapter FFA Degree**

The Chapter FFA Degree is given to an FFA chapter's top members. The Chapter FFA Degree is designed for second year members and is the highest degree a local FFA chapter can bestow upon its members. To receive a Chapter FFA Degree, members must meet the following requirements:

1. Received the Greenhand FFA Degree
2. Satisfactorily completed 180 hours (or the equivalent) of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level.
3. Have an approved SAE in operation.
4. Enrolled in an agriculture course
5. Participated in the planning and implementation of at least three official FFA chapter activities.
6. Earned and productively invested at least \$150, or have worked at least 45 hours outside of scheduled class time, or a combination of the two, through their SAE.
7. Have developed plans for continued growth and improvement of their SAE.
8. Effectively lead a group discussion for 15 minutes.
9. Demonstrated five parliamentary law procedures.
10. Show progress toward achievement in FFA award programs.
11. Have a satisfactory academic record.
12. Submitted a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree
13. Complete a minimum of 10 hours of community service activities

Students will receive help applying for the Chapter Degree in their agriculture classes.

## **State FFA Degree**

The State FFA Degree is awarded to FFA members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to the California State FFA Associations and made significant accomplishments in their Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs). The requirements for the State FFA Degree are very extensive. Please speak to your Ag Teacher if you are interested. Students will receive help applying for the State Degree in their agriculture classes and scheduled Record Book Work Days.

## **American FFA Degree**

The American FFA Degree is awarded to FFA members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to FFA and made significant accomplishments in their Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs). Approximately 3,500 American FFA Degrees are handed out each year at the National FFA Convention. That number represents less than half of one percent of all FFA members, making it one of the organization's highest honors. In addition to their degree, each recipient receives a gold American FFA Degree key. The requirements for the American FFA Degree are very extensive. Please speak to your Ag Teacher if you are interested.

## **STAR Greenhand**

The STAR Greenhand Award is given annually to one or two outstanding freshman FFA member(s), who demonstrate exceptional FFA and SAE involvement. The STAR Greenhand is a very prestigious award and is presented at the Spring FFA Banquet.

## **STAR Chapter Farmer**

The STAR Chapter Farmer Award is given annually to one or two outstanding second or third-year FFA members, who demonstrate exceptional FFA and SAE involvement. SAE progress and development are major considerations when the STAR Chapter Farmer is selected. The STAR Chapter Farmer is a very prestigious award and is presented at the Spring FFA Banquet.

## **Certificate of Merit**

The certificate of Merit is a California FFA Award presented by each chapter to an outstanding Senior FFA member. FFA involvement, SAE development, academic success, and community service are all important factors considered when selecting the Certificate of Merit recipient. The Certificate of Merit is presented at the Spring FFA Banquet.

## **Program Completer**

The Program Completer graduation sash is presented to Seniors who have committed to the program through the completion of either the Agricultural Science or Agricultural mechanics pathway. Students must be in attendance at the Spring FFA Banquet to receive the Program Completer graduation sash.

## **FFA Point Award**

As an incentive to be involved, each quarter the twenty FFA members with the most FFA activities that quarter are invited to a Point Award trip or event. At the end of the Year the twenty members with the most overall FFA activities are invited to a major trip.

## **Academic Scholarships**

FFA members who demonstrate a high level of FFA involvement, academic success, SAE achievement, and community service are eligible for several scholarships through the FFA and agricultural business and organizations. Liberty Ranch FFA members have received several thousands of dollars from National FFA, Farm Bureau, and the Galt Ag Boosters. Please contact your Senior-level agriculture teacher if you are interested in applying for scholarships.

## **Section VIII    Publicity and Media**

### **Monday Update**

Each Monday, all students in Liberty Ranch Agricultural courses receive a Monday Update document or be presented a Monday Update PPT. The Monday Update informs FFA members and parents about the up-coming FFA events, past highlights, and announcements concerning important events such as meetings, conferences, and fair.

### **Liberty Ranch FFA Newsletter**

Periodically throughout the year, the Newsletter Committee will create publications that will be sent out to student, parents, and community supporters via email. The newsletter will also be posted on the Liberty Ranch FFA Website [www.libertyranchffa.com](http://www.libertyranchffa.com)

### **Parent Emails**

During the first couple weeks of school, parents will be asked to provide an email address. This will provide a way to provide parents and students with valuable announcements concerning FFA events.

### **Liberty Ranch FFA Website**

The Liberty Ranch FFA website is an extremely valuable resource for students and parents alike. Information and resources that can be found on the website include: Agricultural Course descriptions, Teacher Bios, FFA Officer Bios, Award Applications, Conference Applications, FFA Calendar, Scholarship Applications, FFA Spirit Wear order forms, Ag Booster information, and many other valuable resources. Parents and students are encouraged to visit and utilize the website at [www.libertyranchffa.com](http://www.libertyranchffa.com)

### **Liberty Ranch FFA Social Media**

Check out our social media pages for updates about our program and highlights of our members!

Facebook: Liberty Ranch FFA

Twitter: @libertyranchffa

Instagram: Liberty Ranch FFA

## **Section V FFA Activity/Event Calendar**

Welcome Back BBQ	Thursday, August 22 <sup>nd</sup> @ 6:00pm
Farm to Fork Dinner	Saturday, September 21 <sup>st</sup>
Drive Thru BBQ Fundraiser	Wednesday, September 25 <sup>th</sup>
FFA Loves Galt Service Event	Date TBA
Sacramento Section Opening and Closing Contest	Thursday, October 10 <sup>th</sup>
Fall FFA Awards BBQ	Friday, October 11 <sup>th</sup> @ 12:35
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Ag Day	Friday, October 18 <sup>th</sup>
Ag Business Tour Event	Date TBA
National FFA Convention	October 27 <sup>th</sup> – November 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Steak and Oyster Feed	Saturday, November 2 <sup>nd</sup>
1 <sup>st</sup> Time Exhibitor Meeting	Thursday, November 7 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm
1 <sup>st</sup> Time Exhibitor Meeting	Wednesday, November 13 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm
Day of Service Event	Thursday, December 19 <sup>th</sup> @ 12:35pm
MFE/ALA Conference	January 10 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup> Grader Meeting	Thursday, January 23 <sup>rd</sup> @ 6:00pm
MJC Parliamentary Procedure Contest	Saturday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>
Arbuckle Field Day	Saturday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>
Sacramento Section Speaking Contest	Wednesday, February 5 <sup>th</sup>
Central Region Officer Interviews	February 14 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup>

Nor Cal Parliamentary Procedure Contest	Tuesday, February 18 <sup>th</sup>
FFA Blacklight Dodgeball	Wednesday, February 19 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm
Teacher Appreciation Lunch	Friday, February 21 <sup>st</sup>
Central Region FFA Meeting	Saturday, February 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Sacramento Leadership Experience	February 25 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup>
Central Region Awards Ceremony	Thursday, March 5 <sup>th</sup>
UC Davis Parliamentary Procedure Contest	Friday, March 6 <sup>th</sup>
UC Davis Field Day	Saturday, March 7 <sup>th</sup>
CA FFA State Officer Pre-Screen	Monday, March 9 <sup>th</sup>
Sacramento Section Parliamentary Procedure Contest	Wednesday, March 11 <sup>th</sup>
Merced Jr College Field Day	Saturday, March 14 <sup>th</sup>
Pre-Fair Meeting Wednesday, March 18 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm	
Central Region Parliamentary Procedure Contest	Friday, March 20 <sup>th</sup>
Modesto Jr College Field Day	Saturday, March 21 <sup>st</sup>
Central Region Speaking Contest	Friday, March 27 <sup>th</sup>
CRC Field Day	Saturday, April 4 <sup>th</sup>
Officer Election Meeting	Wednesday, April 15 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm
Fresno State Field Day	Saturday, April 18 <sup>th</sup>
CA FFA Speaking Finals	Wednesday, April 22 <sup>nd</sup>
CA FFA Parliamentary Procedure Contest	Thursday, April 23 <sup>rd</sup>
CA FFA Leadership Conference	April 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup>
CA FFA Judging Finals	Saturday, May 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Sacramento Section FFA Meeting	Thursday, May 7 <sup>th</sup>
Spring FFA Awards Banquet	Thursday, May 14 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm
Sacramento County Fair	May 19 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup>

**Note: There will be other activities and events, including (but limited to) PALS visits, Quarterly Point Award, and FFA Committee Meetings throughout the year. Dates for these events will be set at later dates.**

## **APPENDIX**

### **Liberty Ranch FFA Activity**

### **Code of Conduct**



**To be eligible to attend Liberty Ranch FFA activities and events, students and parents are asked to abide by the following rules:**

1. Follow all school rule listed in Liberty Ranch High School Student Handbook.
2. Be respectful to those speaking or presenting.
3. Dress appropriately for the event or activity
4. Respect the rights of others and their property.
5. Demonstrate good sportsmanship by being modest in winning and generous in defeat.
6. Refrain from using vulgar or offensive language.
7. Bring Student ID and follow check-in and check-out procedures for FFA Activity credit.

**Failure to meet the above expectations could result in ineligibility to attend Liberty Ranch FFA activities and events.**

**Student Name(Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name(Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Liberty Ranch FFA Fair Contract**

**To be eligible to represent the Liberty Ranch FFA at any fair or show, a student must:**

1. Be a member of the Liberty Ranch FFA.

2. Have received a 2.0 GPA or above @ Third Quarter Grading Period.
3. We will have a list of our exhibitors for submission to the fair office at the 30/60/120 day verification date (specie dependent). Any student on our list at this date will not be able to switch organizations per the State Rules for California Fairs by the CDFA. (Rule 17 Section 7, Rule 14 Section 7)
4. Have eight (8) recorded and Liberty Ranch FFA-sponsored FFA Activities by **December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019** Each FFA event counts as one FFA Activity. This includes fundraisers, ticket sales, etc. It is the student's responsibility to track their own FFA activity status by keeping a record or checking through the 5 Star Student App.
5. Have a clean discipline record free of suspensions and expulsions during the academic year the fair or show occurs.
6. Attend all pre scheduled specie meetings and project visits. If not available, it is the student's responsibility to communicate with specie advisor.
7. Exhibiting at the fair is a school activity, therefore all school rules and disciplinary actions listed in the Liberty Ranch High School Student Handbook apply and will be enforced.
8. To be eligible to exhibit after graduation, a student must have earned the State FFA Degree.
9. First time Liberty Ranch FFA exhibitors may show pigs, sheep, goats, rabbit or poultry. Students wanting to exhibit a beef, horse, or dairy project must meet a prerequisite of having shown that species before through 4-H or Independent.
10. Purchase/have in possession OWN Official FFA Dress (white pants, white button up shirt, FFA Jacket, and FFA tie/scarf).
11. Attend 1<sup>st</sup> Time Exhibitor Meeting (if applicable) **November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 or make-up November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019**
12. Attend Pre-Fair Meeting **March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020**
13. Any student who is disqualified from showing with Liberty Ranch FFA in one species due to a failure of following rules and procedures is disqualified in all species the following school year.
14. Provide specie advisor self-addressed envelope for fair check by the last day of school.
15. Any student electing to exhibit more than one market animal is expected to check the Sacramento County Fair Handbook for all rules pertaining to show and sale animals. The Sacramento County Fair Handbook can be found at [www.sacfair.com](http://www.sacfair.com)

**Failure to meet the above qualifications and species specific contract will result in ineligibility to represent the Liberty Ranch FFA at fairs and show.**

Student Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# Liberty Ranch FFA CDE Team Contract

**To be eligible to represent the Liberty Ranch FFA at any contest, a student must:**

1. Be a member of the Liberty Ranch FFA.
2. Have received a 2.0 GPA or above @ Third Quarter Grading Period. Additionally grade checks will be conducted before every contest. Any student with a failing grade will not be allowed to miss class to compete.
3. Attend all practices and contests (see coach for specific team rules). If you are unable to attend, you must make prior contact with the coach.
4. Have a clean Discipline record free of suspensions and expulsions during the academic year.
5. Competing in an FFA contest is a school activity, therefore all school rules and disciplinary actions listed in the Liberty Ranch High School Student Handbook apply and will be enforced.
6. Pay CDE Fee, which helps to cover contest registration fees and travel and lodging expenses. This fee must be paid prior to the first contest and is non-refundable. CDE Team fees are as follows:
  - a. Non-Overnight Team: \$25.00
  - b. Overnight Team: \$50.00
  - c. Multiple Teams: \$75.00

**Failure to meet the above qualifications could result in ineligibility to represent the Liberty Ranch FFA at CDE contests.**

**Student Name (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **The FFA Creed**

I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds - achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.

I believe that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.

I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of progressive agriculturists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil.

I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so--for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.

I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.

The creed was written by E.M. Tiffany and adopted at the Third National FFA Convention. It was revised at the 38th and 63rd Conventions.

## **FFA Opening/Closing Ceremonies**

### **Opening Ceremony**

**President:** "The meeting room will come to order. We are now holding a meeting of the Liberty Ranch FFA chapter. Mr./Mdm. Vice President, are all officers at their stations?"

**Vice President:** (*Rising and facing the president*) "I shall call the role of officers, determine if they are at their stations and report back to you, Mr./Mdm. President."

**Vice President:** (*Calling roll of officers*)  
"The Public Relations Officer"

**Public Relations:** "Here in our community."

**Vice President:** "Your duties there?"

**Public Relations:** "I strive to keep our campus and wider community informed of the events and activities of our chapter. I attend meetings of local organizations, work in concert with news media and television programs, and educate our members on how best to represent the Liberty Ranch FFA chapter."

**Vice President:** "The Historian"

**Historian:** Stationed at the chapter scrapbook.

**Vice President:** What are your duties?

**Historian:** Tradition and history are a source of pride for our organization. It is my duty to maintain a record of chapter achievements and promote excellence through highlighting activities, events and accomplishments so that our chapter membership is motivated by our past successes and looks to future achievements.

**Vice President:** "The Sentinel."

**Sentinel:** "Stationed by the door."

**Vice President:** "Your duties there?"

**Sentinel:** "Through this door passes many friends of the FFA. It is my duty to see that the door is open to our friends at all times and that they are welcome. I care for the meeting room and paraphernalia. I strive to keep the room comfortable and assist the president in maintaining order."

**Vice President:** "The Reporter."

**Reporter:** "The reporter is stationed by the flag."

**Vice President:** "Why by the flag."

**Reporter:** "As the flag covers the United States of America, so I strive to inform the people in order that every man, woman and child may know that the FFA is a national organization that reaches from the state of Alaska to Puerto Rico and from the state of Maine to Hawaii."

**Vice President:** "The Treasurer."

**Treasurer:** "Stationed at the emblem of Washington."

**Vice President:** "Your duties there."

**Treasurer:** "I keep a record of receipts and disbursements just as Washington kept his farm accounts-carefully and accurately. I encourage thrift among the members and strive to build up our financial standing through savings and investments. George Washington was better able to serve his country because he was financially independent."

**Vice President:** "The Secretary."

**Secretary:** "Stationed by the ear of corn."

**Vice President:** "Your duties there."

**Secretary:** "I keep an accurate record of all meetings and correspond with other secretaries wherever corn is grown and FFA members meet."

**Vice President:** "The Advisor."

**Advisor:** "Here by the owl."

**Vice President:** "Why stationed by the owl?"

**Advisor:** "The owl is a time-honored emblem of knowledge and wisdom. Being older than the rest of you, I am asked to advise you from time to time, as the need arises. I hope that my advice will always be based on true knowledge and ripened with wisdom."

"Mr./Mdm. Vice President, why do you keep a plow at your station?"

**Vice President:** "The plow is the symbol of labor and tillage of the soil. Without labor, neither knowledge nor wisdom can accomplish much. My duties require me to assist at all times in directing the work of our organization. I preside over meeting in the absence of our president, whose place is beneath the rising sun."

**Advisor:** "Why is the president so stationed?"

**Vice President:** "The rising sun is the token of a new era in agriculture. If we will follow the leadership of our president, we shall be led out of the darkness of selfishness and into the glorious sunlight of brotherhood and cooperation. Mr./Mdm. President, all officers are at the stations."

**President:** *(Rises and faces the vice president)* "Thank you, Mr./Mdm. Vice President." *(All take seats at tap of gavel)* "The secretary will call the roll of members."

**Secretary:** "There are \_\_\_ members and \_\_\_ guests present, Mr./Mdm. President."

**President:** "Thank you. FFA members, why are we here?" *(All members stand at 3 taps of gavel.)*

All members in unison: "To practice brotherhood, honor agricultural opportunities and responsibilities, and develop those qualities of leadership which an FFA member should possess." *(All are seated at 1 tap of gavel.)*

**President:** "May we accomplish our purposes. I now declare this meeting of the \_\_\_\_\_ FFA Chapter duly opened for the transaction of business, or attention to any matters which may properly be presented." *(Proceed with the regular order of business.)*

### **Closing Ceremony**

**President:** "Mr./ Mdm. Secretary, do you have a record of any further business which should now be transacted?"

**Secretary:** *(Rises, replies and is seated.)* "I have none, Mr./Mdm. President."

**President:** "Does any member know of any new or unfinished business which should properly come before this meeting? *(If no answer, proceed as follows)*

"We are about to adjourn this meeting of the Liberty Ranch FFA Chapter."

As we mingle with others, let us be diligent in labor, just in our dealings, courteous to everyone, and above all, honest and fair in the game of life. Fellow members and guests, join me in a salute to our flag."

*(Taps three times with gavel to call members to stand, face the flag at the at the reporters station, and, with their right hands over their hearts, repeat the following pledge.)*

**All in unison:** "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

**President:** "I now declare this meeting adjourned." *(Taps once with gavel and the meeting is adjourned.)*