Connecticut FFA
State Officer Study Guide
2020-2021

Includes the information necessary to successfully go through the State Officer Selection Process within the Connecticut FFA Association. This guide will help you, but it doesn’t contain all of the answers.

For any questions regarding this booklet, the Selection Process or the Nominating Committee Process contact either Danny Quinn or Mr. Milton Natusch.
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As of the 92nd National FFA Convention and Expo, the Organization achieved an all time high with its membership totaling around 700,170. Of course this wouldn’t have been possible without the 52 Associations and over 8,612 chapters that help recruit, retain, and provide leadership to every single FFA member.

The Convention itself was the pinnacle of a great year seeing a concert performance donated by the many times over Entertainer of the Year, Garth Brooks, as well as a visit by the President of the United States Donald Trump. President Trump, although the first President to speak at a convention in many years was not the only. Dwight D. Eisenhower spoke at the 25th National FFA Convention in 1953, the same year the United States Postal Service issued a special stamp to commemorate the Future Farmers of America. The 91st National FFA Convention and Expo was also the 50th convention women were in attendance since their joining of the organization in 1969, and the 101st year since the Smith-Hughes Vocational education act passed in 1917.

A big year saw many achievements and as always was culminated by the announcement and installation of the newly elected National FFA Officer Team. Our National FFA President Koleson McCoy hails from Ohio this year. As we have seen, the past few years bring many National Officers from the west coast but it was the Northeast that originally dominated the office. The first National FFA President was Mr. Leslie Applegate, a young man from New Jersey. Since then numerous States have had a National President and all but 3 have had National Officers. Connecticut’s one and only was Nathan Cushman, from the Lebanon Regional FFA Chapter in 1961.

As we look at the National FFA Organization, in its 30th year since it was called the Future Farmers of America, and keep the pride we have for our traditions it is also imperative that we see and value the progress we have made from Maine to Hawaii, and Alaska to the Virgin Islands. Since 33 farm boys from 18 states started our organization in Kansas City, Missouri, we have seen social progress, agricultural change, and constant turbulence that we faced with our Nation. If E.M. Tiffany had known how long and far his words of the FFA Creed would have stretched back in 1932, he would have never guessed how true his five paragraphs still are today.
The Connecticut FFA Association

Executive Committee

“The Executive Committee of the Connecticut FFA Association shall consist of the officers of the State Association including a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Reporter, a Sentinel, a Parliamentarian, the District President from each district, and the immediate Past President of the Association. The State Supervisor of Agricultural Education shall assume the responsibility of State Advisor; an individual shall serve as State FFA Executive Secretary; an individual shall be selected to serve as Executive FFA Treasurer; two Executive Advisors shall be local teachers of Agriculture Education selected by the Connecticut Association of Agricultural Educators. These executive members shall perform the duties prescribed by this Constitution and Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority (current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order) adopted by the Connecticut FFA Association. This committee shall also perform the usual duties of an executive committee, review and approve State FFA Degree applications and activities and awards and be responsible for the welfare of the organization.”

- The Connecticut FFA Association Constitution, Article VI, Section A

Current Members of the Executive Committee: 2019-2020

State President: Ryan Nelson
State Vice President: Lauren Murtagh
State Secretary: Michael Wolf
State Reporter: Alexa DeAndrade
State Sentinel: Teryn Goulet
District One Chair: Claire Demers
District Two Chair: Margaret Brady
District Three Chair: Dylan Bassett
District Five Chair: Sara Thomis
Past State President: Michael Wetherell
Teacher Advisor: Pamela Berlekovic (Trumbull)
Teacher Advisor: Brenda Wildes (Lebanon)
State Advisor: Harold Mackin
State Executive Secretary: Milton Natusch
The Connecticut FFA Association

The Geographical Layout

The Connecticut FFA Association is comprised of five Districts and twenty-one FFA Chapters, giving the Association around 3200 members. This is the largest membership in New England which is partnered with the best teacher to student ratio in the Nation!

**District One:** Located in Northwest Connecticut, District One now has the most chapters in its district! They are The Housatonic Valley FFA Chapter, The Wamogo FFA Chapter, The Northwestern Regional FFA Chapter, The Woodbury FFA Chapter, and as of Fall 2019 the Shepaug FFA Chapter.

**District Two:** Located in the southwestern part of Connecticut, District Two is home to our State’s aquaculture centers, as well as the only Biotech school. The Chapters in District Two are The Trumbull FFA Chapter, The Stamford FFA Chapter, The Sound School-New Haven FFA Chapter, and Bridgeport Aquaculture.

**District Three:** Located in the southern part of the Connecticut River Valley, District Three is definitely the easiest to get to. Included in District Three are the Glastonbury FFA, Mattabeset (Middletown) FFA, Lyman Hall FFA, and Southington FFA Chapters.

**District Four:** Located in the northern part of the Connecticut River Valley, District Four is home to Bradley International Airport, numerous tobacco farms, and this year’s State Convention! This District is home to the E.O Smith FFA Chapter (Storrs), the Suffield Regional FFA Chapter, the Bloomfield FFA Chapter, and the Rockville FFA Chapter.

**District Five:** Located in the eastern part of Connecticut, District Five is the largest in land mass, and is home to most of the State’s Sod Farms. The Chapters within this District are the Killingly FFA Chapter, the Hale-Ray FFA Chapter, The Ledyard FFA Chapter, and the Lebanon Regional FFA Chapter.

**Fun Fact:** Rufus Stimson, the former President of the Connecticut College of Agriculture (UConn) is the founding father of the ‘home project’, what we call the SAE!!
*Label the Chapters on the map above.

- **District One**
- **District Two**
- **District Three**
- **District Four**
- **District Five**
Connecticut’s Agricultural Industry

Due to its geographic location, the State of Connecticut is a very diverse agricultural area. Encompassing nearly every part of the agricultural industry it is home to numerous dairy, vegetable, fruit, forage, and crop producing farms and markets. Yet, what many people don’t know is it ranks 8th in the Nation for tobacco production and up until the 1840’s was one of the world’s greatest exporters of shellfish, primarily oysters and clams.

Formed by a passing glacier the Connecticut River Valley play host to some of the best soil in the entire world! Sadly it just seems to grow more houses than crops! However the State still generates around $3.5 billion with its agricultural industry according to UConn’s ‘Economic Impact of Connecticut’s Agricultural Industry’. It also generates around 21,000 jobs in the state which is more money put into our local economy! With its 440,000 acres of farmland it still holds its own!

The Largest Industries in Connecticut Agriculture (by sales):

1. Greenhouse/Nursery Production: 42% of Sales
2. Poultry and Egg Production: 15% of Sales
3. Dairy Cattle and Milk Production: 13% of Sales
4. Vegetables and Melon Farming: 8% of Sales
5. Fruit Farming: 7% of Sales
6. Tobacco Production: 6% of Sales
7. Aquaculture: 5% of Sales
8. Cattle Production and Ranching: 4% of Sales

Although it is ranked third in overall industry in the State, Dairy is still the largest in Agricultural processing with Fluid Milk and frozen desserts making up 46% of the industries manufacturing in the State!

Fun Fact: Connecticut Ranks 13th in the nation for Christmas (Evergreen) Tree production!
*Don’t worry, the numbers are just for you! You don’t have to remember every single one!

**Events and Opportunities**

Throughout the year Connecticut State Officers are responsible for attending and hosting numerous events and conferences for the State FFA members. After all the members are the only way this is all possible.

**Leadership Events:**

*Hosted by State Officers:*

- **Chapter Officer Leadership Training (COLT)**
  - This event is intended for chapter officers to garner leadership skills and learn how to work with their new team.
  - State Officers facilitate the event with various workshops.

- **Junior Leadership Conference (JLC)**
  - This event is intended for the younger FFA members to develop an understanding of the FFA Organization and Association.
  - State Officers facilitate this event with various workshops.

- **Advanced Leadership Conference (IMAGE)**
  - This event is intended for older FFA members as a way for them to look towards their future education and careers.
  - Normally facilitated by Past State/National Officer with help from State Officers

- **Road to Convention**
  - New to the Association, a way for the State Officer team to branch out to Chapters and give workshops to an array of students on various agricultural/leadership topics.
  - Done differently by every team.

- **State Convention**
  - Held by the State Association with help from Numerous Volunteers

*Attended by State Officers:*

- **Base Camp/Checkpoint**
- **National FFA Convention**
- **Chapter Events and Banquets**
- **ILSSO: International Leadership Summit for State Officers**
**Associations, Alumni, and Foundation**

With so many things to accomplish and constantly get done it would be impossible to have an effective organization like National FFA, without State Associations, National State and Chapter Alumni, as well as National and State Foundations.

**Associations:**
- The State FFA Association differs from the National FFA Organization not only in its over all size but also in its structure. Every State Association is different from Maine to Hawaii and Alaska to the Virgin Islands.
- Connecticut for example can have up to seven *constitutional* officers, such as a President, Secretary, Vice President, Treasurer, Sentinel, Reporter, and Parliamentarian. Whereas National FFA has six *parliamentary* officers, being a President, Secretary, and regional Vice Presidents.
- Of course the main goal of everyone is to get to the members and inspire them but it is much easier to do with smaller numbers. Hence why some states have areas, districts, and chapters and other states only have state officers.
- But fundamentally the main goals of the association always are to host state wide events, visit and impact the membership, and to create equal opportunities for all members.
- **Our current State Advisor of the Association is Mr. Harold Mackin and our current State Executive Secretary is Mr. Milton Natusch!!!**

**Alumni:**
- The Alumni both nationally and locally are here to support the current members and officers by hosting fundraisers to give out scholarships for students. Without the Alumni the State FFA Association wouldn’t be able to provide as many opportunities to its members. **Our current State Alumni President is Mr. Martin Baker!**

**Foundation:**
- The foundation ensures that the organization and associations can function financially year to year. More than scholarships it aims to make sure officers are equipped with the right materials to guide FFA members.
- The foundation is highly involved with the industry and seeks new partnerships that help sponsor State and National events.

*Without the Alumni or Foundation we couldn’t do what we do!!!*
Overview of the Year

If elected you will have a memorable, fun, and very impactful year. In others words you will be a very busy person with a constantly full schedule. It is a **HUGE** responsibility that can prove difficult from time to time. Remember why you choose to run for state office. If it was for a reason you will have a great, productive, and fulfilling year. However, if you run for a position the year will seem nearly impossible!

But, being that you took the time to apply and read this guide means you already show very promising attributes of a phenomenal State Officer!

**Schedule of Events:**
- This should be emailed to you by Mr. Danny Quinn upon sending in your application.
- Will include:
  - Dates of major training events
  - Dates of State FFA Events
  - Layout and Overview of the year and time commitments for State and District Officers
Other Useful Resources

Although this is a thorough study guide and reading it will help you tremendously it is not the end all be all! Use these sites and articles below for more information about FFA, Ag Education, and Connecticut Agriculture.

➢ Home of the National FFA Organization. Website: https://www.ffa.org/
➢ FFA Student Handbook (latest edition)
➢ Official FFA Manual (latest edition)
➢ Connecticut FFA Association; http://ctffa.org/
➢ Connecticut Farm Bureau; https://www.cfba.org/advocacy-at-the-state-level
➢ American Farm Bureau; http://www.fb.org/
➢ Farm Journal’s AgWeb.com; http://www.agweb.com/farmjournal/
➢ National Agricultural Library; https://www.nal.usda.gov/
➢ United States Dept. of Agriculture (USDA); http://www.usda.gov/
➢ UConn’s Agricultural Impact Statement (EICAI):
  http://zwickcenter.uconn.edu/news_59_1295854761.pdf

Important Questions: (Regarding Application)

Contact: Milton Natusch (State FFA Executive Secretary)
Email: msnpepper@earthlink.net

Questions: (Regarding Study Guide/Process)

Contact: Danny Quinn (Nominating Committee Coordinator)
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