

Part 1: Introduction —

The America FFA Degree: The Ultimate Challenge

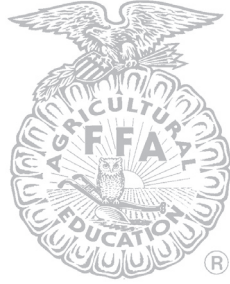
The American FFA Degree is the highest level of membership you can achieve as an FFA member. This final step in the FFA degree system encourages you to grow and achieve personally toward establishing yourself in an agricultural career.

Before you can submit an application for the American FFA Degree, you must have received the preceding FFA degrees: Greenhand, Chapter FFA Degree and State FFA Degree.

The American FFA Degree is a sign of great accomplishment among FFA members. Only a small percentage of FFA members ever earn the degree (the greatest percentage of members ever to receive the degree in one year was less than one half of one percent).

To advance to this degree requires commitment and a lot of hard work on your part. But you don't have to be a gifted student or live on a large farm or ranch to reach this goal. The FFA degree system is organized so that all FFA members, no matter where you are from, have an equal chance at obtaining the American FFA Degree. However, you must show progress in your Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program to have a realistic chance at attaining this goal.

If you are a freshman or sophomore in high school, now is the time to set the goal and create a road map on how you plan to achieve the American FFA Degree. If you are already a junior or senior, you can determine just what you need to do to obtain the degree before your FFA years are completed. To receive the American FFA Degree, you must have maintained your FFA membership and have graduated at least 12 months prior to the national FFA convention at which the degree is to be granted.



You may retain your membership in the FFA until November 30, following the fourth national FFA convention after you graduate from high school, but not beyond age 23.

WHAT THE DEGREE CAN DO FOR YOU

Recognition: Many members have said that there is no greater satisfaction than walking across the stage at the national FFA convention to receive your American FFA Degree key and certificate. In addition, recipients' names are listed in the American FFA Degree convention booklet and the official proceedings of the convention.

Career Preparation: There is no more to the degree than just physical rewards. Working toward this degree provides many experiences for you to set goals and to learn practical skills. No matter what career you pursue after you graduate, you will need certain skills. An SAE program that leads to an American FFA Degree provides that training and experience, enabling you to enjoy a useful, interesting and challenging career later in life.

Perseverance and Preparation: Eventually, you will need to compete against others to secure a job or a position to start your career and to enable you to make a difference in the world. The American FFA Degree program makes it easier because the things you do to earn the degree will teach you how to reach your career goals as well. Completing the degree application will provide learning experiences that will complement your SAE program, the education you receive in the classroom and the experiences you gain in these formative years of life.

Rewards for Active Membership: Members work to achieve the American FFA Degree for many reasons. The degree serves as another goal for those students who have already achieved the State FFA Degree. Working toward the American FFA Degree allows members to remain active in the FFA following their high school graduation.