

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COOPER AG ED PROGRAM DESCRIPTION 1

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION..... 1

 Cooper Ag Ed Course Offerings..... 2

 What is SAE? Supervised Agricultural Experience 2

 FFA Participation 3

Eligibility for FFA Membership 3

Periods of Ineligibility..... 4

FFA Activities that Everyone Should Attend 4

FFA Point System..... 6

FFA Fund Raisers 6

Proficiency Awards..... 6

FFA Degrees 7

FFA Conferences and Camps 8

Leadership Development Competitions 10

Career Development Events (CDEs)..... 11

INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR FFA MEMBERS..... 12

 Exhibiting at the Boone County Fair 12

 Exhibiting at the State Fair 12

 National FFA Band and Chorus 12

 Program of Activities Committees and Offices 13

FOR MORE INFORMATION..... 15

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED? 15

COOPER AG ED PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the Cooper Ag Ed Parent-Student Handbook. You'll notice that it is not just a handbook for the FFA, but for the entire agricultural education program, including Ag Ed classes, FFA, and Supervised Agricultural Experience – these are integral components of the program that can't be separated.

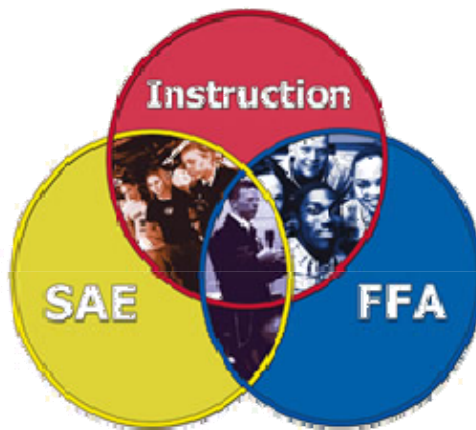
This handbook should answer any questions you have about our program and all of the opportunities that we have planned for the coming school year. If you have any questions that are not addressed in the handbook, please contact our FFA Advisor Mr. Cameron White by phone at (859) 384-5040 ext. 2504 or by email at cameron.white@boone.kyschools.us or visit us on the web at <http://cooperaged.yolasite.com>. Our website has a variety of helpful links for agriculture as well as information upcoming FFA activities, highlights of students SAEs, and descriptions of classes offered at RCHS.

Get involved, participate, and have a great year!

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. Students get a chance to practice and apply the knowledge and skills acquired in the classroom through their Supervised Agricultural Experience Projects (SAE) and through the National FFA Organization. When the three parts are properly integrated, student learning 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. The following pages provide a brief overview of each component of the



Cooper Ag Ed Course Offerings

Randall K. Cooper High School currently offers 9 different courses in agriculture which allow students to complete one of two career majors. Students who complete a career major in the commonwealth of Kentucky are eligible to complete the KOSSA state examination in that career area. **Students who pass this test and complete a career major can receive 3 hours of college credit** to most colleges in Kentucky. Select courses are offered each year on a rotating basis. The course rotation is listed below. If you would like to see course descriptions, please see the [RCHS Course Guide](#) or [visit our website](#).

Current Year	Year Following
<i>Principles of Ag (1 credit)</i>	<i>Principles of Ag (1 credit)</i>
<i>Horticulture/Floral Design (1 credit)</i>	<i>Greenhouse (1 credit)</i>
<i>Veterinary Science (1 credit)</i>	<i>Landscaping (1 credit)</i>
<i>Equine Science (1 credit)</i>	<i>Animal Science (1 credit)</i>
	<i>Small Animal Science (1 credit)</i>

Public Law 740 defines SAE and FFA as **integral** parts of agricultural education classes. Students enrolled in Ag Ed Classes are strongly encouraged to become FFA members and have an SAE. Students may earn extra credit in Ag Ed classes through their involvement in these two activities. Additionally, as integral components both FFA and SAE are incorporated into daily classroom instruction

What is SAE? Supervised Agricultural Experience

An SAE program is the actual, hands-on application of agricultural skills outside the classroom. A project can be any experience outside of regularly scheduled class time in which the student gains new skills or practices skills in agriculture. 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. Some examples of SAE projects are:

Unpaid Veterinary Internship	Raising a Garden	Job-Shadowing a vet, farmer, or other agribusinessman
Raising & Selling Pumpkins	Working at a Grain Elevator	Restoring a Tractor
Working in a Greenhouse	Grocery Store Produce Dept.	Volunteering at an Animal
Custom Hay Baling Business	Hunting & Trapping (wildlife mgt.)	Working at a Flower Shop
Breeding/Selling Purebred Dogs	Working on a Dairy Farm	Lawn Mowing Business
Training Horses	Turf Care at a Golf Course	
Working in a Meat Dept.	Raising Sheep, Cattle, or Hogs	
Landscaping Projects at Home		

For ideas for your SAE project, see the [Cooper Ag Ed Website](#).

Students keep records (including pictures) for each SAE project, and these records are submitted annually to the agriculture instructor as part of the class grade. The instructor will visit the student's project at least once per year as time permits.

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). Additionally, SAEs are a required component for degree advancement in FFA (See "Degrees of Membership" Section).

FFA Participation

FFA is an INTRA-curricular activity - not extracurricular like football, Spanish club, drama, or speech. 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.

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 2011-2012 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 2012 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. If the graduated student elects to retain membership, he or she must pay their dues by the established deadline, which is generally at the first FFA meeting of the year. 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.

Periods of Ineligibility

The Cooper FFA Chapter utilizes the RCHS Athletic Code of Conduct as a guide to determine student's eligibility to participate in after school FFA activities ([see the high school student handbook](#)). This is true even though FFA is not an extra-curricular activity. If a student has been declared ineligible for extra-curricular activities due to a student 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 provides several examples:

An Ineligible Student May . . .	An Ineligible Student May Not . . .
Attend Monthly FFA Meetings	Compete on a CDE Team or as an individual
Attend CDE Team Practices	Chair the committee or miss school due to committee work
Serve on a committee	Get the advisor's signature on any applications (awards, offices, degrees, fair livestock I.D.'s etc), even if the application applies to an activity that will happen after the period of ineligibility
Accumulate FFA Points	Represent the chapter in public
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 or rewards only (recreation, trips, etc.)

Additionally, it is the policy of Cooper FFA that students who have multiple behavior infractions during the school year may be ruled ineligible for an appropriate period of time determined by the advisor and school administration. A suspension will result in automatic ineligibility for the period of one month. Further suspensions may result in permanent ineligibility for the year.

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 couple of things that every FFA member should plan to do. They are:

1. Attend the **Annual FFA Banquet***, with their family,
2. Attend **Monthly FFA Meetings****,
3. Participate in **at least one community service activity**.
4. Compete in **at least one contest** or CDE throughout the year.
5. Help raise funds for activities through chapter fundraisers.

***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 a meal, we will move to the evening’s program, which generally includes a speaker and the following presentations:

- Outstanding FFA Member Awards
- Chapter Speaking Contest Awards
- Chapter Proficiency Awards
- Leadership Awards
- Scholarship Awards
- Installation of new FFA Chapter Officers

Note: Applications for most of these awards are available from the advisor – the deadline to turn them in is AT OR BEFORE THE APRIL FFA MEETING.

****Monthly FFA Meetings**

Every FFA member should attend the monthly meetings. In an effort to avoid conflicts and provide for maximum participation, meetings are not held on a particular day of the week or month. Even the time of day varies – some are held at 7:00 a.m., others during access time during the school day, while others will be held in the evening after athletic practices. Check the [FFA Activity Calendar on the Cooper Ag Ed Website](#) for the dates and times of this year's meetings.

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 students are rewarded through the FFA Point System for wearing FFA Jackets or other FFA apparel.

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. Most months there is some type of activity after the meeting such as recreation, food, committee meetings, etc.

Typically, deadlines for various FFA award applications, convention applications, signups for trips, and other due dates will be at the time of a monthly FFA meeting. If an application is due at a meeting and a student is not able to attend that meeting, then they should plan ahead and turn those materials in to the Advisors sometime *before* the meeting. *Please understand:* If the deadline states “at the meeting” and you turn it in the following morning, IT IS TOO LATE, you have missed the deadline.

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.

FFA Point System

To reward FFA members for participating in FFA activities, they are awarded points on the FFA point system. These points will determine certain FFA awards and will be a determining factor in some FFA trip selections. In addition, FFA points may improve a student's grade in their Ag Ed Classes. Students' grades will never be penalized because of a lack of FFA points. Points vary for each activity and are outlined on the Cooper FFA Website. Points for any activities that are not covered in the list from the website will be determined prior to the start of that activity by the Executive Team.

How to Collect Your Points

At each monthly meeting, FFA members will be given a point system sheet that lists all of the activities that they could have chosen to participate in since the last meeting, plus any other point-earning opportunities. Members will check off their points and turn the sheet in at the meeting.

Points will accumulate from month to month.

Students who are not able to attend a monthly meeting may request a point system from the advisor during school the day of the meeting, fill it out and turn it in before the meeting. Any FFA point systems turned in after the monthly meeting (even if it is first thing the next morning) will be considered late – the student will receive zero points for the preceding month.

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. At the end of each year, we evaluate our fundraising efforts and make any needed changes to the fundraising program.

Students are rewarded for fundraisers in which they participate in multiple ways. First, for every \$1 profit earned by an FFA member, they receive 1 point in the FFA point system. It may not seem like much, but it adds up quickly. For example, a student who sells 2 boxes of beef jerky has already earned 20 points; a student who sells one box of fruit depending on the fruit can earn as much as 15 points! Fundraisers for the year may include the following as well as others:

- Wild Joe's Beef Jerky Sales
- Mums Sales
- Fruit Sales
- Peeler Card Sales

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) program.

Awards are available to all FFA members enrolled in high school agriculture, including special needs students. There are 47 proficiency award areas listed below. For more information or to look at a

proficiency application log on to the [National FFA Website](#) and check out the proficiency award handbook.

Proficiency awards are given in the following areas:

Ag Communications	Floriculture
Ag Education	Food Science & Tech
Ag Mechanics Design & Fabrication	Forage Production
Ag Mechanics Repair & Maintenance	Forest Mgt. & Products
Ag Mechanics Energy Systems	Fruit Production
Ag Processing	Grain Production
Ag Sales	Home or Community Development
Ag Services	Landscape Management
Aquaculture	Nursery Operations
Beef Production	Outdoor Recreation
Dairy Production	Poultry Production
Diversified Ag. Prod.	Sheep Production
Diversified Crop Prod.	Small Animal Prod. & Care
Diversified Horticulture	Specialty Animal Prod.
Diversified Livestock Prod.	Specialty Crop Prod.
Emerging Ag Technology	Swine Production
Environmental Science & Natural Resource	Turf Grass Management
Equine Science	Vegetable Production
Fiber and/or Oil Crop Prod	Wildlife Management

[FFA Degrees](#)

Every FFA member should be working toward personal improvement. One way to do that is by earning the next degree level in FFA. There are four degrees that an FFA member can earn while in high school each one more challenging than the next. A brief description of each degree is provided below.

[Greenhand FFA Degree](#)

This is the first degree earned and is typically earned by FFA members during their first year of membership. Every FFA member who takes Principles of Ag will earn this degree. It is the only degree that is earned without completing an SAE project (though a plan for an SAE must be formulated. 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. The Greenhand Degree is the starting block for advancement in the FFA.

[Chapter FFA Degree](#)

This is the second degree earned by a member typically during their second year of membership. Earning the chapter degree demonstrates a member's commitment to the local chapter and desire to be involved in the everyday dealings of the organization. Individual chapters are the backbone of the

National FFA Organization. The Chapter Degree is the highest degree a chapter can bestow on its members.

State FFA Degree

Like a high school diploma, the State FFA Degree celebrates your high school FFA career and is typically earned by members in their 3rd or 4th year of membership. Awarded by your state FFA association, this degree is a symbol to the members of your entire state FFA association that you are a leader in your chapter and community. As a State FFA Degree recipient, you have taken your FFA involvement beyond the chapter level and have established 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.

American FFA Degree

As the highest degree achievable in the National FFA Organization, earning 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 gone above and beyond to achieve excellence. Only one half of one percent of FFA members achieve this honor.

FFA Conferences and Camps

The Cooper FFA Chapter takes multiple trips to leadership conferences, conventions, and competitions throughout the year. As a rule, high school students must be eligible according to the RCHS Athletics Code of Conduct as well as academically eligible in order to participate in these trips. Students failing even one class will not be permitted to attend a trip where they will miss a day of school.

On all FFA trips, students pay for their own meals (with a few exceptions as noted) and incidental costs such as souvenirs. FFA members are asked to pay a fee for most trips to cover a portion of the expenses. All efforts are made to reduce costs for trips including getting parent drivers for short trips and sharing rides with other Boone County FFA chapters. Certain trips have specific policies that have been adopted by the chapter. They are as follows:

State FFA Convention

The Kentucky State FFA Convention is held each year at the convention center in downtown Lexington, KY. On any given year, over 2,000 FFA members from across the commonwealth will gather to compete in a host of state competitions. While at State Convention, FFA members will have the opportunity to compete in state competitions, tour agriculture businesses based in Lexington, and meet other FFA members from across the state.

Students who will compete at State Convention in a contest (that is they placed 1st or 2nd in that contest at the regional level) will be selected to attend State Convention. If there is room for other members to attend, additional members may be selected to attend based on the following criteria:

- Students must indicate to the advisor their desire to attend.
- Students must have competed in at least one regional contest throughout the year.
- Students must have attended at least 3 FFA meetings during the school year.
- Students must have demonstrated active involvement in FFA as demonstrated by the number of points earned throughout the year.

State Convention is held during the 1st full week of June annually so students should not miss any school for this event.

National FFA Convention

Students who have “earned their way” to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN by earning national awards or competing in national 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, based on chapter budget, transportation available, and the number of hotel rooms allocated to our chapter.

Other students wishing to attend must fill out an application and will be selected through a competitive process based on the quality of their application and the number of FFA points earned in the previous year. Applications are judged by a committee of FFA Alumni, the chapter advisor, and the chapter advisory committee.

Highlights of the convention may include the convention sessions, the National FFA Career Show, national contests, leadership workshops, National Days of Service (NDOS), and field trips to area attractions. Visit the [FFA web site](#) for more information.

Students will miss 3-4 days of school to attend the National Convention and all missed assignment should be picked up from the teacher in advance. All students attending the National FFA Convention will pay a fee in the range of \$175-250 depending on the total cost of the trip and any business sponsorships that the chapter procures.

FFA Leadership Training Center (FFA Camp)

Each year, the newly elected FFA officers and committee chairs travel to the KY State FFA Leadership Training Center in Hardinsburg, KY to spend five days sharpening their leadership skills, planning for the coming year, and learning to work as a team within their individual roles. The dates of this trip vary each year but always fall between the 3rd week of June and the 3rd week of July. Cost for this trip is a flat fee of \$100 with transportation costs provided by the chapter. **All chapter officers for the following year are required** to attend and committee chairs are strongly encouraged to attend.

212^o Conference (Freshman-Sophomores only)

If personal growth interests you, then the 212^o Conference is the conference for you. Focused on

building your confidence and competence, you have the opportunity to build a foundation of excellence through your own talents, skills and will power. 212° helps you grow personally and realize what it takes to be a premier leader

Washington Leadership Conference

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.

Our FFA chapter does not attend WLC every year due to the costs of the conference. The conference fee is \$685 per student. Only students who demonstrate a strong commitment to leadership development are permitted to attend this conference. All efforts will be made to offset conference costs through fundraisers, but this will be in large part the responsibility of members attending the conference.

Risk Management Essay Contest

Once your supervised agricultural experience is up and running, the Risk Management Essay Contest, helps you protect your investment of time and money. In this program, you will look at the principles of risk management and how they apply to your SAE project. You will discover ways to minimize risk and maximize profits. The best part about the Risk Management Essay Contest is that all winners and their advisor receive an all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. for a special USDA Risk Management Agency/FFA Day. To learn more, talk to your advisor or visit the [National FFA Website](#).

Leadership Development Competitions

A variety of competitions are available to students at the local, regional, state, and national level to students. The following events are meant to develop basic leadership skills in students and range from public speaking. In most cases, students compete at the local level and then may advance to the regional or state level. The competitions our chapter participates in will depend on course offerings each year, for example, an Ag Sales Team will not be selected if the Ag Sales & Marketing class was not offered.

Ag Demonstration - Held only at UK FFA Field Day in the spring of each year. Students demonstrate how to complete a task of their choosing related to agriculture.

Creed Speaking - The Creed CDE seeks to develop the ability of interpretation and self expression of beginning FFA members. The event is open to freshman FFA members only. A creed speaker for the regional level will be selected at the local speaking contests held in January.

Ag Sales - The member will have to convince a panel of judges to purchase their chosen product.

Extemporaneous Speaking – The goal is 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.

Prepared Public Speaking – The goal is to develop the ability of young FFA members to competently express themselves during a prepared speech about an agriculture related topic of their choice.

Impromptu Speaking – This contest tests a student’s ability to give a speech with minimal preparation beforehand. Topics are provided each year by the state staff and represent a variety of agricultural areas.

Job Interview - An FFA member demonstrates his ability to complete a job application form, write a letter of application, prepare a resume, interview, and complete a follow-up letter. The participant will select one of the eight full-time, entry-level job openings and apply for the position. This is available in multiple formats at UK FFA Field Day and at the state level of competition.

Parliamentary Procedure – A team of 10 FFA members demonstrate knowledge of parliamentary law by conducting an orderly/efficient meeting where they transact business and present logical, realistic, and convincing discussion.

Career Development Events (CDEs)

CDEs are meant to help a student acquires skills within a given career field. Most of the CDEs listed below are team events. The center column gives a very brief description of the roles of each student. As will the Leadership Development Competitions, Cooper FFA does not send a team for each event every year. Activities in which we participate are based on student interest and courses offered each year. Not all events have a regional contest. For a more detailed description of each contest please visit the KY FFA Website and click on the “Contest and Awards Bulletin.” This site also contains more information about state speaking contests.

Event Name	Individual/Team Size & Roles	Qualifying Level
Ag Communications	4; News Writer, Broadcaster, Press Release Writer, Graphic Designer	State
Marketing Plan	3; do market research and propose a marketing plan	State
Ag Mechanics	4; each completes the same set of skills	Regional & State
Team Ag Sales	4; each completes the same set of skills; complete a team project	Regional & State
Agronomy	4; each completes the same set of skills	State
Floral Design	4; each completes all activities; complete a team project	Regional & State
Food Science	4; each completes all activities; present an original food product following nutritional requirements	State
Livestock Evaluation	4; each evaluates all classes	State
Meats Evaluation	4; each completes all activities	State

Nursery & Landscaping	4; each completes all activities	State
Horse Evaluation	4; each completes all activities; team completes some problem-solving	State
Greenhand Quiz	One individual competes head to head with other freshmen in a spelling bee style quiz contest; completed at FFA Camp each summer.	State

INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR FFA MEMBERS

Exhibiting at the Boone County Fair

Members of the Cooper FFA Chapter may exhibit livestock and horticulture projects at the local county fair. Projects exhibited must be a part of the student’s Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program and records should be maintained on this project. The FFA section of the livestock shows includes showmanship only. Students desiring to show in other categories are encouraged to join the 4-H program and participate in the 4-H livestock shows as well as the FFA. Because the County Fair is an individual FFA activity, the chapter encourages participation, but does not provide financial support, transportation of livestock, or supervision.

Exhibiting at the State Fair

Members of the Cooper FFA Chapter may exhibit Beef, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goats, Rabbits, Horse, Mechanics/Technology, Horticulture, Floriculture, Sheep, and Swine projects at the Kentucky State Fair in August. All entries must be a part of the student’s Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program and students must have record books on the projects exhibited. Intent to show at the Kentucky State Fair must be communicated to the advisor prior to April in order to secure ear tags and ID forms; identification deadlines are typically in April, May and/or June. Entry deadlines are in June/July. For more information go to <http://www.kystatefair.org/>. Because the Kentucky 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.

National FFA Band and Chorus

The National FFA Band and Chorus provide entertainment at sessions, workshops, meal functions, and other events associated with the National FFA Convention. These very skilled musicians are selected through a highly competitive process that includes a recommendation from the local music instructors, the state FFA band or chorus directors, and an audition tape. Application materials can be downloaded from <http://www.ffa.org/convention/>. The deadline is typically in late April or early May. Members selected for the National Band or Chorus will travel to the convention site several days earlier than the

rest of the chapter in order to practice. Because this is an individual activity, the chapter encourages students to participate, but does not provide financial support or supervision. Chaperones are provided by the National FFA Organization. The individual member is responsible for transporting instruments, paying any fees to the National FFA for music, hotel, etc. and for their meals.

Program of Activities Committees and Offices

Each FFA member is expected to serve on one 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.

As our chapter grows, the number of committees will grow. Committee chairs are elected each year in April. Once committees are established, a secretary for each committee will be selected to keep minutes on committee meetings held throughout the year. The following list shows the four POA committees students can choose to serve on.

Chapter Development	Community Development
Public Relations	Student Development

The Program of Activities is a large document that is revised annually at FFA camp. The full POA is available at the [Cooper FFA Website](#) and as a hard copy in the agriculture classroom. A basic outline of the POA for this year is provided below.

Program of Activities

Date	Event	Responsible Committee
June/July	FFA Camp (Hardinsburg, KY)	Student
August	Trash for Cash	Community
August 5 th	Camp JAG (RCHS)	Chapter
August 8-12 th	Boone County Fair (Exhibit Registration – Aug. 8 th)	Community
August 17-19 th	KY State Fair (Louisville)	Student
Sept.-Nov.	Wild Joe’s Beef Jerky Fundraiser	Chapter
September	Greenhand Picnic (Central Park)	Chapter
September 10 th	State Ag Communications Contest (Apollo High School)	Student
October	Mums Sale Fundraiser	Chapter
October	Regional Land Judging Competition	Student
October 7	Homecoming Parade, Tailgate, & Pig Scramble	Chapter
October 18-21 st	National FFA Convention (Indianapolis)	Student
November	Ag Olympics / Bonfire	Chapter
November	Bowling Night (Erlanger Super Bowl)	Chapter
Nov.-Dec.	Fruit Sale Fundraiser	Chapter
December	Christmas Food Drive	Community

December	Christmas Party (Location TBD)	Chapter
December/January	Greenhand Reception (Location TBD)	Chapter
January 27-28 th	212 ^o Conference (EKU)	Student
January	Local Speaking Contests (Location TBD)	Student
January	Goat Insurance Fundraiser	Chapter
February	Freshman Leadership Conference	Student
February	Laser-Tag Night	Chapter
February 18-25 th	National FFA Week Activities (TBD)	Student
February	FFA Week Proclamation Signing	Student
March	Regional FFA Day	Student
March/April	UK FFA-4H Field Day	Student
March/April	Develop a Governor's Garden	Community
April	Officer Elections	Chapter
April	Regional FFA Paperwork Day	Student
April	Car Wash (Location TBD)	Chapter
April	Elementary Education Program	Community
May	Chapter Awards Banquet	Chapter
June	State FFA Convention (Lexington, KY)	Student
June/July	Washington Leadership Conference (Date TBD)	Student
July	FFA Horse Judging CDE	Student

The following are monthly or bi-monthly activities. Specific dates for each activity will be determined throughout the year.

Date	Event	Responsible Committee
Monthly	FFA Meetings	Chapter
Monthly	PALS Program Visits at Longbranch	Community
Monthly	FFA Alumni Chapter Meetings	Community
Bi-Monthly	Nursing Home Visits (Location TBD)	Community
Bi-Monthly	Camp Ernst Class Visits	Community
TBD	Chapter Work Days (Locations TBD)	Community

Officers are elected in April; officer candidates must fill out an application, participate in an interview, and are sometimes asked to recite opening ceremonies for the offices they desire. Our chapter has six constitutional officers. They are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel. The FFA Advisor must be the agriculture education instructor. Students may also consider running for Northern Kentucky (Regional), Kentucky (State), and 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 phone. We use a variety of internet communication tools, including www.facebook.com and the [chapter website](#) to provide copies of pictures, news and information, documents, applications and the POA. The homepage of the Cooper FFA Website has a Google calendar application which outlines specific dates for activities outlined above. This calendar is updated regularly. You can sign up for updates from this calendar by visiting the chapter website. To learn more about National FFA Organization or the Kentucky FFA Association, check out the following websites: www.ffa.org and www.kyffa.org



HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?



At RCHS there is an active FFA Alumni Affiliate – “Cooper FFA Alumni.” This group functions as a sort of booster club for the agriculture education program. Alumni members can help provide meals for FFA activities, serve as chaperones for events, help to train various CDE teams, and help nominate chapter officers and committee chairs in April. A handful of members can serve as chaperones at state convention and attend state Alumni workshops and meetings. Alumni members can also assist with classroom activities – providing resources and contacts for certain subjects that the instructor may need help with. There are state conferences specifically for Alumni members. Our alumni affiliate can qualify us for awards, student scholarships and many more items from the Kentucky FFA Alumni organization. This is a professional group, providing networking opportunities, leadership development for adults, and increasing agricultural awareness among the community. One myth about the Alumni is that you can only join if you were an FFA member yourself. Don’t let the name deceive you – membership is open to ANYONE who has interest in the agriculture education program and FFA organizations.