

FFA Creed Questions

Who wrote the FFA Creed?

- E. M. Tiffany wrote the creed
- Was adopted at the 3rd National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri
- Initials E. M. stand for Erwin Milton

Why do you believe in the future of agriculture?

- Agriculture is our nation's oldest and most important industry
- Agriculture has progressed during hard times such as the Great Depression when other industries failed
- Agriculture is a necessity for life because everyone has to eat
- Agriculture employs more people than any other industry in the U.S.
- Technology continues to be developed which makes American agriculture stronger
- Our world can not exist with agriculture – especially farming

What is your opinion about the future of American agriculture?

- Agriculture is our nation's oldest and most important industry
- Agriculture has progressed during hard times such as the Great Depression when other industries failed
- Agriculture is a necessity for life because everyone has to eat
- Agriculture employs more people than any other industry in the U.S.
- Technology continues to be developed which makes American agriculture stronger
- Our world can not exist with agriculture – especially farming

How is your faith to agriculture demonstrated by deeds?

- Being a member of the FFA chapter at my school
- Participating in various career development events such as livestock judging, parliamentary procedure, and the FFA creed speaking event
- Having a supervised agricultural experience program which is outdoor recreation
- Studying agriculture and completing an experiment for the agriscience fair

What are some achievements won by present and past agriculturists?

Present

- Finding multiple uses for agricultural products such as using corn oil as an alternative fuel
- Advancing the crops and food that farmers produce by using genetically modified seeds to increase the yields

Past

- Developments in technology that have helped farming such as the cotton gin which was developed by Eli Whitney
- Development of the tractor which improved the efficiency of farming, making it easier and faster to plant and harvest crops
- Overcoming difficult times such as the Great Depression

What do you mean when you say “in the promise of better days through better ways?”

- Better days simply means more enjoyable times that are less stressful
- Better ways means better methods of doing things that make farming easier and less costly
- An example of better days through better ways would be the invention of the Cotton Gin by Eli Whitney which made harvesting cotton faster and less labor intensive (easier)

What are some of the better things we now enjoy from the struggles of former years?

- In the past farmers have often lost crops due to pests. Now, because of genetic engineering, farmers can grow crops that are pest resistant such as BT Cotton which resists the boll weevil or BT Corn which resists the corn borer.
- By overcoming the struggles of former years, food in America costs less than in other countries, so everyone in the United States can enjoy lower costing food.
- Other struggles that farmers have had include the destruction of crops due to weather such as floods or hurricanes. When events such as this occur, the farmer can ease his or her worries because of farm subsidies, which provide financial assistance to farmers for producing food.

What are some examples of struggles that farmers have experienced?

- Uncontrollable elements such as weather (earthquakes, floods, hurricanes) – all of these things can destroy a farmer’s crop or farm
- Farmers also struggle when the media, such as television, make reports about food that can be dangerous such as the Peter Pan Peanut Butter recently that contained Salmonella – the media often causes people to have a bad impression about farming and agriculture

What are examples of agricultural pursuits other than living and working on a good farm?

- Agriculture involves so much more than just farming
- Agriculture involves horticulture or working with plants in a greenhouse or at a flower shop
- Working with animals in a veterinary or at a zoo is agriculture
- Even working outside at a park, on a golf course, or at a swimming pool is agriculture because it involves outdoor recreation
- Landscaping your house or yard is lawn care
- Changing the oil in your car is agricultural mechanics
- Simply having a pet such as a cat or dog is agriculture
- Many people are involved in agricultural pursuits every day and do not even realize it

Why is farm or agricultural work pleasant?

- I must be honest, I do not live on a farm, but my grandfather did grow up on a farm and has told me many stories which I can relate to
- Farmers enjoying working with animals and plants and seeing the results of their efforts
- Farming and agricultural work can also be pleasant because it often provides someone with time to think and is not stressful
- Farming is also pleasant because it is a service industry – people who farm are making a contribution to society by providing food for people who live in our country

What are some of the challenges of agricultural work?

- Uncontrollable elements such as weather (earthquakes, floods, hurricanes) – all of these things can destroy a farmer’s crop or farm and are very challenging when they occur
- Farmers are also challenged by the media, such as television, when they make reports about food that can be dangerous such as the Peter Pan Peanut Butter recently that contained Salmonella – the media often causes people to have a bad impression about farming and agriculture
- Agricultural work is further challenging because of safety issues – thousands of accidents resulting in injury occur on farms each year to both youth and adults

What are some of the joys of agricultural life?

- Agriculture is a service industry because people who work in agriculture are serving the citizens of our country – any type of service work is enjoyable because it creates a good feeling inside knowing that you are doing something good for other people
- Farming is very enjoyable because it allows the farmer to see first hand the product of his toil or the fruits of his labor
 - For example – when a farmer plants a seed...it is nothing but a seed, but after a week that seed becomes a sprout and within a few months that seed is a plant that is producing fruit
 - Another example would be with livestock such as cows, hogs, sheep or horses – when a farmer breeds one of his animals and she gives birth, it is a great joy to experience the miracle of life
- A lot of agricultural work provides time for farmers to spend time with their families which many jobs can not do – this is definitely a perk to agricultural life

What are some of the discomforts of agricultural life?

- Uncontrollable elements such as weather (earthquakes, floods, hurricanes) – all of these things can destroy a farmer’s crop or farm and are very discomforting when they occur
- Other discomforts are caused by the media, such as television, when they make reports about food that can be dangerous such as the Peter Pan Peanut Butter recently that contained Salmonella – the media often causes people to have a bad impression about farming and agriculture
- Agricultural work can also be discomforting because of safety issues – thousands of accidents resulting in injury occur on farms each year to both youth and adults

What does it mean to hold an inborn fondness?

- An inborn fondness comes from the heart – it is true and it is genuine. My fondness for agriculture comes from the knowledge I have gained over this past year in my agriculture class. I know that agriculture is our nation’s oldest and most important industries. Through my participation in the FFA and various events, I have developed an inborn fondness and a deep amount of respect for farmers and all people who work in agriculture.

What is meant by “those associations?”

- When I say “those associations”, I am referring to any group, company, or organization that supports the agriculture industry. There are many examples of these.
 - The National FFA Organization
 - The 4-H club
 - Tractor Supply Corporation
 - The Farm Bureau
 - The United States Department of Agriculture

Give examples of hours of discouragement that an agriculturist might experience:

- Uncontrollable elements such as weather (earthquakes, floods, hurricanes) – all of these things can destroy a farmer's crop or farm and are very discouraging when they occur
- Other discouraging times are caused by the media, such as television, when they make reports about food that can be dangerous such as the Peter Pan Peanut Butter recently that contained Salmonella – the media often causes people to have a bad impression about farming and agriculture
- Agricultural work can also be discouraging because of safety issues – thousands of accidents resulting in injury occur on farms each year to both youth and adults
- When discouraging events occur, it is important that the farmer be optimistic and remember that tomorrow is a new day glowing with opportunity.

Why should others respect you?

- Respect is not something that is immediately gained, rather it must be earned
- I can earn respect by treating others the way that I wish to be treated and respecting them for the differences
- As an FFA member, I can earn respect by stepping into a leadership role and leading by example, being optimistic and encouraging others to better themselves.
- As a future leader in agriculture, I should be respected for supporting our nation's oldest and strongest industry.

What type of leadership can you provide?

- As an FFA member, there are many opportunities I will have to provide leadership.
- I can provide leadership by speaking out about the importance of agriculture in America, such as presenting the FFA Creed.
- I can provide leadership also by standing up for what I believe in and supporting the efforts of others.
- There are many leadership styles, but the best leadership I can provide will be honest and fair.

What does it mean to work efficiently and think clearly?

- Working efficiently simply means to accomplish tasks with the minimum amount of effort and time while producing the desired end product
- Thinking clearly means freeing my mind of negative thoughts or anything that could hinder my performance so that I can stay on task and accomplish the project at hand

Explain the knowledge and skill that you can secure:

- Agriculture is a hands on industry requiring a process of both learning and application
- I can secure this knowledge in my agriculture education classes by working in our animal science lab, our agriculture mechanics shop, or in our school greenhouse
- In addition to the knowledge, I will also develop the skills needed to work in the various agricultural jobs
- My knowledge and skill can be further enhanced by participating in Career Development Events, completing agriscience fair projects, and through my supervised agricultural experience program

What are progressive agriculturists and how do they serve our interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil?

- Progressive agriculturists are those individuals who use the latest technology available in their work.
- Progressive agriculturists understand that change is necessary and that the agriculture industry is always changing.
- Progressive agriculturists serve the public interest by producing agricultural commodities such as beef, pork, chicken, or even crops. Not only do they produce food, but progressive agriculturists also make sure that our food is safe and distribute the products to various markets, such as grocery stores, where it can be sold.

Do agriculturists or farmers beg?

- Agriculturists do not beg, rather we bargain.
- There is a difference between begging and asking for help – in the agriculture industry, farmers help each other all the time by sharing equipment
- Because of farming subsidies and check off programs, farmers do not have to beg since a program is already set up to help them in their time of need.

Give an example of when agriculturists would need to bargain.

- Farmers help each other out all the time. For example, if one farmer needs to borrow another farmer's equipment, he or she will probably bargain and offer something of theirs in return.
- Agriculturists often bargain with labor as well – if someone needs help, other agriculturists are willing to help out but expect the same assistance when they need it.
- Farmers also have to bargain when it comes to selling their commodities (products)...especially in a farmers market setting where people want to pay less than what the farmer is asking.
- To bargain means to come to an agreement of terms – any farmer or agriculturists has to bargain to close any business deal

Why do you believe in more power in bargaining?

- Bargaining involves communication skills and a bargain usually ends with both parties being happy.
- People get annoyed by begging, this is why we should bargain more.
- When we bargain, it sets up future business opportunities and that is why bargaining is more powerful!

What is meant by “the life abundant?”

- “life abundant” suggests that there is a lot more to experience than one's immediate surroundings
- opportunities present themselves everyday and agriculturists need to take advantage of these opportunities

What does honest wealth mean?

- honest wealth means that the money that someone earns was not earned by mischievous ways or through deception, rather through honesty and truth, often through bargaining with someone
- agriculturists and farmers like to be told the truth and do not like to have the wool pulled over their eyes or be taking advantage of...this is also how we treat others
- in farming, business deals are often made by shaking someone's hand and this indicates that you are giving someone your word – this can be done in agriculture because farmers are wholesome and truthful

Give an example of when charity would be needed:

- there are many times when charity might be needed
- in a family crisis, such as when a farmer who is in the army reserves is called off to war, other farmers might have to help out in his absence to keep his farm up and running
- during natural disasters, such as hurricane Katrina, when people's lives were devastated, charity was needed to get people back on their feet
- Charity simply means help...and help can also be needed if a farmer is out of town and his cows get out...it would take help or charity from someone else to get his cattle back into a pasture and to mend the hole in the fence

How can you ensure your own happiness?

- I can ensure my own happiness by setting goals and working hard to achieve those goals.
- I can also ensure my happiness by surrounding myself with people who share similar values.
- I am most happy when I am with my family and friends doing things that I enjoy.
- I can also ensure my happiness by being honest with myself and accepting responsibility for my actions when I make a mistake, but learning from those mistakes.

What does it mean to "play square?"

- Playing square simply means playing fair and being honest
- In agriculture, we want people to treat us with respect and to be truthful, so we should do this in return for other people
- Playing square, from a production agriculture aspect, means providing the consumer with a quality product at a reasonable price so that the farmer receives adequate payment without overcharging the consumer
- Playing square also means being upfront with those who you work with and being honest – whether it be with pesticide usage or possibly using genetically modified seeds. Being honest is an important part in playing square

Give an example of someone whose happiness would depend upon you:

- There are many times when someone else's happiness may depend upon me
- As an FFA member, if I am in charge of coordinating an event, my fellow members and officers and my advisor will depend upon me to follow through with preparations to make sure that things run smoothly
- Later on in life, as I become an adult and start a family of my own, my husband and my children will often depend upon me strength and support and my parents will depend upon me more and more as they get older and are not able to do things for themselves
- Currently, my grandmother depends upon me for many things as she is unable to do for herself

What are the best traditions of our national life?

- Farming is one of the best traditions of our national life – it is our nations oldest and strongest industry
- Along with farming, comes honesty, which is also a tradition in the agriculture industry
- Hard work is also a tradition of our national life as is overcoming challenges that present themselves
- Farmers have maintained the best traditions of our national life for years
- Another tradition of our national life is affordable food – Americans spend less on food every year than other countries

How can American agriculture hold true to the best traditions of our national life?

- Farming is one of the best traditions of our national life
- American agriculture can hold true to the best traditions by supporting those things which will advance American agriculture
- American agriculture can also hold true to these traditions by using advance technology to increase production and keeping the cost of our food down

How can you exert an influence in your home and community?

- As an FFA member, I have many opportunities to exert an influence in my home and community.
- By saying the FFA creed to my classmates, family and friends, teachers, and other people in the community, I am encouraging them all to support the agriculture industry
- Wearing my FFA jacket is also influential because it makes people ask me about the jacket, what it stands for and provides me with the opportunity to talk about our country's oldest and strongest industry, which is agriculture
- I can further have an influence in my home and community through my actions, because often, actions speak louder than words – this includes participating in community service activities, conducting agriscience research projects, or having my supervised agricultural experience program

What is your part in ensuring that American agriculture holds true?

- As an FFA member, I have to influence others around me to support the agriculture industry and this can be done in many ways
- By saying the FFA creed to my classmates, family and friends, teachers, and other people in the community, I am encouraging them all to support the agriculture industry
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When was the FFA Creed adopted?

- The FFA Creed was adopted at the 3rd National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

When was the FFA Creed revised?

- The FFA Creed has been revised twice
- It was first revised at the 38th National FFA Convention
- It was revised again at the 63rd National FFA Convention

If you could change anything about the FFA Creed, what would you change?

- I feel that the FFA Creed accurately reflects our current agriculture industry
- If I made one change, however, it would be in the 5th paragraph where the Creed reads, "I can exert an influence in my home and community" – I would change this phrase so that it read, "I can exert an influence in my home, community, and country" because I feel that my influence can go beyond just my home and community – as FFA members, we have an opportunity to make a difference all across the Unites States of America