

**COLMESNEIL  
FFA**

**MISSION:**

*To inspire individuals,  
cultivate leaders, and  
advocate for  
agriculture while  
honoring the past,  
present, and future  
traditions of our  
COMMUNITY*



**COLMESNEIL FFA**

**MEMBER POLICIES**

**HANDBOOK 2018 - 2019**

FFA MAKES A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF STUDENTS BY DEVELOPING THEIR POTENTIAL FOR PREMIER LEADERSHIP, PERSONAL GROWTH AND CAREER SUCCESS THROUGH AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

# **2018-2019 Colmesneil FFA Officers**

President- Mylee Powell  
Vice President- Jackie Hughes  
Secretary- Keeley Fowler  
Treasurer- Taya Fowler  
Reporter- Sunnie Wilkinson  
Sentinel- Cason Smith  
Student Advisor-Emilee Ozment  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Kenedy Rogers  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President – Scott Eddins Jr.  
Chaplain- Paige Myers  
Historian – Peyton Flannery

## **Ag Department Contact Info**

Mr. Lance Seamans  
(409) 837-5757 Ext 3002  
(409) 200-4202 Cell

[Lance.Seamans@colmesneilisd.net](mailto:Lance.Seamans@colmesneilisd.net)

Miss Molly Blankenship  
(409)837-5757  
(254) 433-2221 Cell

[Molly.Blankenship@colmesneilisd.net](mailto:Molly.Blankenship@colmesneilisd.net)

## **Colmesneil FFA on Social Media**

Colmesneil FFA posts pictures and information on Facebook and Instagram.  
For the latest Colmesneil FFA news, info, and pictures: “Like” us on Facebook or  
“Follow” us on Instagram

## **Newsletters**

We will send out monthly newsletters that have information about upcoming events as well as results from past events. The monthly newsletters will be sent out via email. Please email [molly.blankenship@colmesneilisd.net](mailto:molly.blankenship@colmesneilisd.net) to receive the monthly newsletters.

## **Colmesneil FFA Dues-\$25**

Membership dues are required to become a member of the Colmesneil FFA. This includes dues for Local, District, Area IV, Texas FFA Association, and the National FFA Association. Membership also includes a subscription to the FFA Horizons magazine that will arrive sometime after January 1<sup>st</sup> . You must be enrolled in an Ag Science class in order to be a FFA member. Please pay your FFA dues by September 1st to an Ag Teacher with cash or check (payable to Colmesneil FFA).

## **Colmesneil Jr. FFA-\$25**

Jr. FFA membership is open to any Colmesneil I.S.D. students that are in grades 3-8. Dues for Jr. Members will be \$25. Joining the Jr. FFA allows the member to participate in local meetings as well as showing at county and major livestock shows under the supervision of the Ag-Science teachers. Since they are not enrolled in a high school Ag-Science class, they are not allowed to participate in LDE's or CDE's that are sponsored by the Texas FFA.

## **Meetings**

Colmesneil FFA will hold its meetings on the dates, times, and locations posted on the Ag Bulletin Board. Meetings are an important function of the FFA and all members are encouraged to attend as chapter business is voted upon and important information is passed out.

## **FFA Banquet**

The Annual FFA banquet is a celebration of the Colmesneil FFA member's achievements throughout the year. Every member (Jr. FFA and HS FFA) and their parents are encouraged to attend. All HS members should wear their FFA Official Dress or Professional Dress will be required.

## Colmesneil FFA Ag Backers

The Colmesneil FFA Ag Backers is made up of parents, extended family members of current and former FFA students, members of the community, business leaders, and former FFA students. The purpose of the Ag Backers is to support the Colmesneil FFA program and its members. Money raised from fundraisers is used to support the FFA chapter with (including, but not limited to) travel expenses, equipment needed for chapter operations, and assistance with FFA events, assisting with the purchase of animal projects, and activities as needed. The Ag Backers also awards scholarships to graduating seniors.

## FFA Officers

As an FFA member, you have the opportunity to run for a chapter, district, area, state and national office. As an officer, you are in a position of leadership, which will require time and energy.

**Chapter Officer Elections** – Officer Elections are held at the end of April or beginning of May each year. To declare yourself as an officer candidate, you must complete an officer application and turn it in to an Ag Teacher by the deadline. The officer candidates complete a 4-part election process as follows:

1. Application & Interview- 40%
2. Test over FFA & Parliamentary Procedure- 30%
3. Vote by membership- 20%
4. Ag Science Teacher Evaluation- 10%

For more information on running for a district, area, state or national officer, contact an Ag teacher.

## FFA Jackets

FFA jackets are ordered through the Ag Teachers. The cost is \$75, which includes the jacket, scarf/tie, and shipping costs. The student will be measured for the correct size jacket and ordered by the Ag Teachers. If you would like to order an FFA jacket, please bring check or cash in the amount of \$75 to the Ag Teachers. Checks should be made out to Colmesneil FFA.

## **Leadership Development Event (LDEs)**

Leadership Development Events (LDE's) are held during the fall semester of the year. These events help you develop public speaking and leadership skills that are critical to your success in life. Colmesneil FFA competes in as many contests as we can each year. Members of teams are chosen based on try-outs, performance and attendance of practices. Lists of the contests are below:

FFA Radio Broadcasting  
Agricultural Issues Forum  
Jr. & Sr. FFA Quiz Team  
FFA Public Relations  
Ag Advocacy

Job Interview  
Jr. & Sr. FFA Skills Demonstration  
Jr. & Sr. Creed Speaking  
Jr. & Sr. Chapter Conducting

## **Career Development Event (CDE's)**

There are many different Career Development Events (CDE's) held in the spring semester of the school year. You must place either in the top 5 or in the top 15% of all teams competing in that event at the Area contest in order to advance and compete at the State contest. Some contests advance to National competition and some do not. The list below is a sample of the CDE contests that the Ag Teachers have trained in the past. We are open to trying new contests and not limited to the contests below.

Livestock Judging  
Farm Business Management  
Dairy Foods  
Ag Sales  
Wildlife/Forestry

Poultry Judging  
Horse Judging  
Floriculture Nursery Landscape  
Dairy Judging

# **Speaking Development Event (SDEs)**

Public Speaking contests are held in the spring of each semester. You must compete at the district level and place either 1st or 2nd to compete at the area level and then 1st or 2nd at the area level to compete at the state level. The District FFA Speaking Contests is held during the month of April, with Area following in May and State in July.

**Extemporaneous Speaking-** Gather information in binders, draw a topic at contest and then you have 30 minutes to prepare and then deliver a speech over drawn topic.

**Jr. Prepared Speaking-** Deliver an original prepared speech over the topic of your choice

**Soil Stewardship-** Deliver an original prepared speech over the assigned topic for that year. There are scholarships attached to this contest.

**Sr. Prepared Speaking-** Deliver an original prepared speech in one of the six categories below:

- Natural Resources
- Animal Science
- Agribusiness
- Plant Science
- Agricultural Policy
- Agriscience

# **Awards, Degrees, & Member Recognition**

The following is a description of the awards that are available to members at the Annual FFA Awards Banquet that is held in May of each school year as well as at the District, Area, State, and National Level

## **Star Awards**

To apply for the Star Awards, you must complete the application that will be passed out in April and turn it in by the deadline to an Ag Science Teacher. Star Awards are also available at the District, Area, and State level.

**Star Greenhand** (1st year FFA Member)

**Star Chapter Farmer** (2nd year FFA member)

**Star Lone Star** (3rd year FFA member)

**DeKalb Award** (4th year FFA member)

## FFA Degrees

There are four degrees available to Colmesneil FFA members. Each degree has certain criteria that must be met. Below is a list of the degrees available to Colmesneil FFA members and when they may be earned. (Refer to the Official FFA Manual or Colmesneil FFA, Texas FFA, and National FFA Constitution for degree requirements)

**Greenhand Degree-** Given to a 1st year FFA member.

**Chapter Degree-** Given to 2nd year FFA members.

**Lone Star Degree-** Given to 3rd year FFA members.

**American Degree-** Given to an FFA Member the year after they have graduated High School.

## *Community Service*

The FFA motto ends with “Living to Serve.” Community service is one way FFA members can serve the school they attend and community they live in. It is also a requirement to earn the degrees in the FFA. Colmesneil FFA will have several community service projects throughout the year to put our motto into action.

## *Leadership Activities*

There are many leadership activities available to Colmesneil FFA members. These activities happen at different times of the year and some require the member to be a district, area, or state officer. Some activities require registration fees from the FFA members. Announcements of these camps and conferences are made in class, on the Facebook or Instagram pages, or in the monthly newsletter.

Ag in the Classroom – Chapter Officers Only

District Leadership Camp- Chapter Officers Only

Area Leadership Camp- Chapter Officers Only

State Leadership Camp- District & Area Officers Only

Area Greenhand Camp- 1<sup>st</sup> year FFA members only

District/Area/State FFA Conventions

Washington Leadership Conference – Chapter Officers Only

National FFA Convention

Texas FFA Foundation Ambassador

## **State FFA Convention**

Each year in July, the Texas FFA holds its annual convention. This is the largest youth convention in the United States with over 12,000 attendees. Colmesneil FFA attends this convention each summer to participate in Leadership Workshops, help conduct business of the Texas FFA, and to hear some world renown motivational speakers. The chapter officers will attend along with other members based on room availability, active participation and behavior throughout the year. Members who are participating in Courtesy Corps, Convention Chorus, Convention Media, Foundation Ambassadors, Speaking Contests, Science Fair, or being recognized on stage are also eligible to attend. Any member that is attending convention with the chapter should be present all week of convention. Graduated FFA members receiving a scholarship must attend the convention the day they receive their scholarship. The chapter will pay for the graduated members day pass, however transportation to and from the convention will be the FFA members responsibility. All students attending will be responsible for providing money for meals and other purchases during the week.

## **Fundraising Activities**

The FFA does many activities throughout the year that requires money. The money earned through our fundraisers help pay for our community service projects, refreshments and door prizes at meetings, camp registration fees, conventions, entry fees for contests, annual awards banquet, show and livestock equipment, county fair décor and exhibitor signs and other activities that we participate in. You are asked to participate in all fundraising activities that we have. The more money that our group earns, the more activities we can participate in. Fundraising activities will vary from year to year. So join our fundraisers and take an active role in supporting your chapter.



## **Scholarship Opportunities**

There are over \$2 million in scholarships given out to Texas FFA members each year at the State FFA Convention. Many local scholarships that are available to FFA members as well. Below is a list of some of the scholarships that are available to qualifying FFA members. Many scholarships are based on FFA activities. It is important that you participate in as many FFA activities as possible beginning with your freshman year. Check with the Ag Teachers and/or High School Counselor about deadlines.

Colmesneil Ag Backers

Tyler County Go Texan

Texas FFA Scholarship Program

John Justin Standard of the West Award

San Antonio Project Scholarships

Legacy Memorial

National FFA Scholarship Program

Soil Stewardship Speaking Award Scholarships

Ryan Mott Memorial Scholarships

## **Major Livestock Shows**

Colmesneil FFA is able to participate in the following Major Livestock Shows. Ag Teachers will attend the Fort Worth, San Antonio, Houston, and South Texas State Fair livestock shows only, due to travel budget limitations. We will assist with entries on the ones listed below. All other livestock shows and corresponding events are the responsibility of the exhibitor and their families.

## **Show Entries**

The agricultural science teachers will assist members in entering major livestock shows. Entries in all shows will be the responsibility of the student. It is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor to be familiar with all rules pertaining to his/her livestock project (this information may include weight limits, entry requirements, age, etc.) A Major Show Entry Meeting will be held prior to November 1<sup>st</sup> in the Ag Building to complete these entries.

## **Travel to and from Shows / Hotels / Meals**

At least one parent or guardian is required to attend all livestock and agricultural mechanics shows with their student. It is the responsibility of the student to get themselves to and from shows as well as make arrangements for the hauling of their projects to and from shows. It is the responsibility of the student to purchase hotel rooms and all meals while at the shows.

## **Show Equipment/Supplies**

The FFA has various show equipment/supplies that are available for use to the members. It must be returned in working order and in good repair or the student will be expected to repair or replace the equipment. To borrow equipment, please complete a Equipment Use Agreement and return to Mr. Seamans.

## **Quality Counts Certification**

It is the responsibility for each exhibitor to learn and demonstrate the highest standards, both in personal character and in the feeding and care of their animals. "Quality Counts" is designed to teach young people the importance of displaying good character in carrying out livestock projects, and in every aspect of their lives. "Quality Counts" helps them learn the importance of using proper livestock management practices so that food quality and safety are preserved. Each student that exhibits a livestock project at a livestock show in the State of Texas must complete the online Quality Counts program.

The website is <http://agriflife.org/qualitycounts/verification/>.

There are 2 age divisions for Quality Counts – Junior (Elem. & JH) and Senior (HS). When a member crosses the age division line, they must take the senior certification. All members are required to take the new updated test after August 1, 2018.

## **Responsibilities to Buyers**

If at a major show or county fair a member's project makes the sale or receives premium money, it is the student's responsibility to write appropriate Thank You letters to buyers/donors. Many major shows will not send sale/premium checks until a Thank You letter has been written. All students receiving a check from the Tyler County Fair will need to bring all thank you cards to Mr. Seamans before receiving any payments.

# **FFA & Agriscience Department**

## **Code of Conduct**

FFA Members should conduct themselves at all times to be a credit to their organization, chapter, school, community, and family. Requirements and Expectations at school and during all school-sponsored activities are outlined below:

### ***FFA member should:***

1. Communicate in an appropriate manner.
2. Demonstrate good sportsmanship by being modest in winning and generous in defeat.
3. Respect the rights of others and their property.
4. Be courteous, honest and fair with others.
5. Follow all Colmesneil ISD school rules
6. Neat in the appearance (No discolored hair, inappropriate clothing or anything that is considered unprofessional)

### ***FFA Members Will Not:***

1. Be a part of robbery and theft.
2. Assault or vandalize people or their property.
3. Fight or be a part of a violent situation.
4. Use or in the possession fireworks or firearms of any type.
5. Be a part of sexual harassment situations.
6. Use unethical practices to show or exhibit their projects.
7. Partake, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol beverages.
8. Partake, possess, or be under the influence of tobacco.
9. Partake of, possess or be under the influence of illegal substances.

### ***Consequences:***

1. Notification of Colmesneil I.S.D. Administration and appropriate authorities.
2. Notification of the parent or guardian.
3. Removal of student from activity.
4. Removal of the animal or exhibit. The animal or exhibit will be declared ineligible for further participation in the event.
5. Upon returning to the school, consequences outlined in the Student Handbook will be enforced.

# FFA Membership Form 2018-2019

1. Membership dues are \$25.00.
2. Membership form and dues must be turned into an Ag Teacher by Sept. 1st!
3. PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY AND NEATLY.

Circle one: Jr. FFA      FFA      How Many years in HS FFA? \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Animals you plan to raise for livestock shows (if any):

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## ***Parent / Guardian Information***

Mothers Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mothers Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Fathers Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- I have received an Colmesneil FFA Member Policies Handbook and have read all the policies and suggestions with in it.
- I also give my child permission to attend, and travel to any FFA activities with the FFA Advisors. In the event of an emergency, I give permission for the Ag Teachers to seek medical help. A phone call to the parent will be made as soon as possible in the event of an emergency.

Signature of Parent Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student Date \_\_\_\_\_

*This form must be signed and returned to the Ag Teachers before the student will be permitted to participate in any activities of this organization.*