

Revised 8/28/2023

# La Porte FFA

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting Packet and Student Handbook



[www.laporte.ffanow.org](http://www.laporte.ffanow.org)

# La Porte High School FFA/ Agri-Science

**1002 San Jacinto St.**

**La Porte, TX 77571**

Classrooms: CTE Building

[www.laporte.ffa.org](http://www.laporte.ffa.org)

**FACEBOOK PAGE: La Porte FFA**

**School (281)604-7000**

**Principal: Mr. Grammer**

## AgriScience Teachers/ FFA Advisors

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**Department Chair**

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La Porte FFA

Welcome to the first FFA meeting of the 2023-2024 school year! Tonight you will get lots of information. We realize that sometimes this is a bit overwhelming so we will try to condense some of the most important facts for you. For sophomore, junior, and senior parents, this information is familiar but may need to be reviewed because there have been some changes this year.

## REQUIREMENTS TO SHOW AT LA PORTE LIVESTOCK SHOW:

- A. First year students in an ag science class that want to show must:
1. Learn the FFA Creed
  2. Learn Members of Unison
- B. Team Participation: ALL students showing must participate in **all activities that equal to 60 points.** Students must be UIL eligible to participate:

### **FALL Semester:**

ONLY 1 livestock showmanship clinic per specie held at the LPISD facility by the Ag teachers or at Home Visits

ONLY 1 livestock prospect show per specie

September	Pasadena Livestock Show (Ag Mech Contest)
September	Pasadena Livestock Show (Floral Design Contest)
September	Pasadena Livestock Show Calf Scramble
October	Parking Lot at Little Kid Rodeo
October	Haunted High (High School)
November	Gulf Coast District LDE's
November	Area 3 LDE's
December	Can and Toy Drive (Must bring at least 10 cans and 5 small toys or 2 big toys)
December	Christmas at the Barn

### **Spring Semester:**

ONLY 1 livestock showmanship clinic per specie held at the LPISD facility by the Ag teachers or at Home Visits

ONLY 1 livestock prospect show per specie

Spring Community Service Project\*\*\* TBD

January-April	CDE Competitions
April	LPLSRA & Ad Sales for the La Porte Livestock Show
April	Area 3 CDE's

(BE AWARE THAT SOME OF THESE ACTIVITIES COULD HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO CAN PARTICIPATE. REMEMBER THAT NO PASS, NO PLAY COULD ALSO MAKE YOU SON OR DAUGHTER INELEGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE CONTESTS)

- C. Students **cannot** have more than **2** unexcused absences from FFA meetings beginning with the October Meeting through the **completion** of the 2023-2024 school year. **Please plan ahead for scheduled chapter meetings as work conflicts will be considered unexcused absences.**
- D. Students must participate in fundraising activities (Charleston and Fresh Country) and sell a minimum of 15 items per fundraiser or 30 for one. Top Sales will receive a prize at the FFA Banquet.

- E. Students must PARTICIPATE in a community service activity held by La Porte FFA

### **LA PORTE LIVESTOCK SHOW RULES HIGHLIGHTS**

1. No Pass/ No Play is in effect and does apply to the Livestock Show requirements!
2. **Must pass all classes during the 3<sup>rd</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> Week Report Card-Grading Period Ends March 8**
3. Students are ineligible to show if that are suspended from school or placed in DAEP any time during the 23-24 year. Any student placed in ISS for more than 5 days per semester during the year is ineligible to show.
4. Students that are caught using ANY tobacco products, drinking alcohol, foul language, inappropriate dress code and physical or verbal altercations while present at Lomax Arena during the duration of the La Porte Livestock Show will be asked to leave and be reported to the LPISD administration.
5. Students MUST sell \$200 worth of Raffle tickets and \$25 ad for the LPLSRA. These requests are required to show at LPLSRA by the LPLSRA Board of Directors!! This does NOT correlate with La Porte FFA

**THE LIVESTOCK SHOW BEGINS ON TBA. STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE IN ATTENDANCE FOR THE MANDATORY LIVESTOCK MEETING!**

**LA Porte FFA will NOT be taking entry forms, thank you cards, or delivery receipts. All documents will be turned into the Association**

\*\*\*Please note that students are responsible for checking the board in their classroom for all announcements, important dates & information regarding their species. You must also sign in at ALL meetings and practices to verify that you were in attendance. \*\*\*

## 2023-2024 Animal Project Dates and Prices

### LPLSRA/PLSR

La Porte ISD Project Show is April TBA. PLSR show is September 23-30. All animals may be selected by student or be given advise. **If you have an outside project, the advisor has the right to visit projects when needed or monthly for Livestock Checks. A deny to this request will result in automatic removal for that livestock animal show. Any student's project outside the barn that do not allow advisors to visit projects, will be automatically not eligible to show under La Porte FFA.**

**Below are estimated cost for LPLSRA.**

#### **Market Hogs:**

Cost	\$500 & Up
Entry Fee	\$25.00
Barn Fee	\$85.00
Barn Fees Due	October 7th at 6 pm at barn
Approximate feed and other cost	\$85.00-\$95.00 per month
*Grand & Reserve plus 5 more auction spots. Remainder will be sold in the back sale for a minimum of \$400 plus add-ons.	

#### **Market Lambs:**

Cost	\$ 500 & up
Entry Fee	\$25.00
Barn Fee	\$85.00
Barn Fees Due	October 7th at 6 pm at barn
Approximate feed and other cost	\$75.00-\$85.00 per month
*Grand & Reserve plus 5 more auction spots. Remainder will be sold in the back sale for a minimum of \$400 plus add-ons.	

#### **Market Goats:**

Cost	\$500 plus
Entry Fee	\$25.00
Barn Fee	\$85.00
Barn Fees Due	October 7th at 6 pm at barn
Approximate feed and other cost	\$75.00-\$85.00 per month
*Grand & Reserve plus 5 more auction spots. Remainder will be sold in the back sale for a minimum of \$400 plus add-ons.	

#### **Market Rabbits:**

Cost	\$55 Each
Entry Fee	\$25.00
Tattoo date	TBA
Approximate feed and other cost	\$100.00 total
*Grand & Reserve plus 5 more pens will be sold at auction. Also, seven single fryer rabbits will be sold at auction. Rest will be sold in back sale.	

#### **Market Broilers:**

Cost	around \$2 a bird (25 chicks minimum)
Entry Fee	\$25.00
Due by	TBA
Pick Date	TBA
Approximate feed and other cost	\$300.00 & up total
*Grand & Reserve plus five more pens will be sold in auction. Remaining pens will be sold in back sale.	

#### **Market Turkey:**

Cost	around \$2 a bird (25 chicks minimum)
Entry Fee	\$25.00
Pick Date	TBA
Approximate feed and other cost	\$300.00 total
*Grand & Reserve plus five more turkeys will be sold in auction. Remaining will be sold in back sale.	

**Animal fees can be paid with:**

- **Check or Money Order/Cashier Check**

# \$Fundraising\$

Participation is required for the FFA Officers, FFA and Jr. FFA members. Those that sell the fundraiser will have a chance to win the Top Sales Award Prize that will be presented at the FFA banquet. You may also do a buy-out of \$50 per fundraiser.

Beef Sticks

-PLSR Fundraiser

-items go towards LPLSRA requirement

Parking Lot-Parade

-PLSR Fundraiser

-items go towards LPLSRA requirement

## *FFA Fresh Country Sale:*

Our 2nd fundraising activity.

Students sell fruit and meat products through Fresh Country. Students must sell at least 15 items of fruit or meat in order to participate in our livestock show. Students will receive fruit and meat information during their ag classes.

All checks should be made out to La Porte FFA. We encourage you to use the APP

All fruit and meat must be picked up on the day of delivery from Fresh Country. We do not have freezer or storage space for these food items. Parents can start picking up fruit and meat at TBA time.

## *3rd Fundraiser (SPRING)*

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo  
Program Sales

-Counts as 15 items

**You must sell 10 items to show at PLSR!**

**You must sell 30 items in a combination  
between 3 fundraisers to show at LPLSRA!**

# FFA Creed

## FFA Motto:

Learning to do,

Doing to learn,

Earning to live,

Living to serve.

I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds - achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.

I believe that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an

inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.

I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of progressive agriculturists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil.

I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so--for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.

I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.

*The creed was written by E. M. Tiffany, and adopted at the 3rd National Convention of the FFA. It was revised at the 38th Convention and the 63rd Convention.*

## **Members in Unison**

**“...TO PRACTICE BROTHERHOOD, HONOR  
AGRICULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES AND  
RESPONSIBILITIES, AND TO DEVELOP  
THOSE QUALITIES OF LEADERSHIP WHICH  
AN FFA MEMBER SHOULD POSSESS!”**

## **Degrees**

**Greenhand Degrees are earned after your first  
year as paid FFA Members**

**Chapter Degrees are earned after your second  
year as paid FFA Members**

**Lonestar Degrees are earned after your third year  
as paid FFA Members, completed AET record  
book, and recognized completion by Texas FFA**

**American Degrees are earned after your fourth  
year as paid FFA Members, completed AET record  
book, and recognized completion by National FFA**



## **La Porte FFA Important Dates**

**Calendars will be given at every meeting**

# **La Porte FFA Livestock Show Eligibility Checklist with Points (60 Points)**

## **All points must be initialed by an Ag advisor**

### **Activities: (Must have 4 checked with 5 Points each)**

- ☐ ONLY 1 livestock showmanship clinic per specie held at the LPISD facility by the Ag teachers or at Home Visits
- ☐ ONLY 1 livestock prospect show per specie
- ☐ Pasadena Livestock Show (Ag Mech Contest)
- ☐ Pasadena Livestock Show (Floral Design Contest)
- ☐ Pasadena Livestock Show Calf Scramble
- ☐ Gulf Coast District LDE's
- ☐ Area 3 LDE's
- ☐ Can and Toy Drive (Must bring at least 10 cans and 5 small toys or 2 big toys)
- ☐ Working Christmas at the Barn
- ☐ LDE Team (PR, Quiz, Ag Issues, Chapter Conducting, Radio, Creed, Skills, Ag advocacy)
- ☐ CDE Team (Livestock, FBM, Wildlife, Poultry, Dairy Foods, Floral, Vet Tech, Range, Horse)
- ☐ Spring Community Service Project\*\*\* TBD
- ☐ Invitational CDE's
- ☐ HLSR Program Sales
- ☐ Ad Sales for the La Porte Livestock Show
- ☐ Area 3 CDE's
- ☐ Santa Tags
- ☐ Approved other activity

### **Fundraising: (ALL MUST be checked with 15 points each)**

- ☐ Sold minimum of 15 items of Charleston Wrapping Fundraiser or buy out of \$50
- ☐ Sold Fresh Country Fundraiser or buy out of \$50

### **Community Service Hours: (Has to be Checked)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Attend a Community Service Project held by La Porte FFA Chapter (ex. Beach Clean-up, Christmas at the Barn, etc)

### **Behavior/ Grades: (ALL checked)**

\_\_\_ No more than 5 days of ISS assigned per semester or ANY DAEP Assignment for that school year

\_\_\_ Pass all classes during the 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks

### **Meetings: (ALL Checked but 2)**

\_\_\_ September Meeting

\_\_\_ January FFA Meeting

\_\_\_ October FFA Meeting

\_\_\_ February FFA Meeting

\_\_\_ November FFA Meeting

\_\_\_ March FFA Meeting

\_\_\_ December FFA Meeting

\_\_\_ April Meeting

### **GREENHANDS ONLY: (ALL checked)**

\_\_\_ Learn the FFA creed

\_\_\_ Learn Members of Unison

## **FFA Meetings**

\* The meeting time is the **START** time at 6:30pm. You must already have signed in by that point. All sign in sheets will be taken up at the start of the meeting. Dress code must meet the meeting requirements, if not in appropriate attire and the requirements are not met then you will not be counted present for that meeting. Official dress for Jr FFA will be our FFA t-shirt.

### **September 6(returning) & 5(new members): Beginning of the Year Information Meeting**

- Students can wear school appropriate casual dress.
- A parent required meeting
- Student Handbooks

### **October 10th: Halloween Meeting**

- Students must wear OD or a costume that is school appropriate
- No parent required.
- Samples from Fresh Country will be available to kick off our fruit and meat fundraiser.

### **October 12<sup>th</sup>: Barn Mandatory Meeting: Must attend if you are in the LPISD school barn. This meeting will be at the LPISD Barn. Pay barn dues 5-6pm and Meeting at 6pm**

- Barn Rules
- Barn Payments for LP Livestock show (If not here at this meeting you WILL NOT be able to raise in LPISD barn for the LP Livestock Show)
- Specie meeting
- Barn Chores

### **November 7: Meeting**

- ALL Students must wear official dress.
- No parent required
- Canned food drive and Toy Drive (Must bring at least 10 cans and 5 small toys or 2 big toys)
- Activities for students

### **December 5: Potluck**

- Must wear student wear OD or an Ugly Sweater
- No parent required
- Canned food drive and Toy Drive (Must bring at least 10 cans and 5 small toys or 2 big toys)
- Activities for students

### **January 9th:**

- Students must be in official dress

### **February 6**

- Students must wear OD.
- Parent required meeting

### **March 5:**

- Students must wear Official Dress

### **April 2: Fun Meeting**

- Students can wear school appropriate clothing.
- Parent required
- La Porte Livestock Show information
- Fun Activities

### **May TBA: End of the Year Banquet**

- Students must wear Official Dress.
- All FFA students are **required** to attend
- Banquet held in the Student Center

\*Students must attend all but 2 FFA meetings in order to show. UIL activities and absences from school for being sick are the only approved absences. If you have UIL activity you MUST make an Ag teacher aware AHEAD of time. **All absences are subject to ag teacher discretion** under extenuating circumstances. **Work is not an excused absence. Make sure you let your bosses know ahead of time**

## **OFFICIAL DRESS (OD)**

The FFA Association is unique in that we have an official dress that stands for unity in our organization. The corduroy jacket FFA Members wear dates back to the 1933 national convention where it was first established. The FFA Official Dress standards were created at the 1973 Convention. Since this time, the official dress has been worn at FFA functions across the world. When others see our members in official dress, they realize that we belong to one of the largest youth led organizations in the world. Therefore, it is important that each FFA member understand and wear the correct official dress while participating in official activities.

Remember that it is an **honor** to wear the blue corduroy jacket and the official dress representing the legacy of the FFA. Wear it properly - and with pride

### **Girls:**

- Black skirt - Skirt is to be at least knee length, hemmed evenly across the bottom, with a slit no longer than 2 inches above the knee, excluding the kick pleat or black slacks
- White collared blouse & Official FFA blue scarf
- Black dress shoes with a closed heel and toe  
(no boots, sandals, open-toed shoes, tennis shoes)
- Black nylon hosiery
- Official FFA jacket zipped to the top.
- No facial piercings or unnatural colored hair (blue, pink, etc)
- Black jeans and boots are only appropriate for certain events with ag teacher approval

### **Guys:**

- Black dress pants (no jeans - blue or black, leather, pleather, etc.)
- White dress shirt & Official FFA tie
- Black dress shoes with a closed heel and toe.  
(no boots, sandals, open-toed shoes, tennis shoes, )
- Black socks
- Official FFA jacket zipped to the top
- Black jeans and boots are only appropriate for certain events with ag teacher approval
- No facial hair. Hair should be cut short enough to not touch ears or back of your collar

## **JR. FFA “Official Dress” for La Porte FFA**

- This year’s chapter shirt
- Jeans
- School appropriate shoes

## **Other Commonly Used La Porte FFA Terms:**

***Greenhands:*** A first year ag student is known as a Greenhand.

***Ag Barns:*** LPISD Agricultural facilities located on Sens Road. Students raising lambs, goats, pigs, and steers may keep their animals out there for a monthly rental fee. All LPISD rules apply for dress code and behavior at the barns.

***Quality Counts:*** This is an online program through the AgriLife Extension designed for all students. Students will complete this program in the computer lab during class. They do not need to work on it at home unless they miss those days in class. In order to show in the LPISD Livestock show, all Greenhands must complete this program.

### **Discipline**

***Adaption Clause:*** In the rare case that there is a discipline issue not covered by the LPISD FFA rules, the agriculture science teachers will adapt rules to deal with the situation via guidance of the LPISD administration. Simply claiming “it’s not in the rules” is not an excuse for poor behavior. The same rules outlined by the school and district that you are required to acknowledge and sign for at the beginning of each school year, are always observed. A serious violation could result in a recommendation for immediate removal from the Complex and/or FFA Program.

**Social Media:** Any student that uses social media that influences negatively to the Chapter, Advisors, or other students will have consequences for their actions.

### **Proper Use of the FFA Jacket:**

- 1) The jacket is to be worn only by members.
- 2) The jacket should be kept clean and neat.
- 3) The back of the jacket should have only a large official FFA emblem, the name of the state and the name of the local chapter, region, district or area. The front of the jacket should have only a small official FFA emblem, the name of the individual, one office or honor and the year of that office or honor.
- 4) The jacket should be worn on official occasions with the zipper fastened to the top. The collar should be turned down and the cuffs buttoned.
- 5) **The jacket can ONLY be worn with COMPLETE official dress.**
- 6) The jacket should only be worn to places that are appropriate for members to visit.
- 7) School letters and insignia of other organizations should not be attached to or worn on the jacket.
- 8) When the jacket becomes faded and worn, it should be discarded or the emblems and lettering removed.
- 9) The emblems and lettering should be removed if the jacket is given or sold to a non-member.
- 10) A member should act professionally when wearing the FFA jacket.
- 11) All chapter degree, officer and award medals should be worn beneath the name on the right side of the jacket, with the exception that a single State FFA Degree charm or American FFA Degree key should be worn above the name or attached to a standard key chain. No more than three medals should be worn on the jacket. These should represent the highest degree earned, the highest office held and the highest award earned by the member. No more than three medals should be worn on the jacket.



## La Porte ISD FFA Letter Jacket

\*A total of 15 points accumulated during your FFA high school career is required to receive a letter Jacket.

\*Point totals in each area are non-cumulative where applicable to increasing levels of success.

\*Must have points in at least 3 division, unless automatic acceptance

FFA Chapter automatically gets billed \$50 for every letterman jacket

### Leadership Development Events

- Top ten (individual or team) any LDE contest 1 pt
- Member of District Leadership Team 1 pt
- Member of Area Leadership Team 2 pts
- Member of State Leadership Team 5 pts
- Place at a State LDE Team 10pts

### Career Development Events

- Member of Area CDE 1 pt  
(Or state team with no area qualifier)
- Top ten individual at a Spring CDE contest (area & state) 1 pt
- Member of State Qualifying CDE Team 10 pts

### Speaking Events

- Compete in District Speaking event 1 pt
- Compete in Area Speaking event 2 pts
- Place at State Speaking Contest 10pts

### Ag Mechanics (each project may only be exhibited once)

- Exhibition Ag. Mech. at any show 1 pts
- Grand or Reserve for Ag. Mech. project @ LPLSRA, PLSR, or Harris County 3 pts
- Grand or Reserve Overall @ Majors 10pts

### Horticulture/Floral Shows/Creative Arts

- Exhibition @ LPLSRA, PLSR, or Harris County 1 pts
- Grand or Reserve project @ LPLSRA, PLSR, or Harris County 3 pts

**Livestock** (each animal may receive points once a year ex. heifer)

- Exhibiting at animal at LPLSRA/PLSR/ Harris County/Major 1 pts
- Making Grand Showmanship at LPLSRA/PLSR/Harris County 3 pts
- Making Grand in one species at LPLSRA/PLSR/Harris County 3 pts
- Making Reserve in one species at LPLSRA/PLSR/Harris County 3 pts
- Making sale at Pasadena/LPLSRA 2 pts
- Making sale at Major 10 pts

**FFA Awards, Offices & misc.**

- Chapter Officer 2 pts
- Talent team at the District level 1 pts
- Talent team at the Area level 2 pts
- Talent team state qualifying 3 pts
- Talent Team- top 10 at state 7 pts
- Talent Team State Qualifying 10pts
- -Selling over \$1000 in fund raisers 1 pt  
(1 point per additional \$500)
- Greenhand, Chapter, Lonestar Award (chapter level) 2 pt
- State Courtesy Corps 1 pt
- Earning Lone Star FFA Degree 10 pt
- Running for chapter/ district / Area officer 1 pt
- Elected district/ Area officer 5 pt
- Exhibit an Ag Science Fair project (majors or state convention) 1 pt
- Top 10 Ag Science Fair project (majors or state convention) 10 pts
- Apply for Star or Proficiency Area level 3 pts
- Apply for Star or Proficiency State level 5 pts
- Win star / proficiency award state level 10pts

**Additional Requirements**

- A member must be an FFA member in good standing
- If student commits a serious offense as defined by LPISD Student code of conduct, they may not receive a letter jacket and may forfeit a letter Jacket
  - Jacket must be purchased by student
  - An applicant must have recommendation of Sponsor / FFA Advisor. A student may not show up to order a jacket without approval by an ag teacher.

**Letter Jacket Order Dates: TBA**

**HICKS MUST APPROVE ALL POINT**

## Letter Jacket Point Accumulation Sheet

[illegible]

**FFA MEETING ABSENCES REQUEST**

**(Request will only be accepted by La Porte ISD School Reasons,**

**WORK IS NOT AN EXCUSED ABSENCE)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Absence Request Reasoning:**

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**Signed by**

**Coach:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved by**

**Hicks:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **FFA Membership Guidelines**

**The FFA Organization allows Ag Science students to apply skills taught in the classroom. Members can become involved in competitions, leadership development, conferences, State & National Conventions, scholarship opportunities, awards, and SAEs.**

### **Membership Conduct**

FFA members are expected to display appropriate behavior while participating in FFA related activities. FFA activities are considered to be school sponsored activities, therefore school rules will apply. Parents and students are reminded that extracurricular activities are an extension of the classroom and will be treated as such. Inappropriate behavior will be dealt with appropriately

### **Social Media**

**This contract will be used to ensure a positive representation of the student, La Porte FFA and LPISD.**

**Below are the social networking guidelines, which provides the following direction for social networking site usage:**

- **Similar to comments made in person, the La Porte FFA program will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online, such as:**
  - **Derogatory language or remarks that may harm other students in the chapter, advisors, teachers, or school representatives of La Porte ISD**
  - **Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person**

## WELCOME TO LA PORTE FFA

To make sure each family receives a copy of the following materials, please sign below and return to the agricultural Science teachers by **November 1st** agreeing to all terms within the La Porte FFA Student Handbook. **The student may not compete under La Porte FFA until this form is completed and turned into Mrs. Hicks!**

Students Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_