

Department Policy and Information

The following policies and guidelines apply to the Mount Enterprise ISD Agricultural Department and Mount Enterprise ISD FFA Chapter. As a leadership organization: Students must be in good standing in and out of the school and are subject to dismissal from the organization for problems in any of the following areas: insubordination, truancy, cheating, possession of alcohol or drugs, violations of the MEISD student code of conduct or major breaches of the FFA code of ethics.

The Ag science teacher and/or Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE) reserve the right to add to or amend these guidelines and rules as deemed necessary. This document will be kept updated and located on the MEISD district website. It will be the responsibility of teachers, students and parents to utilize the district website to obtain and/or refer to the most current version of this document.

All Mount Enterprise ISD FFA student activities are an extension of Mount Enterprise ISD; therefore, all rules and regulations found in the MEISD Student Handbook, MEISD Student Code of Conduct and Mount Enterprise ISD School Board Policy apply. In addition, students participating in FFA will be required to adhere to the MEISD student co-curricular/extracurricular contract, and contents of this document.

FFA Code of Ethics:

- FFA members conduct themselves at all times to be a credit to their organization, chapter, school, community and family.
- Develop my potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.
- Make a positive difference in the lives of others.
- Dress neatly and appropriately for the occasion.
- Respect the rights of others and their property.
- Be courteous, honest and fair with others.
- Communicate in an appropriate, purposeful and positive manner.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship by being modest in winning and generous in defeat.
- Make myself aware of FFA programs and activities and be an active participant.
- Conduct and value a supervised Agricultural experience program.
- Strive to establish and enhance my skills through Agricultural education in order to enter a successful career.
- Appreciate and promote diversity in our organization.

FFA Official Dress

Female Official Dress

- 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. Black slacks may be appropriate for traveling and outdoor activities.
- White collared blouse and official FFA blue scarf.
- Black dress shoes with a closed heel and toe (No boots, sandals, open-toed shoes, or tennis shoes.)
- Black nylon hosiery.
- Official FFA jacket zipped to the top.

Male Official Dress

- Black dress pants. (No jeans - blue or black, leather, pleather, etc.)
- White dress shirt and official FFA tie.
- Black dress shoes with a closed heel and toe. (No sandals, open-toed shoes, tennis shoes.)
- Black socks.
- Official FFA jacket zipped to the top.

How to Wear Awards

- Chapter degree, officer and award medals should be worn beneath the name on the right side of the jacket.
- State FFA Degree or American Degree keys should be worn above the name on the right side of the jacket 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, highest office held and the highest award earned.

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. Members and officers should wear the jacket on all official FFA occasions, as well as other occasions where the chapter or state association is represented. It may be worn to school and other appropriate places.
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 nonmember.
10. A member should act professionally when wearing the FFA jacket.
11. Members should refrain from use of tobacco and alcohol when underage at all times when representing the FFA. In addition, members should exhibit their leadership qualities when they encounter substances including tobacco and alcohol and serve to discourage others from inappropriate behavior.
12. 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.
13. No hats when in official dress.

Chapter Officer Elections, Leadership Development Events, and Career Development Events

Chapter Officer Elections

Each Mount Enterprise ISD FFA Chapter has their own Chapter Constitutions and these will be used when selecting Chapter FFA Officers. Each FFA Chapter will adhere to the constitution set forth by each chapter. See officer handbook for officer guidelines.

Career Development Events and Leadership Development Events

Career Development Events and Leadership Development Events are the connection between high school and the real world. These events are truly competitions that teach students current trends in the Agriscience industries as well as critical thinking and communication.

Leadership Development Events are contests that occur during the fall semester. Career Development Events are contests that occur during the spring semester. Each Mount Enterprise ISD FFA Chapter will compete in contests that best fit the needs and interest of their FFA members.

LDE and CDE practices will be available as well as practice contests.

Mount Enterprise ISD FFA Jacket Criteria

Mount Enterprise ISD will purchase FFA Jackets if the following criteria are met.

- In 8th - 12th grades
- Enrolled in an approved Agriculture Class
- Been a Jr or HS FFA Member for at least 2 years

If you have not been an FFA member for at least 2 years, you may purchase a standard FFA jacket for \$65 or a tailored jacket for \$90.

FFA Scarfs are \$12.50

FFA Tie's are \$16.00

FFA Homecoming Duchess

- **Must be a senior Mount Enterprise FFA Officer (in the event there is not a senior officer, it will be opened to a junior officer, etc.**
- **Can only serve 2 years as FFA Duchess**

Travel for School Activities

- Before students can travel to any school sponsored activity the student must turn in a completed travel permission form.

Visitors, including but not limited to breeders

- Any visitor accompanying a Mount Enterprise Independent School District FFA student and/or parent and attending a Mount Enterprise ISD sponsored event or activity, must adhere to appropriate conduct outlined in this document.

Misconduct

Any infraction of district rules, policies or guidelines as set forth in the MEISD Student Code of Conduct, MEISD Student Co-Curricular/Extracurricular Contract, and/or the MISD FFA Member Handbook will result in disciplinary action and may cause immediate removal from the program. The Ag science teacher(s) in collaboration with campus administration will have the authority to suspend or remove any member for any infractions. All content of this document is at the discretionary interpretation of campus administration and the Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE) for determining consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Problems and Chain of Command

When a problem or concern arises, the best way to resolve it is by following a set "chain-of-command." Always begin with the supervising teacher.

- Ag Teacher
- CTE Director
- Principal
- Superintendent

JUNIOR MEMBERS

- Dues are to be paid to the Mount Enterprise FFA chapter. The Ag Science teachers will discuss and devise a plan of action for each project.
- The Ag Science teachers are responsible to communicate information to Junior FFA members.

SCRAMBLE ANIMALS

- Any Mount Enterprise ISD FFA students that are to participate in any calf scramble at any show or event must have prior approval and permission from the species Ag Science teachers no less than 2 weeks prior to the scramble event.
- Scramble forms and certificates must be signed and approved by the Ag Science teacher overseeing the species being shown.
- All general rules and expectations apply to scramble animals. If a student does not meet MEISD or the scramble show rules, MEISD FFA will drop sponsorship of the scramble animal.
- Parents are responsible to get their child to and from scrambles, as well as responsible for any expenses associated with the scramble.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR LIVESTOCK SHOWS

In order to be eligible to participate in any livestock show as a Mount Enterprise ISD FFA member, students must meet the following requirements:

- Be actively enrolled at Mount Enterprise ISD.
- High school students must be enrolled in an approved Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources class to participate in Mount Enterprise ISD FFA chapters.
- If a student is ineligible to show due to UIL ineligibility, the animal is also ineligible to show.
- UIL eligibility guidelines will be followed to determine eligibility, this includes but not limited to jackpot shows.
- Comply with National FFA and Texas FFA member guidelines.
- Must be in compliance with Mount Enterprise ISD compulsory attendance (FEA Legal and FM Local)
- All FFA or Junior FFA membership dues must be paid and the student must be in good standing with the MEISD FFA chapter.
- Students will be allowed to participate in only those shows approved by the supervising teacher.
- Attend all mandatory livestock meetings for the specific livestock project.
- Have paid entry fees on time and meet show requirements.
- Students will be responsible for all personal travel to and from all livestock shows.
- Substitute exhibitors for any animal species must be approved and coordinated by the species Ag Science teacher in conjunction with livestock show rules.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

- All students are expected to follow the Mount Enterprise ISD Student Code of Conduct and any extracurricular guidelines set forth by Mount Enterprise ISD.
- All students showing with the Mount Enterprise ISD FFA are expected to follow the rules and guidelines of the major stock shows. All shows provide a catalog/guidelines book via their website. Should you violate a rule, you will be subject to the consequences.
- All Mount Enterprise ISD policies regarding travel, transportation and student behavior will be enforced.
- Everyone is expected to work as a team to load animals, tear down pens, weigh animals, etc. Mount Enterprise ISD FFA works as a team to encourage and help one another, which means you are expected to watch other student's show, etc. We will travel as a group as much as possible and work together to make it a positive experience for all the students. If there are extenuating circumstances where you cannot work with other FFA members, please communicate with your sponsoring Ag Science teacher.
- All animals must be validated and all validation rules must be followed. It is the responsibility of the student and/or parents to check the accuracy of the validation.
- Animals should be clipped and groomed as much as possible before they leave for the shows. Each Species Ag Science teacher will give instructions for their procedures and sign-up times.
- Payment for stock show registration is expected at the time of registration. Your registration will not be submitted until payment is made. Mount Enterprise ISD FFA will hold a Major Show meeting in October for all species, this is mandatory for you to attend and all payment and paper work is to be completed at this time or the student will not be entered for the show(s).
- If you are not present to assist with loading or unloading, or to show or sell your animal, then your animal will not be shown or sold. The species Ag Science teacher must approve any exceptions.
- Substitutions for showing animals must follow the guidelines of the major stock show. Any substitutions must have prior approval from the species Ag Science teacher.

OTHER

- If an exhibitor is unable to be present for loading of tack and animals yet still wishes to show they will be responsible for transporting animal and tack on their own using personal vehicles unless prior arrangements are made with the species Ag Science teacher.
- Students are expected to perform duties for the livestock show. This includes but is not limited to set-up, cleanup, etc. as set forth by species Ag Science teacher.
- Parents/students may be asked to leave any MEISD FFA sponsored event for any behavior misconduct including but not limited to aggressive or disrespectful behavior towards advisors, other parents, or students, or any behavior that brings discredit to our organization.
- Students who choose to attend livestock shows outside of the designated school shows must follow all Mount Enterprise ISD FFA, and show team guidelines as they still represent our organization.
- Any decisions or instructions made by the species Ag Science teacher at a school-sponsored show are final. Any concerns should be addressed through the chain of command prior to leaving for an event.

Terms, Conditions and Consequences

REMINDER any terms and conditions are subject to change. All contents of this manual are at the sole discretion of campus administration and the Director of Career and Technical Education. This document will be kept updated and located on the MEISD district website. It will be the responsibility of students and parents to utilize the district website to obtain and/or refer to the most current version of this document.

The Agriculture Program reserves the right to remove any animal from the facilities if any one of the following conditions exists:

- Animal abuse or neglect in any form.
- Diseased or infected animals.
- Animals that are unsafe to handle.
- Students and/or parents failing to observe rules.
- Animals not being fed for show purposes.
- Student is no longer involved in the program.
- Student is expelled or withdrawn from MEISD.
- Student is placed in DAEP (Alternative Education Program).
- If the student fails to abide by any of the above-mentioned rules or guidelines set forth in this document and other Mount Enterprise ISD district policy, actions can be taken to remove the animal and/or ban any future Agriculture facility privileges. The student is subject to disciplinary action for failure to comply with these rules/guidelines.

MEISD Ag Science Teacher Guidelines and Expectations

All MEISD Ag Science Teachers (AST's) will be responsible for following all district policies, including expectations and guidelines listed in the MEISD Employee Handbook, Career and Technical Education Employee Handbook, MEISD FFA Handbook, and policies and protocol listed in the Student Code of Conduct. All Ag Science teachers are under direct supervision of campus administration.

The following guidelines are currently in force. Any new rules that may become necessary will be effective immediately upon notification to campus administration and Ag Science Teachers.

FFA COMPETITIONS AND TRAVEL GUIDELINES

- Each MEISD AST will be responsible for sponsoring a FFA project.
- The home campus AST will ensure all students participating in any FFA event are eligible to participate under the University Interscholastic League (UIL) Side by Side Eligibility Rules and district policy.
- The sponsoring AST must confirm eligibility on all students prior to participating in any FFA competition and ensure all participating students are actively enrolled in Mount Enterprise ISD.

Teacher sponsor
Kourtney Lock
Kristin Pieper
Clint Creel

Animal Project
Steers, Heifers, Rabbits, Lambs, Poultry
Barrows, Gilts, Lambs, Goats, Poultry
Ag Mechanics, Creative Arts, Poultry

* This includes livestock shows, judging competitions, and any project delivery, purchase or pick up.

- It is the responsibility of the AST to plan their calendar accordingly with parents and students.

Amendments

The Director of Career and Technical Education campus administration reserves the right to change or amend the contents of this document. All contents within this document are at the discretionary interpretation of Mount Enterprise ISD campus administration and the Director of Career and Technical Education. This document will be kept updated and located on the MEISD district website. It will be the responsibility of teachers, students and parents to utilize the district website to obtain and/or refer to the most current version of this document.

RECEIPT OF MOUNT ENTERPRISE FFA STUDENT HANDBOOK

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MOUNT ENTERPRISE ISD FFA STUDENT HANDBOOK

Student Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

- My student and I are fully aware that the Mount Enterprise ISD FFA Student Handbook located on the Mount Enterprise ISD website is the most current and applicable document.**

I understand that the Mount Enterprise ISD FFA Student Handbook and the Mount Enterprise ISD Student Code of Conduct contains information that my student and I may need during the school year. All students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in both documents. If I have questions regarding the Mount Enterprise ISD FFA Student Handbook, or the Student Code of Conduct I should direct those questions to the principal at my student's school.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____