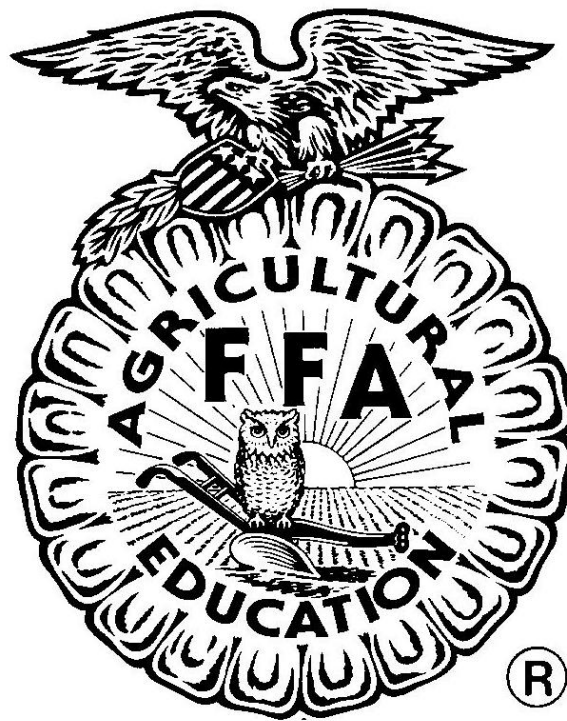


Rockdale

FFA



Student Handbook
2019-2020

2019-2020
Agricultural Science & Technology
Course Offerings

Rockdale High School:

1. Principles of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
2. Ag Mechanics & Metal Technologies
3. Ag Equipment Design & Fabrication
4. Ag structures Design & Fabrication
5. Small Animal Management
6. Equine Science
7. Livestock Production
8. Advanced Animal Science
9. Horticulture Science
10. Floral Design
11. Advanced Plant & Soil Science
12. Advance Floral Design
13. Principles of Skilled Trades
14. Introduction to Construction
15. Construction Management I
16. Construction Management II
17. Introduction to Welding
18. Welding I
19. Welding II
20. Professional Communications

*You MUST be enrolled in one of these courses to be in FFA.

FFA Dues

FFA dues for all students enrolled in agricultural education are \$30.00. This costs covers the students' national, state, and local dues. This cost also includes the cost of their FFA shirt. FFA dues are due Monday October 7, 2019.

Rockdale Junior FFA

Jr. FFA membership is open to Rockdale ISD students in grades K-8. Dues for Jr. Members will be \$10.00. Joining the Jr. FFA allows the member to participate in local meetings as well as showing at major stock shows under the supervision of the Rockdale Independent School District Agri-science Teachers. Since they are not enrolled in a high school Agri-science class they are not allowed to participate in LDE's or CDE's.

FFA Member Participation

To be considered an ACTIVE member for eligibility purposes to show at the Rockdale Fair or at the Milam County Junior Livestock Show you MUST do the following:

- For Rockdale Fair: attend either the September and October FFA chapter meeting.
- For Milam County Junior Livestock Show: attend 4 of the 7 FFA chapter meetings.

Activities that you can be a part of:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter Meetings• Fundraisers• District & Area FFA Convention• Local FFA Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LDEs• CDEs• Exhibiting projects at Major Livestock Shows
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2019-2020 Rockdale FFA Officer Team

President: Maddy Moody

Vice-President: Mallory McDaniel

Secretary: Emma McMillan

Treasurer: Arianna Eastridge

Reporter: Heather Murphy

Sentinel: Cady Barcak

Student Advisor: Emma Roberts

*These are chapter officers. They are responsible for all duties as outlined by the AST's and for making your chapter activities enjoyable and productive! Questions or suggestions are appreciated

The FFA CREED

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 in born 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.

-E.M. Tiffany

FFA MOTTO

Learning to Do
Doing to Learn
Earning to Live
Living to Serve

When you Look Good . . .The FFA Looks Great!

FFA Code of Ethics

We will conduct ourselves at all times in order to be a credit to our organization, chapter, school and community by:

- Dressing neatly and appropriately for the occasion
- Showing respect for others and being courteous at all times
- Being honest and not taking unfair advantage of others
- Respecting the property of others
- Refraining from boisterous talk, swearing and other unbecoming conduct
- Demonstrating good sportsmanship
- Attending meetings promptly
- Taking pride in our organization and its functions
- Sharing with others experiences and knowledge by attending state and national meetings

Official Dress

The uniform worn by FFA members at local, district, area, state, and national functions is called official dress. It provides identity and a distinctive, recognizable image to the organization.

Female members should wear:

- Black skirt – hem should be below the knee
- White collared blouse
- Official FFA Scarf
- Black Nylon hosiery
- Black dress shoes – closed toe and closed heel
- Official FFA Jacket – zipped to top

Male members should wear:

- Black pants or slacks
- White collared shirt
- Official FFA Tie
- Black socks
- Black Shoes (low top dress shoes)
- Official FFA Jacket – zipped to top

CDE Dress for contests

- Buttoned down, collared shirt, tucked in
- Belt
- Nice Jeans or Slacks that fit at the waist and are free of fading or holes.
- Closed Toe Shoes are required
- No Caps or Hats while competing

Dress for Livestock/Ag Mechanic Shows

- (SHOW DAY) Buttoned Down, Collared Shirt, tucked into pants
- Nice Jeans that fit at the waist and are free of fading or holes.
- Closed Toe Shoes are required
- Belt will be worn
- No Caps or Hats while in competition
- Hair should be pulled away from face and look orderly.

In addition to the previous guidelines, the Rockdale ISD Student Dress Code is in effect at all FFA activities and competitions. If it is inappropriate to wear to school, it is inappropriate to wear to an FFA activity.

FFA FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

The FFA provides many activities throughout the year that require money. The entry fees for contests, community service projects, the food and refreshments at meetings, animal projects assistance, and supplies for the banquet require a large sum of money. You are asked to participate in whatever fundraising activity that we have. The more money that our group makes, the more activities we can provide to you. We are limited to two fund-raisers per school year.

Rockdale FFA is online!

For up to date results on contests, reminders about meetings, and any other information that is shared with the public about the Rockdale FFA chapter, follow us!

Facebook: Rockdale FFA

Website: rockdaleffa.ffanow.org

Graduation Cords & Letterman Jackets

FFA members may receive a graduation cords to represent their membership in FFA if they have actively participated for at least 2 years. Active participation is defined by participating in multiple events offered throughout the year while also attending monthly meetings. Members must also be in good standing at the time of graduation.

To “letter” in FFA and receive an FFA jacket, member must participate in a major livestock show of contest and place in their respected division. Letterman jackets will not be purchased by FFA funds but the participation grants the student the opportunity to purchase a jacket if desired.

Competitive Team Activities

Possible Leadership Development Teams – Fall Semester

- Agricultural Advocacy
- Agricultural Issues Forum
- Jr./Sr. Agricultural Skill Demonstration
- Jr./Sr. Chapter Conducting
- Chapter Agricultural Quiz
- Jr./Sr. Creed Speaking
- FFA Broadcasting
- Greenhand FFA Quiz
- Job Interview
- Public Relations

Possible Career Development Teams – Spring Semester

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| • Soil and Water Stewardship Speaking | • Forestry |
| • Jr./Sr. Prepared Public Speaking | • Homesite Evaluation |
| • Ag Communications | • Horse |
| • Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems | • Land |
| • Ag Sales | • Livestock |
| • Agronomy | • Marketing Plan |
| • Cotton | • Meats |
| • Dairy Cattle | • Milk Quality |
| • Entomology | • Nursery/Landscape |
| • Environmental & Natural Resources | • Plant ID |
| • Farm Business Management | • Poultry |
| • Floriculture | • Range |
| • Food Science | • Tractor Technician |
| • Forage | • Veterinary Science |
| | • Wildlife |
| | • Wool |

Note: All teams and contest will be selected on student interest

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

The following activities are offered to all members in the Rockdale FFA. Some activities may have prerequisites based upon leadership achievements.

Fall Semester

- Greenhand Leadership Camp
- District FFA Meeting
- Heart of Texas Livestock Show
- Rockdale Fair
- Leadership Development Events

Spring Semester

- Career Development Events
- San Antonio Livestock Exposition
- San Angelo Livestock Show
- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
- District Convention
- Area Convention
- Milam County Junior Livestock Show

Summer Break

- Chapter Officer Retreat
- State FFA Convention

Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs

A unique aspect of the Agricultural Science Program is the Supervised Agricultural Experience Program (SAEP). It enables students to feed and exhibit livestock projects, develop agricultural crop or horticultural enterprises or experience the other aspects of the agricultural industry. The SAEP is a powerful tool that teaches responsibility, time management, commitment, teamwork and sound financial practices.

Estimated Cost of Livestock Projects

Species	Time	Purchase Cost	Feed/Tack Cost
Commercial Steer/Heifer	12 Months	\$2,000-\$4,000**	\$2,000-\$3,000
Halter Steer/Heifer	12 Months	\$1,500-\$5,000**	\$3,000
Swine	5 Months	\$400**	\$600
Sheep	9 Months	\$500**	\$300
Goats	9 Months	\$400**	\$300
Broilers	3 Months	\$1.74/head	\$150
Rabbits	2 Months	\$250	\$50

*All time durations will vary depending on the shows being purchased for and the locating of the project.

**Cost of this animal may vary depending on quality of livestock and location purchased.

*** The above costs do not reflect any charges that can occur for veterinarian fees, medication, validation, entry fees, etc. These would be additional expenses for the project.

Travel Guidelines

Stock Show Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in any livestock show, students must meet the following requirements:

1. Be enrolled in an agricultural science class
2. Be a member in good standing of the Rockdale FFA Chapter (Dues paid for current year)
3. Meet UIL guidelines for academic eligibility
4. Have paid entry fees on time and meet show requirements
5. Have approval of agricultural science teacher

Stock Show Entries

- The agricultural science teachers will assist in making arrangements for participation in the approved shows. **Entry cost is the responsibility of the student.**

Travel to and from Shows

- Rockdale ISD Policy governs transportation procedures. Parents and Students should check with Agricultural Science Teachers for clarification before any livestock shows.

Animal Care at Shows

- While at livestock shows, each student will be responsible for all feeding, care and grooming of his/her respective animal(s).
- While at ag mechanics shows, each student will be responsible for all cleaning, prepping, and exhibiting of their project.

Equipment Use

- Arrangements must be made for the use of any equipment belonging to the FFA. Clippers, blowers, scales must be returned in a diligent manner so that others may be able to use them.. Any equipment lost, stolen or destroyed while in the possession of a student/borrower will be replaced at the expense of the student/borrower.

Specific Show Rules

- It is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor to be familiar with all rules pertaining to his/her project (this information may include weight limits, entry requirements, age, etc.) This information may be obtained from the Agri-science teachers or by visiting the web sites of the shows you are entering (See Website Reference pages).

Advisors & Chaperones:

- Chaperones for overnight travel will be required to include a gender-specific chaperone for each gender traveling. The recommended chaperone to student ratio is 10 students to every one adult chaperone. The number of Advisors traveling with students will be determined on a case-by-case basis with approval of the campus Principal. Anyone traveling with the group must have a background clearance in advance with RISD in order to accompany the trip. This includes parents traveling with the group.
- No high school student is authorized for travel to required official organizational functions without an adult (advisor, parent, or adult authorized by the student's local school). No organizational activity will be considered mandatory to the point that an individual student has to attend if an adult cannot accompany him or her. Students may travel with neighboring officers and members if an authorized adult is present. These activities include but are not limited to executive board meetings, officer training meetings, pre-conference preparations, conferences (national, state, or district), and individual school visits.

Supervision

- A Rockdale ISD employee or parent will supervise and accompany the participants during all activities on the trip.
- Teachers and sponsors may utilize cell phones calls and/or text messages to communicate with students regarding school-related business at any time during the length of the sponsored trip.

Medical Emergencies

- In the event of an emergency medical situation the parent will be contacted as soon as possible. If the parent cannot be contacted the alternative emergency person will be contacted. The attached medical release form will be taken on the trip, so that in an emergency situation appropriate medical attention can be sought immediately.

Discipline Policy

Curfew

- A curfew of 11:00 PM is standard for all overnight trips.
- Exceptions will be made through the sponsor in the event that the contest, show, or convention goes past 11:00 PM.
- Chaperones will enforce the curfew with room checks at 11:00 PM.

Room Checks

- Room checks will be conducted at curfew and as needed between the hours of 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM.
- Checks will consist of listening for noise coming from within the room and checking the halls within the vicinity for noise or attendees of the activity. In the event that noise is heard inside the room, the chaperone will knock on the door and inquire.

Damages/Incurred Expenses

- The student and his/her parents will be expected to pay for any and all damage related to student behaviors that result in loss or damage to property.
- Students and his/her parents will be responsible for any long-distance calls, charges to the room, etc. although every effort will be made by the sponsor to decline these services at check-in.

Major Infractions

- The students will conduct themselves in a manner that reflects and follows the Rockdale ISD student handbook.
- In the event that any student breaks Rockdale ISD policy or the policy set forth by the Rockdale CTSO, that student will be dealt with immediately and the appropriate discipline will be initiated and documented.
- If a student violates the following stated sections of the policy, his or her parents will be contacted, a Rockdale ISD administrator will be contacted and the student may be sent home via plane or bus at the expense of the parents or guardian. If it is a day trip the parents/guardians will be required to come pick the student up. Rockdale ISD administration will at that point conduct discipline procedures appropriate with the infractions. Any misbehavior may affect the student's future participation in the Rockdale CTSO for that school year.
- In the event that a parent or guardian cannot be contacted the alternative emergency contact person, given by the parent, will be contacted.
- The items below are considered major infractions.
- The student is found outside of his/her room after curfew (without notifying the chaperone).
- The student is found with any amount of drug, alcohol or tobacco products.

- The student is found to have partaken of any drug, alcohol or tobacco product.
- A male is found in a female's room or a female is found in a male's room without permission from the chaperone and a chaperone is not present.
- Any student is physically fighting with another person.
- Any other violation deemed as a major infraction by the chaperone or advisor.
- In the event that you as a student find yourself around somebody violating any of the previous policy, if at all possible you are to separate yourself from that scene.
- In the event that the student is able to separate from that situation but does not, then the previously stated policy will be initiated and the student will be sent home as well.
- The student is highly encouraged to contact a chaperone and inform them of the situation once they have separated from it.
- Any illegal behavior outside the jurisdiction of the Rockdale ISD student handbook may be subject to legal action.

Minor Infractions

- In the event that a student violates any other Rockdale ISD or Rockdale CTSO policy that is not deemed a major infraction, the infraction will be documented and that student's punishment will be carried forth once the group returns to Rockdale. The student's actions and discipline will then be turned over to the appropriate Rockdale ISD administrator.

Advisor Guidelines on Field Trips and Travel

- All Advisors and District Chaperones must adhere to the following guidelines:
- An agenda of activities and contact information must be provided to parents and campus/district personnel prior to leaving for the event - including approximate timeline.
- The list of students attending and itinerary must be provided to the principal and CTE director three days in advance of travel.
- Advisors are to be involved in event related activities at all times.
- Advisors must dress appropriately and wear identifiable district or CTSO clothing.
- Advisors are to ride on district provided transportation with the students.
- Room assignments for advisors and chaperones must be appropriate.
- Movies at cinemas or on buses may not exceed the PG13 rating for high school.
- Tobacco products are prohibited in the presence of students.
- Profanity of any kind that may be offensive to others is prohibited.
- Curfew times are to be set and enforced daily. Recommended CTSO curfew is 11PM. (At curfew, all students must be in their assigned room with the TV/radio at low volume.)
- Prior to room check, advisors should meet to set the game plan for the following day and make provisions for any student that will have a different schedule.
- Room checks to be conducted by gender appropriate sponsors and district approved chaperones. A visual room check is required at curfew time (see/speak to every child).
- All advisors on the trip will assist with chaperoning all students on the trip.
- Weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, and any hazardous materials are prohibited.
- Upon return, sponsors remain with students until all are picked up by parent or guardian.
- All inappropriate behavior by students(s), teacher(s), or chaperone(s) must be reported to the campus principal and CTE Director within 24 hours of returning to the district.

Student Behavior

- CTSO chapter advisors are responsible for ensuring student behavior and conduct are appropriate at all CTSO activities and events.
- Students, advisors and teachers chaperoning students to student organization conferences and other activities are responsible for the behavior and conduct of students under their supervision.
- Student Behavior - Students breaking the school's, RISD's, or CTSO's code of conduct, or violating the following rules on any school trip are subject to be sent home at the parent's expense and face consequences set by the school or RISD.
- Students are not to break curfew. Evening curfew will be set at 11PM, morning curfew at 6AM. Some adjustments may be made by the group leader if deemed necessary. Students are to stay inside the room and are not permitted to be outside on balcony if it is available.
- Students must stay in designated room assignments.
- Students may not loiter outside the hotel, or depart the premises without an advisor.
- Room checks will be conducted. Each student must be visible at that time.
- Alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco products, weapons, and all hazardous materials are prohibited.
- Friends or family are not allowed to visit. Parents with a background check prior may make special arrangements.
- Rooms must remain gender specific. Members of the opposite sex are not to enter the rooms at any time.
- *All rules for student behavior remain in effect even if student has graduated and is competing at the national level during the summer.*

Show Team Policies

1. Animals must be in the exhibitors name and validated prior to showing.
2. Hotel deposit included. (\$25/night/student)
 - a. Will be paid at the time of entries.
3. Exhibitors will be required to join the Junior Association of the Breed that they are showing.

AT SHOW:

1. All students will follow the show schedule as set by advisor.
2. All students will arrive and depart at pre-determined times as a team.
3. All school rules will be adhered to.
 - a. Facial hair, tobacco use, etc.
4. Students will provide their own rope halters and show stick.
5. Students will cover the cost of all additives/electrolytes/medication/vet care at the show.
6. If a parent travels along with the chapter, the use of alcohol will be prohibited in the Rockdale FFA stall.

AG Mechanics Show Team Policies

1. Hotel deposit included (\$25/night/student)
2. Construction Plan and Plans Drawn To Scale Due with entries.
3. Entry payment plus idea and drawing will secure a place on the trailer.
4. Projects built at the school by students **MUST** correlate to the class in which they are enrolled.
 - a. Construction - Wood Working
 - b. Welding – Metal/welding projects
5. Work Days-on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturday as determined by need.
 - a. Times: 3:30-5:30pm

Students need to work diligently on the assigned days to ensure that projects are done or near completion prior to the winter break.

A lack of planning on your part, does not constitute an emergency on our part.

Student and Parent Acknowledgement

This Rockdale FFA & Agricultural Science Department Handbook has been published to help your son/daughter gain the greatest possible benefit from his/her agricultural science/FFA experience. The FFA needs your cooperation. It is very important that each FFA member understands the opportunities and regulations outlined in this handbook. Parents are to encourage their son/daughter to abide by all rules or regulations set forth in this handbook. Please go over all agreements outlined in this handbook and return them to your Agri-science teacher. Your signature and that of your child acknowledge the receipt of this FFA Member Handbook and the agreement to take full advantage of all the opportunities that are available to members.

Printed Name of Student

Date

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Date Received _____ Received by: _____

Rockdale FFA Membership Form

Who are we? The Rockdale FFA is a group of students who are interested in developing premiere leadership skills while increasing skills that will enable them to become successful for their future agricultural or related careers.

What do we do? Rockdale FFA members participate in leadership development events (LDEs) like job interview and public relations, career development events (CDEs) like public speaking, agriculture mechanics, and floriculture, and lots of community service projects. Members also have the opportunity to conduct supervised agricultural experiences (SAE) by raising a livestock animal or experimenting with an Agriscience fair project.

Why should you join? As a member, you will be able to attend conferences and conventions held around the state and U.S. which allow you to meet new people, build leadership skills, and compete in a variety of events. These events can lead to earning scholarships worth thousands!

How much does it cost? Your one year membership that comes with a subscription to the New Horizons magazine and an FFA T-shirt is only \$30! This pays for your national, state, area, district, and local dues and entitles you to all of the benefits of membership.

**JOIN TODAY to receive all the benefits of an FFA member!!!
Membership Deadline is Oct. 7, 2019**

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
Parent/Home Phone Number: _____ **Student Cell:** _____
E-mail Address: _____

Classification:	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
T-Shirt Size:	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large XX-Large XXX-Large

Check any of the following activities that interest you. Someone will contact you with more information.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Competing on leadership teams
<input type="checkbox"/> Serving as an FFA officer
<input type="checkbox"/> Earning awards through FFA
<input type="checkbox"/> Earning degrees in FFA
<input type="checkbox"/> Raising livestock animals for show (if checked, circle the species you would be interested in showing) | <input type="checkbox"/> Competing on other teams
<input type="checkbox"/> Conducting a science fair project
<input type="checkbox"/> Traveling across Texas /U.S.
<input type="checkbox"/> Rebuilding tractors | <input type="checkbox"/> Competing in speaking events
<input type="checkbox"/> Earning money for scholarships
<input type="checkbox"/> Participating in community service
<input type="checkbox"/> Building metal projects |
|---|--|---|
- Steers Heifers Pigs Lambs Goats Rabbits Chickens Turkeys