

Clifton Independent School District
Agriculture Science Department Clifton
FFA Handbook
2023-2024



Agriculture Science Teachers

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Clifton Independent School District



August 16, 2023

Dear Students and Parents:

We would like to take this time to welcome you to the 2023-2024 school year of the Clifton Agricultural Sciences Department. We challenge you to take an active approach to learning this year, get involved, and make this Clifton community the best place to be! The Agriculture Science program is made up of three elements, the classroom, Supervised Agricultural Experiences, and the FFA. This is a one of a kind program and can be a life changing experience for you by providing opportunities for you to develop leadership skills, technical skills, and personal growth. Also, the Texas FFA organization gives out over one million dollars in scholarships annually to deserving members. Members can qualify for these scholarships by participating in FFA events, being an active participant in community service, and striving for academic excellence.

We are looking forward to the upcoming year and your participation in the activities provided. It is a chance for you to make great friends, travel across Texas, explore career opportunities, and expand your knowledge on the industry that is the backbone of this great nation. Your agriculture class will allow you to learn by doing, which means we strive to provide hands-on practical experience in agriculture related fields. Students can participate in the three pathways offered at Clifton High School which are Ag Mechanics, Plant Science, and Animal Science. With that being said, if we can offer any help or answer any questions that you may have regarding any part of our program please feel free to contact us. You can access information about Clifton FFA and how to get involved on our webpage and school social media pages.

There are many opportunities for parents to take an active role in their child's agriculture education. All parents are encouraged to become members of the Clifton FFA Alumni Association, a local support system for Clifton FFA. Contact the FFA advisors at (254)-675-1845 for more information on how to get involved.

Sincerely,

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Ag Science Teacher

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I. Mission Statement

The Clifton Agriculture Science Department strives to give students the opportunity to build leadership skills, grow personally, and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for career success. The program is made up of three parts:

Classroom and Laboratory Instruction,

Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE),

FFA

Each of these parts is required to achieve a well balanced Agriculture Science program.

Classroom and laboratory activities will be outlined for each class with a class syllabus at the beginning of each semester. This syllabus will cover grading policies, materials covered, and other classroom concerns.

Supervised Agricultural Experiences are required for all Agriculture Science classes as set forth by Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills in the Texas Education Agency class guidelines. These are projects a student works on during the year in order to enhance the educational process. They may include but are not limited to animal, plant, and mechanic projects. As well as Work Experience.

The FFA Organization allows Ag Science students to apply skills taught in the classroom and by the SAEs. Members can become involved in Leadership Development Events, Career Development Events, Chapter/District/Area/State/National meetings and conventions, shows, scholarships, livestock exhibition, proficiency awards for SAEs, and other activities held by FFA organizations around the state and nation.

II. Membership

Any student who is enrolled an agriculture science course (dues are covered) or pays his or her dues, and is in good standing with Clifton ISD (according to the discipline policies set forth by Clifton ISD) is eligible for membership in the FFA.

A FFA member is only able to compete in a Leadership Development Event or Career Development Event if that student is enrolled for at least one Agriculture science class for the school year.

Students are eligible to be Jr. FFA member if they are at least 8 years old and in the third grade. A student is eligible for Jr. Membership until the time when an Agriculture Science class is offered.

FFA members are subject to all UIL eligibility requirements.

FFA dues for the 2023-2024 will be paid for if student is enrolled in an ag class. Jr. FFA Memberships are \$10 per member. Clifton FFA will pay for District, State, and National Dues, entry fees for FFA contests, and FFA meetings.

III. 2023-2024 Clifton FFA Officers

TBA at a later date

President – Chloe Baccus

Vice President – Carly Howard

Secretary- Brayden Stone

Treasurer- Bailey McMillan

Reporter- Brenna Bertelsen

Sentinel- Aubrey King

Historian-Jackson Crow

Chaplain-

Student Advisor-

IV. Officer Elections

The election of officers will occur during the spring semester prior to the end of the year banquet.

FFA members wishing to become an officer must be in good standing with Clifton ISD, Clifton FFA, and be academically eligible. This means students cannot have lower than a grade of 70 in any enrolled course during the current semester – grades for eligibility will be checked on Friday, April 28th. Any failing or incomplete grades will result in disqualification of running for office. Students must meet the 90% attendance requirement for the 1st semester of the current school year. Officers and parents must sign and agree to abide by an Officer Contract to apply for an officer position.

Officer Selection

The following will determine the election of officers for the 2023-2024 Clifton FFA Chapter.

The officer positions are scored according to a point system made up of Application, Interview, Test, and Speech/voting: A committee will evaluate application and interview and rank each student. The committee will consist of CISD Ag Science Teachers, other Ag Science Teachers, school personnel, community business members/owners, etc. The Clifton FFA Officer team will consist of 6 chapter officers. The officer positions are as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel. Officer positions can be added or removed at the discretion of the Clifton Ag Science Teachers.

V. Fundraising

The purpose of fundraising is to facilitate the FFA program by expanding finances in order to allow the organization to do more things. Active FFA members that wish to compete and travel are encouraged to help with fundraising and sell at least 5 items to participate on teams. Fundraising will be completed during the year based on current and future need. The Clifton FFA chapter will also strive to keep a positive balance at all times and carry over a positive balance to the next years FFA members

Fundraising opportunities may include but are not limited to: fruit and meat sell, concession stands, raffles, auctions, plant sells, or other school and community opportunities.

VI. Leadership Development Events (LDE's)

LDEs are annual events held in the fall of the year. UIL guidelines for participation will be adhered to and all participating members must be in good standing with the chapter. The respective training instructor/advisor make final determinations on all matters concerning their team(s). Members will have the opportunity to sign up for and/or "try out" for any teams determined by Ag Teachers. Clifton FFA can develop any LDE team that is recognized by the Texas FFA.

VII. Career Development Events (CDE's)

CDEs are annual events held in the spring of the year. UIL guidelines for participation will be adhered to and all participating members must be in good standing with the chapter. The respective training instructor/advisor(s) make final determinations on all matters concerning their team(s). Members will have the opportunity to sign up for and/or "try out" for any teams determined by Ag Teachers. Clifton FFA can develop any CDE team that is recognized by the Texas FFA.

VIII. Showing Livestock/Ag Mech

A student may show livestock/ag mech as a member of the Clifton FFA if the following conditions are met:

- AST must be notified of project intent before the project is bought or AST will not sign validation papers. Any student that does not meet these guidelines will not enter or validate under Clifton FFA. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
- Projects must be under the supervision of the agriculture science instructor.
- The student must complete the quality counts course online, receive a verification number, and have this on file with the Agriculture teacher.
- A student must be in good standing with the Clifton FFA Chapter.
- A student is subject to all UIL rules
- Students must turn in written documentation on all stock shows where school days will be missed for the FFA.

IX. FFA Records, Degrees, and Awards

By being enrolled in agriculture science courses, becoming an FFA member, and keeping accurate records, students may be eligible to apply for advanced degrees and awards. These are outlined in the National FFA bylaws and Clifton FFA will adhere to those bylaws.

The degrees that can be earned through out the years in the FFA are:

- Discovery Degree Greenhand FFA Degree
- Chapter FFA Degree
- Lonestar State FFA Degree
- American FFA Degree

Qualifications for these degrees are outlined in the official FFA manual.

Star awards: Awarded to members who excel above their peers when earning the above mentioned degrees.

Proficiency awards: Members who excel in their SAE programs and apply for these awards may be recognized through the Proficiency award program.

Career Development Event/Leadership Development Event: A student may earn a Pin by excelling in these contests.

X. Official Dress

Official dress is required for some of the FFA events Clifton FFA will be involved in during the course of the year. Most of the items on the list can be purchased at your local clothing store however the FFA Jacket, scarf, and tie are specific to the FFA and can be purchased on the internet or through your FFA advisor. Clifton FFA does have these items you may borrow, but it is suggested if you plan on being very active you may choose to buy them. The list of items below are outlined for 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
- **or** Black dress pants (no jeans - blue or black, leather, pleather, etc.)
- 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.

- Black Slacks may be appropriate for traveling and outdoor activities.

Male Official Dress

- 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.
(boots-only if all black, sandals, open-toed shoes, tennis shoes,)
- Black socks
- Official FFA jacket zipped to the top

XI. FFA Meetings/ conventions

Chapter Meeting/banquets/functions

- To participate in Chapter events students must be a current FFA member or be interested in joining the FFA.
- All students must adhere to CISD policies at FFA events.
- Monthly Chapter Meetings will be held at the discretion of Ag Science Teaches.

District Meeting/Convention

The requirements for attending district FFA meetings and convention are:

- A student must be academically eligible.
- A student must be in good standing with the Chapter FFA
- A student must make arrangements in advance with the FFA advisor to attend.
- A student must wear official dress.

Area Meeting/Convention

The requirements for attending Area meeting and conventions are:

- A student must have a purpose for attending. (Ex: Voting delegate, area contestant, district officer etc.)
- A student must be in good standing with the Chapter and District FFA.
- A student must make arrangements with advisor in advance to attend.
- A student must wear official dress.

State Convention

Students may be eligible to attend the State FFA convention that meets the following requirements:

- A student must participate and sell at least 15 fundraising items during the proceeding school year.
- A student must be in good standing with the Chapter, District, and Area FFA.
- A student must be in good UIL standing.

- A student must have participated in at least 60% of all chapter activities.
- A student must wear official dress.
 - Students must qualify to attend State Convention by attending a State Speaking Contest, receive their Lonestar Degree, or have a position on the Clifton FFA Officer team.

National Convention

In the event the Clifton FFA chapter and/or member(s) qualifies to go out of state, travel must be approved by Clifton ISD Board of Trustees.

I have read the Clifton ISD FFA Handbook and understand the information contained in this handbook.

Student Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Clifton Agriculture Learning Center Policy

Purpose

The purpose of the Clifton Agriculture Learning Center (CALC) is to enhance and expand the student's knowledge and skills associated with agriculture. The CALC is open to any student within the Clifton Independent School District and is enrolled in an Agriculture Science class at Clifton I.S.D, and/or the Agriculture Science Teachers have approved the project. Through the combined efforts of the student, parent/guardian, and the Ag Science Teachers, the student will leave with the knowledge and skills it takes to be successful in the workplace and life.

Eligibility

The following is a list of eligibility requirements to use the CALC:

- Student is enrolled as a Student at Clifton I.S.D.
- AST must be notified of project intent before the project is bought or AST will not sign validation papers. Any student that does not meet these guidelines will not enter or validate under Clifton FFA. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
- Student is enrolled in an Agriculture Science Class and/or is an active member of the Clifton FFA Chapter
- All Projects must be approved by the Agriculture Science Teachers
- Students must maintain UIL Eligibility

Alcohol/Tobacco/Drug Use

There will be a zero tolerance policy in effect for the use of alcohol, tobacco, and/or drugs at the CALC. Any student or parent caught using alcohol, tobacco, or drugs will be immediately dismissed from the premises along with the student's project. The Clifton ISD District Policy will then be followed.

Gate Entrance

Each student will be given a combination to the gate at the CALC. This combination is to remain confidential. Students may park outside the gate and walk in, or they may open the gate and drive into the CALC. Vehicles should stay on the caliche parking area and not on the grass, especially when it is wet. Students may drive to the back of the barn to unload feed, but should refrain if it is wet.

Projects

Projects at the CALC may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Cattle (Steers & Heifers)
- Sheep (Breeding & Market)
- Goats (Market & Dairy)
- Swine (Market & Breeding)

There is a limited space available at the CALC. Students are allowed a limit of two pens per student, unless otherwise approved by AST. Breeding Animals can only be kept at the CALC for the duration of the project and must be removed from premises within a two week time frame after the intended final show. **Any and all projects must be approved by the Agriculture Science Teachers in writing within 3 business days of animals arrival.** Any projects brought onto property without prior written permission will be subject to removal by AST immediately.

Tack/Feed Room

The tack/feed room is open to all students who are currently keeping a project at the CALC. Each student will be assigned a locker. If there are more students than lockers, some may share locker spaces. It is encouraged that students keep a lock on their locker. The Clifton Independent School District and Agriculture Science Department is not responsible for stolen or damaged property left at the CALC.

Wash Room

The CALC has an interior wash room designed to bathe their projects during their stay at the CALC. It is the student's responsibility to clean the washroom each time it is used.

Water/Electricity

The CALC is equipped with both water and electricity. This resource is open to all students to use for their projects. Please help conserve water and electricity by turning off when not in use.

Pen Assignments

Each student will be assigned a pen by the Agriculture Science Teachers and will need to abide by the above ruling about project notification to AST. There will be no changing of pens without prior approval from the AST. Each student is encouraged to have a chain and snap on their pen. If pen spaces become needed, sharing of pen spaces may be required. If pens are locked, the Ag Teacher must have a copy of the key or combination.

Feed/Water Supplies

Each student may bring a water and feed trough. If a student is using feed or water troughs that are property of the CALC and the student will be responsible for their upkeep and cost if they are lost, broken, or not cleaned. Students are required to keep all feed in a closed container at all times to prevent pest infestation.

Equipment and Tools (Excluding Trailer)

Persons taking equipment or tools from the Agriculture Science Department are required to return them in the same shape as when the equipment was taken. Any damages done during the use of the equipment are the responsibility of the person who has been granted permission to use the equipment. All tools and/or equipment must be checked out through the Ag Teachers and returned within 24 hours of the check out date unless granted special permission by AST.

Bumper Pull Stock Trailer

Clifton FFA has a white bumper pull stock trailer available for use by FFA members showing livestock. This trailer will be locked at all times and must be checked out through Ag Science Teachers and must be checked back in within 24 hours unless special permission is granted by Ag Teachers. Only parents will be allowed to check out and drive the school trailer and will be responsible for all damages if they occur. Students are not permitted to haul the trailer.

Scales

The CALC has (4) sets of scales provided for student use. There are (2) sets of large animal scales outside of the barn. (1) is stationary and the other is portable. There are (2) sets of portable, small animal scales inside the barn. The portable steer scales and 1 set of small animal scales may be checked out through the Ag teacher and must be returned within 24 hours of the check out date unless granted special permission by AST. If there is a problem with the scales, please contact the agriculture science teacher before attempting to correct the problem.

Project Completion

You will have a two week grace period to remove your project after its intended final show and clean up the area where your project resided. Projects cannot exceed the acceptable age limit for show according to Major Stock Show rules which will also apply to the Central Texas Youth Fair. You are required to change any modifications you made to the Facility back to its original shape and state of cleanliness.

General Rules for CALC

1. Each student is responsible for the upkeep and cleanliness of their pen. All unused hay, feed, manure, etc. should be raked up and removed from the animal's pen everyday. All organic debris and trash must be put in the dumpster.
2. Tools and equipment will be provided for the students to use to clean their pen. If they become damaged or lost, report it to an AST immediately. If tools and equipment are lost or damaged out of carelessness, the student will pay the entire cost of replacing the item.
3. Water and feed troughs should be cleaned daily. A major part of the success of the project is sanitation. Disease and infections are spread through animal waste and unused feed. Students are required to keep animals on an appropriate worming schedule to help prevent parasites.
4. Swine pens should be cleaned daily. All waste and unused feed should be swept up, scooped up and placed in trash cans. The trash cans must then be emptied into the dumpster. The pen should then be washed to the end of the pen and then washed down the drain. The water cut-off valve for the drain is located at the back of the CALC.
5. Students will be responsible for feeding their own projects on the appropriate feeding

schedule, designed by the ASTs, student, and/or parent/guardian. A violation of this rule will result in immediate termination of the project contract. (Animals should be fed and watered twice a day, Everyday)

6. Any project found without water will be dismissed from the CALC premises on the first occurrence. NO EXCUSES!!!!

7. All projects should be worked with daily. That means everyday. The key to success with an animal project is responsibility and determination of the student. Students who do not work with their projects will have their CALC contract terminated.

8. Every student who has a project at the CALC is responsible for the upkeep of the entire facility, both inside and outside. If something needs to be done, do it. If something is broken and you cannot fix it, contact an AST immediately.

9. Make sure to turn off all water and electricity when not in use.

10. The gate to the CALC should be kept locked at all times. Forgetting to lock the CALC gates will result in termination of their CALC contract.

11. Any student caught driving through the bar ditches or off the caliche driveway during wet times will result in having their CALC contract terminated.

12. Any equipment (show sticks, show box, halters, blowers, clippers, fans, etc.) that is used by the student during their contract, will be the responsibility of that student. If the equipment is misused, broken, or lost, it will be the student's responsibility to pay the entire cost of the item.

13. All students' housing projects at Clifton Agriculture Learning Center will be required to attend mandatory facility work days set up by the Ag Science Teachers. If you are not able to attend on the required date an alternate cleanup arrangement may be made with an Ag teacher prior to the cleanup date.

14. All animal projects in the barn must be entered in a Clifton FFA approved show. Animals not being shown through the Clifton FFA will not be allowed in the barn.

15. The CALC hours will be from 5:00am to 10:00pm, seven days a week. Presence on the Ag Barn premises before or after these hours is in defiance of this contract, unless there is a medical emergency with a project and notification has been made to the Ag Teachers. It is recommended that students maintain their project(s) directly following school hours to avoid having to be at the barn after hours.

16. Animal pens must be kept at the standard pen size; they may not be altered or removed until deemed appropriate by the Ag Teacher.

17. No person is allowed to enter the pen of another student, unless there is an emergency affecting the safety and well-being of the animal or that person has permission from the owner to enter the pen. Anyone entering another student's pen for emergency purposes shall immediately notify the Ag Teachers.

18. Any waste left in wheelbarrows, must be emptied. This is for the health of all animals in the barn.

19. The Wash rack and grooming areas must be maintained and kept clean at all times. No clipping in the wash rack. All clippings must be removed after grooming your animal.

20. No person is allowed on the CALC premises without prior approval from the Ag teacher, except FFA Students (with projects) and their immediate family. If you would like to bring a guest onto the ag barn premises, please notify the Ag Teachers for proper approval beforehand.

21. If you need to have an alternate person feed or care for your project, please discuss the situation with the Ag Teachers.

22. Any destruction or vandalism to another person's project or pen, or to any property on the Ag barn, will result in immediate termination of this contract, and removal of project(s) from the CALC.

23. If your animal must be removed for any reason (ex. vet visit, jackpot shows, etc.) you are responsible for notifying the Ag Teachers for safety and security.

24. No pets allowed at the CALC, without approval of the advisor. Barn cats excluded.

25. Animal ownership may not change without teachers' approval.

26. Teachers will make pen assignments for each student project. the assignments will not be changed without teachers approval. Advisors will assign or reassign stalls and tack/feed lockers as needed.

27. While walking your animal you are required to clean up after the animal at all times.

28. A Chapter radio may be played by the advisors at certain times for livestock training/breaking reasons. This radio will only be controlled by the advisors. students should not change station or volume.

29. Parking is only permitted in designated parking areas, do not drive in pastures.

30. Most importantly, all students, parents, and guests will treat each other and Ag Teachers with respect and proper courtesy.

31. All CALC users will follow the rules listed above or will put your project at risk of immediate dismissal. If you cannot remove your animal yourself, the AST will remove the animal for you. If suitable relocation of animal cannot be found, the AST will assume possession of the animal and will make the final decision for the animal's relocation.

Clifton Agriculture Learning Center
2023-2024 Student/Parent Contract

I have received a copy of the Clifton Agriculture Learning Center Contract and agree to the policies set forth by the district, department, and the agriculture science teachers.

I furthermore understand that if found in violation of this contract, that my animal and I will be removed from the premises and/or subject to disciplinary procedures.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

AST Signature

Date

*This handbook was approved by
Clifton ISD Board of Trustees on
DATE April 17, 2023
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