

MAIN IDEA: What is the significance of the FFA Creed?

Editor's note: The PowerPoint for this lesson contains a full version of the creed and a version with missing words to help you practice learning the creed.

We all have beliefs that we feel strongly about and want to share with others. In 1930, shortly after he became involved with the FFA, E. M. Tiffany decided to put his feelings and beliefs about the FFA into writing. The result was the FFA Creed. This creed was adopted at the third National FFA Convention and was slightly revised at the 38th and 63rd National FFA Conventions.

Many FFA members get their first look at the FFA Creed during their first year in the FFA. Learning the creed is one of the requirements in earning the Greenhand Degree. Members can take their knowledge of the creed one step further, by participating in creed leadership development events.

Members will gain self confidence and improve their poise and speaking skills as they work their way up the ranks of the creed leadership development events. Contests start on the chapter level and can go as far as presenting the creed at the National FFA Convention.

To participate in the creed leadership development event, members must memorize and be able to recite the FFA Creed. In addition to reciting the creed from memory, members must be able to answer three questions about the meaning of or their perception of the FFA Creed.

**The FFA Creed
by E. M. Tiffany**

"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."

BOTTOM LINE: Understanding this creed gives FFA members a sense of pride and belief in the National FFA and American agriculture. The FFA Creed has certainly withstood the test of time.

NFFA05 The FFA Creed – Exercise 4

Your assignment: Complete this worksheet to review key concepts from the lesson.

1. E. M. Tiffany wrote the FFA Creed in 1930.
2. Learning the creed is required to earn the Greenhand Degree.
3. The creed leadership contest starts at the chapter level and can go as far as presenting the creed at the National FFA Convention.
4. Fill in the blanks in the FFA Creed shown below.

"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 myself 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."