

Name: _____

Aligned to the following standards:

FFA.PL-A; FFA.PL-B; FFA.PL-D; FFA.PL-F; FFA.PG-H; FFA.CS-M; FFA.CS-N;
FFA.CS-O; CCSS.RI.9-10.1; CCSS.RI.9-10.4; CCSS.SL.9-10.1; CCSS.SL.9-10.4; CRP.01;
CRP.02; CRP.04; CRP.06; CRP.09; CRP.12

The FFA Creed as a Speech

Part 1

Directions:

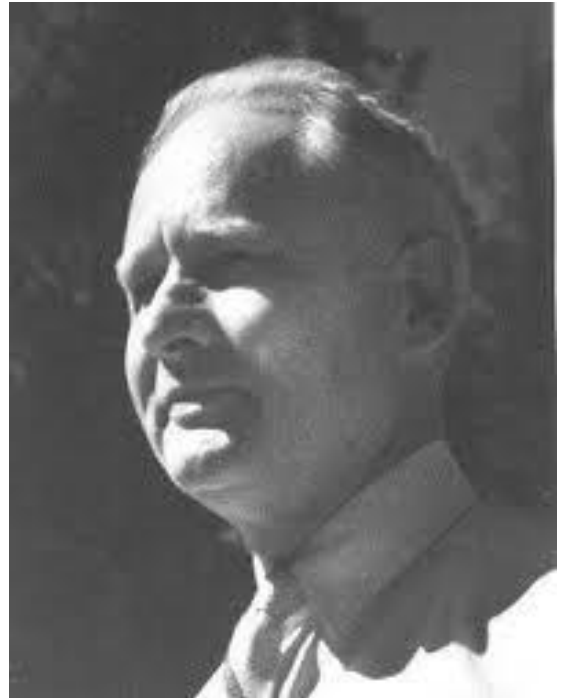
Read the historical article about the FFA Creed below and answer the questions.

Extra! Extra! Read all about the history of the FFA Creed and its creator, Erwin Milton (E.M.) Tiffany!

In the summer of 1928, with seven generations of American farmers behind him, E.M. Tiffany focused on writing the *Creed of a Future Farmer*. At the time, Tiffany was an agriculture teacher trainer in Wisconsin. The ideas for the creed came from his family's generational experience within the agriculture industry and his wish to state the ideals of future farmers with words expressing their faith in farming and the country lifestyle. As a former agriculture teacher and the son of a farmer, Tiffany knew firsthand the hardships of farming and witnessed the eagerness his students had to tackle farming projects. So as Tiffany prepared an exhibit for the first National FFA Convention, he started writing his *Creed of a Future Farmer* with the first line, "I believe in the future of farming with a faith born not of words but of deeds." This creed became the official Wisconsin FFA Creed and was part of the Wisconsin FFA Exhibit at the first National FFA Convention.

Following the first National FFA Convention, Tiffany's creed appeared in the February 1929 issue of *The Agricultural Education Magazine*. At that time, another creed, *Future Farmers Creed* (author unknown), was also printed in the first few issues of the FFA Manual. FFA members were confused on which creed they should be reciting. During the Third National FFA Convention, delegates voted 39 to 16 that Tiffany's creed would become the official FFA Creed for the Future Farmers of America.

So, who is Erwin Milton Tiffany? Tiffany was born in Kansas in 1883. He completed his bachelor's degree at Kansas State College and a master's degree at the University of Wisconsin, both in agricultural education. His resume is impressive: after serving in the United States Armed Forces during World War I, he was a classroom vocational-ag teacher, served as the director of the Texas State College of Industrial Arts, was an instructor at Kansas State College, a school principal in Oregon, an itinerant teacher-trainer, and an assistant and associate professor for agricultural education at the University of Wisconsin. When asked about his inspiration for writing the FFA Creed, he gave most of the credit to the FFA organization itself, stating: "I have often said that it is the organization that has made the Creed what it is; and it is the work of the members and the leaders that has made the organization what it is. Without these, the Creed itself would be meaningless. With them, it may, and I fervently hope that it does, contribute vitally to the spirit which is essential to achievement."



Since its adoption in 1930, the FFA Creed has had two official revisions — at the 38th convention in 1965 and the 63rd convention in 1990. There have also been several minor editorial changes over the years. While a majority of the FFA Creed has remained the same, some words have been updated in the revisions. For example, in the first line of the first paragraph, "I believe in the future of farming" now reads "I believe in the future of agriculture." The revisions helped keep the FFA Creed aligned with current vocabulary. However, the ultimate message that the FFA Creed provides to FFA members remains the same: the FFA Creed represents the fundamental beliefs of future farmers.

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1. Why do you think E.M. Tiffany felt confident in writing the *Creed of a Future Farmer*?
2. What catalyzed E.M. Tiffany to begin writing his *Creed of a Future Farmer*?
3. Why do you believe it is important for the National FFA Organization to have a creed?
4. What was the result of the vote at the Third National FFA Convention regarding the official FFA Creed?
5. Name two professional accomplishments that E.M. Tiffany could put on his resume.
6. Why do you think it is important to revise the FFA Creed occasionally?

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Part 2

Directions:

Working with your group, you will memorize the FFA Creed and recite it in front of the class. Break up the paragraphs evenly, assigning approximately one paragraph per person (if you have more than five members, you can split the paragraphs; if you have less than five members, you can assign two paragraphs per person or split the Creed evenly.) Your group will also create one unique question about the FFA Creed that you can ask other groups after they present the Creed, similar to the Creed Speaking LDE in FFA.

Below is the official FFA Creed:

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 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 Third National FFA Convention. It was revised at the 38th and 63rd Conventions.

Paragraph memorization assignments: List below which group member is responsible for each paragraph of the FFA Creed. Also, use the space provided to create your question. There are sample questions used in the FFA Creed Speaking LDE on the next page.

Paragraph 1: _____

Paragraph 2: _____

Paragraph 3: _____

Paragraph 4: _____

Paragraph 5: _____

Your group's question: _____

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Sample FFA Creed Speaking LDE Questions:

How can FFA members use the Creed to better their lives?

What is your favorite line or phrase in the FFA Creed? Why?

How can living and working on a good farm or being engaged in other agricultural pursuits be pleasant as well as challenging?

How do the words of the creed apply in today's global economy?

What agricultural pursuits do you see as the most exciting?

Why is it important for those in agriculture to demonstrate leadership?

As an FFA member, why is the Creed important to you?

Why do you believe in the future of agriculture?

What do you think is meant by "with a faith born not of words, but of deeds"?

Name some of the better things we now enjoy that have come to us from the struggles of former years.

What do you think is meant by "I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining"?

Discuss a time when you demonstrated playing square with others.

How would you describe "honest wealth"?

What do you think is meant by the lines "I believe ... in less need for charity and more of it when needed"?

What do you see in the future of agriculture?

Why should we be concerned with the achievements won by the past generations of agriculturists?

What are some challenges of agricultural life?

What are some joys of agricultural life?

As fewer FFA members have the opportunity to live and work on a good farm, how can our organization remain true to the industry of agriculture?

The industry of agriculture is constantly changing and the FFA Creed has been revised to reflect those changes. When we revisited the Creed, why was the word farming changed to agriculture?

What part of the FFA Creed means the most to you and why?

If the FFA Creed were to be revised again next year, what specific areas would you recommend changing? Why?