



VATAT

News

A publication of the Texas Agricultural Education Family ☆ 2011 Volume II, Issue V

"Words with Friends"

By: David Reiley, Seguin

Patience: the state of endurance under difficult circumstances, which can mean persevering in the face of delay or provocation without acting on annoyance/anger in a negative way; or exhibiting forbearance when under strain, especially when faced with longer – term difficulties.

Patience, I guess I have been blessed with a slow brain that takes me longer to process things, or either I have developed a calmer attitude in life since the birth of our children. Either way, I look at things in a different light than when I was younger. Although I have always seemed to be calm or at least calmer than most people, I think I got that trait from my mom and dad.

So first things first, I have been patiently looking at my picture on the front of this newsletter now for six months. Every time I look at it, it reminds me of the Scooby Doo cartoons where they are sitting in the big dining room in some spooky old mansion. You know the scene. They are looking for the villain when Shaggy and Scooby decide they need a snack, so they sit down at the big table to eat and all of the eyes of the old guys in the pictures hanging on the wall start to move.

I think my picture looks like one of the old guys on the wall. I keep

looking at the picture waiting for my eyes to move. It kind of creeps me out! So, I have been patient and have not asked Allison to change out my picture, but I figured a new year, a new picture. I hope you like this one better; I know I do and that is important to me.

Besides I look ten years younger in the new picture, and my daughter took this one. For the critics out there, it is 100% untouched by Photoshop. It is just me.

The other reason I have picked patience as the word this month has to deal with my trip to the NAAE/ACTE Conference in December. The conference was held in Las Vegas, so it was a trip I was looking forward to. Although, preparing for the trip was a little hectic. Since we were leaving on November 30 and would not be back until December 5, I had to make sure all of my stock show entries were completed and submitted before I left.

That all seemed to go ok except, like most schools, getting a check for the entries is a time consuming process. We have to start our entry process the first week of November to meet the deadlines the school has set in order to get checks for the December deadlines. A lot of planning has to go into this



process especially since the week of Thanksgiving is a total loss and no check will be issued.

Not really sure what all of that has to do with this story, I guess I just needed to vent a little. I know it is preaching to the choir, but I guess I was just looking for some sympathy. Looking at all of the faces out there I really don't see any, so I will move on.

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WHAT IS NATIONAL TEACH AG DAY?

National Teach Ag Day is a campaign to encourage agricultural education advocates, especially current agricultural educators (middle school, high school, post-secondary, pre-service programs, etc.) to share with others the great career opportunities in agricultural education and encourage them to consider careers as agricultural educators. It is also a day to recognize the contributions of current agricultural educators.

WHO IS IT FOR?

National Teach Ag Day is for anyone who wants to share the story of agricultural education and encourage students to consider careers as agricultural educators. Anyone who wants to participate can find a variety of resources to help them talk about ag education on that day, including a video and activity ideas at www.naae.org/teachag.



WHAT HAPPENS ON NATIONAL TEACH AG DAY?

Agricultural educators and agricultural education advocates will engage in a variety of activities to promote the career of agricultural education. These activities may include capitol rallies, special lessons, community activities, and more. The Teach Ag website is a clearinghouse of resources to help teachers teachers and advocates introduce the topic on that day, including a video, suggested teaching activities, games, and giveaway items.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?



- Write the Teach Ag Day date on your calendar and plan to include a lesson on March 24th about the opportunities in agricultural education.
- Tell everyone you know that March 24th is National Teach Ag Day
- If you are a postsecondary student ag education organization, plan to participate in the "How Did You Celebrate National Teach Ag Day" contest.
- For more information, visit www.naae.org/teachag

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TEACH AG DAY?

National Teach Ag Day is a component of the National Teach Ag Campaign, an initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE). It is sponsored by Landmark Nurseries as a special project of the National FFA Foundation and by Delmar Cengage Learning.



“Words with Friends”

Continued from page 1

So back to November 30th, we are going to Austin to board our plane to Las Vegas; all the world is right. We leave in plenty of time to make it to the airport by noon for a 2:15 flight. The dogs have been boarded, and I have all of my sub lesson plans in order. We get to the parking lot and a shuttle bus is sitting there waiting on us. We quickly unload from our car and load onto the shuttle. We are rapidly transported to the Southwest boarding area and get in line to check our bags. Man, we are living right!

Wrong! We are two positions from the luggage check-in when Zach announces he HAS to go to the bathroom, RIGHT NOW! So, I have to pull over and let people pass me up as Mary and Zach are off to find a restroom. We could not check in until they returned with their IDs.

So about 10 minutes later, they returned. We got our luggage checked in and we are off to the TSA checkpoint. Since Austin does not have the full body scanners, I was not too apprehensive about having to walk through one of those. However a full body pat down was still an option. As we were standing in the TSA line I get a text saying the plane was going to be late, new departure time 3:05. I could live with that, now we had time to eat lunch.

We got to the X-ray machine. I gathered three buckets to place my stuff in and reached to take off my shoes. When I looked back down at the conveyor, Zach had all three of my gray buckets filled with his stuff. So, I had to reach back for more to drop all of my junk into. Off to the X-ray machine, no snags there. Now we had all made it through the TSA check - in and were getting dressed again, things were looking up.

We find an over-priced restaurant to grab some lunch and seek a clean place to sit and eat. Airports are gross! Mary finally finds a semi-clean table to sit at that was not in direct sunlight. We sit and eat with no major issues; we even had some ice cream.

With bellies full and TSA approved bags, we head off to Gate 7 to wait on flight 1815 to Vegas, baby! We finally find three seats together, so we can have some quality family time (QFT). Not really, Mary is worse than a teenager and is constantly on her phone, calling, texting etc. until her battery dies. So, she is off to find a receptacle to charge her phone. So much for some QFT!

Well speaking of patience, I guess you will need a little since I am out of space and will have to finish the article next month. Happy New Year everyone!

Vatat Update...

Gerald Young, VATAT Executive Director

This month you will receive information on the VATAT Awards. You will notice some changes in the award names and see some awards have been done away with. The two new awards are the Media Award and the Chapter Publicity and Promotional Award. The Media Award will take the place of the Newspaper, Radio and Television Awards. The Chapter Publicity and Promotional Award takes the place of the Teacher’s Newspaper Scrapbook Award. The rubric for both awards will be the same. The three parts of the document will be Creativity/Variety, Effectiveness and Quality of Documentation. These awards should allow more teachers and chapters to participate; it should be less restrictive.

On January 11 at noon, both houses of the Texas Legislature will convene. What happens in the next 140 - day session will depend on the size of the deficit. The comptroller will share what the Legislature has to spend during the next biennium, once all of the tax numbers come in, after the first of the year. If reports are correct, the amount will be over 20 billion. This will not be good for any state agency and in particular Public Education. To my knowledge, Public Education has never taken a cut in the state budget. CTE programs are still a great benefit to the students in Texas. With the new funding formula of 60/40, CTE money can affect the school district’s undesignated money.

Every educator needs to contact the local office of their state representative and senator and share with them the importance of CTE funding. Elected officials yield to pleasure and will not support areas they have not heard from. During the teacher pay raise debate in the 2005 session, some representatives did not support the raise because they said they had not heard anything from teachers. They need to hear from us on this issue.

The association receives information on a regular basis that affects teachers. As we get information, it will go on the front page of our Web site. A great deal of the opportunities will be very positive for you and your program. This summer we will have some workshops in the Austin area, which the association will sponsor. We will post those once they are finalized.

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VATAT Membership

Are you receiving email blasts from the VATAT? If not, we may not have your correct email address. Please login to the VATAT Online and check your current email address on your membership profile and update it if necessary.

You may also need to add karen@vatat.org to your safe senders list in order for it not to be considered spam. To do so open a message from karen@vatat.org. Select Actions | Junk E-mail and then Add Sender to Safe Senders List or Add Sender's Domain (@example.com) to Safe Senders List.

VATAT Scholarship

The Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association offers VATAT scholarships to members' children upon their graduation from high school. Scholarships are awarded to all eligible applicants as long as VATAT membership requirements are met, and the application meets all scholarship requirements.

Download a scholarship application at www.vatat.org under Association>VATAT Awards. The completed

VATAT Executive Director Position: Deadline to Apply 1/7/2011

The VATAT has formed a search committee for a new executive director, whose duties would start July 2011.

If interested in applying for this position, please download the application from our Web site under the Careers page. All requested materials must be submitted to the address below no later than **January 7, 2011**.

Those selected will interview for the position during the 2011 VATAT spring board meeting.

VATAT
614 East 12th Street
Austin, TX 78701

application and supporting materials must be postmarked on or before April 1, 2011, and sent to the VATAT office. Late applications will not be accepted.

Best of Texas Awards



The Best of Texas Awards are given by the Texas Career and Technology Council to recognize outstanding senior career and technology education students, alumni and community members.

VATAT members are encouraged to nominate one or more of their students for Best of Texas Awards. Scholarships are awarded to student winners and runners-up in each division. Download an application under Associations>VATAT Awards. Best of Texas applications must be postmarked on or before March 1, 2011.

VATAT AWARDS ARE ONLINE!

The VATAT Awards process has been upgraded for 2011! The new award applications and procedures are available on the VATAT Web site! Check out the following award categories and make plans to apply or nominate someone! **Area winning applications must be submitted by the VATAT executive committee member at the spring board meeting, May 21-22, 2011.**

- Outstanding School Administrator
- Outstanding Cooperation Award
- Outstanding Newspaper
- Outstanding Radio Station
- Outstanding Television Station
- Media Award - **NEW!**
- Chapter Publicity & Promotional Award - **NEW!**
- Ideas Unlimited - **NAAE Eligible**
- Texas Turn the Key Award - **NAAE Eligible**
- Teacher Mentor Award - **NAAE Eligible**
- 30-Minute Club



Texas FFA Update

2010 State FFA Leadership Development Events: *Finals Results*

PLACING	GH Chapter Conducting
1 st	Sandra Day O'Connor
2 nd	S & S Consolidated
3 rd	Bellville
4 th	Weimar
5 th	Jourdanton
6 th	Marion
7 th	Bells
8 th	Midlothian
9 th	Idalou
10 th	Madisonville

PLACING	SR Chapter Conducting
1 st	Sandra Day O'Connor
2 nd	Bells
3 rd	Hondo
4 th	Weimar
5 th	Round Top-Carmine
6 th	Mission
7 th	Klondike
8 th	Orange Grove
9 th	Valley View
10 th	Dayton

PLACING	GH FFA Skills
1 st	Van Vleck
2 nd	Haskell
3 rd	Sterling City
4 th	S & S Consolidated
5 th	Midlothian
6 th	Peaster
7 th	Abernathy
8 th	Iowa Park
9 th	Jacksboro
10 th	El Campo

PLACING	SR FFA Skills
1 st	Quanah
2 nd	Smithson Valley
3 rd	Peaster
4 th	Haskell
5 th	Sterling City
6 th	Van Vleck
7 th	Jacksboro
8 th	James Madison
9 th	Los Fresnos
10 th	Dayton

PLACING	Job Interview
1 st	East Chambers
2 nd	East Central
3 rd	James Madison
4 th	Brownfield
5 th	Woodville
6 th	Howe
7 th	Columbus
8 th	Ropes
9 th	Belton
10 th	Rotan

PLACING	Ag Issues
1 st	Stamford
2 nd	Weimar
3 rd	Madisonville
4 th	Sulphur Springs
5 th	Levelland
6 th	Pearland
7 th	Bridgeport
8 th	Ingram
9 th	Tilden
10 th	Prairiland

PLACING	Public Relations
1 st	Katy
2 nd	Prairiland
3 rd	Sharyland
4 th	James Madison
5 th	Boling
6 th	Idalou
7 th	Florence
8 th	Valley
9 th	Ira
10 th	Plano West

PLACING	FFA Radio
1 st	Madisonville
2 nd	Waxahachie
3 rd	Cleburne
4 th	Hondo
5 th	Veteran Memorial
6 th	Royal
7 th	Borden County
8 th	Troup
9 th	George West
10 th	Wylie

PLACING	GH Creed Speaking
1 st	Bellville
2 nd	George West
3 rd	Nimitz
4 th	Anahuac
5 th	Quanah
6 th	Sulphur Bluff
7 th	Katy
8 th	Midlothian
9 th	Lazbuddie
10 th	Jourdanton

PLACING	SR Creed Speaking
1 st	Mineola
2 nd	Whitehouse
3 rd	Axtell
4 th	Seymour
5 th	Ponder
6 th	Howe
7 th	Alpine
8 th	Tilden
9 th	Blooming Grove
10 th	Judson

Greenhand FFA Quiz		
PLACING	TEAM	SCORE
1 st	Weimar	195
2 nd	Longview	187
3 rd	Seven Lakes	181
4 th	James Madison	179
5 th	Stephenville	176
6 th	Union Grove	171
7 th	Blanco	168
8 th	Axtell	161
9 th	Dayton	159
10 th	Troy	157

Senior FFA Quiz		
PLACING	TEAM	SCORE
1 st	Bellville	378
2 nd	Throckmorton	323
3 rd	Angleton	318
4 th	Bells	312
5 th	Stephenville	311
6 th	Rusk	309
7 th	Glen Rose	305
8 th	LaVernia	302
9 th	Florence	301
10 th	Van	296

Sweepstakes:

- 1st Weimar 33 points
- 2nd Bellville 28 points

This year's State FFA Leadership Development Events took place on December 3-4, 2010 at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. The finals results charts were created by Dwayne Pavelock, Associate Professor for the Department of Agricultural and Industrial Sciences at Sam Houston State University.



HOUSTON® Livestock Show *and* Rodeo

2011 HALF-PRICE CARNIVAL PACKS

\$10 Carnival Pack **(\$28 Value)**
 One Fun Card with 22 tickets (for rides & games) * 2 refreshment coupons * 2 FREE game coupons * \$5 OFF Show merchandise

\$50 Carnival Pack **(\$114 Value)**
 Two Fun Cards with a total of 150 tickets (for rides & games) * 9 refreshment coupons * 2 FREE game coupons * \$5 OFF Show merchandise * \$5 towards any carnival game

BBQ Admission Ticket *(Valid Only Feb. 24 - 26, 2011)*

Adult (Age 13 & over)	\$10
Child (Age 3-12) {2 & under free}	\$5

Reliant Park Admission *(Valid Only Mar. 1 - 20, 2011)*

Adult (Age 13 & over)	\$7
Child (Age 3-12) {2 & under free}	\$4

Season Pass *(Valid Feb 24-26 & Mar. 1 - 20, 2011)* **\$25**

Half-Price Carnival Packs may be used during the BBQ (Feb 24-26, 2011) or the Show (Mar 1-20, 2011). Rides and game require multiple tickets. To enter the carnival during the BBQ, you must have a BBQ Admission Ticket or a Season Pass. To enter the carnival during the Show, you must have a Reliant Park Admission Ticket, Season Pass or Rodeo/Concert ticket for that day. Admission Tickets and Season Passes are not valid for Reliant Stadium or Rodeo Uncorked events. **BBQ and Reliant Park Admission tickets are not interchangeable and are only valid for the specified dates.**

TO BUY TICKETS OVER THE WEB:

Buy online with credit card at www.hlsr.com

Select orange "Ticket Info" icon

Click "Carnival Tickets"

Click "Buy Now"

Enter Key Code: **1076585** or

Select name: **JIM SOULE** or direct link

<https://secure.rodeohouston.com/carnivaltickets/?salescode=1076585>

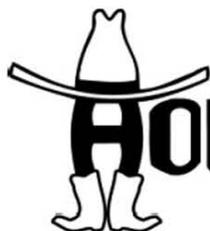
Mail Orders must be postmarked by **Wed. Feb 16, 2011**

Internet, Phone & Fax Orders accepted through **Fri. Feb 25, 2011**

Allow 5-7 business days for processing

This information is being distributed as a community service. This school or ISD is not a sponsoring organization for this activity. Please do not contact the school to buy tickets.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.



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2011 MAIL ORDER & FAX FORM

Name: _____
 Day Phone: _____ Cell: _____
 Address: _____
 City/St/Zip: _____
 Email Address: _____

Carnival Pack

\$10 Carnival Pack _____ @ \$10 each = \$ _____
 \$50 Carnival Pack _____ @ \$50 each = \$ _____

BBQ Admission Ticket *(Valid Only Feb. 24 – 26, 2011)*

Adult (Age 13+) _____ @ \$10 each = \$ _____
 Child (Age 3-12) _____ @ \$5 each = \$ _____

Reliant Park Admission *(Valid Only Mar. 1 – 20, 2011)*

Adult (Ages 13+) _____ @ \$ 7 each = \$ _____
 Child (Ages 3-12) _____ @ \$ 4 each = \$ _____

Season Pass *(Valid Feb 24-26 & Mar. 1 - 20, 2011)* _____ @ \$25 each = \$ _____

Carnival Charity / Donation

Just \$15 allows a needy child to enjoy the carnival \$ _____

Handling \$ 4.00

ENCLOSED AMOUNT \$ _____

Mail order form with check or credit card payment to:

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, PO Box 20070, Houston, TX 77225
 Attn: Carnival Ticket Sales Committee

Fax order form with credit card payment to:

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, fax (832) 667-1064

For more information, please contact HLSR volunteer:

Contact: JIM SOULE - Phone: 832-287-3528, Fax: 832-201-9928
 Email: jims_halfpricecarnivaltickets@yahoo.com

American Express
 Visa
 MasterCard

Name on Card: _____

Card #: _____ Exp Date: _____

Signature: _____



Foundation Update

Building People Up Is One of the Greatest Rewards In Life

Aaron Alejandro, Texas FFA Foundation Executive Director

Little encouragements in life can come from the places we least expect them. The Foundation is charged with the role of development assisting in meeting the goals of our agriculture educators and FFA program. However, along the way, we have all been blessed to watch our sponsors interact with students, parents and teachers. Additionally, we have heard stories of students who have shared with supporters their activities in a community service project. Either way, we are making Texas a better place to live, work, and raise our families because of our attitude to “build people up.” As we start a new year, here’s an example worth sharing.

- In kindergarten, your idea of a good friend was the person who let you have the red crayon when the only one left was the broken grey one.
- In first grade, your idea of a good friend was the person who went to the bathroom with you and held your hand through the scary halls.
- In second grade, your idea of a good friend was the person who helped you stand up to the class bully.
- In third grade, your idea of a good friend was the person who shared their lunch with you.
- In fourth grade, your idea of a good friend was the person who was willing to switch square dancing partners in gym so you wouldn’t have to be stuck do-si-do-ing with Nasty Nick or Smelly Susan.
- In fifth grade, your idea of a friend was the person who saved a seat on the back of the bus for you.
- In sixth grade, your idea of a friend was the person who went up to your new crush and asked them to dance with you, so that if they said “no” you wouldn’t be embarrassed.
- In seventh grade, your idea of a friend was the person who let you copy their social studies homework.
- In eighth grade, your idea of a good friend was the person who helped you pack up your stuffed animals and old baseball cards, so your room would be a “high school” ready, but didn’t laugh at you when you finished and broke out into tears.
- In ninth grade, your idea of a good friend was the person who went to that “cool” party thrown by a senior, so you wouldn’t be the only freshman.
- In tenth grade, your idea of a good friend was the person who changed their school schedule, so you would have someone to sit with at lunch.
- In eleventh grade, your idea of a good friend was the person who gave you rides in their new car, convinced your parents that you shouldn’t be grounded, and found you a date to the prom.

- In twelfth grade, your idea of a good friend was the person who helped you pick out a college, assured you that you would get into that college, and helped you deal with your parents who were having a hard time letting you go.
- At graduation, your idea of a good friend was the person who was crying on the inside, but managed the biggest smile as they congratulated you.
- The summer after graduation your idea of a good friend was beginning to be a little more complex. They were the person who helped clean up after a party; listened as their way of helping you deal with your parents; assured you that you and your boyfriend/girlfriend would get back together; let you know you could make it through anything; helped you pack up for college; just silently hugged you as you looked into their blurry eyes at 18 years of memories you were leaving behind; went out of their way to give you reassurance you would make it in college; and most importantly sent you off to college knowing you were loved.
- As we get older, our ideas of friends haven’t changed. Now, your idea of a good friend is still the person who gives you the better of the two choices; holds your hand when you’re scared; helps you stand firm against those who try to take advantage of you; thinks of you when you are not there; reminds you of what you have forgotten; helps you put the past behind you, but understands when you need to hold on to it a little longer; stays with you so you have confidence; goes out of their way to make time for you; helps you clear up your mistakes; helps you deal with pressure from others; smiles for you when they are sad; helps you become a better person; and most importantly -- loves you!

As we begin a new year, the Texas FFA Foundation wants you to know how much we appreciate the investment of adults in the lives of young people, and the investment of time young people share in enriching the lives of those who went before. No matter what stage in life we encounter good friends; they are worth our thanks and appreciation. The Texas FFA gives each of us a professional, and personal, network for a lifetime. Take today as an opportunity to call someone and express what they’ve meant to you. Say “thank you,” “I’m sorry” or “Do you remember when we...”

The difference between expressing love and having regrets is regrets can stay around forever. Great relationships are some of the most precious things in our lives. Some people may believe great relationships just happen, the reality is all experts will tell you they take work and nurturing. For more than 83-years the Texas FFA has been establishing relationships, professional and personal networks. Tell a friend “thank you” today – Happy New Year.

FFA Night with the Houston Rockets

All FFA members, faculty, and staff are invited to bring your family and friends to Toyota Center to watch the New Orleans Hornets go up against our Houston Rockets!

Price includes:

- Ticket to the game
- Hot Dog and Soda
- Free Throws on the court after the game



**Friday, January 14th, 2011
7:30 PM @ Toyota Center**



VS



Order Your Tickets:

By Calling: Josh Massey @ 713-758-7455
Fax: 713-758-7343
Email: joshm@rockbetball.com

Order Deadline: Friday, December 10th, 2010

# OF TICKETS	TICKET PRICE	AMOUNT DUE
	\$25 Upper Level Seats	
	\$55 Lower Level Seats	

*Group Prices only available through the Houston Rockets Group Sales office. *Tickets ordered less than 10 business days before game will be held in Will Call.

Name _____
 School _____
 Address _____
 City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
 Phone (D) _____ (N) _____
 Email _____

Method of Payment:

- Visa Master Card Amex Discover

Acct. # _____ Exp. Date _____

Enclosed is a check or money order payable to the Houston Rockets





Texas Young Farmers Update

A Few Words from the YF President

Janet Bulger, Texas Young Farmers President

Hi! I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and will have a Happy New Year. I hope in all of the hustle and bustle, all of the holiday parties and shopping, we did not forget the reason for the season and no one took the Christ out of Christmas.

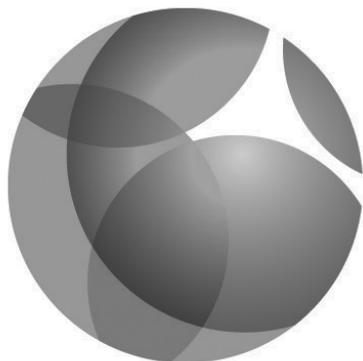
I am excited about being the Texas State Young Farmers President. I have been involved in our local Young Farmers chapter for about 20 years, I and have been attending state conventions for 17 years. My husband and I just attended our 7th National Young Farmers Institute. Through attending these national institutes, I became interested in becoming a Texas state officer in hopes I might be able to make a difference in our Texas Young Farmers. I want to help educate adults and children about agriculture and how vital agriculture is to our existence. So many people today just take for granted the eggs, milk, bread and steak they find in their local grocery store.

I want to learn more myself and help others become aware of the struggles the farmers and ranchers go through every day just to make a living and to provide food for us. I think as an organization we can make a difference, and I am looking forward to working with each one of you this coming year. Please feel free to contact me anytime. The best way to contact me is through email at janetbulger@hotmail.com. Hope to hear from all of you soon.

Gandy's Farewell...

Looking back on 2010, it was a memorable year for both the Texas Young Farmers and for me. So many things stand out as highlights starting with the convention in South Padre Island and then straight to the Houston Livestock Show Ag Mechanics Project Awards Show. April's board meeting in Austin went great, even though I was in the hospital recuperating from surgery. Then in May, we had a meeting with Gordon Stone of the NYFEA about the National Conference coming to Texas in December of 2013.

Things began to pick up speed with the Texas FFA convention in Corpus Christi. We got to meet a lot of great FFA members from around the state, and presented the Texas Young Farmer scholarships to some outstanding students. Only a short rest, then we were off to Galveston for the VATAT conference in late July. We had another NYFEA meeting there, and then we got to explain what the Texas Young Farmers are all about to FFA chapter advisors from all around. There were then follow-up meetings about starting Young Farmer chapters with Buna FFA and Little Cypress Mauriceville FFA. Meanwhile, around the state we were picking up more new chapters with the help of other board members. By the time of the fall board meeting in Mexia, I was in the hospital again. A trend was starting I did not like very much. I was worried for no reason as the other board members stepped up again and handled everything smoothly. Fall and winter may seem like a slow time, but there was a lot of work going on behind the scenes getting ready for the convention in Odessa in January 2011. The year 2010 was a very challenging year for me in more ways than just Texas Young Farmers activities. My health is still recuperating, but the future looks bright for me and the Texas Young Farmers. I want to thank everyone for all the well wishes and help I received along the way.



MATHESON

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Some Words from the YF President-Elect Candidates...

Why are you reading this article in the VATAT newsletter? Is it because you are an agricultural science teacher, a member of the Alumni, a member of the Texas FFA, a member of the Foundation, or a member of the Texas Young Farmers Association? Whatever your reason is, we have something in common. May it be to promote more agricultural functions or to update farmers and ranchers on the newest technology, along with educating members?

Hello, my name is Connie Koopmann. I am from Schulenburg, Texas in Area III and I am running for election of the President of the Texas Young Farmers Association. I have been involved in agriculture for the last 30 years, starting in high school with the FFA program. Through that program, I gained knowledge and confidence in myself as an individual and a team player.

My husband and I have been married for 25 years and have two wonderful kids who have gone through the 4-H and FFA programs. We maintain a small herd of cattle on a part - time basis. I work full - time as a Food Service Manager at a private school for kids with autism and mentally challenged. My husband and I also have our own catering business.

I became involved with the Young Farmers through a friend of mine, and what an experience it has been. I have grown to love the organization and want to be able to spread the word to everyone of what we are about and what we have to offer.

It is not just a group of people who meet and socialize. We are a group who continue to educate the adults in what is happening in the world of technology today. Sometimes the adults are left out of the loop because they have no way of learning new trends. The Young Farmers will give that to you. Everyone who belongs to the organization has a different reason for belonging, but we are all here for one main importance, agriculture.

In my local chapter I have held the office of secretary, vice-president and president. This is my second term being a state officer. Prior to holding these positions, I also served as Mayor of the City of Schulenburg for four years, and a member of the City Council for four years. I have worked with many organizations that involve kids as well as adults. I want to be your next president. I am willing to take the time to travel the Great State of Texas to get the

word out about this organization. I am not running for president to have the name. When I hold an office I give 110% to do the job elected. My phone is open to anyone who wants to call to complain or suggest an idea. If you want to see the Young Farmers organization grow and be recognized, then come to Odessa for the State Conference January 13-16, 2011 and elect me as your president-elect. Thank you for taking time to read this article and Happy Farming!

.....

Hello, everyone! It is that time of year again, convention time. I can't wait to see everyone in Odessa. It has been a great year on the board and we have worked very hard to make this a great convention.

I am running for president this year and thought I would tell you a little about myself. My name is Trina Holaway, Vice President for Area V from the Chico Chapter. At this time, we are the only chapter in the area, but I hope that will change soon. This is such a great organization with a wonderful group of members.

I was involved in ag when I was in high school and had dreams of becoming a vet. Unfortunately, I was unable to reach that dream. However, thanks to my children, I am once again involved in ag. We are mainly a show family. We show cattle and swine at all major shows and occasionally, at our county show. My oldest son, Ryan, has a small herd of Maine Anjou cattle. Raising these cattle has been a real learning experience for me. I have learned a lot, but know there is so much I still have to learn. My youngest son, Cody, shows swine. He really likes showing gilts, but he also shows a barrow at Houston every year. I imagine as he gets older, we will be showing barrows at all the majors as well. He tried showing cattle, but it just wasn't his thing. My husband, Steve, attends the conventions with me and is very supportive of the boys.

I would love to be able to say that I have a lot of experience as president of a group, but I can't. However, if you elect me to be your president, I will do everything I can to help this organization grow. I will be available to every member who might have a concern or a suggestion. No matter who you choose, you can't go wrong. Everyone on the board is great and extremely dedicated to the Texas Young Farmers.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Odessa, I and hope you will allow me to be the next president. If you have any questions, send me an email at holawak@yahoo.com and I will do all I can to answer them. See ya soon.



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Texas FFA Alumni

Update

"An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves."

Bill Vaughan

Kelly White, Texas FFA Alumni President

Happy New Year! By the time that you read this the holidays should be over. All of your Christmas decorations will be put up, you have made resolutions for the New Year, you may have already broken a New Year's Resolution (or two), and you are cringing to think the post office will be delivering your credit card bills soon. But overall, I hope it was a restful holiday season that was full of good times with family and friends.

As educators, we really have two "New Years". We have the traditional one that begins on January 1st and the one that occurs when the school bell rings in August to begin a new school year. And for each "New Year," we set goals or resolutions. For example: I will do lesson plans this year; or I will not lose my temper with my freshman class. These may be prime examples of failed or broken resolutions for some us. I hope that you do better than I have keeping your resolutions.

Congratulations to the Texas FFA as the Texas FFA membership hit 80,000! The Texas FFA announced December 3, 2010 that the 80,000th Texas FFA member was added to the roster system at 11:52 a.m. on Thursday, December 2. This is an all-time record for any state association in 83-year history of the FFA. Last year's final total, 74,372, was also an all-time record.

The Texas FFA Alumni was recognized at this past year's National FFA Alumni convention and received the "Star System" Membership Award. This award is the 3 Stars plus Blue Blazer which is an increase of 100 or more members for a state association. Our 2009 membership was 1,631. Our 2010 Membership total was 2,014, which was an increase of 383 members for the Texas FFA Alumni. The Texas FFA Alumni Council has set a goal/resolution again this year to continue to grow our membership. We would like to thank those programs that have an active Alumni Affiliate and hope that you will consider starting an Alumni program in your chapter.

How much does an Alumni membership cost?

- **Annual National Membership** - \$10; you will receive the FFA Alumni New Visions newsletter and a voice in alumni business; for an additional \$2, you can receive the National FFA New Horizons magazine.
- **Annual State Membership** - \$5.00 (benefits can be found at <http://texasffaalumni.ffa.org/>)
- **Annual Collegiate Membership** - only \$5 to collegiate students who are dues paying members of the Collegiate FFA. Now that's a bargain!
- **LIFE Membership** - \$150 per individual – one time payment; you will receive a membership card, certificate, life subscription to New Visions newsletter and New Horizons magazine as well as a voice in alumni business.
- **Corporate Membership** - \$300; this membership is extended to businesses and corporations.

**State and National Alumni Dues Are To Be Sent To:
Texas FFA Alumni Association
614 East 12th Street
Austin, Texas 78701**

Note: Active Alumni Affiliates will be receiving their rosters in the next few weeks. Contact Tricia Sullivan [tricia@texasffa.org] or myself if you have not received your Alumni roster by January 15th. Alumni Dues deadline is February 15th.

WLC (Washington Leadership Conference) Scholarship deadline is February 15th. Go to <http://texasffaalumni.ffa.org/> for more info or contact Kelly White at kwhite@del-valle.k12.tx.us



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TEXAS AG ED FAMILY EVENTS

JANUARY 2011

10th - Texas FFA Board of Directors Meeting - Austin

13th - Ford Leadership Scholars Online Submission Deadline

14th - Southwestern Exposition & Livestock Show Begins - Fort Worth

14th - 16th - State Young Farmer Convention - Odessa

FEBRUARY 2011

3rd - 20th - San Antonio Livestock Exposition - San Antonio

5th - Southwestern Exposition & Livestock Show Ends - Fort Worth

13th - SALE Public Speaking Contest - San Antonio

22nd - Day at the Capitol - Austin

21st - 25th - National FFA Week

MARCH 2011

1st - Spring Semester FFA Dues Deadline - Austin

1st - 20th - Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo - Houston

7th - State Tractor Technician CDE - HLSR, Houston

11th - 26th - Star of Texas Livestock Show & Rodeo - Austin

13th - Agricultural Public Speaking & Preliminaries - HLSR, Houston

14th - Agricultural Public Speaking Finals & Results - HLSR, Houston

18th - Mechanics Project Show - HLSR, Houston

26th - CDE Clinics - Texas A&M, College Station

TBD - Tarleton State Invitational CDEs - Stephenville

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