



VATAT

News

A Texas Team Ag Ed Publication | Volume V, Issue V

Points to Ponder

Charles Prause, Bosqueville

Happy New Year! I hope all of you have had a restful Christmas break with family and friends. We had a great Christmas break at the Prause house and now we are looking forward to the rewards and challenges 2014 will bring.

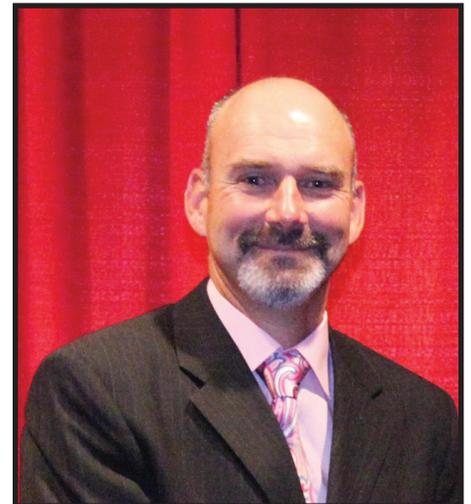
The month of December was a busy month outside of the Christmas holidays. Mr. McClure, Jack Winterrowd, Kevin Swor and I had the privilege of representing the VATAT at the NAAE Conference in Las Vegas, NV the first week of December. We had a great week networking with agricultural science teachers from around the U.S. as well as attending professional development workshops, region II meetings, committee meetings and some sight-seeing up and down the Vegas Strip. Sight-seeing in Las Vegas was very educational for someone who had never been. The travel home was most challenging as we all had to deal with inclement weather as many of you did traveling to and from the State LDE's in Huntsville.

The Conference Planning Committee met in December to plan professional development workshops for Conference to be held this summer in Abilene. I am proud to say we will have excellent professional development to fit all areas of our agricultural curriculum. The VATAT Board of Directors also met for our annual Board of Directors Meeting on December 14th and 15th. I would like to thank our Board of Directors for taking the time needed to serve our membership in accomplishing our organizational

goals and making decisions that improve our organization.

While attending the NAAE Conference we were involved in several discussions about mentoring teachers in our profession. Discussions were held during committee meetings, workshops and general sessions. After visiting with ag teachers from around the country, it occurred to me that all states are facing the same problem of keeping teachers in our profession. Whether it is eleven new teachers in New Mexico or over one hundred fifty new teachers in Texas we must continue to develop methods to improve the mentoring of our new teachers. As many of you are aware, the VATAT established and implemented a teacher mentoring program several years ago to help new teachers entering the profession. Our association works hard to develop mentoring criteria, and each area association has diligently paired good mentors with mentees. I firmly believe we must continue to develop our mentoring program to empower our first through five year teachers who are navigating their ag teaching journey.

When I started teaching twenty eight years ago, I was fortunate to have several mentors to look up to, ask questions and gain support when needed. These gentlemen put me under their wing and guided me when needed. They were firm in their guidance and if you made a mistake you better get ready for a "chewing" from one of them because mistakes were not tolerated and if you



made a mistake you better learn from it and not make it again. I am proud to say I learned from several men that worked or still work in the profession for thirty-five plus years and are highly respected in our profession. Dr. Dale Perritt, Mr. Larry Poe, Mr. Warner Wilson and Mr. Wayne Mason are these men. After teaching for ten years, I continued to ask my mentors for advice. To this day, I am not afraid to ask for help and advice from my colleagues as this is how we grow and improve. Lifelong learning, and being willing to learn, creates an advantage for success of our students, chapters, and ourselves.

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Points to Ponder

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We must take care of our profession, to lead it, to be a good steward of it. It is one of the many duties in our job description to help our fellow professionals. Be willing to help the first year teacher, the fifth year teacher and maybe even the one who has been teaching ten plus years. A teacher may be in the neighboring school district or maybe the former student you taught who is now teaching on the other side of the state; wherever they may be, make yourself available. Technology we have today makes it is easy to communicate with our mentees and colleagues. We must take the time whether it is a short email, a text message, telephone call or even the use of social media. There is no excuse! Your mentoring may be the reason a teacher stays in our profession and develops the passion to continue for a lifetime.

Teaching agriculture is my passion. I know it is also your passion or you would not still be in the profession. I will close with a challenge to you for 2014. I challenge you to become a mentor. Find one teacher that needs some help, advice, or who needs someone to confide in when things get tough. Just remember to be ethical, respect confidentiality and above all be a professional. I hope you accept my challenge and ask yourself, where would I be in my teaching career without a mentor?

Happy New Year and See you down the road!

Chain of Command

Barney McClure, VATAT Executive Director

Does your district have a clear and easy to understand chain of command? In many instances it is not as clear as one might think. In small schools you may answer to only a campus principal and a superintendent. In larger districts you may have a CTE administrator, assistant principal, campus principal, assistant superintendent for finance, assistant superintendent for maintenance, assistant superintendent for transportation and who knows how many others.

If your district's chain of command looks more like a spider web than a straight line, it becomes very important you learn how to navigate such a system. The more people you have to deal with, the bigger the chance that you could find yourself in a bind for not following one or more of the policies in place.

It becomes very important that you know who to go to for different issues. It has been my experience that some of the people in the chain have very definite ideas of their responsibilities and may take offense if they perceive you as "going over their heads." The key to getting along with all is to follow their policy and procedures, just as you expect others to follow yours.

I get calls each year from teachers that ask if their administrator can really make decisions concerning their program. In almost every instance, the answer is yes. In some cases, the teacher can make the case for a different answer, but the final decision usually rests on the administrator's shoulders. In previous articles, I have written about the importance of a strategic plan for your program, having one could head off some of these problems.

The campus principal is charged with being the instructional leader of the campus. The superintendent is charged with being the chief operating officer of the district. They have the option of delegating some of their responsibilities to other administrators. Texas Education Code and Texas Administrative Code give them broad latitude to operate their school district or campus as they see fit, and that includes our program. The most successful teachers learn how to operate under those guidelines and realize that administrators are looking for problem solvers and not problem creators. The problem solvers usually have the most rewarding and satisfying careers.

CONGRATS
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on reaching
100,000
members!

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The More Things Change the More They Stay the Same

Ashley Dunkerley, Communications Coordinator

Just as society has progressed over time, so has agriculture education. The two poems below were brought to my attention a few weeks ago. I believe that they justly embody the evolution of agriculture education over the years.

The first poem, written by Betty Ann Duvall, was written in 1952. When it was penned FFA was an all-male organization, after 1969 the course of the organization changed forever when membership was opened to women. Yet, no matter the changes, this poem embodies the true devotion of an ag teacher. Hard work and dedication are qualities that are not in short supply.

This devotion is recognized again through the second poem written by Kassie L. Davidson in 2013. Premiere leadership, personal growth and career success through agriculture education is the ultimate goal. It is the hope that every ag teacher has for their students.

Undoubtedly ag teachers truly believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that they can exert an influence in their home and community which will stand solid for their part in that inspiring task.



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My Husband the Ag Teacher

By: Betty Ann Duvall, 1952

Better reset the alarm. "Told one of the freshmen I'd come out to his place in the morning for a couple of hours before school."

My husband is always doing something like that. What's more, he does much the same thing with his afternoon, evening and weekend "spare-time". He teaches vocational agriculture.

Sometimes it's just a routine inspection of a student's farm program. Then again, he may be with a student who's out to buy the "right" animal to start a vo-ag project.

Every day brings a different reason for "overtime" it seems. He's the first called when an animal gets sick, whether the owner is a student, former student, future student or someone else in the community. He vaccinates livestock, sets broken legs, even stitches bad cuts.

Then there are the meetings: teachers' meetings, PTA meetings, agriculture meetings, civic meetings and of course, many FFA meetings.

But his job doesn't end there either. Few community functions are launched until the ag teacher has been recruited to the cause. Often as not, he's asked to lead it.

Any ag teacher gets involved in a lot of "outside" work. It isn't part of his contract and he doesn't get paid extra for "overtime." Nor does he expect such. Frankly he doesn't have to do all these things, but he considers them his duty and part of living a full life.

Sometimes through, you wonder if it's worthwhile, or even appreciated. Most schools spend a lot more money on sports than on vo-ag. And, a ball game instead of an agricultural field day. What's more, just for the fun of it, how many ag buildings have you seen maintained as well as the gym?

But on the other hand, you know it's worth the time and effort, a thousand times over. Usually, the reassurance comes from seeing him struggle with a student's problem as if it were his own. Boy's develop respect for their ag teacher. They ask for his advice on all sorts of problems, personal as well as agriculture.

This especially is true in the many small communities where there are no guidance counselors. Or where several schools share a counselor and few students get to know him well enough to confide.

That's one reason you hear "citizenship training" and "leadership" so often by former FFA members. It's a vital part of the program—and quite a trust for the citizens of a community to put in the hands of one man. In effect, parents say, "Here's my boy. Turn him into a good citizen and make a man out of him."

That's my husband's profession. He's the ag teacher.

So God Made An Ag Teacher

By: Kassie L. Davidson, 2013

And on the ninth day, after God made a farmer. God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need somebody to educate people about the land and ways of the world." So God made an Ag Teacher.

God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, check on agricultural projects, drive a bus route, go to school, teach kids, drive a bus again, eat supper, go back to town and stay past midnight at a FFA meeting." So, God made an Ag Teacher.

I need somebody willing to stay up all night, help a student birth a litter of pigs, and after watching the sow die look at the kid and say, "well at least we saved the litter." So, God made an Ag Teacher.

God said, "I need somebody who can teach about crop production, livestock evaluation, welding, floral design, tractor restoration, wildlife management and veterinary technology. And... who, during leadership events, stocks shows and career development events can finish their forty-hour work week by Tuesday noon. Then, paining from lack of sleep and unbalanced meal, put in another seventy-two hours." So, God made an Ag Teacher.

God had to have somebody willing to spend long trips away from their families, countless hours working on projects, and numerous days away from home going judging contests, conventions an projects shows all for their students. So, God made an Ag Teacher.

God said, "I need somebody who can be a mentor for the community, with a big heart and a helping hand willing to give the shirt off his back to help a fellow friend or family member. Somebody who cares about their students and wants to provide them with the best knowledge possible." So, God made an Ag Teacher.

It has to be somebody who will write lessons to teach their students each week, and remember that learning is by doing. Somebody who will train teams, explain to kids about economic trends and current events effecting agriculture, help students apply for scholarships, balance program budgets and promote agriculture to the world. Somebody who will unwillingly enter into politics and research new technology all for sake of improving the industry, as they know it. So, God made an Ag Teacher.

Somebody who will start the weekend at 5:30 a.m., tend to animals, fix needed machinery, commit to chores, spend time with family and finish the long weekend with a ten mile drive to church. Somebody who'd bale a community and a family together with soft strong bonds of sharing and commitment and when asked, "Is this job really worth all its time?", they'd reply with a smile on their face and tear in their eye "Every day I get up, I get to teach kids about God's creations and ways of the world, I have the best job there is." So, God made an Ag Teacher.



Texas FFA Update

2013 Texas FFA State Leadership Career Development Events Results

Tom Maynard, Texas FFA Executive Director

GH Chapter Conducting	
1st	Sandra Day O'Connor
2nd	Bellville
3rd	Hico
4th	Weimar
5th	Klondike
6th	Waxahachie
7th	Spearman
8th	Midlothian
9th	Harmony
10th	Frenship

SR Chapter Conducting	
1st	Klondike
2nd	Weimar
3rd	Hondo
4th	Sandra Day O'Connor
5th	Harmony
6th	Warren
7th	Bells
8th	Bellville
9th	Chisum
10th	Anson

GH Skills	
1st	Stamford
2nd	El Campo
3rd	Smithson Valley
4th	Sharyland
5th	Jacksboro
6th	Lubbock-Cooper
7th	Van Vleck
8th	Hondo
9th	Anahuac
10th	Orange Grove

SR Skills	
1st	Royal
2nd	El Campo
3rd	Anahuac
4th	Sharyland
5th	Farwell
6th	Peaster
7th	Sterling City
8th	Smithson Valley
9th	Westwood
10th	Plainview

Job Interview	
1st	Dalhart
2nd	Marion
3rd	Gilmer
4th	Madisonville
5th	George West
6th	Goliad
7th	Seminole
8th	Chapel Hill
9th	Florence
10th	Plano East

Ag Issues	
1st	Madisonville
2nd	James Madison
3rd	Tilden
4th	Canyon
5th	George West
6th	Katy
7th	Bridgeport
8th	Onalaska
9th	Pearland
10th	Glasscock County

Public Relations	
1st	Troy
2nd	Coahoma
3rd	Judson
4th	Sharyland
5th	Frenship
6th	Weimar
7th	Gilmer
8th	Stamford
9th	Floresville
10th	Santo

Broadcasting	
1st	Plainview
2nd	Sterling City
3rd	Ballinger
4th	East Bernard
5th	Florence
6th	Tom Bean
7th	Veterans Memorial
8th	Waxahachie
9th	Tilden
10th	N/A

GH Creed	
1st	New Boston
2nd	Farwell
3rd	Bellville
4th	Cleburne
5th	Waller
6th	Parrin
7th	Canyon New Braunfels
8th	Howe
9th	Rains
10th	Lovelady

SR Creed	
1st	Lindale
2nd	Boling
3rd	East Central
4th	El Campo
5th	Abilene
6th	Dublin
7th	Idalou
8th	Hondo
9th	Troy
10th	Union Grove

GH Quiz	
1st	Stephenville
2nd	Weimar
3rd	Boling
4th	Pewitt
5th	Frenship
6th	Abernathy
7th	Sandra Day O'Connor
8th	Pleasanton
9th	Anson
10th	Prosper

SR Quiz	
1st	Jourdanton
2nd	Iola
3rd	Alba-Golden
4th	Stephenville
5th	Weimar
6th	La Vernia
7th	Grapeland
8th	Dayton
9th	Grape Creek
10th	Sandra Day O'Connor

Sweepstakes—Single Teacher Dept.	
1st	Klondike
2nd	Farwell

Sweepstakes—Multi Teacher Dept.	
1st	Weimar
2nd	El Campo

Texas FFA Participation in Fall Leadership Competition at Record Levels

Participation in Texas FFA fall competitions, now termed Leadership Career Development Events surged to record levels in 2013.

Eight hundred and eight-six of the state’s 1,037 local chapters fielded at least one entry at the district level. The 85.44% statewide participation rate is a high mark for the organization since it began tracking participation data in 2000. Statewide participation was 71.88% (698 out of 971) in 2000. 5,805 entries were fielded statewide, an all-time record and a 12.65% increase over 2012 levels.

The uptick in student engagement follows the record-setting membership increase over 2012-13. Texas FFA membership crossed the 100,000 mark in November and stood at 101,658 in early December.

Seven of the state’s 57 FFA districts reported that 100% of their chapters fielded at least one entry. Area I reported the highest rate of chapter participation with 92.31% of its chapters engaging in fall leadership competitions.

Ten of 13 events recorded all-time high marks: Greenhand Creed, Senior Creed, Greenhand Quiz, Senior Quiz, Greenhand Skill Demonstration, Senior Skill Demonstration, Senior Chapter Conducting, Job Interview, Broadcasting and Agricultural Advocacy all hit all-time record participation, since records have been kept in the modern era. Participation in some events, Creed Speaking and Broadcasting, is somewhat inflated due to the practice of districts in sparsely populated areas to allow multiple entries.

Two hundred and sixteen chapters waded into the Agricultural Advocacy competition in its inaugural season as a state event. Seventy-five chapters in eight areas participated in an area-level pilot in 2012. Prior to the launch of the advocacy event, the last new competition rollout was the Job Interview event in 2000, which also had 216 entrants in its maiden season.

Except for a six-year hiatus created by World War II, fall FFA leadership-based competitions have been hosted by Sam Houston State University continuously since 1931 when C.T. Heath of Henderson won the state public speaking title and Willis won the debate crown. Chapter Conducting, Skill Demonstration and Greenhand FFA Quiz are the longest continually running fall events, all of which were initiated when contests resumed after World War II in 1948.

LCDE Participation by Area		
Rank	Area	Participation Percentage
1	I	92.31
2	VI	88.04
3	III	87.59
4	IX	87.5
5	V	86.92
6	II	86.59
7	VII	84.91
8	VIII	83.5
9	IV	82.67
10	X	73.08

100% LCDE Districts Participation
Area I-Littlefield
Area II-Lone Wolf
Area III-District 5
Area IV-Big Country
Area VII-Guadalupe
Area VII-Hill
Area VIII-Sandy Land

Leadership Career Development Event Participation				
Event	2013	Change from 2012	10-Year Average	All Time High/Year
Greenhand Creed	703	8.82%	604.4	703/2013
Greenhand FFA Quiz	593	11.26%	503.5	593/2013
Greenhand Chapter Conducting	270	7.57%	247.5	275/2004
Greenhand Skill Demonstration	252	9.09%	211.5	252/2013
Senior Creed	791	16.67%	663	791/2013
Chapter Agricultural Quiz	686	13.39%	554.7	686/2013
Senior Chapter Conducting	260	5.26%	238.5	260/2013
Senior Skill Demonstration	358	3.77%	297.4	358/2013
Agricultural Issues Forum	160	-9.09%	155.5	181/2011
Public Relations	314	-0.63%	272.9	330/2010
Job Interview	527	16.08%	407.8	527/2013
FFA Broadcasting	675	13.26%	578.3	675/2013
Agricultural Advocacy	216	---	216*	216/2013
Overall statewide entries	5,805	12.65%	4754.6	5,805/2013
Participating Chapters	886	3.14%	826.2	886/2013
Chapter Participation Rate	85.44%	1.56%	81.00%	85.44/2013



Texas FFA Foundation Update

Acting on What We Believe ... 2014 A Year for Heroes

Aaron Alejandro, Texas FFA Foundation Executive Director

It was a summer day in 2008. I had the honor of driving a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient from North Texas to a Korean Veterans Reunion in Rogers, AR. I wanted to engage in a discussion which would share a glimpse of the “heart” of this great American. I began with, “What kind of questions does a Congressional Medal of Honor generally receive?” Col. Don “Doc” Ballard said, “It depends on the age. Typically kids and young people ask about blood and guts. Adults ask about why I did what I did.” As we continued, a question came to mind. “Doc,” I said, “You are a true American hero – a real one. You have received the highest honor a serviceman/woman can be given for heroic action. What makes a ‘hero’ to you?” There was a pause. Col. Ballard said, “Good question. Let me think about that.”

As we drove another couple of hours, Col. Ballard said he was ready to answer my question. “First let me say, that was a good question. It made me think,” he said. He went on to share the following, “A hero, in my mind, is someone who goes beyond the call of the duty; beyond the everyday tasks at hand. That hero could be a mom, dad, brother, sister, friend or co-worker. It is when someone goes beyond what is expected to deliver what is unexpected, that to me is a ‘hero.’” Wow! I’m now even more humbled. Not only am I setting in the presence of a great warrior hero, but he has now opened my eyes to all of those “heroes” I’ve encountered along my life’s journey.

Was it my mom who had the courage to send me to Cal Farley’s Boys Ranch? Was it Mr. Winston Chandler who put me (I did not choose to be in FFA) in agricultural education/FFA because he always said, “darling, you’ll never learn anything unless something depends on you to live.” Was it mentors I had like Tom Maynard who could see my potential even when I didn’t rate myself as good as God intended. Was it great friends like Bruce Cobb or Bill Sarpalius who always told me things I may not want to hear, but things I needed to hear to grow as a better man and professional? Maybe it was some of the students, parents and adults I met working in a Boot Camp; with truant offenders; or in a maximum security prison who longed for a second chance and was willing to sacrifice all their pride to change another’s life for the better? Maybe it was coming to the Texas FFA Foundation and meeting a whole new set of “heroes.”

Could the hero be in the words of Dick Wallrath who

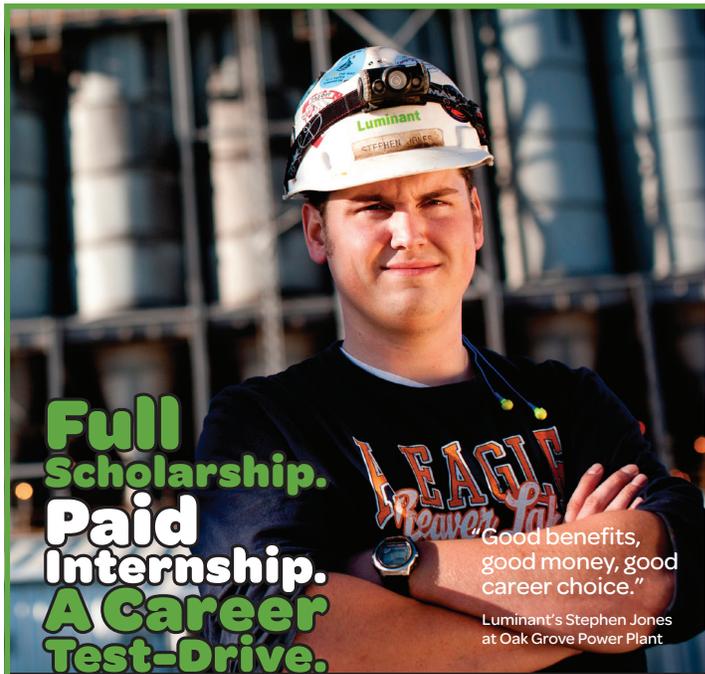
told me, “Aaron in your life, always do two nice things for people every day without any expectation of recognition? If anyone finds out about either one of the things you’ve done – that one doesn’t count.” Could the “hero” be Randy Watson sharing the power of “passion” in tackling life’s opportunities? Could it be in the words of Wayne Goldberg who’s strive to be the best attitude – always – can inspire a room of volunteers? Maybe it’s the silent types like Mitchell Dale who may be absent from their desk at work, but can be found in a local food pantry handing out sustenance to those in need – acting on the pursuit of servant leadership. Maybe it’s in the students like Chanda Neal, Tori Jones, Molly Dutton, Chase Shelton, Cody May, Victoria Osborne, Arquimidis Reyes, Andrew Johnson, Sydney Little, Lauren Grainger and Andrew Christensen that say, “hey I get it” I want to give back and do something great for others. Maybe it is in a great Texas Team Ag Ed staff committed to “doing the right thing” even though they are sometimes not understood. Could it be in the sincere words of support from Mark Seitz when describing his love for the FFA? What about alumni like Daniel Stanton who runs a successful business and wants to give back to an organization that develops great leaders – an organization that empowered him?

Could the “hero” be found in being vulnerable? Maybe the hero is in the lesson shared by Brian McCoy when visiting with teachers at the L.E.A.D. Experience about a willingness to admit to short comings and obtain skills to be a better person, leader and executive. Maybe we learn from folks like Stan Ray shows us life is about constant improvement – be humble, be discerning, continue to learn, and be willing to serve. Maybe the hero is folks we see on a regular basis who do things “because it’s the right thing to do” like Jeff McKnight who wants to see students and teachers recognized for a job well done. Is the hero like Mr. Vernie Glasson who simply says, “Yes, we want to support the students of the Texas FFA and their dreams – they will make Texas agriculture better.” Maybe it is Mr. Cleo Franklin who believes none of us is as strong as all of us and when we work together – we RISE. Maybe the hero is Don Denny who always exceeds expectations when delivering superior customer service, a quality product with an extraordinary attitude. What about Bill Priefert who embraces new technologies that makes a great company even more

dynamic without laying off a single employee but rather finding another place for them within the team. Sometimes the “hero” is simply the serviceman or woman willing to give of their time for their country like those in the Texas National Guard?

Maybe the “hero” is the teacher who takes from their own pocket to help a young person in their chapter with a project, a meal or FFA jacket. Maybe its teacher like Traylor Lenz who’s bold enough to ask the tough questions – like iron sharpening iron so does one person sharpen another. Maybe the “hero” is the teacher willing to step up and say “I get it” we can do better if we work together like Jim Harris. Maybe it is the seasoned teacher who’s not afraid to embrace new ideas, creative engagement and ways to teach their students about servant / steward leadership like Tony Dunkerley and Bonnie Beard.

My good friend Gordon Davis once told me of the experience of delivering his father’s eulogy. After careful consideration and observation, he concluded – “It’s all about ‘the dash.’” On every grave marker in the cemetery, there is a born date and an end date – in the middle is the dash. The dash is what we’ve done. I believe God makes no trash and sponsors no flops – we were created for greatness – we were designed to be a hero. In 2014, I challenge my colleagues, teachers, students and myself to “go beyond the call of duty, to go beyond the regiment of tasks that can consume a day” and do something extraordinary for someone else. Let’s let 2014 be a year for Texas FFA “heroes.”



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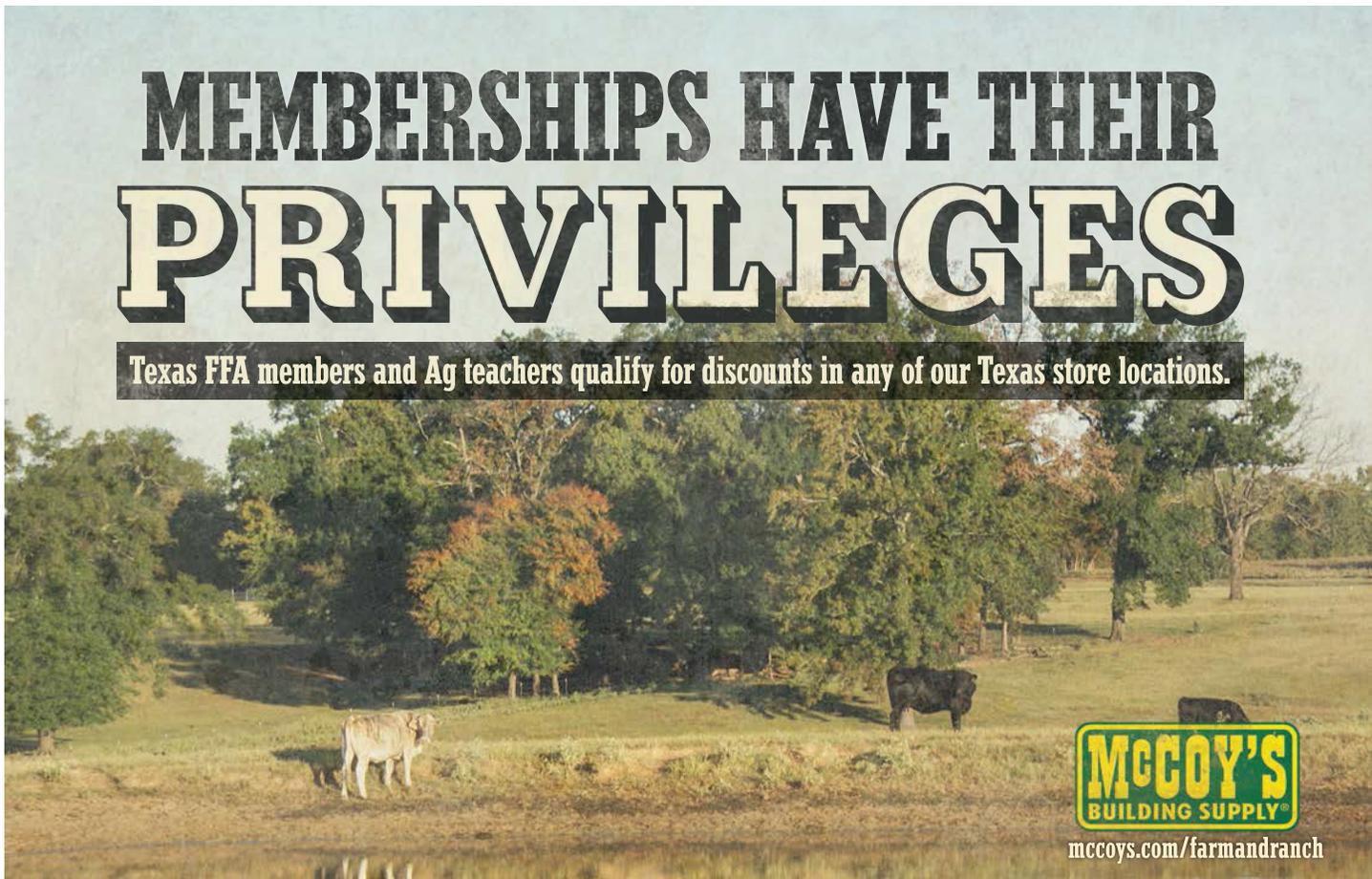
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Texas FFA Alumni Update

Happy New Year from the Texas FFA Alumni Association

Kelly White, Texas FFA Alumni President

Bill Vaughan once said “an optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.”

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 one of those resolutions (or two) and you are cringing to think that 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 actually have two “New Years”. We have the traditionally 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 we set goals or resolutions for each. 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.

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.

Cost of Alumni Membership

- 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- benefits can be found at www.texasffaalumni.ffa.org.
- Annual Collegiate membership \$5- collegiate students who are dues paying members of the Collegiate FFA. Now that’s a bargain!
- Life Membership \$150 + \$10 processing fee (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.

Note on FFA Alumni Roster

National FFA launched their online Alumni Roster system, MyAgCN, last year. One of the biggest changes you will notice is that you will be able to pay National FFA online for the National Dues, but you will still need to send Texas FFA Alumni (Tricia Sullivan) a check for the state dues.

You will need to set up a MyAgCN account if you have not done so. Tricia sent out an email “inviting” you to create an account to manage your roster. If you did not receive an email, please let her know so she can get you set up before it gets too late in the spring. If you are no longer the contact for your alumni chapter or there is a new contact person, please send her their name and email address so she can get them set up. Contact Tricia Sullivan before the Alumni dues deadline on January 15th.



Washington Leadership Conference

Scholarship deadline is
February 15th

Go to www.texasffaalumni.ffa.org or
contact Kelly White at kbwhite63@gmail.com
for more information.



Texas Young Farmer Update

Notes From the Executive Secretary

Don Beene, Texas Young Farmers Executive Secretary

The 47th National Institute is now behind us and Texas did an outstanding job hosting. I received very few complaints and it appeared that most of the folks had a great time. I was surprised at some of the comments about the tours.

The King Ranch was very successful even though it started late and we experienced heavy fog; however everyone that I heard from was very excited. We enjoyed our visits to James Madison High School, the River Walk, LBJ Ranch and the Alamo even though the wind tried to blow everyone into the next county. Friday tours went well and everyone was complimentary of the stops along the way. Athens Area Young Farmers and the Limestone County Young Farmers did an outstanding job of preparing the meals on Friday. Thanks to all of you that braved the cold and wind to cook the meals.

On Saturday we had an excellent state meeting and the group voted to have the 2015 State Convention in Bryan the second weekend in January. The new Board for the Texas Young Farmers are featured in this article. Please get behind them and help them grow the Texas Young Farmers

2014 Texas Young Framer Board

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Jason Benson *Bryan*

President Elect
Kenneth Brown *Teague*

Area III Vice President
Lance Hausenfluck *Bryan*

Area V Vice President
Brad Peyton *Chico*

Area VII Vice President
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TEXAS TEAM AG ED EVENTS

January 2014

6th Texas FFA Board of Directors Meeting, Austin

7th Foundation Board Meeting, Austin

16th Ford Leadership Scholars Online Submission Deadline

17th Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo Begins

February 2014

1st Texas FFA Payment Deadline for ALL Fees

6th San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo Begins

15th National FFA Scholarship Deadline

15th- 22nd National FFA Week
25th Day at the Capitol

March 2014

1st Spring FFA Membership Submission Deadline

6th Star of Texas Fair and Rodeo Begins

4th Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Begins

24th Texas FFA Board of Directors Meeting, Austin

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