



# VATAT

## News

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

## Points to Ponder

Charles Prause, Bosqueville

Wow! The month of June is over. How the summer days go by fast. I visited with many of you at the State FFA Degree Check in Waco, attended the NAAE Region II Conference in Manhattan, Kansas and moved my future son-in-law and my daughters to new locations. Where has the time gone for rest and relaxation?

Many of you have been planning for the State FFA Convention and the VATAT Professional Development Conference. We are planning for a great conference and I hope to see you there.

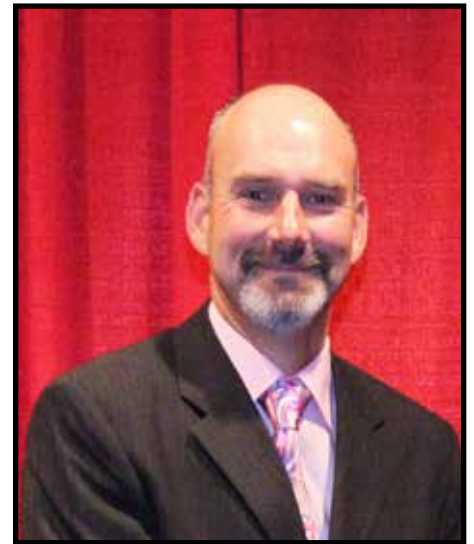
Thanks to all of you who attended the State FFA Degree Check. This event would not be possible if you did not volunteer to serve on the various committees.

My wife has planned a spouse's luncheon for Tuesday, July 29 at the MCM Elegante Hotel. She has planned a book swap for those spouses who wish to attend. She asks that each spouse bring their favorite book and if you have hobbies or crafts to share, she would like for you to bring those also. If you are interested in attending, please email Ashley Dunkerley, at [ashley@vatat.org](mailto:ashley@vatat.org) to confirm your place. Also, on Wednesday, July 30 there are plans to visit the specialty shop area of Abilene as a group. We hope to see our spouses in attendance.

The first week of June, Mr. Maynard sent out an email to all of the area coordinators soliciting a volunteer

from each of our ten areas to serve on the Area/District Realignment Committee. I have been asked to serve as the chairman of this committee as well as Tammy Glasscock, Jerome Tymrak, Horace Hodge and Ray Pieniazek. I would like to assure each of you that this committee will follow the Texas FFA policy handbook that was developed and proposed by the Area Realignment Policy and Procedure Committee. The proposals of this committee were adopted at the second quarter meeting of the Texas FFA Board of Directors on Monday January 7, 2013. As we continue to put our committee into place I ask each of you to have an open mind. The realignment process will require patience and time. If you have concerns, comments, ideas or solutions contact your area representative once they are selected for the committee.

As I finish out the year as President of the VATAT, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our VATAT Board of Directors for allowing me to lead this great organization. I would like to thank my fellow officers for their support and help as we have encountered many challenges and strived to improve your organization for the better. I would like to thank Mr. McClure for his support and guidance throughout the past three years. A huge thank you goes out to Karen Jones and Ashley Dunkerley who work very hard to keep our office in tip top shape on



a daily basis. Thank you also goes out to Mr. Alejandro and the Texas FFA Foundation and Mr. Maynard and the Texas FFA Association. Together all three entities make up Texas Team Ag Ed and this has been the foundation that has continued to support the members of the FFA and VATAT. There are many others that deserve a huge thank you but I will finish that in my final article.

I look forward to seeing each of you this summer. Remember to take some time off and relax with your family. Be safe, stay healthy and I will see you down the road!

## TEXAS AG ED FAMILY UPDATES

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## VATAT Conference Information

- Conference registration is open and can be accessed through the VATAT online system.
- You can still register for pre-conference workshops. On-site registration will be available for remaining spots.
- Do you plan on registering and paying for the conference on-site? If so, please visit the cashier's table. No payments will be accepted at area tables.
- Please check your membership profile online to confirm your contact information is correct. If you have any questions please contact the VATAT office.
- Be sure to check the VATAT website for continuous updates on workshops and activities.

## Implementing House Bill 5

Barney McClure, VATAT Executive Director

Most provisions of House Bill 5 will be implemented starting this next school year. Some parts of the bill, such as algebra II not being required for all students and the reduction in standardized testing have received a majority of the publicity. These changes, while welcomed by many educators, will have minimal effect on most agricultural education and CTE programs.

Under previous graduation requirements, known as the 4x4, counselors started with the 16 required core courses, and then filled in the remaining blanks. Under H.B. 5, students will have a much more individualized graduation plan. Each student will have to choose one of five endorsement areas: STEM, business and industry, public service, arts and humanities and multidisciplinary studies.

Agricultural education is included in the business and industry endorsement. CTE is cited prominently in the bill that reads in part: "Career and Technical Education is established as a part of the total education system of this state and constitutes an option for student learning that provides a rigorous course of study." It further states that CTE should provide for competencies leading to:

- "An industry-recognized license, credential, or certificate"
- "At the secondary level, an associate or baccalaureate degree"
- "Includes opportunities for students to earn college credit for coursework"
- "Includes, as an integral part of the program, participation by students and teachers in activities of career and technical student organizations supported by the agency and the State Board of Education"

The creation of this education bill provides opportunities for our students that are more clearly spelled out than ever before. A premium will be put on certificates, pathways to college, dual credit courses, and as you can see by number four above, FFA participation. It is now up to the agricultural education community to provide challenging opportunities for our students in each school district. Local and state leaders will be watching.



### Conference Attire:

**Monday, July 28 - Casual**

**Tuesday, July 29 - Business Professional**

**Wednesday, July 30 - Business Casual**

**Thursday, July 31 - Business Casual**

**Friday, August 1 - Business Professional**

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# Professional Development Conference Keynote Speaker

## Adam Sáenz



How did he go from juvenile detention to two doctorates with training at Harvard Medical School and Oxford University? Adam Sáenz will tell you: it was the power of a teacher. Dr. Saenz' story is one the Huffington Post says "will never fail to inspire," a journey through profound lows and soaring highs. At every important juncture, there have been two common elements—lifesavers that appeared when he most needed it: education and teachers. Whether you're searching for a reason to believe or you just need a hope-filled reminder, the bottom line is that you do have tremendous power to make a difference in students' lives, and Dr. Sáenz' message will compel you to engage your calling with passion, with purpose, and with vision.

# 26TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

**MONDAY - JULY 28, 2014**

Shady Oaks Golf Course (325) 854-1757  
3542 CR 268 Baird, TX. 79504

6:30 a.m. Check-In | \$80.00 Entry Fee | Registration Deadline: July 20  
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7th Annual

# 3D Archery TOURNAMENT

MONDAY - JULY 28, 2014

Abilene Bowhunters Association Range

For More Information Visit [VATAT.org](http://VATAT.org)

8:00 am. Registration | Start at 9:00 am. | \$30.00 Entry Fee

Benefits the VATAT Scholarship Fund

ALL PLAYERS MUST BE CURRENT VATAT MEMBERS

2nd Annual

# Fun Run

Monday - July 28, 2014

Red Bud Park

For More Information Visit [VATAT.org](http://VATAT.org)

7:00 am. Registration | Start at 7:30 am. | \$10.00 Entry Fee

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## Conference ✓ Checklist

- Stop by Seitz booth
- Receive "Start Up Kit"  
*(New Teachers Only)*
- Sample products *(Tuesday)*
- Look at our "All In One"  
brochure
- Sign up for Fundraising Programs
- Receive a Free Gift
- Go to our Casino Night *(Wednesday)*



# Texas FFA Update

## 86th Texas FFA Convention Reminders

Tom Maynard, Texas FFA Executive Director

### Housing

We still have rooms available in the block. However, if you are holding more rooms than what you need, please release those rooms as soon as possible. When we have rooms that are held until a few weeks before, no one can use them. Please help your fellow FFA advisors in this way.

### Parking

A weekly parking pass is \$30. The daily rate is \$7 with no in-and-out privileges. If you are driving a bus, parking is offsite at the Will Rogers Harley Lot. You will need to drop off your students and then go park. We will run shuttle vans between the parking lot and the convention center. You should not have to wait for a shuttle for more than about three or four minutes. If you are driving a bus and staying at a downtown hotel, parking options are a bit tight. Some hotels can accommodate it and others cannot. If you need to park in the offsite parking and need a ride back, we will provide a number to call to get that ride back to the hotel.

### Registration

We have made a few tweaks to the registration system. Members who are being recognized onstage must be registered for convention to gain access to the building. If you have a member who is coming for one day to pick up a degree, award or scholarship, he or she does not have to pay registration for the entire week, as has been the case in previous years. You now have the option of registering that member for a one-day pass for \$15.00. We have added the option of completing a guest registration through your chapter registration portal. One-day guest registration is \$15. The full week is \$40. Children seven years of age and younger must still be registered, but there is no charge for these registrants.

Cut-off for ordering meal tickets is Sunday, July 13th. Our lunch provider has to be able to plan according to projected numbers. Meals tickets will be available onsite for an additional \$2 above the online pre-order price.

Keep in mind that all convention payments are due August 1.

### Things To Do

- Six Flags Over Texas/Hurricane Harbor is always a fun option. Information regarding discounted tickets is available at TexasFFA.org.
- Cowboy Stadium Tours: If you have not seen this colossal state-of-the-art stadium, this could be worth the price of admission. Visit TexasFFA.org for more information regarding pricing.
- Texas Rangers Baseball: This might be a possibility if you are in town on Sunday afternoon for the last game before the All-Star Break. The Rangers will be playing the Angels at 2:05 p.m. If you have a group of 20 or more you can get a group discount. Contact the Texas Rangers at 817-273-5222 and ask for ticket sales.

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# Texas FFA Foundation Update

## Greetings From Fort Worth

Krysti Kelley and Jackie Lee, Texas FFA Foundation Interns

As active FFA members and former state FFA officers, it has been an extremely rewarding experience serving the Texas FFA Foundation as interns. So far, this experience has opened our eyes to whole new side of, not only state convention, but the pertinent role that the Foundation plays in our association. During our time as interns, we have had the opportunity to grow professionally, expand our network and visit with people that truly believe in the purpose of the work that we do. We have been able to take skills, such as responsibility, time management and relationship building, that the FFA taught us and apply them in a professional workplace. Our job as interns requires us to complete many behind the scenes tasks, some small- some large. We are the boots on the ground in Fort Worth, whose main purpose is to develop and foster positive relationships with the host committee and the Fort Worth community. What really sets this internship apart is its opportunity to interact with people from all different professions and walks of life. This year we are stationed in the Thos. S. Byrne Ltd. Office, the office of the host committee chairs, John and Matthew Avila.

This year's host committee is truly representative of Fort Worth, its people and its strong roots in agriculture. We are honored to work with such influential and passionate community leaders. They serve as a liaison from Fort Worth to FFA and from FFA to Fort Worth. They allow us, as interns, to borrow their professional networks; they provide guidance on community related decisions and help to organize and advertise some of the most important events that occur during our convention. Our Host Committee members are diverse: some with agricultural backgrounds, some past FFA members and some who have just seen how impactful the FFA can be on the lives of the students involved. No matter what their previous experience or knowledge of FFA is, they are all truly committed to serving the members of the Texas FFA and making the 86th Texas FFA Convention in Fort Worth an experience the over 11,000 members, parents and guests will never forget.

More than ever before, the Foundation will play a vital role in convention. This year will mark the beginning of a new tradition- the first ever Texas FFA 5K Run/

Walk sponsored by the Texas FFA Foundation Board of Directors. Chapters, community members and guests are invited to participate in a blue and gold color run through the historic stockyards of Cowtown. Proceeds will benefit Texas Team Ag Ed. In addition, the Foundation will be hosting VIP's and sponsors from all over. A group of 50 Texas FFA Foundation Ambassadors will be present to welcome them and assist them throughout convention. Furthermore, the Foundation will be awarding several scholarships to deserving seniors for their active involvement and academic achievement.

Overall, this has been a great start to an even better summer. We are looking forward to our continued work with the Host Committee and the Fort Worth Community. With great supporters, great things are possible. This will ring true at the 86th Texas FFA Convention. Come on down to Cowtown!



Aaron Alejandro, Texas FFA Foundation Executive Director,  
Krysti Kelley and Jackie Lee, Texas FFA Foundation Interns





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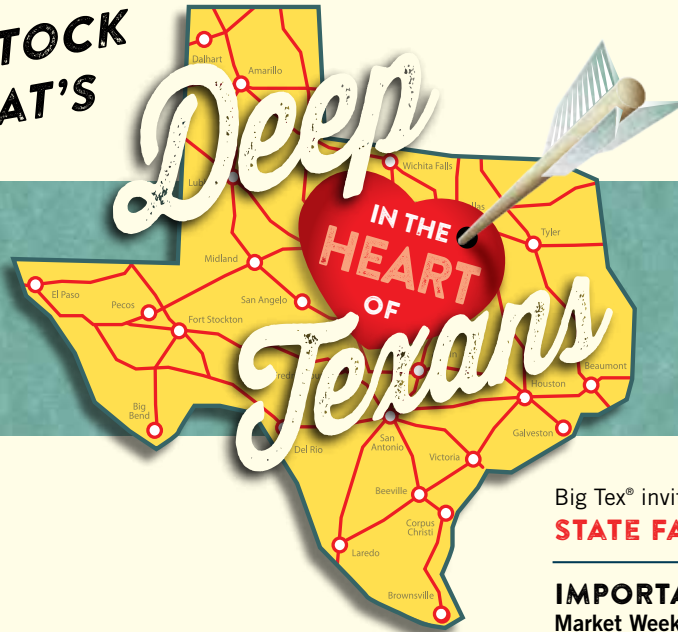


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# Texas FFA Alumni Update

Every beginning has an end and every end is a new beginning - Santosh Kalwar

Kelly White, Texas FFA Alumni President

Wow, you talk about one day full of emotions.

I began my Saturday last month by attending a memorial service for the son of a long time co-worker. He had graduated from law school and was beginning his career as an attorney. Although I had only met him once, I felt that I had watched him grow through the stories that his mother shared. I regretted not getting to know him from listening to the eulogy and stories shared by the minister and his friends. It is always nice to see old friends and former colleagues; yet, during a moment like this it can be difficult. However, I had additional plans for the day.

My next excursion was to attend a surprise retirement party that coincided with a high school graduation celebration. My wife and I showed up fashionably late and managed to crash the graduation party. The surprise party had not yet started. The newly retired couple thought nothing of our presence at their son's graduation party. They would later connect the dots and realize our reason for being there. Congratulations to Kevin and Wendy Page on their dual retirement plans! Additionally between the graduation and retirement party, the crowd broke out in a loud rendition of the happy birthday song. It was great to see old friends and former colleagues. A good time was had by all!

Several thoughts raced through my head as we travelled home after this busy day. Yes it was great to see old friends and former colleagues. It was rewarding to see children grow up, but it is hard letting me them go. We often teach about the life cycle in our classrooms. This day was a lesson of this cycle for all involved; each with a beginning and with an end. The birthday party was an end of the age and another year older. The graduate ended his career in high school to begin his days in college. The retired couples ended their years in the classroom and will begin a new adventure. The beginning and end of one's physical life, yet a beginning to a life that is never ending.

Wow, you talk about one day full of emotions.



**Texas FFA Alumni Chapter  
Basket Contest**  
Tuesday, July 10th

You are asked to fill a basket and enter your FFA alumni chapter in the Texas FFA Alumni Chapter Basket Contest. Each alumni chapter may enter one basket. It may have homemade jellies, items made by local companies, home-made items, items from the local Ag department, caps, etc.

Baskets should be delivered to the FFA Alumni booth by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 10th. The baskets will be judged on a penny (\$.01) per vote. The basket with the most votes will receive the rotating "Basket Winner" plaque. The baskets become the property of the Texas FFA Alumni Association and will be sold in the auction on Thursday evening.

### Contest Rules

- Baskets need to be delivered to the FFA Alumni booth by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday.
- Contest ends on Wednesday when the exhibit hall closes and the votes will be counted that evening.
- A list of the items included in the basket should be clearly labeled on the basket.
- The basket can be of any creation.
- No alcohol should be included in the basket.

### Texas FFA Alumni Support

The funding for the Texas FFA Alumni is secured through our Annual Alumni Auction. The Texas FFA Alumni appreciates the support of companies like McCoy's, Landmark Nurseries, Morgan Livestock Equipment, Ag Worker's Insurance, LaQuinta, Superior Trophies, River Star Farms, DJ's Fundraising of Texas, Seitz Fundraising, Fresh Country Fundraising and numerous other companies that are always exhibitors at our functions. We thank you for your continuous support of the Texas FFA Alumni.



# Texas Young Farmer Update

## Notes From the Executive Secretary

Don Beene, Texas Young Farmers Executive Secretary

The 2013-2014 school year is now history. By the time this newsletter reaches you June will have also passed us by; the summer always seems very short.

I would also like to encourage you to stop by the Young Farmers booth at the Texas FFA Convention in Fort Worth, July 14-18, and the VATAT Conference in Abilene, July 28- August 1. We really enjoy visiting with you so please come by and say hello. We will have a gift for all advisors that have a Young Farmer Program and for those that are working on starting a program.

In this issue of the newsletters you will meet the

winners of the Young Farmer Scholarship. We had a great deal of qualified applicants this year. The winners will receive a plaque at the FFA Convention on Thursday afternoon. You are invited to attend the luncheon sponsored by the Texas FFA Foundation at noon on Thursday.

There are plans being made to have the State Young Farmer Convention in Bryan, Texas January 9 and 10, 2015 at the Best Western Premier Hotel. This is going to be a good convention so please mark it in your calendar and plan to attend.

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## 2013-2014 Texas Young Farmers Scholarship Winners



Tanner Choate; A member of the Athens FFA Chapter and the daughter of Barry and Sandra Choate, is planning on attending Texas Tech University and majoring in wildlife ecology and plans on being a big game veterinarian. Tanner has served as chapter president and has participated in both greenhand and senior chapter conducting. She has also served as a Sandyland district officer. Other contest she has participated in include livestock judging and public relations. Her SAE consist of beef heifers, steers, swine and goats being exhibited in Henderson County and she has exhibited her beef heifers at most major livestock shows. She also exhibited the first place ag mechanic in Houston with her mineral feeder. She has also active in working with her Young Farmer Chapter with their fund raising activities. Because of her skills in agricultural mechanics Tanner will receive the Billy Harrell Young Farmer Scholarship.



Chelsea McQueen; A member of the Fairfield FFA Chapter and the daughter of Keith and Shannon McQueen, is planning on attending Texas A & M University and study occupational therapy. Chelsea was active in her FFA Chapter serving as secretary and reporter. She also participated in several LDE and CDE's including chapter conducting, FFA quiz, livestock judging and other events. Chelsea also was selected to participate in the National FFA Band. Her SAE included market and breeding goats. She exhibited goats at the Houston Livestock Show, Heart of Texas, Ft. Worth and at the Freestone County Fair where she exhibited the grand champion wether and was the winner of the senior showmanship. She has also been active in the Fairfield Young Farmers fund raising activities and assisting them with the Food For America Program for the 4th graders.





Matthew Hill; A member of the Miles FFA Chapter and the son of Sonya Hill and is planning on attending Tarleton State University and majoring in agriculture communications. Matthew has served as president of Miles FFA and the Big Country District, participated in plant ID and chapter conducting. He placed 5th in the state plant ID contest. His SAE has consisted of goats and swine projects. He has also been active in the Miles Young Farmer Chapter activities.



Kyle Shannon; A member of the Normangee FFA Chapter and the son of Don and Andrea Shannon, is planning on attending Sam Houston State University and majoring in agricultural business. Kyle has served as chapter reporter, sentinel and president of the greenhand chapter conducting team. He has also participated in FFA quiz and land judging. His SAE included market sheep and goats and in 2013 he exhibited the grand champion market lamb at his local show and was showmanship champion for two years. Kyle says he loves the country and enjoys ranching. He has been active in his local Young Farmer chapter helping with the heifer shows and the BBQ lunch fund raisers.



Kristin Sanders; A member of the Dayton FFA Chapter and the daughter of Earl and Sheila Sanders, is planning on attending Sam Houston State University and majoring in occupational therapy. She has been active in the Dayton FFA Chapter participating in livestock judging, milk quality and nursery landscape events. Her SAE has included breeding beef heifers, market steers and commercial heifers. Kristin has been active in the Dayton Young Farmer Chapter by working in the concession stands at livestock shows, selling raffle tickets and the Christmas brown bag buddy program.



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## Professional Development Conference Highlights

### Sunday, July 27

**4:00 pm** VATAT Board of Directors Meeting

### Monday, July 28

**8:00 am** Certification & Training Workshops

**1:00 pm** Registration

**1:00 pm** Exhibit Show

**6:00 pm** New Teacher Workshop

### Tuesday, July 29

**7:00 am** Registration

**7:00 am** Exhibit Show & Taste of Texas

**8:30 am** Opening Session

**1:00 pm** Area / District Meetings

**7:30 pm** Movie Night

### Wednesday, July 30

**7:00 am** VATAT Board of Directors Meeting

**8:00 am** Exhibit Show

**8:30 am** Professional Development Workshops

### Thursday, July 31

**8:00 am** Exhibit Show

**8:30 am** Professional Development Workshops

**6:00 pm** Family Night

### Friday, August 1

**8:00 am** Closing General Session

**10:15 am** Area Meetings

Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas

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