



VATAT *News*

A publication of the Texas Agricultural Education Family ☆ 2013 Volume IV, Issue X

Is the juice worth the squeeze?

By: Kevin Swor, Diboll

I know most of you have heard this saying before, but have you thought of what it really means to you? What does it mean to the agricultural teachers of Texas?

June is one of my favorite months of the year. First and foremost, we get a break from the routine we have had for 10 months. We finally have the opportunity to take care of things on the home front that were neglected while performing our role as teachers. We spend many days away from our family, and I enjoy taking a few trips with them during this time.

The job never ends; we are still traveling to state degree check, district and area camps, repairing equipment in the shop and securing livestock for next

year's show season. It is also the time to tune up our skills for LDEs and CDEs.

The public may not understand, but we can do some of these tasks much better without students. Believe it or not, the students need a break from us and vice versa. It is very difficult to write a script for farm radio or farm skills if you have 100 students vying for your attention.

The difference in our careers versus most jobs is the students, because we can not drop the students in a file cabinet and deal with them later to take care of more urgent business. You are paid for what you are capable of accomplishing and this requires reflection, planning and rest. Make your June the best possible.

So, is the juice worth the squeeze?

One definition I found said "Make sure what you are doing and striving for is going to be worth any sacrifices you will have to make along the way." It may be stated better by saying "is the outcome worth the effort." This is definitely a challenge with educators today. Our students are not coming to us with the motivation we would like to see. If you study some of the parents,

they do not appear to be motivated very well themselves. So what do we do?

I understood the dilemma when my daughter, Cheyenne, was asked to be tested for gifted and talented. I thought long and hard before I agreed to let her be tested. I remembered Gerald Young standing before us at the conference one year stating he did not agree with this program, because he felt every student was gifted and talented in their own way. He was right, and I have always agreed with that.

As a family, we discussed this with Cheyenne and explained the outcome of the test did not matter to us. I also told her that from my experience she would be just as well off without the "Gifted and Talented" label. Well, she did not make high enough on the test and was labeled as just an ordinary student. I was thankful I had prepared her, so she would not be let down.

After we received the results, a

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Is the juice worth the squeeze?

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teacher stated my daughter was just an overachiever, which is why she performed well in school but not on the test. I have studied students who found success and had a determination that was unstoppable; they are a reflection of their home environment. I have also witnessed the opposite. As a teacher I would prefer the students who are willing to put forth the effort, regardless of the outcome.

The state CDE contests were held last month, and congratulations are in order for the winners and all who put forth the effort to train teams and compete. I always enjoy watching the anticipation of some teams that know they are in the hunt for a championship. They are excited, because they have put forth the effort and had a good competition day. We also have students who do not want to stay for results or are ready to go eat. Did they put forth the effort?

After the championship team was announced, we witnessed three girls hugging and crying in the hallway while clutching the second place state trophy. One of my students asked why they were crying, because she would have been jumping for joy. I told her they had probably worked for four years to reach that point and it was not by chance they were holding the championship title. My student was on a team that did not learn their information completely, and their efforts were reflected in the contest.

Teaching is a challenging career to say the least. Oftentimes others do not get it and ask why you do it. The true challenge today is motivating students, parents, administrations and communities. We also have a few Senators and Representatives who do not understand our profession, but we must continue to educate everyone.

Enjoy as much of the break as possible, but complete the many tasks required to make next school year great, because the juice is worth the squeeze!

If You Are Retiring This Year...

Please contact the VATAT office if you are retiring or if you know of someone who is retiring after this year. We strive to keep our records accurate and would also like to honor members who are retiring from teaching agriculture science.

Why attend the Professional Development Conference?

Barney McClure, VATAT Executive Director

Around this time of year, I hear from teachers who indicate they are unsure if they can attend the summer professional development conference. Some cite tight travel budgets; some refer to not being on contract during that time, and still others question the value of attending. I believe the question is, can you afford not to go?

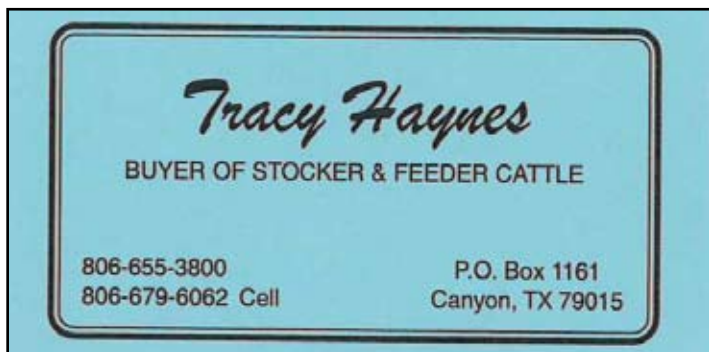
I have conference programs in my office dating back to the early 1950s, and it is possible that conferences were held prior to that. These meetings were sponsored and conducted by Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff to provide needed information, updates and workshop sessions to keep teachers abreast of current developments in our profession. VATAT participation was pretty much limited to working registration, holding an association meeting after each area meeting, sponsoring an award program and holding a general meeting on Thursday night.

Fast forward to 2008 when we were informed that, due to budget cutbacks, TEA would no longer be able to finance and conduct the conference. The leadership of our Association vowed to continue this valuable activity. Since then, the budget for conference has ranged from \$80,000 to \$150,000. Of course, these costs are offset from income such as exhibits and sponsorships. In addition, from January forward, much staff time is used to plan and implement the many moving parts of the conference.

What are the true benefits from attending the conference? The original purposes for this activity are still valid: to keep up with changes in our increasingly complicated field of endeavor; to see your peers recognized for their tenure and accomplishments; to participate in meetings that will shape agricultural education and FFA; and to take your place as a leader in the next generation of educators. In addition, there is great value in the exchange of ideas that takes place in the workshops and in the hallways between sessions.

Teaching our students about the leadership opportunities available to them in FFA is part of the TEKS in all of our courses. Can a student be a great FFA member while never attending state convention? Maybe, but I never had one that didn't. I put a teacher not attending our conference in much the same light.

Attending conference can be a great step in growing in knowledge and professionalism, and your association strives to make it the premier event of its kind. I hope to see all of you in Corpus Christi this summer.



Agricultural Sustainable Energy Education Network (ASEEN) Program

Teacher Professional Development Summer Workshop

ASEEN is a 3 year project to promote sustainable energy education in K-12 schools by offering educational summer camps (certification will be available) to teachers and provide sufficient information such as related modules, course documents, online resources, etc. Educational materials and training will focus on STEM education as related to sustainable energy.

Benefits:

1. Each participating district will receive \$2,000 - \$2,500 of supplies and equipment.
2. Each participating teacher will receive \$1,250 for attending the training and completing a fall and spring activity. (Participants will be responsible for their own travel expenses.)

Visit the VATAT website for the application and more information.



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Prize Package Drawing Benefiting the VATAT Scholarship Fund \$5/ticket or 5 for \$20


This year, RiverStar Farms and the VATAT offer you more chances to win one of four exceptional prize packages, along with several other prizes including the second place prize of a small animal scale from WW-Paul Scales and \$50 cash or gift card! The 10 winning tickets will be drawn, as before, and each winning ticket holder will select a filled balloon. Once each ticket holder has his or her balloon, each person will pop the balloon to reveal the prize inside. One winner will get to choose from the following packages...

- South Texas Deer Hunt for Two*
- Livestock Equipment Package*
- Custom Livestock Trailer*
- Las Vegas Trip for Two*


Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Tickets can be purchased during FFA Convention and VATAT Conference at the RiverStar Farms booth. Tickets cost \$5 each or \$20 for five tickets. All funds collected will be donated by RiverStar Farms to benefit the VATAT Scholarship Fund. The winner will be drawn at the VATAT Conference during Family Night. Anyone is eligible; need not be present to win.

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Tracy, Jody, Drew and Brook Davis, Early, TX



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Rusk FFA member named Best in Texas

John Marchetti, FFA member at Rusk High School, was recently named the Best of Texas Outstanding Agriculture Science Student by the Texas Career and Technology Council (TCTC). This state-wide award is in recognition of the student's achievements, academics, service and participation during high school.

In addition to serving as president of the Rusk FFA Chapter, Marchetti is an active member of the Rusk High School Marching and Symphonic Band and National Honor Society chapter and was an American Legions Boys State Delegate in 2012. After high school, Marchetti plans to attend Texas A&M University to earn a degree in electrical engineering.

The Best of Texas Awards are sponsored by the Texas Career and Technology Council. The awards were initiated to recognize outstanding achievements by students enrolled in career and technical education and exemplary contributions by businesses and community leaders who have dedicated their support to career and technical programs. This year, school districts throughout Texas submitted nominations in eight award categories. A cash scholarship and commemorative plaque was given to winners in each division.



TCTC Affiliations

- Family & Consumer Sciences Teachers Association of Texas
- Marketing Educators of Texas
- Texas Business Technology Educators Association
- Texas Health Occupations Association
- Texas Industrial Vocational Association
- Texas Technology and Engineering Educators
- Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas



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Myths and Truths about Student Certifications

Ron Whitson, Statewide CTE Coordinator

As the school year comes to a close and a busy summer is ahead, it seems a perfect time to complete some required reports and begin to plan for the future. One such report that will soon come due is the Perkins Program Effectiveness Report (PER).

One section of the PER is devoted to reporting student success at completing industry certifications and licensures. This is one area that seems to cause a great amount of confusion and misunderstanding. This article presents some common myths and provides the factual information from the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

MYTH: *The certifications and licensures on the PER list are the TEA official, recognized certifications and licensures.*

TRUTH: TEA does not have a list of approved or recognized certifications or licensures, so districts should not misconstrue the list in the PER to mean TEA approves or recognizes exams on that list and/or does not approve or recognize exams that are not on that list.

MYTH: *The number of certifications your students take affects the CTE or Perkins funding the school district receives.*

TRUTH: The number of certification or licensure exams a district offers its students does not affect the district's funding in any way.

MYTH: *Every program of study or coherent sequence must lead to a certification or licensure.*

TRUTH: Neither TEA nor USDE requires that each program, cluster or pathway must have a student certification or licensure attached to it.

MYTH: *The certifications and licensures reported on the PER become part of the school performance accountability.*

TRUTH: The certification and licensure exam list in the PER has no impact on a school's performance accountability. While TEA includes other CTE factors in its performance based monitoring, it does not include this measure (Perkins core indicator 2S1, technical skill attainment).*

MYTH: *The only certifications and licensures that matter are those listed on the PER.*

TRUTH: Many desirable student certifications and licensures do not meet the three criteria in the 2S1 definition,* so they cannot be included in the PER list. TEA encourages districts to offer students the opportunity to earn any certification or licensure that has benefit and value to students and that makes sense for the district and its program. Districts can use Perkins funds to pay for any certification and licensure that is consistent with the purpose of the Carl D. Perkins Act, as long as districts make those opportunities available to all eligible students.**

MYTH: *Districts should use the certification and licensure list in the PER to determine which CTE courses and CTE programs to support.*

TRUTH: Districts should not use the PER exam list to drive course offerings or make purchasing decisions, or for any other purpose than to report 2S1 (technical skill attainment) data.

MYTH: *New certifications and licensures are never added to the list.*

TRUTH: The TEA CTE staff review the certification and licensure list periodically. This year the TEA CTE staff review resulted in a net gain of 39 certifications and licensures from the previous year, for a total of 155 exams. The first year the PER was in eGrants, it listed 80 exams. Most additions are the result of districts recommending new exams through the PER. Several exams that TEA added this year may be appropriate for Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) students. The review also resulted in some certifications and licensures being removed from the PER list, if these certifications and licensures did not meet the three criteria for inclusion.*

MYTH: *Since TEA removed the Tractor and Machinery Operation Certificate from the PER, districts should no longer use that certificate.*

TRUTH: No. While it is true that this certificate was removed from the PER, it continues to be an important and appropriate certification for students who will be working with agricultural equipment, and it serves as an excellent example to illustrate why districts should not use the PER exam list to determine which exams to offer students. The Tractor and Machinery Operation Certificate is intended for students who are completing their first year of course work in AFNR, and therefore would not be considered "end of program."* Many other certifications that are common to AFNR and beneficial

to certain students are not found on the PER list, including OSHA 10-hour, NCCER Core, and ServSafe. All are appropriate for certain students, but they do not meet the 2S1 definition criteria. **Certainly safety instruction and the curriculum content that emphasizes safety and safe practices are crucial.**

MYTH: *There is no value in reporting other certifications and licensures to TEA.*

TRUTH: TEA CTE staff members need district recommendations for certifications and licensures that meet the three required criteria.* This is how TEA CTE staff members gather information for the periodic review. Districts should use lines 156-166 in Section 5 of the PER to recommend exams.*

As you plan ahead for the success of the AFNR program in your school it is important to consider any and all certification and licensure opportunities that could benefit students. Careful planning will result in the ability to integrate certifications and licensures into the knowledge and skills of many of the courses. Equipping students with relevant industry recognized certifications and licensures is one more way to insure that agriculture programs in Texas can prepare students for the agriculture industry of the 21st Century.

*The actual and sole purpose of the certifications and licensures list in the PER is to provide the data to measure and report both district and statewide performance on the Perkins core indicator for technical skill attainment (2S1). The state’s definition of 2S1 is included in the State Plan for CTE. In order for a certification or licensure to meet the definition for that core indicator, it must meet all three criteria in the definition: 1) end of program, 2) industry recognized, **and** 3) available and appropriate for secondary students.

**Districts may not use Perkins funds to benefit individual students; however, districts may use Perkins funds to buy block seats for certification or licensure exams if the district buys enough seats for all eligible students and makes those seats available to all eligible students.

VATAT Credit Union

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The VATAT Credit Union would like to announce that we will have four (4) Directors’ positions up for election at our 2013 annual meeting. Any member interested in submitting his/her petition for one of the four (4) positions should contact our Nominating Committee no later than July 19, 2013.

Nominating Committee members are:

William Woody: 254-857-4504

Barney McClure: 512-472-3128

Steve Forsythe: 512-564-2333



VATAT Professional Development Conference



Conference Attire:

Monday, July 29 - Casual

Tuesday, July 30 - Business Professional

Wednesday, July 31 - Business Casual

Thursday, August 1 - Business Casual

Friday, August 2 - Business Professional

Visit <http://vatat.org/page.aspx?ID=234> for more information on the Golf Tournament, 3D Archery Tournament and Raffle Drawing.



Texas FFA

Update

LIMITLESS: 85th Texas FFA State Convention

Special discounted tickets for Six Flags and Hurricane Harbor are available to Texas FFA members!
 Tickets are good July 1 - July 14, 2013

SIX FLAGS PRICING:

Gate Price: \$59.99
 Online purchase: \$41.99
 FFA Special: \$28.99 or \$31.99 after May 13

HURRICANE HARBOR PRICING:

Gate Price: \$29.99
 Online purchase: \$24.99
 FFA Special: \$19.99

** Prices above do not include tax or online fee.

Who's ready for some baseball?
 Come out and enjoy America's pastime at the Dr Pepper Ballpark Monday night, July 8, to watch the Frisco Roughriders, a Texas Rangers Double A affiliate team, take on the Arkansas Naturals!

Tickets are \$17.

Includes: free Roughriders baseball cap and unlimited hot dogs, bratwurst, nachos, and Dr Pepper products from the Riders Grab and Go

Visit <http://texasffa.org/page.aspx?ID=150> for more information and purchasing tickets.



DVD highlighting Texas youth donor is released

Everyone has a story, and the special relationship between Richard "Dick" Wallrath and the Texas FFA Association is an original, awe-inspiring story captured in the movie, *Deep in the Heart*, which hit Wal-Mart shelves this month in Texas and nationwide.

Wallrath's personal demons caused him to hit rock bottom and lose everything - his family, job and hope. But after finding faith, Wallrath picked himself up, built a nationally successful window company and became the leading all-time individual donor to the Texas FFA Foundation.

From adversity to success, Wallrath's life is the subject of *Deep in the Heart*.

With a reputation as a philanthropist who supported

youth, Wallrath was approached by the Texas FFA Foundation in 2002. He began his support of the Texas FFA with an gift of \$500,000 to endow the Texas FFA Stars Over Texas Awards in memory of his late daughter Dina Wallrath Robertson, and additional gifts totaling over \$1.5 million -- making him the largest individual donor in Texas FFA's 84-year history.

Scholarships from the Richard Wallrath Educational Foundation, established in 2006, are awarded to deserving FFA members across the state to help further their education. Today, 35 \$10,000 scholarships are given to Texas FFA members who excel academically, participate in FFA and have the desire to further their education.

Grab your copy from the Wal-Mart nearest you.

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FFA ALUMNI BASKET CONTEST

Enter your Alumni chapter in the FFA Alumni Basket Contest for the chance to win the rotating "Basket Winner" plaque!

HOW TO ENTER: Fill a basket with items representative of your chapter's locality. Baskets can include homemade goodies, jellies, items from local companies and ag departments, and more! *
*Alcohol is strictly prohibited.

CONTEST RULES:

- Deliver basket to the FFA Alumni booth by 4:00 p.m. July 9.
- Contest ends Wednesday, July 10 at 5:00 p.m.
- Include the list of items on the outside of the basket.
- Basket can be of any creation.
- Winner determined by vote.

Baskets become property of the Texas FFA Alumni Association and will be sold in the auction on Thursday evening.



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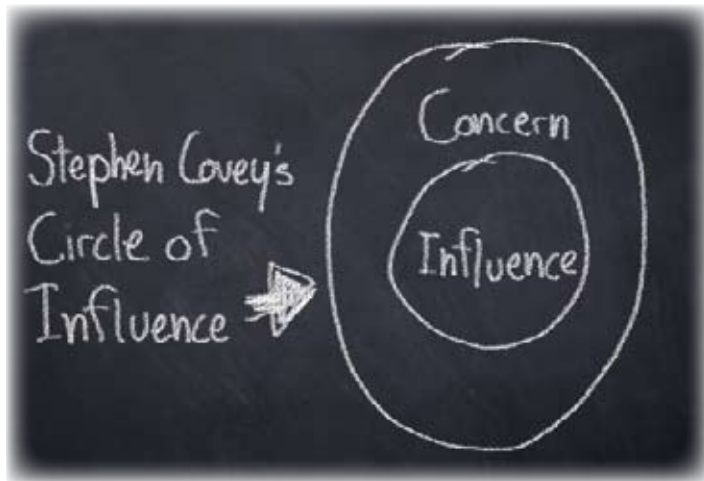
The cookbooks are \$10 each. Contact board members from your area or the VATAT Office to receive cookbooks.



Foundation Update

Leadership in the backyard

Aaron Alejandro and Joanne Shelton, Texas FFA Foundation



between one another. My chard and tomatoes were amazing last year and so much more than we could eat. So, I would pass them on to my neighbor who gave me homemade jam and bread, and another who would bring me fresh eggs. It was the beginning of my Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) experience. Through my brief experience with CSA, I have learned the importance and the benefits of supporting our local farmer. This appears to be a great opportunity for some of the best agricultural minds in the state - our Texas FFA members.

CSA has become a popular way for consumers to buy local, seasonal food directly from a farmer. It is much different than going to the local grocery store and purchasing vegetables. It is a direct partnership between the consumer and the farm. CSA members pay in advance for a share of the upcoming harvest and are ensured high-quality, local produce, and we, the farm, are ensured a consistent market.

CSAs aren't only produce. Some farmers include the option to purchase eggs, homemade bread, meat, cheese, fruit, flowers or other farm products along with their veggies. Sometimes several farmers will offer their products together in order to present the widest variety to their members. A produce farmer might create a partnership with a neighbor to deliver chickens to the CSA drop off point, so their members can purchase farm-fresh chickens when they pick up their CSA boxes.

It's a simple enough idea, but its impact has been profound and creates several rewards for both the farmer and the consumer. The prospect of FFA members leading by engaging with backyard agriculture is one with local influence and agricultural advocacy.

Texas agricultural education and FFA has an 85-year history of premier leadership. As we continue to grow our voice of agricultural advocacy, looking for ways to engage and promote at home - even in our own backyards - to tell a local story of agriculture while supporting our colleagues who produce healthy and affordable food sources to feed and clothe a growing world. Leadership is in our own backyards and an expanded SAE similar to Shelton's situation could provide a great promotional opportunity.

Leadership and the ability to make a difference happen in the opportunities closest to us. Bestselling author Stephen Covey writes about Circles of Influence.

In his book *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, he describes a circle of concern and a circle of influence as this: A Circle of Concern encompasses the wide range of concerns we have, such as our health, our children, problems at work, the amount of government borrowing or the threat of war. A Circle of Influence encompasses those concerns that we can do something about; they are concerns we have some control over.

Proactive individuals focus on issues within their circle of influence. They work on tasks they can do something about. The nature of their energy in doing this is positive, enlarging and magnifying, and they increase their circle of influence. As agricultural students, teachers and supporters, we have an opportunity to lead close to home through a backyard supervised agricultural experience (SAE).

We should always be looking for opportunities to learn and grow as individuals. Joanne Shelton, executive assistant at the Texas FFA Foundation, has shared her story of connecting to agriculture in her own backyard. Her experience provides an opportunity for us all to make an agricultural difference in our own backyards. Here is her story.

"I got hooked in my backyard. I have a small backyard that has transformed into growing much food for my family. In my neighborhood, we have a few gardeners who share



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Texas FFA Alumni

Update

Going...Going...Gone

Kelly White, Texas FFA Alumni President

I hope this article will be short and to the point. Just a reminder, the Texas FFA Alumni holds its annual meeting and auction every year during the State FFA Convention. The auction is the Alumni's primary source of funding for the awards, grants and scholarships that we bestow to worthy candidates.

The auction traditionally has several items that are useful to our industry. Thanks to McCoy's, we are able to offer a squeeze chute, panels, t-posts and other miscellaneous items. Rusty Morgan has been graciously donating a scale for several years now. LaQuinta Inns and Suites has donated night stays nationwide. Several of our fundraising vendors graciously donate items such as boots, camping equipment and other items. We have had items you can purchase for your spouse to show her or him that you missed them the week of convention (*these can also be purchased to give at a later date to get out of the doghouse*). We have had airline tickets on Southwest Airlines given to us for the auction. Cabela's has been a good sponsor, as well.

The Alumni Auction is for you. Just ask the agriculture teachers that were persuaded (*drug in*) by Liz Treptow last year. Several had not planned to buy anything, yet walked out as a winner. And a big thanks to Jim Prewitt for his continued support.

We are always looking for auction items. So if you would like to contribute to the auction or know of someone who would like to contribute, please feel free to contact me in order to secure it in the auction line-up.

ALUMNI CHAPTER BASKET CONTEST

You are asked to enter your FFA alumni chapter in the Texas FFA Alumni Chapter Basket Contest. Each alumni chapter may enter one basket. It may have homemade goodies, 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 9th. The baskets will be judged on a penny (\$.01) per vote. The basket with the most votes in the 24-hour period 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

1. *Baskets need to be delivered to the FFA Alumni booth by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday.*
2. *A list of the items included in the basket should be clearly labeled on the basket.*
3. *The basket can be of any creation.*

DEADLINE ...

The deadline for the \$500.00 Grants and Scholarships was June 1st. I hope that you did not let this chance pass you by...Going...Going...Gone...

For more information on the Texas FFA Alumni, go to <http://texasffaalumni.ffa.org>.



Texas Young Farmers Update

From the President's Pen

Don Beene, Texas Young Farmers Executive Secretary

I haven't written anything lately, but I wanted to take this time to remind you that we will be at the FFA Convention and the VATAT Conference and to invite each of you to come by. We have several new chapters, so please visit with your neighbors and have them look at our organization to see if they would like to join us.

Also, remember to fill out a tax return each year. Usually the "e" post card is sufficient. There are fewer problems when you do it yearly, and each chapter may have a different year ending date. Only your chapter can retrieve that information when you log on to the IRS web site to complete the form. If you need any help, I will attempt to help but it is best to contact the IRS.

Texas is hosting the National Young Farmer Educational Institute in San Antonio Dec. 4-7, 2013 at the Omni Colonnade Hotel. Rooms are only \$99 per night, and we need at least 150 Texas Young Farmers to attend. Everyone who is a member of the Texas Young Farmers is an affiliate member of the National Young Farmer Educational Association.

Limestone County Young Farmers will prepare a steak

dinner at Luckenbach on Friday night, and Athens Area Young Farmers are preparing a fajita lunch. Thursday we will be touring San Antonio and visiting the James Madison School. This is a state-of-the-art facility that each of you will enjoy.

We are currently working on table decorations. If you would like to help us construct these with some of your shop students, please let me know.

Make plans now to bring someone with you and attend the National Institute in San Antonio in December 2013. See you in Dallas, Corpus Christi and San Antonio.

Visit <http://www.txyoungfarmers.org/> for updated information on the NYFEA and other activities happening with the Texas Young Farmers.



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2013 TEXAS YOUNG FARMER SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The scholarship winners will receive a \$1,000 scholarship at the 85th annual Texas State FFA Convention.

Macey Mannen, the daughter of Brian and Carman Mannen of Fairfield, will be graduating fourth in her class of 117 students. Mannen plans to attend Texas A&M University where she will major in human resource development with a minor in communications. She has held the office of President in the Fairfield FFA Chapter and also served as a District and Area Officer. She had the honor of being a voting delegate for Texas at the National FFA Convention. She has participated in numerous FFA activities, including: job interview, quiz, public relations, farm business management and several others. Also, Mannen has participated in the Fairfield Young Farmers activities, which includes cooking hamburgers at football games. She was given the nickname "Fry Daddy," since she is always cooking french fries. She also assists the local chapter with their community service activities. Mannen has received her Lone Star Farmer degree. Her supervised agricultural experience project consists of showing market lambs, and she has exhibited the Grand Champion Lamb twice.

Mattie Leighton Chachere is the daughter of Matthew and Alicia of Dayton. She will be graduating seventeenth in her class of 281 students. Chachere plans to attend Texas A&M University and major in agricultural communications; she wants to pursue a career in public relations. Chachere has been active in her local FFA chapter serving as chapter President and also the Area IX Reporter. Her FFA activities include chapter conducting, floriculture, talent contest, FFA creed and public speaking. She has earned her Lone Star Farmer degree. Her Young Farmers activities include selling raffle tickets for the Dayton Young Farmers Chapter, in addition to assisting them with the FFA livestock show. Chachere's supervised agricultural experience project has consisted of commercial heifers and market steers.

Chase David Long, the son of Keith and Paula Long of Chico, will be graduating fourth in his class of 47 students. He plans to attend Texas A&M University and major in veterinary medicine. Long has held several offices in his local FFA chapter and has received his Lone Star Farmer degree. His FFA participation has included FFA quiz and chapter conducting. His supervised agricultural experience project consists of market goats. He has placed third at the Fort Worth Livestock Show and Rodeo and at the Star of Texas Fair and Rodeo. He also placed fourth at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and exhibited the Grand Champion Goat in Wise County. Long has been active in the Chico Young Farmers by assisting with fundraisers and community service activities. Long said, "The Young Farmers are always there when advice or help is needed."

David Henry Straley, son of Robert and Alicia Straley of Lampasas, will be graduating thirteenth in a class of 215 students. He plans to attend Texas A&M University and major in mechanical engineering. Since Straley is completely involved in agricultural mechanics, he was awarded the Billy Harrell Scholarship. This is a special award given to the outstanding agriculture mechanic winner in honor of Billy Harrell, who was very instrumental in the FFA agricultural mechanics program in Texas schools. Straley has exhibited agricultural mechanic projects in Houston, San Antonio and San Angelo, in addition to his local show. His projects have been selected as the Grand Champion twice and Reserve Champion twice. Straley's has participated in several FFA activities including the FFA skills contest plus and agriculture mechanics. He has been involved in the Lampasas County Young Farmers community service activities, as well as their fund raising.

Baukje Talsma is the daughter of Hendrik and Jantsje Talama of Mt. Vernon. She will be graduating as the valedictorian in her class of 98 students. She plans to attend Tarleton State University to begin her pathway to become a pharmaceutical veterinarian. Talsma has served her chapter in many offices including Chapter Vice President and also as a District and Area VI officer. Her other FFA activities include public relations, horse judging, job interview and dairy judging. Talsma's supervised agricultural experience involves her raising Holstein dairy heifers. Her Young Farmers activities have included assisting with the Mt. Vernon-Salttillo Hay Show, as well as other fundraising and community service activities.



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TEXAS AG ED FAMILY EVENTS

June 2013

- 1st** - Public Speaking entry deadline
- 1st - 7th** - State Fair Priority Tags, Fax only - Austin
- 8th - 12th** - State Leadership Conference
- 12th - 14th** - State Degree Check

June 2013 cont.

- 13th** - State Scholarship Selection Interviews
- 18th** - Agriscience fair deadline
- 30th** - Last day to validate swine

July 2013

- 2nd** - Deadline for National FFA Band & Chorus applications
- 5th** - Deadline for all swine validation materials
- 8th - 12th** - State FFA Convention
- July 29th - Aug. 2nd** - VATAT Professional Development Conference

2013 State Fair Validation Information

The priority tag orders must be faxed to (512) 476-2894, and the tags are \$11 per tag, plus \$20 priority postage and handling fee during June 1-7, 2013.

All swine must be validated on or before June 30, 2013. Validation chairperson must be present when animals are validated. Change of ownership is due in the Texas FFA office on or before June 30, 2013. All manila forms, hair envelopes, ethics policies, committee forms and excel spreadsheets are due in the FFA office on or before July 5, 2013. They must be submitted in alphabetical order.

In regards to tag alterations, any change to size, shape, form or color will void the tag. The tag will be replaced at the stock show and the replacement cost will be charged to the individual. Ear notch correction and ear tag replacement forms must be faxed (512) 476-2894 into the FFA office on or before July 16, 2013. Any required validation information not in the FFA office by July 16, 2013 will not be validated.

Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas

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