

Points to Ponder

Charles Prause, Bosqueville

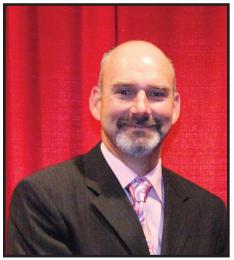
Stock show season is here! It is a busy and exciting time of year, however the season always brings lack of sleep, eating fast food and drinking an abundance of caffeine, as well as planning for a substitute teacher for however many days or weeks will be away from our other students and our school. Oh! And do not forget about the time we will be away from our individual families. I personally have been fighting a really bad cold or some stage of flu since the conclusion of our county show. I wish all of my friends the best of luck down the road and please, please have safe travels with your students and projects and stay healthy.

While we are talking about stock shows, CDEs, finishing ag mechanic projects and preparing animals for the majors, we need to talk about our teaching partners. I have been teaching with a young lady for the past two years at Bosqueville and I will just come out and say it; she is a major asset to our ag/ FFA program and is an awesome teaching partner. She teaches in the classroom, trains teams, helps me with ag mechanic projects, completes our requisition forms, checks projects and runs errands, just to name a few. I am proud to say that having Mrs. Aimee Welle as my teaching partner has made my life "heaven".

Many of you may teach in a single teacher department while many more of you may be teaching in a two or three teacher department. My point in bringing this up this month is that Mrs. Welle and I have found that a good teaching partner relationship all comes down to "communication". We do not teach in the same building. She is in the high school building and I am five minutes away in the ag building. If we do not see each other face to face we make it a point to communicate through email, office phone, texting and our cell phones. We work together for the betterment of our students. We are professional with each other and around our students. I have her back and she has mine. We take care of each other. We consult with each other and we know where each one of us will be at a given time. We teach each other, I mentor her and she mentors me. As I said, we take care of each other because we communicate. Make communication your number one priority with your teaching partner(s). That is one of our many core values.

Do not forget that the March 4th primaries are coming up. Early voting started on February 17th. We need to be heard. We need to take time to get out and vote as well as campaign for those who are our friends. The VATAT is supporting Greg Abbot for Governor, Todd Staples for Lt. Governor and Glen Hegar for Comptroller. State Senator, State Representative and State Board of Education are by districts. You decide, but please be sure that you get out make your vote count.

I would like to close this month by asking everyone to keep the family of Seth Lucas along with the family of



Amber Jennings in your prayers. Seth teaches in Katy and Amber teaches in Weatherford. They both lost a child recently and words really cannot express our sadness for them. But we do want to support them in their time of grief.

If you know of anyone else in our ag education family who may be in need of prayers please let Mr. McClure, Mrs. Jones or Ms. Dunkerley know at the VATAT offices in Austin. You may contact them at 512-472-3128.

Good luck at the various stock shows this year and at the many CDEs approaching this spring. Be safe, travel safe, stay healthy.

See you down the road!

TEXAS AG ED FAMILY UPDATES

VATAT pages 1 - 2
Texas FFA pages 5
Foundation pages 6 - 7
Texas FFA Alumni page 9
Young Farmers pages 10- 11

VATAT Welcomes New Spring Intern

Ashley Dunkerley, Communications Coordinator

Hannah Treptow of Weimer, TX, recently joined the VATAT family as the spring intern and will play an integral role at the annual Professional Development Conference and the annual Texas FFA State Convention this summer.

Hannah is a sophomore at Texas State University majoring in speech and language pathology. Growing up the daughter of two ag teachers she found herself immersed in FFA and ag education. Over the years she participated in many Leadership Development events and Career Development events that included chapter conducting, parliamentary procedure, food science, and poultry judging.

As the spring intern, she will assist VATAT and Texas FFA staff members with coordinating activities, such as the workshops for the teacher's conference, as well as the exhibits for the both the convention and conference.

"Agriculture education has always been a major component in my life and I am blessed to be given the opportunity to work with the organization that led me to be who I am today" Treptow said.

The VATAT is thrilled about having Hannah on board this spring. She is an extremely well rounded student with a world of experience in various agriculture related activities. Through demonstration of those traits we expect that she will be a great asset while planning the approaching summer events in Fort Worth and Abilene.

www.CreativeAward.com

Education is Political - True or False?

Barney McClure, VATAT Executive Director

I once heard the dean of a Texas agricultural university state that he heard education was influenced by politics. He disagreed; he stated education is politics. I believe his statement is truer now than ever before. From a local school board to the Capitol, our careers and agricultural education is dependent upon political decision makers.

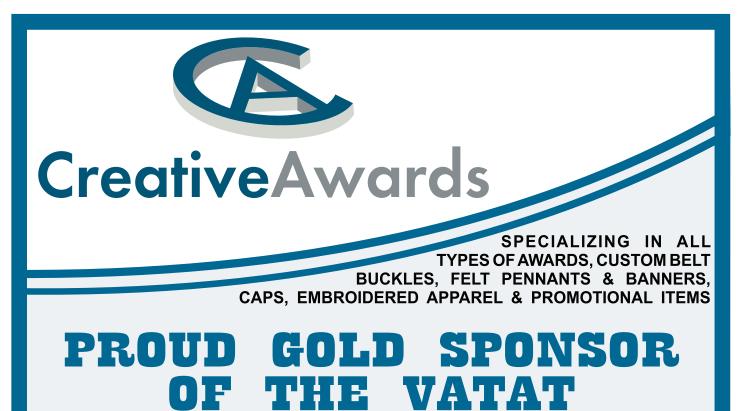
Part of my job is to be an advocate for agricultural education. I have testified before the Senate and House Education Committees, along with the State Board of Education. We have a great story and I am always proud to tell it. However, it takes all of us to have a meaningful impact.

Early voting will begin mid-February, primaries are in March and many school board elections are held in May. I encourage everyone to register and vote in these elections. Those who don't vote should not complain about who they wind up with.

One day during a legislative session in 1985, between the hours of 1 p.m. and 8 p.m., agricultural education ceased to exist. Due to the hard work of dedicated advocates and committed legislators the program was later re-instated. We need to elect people that consider the value of our program.

The March primaries, along with the general election later in the year, may have a great impact on our program. I encourage you to become informed about the candidates and choose wisely. Your career may depend upon it.

830-997-9179





Reminder

Applications for Convention Media, Chorus & Foundation Ambassadors are available at

TexasFFA.org

2014 Invitational CDE Schedule

3/7	Stephen F. Austin Invitational CDE	Nacogdoches,TX
3/26	McClennan College Invitational CDE	Waco,TX
3/27	Tarleton Invitational CDE	Stephenville,TX
3/28	West Texas A&M Invitational CDE	Canyon,TX
3/29	Texas A&M CDE Clinic	College Station,TX
3/29	Clarendon College Invitational CDE	Clarendon,TX
4/4	Angelo State University Invitational CDE	San Angelo,TX
4/5	Texas Tech University Invitational CDE	Lubbock,TX



ADVANCE YOUR TEAM

with these NEW Judging titles on iCEV!

- Land Judging & Homesite Evaluation
- Range Judging
- Introduction to Wool Judging
- Horse Judging Classes

- Dairy Judging Classes
- Livestock Judging Classes
- Meat Judging Classes
- Poultry Judging Classes

Learn more with a live training session! www.icevonline.com/live







Texas FFA Update

Changes in FFA Spring Competitions

Tom Maynard, Texas FFA Executive Director

We don't like to admit that we are a bit like our counterparts from the coaching world, but in a number of ways, we are. We train students for competition, and like coaches, we are responsible for knowing the rules for the events for which we are preparing our students. It is always a good idea to carve out time, perhaps during a slow conference period (if it exists) or maybe during a slack time at a livestock show, to re-read the rules of every event for which you are coaching.

There are a few changes which came through the committee and board process earlier in the school year, and as the new FFA season approaches, they are worth noting:

Scan Sheets

The Agronomy CDE scan sheet was developed late in 2013, so it was provided at the contest site. 2012 scan sheets will not work, so current scan sheets must be purchased for 2014. If you are not sure if the scan sheets you have are current, you may view all current scan sheets at https://www.judgingcard.com/Resources/Scansheets.aspx to avoid arriving at the contest site with obsolete sheets.

Wool Judging

The number of teams advancing to the state competition from area is now three. State rules do allow an area to certify both teams that tie for the last berth rather than breaking the tie, but the number of teams at the state competition cannot exceed 35. As has been done in other events which tend to be regional in nature and have low or no participation in some areas, open spaces in the state contest will be filled through the atlarge process.

Land Judging

The reference to the Texas Land Judging Manual by Tackett and Stahnke was removed. For the purposes of the contest, Oklahoma Land Judging Made Easy is the only reference material.

Range Plant Identification

The rules were amended to allow for the multiple use of any one plants species on the plant line. Teachers will need to prepare students for this possibility.

Veterinary Science

The language regarding scrubs was revised to clarify color requirements. Team members must all have solid color matching pants and solid color matching tops regardless of the color combination.

If you have any questions please visit TexasFFA.org, JudgingCard.com or call Trisha at (512) 480-8045.





Texas FFA Foundation Update

Texas FFA Where the Lines Meet

Aaron Alejandro, Texas FFA Foundation Executive Director

Generosity. selflessness, altruism, philanthropy; whatever term fits your definition best. Giving of one's time, talent or treasure for another is a good thing. Nonprofit organizations are very appreciative of the generous support of donor gifts, individual or corporate, which meet needs and provide fuel to accomplish missions. Marketing, retailing, promoting, commerce and selling are essential elements of the American free enterprise system and are necessary for businesses to thrive, including providing for their employees, community and charity. Simply put we need good businesses and we need to support them through purchases of their good/services at our own free will.

In the arena of large nonprofits that are competing for donor dollars, we have to pursue both individual and corporate gifts. Individual gifts are generally given from the heart as an outward expression of an inward appreciation for the organization, like the Texas FFA. Corporate gifts are those who not only want to support a great philanthropy but who also want to "co-brand" their good names with the organization they are supporting, like the Texas FFA. Where great marketing and a great philanthropy meet – that's where we want to be and that is where we've positioned Texas Team Ag Ed.

The Texas FFA Foundation is honored to have corporate sponsors who have chosen to "co-brand" their good name with the Texas FFA. We should be proud of brand and its 86-years of brand equity. Wikipedia states the following about brand equity.

Brand equity is a phrase used in the marketing industry which describes the value of having a well-known brand name, based on the idea that the owner of a well-known brand name can generate more money from products with that brand name than from products with a less well-known name, as consumers believe that a product with a well-known name is better than products with less well-known names.

Some marketing researchers have concluded that brands are one of the most valuable assets an organization has, as brand equity is one of the factors which can increase the financial value of a brand to the brand owner, although not the only one.

Consumers' knowledge about a brand also governs how manufacturers and advertisers market the brand. Brand equity is created through strategic investments in communication channels and market education and appreciates through economic growth in profit margins, market share, prestige value, and critical associations. Generally, these strategic investments appreciate over time to deliver a return on investment (ROI).

I believe there are three good reasons why people appreciate, support and are raving fans of the Texas FFA marketplace.

- Philanthropy Our students and teachers are great and supporting them can meet philanthropic goals of companies with a focus on youth, education and leadership. The Texas FFA Foundation / Texas FFA Association are nonprofit 501(c) 3 organizations and tax exempt.
- Marketplace With 86-years of "brand" equity, the Texas FFA is a proven, and growing, marketplace for companies to connect with generations of current and former FFA members. Our current sponsors enjoy the loyalty our marketplace represents.
- Human Capital Our students are learning leadership skills for premier growth and professional development that are ready to go today. Couple their "soft skills" with training received at college, a tech school, or through the military and one can quickly see the value they bring to an organization, our state and country.



We Are Proud to Announce Two New Texas Team Ag Ed Sponsors in 2014

NATIONAL GUARD **SEE** TEXAS PROUD!

The Texas FFA Foundation envisions a future in which all agricultural education students will discover their passion in life and build on that insight to chart the course for their education, career and personal future. The Texas Army National Guard joins the ranks in support of developing responsible citizens today and ethical leaders for tomorrow through agriculture education.

"The enthusiasm and dedication of these incredible young men and women is infectious. Their motto: 'Learning to do, Doing to learn, Earning to live, Living to serve' is inspirational and I can think of no better organization to partner with, when it comes to developing tomorrow's leaders."

"Unlike other Armed Forces branches, the Texas Army National Guard serves a dual state and federal mission. Their incredible versatility enables them to respond to domestic local emergencies, conduct overseas combat missions, assist law enforcement with counterdrug efforts, reconstruction missions and more," said the Battalion Commander.

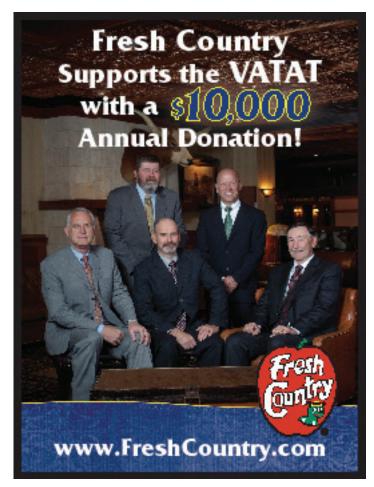


We know Texas FFA members enjoy the outdoors. Yamaha wants to satisfy Texas Team Ag Ed and exceed expectations with products and services of superior quality, unmatched performance and extraordinary value.

"We enjoy the great outdoors. One thing we know about Texas agriculture educators and students enrolled in agriculture education is the outdoors are important in/out of the classroom. The addition of Yamaha Motors as our latest corporate sponsor provides Texas Team Ag Ed with a quality product to enjoy our outdoor passion even more," said Aaron Alejandro – Executive Director of the Texas FFA Foundation.

With an ever-expanding line that includes motorcycles, outboard motors, ATVs, personal watercraft, snowmobiles, boats, outdoor power equipment, race kart engines, accessories, apparel and much more, Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A., strives to contribute to the quality of life. We appreciate their support of the Texas FFA.











Texas FFA Alumni Update

A Message From Your Vice President

Kevin Page, Texas FFA Alumni Vice President

I Hope everyone is well. We have really had an interesting winter this year. It is actually snowing a little bit as I write this sitting in line with heifers at the San Antonio Stock Show. The 2014 stock show season is officially in full swing. Every year we look forward to it, but are glad when it is over. I am really enjoying seeing many of my old compadres in the Gembler lot.

This year we will be changing up our local livestock show. I believe the pressure is on to make it perfect. I am truly thankful for the Texas FFA Alumni. They continuously demonstrate their support and speak highly of the program throughout our entire community. That kind of support is invaluable in small town America. Plus, I dare not mention the \$7,000 they donated in for the pavilion improvements.

Our chapter FFA Alumni Vice President recently told me that the decision to change the direction of our show and program was my decision, not theirs. He stated that their role as Alumni was to simply support the ag teachers and the kids; they are not there to call the shots. I believe we, as ag teachers, enjoy hearing that occasionally. We are blessed with a strong and very supportive Columbus FFA Alumni. Thank you to our officers, B.J., Rusty, Kim and Greg for their dedication and passion for the program.

I wish each of you, my fellow ag teachers, the same devoted Alumni. Without an Alumni affiliate, it would be a truly chaotic situation; one with volunteering parents with no organization or direction.

I would also like to thank our long standing Texas FFA Alumni President, Mr. Kelly White, for his hard work and dedication over the years. I ask you to join me in thanking him if you cross paths. Kelly's never ending and untiring efforts to make our state wide support organization the best it could possibly be is greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in starting your own Texas FFA Alumni affiliate, please call Kelly White or any of the other council members. Also, do not hesitate to ask you student's parents for help. Most appreciate recognition that they are needed and can be of assistance.

Don't forget that Alumni affiliate award and grant applications will be due soon. I also hope everyone was able to get their Alumni dues in on time.

It has been one big (30 year) non-stop, heck of a ride. God bless each of you and all you do.

How To Start a New FFA Alumni Affiliate

In order to start a local FFA Alumni affiliate you must:

- Have at least 10 members who have paid National FFA Alumni membership dues and State FFA Alumni dues
- Have a constitution/bylaws in harmony with the National FFA Alumni bylaws
 - Have a council of elected members
 - Complete the application for a local charter
- Submit the completed Application for the local charter, the constitution/bylaws, completed roster and national and state dues for at least 10 members to your State FFA Alumni Association.

For more infomation visit www.texasffaalumni. ffanow.org or email Kelly White at kbwhite63@gmail. com





Texas Young Farmer Update

Notes From the Executive Secretary

Don Beene, Texas Young Farmers Executive Secretary

I would first like to continue recognizing those individuals who contributed to the 47th National Institute that was held in San Antonio, Texas this past December. I sincerely hope I credit everyone for their assistance, however most likely I will leave someone out. I apologize in advance if I do.

Many cities including Brenham, Lubbock, Mansfield, Paris, McKinney, Corpus Christi, Plano, Granbury and Amarillo provided lapel pins for attendees. Grapevine provided pencils and the San Antonio CVB, along with Gonzales, provided a bag of goodies. Pennsylvania Young Farmer provided jar openers, stress disks, note pads and ear plugs. The Texas Beef Council provided note pads and koozies; Lone Star Ag Credit also provided koozies. The Texas Peanut Producers Board donated packages of peanuts. Also, Steve Forsythe had a lot of help with his booth from individuals in Lampasas; thank you M&M Butcher Block, HEB Food Store and Hodges & Sargent Pharmacy.

I would also like to thank Kolbie Reed for his assistance in getting the mini cotton bales and peanuts. He was scheduled to be on the Saturday morning panel, but the inclement weather prevented him from making the trip. Thank you Kolbie for your kindness and we missed having you on the panel.

Now moving on, the Executive Committee met in Bryan, Texas on January 25th to begin planning for the next State Convention. The 2015 Convention will be held January 9th and 10th at the Best Western Premier Hotel. Please mark this on your calendar and begin making

plans now to attend.

I also would like to remind everyone that April 1st is the Scholarship Application deadline. This is a very simple resume type application. Go to our web page www.txyoungfarmers.org to get the application. You must have an ACT or SAT score, transcript, eligibility note from an ag teacher and a photograph. The application should be mailed to Texas Young Farmers, 1694 LCR 256; Mexia, TX 76667.

Let me remind everyone that you are required to complete a tax return each year. This is a 990. If your income is less than \$50,000 all you have to do is go online with your EIN and complete what is called a 990 e post card. Some of the chapters believe they only have to do this every three years but it is yearly. The due date is about 4 months after your year ending date. All chapters do not have the same year ending date so I am not able to tell you exactly when yours is due. However, I can tell you it is a must for all organizations not just the Young Farmers.

For those of you on Facebook please check out the Texas Young Farmers page and "like us." Debi Peyton has really been working hard so that this page is available to all. I am not up on all the changes but please go check it out. Debi is also keeping the web page looking great. Visit www.txyoungfarmers.org to see what is taking place. There is a place for each Area to post information regarding future activities, just send the information to Debi and she will get it posted.



MATHESON

ask. . .The Gas Professionals™

Meet Your 2014 Young Farmer President

Jason Benson, Texas Young Farmers President

Howdy! I just wanted to introduce myself. My name is Jason Benson and I am the 2014 Texas Young Farmer President. I started my agriculture experience in high school when I took my first ag class and became an FFA member. After high school I intended to stay involved with the FFA, this led me to join the newly re-charted Bryan Young Famers and have been a member ever since.

I have held several officer positions on the local and area levels. I was the President of the Bryan Young Farmers for the past 3-4 years, a position I resigned from at the end of this past year. I am the current Area III President and have been for the past three years. Two years ago I decided to become more involved with Young Farmers and I became a state officer. After much thought and working with a great board I decided to go even further, that is when I was named Texas Young Farmers President Elect of 2013.

I am not the traditional young farmer simply because I am not a farmer. However, I value that everything we eat, wear and have derives from agriculture. I want to see the Young Farmer organization grow and with the current board that we have and all the support that we are getting I see exciting things in our future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions at jbblueram@yahoo.com or 979-777-7601.

January Board Meeting Minutes

Texas Young Farmers

The board had its first meeting at the end of January. The 2015 Young Farmer convention will be held in Bryan, TX at the Best Western Premier at Old Town Center. We are still working on the contract but we are looking at bringing the cost down for this convention.

We as board want future conventions to be considered fun and exciting. We want to have 100+ members attend this convention, including younger members. We would like more sponsors, more vendors and to have more fun. We also need input on the Ag Olympics; should keep it the same or change it up? If anyone has any ideas or know of anyone that would like to be a sponsor or become a vendor please contact me or your area state officer. I will give more information about future convention as time goes on. If anyone has any questions please don't hesitate to email or call me. You can also email your area state officer.

Board members: Jason Benson, President, Bryan Young Farmers Area III; Kenneth Brown, President Elect, Teague, Area VIII; Lance Hausenfluck, Area III VP; Brad Peyton, Area V VP, Chico; Robert Bland, Area VII VP, Gonzales; Ricky Walterschield, Area IX VP, Barbers Hill; Steve Forsythe, AST Lampasas; Terry Hausenfluck, Advisor Bryan YF; Barry Choate, Past President, Athens; Barney McClure, Director VATAT and Don Beene, Executive Secretary.



The seeds you sow today will cultivate the next generation of Texas farmers and ranchers, who will lead our communities and grow our food for years to come. Texas Farm Bureau offers scholarship opportunities and youth leadership programs to help those students who have a passion for agriculture.





VATAT 614 East 12th Street Austin, Texas 78701

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Presorted Standard US Postage PAID copycraft.com

TEXAS TEAM AG ED EVENTS

March 2014

1st Best of Texas Applications Due

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

April 2014

1st VATAT Scholarship Applications Due

15th State FFA Chorus Applications Due

15th Foundation Ambassador Applications Due

15th Convention Chronicle Applications Due

23rd-26th State CDEs

May 2014

2nd State CDEs, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville

3rd State CDEs, Texas A&M University, College Station

12th Texas FFA Scholarship Deadline

12th State CDEs, Welder Wildlife Refuge

Teachers Association of Texas

OFFICERS
Charles Prause

Vocational Agriculture

Jack Winterrowd

Vice President

President

Ray Pieniazek
Secretary/Treasurer

STAFF

Barney McClure Executive Director

Ashley Dunkerley Communications

Karen Jones *Membership Services*

CONTACT US

614 East 12th Street Austin, Texas 78701 (512) 472-3128

Toll Free: (800) 777-5818 Fax: (512) 472-0555 E-mail: vatat@vatat.org Web: www.vatat.org



Follow the VATAT on: facebook & twitter