

"Points to Ponder"

Charles Prause, Bosqueville

Most, if not all of us, have either finished or will finish the first six weeks of the school year in the next week or two. I hope you had a great start to your school year. I am happy to report that the school year at Bosqueville High School started on a very positive note, and with our administration and teachers, I am confident that it will continue.

It is time to start planning and training for Leadership Development Events, if you have not already started. Those first year students should have already recited the FFA Creed and many of you are preparing for stock show validation, stock show entries and building those ag mechanic projects in the shop. On top of all your planning and training, do not forget the FFA Dues deadline is Nov. 1. I hope you are working on those rosters as they do take a little time. Trust me, you do not want to wait until the last minute.

While you are developing and planning lesson plans, teaching your students, training LDE teams, supervising livestock and ag mechanic projects, and working on your FFA roster I would like for you to remember a couple of items that I feel are important to help make your job easier. Those two items are "communication" and "professionalism".

Throughout my first article, I wrote about core values and why they

are important to us as agricultural science teachers. When you look at the number of young people that each of us come into contact with on a daily basis, it is amazing the number of students we influence. We as teachers strive to influence our students in a positive manner. With that said, communication and professionalism are very important in reflecting our core values.

With today's technology, it has become very easy to communicate. But we must be careful with how we communicate using that technology. I personally like to have one-on-one, face-to-face communication, because when I started teaching we did not have school computers, laptops, cell phones, iPads, etc. However, I have had to change my ways over time and have found that communicating with today's technology makes our job much easier.

My point is that we need to communicate with our students, parents, fellow teachers, teaching above partners and all our administration. There always needs to be an open line of communication between you and those who are dependent on you. I can definitely assure you that your administration, school board, community, parents and students will appreciate your open line of communication. With open communication you are advocating for



your program and at simultaneously disseminating information that each entity needs to know about. Take advantage of your chapter website by posting your lesson plans, a yearly calendar of events, course syllabi, a short biography of yourself, links to other beneficial websites and weekly announcements. Take advantage of Facebook and other sites to disseminate information. When using these sites, be sure not to violate privacy and confidentiality of your students.

Continued on page 3

TEXAS TEAM AG ED UPDATES VATAT pages 1 - 3 Texas FFA pages 4 - 5 Foundation pages 6 - 7 Texas FFA Alumni pages 8 - 9 Young Farmers pages 10 - 11



Schedule a live training at: WWW.icevonline.com/VATAT



Points to Ponder cont.

Continued from page 1

Make a concerted effort to talk to your teaching partner, principal, fellow teachers, etc. on a regular basis. This helps in your planning and completion of day-to-day activities. Invite your administration to your classroom or shop and have an open door policy with each of them. And while we are talking about communication, do not forget about your students. Be active in their lives by attending sporting events, pep rallies and other school activities as your time permits. Your students will greatly appreciate your involvement and interest in what they do outside of your agricultural and FFA program.

While we are completing our daily activities, we must also be very aware of how we conduct ourselves in and out of the classroom. If we are going to teach our students the importance of core values and how practicing these values will make them successful, we must lead by example. It is very important that we read and abide by all rules of our LDEs, CDEs, livestock shows and ag mechanic project shows, among others, as well as follow our own school rules and policies. There are many of you in our profession who are highly respected by your peers for your passion of having a successful FFA program. The success of your program is surrounded by your ethics and professionalism. I encourage each and every one of you to continue to teach those core values. The image that we portray says much about our profession. I am proud to be surrounded by agricultural teaching professionals who portray a positive image in activities with their students, school and community. Keep up the good work!

I wish each of you the best of luck in all endeavors throughout the fall. Safe travels to the National FFA Convention for those of you who will be attending. Remember to mentor those who are in need of mentoring. It is all about positive relationships. Continue to work on those relationships with your students, parents, administration and community. I would like to leave you with a quote from a friend of many in our profession. "When your values are clear, your choices are easy."

See you down the road!

The Agriculture Teacher Shortage Arrives

Barney McClure, VATAT Executive Director

On the first day of school, Aug. 26, 2013, hundreds of agricultural science students began school without a certified agriculture teacher at the head of their classrooms. Our website lists nine openings, and I am aware of several more that do not appear there. Long-term substitutes are being placed in some of these classrooms, and retired teachers are being recruited to fill in the gaps. I talked to one 10-year retiree who was coming back on a part-time basis to assist his old school.

I am concerned that if these jobs aren't filled with qualified applicants, some school districts may choose to reduce or eliminate agricultural education opportunities in their schools. This would be a tragedy for those young people. How did we arrive at this point?

Enrollment in teacher preparatory programs should be adequate to replace teachers leaving the profession, but for a variety of reasons, many of the graduates choose to pursue other careers. This is nothing new, but with a teacher force increasingly mobile, and the baby boomers retiring, there is simply a greater demand for replacements.

Retention of new teachers is a major problem. In our new teacher workshop at conference, we had more than 150 newly minted educators going out to begin their careers. I can't be sure, but I think that might be a record. I wonder how many of them will still be in the profession five years from now? Some of them will find that they are just not suited for this career. Others will fall prey to a variety of local political and administrative issues, and move on. Some will use the teaching job as a stepping stone to something else. Family and personal issues will eliminate more teachers. Our mentor program strives to assist young teachers stay in the career. This problem has to be addressed.

Local school districts need to have realistic expectations for their agricultural program. Administrators and community members must understand that there is no

Continued on page 9





Texas FFA Update

Texas FFA Board of Dírectors Update

Tom Maynard, Texas FFA Executive Director

The Texas FFA Board of Directors convened for its first quarter meeting last month in Austin and welcomed three new board members: Ray Pieniazek of San Antonio-East Central I.S.D.,VATAT Secretary-Treasurer; Tammy Glascock, Pilot Point I.S.D. who is filling the unexpired term of the at-large teacher position vacated by Justin Risner and Jerome Tymrak former teacher, current instructor at Texas A&M University-Kingsville and south Texas rancher.

The board took the following action:

• Approved recommendations of the speaking development event committee related to general rule clarifications and revision of the junior public speaking time frame from four to six minutes to five to seven minutes.

• Approved rule clarifications forwarded by the CDE advisory committee concerning reducing the number of wool qualifiers to three per area and an absolute maximum of 35 teams, striking the reference to the Texas Land Judging Manual from the Land rules and amended the Range Plant I.D. rules to allow a species to be used multiple times. The board approved a request to set entry fees at \$50 per entry, \$80 for agricultural mechanics. The board rejected a proposal which would have required each state CDE entry to pay an additional six dollars for pre-code scan sheets.

• Approved policy revisions to the degree and award which reflect the constitutional amendment passed by the Texas delegates, changing state degree requirements. The board also appointed an ad hoc committee chaired by Jerome Tymrak to consider implementation strategies.

• The board rejected a proposal approved by the degree and award advisory committee to change the star award selection process to allow selection committees to narrow the field to four finalists to be interviewed at the state convention. The board, instead, approved language to provide for a prescreening process which would ensure that all interviewees meet degree requirements and award category criteria before being scheduled for an interview at the state award and degree selection process.

• Approved a proposal to allow for a more rigorous rating system in the National Chapter Award. National guidelines allow a state to rate ten percent of its chapters as gold emblem chapters. Since participation levels have never risen to fulfill the ten percent threshold, all applications have been labeled as gold emblem, leading to a slew of poor and mediocre applications being submitted for national judging. As a result, Texas applications have a bad reputation in the national FFA judging process, which ultimately impacts the perception of the state's stronger applications. The new language gives the judging committee the discretion to determine which applications merit a gold rating and submission to national judging.

• Adopted revisions to the recently adopted Texas FFA Official Dress Code. The item brought vigorous discussion related to the FFA bow tie, which had its origins in Texas. National official dress standards are silent regarding the bowtie, but the National FFA Organization's catalogue states that the bow tie is not official dress. The board revised its recently adopted Texas standard to disallow the use of the bow tie as official dress for state-level competition or conventions. The revised standards will also apply the prohibition of denim, leather and pleather to female official dress and disallow sparkles and sequins on shoes.

• Adopted recommendations of the agriscience fair committee to adopt national criteria for judging projects. The new score sheet will maintain an even split between the written project and the on-site performance—100 points for written, 100 points for the performance. The rules were also revised to remove language related to scheduling, since the agriscience fair must operate within the larger context of the state convention. Scheduling is part of convention management, and staff needs some degree of flexibility to ensure that all events can work together.

• Approved the policy related to district and area guidelines and area realignment.

• Received a report concerning the 2013 convention in Dallas and voted to approve a letter of agreement with

Dallas for the 2023 convention.

• Ratified the Executive Director's decision to set MCC in Waco as the site of the state award and degree selection process.

The board also engaged in the following discussion items:

Concerning intellectual property related to script-• based events. The dialogue had its roots in new language in the FFA broadcasting event which states that a script belongs to a chapter, which effectively precludes a teacher from taking a script to another school when he or she accepts a different job. Legal precedent assigns ownership of any such intellectual property to the entity which paid the salary of the one who created or facilitated the creation of any such material. In other words, a script written by a teacher as part of their responsibilities as a teacher and FFA advisor does not belong to the teacher, but to the school which has employed him or her. The Leadership Development Event Committee will be requested to look into additional rule language which addresses this issue in all script-based events.

• Regarding the current area quotas in the state scholarship selection process in light of the scholarship committee's intent to consider reduction of the quotas from eight to five.

• Regarding a proposed livestock ethics policy

statement to be taken up by an ad hoc committee assigned to study FFA member ethics issues related to livestock shows.

The board received the following reports:

• Received from the student officers an activity report covering the period from June until the first quarter meeting, the officer team goals for 2013-14.

• Discussed proposed national amendments and declared intentions of the National FFA Organization to conduct data mining operations in past participant databases for fundraising purposes.

• Received a report from Texas FFA Foundation Executive Director Aaron Alejandro regarding the Texas FFA Gear program that is designed to support the state officer assistance project.

• Received a report from Texas Collegiate FFA President Taylor Travis of Tarleton State University, concerning that organization's goals.

• Received program reports from staff and from Team Ag Ed leaders regarding operations of the Foundation, VATAT and Texas Education Agency.

The board convened at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The second quarter meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 6, 2014.





Aaron Alejandro, Texas FFA Foundation Executive Director

What drives a person to be the best they can be at whatever they do? Does it start by watching others? Does the affect of what others do become our own culture? Are you one who spots trends quickly? Are you even looking? What's the old saying, "some people watch things, happen; other people make things happen, and some people simply wonder – what happened?"

Our society is possibly moving at one of its fastest paces in history. Social media, communication outlets and special interests can drive information at an incredible speed. Couple this acceleration with today's agriculture, and one could feel a bit overwhelmed. Agricultural educators have been entrusted by the public to engage, empower and inspire our students with best practices and information to help make a positive difference by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Where do we look for trends or answers as to best practices?

Do we find answers in science and technology? I believe there is no doubt America leads the world in agricultural advancement. Our country is rich in natural resources and we too understand our leadership role in a global society to help feed the nearly 975,000 people who are starving today.

Do we find the answer in consumer demands or social science? Consumers can be very fickle. It doesn't take them long to jump on a trend, and it become an overnight sensation. Remember the pet rock! In the 1970s, the pet rock fad took the national spotlight and people actually bought into the notion. What about the 1989 Alar Apple Scare? Almost overnight the Alar story seemed to be everywhere: Phil Donahue, the Today Show, CNN, The MacNeil/ Lehrer Report, the Washington Post, the New York Times, etc. Actress Meryl Streep announced on TV the formation of Mothers and Others for Pesticide Limits. Consequences? Within a short time, apple juice and apple sauce were thrown away. Apples were removed from school lunches, and parents on the border of hysteria called the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) about risks of cancer to their children. Perception is reality but not always the truth. Was this a trend that could have been spotted and addressed?

Are there trends today in agriculture, science and technology we should be aware of? Social media sure is a trend. Advancements in animal science are helping meet consumer demands. Advancements in plant science are affording countries the ability to grow crops where they had not grown before. Do we have a public that is agricultural literate so they can understand the positive aspects of much needed advancements necessary to feed, clothe and shelter a growing world population? How do we balance this with consumer perceptions and demands?

Nine states have phased out farrowing crates (gestation crates) for pigs. Science may argue that the crates produce a more profitable environment for the sow, piglets and the farmer. Unfortunately, some constituencies believe the crates to be cruel and an animal welfare issue. The challenge for agricultural students today is bridging the gap to a general public who is receiving many messages in a day, i.e. what to buy, where to eat, what to drive, what insurance to have, where to stay, where to visit, what's best for my family, what's best for my money, where to engage my faith, what to brush my teeth with and what bed to sleep on at night.

In the midst of all this, we need to keep the public abreast of positive trends in agriculture. Who better to do this job than the young people who will assume leadership roles in the future? The Texas FFA Foundation is proud of our assistance in helping develop the Texas Proud of Texas Agriculture collaborative project with the Texas Farm Bureau, Texas FFA, Texas 4-H and the Texas Department of Agriculture to identify those top priorities Texans should know. Additionally, we have helped establish the Soderquist Ethical Leadership Fellows which bring experts in the field of ethical leadership in business, organizations and education to our Texas FFA members. The establishment of the Ford Leadership Scholars puts the Texas FFA up front and center on giving back to a community validating the trust Texans have in our program.

We're doing our part. What trends are you spotting in your local community? What are students doing to tell the positive story of Texas farmers and ranchers who are ethically meeting the needs of a hungry world?

What are our students seeing? Do they see teachers who are engaging their community educating them about best practices and ethics in raising food, fiber and protein? Are students engaged in weekly conversations in the classroom about the supply chain – what producers do, want and use to create a product and balancing that with what consumers and end users see as what they want on their family's dinner table?

As an avid martial artist, I believe we need more warriors. A warrior is a protector of ideas, principles and honor; a warrior is noble and heroic. A warrior will have many opponents in a lifetime, but the ultimate opponent is the warrior's own self. I believe this is true of our agricultural education and Texas FFA. Are we leading because it's the right thing to do? Or, are we content to watch things happen – allowing others to compete for the minds of Texas consumers. If we're not living our dreams, we must be living someone else's.

A passion to be the best should drive all of us to pay attention - be willing to move, willing to advocate, willing to change practices and willing to be discerning in the process. If not, then we're not leading; we're only managing what we've been given. Remember, when you're green, you grow. When you are ripe, you rot. Let's grow Texas agricultural education and the Texas FFA to be a leader in agricultural advocacy.



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. From Texas Farm Bureau, thank you for your tireless dedication to the future of Texas agriculture.



TEXASFARMBUREAU.ORG



Where Does The Money Go...???

Kelly White, Texas FFA Alumni President

Where does the money go...??? This question is often asked around my house the day after my wife and I get paid. Where Does The Money Go...??? I am often asked this question about the money collected from the auction, dues and donations to the Texas FFA Alumni. I will be glad to answer this question if you are new to this publication, curious or this is your first time to read one of my articles after years of receiving this publication.

Each year, the Alumni Council meets and works on a budget for the upcoming year. The budget fluctuates according to the success of our annual auction held in conjunction with the Texas FFA State Convention, membership dues collected, and in-kind donations made to the Texas FFA Alumni. Each year, the Alumni Council sets a goal of increased membership, increased participation by local affiliates, and like everyone else... MORE MONEY!!

Each year, the Texas FFA Alumni gives out the following monetary awards:

Four \$1000.00 scholarships, ten \$500.00 local grants, two \$500 Washington Leadership Conference scholarships, and lastly, we graciously give \$1000.00 to the Texas FFA Association, the Texas FFA Foundation and \$1500.00 to the VATAT.

How can my program receive this money? An alumni chapter (affiliate) must be in good standing with the state and National FFA Alumni, having a recognized charter on file with ten members paying their state (\$5) and national dues (\$10).

To receive a \$500.00 Grants, be prepared to answer the following questions:

What is your Project? What do you want to accomplish? What is your Plan of Action (Who, what, when, where, why, how)? How will this project make an impact on your members and/or program and be prepared to have an estimate of what your project will cost. Grant money has been used to assist the local FFA chapter to purchase t-shirts for its members, start a community garden, assit the local FFA chapter to purchase new livestock equipment. How could you use it?

The following FFA Affiliated receiving awards at this past year's convention are as follows:

\$1,000 TEXAS FFA ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

Carson Albert ~ Wimberley FFA Megan Guerrero ~ Weimar FFA Jackson McQueen ~ Gilmer FFA Clayton Theut ~ Columbus FFA Jordan Trees ~ Judson FFA

\$500 TEXAS FFA ALUMNI GRANTS

In Memory of Kelly Prewitt Stewart					
Canyon	Lake Gilmer				
Columbus	Judson				
Cedar Park	Lake Travis				
Farmersville	Manor				
Florence	Weimar				

FFA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AWARD

Michaela Cross ~ Decatur William Stripling ~ Boerne

OUTSTANDING AFFILIATE Gunter

We would like to thank the following companies and individuals for supporting this year's auction:

McCoys, Jim Prewitt, Landmark Nursery, Priefert, Tru-Test, W Silver, La Quinta, Ag Workers Insurance, Seitz Fundraising, River Star Farms, Superior Trophies, and Creative Awards. Alumni Basket contestants were Judson, Denton, Klein, Iowa Park, Columbus, Canyon Lake, Bellville, Calallan, Gunter, SHSU Collegiate FFA, and Tarleton State Collegiate FFA.

The Basket Contest Winner was the Gilmer FFA Alumni.

Seitz Online Ordering!

www.seitzfundraising.com

- Order online 24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week
- Review and edit your orders anytime from any computer
- Print invoices and review order history
- If you have trouble logging in, please download the Firefox browser and use it instead.)

HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Thanksgiving Deadline: OCTOBER 18

Deliveries between November 4 and November 22

Christmas Deadline: NOVEMBER 18

Deliveries between December 2 and December 20

Need more time? Please contact our office



HANDCRAFTED



Corporate Sponsor

Agriculture Teacher Shortage cont.

Continued from page 3

perfect agriculture science and FFA program. All have strong and weak points, and while we should never quit striving for excellence, every student is not going to earn a scholarship or win grand champion at the county show. Only a handful of schools will win a state championship in LDEs or CDEs.

Teaching agriculture in Texas is an incredibly rewarding and challenging career. We need more prospective teachers in our profession. Encourage your students to consider following in your footsteps, and mentor young teachers either formally or informally. Encourage administrators to support their programs and nurture the development of young teachers.

Our profession must address this shortage and develop some solutions. If it was easy, we would have an abundance of applicants for every job and no empty classrooms. If you have any ideas, please share them with me via e-mail at barney@vatat.org.



When you buy Justin Handcrafted in the USA boots, you're helping American workers keep working. You're making our economy and our country stronger. And we can't thank you enough. Want to thank Stacie for making your boots? Go to JUSTINUSA.COM. **F**





Notes From the Executive Secretary

Don Beene, Texas Young Farmers Executive Secretary

Texas Young Farmers, time is flying by and before we know it, we will be in San Antonio at the National Young Farmer Educational Institute (NYFEA). We need your help to treat the NYFEA to a "Taste of Texas."

"TASTE OF TEXAS"

(Thursday Night Activity at Hotel)

As you return from your day in downtown San Antonio, come experience the many flavors and characteristics found across our state. Texas is a BIG state, offering something unique in each reigon; pine trees in the east, mountains and desert in the west, Gulf Coast in the south, rolling hills in the center and north.

In addition to sampling many flavors at each booth, learn about Texas' different types of agriculture. Did you know:

- Livestock producers raise cattle, sheep and goats on the grazing areas.
- Cotton is planted on 60 percent of the state's cultivated acreage with the heaviest concentration on the Blackland Prairies, Southern High Plains and

You will be the ones telling "Taste of Texas" guests about Texas Agriculture. Please select a commodity from Texas Agriculture and be there Thursday evening to inform our out-of-state friends about Texas Agriculture. To read the complete history of Texas Ag, visit http://www.tshaonline. org/handbook/online/articles/ama01

We are giving all Texas Young Farmers members a break in the registration cost because you most likely have been to the Alamo and on the River Walk, so we are asking you to arrive Thursday afternoon, assist with the Thursday evening "Taste of Texas" program, and go on tour with us Friday. You can do all of this for a reduced registration fee of \$150.00.

To register via mail, please see the registration form on the next page. You may also register on the TYF website.

Coastal Plains.

- Acreage is devoted to corn in the eastern half of the state, while sorghum is the leading livestock feed in the western half.
- Wheat is produced most extensively on the Northern High Plains and in the counties along the Red River.
- Besides the citrus and vegetable industries in South Texas, truck-farming goods such as tomatoes, watermelons and peas are marketed in northeastern Texas.
- On the Coastal Prairie, rice is raised and timber was important in the Piney Woods of East Texas.
- In most areas of the state cropland is interspersed with pastureland; stock farming is therefore more common than other farming.

Texas Young Farmer hotel registration link: http://www.omnihotels.com/FindAHotel/SanAntonio/ MeetingFacilities/TexasYoungFarmersAssociation12.aspx





2013 NYFEA Institute December 4th – 7th, 2013 San Antonio, Texas **TEXAS Registration Form**



Hotel: Omni San Antonio Hotel at the Colonnade, 9821 Colonnade Boulevard, San Antonio, Texas 78230. Phone: (210) 691-8888, Fax: (210) 691-1128 . <u>http://www.omnihotels.com/SanAntonioColonnade</u> . Note: TEXAS attendees let the hotel know you are with Texas Young Farmer group.

Schedule: Complete Details @ http://www.txyoungfarmers.org/default.aspx?ID=4394

- Wed., Dec. 4th King Ranch Tour Leaves Hotel @ 7:15am and returns @ 4:45pm. (includes lunch) (\$75.00 per person payable to Texas Young Farmers separate from the NYFEA Institute)
- Thurs. Dec. 5th "Taste of Texas" at the Hotel from 6:30pm 9:30pm. (To participate in NYFEA tours, register through NYFEA)
- Friday, Dec. 6th Breakfast at Hotel, All Day, Lunch included, Tours of the "Hill Country" (Wildseed Farm, Becker Vineyards, LBJ Ranch and Johnson City). Followed by dinner at Luckenbach, TX with a dance.
- Sat., Dec. 7th NYFEA Institute and TYF Activities at the Hotel. Noon Luncheon followed by a Texas Style Scholarship Auction. Other TYF Activities will be noted in registration packet.

Costs:

\$75 - King Ranch Tour (This is separate from the NYFEA and sponsored by TYF.) Please visit the webpage: <u>http://www.txyoungfarmers.org/default.aspx?ID=23413</u>.

NOTE to Texan Attendees – You can attend the King Ranch Tour (Additional \$75) and not do the Thursday Tours with NYFEA but be part of the "Taste of Texas" on Thursday Night, Friday Tours and Saturday activities for the \$150 Texas Price. If you choose to do the Thursday NYFEA Tours please register using the NYFEA form and prices.

 \$150 - Registration for TEXAS Young Farmer Members to attend Thursday night "Taste of Texas" through Saturday Night activities, payable to Texas Young Farmers. The Registration is also located on the TYF Website.

Register On Line at TYF website <u>www.txyoungfarmers.org</u> If a computer is not available, You can mail Registration Form and Registration Fees (payable to Texas Young Farmers) to: **Texas Young Farmers**: **1694 LCR 256, Mexia, TX 76667**

Early Bird Registration Deadline:	October 15, 2013
-----------------------------------	------------------

Name(s):		TYF Area:		_ TYF Chapte	er:	
Address:		and Zip:				
Email Address:			F	hone: ()	
(All Texans attending as NYFEA attendees, please reg	•					
King Ranch Special Tour on Wed. Dec. 4 th \$75 each	#	@\$75	=			
Texas Young Farmers – Thurs. Eve – Sat. events \$150	#	@ \$150	=			
Texas Child Registration \$50	#	@ \$50	=			
	⊺ 0TA	LS DUE:				
Credit Card Information: Number:			Exp Dat	e:		
Signature:						



Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas 614 East 12th Street Austin, Texas 78701

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



TEXAS TEAM AG ED UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2013

1st - 31st - Late swine tag orders

1st - Houston calf scramble applications posted online

1st - San Antonio calf scramble applications due

3rd - 12th - Heart O' Texas Fair and Rodeo - Waco

8th - State Fair of Texas Ag Mechanics & Tractor Tech -Dallas

October 2013 cont.

8th - Ag Awareness Day at the State Fair of Texas - Dallas

9th - State Fair of Texas Public Speaking Contest - Dallas

9th - State Fair of Texas Agriscience Fair - Dallas

20th - State Fair of Texas ends

30th - National FFA Convention begins - Louisville, KY

31st - Last day to validate sheep and goats

November 2013

1st - Fall Semester FFA Dues Deadline

1st - 8th - Late Priority Swine Tag Order, Fax Only

2nd - Nat'l FFA Convention Ends

16th - Aggiefest Judging

16th - Equine Judging Workshop - Texas A&M College Station

23rd - Unified Area LDE's -Sam Houston State University

28th - 29th - Team Ag Ed Offices closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

30th - Last Day to Validate Swine

Vocational Agriculture **Teachers Association** of Texas

> **OFFICERS Charles** Prause

> > President

Jack Winterrowd Vice President

Ray Pieniazek Secretary/Treasurer

STAFF Barney McClure Executive Director

Karen Grumbles 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

opy raft 800-794-5594 • copycraft.com

Follow the VATAT on: facebook. & twitter