



VATAT

News

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

Points to Ponder

Charles Prause, Bosqueville

Wow! Thanksgiving is over and the Christmas holidays are upon us. I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and were able to take some time off to relax and spend time with family and friends. It is hard to believe we are in the third six weeks of school, area LDE's are over, many of us are waiting for our fundraising deliveries and all major livestock show entries are completed. I would like to congratulate those who have advanced to the State FFA LDE in Huntsville and wish each of you and your students the best of luck.

October and November have been busy months for all of us in the ag teaching world. I had the opportunity to attend The Texas FFA Foundation Board of Directors meeting in Houston on October 6th and 7th. This was another great opportunity to meet and fellowship with the Foundation Board of Directors and tour corporate sponsors, McRee Ford and Mahindra USA. As ag teachers, we need to be thankful that we have the support of the Texas FFA Foundation and our corporate sponsors for Texas Team Ag Ed.

On October 15th The Ad-Hoc SAE Committee met in Austin to discuss revisions that need to be made to our SAE program. The committee was formed during the Texas FFA Board of Directors meeting held in September. The last revisions made to the SAE program were made back in August of 2003. With the changes made in the Texas FFA Constitution this July, it was

concluded there was a need in SAE requirement revisions. We discussed the definition of SAE, components/types of SAE, components to consider toward degree requirements and a time table for the implementation of any revisions made by this committee. We had a good meeting, good discussion and we were able to develop revisions we think will help teachers and students develop and maintain a good SAE program. Future meetings will finalize our revisions. When the committee has completed its work, the revisions will be brought before the Texas FFA Board of Directors for approval. After approval, SAE revisions will be communicated through Texas FFA, AET, VATAT and other communication outlets to ensure all teachers have a working knowledge and understanding of the revisions.

I had the opportunity to attend the Animal Industries Committee meeting in San Angelo on October 29th with Mr. Barney McClure and Mr. Kevin Swor, AI Committee Chairman. The purpose of the VATAT Animal Industries Committee is to ensure that the agriculture teachers of Texas have input with the major livestock shows as to recommendations and judges for shows. The committee serves as a branch of the VATAT and under the pleasure of the VATAT Board of Directors. The AI committee works in conjunction with the county agriculture extension agents' Animal Industries Committee. The AI Committee had a good and lengthy discussion about



committee structure as well as commendations and recommendations for the State Fair of Texas and the Heart O' Texas Fair. As vice chairman of the AI committee I would like to thank all members who attended and commend them for their hard work, their passion and commitment to the Texas FFA members and their fellow ag teachers. Over the past five months the VATAT officers have been developing a strategic plan, a living "working document", for the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas. We have worked diligently, thoughtfully and strategically

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TEXAS AG ED FAMILY UPDATES

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Points to Ponder cont.

Continued from page 1

to develop goals for our organization based on four core areas the VATAT as a professional organization will emphasize to its members, supporters, communities, taxpayers, decision makers and stakeholders. We believe these four core areas are Ethical Leadership, Professional Development, Student Programming & Agricultural Advocacy and Stewardship of the VATAT. With the development and implementation of the strategic plan, we feel our association will better serve our members, work closer with Team Ag Ed, and continue to secure corporate sponsorships that will enable our association to provide state of the art professional development to all of our agriculture teachers across the state of Texas. Final revisions of the strategic plan were made in November and sent out to our VATAT Board Members. VATAT board members were given the opportunity to provide their input and bring their suggestions to the VATAT Board of Directors next meeting to be held December 14th & 15th in Austin. We plan to have final board approval in December and then begin implementing our plan.

The VATAT Conference Planning Meeting will be held on December 13th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Austin. If you have any suggestions or ideas for the upcoming conference in Abilene fill free to contact the VATAT office or your area Conference Planning Committee member. We are looking forward to planning a great conference.

Throughout the past three articles I have written about and stressed the importance of how your core values effect you as an agriculture teacher and your students. I share these activities with you to inform you that the agriculture teachers across the state of Texas who serve on our State FFA Committees, VATAT Board of Directors, Animal Industries Committee and also those who serve as district and area officers and in other capacities of their job description have the core values of commitment, service, leadership, stewardship and support of Texas Team Ag Ed. I am honored to serve with these individuals. We all have one thing in common and that is working for what is best for our FFA members and agriculture teachers across the state.

I will close by wishing each and every one of you a Very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year. Spend time with your family and be thankful.

Merry Christmas and see you down the road!



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Interim superintendents; why not interim agriculture teachers?

Barney McClure, VATAT Executive Director

Most of us who have been in agricultural education for very long have seen situations where school superintendents have left a school with little notice, which results in the district tapping into the retired superintendent pool for someone to fill in until a permanent replacement can be found. In many cases the interim administrator is paid quite fairly and is able to hold things together until the new person is secured.

Considering the shortage of teachers, maybe it is time for us to collect contact information on those retirees who are not looking for permanent employment, but would be willing to step in and save the students from a long-term substitute teacher situation. We all know that when an unqualified substitute is utilized for very long, kids usually wind up with a lost semester. I am not talking about a retiree who is looking for a permanent job, but one who might be willing to go to a school for part of a school year.

I have no idea how many situations could effectively use this service, but I am willing to give it a try. I don't think we should post a list of available retirees, but keep a list for when administrators request it. That way only those who have a real need to know this information would be able to get it. If you think you would want to participate, send your name and contact information to me at barney@vatat.org and we will put it together.



New Addition to Texas Team Ag Ed Ashley Dunkerley

Howdy,

I am Ashley Dunkerley, the new communications coordinator and a name you will likely see from time to time.

I come to Austin after graduating from Texas A&M University with a degree in agriculture communications and journalism in December 2012. Following graduation I briefly interned in Washington DC before moving to Dallas to work under the VP of Communication at the State Fair of Texas.

I am more than excited to be the newest member of Texas Team Ag Ed and look forward to working with each of you.

Ashley



Texas FFA Update

85th National FFA Convention - Texas Rewind

Tom Maynard, Texas FFA Executive Director

Louisville, KY—Texas agriculture student shined in national competitions hosted by the National FFA Organization October 30 through November 2. Texans dominated career development events, agriscience fair competitions and made a solid showing in award competitions based on student supervised agricultural experience programs.

“It’s not a perfect correlation, but national competition gives us an idea how our students, teachers and programs stack up against those in other states,” says Texas FFA Executive Director Tom Maynard.

“Intense competition at the state level usually produces students who can perform consistently at a high level on a national stage,” he says. “The overall performance by our students is a credit to them and their teachers.”

“National competition also reveals areas that need attention,” Maynard says. “After the dust settles, we always sit down to dissect the data and assess current strategies and tactics to improve overall student performance.”

Texans Dominate in National Agriscience Fair

Texas members brought seven national titles in the National FFA Agriscience Fair back to the Lone Star State, with 13 of its 20 finalists finishing in the top three and 17 rated as gold in the four tier rating system (gold, silver, bronze, participant).

Stephenville led the way with three national winners and a runner-up along with James Madison that captured two national championships and a runner-up.

“There’s good instruction involved in that result, but biggest piece of it is that the students have to be 100% invested in the inquiry process,” says Texas FFA Agriscience Fair Superintendent and Texas Tech University professor Rudy Ritz. Texas had 20 of its 21 entries qualify for the national finals in pre-judging held earlier in the year.

The FFA Agriscience Fair provides a showcase for members whose individual experiential learning program, referred to as a supervised agricultural experience, is research and experimentation in sciences related to the animal, plant, food, social and environmental sciences and engineering.

Historically, Texas members have fared well in the national competition winning 60 total Agriscience Fair national titles since the event’s inception in 1998. No state has won more agriscience championships than Texas.

Texans had the greatest number and percentage of its entries finishing in the top three and the largest number of gold-rated and winning entries. New Jersey had the highest percent of gold-rated finalists, but had only eight entries emerge from pre-judging.”

Agriscience Fair Championships

(All-time since 1998)

1. **Texas-60**
2. Minnesota-21
3. Iowa-19
4. California/Illinois-16
5. New York-14

National Champions

- Kylie Patterson, East Central: Animal Systems, Division 1
- Michah Rainey and Mary Butler, Stephenville: Environmental/Natural Resource Systems, Division 3
- Travis Rooney, A&M Consolidated: Plant Systems, Division 2
- Junelyn Gamao and Layne Garza, James Madison: Plant Systems, Division 4
- Juan Martinez Garcia and Joshua Saleen, James Madison: Power, Structural and Technical Systems, Division 3
- Kenna Faulkenberry, Stephenville: Social Systems, Division 2
- Conner McKinzie and William Pettit, Stephenville: Social Systems, Division 3

National Runner-up

- Stephan Harris/Claire Seibel, Iowa Park: Animal Systems, Division 3
- Taylor Kalka and Garren Wetzel, James Madison: Power, Structural and Technical Systems, Division 4
- Chelsi Vineyard and McKinzie Ford, Stephenville: Social Systems, Division 4

National Agriscience State Comparison—Top States with Eight or More Finalists				
State	Finalists	Gold Medals	Top Three	Winners
Texas	20	17 (85%)	13	7
New Jersey	8	7 (88%)	4	4
Georgia	19	14 (74%)	9	4
Wisconsin	14	9 (64%)	4	0
California	15	9 (60%)	3	0

Career Development Events: Lone Star Supremacy

As a state, Texas turned in a performance for the record books, capturing eight national career development event titles, the greatest number of national championships in a single year in Texas FFA’s 86-year history. Texans turned in 12 top-five finishes, the most since 2005 when Texans recorded 13 top-five performances.

Thirteen of the state’s 24 entries finished in the top ten (54%). Twelve states failed to crack the top ten in any event.

Since 1928, 80 Texas entries have claimed national championships. Only California has won more national titles. Seven states have never won a national FFA career development event in that time span.

National CDE’s—Texas Top 10 Summary

- National Champion: Agricultural Issues Forum, Madisonville
- National Champion: Extemporaneous Speaking, Marion
- National Champion: Food Science, East Central
- National Champion: Marketing Plan, Madisonville
- National Champion: Meats Evaluation: Hondo
- National Champion: Milk Quality, La Vernia
- National Champion: Poultry Evaluation, Sandra Day O’Conner
- National Champion: Veterinary Science, James Madison
- Other top 10 finishes by Texas entries:
 - 3rd Agricultural Communications, Anson
 - 3rd Environmental and Natural Resources, Rusk
 - 4th Prepared Public Speaking, East Central
 - 5th Horse Evaluation, Hondo
 - 9th Floriculture, Katy-James Taylor

Texas National CDE Top Five History		
Year	Top 5	Rank
2013	12	1 st
2012	7	3 rd (tied with Minnesota)
2011	8	3 rd (tied w/Washington)
2010	10	1 st
2009	6	3 rd (tied w/ FL, GA, WY)
2008	10	1 st
2007	8	1 st (tied w/Missouri)
2006	6	4 th (tied w/ Georgia)
2005	13	1 st

State Career Development Event Comparison

National CDE Titles	National FFA CDE Top Five
1. Texas—8	1. Texas—12
2. Oklahoma—3 (Horse Eval, Par Pro, Public Speaking)	2. Washington—8
3. Kentucky—2 (Dairy Cattle, Farm Business Management)	3. Missouri—7
4. CA, DE, GA, IL, KS, MO, NC, ND, OH all with one	4. Georgia, Oklahoma, Oregon—6
	5. California, Illinois, Minnesota—5

Texas National Career Development Event Results and History Since 2008

Event	2013 TX Entry	Result	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Agricultural Communications	Anson	Gold-3 rd	Gold-6 th	Gold-6 th	Gold-3 rd	Gold-4 th	Gold-2 nd
Agricultural Issues Forum	Madisonville	Gold-1 st	Gold-2 nd	Gold-1 st	Silver	Gold-1 st	Gold-1 st
Agricultural Mechanics	Hamilton	Silver-29 th	Silver-19 th	Gold-13 th	Gold-4 th	Silver-20 th	Gold-10 th
Agricultural Sales	Orange Grove	Silver-14 th	Gold-2 nd	Gold-2 nd	Gold-2 nd	Gold-11 th	Gold-6 th
Agronomy	Frenship	Silver—20 th	Silver-16 th	Silver-14 th	Silver-19 th	Silver-19 th	Silver-12 th
Creed	Boling	Bronze	Silver	Silver	Silver	Gold-2 nd	Gold-3 rd
Dairy Cattle	Bellville	Silver—29 th	Silver-17 th	Silver-22 nd	Silver-20 th	Silver-27 th	Bronze-36 th
Environmental/Natural Res.	Rusk	Gold-3 rd	Bronze-29 th	Bronze-37 th	Gold-3 rd	Silver-13 th	Gold-9 th
Extemporaneous Speaking	Marion	Gold-1 st	Gold-1 st	Silver	Silver	Bronze	Bronze
Farm Business Mgmt	Stephenville	Silver-16 th	Silver-19 th	Gold-6 th	Gold-11 th	Gold-9 th	Gold-6 th
Floriculture	Katy-Taylor	Gold-9 th	Gold-9 th	Gold-12 th	Silver-21 st	Silver-15 th	Gold-7 th
Food Science & Technology	East Central	Gold-1 st	Gold-3 rd	Gold-8 th	Gold-2 nd	Gold-1 st	Gold-3 rd
Forestry	Warren	Silver-11 th	Silver-17 th	Gold-3 rd	Gold-8 th	Silver-13 th	Gold-5 th
Horse Evaluation	Hondo	Gold-5 th	Bronze-41 st	Gold-11 th	Gold-3 rd	Silver-16 th	Gold-8 th
Job Interview	Madisonville	Silver—18 th	Silver-15 th	Silver-9 th	Silver-16 th	Silver	Gold-4 th
Livestock Evaluation	George West	Silver-17 th	Silver-16 th	Gold-9 th	Gold-8 th	Gold-7 th	Gold-1 st
Marketing Plan	Madisonville	Gold-1 st	Silver	Gold-2 nd	Gold-2 nd	Silver	Gold-1 st
Meats Evaluation	Hondo	Gold-1 st	Gold-1 st	Gold-1 st	Gold-2 nd	Gold-1 st	Gold-2 nd
Milk Quality	La Vernia	Gold-1 st	Gold-10 th	Gold-1 st	Gold-10 th	Silver-13 th	Silver-12 th
Nursery/Landscape	Bellville	Gold-13 th	Gold-6 th	Gold-5 th	Silver-20 th	Silver-21 st	Silver-19 th
Parliamentary Procedure	Mission	Silver—13 th	Gold-5 th	Gold	Gold-3 rd	Silver	Silver
Poultry Evaluation	S.D. O’Conner	Gold-1 st	Gold-2 nd	Gold-1 st	Gold-2 nd	Gold-2 nd	Gold-1 st
Prepared Public Speaking	East Central	Gold-4 th	Silver	Silver	Silver	Silver	Silver

Trio of Texans Claim Proficiency Awards

Texans won three national proficiency awards in Indianapolis. 13 Texans were onstage as national finalists.

Pilot Point FFA achieved the rare feat of capturing two national proficiency championships in a single year. Britt Larson of Pilot Point was the national winner of the Beef Production-Entrepreneurship

Award. Classmate Thomas Glascock was the winner of the Diversified Agricultural Production Proficiency Award. Brooke Millican of Decatur earned top honors in the Home and/or Community Development Proficiency Award.

FFA Proficiency Awards recognize achievement in student supervised agricultural experience programs, individualized hands-on career experiences which are an integral part of the agricultural education teaching model.

Historically, Texans haven't fared as well in proficiency award competition, but in the last five years have surged as Texas teachers engage in the process and learn to navigate the national application and selection process.

Texas ranked fifth in the total number of national finalists and was tied with California, Illinois, Minnesota and Tennessee for number national winners. Only 19 of the nation's 52 state FFA associations had national winners.

National FFA Proficiency Awards—State Comparison	
National Proficiency Finalists	National Proficiency Winners
1. Georgia—28	1. Oklahoma—7
2. Oklahoma—20	2. Ohio—6
3. Wisconsin—18	3. Georgia—5
4. California—16	4. Florida—4
5. Texas—13	5. California, Illinois, Minnesota, Tennessee, Texas—3

Texas Recognized for Nation's Top Membership Growth

The Texas FFA Association was recognized for the nation's top membership growth in an award ceremony that was part of the national delegate process. Texas FFA grew by 8,630 between membership year 2011-12 and 2012-13 become the first state association to surpass 95,000 in total membership. The Texas membership surge accounted for more than a third of the National FFA Organization's 24,525-student membership growth. Texas FFA has grown by 32,320 members since 2009, in large part to a revision in the membership business model. 2013 marks the fourth consecutive year that Texas has recorded the top membership gain.

Tale of the Tape...FFA Membership	
Top Membership States 12-13	Texas FFA Growth Since '09
1. Texas—95,287	2012-13: 95,287
2. California—74,052	2011-12: 86,657
3. Georgia—35,563	2010-11: 81,535
4. Missouri—25,109	2009-10: 74,372
5. Oklahoma—24,598	2008-09: 62,967

Grapeland Wins Invitational FFA Quiz

Grapeland topped the senior division of the National FFA Invitational Quiz Contest held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention and Expo. Atlana Watson led the team to a 22-point margin of victory over second-place Bookeville, Tennessee. Watson led all contestants, with 88 correct responses on the 100-question FFA knowledge test. Decatur finished fifth in the contest.

The invitational quiz contest is open to all chapters and states and since 1980's, has been held during convention week in or near the national convention host city. Chapters from 11 states participated in the senior division. Chapters from 14 states competed in the junior division which was won by Troy, Missouri.

Texans Receive Honorary American FFA Degrees

Seven Texas agricultural science teachers received the Honorary American FFA Degree at the 86th National FFA Convention. Donald Paul Booth of Sandra Day O'Conner, Charles Davidson of Greenville, Tracy Hicks Denny of Chisum, Jeff Klose of Canyon, Michael Douglas Meadows of Simms, Loyd Nations of Van and David W. Reiley of Seguin received the highest honorary degree bestowed by the National FFA Organization. Each year, a state may submit nominations not to exceed ten percent of the total number of teachers in the state.

Other Texans receiving the Honorary American Degree were Steve Fowlkes of Houston, Terry Hausenfluck of Bryan, Richard D. "Dick" Perkins of Houston, Dennis Lee Pierce of Spring, Donald Pilgrim of Peaster, Dr. Lori Moore of College Station and Dr. John Rayfield of College Station.



Dr. Jack McEowen
Honorary State Farmer
 Michigan

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Brian Lowe
Honorary State Farmer
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The Value of Agricultural Science Education and the Texas FFA Association

Validated Data/Research:

The Texas FFA Foundation, in support of our Texas Agricultural Science Educators and FFA Advisors, funded this research project to collect data on the positive impact of agricultural science education and FFA programming on Texas high school students. Additionally, once collected and reviewed, the Foundation board requested an independent – and respected – review of the data to ensure its validity and accuracy.

Data collected for the report is a summary of the analysis of the 2010 Texas graduation cohort group (306,639 students). An additional data set included 272 previous scholarship recipients and leaders at 15 Texas recruitment universities. The data includes comparisons in success rates of students in agriculture education classes, the perceived value of scholarship support for secondary education and university leader feedback on students involved in FFA programs.

The Texas FFA Foundation is honored to provide this report for all Texans. Agricultural education students, FFA members, teachers, administrators, counselors, parents and sponsors can be proud of their involvement in a program that makes Texas a better place to live, work and raise families. We do have **A Mission that Matters**.

Developed by Roger D. Hanagriff, Ph.D., Texas A&M University, Randall Williams, Ph.D., Texas A&M University-Kingsville and Kayla Box, Graduate Student Texas A&M University-Kingsville



Students involved in just two semesters of agricultural education **graduate** at a significantly higher rate.

FFA scholarship students are more **confident** in their ability to succeed in college.

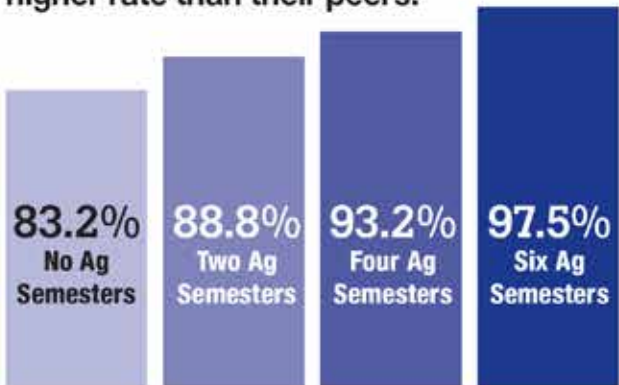
University leaders **value** FFA students in their recruitment and allocation of scholarships.

EXCELLENCE

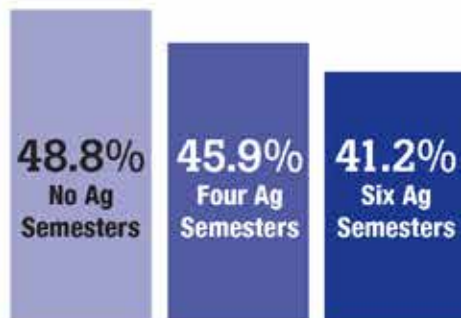


LEADERSHIP

Students with 2, 4 or 6 semesters of agricultural education graduate at a higher rate than their peers.



Students involved in 4 to 6 semesters of agricultural education have significantly lower disciplinary records.



INDEPENDENT REVIEW/VALIDATION FROM FINIS WELCH, PH.D.

"It was an honor for me to review the data, data sets and outcomes derived from the Agricultural Education/FFA research project conducted by Roger D. Hanagriff, Randall Williams and Kayla Box. Upon my review, I offer my independent opinion that the research methods, outcomes and executive summary are sound, accurate and represent best practices in data collection, evaluation and presentation. This opinion comes from my own statistical study of the data and I verify that the analytical results showing the reported positive association between agricultural education and graduation rates are correct. Congratulations to the Texas FFA Foundation for the vision to quantify the positive effects of agricultural science education/Texas FFA for members, teachers, sponsors, policy makers and our Texas communities."

Finis Welch, Ph.D., Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Economics, Texas A&M University; Emeritus Professor of Economics, UCLA

FFA scholarship students reported holding an FFA office.

96%

FFA scholarship students reported holding a chapter level officer position.

89%

FFA scholarship students believe scholarships illustrate confidence from others, reported feeling better prepared for college than their peers and had a college current GPA of 3.49.

93%

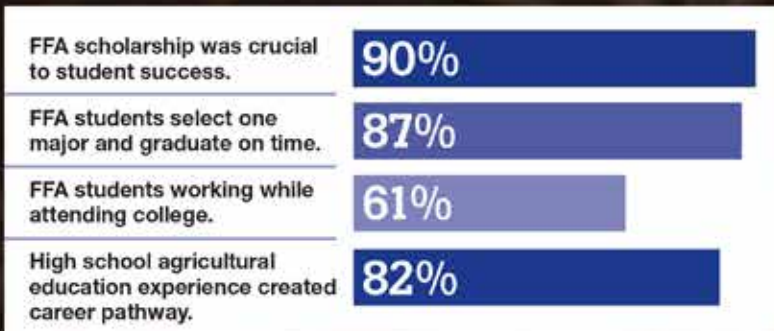
CONFIDENCE



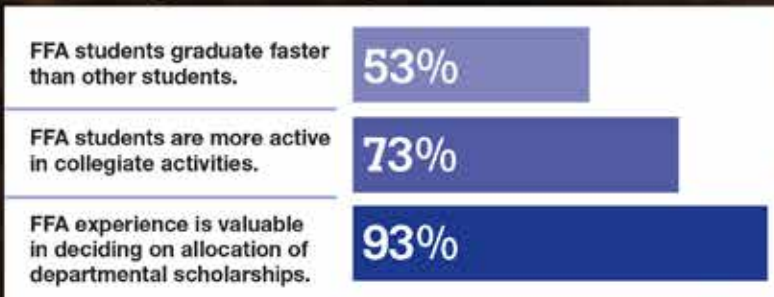
The majority of students reported FFA scholarships covered over **70%** of their tuition.

60% of FFA scholarship students stated they developed additional financial support.

Research shows:

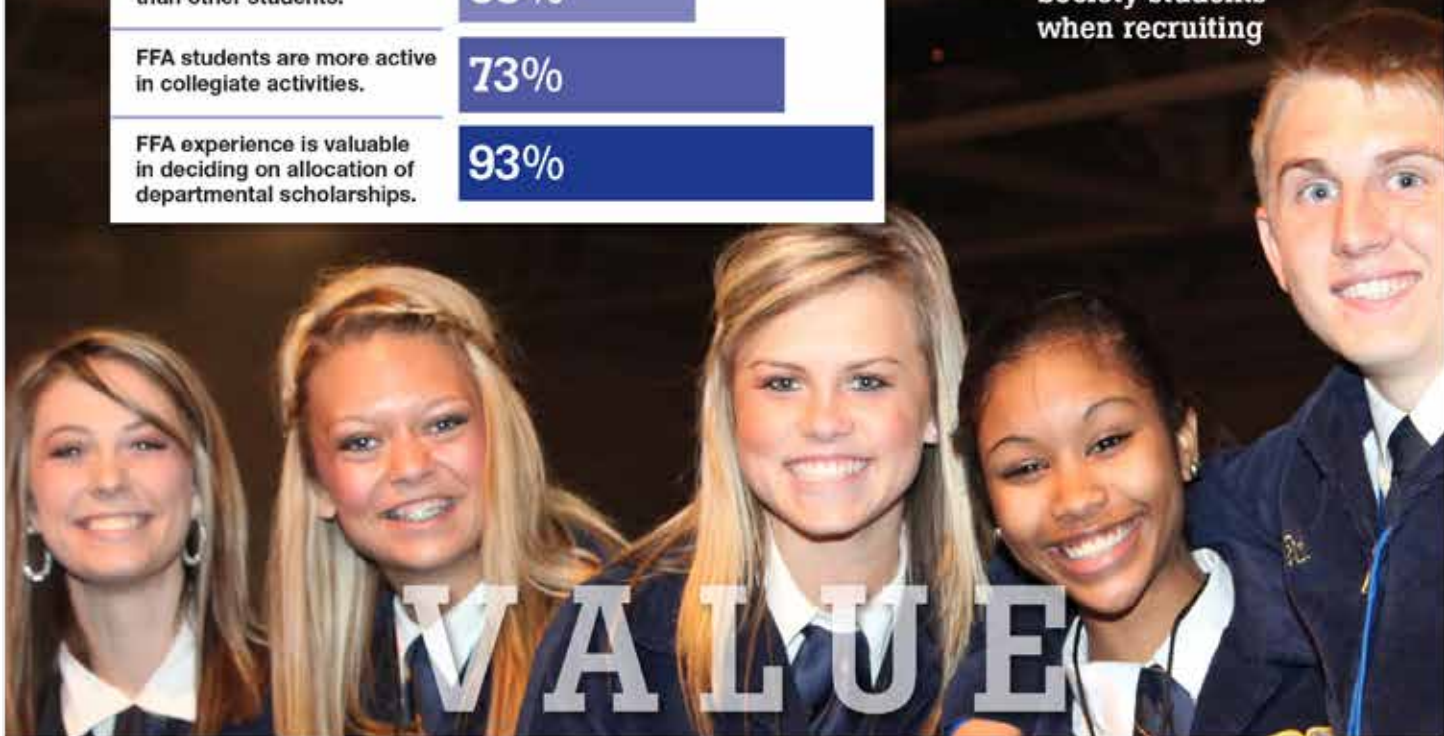


University leaders reported:



University leaders say FFA students are:

- **1.5** times more prepared than their peers
- **1.6** times more valuable than athletic students when recruiting
- **1.13** times more valuable than National Honor Society students when recruiting



RESULTS:

FFA scholarship students are more confident in their ability to succeed, feel better prepared than their peers and continue their leadership into the college experience. The majority of them graduate or report continuing to post bachelor degrees. University leaders value these scholarship students, as well as other highly involved FFA students, in their recruitment and allocation of departmental scholarships, which multiplies the scholarship value allocated by the Texas FFA and their support of related sponsors.

This is an initial assessment report regarding the value of agricultural education and FFA program involvement in secondary education student success. As always, the limitations to this report are a consideration, but the value of knowing more about how students in agricultural education graduate, how those receiving FFA scholarships continue in post-secondary education and how university leaders perceive these students, are valuable measures for the entire agricultural education process.





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JR. SHOW DATES:
 JR. AG MECHANICS: **JAN. 18**
 JR. DAIRY CATTLE: **JAN. 21**
 JR. HEIFERS: **JAN. 25-27**
 JR. BREEDING SHEEP: **JAN. 27**
 JR. WETHER GOATS, JR. WETHER LAMBS: **FEB. 1-2**
 JR. BARROWS, JR. STEERS: **FEB. 6-7**

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Texas FFA Alumni Update

It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas...

Kelly White, Texas FFA Alumni President

It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas... you all know this song of the Christmas season. As you read this the holiday season will be fast approaching. However, as I write this article, the season that it most resembles is HALLOWEEN! I actually passed a Department Store last week and noticed Christmas decorations in the front. PLEASE let me enjoy Thanksgiving...PLEASE let me get my major show entries postmarked... PLEASE DON'T RUSH ME! SLOW THINGS DOWN!

It seems that I am always on a deadline, pressed for time, or needed in four different places at once. Deadlines, a majority of them I meet, but there are some that I have missed. Some things you can get by with putting off and the person expecting the information is patient (please welcome our new VATAT Communications Coordinator Ashley Dunkerley). But some are not as patient as Ashley. Think about the deadlines that we face and the consequences for missing them. You may have to pay a "late fee". But what will it cost you? If you are married? That is a different story that I will not discuss, the ramifications of missing anniversaries, birthdays, date nights, long nights, long days, weekends, etc...!?

Let me add another timeline to your calendar for next year. February 15th is the deadline to have your Alumni dues and roster submitted to the Texas FFA office. We will be using National FFA's online Alumni Roster system, MyAgCN. You will be able to pay National FFA online for the National dues, but you will still need to send in a check for the state dues. Affiliate members from last year should have their information. Please let Tricia Sullivan, with Texas FFA, know if you establishing a new Alumni Affiliate so she can get you set up to manage the roster before it is too late in the spring. It is ALWAYS easier to have an ag teacher as the contact person because your Alumni Officers may change on a yearly basis.

Now back to November... Facebook has November as a month to be Thankful. The objective is to list someone/something that you are thankful for. I am thankful for the group that serves on the Texas FFA Alumni Council and do a great job steering this organization. They are Kevin Page, Liz Treptow and Wade Albert. Sincere thanks to those that serve as delegates at the National FFA Alumni Convention. They are Jim Alsop (Decatur), Kevin & Wendy Page (Columbus), the Weimar FFA Alumni Affiliate members Liz

Treptow, Carin Carson, Garret Schatte and Kasey Kram. A quick shout out to my teaching partner, Perry White. A thank you to the members of the Lake Travis FFA Alumni and to my administration. What are you thankful for? Who are you thankful for? Have you told them?

I would be amiss not to tell my wife, Glynda. THANK YOU and I LOVE YOU! This December 17th marks 25 years that she has been an ag teacher's wife. Take time to tell your spouse Thank You and that you love them!

As we enter into the holiday season. SLOW DOWN! Take some time to spend with your family. The New Year will be here soon with stock shows, CDE's, banquets, awards, etc... They will get here soon enough. Slow Down! Enjoy a drive and look at the Christmas lights. Slow Down! Go to Church. Slow Down! Visit and reminisce with old friends. Slow Down and enjoy time with your wife, children, siblings and even your in-laws. Slow down and remember the reason for the season. Merry CHRISTmas!

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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 at (888) 390-4332.



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Texas Young Farmer Update

Notes From the Executive Secretary

Don Beene, Texas Young Farmers Executive Secretary

I would like to remind everyone that your dues and rosters are now due. Please notice that this year's form requests your e-mail address and not your phone number. We are not going to distribute your e-mail or address to anyone that will abuse the information. The primary need is for the National Young Farmers. Every month the National Organization publishes a newsletter that is entitled NYFEA Update, but it only comes by e-mail. Also, it is expensive to use US mail, but we can e-mail at almost no cost.

I am sure that you know how important numbers are. When we were soliciting sponsors, their primary concern is how many folks see our name. The same goes for sending out e-mail. The more names on the e-mail list the easier it is to get sponsors.

Texas has voted to be an Affiliate Member to the NYFEA (National Young Farmer Educational Association). We send in your name and \$2 of your dues money to Nationals.

Another thing you may not be aware of is the fact that Dr. Steve Brown, the National FFA Advisor, is also the National Young Farmer Advisor. My telling you all of this is to make you aware of the effort that the Young Farmers are making to spread agriculture education to adults. It is important for our leaders in Washington DC and Austin to understand agriculture. These leaders are the individuals making the laws and policies that makes farming and ranching a viable occupation.

The first semester of the school year is almost over for most. Let me wish each of you a happy and prosperous New Year.

Family Land Heritage

The Family Land Heritage Program is a recognition program that honors families who have owned and operated a continuous agricultural operation for 100 years or more.

Every year TDA hosts a ceremony at the Texas State Capitol to celebrate and commemorate the families who have passed down their proud Texas legacy from generation to generation.

Our farm received the century recognition certificate and sign in 1993 as my Great Grandfather purchased the property in 1893. My brothers and I live on the place today and continue to run a few head of crossbred cattle.

Let me encourage you to apply for this award if your home place is still in the family and you are farming or ranching.

Malakoff Stampede

The Malakoff Young Farmers hosted its annual Fall Stampede on Oct. 5 at the Joe Faulk Memorial Arena. The organization puts on two junior and open rodeos each year, along with open barrel race and team-roping contest in February. The money raised is used to provide meals, drinks and snacks for livestock shows and two senior scholarships each year.



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Merry Christmas



When you receive this we will be in San Antonio at the 47th National Young Farmer Educational Institute and I am sure it will be very educational and we will be eating well and having fun. Wish you could be here and meet the folks from other states and see how they run their program and hear their stories.

Merry Christmas,
Don Been
Executive Secretary

From Texas Young Farmers



60th Annual National Institute and Convention

December 5-8, 2013

in

San Antonio, TX

Look for Updates

in Next Month's VATAT Newsletter!



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TEXAS TEAM AG ED EVENTS

December 2013

1st Major Stock Show Entry
Deadline (HLSR Online Only)

1st Junior FFA Dues Deadline

1st HLSR Calf Scramble
Applications Due

6th-7th State LDE's Same
Houston State University,
Huntsville

24th-31st Team Ag Ed Office
Closed

January 2014

6th Texas FFA Board of
Directors Meeting, Austin

16th Ford Leadership Scholars
Online Submission Deadline

17th Fort Worth Stock Show
and Rodeo Begins

February 2014

1st Texas FFA Payment
Deadline for ALL Fees

6th San Antonio Livestock
Show and Rodeo Begins

15th National FFA Scholarship
Deadline

15th- 22nd National FFA Week

25th Day at the Capitol

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