



VATAT

News

A publication of the Texas Agricultural Education Family ☆ 2011 Volume II, Issue VIII

"Words with Friends"

By: David Reiley, Seguin

Proactive - acting in anticipation of future problems, needs or changes.

During the first week of March, I attended The National Agricultural Education Summit in Orlando, Florida. Several people from Texas were also in attendance, and they included VATAT Vice President Russell Thomas, Texas FFA Executive Director Tom Maynard, Texas FFA Leadership Development Coordinator Blaze Currie, Joanne Shelton, Texas FFA Foundation, Jerome Tymrak, Texas A&M Kingsville, Dr. Julie Harlin, Texas A&M and Boot Chumbley, Texas Tech. The Summit was developed and conducted by members of the National Agricultural Education Council. Facilitators and presenters included Dr. Steve Brown, Interim National FFA Advisor; Dr. Dwight Armstrong, COO of the National FFA Organization and Jim Armbruster, from the National FFA.

The focus of the Summit was SAE, Experiential Learning and Transformational Leadership. Well, right from the get go I had to get out my iPhone and start looking up some definitions online. I had to use my phone and not my laptop, since this was one of those fancy hotels that cost a lot, but offers nothing. Why is it the more you pay the less you get? No free internet. No free breakfast. No free parking. We need more La Quintas where rooms are reasonable, parking is close and free, no-cost wireless internet in every room and a free-hot breakfast

every morning. Sorry, I got a little wound up. Let me step down from this soap box, and let me get back to the Summit. It was a very interesting week, as we listened to speakers talk about implementing SAE into their programs and different types of SAEs their students have. What I found most interesting is the fact most of the speakers were from rather small states and not from California, Oklahoma or even Texas.

Another topic discussed was membership and the changes coming to the National FFA Web site in the next few months. The Web site will open to a portal which will allow students and teachers to enter and access award and degree information, as well as order from the online store. It will be a very comprehensive Web site which will track all facets of the students' FFA career. Contest participation and leadership positions will also be recorded on this site to help students fill out scholarship and proficiency applications. Record book integration was also discussed as a possibility in the future.

The presentations were interesting and made me realize how fortunate we are here in Texas. Our FFA membership is at an all-time high, which has helped to boost the National membership as well. Thanks to Tom Maynard for his work in getting our affiliation fee schedule approved; it makes it more economical to have more members with the sliding



scale approach. The more you have, the more discounts you receive. It only makes sense to offer those incentives, if you want chapters to participate. Tom carried that forward to National FFA and look what it has done for our membership. This is the type of proactive approach Texas has taken to help our students, and it is paying off. We wanted to be part of the solution and not the problem.

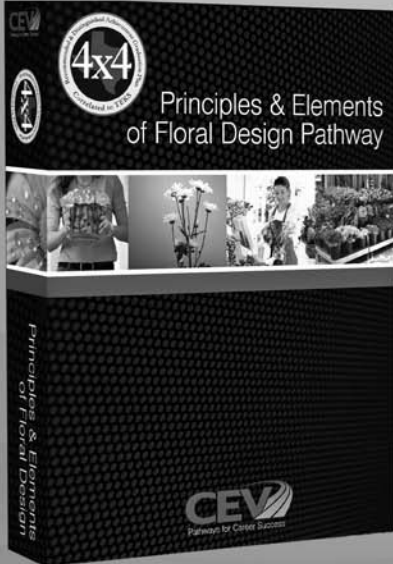
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TEXAS AG ED FAMILY UPDATES

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Young Farmers pages 12 - 13
Texas FFA Alumni page 15

NOW AVAILABLE!

Principles & Elements of Floral Design Pathway



- Correlates to the competency requirements for the Texas State Floral Association's High School Certification program.
- Features Jim Johnson of the Benz School of Floral Design.

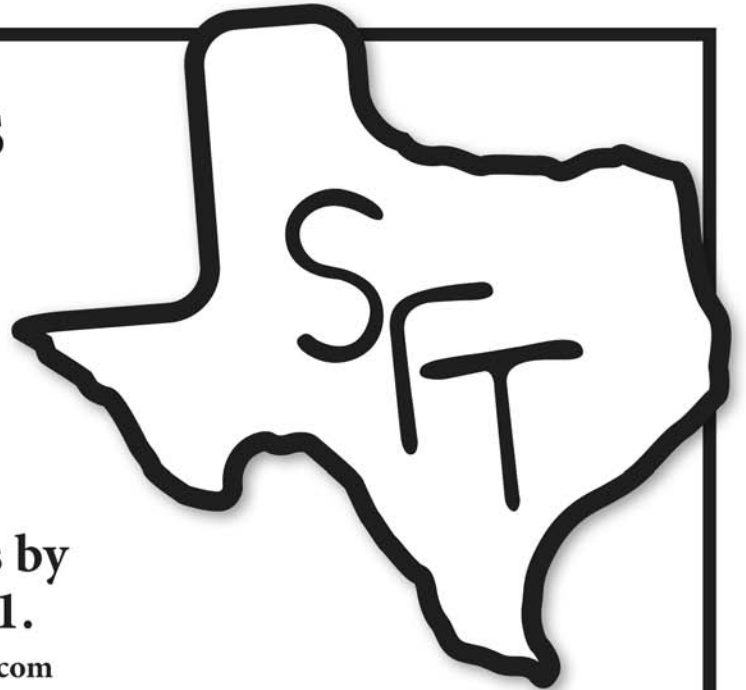
LESSONS INCLUDE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Design Fundamentals | History of Floral Design |
| Floral Design Basics: Techniques | Floral Design Tools |
| Geometry in Floral Design | Flower Identification |
| Corsage & Boutonniere Preparation | Floral Design Basics: Principles & Elements |
| Wedding Arrangements | Post Harvest Care of Cut Flowers |
| Bereavement Arrangements | Flower Business Management |
| Special Arrangements | Career Opportunities: Floral Design |
| Critiquing Floral Arrangements | |

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“Words with Friends”

Continued from page 1

Our VATAT membership is at an all-time high and getting stronger as you read this. This past July, in Galveston, we set a record for attendance at the Professional Development Conference. Our teachers are taking a positive approach to the changing curriculum and have shown their support by attending the conference to gather the latest information. Agricultural Science teachers have taken on the challenge of new classes and have proved to be part of the solution as well. We have seen the positive changes in the classes we teach and the benefits it offers the students. Gerald has played a vital role in working with educators and organizations who formulated a plan, created a curriculum re-write team and produced a document the State Board of Education found exceptional. Again, this is another example of being proactive in our effort to ensure student success.

Our FFA Foundation has worked alongside the FFA and VATAT to develop programs that benefit our students and teachers, like the Texas Agricultural Science Leadership Institute. This is an awesome program to help elevate our profession. It is a leadership camp for adults that helps to educate, evaluate, elevate and rejuvenate your belief in the profession. I mention this because when we were in Orlando one of the topics we discussed was capturing and retaining teachers in the profession. A lot of the states were very interested in the Leadership Institute and wanted to hear how our program is run. This is just another example of the leadership we have in our programs. These leaders saw a need and used a proactive attitude to head off issues before they became problems. Our FFA Foundation has worked hard to secure the future of agriculture in Texas. They deserve a huge pat on the back for all of their efforts. I am sure Aaron would not mind a check or two to demonstrate that support.

Other proactive initiatives to help retain new teachers are the mentor program and new teacher focus group that has been formed. Both of these are in place to help strengthen our profession and to provide support for those new to it. While talking to educators from other states, they do not all have these types of measures put into place, and many were interested in how our programs work.

National Teach AG Day was March 24. I hope each of you took the time to encourage your students to look at a career in agriculture education. It is a very rewarding experience, but not one to be taken lightly. Be proactive in your school, community and state and advocate for agriculture education. Let them know what an awesome career awaits, if they choose to be among those so blessed and honored to be called an ag teacher.

Administrators

Gerald Young, VATAT Executive Director

In my forty plus years of working in and around public education, I feel there are three types of administrators. There are those who take the job to make a difference, those who were not successful in their teaching jobs, but wanted to stay in public education and those who did not like teaching, but loved the power that came with administration. Almost the entire first group makes good administrators, and about half of the second group makes good administrators. There are very few in the third group who make good administrators, and the rest mostly make life miserable for the teachers they are supposed to lead.

The question is how do we get more of the “Make a Difference” administrators and be able to work with the “Power Hungry” administrators? First, we need to identify the teachers who would be good administrators and encourage them. Most of them are not self-centered and encouragement gives them validation to move forward. They are usually very good teachers who enjoy the classroom. This is why they need to be encouraged. Many of the teachers who are sure they will be great administrators are not as good as they thought they would be.

Working with the “Power Hungry” administrators is very difficult. They are trying to please everyone, but the teachers, and they treat the teachers like they are their own personal employees. They always have a few loyal teachers who serve as their lieutenants, keeping them informed on all issues. These administrators are usually very insecure, even though they like power, which is why the lieutenants are necessary. These are the schools that are very tense, so to succeed you have to work within the administrator’s system. You can never say anything negative about the administrator because you never know who is listening. It is a shame that is how it works, but that is the way it is. You need to work with that administrator’s ego; they need to feel like they are in charge. You, as a teacher, need to make them feel that way. You hope someone higher up will see the problem and get it fixed, or the administrator moves on.

I was asked early in my career what I did not like about working in education. My answer then and my answer when I leave this job is the same. I hated the politics of education. The cause for most of the politics is unqualified or ineffective administrators and school boards. To survive in this situation you must know how to work in the system. The sad thing is in any job you work with people, politics play a part.

Continued on page 5

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2011 National Teach Ag Day State Contest Details and Rules

What?

This is a contest for states to compete against each other by implementing Teach Ag Activities before, during, and after National Teach Ag Day March 24, 2011. The state that has the most impact will win. Impact will be based on the ratio of NAAE members versus number of people impacted and other criteria as set forth by the scoring rubric. Therefore smaller states will have the same opportunity as larger states.

When?

Your Teach Ag Activities must take place sometime during the month of March 2011 and be completed by March 31st. All entries must be postmarked and mailed via traditional mail no later than April 15, 2011.

How?

This is the fun part. There are no limits on the ways you can celebrate or the number of different events you can have. You may do a statewide collaboration that every program takes part in or have individual programs/people implement their own activity and submit them all as one. Maybe you want to hold a rally at the capital, or have a teaching minutes challenge. Perhaps your state decides to participate in an ag teacher swap across the state. The sky is the limit. If you need ideas check out our ideas for celebrating National Teach Ag Day at www.naae.org/teachag/teachagday-ideas. See the scoring rubric for judging criteria at www.naae.org/teachag/statecontest.

Who?

A current NAAE member must submit the state entry; however participation is not limited to NAAE members. Enlist the help of your local advisory groups, alumni organizations and state staff. This may also be a good time to reach out to new audiences like extension and university faculty. The more the merrier.

Prize:

Glory, fame and of course bragging rights! We're still figuring out a cool prize, but we know you'll get onstage recognition at the 2011 NAAE convention in St. Louis, publicity in the News and Views, MMM, and Teach Ag events. Check back soon for updates!

Submission:

Mail your completed entry form (download from <http://www.naae.org/teachag/statecontest>) along with at least 5 digital photos on a CD Rom postmarked no later than April 15th to

NAAE
Attn: Statewide Teach Ag Day Contest Entry
300 Garrigus Building
Lexington, KY 40546-0215

**photos must be submitted as individual .jpg files. Do not submit collages or photos embedded in Word documents.*

Administrators

Continued from page 3

I was very lucky in that I had no head principal that was not from the first group of administrators previously described. I did have some assistant principals from all three groups. I had three great principals; I could write a complete article on the good traits of each one. The one thing they all had in common was they treated all teachers the same. They had discipline in their schools for both the students and the teachers. All departments felt important, and no department was treated better than the other. They worked very hard to help make new teachers successful. If a teacher was not successful, they tried to put them in a successful situation. If that did not work, they encouraged them to try something other than teaching. I thought so much of those three individuals that I worked as hard as I could to please them. These individuals were also no nonsense; they were not afraid to say something and do just what they said. If you have an administrator like these individuals, let them know you appreciate the job he or she does.

VATAT Online Membership...

Make registering for workshops easier this summer by knowing your email address and password for the VATAT Online System. As VATAT members, you will also renew your membership through VATAT Online, so it is imperative you know the required login information. The Association cannot see your personal password, so in the event you cannot remember your login information your password will have to be reset.

If You Are Retiring This Year...

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

VATAT Awards Application...

The VATAT Awards application and procedures are available at www.vatat.org under Association>VATAT Awards. Submit your application today! The area executive committee member is responsible for turning in the area award winning nomination forms at the VATAT Spring Board meeting, *May 21-22, 2011*. Please refer to page seven on the application for a list of the 2010-2011 VATAT executive committee members. Area winners received after the deadline will not be considered.

VATAT Pre - Conference Certification & Training Workshops

Online pre-registration is required for the following workshops through VATAT Online. For more information regarding the pre-conference workshops, please visit www.vatat.org under Conference>Pre-Conference Workshops.

Training Workshop on Sunday, July 24, 2011

- **Clay Target Shooting Program:** 9:00am – 5:00pm
Workshop Fee: \$15

Training Workshops on Monday, July 25, 2011

- **Clay Target Shooting Program:** 9:00am – 5:00pm
Workshop Fee: \$15
- **Hunter Education Instructor Workshop:** 8:30am – 5:00pm, Workshop Fee: \$27 includes a box lunch
- **Private Pesticide Applicators Certification Exam:** 8:30am – 4:00pm, Workshop Fee: \$25 includes box lunch
- **Private Pesticide Applicators Re-certification (3 CEU Credits):** 8:00am – 11:00am, Workshop Fee: \$25 includes box lunch
- **Wildlife CDE Training:** 9:00am – 3:00pm
Workshop Fee: \$50 includes study guide
- **National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Workshop:** 9:00am – 4:00pm, Workshop Fee: \$90 includes study materials and box lunch
- **Bus Driver Re-certification Workshop:** 8:30am – 5:00pm, Workshop Fee: \$75 includes box lunch
- **Texas Boater Education Instructor Certification:** 8:30am – 4:00pm, Workshop Fee: \$15 includes box lunch
- **Floral Student Certification Overview Hands-on Workshop:** 1:00pm - 4:30pm, Workshop fee: \$25
- **Junior and Master Angler Instructor Workshop:** 8:30am – 12:00 Noon, Workshop Fee: \$15 includes box lunch
- **ServSafe Instructor Certification:** 8:00am – 4:30pm
Workshop Fee: \$160 includes textbook mailed in advance and box lunch
- **Archery in the Schools Program Instructor Training:** 8:00am – 4:30pm, Workshop Fee: \$15 includes box lunch
- **New Teacher Workshop:** 8:00am – 3:00pm
Workshop Fee: \$0 includes box lunch
- **CPR Anytime Kit:**
Kit Fee: \$35
- **Instructor Certification Training (ICPT):**
Workshop Fee: \$80, Workshop will be held on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, and must attend all to receive certification.

Ag Ed and Texas FFA Day at the Capitol



FFA chapters from across Texas attended the 2nd Annual Agricultural Education and Texas FFA Day at the Capitol hosted by the Texas FFA Association, the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas, and the Texas FFA Foundation. Texas FFA Day at the Capitol was held February 22, 2011, in Austin, Texas in conjunction with National FFA Week.

There were more than 65 chapters that comprised more than 500 FFA members and advisors across Texas who participated in this event in order to learn about the history of the Texas State Capitol and the legislative process through tours and workshops. Attendees had the opportunity to meet with their respective state representatives and senators to discuss the importance of agriculture, agricultural education and FFA to the state of



Texas. The legislators also shared with FFA members their perspective on the issues facing the 82nd Legislative Session.

Attendees watched resolutions being presented on both the House and Senate floor recognizing National FFA Week and FFA Day at the Capitol. A senate resolution authored by Senator Florence Shapiro, chair of the Senate Education committee,

and a house resolution authored by Representative Rick Hardcastle, chair of the House Agriculture and Livestock committee, recognized the growth and accomplishments of the FFA statewide. Both Senator Shapiro and Representative Hardcastle recognized the relevance of agricultural education with an estimated one in seven jobs in Texas being related to agriculture.



TEXAS FFA News moved online!

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<http://news.texasffa.org>

Texas FFA News' improved look!

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Events State Officers

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8 Starts with ONE Thousand Greenhands
2010-2011 Greenhand Contest

Facebook Twitter Email

2011 State Fair Validation Dates

- Early Tag Orders – Tags are \$7.00 from April 4 - May 6, 2011.
- Late Tag Orders – Tags are \$10.00 from May 7 – June 10, 2011.
- Priority Tag Orders – **Faxed orders only - 512-476-2894** - Tags are \$10.00 per tag, plus \$20.00 priority postage and handling fee from June 11 -16, 2011.
- Validation Deadline – All swine must be validated on or before **June 30, 2011**. Validation Chairperson must be present when the animals are validated.
- Change of ownership is due in the FFA office on or before June 30, 2011. All manila forms, hair envelopes, ethics policies, Committee Forms and Excel spreadsheets are due in the FFA office on or before July 8, 2011 (Manilas, hair envelopes & ethic policies - ALPHA ORDER).
- **TAG ALTERATIONS – ANY CHANGE TO SIZE, SHAPE, FORM OR COLOR WILL VOID THE TAG---TAG WILL BE REPLACED AT THE STOCK SHOW & REPLACEMENT COST WILL BE CHARGED TO THE INDIVIDUAL.**
- Ear Notch Correction & Ear Tag Replacement forms must be faxed (512-476-2894) to the FFA office on or before July 22, 2011.
- **Any required validation information not in the FFA office by July 22, 2011 will not be validated. Information is due by July 8. We do not have personnel in the office to process or call for missing validation items after this date.**

All information can be found on www.texasffa.org under Texas FFA>Validation.

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SAE Marketplace is an online resource designed specifically for agricultural science teachers and FFA members to locate livestock sales and breeders, purchase equipment and supplies and find the perfect Supervised Agricultural Experience project.

The SAE Marketplace is a venture of the VATAT and is simple and easy to use. It is divided into three categories which contain agricultural products and services including: The Show Source, Ag Service and Supply Shop and the Greenhouse.

Advertising on SAE Marketplace is a great way to target Ag Ed Family members! Advertisements run for 12 months and include up to 50 word of text, company logo, Web site and e-mail links--all for only \$100 per year!

Visit SAE Marketplace at www.saemarketplace.com to find your next SAE project or to advertise one!

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per line (including spaces).
 You may also purchase your brick with a credit card through VATAT Online. For more information about the brick campaign please contact Gerald Young at 512.472.3128 or gerald@vatat.org. Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

Cost is \$100. Make tax deductible checks payable to: Texas FFA Foundation.

Mail completed form to:

Please write what you would like your brick engraving to say above. A sample brick is pictured for reference. Limit 3 lines, 14 characters

**Texas FFA Foundation
 Brick Campaign
 614 East 12th Street
 Austin, TX 78701**



Update

Do You Have What it Takes?



Ambassadors

83rd Texas FFA Convention
July 11-15, 2011 - Lubbock, Texas

The Foundation is preparing to select the 2011 class of Ambassadors. Ambassadors serve as liaisons with our sponsors, special guests and dignitaries on behalf of the Texas FFA during the largest youth-led convention in Texas. It is an honor to be chosen as a Foundation Ambassador. Being part of the program requires an important commitment, but one that will be a wonderful learning experience and resume builder. It is high-energy and sometimes stressful, but well worth the networking opportunity. Students can apply through April 15th. Students who served as Ambassadors previously, may be selected to serve as mentors (Senior Ambassador leaders) for the new class. Ambassadors will enjoy a life-changing experience. Apply online at:

www.texasffaoundation.org

Use the menu option "2011 Ambassadors." Good luck and we'll see you at convention.

Texas FFA on the Silver Screen



"*Deep in the Heart*" is an independent film about philanthropist Dick Wallrath. The Texas FFA plays an impressive role in the film. Starring in the film is John Gries (*Uncle Rico - Napoleon Dynamite*), Val Kilmer (*Top Gun, Batman and Tombstone*), and Elaine Hendrix (*Parent Trap, and Superstar*). Be watching the Texas FFA and Texas FFA Foundation "fan pages" on Facebook for more information and updates. Additional updates at convention.

Welcome New Sponsors

The Texas FFA Foundation is blessed with many outstanding, caring and generous sponsors. From individuals, small businesses, organizations and large corporations, our sponsors provide the "fuel" to run our programs for excellence. We are proud to announce our newest sponsors. Four Star Partner:



Texas Farm Bureau. Corporate Sponsors: Barefoot Athletics and Fuddruckers. Be sure to say



"thank you" the next time your path crosses with one of these sponsors. Many of our sponsors will be at the Texas FFA

Convention and the Teachers Professional Development Conference. We hope you too will



join us in expressing our appreciation. Texas agricultural education and FFA programming

are excelling today because of the investment in our future by great sponsors - thank you.



Texas FFA at International Conference

Special Thanks. Texas FFA Officers (*Katlyn Perry and Daylon Koster*) recently joined National FFA officers and Florida FFA Officers in Boca Raton, Florida for the LaQuinta International Conference. Texas FFA Foundation Board member, and President/CEO of LaQuinta, Wayne Goldberg hosted our officers and afforded them the chance to tell the "FFA story" to attendees. In addition to outstanding accomodations, our officers engaged in professional networking, development and honing their leadership skills. Thank you Katlyn and Daylon for representing us well.

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Texas Young Farmers Update

From the President's Pen

Janet Bulger, Texas Young Farmers President

According to the calendar, winter is officially over. Spring has begun, at least on the calendar. I sure hope we are through with all of the bad, cold weather. We are still needing rain across the state, so maybe these March winds will bring April showers.

Things have really been busy this year. I can't believe, at the time I wrote this, 2011 is almost 1/4th over. Where have the weeks, the days and the hours gone? I look at the time that has passed and think of all the things I did not get accomplished that I really intended to. As a child, I always heard my parents and grandparents talking about when you get older time flies. Now, I believe them.

I know each one of you is equally as busy as I am, so I encourage you to devote a little part of your week thinking about Young Farmers. The school year is almost over, and we all need to start thinking about programs for next year's school year. Think about programs and things you might do within your local chapter that would make existing members want to attend the meetings and become involved and non-members want to become members.

One of my goals for this year is not just to see the number of members grow, but to see our organization do something to help the ag world. There are very few full-time farmers and ranchers in Texas, or the nation as far as that goes. As a Young Farmer Organization, I

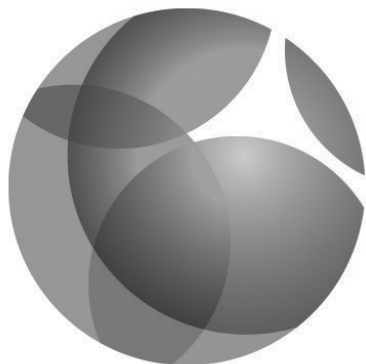
feel we need to be out there working to help the full-time and part-time farmers and ranchers. People in the agriculture world face many obstacles every single day. I feel certain many of them would just like to throw their hands up and quit. My goal is not to plan a great convention, but to find a way we can help those who are just trying to survive, so we can have food to eat and clothes to wear.

An obstacle I was recently made aware of is the dangers farmers and ranchers who live in the counties along the Mexico border face each day. Texas Commissioner of Agriculture Todd Staples is requesting federal funding to provide security for these men and women. I know we can't go to these counties and provide security, but maybe we can write letters to our legislators and ask for their support of the agriculture industry.

There are many other issues farmers and ranchers must deal with every day. Whether they are full-time or part-time, it is not easy being in the agriculture business today. I would like to see us work together to come up with a plan to make it a little easier. I think the first step in doing this is through education. We need to educate ourselves on some of the things these men and women face, and then try to find a way to help them.

TXYF Awards

It is not too early to start working on the awards applications. They are due November 1, 2011. I know that seems like a long way off, but November will be here before you know it. For the members who don't fully understand the awards, I want to go over some of the awards on the following page.



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Family of the Year

The purpose of the Young Farmer Family of the Year Award is to honor family units who are involved in their community and exemplify the traditional values of family life. In addition, the YF family promotes the ideas of the State Association of Young Farmers of Texas and the agriculture industry.

List the extent of your family’s involvement in YF activities. List offices, committees, field days, tours, institutes and special events in which your family participates.

List your family’s involvement in community affairs. List public offices, committees, special events, church involvement, etc. in which your family participates.

List your family’s involvement in educational activities. List activities such as board of education, advisor, committee, etc.

Dates to Remember

- **April 1, 2011** – Scholarship Applications Due
- **April 16, 2011** – YF State Board Meeting – Mexia, TX
- **July 11-15, 2011** – State FFA Convention – Lubbock, TX
- **July 25-29, 2011** – VATAT Conference – Arlington, TX
- **November 1, 2011** – Awards Applications Due

Did You Know...



• Soybean oil is the most widely used vegetable oil. It is found in margarines, salad dressings, canned foods, sauces, bakery goods, and processed friend foods. Soy crayons have been created to replace toxic petroleum-wax crayons, soy crayons are safer to use, brighter in color and less expensive to produce. One acre (43,560 square feet) of soybeans can produce 82,368 crayons.

• Apples are a member of the Rose family. Washington State grows the most apples in the US. The apples from one tree can fill 20 boxes every year. Fresh apples float because 25 percent of their volume is air. In the winter, apple trees need to “rest” for about 900-1,000 hours below 45 degrees Fahrenheit in order to flower and fruit properly. Apples are

high in fiber. There are more than 7,000 varieties of apples grown in the world.

- Peaches are a good source of Vitamin C. The United States provides about one-fourth (25%) of the world’s total supply of fresh peaches. The peach is a member of the Rose family and will have a sweet fragrance when ripe. Most peaches that are imported to the US during the winter months come from Chile. Peaches are the third most popular fruit grown in America.

- Pumpkins were once recommended for removing freckles and curing snake bites! Pumpkins are edible. Pumpkins are 90% water. Pumpkins are used for feed for animals. Pumpkin seeds can be roasted as a snack. Native Americans used pumpkin seeds for food and medicine. Pumpkins contain potassium and Vitamin A.

- The name asparagus comes from the Greek language and means “sprout” or “shoot.” Asparagus is a member of the Lily family. Asparagus is related to onions, leeks and garlic. One of the most popular varieties of green asparagus is named after Martha Washington, the wife of George Washington. California grows about 70% of all the asparagus grown in the US. More than 50,000 tons of asparagus are grown in California every year.

AG TRIVIA

1. **1. What breed(s) of horses does Texas lead the U.S. in?**
 - a. Quarter horse
 - b. Appaloosa
 - c. Paint
 - d. All of the above

2. **Texas leads the nation in value of farm real estate. How much is Texas farmland worth?**
 - a. \$218,860,000,000
 - b. \$100,000,000,000
 - c. \$2,300,000,000
 - d. \$25,000,000,000

3. **What percentage of the American population is involved in agriculture?**
 - a. 10%
 - b. 40%
 - c. 35%
 - d. 17%

Answers will be published next month.

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In rural parts of Texas, one out of every six students currently use smokeless tobacco. But you can help. Teachers can visit SmokelessEducation.org to view training videos, materials and to contact a regional Prevention Resource Center to order the Spotlight on Smokeless curriculum. We'll teach you how to teach them to quit using tobacco.





Texas FFA Alumni

Update

Go Ahead and Brag

Kelly White, Texas FFA Alumni President

"If I seem to boast more than is becoming, my excuse is that I brag for humanity rather than for myself."

Henry David Thoreau

Telling you to go ahead and brag may not be the best advice to give because we all know people who "work our nerves" because of their bragging. I know they are proud of their accomplishments, hard work, equipment, truck, cattle, athletic ability, etc... Even Toby Keith had a song "I Wanna Talk about Me." So, perhaps let's not brag too much on ourselves, but brag about others. To be politically correct, let's not call it "bragging," but call it "positive advertisement." So, here is some "positive advertisement" about the Texas FFA Alumni.

- Each year, the Texas FFA Alumni gives out the following awards and these individuals are recognized on the stage at the State FFA Convention: (1) Five Washington Leadership Conference Scholarships (\$550.00 each); (2) Two \$1000.00 scholarship; (3) Ten \$500.00 Local Grants; (4) and graciously gives \$1000.00 each to the Texas FFA, the Texas FFA Foundation and the VATAT. All a FFA chapter has to do to be considered for the above mentioned awards is have an active local FFA Alumni Affiliate.
- The Texas FFA Alumni Association operates on dues money and money raised at the annual Alumni Auction held in conjunction with the Texas FFA Convention. Through donations from our supporters, we have averaged almost \$15,000.00 a year at the auction from the past four years. See you at this year's auction.
- The Texas FFA Alumni was recognized at this past year's National FFA Alumni convention and received the "Star System" Membership Award. This award is the 3 Stars plus Blue Blazer, which is an increase of 100 or more members for a state association. Our 2009 membership total was 1,631. Our 2010 membership total was 2,014. At this time, it appears we will exceed last year's numbers!
- Welcome to our new Alumni Affiliates! According to the information I have received the following are new affiliates: Bellaire, Crawford, Grapevine-Colleyville, Hermleigh, Iowa

Park, Kountze, Manor, & Rouse

So, go ahead and brag. Brag on others, brag to others, brag on your FFA chapter and ag program and brag on your family, especially your spouse because it may keep you out of trouble for a while. Here are some positive advertisements from local affiliates:

The Atascosa County FFA Alumni Association supports the FFA chapters in Pleasanton, Poteet, and Jourdanton. They became official in December of last year. In this short time, they have helped their local chapters with judging contests, fundraisers, provided hospitality rooms for teachers and judges, and assisted at the county stock show. In conjunction with their local Chili's restaurant, they have monthly fundraisers where guests bring in a flyer and Chili's will donate 10% of their bill back to their organization.

They feel one of their biggest achievements in their first year was raising enough money to give away three \$600 scholarships to a graduating senior from each of the schools they support. Upcoming plans include holding a BBQ Cook-off and Music Fest in the fall. Their officer team and members work diligently to spread the word about our organization via email, text, and Facebook.

The Brazos FFA Alumni was awarded a Texas FFA Alumni Support Grant (\$500) in 2010. The Alumni group (25-30 members) held a dinner/dance fundraiser to raise funds to assist with various trips and expenses of the Brazos FFA. The event included a catered meal, a silent auction, a live auction and a dance with music by the Country Knights. There was \$2000 raised from the auction alone with help from live auction items like a side of beef donated by Kavasovics Meat Market, dinner with the ag teachers donated by Brazos ag science teachers Jayson and Annette Hill, a Queen size mattress donated by the Mattress Shop, and a vintage Brazos FFA hat donated by Freddie Engelbrecht. There were many silent auction items donated by Alumni members and FFA members. A total of \$3000 was raised by the Brazos FFA Alumni. Plans are in the works for another dinner and dance in the near future.



Vocational Agriculture
Teachers Association of Texas
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TEXAS AG ED FAMILY EVENTS

APRIL 2011

1st - West Texas A&M
Invitational CDEs - Canyon

2nd - Clarendon College
Invitational CDEs - Clarendon

TBD - Stephen F. Austin
Invitational CDEs -
Nacogdoches

4th - Regular Swine Tag Order
Begins (State Fair) - Austin

9th - Texas Tech Invitational
Area CDEs - Lubbock

9th - Sam Houston State
Invitational CDEs - Huntsville

15th - State FFA Chorus
Applications Due

15th - Foundation Ambassador
Applications Due - Austin

15th - Convention Chronicle
Applications Due - Austin

16th - State CDEs - Texas Tech,
Lubbock

20th - State Woodlands
(Forestry) CDE - Nacogdoches

TBD - Deadline for Steer Tag
Orders - Texas A&M, College
Station

25th - 29th - TAKS Testing

TBD - State CDEs - Tarleton,
Stephenville

MAY 2011

3rd - 5th - National Land, Range
and Pasture CDEs - Oklahoma

6th - State CDEs - Sam
Houston, Huntsville

7th - State CDEs - Texas A&M,
College Station

7th - Late Swine Tag Order
Begins - Austin (Ends June 10)

TBD - State Wildlife CDE -
Nacogdoches

JUNE 2011

1st - State Speaking Events
Online Entry Deadline

4th - 7th - State Leadership
Conference

8th - State Officer Selection
Interviews & Testing

9th - State Scholarship Selection

9th - Texas FFA Board of
Directors Meeting - Location TBD

9th - 10th - State Degree Check
- Location TBD

Vocational Agriculture
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