



VATAT

News

A publication of the Texas Agricultural Education Family ☆ 2011 Volume III, Issue I

"From the Duck Blind"

By: *Russell Thomas, Gilmer*

The duck blind: sitting here is one of my favorite things to do. It provides a quietness to refocus and a stillness to refresh. The duck blind also brings about excitement, especially during duck season! It is a place I love to go to pursue a passion of mine, duck hunting. However, this is not the only place that gives me the feeling of excitement and encouragement nor is it my only passion...

As our VATAT conference came to a close in Arlington, excitement and encouragement fell over me as I left the final session. I was very excited about all the information and knowledge I received during the conference and implementing the new techniques and ideas into the classroom at Gilmer. I know what you are thinking, is he excited about school starting? Yes! I am a teacher who is ready to get back in the classroom. For me, seeing the faces of my students and building new relationships while continuing to grow the past ones is exciting and encouraging. Also, getting back into the classroom means duck season is just around the corner!

I was encouraged after the conference when many of you congratulated me on the new position and for the coming year. This was a tremendous boost for me, and I want to thank each of you for those words of encouragement. This is the way we should make each of our students feel

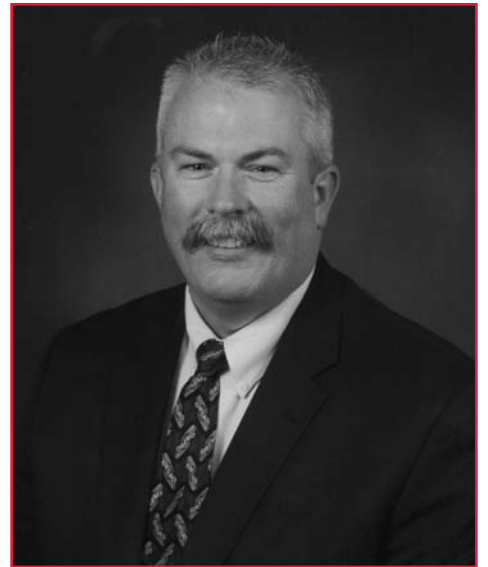
every day as they enter the classroom.

During the conference, there were great workshops to choose from. I wish I could have attended them all. It is exciting to see fellow ag science teachers providing training for all of us. These teachers go above the call of duty to teach, share ideas and offer excitement and encouragement with all of us. They help make the conference a huge success.

Each year, I look forward to our conference because it is a highlight for me. The ability to rekindle friendships, meet new friends and share and learn from each other makes for a great time. Comradery between ag science teachers is unlike any other relationship. I believe it is because of our common goals. For example, like our common goals with our students in their success in the classroom, show ring and in other competitions. I believe we have the best profession in the world!

At times, teaching can be very trying, but in the end very rewarding. I would like to commend you for choosing to be an ag science teacher. Thank you for your service to VATAT, Texas FFA and to our FFA students. I was very encouraged to see everyone at the conference and your participation all week. When you get a chance, go to your school administrators, and let them know what you learned at the conference. Thank them for allowing you to attend the conference.

Many times our administrators



need encouragement. If we are excited about our program, I truly believe they will be encouraged. 1 Thessalonians 5:11, NIV, states, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." This is very true each time I am around ag science teachers. I am encouraged, and my spirits are lifted!

One specific person who always encourages me each time I see him is

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TEXAS AG ED FAMILY UPDATES

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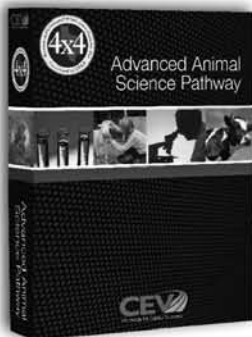
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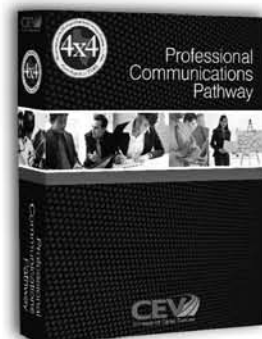
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“From the Duck Blind”

Continued from page 1

Gerald Young. Gerald is a great encourager to everyone and especially to ag science teachers. Arlington was a great place to have our conference this year since it is the “City of Champions.” The Rangers made it to the World Series, the Super Bowl played in Cowboy Stadium and the Mavericks won the NBA title. Now, we just need the Cowboys to follow suit!

Gerald has been a champion for our association and for agriculture students. He has gone above and beyond during his service as a teacher and as our executive director. Thank you, Gerald, for all you have done. It was a great honor to present Gerald a check from our teachers during Family Night. What encouraged me was the amount given by us, teachers and friends, for his retirement. This generosity says a great deal about our association and character. I want to thank each of you for giving.

The association is blessed to have many champions that help, encourage and bring excitement each year. Our FFA Foundation and Aaron Alejandro, Texas FFA and Tom Maynard, Blaze Currie, conference sponsors, Karen Grumbles and Allison Bequette, our VATAT staff, and Ron Whitson with the Texas Education Agency. Several champions emerged from Austin this year during the legislative session. Many of our legislators took a stand for agriculture education and funding. As an association, we have many champions. The list goes on. If you get a chance to write, call or email them, please take the time to do so. Thank them for making a difference for us. Another champion we have coming to Austin is Barney McClure. If you know Barney, you know he is a true champion and one of us! I look forward to working with Barney and continuing to move our organization forward.

I am excited about the year and serving you. If there is anything the association can do for you, please let us know. I want to thank you again for being an ag science teacher and your commitment to agriculture education and our students. I also want to thank Buddy, Sandra, David, Kevin, the VATAT board and all of the leadership in the past for encouraging me and being great examples of leaders for our association.

To Gerald and his family, I hope you will enjoy your time together and being back home at the ranch. I will remember all of our times together and will think of you each time I watch “American Pickers” or hear “Choot’um Liz.”

Young era of leadership ends, I would be remiss if I didn’t pay tribute to my predecessor. Words cannot express the respect I hold for Gerald Young as a person, former agriculture teacher and as a leader of our organization. When I was elected to the VATAT Board of Directors, the first meeting I attended was the one in which Gerald was selected to be the executive director of our organization. A few years later, I was elected as an officer, and I got to see first-hand what an effective leader he is. His tenure has seen the completion of the VATAT Agriculture Education/ FFA Leadership building, an increase in membership and several legislative challenges to our program. Gerald Young was an integral part of the successes CTE and ag education experienced over the last 10 years. I consider him a friend and a mentor who always put our organization before his own interests. Thanks, Gerald.

As I mentioned earlier, my life changed also. The door to my time as an agriculture teacher closed on June 30, 2011. It is amazing how fast a thirty-seven-year career flew by. After graduating from Texas A&M in May 1974, I was hired as the agriculture teacher at Gatesville High School. My five-year term in a one-teacher department was crucial in me learning how to be an educator. I then moved to teach at Grandview High School in a two-teacher department. I learned how to be a team player and to share responsibilities.

After three years there, I returned to my hometown of Cleburne to join another two-teacher department. I didn’t know it at the time, but I would spend the next 29 years of my life there and see the program grow to three teachers and over 350 students. It was a career I loved, and I know I will miss the students, co-workers and the relationships we had. For the first time in 53 years, spanning time as a student and teacher, I will not report to a classroom this fall.

I have been blessed to have a great family. My wife, Debbie, has been my greatest supporter for the last 39 years. Our children, Amy and Mark, came through ag science/FFA and used it as a springboard to colleges and careers. Amy is an attorney in Houston and Mark is an ag science teacher in Cleburne. When I first brought up the possibility of applying for this job, I had their unwavering support. Without it, I wouldn’t have applied.

Those winds of change really started blowing when I decided to apply for the job of executive director of the VATAT. I sent in my application and interviewed at the spring board meeting on May 21, 2011. I was hired to begin work on July 1 to train with Gerald until the end of August. My experiences since then have been somewhat of a blur. I sometimes feel like a first-year teacher again. I am seeing many facets of our program in an entirely different light. I am truly excited to have this opportunity to serve the agriculture science teachers of Texas. I consider it a great honor to serve as chief operating officer of the VATAT and promise each of you I will work my hardest and do my best to represent the ideals and goals of our great organization.

Winds of Change Blowing at VATAT

Barney McClure, VATAT Executive Director

It is said the world is changing at an ever-increasing pace. Change has come to the VATAT and to me. I suppose I should introduce myself to some of you, and say hello again to others. My name is Barney McClure, and I am extremely proud to be the seventh person to hold the title of executive director of the VATAT. As my tenure begins and the Gerald

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Final Words with Friends

David Reiley, VATAT Past President

Every time I try to start this one it sounds like a NASCAR driver making sure he gets in all of his sponsors as he describes today's race. "This Gerald Young, Texas FFA Foundation sponsored Ford was flawless today, heck with this set of Russell Thomas tires we ran our best race of the season. Crew Chief Barney McClure was at the top of his game when he called for that pit stop with four laps to go, and man did you see fuel woman Karen Grumbles? She was awesome. On that last lap my spotter, Allison Bequette, was so good I could have driven with my eyes closed." See? It just does not sound right.

So, here I sit at the computer trying to write my last article for the year. I find it to be the hardest one to get out. While writing the articles was one of the things that worried me the most about being an officer, it actually turned out to be one of the easiest things I had to do. Some say I talk too much, and I guess that spilled over into the writing of the articles. The articles seemed to be easy to write, and I hope they were interesting to read.

A big thank you goes to all of the agricultural science teachers in Texas for all you do on a daily basis. The amount of time and effort you put into your job is enormous, and yet, you ask for little in return. As a matter of fact, most of the time when you do ask for something it is for your students, not you. Share that passion with your students and get them hooked on agriculture. Hopefully, they will carry on the tradition.

I also need to thank the VATAT Board of Directors for allowing me to experience this opportunity and for having to listen to my silly jokes during the board meetings. It was an honor to be a part of this board, and I appreciate the support I have had the last few years. I also need to thank Russell Thomas, Kevin Swor, Buddy Wallace, Sandra Choate and their families for all of their support and friendship through the years. What an awesome group of people to get to work with.

A lot of times it is the people behind the scenes who do all the work and seem to never get the credit. Two of those people are Karen Grumbles and Allison Bequette at the VATAT office. Our organization is so lucky to have these two ladies work for us. They keep the wheels on the wagon and take so much pride in our association. Thank you ladies for all you do for the agricultural science teachers of Texas. Another behind the scene person in my life has been my teaching partner, Diane, who has kept our chapter afloat the past two years as I left her the day-to-day chores on a regular basis. She is

a wonderful teacher and role model for our students.

I cannot get out of victory lane without thanking Gerald for all of his support, encouragement and wisdom over the years. It was a great learning experience for me to have spent time working with him; I just wish I could bottle the enthusiasm and the energy he has. I also want to thank Barney for taking on the challenge of executive director. His knowledge and experience will continue to move our organization forward, his wit and humor will keep us all smiling.

This brings me to my last paragraph and last group to thank, my family. It is their love and support that have kept me motivated through the years. It is their understanding and patience that have kept me sane. Thank you Mary, Zach and Hannah for everything!

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New VATAT Leadership Elected

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Eric Janszen, Midlothian

Lance Kieth, West Texas A&M University

Jessica Reeves, Tomball

Charles Seidensticker, Ira

Tim Sullins, West

VATAT TRIVIA

Fill in the blank and post the answer on our Facebook wall!

In this month's "Winds of Change Blowing at VATAT" article, Mr. McClure mentioned he is the _____ person to hold the position of executive director of the VATAT.



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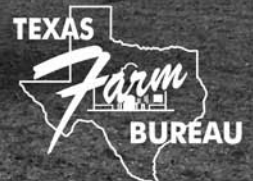


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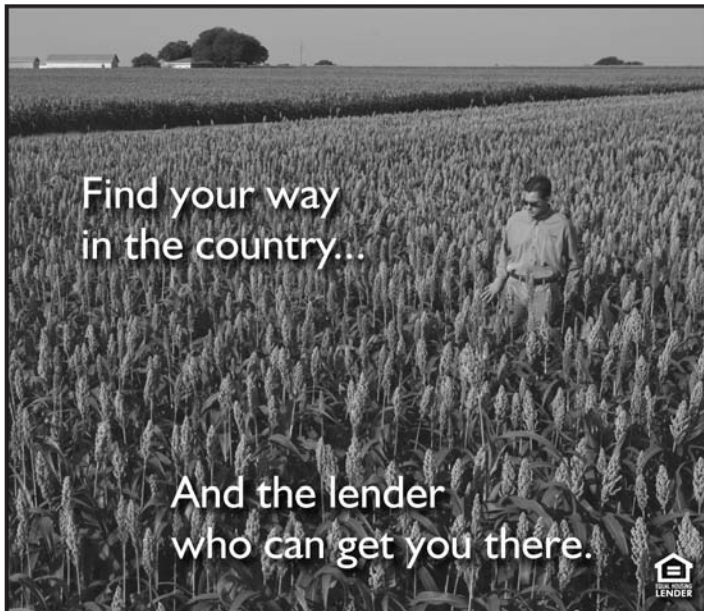


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Texas FFA Update

What's New with Texas FFA?

Tom Maynard, Texas FFA Association Executive Director

IMS Set to Shutter Record Book January 1

Instructional Materials Service has announced the discontinuation of its online record keeping system, effective January 1, 2012.

The IMS system was the first online system in the state, but advances in technology and award applications made necessitated costly revisions which would have made the program financially unviable.

Students with records on the system will need to print hard copies of their records before January 1. Provisions will be made for students to hand enter record book data into state level award and degree applications for one year and for two years for American FFA Degree applications. The transition will require some students to have a mix of IMS and AET records for one year on state degrees and two years for American Degree applicants.

LDE Revision Pushed Back One Year

The state Leadership Development Committee has opted to defer revision of the state LDE rules. The committee is delaying the revision in anticipation of the revision of The Parliamentary Guide for FFA.

The Parliamentary Guide was authored by Jarrell D. Gray, a teacher educator at East Texas State University, now Texas A&M-Commerce. Gray's Guide, often called the "yellow book," was revised recently to modernize language and gender related terminology, but has not been substantially revised in regard to parliamentary content since the mid-1960's. Robert's Rules of Order has been revised several times in that time span, rendering some material in Grays as outdated and no longer correct. The revision team also added motions which it deemed to be useful and relevant.

Texas FFA Executive Director Tom Maynard says the revision of Gray's Guide and the FFA completion, which draws its material from it, are two separate issues.

"Grays Guide is instructional material. The agency has to examine the curriculum and make decisions based on instructional outcomes," Maynard said.

"Texas FFA needs to examine the instructional material and decide what is appropriate for each competitive event," he said.

The anticipated release for the revised Parliamentary Guide for FFA is spring 2012. The committee also discussed ideas for new events and strategies for revising existing events to make them more rigorous and industry relevant.

CDE Revisions Close to Completion

The State Career Development Event revision teams are putting the final touches on CDE rule revisions. The revision process includes the addition of veterinary technician, environmental and natural resources and home site evaluation events.

Environmental and Natural Resources is a national career development event. Previously, Texas has certified the wildlife and recreation management CDE winner to compete in ENR. National FFA has approved the creation of a veterinary medicine CDE, but has yet to adopt rules. Home site evaluation is a national event held in conjunction with the national land and range competition in Oklahoma City.

A near-final draft of all rule revisions is anticipated for the board of directors first quarter meeting on September 12. Final copies are slated to be posted by October 1. A final update on scan sheet revisions is forthcoming.



Foundation Update

Agricultural Science Educators Attend 2011 Texas Agricultural Science Leadership Institute

There were 28 teachers selected to attend the 2011 Texas Agricultural Science Leadership Institute, June 21-24, 2011 in Austin, TX. Participants for the program were selected from a state-wide pool of applicants and received a full-scholarship to attend the professional development institute.

The theme for the 2011 institute is *inside, outside, and beyond*. During the week-long experience, participants were equipped with the tools, skills and knowledge to be stronger leaders in both the Agricultural Science Education profession and in their local community. Speakers at the institute featured the opportunity to learn from state-wide leaders such as The Honorable Todd Staples, Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, R. Keith Martin, CEO/Executive Director of the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo, Dr. Rick Rigsby and Jeff Lansdell, President, CEV. Other speakers from both the agriculture industry and education brought participants a national perspective on classroom and community leadership. Teachers who complete the curriculum are charged with implementing their personal action plans to enhance student learning and improve engagement between their programs and the local community.

It is the mission of the Texas Agricultural Science Leadership Institute to further the effectiveness and professional stature of agricultural science instructors and FFA programs in Texas. The institute is a collaboration of the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas (VATAT) – a professional organization for agriculture science teachers and supporters of agriculture education and the Texas FFA Foundation – an organization dedicated to preserving the strength and future of the Texas FFA. The institute program and teacher scholarships are sponsored through the generous support of Texas-based private industry.

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2011 Texas Agricultural Science Leadership Institute Graduates



Photo by: Brenda Ladd Photo

Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, Todd Staples, pictured with the 2011 Texas Agricultural Science Leadership graduates.

Front Row: Left to Right

- Kelly Mabe, Canton ISD
- Barbie Schmidt, James E. Taylor High School
- Rebecca Cole, Rudder High School
- Emily Miller, Flower Mound Marcus High School
- Katie Ballard, Bridgeport High School
- Beverley Schroedter, Rouse High School
- Mark Davis, Cathage High School
- Ardy Tiner, Industrial ISD
- Brandi Taylor, Nimitz High School
- Linsey Fowler, Arlington Heights High School
- Cora DeLeon, Sabinal High School
- Johnny Hackett, Elsik High School
- Traci Hendrix, Atascocita High School
- Brandy Elrod, Cypress Ranch High School

Back Row: Left to Right

- Amanda Brantley, Cedar Creek High School
- Tracey Cortez, Lanier High School
- Samantha Srp, Orange Grove High School
- Gayle Spearman, City View Jr./Sr. High School
- Travis Dube, Salado High School
- Robin Follett, AC Jones High School
- Zachry Tappan, Eustace High School
- The Honorable Todd Staples, Texas Agriculture Commissioner
- Kristy Talamantez, Prosper High School
- Nathaniel Pettigrew, Odessa Advance Technical Center
- Carin Cason, Weimar High School
- Kevin Swor, Diboll High School
- Mindy Howard, Troy High School
- Justin Risner, Central ISD
- Jeff Klose, Canyon High School



**TEXAS AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE
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Texas Young Farmers Update

From the President's Pen

Janet Bulger, Texas Young Farmers President

July has come and gone, but the heat lingers on. It is so dry and hot. As we traveled to Lubbock in early July to the FFA convention, we crossed the Bosque River three times and it was bone dry in two out of the three places we crossed. There is not much in the pastures for cattle or wild game to graze on. I read an article the other night about a farmer who spent \$26,000 on water trying to save his corn crop, but failed. I think we all need to stop what we are doing and say a pray for the farmers and livestock producers who are struggling just to keep their heads above water. Expect to see costs in the grocery stores go up, as well as in the clothing stores and feed stores.

We presented six scholarships at the FFA convention. Connie and I enjoyed lunch with the scholarship winners on Thursday, breakfast with the FFA state officers on Friday and many conversations with FFA students during the week. I have to say I am amazed at the politeness of the young adults who wear the blue jackets with the FFA emblem on them.

We finished a great week in Arlington with the agriculture science teachers of Texas. Again, we had many great visits with those in charge of teaching our future ag leaders. It saddens me many schools find it necessary to cut their ag programs. At one school, the ag program had been totally eliminated. What a tragedy.

With the cut-backs in the ag departments, it is even more important for Texas Young Farmers to educate the

adults in our areas. The responsibility will fall back on parents to see to it their children know how important agriculture is for our existence. I ask each of you to work hard to promote Texas Young Farmers in your areas, so we can make a difference in the ag world.

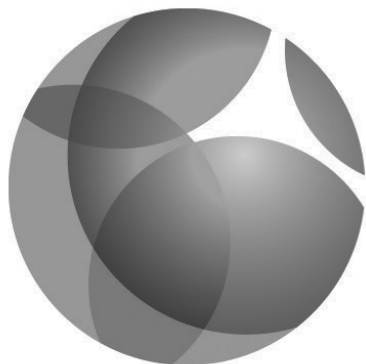
Dates to Remember...

- **October 29, 2011** – YF Fall Board Meeting - TBA
- **November 1, 2011** – Awards Applications Due
- **December 7-10, 2011** – National YF Institute - Kansas City, MO
- **January 13-14, 2012** – YF State Convention - Austin, TX
- **December 4-7, 2013** – National YF Institute - San Antonio, TX

Next month we will start posting information in the newsletter and on the website concerning the convention, January 13 and 14, 2011 in Austin, Texas at the Crown Plaza Hotel. We are planning an awesome convention, so mark your calendars now!

Did You Know?

- It costs a lot more this year to feed meat animals corn and soybean meal than it did just a few years ago. By the end of 2011, meat eaters will be forking out more money as well, an agricultural economist said.
- There are already tight supplies of corn, and now this fall we see corn yields in the United States dropping below trend levels.



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A LETTER FROM THE YF PRESIDENT-ELECT

Connie Koopmann, Texas Young Farmers President-Elect

Hello fellow Young Farmers! I hope each of you are staying cool and praying for rain. This is part of the trials and tribulations a farmer must go through on a daily basis. My name is Connie Koopmann, and I am serving as your President-Elect of the State Association.

When we were in Odessa in January, I was invited by Willacy County Young Farmers to come to Port Mansfield. So, on Memorial weekend I traveled to Port Mansfield where the Willacy County Young Farmers sponsor a fishing tournament each year. This tournament has been going on for the past 27 years. Hats off to the members who helped make this event such a success. I was in awe and totally amazed. The weather was nice, but the wind was doing a number on the boats. Entries were down this year, only having 206, but with the economy in the situation it is, they were still pleased with the ones who came out to support them.

I saw some beautiful fish come in and get weighed. Much of my enjoyment came from watching the young anglers in the piggy perch contest. To see their faces light up with joy when the cork went under the water was just priceless. Some of the anglers who entered in the tournament fished in the piggy perch tournament when they were kids. The meal and refreshments were enjoyed by all of the anglers and family members. They had great silent auction items donated by local businesses. Then, the time everyone was waiting for arrived, the announcing of the winners and awarding of the prize money. To see a female walk away with the largest Trout and largest Red brought a smile to my face.

No offense taken to you gentlemen, but sometimes women have to stick together. I want to thank the Willacy County Young Farmers for the hospitality they extended to me and my husband. We had an awesome time, and we look forward to going back next year and hopefully entering the tournament. Thanks for inviting us.

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

By: Don Beene

There was a lot of interest at the FFA convention and the VATAT conference in the Texas Young Farmers. We chartered six new chapters last year, and I feel we will do more than that this year. The winner of the gift certificate at the FFA convention was Gabriel Rosales of the La Joya, FFA Chapter. The winners of the ice chests given away at the VATAT conference were Mark Rose of Robinson and Alan Wright of Union Grove.

AG TRIVIA



1. Texas has approximately ____ different types of soils within its borders.

a. 501 b. 908 c. 1,100 d. 59

2. What milk product did the U.S. Agriculture Department propose as a substitute for meat in school lunches in 1996?

3. How many flowers are in the design stamped on each side of an Oreo cookie?

4. What are the two top selling spices in the world?

Answers from last July's trivia: 1. citrus; 2. asparagus & rhubarb; 3. strawberry; 4. The pear grew inside the bottle. (The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.) 5. fresh lettuce

MATHESON Launches Limited Edition Custom Welding Helmet

The Limited Edition helmet is the first of a collector series of welding helmets designed to appeal to welders seeking a distinctive look.

The launch of the Limited Edition Collector Series of custom welding helmets is the kickoff event in the launch of the new MATHESON Select line of welding products, industrial tools, and associated supplies. The MATHESON Select family of products will support the needs of the industrial community with high performance quality products at a competitive price.

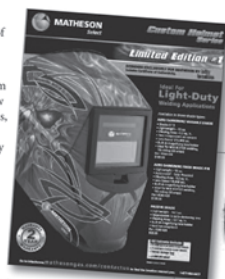
The Limited Edition #1 helmet will be the first product to feature the new MATHESON Select brand, and is available with three lens types to meet the needs of different users.

MATHESON is offering this Limited Edition series of helmets as a tribute to welders world-wide, in recognition of the value of welders and the welding profession in daily living.

MATHESON commissioned Fred Sicoli, owner of Killer Kreations in Philadelphia, PA to create the bright green, yellow, and black design that is featured on the Limited Edition #1 helmet. Mr. Sicoli is nationally recognized by custom car and motorcycle enthusiasts for his distinctive designs.

This special helmet is available in all of MATHESON's 184 retail stores. The packaged gas customer facing team is actively selling the new helmet to their customers and prospects throughout the US. The helmet can be purchased on-line at www.toolsforless.com/helmet. We are targeting young welders as part of this marketing campaign and are reaching out to welding schools and national events featuring welding – such as Skills USA – and launching a welding school instructor rewards program.

The commercialization team led by Judy Long includes Jerry McClumphy, Christine Scully, Beth Sullivan, Lynn Donnelly and Bob Klopnicki.



Submitted by Judy Long



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Texas FFA Alumni

Update

Going...Going...Gone?

Kelly White, Texas FFA Alumni President

Another summer has come and gone, and we face a new school year. After the Alumni portion of the convention was over, I was asked the question, "How did we do?" The question may have been referring to if their affiliate chapters won an award, if one of their students won a scholarship, or how much the auction raised for the Texas FFA Alumni. So, let me recap "how we did" at this year's convention. The following award winners were recognized on stage in Lubbock.

\$1,000 TEXAS FFA ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

Kristi Branton - Florence
Robert Sharber - Glen Rose

\$500 TEXAS FFA ALUMNI GRANTS

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Brazos | Manor |
| Canyon Lake | Mansfield |
| Columbus | Rouse - Leander |
| Decatur | Wimberley |
| Florence | Weimar |
| Gilmer | |

OUTSTANDING AFFILIATE

Mansfield

WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AWARD

Makayla Cruz - Bryan FFA
Kacie Schoettle - Canyon Lake FFA
Kameron Page - Columbus FFA
Shelbie Chandler - Decatur FFA
Carson Albert - Wimberley FFA

BASKET CONTEST WINNER

Gunter FFA Alumni

This year's auction raised an estimated \$18,000 for our Alumni organization. The Texas FFA Alumni appreciates the support of companies like McCoy's, Landmark Nurseries, Morgan Livestock Equipment, Ag Worker's Mutual Auto Insurance, La Quinta Inns and Suites, Superior Trophies, RiverStar Farms, DJ's Fundraising of Texas, Seitz Fundraising, Fresh Country Fundraising and the numerous other companies who are always found as sponsors at our functions.

Thank you to our Basket Contest participants: Gunter, Bellville, Bryan, Canyon Lake, Rouse-Leander, Iowa Park and Gilmer. We would also like to especially thank Mr. Jim Prewitt, Mr. Rusty Mertink, the auction volunteers and so many more. We appreciate those ag teachers and past state officers who walked in and found themselves in a bidding war they were not planning on being involved in.

Let me remind you what the money is put toward. 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 (\$600 each); (2) Two \$1000 scholarships; (3) 10 \$500 local grants; (4) and graciously gives \$1000 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, which is a minimum of 10 members to pay state and national dues.

For more information, check us out at:

<http://texasffaalumni.ffanow.org>

and like us on Facebook!



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TEXAS AG ED FAMILY EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2011

2nd - Deadline to Order Lamb and Goat Tags

5th - Regular Swine Tag Begins, Austin

9th - 17th - West Texas Fair and Rodeo, Abilene

12th - Texas FFA Board of Directors Meeting, Austin

12th - 14th - West Texas Fair and Rodeo Ag Mechanics Show, Abilene

30th - State Fair of Texas Begins, Dallas

OCTOBER 2011

1st - San Antonio Scramble Apps. Due to San Antonio

1st - Houston Scramble Apps. Posted on Web

7th - Late Swine Tag Order Begins, Austin

7th - 15th - Heart of Texas Fair, Waco

11th - Agriculture Awareness Day (State Fair Youth Leadership Day), Dallas

11th - State Fair of Texas Public Speaking Contest, Dallas

11th - State Fair of Texas AgriScience Fair, Dallas

11th - State Fair of Texas Ag Mechanics and Tractor Technician, Dallas

17th - 21st - National FFA Convention, Indianapolis, IN.

23rd - State Fair of Texas Ends, Dallas

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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

Swine Validation: Fall '11 & Spring '12

The Swine Validation for Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 will be on the website on September 1, 2011. The cost of tags will be increasing to \$8.00 for early tags and \$11.00 for late tags. Please note the following changes made to the website regarding the Major Show Validation page:

- Visit www.texasffa.org.
- Select the tab titled "Resources."
- Go under the "Teacher/Advisor" section.
- Select "Major Show Validation."

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