



# VATAT

## News

A publication of the Texas Agricultural Education Family ☆ 2012 Volume IV, Issue III

## Talking Points

By: Kevin Swor, President

Have you ever struggled talking about a subject or just felt uncomfortable discussing certain topics? One topic we know, and can always relate to, is the holidays. We could talk for days about what Thanksgiving represents, because we learned its history in elementary school. Is this subject so easy to talk about because of our experiences?

In my case, it is; I draw on the past and feel quite comfortable with discussions on which I have knowledge. I know many of my friends and agricultural science teachers are well-versed and eloquent in public speaking, both in large and small groups. Let's try to put knowledge, which can help us and our programs, in our teacher toolbox.

The legislative session is just around the corner and hopefully we are making the contacts that will influence the decisions of Career and Technical Education. Believe me, special interest groups are!

A letter was sent to chamber leaders updating them as to the TAB State Legislative Agenda.

"Following is a late addition to the TAB State Legislative Agenda for 2013 in the area of education that we wanted to make each of you aware of since a major effort will be made by TAB in the next session."

"TAB believes these initiatives represent positive changes that can be undertaken by educators to provide greater control to local districts to operate how they see fit, empower parents (and taxpayers) at a higher level, and 'expand' the classroom to

leverage available resources throughout the state to provide all children with greater access to the broadest range of subjects and the absolute best instruction possible. This will lead to a stronger system, greater educational achievement and a stronger workforce for the businesses we serve."

This sounds great and it is doing everything that the taxpayers of Texas have asked for, or is it? If you are a member of the local Chamber of Commerce, then you may be asked to support their initiatives. At least one Chamber of Commerce is asking questions. To fill your teacher toolbox, let us dig deeper into how they plan on accomplishing their goals.

This group believes that to make Texas schools better, more accountable and to increase the supply of high performing schools, Texas should:

- Enhance charter schools by removing caps.
- Parent trigger for campus charters.
- Home rule school district charter. (Increase the exemption from state mandates for home rule district mandates.)
- Scholarship for excellence. (If a student was enrolled in public schools the prior year, they would receive 60 percent of the state and local funds to enroll in a private school.)
- Expand the Public Education Grant to allow all Texas students to attend any public school in the state.
- Expand online course availability.



- Eliminate the 22-1 student/teacher ratio for any class using learning technology.
- Evaluate pay schedules.
- Allow districts to establish teacher evaluation and employment criteria (including measures of student achievement) to identify and retain effective teachers, and to retrain or remove ineffective teachers.
- Eliminate the state educator salary

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## TEXAS AG ED FAMILY UPDATES

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# SOWING AGRICULTURE'S FUTURE

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4 Teacher Program	\$2,700	\$3,100
5 Teacher Program	\$3,350	\$3,850
6 Teacher Program	\$3,960	\$4,560
7 Teacher Program	\$4,550	\$5,250
8 Teacher Program	\$5,120	\$5,920
9 Teacher Program	\$5,580	\$6,480
10 Teacher Program	\$6,000	\$7,000
More than a 10 Teacher Program	\$600/Teacher	\$700/Teacher

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## Talking Points

*Continued from page 1*

schedule and allow (but not mandate) districts to adopt local schedules.

- Expand alternative certifications. (Professionals, with college or advanced degrees and years of experience in their fields, can teach in the classroom by attending an intensive six week course, passing a short test, and being approved by a principal.)

As experts in the field, teachers should reflect on this group's agenda and determine the best solution for public education. If vouchers are so great, then why hasn't Texas given public schools all the same breaks as private or charter schools? Public schools are not allowed to discriminate against who they enroll. Is this true of private schools? The data is available; have charter schools outperformed public schools with only a group of select students? The group does have some points worth considering but the same negative agendas against poor quality education and poor quality educators concern me.

We have many low socioeconomic disadvantage students and minority students who either could not afford to travel with the team or because of other concerns did not feel comfortable leaving their home turf. The ones left will have to settle for less because of supply and instructional cuts and will settle for less than standard facilities and equipment. Remember we will have to advertise this to our prospective students in order for them to make an informed decision on their school of choice.

At the end of the year teachers are evaluated on their ability to make do with what they have and educate the students who are left. Based on the outcome we may be rewarded with a pay raise or terminated. Does the career ladder come to mind? We may even choose to go to a school that has the select students if they will have us based on our past performance and our school's performance.

Due to the frustration and blame some prospective teachers may change their career path, which will lead to a shortage of teachers. But the plan has that covered. An intense six week short course will have ample replacements ready to send to the low achieving school, because at the current time Utopia High School does not have vacancies.

Our schools are not broken, but they are in need of repair. Educators need respect; the schools need the resources and tools to get the job done. Students deserve the best education at all schools and not just at select neighborhoods chosen by special interest.

Please add this discussion to your toolbox. Only you will make a difference while talking to your friends, fellow educators, business leaders and legislators.

Also, November is a time when individuals remember what they are thankful for. Visit the Texas FFA Foundation and invest in the future of tomorrow by donating an honor gift to share the FFA experience with future generations of Texans.

## TRS Report Released

*Barney McClure, VATAT Executive Director*

During the last legislative session, TRS was mandated to conduct a study on the effects of possible changes to the current defined benefits plan. TRS completed the study and released the results on Sept. 1, 2012. The full report can be found on the TRS website ([www.trs.state.tx.us](http://www.trs.state.tx.us)). This update will hit the high points as included in the Executive Summary. The eight major findings are:

1. "While the TRS pension fund can pay currently projected benefits through 2075, the state needs to begin addressing the unfunded liability. Delays will only increase costs."
2. "The value of the retirement benefit available to TRS members is 36 percent less than the average benefits available to members of peer systems."
3. "The defined benefit plan provides current benefits at a lower cost than alternative plans."
4. "The majority of TRS members will do significantly worse investing on their own in a plan with a defined-contribution component."
5. "Alternative plan structures carry differing levels of risk for the State and TRS members."
6. "Other systems changing structures have lowered benefits to realize savings."
7. "Moving new hires to an alternative plan will not eliminate existing liabilities."
8. "Approximately, 95 percent of public school TRS members do not participate in Social Security, leaving the TRS benefit as their only lifetime annuity."

Most of the findings were readily apparent even before the study. With an aging workforce and lower investment income, there may be a call for increasing the contribution from members and the state, currently at 6.4 percent each. The fact that the available retirement benefit is 36 percent less than many other systems is easily understood by the retirees who have not received an increase in their monthly check for over 10 years.

The current benefits are cost-effective and investments have a great advantage in economy of scale. Individual investors would almost assuredly do worse. The risk on each investor would be greater compared to the current system. The primary way other systems have saved money was by lowering benefits. Existing commitments by TRS would be unaffected by moving new hires to a different

*Continued on page 4*

# TRS Report

*Continued from page 3*

system. Without Social Security providing a safety net for most of our retirees, a defined contribution system could provide a less than dignified retirement.

The study seems to make a great case for maintaining our current system, but remember the legislature has ultimate control of this issue. Don't neglect to contact your State Senator and State Representative to voice your opinion. This is big business, and special interest groups will have their say. In 2011, TRS paid almost \$7.2 billion in retirement benefits. This issue is not over, and there will be detractors that will discount the study as self-serving. I will keep you posted.

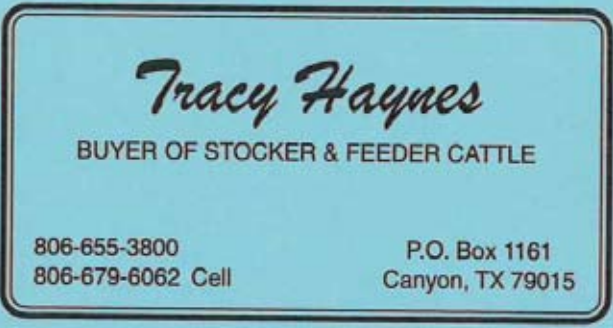


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## VATAT Updates

If you would like to have a copy of your award photo(s) from the 2012 Professional Development Conference, contact Julie Vrazel at [julie@vatat.org](mailto:julie@vatat.org).

New look, same information! We have launched our new website. Visit [www.vatat.org](http://www.vatat.org) to see the changes. If a presenter allowed us to share their presentation, it can be found online under Conference > 2012 Conference PowerPoints & Handouts.



# VATAT TRIVIA

*Post the answer on our Facebook wall!*

When did A.B. Childers serve as the VATAT President?

## Attention Cooks!

We are in need of your favorite recipes for the 2013 ag teachers and spouses cookbook.

Please include any history your recipe has.

You can e-mail, fax or mail the recipes to:

Andrea Swor  
611 N. Temple  
Diboll, TX 75941

E-mail: [cheyenne@poulands.com](mailto:cheyenne@poulands.com)  
Fax: 936-829-4997

Proceeds will go toward the VATAT Scholarship Fund.

Please submit recipes by Dec. 31, 2012.



# VATAT BRICK CAMPAIGN ORDER FORM

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

Please write what you would like your brick engraving to say above. A sample brick is pictured for reference. Limit 3 lines, 14 characters 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 Barney McClure at 512.472.3128 or [barney@vatat.org](mailto:barney@vatat.org). Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

Mail completed form to:

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Austin, TX 78701**

# VATAT News

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Do you know of a company interested in advertising in the *VATAT News*? It is the perfect opportunity to promote a product or service to more than 4,000 VATAT members, Young Farmers, FFA Alumni, FFA Foundation partners and other agricultural and FFA supporters in Texas. Members use the *VATAT News* to receive important information about agricultural education, ag teachers conference, legislation and much more. Advertising prices are reasonable, and it is the only way to reach Texas agriculture science teachers in their homes.

Advertisers will save money on labor, postage and the announcement will not get lost in the school mail! We welcome advertising and hope to foster a lasting relationship with every company who advertises in the *VATAT News*. Please share this information with a company you think would be interested in advertising with us. For information regarding advertising formats, size requirements and deadlines, please e-mail Julie Vrazel at [julie@vatat.org](mailto:julie@vatat.org).

## 2012 Texas Market Hog Symposium and Jackpot Show

December 7 & 8  
Stephenville, Texas

### December 7

9AM - 12PM: Texas Agrilife Extension Research Center  
12PM - 4 PM: Tarleton State University Ag Center

#### Keynote Speakers include:

Dan Burzlaff            Brian Arnold  
Brian Anderson        Mark Hoge  
John Huinker

#### Speakers and Panel Discussion on the following:

- What will the future market hog look like?
- Texas Pork Breeders panel on type, frame size and weight limits
- Classification clarification / interpretation
- Comments from major show judges and show managers

### December 8

Jackpot show for the youth

#### Open to -

Producers, Agriculture Teachers, CEA's & Youth

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Questions may be directed to:

Dr. Randy Harp, TSU  
254.485.4295

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# Deep in the Heart on DVD

*Deep in the Heart* on DVD is now available for order from the official *Deep in the Heart* website. This is a “pre-release” offering of the DVD, which will be released on a larger scale at a later date. With the early release, the first 500 orders receive the CD as a bonus.

The inspirational story of Dick Wallrath is one that has touched the Texas FFA family, and we were fortunate to be included in the movie – and more importantly in Dick Wallrath’s journey.

The film, which debuted in theaters in February, showed Wallrath overcoming adversity. His personal demons caused him to hit rock bottom. After losing everything – jobs, hope, and his family – Dick found faith, picked himself up and trudged on to eventually earn back the love of his children, build a nationally successful window company and become the leading all-time individual donor to the Texas 4-H and Texas FFA Associations.

Order your copy of *Deep in the Heart* from <http://www.deepintheheartmovie.com/availablenow.php>.





Texas FFA

Update

## What's Happening with Texas FFA?

The Texas FFA Board of Directors will be studying a number of issues vital to the organization through its board committee process.

Texas FFA Board operations policies mandate a number of standing committees to address normal recurring decisions, such as budget formulation, human resources policies and convention speaker selection. Typically, these committees are comprised of both adult board and student board members. The board chairman has the discretion to appoint ad hoc or special committees to study specific issues and make recommendations to the full board of directors.

In June, outgoing chairperson Sandra Choate appointed a special committee to consider the appropriate response to egregious livestock show violations. One of the constitutional mandates for maintaining FFA membership is to "Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the Texas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America. (Texas FFA Constitution, Article V, Section C(4).)" Clearly, a serious ethics violation while as an FFA exhibitor would not be consistent with displaying "conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the Texas FFA Association." However, there is currently no companion operating precedent or policy to the constitutional language which implies some response from the state FFA association.

"I believe the consensus of the board is that our intent is not to punish, but to create a serious teachable moment," says Texas FFA Executive Director Tom Maynard. "But there is also a sense that Texas FFA should not be silent when these things happen."

Any action taken will require some type of due process and will require a thorough study of previous legal precedents. In the 1990's, the Texas Agricultural Education Director and State FFA Advisor revoked FFA memberships in a stock show-related ethics incident and spawned a number of lawsuits which were not settled until nearly a decade later.

Texas FFA will also continue to study the Texas FFA student delegate process. The intended outcomes of the study are twofold. First, the size of the delegation has outstripped the capacity of certain venues to contain the delegate body in a defined delegate area. Second, there is a growing body of evidence that members are not adequately prepared to participate effectively in a delegate process and that efforts should be made to make the experience

more meaningful and instructive.

A task force of board members, teachers and student officers will study different models practiced in other FFA associations and in organizations outside of the FFA.

"There is much we can glean from other organizations," says Maynard. "Keep in mind our graduates are likely to participate in delegate processes for professional and governmental associations and political parties. We should prepare them to be effective participants and leaders by creating processes that foster hands-on learning."

The task force will also study the extent to which students are engaged in meaningful self-government in the subordinate administrative subdivisions of the state associations--districts and areas.

"We shouldn't be surprised that our students don't know how to apply parliamentary law in a real delegate business session at the state level if they have never actually done it before at the chapter, district or area level before they stepped onto our delegate floor," Maynard says.

"We have to be intentional and strategic in creating processes consistent with the 'learning by doing' model," he says. "Chapter, districts and areas should be conducting business beyond the election of officers and creating experiences that not only prepare them for the state process, but also for a life of influence in their community and state."

The task forces' goal is to have a draft recommendation by early spring in anticipation of proposing constitutional amendments to be presented at the 85th Texas FFA Convention in Dallas. The delegate seating in Dallas is flexible since the arena seating in that venue can be adjusted. The convention returns to Fort Worth in 2014 with a finite amount of floor space for delegates and no real viable alternative for creating separate delegate areas.

Texas FFA will also make a thorough study of the current convention housing and registration processes.

A board appointed committee will study the current process of blocking contracted housing and earning rebates that offset convention expenses and generates complimentary room nights for volunteers and contractors. Many advisors have indicated they would rather pay a higher registration fee than be required to navigate a housing bureau. If the board followed that sentiment, it would require a technological solution that



would give Texas FFA the ability to integrate housing and registration.

Another discussion issue is “who pays?” Currently, only the students bear the financial burden of paying for convention, but many other participants enjoy the benefits of the production and trade show, which is a \$400,000 to \$500,000 budget item. All students pay the \$35 registration fee, even if they are only present for one session to receive an award or scholarship. A different model might be a universal registration fee paid by any and all attendees, which could be lowered for all groups staying in the housing block and slightly higher for all groups outside the block, along with day passes for one-day participants.

Any changes to housing and registration would not take effect until 2014 or later.




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## 2012-13 Majors: Swine Validation Program

- Late Orders placed between November 1 – November 9 are \$11.00 per tag plus \$20.00 priority postage and handling fee. The orders must be faxed only.
- No tags will be mailed out after November 9. No exceptions.
- All official validation and tagging will occur up to and including November 30, 2012.
- All completed materials must be returned to the FFA office postmarked on or before December 7, 2012.
- Ear Notch corrections must be in the office by December 14, 2012.
- Ear Tag Replacement forms must be in the office on or before December 14, 2012. Replacement tags are available at the show for \$11 Please complete the Ear Tag Replacement form and hand deliver at the show.



# BELIEVES IN BUILDING FOUNDATIONS

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# Foundation Update

## Thankfulness *Living our Agriculture and FFA Example*

Aaron Alejandro, Texas FFA Foundation Executive Director

Thanksgiving Day has always been designed to be a spiritual experience, a day to be grateful for the many blessings in our lives. Three hundred sixty-four years ago, Governor William Bradford declared a three-day fast, and a small group of pilgrims gathered to worship and give thanks to God. Two years later, on July 30, 1623, the first official Thanksgiving Day was designed for the special purpose of prayer. During the Revolutionary War, there were about eight days of thanks, which were observed for special blessings that had been received. On November 26, 1789, more than 100 years after the first special day of prayer, President George Washington issued a special proclamation for a day of giving thanks. And about 100 years later in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln designated the last Thursday in November as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our benevolent Father. Now, after more than three and a half centuries, we still celebrate a Thanksgiving Day.

Does this thankfulness result in showing any true gratitude? Do we do any more than say a thanksgiving prayer over the traditional Thanksgiving feast? Have we learned to say thank you and to show thank you?

November provides an opportunity for us to say thank you to all those who have invested in Texas agricultural education and Texas FFA. We are fortunate to have your support and honored to be good stewards of the gifts placed in our care.

To our teachers, thank you for giving knowledge to the next generation of Americans who can propel us to our next steps as a country. To the parents, thank you for sharing your student(s) with the Texas FFA. We are honored to play a small role in their life's journey. To the students, thank you for your willingness to learn about agriculture and leadership. You are our future, and we are grateful for the knowledge you are gaining to be your best.

**The Experience.** November is our chance to share the "thank you" for the experience we know as the Texas FFA. As we reflect this month and give thanks for the many blessings in our lives, please take a moment and invest in the Texas FFA, so future generations can share in the experience.

To all who receive this newsletter, "Thank You!"

### To Our Friends

*Supporters of Texas agricultural education and Texas FFA*

The art of thanksgiving is THANKSLIVING. It is gratitude in action. It is applying Albert Schweitzer's philosophy: *"In gratitude for your own good fortune you must render in return some sacrifice of your life for other life."*

It is thanking God for the gift of life by living it triumphantly...  
*through a mission that matters like the Texas FFA.*

It is thanking God for your talents and abilities by accepting them as a challenge to achievement...  
*by standing up and promoting agricultural science education and the young people of the FFA.*

It is thanking God for happiness by striving to make others happy...  
*by creating opportunities for our educators and students to reach personal and professional success.*

It is thanking God for beauty by helping to make the world more beautiful...  
*through your generosity and service to others.*

It is thanking God for inspiration by trying to be an inspiration to others...  
*and you are.*

It is thanking God for the creative ideas that enrich life by adding your own creative contributions to human progress...  
*thank you for all you do.*

It is thanking God for each new day  
*and by living it to the fullest.*

It is thanking God by giving hands, arms,  
*legs, and voice to your thankful spirit.*

It is adding to your prayers of thanksgiving,  
*acts of thanksgiving.*

Thank you for your THANKSLIVING. For you, we are very thankful, although "thank you" doesn't seem like enough.  
*God Bless You. You are Amazing.*



## Start to Finish Success

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# Texas FFA Alumni

# Update

*"It's okay to have too many irons in the fire, as long as the fire is hot enough."*

The quote you see in this article can be found on Julie Vrazel's emails. Julie is the VATAT Communications Coordinator. I found this to be quite inspirational at this month's writing, because the article was a little past deadline. I found I may have too many irons in the fire this month. But all is well.

However, be careful not to get burned! I have heard horror stories of FFA Advisors getting burned because of the following items that Mr. Maynard shared in the Bits & Pieces portion of the VATAT's website.

*Kelly White, Texas FFA Alumni President*

## *It's a Changing World for Adult Support Groups Too*

*Tom Maynard, Texas FFA Executive Director*

### **GASB AND YOUR SUPPORT ORGANIZATION**

Adult support groups will need to establish their own tax exempt status as independent organizations and may be subject to auditing as a part of the school district's annual audit – all due to tougher audit standards and additional guidelines to determine whether organizations qualify as component organizations.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board establishes standards for auditing governmental entities—including school districts. In the wake of recent corporate scandals—Enron and others—GASB handed down guidelines which further define what is a component unit of the school district and consequently must be included as part of the district's annual audit and which must be cut loose and operated as an independent organization with its own tax exempt status.

### **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUR SUPPORT GROUP?**

Your school district will likely contact you or your support group leadership requesting information concerning revenues, assets and the amount of money spent on behalf of your schools students or employees to determine if the organization's expenditures are "significant and material" to the district. If deemed so, your organization will have additional reporting requirements to comply with the district's audit requirements to avoid audit problems which could potentially lower the school district's bond rating or TEA financial rating. It also means that it can no longer use the school district's tax exempt status, Employee Identification Number (EIN) or bank accounts.

### **WHAT DO WE DO?**

**Tax Exempt Status** If your local FFA support group does not have its own 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, your school district will likely require you to establish this with the IRS by filing articles of incorporation and bylaws with the state

secretary of state's office and applying for tax exempt status and a EIN from the IRS. Unfortunately, this is an expensive, time consuming process and will be a daunting task for many campus support groups. The good news is that as an FFA support group, your organization can use the FFA's tax exempt group number by completing a short one-page document that can be downloaded at the bottom of this page. Please complete the form and fax it to the Texas FFA office at 512-617-8219. This is necessary as the state and national organizations must know who is using this group number.

### **Employee Identification Number (Federal Tax ID)**

Getting a federal number by filing an SS-4 is relatively easy and can be done online, over the phone or the old-fashion way—on paper. The online version can be accessed via the IRS website: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). On the sidebar to the left is a search box. Enter "apply online, EIN" and in the search results you will find the link to the online employer ID number. Follow that link and scroll down to the "Apply ONLINE NOW" link. This brings up the application. Note that the application does not accept any punctuation except hyphens and ampersands. You will not need to complete all blanks—just the applicable ones: 1,3, 4a, 4b, 6, 8a-(other) 10, 14 (other) and the name, title and phone and fax numbers. Under 8a, you will need the Group Exemption Number (GEN). Please call or e-mail the Texas FFA office to get that number. You will get your EIN within 15 to 20 seconds after submission. Record this number on paper immediately, before printing or saving the page. If you lose that page, it will be four to five days before the IRS can access it. This process can be accomplished via telephone at 800-829-4933, option 1 or by downloading and mailing form SS-4 available for download at: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-fill/fss4.pdf>.



# Texas Young Farmers Update

## From the President's Pen

*Connie Koopman, Texas Young Farmers President*

Thank you Father for all of the blessings you have bestowed on each of us. You are holy indeed and you take care of all of us in your way and on your time. Bless those who work the earth to provide food for the rest of us. Thank you for the rain you have given us.

Can you believe we are in November already? This year has flown by and time waits for no one. Speaking of November, your dues to the state are now due. We set the deadline of November 1, but will accept your dues at any time. However, your dues must be paid if you plan to apply for any award on the state level. So send in your rosters and program of work. If you don't have a Young Farmer chapter, this may be the time to get one started. Most advisors think this is one more item to put on their already full plate. But once you get the chapter formed, it should be self running and you just serve as an advisor. If you have an Alumni, Booster Club, or Show Fund Club, you can still have a Young Farmer Chapter.

What makes the Young Farmers different from all of the other support groups? Adult education, community service, leadership and recreation. I am not saying that any of these other groups do not support your FFA, but do they provide educational programs? No, they do not. The Young Farmers are the only support group that supports the FFA, conducts adult education, community service, leadership, and recreation. We are never too old to learn. There is new technology and new information that we must stay up to date on.

This past year we had 41 chapters and 818 members. It has been a long time since we have had that number of members. We are growing, and with your help we can grow more. If you are interested in getting a Young Farmer Chapter organized in your school, contact myself or Don Beene. We will be happy to come put a program on for you. If you go to our web page you can get all of our information to contact us. Visit our website - [www.txyoungfarmers.org](http://www.txyoungfarmers.org). You can check out our upcoming state convention information there, as well.

Registrations are now being accepted for the upcoming State Convention. This year we are at the Marriott Town Square in Sugar Land, Texas. We have some great tours planned and some new workshops. If you attend the tours on Friday and the CEU Laws and Regulations workshop on Saturday, you will receive three hours of credit instead of two. The tours on Friday will give you one hour of general credit. As you look over our schedule, you will see that we have given members more down time to be able to check out the specialty shops located in the Town Square. If you notice, there is no entertainment on Saturday night yet. The state board is still in the process of finalizing entertainment for that evening.

I will be attending the NYFEA Institute in Memphis, Tennessee from December 5 - 8, 2012. If you would like to attend, there is information on our website. Texas will be hosting the 2013 NYFEA from December 4-7 in San Antonio. This will also be the time that we will have our 2014 State Convention. I will post more information as it becomes available.

Remember to get your dues in. Blessings to all, and thank God for your blessings.



# MATHESON

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## 59th Annual Texas Young Farmer State Conference Sugarland, Texas -- January 10-12, 2013

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Housing Information:

The Sugarland Marriot, Town Square 16090 City Walk · Sugar Land, Texas 77479; telephone 1-281-275-8400; [Sugar Land Marriott Town Square >>](#) and will serve as the headquarters for the 2013 Conference. The rate is \$99.00 per room per night. State and Local City Tax is currently 13%. Room reservations should be made directly with the hotel by calling 281-275-8400 and requesting the **Young Farmer Conference** block and rate. You may also book hotel rooms online by following this link [Sugar Land Marriott Town Square >>](#). **Hotel reservations must be made by December 22, 2012. After December 22, 2012, the rooms will be subject to availability at a much higher rate. Make your reservations now!**

Registration Fee:

Registration will be submitted on-line at [www.txyoungfarmers.org](http://www.txyoungfarmers.org). Registration fees have been restructured this year to accommodate our members needs better. We will be offering a one day registration and a two day registration that includes tours. Early Bird registration will be from November 1, 2012 to December 14, 2012. Registration for children 2 to 12 years of age is \$50.00, under 2 are free. We will offer onsite registration. Registration fees are not refundable, but can be transferred to another member of the same chapter. **Registration payments can be made through PayPal.**

Two Day Registration includes the Friday tours/bus transportation, Saturday Brunch, Educational workshops, Awards Banquet; One Day Registration includes Friday Ag Olympics, Saturday Brunch, Educational workshops, Awards Banquet. **Pre-registration must include payment. Checks must be postmarked by December 15<sup>th</sup> to receive the early registration fee.**

Tours:

Friday's tour includes **George Ranch including a Chuck wagon Meal, followed by a tour of Twinwood Cattle Company.**

**REGISTER ON-LINE AT [www.txyoungfarmers.org](http://www.txyoungfarmers.org)**

If a computer is not available, you can mail form and registration fees (payable to **Texas Young Farmers**) to: P.O. Box 1118, Fairfield, Texas 75840

**Please print neatly:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Area \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Check All that Apply**

**\*\*\* Early Bird Registration\*\*\*\*\* Early Bird Registration\*\*\*\*\* Early Bird Registration\*\*\***

Member TWO day Registration \$130       Member One Day Registration \$100

Child Registration (2 – 12 yrs.) - \$50       Advisor Registration

Guest Registration       Past Young Farmer State Officer       2013 Delegate

**\*\*\* Registration\*\*\*\*\* Registration\*\*\*\*\* Registration\*\*\***

Member TWO day Registration \$150       Member One Day Registration \$125

Child Registration (2 – 12 yrs.) - \$50       Advisor Registration

Guest Registration       Past Young Farmer State Officer       2013 Delegate

I will be attending the SATURDAY Laws and Regulations workshop (cost of \$10.00 for 2 hours).       YES

Workshops available (Check what you plan to attend, **one** per line)

<input type="checkbox"/> CEU (laws and regs)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lower the Cost Fundraising for YF	<input type="checkbox"/> Agvocacy
<input type="checkbox"/> CEU (laws and regs)	<input type="checkbox"/> Farm and Ranch(contest)	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife
<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Round table	<input type="checkbox"/> Farm and Ranch(contest)	<input type="checkbox"/> Floral Design

TOTAL Amount of Registration Due: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please include check payable to Texas Young Farmers)

## Schedule of Events

### Thursday, January 10, 2013

- 4:00-5:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting
- 5:00-6:30 p.m. NYFEA 2013 Committee w/Board
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. Registration
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. Silent/Live Auction Items Check in Begins
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. All Contest Entries Check In; CEU Laws and Regulations Sign Up
- 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting & Work Session

### Friday, January 11, 2013

- Breakfast on your own
- 7:30-8:00 a.m. Executive Board meeting
- 7:30-8:30 a.m. Registration, Photo, Basket, Auction Items, Scrapbook, and Essay Check in
- 8:00-8:30 a.m. Past State President Meeting
- 9:00 a.m. Load Bus for Tours
- 12:00-4:00 p.m. Exhibitor Booth Set Up
- 4:00 p.m. Return to Hotel
- 4:00-7:00 p.m. Dinner on your own
- 7:30 p.m. Domino Tournament
- 8:00 p.m. Ag Olympics (with Cash Bar)
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. Registration, Final turn in for live/silent auction items, photos, scrapbook, essays, baskets and CEU sign up.

### Saturday, January 12, 2013

- 7:30-8:00 a.m. Final Auction/Door Prize Check In
- 7:30-8:00 a.m. Board Meeting (if Needed)
- 8:00-9:00 a.m. Registration
- 8:00-9:30 a.m. Delegate Meeting
- 8:00-4:00 p.m. Exhibits Open
- 10:00-1:00 p.m. Exhibitor Appreciation Brunch/Opening Session/President Elect Candidate Speeches/  
Scholarship Auction
- 1:30-5:00 p.m. Workshops
- 7:00 p.m. Awards Banquet

## Workshops

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	Laws and Regulations (CEU)	Lower the cost of Fundraising for Young Farmers	Texas Proud of Texas Agriculture
2:40 - 3:40 p.m.	Laws and Regulations (CEU)	Farm and Ranch	Wildlife
3:50 - 4:50 p.m.	Chapter Round Table	Farm and Ranch	Floral Design



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## TEXAS AG ED FAMILY EVENTS

### November 2012

**1st** - Fall Semester FFA dues  
deadline - Austin

**1st - 9th** - Late Priority Swine  
Tag Order, fax only - Austin

**3rd** - Aggiefest Judging

**10th** - Equine Judging  
Workshop - Texas A&M

**10th** - Tarleton Fall Jackpot Pig  
Show and Sale

**17th** - Unified Area LDEs - SHSU

**30th** - State LDEs - SHSU

**30th** - Last day to validate swine

### December 2012

**1st** - Major Stock Show Entry  
Deadline - HLSR online only

**1st** - Jr. FFA Dues Deadline -  
Austin

**1st** - State Fair of Texas Public  
Speaking Contest - Dallas

**1st** - HLSR Calf Scramble  
Application deadline

**4th-7th** - NYFEA in San  
Antonio

**7th** - Deadline for all swine  
ear notch corrections / ear tag  
replacement

**7th** - San Antonio Spurs Night

### January 2013

**5th** - SALE Agriscience Fair  
Documentation due

**7th** - Texas FFA Board of  
Directors Meeting - Austin

**17th** - Ford Leadership  
Scholars online submission  
deadline

**18th** - Southwestern  
Exposition and Livestock Show  
begins - Fort Worth

Vocational Agriculture  
Teachers Association  
of Texas

#### OFFICERS

Kevin Swor  
*President*

Charles Prause  
*Vice President*

Jack Winterrowd  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

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Barney McClure  
*Executive Director*

Julie Vrazel  
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