

CERTIFICATION & TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Pre-registration is required for the workshops below. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis with limited participants. The last day to register, change, or cancel your registration is **June 30, 2026**. **Please note the location of the workshops, several are off-site, and transportation is not provided.** Please review the location information before registering for a workshop. Questions can be directed to michelle@texasagteachers.org or by calling the ATAT office at 512-472-3128.

Please note the location Hilliard Center is previously known as American Bank Center

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Bloom and Learn Lab: A Floral Education Experience

(transportation not provided)

6:00 pm – 10:00 pm | Holiday Inn Corpus Christi Downtown Marina

Event Fee: \$35 (appetizers provided)

Presenter(s): Texas State Florists' Association Instructors

Enjoy a microlearning extravaganza as TSFA and floral industry leaders provide hands-on learning at multiple interactive stations. You'll gain tips and tangible resources to use in your classroom, as well as a holistic view of the vast career possibilities for floral students. This session includes refreshments, door prizes and more!

Monday, July 20, 2026 Workshops

Build with Aaron Heizer from Maker's Leather Supply - FULL

8:00 am – 12:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$80 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Aaron Heizer- Makers Leatherwork and Monica Patrick

In this hands-on workshop, participants will build a classic leather Dopp Kit (toiletry bag) from start to finish using a pre-cut kit provided at the Maker's Leather Supply booth. Dopp kits are a practical, high-value project that students love—and they're fast enough to complete while still teaching core leatherworking skills. Aaron will walk the group through assembly, construction techniques, and finishing tips, with plenty of time for discussion around how this project can be adapted for the classroom. The end result is a clean, functional bag that's great for everyday use and an excellent example of a repeatable, student-friendly leather project.

Balloons in the Classroom

8:00 am – 12:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$100 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Mable Jordan, Bailee Owen, and Katlyn Bolf-Moo's Balloons

In this workshop, you'll learn the art of crafting stunning balloon garlands that can elevate any event, from intimate gatherings to grand celebrations. Guided by expert instructors, you'll explore various techniques for selecting colors, arranging balloons, and creating custom designs that reflect your unique style. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced decorator, this workshop provides all.

Become a Certified Texas Parks and Wildlife Angler Education Instructor

(transportation not provided)

9:00 am – 5:00 pm | TPWD CCA Marine Development Center (4300 Waldron Rd
Corpus Christi, TX 78418)

Workshop Fee: \$30 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Natalia Gonzalez, Aquatic Education Training Specialist- TPWD

This workshop is open to anyone 18 or older interested in learning and teaching fishing skills in their communities. All equipment and materials are provided for the workshop. After certification, the program provides the curriculum, equipment (where available), materials and support to help volunteers successfully introduce others to fishing. Ideal for fishing clubs, teachers, scout, or youth group leaders, after school or camp staff and community volunteers. TEA-approved CPE available for teachers. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and footwear for indoor and outdoor activities.

Charge Through the Storm: Resilient Leadership for Ag Ed Programs

8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$60 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Marques Ogden - Ogden Ventures

In agricultural education, shifting student interests, evolving technology, and industry pressures can create uncertainty and challenges for programs. This hands-on workshop draws from Marques Ogden's experiences in professional sports, entrepreneurship, and leadership to help Ag Ed professionals develop resilience, strengthen team culture, and lead with purpose.

Coaching and Competing in the Sustainable Agriculture CDE

8:00 am – 12:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$30 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Dr. Bob Williams - East Texas A&M University

This session will include an overview of rules, resources, and strategies for training a team for the Sustainable Agriculture CDE. It will be followed by a complete contest for participants to rotate through in order to get a firsthand look at what students competing in this contest will encounter. Prizes for the top five individuals will be awarded.

Creating your Strategic Plan (POA) with AET to meet State Requirements

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$20

Presenter(s): Vanessa Kirby- The AET

Come learn how to incorporate your student leadership in the development of your chapter's Strategic Plan (POA) in AET and how building your POA now will set you up for success for the year. Bring your documents from the officer retreat, and we can get everything added. You can leave with a POA set up and ready for your officers' help!

Engaging Every Student Through Supervised Agricultural Experience

8:00 am – 12:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$40 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Texas FFA Staff

Struggling to provide meaningful SAE opportunities for every student without stretching yourself too thin? This workshop will show you how to create varied, flexible, and manageable supervised agricultural experiences that reach students of all interests, backgrounds, and budgets, both inside and outside the classroom. Learn practical strategies to expand opportunities, boost student participation, and strengthen community connections, all while keeping your workload realistic. You'll leave confident in your ability to implement supervised agricultural experiences for every student, elevate your chapter's presence, increase engagement, and help students develop valuable skills as advocates for agriculture and capable employees in the future.

Food Science Labs without a Food Lab

8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$55 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Erin Stutts- Texas A&M University

How do you facilitate food labs when you don't have a food lab? Come experience several hands-on food labs in a classroom space. We will utilize inexpensive equipment to explore food science concepts that can be taught in classes ranging

From Panel to Plug: Building Pro-Level Electrical Teaching Tools

- FULL

8:00 am – 4:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$130 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Randy Lund - Texas A&M University

Energize your ag shop curriculum with this intensive, hands-on workshop focused on mastering AC branch circuits and professional service entrance panel connections. Participants will work through real-world wiring scenarios to gain the skill and confidence needed to teach advanced electrical skills. Every attendee will leave with two custom electrical wiring boards to use in their labs.

GOAT (Greatest Of All Time) Veterinary Science Teacher

Contest and Clinic - FULL

1:00 pm-5:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$130 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): David Sessum- TAMU Veterinary Science Program

2nd GOAT Veterinary Science Contest for Veterinary Science Coaches. Experience what students experience during a contest and then participate in a workshop on identification assistance and practicum improvement and preparation.

Championship belt will be offered again this year to the winner! Registration includes a skills kit used for practicum in contest for instructor to keep.

Greenhouse Maintenance

(transportation not provided)

8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Location TBD

Workshop Fee: \$155 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Jeff Bridgewater

Join this 8 hour class onsite at a greenhouse to teach hands on skills on maintaining the greenhouse. Onsite training will allow for hands-on applications of greenhouse management skills such as how to dismantle an evaporative cooling wall and properly clean, clean polycarbonate covering, lubricate ventilation system etc.

TPWD Hunter Education Instructor Workshop

(transportation not provided)

8:00 am – 5:00 pm | AM: Hilliard Center PM: Corpus Christi Gun Club

Workshop Fee: \$30 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Brock Minton, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.

TPWD regional training specialists will conduct this one-day, two-part workshop, which is required of individuals desiring to certify as volunteer TPWD Hunter Education Instructors authorized to conduct the Texas Hunter education student certification curriculum. Successful completion is required of every hunter in Texas born on or after September 2, 1971.

Hydroponics in the Classroom-AM- FULL

8:00 am – 12:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$90 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Megan James

Learn what I did to take my classroom from having one-two tabletop hydroponics to now having a grow room with a greenhouse built out in our new building. Let me walk you through ways to bring hydroponics on board and how it can tied into community outreach and fundraisers. Attendees will take home a hydroponic tabletop system to accompany learned skills and lessons.

Hydroponics in the Classroom-PM- FULL

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$70

Presenter(s): Megan James

Learn what I did to take my classroom from having one-two tabletop hydroponics to now having a grow room with a greenhouse built out in our new building. Let me walk you through ways to bring hydroponics on board and how it can tied into community outreach and fundraisers. Attendees will take home a hydroponic tabletop system to accompany learned skills and lessons.

Livestock SAE 101

8:00 am – 3:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$40 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Sean Williams, Luke Parr, Patrick Padgett, Jacob Lange, John Slaughter, Jacob Price, Melvin Pouncy, and Toby Long

New to a livestock species? Come learn everything you need to know to help your students get started. Our expert panelists will go over Barn and SAE visit management, general care, health, feeding, supplementation, and show day expectations. A true one stop shop for getting started, note that because of the depth of information you will be able to only join in two species for the day.

National Safe Tractor & Machinery Operation Program

8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$130 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Douglas Simmerman - Southwest Ag Center

This workshop will prepare agricultural science instructors to become Community Lead Instructors (CLI) which allows them to train and certify their students in tractor and machinery operation at 14 and 15 years old. The CLI training is an eight-hour program consisting of classroom and interactive components. The participants will set up the driving course and each will drive successfully through the course in order to receive their CLI designation. Participants will leave the program with the knowledge and resources they need to train and certify their 14-and 15-year-old students in tractor and machinery operation. A certificate of completion will be issued to each successful participant with an official CLI number. On-going support and record-keeping for this program is offered by the Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education.

One Leaf at a Time

8:00 am – 12:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$40 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Juliana Prokhorova, aifd, cfd, tmf - Wild Veggie Bouquet and Susan Weatherford- Southern Floral Company

Join Julia, who has been featured in Florists Review and multiple national media to learn leaf manipulation techniques through a collaborative, large scale foliage project designed specifically for classroom use and limited budgets.

Pesticide Applicator Recertification Workshop

8:00 am – 11:00 am | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$40 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Corrie Bowen- TAMU AgriLife Extension

Completing this workshop will increase one's knowledge of plant and animal pest control and Pesticide Laws and Regulations associated with School IPM.

Propagation for Agricultural Educators

1:00 pm-5:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$60

Presenter(s): Navreet Mahal- TAMU Assistant Professor and Jayla Fry- TAMU Extension Service, Texas Master Gardener Coordinator

This interactive workshop focuses on applied plant propagation techniques tailored for agricultural educators. Through hands-on activities, participants will engage in classroom-friendly plant propagation practices. Attendees will explore seed saving and both sexual and asexual propagation methods, including techniques such as seed, cutting, grafting, and layering, which are commonly used in commercial horticulture. By the end of the workshop, participants will have a list of materials, lesson ideas, and strategies aimed at enhancing student engagement and fostering practical skill development.

Project WILD Educator Workshop

8:00 am – 3:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$65 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Sara Jose, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. and Steven Chumbley, Texas A&M University Kingsville

This six-hour session will introduce educators to the Project WILD terrestrial guide. All participants will receive a copy of the conservation education curriculum and learn how to integrate these wildlife activities into their classrooms.

So You are an Ag Teacher...Now What?

8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$40 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Jennifer Gilbreath, Traci Broom, other guest classroom and industry professionals

This workshop is geared towards early career ag teachers with between one and three years of experience as well as Alternatively Certified Teachers. You have been hired as an ag teacher, but you may be changing teaching fields, coming from industry, just graduated, or an early career teacher. So now what? Join for a comprehensive day of all topics that ag teachers need to know to survive & thrive.

Stock Trailer Use, Management, and Safety

8:00 am – 12:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$40 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Mary Wilson-Sam Houston State

Learn essential skills and safety protocols for hauling livestock and students. Due to time constraints, we will focus on key areas: pre-trip checks, the safety of students and livestock in situations that will come up, truck and trailer maneuvering, and livestock loading protocols.

TEA Welding IBC and AWS Certification Update

8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$30 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Richard Depue- American Welding Society Senior Inspector

Review current changes and/or proposals for change to CCMR Welding IBCs. Update teachers on revised editions of AWS codes and standards as it relates to TEA welding IBCs. Presentation from welding manufacturer representatives on latest technology in machines and equipment.

Texas Boater Education Instructor Certification

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$30 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Erika Brooks, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.

This session is an official Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Boater Education Instructor Certification course. Everyone who attends and completes the training will become certified TPWD Boater Education instructors, authorized to teach the Texas Boater Education course. The session includes instructor requirements, teaching strategies, and hands-on use of TPWD Instructional materials.

TSFA Level 1 Floral Certification

8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$180 (lunch will be provided)

Presenter(s): Texas State Florists' Association Instructors

Earn your TSFA Level 1 Floral Certification in a full-day workshop. Complete the knowledge-based test, benefit from hands-on instruction and receive feedback on your boutonniere and symmetrical arrangement designs. Plus, gain tips to help your students succeed. Walk away with potentially your Level 1 certification (pending your test results) at a \$200 discount off the regular rate.

Work-Based Learning

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm | Hilliard Center

Workshop Fee: \$60

Presenter(s): Spenser T. Adams- Region 10 ESC

This course will prepare you to teach Practicum and Career Preparation courses. Teachers will learn what authentic WBL is and how to ensure students learn the knowledge and skills appropriate through collaborative partnerships. We will also discuss current laws and regulations that impact WBL courses. (This course satisfies the TEA training requirements for teachers who teach WBL courses. from principles of agriculture to animal science to food technology.

Monday, July 20, 2026 Tours

South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center Tour- AM

(transportation not provided)

10:00 am-12:00 pm | 8545 S Staples St, Corpus Christi, 78413

Tour Fee: \$15

Take a guided tour through the 180-acre botanical garden and nature center. The tour will include visiting the Reptile Room, where you will interact with at least two reptiles (tortoise and snake) and learn about their characteristics, habitats, diets, and more! The Sensory Garden, where you will use your senses, such as taste and smell, to investigate different herbs and native plants in South Texas, is a great concept to take back to your greenhouse. The Orchid & Bromeliad Houses to learn where vanilla comes from, where pineapples are grown and used, and explore "mini-ponds in plants." Lastly, the Wetlands Boardwalk, Palapa Deck, and Arid Garden, where you will take a short walk to view wetland plants and birds next to the Arid Garden.

South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center Tour- PM

(transportation not provided)

1:00 pm-3:00 pm | 8545 S Staples St, Corpus Christi, 78413

Tour Fee: \$15

Take a guided tour through the 180-acre botanical garden and nature center. The tour will include visiting the Reptile Room, where you will interact with at least two reptiles (tortoise and snake) and learn about their characteristics, habitats, diets, and more! The Sensory Garden, where you will use your senses, such as taste and smell, to investigate different herbs and native plants in South Texas, is a great concept to take back to your greenhouse. The Orchid & Bromeliad Houses to learn where vanilla comes from, where pineapples are grown and used, and explore "mini-ponds in plants." Lastly, the Wetlands Boardwalk, Palapa

Deck, and Arid Garden, where you will take a short walk to view wetland plants and birds next to the Arid Garden.

Texas Sea Life Center Tour- AM - FULL

(transportation not provided)

9:00 am-12:00 pm | 14220 S Padre Island Dr, Corpus Christi, 78418

Tour Fee: \$15

Visit the Texas Sealife Center, a nonprofit wildlife hospital dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of sea turtles, shorebirds, and raptors. They allow guests to see the rehabilitation process first hand and the efforts to save our local threatened and endangered species.

Texas Sea Life Center Tour- PM - FULL

(transportation not provided)

1:00 pm-4:00 pm | 14220 S Padre Island Dr, Corpus Christi, 78418

Tour Fee: \$15

Visit the Texas Sealife Center, a nonprofit wildlife hospital dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of sea turtles, shorebirds, and raptors. They allow guests to see the rehabilitation process first hand and the efforts to save our local threatened and endangered species.

Whataburger Field Turfgrass Management Tour

(transportation not provided)

9:00 am-10:30 am | 734 E Port Ave, Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Tour Fee: \$40

Attendees are invited to embark on a unique, behind-the-scenes tour of Whataburger Field, the premier home stadium of The Corpus Christi Hooks Baseball team. This immersive experience offers more than just a peek into the stadium; it provides an in-depth educational session focused on the critical role of turfgrass management in professional sports. The tour will be personally led by the Field Managers—the experts responsible for maintaining the playing surface to Major League Baseball (MLB) standards. These seasoned professionals will guide you across the meticulously maintained field, sharing valuable insights into the daily, seasonal, and long-term practices required to keep the turf in optimal condition.

Coastal Bend Agriculture and Port Tour

(transportation WILL BE provided)

9:00 am-5:00 pm | Coastal Bend Region

Tour Fee: \$30

Explore the strength of Coastal Bend agriculture and its global impact through this tour of grain and cotton production alongside critical export infrastructure. Visit Four Plus Farms Partnership, a six-generation operation managing 4,500 acres of irrigated and dryland cotton, sorghum and corn, along with a Black Shorthorn Wagyu cattle program fed from farm-grown inputs. The tour also highlights the Port of Corpus Christi, established in 1926 for agricultural exports but it is now the nation's largest energy export gateway and a leading global crude oil export hub. With its deep-water channel, major rail connections and highway access, the Port plays a vital role in moving U.S. agricultural commodities to markets around the world, showcasing how production and infrastructure work together to drive economic prosperity.

Coastal Ecosystem Fishing Excursion - AM - FULL

(transportation not provided)

9:00 am-12:00 pm | Sunset Island Boardwalk - Marker 37 Marina

Tour Fee: \$70

Join us for an inspiring morning with a local fishing guide who will delve into how agriculture shapes coastal ecosystems and supports fisheries. He'll share his journey, from managing land and water resources to sustainable fishing practices. After this rich discussion, we'll head to the pier for a hands-on fishing experience. Then gather for a delicious lunch at Snoopy's Pier with a perfect waterfront view of the Laguna Madre.

Coastal Ecosystem Fishing Excursion - PM

(transportation not provided)

12:00 pm-4:00 pm | Sunset Island Boardwalk - Marker 37 Marina

Tour Fee: \$70

Gather for a delicious lunch at Snoopy's Pier with a perfect waterfront view of the Laguna Madre then join us for an inspiring afternoon with a local fishing guide who will delve into how agriculture shapes coastal ecosystems and supports fisheries. He'll share his journey, from managing land and water resources to sustainable fishing practices. After this rich discussion, we'll head to the pier for a hands-on fishing experience.