



# VATAT

## News

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

## **“Reality vs. Perception”**

### ***How does the public perceive agricultural science teachers?***

**By: Kevin Swor, President**

*“I’m not interested in trying to work on people’s perceptions. I am who I am, and if you don’t take the time to learn about that, then your perception is going to be your problem.”*

*-- Jim Brown*

The school is in full swing and everyone is doing what they do best, which is teaching agricultural science to their students. I hope this finds each of you feeling excited of the task ahead as we prepare for Leadership Development Events, fall livestock shows and fundraisers. Mentioning these events makes me wonder why we participate in activities such as these. I ask you to spend some time answering the question on your own, because I cannot give an answer for you.

As you ponder your answer now, consider how you are perceived by others and is it reality. Jim Brown was dead on and dead wrong. We cannot as professional teachers exhibit this attitude publicly or privately. I know that collectively agricultural science teachers are always striving to do the right things for the right reasons, but sometimes in the heat of the battle we forget to think about other’s perceived impressions.

I must admit when I started teaching I did have at least in part some of the attitude mentioned in the quote. I knew I was giving all I had and did not waste my time worrying about what others thought, because surely they could would understand and agree with me.

But the maturity and life lessons have taught me not everyone will always agree on what you or your program are accomplishing.

The discussion of perception came up a few years back with my current superintendent. A parent brought an issue concerning the agriculture department to his attention without speaking to me first. Well, as is the case with most schools, there is a chain of command and a grievance policy that outline such complaints. Since this belief was their perception, it was deemed a reality. I was not happy, because their concern could be proved invalid. So, I was left wondering how this could be reality even if it was wrong. According to my superintendent, if it is their truth, then it is the reality. I have spent much time pondering this issue through research and leadership development workshops.

Research shows individuals will align with others of similar beliefs and will distance themselves from those who do not agree with them. The current presidential campaign proves this point. Both parties display negative propaganda in hopes that people will believe it. Before long the information is being presented as factual when there



are very few, if any, facts to support the propaganda. It is all in how the information is presented and how the public perceives it. Once the public perceives something, then it becomes their reality.

To sell their products, the business world understands they need to make us believe their product is better than others. If we believe the advertisement, then we will buy their product. In some cases, more money is

*Continued on page 3*

## **TEXAS AG ED FAMILY UPDATES**

*VATAT pages 1-7  
Texas FFA pages 8-9  
Foundation page 10  
Texas FFA Alumni page 13  
Young Farmers pages 14-15*

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## "Reality vs. Perception"

*Continued from page 1*

spent on promoting a product than developing it. They get the concept. Do we?

So when we are going about the day-to-day activities, are we spending as much time advertising our products as we are developing them? The products are the students and the activities should be your Program of Activities. I know I need to improve in this area this year.

Agricultural science teachers should be perceived as an asset for school improvement in their local districts and on the state level. I recommend you volunteer to serve on your campus or district committee to help determine what your program can do to help the students of your district. Also, attend school board meetings to be informed on the concerns facing the district and see if you can be part of the solution.

Texas legislature's previous session proved their perception of CTE was very positive. Many groups have done a remarkable job of promoting our curriculum and activities as a vital part of educating the youth of today. For every teacher and friend of agriculture who has shared their message with your representative, I thank you. For others, I encourage you to make the connection and share your message before the next session starts. A discussion point could be to restore the respect of the teaching profession as a whole and not just with lip service.

Let's remember that perception is reality through the eyes of the beholder, whether or not it is true. Pink slime is a fine example of this. I would never have believed negative publicity could damage the meat industry so quickly. Our profession is to educate ourselves about agriculture and provide the information to our students and the public.

The public will not take the time to learn the truth. It will be research on their cell phone and become reality in less than a few minutes. Let me encourage you to maintain the position as an expert in the field of agriculture and the public's perception of agricultural science teachers will be a great reality.

### 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.

## Ag Teacher's Creed

*Barney McClure, VATAT Executive Director*

For most of you, school started on August 27. The birth of a new school year for me was always one of the most enjoyable times to be a teacher. The possibilities are endless, and the anticipation of great things happening is fun to think about. If you are teaching Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, the FFA creed is part of the curriculum. Many of you might not be aware that there is an Ag Teacher's Creed. It can be found on the NAAE website, but I thought it might be useful to discuss it as we embark on another school year.

*I am an agriculture teacher by choice and not by chance.*

Most of you can relate to this line. You may have decided while still in high school this was a career for you. Others may have decided a little later, but at some point you made the decision to become certified and seek that first job. Always remember the reasons you became an agriculture teacher.

*I believe in American agriculture; I dedicate my life to its development and the advancement of its people.*

American agriculture is the backbone of our economy and crucial to our national security. Our natural resources set us apart from most countries. We enjoy the safest, most abundant and cheapest food supply in the world.

*I will strive to set before my students my deeds and actions the highest standards of citizenship for the community, state, and nation.*

Always remember you may be the most influential person in a student's life. You are constantly being observed and emulated. Make sure your words and actions are worthy of such attention.

*I will endeavor to develop professionally through study, travel, and exploration.*

There is a reason the Professional Development Conference is so named. Take advantage of the opportunities to develop yourself professionally. You shouldn't be the same teacher you were 10 years ago, or even last year.

*I will not knowingly wrong my fellow teachers. I will defend them as far as honesty will permit.*

Professional respect should be shown toward your fellow teachers. Win or lose honestly and ethically. I can't imagine any award or honor being worth much if it was dishonestly achieved. Defend your fellow teachers from unfair or unsubstantiated criticism.

*Continued on page 4*

# Creed

Continued from page 3

*I will work for the advancement of agricultural education and I will defend it in my community, state, and nation.*

Strive to be an advocate for our profession. Attend school board meetings with your students who have done well. Contact your elected officials. You are the expert on agricultural education; show it.

*I realize that I am a part of the school system. I will work in harmony with school authorities and other teachers of the school.*

At times we all think of our program as separate from the rest of the school. In reality, we are a part of a much larger system. However, we are integral to the success of the school district. Strive to be a leader in the overall school community by volunteering to serve on committees and volunteering to do other things tied to school success.

*My love for youth will spur me on to impart something from my life that will help make for each of my students a full and happy future.*

Teach every student as if he or she was your own child. They deserve your best efforts and you never know which one of them is looking to you for an example. Being able to influence another generation is an important responsibility.

There you have it - the Ag Teacher's Creed. Just as FFA members at times fall short of the ideals expressed in their creed, so we will also. But that should not keep us from striving to follow the words and ideas expressed in it. Have a great year.



## VATAT TRIVIA

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 ~ ENTRY DEADLINE FOR POULTRY PIGEON AND RABBITS: DEC. 30

**OTHER DATES OF INTEREST:**  
 ~ EXHIBITION POULTRY WORKSHOP  
 JAN. 26, 10AM - CATTLE ARENA  
 ~ COLLEGE DAY AT BRIT  
 JAN. 26, 10AM-4PM

**JR. SHOW DATES:**  
 JR. AG MECHANICS - JAN. 19  
 JR. DAIRY CATTLE - JAN. 22  
 JR. HEIFERS - JAN. 26-28  
 JR. BREEDING SHEEP - JAN. 28  
 JR. WETHER GOATS, JR. WETHER LAMBS - FEB. 2-3  
 JR. BARROWS, JR. STEERS - FEB. 7-8

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# Share your chapter's message

Maintaining communication with students, parents, administrators and the community is important to any educational program - especially for agriculture and FFA programs.

The Texas FFA Foundation provides every FFA chapter in the Lone Star State a free website through the Texas FFA Network (TFN). The websites are user-friendly with built in "Word-like" editors that allow teachers to quickly and easily update their websites.

Page types include: simple pages, calendar, photo galleries, text message registration, blog pages, document uploads, JudgingCard.com results, Texas FFA News and customizable themes.

Advocating for agriculture is important to help inform the general public about the agricultural industry. Take advantage of the chapter website to promote your chapter, agricultural program and community.

"Social media, mobile technology and improved information technology make having just a website

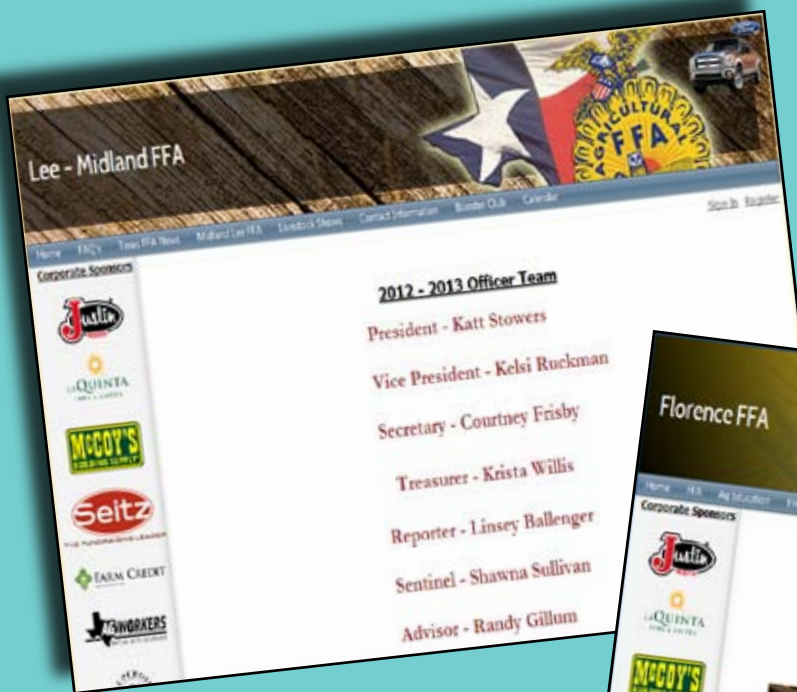
inefficient - That is why we want a voice of more than 1,100 websites. In today's society, we must have a web presence. The Texas FFA Foundation is honored to support our teachers and students through the Texas FFA Network to tell the positive story of agricultural education and the FFA at the local level across the great state of Texas. Supporting teachers and students with tools to more effectively tell their story is a strategy we are proud to support," Texas FFA Foundation Aaron Alejandro said.

Information pertaining to fundraisers, major show validation, Leadership Development Events, Career Development Events, practice schedules, and more can be uploaded. Creating photo galleries to display the students' efforts in and out of the classroom keeps parents and administrators updated, as well as attract local media attention.

"Participating Texas FFA chapters help us harness the power of our collective voice in agricultural education," Alejandro explained.

To sign up for your free chapter website, visit <http://tfn.texasffa.org>. Websites are automatically created using the teacher's Texas FFA Roster login credentials.

For questions or help setting up a chapter website, contact Tyler Wiegat at [tyler@wiegatgraphics.com](mailto:tyler@wiegatgraphics.com) or (979) 246-2826.



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Complete the brick order form, found online, and send it in with payment, which includes tax deductible checks, to the Texas FFA Foundation \* Attention: Brick Campaign \* 614 East 12th Street \* Austin, TX 78701. 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!

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Proceeds will go toward the VATAT Scholarship Fund.

Please submit recipes by Dec. 31, 2012.



## VATAT News *and the benefits of advertising*

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).



Texas FFA

Update

## What's Happening with Texas FFA?

Tom Maynard, Texas FFA Executive Director

### Agency Renders Decision on Use of Perkins Funds for FFA Affiliation

Texas Education Agency officials have given the green light for the use of federal grant dollars generated under the Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act to pay for the FFA program affiliation fee.

In a response to an inquiry on the matter, the agency officials stated, "In response to a question from a local education agency (LEA), we advised the district that LEAs may not expend Perkins funds to benefit individual students, but may spend those funds to benefit groups of students. CTSOs are a permissible use of Perkins funds, so the use of Perkins for funding a group membership for all eligible students is permissible."

Advisors should always keep in mind these funds are not paying dues, but a program affiliation fee through which the local program affiliates with the state and national organizations, and thereby making all students eligible for FFA participation.

### Career Development Event Updates

The Texas FFA Board of Directors approved nine recommendations submitted by the State FFA CDE Advisory Committee. Most of these recommendations further clarify existing rules or are intended to remedy technical issues.

(a) General Rules: General rule language addressing participation of ineligible students. Heretofore, the general rules did not address academic ineligibility—only eligibility related to previous national participation or participation on a state-winning team. The new rule applies the UIL standard, allowing the dropping and re-calculation of team scores in those events in which the team scores are an aggregate of individual scores. In those events, which are team activities or which include a team activity, teams with ineligible students will be disqualified.

(b) Floriculture: The Floriculture CDE will now use the Universal-C scan sheet.

(c) Land: Two publications are used as references—the *Texas Land Judging Handbook* and *Oklahoma Land Judging Made Easy*. In instances in which the two publications conflict, the Oklahoma publication will take precedence.

(d) Land: The Land CDE will have a new scan sheet beginning immediately. The scan sheet used in spring 2012 had

serious issues in those sections which required contestants to "mark all that apply." The new scan sheet will require a yes-no response and is expected to yield more accurate results.

(e) Nursery/Landscape: The rules called for event providers to furnish a copied paper scale. However, the accuracy of the scale was distorted by some copiers. Students will now be required to bring a scale to the event.

(f) Veterinary Science: This contest will now require a qualifying event prior to the state competition. Participation numbers in this event are already near the facility capacity threshold. Additionally, an increasing number of schools will not allow participation in state-level events for which there is no qualifying event. In some cases, having a qualifying event allows local programs to access a different pot of money to fund travel.

(g) Veterinary Science: Rule language regarding scrubs was clarified to require both scrub tops and scrub pants.

(h) Veterinary Science: The board concurred with the committee in allowing the members of the state-winning team from Angleton to compete in 2013. Current rules preclude such repeat participation. However, 2012 was a demonstration year at the national level. 2013 will be the first year that the full competitive continuum, culminating with the national contest, will be implemented.

(i) Wool: This contest will now require a qualifying event prior to state. Participation levels have reached a critical mass at the state level. Rationale related to the Veterinary Science CDE also applies.

### Texas FFA to Develop Online Scholarship Application

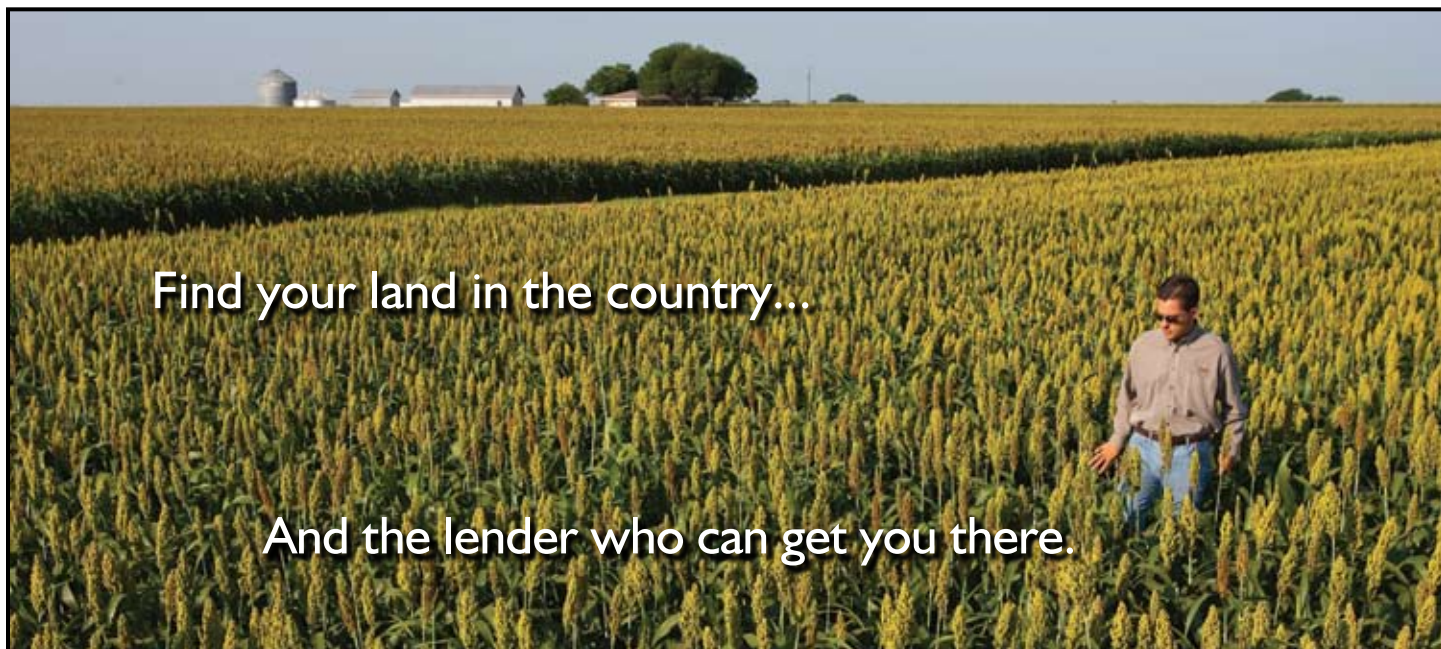
The Texas FFA Board of Directors approved development of an online scholarship application to replace the Microsoft Excel template, which has had a number of stability issues and problems when opened in other operating platforms. The online system will address both the application and selection processes and will yield considerably more accurate data from across the selection process.

Developers are working to have a working version of the program ready by November 1 with a launch date sometime in December. The content and format of the application will remain largely the same, and the program will generate the hard copy application as a PDF document.



## 2012-2013 Majors Validation Dates

- Early Tag Orders – Tags \$8.00 – September 4 – September 28, 2012
- Late Tag Orders – Tags \$11.00 – September 29 – October 31, 2012
- Priority Late Tag Orders – Orders must be faxed to 512-476-2894 (*new number*) - \$11.00 per tag, plus \$20.00 priority postage and handling fee – November 1 - November 9, 2012
- Validation Deadline – all swine must be validated on or before November 30, 2012. Validation Chairperson must be present when the animals are validated
- Change of ownership – due in the FFA Office on or before November 30, 2012
- All manila forms, hair envelopes, ethics policies, Committee Forms and Excel spreadsheets are due in the FFA office on or before December 7, 2012 (manilas, hair envelopes and ethic policies – secured and in alpha order)
- Tag alterations – Any change to size, shape, form or color will void the tag. Tag will be replaced at the stock show and replacement cost will be charged to the individual.
- Ear Notch Correction and Ear Tag Replacement forms must be faxed (512-476-2894) to the FFA office on or before December 14, 2012
- Any required validation information not in the FFA office by December 14, 2012 will not be validated. Information is due December 7. We do not have personnel in the office to process all of the orders and then follow up on missing validation items after this date.



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# Foundation Update

## Sustainable Agricultural Education and Texas FFA

Aaron Alejandro, Texas FFA Foundation Executive Director

What does it take to be “sustainable?” According to dictionary.com the definition of **sustainable**: *pertaining to a system that maintains its own viability by using techniques that allow for continual reuse; able to be maintained or kept going, as an action or process.* A fair question would be is Texas agricultural education and FFA sustainable? Does our organizational culture support it?

Organizational culture is the collective behavior of people who are part of an organization. It is formed by the organization values, visions, norms, working language, systems, symbols, beliefs and habits. Organizational culture affects the way people and groups interact with each other.

**Creating Sustainable Texas Agricultural Education and FFA Programming.** I guess one could argue that since we have been around for 85 years, it is evidence of sustainability and a sound culture. As with most teachers who have had the opportunity to shuffle through the various boards of directors of Texas Team Ag Ed, most walk away saying, “Wow. I had no idea.” While staff, sponsors and I may have an idea of what you do on a daily basis, I bet if we stepped into your classroom for a week – we too would be saying “Wow. I had no idea.” This “wow” speaks to two essential elements: *sustainability and organizational culture.*

**Plant - Grow - Harvest.** While we are working toward sustainability of our agricultural education and FFA programming, we too are creating an improved organizational culture. People support efforts of those they know, trust and respect – that’s our teachers! We need teachers to be the ones leading the change in our organizational culture while showing, teaching and mentoring our students, parents and communities. November is just around the corner and we need teachers, students and parents to help with the *Share - The Experience* effort to promote our Texas FFA. Participating in this program is planting seeds – seeds of involvement, philanthropy, stewardship and sweat equity in helping build our program.

Charity and the spirit of giving have been elevated to a new level in the past few years, following natural disasters, war in Iraq and terrorist attacks around the globe. Our times provide an opportunity to help children learn about charity and the importance of reaching out to others. How do we make supporting our Texas agricultural education and FFA’s future become a habit? It’s simple: make it a part of your classroom experience; a part of your dialogue when talking

about how we create a bridge for those who will follow in our footsteps.

**Share.** Make it a point in November to honor someone who made your Texas FFA experience special – a parent, mentor, teacher, friend, co-worker, administrator, elected official or sponsor. Additionally, let your students know why and how you are doing it. Challenge them to do the same. Print off an “Honor” gift sheet from the Texas FFA Foundation website and let them save change out of their pockets over the month, bring a dollar a week from home, etc. to say thank you to someone and honor them. This effort is touching the future in an extraordinary way. Not just financially, but through improving our organizational culture.

**What One Dollar Can Do.** John Bechtel and a few others wanted to start a camp for kids to get involved with agriculture in Hong Kong. They found a one million dollar facility that the company would sell for \$250,000 - a perfect site, location and facility for the camp.

One of John’s colleagues said, “I’ll try to do some fundraising on the side.” For three months he worked at it, but did not make any progress. No one wanted to give. He received one letter from a little girl in Georgia named Melinda Holmes. She wrote: *Please find my ice cream money for two weeks enclosed. Please use it to help buy a camp for young people in Hong Kong.* There was \$1 inside the envelope. That is all they received at the end of three months.

Imagine this: John walks into the company and says, “I didn’t quite come up with \$250,000.” The company sent the \$1 offer back to the Board where the answer was, “Well, if the camp is going to be used to help young kids, we’ll sell it to you for a dollar.” That dollar is framed in the camp as a reminder of what happens when somebody is faithful. As of today, over 1,000,000 kids have attended this camp in Hong Kong.

Later on, John happened to be at a church where he was telling this story, and a young woman came up to him afterwards and said, “I was that little girl.” It was Melinda Holmes.

Tears flowed as Melinda walked through the camp and saw what had been done. One little girl. One dollar. What will the future of Texas Team Ag Ed and our organizational culture be with hearts like this?

**We Can Do It.** A sustainable Texas agricultural education and FFA programming? You bet. When we all do our part – we are touching the future and improving our organizational culture.



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# Texas FFA Alumni

# Update

## A New Beginning

*Kelly White, Texas FFA Alumni President*

Twenty-one years in the classroom. Thirteen years at my previous school. And I feel like a new teacher all over again. It was somewhat strange sitting in new teachers in-service and looking around the room at the fresh young faces entering the teaching profession. I can imagine they were wondering about the thinning haired (note: not bald), middle-aged person sitting with them at “new teachers” in-service. It was an experience to say the least.

I learned a great deal of the mechanics of the school district. I learned which administrative assistants to make friends with in order to make my transition into this “new world” an easier place to live. (A side note to new teachers...makes friends with the secretaries/administrative assistants, bookkeeper, custodian staff, grounds crew and the cafeteria workers. Life will be good! Yet, keep your administrators happy as well). However, I am still learning my way around the large, sprawled out campus.

I had some time to think while roaming the halls looking for the next meeting room. What is it like for a new student or new parent to your program? Are they as lost as I was looking for the place that I belong? The agriculture classroom has always been a welcome site to our students who willingly signed up for our program wanting to be involved in the curriculum, their SAE, and to join this great student organization called the FFA. But they still have questions. It is a pleasure and honor to know their parents have placed their trust in us to educate their most prized possessions.

I felt good about my task at hand as I ventured into the next session (possibly late after getting lost). I patiently waited while the technology expert attempted to find me in the system, so I could begin my “official transition” into my new world of technology. I was ready to begin work on my school web page, to post my syllabus and start this venture at my new high school. I had more time to ponder, because I wasn’t in the system yet.

I did not, nor would I, let these small obstacles keep me from my vision. It was my opportunity to begin a new year at a new place with a new teaching partner, a new crop of students and fantastic facilities to boot. I miss the students, parents and faculty from my former school, but this is my new beginning.

Have you thought about beginning something new? May I suggest starting an alumni chapter? There are several

advantages to having an alumni chapter versus a booster club. There are financial advantages. Besides the monetary awards that you have read about in this portion of the newsletter, you have the opportunity to join under the umbrella of the National FFA Alumni Organization. You have the opportunity and advantage to be a true 501(c)(3) non-profit group.

### **How to start an FFA Alumni Affiliate**

To charter as a National FFA Alumni Affiliate, your affiliate must:

1. Have at least 10 members who have paid National FFA Alumni member dues and State FFA Alumni dues, where applicable.
2. Have a written constitution and bylaws that work in harmony with the National FFA Alumni Constitutions and Bylaws.
3. Have a council of elected officers.
4. Complete the Application for Local Charter.
5. Submit the completed Application for Local Charter, your Constitution and Bylaws, a completed membership roster to your State FFA Alumni Association.

Your State FFA Alumni Association will forward all forms and documents to the National FFA Alumni Association. Upon receipt of all items, the National FFA Alumni Association will officially charter the new affiliate by issuing an affiliate number, a charter certificate and a scroll.

“My new beginning” has an active alumni affiliate that supports our FFA chapter through several avenues. I look forward to working with them this year and having a successful program.

One last thing - I wrote of being confused with my new surroundings. I wrote of how the students and parents can be confused with their new beginnings. However, the individuals affiliated with our

program have been thrown a huge curveball of confusion. This school hired two “new” male teachers with the last name of White. I look forward to working with Mr. Perry White in our new beginning. The kids are still confused when calling “Mr. White.”

Have a great year, and I hope to see your school on the alumni roster!

*The heaviness of being successful was replaced by the lightness of being a beginner again, less sure about everything. It freed me to enter one of the most creative periods of my life.*

*-Steve Jobs*



# Texas Young Farmers Update

## From the President's Pen

*Connie Koopman, Texas Young Farmers President*

Thank you God for the many blessings you have bestowed upon us. You are great in your own way. Continue to watch over each of us as we travel with the many school functions we attend. Keep us all safe in our travels. In your name we pray. Amen.

Can you believe how time has flown by? The year is almost over and a new one is around the corner. I hope everyone's school year is going smoothly.

Our convention will be held January 10-12, 2013, at the Marriott in Sugarland, Texas. The town square has more than 50 specialty shops and eating places within a two-block walking distance. There is also a mall nearby and the trolley will pick you up and take you there and back. When making your reservations at the Marriott, ask for the Young Farmer block to get the room rate of \$99 per night.

Members may start arriving on Thursday evening. We will have a NYFEA meeting Thursday evening. If you arrive early, we would like you to sit in on the committee meetings and give us your input. Friday is set aside for tours, and a charter bus will be provided.

Our first destination is the George Ranch Historical Park. We will have a guided tour on a wagon to view the different historical houses and structures on this 23,000-acre working ranch, which was established in the 1800's. We will have a chuck wagon lunch on the premises.

After lunch, we will load the bus and head to the Twinwood Cattle Company in Simonton. This 16,000-acre

company houses a high-end horse facility where we will be able to view horses that range from \$40,000 to \$350,000. They have a stable and training facility, along with a race track.

Twinwood Cattle Company also has a 400 head beef cattle operation and are participating in the international venture of a rare Japanese cattle breed, Akaushi. This closely monitored, rare breed of cattle has only recently been made available to the United States market due to Japan's strict trade regulations. The meat from the Akaushi, or "red" breed, is characterized by its extremely high amount of marbling.

In addition to the cattle and horses, Twinwood Cattle Company has a turf farm, a tree farm and a gun range. They have an economist who resides on the premises and will be available to answer questions for us. We will be the first public tour of this facility. The owner has been working to bring agriculture back. He buys property for agricultural use and not for constructing buildings and complexes. After the tours, we will return to the hotel between 4 and 5 p.m. to give you time to have dinner and socialize with friends before the Ag Olympics start.

Saturday is our business session with a brunch and the scholarship auction, followed by various workshops. The evening will conclude with the awards banquet. We hope everyone makes an attempt to join us for this annual event. Award applications are available on the Young Farmer website. Awards for the state must be post marked by November 1 and mailed to the state.

Don't forget we will be hosting the 2013 NYFEA Institute in San Antonio in conjunction with the 2014 Texas Young Farmer State Convention. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.



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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)



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## TEXAS AG ED FAMILY EVENTS

### October 2012

**1st** - San Antonio Calf Scramble  
Applications due - San Antonio

**1st** - Houston Calf Scramble  
Applications posted online

**9th** - State Fair of Texas Public  
Speaking Contest - Dallas

**9th** - State Fair of Texas  
AgriScience Fair - Dallas

**9th** - State Fair of Texas Ag  
Mech and Tractor Tech - Dallas

**9th** - Agriculture Awareness  
(State Fair Youth Leadership  
Day) - Dallas

**13th** - Heart of Texas Fair - Waco

**21st** - State Fair of Texas Ends

**24th - 27th** - National FFA  
Convention - Indianapolis

**29th** - Deadline to order late  
lamb and goat tags

**31st** - Late Swine Tag Order  
Ends

**31st** - Last day to validate sheep  
and goats

### 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

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

**30th** - State LDEs - SHSU

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

Vocational Agriculture  
Teachers Association  
of Texas

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