

2015-2016

DISTRICT OFFICER CANDIDATE STUDY GUIDE

TEXAS FFA ASSOCIATION

Texas FFA Association
614 East 12th Street
Austin, TX 78701
www.texasffa.org

Resource Material For: 2015 Greenhand FFA Quiz Leadership Development Event
2015-2016 Texas FFA District Officer Candidate Testing Program

District Officer Candidate Study Guide
TEXAS FFA
AND TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Dear officer candidate:

Congratulations on taking the first step beyond the chapter level in exerting leadership in the FFA.

It's a big step that involves a degree of risk. When you step out and away from the familiar surroundings of your local chapter to ask other members in the district for their vote, there is always a chance of being disappointed. Millions of Americans wrestle with the same discomfort when they file as candidates for city councils, cooperative boards, county commissioner courts, school boards, state legislatures, U.S. Congress and a host of other offices. Because of risk-takers like you, our nation is strong. No matter what happens in your election, you will make the FFA officer election process stronger because of your participation, and you will gain strength of character that comes from stepping out of one's comfort zone.

Each of the Texas FFA's districts have unique election policies and procedures. One of the more common features of these elections is the FFA knowledge test. The purpose of the exam is to assess your level of understanding about the organization since you will be a recognized leader of one of the 57 districts in the nation's largest state FFA association. It is also a measure of your commitment. Before you ask delegates to cast a vote to support your quest for an office, are you willing to put in the time and effort it takes to know and understand the organization you wish to lead?

If you are taking an exam on the Texas FFA Association's online testing system, your district officer exam will be comprised of 60 questions evenly split between Parliamentary Guide for FFA by Jarrell D. Gray, the Official FFA Manual and this study guide. All questions are multiple choice and you will have 65 minutes to complete the exam. Once you have finished, the system will indicate that you have successfully completed the exam. If you run out of time, the system will allow you to finish your last question before closing and calculating a score. Test scores will be available to test administrators. District policies vary as to whether or not these scores are released to candidates.

Get started early. Be thorough in your preparations so you can do your best. We wish you the very best in your pursuit of an opportunity to make a difference as a district FFA officer.

Best wishes,



Dean Black
Leadership Development Coordinator, Texas FFA Association

CHAPTER 1:

TEXAS FFA AND TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The Texas FFA is the student leadership development arm of Texas Agricultural Education, a coalition of interrelated, interdependent yet independently governed entities committed to delivering exciting opportunities to Texas students through the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Education System. Each organization is led by an executive director and respective board of directors.

			
Texas FFA Association	Texas Education Agency Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources	Texas FFA Foundation	Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas
Student Leadership and Career Development, Curriculum Support	Instructional Program Standards, Certification, Curriculum Development	Fundraising, Strategic Partnerships	Teacher Services, Continuing Education, Legal, Political Advocacy

AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NATURAL RESOURCES INSTRUCTION

Section 1: What is Agricultural Education? Agricultural education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in global agriculture, food and natural resources systems. The Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources cluster is one of sixteen federally recognized divisions for Career and Technical Education (CTE) in public secondary and postsecondary schools. A Career Cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities. The sixteen Career Clusters provide an organizing tool for schools, small learning communities, academies, and magnet schools. CTE in Texas utilizes each of the sixteen clusters. State level instructional oversight is provided by the CTE staff at the Texas Education Agency.

The Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) cluster includes occupations and careers in the planning, implementation, production, management, processing and/or marketing of agricultural commodities and services, including food, fiber, wood products, natural resources, horticulture, and other plant and animal products. It also includes related professional, technical and educational services. The AFNR cluster has been subdivided into eight distinctive career pathways: Agribusiness Systems, Animal Systems, Biotechnology Systems, Environmental Service Systems, Food Products and Processing Systems, Natural Resources Systems, Plant Systems and the Power, Structural and Technical Systems pathways.

More than 1,100 secondary schools across the state offer instruction in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. There are 24 AFNR courses which provide rigorous and challenging opportunities for more than 166,000 young Texans. AFNR courses are found in

<p>CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CAREER CLUSTERS</p> <p>Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Architecture and Construction Arts, A/V Technology and Communications Business, Management and Administration Education and Training Finance Government and Public Administration Health Science Hospitality and Tourism Human Services Information Technology Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security Manufacturing Marketing, Sales and Service Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Transportation, Distribution and Logistics</p>
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rural, suburban and urban school districts and the classrooms and laboratories reflect a diverse and balanced gender and ethnic population.

In Texas it is recognized that many occupations cross cluster boundaries or could fit into more than one cluster. For this reason AFNR programs in public secondary schools in the state have options to expand the learning opportunities of students by utilizing courses and curriculum which are found in several other clusters. A total of 19 courses from the Architecture and Construction, Arts, A/V



Technology and Communications, Manufacturing, Marketing, Sales and Service, STEM and Transportation, Distribution and Logistics clusters can be combined with specific courses from the AFNR cluster in order to form programs of study which lead to student success and provide the academic knowledge and technical skills necessary to advance into a specific career choice.

The agricultural education delivery model contains three primary components which work in harmony to provide students with a well rounded educational experience and skills which will easily transfer into a wide variety of employment opportunities in the industry. The instructional component includes the classroom instruction, laboratory experiences and work-based learning opportunities provided through the state approved curriculum.

Section 2: AFNR Instructional Program, High School and Beyond

In 2013, the 83rd Texas Legislature established the new Foundation High School Program as the default graduation program for all students entering high school beginning in 2014-15. The Foundation High School Program provides students with a flexible approach to pursuing their interest and insuring readiness for college or a career. At the base of the Foundation High School Program is a 22-credit core that provides the minimum requirements to earn a Texas high school diploma. In addition the Foundation High School Program provides opportunities for students to earn one or more of the five available endorsements (26-credit option). Along the way students may also qualify for the Distinguished Level of Achievement and/or Performance Acknowledgments.

As mentioned, Texas students now have the opportunity to customize their high school education by selecting one of five endorsements. Students must select one of the endorsements by time they enter the ninth grade. All five endorsements may not be offered at every high school. Students earn an endorsement by completing the curriculum requirements for the endorsement, including 4th credit of math and science and two additional elective credits. Students enrolled in a coherent sequence of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) courses will normally meet the requirements to earn the Business and Industry endorsement. AFNR can often times also lead to the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) endorsement. Details for Texas graduation plans are found in the Texas Administrative Code. (19 TAC Chapter 74, Subchapter B.)

Texas High School Foundation Program ENDORSEMENTS

Science, Technology, Engineering
and Math(STEM)
Business and Industry
Public Services
Arts and Humanities
Multidisciplinary Studies

Most of the very best jobs available now and in the future require education and training beyond a high school diploma. Whether you intend to pursue a high-demand, industry workforce credential from a community or technical college or a traditional four-year degree from a university, the choices made in high school will determine your future options. To best prepare yourself now for the transition to post-high school education or quality workforce training, choosing and taking the right classes is essential. The Distinguished Level of Achievement will ensure the best preparation for your future. The Distinguished Level of Achievement opens a world of educational and employment opportunities for you beyond high school. The Distinguished Level of Achievement will allow you to compete for Top 10% automatic admissions eligibility at any Texas public university, position you among those first in line for a TEXAS Grant to help pay for university tuition and fees, and ensure you are a more competitive applicant at the most selective colleges and universities.

A Performance Acknowledgement can add additional value to your high school experience. Performance Acknowledgements are earned by successfully completing a dual credit course, demonstration of bilingualism and biliteracy, meeting established performance levels on PSAT, ACT's Plan, SAT or ACT, successful completion of Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams or by earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license. Involvement in FFA and participation in FFA activities can make meeting the requirements of the Foundation High School Program much easier. FFA provides opportunities that will enhance a student's ability to earn endorsements, receive the Distinguished Level of Achievement and be recognized for earning Performance Acknowledgements.

Section 3: Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE)

A Supervised Agricultural Experience program (SAE) is a key component of agricultural education. While working on an SAE project, students learn to apply the concepts and principles taught in their agriculture classes to real-world problems and scenarios. A student selects an SAE project based on his or her interest in one of four areas:

- **Exploratory, Improvement or Supplemental** - Learn about the big picture of agriculture and its many related careers.
- **Research** - Conduct research and analyze information to discover new knowledge.
- **Entrepreneurship** - Plan and operate an agriculture-related business.
- **Placement** - Work for a business or individual, either for pay or for the experience. Includes directed school laboratory placement.

SAE is a required component of all AFNR courses in Texas. SAE includes the skills necessary to plan, propose, conduct and evaluate the experiential learning activity.

The third component of the agricultural education model is the FFA, the Career and Technical Student Organization for AFNR students. FFA is recognized by the Texas Legislature as an integral part of the AFNR instructional program (Texas Education Code 29.182). FFA activities support classroom instruction through competitive events which assess learning, foster excellent SAE's through awards and degrees and provide hands-on leadership and personal skill development through the student-led organization.

TEXAS FFA STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Section 2: Strategic Priorities: The Texas FFA Association has identified six strategic priorities for the organization:

1. ***Ensuring A Sound Financial Future*** Ensure a financially sound future for the Texas FFA and its programs as a partner with the Texas FFA Foundation.
2. ***Effective Communications*** Develop proactive, external communications strategies which promote positive public perception of agricultural education and FFA and highly effective internal communications networks which reach students, teachers, volunteers and other stakeholders and supporters.
3. ***Agricultural Achievement and Career/Professional Development*** Develop and support programs which encourage excellence and diversity in supervised agricultural experience programs, competitive activities which are industry relevant, have a clear tie to the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources instructional program and activities which are cross-curricular and demonstrate the interdisciplinary nature of agricultural education.
4. ***Leadership and Personal Skill Development*** Encourage excellence in leadership through programs which support the development of effective local programs of activities, instill leadership values consistent with the principles of the FFA and develop skills for a life of career and personal success and leadership in industry and government roles.
5. ***Diversity*** Support strategies to stimulate diversity in the ranks of students and professional educators.
6. ***Academic Excellence*** Stimulate academic excellence by development and support of programs which stimulate intellectual development by broadening scholarship opportunities for students who seek to pursue post-secondary education.

CHAPTER 2: TEXAS FFA HISTORY

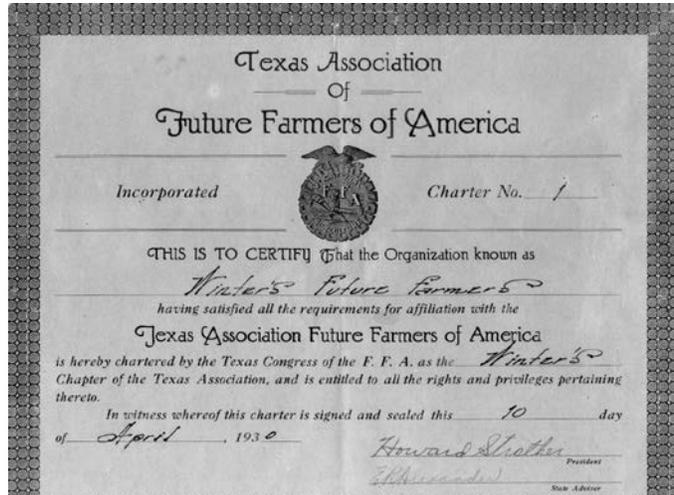
Section 1: Getting Started: For agricultural education, the most influential public policy piece was the Smith-Hughes National Vocational Education Act of 1917 which provided federal funds for vocational agriculture to be taught in public secondary schools. However, in Texas, instruction in agriculture predated this federal legislation. Mr. B. Youngblood of Henderson introduced an elementary agriculture course in 1903 in the public schools of that east Texas community. In 1907, the Texas Legislature mandated that, with the exception of schools with an academic population of more than 300, all schools in the state would be required to offer the elementary agriculture class. Beginning in 1909, teacher training in agriculture was mandated at designated Texas colleges.

President Woodrow Wilson signed the Smith-Hughes Act into law on February 23, 1917, but the act required legislative acceptance by each state. Governor James Ferguson made the acceptance of the Smith-Hughes Act an item for the first of three called special sessions of the 35th Legislature in 1917. State Senator

Claude B. Hudspeth of El Paso filed Senate Bill 54, which became law on June 15 to take effect 90 days later. Five new vocational agriculture departments were approved that fall by the State Board for Vocational Education which was formed pursuant to Smith-Hughes. Three of the new programs were approved to begin December 1: Corsicana State Orphans Home, Penelope and Yancey. The Hillsboro and Tuleta programs were approved to begin on January 1, and February 1, respectively. In all, 32 schools were approved to teach vocational agriculture in the 1917-18 school year.

Similarly, vocational agriculture departments were established throughout the nation and subsequently many states began forming regional and state future farmer organizations. Virginia established the Future Farmers of Virginia, which became a model for other states and ultimately for the formation of a national organization. The first Future Farmers of Texas chapter was organized at Winters in 1928 and the first annual meeting of the FFT was held at College Station on April 22, 1929. Arthur Ellis of New Waverly was elected president of the fledgling organization, but resigned his office a few months later, allowing E. J. Hughes of Dublin to serve as acting president until the state association met again in Dallas in October of the same year. At that meeting, Howard Strother was elected president of the FFT, and seven days later, a state charter for a Texas FFA Association was issued by the National Future Farmers of America. Thus, Strother became the first president of the Texas FFA. Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas (Texas A&M University) teacher educator E. R. Alexander is credited as being the father of the Texas Future Farmer movement and served as the organization's first advisor until 1931. On April 10, 1930, the Winters chapter was the first of more than 13 chapters from the Texas Association to be officially chartered by the National Future Farmers of America.

Section 2: Breaking Down the Barriers Segregation is part of our society's history, and the history of agricultural education mirrors societal norms and attitudes. In our nation's era of segregation, it was deemed legal and



Winters Future Farmers of America was issued the first local chapter charter in 1930. The document was signed by the Texas FFA's first president, Howard Strother and the first state advisor, E. R. Alexander.



appropriate for African-American students to be relegated to “separate but equal” schools, a practice affirmed by an 1896 U.S. Supreme Court decision, Plessy v. Ferguson that upheld state segregation laws. Thus, a separate, parallel organization for agriculture students was created on August 4, 1935—the New Farmers of America. The NFA and FFA shared the same core values and had similar traditions. In 1954, the racial wall that separated white and black began to crumble with the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision Brown v. Topeka Board of Education that held that separate schools were inherently unequal. The last two state presidents elected under this segregated system were A. D. Pinson of Neches (NFA) and Calvin Brints of Crosbyton (FFA). Pinson was subsequently elected as national NFA president, serving in that capacity when the NFA was merged into the FFA in 1965.

In 1972, Fred McClure of San Augustine became the first African-American member to serve as president of the Texas FFA and later became the first to serve as a national officer. He served as the National FFA Secretary in 1973-74, student body president at Texas A&M University (the first African-American to do so) and an adviser to two U.S. presidents (Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush). In 1985, Aaron Alejandro became the first Hispanic member to be elected president of the Texas FFA. He now serves as Executive Director of the Texas FFA Foundation.



In 1972, Fred McClure of San Augustine became the first African-American member to serve as president of the Texas FFA. McClure would later serve as National FFA Secretary. Aaron Alejandro was the first Hispanic member to serve as Texas FFA president in 1985.

For the first 40 years of its existence, the Future Farmers was exclusively male. In 1935, the delegates to the national FFA convention passed a resolution denying participation to any state association that allowed girls to be listed on the state’s official roster. Girls were allowed to participate as FFA Sweethearts and some chapters designated a female student to be the chapter’s typist. For several years there was considerable discussion and debate concerning the question of female membership. In 1968, Texas FFA President Bill Sarpalius, using the female membership issue as a bargaining chip to secure additional national



In 1976, Becky Leake of Sherman became the first female FFA member in Texas to be elected to state FFA office

delegate representation, moved the motion to admit girls to membership in the national organization. At the 1969 Texas FFA Convention in

Fort Worth, with Sarpalius presiding, delegates approved an amendment to the state’s constitution giving the green light to admit girls to membership in the Texas FFA. Becky Leake of Sherman became the first female member to serve as a Texas FFA state officer; Erica Clark of Mansfield became the first female to be elected president of the Texas FFA Association in 1991.

Section 3: Organization of Statewide Alumni and Collegiate Associations

Engaging the Alumni Interest in launching an alumni association began as early as 1936 when the Texas FFA adopted language in its constitution that encouraged the formation of alumni chapters, but there is no record of any of these local organizations. A group of past recipients of the state and American degrees known as the Gold Key Club emerged. Beeville organized the first of these chapters, but the movement was short-lived, fading away at the close of the 1930’s. In 1950 a group of former members founded the Texas Future Farmer Alumni Association. This effort was short-circuited by the military draft that enlisted most of the organization’s leadership. Another group convened in the summer of 1953 calling themselves the Young Farmers of Texas. Later this organization would become linked to the agricultural education’s adult education component. The Texas FFA Alumni Association as it is known today was organized in 1971. Former Texas FFA Executive Secretary E.C. “Dick” Weekly was the Texas FFA Alumni Association’s first president.

Organizing the State Collegiate Association Collegiate FFA chapters have been in existence since the earliest days of the FFA. Their activities, however, were confined to reaches of each local college or university chapter. In 2001, collegiate representatives met at the state FFA convention in Houston to initiate the process of developing a statewide organization, a process that culminated in the adoption of a

state collegiate FFA constitution at the 75th Texas FFA Convention in Houston in 2003. Vanessa Brossman of Sam Houston State University was Texas's first Collegiate FFA State President.

Section 4: Development -Texas FFA Foundation

The Texas FFA Foundation came about, in part, due to the gifts of C. J. “Red” Davidson, a Fort-Worth oilman who, on his morning walk in downtown Fort Worth happened onto a group of well-dressed and groomed blue-corduroy-clad boys streaming into the Tarrant County Convention Center. Impressed with their conduct and appearance, he walked into the 41st Texas FFA Convention, spending the better part of the morning watching the state officers conduct the business of the state association and give eloquent presentations. This was the beginning of a relationship that resulted in the establishment of the C. J. “Red” Davidson Scholarship. Upon Mr. Davidson’s



In 2005, the announcement that the Texas FFA Foundation Capital Campaign had met and surpassed its three-year goal brought the confetti down as convention Texas FFA celebrated this significant milestone in an effort to build a \$15 million endowment. The three-year goal was the first of the three stages in the overall endeavor.

passing, stocks were given to ensure the perpetuation of the scholarship program. The stocks quickly grew in value, and the Texas FFA’s leadership realized the need to create a foundation to manage the C.J. “Red” Davidson assets and to raise funds to ensure the future of the Texas FFA. That foundation became a reality in 1987. Jay Eudy, then director of agricultural science and technology was the first chairman of the Texas FFA Foundation Board of Directors.

In 2000, a focus group representing a cross section of agricultural education stakeholders—teachers, state staff, farmers, ranchers and agribusiness men assembled in Austin

to chart the future needs of the organization. This group became known as the “Texas FFA Leadership Council.” The needs and priorities were captured in a partnership menu for a capital campaign to raise \$15 million dollars to provide an endowment to earn enough investment interest to support the goals named by the leadership council.

The Texas FFA Foundation Capital Campaign kicked off at the 74th Texas FFA Convention in Fort Worth in 2002 under the leadership of Capital Campaign Co-Chairs Paul Engler, President and CEO of Cactus Cattle Feeders in Amarillo and Anne Anderson, an Austin-based strategic consultant. The campaign was launched with a \$1.3 million gift from the Ford Motor Company and Texas Ford dealers. At the 77th Convention in 2005, the Texas FFA Foundation announced that its three-year goal of \$3.5 million had been met and surpassed, with more than \$4.2 million raised. In 2006, the foundation secured the FFA’s first title co-sponsors of the state convention. Justin Brands and Farm Credit Banks of Texas teamed up to underwrite a significant portion of each convention since then, a relationship that has continued since then.

A portion of the Ford gift made possible the construction of the Agricultural Education Texas FFA Leadership Center in Austin. Prior to its construction, all entities were housed in the VATAT headquarters building at the same address, a building that was built to accommodate only the VATAT and its credit union. Groundbreaking for the project took place in April of 2003, the building was finished in November of the same year with official ribbon cutting ceremonies in January, 2004.

Today the Texas FFA Foundation continues its mission to permanently endow Texas FFA programs by forging corporate partnerships, encouraging individual giving and seeking to engage former members in giving back to the program that, for many, was the foundation of a successful career. Current corporate partners include CEV Multimedia Ltd., CHS Foundation, Farm Credit, Ford Division and Texas Ford Dealers, Fuddruckers, Justin Brands, La Quinta Inn and Suites, Mahindra Tractors-USA, McCoy's Building Supply Centers, Priefert Ranch Equipment, Superior Trophies, Seitz Fundraising, Texas Farm Bureau, and the Texas National Guard. Scholarship sponsors are Fort Worth Stock Show Syndicate, the Fort Worth Stock Show, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the Richard Wallrath Educational Foundation, the and Rodeo Austin, San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo, and the Texas FFA Foundation.

In addition to corporate interests, individuals have also joined the effort to endow the Texas FFA into perpetuity. Former Texas FFA President and National Officer Jim Prewitt, now a prominent Dallas-area nurseryman became the catalyst for the development of the agriscience fair scholarship program. He is one of the leading individual contributors to the Texas FFA Foundation. In 2005, Centerville Rancher Richard Wallrath made Texas FFA history by becoming the Texas FFA Foundation’s all-time leading contributor with gifts totaling more than \$1.5 million.

CHAPTER 3: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1: Headquarters The Texas FFA Association is headquartered at the Ford Agricultural Education Texas FFA Leadership Center two blocks east of the Texas State Capitol at 614 East 12th Street. The building, completed in 2003, was made possible by a gift from Ford Motor Company and Texas Ford Dealers and also houses other Texas Agricultural Education entities—the Texas FFA Foundation, Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas and the VATAT Credit Union. The Texas FFA Association offices occupy the building’s ground floor, and the other entities are housed on the second floor.



Board meetings hosted in Austin are held in the third floor conference room. FFA members are encouraged to visit the Leadership Center when coming to or passing through Austin. The conference room may be available for chapter officer training.

Section 2: Board of Directors The Texas FFA Association provides leadership and management for active, junior, collegiate and alumni FFA members. A 16-member board of directors, comprised of active agricultural educators, business and industry representatives and the managerial leadership of the VATAT and Texas FFA Foundation, meets quarterly and provides governance and leadership to the state association.



Tom Maynard is the Executive Director of the Texas FFA Association

Charles Prause of Bosqueville serves as 2015-16 Chairman of the Texas FFA Board of Directors.

Five current Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources teachers are elected to the board by the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas. Six business and industry representatives, a teacher educator, a school administrator and an additional Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources teacher are elected to the board by a nominating committee process. The executive directors of the VATAT and Texas FFA Foundation serve on the board. The State Program Director for Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, Texas Education Agency along with representatives of the

**Texas FFA Association
Board of Directors**

Chairperson
Charles Prause, Bosqueville

Vice Chairperson
Jack Winterrowd, Cedar Park

Treasurer
Barney McClure, Austin

Aaron Alejandro, Austin
Liz Bradford, Dallas
Zach Brady, Lubbock
Dr. Scott Burris, Lubbock
Shane Crafton, Henrietta
Tammy Glascock, Pilot Point
Horace Hodge, Prairie View
Stefan Marchman, Fort Worth
Michael Meadows, Simms
Ray Pieniazek, San Antonio
Dr. Thomas Randle, Rosenberg
Dr. Edward Romero, Commerce
Jerome Tymrak, Kingsville

Ex-officio Board Members
Ronald Whitson, Austin
Kelly White, Kyle

Executive Director
Tom Maynard, Austin

alumni and collegiate associations serve as ex-officio members of the board.

Section 3: Executive Board The Texas FFA Association’s executive board includes the chairman of the board of directors, the executive directors of the Texas FFA Association, Texas FFA Foundation, Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas, the CTE Statewide Coordinator for Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, and the state FFA president or another designated student officer. The executive board interprets policy and renders decisions deemed to be more than a management decision, handles appeals and other administrative matters presented by the executive director.

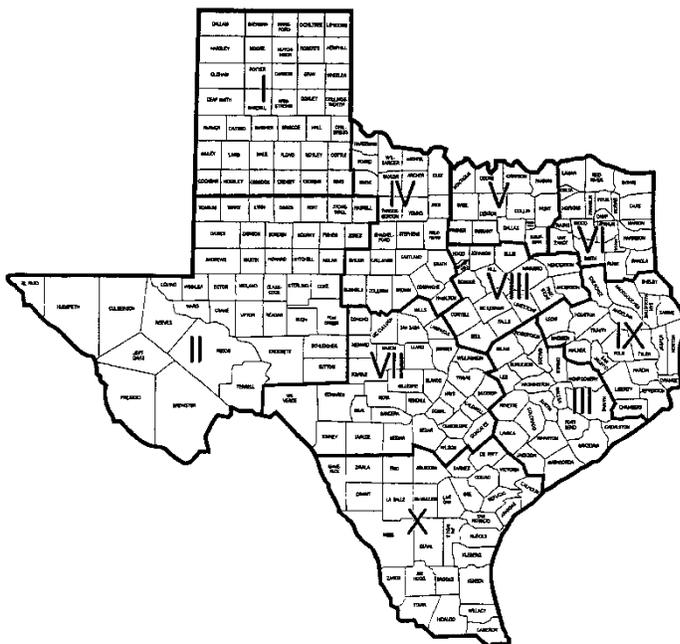


2015-2016 Texas FFA Officers

Back Row L-R: Brice Boyd, First Vice President-Area IV, Hamilton; Alex Garcia Vice President-Area X, San Benito; Coy Westbrook, Vice President- Area IX, Centerville-Groveton; Kaleb Daurich, Vice President- Area III, Katy; Micah Davidson Vice President- Area V Valley View;
Front Row L-R: Alec Winfrey, Vice President- Area II, Seminole; Shannon Butler, Vice President-Area VIII, Waxahachie; Brynn Darby, Vice President- Area VI, Harmony; Kaylynn Kiker, State President- Area I, Fort Elliott; Jason Edmondson, State President- Area VII, Burnet

Section 4: Board of Student Officers A team of ten Texas FFA State Officers represent each of the ten area associations within Texas FFA. These student officers work in

partnership with the board of directors to develop policy for the Texas FFA Association and provide student leadership to Texas FFA members. Each area association selects one candidate to serve on the state officer team during the annual state ffa convention. Once all areas have selected a representative, the delegates then elect a president and first vice president from the final ten candidates. The remaining eight officers serves as vice presidents from their respective area associations. All officers have responsibilities to the state association and leadership duties in their areas. State officers serve a one-year term.



Texas FFA Area Association Map: Texas FFA is divided into ten administrative areas which are broken along county lines and described in the Texas FFA bylaws

Section 5: Texas FFA Association and the National FFA Organization

Texas FFA Association is a chartered state association of the National FFA Organization. The national organization can be described as a confederation of state associations, each governed by its own constitution, bylaws and policies in harmony with the broad framework established by the National FFA Organizations constitution, bylaws and by Public Law 105-225 (previously 81-740). The National FFA Organization does not exercise direct oversight, but establishes boundaries through the provisions of these policies and governance over state association operations.

Section 6: Administrative Subdivisions—districts and areas

The state is divided into ten administrative areas which operate as

semi-autonomous associations. Texas has had as many as twelve areas, since for many years, these areas were a function of state education agency staffing. At one time, each of these areas was the territory for an area supervisor who provided direct oversight of local departments in their respective area. Currently, each area has a leadership structure headed by an area coordinator and/or area teacher president. Each area is further divided into districts. The number of districts per area ranges from four to seven, and there are 57 districts in the state. According to the state bylaws, the state must consider re-alignment at least every ten years and the areas must consider re-districting at least every five years. In January, 2015, the Texas FFA Board of Directors voted to initiate an area realignment, which will be deliberated during the 2015-16 academic year. A commission made up of area teacher representatives, business and industry board members, a student officer,



Michael Williams
Texas Commissioner of
Education

Ronald Whitson
CTE Statewide Coordinator
for Agriculture, Food and
Natural Resources.

Section 7: Texas FFA Association and the Texas Education Agency.

The Texas Education Agency provides leadership for Texas education and is headed by State Education Commissioner, Michael Williams, who was appointed by Governor Rick Perry in 2012. The 15-member State Board of Education adopts instructional standards called Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), textbooks and graduation plans, approves charter schools and manages the Permanent School Fund, a \$38 billion endowment that funds instructional materials and technology and guarantees bonds approved by local school districts. State Board of Education members are elected to four year terms in the November general election. Its chairman is

nominated from the members of the board by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. Currently, Donna Bahorich of Houston chairs the state board. For a significant portion of its history, the Texas FFA Association operated through the Texas Education Agency, and FFA staff members were TEA employees. In 1998, the FFA was moved outside of the agency and a board of directors made up of agricultural educators and industry representatives was established to provide leadership for the organization. The Texas FFA Association's executive director is employed by the Board of Directors. Ronald Whitson is the Statewide Career and Technical Education Coordinator for Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and provides instructional and curricular leadership for Texas agricultural education. In this role, Mr. Whitson is responsible for curriculum development, textbook adoption, instructional program standards and teacher certification as well as teacher professional development. FFA is an integral part of the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources instructional program, and it is critical that the FFA remain tied to this foundation. Although the relationship of the TEA and FFA has changed in recent years, the program director remains actively engaged in the leadership of the Texas FFA as an ex-officio member of the board of directors and as a member of the executive board.

Section 8: Texas FFA Association and Local Chapters

The Texas FFA Association issues and revokes charters in accordance to the mandates of the state association's constitution, bylaws and board-adopted policies, provides support services to local chapters and administers events which support the agricultural education instructional programs. Direct oversight of local programs is the domain of local boards of trustees and administrators. Texas FFA has developed an "Effective Chapters" document that provides basic guidelines which schools may use as a reference for leadership and oversight of local FFA chapters. Each chapter has requirements mandated by the state constitution and bylaws to remain in good standing with the state association. Pursuant to National FFA Organization policy, the state association has stewardship of the FFA emblem and trademarks, and the state association is duty bound to act when these are used inappropriately.

Section 9: Texas Collegiate FFA The purpose of the Texas Collegiate FFA Association is to continue the development of premier leadership, personal growth and career success at a higher level and in the context of a collegiate environment. Leadership for the organization is vested in the Texas Collegiate FFA Senate, consisting of two representatives from each affiliated two-year or four-year institution. The collegiate association operates under the oversight of the Texas FFA Board of Directors. Six student officers are elected annually. Adult leadership is provided by the collegiate advisors of the student officers and two executive advisors who serve longer terms to ensure a degree of continuity in the organization. The faculty advisors for the Collegiate FFA are Dr. David Frazier of Tarleton State University, and Dr. Doug Ullrich of Sam Houston State University. The Texas Collegiate FFA holds meetings in conjunction with the Texas FFA Convention and the State Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Professional Improvement Conference. Competitions hosted by CFFA are designed to enhance its members' professional skills and to position them for entry into the job market.



2015-2016 Texas Collegiate FFA Officers -
Back Row (L-R): Chelsea Woeifier (Reporter), Texas State University; Taarna Albright (Sentinel), West Texas A&M University; Tarlton Holloway (Vice President), West Texas A&M University; Ashley Radde (Treasurer), Tarleton State University; and Wacey Horton (President), Tarleton State University
Front Row (L-R): Harper Orts (Secretary), Sam Houston State University; Brittany McCoy (Student Advisor), Sam Houston State University

Section 10: Texas FFA Alumni Association

The Texas FFA Alumni Association operates under the auspices of the Texas FFA Board of Directors in accordance to policies contained in the organization's memorandum of understanding and operating policies.



Kelly White, Texas FFA Alumni President

The purpose of local alumni affiliates is to provide support to local Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources departments and the state alumni association is to provide assistance to local affiliates. A 23-member alumni council provides direction and leadership to the organization in harmony with administrative oversight and board policies and directives. Texas FFA Alumni accounts are managed by the Texas FFA Association staff. The Texas FFA Alumni Association holds their annual meeting in conjunction with the state FFA convention and provides financial support to the Texas FFA Association and the Texas FFA Foundation. Kelly White of Kyle serves as the president of the Texas FFA Alumni Association. The Past State Officers Alumni is a statewide alumni association affiliated with the Texas FFA Association. Barbie Mosley serves as the 2015-16 Past State Officer Alumni Chairman.

Section 11: Texas FFA Staff

The Texas FFA Association has five employees. The executive director, student coordinator, leadership development coordinator and membership services coordinator are full-time Texas FFA Association employees. The budget and finance coordinator is an employee of the Texas FFA but shares



Left to Right: Suzanne Anders-Charioui serves as the Budget and Finance Coordinator; Gwenn Winsauer serves as the Assistant to the Executive Director/Membership Coordinator; Ashley Dunkerley serves as the Communications Coordinator; Kaleigh Burnett serves as the Student Recognition and Scholarship Coordinator; and Dean Black serves as Leadership Development Coordinator.

financial management responsibilities with the VATAT, Texas Young Farmers and the Texas Career and Technology Council. The VATAT communications coordinator is currently the editor of the Texas FFA News, as well as the manager of Texas FFA social media.

Section 12: Communications Texas FFA Association disseminates news and information through a variety of media avenues..

- **Texas FFA News Online** is the official online news publication of the Texas FFA Association. The news site highlights agricultural issues, FFA activities and events as well as recognizes FFA members for their accomplishments. Along with articles and pictures, the Texas FFA News Online hosts videos, links and other interactive content. Registered students and visitors are able to voice their opinions on stories by commenting on articles. Sharing stories and spreading content is now easier with the social media integration of Facebook, Twitter and the ability to email articles to other readers.
- **Convention Media Program** There are two different features of the Convention Media program. The first is The Convention Chronicle, the official online news of the Texas FFA Convention that is published for FFA members, by FFA members (news.texasffa.org). The second feature is The Convention Report, a newscast video scheduled to air during the final general session. Texas FFA members apply for positions on the Convention Media staff and work throughout the convention to produce interesting news pieces. Through their involvement, members gain real-life, hands-on experience in the operations of the current media trade.
- **www.texasffa.org** is the Texas FFA Association's Web site. General information, policies, event rules, support materials, news and updates can be found online. Additionally, websites for collegiate and alumni associations and the other members of Texas Agricultural Education can be accessed from the Texas FFA's home on the World Wide Web.
- The Texas FFA Network is a network of local chapter websites developed through a Texas FFA Foundation partnership with Wieghat Graphics using the **FFANow** Chapter Website System. Local chapters can establish their online web presence by creating their own websites using the custom, easy-to-use online system provided through this partnership.
- **www.mytexasffa.org** is an interactive promotional website designed in partnership with the Texas FFA Foundation. www.mytexasffa.org contains video footage of agricultural education and FFA testimonials from students, parents, educators, sponsors and former members.

Section 13: Funding, Financial Management, Tax Exempt Status Revenues to fund Texas FFA Association activities come from membership dues, swine validation, sponsorships and contributions, convention registration fees, federal monies through the Carl Perkins federal career and technology education fund and to a smaller extent, magazine advertising and investments. The Texas FFA Foundation provides funding for a portion of the scholarship programs, convention events and for special projects. FFA monies are expended in accordance to audit controls and board policies. The budget and finance committee of the Texas FFA Board of Directors/Board of Student Officers develops a budget for each fiscal year to be presented to the delegate body at the annual convention business session. The Texas FFA Association undergoes an annual audit conducted by an independent auditor. In addition, quarterly reports are submitted to the Texas Education Agency auditors. The double audit ensures the financial integrity of the Texas FFA Association. The Texas FFA Association is tax exempt educational

organization pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code.

Section 14: Leadership and Organizational Structure of Other Agricultural Education Entities

Texas FFA Foundation Established in 1987 exclusively for the benefit of the Texas FFA and its members, the Texas FFA Foundation is the fundraising arm of Texas Agricultural Education. Leadership for the foundation's activities is provided by a board of directors, and managerial leadership is administered by an executive director. The foundation board



Aaron Alejandro is the Executive Director of the Texas FFA Foundation

J. Ken Johnson of Houston chairs the Texas FFA Foundation Board of Directors

may have as many as 27 directors, but currently has 26. The foundation is in the midst of a long-term campaign to permanently endow Texas FFA programs and scholarships.

The executive director of the Texas FFA Foundation is a member of the Texas FFA Association board of directors and executive board. Like the Texas FFA Association, the Texas FFA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



Barney McClure is the VATAT's Executive Director and serves as the Texas FFA's Board Treasurer

Ray Pieniazek of San Antonio-East Central is the 2015-16 VATAT President

Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas The VATAT was established in 1940 and chartered in 1951 to provide a voice for Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources teachers in the educational policy-making process, recognition for educator achievements and professional services. Leadership for the organization comes from an elected board of directors. Directors are apportioned by teacher membership in each of the ten area associations—one director per 28 members with a minimum of two directors per area. Currently, the board has a membership of 65. An executive director provides managerial leadership and is the political officer of Texas Agricultural Education. The VATAT elects five of its members to the Texas FFA Association board of directors, the VATAT

Executive Director is a Texas FFA board member by position and serves as treasurer of the board of directors. Because the VATAT engages in political advocacy, it is not eligible to have 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. It is a not-for-profit organization as described in 501(c)(6) of the federal tax code.

Teacher Education Institutions Eleven universities prepare and certify students to serve as agricultural educators. Students who wish to pursue an agricultural education career can find teacher education programs at the following Texas universities: Angelo State, Sam Houston State, Stephen F. Austin State, Sul Ross State, Tarleton State, Texas A&M, Texas A&M-Commerce, Texas A&M-Kingsville, Texas State, Texas Tech, and West Texas A&M. Each institution is governed by their respective system board of regents. All institutions actively collaborate with each other to strive for some consistency in certification programs.

VATAT Credit Union The VATAT Credit Union was established in 1961 to provide financial services to Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources teachers and their families. A seven-member board of directors provides leadership and oversight for the VATAT Credit Union, and a manager provides daily administration of its operations. The VATAT Credit Union provides financial services to the Texas FFA Association, Texas Collegiate FFA Association, Texas FFA Alumni Association, and to other entities of the Texas Agricultural Education Family. Glenn Clinard of Manor is chairman of the VATAT Credit Union Board of Directors and Rosario Rodriguez is its manager.



Don Beene of Fairfield is Executive Secretary of the Texas Young Farmers

Kenneth Brown of Teague is President of the Texas Young Farmers

Young Farmers of Texas The Young Farmers of Texas was initially founded as an alumni group in 1954, but evolved into an organization of young men and women who were engaged in the adult education facet of local agriculture departments. The Young Farmers of Texas has a membership of 818 in 45 local chapters. The executive committee with 18 positions functions as a board of directors for the Young Farmers, and an Executive Secretary provides managerial leadership for the organization's operations. The Texas FFA Association provides bookkeeping services for the Young Farmers. The Young Farmers are also a scholarship and convention sponsor. Kenneth Brown of Teague is the President. Don Beene of Fairfield is the Executive Secretary.

CHAPTER 4: TAKING THE FIRST STEP—JOINING THE TEXAS FFA

Section 1: Active Membership Those who had the foresight, vision and leadership to establish the FFA wrote to future generations a promissory note—a check. The first step in cashing that check—taking advantage of this remarkable opportunity—is to join. Texas FFA membership has continuously grown since 2001. In the last ten years, net membership growth is +47,773. Texas is the nation’s largest state FFA association and the current membership level is an all-time record for any state FFA association.

Texas FFA Membership

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
61,332	61,130	62,708	63,331	62,967	74,372	81,535	86,657	95,287	103,941	109,105

The Integral Nature of FFA and Agricultural Education The Texas FFA Association is the organization of, by, and for students enrolled in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources programs and pursuant to the Texas Education Code Section 29.182, is an integral part of the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Career and Technical Education program. FFA programs are intended to be applied activities related to the classroom and laboratory instructional programs. Thus, membership guidelines should reflect this philosophy and support co-curricular enrollment in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources courses.

Enrollment Requirement for Active Membership Active membership in the Texas FFA Association is established by enrolling in an approved Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources course taught by an instructor with the appropriate credentials. In some cases in which the local Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources instructor is teaching agricultural classes that are not approved by the State Board of Education, but are similar in objectives to approved classes, course substitutions can be made in accordance to current board policy. With increasing graduation requirements, Texas FFA Association has established policies which support enrollment in such courses, while giving a student some degree of flexibility in maintaining continuous membership to apply for degrees and awards. After completing two consecutive courses, they may maintain continuous membership for a maximum of one year while not enrolled in a course provided they maintain an approved supervised experience program which is documented in an approved record book. The “year” referenced in this policy is a membership year which begins September 1 and ends on August 31. For the purposes of the membership eligibility policy, two classes, taken concurrently, count as two consecutive classes. After re-enrolling and completing one Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources course, a student is eligible to maintain one more year of membership without re-enrollment provided an approved, documented SAE is in place. This policy does not negate more stringent enrollment requirements for participation in leadership development events, speaking development events, career development events or any other activity that has an enrollment standard. This does not preclude local chapters and other associations from adopting more stringent enrollment requirements for membership or for holding elected offices.

Membership Dues Texas FFA Association state dues are \$5.00 for active members. In addition to state dues, a student must also pay local, district, area and national dues. National dues are also \$7.00. Local, district and area dues are set by the student delegates of the respective associations. Membership dues are used to support operations and activities that are of benefit to all members. For the fall semester, dues and rosters must be submitted electronically via the Texas FFA online roster management system by November 1 to be in good standing with the state association and March 1 for students joining in the spring semester. Dues are paid annually, and the membership year begins September 1 and expires on August 31. In 2009-10, Texas piloted a national affiliation fee model program which allows chapters to pay an affiliation fee based on total instructional program enrollment or total enrollment for an entire school district, plus other non-enrolled members. This approach allows some programs to access other funds to make students eligible to participate in the FFA activities. The membership submission deadline for delegate counts is March 10.

Other Membership Requirements In addition to meeting enrollment/SAE and dues requirements, to be a Texas FFA member, a student must show an interest in the affairs of the association by attending

meetings, striving for degrees of membership, participating in other organized activities of the chapter and displaying conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the Texas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America. Local chapters may adopt more stringent membership requirements. Class enrollment is required for Texas FFA administered competitive events.

Section 2: Other FFA Membership Types

Junior Membership Junior membership, initiated in 1987, is a feature unique to Texas. Active chapters in good standing may establish junior FFA programs for students enrolled in the local chapter's school district who are in the third grade and eight years old. These students may continue their junior membership until they become eligible to enroll in the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources program. Junior members must be affiliated with a chapter in the school district in which they are enrolled unless the school district approves a waiver for out of district students. School superintendents must approve and certify in writing out of district students to participate in the junior FFA program(s) of their district. Such waivers must be submitted annually. Junior members typically enjoy benefits provided by local chapters are eligible to compete in the state's major livestock shows and in most county shows and participate in other competitions sponsored by other FFA partners. Junior members are not eligible to participate in Texas FFA governed events or cast votes in the business of the association. Junior membership dues, rosters and waivers must be postmarked by December 1.

Collegiate Membership Collegiate membership is open to all post-secondary students enrolled in a two or four-year college or university and interested in career objectives in agriculture or who have an interest in the welfare of the agricultural industry. Collegiate members must pay local and state dues to be a member in good standing.

Alumni Membership One need not be a former member to be a member of the Texas FFA Alumni—just a supporter of agricultural education and the FFA. Those desiring to join this movement can join a local affiliate by paying \$15 annual state/national dues in addition to local dues or becoming a lifetime national member by paying a one-time dues installment of \$150. Those who wish to join but do not have a local affiliate to join may become an at-large member. Past state FFA officers and past state staff members may join the Texas FFA Association's PSO FFA Alumni Affiliate.

Honorary Membership Local chapters have the opportunity to bestow honorary membership on those community members who have rendered outstanding service to the local program and to the cause of the agricultural education and FFA. At its annual convention, the state association bestows honorary membership on those who render outstanding service to the Texas FFA and Texas Agricultural Education. Each of the area associations have the opportunity to nominate for the Honorary Lone Star FFA Degree a number of worthy non-teacher recipients not to exceed ten percent of the number of regular state degrees from the previous year. The board of student officers, board of directors or executive director may also make nominations. Active teachers may receive the Honorary Lone Star Degree by meeting the criteria described in Section 40 of the Texas FFA Association Policy Handbook. All nominations must be approved by the student delegates.

CHAPTER 5: Leadership Outcomes...Conceptual Skills

Section 1: Texas FFA Effective Chapters Doctrine The Texas FFA Association defines leadership as "influence." The framework used to develop premier leadership among Texas FFA members is focused upon six areas: Action, Relationships, Vision, Character, Awareness, and Continuous Improvement. These focus areas and the skills and abilities associated were derived from research conducted by the National FFA Organization through joint collaboration of both business/industry partners and academia. These items were then vetted through partners of Texas Agricultural Education and were approved by the Texas FFA Board of Directors in 2009. The entire leadership development framework may be found in the appendix of this Leadership Guide.

The Texas FFA's primary leadership development vehicle is the local chapter. State and area leadership development programs are geared to strengthen local chapters through which members learn to function as part of an effective team, plan and implement strategies, lead and serve on committees and fiduciary responsibility. An effective FFA chapter:

1. Strives for all agricultural education students to be FFA members because of the integral nature of FFA and Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources curricula.
2. Actively encourages and cultivates supervised agricultural experience programs that are industry relevant, appropriate to classroom and laboratory instruction, student interests, aptitudes and future goals and are documented in approved record books. Preference should be given to computer generated record keeping systems. Students are encouraged to compete for SAE-based awards and scholarships.
3. Meets or exceeds expectations listed in the National FFA Organization's "*Essential of a Successful Chapter*" in the **Official FFA Manual**. The chapter has regular meetings and follows a constitution and bylaws and policies which comply with state guidelines. The chapter has developed and approved a written program of activities which addresses all components of the National FFA Organization's quality standards for local chapters, and has as an intended outcome the engagement of 100% of its members in a hands-on leadership development experience. The chapter provides leadership training for chapter officers and other recognized leaders.
4. Provides instruction in basic leadership skills such as parliamentary procedure, speech communication, and opportunities to demonstrate skill proficiency in FFA competition.
5. Provides achievement opportunities in career development events appropriate to instruction and student interest.
6. Encourages academic excellence and pursuit of post-secondary education through promotion of and assistance in applying for FFA scholarships.
7. Provides leadership opportunities above the chapter level through active participation in district, area and state FFA activities.
8. Provides a systematic and consistent avenue for significant and public recognition of student achievement. This should include an annual awards program and a working relationship with local media.
9. Provides input opportunities for parents, industry representatives, administrators and other interested community stakeholders to review and evaluate program operations through an advisory committee which reports findings and recommendations to the board of trustees.
10. Has a well-organized adult support group which assists teachers and students in achieving chapter goals in harmony with school district policies. The local FFA chapter should also draw on the expertise of other subject area instructors to assist in meeting student and chapter goals.
11. Reaches students of all races, ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds and develops programs that are diverse and inclusive. The chapter membership should reflect the demographic profile of the campus, and if not, the local chapter should be engaged in tactics to reach this standard.



2015-16 State President Jason Edmondson of Burnet and State First Vice President Brice Boyd of Hamilton will visit communities and schools across Texas in a Ford F-150. The truck and its special decal design were made possible by the Texas FFA Foundation's corporate partnership with the Ford Motor Company and Texas Ford Dealers.

Section 2: Student Leadership

Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs

All local chapters should have functioning officers and committee chairs. Each of the components of the National FFA Organization's Quality Standards for Local Chapters should be represented by an active standing committee charged with clear and measurable objectives. Leadership means exerting influence and FFA members should learn to exercise leadership in the context of an organization.

Area and District Officers

Student officers are elected to

conduct the members' business at each organizational level—district and area. These officers are expected to conduct meetings, camps and workshops and represent their respective associations. All district and area officers must hold the chapter degree at the time of their election.

State Officers It is a remarkable opportunity to serve as a Texas FFA state officer. Ten members are elected to work on behalf of their fellow Texas FFA members in this capacity. Officers are elected via a student-centered process facilitated by board-appointed adult volunteers at the state level that consists of two phases. The first phase includes: personal round-1, written exam (multiple choice and essay), one-on-one interview Round and Advocacy Stand and Deliver Practicum. Following the first phase the top two candidates from each area will remain to participate in phase two which includes: Facilitation Practicum, Round Robin Round and Personal Round 2. At the end of the interview process, the delegates to the state FFA convention will have the opportunity to hear a speech from each of the two area finalist. Only one candidate from each area will remain after utilizing the scores from the exam, interview and initial voting. Once each final candidate has received their area nomination, they will provide a one minute run off speech to the delegates to seek to be the Texas FFA State President. Officers must hold the Lone Star FFA Degree at the time of the state election held at that year's state convention and must be no more than one year removed from high school graduation. A president and vice president are elected from the ten incoming officers. These two officers take a one-year leave of absence from college studies to serve as the Texas FFA's travel team, visiting three schools a day representing the Texas FFA and delivering motivational workshops to students, teachers, administrators and other interested parties.

National Officers Beginning with Roy Martin of Cotulla, who was the first to serve as a national FFA officer in 1936-17, 29 Texans have served as a member of the six-member national FFA officer team. Bobby Tucker of Mineola was the first of six Texans to serve as national president. Randa Braune of Bellville served as the most recent National Officer from Texas in 2009-2010. Texas' candidate is nominated by a student committee composed of members representing all ten area associations. In addition to those ten members is a single chairperson, which is a member of the immediate past State FFA Officer Team, appointed by the State FFA President with the consent of the Board of Directors. The committee convenes before the annual state convention to examine each candidate using nominating procedures which closely mirror the national selection process. The national officer nomination process is conducted in conjunction with the National FFA convention in Louisville. A nine-member nominating committee interviews all candidates and nominates a president, secretary and vice president from each of the four national regions.

National Convention Delegates Each state FFA association is allotted a number of voting delegates to the National FFA Convention based on membership. Each state FFA Association is allotted a number of voting delegates to the National FFA Convention based on membership. In 2015, 67 of the 475 national delegates are Texans. The state's ten-member officer team serves as part of the delegation and the area associations are given the opportunity to select members to travel to the national convention to represent the interests of the state's members in conducting the National FFA Organization's business. The national delegate process starts long before the national convention. In Texas, It begins as a grassroots process through which any member has the opportunity to have an issue or idea considered at the national level. One of an area officer's first responsibilities is to gather concerns and issues regarding the National FFA Organization. These are funneled to the state leadership conference in June, at which time a student national issues committee examines all forwarded issues and submits a report to the Texas FFA Board of Directors and to the National FFA Organization. These issues, along with other issues forwarded by other states are considered by the delegates to the National State President's Conference in Washington, D.C. Issues deemed to be most important are selected and become



Texas FFA members have an opportunity to exert influence on a national scale, not only as delegates, but also via a grassroots process through which any member can have an issue submitted and possibly have it debated and discussed by national delegates.

national delegate issues. All national delegates are assigned to issue committees which consider one of the critical issues and hold public hearings. Each committee develops recommendations which are presented to the National FFA Board of Directors.

District, Area and State Delegates FFA values a hands-on, “learning to do, doing to learn leadership development philosophy and strategy. To that end, each chapter is entitled to send delegates to the state convention to cast votes in election processes and to participate in the conduct of the state association’s business. Student delegates must approve any due increases, amendments to the constitution or bylaws, regular and honorary state degrees and the state association’s nominee for national office. Delegates also approve the annual program of activities and budget.

Each local chapter is entitled to send one delegate from its active membership plus one additional delegate for 50 members or any fraction thereof above the first 50 members. To conduct business, the any delegate body must achieve a quorum, which is defined as the minimum number of members who must be present to legally conduct business. For the state FFA delegation body, a majority of chapters which are registered for convention constitutes a quorum.

Districts and areas should also carry on delegate business sessions. While delegate allocation plans may vary between the districts, each chapter should send delegates to be active participants.

Ford Leadership Scholars In September, 2009, the Texas FFA Board of Directors approved the Ford Leadership Scholars, a cutting- edge leadership development program. An application process begins in January and includes a reading assignment, test, telephone interview and finally a face-to-face behavioral interview. Ten members are selected by a committee of industry professionals to participate in an intense six-month program that includes industry tours, hands-on projects and mentoring by recognized industry leaders.



The 2015 State Leadership Conference was held at the Three Mountain Retreat near Clifton, June 7-9, 2015.

Section 3: Leadership Development through Camps, Conferences, Programs and Conventions

Leadership Conferences Learning doesn’t stop when schools close for the summer months. Thousands of Texas FFA members attend chapter, district, area and state leadership conferences held across the state each year. The Texas FFA Association’s approach to leadership development is “learning by doing” through peer instruction. Each year, the state’s 74 area officers attend the state leadership conference held in early June. State officers organize the conference

and provide the instruction with the goal of equipping area officers to conduct area conferences for district and chapter officers. All of the state’s ten areas and a number of districts conduct leadership conferences for chapter and/or district officers. Several districts hold chapter officer camps.

Leadership Development Conferences In 2013, Texas FFA adopted an overall plan titled the “Leadership Development Continuum,” a long-range plan with specific leadership development outcomes for members at different stages of development. To achieve this goal, Texas FFA is developing leadership conference programs for each year of a member’s FFA journey. Most greenhand-level conferences are conducted by district and area associations, but Texas FFA provides curricular support for these efforts. In 2015-16, Texas FFA is piloting the sophomore-level conference called “Made for Excellence,” which focuses on personal development through self-discovery of talents, strengths, interests and character to develop in members the capacity for individual achievement.

Day at the Capitol Each year, Texas FFA designates a day in February for Texas FFA members to come to the state capitol to learn about the legislative process. Because the legislature convenes on odd-numbered years, the program alternates between a workshop-style event on interim years (when the legislature is not in session) and session years. The interim-year program features speakers who are statewide elected officials, legislators, legislative and agency staffers and professional legislative advocates. When the legislature is in session, FFA members spend time interacting with their elected senators and representatives.

State Convention The state Convention is the highlight of the year for the Texas FFA Association. Each year, some 11,000 to 12,000 active, collegiate and alumni members, guests and other supporters convene to recognize Texas FFA's degree, award and scholarship recipients, compete for state honors in the talent competition, elect new officers, conduct the business of the state association and hear from inspiring speakers. Texas FFA members can play an active role in convention by representing their chapter as a voting delegate or by serving as a member of the courtesy corps, Texas FFA Foundation Ambassadors, Texas FFA Chorus, or the Convention Media Team. In addition to the events on the main stage, the convention features top entertainment acts, the Texas FFA State Rodeo Finals, leadership development workshops, Collegiate and Alumni FFA conventions and the Texas FFA Alumni Benefit Auction. The state public speaking finals and agriscience fair are held in conjunction with the annual convention. State convention sites are selected by the Texas FFA Association Board of Directors, usually about five years in advance of each convention. The 87th Texas FFA Convention in 2015 was held in Corpus Christi and had an attendance of 11,837, the second largest convention in its history. The largest convention on record was the 86th convention held in Fort Worth in 2014 with an attendance of 12,378. Future convention sites are: 2016: Dallas and 2017: Corpus Christi. In 2018, Texas FFA will begin a three-year convention run (2018-20) in Fort Worth, which will be the first time to hold consecutive conventions in a single location since 1929-33, when the FFT/FFA held five successive conventions in conjunction with the State Fair of Texas in Dallas.

