2022-2023

DISTRICT OFFICER CANDIDATE STUDY GUIDE

TO THE

TEXAS FFA ASSOCIATION

AND

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Texas FFA Association
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AND TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

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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**	**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. A Career Cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities. There are fourteen Career Clusters offered in Texas that provide an organizing tool for schools, small learning communities, academies and magnet schools. CTE in Texas utilizes each of the fourteen clusters. State level instructional oversight is provided by the CTE staff at the Texas Education Agency.

The Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources 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 six statewide programs of study: Agribusiness, Animal Science, Applied Agricultural Engineering, Environmental and Natural Resources, Food Science And Technology, and Plant Science.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
CAREER CLUSTERS

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
Architecture and Construction
Arts, A/V Technology and Communications
Business, Marketing, and Finance
Education and Training
Energy
Health Science
Hospitality and Tourism
Human Services
Information Technology
Law and Public Service
Manufacturing
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
Transportation, Distribution and Logistics

There are over 1,000 campuses across the state that offer instruction in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. There are 31 AFNR courses which provide rigorous and challenging opportunities for more than 222,894 young Texans. AFNR courses are found in rural, suburban and urban school districts and the classrooms and laboratories reflect a diverse and balanced gender and ethnic population.

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.

Another component of the agricultural education model is 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 SAEs through awards and degrees and provide hands-on leadership and personal skill development through the student-led organization. SAE Stands for Supervised Agricultural Experience, you will learn more about this component in Section 3.

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.

TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION PROGRAM
ENDORSEMENTS

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

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 courses will normally meet the requirements to earn the Business and Industry endorsement. AFNR can oftentimes 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.)

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.

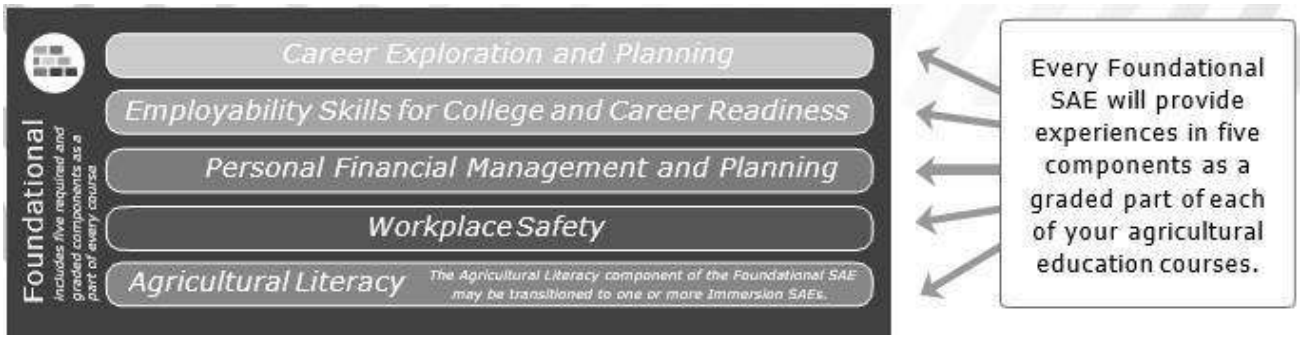
A Performance Acknowledgement can add additional value to your high school experience. Performance Acknowledgements are earned by successfully completing a dual credit course, demonstration of bilingualism

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 major 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. As apart of each AFNR course you take, you will develop a foundational SAE aligned to your career interest. Many activities related to a foundational SAE may take place during your AFNR class and may change based on work you have accomplished.



Foundational SAE:

- **Career Exploration and Planning:** In this component, students will research and explore career opportunities within the AFNR industry. They will complete interest inventories and identify a career goal. Ultimately, students will be able to describe AFNR career opportunities and the path to achieving those opportunities.
- **Employability Skills for College and Career Readiness:** Through the Employability Skills component, students will develop the skills needed to succeed in both college and a career. These skills include responsibility, communication, innovation, critical thinking and collaboration.
- **Personal Financial Management and Planning:** Crafting a personal financial management plan is the focus of the Personal Financial Management and Planning component. Students need to understand how personal financial practices like budgeting, saving and appropriate use of credit leads to financial independence.
- **Workplace Safety:** Where many of the ANFR career pathways contain hazardous occupations, it is critical that all students have a strong base of instruction and experience with workplace safety. In this component, students will examine and summarize the importance of health, safety and environmental management systems in the AFNR workplace.
- **Agricultural Literacy:** All students also need a base understanding of the width and breadth of the agricultural industry. This component will require students to research and analyze how issues, trends, technologies and public policies impact AFNR systems. They will also evaluate the nature and role of agriculture in society and the economy.

Over time, you will likely identify opportunities to become even more immersed in gaining skills fora career in a certain area of the agricultural industry. Immersion SAEs provide a way to build upon your Foundational SAE and gain direct experience in your selected career path that colleges and employers will

value when reviewing your application for entry or employment. The outcome of this progression from a Foundational to an Immersion SAE is an authentic path to college and career readiness.

Immersion SAE:

Even though Immersion SAEs are an extension of the Agricultural Literacy component of the Foundational SAE, they will contribute to a student's growth in all of the Foundational components in an authentic, contextualized manner. As students move beyond agricultural literacy to develop knowledge, skills and expertise within a specific AFNR pathway through an Immersion SAE, there will be more opportunities for recognition, awards and rapid development of employable skills for college and career readiness. The types of Immersion SAEs are:

- **Placement/Internship**
- **Ownership/Entrepreneurship**
- **Research**
- **School Based Learning Enterprise**
- **Service Learning**

The selection of Immersion SAEs should align to and support your career interest defined in your Career Plan. Immersion SAEs are designed to help you transition from career exploration to career preparation. Participation in an Immersion SAE will give you hands-on experience with critical thinking, communication and leadership skills.

SAE is a required component of all AFNR courses in Texas, as explained by the Texas Administrative Code chapter 130, subchapter A. SAE includes the skills necessary to plan, propose, conduct and evaluate the experiential learning activity.

Section 4: Texas FFA 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 the 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 pre-dated 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, 1917 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.

Texas Association
Of
Future Farmers of America

Incorporated

Charter No. 1

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the Organization known as

Winters Future Farmers

having satisfied all the requirements for affiliation with the

Texas Association Future Farmers of America

is hereby chartered by the Texas Congress of the F. F. A. as the Winters Chapter of the Texas Association, and is entitled to all the rights and privileges pertaining therein.

In witness whereof this charter is signed and sealed this 10 day of April 1930

Howard Strother

President

E. R. Alexander

State Advisor

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.

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 in 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 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.

2015 marked the 50th anniversary of the FFA/NFA merger. To celebrate this historic occasion, A.D. Pinson attended a special ceremony on-stage and was presented with a replica of his original NFA officer jacket.

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.

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

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 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 isno 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. In 1971 the Texas FFA Alumni Association was formed and is still present and active today. 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 SamHouston State University was Texas's first Collegiate FFA State President. Delegates at the 90th Texas FFA Convention voted

to merge Collegiate and Alumni FFA into one entity. Leadership from both Texas FFA Alumni Association and Collegiate FFA are working on governing documents to facilitate this transition.

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 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 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.

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 CactusCattle 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 ever since.

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 ATAT headquarters building at the same address, a building that was built to accommodate only the ATAT 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 sponsors include: BLOOM, Cavender's, CEV Multimedia Ltd., Farm Credit, Texas Ford Dealers, Justin Boots, Kubota, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, McCoy's Building Supply Centers, PIERCE, Priefert Ranch Equipment, RFD-TV, Seitz Fundraising, Slate Group, Superior Trophies, Texas Army National Guard, Texas Farm Bureau and The Power Group. Academic and award scholarship sponsors include: Fort Worth Stock Show Syndicate, Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Richard Wallrath Educational Foundation,

Rodeo Austin, San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo, C.G. Scruggs Family, Blue Mountain Equipment / STIHL, Cactus Feeders, Farm Credit, George and Anne Butler Foundation, J. Lawson Sowell Memorial, La Quinta by Wyndham, McCoy's Building Supply, Texas Cotton Ginners' Association, Texas Independent Ginners Association, Texas Farm Bureau, Texas Pork Producers, Texas Young Farmers, VATAT Credit Union, Vickie Rosenbusch Memorial, Texas FFA Association, 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, who was 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, 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, 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 ATAT and Texas FFA Foundation, meets quarterly and provides governance & leadership to the state association.

Jennifer Jackson is the Executive Director of the Texas FFA Association

Ryan Pieniazek of Frenship serves as the 2022-23 Chairman of the Texas FFA Board

Five current Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources teachers are elected to the board by the 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 ATAT 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 alumni and collegiate associations serve as ex-officio members of the board.

Texas FFA Association Board of Directors

Chairperson:
Ryan Pieniazek, Frenship

Vice Chairperson:
Traylor Lenz, Angleton

Treasurer:
Ray Pieniazek, Austin

Members:
Aaron Alejandro, Austin
Kathy Bates-Beck
Dr. Candis Carraway, Nacogdoches
Dr. Kady Donaghey, Weatherford
Lynita Foster, Madisonville
Shelton Green, Austin
Aron Hutchins, College Station
Karissa Jones, Weatherford
Toby Long, Hamilton
Troy Oliver, Sealy
Jeff Thayne, San Antonio
Michelle Vasbinder, Bryan
Dr. Whit Weems, Waco

Ex-Officio Members:
Les Hudson, Austin (TEA)
Kelly White, Kyle (Alumni)

Executive Director:
Jennifer Jackson, Austin

Section 3: Executive Board

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, 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.

Section 4: Board of Student Officers

A team of twelve Texas FFA State Officers represent each of the twelve 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 twelve candidates. The remaining ten officers serve 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.

2022-2023 Texas FFA Officers
Left to Right

Back Row: Austin Blagg, Area V; Thomas Egbert, Area VII; Brandon French, Area IX; Nathan Atkinson, Area X; Zoee Nolan, Area II; Logan Jaure, Area III

Front Row: Ty Williams, Area VIII; Laura Beth James, Area XI; Windsor Godfrey, Area IV (State President); Campbell Offield, Area I; Joseph Nelson, Area VI; Bryce Fisher, Area XII (State First Vice President)

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 twelve administrative areas which operate as semi- autonomous associations. Texas has had as many as 12 areas and 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 66 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 redistricting at least every five years. On July 13, 2016, during the 88th convention business session, delegates across the state voted in favor of area realignment which would add two new areas to the association. In July 2018, Texas FFA increased from 10 to 12 areas.

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

Section 7: Texas FFA Association and the Texas Education Agency

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) provides leadership for Texas education and is headed by State Education Commissioner, Mike Morath, who was appointed by Governor Greg Abbott in 2016. 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.

Mike Morath
Commissioner of Education

Les Hudson
CTE Statewide Coordinator for Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

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. Les Hudson is currently 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. Hudson 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 AFNR 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. 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

As a result of delegate business at the 90th Texas FFA Convention, Collegiate FFA became part of the Texas FFA Alumni Association. Leadership from both associations are working on governing documents to facilitate this transition. The purpose of the Texas Collegiate FFA Association was to continue the development of premier leadership, personal growth and career success at a higher level and in the context of a collegiate environment. While some educational institutions still offer Collegiate FFA as an extracurricular opportunity, the collegiate level of official FFA membership is no longer offered. All former members are now classified as "Alumni" members.

Section 10: Texas FFA Alumni Association

Kelly White, Texas FFA Alumni President

The Texas FFA Alumni Association operates under the auspices of the Texas FFA Board of Directors in accordance with policies contained in the organization's memorandum of understanding and operating policies. The purpose of local alumni affiliates is to provide support to local Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources departments and FFA programs. 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. Steve Mosley serves as the 2021-2022 Past State Officer Alumni Chairman the organization's memorandum of understanding and operating policies. The purpose of local alumni affiliates is to provide support to local Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources departments and FFA programs. 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. Steve Mosley serves as the 2021-2022 Past State Officer Alumni Chairman

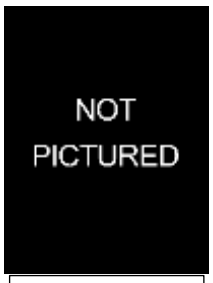
Section 11: Texas FFA Staff

The Texas FFA Association has seven employees: executive director, student recognition and scholarship coordinator; leadership development coordinator; membership services coordinator; and SAE/swine validation coordinator are full-time Texas FFA Association employees. The budget and finance coordinator is an employee of the Texas FFA but shares financial management responsibilities with the ATAT and Texas Young Farmers. The communications coordinator is also an employee of the Texas FFA but manages various ATAT communications efforts, including acting as the content director and editor of the *Growing Our Future: A Texas Agricultural Education Magazine.*

Tammy Glasscock, SAE and Swine Validation Coordinator

Carolee Frampton, Budget and Finance Coordinator

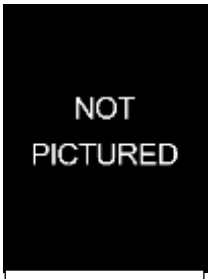
Jennifer Jackson, Texas FFA Executive Director



Jordan Blount, Student Recognition and Scholarship Coordinator

Ashley Dunkerley, Communications Coordinator

Gwenn Cain, Membership Coordinator



Peggy Georg, Leadership Development Coordinator

Section 12: Communications

Texas FFA Association disseminates news and information through a variety of media avenues.

- **Texas FFA News** is the official online news outlet of the Texas FFA Association. The news site strives to highlight the outstanding efforts of Texas FFA members, chapters, and advisors, as well as promote state-wide activities and events.
- The **Texas FFA Convention Student Media Program** provides a semi-professional environment for students to cultivate skills related to journalism, photography, videography, and video production. It is a week-long experiential learning environment that enables members to apply creativity and technical skills in a fun and practical setting.
- The Texas FFA Association utilize four social media platforms. These include Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and TikTok and have a combined following of 110,000.
- The **Texas FFA Association's website** (www.texasffa.org) serves as the hub of general information, policies, event rules, support materials, news and updates.
- The **Texas FFA Network** is a network of local chapter websites developed by Wieghat Graphics using the FFA Now 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 network.
- The **My Texas FFA website** (www.mytexasffa.org) is an interactive, promotional website designed in partnership with the Texas FFA Foundation. Content promotes agricultural science education in Texas through various remarkable videos, images, and testimonials. The site also houses the Texas FFA Foundation website.

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 investments. The Texas FFA Foundation provides funding for a portion of the scholarship program 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. 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 currently has 30 members. 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 board. Like the Texas FFA Association, the Texas FFA Foundation is a profit organization

Aaron Alejandro is the Executive Director of the Texas FFA Foundation

Mitchell Dale of Dickinson chairs the Texas FFA Foundation Board of Directors

Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas: The Agriculture Teachers Association was established in 1940 and chartered in 1951. The Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas was established to promote and advance agriculture education in Texas and provide legislative representation to safeguard agriculture education programs. The Association informs agriculture teachers about the latest agricultural education practices, encourages higher standards of teaching agriculture and provides agriculture education a unified voice in the state legislature. Leadership for the organization comes from an elected board of directors. Directors are elected by their respective membership in each of the 12 areas, one director per 28 members. The Executive Director provides oversight, management, development and direction of the Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas. The Officers of the Agriculture Teachers Association serve as members to the Texas FFA Association board of directors. The Agriculture Teachers Association Executive Director is a Texas FFA board member by position and serves as treasurer of the board of directors. The Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas is a not-for-profit organization as described in 501(c)(6) of the federal tax code.

Ray Pieniazek is the ATAT's Executive Director and the Texas FFA's Board Treasurer

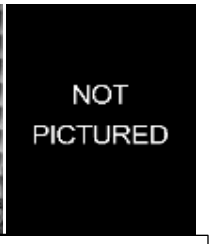
Traylor Lenz of Angleton is the 2022-2023 ATAT President

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 FFA Alumni Association, and to other entities of the Texas Agricultural Education Family. Don Henson is chairman of the VATAT Credit Union Board of Directors and Griselda Spencer is the Chief Executive Officer and manager.

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 approximately 800 in 48 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. Herb Casey of Teague is the President. Don Beene of Fairfield served as the Executive Secretary for 14 years and retired in January 2018. Don's daughter, Sandra Choate, was appointed Executive Secretary in January 2020.

Sandra Choate is Executive Secretary of the Texas Young Farmers



Makayla Cruz-Donaldson is President of the Texas Young Farmers

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 +69,706. Texas is the nation's largest state FFA association and the current membership level continues to set annual records for any state FFA association.

Texas FFA Membership

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
86,657	**95,287**	**103,941**	**109,105**	**115,941**	**119,644**	**123,292**	**130,068**	**139,815**	**139,386**	**156,363**

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, 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 semesters, 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 August 1 and ends on July 31. 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 $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 August 1 and expires on July 31. In 2009-2010, 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. 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.

Alumni Membership: You don't have to be a former FFA 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 and those who wish to join but do not have a local affiliate 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 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:

- Strives for all agricultural education students to be FFA members because of the integral nature of

FFA and Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources curricula.

- 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.
- 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 percent of its members in a hands-on leadership development experience. The chapter provides leadership training for chapter officers and other recognized leaders.
- Provides instruction in basic leadership skills such as parliamentary procedure, speech communication and opportunities to demonstrate skill proficiency in FFA competition.
- Provides achievement opportunities in career development events appropriate to instruction and student interest.
- Encourages academic excellence and pursuit of post-secondary education through promotion of and assistance in applying for FFA scholarships.
- Provides leadership opportunities above the chapter level through active participation in district, area and state FFA activities.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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 Quality FFA Chapter Standards 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, facilitate 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! As part of the 93rd Texas FFA Convention, 12 members were elected to work on behalf of their fellow Texas FFA members in this capacity. Officers are elected via a student-centered process that consists of two phases and is facilitated by board-appointed adult volunteers at the state level. The first phase includes: personal round-introduction, 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-conclusion. At the end of the interview process, two area finalists appear before their respective delegation caucus to deliver a campaign speech and participate in a candidate forum. Delegates cast ballots within their area caucus and the results of this initial vote are combined with interview scores to produce a single candidate from each area. Once each final candidate has received their area nomination, he or she will provide a three-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 active members for the duration of their term in office. A candidate may be eligible to run for office through the second convention after their graduation from high school. A president and first vice president are elected from the 12 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, five days a week, representing the Texas FFA and delivering motivational presentations and workshops to students, teachers, administrators and other interested parties.

National Officers: Beginning with Roy Martin of Cotulla, who was the first Texas FFA member to serve as a National FFA Officer in 1936-1937, 30 Texas members 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. Trey Elizondo of Yoakum served as the most recent National Officer from Texas in 2016-2017. The candidate from Texas is nominated by a student committee composed of members representing all 12 area associations. In addition to those 12 members is a single chairperson 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 no conducted in conjunction with the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. A nine- committee interviews all candidates and nominates a president, secretary and vice preside four national regions.

Trey Elizondo served as the 2016-17 Western Region National FFA Vice President

National Convention Delegates: Each state FFA association is allotted a number of voting delegates to the National FFA Convention based on membership. In October 2022, 70 of the nearly 500 National Delegates will be from Texas. The state's 12- 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 attending the State Officer's Summit in Washington, D.C. Issues deemed to be most important are selected and become 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. 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 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.

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

Leadership Conferences: 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, area officers from across the state of Texas attend the State Leadership Conference held in early June. In 2020, SLC was held virtually due to COVID-19 and strict social distancing guidelines. State officers organized the virtual conference and provided the instruction with the goal of equipping area officers to conduct area camps and conferences for district and chapter officers for the upcoming year. All of the state's 12 areas and a number of districts conduct leadership camps and conferences for chapter and/or district officers. Several districts hold chapter officer camps.

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 piloted 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. In 2016-17, Texas FFA introduced, "The Officership Series," a three-part series focused on more advanced aspects of leadership through service. In 2017-18, "The Officership Series" was condensed to a one-day leadership development experience for all Junior-level students. The program also received a new name, and is titled, "Building Excellence." It is a junior-level conference for those who seek a more in-depth analysis of leadership concepts, principles and practices. In 2018-19 the Texas FFA launched a leadership experience for Senior- level FFA members titled, "Executing with Excellence." This experience equips students to apply what they've learned in FFA to post-secondary education and the workforce. All of these one-day conferences are open to all Texas FFA members.

Day at the Capitol: Each year in conjunction with National FFA Week, Texas FFA designates two days 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.

Ford Leadership Scholars: In September 2009, the Texas FFA Board of Directors approved the Ford Leadership Scholars, a partnership between Ford Motor Company, Texas FFA Foundation and Texas FFA Association. An application process begins in January and includes a reading assignment followed by a test, and a face-to-face behavioral interview. Ten members are selected by a committee of industry professionals to participate in an intense week-long leadership training that results in a partnership with a mentor and a substantial and sustainable capstone community service project.

State Convention: The state convention is the highlight of the year for the Texas FFA Association. Each year, some 11,000 to 13,000 active members, alumni members, guests and other supporters convene to recognize Texas FFA's degree, award and scholarship recipients. It is at convention where members 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, Courtesy Corps member, Texas FFA Foundation Ambassador, Texas FFA Chorus member or joining 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, community service opportunities, Collegiate and Alumni FFA conventions and the Texas FFA Alumni Benefit Auction. The state public speaking finals and agriscience fair are both are held in conjunction with the annual convention. Spanish Creed Invitational and AFNR Quiz Bowl Invitational events are also held at this time.

State convention sites are selected by the Texas FFA Association Board of Directors, usually about five years in advance of each convention. In 2022, the 94th Texas FFA Convention was held in Fort Worth and had an attendance of 15,508 and is now recognized as the largest Texas FFA convention on record. In 2018, the Texas FFA began a six-year convention rotation between the cities of Fort Worth and Dallas: Fort Worth (2018 & 2019); Dallas (2020); Fort Worth (2021 & 2022); Dallas (2023). This 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.

Another monumental year was made in 2020 when Texas FFA held the 92nd Convention virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Speaking Development Events, Agriscience Fair, and all six sessions, including after show segments, were conducted online. The Nominating Committee and all State Officer Candidates met in one single location to execute the in-person components of the officer election process. The 2020-2021 State President and First Vice President were elected by voting delegates across the state through an on online election platform.