



FAAE Newsletter

Fall 2016 Issue

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FAAE President's Report

Dear Florida Agriculture

Teachers:

Welcome back to another great year in Florida agriculture education. FAAE members had a very busy summer and have already been in the process of organizing fall and spring events. It's definitely looking like we will have many exciting events in store this year.

The FAAE state award winners were announced at convention. All of Florida winners advanced to the regional level and I am pleased to announce that we had some NAAE regional/national award winners. The regional awards winners will be recognized for their accomplishments at the NAAE Convention in Las Vegas this November. The award winners are as follows:

Outstanding Teacher: Farrah Johnson (National Winner)

Outstanding Secondary Program: Tomlin Middle School (National Winner)

Teacher Mentor: Samantha Dodge

Ideas Unlimited:
Matthew Dettloff

FAAE Outstanding Student:
Mason Bishop

Four FAAE members attended the NAAE Region 5 conference in Athens, Georgia on June 26-29. As a member, you are always invited to attend regional meetings. This is a time to engage in professional development, network with peers and share best practices.

The FACTE conference was attended by 75 FAAE members this summer at Lake Buena Vista in Orlando. Conference attendees attended workshops, sessions and conducted valuable committee work. Mr. Paul Webb, TRST in Polk County, won the annual "hooting" contest during the Owl's Luncheon—Congratulations! FACTE participants also enjoyed an amazing behind the scenes tour of Sea World. Plan on participating in next year's FACTE conference for more exciting professional development.

FAAE New Teacher Workshops were well attended this year. 27 teachers attend the July workshop in Orlando and 30 were in attendance in Gainesville last month. Several of our FAAE members volunteered their time to present at these workshops. There is also a Florida New teacher group on NAAE Communities of Practice that has presentation materials, lesson plans, and discussion posts for new teachers.

National Teach Ag day is September 22nd. Be sure to participate in this event and help tell our story. There is a national shortage in the agriculture education community and you can help by encouraging interested members to participate in this event, as well as the Ag Education CDE and the University of Florida's Ag Ed Institute. Let's keep our profession thriving.



Thank you for joining your professional organization. Membership continues to increase and we are working hard to make sure you are getting the services you need through professional development. Dues are only \$150 and can be paid at professional gatherings or at the FAAE website www.flaged.org. The benefits for belonging to your organization are great, but getting involved in FAAE is truly how you benefit most. If you have not joined this year, please reach out to a FAAE member and discuss what membership has to offer.

Please note that FAAE Mid-Winter Conference dates are January 6-8, 2017. Mark your calendars now and plan to participate in this exciting professional development event. Thank you all for everything you do for Florida Agriculture Education students every day in the classroom. I wish you all a wonderful and productive school year. Please don't hesitate to contact me for any FAAE concerns you may have. Hope to see you around in the coming months.

Warm Regards, *Keitha Hall*



Stan Scurlock
Cottondale High

Area 1 News

Welcome to a new school year Area 1 Advisors. I hope you are excited for another year full of agriculture and FFA activities. If you are like me your calendar is already full and you are wondering how you will be able to accomplish everything that needs to be done. Well as I tell my kids the hours between 3 and 4 in the morning are still available.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at COLT this coming October. If you have any questions about the event please contact me. The conference will once again be held at the Assembly of God campgrounds in Marianna.

Perry Byars from Northview serves as our FFAE District I liaison. So advisors of this district please feel free to contact Perry with any concerns or questions you have. He will relay your information to me and I will touch base back with you as soon as I have an answer.

I wish you all the best this year.

Area 2 Chapter Spotlight—Dixie SR FFA



Ashley Thoron
Trenton FFA

On the early morning of Friday September 2, 2016 Hurricane Hermine hit the gulf coast of Florida causing damage and power outages. Cities lining the gulf coast of Florida were heavily impacted by Hermine's high winds and surf. After the devastation of the storm the Dixie County middle and Dixie County senior FFA chapters partnered with the Dixie County Alumni chapter to provide relief to citizens of Horseshoe Beach, Steinhatchee, and Suwannee who were impacted by the hurricane. Members of these chapters spent their Memorial Day weekend providing meals and supplies to victims. Over the period of two days the FFA members severed over 900 meals to residents and worked to deliver meals and supplies to those who were stranded in their homes. Additionally, FFA members teamed up to help residents clean up the aftermath left behind by Hurricane Hermine. Dixie County FFA members came together as servant leaders to support and help members of their neighboring communities during a time of disaster. In the days following the devastation members are continuing to provide support and collect supplies for the victims of this natural disaster.

Area 3 Chapter Spotlight—West Port High School FFA

West Port High School in Ocala, FL is an A school known for its many Fine Arts programs and its partnership with the College of Central Florida. The Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor at West Port High School is Mrs. Cacee Ford- Hilliard. Housed across the hall from her classroom is Ms. Norma Barnes, the Autism Spectrum Disorder teacher. In 2015 they both collaborated together to plan a guest speaking event featuring Dr. Temple Grandin. Both the Agriculture and Autism students learn about Dr. Grandin ' s research and innovations throughout the school year. Being inspired by



Dr. Grandin, some ag students have even started mentoring several students with Autism to help enhance their social skills. They do so through hands- on activities with the chapter heifers and market steer. Whether it is learning to groom or measure out medicine, chapter SAE projects are the perfect opportunity for someone with Autism to gain confidence for themselves. Earlier this year the 160 agriculture students, other local FFA members and the nearly 20 Autism students hosted Dr. Grandin for 2 days. During that time, Clear Creek Cattle Company toured individuals and Dr. Grandin through their beef production facilities and Dr. Grandin also conducted a morning talk to an auditorium- filled audience. Students were most delighted to personally meet her, share their admiration for her and purchase her personally- signed books on beef cattle production and Autism. The best part of the whole visit was in ducting Dr. Grandin as an Honorary Chapter Degree recipient by presenting her with a personalized and embroidered FFA Carhart Jacket, which thrilled her as well! Dr. Grandin has left a lifelong imprint on the hundreds of students and teachers who met her and learned from her during her visit. She believed that FFA members are our future and hearing her share that to my faculty of over 200 teachers and staff was truly remarkable.



Farrah Johnson
Deltona High

Area 4 News

Orlando; 4Rivers has formed a partnership with Ocoee High School to grow produce for their restaurants. Ocoee has expanded their agricultural department to 2- Mr. Peter Jordan welcomes Ms. Amy Anderson from Ocoee Middle School. Mrs. Karen Vorheis has replaced Ms. Anderson at

Ocoee Middle School.

University High School has kept 4 positions after Mr. John Matthes retired by welcoming Ms. Haun aboard from Apopka Middle.

We welcome some new faces to our area:

Eric Ortiz replaced retired Mr. Alex Smith at Dr. Phillips

Aaron Davis is back to agricultural education at Gotha Middle School

We are still looking for an agricultural teacher to fill our Wedgefield campus which is a K-8th grade.

Osceola: Mr. Garrett Vickers accepted a position at Osceola High School

Ms. Melissa Allen has accepted a position at Harmony High School

Ms. Tamara Carpenter accepted a position at Saint Cloud Prep

Polk County:

Great news in Polk County is there were 7 new teachers hired in various agricultural programs.

That is what is new and exciting in Area IV.

Sincerely,

Samantha Dodge



Samantha Dodge
East River High



Buddy Coleman
Turkey Creek
Middle

Area 5 Chapter Spotlight—Barrington Middle FFA

The Barrington Middle FFA Chapter theme for this year is “Growing a Winning Tradition.” Seeing as our school is in the middle of a highly developed community, over 90% of our school has never been exposed to agriculture before. We try to encourage and spread agricultural knowledge in our community. Our chapter strives to build up public speakers, leaders, and agriculturists to help play our role in growing a winning tradition.

Our school FFA chapter at Barrington Middle School has several great plans laid out for the year involving plant and animal SAEs, various CDEs, and many leadership conferences. We are proud of the different animal programs that our school has to offer. Our sheep program allows student to learn how to feed and care for, maintain, and show sheep on behalf of the school to gain experience in caring for livestock so they can do a project of their own. One student also can receive the privilege of caring and showing the chapter heifer. Like the sheep, the FFA member must maintain and show the heifer at the Strawberry Festival which also helps them gain experience in doing their own SAE project. Students can also participate in these SAE projects individually with the support of our chapter advisors, Mr. Lehman and Ms. Coleman.

One of our FFA chapter’s biggest member participation comes from the students who raise plants to show at the Strawberry Festival. This SAE gives students the opportunity to nurse ornamental plants, learn about the plants’ environmental qualities, and learn how to manage the financial side of agriculture. Even though the plant registration isn’t until later this year, some of our chapter members have already progressed in the process of growth for their plants.

Our chapter is also very competitive in many career development and leadership events as well. This allows our members to become well rounded in numerous areas of agriculture. Our members and students get hands on experience that will benefit them in many avenues of their life. We are looking forward to a great year and can’t wait to “Grow a Winning Tradition”.



Agricultural Education and FFA Specialty License Plate

The mission of FFA is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. By supporting our program with the purchase of a specialty license plate, you are helping to ensure that we are able to meet this mission for our students. Your purchase of an Agriculture Education/FFA specialty license plate provides support for all avenues that help to develop opportunities for nearly 30,000 agriscience students.

- Helps to support opportunities in student leadership through career development events and award programs.
- Contributes to leadership and staff development for over 400 agriscience teachers who are in our classrooms today.
- Supports recruitment of agriscience education teachers within the state through various programs of enrichment.
- Helps in aiding to market Florida FFA to future and current members.

How Do You Get One?

When you renew your registration at your local tax collector’s office, simply let them know you wish to replace your current license plate with a Agricultural Education/FFA specialty license plate. If it is not time in the cycle to replace your metal license plate, you will pay a few additional dollars to switch to a specialty license plate. Specialty license plates cost a set fee (annually) above the standard Florida license plate, and the fees vary based on the type of license plate. The additional fee paid goes to support the cause for which the specialty license plate was designed.