



# Quarterly Newsletter

*Ag Teacher by choice, not by chance!*

## August 2021

### Letter from the President



Hello Fellow  
Ag Teachers,

As the school year begins and we enter our classrooms many things are on our minds. This includes lesson plans, faculty meetings, FFA

meetings and activities, and most importantly how to build up FFA membership. But what about your own membership in a teacher organization designed to support agriculture teachers? Please consider joining the FFAE as we offer many benefits at both the national and local level. Those benefits from the national level include \$100,000 in liability insurance, the ability to have \$40,000 in life insurance,

access to the Ag Teacher Relief Fund, and various other discounts. At the state level, the FFAE offers two workshops with the Mid-Winter and FACTE Pre-Conference, planning Ag Teacher Socials, and even discounts on various FFA conferences.

I look forward to a great school year and hope that you take advantage of everything membership in the FFAE has to offer. Please feel free to contact me or any other FFAE officers with any questions, ideas, or concerns that you have. My email is [matthew.dettloff@levyk12.org](mailto:matthew.dettloff@levyk12.org). Please check out our website, [flaged.org](http://flaged.org) for the rest of the officers' contact information.

Sincerely,

Matthew Dettloff

FAAE President

## Area Updates

### Area 1 Representative Stan Scurlock



Well, it is almost that time again, another school year of unknowns. One thing we can feel secure about is we are involved in an industry that everyone depends on, agriculture. As we approach the new school year, we must keep open minds, adjust to our surroundings and keep preaching the importance of agriculture. As Ag teachers we constantly see changes in our industry and understand that nothing within this field is static. Ag. teachers can adapt like no other because we recognize changes are needed to make progress.

This summer I had the opportunity to spend in-person time with ag. teachers from Tennessee, Georgia and Florida. What a refreshing feeling it was to shake a hand and hug a neck with those who are my fellow brothers and sisters. We are a social being and need that touch of reassurance sometimes.

I wish you all the best this year and if there is anything I can assist you with please reach out to me at [stan.scurlock@jcsb.org](mailto:stan.scurlock@jcsb.org).

### Area 2 Representative Kaitlin Van Heusen



After a very unique year not only for our students but for us as teachers, I would like to say congratulations to you for making it through circumstances we would never have expected. Many of our Area II programs stepped up to the challenge of the times and excelled. This is seen in our National Chapter activities and our Premier Chapter programs. I would like to congratulate Tori Lyons for being awarded the Florida FFA Advisor of the Year recognition. Next, I would like to welcome our newest Area II State Vice-President Barrett Young. He is also the FACTE Outstanding Secondary Student of the Year. I would like to also congratulate all of our winners at the state convention who will go on to represent us at the national level. Good luck in your endeavors.

As we begin the 2021-2022 school year, I would like to welcome our new teachers to the area. We are glad you have joined us in this rewarding profession. I would like to introduce myself to those that are new or that I have not met. My name is Kaitlin Van Heusen and I am serving as your Area II board representative. I am currently teaching in Starke, FL. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns at [vanheusen.kaitlin@mybradford.us](mailto:vanheusen.kaitlin@mybradford.us). I look forward to seeing you at events this year.

## **Area 3 Representative Sarah Hurst**

Welcome new and returning Area 3 teachers! I hope you had a restful summer and are ready for an exciting school year. Over the summer, several chapters from Area 3 placed in State level contests, including Conduct of Chapter, Forestry, Meat Evaluation, and Parliamentary Procedure. We also had 4 chapters designated as “Florida’s Finest” recipients. Congratulations to everyone!



I am your Area 3 representative, Sara Hurst. I teach Ag Foundations and Horticulture at Vanguard High School in Ocala. Previously I have taught middle school Ag and Vet Assisting. I want to encourage you to join FAAE as soon as possible. Your dues include membership in FACTE, NAAE, and FAAE. The benefits of membership include discounted Mid-Winter registration, awards and grants, and professional liability insurance, in addition to the comradery and benefit to the profession. We are also working on increasing the benefits to you this year and adding new incentives, so watch for emails about that soon! You can join online at [www.flaged.org](http://www.flaged.org) and dues may be paid by credit card or by check.

Email me at [sara.hurst@marion.k12.fl.us](mailto:sara.hurst@marion.k12.fl.us) with any questions you have throughout the year, concerns, ideas, or input. Looking forward to seeing you at CPC and COLT!

## **Area 4 Representative Kyle Carlton**



Hello Area 4! Starting off a great year with some accolades from chapters in our area. Auburndale has a national finalist for a proficiency, Orlando Colonial has a Food Science and a Floriculture team and George Jenkins has a nursery and landscape team competing in national FFA contests. Let us wish these chapters luck as they proceed to their national competitions.

I’m looking forward to meeting up with everyone at COLT! See you soon!

## **Area 5 Representative Buddy Coleman**

Hey Area 5! I am Buddy Coleman back to serve as your Area 5 FAAE Representative. I believe in the purpose of this organization and it’s benefits. As we start the new school year please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns you have for the FAAE Board. I know that I am representing a diverse community of agriculture educators and their students. I appreciate the opportunity to do so again. I look forward to a school year that will hopefully be back to normal and seeing many of you in person at CPC and COLT. We are planning on updating the Ag teacher directory at COLT. Please be picture ready. Have a great start to your school year.



## **Area 6 Representative Wendy Schepman**

The Clewiston FFA Chapter wanted to venture out of Florida and see what the Animal Science and Agriculture industry offered in other areas. With Covid-19, we missed out on many trips and tours, so we were beyond excited to do something special with a few of our members. Our first day consisted of traveling from Fort Lauderdale to Atlanta, Georgia. We landed and went to our hotel, filled our bellies, and got a good night of rest. The next day was eventful; driving to Alabama, where we visited RL & M Cattle Company, a cow-calf operation. There we were informed of different aspects of feeding and breeding cattle. They showed us their feeding process and the unique ingredients and explained feeding and nutrition and its importance for their breeding program.

Our next stop was a cotton gin which was very interesting since we are Floridians and do not have this back home. The manager at Milstead Farm Group Inc showed us how cotton goes from a plant to a product. Mr. Joey Scarborough walked us through the process by explaining the steps in this highly mechanized industry. Afterward, we visited Alabama Ag Credit. Some of us were a bit confused about how loans and credit work, but Mr. Kelso Hamilton answered all of our questions and explained what they do and how it can help people like us if we decide to buy land or have any agricultural-related finances we may need. We were surprised that so many students use this service. We finished that day at Robinson Cattle Company, where we helped George Robinson and his crew process a few calves. Mr. George explained the system he has in place, the medication process, and the schedule he uses on his calves. This was very informative as we got to see different types of calves and the different medicines he had to use based on their last dosage and where they came from. Our second day in Alabama consisted of a hayride tour at Turner Farms, where we saw their family-owned chicken houses and Hereford cattle operation. Mr. Todd explained that his family had many struggles and challenges in his service, but they took it day by day and overcame many of the hurdles they faced. Our second stop was at Hunt & Lovvorn Cattle Co. don't be fooled by the name; they aren't just a cattle company; they also have chicken houses! These two farmers are some of the people who raise chickens for fast-food restaurants like Chick-Fil-A, KFC, and Popeyes. They also have a niche market where they sell their freezer beef that they raise and process. They explained the importance of saving your money and having good mentors. We then went to Roanoke Processing, where we saw how cattle are harvested and processed to be sent to the supermarket. Next to the processing plant was the Roanoke Stockyard, where we saw behind the scenes what they had to do before and on sale day. Mr. Chad Green even let our Vice President, Raelynn Paniagua, practice her auctioneering skills. We ended our day at Robinson Cattle Company once more, where Mr. George talked to us about the business side of farming. He showed us his commodity barn and explained what each ingredient was for.

Our third day into this trip was spent traveling to Kansas, where 11% of our nation's beef comes from. The next day we had an early morning where we visited Gardiner Angus Ranch. This ranch is family-owned and settled there in the 1800s. Greg Gardiner gave us a tour of the AI (Artificial insemination) facility and better insight into their breeding methods and why they use AI. Gardiner Ranch feeds cattle for one of the nation's top beef producers- U.S. Premium beef. One of U.S. Premium beef's workers- Brian, talked to us about the performance of their cattle as it applies to their quality grade. Our next stop was at Shaw Feedyard, where we got to see the technology and different ration mixes they use on their farm. Mr. Kendall Hopp showed us some of his cattle and walked us through their process of doctoring/tagging them. Our fifth and final day consisted of visiting McCarty Dairy Farms. Our members were delighted to see a rotary parlor in action as we toured their facilities. The next stop was Vulgamore Family Farms, a company that grows wheat, milo, corn, and sunflowers- which can also feed cattle. Kevin Davis gave us a tour of their buildings, showing us all of the advanced technology to grow thousands of acres of cropland. Our members were curious about how they can grow so much when Kansas never gets rain, and Mr. Davis answered all of our questions and explained how the town's water supply is the Ogallala Aquifer. Our last stop was at High Choice Feeders, with over 40,000 head of cattle! We were able to see how they flake their corn for their feed, the commodities they use, and the different rations for each set of livestock. Mr. Ty explained that farmers benefit from other farmers with their byproducts.

This trip made our members see through others' experiences and how agriculture has so much to offer. We observed how these farmers ran their business and the way they implemented organization in their work. The experiences we've gained have humbled us and allowed us to see the hard work and dedication farmers and ranchers go through to make commodities from farm to table. U.S. Farmers genuinely do so much to make sure we have the best quality foods in the world. This shows that we would not have the quality of life we do, without the American farmers and ranchers.

## **Note from our President-Elect Ms. Farrah Johnson**



I am an Agricultural Educator by choice and not by chance. Even on some of the most challenging days, I can't imagine any other career as gratifying as teaching agriculture.

I am honored to be working on your behalf this year as your FFAE President elect. I ask that you please consider paying your dues this year. Just like your FFA chapter isn't as successful without your members, our organization isn't complete without you!

The FFAE Board of Directors are working diligently to try to provide you with quality professional development opportunities as well as much more. This year not only are we assisting with FFA leadership conferences cost for members, we are offering grants for FFAE Mid Winter presenters and attendees, membership raffles and area social and round table discussion opportunities

I know the last year has been full of Ups and downs. I know this year of off to a rocky start for Many as well. We hope we can provide assistance to help you. Thank you for all you do!!

## **Member Spotlight!**

We'd like to take a moment and highlight a few of our outstanding FFAE members!

Mrs. Becky Peltonen, of Deane Bozeman FFA, has 32 years of teaching experience, 9 of them in Agriculture. She has many accolades to her name, including 2018 Florida FFA Advisor of the Year and the 2019 Bay County Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Peltonen is representing the FFAE with her lesson titled, "Sand Slides" at NAAE National Convention. She is the regional Ideas Unlimited winner.

The activity explores the properties of sand in order to determine the weathering, erosion, and depositional characteristics of an environment as well as the energies of the environment. This age-appropriate experience is for high school agriculture students who just finished unit lessons on Soil Science within the Agriscience Foundations course.

If you would like more information on this award-winning lesson, please reach out to Mrs Peltonen.



**Save the Date**



**FAAE Mid-Winter Conference**  
**January 9-12, 2022**  
**New Teachers Jan. 9**  
**All Teachers Jan. 10-12**

Please submit professional development ideas to  
Amanda Forstater @ [alforsta@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:alforsta@volusia.k12.fl.us).

## Our Very Own...

Stan Scurlock is representing Florida as the NAAE President Elect! Scurlock, agricultural educator at Cottondale High School was elected to office at the NAAE Virtual Conference last winter. During the course of this year, he not only represents our state, he works with agricultural educators across the country. He will move into the role of NAAE President at the 2021 NAAE Conference this November in New Orleans, Louisiana. Just as with many of us, Stan's family is involved with him at Cottondale High School. His wife, Wendy is a registered nurse and the FFA Mom of the Cottondale Chapter. His two sons, Josh and Jeremy, are students in his agriculture classes and FFA members. They live in Cottondale, Florida, a very rural town where watermelons, cotton and peanuts dominate as cash crops. He had the privileged to grow up and work on the family farm and produce stand in the world-famous Watermelon Alley.

In 2007 Stan was hired on at Sneads High School in a single teacher program. This was a successful program that had a much-loved previous agricultural instructor. Stan was up for some challenges and would be met with obstacles but over the 6 years he was able to maintain the level of excellence expected of this school and community. He then transferred to Cottondale High School and have been teaching there for 7+ years. It is also a single teacher program but one that has a lot of sentimental history to it. He is at the school he graduated from, teaching in the building he received his agriculture education from and now am passing that knowledge he obtained from that building along to his 2 sons as well as 135 other students. During his tenure he has been honored to be the advisor to 13 FFA State Championships, Three National FFA 3 Star Chapters, NAAE Outstanding Middle School Program, Numerous FFA American and State degree students. He have been recognized twice as the FFAE Outstanding Agricultural Educator of the year, FFAE Agriscience Teacher of the Year and Florida FFA Advisor of the year.

Stan is no stranger to servant leadership. He has served and continues to serve on the FFAE and Florida FFA Boards for the past 11 years as well as serving on the NAAE board for the past 6 years. He has served on both boards as president in addition to serving as an area representative. Stan takes his role as a member, officer and leader of agricultural education seriously with sincerity, enthusiasm and an unwavering compassion. Scurlock stated "FAAE and NAAE are a family. They are not just organizations but a true family who is there to help direct, support, encourage and support all of the teachers regardless of where you are in your career." Scurlock further stated, "We are not sure what the future holds but one thing for sure is that agriculture will still be needed and depended on. We as agricultural educators need to keep educating and preparing those whose will carry our torch long after we are gone. The NAAE will be a forefront leader in getting the message out and this can only be done with informed, educated and desire driven leadership."

We wish Stan the best of luck as he continues to represent us with vision, enthusiasm and dedication.



# FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS

## FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS CALL FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

FAAE is accepting proposals for professional development workshops to be presented at the 2022 FAAE Mid-Winter Conference relating to topics appropriate for middle and secondary educators of agricultural education. This year's Conference will be held at the Florida FFA Leadership Training Center in Haines City, Florida, on Monday – Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022. A separate pre-conference focusing on new agricultural educators will be held on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**Purpose:** To present, in workshop format, information appropriate for agricultural educators. Workshops should relate directly to enhancing classroom/laboratory instruction, student work-based learning and/or leadership development, teacher professional development, program marketing/communications and partnership/collaborations.

**Parameters:** Workshops will be approximately 90 minutes in length. Expect an audience of 15-50 people. Presenters are responsible for any necessary materials for their workshop.

**Deadline:** Proposals are to be submitted by Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Submit by emailing your completed application to [alforsta@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:alforsta@volusia.k12.fl.us).

**Stipend Award:** Each proposal will be reviewed by the Professional Growth Committee and the primary workshop contact will be notified by November 19<sup>th</sup>. More specific information will be given at that time. A maximum of 10 workshop proposals will be chosen to receive a \$200 stipend award, to be presented at Mid-Winter Conference. It is one stipend per workshop, regardless of how many presenters are involved.

**Please note:** If selected to present your workshop at the 2022 FAAE Mid-Winter Conference you will be responsible for your registration, hotel, and travel expenses. FAAE does not pay expenses for workshop presenters.

For more information, contact the FAAE Professional Growth Committee Chair:  
Amanda Forstater [alforsta@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:alforsta@volusia.k12.fl.us)

## Workshop Proposal Application

1. **Workshop Title:** *Please limit your title to 15-17 words. Be creative, but concise!  
Take into consideration that your title can drive attention to or away from your workshop.*
2. **Primary Presenter First & Last Name:**
3. **Title:** *(ex: Agriculture Teacher, Teacher Educator, etc.)*
4. **School/Organization:**
5. **Phone:**
6. **Email Address:**
7. **Please rank in order of preference the day/time which you would prefer to present your workshop.**  
*We will try to accommodate everyone but sometimes it's impossible so please understand you may not get your first choice. (1 indicates your most preferred):*
  - a. Monday, January 10, 2022      morning
  - b. Monday, January 10, 2022      afternoon
  - c. Tuesday, January 11, 2022      morning
  - d. Tuesday, January 11, 2022      afternoon
8. **Workshop Description:** *(This will be used by the Committee to evaluate your workshop; however, only your title will be printed in the FAAE agenda.) Please limit description to less than 125 words.*
9. **Workshop Objectives:** *(what will participants understand/comprehend by attending this workshop)*
10. **Audio/Visual Needs:** *Each room will be supplied with a projector and projection screen. We do not supply laptops for presentations; please prepare to bring your own laptop if required. Please list additional audio/visual needs below:*
11. **Please provide information on Co-Presenter(s) (if applicable):** *For each co-presenter, include: First Name, Last Name, Title, School/Organization. The information you provide regarding co-presenters will be used in the FAAE Mid-Winter Conference agenda.*
12. **Are you still willing and interested in presenting your workshop even if you are not a recipient of the FAAE Workshop Stipend?**
13. **Additional information or comments you would like to provide:**

## Contact Us

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### **Area 5 Representative**

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### **Area 6 Representative**

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