



Quarterly Newsletter

Ag Teacher by choice, not by chance!



Letter from the President – Ms. Kaitlin VanHeusen

I hope that you and your family had a wonderful holiday season. For agriculture teachers, our winter break often looks different than other teachers. We have livestock to care for, greenhouses to check, and quite often that phone call needing help. During this time, I hope you had a chance to take a moment to recharge your battery as we gear up for another exciting and busy semester.

FAAE was well represented at the NAAE convention held in Phoenix, AZ this past November. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Debbie Jones and Brett Wasden of Bell High School as our Region V winners for the Outstanding Middle/Secondary Ag. Ed. Program. I would also like to take a moment to thank Stan Scurlock for his hardwork and dedication serving on the national board these past three years. Lexi Sanchez was our Teacher Turn the Key National Participant. Lastly, FAAE was awarded the Visionary Professional State Association Award at the national level, congratulations to all of our members. Thank you to Farrah for your work on the application.

Mid-Winter is one of my favorite events of the year for FAAE. Not only do we get to catch up, but we also get to see our Ideas Unlimited participants share their tested and unique ideas that we can bring back to our classroom. If you have never participated, I challenge you to do so next year. Our winner then represents us at the Regional level. This year at Mid-Winter, we will be bringing back our committees. I encourage you to join a committee and share your insight, needs, and voice for teachers across the state.

This year, we will be joining the Florida Farm Bureau at Ag. On the Hill on January 16, 2024. This partnership opens new opportunities for us to network and share the message of agriculture; from an industry level and a school-based view. Thank you to Keitha Bennett and Stan Scurlock for organizing this event.

Lastly, I want to challenge you to get to know your students this second half of the year. I mean not that core few who are willing to take on any task thrown at them, but those outliers. I have been rereading Dr. Ruby Payne's [A Framework for Understanding Poverty](#) because sometimes I feel disconnected from the realities of what some of our students experience at this time of the year. A simple, "How are you doing?" or a "Do you need anything or how can I help?" goes a long way. Talking to a parent before break, our local Walmart does an event to help lower income students with Christmas gifts. One child didn't want gifts, he only wanted food since there wasn't any at home. My thoughts went to, "Does his teacher know this, does the school? This could impact his whole school experience." It is in getting to know our students we can help them solve their challenges and really change their school experience.

Area Updates

Area 1 Representative Cindy Franklin



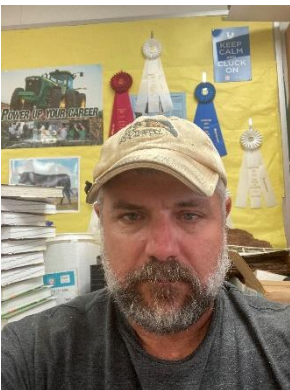
Beulah Middle FFA Chapter participated in the Farm to City harvest of the first day of their thanksgiving break. Members put the FFA Mottos into action by helping to harvest and clean vegetables for over 1000 local families. This was such a great experience for them. Congratulations to the Northview FFA Alumni on being named the National Outstanding FFA Alumni and Supporters Chapter this November at the National FFA Convention.

Area 2 Representative Stacy Young



Greetings from Area II. Based on those who have messaged me, every one is doing well. We are gearing up for the second semester and preparing for state fair and county fairs. As we start the second semester if any one needs help with applications please, please, reach out to me. If I can't help you, I can direct you to some one who can. Also, the second round of grants are about to open for FFA as well as the one for next year. I have already heard of numerous people receiving them for the first semester. I have tips available on a powerpoint that I am willing to share if you are interested. Good luck and I look forward to seeing you at different events in the upcoming months.

Area 4 Representative Kyle Carlton



We just finished an incredible weekend filled with fellowship, good food and incredible opportunities for professional development. There was a plethora of workshop choices provided to fit the needs of those in attendance. Agriscience educators will have more tools in their teaching toolbox which will benefit their students and their programs.

Teachers shared some of their best and innovative lessons in the "Ideas Unlimited" presentation. There are phenomenal agricultural educators in Area IV. Please consider participating in "Ideas Unlimited" next year. I encourage all to participate in future Mid-Winter Conferences and FACTE. These events will help you to become better at your craft and the ability to network with other highly effective professionals.

Selena Paul will be your Area IV representative for the next two years, beginning in July at the FACTE Conference.

I hope that all of you have a great second semester as we prepare for industry certification tests, fairs, Career and Leadership Development Events, proficiency awards and all of the other events that make for long days and quick years. Take time to enjoy every day.

Kyle Carlton

Area 5 Representative Alyssa Rogers



Well Area 5, we have made it to the second half of the school year! I hope that everyone had a great holiday/winter break and are fueled for a fresh start! The past few months have been filled with fairs, conferences, preliminary testing, state contests, sub-districts, and semester exams and I want to applaud and thank each and every one of you for the effort and hard work that I have seen you put into each and every one of these events. Your time and effort has most definitely not gone unnoticed. I am excited to be starting off this next semester with new ideas and a renewed sense of mind as we enter into 2024. As always, I am here to be your area representative so feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

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