



Quarterly Newsletter

Ag Teacher by choice, not by chance!



Letter from the President – Ms. Kaitlin VanHeusen

Welcome back to another exciting school year! As we have re-entered our classrooms or entered them for the first time, we have all noticed quite a few changes this year. For many of us, our membership numbers have grown exponentially with the LBR funding. As we encourage our students to get active in the FFA chapters that they are part of, I want to encourage you to do the same; join and get active in FAAE this year. Being active looks different for all of us, from serving on a board to attending the various professional development or simply Ag. on the Hill. Either way, FAAE is a great place to learn and grow your passion for Ag. Education.

I would also like to introduce myself. My name is Kaitlin Van Heusen. I teach at North Florida Technical College in Starke, FL (Bradford County). I am in my 9th year, but I am no stranger to Agriculture Education. I was an FFA member and served as a State Officer in my Ag. Ed. journey and understand that we, as Agriculture Educators, are in a unique role to shape so many of our student's lives. In addition, I have served as the Area II Representative on the FAAE board for several years, and have participated in the NAAE Turn the Key program as well as the NAAE Agriscience Ambassador program. Please feel free to reach out at any time with questions. My contact information is:

vanheusen.kaitlin@mybradford.us

Desk: 904-966-6779 (Mon-Fri 8-3:30pm)

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We have kicked off our year with our New Teacher Workshop. It is always exciting to see new teachers joining us, so welcome! To my Wise Owls, I encourage you to reach out to the new teachers and share your wisdom. Recently, I read the book, I Wish My Teacher Knew: How One Question Can Change Everything For Our Kids. Many times, for us it is “What I Wish I Knew As A First Year Ag. Teacher”. This is a challenge, I think, that we as experienced Ag. teachers can take on and help solve.

Another challenge we must tackle this year is the Agriculture Education License Plate. While we have added a few in the last year, we face legislation that could do away without plate completely in the next year or two. The plate can be purchased and placed on any vehicle that requires a regular license plate. They are also customizable as a vanity plate. The plate can also be used for fleet vehicles. We are always looking for new ideas on how to share the message about the Agriculture Education plate, especially the impact it has on our teachers as well as our students. If you have an idea, please share it with us.

I look forward to this year and the opportunities we have for membership growth, new ideas, and sharing the importance of Agriculture Education for all. Don't forget Nation #TeachAg Day is Septer 21- a great way to recruit the next generation of agriculture teachers.

Area Updates

Area 1 Representative Cindy Franklin



Welcome Back! I hope your year is off to a fantastic start. My Name is Cindy Franklin and I just came on board this summer as the representative for Area I. I started my journey in Ag Education in the fall of 1997 and taught for eleven years before spending six years at home with my children. I am starting my 18th year, 3rd back in Ag. Over the 26 years my career has span one thing remains true, relationships are a vital part of who we as educators are. We have different backgrounds, interests and paths that led us to the Ag Ed family, however, we can learn from each other, and we need each other. I

am looking forward to the relationships that will be built or continued this year.

Spotlight: Northview FFA

The Northview FFA Horse Evaluation Clinic and Field Day are one of the highlights of the chapter's year. The dream for the clinic began when Horse Evaluation Coaches Stephanie Solari and Courtney Solari realized there were no in-person clinics or opportunities in the panhandle of Florida. The clinic allows students to see different breeds and classes of horses in person, then run a mock contest at the end. Older students are given the opportunity to write sets of reasons and recite them to professionals in the field. This year's clinic will be held on September 30, 2023 and is open to any FFA and 4H chapter interested in learning more about Horse Evaluation!

Area 2 Representative Stacy Young



Thank you. Thank You. Thank You. Those two words mean more now than ever. Today, as I write my article it will be a little different than my normal one. As I write this article, I am thankful for agriculture teachers and FFA members from around our state. Ag teachers tend to have a unique bond even if we only see one another a few times a year. Before the hurricane approached, ag teachers from around the state were reaching out to us to help us prepare. After the storm, an outpouring of love came to a portion of Area II that was directly hit. Advisors lost barns, homes were damaged and school land labs were impacted. Chapters from around the state donated bedding items, cleaning items, hygiene items, traps, feeds, meals, fencing and labor. Some may have driven 30 minutes while others drove hours to serve complete strangers. As we rebuild,

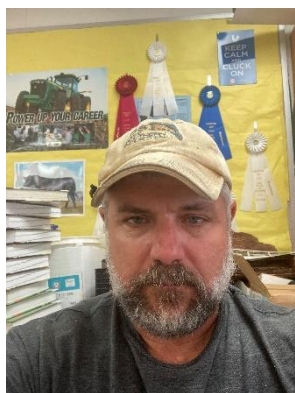
please know that I along with many others are grateful for the outpouring of love and generosity that has been shown to our area.

Area 3 Representative Andrew Peck



Welcome new and returning teachers! I'm Andrew Peck, your Area 3 FFAE Representative. I teach Agriscience Foundations and Animal Science at DeLand High School in Volusia County. I am in my 5th year of teaching Agriculture and my 2nd at DeLand. As we start the new school year, please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns you have for the FFAE Board of Directors. I hope you will consider joining or renewing your FFAE membership this year. There are many benefits to you and to the profession as a whole. We will see you at CPC and COLT and any of the board members would be happy to talk to you about it. Have a Fantastic year! As always if you have any questions or concerns, please email me at ajpeck@volusia.k12.fl.us.

Area 4 Representative Kyle Carlton



Area IV is off to a busy year. CDE practices have begun, students are registered for the COLT Conference, Chapter Presidents' Conference and others are signed up to participate at the National FFA Convention. Many students have recently or will be soon getting market animals for the various shows and fairs. Thankfully, our area dodged the brunt of the recent hurricane and many chapters have been helping those who were hit hard by Idalia.

The new teacher workshop that was held recently was well done and lots of folks benefitted from the experience. There will be another professional development opportunity next month at the LINC Conference. I hope that everyone is off to a great start. The quality of the professional development available to us ag teachers is unparalleled. Often, in-service points needed to renew our teacher's certificates can be obtained by attending these events. Further, some incredible learning opportunities occur outside of the planned meetings, while sitting around a table or conversing in small groups in a recreational setting.

Area 5 Representative Alyssa Rogers



Welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year Area 5! I hope you all had a wonderful summer and have had a great start to this school year. As always, feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns regarding FFAE. I am looking forward to serving you as your Area 5 FFAE board representative.

This year I am teaching Ag Foundations, Ag Fundamentals, Intro to ag, and ESE ag at Turkey Creek Middle School in Plant City. I have deep roots in this area and am even teaching in the classroom that I was sitting in when I chose to teach agriculture. That being said, I could not do what I do without the amazing support of the families and volunteers within our community. This last Saturday, Turkey Creek held a clean-up day for our land lab and over 40 volunteers (students, adults, and community members alike) showed up to help. I am grateful for our area and the community's willingness to support the future of agriculture.

I am excited to see the new faces who have joined our profession this year and am blessed to teach among some of the greatest veteran agricultural educators. Thank you for all you do. I know that together, we will accomplish much.

New Teacher Representative James Sharpe



I hope that everyone is off to a great start this year. If you are a new teacher and you are reading this, I hope that you continue to maintain your mental strength and cognitive ability by staying plugged into the things that you enjoy outside of work.

FAAE just hosted our New Teacher workshop in Haines City at the LTC. We had a great time teaching new teachers how to weld, plasma cut, set up self-watering gardens, floriculture, food labs and a few other things. If you are not a new teacher but you know one please get them plugged into FFAE so that we can give them a helping hand. Also, Mid Winter Conference is coming up and we will be having another new teacher program the day before. If you've had a positive experience at any of these events, please share them with others so that we can reach more teachers.

James Sharpe (863) 634-5607

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