



June 2024 Newsletter

Ag Teacher by choice, not by chance!



Letter from the President – Ms. Kaitlin VanHeusen

Greetings and Happy Summer,

This year seems to have flown by bringing many new changes and many exciting happenings, especially growth in the Florida Association of Agricultural Educators. First and foremost, I would like to congratulate all of our award winners that will be moving on to the Region V award judging in June. We have many great and talented members and chapters representing FAAE this year. I would also like to take a moment to thank our board members for their work on behalf of our organization this year.

While there are many openings across the state, I would like to take a moment to congratulate our first year teachers for making it through your first year in an agriculture classroom and on all of these successes-there have been many. I would also like to congratulate our veteran teachers on their successful year and wish you the best, wherever you may go or if you are returning to the classroom next year. Please know that we are here to support you any way we can.

State Convention is an exciting time for not only our students, but our members as well. It is a time where we get to showcase the talent that takes place in our chapters as well as in our teachers. For some chapters this may be the first time that they are attending the FFA State Convention, so welcome. For some students, this is their first opportunity to see the wide range of opportunities that they have in the world of Agriculture Education. For some of us, State Convention is our yearly vacation that brings back renewed joy and excitement for upcoming year. Never lose that joy; find that new passion or interest this year at convention. Not only is it a great week to gain ideas, but to make business and industry contacts as well. I encourage you to take part in all of the leadership activities and events as well as workshops. Good luck to all of the members and the chapters that are competing this week, and I cannot wait to see the results announced on the stage.

Looking forward, I encourage you to purchase and help educate others about the Agriculture Education license plate as we need to continue to grow our sales. FAAE is looking forward to our Region V conference to be held in Georgia in June as well as the NAAE conference to be held in San Antonio, Texas in December. Don't forget to participate with us at FACTE in July. Stan Scurlock, who is our FACTE representative has done an amazing job putting together this conference and I am looking forward to seeing new industry tours such as the Sea Turtle Rescue. Be sure to check out our new website. While we are still adding content, it will have updated resources and items for the new school year. Please reach out to our board members to help you or your chapter. Be sure to take a break and recharge yourself this summer. As agriculture teachers we will always have a list to be completed, but just like your phone this week, you cannot run on an empty battery.

Best Wishes,

Kaitlin

Area Updates

Area 1 Representative Cindy Franklin



We made it!!! Sweet Summertime is here!!!

It has been a year full of highs, lows, challenges, and celebrations. Many long hours have been invested but now is the time for rest and reflection. Congratulations to those who have members being recognized as State and American degree recipients, LDE finalist and others who will be crossing the stage. Take a few minutes to enjoy the fruit of your labor and soak up the final moments with this year's group of students. We all know that part of summer is prepping to lighten the load in the fall. However, challenge yourself to live more in the present than you might typically. If you are like me, a brain dump is going to have to take place first. Allow yourself the space to debrief from this school year so you can enjoy the brief weeks of summer.

We are excited in Area I to have a Presidential Candidate and TWO Vice-Presidential candidates for State Office! Our Chapters have been successful this year and received many accolades. I was made aware of a job opening in Blountstown since Mr. Williams will be retiring. Won't you consider joining us in beautiful West Florida?

Area 2 Representative Stacy Young



Summer has finally made it but lets be honest most of us are still working. With that being said, if you teach agriscience foundations there is a workshop being sponsored by the University of Florida that is being held at the famous "Pickett Lake" in Lafayette County. As a resident of Lafayette County, I can tell you that it is being held in a very peaceful and relaxing area. Be sure to reach out to Dr. Easterly if you are interested. Also, don't forget FACTE in July. This event also allows us to collaborate as we prepare for the 2024-2025 year. On a serious note, I hope that you find time to recharge and refuel by spending time with your friends and loved ones. If you need anything, please feel free to reach out to me.

Area 3 Representative Andrew Peck



Hello FAAE Members and Area 3 Agriculture Teachers! My name is Andrew Peck, and I am your Area 3 FAAE Representative. I teach Agriscience Foundations and Animal Science at DeLand High School in Volusia County. I just completed my 5th year of teaching Agriculture and my 2nd year at DeLand. I hope you will consider joining or renewing your FAAE membership this year. There are many benefits that FAAE offers to you personally and to the Ag Education profession. As we wrap up the year and move into the summer months, remember that there are many professional development opportunities offered over the summer such as NAAE Region V Conference and FACTE Conference. I hope everyone has an amazing summer! As always if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at ajpeck@volusia.k12.fl.us.

Area 4 Representative Kyle Carlton



I have enjoyed serving on the FAAE board the past several years. Selena Paul will be the new Area IV representative beginning in July at FACTE.

I hope everyone will have a great state convention in a couple of weeks. Polk is having an ag tour during the first week in June for its ag teachers. This should be an educational and enjoyable experience for all involved. As with most summers, there will be vacancies opening up. Please encourage your students to consider a job as an agriculture teacher. There is a need for qualified, knowledgeable and enthusiastic educators in our field.

Good luck to all of the chapters and members competing in LDE's/CDE's at the state convention. It seems like Area IV will be well represented at FFA Forestry camp in July. Forestry camp is an experience that I encourage every FFA advisor to try. It offers an incredible opportunity to learn about forestry and related subjects (soils, entomology, natural resources and others) in addition to meeting some exceptional people from all over our state.

Take time to enjoy your summer and your family. August will be here before you know it and it will start all over. These long days we work will turn into short years, don't get so caught up in anticipating the next contest, show, proficiency application or other event to enjoy the day at hand. This job has so many phenomenal opportunities for advisors and students-sometimes we tend to overlook that.

See you in a couple of weeks,

Kyle Carlton

Area 5 Representative Alyssa Rogers



Area 5, you did it! You survived the school year and are now entering into your well-deserved summer months. While I know summertime is an easy time to catch up on our never-ending to-do lists, don't forget to take some time for yourself! Spend time with your family, take a trip to the beach, or visit local attractions like the Florida Aquarium or the Clearwater Marine Aquarium (check for those teacher discounts)! For those of you wanting to join Area 5's awesome group of agriculture teachers, there is a position at Hudson High School in Pasco County and positions at Dowdell Middle Magnet, Barrington Middle School, Brandon High School, and Spoto High School in Hillsborough County. We would love to have you! The 2024-2025 school year will come around. But until then, enjoy your summer!

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunity

FAAE PRECONFERENCE

Monday, July 15th 2024
8:00 AM – 8:00PM
Sawgrass Marriott

7:30-8:30 AM

Registration

Heritage AB

8:30—12:00 PM

Industry Tour

Cowpen Branch Research Center
The Sea Turtle Hospital - Whitney Laboratory

12:30—2:00 PM

Owls Luncheon

2:00—3:00 PM

General Meeting

Heritage AB

3:15—4:45 PM

FAAE Roundtables

HeritageAB

Forestry/Compass and Pacing - Jill Huesman

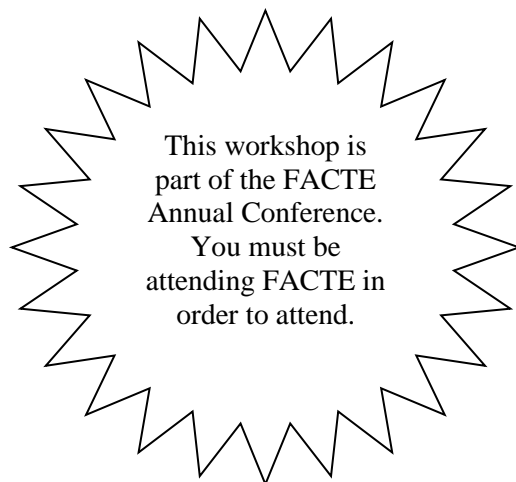
Rounds 1 - Compass and Pacing
Round 2 - Compass and Pacing
Round 3 - Map Interpretation

High School Livestock - Brett Wheeler

Round 1—Beginner
Round 2 & 3—Advanced

Middle School CDEs - Brian Trimble

Round 1 MS Livestock
Round 2 MS Vegetable ID
Round 3 Tool ID



Must have pre-registered for this event prior to the conference.

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Agricultural Educators



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