



# Quarterly Newsletter

*Ag Teacher by choice, not by chance!*

**Fall 2022**

## **Letter from the President – Ms. Farrah Johnson**



Greetings! I am so excited about the 2022-2023 school year! I hope you are too! Hopefully our FAAE board will have the opportunity to meet many of our new teachers and catch up with old friends throughout this school year. I don't know about you, but I am looking forward to our FFA Leadership conferences, CDEs and LDEs!

I know the last several years have been full of turmoil, I think we are all over covid protocols and procedures. I hope that this year we actually see a return to normalcy. We need it and our students need it! As there has been much transition with policies and procedures, I know many have changed roles, schools, positions and more. I wish everyone a great start to the school year, whatever that may look like for you.

One of my goals for FAAE this year to be more visible and increase the communication with our members. If you use social media, please follow us on Facebook.

We are exploring other social media platforms as well. You can always find information about FAAE and events on the website, [www.flaged.org](http://www.flaged.org).

You may be pondering why you should pay \$155 and be a part of this organization. I want to take just a few minutes and help explain our activities and relationships within our unified dues package. FAAE works with NAAE (the National Association of Agricultural Educators- [www.naae.org](http://www.naae.org)) and FACTE (Florida Association of Career and Technical Educators- [www.facte.org](http://www.facte.org)) Both of these groups provide lobbying and legislative updates. NAAE in Washington and FACTE in Tallahassee. NAAE provides many membership incentives including awards, programs, scholarships and more. FACTE also provides the summer FACTE conference, continuing education classes, awards and more. Both provide and promote amazing networking opportunities through their conferences.

In addition, FAAE provides members networking, professional development, awards and recognitions. Did you know that you must be a member to bring students to our Ag on the Hill Legislative Day? (Date TBA but January- March depending on early or late session) FAAE provides a New Teacher continuum of 1 day workshops. We provide the Mid Winter Conference held at the FFA Center in Haines City. This year the dates are January 6-8, 2023. We provide a FAAE pre-conference as part of the FACTE Conference each summer. Next year's conference will be back in Orlando at the Sea World Renaissance July 17-19, 2023. Did you know that FAAE is a FFA Foundation sponsor and sponsors awards for students at State FFA Convention? We also work in conjunction with AECS at the University of Florida with the Ag Ed Institute as well as planning professional development for teachers. We are working on an idea for some PD for middle career or late career teachers, so keep a look out for more information!

I hope you will take advantage of FAAE membership and become an active member! As we are restructuring the FAAE committees based on the NAAE restructure, we will be looking for volunteers to serve on committees and help with the decision-making processes especially through professional development!

I look forward to meeting more of you at CPC and look forward to a great year!

## Area Updates

### Area 1 Representative Stan Scurlock



Welcome back to school. Hope you had a relaxing summer or at least had the opportunity to do what you wanted. It has been an eventful summer for me and my family. I have had the opportunity to attend several state summer conferences and the NAAE Region V conference. It was great to spend some quality time with fellow agricultural educators and to be part of some top notch professional development workshops and tours. We also spent several days this summer moving our oldest son, Josh, to Gainesville where he will be attending UF this fall as a freshman. Go Gators!!!!

If I can be assistance to you please contact me. My email is [stan.scurlock@jcsb.org](mailto:stan.scurlock@jcsb.org) and my cell number is 850-209-8302. Have a great school year!

### Area 2 Representative Stacy Young

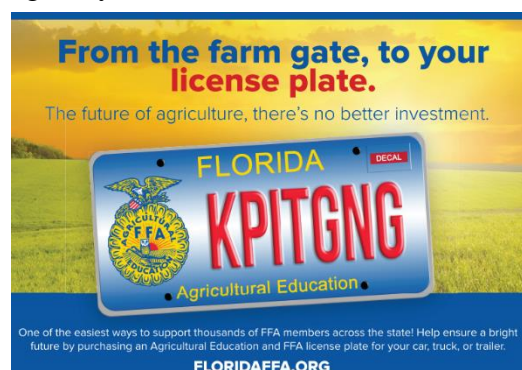
As we kick off the new school year, I hope you are as excited as I am for our chapters to participate in state and national FFA activities, community service projects and school related activities. Let me begin by saying thank you for your vote of confidence by electing me to serve as your FFAE Area II Board Member. Please know this is a new role for me and I am always open for suggestions or comments. If your chapter is participating in a new activity or something creative, please feel free to share where I can add it to our area's article. My email is [stacy.young@suwannee.k12.fl.us](mailto:stacy.young@suwannee.k12.fl.us) and my cell phone is (386) 688-7320. Congratulations are in order for all of our 3 star chapters, teams advancing to nationals, agriscience fair participations, our models of excellence finalist and our premiere chapter finalists. Best of luck as you prepare for competition and safe travels to Indy!

### Area 3 Representative Sara Hurst

Welcome new and returning owls! I'm Sara Hurst, your Area 3 Representative. I teach Agriscience Foundations and Horticulture at Vanguard High School in Ocala. I want to start the year by sharing a website I just learned about and thought you all may find useful too. Classroomscreen ( [www.classroomscreen.com](http://www.classroomscreen.com)) lets you create a custom home screen for student activities. You can change the background, add a textbox for questions or instructions, and set a timer. There are also cool options like polls, a sound level monitor, a random name picker, group maker, and more. Even better, you can create a free account so you can save your name lists for up to 3 classes, along with access to more widgets. If you can't use it in class, you could use it to make groups for FFA meetings, time students during CDE practices, or create an exit poll to get to know your students.



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 good year!



## Area 4 Representative Kyle Carlton



Kyle Carlton here, starting what will be my 31<sup>st</sup> year with Polk County Schools. I am the Area 4 FFAE Representative and I am pleased to share that FFA chapters and FFAE members in Area 4 have had a busy summer participating and competing at FFA State Convention, Forestry Camp, Washington Leadership Conference and chapter officer retreats. Many students attended FFA Forestry Camp for the first time this past July. It has not been hosted for the past two summers, the only break since its inception in 1934. Area 4 had great representation at forestry camp this summer. The students all seemed to have a good time and learned about Florida's forests while getting a head start on preparing for the Forestry CDE. I hope that many more students and advisors will participate next summer. Our next FFAE meeting will be on September 8, at the Chapter Presidents' Conference. Please encourage other ag teachers in your area to join FFAE. There are many professional development

opportunities available as well as awards and recognition for innovative instruction that many of you are doing. If any of you area 4 members have any concerns or items you want presented at the meeting, please email or call me. Lastly, your new FFA Board member for area 4 is Emilyn Sharpless

([emilyn.sharpless@lwcharterschools.com](mailto:emilyn.sharpless@lwcharterschools.com)). I believe the FFA Board meets on 8/22. Contact Emily with any FFA Board concerns.

### Highlights from Orange County



Yesterday (8/3), the OCPS Agriculture Education District PLC was held at the UF IFAS Agriculture Extension Office. Sixty two (62) OCPS agriculture educators attended and had a schedule full of instructional updates, collaboration and instructional best management practices. They also had the opportunity to participate in a hydroponics training which included hands on activities where each teacher constructed their own mini hydroponics system and can use this training with their students. I wish to thank the University of Florida Agriculture Extension for their continued partnership and support.

Agriculture Education/FFA...a big "hoot" for making a

positive difference in the lives of students!

## Highlights from Polk County



### Area 5 Representative Jessica Hawkins



Hey Area 5! I hope that everyone has had a wonderful start to another exciting school year. 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 am honored to have the opportunity to serve as your Area V representative and hope to make you proud.

I currently teach Ag Communications, Ag Foundations, Intro to Ag and ESE Ag at Turkey Creek Middle School in Plant City. Growing up in the area and currently teaching at my junior high school is surreal. I have a huge support system and a community that I can always depend on. My husband and 2 boys are always up for my “Crazy Ag Teacher” ideas and adventures. I am excited to be serving such a diverse area with agriculture roots that run deep. Thank you to the new educators for joining such a great profession and to the veteran educators continuing your commitment to agriculture education.

## **Area 6 Representative Phillip Crosby**

It is that time of year again! Beginning of a new school year and new beginnings for your Agriculture class and FFA Chapter. Area 6 has a diversity of Agriculture industries in our communities and appreciate the support to grow our classrooms and FFA Chapters. Remember, we are apart of an Industry that everyone depends upon, no Industry as important as Agriculture.

Area 6 had a fantastic State Convention with numerous winners from around our Area. I would like to say congratulations on a productive year!

I am Phillip Cosby from Hill-Gustat Middle School in Highlands County and will be representing Area 6. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at CPC and the COLT Conference. If I can be of service to you, feel free to reach me at [cosbyp@highlands.k12.fl.us](mailto:cosbyp@highlands.k12.fl.us)

## **New Teacher Representative – Andrew Peck**



Hello, my name is Andrew Peck, and I am the New Teacher Representative on the FFAE Board of Directors. We are excited to bring back the New Ag Teacher Conference hosted by FFAE. The New Teacher Conference will be held on September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Volusia County Extension Office in DeLand, Florida. As always if you have any questions at all please reach out to me at [ajpeck@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:ajpeck@volusia.k12.fl.us).

## **President-Elect – Kaitlin Van Heusen**

Welcome back to the 2022-2023 school year. We are excited to see our returning teachers and meet our new teachers. I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Kaitlin Van Heusen and I will be serving as your President-Elect for the 2022-2023 school year. I am in my 8th year of teaching both middle and high school classes in Bradford County, FL.

I, like many in our profession, am a product of agriculture education and FFA. I was an active member in high school, served as a State Officer, and returned to our field after college. Someone once told me that if you want your students to be active FFA members in their organization, you must lead by example and be an active member in your own professional organization. I thoroughly believe this as I have seen how being active in FFAE, NAAE and ACTE has helped me serve my students better as a teacher and an advisor. I encourage you to become active in FFAE this year through our Professional Development, our Award Applications and our Committees. Feel free to reach out at any time through my email at [vanheusen.kaitlin@mybradford.us](mailto:vanheusen.kaitlin@mybradford.us). Have a great year and please let me know if I can help you in any way.



## Contact Us

### **President**

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### **President Elect**

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### **Past President**

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### **New Teacher Representative**

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### **Membership Coordinator**

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### **Area 1 Representative**

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### **Area 3 Representative**

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### **Area 4 Representative**

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### **Area 5 Representative**

Jessica Hawkins  
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### **Area 6 Representative**

Phillip Cosby  
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**DATE CHANGE!!  
UPDATE CALENDARS**

**FAAE**  
**MID-WINTER**  
**PROFESSIONAL GROWTH**  
**CONFERENCE**

**January 6 - 8, 2023**  
**Friday - Sunday**

FLORIDA FFA  
LEADERSHIP TRAINING CENTER  
HAINES CITY, FL

**Thursday, Jan. 5**  
**Pre-Conferences**  
**New Teacher**  
**Wise Tired Owls**

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT  
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