



Sept 2024 Newsletter

Ag Teacher by choice, not by chance!



Letter from the President – Ms. Kaitlin VanHeusen

Greetings and Welcome Back!

I hope you have had a restful, rejuvenating summer. I know for some it has been busy moving schools, stepping into the classroom for the first time, caring for our land laboratory areas, or traveling. Summer is a great time to find new ideas (even if it is at 2AM) to implement this year. I have spent some time this summer reading [I Wish My Teacher Knew: How One Question Can Change Everything for Our Kids](#). Some of the stories in there really make you realize what our students are carrying to school with them each day. From this, it has spawned new ideas in my classroom this year.

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Kaitlin VanHeusen and I am serving as your President this year. I teach at North Florida Technical College in Starke, FL. This will be my 10th year in the classroom, teaching 9-12th grade. I am also a NAAE National Agriscience Teacher Ambassador.

As we encourage our students to become active in FFA, I want to encourage you as well. We have so many offerings at the state and national level. Whether you are a beginning teacher, or feeling those mid-years, and even our experienced teachers, there is something for you. We offer many competitive applications for all levels of experience. Serving as an officer on the board is a great way to support all of the teachers across the state. Programs such as XLR8, the book club and the Agriscience Teacher Ambassador are unique ways to connect with teachers across the nation.

As we find our footing this year, please do not hesitate to reach out with questions, suggestions, ideas, or feedback. We live in an everchanging world that we call education. It is my goal to help support our amazing agriculture teachers across this state in their needs. My email is vanheusen.kaitlin@mybradford.us. I wish you the best as the year kicks off.

Kaitlin VanHeusen

Don't forget to pay your dues!

Membership dues must be paid by March 3rd, 2025, to be eligible for Premier Chapter!

Area Updates

Area 1 Representative Cindy Franklin



Exciting things are happening in Area 1. Several chapters or their alumni are being recognized again at National Convention. Deane Bozeman FFA is in the Top 10 in the Country for 2 Premier National Chapter activities as well as in the Top 10 for Model of Excellence. Tate High School held a ribbon cutting this month on their new Agriscience building.

Congratulations to all.

Area 2 Representative Stacy Young



Greetings from Area II. Like most ag teachers, I am excited to be starting a new school year with new activities. The majority of ag positions in our area have been filled with the exception of 1 or 2. Many chapters in our area are preparing for National Convention in October. If anyone in my area would like for me to include something in the newsletter, please email me. Also, if you need help, I will try my best to help you or I will find someone who can.

Area 3 Representative Andrew Peck



Welcome new and returning agriculture teachers! My name is Andrew Peck, and I am your Area III FFAE Representative on the FFAE Board of Directors. I teach Agriscience Foundations and Principles of Agribusiness at DeLand High School in Volusia County. I am in my 6th year of teaching Agriculture and my 3rd 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 agriculture teaching profession. I hope that each of you 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 Selena Paul



I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new and returning teachers here in Area 4. My name is Selena Paul, and I am your new area representative. I hope you have all had an amazing summer and that the school year is starting out positively for each of you.

This summer teachers in Polk started their summer with an Agriculture Industry Tour arranged by Jessica Anderson. It was a wonderful way to kick off the summer learning about so many aspects of the agriculture industry in our community and learning opportunities for our students.

Congratulations to those teachers in our area that have partnered with Farm-Ed this summer to receive Grow chambers. This is a great partnership opportunity to bring new technology and hands on learning opportunities to our students.

As this year kicks off there are some great professional development opportunities over the next few months. Do not forget to register for the LINC Conference that will be October 8-10, 2024. Mid-Winter Conference this year will be on January 9-12, 2025. You will not want to miss these opportunities!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at selena.paul@polk-fl.net.

Area 5 Representative Alyssa Rogers



Congratulations Area V, you've made it through the first few weeks of school! As we navigate our way through testing, starting practices up, and preparing our students for the year ahead, make sure you take time to reflect on the previous year and keep mindful of how you allocate your time. I know the beginning of the year is an exciting time and you're ready to jump into everything all at once, but remember, we aren't just teachers, coaches, and advisors. We're builders of community, growers of leaders, and nurturers of potential. If you need any help/advice/just someone to talk to, I am here to help and if I can't, I'll find someone who can! Together, we will make it through this school year. You've got this! – Alyssa Rogers, Area V

Area 6 Representative Kayla Prescott



Hey, Area 6 members, I am Kayla Prescott, and I am honored to take on the role of Area 6 Representative. I currently teach Ag Foundations, Ag Communications, and Ag Tech at Lake Placid High School. I hope your new school year is off to a fantastic start. The array of agriculture programs within Area 6 is truly diverse, and I am excited about the opportunity to serve such a vibrant community. Please feel free to contact me at prescotk1@highlands.k12.fl.us with any questions, suggestions, or if your chapter is involved in or hosting an event.

I am excited to meet and catch up with everyone this year!

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