

# NATIONAL CONVENTION

## TEXAS REWIND



Texas agricultural education programs and FFA members were well represented in national award and recognition programs hosted by the National FFA Organization at the 93<sup>rd</sup> National FFA Convention & Expo. This year the annual meeting and convention was hosted virtual in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Texas FFA members and chapters represented the Lone Star state well in the Agriscience Fair competition, held their own in award competitions based upon a student’s supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program, and continue to make gains in chapter award competitions. Texas also exerted leadership by again fielding the largest state voting delegation and posting the second largest membership gain.

The quality of competition in Texas helps to produce students and programs that can compete at a consistently high level on the national stage. The continued success of our students and programs is a credit to their communities, families, and teachers.

### AGRISCIENCE FAIR

Texas members brought two national titles in the National FFA Agriscience Fair back to Texas, with 12 of the 23 finalists finishing in the top three, 20 rated as gold, three rated as silver and none rated as bronze in the four-tier rating system (gold, silver, bronze and participant). Georgia had the highest number of national winners at eight. Oklahoma came in second with a total of seven national winners, California was third with four, Illinois was fourth with three, and Michigan, Ohio and Texas tied for fifth with two. Stephenville is home to both 2020 National Agriscience Fair Champions from Texas.

**Agriscience Fair  
Championships**  
*(All-time since 1998)*

- 1. Texas – 103**
- 2. Georgia – 67**

Historically, Texas members have fared well in the national competition winning a new total record of 103 Agriscience Fair national titles since the event’s inception in 1998. No state has ever won more national Agriscience Fair championships than Texas, and Texas has had at least one national winner each year since the event’s inception.

National Agriscience Fair - State Comparison				
Top States with at least Two National Winners				
State	Finalists	Gold Medals	Top 3	Winners
Georgia	27	25 (92.6%)	18	8
Oklahoma	18	16 (88.9%)	12	7
California	27	16 (59.3%)	8	4
Illinois	10	10 (100%)	7	3
Michigan	11	6 (54.5%)	2	2
Ohio	23	11 (47.8%)	7	2
Texas	23	20 (86.9%)	12	2

#### National Champions

**Kirsten Cline**, Stephenville; Social Science, Division 3

**Ryan Hess**, Stephenville; Social Science, Division 5

#### National Runner-Up

**Samara Huezco and Lamboy Medina**, James Madison; Animal Systems, Division 6

**Garrison Pieniasek**, Krum; Plant Science, Division 1

**Audrey Bishop**, Van Alstyne; Plant Science, Division 3

**Dylan Sweatt and Kate Bettencourt**, Aledo; Social Science, Division 4

**Cade Davis and Kyle Sytron**, Stephenville, Social Science, Division 6

## CAREER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

The National FFA Organization made the difficult decision to forego Career and Leadership Development Events in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to the onset of the pandemic, Texas declared seven teams eligible for national competition.

### Past National CDE/LDE Results

Event	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Ag Communications	Silver	Gold-2	Gold-4	Silver-18	Silver-12	Gold-3	Gold-3
Ag Issues Forum	Gold-1	Silver	Gold-2	Gold-2	Gold-3	Gold-1	Gold-1
Ag Mechanics	Gold-4	Gold-7	Gold-9	Gold-2	Bronze-33	Gold-4	Silver-29
Agricultural Sales	Gold-2	Gold-5	Gold-1	Gold-3	Silver-21	Gold-3	Silver-14
Agronomy	Silver	Silver-16	Silver-26	Silver-13	Silver-19	Silver-29	Silver-20
Conduct of Mtgs.	Bronze	Gold-4	Gold				
Creed Speaking	Silver	Silver	Bronze	Silver	Gold-1	Silver-15	Bronze
Dairy Cattle	Silver	Silver-23	Gold-10	Silver-16	Silver-18	Silver-27	Silver-29
Dairy Handlers	Bronze				Silver		
Environmental/ Natural Resources	Gold-6	Gold-3	Bronze-38	Silver-18	Gold-1	Gold-3	Gold-3
Extemporaneous Speaking	Gold-2	Silver	Silver	Silver	Bronze	Gold-3	Gold-1
Farm & Agribusiness Management	Gold-5	Gold-11	Silver-21	Gold-15	Gold-13	Gold-7	Silver-16
Floriculture	Silver-20	Gold-7	Gold-7	Silver-27	Silver-20	Gold-9	Gold-9
Food Science & Tech	Gold-5	Gold-5	Silver-13	Gold-2	Gold-5	Gold-2	Gold-1
Forestry	Bronze-30	Silver-13	Gold-11	Silver-27	Bronze-38	Bronze-39	Silver-11
Horse Evaluation	Gold-8	Gold-3	Silver-27	Gold-2	Gold-8	Gold-8	Gold-5
Job Interview	Gold-6	Gold-1	Gold-3	Silver-10	Bronze-31	Silver-29	Silver-18
Livestock Evaluation	Gold-3	Gold-16	Gold-3	Silver-17	Silver-14	Gold-8	Silver-17
Marketing Plan	Silver	Silver	Gold-2	Gold-2	Silver	Silver-16	Gold-1
Meats Evaluation	Gold-1	Gold-1	Gold-1	Gold-4	Gold-1	Gold-1	Gold-1
Milk Quality & Products	Gold-1	Gold-1	Silver-20	Gold-2	Gold-11	Gold-3	Gold-1
Nursery/Landscape	Gold-1	Gold-5	Gold-3	Gold-9	Gold-9	Silver-19	Gold-13
Parliamentary Procedure	Gold-2	Gold	Silver	Gold	Gold-5	Silver-18	Silver-13
Poultry Evaluation	Gold-1	Gold-1	Gold-2	Gold-1	Gold-1	Gold-5	Gold-1
Prepared Speaking	Silver	Gold-3	Gold-4	Gold-2	Bronze	Gold-3	Gold-4
Veterinary Science	Gold-9	Gold-8	Gold-6	Gold-2	Gold-2	Silver-27	Gold-1

### National LDE Qualifiers

**Agricultural Issues Forum:** Madisonville

**Conduct of Chapter Meetings:** Sandra Day O'Connor

**Creed Speaking:** El Campo

**Employment Skills:** Sudan

**Extemporaneous Speaking:** Santo

**Parliamentary Procedure:** Dripping Springs

**Prepared Public Speaking:** Grandview

### MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

The Texas FFA Association was the nation's third place membership growth association for the 2019-2020 year. The Texas FFA Association grew by **7,631** members between the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 membership year. Georgia experienced the most growth by becoming a 100% affiliated state and grew by 29,976 members. Florida had an impressive membership growth year, coming in second with an increase of 9,118 members.

### NATIONAL CHAPTER AWARDS

Texas continues to gain ground in the National Chapter Award program, with 16 chapters earning a three-star rating in the three-tiered rating system that evaluates a chapter's execution of its program of activities (POA). Five chapters earned a two-star designation, and one Texas entry was rated as one-star.

This year, Texas also boasted Premier Chapter finalists in the areas of Growing Leaders, Building Communities, and Strengthening Agriculture. The **Aledo FFA Chapter** was selected as a finalist in the Growing Leaders category for their “Meal and Muscle Monday” activity, while the **College Station FFA Chapter** was named a finalist with their “Adulting 101: Real World Workshop” activity. In the category of Building Communities, the **Gilmer FFA Chapter** was named a finalist for their “Helping our Day Ones” activity. Finally, the **College Station FFA Chapter** was named a finalist in the area of Strengthening Agriculture for their “Grilling 101: Call your Friends NOT 911” activity. The Premier Chapter award finalists are the top 10 chapters in each division of the program of activities (growing leaders, building communities, strengthening agriculture). Over the past few years, Texas chapters have begun to establish themselves as strong contenders in this national award program. National Chapter Award applications are evaluated by a state committee in June, with only gold-rated applications advancing to national judging held in late July and early August.

The National Chapter Award is a function of the chapter’s Program of Activities, a one-year annual strategic plan which creates a roadmap for hands-on leadership development experiences which engage all members in the chapter’s work and leverages the potential which exists in all members.

### STAR AND PROFICIENCY AWARDS

The Stars Over America program and Proficiency Awards seek to recognize those FFA members with outstanding supervised agricultural experience (SAE) programs. Star award and Proficiency applications are evaluated based on student records, as well as the member’s knowledge and skill attainment through their project(s). This year, Texas had two students who were selected as American Star award finalists. Wilson Nugent of the **Gilmer FFA Chapter** was named a finalist in the area of Agricultural Placement. Jake Bagby of the **Stephenville FFA Chapter** was named a finalist in the area of Agriscience. Texas did have 15 students named as finalists in national Proficiency Award program areas, with three of them bringing home a national championship.

**Cason Love of Stephenville**, Agricultural Services – Entrepreneurship/Placement  
**Lane Griffin of Howe**, Diversified Agricultural Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement  
**Stetson Loyd of Troy**, Swine Production - Entrepreneurship

Texas was tied for fourth in the total number of national finalists with Oklahoma and tied for fifth with Ohio in the total number of national winners from a state. Of the nation’s 52 state FFA associations, 18 had at least one national winner, eight of which had multiple winners.

2020 National FFA Proficiency Awards – State Comparison	
National Proficiency Finalists	National Proficiency Winners
Georgia – 26	California – 9
Ohio – 19	Georgia – 7
California – 17	Oklahoma – 5
Oklahoma – 15	Wisconsin – 4
Texas – 15	OH & TX – 3
Wisconsin – 10	LA & MO – 2
	AL, CT, IL, IN, IA, KY, MN, NE, SD, WV - 1

### TRACTOR RESTORATION

The Chevron-Delo National Tractor Restoration event competition requires an individual or team to fully document the restoration of a tractor in an application that is typically 40-50 pages in length and submitted in late August. Finalists then deliver at 20-minute presentation, followed by a rigorous question and answer session from a panel of experts. While the event is not sanctioned by the National FFA Organization, it is held at the same time as the National FFA Convention & Expo. Congratulations to **Cody Tschirhart of Medina Valley FFA** for winning Reserve Champion for his restoration, and **Grayson McDonald of Dubiski Career High FFA** for placing third overall! FFA member **Riley Billings of Floresville FFA** was also selected as the Fan Favorite.