



**Texas FFA Association**  
**88th National FFA Convention**  
**Texas Rewind**



Contact: Kaleigh Burnett, Student Recognition and Scholarship Coordinator

Texas agriculture students shined in national competitions hosted by the National FFA Organization at the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Louisville, KY. Texas FFA members dominated agriscience fair competitions and made a solid showing in career development events and award competitions based on student supervised agricultural experience programs.

“Intense competition at the state level usually produces students who can perform consistently at a high level on a national stage,” said Texas FFA Executive Director Tom Maynard. “The overall performance by our students is a credit to them and their teachers.”

### Texans Dominate in National Agriscience Fair

Texas members brought five national titles in the National FFA Agriscience Fair back to the Lone Star State, with 13 of its 21 finalists finishing in the top three, 18 rated as gold, and 3 rated as silver in the four tier rating system (gold, silver, bronze, and participant).

Georgia led the way with a record eight national winners, and Texas came in a close second, with five.

Historically, Texas members have fared well in the national competition winning a new total of a record 72 Agriscience Fair national titles since the event’s inception in 1998. No state has ever won more agriscience championships than Texas.

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

1. Texas-72
2. Georgia-31
3. New Jersey-22
4. Minnesota-21

#### National Champions

- **Hannah Wellman & Jordan Rayburg, James Madison, San Antonio:** Food Products and Processing Systems, Division 4
- **Erin Steglich, Holland:** Plant Systems, Division 1
- **Jordan Mendez & Mayson Schulze, Marion:** Plant Systems, Division 4
- **Max Coppenbarger & Robert Guerrero, Canutillo:** Power, Structural and Technical Systems, Division 3
- **Colby Gipson & Jake Traylor, Gilmer:** Social Systems, Division 4

#### National Runner-up

- **Olivia Wise-Dent, James Madison:**  
Animal Systems, Division 2
- **Cameron Gipson, Gilmer:**  
Env. Services/Natural Resource Systems, Division 1
- **Daniella Burleson, James Madison:**  
Food Products and Processing Systems, Division 2
- **Katherine Marie Fazzino, Rudder, Bryan:**  
Plant Systems, Division 2
- **Riley McKinzie, Stephenville:**  
Social Systems, Division 1

National Agriscience State Comparison - Top States with Eight or More Finalists				
State	Finalists	Gold Medals	Top Three	Winners
Texas	21	18 (86%)	13	5
Georgia	20	13 (65%)	11	8
Missouri	20	7 (35%)	1	0
Utah	19	5 (26%)	0	0
Ohio	18	11(61%)	5	1

### Career Development Events: Continuing a Tradition of Excellence

As a state, Texas boasted another strong showing in Louisville, capturing four national career development event titles, and one national runner-up title. Texans also turned in nine total top-ten finishes as well this year. Creed Speaking as well as Environmental and Natural Resources were first-time wins for Texas FFA.

Since 1928, 86 Texas entries have claimed national championships. Only California has won more national titles with 105. Six states have yet to win a national FFA career development event in this time span.

### National CDE's—Texas Top 10 Summary

- National Champion - Creed Speaking: **Carlye Winfrey, Seminole**
- National Champion - Environmental and Natural Resources: **Rusk**
- National Champion - Meats Evaluation: **Stephenville**
- National Champion: Poultry Evaluation: **Sandra Day O'Connor**
- National Runner-Up - Veterinary Science: **James Madison**

### Other top 10 finishes by Texas entries

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Agricultural Issues Forum, **Madisonville**
- 5<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary Procedure, **Bellville**
- 5<sup>th</sup> Food Science and Technology, **Florence**
- 8<sup>th</sup> Horse Evaluation, **Pearland**
- 9<sup>th</sup> Nursery/Landscape, **Flatonia**

State Summary: 2015 Career Development Event Comparison	
National CDE Titles	National FFA CDE Top Five
1. California - 5	1. California - 14
<b>2. Texas - 4</b>	2. Washington - 10
3. Minnesota - 2	<b>3. Texas - 8</b>
4. AZ, CO, CT, DE, FL, ID, IN, IA, KY, LA, MD, MT, NJ, NC	4. Missouri - 7
5. NM, OH, OK, UT, WA, WI - (all with 1)	5. Oklahoma, Minnesota - 6

Texas National CDE Top Five History		
Year	Top 5	Rank
2015	8	3 <sup>rd</sup>
2014	11	1 <sup>st</sup>
2013	12	1 <sup>st</sup>
2012	7	3 <sup>rd</sup> (tied with Minnesota)
2011	8	3 <sup>rd</sup> (tied w/Washington)
2010	10	1 <sup>st</sup>
2009	6	3 <sup>rd</sup> (tied w/ FL, GA, WY)
2008	10	1 <sup>st</sup>
2007	8	1 <sup>st</sup> (tied w/Missouri)
2006	6	4 <sup>th</sup> (tied w/ Georgia)
2005	13	1 <sup>st</sup>



2015 National Creed Speaking Winner:  
Carlye Winfrey, Seminole



2015 National ENR Winners:  
Hayden Helm, Nick Martin, Raymond Harvey and Payton Castleberry, Rusk

Texas National Career Development Event Results and History Since 2010							
Event	2015 TX Entry	Results	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Agricultural Communications	East Central	Silver-12 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-3 <sup>rd</sup>	Gold-3 <sup>rd</sup>	Gold-6 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-6 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-3 <sup>rd</sup>
Agricultural Issues Forum	Madisonville	Gold-3 <sup>rd</sup>	Gold-1 <sup>st</sup>	Gold-1 <sup>st</sup>	Gold-2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gold-1 <sup>st</sup>	Silver
Agricultural Mechanics	Sandra Day O'Connor	Bronze-33 <sup>rd</sup>	Gold-4 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-29 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-19 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-13 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-4 <sup>th</sup>
Agricultural Sales	Sandra Day O'Connor	Silver-21 <sup>st</sup>	Gold-3 <sup>rd</sup>	Silver-14 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gold-2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gold-2 <sup>nd</sup>
Agronomy	Ingram	Silver-19 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-29 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-20 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-16 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-14 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-19 <sup>th</sup>
Creed Speaking	Seminole	Gold-1 <sup>st</sup>	Silver -15 <sup>th</sup>	Bronze	Silver	Silver	Silver
Dairy Cattle	East Central	Silver-18 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-27 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-29 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-17 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-22 <sup>nd</sup>	Silver-20 <sup>th</sup>
Dairy Handlers Activity	Como-Pickton	Silver					
Environmental/Natural Res.	Rusk	Gold-1 <sup>st</sup>	Gold-3 <sup>rd</sup>	Gold-3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bronze-29 <sup>th</sup>	Bronze-37 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-3 <sup>rd</sup>
Extemporaneous Speaking	Sulphur Bluff	Bronze	Gold-3 <sup>rd</sup>	Gold-1 <sup>st</sup>	Gold-1 <sup>st</sup>	Silver	Silver
Farm Business Mgmt.	Stephenville	Gold-13 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-7 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-16 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-19 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-6 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-11 <sup>th</sup>
Floriculture	Bellville	Silver-20 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-9 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-9 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-9 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-12 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-21 <sup>st</sup>
Food Science & Technology	Florence	Gold-5 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gold-1 <sup>st</sup>	Gold-3 <sup>rd</sup>	Gold-8 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-2 <sup>nd</sup>
Forestry	Harmony	Bronze-38 <sup>th</sup>	Bronze-39 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-11 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-17 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-3 <sup>rd</sup>	Gold-8 <sup>th</sup>
Horse Evaluation	Pearland	Gold-8 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-8 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-5 <sup>th</sup>	Bronze-41 <sup>st</sup>	Gold-11 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-3 <sup>rd</sup>
Job Interview	Seminole	Bronze-31 <sup>st</sup>	Silver-29 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-18 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-15 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-9 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-16 <sup>th</sup>
Livestock Evaluation	Stephenville	Silver-14 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-8 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-17 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-16 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-9 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-8 <sup>th</sup>
Marketing Plan	James Madison	Silver	Silver-16 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-1 <sup>st</sup>	Silver	Gold-2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gold-2 <sup>nd</sup>
Meats Evaluation	Stephenville	Gold-1 <sup>st</sup>	Gold-1 <sup>st</sup>	Gold-1 <sup>st</sup>	Gold-1 <sup>st</sup>	Gold-1 <sup>st</sup>	Gold-2 <sup>nd</sup>
Milk Quality	Valley	Gold-11 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-3 <sup>rd</sup>	Gold-1 <sup>st</sup>	Gold-10 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-1 <sup>st</sup>	Gold-10 <sup>th</sup>
Nursery/Landscape	Flatonia	Gold-9 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-19 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-13 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-6 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-5 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-20 <sup>th</sup>
Parliamentary Procedure	Bellville	Gold-5 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-18 <sup>th</sup>	Silver-13 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-5 <sup>th</sup>	Gold	Gold-3 <sup>rd</sup>
Poultry Evaluation	Sandra Day O'Connor	Gold-1 <sup>st</sup>	Gold-5 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-1 <sup>st</sup>	Gold-2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gold-1 <sup>st</sup>	Gold-2 <sup>nd</sup>
Prepared Public Speaking	Cedar Park	Bronze	Gold-3 <sup>rd</sup>	Gold-4 <sup>th</sup>	Silver	Silver	Silver
Veterinary Science	James Madison	Gold-2 <sup>nd</sup>	Silver-27 <sup>th</sup>	Gold-1 <sup>st</sup>	Demo Only		

## Texans Claim Five Proficiency Awards

Texans won five national proficiency awards in Louisville. A total of 12 Texans were onstage as national finalists.

Historically, Texans haven't fared as well in proficiency award competition, but over the last five years have surged as Texas teachers engage in the process and learn to navigate the national application and selection process. This year, the playing field was levelled somewhat due to the implementation of a new national proficiency application.

Texas ranked seventh in the total number of national finalists behind Ohio, Wisconsin, California, Georgia, Oklahoma, and Indiana. Only 17 of the nation's 52 state FFA associations had national winners.

### 2015 Texas National Proficiency Award Winners:

- Beef Production-Entrepreneurship:  
**Kylie Patterson-East Central, San Antonio**
- Beef Production-Placement:  
**Tyler Nelson-Canyon**
- Equine Science-Entrepreneurship:  
**Kaine Warnken-Schulenburg**
- Forage Production-Entrepreneurship/Placement:  
**Bailey Wilson-Pilot Point**
- Small Animal Production and Care-Entrepreneurship/Placement:  
**Lacie DeRojas-Dawson**

National FFA Proficiency Awards – State Comparison	
National Proficiency Finalists	National Proficiency Winners
1. Ohio - 24	1. Ohio - 9
2. Wisconsin - 18	2. Georgia - 6
3. CA, GA, OK - 16	3. Texas, Oklahoma (Tie)
6. Indiana - 13	4. Wisconsin - 5
7. Texas - 12	

## American Star Finalists Make History

The American Star Awards represent the best of the best among thousands of American FFA Degree recipients. Four national finalists vie for the star award in each of the four categories. Finalists for the award have mastered skills in production, finance, management and/or research. For the first time in the state's 87 year FFA history, the Texas FFA Association was represented by a finalist in all four categories.

In the Star American Farmer category, Thomas Glascock of the Pilot Point FFA chapter competed with his beef production SAE. Glascock is no stranger to this family tradition, as his sister Rachel was also a national star finalist in the same category. Also a sibling legacy, Dakota Crissman of the Bells FFA chapter led the way with his American Star in Agribusiness; his brother Austin was also a finalist in 2012. In the American Star in Agriscience category, Rory Tucker of Klein FFA represented the Lone Star State. Finally, Britt Larson also of the Pilot Point FFA chapter rounded out this historic slate of star finalists with his American Star in Agricultural Placement category.

The duo of finalists from Pilot Point FFA represent another historic moment for teachers Tammy and Randy Glascock and Ms. Casey Brinlee as they became the first advisors in Texas FFA, and in recent National FFA history to have two American Star Finalists in the same year.



2015 National FFA American Star Finalists:  
Rory Tucker, Klein; Thomas Glascock, Pilot Point; Dakota Crissman, Bells; and Britt Larson, Pilot Point



## Continued Consistency in Texas National Chapter Awards

Texas posted a consistent overall showing in the National Chapter Award, with 9 chapters earning three-star ratings, and 15 chapters earning two-star ratings in the three-tiered rating system that evaluates a chapter's program of activities execution.

Texas chapters haven't established themselves on a consistent basis as strong contenders in this national award program as is the case in other award areas.

## Texas Recognized for Nation's Top Membership Growth for the 6th Consecutive Year

The Texas FFA Association was recognized for the nation's top membership growth in an award ceremony that was part of the national delegate process. Texas FFA grew by 5,374 between membership year 2013-14 and 2014-15. The Lone Star state also became the first state association to surpass 100,000 in total membership. The Texas membership surge accounted for 28% of the National FFA Organization's 19,127-student membership growth. Texas FFA has grown by 34,733 members since 2010, in large part to a revision in the membership business model. 2015 marks the sixth consecutive year that Texas has recorded the top membership gain.

Tale of the Tape...FFA Membership	
Top Membership States 14-15	Texas FFA Growth Since '10
1. Texas—109,105	2013-14: 103,731
2. California—79,526	2012-13: 95,287
3. Georgia—38,943	2011-12: 86,657
4. Oklahoma—27,177	2010-11: 81,535
5. Missouri—25,882	2009-10: 74,372

## Texans Receive Honorary American FFA Degrees

Four Texas agricultural science teachers received the Honorary American FFA Degree at the 88<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention. **Michael Bowen** of **Como**, **Michael Brummond** of **Magnolia**, **Christina Capps** of **Plantersville** and **Brent Lankford** of **Ponder** received the highest honorary degree bestowed by the National FFA Organization.

Other Texans receiving the Honorary American Degree were **Angel Armstrong** of **Damon**, **Samantha Dacke** of **Newark**, **Dr. Ted Ford** of **Stephenville**, **Jennifer Ingram** of **Waco**, **Tony Neely** of **Justin**, **Mike Ritchie** of **Amherst** and **Jay Wilder** of **Bryan**. Also, receiving a VIP Award is **Dr. Steve Frazee** of **Lubbock**.

## Taylor-Katy Wins Hall of States Competition

For the first time since 2011, Texas has won the Hall of States. The Taylor-Katy Chapter (Katy ISD), near Houston, fielded the winning entry. The Hall of States features displays promoting agriculture and agricultural education in participating states. Visitors to this year's display traveled through the various regions of the Lone Star State through a vividly creative display that captured the essence of everything Texas.

Since 2006, Texas FFA has solicited chapter proposals from across the state and supported a display created by a local chapter. Hall of States team members attend the display throughout the convention, field questions from the public and from a panel of judges who evaluate the displays and select a winner.



2015 Hall of States Winner:  
Taylor-Katy

## Texas Takes Top Four in National Invitational FFA Quiz Contest

For the third consecutive year, **Grapeland FFA** topped the senior division of the National FFA Invitational Quiz Contest held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention and Expo. Team members claimed high individual titles with Monica Davila at 1<sup>st</sup>, Victoria Martin at 4<sup>th</sup>, JD Martin at 5<sup>th</sup> and Rebekah Turner at 9<sup>th</sup>.

Grapeland FFA also claimed the junior high division title after members claimed numerous high individual placings with Keandra Harris at 1<sup>st</sup>, Madilyn McCombs at 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sonia Davila at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Cayden LeBlanc at 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Texans Make History at the Novice Parliamentary Procedure Contest

A total of 182 teams from 26 states entered the 2015 Novice Parliamentary Procedure Event that is held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention and Expo. **Sandra Day O'Connor FFA** was named the National Champion in this year's event. This is the first team from Texas to win this event in its four-year history.

## Tradition of Success in Tractor Restoration

Chevron Products Company, a Chevron U.S.A. Inc. division, maker of the Delo® brand of technologically advanced engine oils, lubricants and coolants, announced Matt Mahler as Grand Prize winner of the 2015 Delo Tractor Restoration Competition for his restoration of a 1972 John Deere 4320 tractor. The FFA member from Iowa Park was selected for the \$10,000 Grand Prize by a panel of expert judges following presentations by all twelve finalists at the 87<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. This was Matt's fourth trip to the national finals.

### 2015 Texas Delo Tractor Restoration Competition Finalist

- **Matt Mahler, Iowa Park FFA:** 1972 John Deere 4320 (Grand Prize Winner & Best Presentation)
- **John Michael Grunseich, Bellevue FFA:** 1964 John Deere 1010
- **Hunter & Ryder Merta, El Campo FFA:** 1951 John Deere Model A
- **Dubiski Career High FFA:** 1946 Farmall B
- **Cotton Center FFA:** 1950 Farmall H



2015 Delo Tractor Restoration Competition Winner  
Matt Mahler of Iowa Park FFA

## Marion Livestock Team is “Royalty” in Kansas City

The Marion livestock was crowned as champions of the 116th American Royal Livestock Judging Contest late last month. Marion placed three of its members in the contest's top ten with Reagan Langemeier earning 2<sup>nd</sup> high-point individual honors. The national judging competition was held during same week as the National FFA Convention and Expo. Marion, qualified for the national competition by placing third in the Texas competition in May. The state runner-up in the Livestock Career Development Event has the opportunity to choose between competing in Kansas City or at the National Western in Denver. The third-place team is certified for the remaining contest berth.

####