

Agriscience Fair Committee Meeting
ATAT Professional Development Conference
21 July 2025

In attendance –

Tammy Glasscock, Texas FFA
Candis Carraway Scallan – Outgoing Chair, Stephen F Austin
Michael Rainey – Chair, Retired AST
Angie Snapp, Area I
Shiella M Pan, Area II
Rebecca Brummond, Area III
John Garcia, Area III
Savannah Bowers, Area IV
Linsey Shands, Area V
Andrea Shafer, Area VI
Kyle Keahey, Area VI
Josh Anderson, Area VII
Jessica Reeves, Area VII
Donna Sue Youngblood, Area IX
Denny Russ, Area IX
Beverley Schroedter, Area X
Juan Garcia, Area X
Kayla Guelker, Area XI
Madeleine Musick, Area XII
Karoline Turner, Area XII

Dr. Scallan gave a brief overview of the 2025 Agriscience Fair – There were 203 entries and 133 of those were rated gold and advanced to the State Convention in Fort Worth. We had 42 judges and more space was available than ever before to compete at convention. She then introduced Michael Rainey as the new chair for the event.

Area Concerns –

Area I – Liked that chapters were not charged an entry fee if they did not advance to Convention. A concern about the timeliness of registration for the convention – Some of the entries not advancing were registered for convention, but were not able to change because the Convention registration was already closed.

Area II – none

Area III – Would like to see a ranking system for the Gold, Silver and Bronze. Would also like to see a new teacher training for agriscience fair. Also had concern about convention registration

Area IV – Would like to see a ranking system for the Gold, Silver and Bronze

Area V – Would like to see a ranking system for the Gold, Silver and Bronze

Area VI – Gold entries that competed at State Convention were charged to AET account after the event. This late charge may be difficult with most schools wanting to close their fiscal year before the start of the new school year. Was asked if the fee could be charged in Judging card at a sooner time.

Area VII – Would like to see a ranking system for the Gold, Silver and Bronze

Area VIII – none

Area IX – none

Area X – Would like to see a ranking system for the Gold, Silver and Bronze

Area XI – Would to like to see feedback from Rankings

Area XII – Would like to see a ranking system for the Gold, Silver and Bronze

New Business –

Tammy gave the dates of June 1-5, 2026 for State degree check and the deadline for Agriscience Fair projects as May 20, 2026.

Michael Rainey asked that each committee member make sure to help with securing the 36 reviewers for State Degree check, since only 24 showed up in 2025 and some areas did not have representation.

Discussion was offered about the “materials and methods” section of the paper – It cannot be in list form and must be in narrative form. If not, judges at nationals will only award low points for that section.

Another discussion was focused on the “Skills and competencies” portion of the application. This section is important since National FFA deemed this portion worth 20 points.

Michael Rainey presented the committee with the Tx Agriscience Fair – Review and Rating Scorecard. Dr Scallan offered a change to the term “Statistical procedures included, if used” and changed to “Explains how data was analyzed including statistical procedures, if used.”

Motion was made by Becky Brummond to accept the scorecard with the added terminology. Second by Jessica Reeves. Motion passed by a show of hands, 11 for and 0 against.

Discussion was offered to change the results to Monday evening after the Agriscience Fair event. Jessica Reeves made the motion to move results to the Monday of Convention at 6:30 PM. Seconded by Andrea Shafer. Motion passed by a show of hands, 10 for and 0 against.

Discussion was offered to determine what to do with paper submitted that do not follow use the National FFA Agriscience Template. Michael Rainey informed to committee that he visited with National FFA and was advised that the template is not required even though the wording in the Agriscience Fair handbook states otherwise. National FFA interpretation of the rule is the that all papers must follow the formatting – ie, use the sections in the correct order and do not add or delete any section. Several members pointed out that the National FFA Template is difficult to use since students use many different programs and devices. Was discussed about using Microsoft Word vs Google Docs. Also, most schools do not use computer work stations anymore – the template needs to work with Chromebooks, Ipads, Apple computers as well as PC's. Before voting, Josh Anderson voiced his concern that if we required all to use a template, that it be posted on the Agriscience Fair page in a form that all can see.

All members agreed that Texas needs to use a template so we are consistent in the review and judging processes. We also do not want any application that advances to National competition to be disqualified because of missing components. Jessica Reeves made the motion to create a template that is compatible with all the mentioned software and devices. Becky Brummond seconded the motion. Motion passed by a show of hands, 9 for and 0 against.

Discussion was offered that the Texas FFA Agriscience Fair rules need to be updated. The committee would like Tammy Glasscock to update the rules – staff suggestion for the FFA Board of Directors to vote on.

Discussion was offered that the interview schedule for those advancing to the State Convention competition be posted on the Agriscience Fair page for the Texas FFA website.

Michael Rainey presented a short Powerpoint over the changes coming from National FFA regarding the Agriscience Fair in 2027. The information was given so plans can be made if changes needed to made to the Texas rules next summer.

The motion to adjourn was made by Savannah Bowers and seconded by Andrea Shafer. The motion passed and the meeting closed at 2:30 PM.

Signed,

Michael Rainey

Chair, Agriscience Fair