



# THE CATALYST

*Developing the Best in Leadership*

ISSUE SEVEN • MAY 2021



## NEW BEGINNINGS

We are excited to celebrate the graduating class of Texas FFA members. This past year brought unprecedented challenges and we acknowledge your dedication and commitment to succeed - no doubt a bright future is ahead. This year we launched a senior recognition program. This gives members, advisors, parents, and peers the opportunity to recognize and honor their 2021 seniors.

The individuals that are nominated received a congratulatory certificate and a chance to win big. Five lucky honoree received a **\$1,000 award**. The 2021 Senior Program winners of the award are Jodi Hoke, Lane Hill, Logan Purdum, Raden Reep, and Reif Richter. Thank you to all those who participated and keep an eye out for next year's opportunity.

The Texas FFA Foundation is proud of your hard work and dedication towards your education and future. Like your parents, family, friends, and loved ones, we celebrate your years of hard work, diligence, accomplishments, and growth. You have spent 468 weeks in school from kindergarten through your senior year. These 468 weeks have been filled with firsts, milestones achieved, setbacks, accomplishments, drudgery, tears, laughter, elation, celebration, and most importantly growth.

We hope all the development, leadership, and knowledge you have gained from FFA help you create a bright future ahead.

ARE WE CONNECTED?

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# THE NEXT CHAPTER

Connor and Reagan Meinardus have grown up with FFA and agriculture around them. With their dad being an agriculture science teacher, they rode buses in car seats getting passed around by students on the way to conventions and contest. Their love for the organization grew once their time came to join FFA. Connor and Reagan are seniors at Victoria West High School where they will be graduating in May 2021.

Reagan served as a Foundation Ambassador and a district officer. Zipping up the blue and gold jacket grew his passion for the FFA more and more. The FFA has helped Reagan grow into an inspirational leader. He is planning on taking his passion for agriculture and love for the FFA into his future as he will be pursuing a degree in Agricultural Science Education at Tarleton State University.

Connor has competed in multiple LDE's and CDE's ranging from Livestock Judging, Senior Quiz, and Entomology just to name a few.

With everything he has been involved with in the FFA, he is better prepared for his future, not only college but his future career as well. Connor plans are to attend Tarleton State University this year, majoring in Agribusiness.



**"If you get an opportunity to do anything within the FFA, take that opportunity and run with it. You never know where it might lead you." - Connor Meinardus**

**"If I could give a new member a piece of advice I would tell them to sign up for every opportunity they have." - Reagan Meinardus**

# THE NEXT CHAPTER



Bailee and Breanna Chavez both attend Harmony High School where they have been involved with FFA since they were in 8th grade. Both have participated in numerous CDE's and LDE's bringing home state and national titles. They earned a national championship in Senior Quiz and Agriscience Fair. They have served as Ford Leadership Scholars, Chapter officers, Foundation Ambassadors and Area Officers. In the Fall of 2021 they plan on attending Texas A&M where they will study for their bachelors degree. Bailee will be studying for her bachelors and masters degree in Nutritional Science with the hopes of becoming a registered dietitian. Breanna will be studying for her bachelors and masters degree in Nutrition in hopes of becoming a registered dietitian and an advocate for agriculture in the dietetic industry.

**"First year members, abide by this rule: Never say never! The people you look up to in the FFA could be you in the next few years. Seek out opportunities, and get out of your comfort zone!" - Breanna Chavez**

**"I probably will not remember every single title and award I have earned; however, one thing I will never forget is the power that resides in the blue corduroy jacket." - Bailee Chavez**

## KEYS TO SUCCESS

# Leadership Skills

To successfully execute your leadership vision, you must be able to define the vision, strategy, and tactical plan for your organization, and then effectively communicate it to your team in a way that engages and focuses them around a common goal.

## 3 Tips on Leadership Vision

- Define and Communicate Vision - A vision brings a team together under a common goal so that your team is not simply working, but is working together to create something that moves you closer to your leadership vision.
- Think Strategically - Your strategy defines how you will achieve your leadership vision based on a number of internal and external factors.
- Plan and Prioritize - Formulate objectives and priorities, implement and monitor plans in alignment with the long-term strategy of the organization.

### 3 Benefits of Leadership Vision

- Vision shows us where we are headed
- Vision provides focus
- Vision helps to keep us moving forward and move through obstacles.



# Food Strategies

What crop is both a fiber crop and a food crop?

# Cotton

Texas leads the U.S. in cotton production and it is our leading cash crop, ranking only behind the beef and nursery industries in total cash receipts. Texas annually produces about 25% of the entire U.S. crop and plants over 6 million acres! That's over 9,000 square miles of cotton fields.

- Cotton is the No. 1 cash crop on the High Plains of Texas.
- One bale of cotton weighs about 500 pounds.
- It takes less than a half-pound of cotton to make a large T-shirt.
- United States paper currency is made of 75% cotton and 25% linen. So, your money has cotton in it, too!
- An average High Plains cotton crop is enough to make almost a billion pairs of jeans or 1.738 billion men's sports shirts! That's enough to make sure everyone in the United States has at least two pairs of jeans!





# HERE TO SERVE

***Our purpose is to strengthen agricultural education and the Texas FFA program, so each student can develop their potential for personal growth, career success and leadership in a global marketplace.***

## OUR TEAM



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## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

K.C. Wyatt, President/CEO of Community National Bank & Trust of Texas, announced that Tommy Neyland has been named Vice President and Branch Manager for the branch in Buffalo.

Neyland graduated from Sam Houston State University where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Education. He also served as Student Body President. After graduation, he began a career in education at Fairfield ISD as an Agriculture Science teacher. Following that, Neyland accepted a job in his hometown of Centerville as the County Extension Agent for agriculture/natural resources for the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Leon County.

He was responsible for advising five state 4-H council members and two Texas FFA state officers as well as many district and area level officers. He also served as coach of many districts, area, state, and national level competitive teams. Most recently, Neyland was the Manager for Education Outreach at Luminant where his main responsibility was to serve as a community relations liaison. Luminant, a subsidiary of Energy Future Holdings Corp., is a competitive power generation business including mining, wholesale marketing and trading, and development operations.

***I believe that the Texas FFA and the skills that it teaches the youth of today is unmatched. I enjoy the opportunity to support that effort by serving on the Texas FFA Foundation Board.***



**"Our favorite attitude should be gratitude."**

**- Zig Ziglar**

Do you want to thank someone?

Do you want to honor a mentor?

Do you want to make an impact?

Here's how!

Individual Gift  
Honor Gift  
Memorial gift  
Facebook Fundraiser  
Amazon Smile

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2520515>

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