

Cultivating Success

How agricultural science education and FFA programming prepare the next generation of workforce leadership.





Data That Spells Success

The Texas FFA Foundation, in support of our Agricultural Science Educators and FFA Advisors, funded a research project in 2022 to collect data on the positive impact of agricultural science education and FFA programming on Texas high school students.

Developed by Dr. Logan Burlison, West Texas A&M University.

Data collected for this report is a summary of a 2022 survey of 257 FFA alumni, 255 high school principals, 29 four-year university department heads, and 31 Texas employers.

The data includes comparisons in success rates of students in agriculture education classes, the perceived value of scholarship support for secondary education, and university leader and employer feedback on students involved in FFA programs.

The Texas FFA Foundation is honored to provide this report for all Texans. Agricultural science education students, FFA members, teachers, administrators, counselors, parents, and sponsors can be proud of their involvement in a program that's making Texas a better place to live, work, and raise families.

**We do have
a mission that
matters.**





Membership in a CTSO (career and technical student organization) is the most important high school activity for preparing students for college and helping them attain scholarships.



77%

**CTSO
Membership**



66%

**Student
Government**



63%

**Athletics/
Training**



62%

Other Club

“When talking to employers, the thing they want most from employees is better soft skills. They are going to train their employees in whatever they want them to do, and it is soft skills that set them apart from other candidates for jobs or promotions. **There is no better organization in intentionally developing soft skills than the FFA at our school.**”

- Texas High School Principal

We are proud of all Texas CTSOs and especially our Texas FFA members in being prepared for college, having access to a scope of scholarship, and exceptional leadership development opportunities.



Texas FFA Association





468

award and academic scholarships are given annually.

Texas FFA scholarship recipients feel more prepared for college and **60%** of FFA scholarship students stated they developed additional financial support.

The majority of FFA students pursue careers in non-agricultural based industries. Over the past five years, our academic scholarship breakdown is as follows:

- **616 non-agricultural based scholarships**
- **176 agricultural based scholarships**

FFA alumni say:

- **98% agree** that FFA provided a greater high school experience.
- **99% of FFA alumni** attend a college or university.
- **\$12.8K** - The average amount Texas FFA scholarship recipients receive.
- **73% agree** that their FFA scholarship eased their family's financial stress level.

FFA goes beyond the classroom, enabling members to apply their learning in practical situations, nurturing a valuable toolkit of **soft skills** that stand out to prospective employers.



Creativity



Assertiveness



Flexibility



Accountability



Teamwork



Problem-Solver



**Time
Management**



Leadership



Dependability



Communication

\$2.3M

total scholarships granted per year.

86%

of recipients say that their FFA scholarship was crucial to their success.

99%

of FFA alumni agree that FFA strengthened their leadership skills.

87%

of employers agree that FFA members are hired more than their peers.





Texas employers report:

100%

agree that FFA members are more prepared for careers than their peers.

83%

agree that FFA members are more knowledgeable about entrepreneurship than their peers.

89%

agree that FFA members receive more raises or bonuses than their peers.

University leaders say:

- **63% agree** that FFA members receive more assistantships or graduate opportunities than their peers.
- **41% agree** that FFA members perform better academically than their peers.



The Results

FFA scholarship students are more confident in their ability to succeed, feel better prepared than their peers, and continue their leadership into the college experience.

The majority of them graduate or report continuing to post bachelor degrees. University leaders value these scholarship students, as well as other highly involved FFA students, in their recruitment and allocation of departmental scholarships, which multiplies the scholarship value allocated by the Texas FFA and their support of related sponsors.

This is an assessment report regarding the value of agricultural education and FFA program involvement in secondary education and employment success.

While we acknowledge the limitations of this report, the insights it provides into the graduation rates of students in agricultural education, the continued educational pursuits of FFA scholarship recipients, and the favorable perception of these students by employers underscore the pivotal role FFA plays in shaping successful, job-ready professionals.

FFA participation equips students with practical skills and a competitive edge in the job market, creating a pathway to increased opportunities in the future.



Agricultural science education provides the classroom foundation on which the next generation of workforce leadership is built.

These programs of study have been developed by the Texas Education Agency in collaboration with experts from the workforce, secondary education, and higher education to ensure Texas students are prepared to excel in their future careers.

Here are the six Programs of Study under Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR):



**Agriculture,
Food &
Natural
Resources**

- Agriculture Business, Leadership, and Communications
- Animal Science
- Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems
- Environmental and Natural Resources
- Food Science and Technology
- Plant Science

AFNR Courses

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advanced Animal Science 2. Advanced Energy and Natural Resource Technology 3. Advanced Energy and Natural Resource Technology/ Agricultural Laboratory and Field Experience 4. Advanced Floral Design 5. Advanced Plant and Soil Science 6. Agribusiness Management and Marketing 7. Agribusiness Management and Marketing/Agricultural Laboratory and Field Experience 8. Agricultural Equipment Design and Fabrication 9. Agricultural Equipment Design and Fabrication/ Agricultural Laboratory and Field Experience 10. Agricultural Leadership, Research, and Communications 11. Agricultural Mechanics and Metal Technologies 12. Agricultural Mechanics and Metal Technologies/ Agricultural Laboratory and Field Experience | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Agricultural Power Systems 14. Agricultural Power Systems/ Agricultural Laboratory and Field Experience 15. Agricultural Structures Design and Fabrication 16. Agricultural Structures Design and Fabrication/Agricultural Laboratory and Field Experience 17. Energy and Natural Resources Technology 18. Energy and Natural Resource Technology/Agricultural Laboratory and Field Experience 19. Equine Science 20. Floral Design 21. Floral Design/Agricultural Laboratory and Field Experience 22. Food Processing 23. Food Processing/Agricultural Laboratory and Field Experience 24. Food Technology and Safety 25. Food Technology and Safety/ Agricultural Laboratory and Field Experience 26. Forestry and Woodland Ecosystems | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 27. Forestry and Woodland Ecosystems/Agricultural Laboratory and Field Experience 28. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for Agriculture 29. Greenhouse Operation and Production 30. Greenhouse Operation and Production/Agricultural Laboratory and Field Experience 31. Horticultural Science 32. Horticultural Science/ Agricultural Laboratory and Field Experience 33. Landscape Design and Management 34. Livestock Production 35. Livestock Production/ Agricultural Laboratory and Field Experience 36. Mathematical Applications in Agriculture 37. Practicum in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources/ Extended Practicum in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (First Time Taken) 38. Practicum in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (First Time Taken) |
|---|---|---|

39. Practicum in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (Second Time Taken)
40. Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
41. Professional Standards in Agribusiness
42. Range Ecology and Management
43. Range Ecology and Management/Agricultural Laboratory and Field Experience
44. Small Animal Management
45. Turf Grass Management
46. Veterinary Medical Applications
47. Veterinary Medical Applications/Agricultural Laboratory and Field Experience
48. Viticulture
49. Wildlife, Fisheries and Ecology Management
50. Wildlife, Fisheries and Ecology Management/ Agricultural Laboratory and Field Experience

Non-AFNR Courses in AFNR Programs of Study

1. Career Preparation I
2. Career Preparation I/ Extended Career Preparation
3. Food Science*
4. Practicum in Entrepreneurship
5. Professional Communications
6. Project-Based Research (First Time Taken)
7. Scientific Research and Design

AFNR Industry Based Certifications (IBCs)

1. Agricultural Biotechnology
2. Agriculture Mechanics
3. Agrilife Veterinary Assistant Certificate
4. API 1104 Welding Pipelines and Related Facilities
5. AWS Certified Welder
6. AWS D1.1 Structural Steel
7. AWS D9.1 Sheet Metal Welding
8. AWS SENSE Level 1: Entry Welder
9. BASF Plant Science Certification
10. Certified Veterinary Assistant, Level 1
11. Commercial/Non-Commercial Pesticide Applicator
12. Commercial/Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator "Vegetation Management" License
13. Culinary Meat Selection & Cookery Certification
14. Ducks Unlimited Ecology Conservation & Management Certification
15. Elanco Fundamentals of Animal Science Certification
16. Elanco Veterinary Medical Applications Certification
17. Entrepreneurship and Small Business
18. Environmental and Natural Resources
19. Equine Management & Evaluation Certification
20. Feedyard Technician in Cattle Care and Handling
21. Feedyard Technician in Machinery Operation, Repair and Maintenance
22. Food Safety & Science Certification
23. Horticulture - Landscaping - Job Ready
24. Industrial Technology Maintenance (ITM) - Maintenance Welding
25. Landscape Irrigator
26. Licensed Veterinary Technician
27. Machining Measurement, Material, and Safety Level I
28. Microsoft Office Specialist: Microsoft Excel Expert**
29. Natural Resource Systems and Wastewater Collection
30. NCCER Core
31. NCCER Welding Level I
32. OSHA 30 Hour General**
33. Pre-Professional Certification in Food Science Fundamentals
34. Principles of Floral Design Certification
35. Production Agriculture - Job Ready
36. Small Animal Science and Technology
37. Texas Certified Landscape Associate (TCLA)
38. Texas Certified Nursery Professional
39. Texas State Florist's Association Knowledge Based Floral Certification
40. Texas State Florist's Association Level I Floral Certification
41. Texas State Florist's Association Level II Floral Certification
42. Waste Water Collection**
43. Welding - Job Ready

* To be added in the 2024-25 school year.

** Will not be offered after the 2023-24 school year.

FFA activities are where classroom education is transformed into leadership potential through real world experience.



Leadership Development Events (LDEs)

1. Agricultural Advocacy
2. Agricultural Issues Forum
3. Agricultural Skill Demonstration
4. Chapter Conducting
5. Creed Speaking
6. FFA Broadcasting
7. Greenhand Agricultural Skills Demonstration
8. Greenhand Chapter Conducting
9. Greenhand Creed Speaking
10. Greenhand FFA Quiz
11. Greenhand Spanish Creed Speaking
12. Job Interview
13. Public Relations
14. Spanish Creed Speaking
15. Sr. FFA Quiz

Career Development Events (CDEs)

1. Ag Communications
2. Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems
3. Agronomy
4. Ag Sales
5. Applied Agricultural Engineering
6. Cotton
7. Dairy Cattle
8. Entomology
9. Environmental and Natural Resources

10. Farm and Agribusiness Management
11. Floriculture
12. Food Science
13. Forage
14. Forestry
15. Homesite Evaluation
16. Horse
17. Land
18. Livestock
19. Marketing Plan
20. Meats
21. Milk Quality
22. Nursery/Landscape
23. Plant ID
24. Poultry
25. Range
26. Tractor Technician
27. Veterinary Science
28. Wildlife
29. Wool

Speaking Development Events (SDEs)

1. Extemporaneous Public Speaking
2. Jr. Prepared Public Speaking
3. Sr. Prepared Public Speaking
 - a) Animal Science
 - b) Plant Science
 - c) Natural Resources
 - d) Agribusiness
 - e) Agricultural Policy
 - f) Agriculture Technology and Communications
4. Soil Stewardship Prepared Public Speaking

Agriscience Fair Divisions

1. Animal Systems
2. Environmental Services/ Natural Resource Systems
3. Food Products and Processing Systems
4. Plant Systems
5. Power, Structural, and Technical Systems
6. Social Systems

Leadership Camps and Conferences

1. Excellence Conferences - 6 locations Statewide
 - a) Made For Excellence (Sophomore)
 - b) Building Excellence (Juniors)
 - c) Executing Excellence (Seniors)
2. State Leadership Conference - Area Officers
3. LEAD Career Expo
4. Texas FFA Career Week
5. MVP, Mission Values Purpose - State Officers
6. Day at the Capitol - Legislative/Advocacy Workshop
7. Legislative LEAD
8. JumpSTART - New Chapter Development
9. Ford Leadership Scholars

Over **265,000** Texas students are enrolled in agricultural education, with over **170,000** being active members of the Texas FFA.

State Convention Leadership Opportunities

1. Courtesy Corps
2. Ambassadors
3. Chorus
4. Media Staff
5. Convention Interns
6. Leadership Workshops

Books, Magazines, Podcasts, & Curriculum

1. Books & Magazines
 - a) Mission Matters: Texas Leaders' Edition – Leadership and Success, Vol. 1
 - b) What's Growing On? Newsletter
 - c) Growing Our Future Magazine
2. Podcasts
 - a) FFA Unraveled Podcast
 - b) Growing Our Future Podcast
3. Curriculum
 - a) Greenhand Leadership Conference: An Introduction to FFA
 - b) Career on Demand Video Series and Resources
 - c) Leadership on Demand Video Series and Resources
 - d) iCEV Growing Our Future Podcast Curriculum
4. ATAT Monthly Teacher Talk

Internship Opportunities

1. Texas FFA Association Internship
2. Texas FFA Foundation Internship*
 - a) Sr. Intern
 - b) Jr. Intern
3. Texas FFA Foundation Summer Leadership Team
 - a) Sr. Ambassador Coordinator
 - b) Jr. Ambassador Coordinator
 - c) Sr. Brand Ambassador Coordinator
 - d) Jr. Brand Ambassador Coordinator

For more information about Texas FFA Ambassador opportunities, **scan here:**



FFA Unraveled



Growing Our Future



ATAT Monthly Teacher Talk



* Students who apply to serve as a Foundation Intern make a two-year commitment of service.



The consensus among employers is clear: FFA members excel in their jobs, thanks to their exceptional readiness.

“I am looking for employees that are self-motivated, have leadership potential and can get along and communicate with people. I am looking for employees who have excelled not because they are good at memorization, but rather those who can actually think. FFA members have an opportunity to develop and demonstrate those skills.”

- Texas Employer



“Employees that were former FFA members tend to pursue higher roles and take on leadership positions.”

- Texas Employer

If you would like to support the Texas FFA
with a financial donation, **please scan here:**



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