



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Texas FFA Association
614 East 12th Street
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TexasFFA.org

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Rudder FFA Receives Top Honors at Texas FFA Convention

Corpus Christi, Texas – The Rudder FFA Chapter was recognized as a gold-level chapter for the esteemed Golden Horizon award in the multi-teacher division at the 87th annual Texas FFA State Convention held July 13-17 in Corpus Christi.

The gold-level Golden Horizon award is the highest state rating to be bestowed upon a Texas FFA chapter. Golden Horizon award selection is based on exceptional chapter involvement and activities within the school and community.

The Golden Horizon award recognizes well-rounded chapter involvement that promotes maximum participation, in order to deliver all facets of the agricultural education program. The Rudder FFA Chapter was the fifth highest rated chapter out of the 1,032 FFA Chapters in the state this year. Rudder FFA was organized when the high school opened in the 2008-2009 school year with 39 FFA members. There are currently 419 FFA members at Rudder, making the chapter the 25th largest in the state. There are more FFA members in the Rudder Chapter than in four other State FFA Associations.





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Rudder FFA Chapter Receives National Chapter Rating at Texas FFA State Convention

The Rudder FFA Chapter received the prestigious Gold Emblem rating at the 87th annual Texas FFA State Convention.

The Gold Emblem rating is only bestowed upon the top 10 percent of FFA chapters in Texas. Gold Emblem FFA chapters advance to the national level to be judged for the National FFA Chapter Contest.

Chapters that received the Gold Emblem rating actively implemented the FFA mission and strategies. These chapters improve their operations by using a Program of Activities, which emphasizes student, chapter, and community development.

Katherine Fazzino named Champion at Texas FFA Agriscience Fair

Katherine Fazzino, of the Rudder FFA Chapter, was named as the Champion in the Texas FFA Agriscience Fair at the 87th annual Texas FFA State Convention held July 13-17 in Corpus Christi.

Fazzino participated in the Plant Science category. The Agriscience Fair fuses the traditional science fair with agriculture. FFA members conduct cutting edge agricultural research to compete in categories such as biochemistry and microbiology, environmental science, zoology, botany and engineering.

The Agriscience Fair was made possible by the ExxonMobil Corporation. State award winners in each category will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the Richard Wallrath Education Foundation. Fazzino will also advance to the National FFA Convention Agriscience Fair competition in Louisville, Kentucky in October.

Also competing in the State FFA Agriscience Fair from Rudder were Myles Martinez in the Ag Power and Technology division, Alexandra Alderete in the Social Science Division, and Trenton Llewellyn in the Animal Science division.





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Jayce Wilder named State winner for Crop Production Proficiency Award

Jayce Wilder of the Rudder FFA Chapter was awarded the Crop Production Proficiency Award at the 87th annual Texas FFA State Convention held July 13-17 in Corpus Christi.

The Proficiency Awards program encourages members to set personal goals and learn practical skills. The program provides recognition to FFA members for exceptional accomplishments and excellence in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program. Wilder's application won both district and area competitions before being considered by the state-selected committee in early June. Wilder received a \$1,000.00 scholarship and advances to the National FFA Convention Competition in October in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Supervised Agricultural Experience program is an individualized application of classroom learning beyond scheduled class time and has been a standard part of agricultural education since 1917. Students' SAEs may be entrepreneurial enterprises, employment experiences or research projects.

Other Rudder FFA members competing in the Proficiency Award competitions were Katherine Fazzino – 2nd in Agriscience, Jayce Wilder – 2nd in Diversified Crop Production, Annie Perez – 3rd in Ag Education, Reagan Thurman – 4th in Goat Production, Samantha Ruffino – 4th in Vet Medicine, Alexandra Alderete – 5th in Poultry Production, and Spencer Wilder – 6th in Beef Production.





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Jenna Bratton Named Champion at State Rodeo Finals

Jenna Bratton, of the Rudder FFA chapter, won the State Championship in Goat Tying at Texas FFA Rodeo Finals at the 87th annual Texas FFA State Convention held July 13-17 in Corpus Christi.

Bratton competed in two go-rounds of the goat tying competition. The top ten competitors then competed in the finals to determine the state winner. Bratton was awarded a \$1,000.00 scholarship along with a trophy buckle and cash for her efforts. Also competing in the State FFA Rodeo from Rudder FFA were, Brandi Bratton, Natalie Swenson, and Dillon Tribble.



Katherine Fazzino named Texas FFA Star Award Winner

Katherine Fazzino, of the Rudder FFA Chapter, has been named the Star Chapter FFA Degree in Agriscience. Star award winners were recognized at the 87th annual Texas FFA State Convention held July 13-17 in Corpus Christi.

The state award winner in each category will receive a \$1,000 Dina Wallrath-Robertson Memorial Star Scholarship made available by the Texas FFA Foundation. Star Awards are given at each degree level in four categories: Placement, Production, Agribusiness and Agriscience.



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FFA Stars are chosen based on the most outstanding Supervised Agriculture Experience Program within their respective degree and category. Winners maintain a comprehensive record keeping system to help justify and explain their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project. The state winners have already won their respective Star Divisions at the District and Area levels to advance to the state level. Other Rudder FFA members that won their Star Division at District and Area competitions and were recognized as State Finalists on stage at the convention were, Reagan Thurman – Star Finalist for Star Chapter Degree in Production, Jayce Wilder for Star American Degree in Placement, and Spencer Wilder for Star American Degree in Production.



Three members of the Rudder FFA Chapter Serve as Foundation Ambassadors

Cierra Dickerson, Rosemary Fazzino, and Katherine Fazzino, of the Rudder FFA Chapter served as a Texas FFA Foundation Ambassador at the 87th annual Texas FFA State Convention.

These Rudder FFA members were three of 50 FFA members selected to serve as a Foundation Ambassador. The Foundation Ambassador program serves as the official liaison to sponsors, special guests and dignitaries on behalf of the Texas FFA during the annual Texas FFA Convention.

Ambassadors went through a competitive application process, and once selected they received an extensive two-day training specifically focused on donor relations, personal skills development and professional



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networking. Foundation Ambassadors studied the history of the Texas FFA Association, Texas FFA Foundation and the records of sponsors' commitments to agricultural education and the Texas FFA.

Rudder FFA member Serves as Courtesy Corps

Trent Terry, of the Rudder FFA Chapter served as a Courtesy Corps member at the 87th annual Texas FFA State Convention.

The Courtesy Corps is a team of student volunteers who handle many logistical functions at the nation's largest state FFA convention.

Four members of the Rudder FFA is Named American FFA Degree Candidates

Kayce Kaderka, Will Hussey, Jayce Wilder, and Spencer Wilder of the Rudder FFA Chapter, were named as candidates for the American FFA Degree at the 87th annual Texas FFA State Convention. The American FFA Degree is the highest degree bestowed by the National FFA Organization.

The American Degree is the top degree in a four-tier degree program that recognizes individual achievement in instructional programs, supervised experience and leadership development. The American Degree is awarded at the National FFA Convention in October.

A portion of the American FFA Degree ceremony states, "Boundaries within our country exist only in name. True American citizens are interested in and loyal to their local communities and states, but their greatest devotion is to their country. Recipients of the American FFA Degree see beyond limited horizons. They concern themselves not only with the affairs of their local chapters and state associations, but also with the National FFA Organization, working for the advancement of agriculture, which, in turn, strengthens America."

Four supporters of the Rudder FFA Chapter Receive Honorary Lone Star FFA Degrees

Thelma Davila, Melissa Martinez, Adrian McDonald, and Tracy Wager, all of Bryan, were awarded the Honorary Lone Star FFA Degree at the 87th annual Texas FFA State. The Honorary Lone Star FFA Degree is the highest honorary degree bestowed by the Texas FFA.

The Honorary Lone Star FFA Degree recognizes individuals who have rendered outstanding service to agricultural education and the Texas FFA. These long time Rudder FFA supporters were among the 153 individuals, that included Texas Governor Greg Abbott and Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller, receiving this esteemed honorary degree.

Rudder FFA Members Receive Lone Star FFA Degree

Fifteen members of the Rudder FFA Chapter, were awarded the Lone Star FFA Degree in at the 87th annual Texas FFA Convention. The Lone Star FFA Degree is the highest degree bestowed by the Texas FFA.



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The Lone Star FFA Degree recognizes FFA members who have received the Chapter degree, been active FFA members for at least two years, completed at least four semesters of agricultural science at or above the ninth grade level, maintained a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program, demonstrated their leadership skills and has shown a commitment to the FFA through involvement at the chapter level and above. Joining the more than 2,500 FFA members to receive this esteemed degree were Cody Collins, Clayton Conrad, Rosemary Fazzino, Angela Flores, Jordan Irick, Lacy Lange, Landon Little, Myles Martinez, Chris Netterville, Annie Perez, Brady Phelps, Madison Smith, Dillon Tribble, Karlyn Wager, and Hart Walker. These 15 Lone Star FFA Degree recipients bring the total number of State Degree awardees from the Rudder FFA Chapter to 71 since the chapter organized during the 2008-2009 school year.

The 87th annual Texas FFA State Convention recorded approximately 12,000 members and guests. Members of the agricultural youth leadership organization spent the week attending leadership workshops, participating in events and activities, being recognized for their achievements and serving as the legislative body for the Texas FFA Association.

The Texas FFA is the nation's largest state FFA association with a membership of more than 109,000 members and 1,032 local FFA chapters. FFA gives students the opportunity to apply practical classroom knowledge to real world experiences through local, state and national competitions. For more information about the Texas FFA visit www.texasffa.org.