

FFA Motto:
Learning to Do,
Doing to Learn,
Earning to Live,
Living to Serve.



BRAZOS FFA MEMBER HANDBOOK 2021-2022

"Brazos ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission to or employment in its educational programs or activities."

Welcome back!!!

We hope that you are as excited about the upcoming school year as we are. This handbook is your survival guide to your time in the FFA. It contains lots of information and we highly suggest that you read it and keep it for further reference. If you have any questions about anything in the Handbook or anything else relating to the Ag Department or the Brazos FFA please give one of the officers below or the Ag Teachers a call or send them an email.

Sincerely,

The 2021-2022 Brazos FFA Officer Team

2021-2022 Brazos FFA Officers

President..... Meagan Demny
Vice-President..... Makinzy Kneip
Secretary..... Laura Durrett
Treasurer.....Sierra Kovar
Reporter.....Paige Demny
Sentinel.....Jemma Zahradnik
Jr. Advisor.....Ashlyn Davila
Parliamentarian.....Kirby Richardson
Historian..... Kadance Schneider
Chaplain..... Denise Hauer
Chairperson..... Hallie Pailles
Chairperson..... Hayden Vykukal
Advisors.....Baylee Adams & Graham Borden

Brazos FFA Website

The Brazos FFA has its own website which contains lots of information about Ag Classes, FFA Supporters, FFA Information, Links to Livestock Show Rules, and a Calendar. The website is www.brazos.ffanow.org

Brazos FFA is also on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Please follow us for the latest updates.

Brazos FFA/ Agricultural Science – **Facebook**

Brazosffa- **Twitter**

Brazosffa- **Instagram**

Brazos HS Ag Department

Ag Office 979-478-6012

Baylee Adams badams@brazosisd.net Cell: 409-504-6489
Graham Borden gborden@brazosisd.net Cell: 575-545-1010

FFA & Agricultural Science Department Code of Conduct

FFA Members should conduct themselves at all times to be a credit to their organization, chapter, school, community, and family. Requirements and Expectations at school and during all school sponsored activities are outline below:

FFA member should:

1. Communicate in an appropriate manner.
2. Demonstrate good sportsmanship by being modest in winning and generous in defeat.
3. Respect the rights of others and their property.
4. Be courteous, honest and fair with others.
5. Follow all Brazos ISD school rules

FFA Members Will Not:

1. Be a part of the robbery and theft.
2. Assault or vandalize people or their property.
3. Fight or be a part of a violent situation.
4. Use or in the possession fireworks or firearms of any type.
5. Be a part of sexual harassment situations.
6. Use unethical practices to show or exhibit their projects.
7. Partake, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol beverages.
8. Partake, possess, or be under the influence of tobacco.
9. Partake of, possess or be under the influence of illegal substances.

Consequences:

1. Notification of Brazos ISD Administration and appropriate authorities.
2. Notification of the parent or guardian.
3. Removal of student from activity.
4. Removal of the animal or exhibit. The animal or exhibit will be declared ineligible for further participation in the event.
5. Upon returning to the school, consequences outlined in the Student Handbook will be enforced.

FFA Membership

For the 2021-2022 school year Brazos FFA will be joining the Texas FFA affiliation program. The program affiliation fee option is offered with the assumption that **no fees or dues should be collected from individual students**. Alternative funding sources are to be used to pay the program affiliation fee so that all agriculture, food and natural resources students have opportunities in FFA as an integral part of the three phase agricultural education delivery model. **All students enrolled in and ag classes in an affiliated program shall be deemed FFA members**. This being said, no dues will be charged to currently enrolled students in an ag classroom. However all membership forms will be due **October 1, 2020**.

Note: This affiliation does not include the automatic gift of a chapter t-shirt. Shirts and other clothing options will be sold separately to FFA members, parents and community members

Brazos Jr. FFA-\$15

Jr. FFA membership is open to all Brazos ISD students that are in grades 3-8. Dues for Jr. Members will be \$15. Joining the Jr. FFA allows the member to participate in local meetings as well as showing at county and major livestock shows and county fair judging contests under the supervision of the Brazos High School Ag-Science Teachers. Since they are not enrolled in a high school Ag-Science class they are not allowed to participate in LDE's or CDE's that are sponsored by the Texas FFA, nor can their dues be affiliated. Junior FFA exhibitors showing under FFA for Fort Bend County Fair or Austin County Fair must pay their dues **when fair entry cards are due**. If you are not an exhibitor, FFA dues are due **by October 1**.

Meetings

The Brazos FFA will hold a meeting once a month during the school year. These meetings will aim to be the second Monday of the month with exceptions for county fairs and major shows. The meetings shall be held in the Brazos HS Commons at 6:30pm. The following are dates for the 2021-2022 school year:

September 13th
October 25th
November 8th
December 13th
January 10th
February 14th
April 11th

FFA Banquet- May 12, 2022

The Annual FFA banquet is a celebration of the Brazos FFA member's achievements throughout the year. Every member and their parents are encouraged to attend. A meal is provided for all FFA Members, School Board Members, Brazos ISD Administration and all Honorary FFA members. There will be a small fee to help defray the costs of the banquet for all parents, siblings, grandparents and any other guests. All members should wear their FFA Official Dress. If the student does not own Official Dress business casual dress is required.

Newsletters

We will send out a monthly newsletter that has information about upcoming events as well as results from past events. Newsletters will be posted on our webpage and Facebook pages. We also will be sending these out via our email list.

FFA Alumni

Parents of current and former FFA members, community members and former students make up the Brazos FFA Alumni. The purpose is to support the Brazos FFA and its members. Money raised from fundraisers supports the FFA members with (including, but not limited to) travel money, equipment needed for chapter operations and assistance with the FFA Banquet. The Alumni meetings will be held at the same time as the Brazos FFA Meetings. The meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.

FFA Officers

As an FFA member, you have the opportunity to run for a chapter, district, area, state and national office. Running for higher level offices (District, Area, State, and National) will require additional payment and fees to be paid at the student's expense. As an officer you are in a position of leadership, which will require time and energy on the member's part.

Chapter Officer Elections – Officer Nominations will take place during the month of May

- President*
- Vice President*
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Reporter
- Sentinel
- Jr. Advisor
- Historian
- Parliamentarian
- Chaplain
- Chairperson
- Chairperson

*This position requires prior position on the Brazos FFA officer team.

Upon completion of the election packet, members running for chapter office shall complete a Test over FFA and Parliamentary Procedure. The test will be split 50/50 on questions from both topics. A **minimum score must be met** in order to proceed.

After the Test, qualifying members shall move forward to a 2-4 panel interview, consisting of outside the chapter administration, teachers and officials.

From there, the chapter will vote in order to select final candidates for positions. The new officer team shall be announced prior to the end of the school year.

Official Dress

The uniform worn by FFA members at local, state, and national functions is called official dress. It provides identity and a distinctive, recognizable image to the organization. Official Dress is different for females and males. It is outlined below:

Males

White Collared Button Shirt
FFA Tie
FFA Jacket zipped to the top
Black Pants or slacks
Black Shoes or Boots
Black socks

Females

White Collared Button Blouse
FFA Scarf
FFA Jacket zipped to the top
Black Pantyhose
Black knee length or longer skirt
Black shoes

FFA Jackets

FFA Jackets and Ties can be purchased for \$80. This will include your jacket, a tie or scarf, and shipping. Orders will be taken until October 1st and then be placed with the National FFA Supply Service in order to receive the jackets before the District LDE contests. We must allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. However, FFA jackets may be purchased throughout the year as needed. **All members are required to purchase a FFA Jacket if they are competing on LDE's or CDE's or attending conventions. All FFA members are expected to have one at the year end banquet.** Please contact Mrs. Adams to order your jacket.

Leadership Development Contests

Leadership Development Events (LDE's) are held during the fall semester of the year. These events help you develop public speaking and leadership skills. Brazos FFA competes in as many contests as we can each year. You must compete at the district level and place either 1st or 2nd to compete at the area and state level. You must win the state contest in order to compete at the National Contest.

Jr. & Sr. Chapter Conducting

Jr. & Sr. FFA Skills Demonstration

Jr. & Sr. FFA Quiz Team

Jr. & Sr. Creed Speaking

Agricultural Issues Forum

Radio Broadcasting

FFA Public Relations

Job Interview

Public Speaking Contests

Public Speaking contests are held in the spring of each semester. You must compete at the district level and place either 1st or 2nd to compete at the area and state level. You must win the state contest in order to compete at the National Contest.

Extemporaneous Speaking- Gather information in binders, draw topic at contest and then you have 30 minutes to prepare and then deliver a speech over drawn topic.

Jr. & Sr. Prepared Speaking- Deliver an original prepared speech over the topic of your choice.

Soil Stewardship- Deliver an original prepared speech over the assigned topic for that year. There are scholarships attached to this contest.

Career Development Events

There are many different Career Development Events (CDE's) that held in the spring semester of the school year. You must place either in the top 5 or in the top 15% of all teams competing in that event at the Area contest in order to advance and compete at the State contest. Some contests advance to National competition and some do not. The list below is a sample of the CDE contests that Brazos FFA has competed in the past.

Ag Communications	Floriculture	Milk Quality
Ag Mechanics	Food Science	Nursery/Landscape
Ag Sales	Forage	Poultry
Agronomy	Forestry	Range
Cotton	Horse	Range Plant ID
Dairy Cattle	Home Site Evaluation	Tractor Technician
Entomology	Land	Veterinary Science
Environmental & Natural Resource	Livestock	Wildlife
Farm Business Management	Marketing Plan	Wool
	Meats	

Awards & Recognition

The following is a description of the awards that are available to members at the Annual FFA Awards Banquet that is held in May of each school year as well as at the District, Area, State, and National Level

Star Awards

To apply for the Star Awards, you must complete the application that will be passed out at the April meeting. The application consists of the member listing all of their FFA activities for that school year. Star Awards are also available at the District, Area, and State level.

Star Greenhand (1st year FFA Member)

Star Chapter (2nd year FFA member)

Star Lone Star (3rd year FFA Member)

Outstanding Senior Award (Senior FFA member)

Proficiency Awards

To apply for proficiency awards at the chapter level you must complete the application that will be passed out at the April meeting. The application consists of a one page essay about the members SAE. Proficiency awards are given to members that excel in various SAE areas. Proficiency Awards are also available at the District, Area, and State level.

FFA Degrees

There are four degrees available to Brazos FFA members. Each degree has certain criteria that must be met. Below is a brief description of the awards, when they may be received and some of the criteria that must be met in order to be awarded these degrees.

Greenhand Degree-Given to a 1st year FFA member. Must be a dues paying FFA member and be involved in at least 5 different activities of the Brazos FFA.

Chapter Degree- Given to 2nd year FFA members. Must be a dues paying FFA member and be involved in at least 5 different activities of the Brazos FFA and completed a total of 10 hours of community service.

Lone Star Degree- Given to 3rd year FFA members. Must be a dues paying FFA member for 3 years, complete an online record book, completed 25 hours of community service and meet the requirements of the Texas FFA for those members receiving the Lone Star Degree.

American Degree- Given to an FFA Member the year after they have graduated High School. Must be a dues paying member for at least four years, complete an online record book, completed 50 hours of community service and meet the requirements of the National FFA for those members receiving the American Degree.

Leadership Activities

There are many leadership activities available to Brazos FFA members. These activities happen at different times of the year and some require the member to be a district, area, or state officer. Some activities require registration fees from the FFA members.

District IV Leadership Camp
 Area/State Leadership Camp
 Texas Leadership Conference
 District IV Greenhand Camp
 Elite Leadership Conference

Washington Leadership Camp
 District/Area Banquet
 State FFA Convention
 National FFA Convention

Fundraising Activities

The FFA does many activities throughout the year that requires money. Our community service projects, food and refreshments at meetings, transportation costs, camp registration fees, entry fees for Leadership and Judging Teams, our banquet, and the other activities that we participate in take a large sum of money to support. You are asked to participate in all fundraising activities that we have. The more money that our group makes, the more activities we can participate in. We are limited to two fund-raisers per school year by the school district. Fundraising activities will vary from year to year. So join our fundraiser and take an active role in supporting your chapter. **You are required to sell a minimum of 8 items. However if you do not sell 8 items you may receive \$50 in sponsorships.**

Scholarship Opportunities

There are over \$2 million in scholarships given out to Texas FFA members each year at the State FFA Convention. There are also many local scholarships that are available to FFA members as well. Below is a list of some of the scholarships that are available to qualifying FFA members. Many scholarships are based on FFA activities. It is important that you participate in as many FFA activities as possible beginning with your freshman year. Check with the Ag Teachers about deadlines.

National FFA Scholarship Program
 -varying amounts

Varying Amounts
 Varying Amounts

Texas FFA Scholarship Program
 - up to \$16,000

Edwin J. Kocurek Scholarship ¹
 - \$500

¹ – Available to members 14 years of age and older

² - Available to anyone that receives Grand or Reserve Grand Champion

Austin County Fair Scholarship
 - \$2500

Harold Luhn Memorial
 - \$3500

San Antonio Project Scholarships ²
 -\$10-20,000

*These are just a very small list of scholarships available to students. We will try our best as advisors to help students obtain as many scholarships as possible

Ft. Bend County Fair Scholarship
 Brazos FFA Alumni Scholarship

Brazos FFA Point System and End of the Year Trip

The Brazos FFA has an end of the year trip to reward those students who participate in various activities throughout the year. To earn a seat for the trip at the end of the year, the member must qualify by completing the following requirements. **Students must earn a minimum of 100 points to attend.**

You **MUST** complete the following items:

- Pay your dues
- Sell minimum 8 fundraiser items or received \$50 in sponsorships
- Attend 5 meetings
- Participate in 2 community service opportunities

Students will be responsible for keeping up with their points each month. One form may be turned in at each monthly meeting to record the accumulated points for the prior month. **Points to be awarded based on official sign-in sheets and chapter records.** The point break down will be as followed:

Chapter Involvement

Activity	Date	Points	Approved
Wear FFA t-shirt to school on meeting day (5)			
Wear FFA attire/logo to school on meeting day (5)			
Chapter Fundraising (5pts for every item <u>AFTER</u> 8)			
Exhibiting Leadership/ Helping Ag Teacher (given by ag teachers/ 25 point cap)			
Help set-up for FFA Activity (20) - Non Officer			
Attend FFA sponsored activity (10)			
Recite FFA Creed (10)			
Run for FFA Office- April Only (10)			
Hold an FFA Office- May Only (25)			
Community Service Events (10 points/ 1 hour or approved donation)			
Degrees and Proficiency Earned- May Only Greenhand (10) Chapter FFA (25) Proficiency Earned (25)			

Brazos FFA Graduation Honor Requirements

Students who demonstrate hard work and success through their involvement with Brazos FFA will be eligible to receive the following Graduation Honors, if they meet the requirements:

FFA Blue and Gold Cord

- Complete all requirements for a Chapter FFA Degree
- Earned at least 300 points based on Brazos FFA point system
- Submit Graduation Honors Request by April Meeting of Graduating Year

FFA Gold Sash/Stole

- Complete all requirements for Blue and Gold Cord, *in addition to:*
- 1 year of service as a Chapter Officer (or higher)

To Receive Both:

- Must complete all requirements for Blue & Gold Cord, *in addition to:*
- 2 years of service as a Chapter Officer (or higher)

****If requests must be submitted by April meeting****

Brazos FFA Letterman Requirements

To receive a Letterman jacket thru Brazos FFA, a member must have proven to be a vital member of the organization. The following qualifications outline what it takes for a member to earn their FFA Letterman

Automatic Qualifications

- Placed in Top 10 for an LDE/SDE or CDE individual event
- State Qualifier for LDE/SDE or CDE team event
- State Finalist for Star and Proficiency Awards
- Obtain a District, Area or State Office
- Completed 2 years as a chapter officer

Basic Qualifications (Must Complete ALL)

- Complete all requirements of a Chapter Degree
- Have accumulated 300 points
- Competed on two [2] LDE teams AND two [2] CDE teams
(*ex: 2015 Livestock CDE Team & 2016 Livestock CDE Team*)

*

Livestock & Ag Mechanics Projects Showing Requirements

Stock Show Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in any livestock show, students must meet the following requirements:

- Be enrolled in an agricultural science class
- Be a member in good standing of the Brazos FFA Chapter
- Meet TEA guidelines for academic eligibility (No Pass, No Show)
- Have paid entry fees on time and meet show requirements
- Have approval of agricultural science teacher

Show Entries

The agricultural science teachers will assist in making arrangements for participation in the Austin County Fair and Ft. Bend County Fair and any approved major shows by holding a meeting to collect all entries. Entries in all other shows will be the responsibility of the student. It is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor to be familiar with all rules pertaining to his/her livestock project (this information may include weight limits, entry requirements, health papers, age, etc.)

Travel to and from Shows / Hotels / Meals

Hotels for Major Shows (Livestock) will be paid for by the student and parent/guardian attending the trip. The FFA Advisors will help haul livestock and Ag Mech projects as long as arrangements are made prior to entry deadline.

Equipment / Trailer Use

All show equipment is available for use to the members. It must be returned in working order and in good repair. The trailer and equipment usage request forms can be provided by the ag teachers upon request.

Quality Counts Certification

Each student that exhibits a livestock project at the major livestock shows in the State of Texas must complete the online Quality Counts program. The website is <http://qualitycounts.tamu.edu/>.

Building Ag Mechanic Projects

Any student that wishes to build a personal ag mechanics project must provide funds for that project and obtain permission from Mr. Borden. If behavior becomes an issue in the shop Brazos FFA has the right to remove the student's project from the shop and the student will not be allowed to work in the shop the remainder of the year.

**The following form should be given to an Ag
Teacher
by Oct 1st.**

Brazos FFA Member Information Form

This form must be completed by the parent/guardian of each member. This form is required of all members of the FFA. This form must be updated yearly or in the event that any of the information should change. Without this completed form your child may not be able to participate in the Brazos FFA.

Students Name: _____ Grade: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parent / Guardian Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Telephone: _____

FFA Members Cell Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian's Names: _____

Parent/Guardian's Cell Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian's Email Address _____

Parent/ Guardian's Email Address: _____

FFA Member's Email Address _____

FFA Website, Newsletter & Social Media Pages- Please check one box!

Please DO NOT include my child's name or picture on the Brazos FFA website, Newsletter or Social Media Pages.

You may include my child's name and picture on the Brazos FFA website, Newsletter or Social Media Pages.

Name and phone number of relative or friend who can be contacted in case of emergency when parent/guardians are unavailable.

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Name: _____ Phone # _____

I have received a Brazos FFA handbook and have read all the policies and suggestions with in it.

This form must be signed and returned to the Ag Teachers before the student will be permitted to participate in any activities of this organization.

Signature of Parent

Date

Signature of Student

Date

Travel and Medical Information and Release

My student _____ (print name) has permission to travel with Brazos FFA and advisors to various activities and contests that will occur throughout the 2021-2022 school year. All school rules as listed in the Student Handbook will apply on these trips. I will not hold Brazos High School or any of its employees and chaperones responsible for any accidents which might befall the above named student while on these trips.

List any medical conditions, concerns or medicine your student may have:

My student has personal insurance: YES NO

Insurance Name and Number:

Should any medical concern or issue arise the Brazos FFA advisors:

DO NOT have my permission to seek immediate medical attention for my student

DO have my permission to seek immediate medical attention for my student

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date
