

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



Brazos FFA Handbook 2025-2026

"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!

We are excited to have you either joining or returning to us and your career in our organization. We want each and every one of you to be successful inside and outside the classroom. This handbook will be a survival guide for all aspects of your FFA career. It contains 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 2025-2026 Brazos FFA Advisors

2025-2026 Brazos FFA Officers

President..... Hunter Sweeney
Vice-President.....Maggie Richardson
Secretary..... Elliot Harnage
Treasurer.....Rylea Roecker
Reporter.....Carson Grobe
Sentinel.....Blair Warren
Jr. Advisor.....Ashlyn Kloesel
Parliamentarian.....McKenna Stroud
Historian..... Trinity Melnar
Chaplain.....Travis Kovar
Advisors.....Molly Richey, Brittney Gardovsky & Graham Borden

Brazos FFA Website

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

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

Brazos FFA/ Agricultural Science – **Facebook**
@brazosffa- Instagram

Brazos HS Ag Department

Ag Office 979-478-6012

Molly Richey, mrichey@brazosisd.net, 903-746-1162

Brittney Gardovsky, bgardovsky@brazosisd.net, 832-514-5567

Graham Borden, gborden@brazosisd.net, 979-533-9960

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 outlined below:

FFA Members 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 of 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 2025-2026 school year Brazos FFA will be a part of 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.

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-\$10

Jr. FFA membership is open to all Brazos ISD students that are in grades 3-8. Dues for Jr. Members will be \$10. 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 and membership forms are due **by September 15th**.

Chapter Meetings

Meeting dates are to be determined. Once determined they will be shared with chapter members.

FFA Banquet- Date TBD

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.**

FFA Alumni & Parents Booster Group

Parents of current and former FFA members, community members and former students make up the Brazos FFA Alumni & Parents Booster Club. The purpose is to support the Brazos FFA and its members. Money raised from fundraisers support 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 in room B104A.

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 selection will take place during the month of May

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

*These positions require prior position on a FFA officer team.

** These positions are contingent upon the school year

1. Upon completion of the election packet, members running for chapter office shall complete a Test over FFA and Parliamentary Procedure.
2. After the Test, qualifying members shall move forward to a 2-4 panel interview, consisting of individuals outside of the Brazos FFA organization.
3. From there, the chapter will vote in order to select final candidates for positions.
4. The new officer team shall be announced prior to the end of the school year.

Breakdown of Election Process Categories

- Interview & Application- 40%
- Test- 30%
- Popular Vote- 30%

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 socks
Black Shoes or Boots

Females

White Collared Button Blouse
FFA Scarf
FFA Jacket zipped to the top
Black knee length or longer skirt
Black Pantyhose
Black closed toe and heel shoe

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. Gardovsky 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, 2nd, and 3rd, to compete at the area and state level. You must win the state contest in order to compete at the National Contest.

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 a topic at the contest and then you have 30 minutes to prepare and then deliver a speech over a 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 are 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. You must win the state contest in order to compete at the National Contest. FFA Advisors will have final say in determining which teams are chosen to represent Brazos FFA during competition.

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 involved in at least 1 activity of the Brazos FFA and have attended 5 meetings.

Chapter Degree- Given to 2nd year FFA members. Must be involved in at least 2 activities of the Brazos FFA and have attended 5 meetings while also completing a total of 10 hours of community service.

Lone Star Degree- Given to 3rd year FFA members. Must be a FFA member for 3 years, complete an online record book, complete 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, complete 50 hours of community service and meet the requirements of the National FFA for those members receiving the American Degree.

Fundraising Activities

The FFA does many activities throughout the year that require 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.

If you are active on a LDE, CDE, Officer team or showing livestock under Brazos FFA you are required to sell 8 items per individual, families with 2+ individuals will have a minimum of 15.

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. Many scholarships are based on FFA activity involvement and success. 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.

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
- Must have participated in two years of FFA competitive events

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)

Brazos FFA Letterman Requirements

To receive a Letterman jacket through 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

- 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 Two out of Three)

- Partake in the minimum required fundraiser, and alumni event each active year
- Competed on two [2] LDE teams AND two [2] CDE teams
(*ex: 2015 Livestock CDE Team & 2016 Livestock CDE Team*)
- Competed two years at a major stock show in Texas
(*ex: Horticulture, Floriculture, Livestock, or Ag Mechanics*)

Livestock & Ag Mechanics Projects Showing Requirements

Stock Show Eligibility

To be eligible to represent Brazos FFA in any livestock or ag mechanics 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 Play/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 & Ag Mech) 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, otherwise it is assumed that parents or legal guardians will haul their project. Parents or legal guardians, must be present on overnight stock show trips.

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. Major ag mechanic projects must meet specific requirements sanctioned by applicable major stock show rules, if these requirements are not met these projects may not be exhibited.

The following form should be given to an Ag Teacher by Sept 15th.

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 2025-2026 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 have my permission to seek immediate medical attention for my student**
- ☐ **DO NOT have my permission to seek immediate medical attention for my student**

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date