



# Brazosport FFA Member Handbook 2024-2025

**Brazosport FFA is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.**

"Brazosport 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."

Hello and welcome to Brazosport FFA!

We are so excited to have you, and we hope that you learn a lot about FFA, leadership, and so much more! In this handbook you should find the answers to any questions that you may have, but don't hesitate to ask any officers as well. We can't wait for this year and getting to know you!

Sincerely,  
Your 2024-2025 Brazosport FFA Officer Team

## **2024/2025 Brazosport FFA Officers**

President - Travis Hodges  
Vice President - Kyah Thomas  
Secretary - Sierra Hardesty  
Treasurer - Joshelle Campbell  
Reporter - N/A  
Sentinel - N/A  
Student Advisor - N/A

## **Brazosport High School Ag Department Contact Info**

Ms. MaKenzy Mulder  
[makenzy.mulder@brazosportisd.net](mailto:makenzy.mulder@brazosportisd.net)  
Office: 979-730-7260 x13492  
Cell: 979-799-8196

Ms. Madison Galletti  
[madison.galletti@brazosportisd.net](mailto:madison.galletti@brazosportisd.net)  
Office: 979-730-7260 x13492  
Cell: 832-247-0837

## **Brazosport FFA Website / Social Media**

Brazosport FFA has its own website which contains lots of information about Ag Classes, Alumni Chapter Information, FFA Information, and Links to Livestock Show Rules.

Website: <https://brazosport.fffanow.org/default.aspx?ID=46273>

Students will be added to the Brazosport FFA Google Classroom by the advisors after turning in their membership forms. ALL EVENT SIGN UP SHEETS WILL BE POSTED ON THIS GOOGLE CLASSROOM. Members will not be allowed to attend events that they do not sign up for. This allows the advisors time to create transportation requests and attendance sheets for the front office.

Social Media:

Like us on Facebook @Brazosport FFA & Ag Mechanics  
Follow us on Instagram @BrazosportFFA

# FFA Membership

## FFA Membership and Dues

Annual Membership dues are required to become a member of the Brazosport FFA, and the cost of the FFA dues are \$20. This includes dues for Local (\$2.50), District III-Southwest (\$2), Area III (\$1.50), Texas FFA Association (\$7), and the National FFA Organization (\$7). Membership also includes a subscription to the FFA Horizons Magazine which will arrive sometime after January 1st. In order to be considered an active member of the Brazosport FFA Chapter and compete/participate in all aspects of the Brazosport FFA Chapter, you must abide by the following rules, as stated in the National FFA Manual:

1. Be enrolled in at least one year-long Ag Science class during the course of the membership year.
2. Pay your FFA dues by October 1, 2024 to an Ag Teacher with cash or check (payable to Brazosport FFA).
3. Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization.

*Members are considered "In Good Standing" by the chapter when they meet the following criteria:*

1. Full Brazosport FFA dues are paid. (\$20)
2. They are enrolled in at least one year-long Ag Science class during the course of the membership year.
3. They have attended at least six Brazosport FFA chapter meetings.
4. **They have attended at least 70% of scheduled committee meetings.**
5. They have an advisor approved SAE project.
6. They make an effort to fundraise at least \$200 each semester of membership.

## Brazosport Jr. FFA Membership and Dues

Jr. FFA membership is open to younger siblings of Brazosport FFA members that are in grades 3-8, with addition to children of Brazosport Feeder Schools. Dues for Junior. **Membership 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 under the supervision of the 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. Jr. FFA members will be considered active and remain active FFA members as long as they pay their dues and attend both the first FFA meeting and one additional meeting during the year.

## FFA Jackets

FFA Jackets can be purchased for \$85. This will include your jacket and a tie/scarf and cover shipping costs. Students who need a jacket "tailored" because a standard size does not fit them properly (i.e. extra long arms) are charged an additional \$20. **Jackets will only be ordered twice per year: beginning of October and beginning of March. Please see the calendar for these payment deadlines.** Please allow approximately 4 weeks for delivery. All members are encouraged to purchase a FFA Jacket if they have plans of competing on LDE's or CDE's. All jacket orders will be placed by the Agriscience Instructors. No jackets will be delivered to students until they have paid in full. Each year a jacket will be awarded to the Greenhand who says their FFA Creed from memory at the Southwest District LDE Contest.

## FFA Chapter Apparel

FFA Chapter apparel can be purchased through our online merchandise store. The link for this store will be released on Facebook at the beginning of October. The current Officer Team designed this year's shirt.

## **State Convention**

Texas FFA convention is the highlight of Texas FFA's year. Nearly 15,000 FFA members, advisors, administrators, alumni, parents and industry partners come together to celebrate the achievements won by the past and present generations of agriculturalists, while continuing to develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. Attendees will be inspired and motivated to take pride in our industry, serve our communities, and become leaders of the next generation.

While at the convention, FFA members and guests will experience motivational speakers, award presentations, exciting exhibits, and plenty of entertaining activities. Tentative costs are estimated at \$250-\$300 per student and this includes transportation, hotel, registration costs, and a fun day activity.

## **Washington Leadership Conference**

Each year, FFA members from all over the United States travel to Washington, D.C., to attend the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC). During the five-day event, attendees learn how to become effective leaders by learning their purpose, how to value people, how to take action and how to serve others. FFA members leave WLC with the knowledge and the confidence to act in ways that help their schools, community and their country. WLC is no ordinary leadership experience. You will spend a week putting these skills into practice as you make new friends from across the United States and tour our nation's capital. This action-packed week will help you gain self-confidence and leadership skills to take back to your FFA chapter and share with other members. Tentative costs are estimated at \$900 plus flight per student, this includes everything except spending money.

# **FFA Member Participation**

Every FFA member should take advantage of the variety of activities that the FFA has to offer. We will recognize those members of the FFA who have actively participated in the many activities offered. In order for a member to be considered active they must have paid their dues. Additionally, members will not be selected to travel to any District, Area, or State FFA activities unless they have been active in local chapter activities. Sign in sheets will be at each activity held, please make sure you sign your name on the sheet to receive credit.

### **Activities:**

- **Local Activities**
  - Chapter meetings
  - Donkey Basketball
  - Awards Banquet
  - Chapter fundraisers
  - Monthly Socials
  - National FFA Week Activities
- District Convention
- Area Convention
- LDE's / CDE's / SDE's
- District, Area, State and National level camps and conferences
- Exhibiting Animals / Projects at Major and County Livestock Shows
- Other SAE activities

# **Brazosport FFA & Agriscience**

## **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 Will:**

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 Brazosport ISD school rules.

### **FFA Members Will Not:**

1. Be a part of 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 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, vapes, cigarettes, or other nicotine products.
9. Partake of, possess or be under the influence of illegal substances.

### **Consequences:**

1. Notification of Brazosport ISD Administration and appropriate authorities.
2. Notification of the parent or guardian.
3. Removal of the 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 BISD Student Handbook will be enforced.

## **Meetings**

Brazosport FFA will hold a meeting once a month during the school year. **Meetings will be held monthly during the homeroom class period unless otherwise indicated.** Meetings are an important function of the FFA and all members are encouraged to attend as chapter business is voted upon and important information is passed out. It is highly recommended that you attend all FFA meetings.

## The 2024-2025 Meetings will be held tentatively on the following dates:

September 16

October 7

November 18

December 9

January 27

February 24

March 31

April 28

### **FFA Banquet- May 6, 2025**

The Annual FFA banquet is a celebration of the Brazosport FFA member's achievements throughout the year. Every member and their parents are encouraged to attend. All members should wear their FFA Official Dress. Under the circumstance that the student does not have Official Dress, business professional dress is acceptable.

### **Newsletter**

We will send out an FFA newsletter that has information about upcoming events as well as results from past events. Newsletters will be sent out via email and posted on our website by one of the Ag Teachers.

### **Brazosport FFA Alumni & Supporters**

The Brazosport FFA Alumni Chapter is made up of parents and extended family members of current and former FFA students, members of the community, business leaders, and former FFA students. The purpose of the Alumni Chapter is to support the Brazosport FFA program and its members. Money raised from fundraisers is used to support the FFA chapter with various activities as needed, and the funding of various FFA scholarships for seniors at the end of every year. Alumni meetings are held as needed throughout the year. Your participation allows for families and community members to work together to ensure the success of our students! Dues for this organization are \$20 per member.

### **FFA Officers**

As an FFA member, you have the opportunity to run for a chapter, district, area, state and national office. As an officer you are in a position of leadership, which will require time and energy.

Chapter Officer Elections – Officer Elections are held during March and April each year. To declare yourself as an officer candidate, you must complete an officer application and turn it in to an Ag Teacher by the deadline specified each year. The officer candidates complete a 5 part election process as follows:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. FFA Officer Interview/Application (Conducted by Interview Panel) | 30% |
| 2. FFA Officer Application and Contract (Judged by Interview Panel) | 15% |
| 3. Brazosport FFA General Knowledge/Parliamentary Procedure Exam    | 25% |
| 4. Brazosport FFA Officer Recommendation Forms                      | 20% |
| 5. Popular Vote by Brazosport FFA Membership                        | 10% |

For more information on running for a district, area, state or national officer position, contact an Ag teacher.

# The FFA Creed

**I believe** in the future of agriculture with a faith born not of words but of deeds - achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in the promise of better days through better ways even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.

**I believe** that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.

**I believe** in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of progressive agriculturists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil.

**I believe** in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so - for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.

**I believe** that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.

## FFA Motto

Learning to Do  
Doing to Learn  
Earning to Live  
Living to Serve

## National FFA Mission Statement

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

## Opening and Closing Ceremonies:

President States: **FFA members, why are we here?**

Members rise in unison on the third tap and respond: **To Practice Brotherhood, honor agricultural opportunities and responsibilities and develop those qualities of leadership which an FFA member should possess.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: *(please note, there is NO comma after nation. Do not pause.)*

***I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.***

# Dress Code

At all FFA events that Brazosport FFA attends that do not require Official Dress, a certain level of professionalism and presentation in regards to dress code is required. All clothing must abide by the BISD Dress Code policy in addition to the guidelines listed below. All CDE contests and other FFA activities (unless otherwise stated) will abide by the State FFA CDE Dress Code.

Students will be expected to wear the following:

- At informal events, a chapter t-shirt and jeans that comply with school dress code. **At certain events where outdoor physical activity is required, the advisors may allow school appropriate sports wear. This will only apply if specifically noted on the sign up form.**
- At formal events (any contest or event that does not involve physical labor), a collared button down shirt or professional blouse and nice jeans (no holes or strings).
- At events where students represent the National FFA Organization in local, state or national communities, Official Dress will be required.
- All events require closed-toed shoes.

## Official Dress:

The uniform worn by FFA members at local, district, area, state, and national functions is called official dress. It provides identity and a distinctive, recognizable image to the organization.

### Female members should wear:

Black skirt – hem should be at the knee  
White collared blouse(button at neck)  
Official FFA Scarf  
Black Nylon hosiery  
Black dress shoes – closed toe/heel/no embellishments  
Official FFA Jacket – zipped to top  
\*\*\*NO FACIAL JEWELRY  
\*\*\*HAIR MUST BE OF NATURAL COLOR  
\*\*\*NO VISIBLE TATTOOS  
\*\*\*NO DISTRACTING JEWELRY

### Male members should wear:

Black pants or slacks w/black belt  
White collared shirt  
Official FFA Tie  
Black socks  
Black Shoes (low top dress shoes) or boots  
Official FFA Jacket – zipped to top  
\*\*\*FACIAL HAIR MUST BE CLEAN SHAVEN  
\*\*\*HAIR MUST NOT TOUCH THE COLLAR  
\*\*\*HAIR MUST BE OF NATURAL COLOR  
\*\*\*NO EAR OR FACIAL JEWELRY  
\*\*\*NO VISIBLE TATTOOS

***For the HLSR AGventure and/or other activities approved by the Ag Teachers Ladies may wear:***

Black Slacks - no jeans  
Plain Black closed-toe, closed heel shoes/boots  
Black socks or hosiery  
Black belt - no sparkles

## CDEs:

- Buttoned down, collared shirt
- Nice Jeans or Slacks that fit at the waist and are free of fading or holes.
- Closed Toe Shoes are required



### Showing Livestock / Ag Mechanics Projects:

- Buttoned Down, Collared Shirt, tucked into pants
- Nice Jeans that fit at the waist and are free of fading or holes.
- Closed Toe Shoes are required – IE need to wear boots/leather shoes
- Belt should be worn
- No Caps or Hats while showing animals (Ag mechanics may wear team hats or cowboy hats)
- Hair should be pulled away from the face and look orderly

### Traveling:

Changing on long trips will be at the teacher's discretion. There will be NO changing in any vehicle. **AFTER** ADVISOR'S permission is granted students may change only right before departing the location in the appropriate place. I.E. bathrooms. **DO NOT CHANGE WITHOUT PERMISSION!**

## Brazosport FFA Chapter Activities

The following activities are offered to all members in the Brazosport FFA. Some activities may have prerequisites based upon leadership achievements.

### Fall Semester

- Monthly Chapter Social
- Chapter T-Shirt Sales
- Levy Clean Up Service Event
- Southwest District Greenhand Camp
- Area III Greenhand Camp
- Brazoria County Fair
- Leadership Development Events
- Alumni Thanksgiving Dinner
- BBQ Plate Fundraiser

### Spring Semester

- Monthly Chapter Socials
- Texas FFA Excellence Conferences
- Fort Worth Stock Show
- San Antonio Livestock Show
- Houston Livestock Show
- Career Development Events
- Chapter Fishing Tournament
- District and Area Leadership Conventions
- Chapter Awards Banquet
- BBQ Plate Fundraiser

### Summer Break

- Chapter Officer Camp
- Texas FFA Convention
- District Leadership Camp for Chapter Officers
- Chapter Leadership Camp
- Washington Leadership Conference

## Leadership Development Contests (LDEs)

Leadership Development Events (LDE's) are held during the fall semester of the year. These events help you develop public speaking and leadership skills. Brazosport FFA competes in as many contests as we can each year. You must compete at the district level and place either 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> to compete at the area and state level. You must win the state contest in order to compete at the National Contest.

*Each LDE team member is required to sign an FFA Contest Contract, which is written by the advisor. The FFA chapter will fund two practice contests and all district, area and state competitions. These contests will be scheduled by the advisor based on the chapter's calendar prior to the first scheduled practice. **If a member signs up for a contest but does not attend the event, they will be required to pay the FFA chapter back their portion of the contest fee.***

## Public Speaking Contests

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

*Each public speaker is required to sign an FFA Contest Contract, which is written by the advisor. The FFA chapter will fund two practice contests and all district, area and state competitions. These contests will be scheduled by the advisor based on the chapter's calendar prior to the first scheduled practice. **If a member signs up for a contest but does not attend the event, they will be required to pay the FFA chapter back their portion of the contest fee.***

## Career Development Events (CDE's)

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. Some contests advance to National competition and some do not.

*Each CDE team member is required to sign an FFA Contest Contract, which is written by the advisor. The FFA chapter will fund **three practice contests** and all district, area and state competitions. These contests will be scheduled by the advisor based on the chapter's calendar prior to the first scheduled practice. **If a member signs up for a contest but does not attend the event, they will be required to pay the FFA chapter back their portion of the contest fee.***

# Awards, Degrees, & Member Recognition

The following is a description of the awards that are available to members at various times throughout the school year. These are awarded at the chapter level as well as at the District, Area, State, and National Level.

## Chapter Awards

The Ag teachers and officers will keep a list of activities completed by each FFA member. In order to be eligible for chapter awards, students must keep record of their FFA attendance and participation in AET. The officer team has created and will keep track of the point system used to reward members. This point system will be posted on the Brazosport FFA website each year.

## Star Awards

Students that have earned the title of “Most Active Awards” are automatically eligible for the Star Award at each level. Star Awards are also available at the District, Area, and State level.

Star Greenhand (1<sup>st</sup> year FFA Member)

Star Chapter Farmer (2<sup>nd</sup> year FFA member)

Star Lone Star (3<sup>rd</sup> year or 4<sup>th</sup> year FFA member **who has received their Lone Star Degree**)

## Proficiency Awards

To apply for proficiency awards at the chapter level you must complete the **application on AET in March or April**. Proficiency awards are given to members that excel in various Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) areas. Proficiency Awards are also available at the District, Area, and State level. For more information on how to apply at the district, area, and state level talk to an Ag Teacher.

## FFA Degrees

There are four degrees available to Brazosport 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. (Refer to the Brazosport FFA, Texas FFA, and National FFA Constitution)

### **Greenhand Degree:**

Given to a 1<sup>st</sup> year FFA member.

1. Be enrolled in agricultural education and have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience program.
2. Learn and explain the FFA Creed, motto, salute and FFA mission statement.
3. Describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and colors.
4. Demonstrate a knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics and the proper use of the FFA jacket.
5. Demonstrate a knowledge of the history of the organization, the chapter constitution and bylaws and the chapter Program of Activities.
6. Personally own or have access to the Official FFA Manual and the Official FFA Student Handbook.
7. Submit a written application for the Greenhand FFA Degree.

### **Chapter Degree:**

Given to 2<sup>nd</sup> Year FFA members.

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least 180 hours of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, have in operation an approved supervised agricultural experience program and be enrolled in an agriculture science course.
3. Have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the chapter's Program of Activities.
4. A student after entering agricultural education must have:
  - a. earned and productively invested at least \$150 by the member's own efforts; or worked at least 45 hours in excess of scheduled class time; or a combination thereof; and
  - b. developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural experience program.
5. Have effectively led a group discussion for 15 minutes.
6. Have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.
7. Show progress toward individual achievement in the FFA award programs.
8. Have a satisfactory scholastic record.
9. Have participated in at least 10 hours of community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid supervised agricultural experience hours.
10. Submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.

### **Lone Star Degree:**

Given to 3<sup>rd</sup> year FFA members.

1. Have received the Chapter FFA Degree.
2. Have been an active FFA member for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree.
3. While in school, have completed the equivalent of at least two years (360 hours) of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, which includes FFA traditions
4. A student after entering agricultural education must have:
  - a. earned and productively invested at least \$1,000; or
  - b. worked at least 300 hours in excess of scheduled class time; or
  - c. a combination thereof, in a supervised agricultural experience program.
5. Demonstrate leadership ability by:
  - a. Performing 10 procedures of parliamentary law.
  - b. Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or FFA.
  - c. Serving as an officer, committee chairperson or participating member of a chapter committee.
6. Have a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the local agricultural education instructor and the principal or superintendent.
7. Have participated in the planning and completion of the chapter's Program of Activities.
8. Have participated in at least five different FFA activities above the chapter level.

9. Have participated in at least 25 hours of community service, within at least two different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid supervised agricultural experience hours.

### **American Degree:**

Given to an FFA Member the year after they have graduated High School.

1. Have received the State FFA Degree, have been an active member for the past three years (36 months) and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities on the chapter and state levels.
2. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least three years (540 hours) of systematic secondary school instruction in an agricultural education program, or have completed at least the equivalent of 360 hours of systematic secondary school instruction in agricultural education and one full year of enrollment in a postsecondary agricultural program, or have completed the program of agricultural education offered in the secondary school last attended.
3. Have graduated from high school at least 12 months prior to the national convention at which the degree is to be granted.
4. Have in operation and have maintained records to substantiate an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program, through which the member has exhibited comprehensive planning and managerial and financial expertise.
5. A student after entering agricultural education must have:
  - a. earned at least \$10,000 and productively invested at least \$7,500; or
  - b. earned and productively invested \$2,000 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time. Any combination of hours, times a factor of 3.56, plus actual dollars earned and productively invested must be equal to or greater than the number 10,000. Hours used for the purpose of producing earnings reported as productively invested income shall not be duplicated as hours of credit to meet the minimum requirements for the degree.
6. Have a record of outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement and have achieved a high school scholastic record of "C" or better as certified by the principal or superintendent.
7. Have participated in at least 50 hours of community service, within at least three different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid supervised agricultural experience hours.
8. Applicants must submit an application with the signatures of the chapter president, chapter advisor, superintendent or principal, and state advisor or state executive secretary, certifying accuracy of all statements in the application and that the applicant conducted him/herself in a manner to be a credit to the organization, chapter and community.

## Fundraising Activities

The FFA does many activities throughout the year that require funding. Our community service projects, food and refreshments at meetings, transportation costs, camp registration fees, entry fees for Leadership and Judging Teams, our banquet, and other activities that we participate in take a large sum of money to support. YOU ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES THAT WE HAVE. The more money that our group earns, the more activities we can participate in. Fundraising activities will vary from year to year, so join our fundraisers and take an active role in supporting your chapter.

***All FFA members are highly encouraged to fundraise at least \$200 during the fall semester and \$200 during the spring semester.***

### 2024-2025 Fundraising Incentives:

- Top Seller for December BBQ Plate Sale: Receive a free FFA Jacket and tie/scarf.
- Any amount sold in a chapter fundraiser will contribute points to the seller's score.

## 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.

### **1. Scholarship Opportunities through Texas FFA Association Scholarship Programs**

Graduating Seniors apply during the Spring Semester at the District Degree Check. Scholarship is based on academic rank (must be in top 25% for Houston, top 50% for the others), SAT/ACT scores (minimum 1000 on SAT, minimum of 20 on ACT), financial need and FFA activities. A minimum of seven members from each Area Association will advance to state interviews to compete for these awards.

- San Antonio Livestock Show \$20,000 (13 offered)
- Houston Livestock Show \$18,000 (70 offered)
  - You do not have to be an Agricultural or Life Science Major to receive this scholarship.
- Rodeo Austin Scholarship \$16,000 (2 offered)
- Richard Wallrath Education Foundation \$10,000 (35 offered)
- Jim Bob Norman Memorial \$10,000 (12 offered)
- C.J. "Red" Davidson \$8,000 (6 offered)
- Southwestern Exposition \$4,000 (4 offered)
- Farm Credit Bank of Texas \$2,000 (4 offered)
- Texas Agricultural Education Fund \$2,000 (4 offered)
- Young Farmers of Texas \$2,000 (1 offered)
- Vickie Rosenbusch Memorial Scholarship \$2,000 (1 offered)

## 2. Other Updated Scholarship Information Available **HERE:**

<https://brazosport.ffanow.org/default.aspx?ID=46318>

## 3. Brazosport FFA Alumni Scholarship

Graduating seniors who have been an active, dues-paying FFA member for two years may apply for the Brazosport FFA Alumni Scholarship. Applications can be picked up each spring from the Ag Science Teachers.

## Letterman Jackets

To receive a Letter Jacket for Brazosport FFA, members must remain in good standing for two years, earn the Texas FFA Lone Star Degree or qualify for a Texas FFA LDE, CDE or SDE. It is the member's responsibility to ensure that their AET is updated to show that they are in good standing. The requirements for members to earn a letter jacket:

1. They are currently enrolled in at least one Ag class.
2. They have applied, earned and received the Texas FFA Lone Star Degree, OR
  - a. They have qualified for a state level sanctioned FFA contest for an LDE, CDE or SDE, **OR**
  - b. **They have earned 35 FFA points in one year of FFA membership.**

## FFA Graduation Cords

Students who meet at least one of the following criteria by Spring Break of their Senior Year will be eligible for their graduation cords.

- Are a member in good standing for each year of attendance at Brazosport High School
- Meet minimum requirements for the Texas FFA Lone Star Degree
- Qualify for a State LDE, CDE, or SDE contest
- Must have at least 50 cumulative hours of community service as documented in the AET Record Book System
- Serve as a Brazosport FFA Officer for two years
- **Earn 35 FFA points in one year of FFA membership**

# Brazoria County Fair & Major Livestock Shows

Brazosport FFA is able to participate in the following County Fair & Major Livestock Shows

- Brazoria County Fair
- Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo
- San Antonio Livestock Expo
- Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo
- Rodeo Austin

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## **Show Entries**

The advisors are responsible for entering students in the project shows listed above, unless otherwise indicated by a specific contest. ***The advisors will host a MANDATORY entry collection meeting for BCFA and a separate MANDATORY entry collection meeting for major project shows. All entry fees must be paid in full at this entry meeting. without payment, the project in question will not be entered. All required signatures must be provided at this entry collection meeting, or the project in question will not be entered.*** 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, age, etc.). Entries for prospect shows are the responsibility of the exhibitor and their family.

## **Travel to and from Shows / Hotels / Meals**

At least one parent or guardian is recommended to attend all livestock shows with their exhibitor. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor and their family to provide funds for meals at project shows. The advisors will make all travel arrangements for the exhibitor and their project. It is not the responsibility of the advisors to arrange travel accommodations for the families of exhibitors. If the exhibitor is taken to a project show by the advisors, they must remain with the advisor for the entirety of the trip, unless otherwise arranged with a BISD alternate transportation form. If the exhibitor chooses to attend a project show that the advisor will not be attending, the exhibitor (and their family) in question is solely responsible for arranging all travel accommodations.

All junior FFA members must be accompanied by a parent or guardian on every FFA trip.

## **Equipment / Trailer Use**

All equipment, including the Ag truck, Ag trailers, lamb cages, etc., may only be driven/pulled/hailed by the Advisors. This is a BISD policy written by the CTE and transportation department.

## **Responsibilities to Buyers**

The student will write, gain instructor approval, and deliver a Thank You note to the individuals who provide the premium money or the buyer of their project. A photograph of the exhibitor and their project should accompany the note if at all possible. Some Thank you notes will have a deadline to be completed by. These deadlines will be announced in class and in the monthly newsletter.



### **Quality Counts Certification**

Texas has the largest number of 4-H and FFA livestock projects in the nation. Young people participate at the county, district, regional and state level. The tremendous support and dedication of livestock show officials help make this possible. With this opportunity comes a responsibility for each exhibitor to learn and demonstrate the highest standards, both in personal character and in the feeding and care of their animals.

“Quality Counts” is designed to teach young people the importance of displaying good character in carrying out livestock projects, and in every aspect of their lives. “Quality Counts” helps them learn the importance of using proper livestock management practices so that food quality and safety are preserved. Each student that exhibits a livestock project at a livestock show in the State of Texas must complete the online Quality Counts program. The website is <https://www.texasffa.org/quality-counts>; a member’s quality counts status can be verified at <http://agrilife.org/qualitycounts/verification/>.

### **BISD Funding Policy for Meals and Travel**

Brazosport FFA will provide meal money for District, Area and State Conventions only. It is the responsibility of the student and their family to fund meals at all other FFA events, contests and shows.

Brazosport FFA will provide all travel expenses for LDE/CDE contests, conventions, and other field trips. It is the responsibility of the student and their family to fund all travel expenses for livestock and project shows and other events. Travel expenses for program funded Ag mechanics projects will be paid for by Brazosport FFA. This may require some ag mechanics students to pay  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a hotel room at times.

Hotels and travel arrangements will be made by the FFA advisors to ensure that students are housed in a safe, economical and proximal location. Students’ families will pay for hotel rooms by paying the owed amount directly to Brazosport FFA. This also ensures that all school tax exemptions are in place as well.