



# The Beef

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“Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own”

Samuel Johnson

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## 90th National FFA Convention

Of Bellville FFA’s five state champion judging teams last year, two qualified for their respective national contests in Indianapolis, held from October 23 to October 28. The Ag Sales team (Aunnika Wittner, Jordan Hill, Conner Neumann, John Hendrix, and coach Mrs. Tobola) and the Nursery/Landscape team (Emily Martin, Gabriel Rodriguez, Niki Carter, Claire Wingo, and coach Mr. Vincent) both made the journey to the mid-west to showcase their skills, and brought back some serious hardware. The Ag Sales team brought home the national championship, with Aunni-

ka placing first in her first-ever contest, Jordan placing second, Conner coming in at fifth and John at sixteenth. Despite the fact that three of the Nursery/Landscape team members were busy with college, limiting practice time, and Niki had never done the contest before, Mr. Vincent’s team impressed everyone with a third place finish. Emily was fourth, Gabe was eighth, and Niki and Claire were both in the top 25. We also had several members of the class of 2016 earn their

American Degree, the highest degree in the FFA. These included Bailey Blezinger, Taylor Adams, Ben Shupak, Cole Moses, Jordan Jackson, Dauson Wittner, and Stephanie Golightly...their hard work throughout their four years of high school was rewarded greatly, as they will remember their American degree forever.



## Texas FFA State LDEs

Wow, what a year we had as Bellville FFA. We had a total of four teams participating in what was an amazing day. Senior and Junior chapter conducting, along with Agricultural Advocacy got through their heats and advanced

to another day. On Saturday December 2nd, 2017 we participated and end up with not 1, not 2, but 3 state titles. Senior Chapter Conducting- 1st, Junior Chapter Conducting- 1st, Senior Quiz- 1st, Agricultural Advocacy-

5th. All of our teams ended up with a “Big Blanket”. And an amazing shoutout to our three seniors: Conner Neumann, Dawson Townsend and Jesse Vasquez.

### HLSR Poster Contest



3rd Place National Landscape Team

For the past several years, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has held a Ranching and Wildlife Poster Board Contest. Our FFA Advisors highly recommend that you participate in this event. Not only do you have a chance to win anywhere between \$500-\$2,500, but you also get to learn more about the management practice or wildlife animal that you have chosen. Bellville FFA also re-

ceives an additional \$1,500 dollars if they enter in the most poster boards or if they have the most members in the finals. This year the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is being held February 27 - March 18, 2018. Once it gets closer to the HLSR, the judges will make their decision for the top 10 finalists. Your Ag Teachers will then be notified, and would gladly begin helping you get ready for

finals if you are selected! Bellville FFA has been very successful in this contest, and encourages anyone and everyone to get involved.



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

### Area XI Meeting

Districts from the new Area XI met on December eleventh in Weimar, Texas to ratify the new Area XI constitution. The Bellville FFA sent four members and an Area Officer, Conner Neumann, to vote on motions regarding the constitution. Canute Janish and Alexa Aschenbeck presented motions to be voted on while John Hendrix and Niki

Carter represented the Bellville FFA chapter with the utmost respect and dignity. Rod Vincent presided as parliamentarian to the new area. The special convention was adjourned after the constitution was adopted by the four districts present at the meeting and our chapter celebrated with a trip to Whataburger for dinner! Also, at the first ever Dis-

trict III Area XI Convention, Alexa Aschenbeck was elected to serve on the first Area XI Officer Team, and Gabby Eskew was elected to serve as District III's Vice President.

### Tractor Tech

So far this CDE season the Tractor Technician team has been highly successful at all the contests they have participated in. Their latest competition was the Area III Tractor Tech contest at Sam Houston State University where they placed first as a team and individually Canute Janish was 3rd,

William Diezi was 4th, and Jared Kemp placed 8th. They are preparing for the State Tractor Tech Contest at The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo where they will be working on a Massey Ferguson tractor.



American Degree Recipients with the "Golden Key"

## LDE Results

### District

Sr. Chapter Conducting-1st  
 Sr. Quiz-1st  
 Ag. Advocacy-1st  
 Jr. Chapter Conducting-1st  
 Ag. Issues-2nd  
 Radio-2nd  
 Jr. Creed-3rd  
 Sr. Creed-3rd  
 Jr Quiz-3rd

Jr. Skills-3rd  
 Sr. Skills-3rd  
 Job Interview-5th  
 Public Relations-8th  
 District Sweepstakes **CHAMPS**

### Area

Sr. Chapter Conducting-2nd  
 Sr. Quiz-1st  
 Ag. Advocacy-1st  
 Jr. Chapter Conducting-1st

Radio-3rd  
 Ag. Issues-4th

### State

Sr. Chapter Conducting-1st  
 Sr. Quiz-1st  
 Ag. Advocacy-5th  
 Jr. Chapter Conducting-1st  
 State Sweepstakes  
**CHAMPS**



State LDE Teams at Sam Houston State Univ.

## Trivia

1. What year did Bellville win nationals in Ag Sales?  
 a)2002  
 b)2017  
 c)1993
2. How many years in a row has Bellville won area CDE sweepstakes?  
 a)12  
 b)5  
 c)7
3. Where will the 2018 state

- convention be held?  
 a)Corpus Christi  
 b)Dallas  
 c)Fort Worth
4. What does CDE stand for?  
 a)Communication Department of Education  
 b)Career Development Event  
 c)Communication Development Event
  5. What is the FFA Motto?  
 a)Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to

- Serve  
 b)Premier Leadership, Personal Growth, Career Success  
 c)Doing to Learn, Learning to Do, Living to Serve, Earning to Live

Key: B, A, C, B, A

**Premier  
 Leadership,  
 Personal  
 Growth, Career  
 Success**

# Stay Up To Date!

- Bellville FFA Alumni Scholarship has been POSTED!
- Bellville FFA Officer Application-Posted Soon!
- Texas FFA Scholarship-POSTED!
- 2017-2018 Bellville FFA Banquet-May 16th, BHS Auditorium
- Any Updates from the Ag Teachers



*"Champions are made when no one is watching!"*

## BELLVILLE FFA CHAPTER

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Advisors:  
Mr. Vincent  
Mrs. Tobola  
Mr. Diezi



## Community Service

The Bellville FFA had an excellent fall season in terms of serving its community! Projects included letters to overseas military men and women, participating in a canned food drive, and adopting a family for Christmas.

At our November meeting, present members wrote thank you notes to displaced military members as they were away from their families over the holidays. Over fifty handwritten letters were delivered to Operation Gratitude, who then placed one letter in an individual care package to be sent to various places around the world.

The Bellville FFA took four teams to the State LDE Competition this year. While they were there, every team member brought five canned food items to contribute to the annual state fall food drive. The donations were sent to the Good Shepherd Mission in Huntsville to help feed the hungry and homeless that live in Texas.

A brand new Christmas community project was put into action this year! The chapter helped bring Christmas to five children by donating gifts, pillows, and blankets to them. Members got the children something they wanted and needed like toys and new clothes. Over twenty five gifts were donated by members of the Bellville FFA! The gifts were wrapped at the high school by members and then sent to the children's mother. Our members had such a rewarding chance to help needy children have a fantastic Christmas this year!

## A Look Ahead...CDE Preview

With the conclusion of the first semester and, with it, leadership development events, comes Bellville FFA's favorite season-that of CDE's. With our upcoming departure from the Area III Association, this year will mark potentially our final Area Sweepstakes Banner, a feat that, if achieved, will be our record 13th in a row. The previous year we had the help of 5 State Champion teams - Tractor Tech, Wildlife, Forages, Ag Sales, and Nursery/Landscape - to assist in this endeavour, meaning that our chapter must collectively step up if we hope to reach this goal. Additionally, career development events serve to

offer a few lucky individuals the opportunity to join our two other teams in Indianapolis, Indiana this coming October for the 91st Annual National FFA Convention and Expo, in competing against teams from all across the country.

However, in order to do this, we must work hard every day for the next 113 or so days, until we are crowned state champions.

