

Ag students take on wide variety of projects

Ag mechanics student **Nathan Wilson** is a senior at Lampasas High School. The son of Dena Wilson and Brad Wilson, Nathan's project -- a utility motorcycle trailer -- was reserve champion at the 2008 Ag Mechanics Show held during the Lampasas County Youth Livestock Association competition. During his FFA career, Nathan has exhibited poultry and constructed a barbecue pit for the 2007 ag mechanics competition. After graduation, he plans to attend college and eventually open a car customizing shop.

Dalton Summers, a two-year ag mechanics veteran, is a senior at Lampasas High School. The son of Joni and Donnie Summers has exhibited meat goats for nine years and has constructed gun cabinets for his ag mechanics projects. A co-op student, Dalton is interested in pursuing a career in wildlife management or law enforcement after high school graduation.

Metal Fabrication student **Kelby Jones** is a junior at Lampasas High School. Active in football and track, Kelby constructed a firebox smoker for his ag mechanics project. He is the son of Stephen Moseley and hopes to become a professional welder.

Evan Munn is a senior at Lampasas High School. The son of Kim Munn, he has been active on the FFA wildlife team and in ag mechanics. He enjoys ranch work and running. After graduation, Evan would like to become a Navy SEAL.

Taylor Thompson is a senior at Lampasas High School. During his FFA career, Taylor has been active in woodworking and ag mechanics. He also competed in football and powerlifting. After graduation, Taylor hopes to become a game warden and enter the criminal justice field.

Ag mechanics student **Bradley Siemens** is a sophomore at Lampasas High School and the son of Dara Tate. Bradley constructed a rocking chair as his project this year. During his FFA experience, he has shown goats, judged horses and attended Greenhand Camp. He also has participated in football and golf. Bradley's goals include showing animals, running for an FFA office and attending college.

Colton Baker is a sophomore at Lampasas High School. As an ag

mechanics student, his project is the restoration of a 1941 McCormack-Farmall tractor. Active in football, soccer and track, Colton has competed on the farm skills team and completed an ag mechanics project. His goals include winning tractor restoration competitions. He is the son of Ronny Baker.

Tate Stoneham, son of Trey and Karen Stoneham, is a sophomore at Lampasas High School. As part of his ag mechanics class, Tate has been part of the restoration of a 1941 McCormack Farmall H tractor for entry in the San Angelo Ag Mechanics Show. He was an area qualifier on the FFA Farm Skills team, and participates in basketball and football.

Lampasas High School sophomore **Justin Ankarberg** is the son of Kenneth Ankarberg. He has been a student in ag mechanics and metal fabrication classes. Having constructed a firebox as his project, Justin hopes to become a certified welder and diesel mechanic.

Colton Craft is a sophomore at Lampasas High School. The son of Sherry Patton, Colton constructed a barbecue pit as his ag mechanics project. He is a participant in the Lampasas County Youth Livestock Show and plays football. Colton's goals include farming his own land.

J.D. Blake is the son of David and Sandra Blake. A sophomore at Lampasas High School, he completed a dog house as his ag mechanics project. J.D.'s future plans include home construction.

Travis Gilseth is a sophomore at Lampasas High School. As his ag project, he has constructed a pine bench as well as a white pine console from his own original design. Travis is active in his school's Building Trades curriculum. The son of Gene Gilseth and Mina Green, he would like to become a pilot in the Air Force.

A sophomore at Lampasas High School, **Cory Cummings** is active in ag mechanics. His cedar coffee table was a first-place winner at the Lampasas County Youth Livestock Show and its Ag Mechanics competition. Grey also is active in the LHS golf program. The son of Mary and Tony Cummings, he hopes to become a professional motocross rider.

FFA student sees bright future with lessons learned from organization

By SARA JACKSON
FFA reporter

The clicking of shiny black heels echoes in the vast hallways, as everyone rushes to find a seat before the first session starts. Inside the state convention center, waves of blue corduroy surround me. More than 10,000 FFA members attended the 2007 Texas FFA State Convention in Corpus Christi. These students took Corpus by storm with their blue corduroy jackets, the same corduroy jackets adopted in 1933 at the FFA National Convention.

The FFA jacket is the most recognizable symbol of the organization. On the back of the jacket is the FFA emblem. The national emblem, consisting of five symbols, is representative of the history, goals and future of the organization. As a whole, the emblem covers the broad spectrum of FFA and agriculture.

Each element within the emblem has unique significance. The cross-section of the ear of corn provides the foundation of the emblem, just as corn historically has served as the foundation crop of American agriculture. It is also a symbol of unity, as corn is grown in every state of the nation.

The rising sun signifies progress and holds a promise that tomorrow will bring a new day glowing with opportunity.

The plow signifies labor and tillage of the soil -- the backbone of agriculture -- and the historic foundation of our country's strength.

The eagle is a national symbol, that serves as a reminder of our freedom and ability to explore new horizons for the future of agriculture.

The owl, long recognized for its wisdom, symbolizes the knowledge required to be successful in the industry of agriculture.

The words "Agricultural Education" and "FFA" are emblazoned in the center to signify the combination of learning and leadership necessary for progressive agriculture.

When I put on my FFA jacket, I am not just representing my chapter, state or the National FFA organization; I represent 500,823 students across the nation. These young men and women will be the leaders of tomorrow. They are not a part of your grandfather's FFA. They are a part of an ever-expanding organization open to everyone, not just white farm boys.

African-Americans were allowed to join FFA in 1965. In 1969, girls were allowed to join. The National FFA Alumni Association was founded in 1971. Today, there are 190,312 FFA members who are girls, 20,033 FFA members who are African-Americans, 42,000 FFA alumni and 170,280 FFA members who live in urban and suburban areas.

There are 7,358 chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and 11 of the 20 largest cities in the country have FFA chapters.

The FFA becomes a second family for its members. During competition students cheer, cry and pray together. The sense of family has FFA chapters pitching in when needed to help their communities.

The Lampasas FFA chapter supports our local community with an "Adopt a Highway" section on FM 580. We also have helped with flood relief in the Riverside Apartments, assisted with a benefit concert, My Backyard, the Lampasas Boys and Girls Club, and carried

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out campus beautification projects at Lampasas High School.

FFA gives its members the ability to explore new horizons with insightful learning from LDEs, CDEs and SAEs. LDEs, or Leadership Development Events, focus on creating situations for members to demonstrate their abilities in public speaking, decision-making, communication and their knowledge of agriculture and the FFA organization.

CDEs are Career Development Events that build on what is learned in agricultural classes and encourage members to put their knowl-

edge into practice. These events are designed to help members prepare for a career in agriculture by testing and challenging the students' technical, leadership, interpersonal and teamwork skills, as well as their knowledge of the subject matter.

SAE, or Supervised Agricultural Experience, is education. It is hands-on, real-life agricultural career preparation experiences tied to the ag-science curriculum, student aptitudes, interests, career and educational goals, and to the agricultural industry.

With the FFA, my jacket is blue, and my future is very bright.



Sara Jackson

FFA LEADING THE WAY

Modern farming is about more than just planting seeds. It encompasses many areas of business, science and technology, from marketing to biology to mechanics.

That's why we're proud to salute the students who have chosen farming as their career path. Future Farmers of America, you're headed for success.

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During this week of February 16-23, 2008 attention is placed on the Future Farmers of today, who will be the successful farmers of our nation.

It is observed this month in honor of George Washington who advocated many agricultural practices.

We urge you to support this fine organization!

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The following businesses would like to wish our local FFA members a bright future filled with much success.

2008

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<p>MORRIS REALTY</p> <p>1007 S. Key Ave. (Hwy. 183) 512-556-0068</p>	<p>Key Auto</p> <p>"Key to your Automotive Needs"</p> <p>202 S. Key Avenue 512-556-5409</p>
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<p>Jackie Williams Real Estate</p> <p>512-752-3259</p>	<p>The Print Shop</p> <p>Business Forms, Letterhead, Envelopes, Etc...</p> <p>509 S. Live Oak 512-556-2520</p>

THANK YOU!

The Lampasas FFA thanks all who helped support the 2008 FFA Tractor Restoration Team!

AgroTech-Benton & Linda Floerke
Al Boberg
Ronnie Baker - The Parts Haus
The Jesse Henderson Family
James & Dorothy Briggs
Mrs. Hazel Reed
Chris Harrison
Lampasas Monuments

FFA LEARN LEAD SUCCEED

The FFA Mission:

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.

The Agricultural Education Mission:

Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems.

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