

# GROWING OUR CHAPTER

FLORAL DESIGN CLASS INTRODUCED AS A  
COURSE FOR THOSE ON FFA PLANT TRACK

Spread by Isabella Grahmann & Mia Brelsford

**THE** new Floral Design class is a course intended to expand the curriculum of the plant pathway of the FFA. Last year, a floriculture Career Development Event (CDE) team was started by students interested in the concept, focusing primarily on different types of plants, their identification and common questions related to floral design. This had a major impact on the decision to introduce the agriculture class dedicated to floral design for all who want to be involved in the plant pathway.

"I started the floriculture CDE team last year because flowers have always interested me," Jazmin Garza<sup>11</sup> said. "That was what had the biggest influence in my decision to take the Floral Design class and expand my knowledge in the field."

In the new class, students have the ability to learn about the history and techniques of floral

design. Students also make new floral arrangements every month, which are sold to parents and teachers.

"I chose Floral Design because flowers are such a beautiful part of nature and they are really interesting to me," Chloe Walrafen<sup>10</sup> said. "I also love how in this class, we are able to put our minds together and come up with a floral arrangement as a group instead of having to work individually."

The course gives students the hands-on experience they need to be successful in pursuing a career in floral design or floriculture as a whole.

"I hope that in the future, my knowledge in floral design could help me by giving me the ability to apply for a summer job working with flowers because that is something I think I would really enjoy doing," Walrafen said.

**AT** Winterfest, Laynee Loera<sup>12</sup> spends time with her lamb, Bubba, before the chapter show. Although raising a lamb requires a lot of work and dedication, Loera said the experiences one can gain can make it worthwhile. "For me, the most rewarding part is the friendships I've made as well as being able to do really well with my lambs at livestock shows," Loera said. "I have also learned a lot about time management and patience from working with my lambs which are both really good skills that will be beneficial for me in the future." *Photo by Kobie Hernandez*



## SHOWOFF

**REACHING** down, Austin Rimer<sup>11</sup> tends to his chickens at Winterfest. The festival provided many different activities for members of FFA to interact with the community. "The wreath booth was my favorite because it was in view of the chapter show ring," Rimer said.

*Photo by Kobie Hernandez*  
**HOSE** in hand, Asher Cornelius<sup>10</sup> helps to cool his pig off. In FFA, students have the choice to experience working with livestock like cows and pigs. "I always wanted to raise animals in the country," Cornelius said. "Living in Austin doesn't allow that, which is why FFA is great." *Photo by Kobie Hernandez*

**FOCUSED** on the task before her, Addison Lusk<sup>11</sup> guides her steer. Lusk's steer was one of three competing in showmanship. "I was able to earn first place, which was an awesome experience that I don't think I will ever forget," Lusk said. *Photo by Kobie Hernandez*

## FUTURE FEATURE HOW FFA BENEFITS ITS MEMBERS IN THEIR FUTURES



"I hope that FFA will teach me how to be a good leader in the future. The best part of FFA is going to competition and bringing a banner back." **Kobie Hernandez<sup>11</sup>**  
*Photo by Laurel Schultz*



"My experiences in FFA have helped my time management skills and my ability to work with a team. I've also learned how to manage my money and teaching skills." **Jazmin Garza<sup>11</sup>**  
*Photo by Kobie Hernandez*



"I hope that FFA will give me the skills I need to eventually pursue a career in veterinary medicine. I've been able to gain many career skills that will help me reach this goal." **Mark Fattouh<sup>12</sup>**  
*Photo by Mia Brelsford*



"I hope that my experiences in FFA will allow me to increase my public speaking skills and I will be able to be more responsible because of the animals I have raised." **Hannah Shepard<sup>11</sup>**  
*Photo by Laurel Schultz*

## IT'S ALL PART OF THE ROUTINE ANIMALS RAISED BY FFA MEMBERS REQUIRE HOURS OF WEEKLY WORK

# 1

### MORNING

"I go to the barn a little before 8 a.m. to feed and water my pig and my chickens. In the evening, I go to the barn right after school and walk my pig, and feed and water him again. Once a week I bathe my pig."

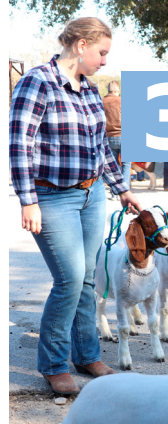
Asher Cornelius<sup>10</sup>

# 2

### DAY BY DAY

"Each day, I give my goat food and water, walk him, treadmill him, and practice showing him. Some days, I work with him longer and practice walking through the show ring to prepare for upcoming shows."

Grace Burden<sup>11</sup>



# 3

### THE COMMITMENT

"I spend about 21 hours a week taking care of my animals. They require a lot of love and attention, so I always make sure that my mornings are free so that I can get my animals their food and water and take care of them."

Chelsea Palecek<sup>11</sup>

# 4

### PREPARING FOR SHOW

"For Winterfest, I have to shear my pig so his muscles and figure will pop out better. For show, we have to shear our animals and make sure they have a good figure and weight."

Chloe Walrafen<sup>10</sup>

### WEEKLY

# 5

"I weigh my pig every few days to know how much weight he is gaining so I can either up his feed or lower it. I also wash him weekly because he gets very dirty and sandy throughout the week, and washing him prevents his skin from getting flaky."

Olivia Ray<sup>10</sup>



**GUIDING** her steer, Alana Garcia<sup>10</sup> shows her cow at Winterfest on Dec. 7. The festival is a chance for students to showcase their work to the community before show season. "The most rewarding part of being in FFA is seeing your animal do well in competitions, as well as seeing all of the work you've put into caring for your animal pay off," Garcia said. *Photo by Kobie Hernandez*

**HAND** pressed to its nose, Brianna Acosta<sup>12</sup> interacts with the goat she raised. Being in FFA teaches students many different skills that can be useful when working with animals but Acosta said it has helped her life outside as well. "I have definitely learned responsibility from having an animal rely on me," Acosta said. "I have also learned time management, which is always a good skill to have." *Photo by Isabella Grahmann*