

My State Officer Reflection

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FFA State Officer

Area I Association 2009-2010

- * It's amazing how much you can grow up and mature in a year's time.
- * It's not a big deal anymore to have to drive halfway across Texas to meet up with your team or go to an event.
- * East Texas might be considered to have nothing but "rednecks" but that's just because they are surrounded by pine trees and go "coon" hunting for fun
- * You can't believe that the rest of the state is like the Panhandle in that there are all small towns because that's when you find yourself stuck in traffic for more than an hour
- * Everyone claims that they have the best BBQ or Mexican food.
- * Don't be surprised to be hundreds of miles away from the nearest grocery store out in West Texas.
- * Each chapter does things in its own way that makes it unique.
- * They are not kidding when they say you will meet people-these people range from Ag teachers and students to Corporate heads of Exxon-Mobile, Texas Cattle Feeders, McCoy's, La Quinta to people just recognizing the FFA Jacket

There are 4 main things I have taken away from this experience

- 1) Regardless of how hard you try, your jacket is NOT going to fit nearly as well as it did the summer before.
- 2) Regardless of how many arguments you may have with your teammates, in the end you realize that you are all going through the same things and are going to have to lean on one another. You are not going to be good at everything so let those who are better at different aspects take over. You will have your own strengths and weaknesses so don't be afraid to admit them and let your teammates help you build them
- 3) Regardless of how great your Ag teachers are and how successful your FFA chapter is, there are going to be a lot out there who aren't. The biggest shock is to go to a chapter where the Ag teachers don't care. They don't believe or invest in their students and just do the minimum to get a paycheck.
- 4) Sometimes you just have to throw the steering wheel out of the window and let the road take you to where you need to go. You are going to change in ways you didn't even think were imaginable. You are going to be tested in your beliefs. You can't plan for things because you don't ever know what it going to come up. Always remember that things happen for a reason.

Giving back to an organization that has given so much to you is priceless and rewarding