



2025 TEXAS FARM BUREAU
**YOUNG FARMER
& RANCHER**
SPRING
CONFERENCE

TFB's Mission—Texas Farm Bureau's mission is to be the Voice of Texas Agriculture.

TFB's Vision—The vision of Texas Farm Bureau is to benefit all Texans through promotion of a prosperous agriculture for a viable, long-term domestic source of food, fiber and fuel.



April 4-6 | Waco



*Sponsored in Part By
Capital Farm Credit*

Tentative Agenda

2025 YF&R SPRING CONFERENCE

APRIL 4-6, 2025 • TFB Conference and Training Center

7410 Fish Pond Rd., Waco, TX

Tentative Agenda

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

All Collegiate Discussion Meet activities will be held at the TFB Conference and Training Center.

Collegiate Discussion Meet

- 8:00 a.m. Contestant Check-in
- 8:30 a.m. Collegiate Discussion Meet Begins

YF&R Spring Conference

*Hilton Garden Inn: 5800 Legend Lake Pkwy, Waco, TX 76712
Cameron Park Zoo: 1701 N 4th St, Waco, TX 76707*

- 3:00-5:00 p.m. Registration at Hilton Garden Inn
- 5:30 p.m. Cameron Park Zoo
- 7:30 p.m. Dinner at Cameron Park Zoo

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

- 6:30 a.m. Breakfast at Hilton Garden Inn
- 7:30-8:00 a.m. Registration
- 8:15 a.m. Opening Remarks and Announcements
- 8:45 a.m. Networking for Professionals
Maegan Meredith, American Farm Bureau Federation
- 9:45 a.m. Break
- 10:00-10:50 a.m. Breakout Sessions, **Segment One**

Breakout #1

Cutting Through the Fat: A Live Meat Cutting
Ryan Yeatts, Standard Meat Company

Breakout #2

Weather Outlook for Agriculture
Brian Bledsoe, Meteorologist

Breakout #3

Tales of a First Generation Rancher
Markie Hageman, Rancher/Influencer

- 11:00-11:50 a.m. Breakout Sessions, **Segment Two**
(Breakout sessions same as above)

- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. Collegiate Discussion Meet Final Four / Facility Tour
Ranching for Profit
*John Locke, JD Hudgins Brahmans and
Ranching for Profit Instructor*
- 2:15 p.m. Break
- 3:30 p.m. Change Your Mindset, Change Your Farm
John Sachse, RanchFIT Coaching
- 3:40 p.m. Financial Literacy: Capital Farm Credit
- 5:00 p.m. Dismiss Group
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner and DJ Bingo *(held at Hilton Garden Inn)*

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

- 6:30 a.m. Breakfast at Hilton Garden Inn
- 8:30 a.m. Devotional at Hilton Garden Inn
Conference Conclusion – Safe Travels Home

2025 YF&R ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Hailey Hayes (chair)
Calhoun County

Alexis Hargrove
Bosque County

Sarah Roderick
El Paso County

Ryan Yeatts (vice chair)
Montague County

Emilee Haubner
Lampasas County

Jessi Schur
Hale County

Zack Altman
Hall County

Madalynn Kainer
Victoria County

Alyssa Sims
Montgomery County

John "Gus" Bluntzer
Nueces County

McCrae McCormick
Floyd County

Haley Clampit
Gonzales County

Zachary Mengers
Bee County

Sarah Galloway
Dallas County

Athlyn Roberts
Coleman County

GUEST SPEAKERS



Brian Bledsoe

Brian Bledsoe is the founder and Chief Meteorologist/Climatologist for Brian Bledsoe Weather. His private weather consulting business has been serving farmers, ranchers, and many other businesses for the past 25 years. Recently retired from television, many of you may also know Brian from having

been a broadcast meteorologist for the past 28 years. Brian's goal is to help farmers and ranchers make their business more successful by equipping them with actionable forecast information, both short term and long term. His strong background in agriculture is important, as he can directly relate to the producer and their specific needs. Brian has several clients in the Great Plains as well as the whole United States. He is regularly featured by many media outlets, speaks at many agriculture conferences, and is constantly advocating for farmers and ranchers.



Ryan Yeatts

Ryan Yeatts is a seventh-generation Texan, and his family has been farming and ranching for over 100 years. Ryan earned a bachelor's degree in animal science with a minor in agricultural economics and certificate of meat science from Texas A&M University, as well as a master's degree in meat

science. He is a recipient of the Rachel Hamilton Meat Judging Award. He continues to stay involved in agriculture and works as an operations and business analyst at Standard Meat Company.

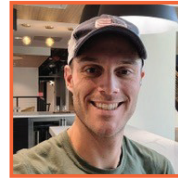


Markie Hageman Jones

Markie Hageman Jones is a first generation, beginner cattle producer in California's Central Valley. She grew up riding horses but was disconnected from how her food got to her plate, until the past decade, when she started questioning the media's depiction of the animal agriculture industry. This led

her to becoming an advocate for transparency in food production, with a special interest in how beef is produced. Since 2017, she has advocated through her "Girls Eat Beef Too" platform on Instagram and Facebook, as well as her personal pages. From being recognized as NCBA's Master of Beef Advocacy "Advocate of the Year" in 2022, to being part of multiple beef leadership programs, featured on many podcasts, and speaking to audiences across the nation, she hopes to bring more light to beginners in the agriculture industry.

While raising her two children and working as an agricultural appraiser, she and her husband started a direct- to-consumer beef business and she enjoys sharing her journey as a cattlegirl on social media.



John Sachse

As a Christian husband, father, 4th generation rancher, men's mindset coach, endurance athlete, and officer in the Kansas Army National Guard, John has seen firsthand the negative effects of stress in our lives. With his coaching business, RanchFIT, John works with individuals to create a

game plan to manage stress and align their lives with their purpose. By providing tools and fostering a community of like-minded individuals, John helps people achieve the things they want in life while overcoming the mountains they face.

In addition, John annually hosts a 5K & 10K ruck at his family's cattle operation in Kansas, where individuals can work on becoming the version of themselves they were called to be by pushing through something that's physically demanding.



John Locke

John Locke, a sixth-generation rancher at JD Hudgins Inc. on the Texas Gulf Coast, grew up immersed in a Registered Brahman seedstock operation with a global reach. After graduating from Texas Tech in 2001, he returned home expecting "business as usual." However, a historic drought and a major family succession reshaped his perspective.

Starting over with half the herd on a quarter of the land forced Locke to rethink traditional practices. Attending the Ranching for Profit School and joining Executive Link helped him transform his approach, focusing on principles like ultra-high-density grazing, aligning business purpose with personal values, and balancing ecology, livestock, profit, and quality of life. Today, Locke works alongside his father, Coleman, managing their division while teaching Ranching for Profit courses, facilitating Executive Link meetings, and consulting across the U.S. Despite his busy schedule, he prioritizes family life with his wife, Salina, and their three daughters. Locke's mission is to make ranching both rewarding and sustainable, building a legacy beyond physical assets.



Maegan Meredith

Maegan is the Director of Leadership and Organizational Training for AFBF. She provides internal consulting and training services for Farm Bureau organizational development and develops strategies for strong programs. Maegan grew up in Polk City, Florida where her family has a small cow-calf and

citrus operation. She obtained her bachelor's in agriculture studies at Warner University. She later completed her master's and Ph.D. at the University of Florida, in Agriculture Education and Communication with a specialization in leadership. Her research focused on confidence development in Florida YF&R Leadership Group participants.

Young Farmer & Rancher 2025 EVENTS



YF&R SPRING CONFERENCE

Waco | April 4-6

Speakers. Networking. Fun. Get it all and more at the YF&R Spring Conference! The Collegiate Discussion Meet is also part of the conference.



YF&R FALL TOUR

Coastal Bend | Sept. 4-7

Take the path less traveled and learn about the diversity of agriculture in the Lone Star State. It's a little education and a whole lot of fun!



YF&R ANNUAL MEETING ACTIVITIES

Arlington | Dec. 5-7

The YF&R Advisory Committee hosts several competitive events and a variety of fun activities for all our member-families!



FARMERS FEEDING FAMILIES

The Young Farmer & Rancher Advisory Committee in conjunction with county Farm Bureaus will cost share the donation of livestock to a local organization that helps those in need through food distribution. The program runs throughout the year.



For more information,
visit texasfarmbureau.org/yfr
or email youngfarmers@txfb.org.