



NEWS RELEASE

TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Area Students Complete TCFA Feedyard Technician Program

Amarillo, Texas – October 20, 2016 – Texas Cattle Feeders Association, in collaboration with West Texas A&M University and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, presented 55 area high school students representing 12 school districts with a certificate and jacket for completing the Machinery Operation, Safety and Repair portion of the Feedyard Technician Certification Program Oct. 18-19 at West Texas A&M University's Stanley Schaeffer Agriculture Education Learning Lab.

Students who graduated from the program are Cecilia Aguilar, Adrian; Ryan Brown, Adrian; Sydney Bruse, Adrian; Tommy Coronado, Adrian; Javier Enriquez, Adrian; Amelia Garcia, Adrian; Lacy Petty, Adrian; Shalom Sanchez, Adrian; Kristen Soto, Adrian; Daniel Banuelos, Booker; Manuel Camacho, Booker; Daniel Dominguez, Booker; Valentine Ramirez, Booker; Victorino Silva, Booker; Cameron Bigelow, Bushland; Hunter Smith, Bushland; Cameron Thomas, Bushland; Monce Cenicerros, Darrouzett; Nathan Eastep, Darrouzett; Jordan Harrington, Darrouzett; Mordikye Miller, Darrouzett; Jorge Martinez, Dimmitt; Derian Solis, Dimmitt; Daniel Flores, Dimmitt; Jose Medina, Dimmitt; Jamie Cigarroa, Friona; Brandon Douglas, Friona; Cason Drake, Friona; Guillermo Quintana, Friona; Jose Rodriguez, Friona; Reagan Stowers, Friona; Gerardo Trejo, Friona; Cody Kling, Groom; Chandler LaRoe, Groom; Logan Siler, Groom; Mason Miller, Groom; Bailey Anders, Highland Park; Shyanne Bailey, Highland Park; Brakelle Hansen, Highland Park; Dehle Jones, Highland Park; Lindsay Pineda, Highland Park; Joe Waggoner, Muleshoe; Aron Chacon, Muleshoe; Ever Vidana, Muleshoe; Billy Tosh, Muleshoe; Landon Greer, Post; Dylan Morris, Post; Hayden Cape, Springlake-Earth; Kaytlin Krutzch, Springlake-Earth; Julio Maldonado, Springlake-Earth; Trustin Miller, Springlake-Earth; Tanner Sloan, Springlake-Earth; Adrian Trevizo, Springlake-Earth; Treg Box, Sudan; and Lane Logan, Sudan.

WTAMU students who are obtaining a degree in Agriculture Education tested the Feedyard Technician Program participants on metal-working skills such as welding and cutting on which they have been working to master in their agriculture classes at their individual schools. The students had the opportunity to train on wheel loader and skid steer operation and safety at Warren CAT in Amarillo. They also received a thorough feedyard and mill safety training, which a portion of the students attended at Dimmitt Feedyard and others at Wheeler Land and Livestock.

To complete the certification process, the students were tested over their skills with a written exam. They were also interviewed by TCFA and feedyard industry officials on topics covered in the training.

Completion of this certification program enables students to be better prepared to obtain employment within a feedyard with a basic understanding of the knowledge and skills necessary to be an asset to the operation.

Students in the program are identified by their Agricultural Science Teacher, feedyard managers or have expressed interest to be accepted into the program. They should be enrolled in at least one high school agricultural class each semester and participate in extra-curricular activities such as FFA.

Individuals who work in the fed beef industry have one of the most important jobs in the world – to produce food for a growing domestic and global population. The vitality of having young people with a desire to work in a feedyard setting, especially in the TCFA-area of Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico where 28 percent of the nation's beef is produced, is crucial in the future success of the industry.

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