

I want to express gratitude for HB 2444, this bill has helped reduce barriers and made it possible to provide important experiences to our agricultural education high school students (even through the pandemic). One of the most beneficial outcomes from this bill was the extended grants this summer for agricultural educators. These grants allowed us to serve historically underserved students through events and projects. Even more so, we lost a lot of contact with students due to the pandemic and these grants enabled agricultural educators to keep contact with a lot of students through the summer aiding in their mental health. Additionally, students have been able to still be involved in our FFA organization through virtual experiences such as competitions and conventions. Personally, we had over 50 students compete in virtually experiences. A sense of normalcy as we charted new waters. I am so excited for the opportunities that were provided for students and I hope we can continue this on into the future.