

## News Release from Dripping Springs ISD



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### For Immediate Release

October 15, 2013

## TWO DSHS TEAMS QUALIFY FOR FFA STATE COMPETITION

DRIPPING SPRINGS, Texas—In just their first year of competition, the Dripping Springs High School FFA Land and Homesite Evaluation Teams have qualified for state competition to be held in April at Tarleton State University.

Land and Homesite Evaluation are FFA Career Development Events (CDEs), which are designed to help members prepare for a career in agriculture by testing and challenging the students' technical, leadership, interpersonal and teamwork skills as well as knowledge of the subject matter. Members of land evaluation teams judge sites based on characteristics of the soil and observations of landscape conditions, then recommend land treatments considering factors such as soil characteristics, vegetative conditions and planned use for the site. In the process, both the land and homesite team members conduct soil analyses, determine factors like slope, erosion and soil depth, and calculate fertilizer applications, etc., to determine the best use of the land and homesite preparation.

The Dripping Springs teams qualified for the FFA state contest based on results at the recent Area VII fall CDEs. The Land Team placed second with three students placing 6-7-8 individually: Scott Handley, Hunter Elias and Patrick Bowers. The Homesite Evaluation Team placed seventh overall.

Earlier this fall, DSHS students were successful in two invitational competitions. At the Bexar County Land and Homesite Invitational, the Land Team placed third overall, Patrick Bowers placed first individually and Lance Kilgore finished fourth. The Homesite Team placed seventh overall with Nicholas Spillar placing fifth individually.

At the Blanco Land and Homesite Invitational the Land Team placed second, with individuals Lance Kilgore and Patrick Bowers placing fifth and seventh, respectively. The Homesite team finished sixth with Nicholas Spillar placing fifth individually.

The Land and Homesite Evaluation teams have had the opportunity to use district-owned property on Darden Hill Road to practice some of their skills. Team advisors are Calen McNett and Jordan Blount.

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