



*Grass Roots Award Recipient Terry Baize and 2013 TSSRM President Ken Cearley*

**Texas Section Society for Rangeland Management**  
**Grass Roots Award-Vocational Ag**  
**Terry Baize**

Mr. Terry Baize is the Agriculture Science teacher in the Hamilton Independent School District. Terry has taught agriculture science at Belton High School, worked as a livestock and crop specialist, and has taught science at Ira ISO.

In 1988, Terry became the Agriculture Science teacher and FFA advisor at Hamilton High School. During his first eight years, Terry improved and developed the Agriculture Science program to the extent that a second teacher was added in 1996.

Terry's classroom instruction include Scope and History of Agriculture, Record Keeping, Leadership Training, Basic Shop Skills of Carpentry, Electrical Wiring and Motors, Plumbing, Small Engine Hydraulics, Soil Science, Horticulture, Fertilizers, Plant Nutrition, Agrochemical, Animal Selection and Management, Meat, Poultry, Dairy, and Vegetable Processing. Hands-on instruction is used as much as possible.

During his twenty-five years at Hamilton, Terry has had 43 Lone-Star FFA Degree recipients, 1 American FFA Degree recipient, 1 national finalist in Specialty Animal Proficiency and several area and state winners. Mr. Baize has been presented the Honorary Lone Star FFA Degree and in 2011 was awarded the Area V Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Conservation Teacher of the Year.

Terry has been very successful in training his agriculture teams. The Hamilton Range and Pasture teams have won district 9 times, were state and national qualifiers several years, and were the state champions in 2004 and 2011 (with Hamilton students being the High Point Individual at both the state and national contest). Land Judging teams have been district winners 10 times, as well as state and national qualifiers. The Wildlife and Dairy judging teams have often qualified for the state contest, and the Plant ID and Meat judging teams have been district champions several years. Terry, himself, was the National Champion in the adult division of the Range Judging contest in 2004.

Hamilton has hosted for several years a land, Range and Plant Identification, Poultry, and Dairy contest for teams qualifying for the state contest. Further, Hamilton Agriculture Science Department has served as a student teacher training station for Tarleton State University for the past 9 years. Terry has the responsibility of scheduling, providing workers, and coordinating the training sessions for these activities. In 2010, Terry was invited to teach a course for other Agriculture Science teachers at the Wildlife, Range, and Quail Research station near Roby, Texas. Further, Terry was instrumental in developing how the Range Career Development Event is conducted in Texas. Terry developed the handbook for the Texas event based on Ecological Site Descriptions, thus allowing the Texas event to more closely match with the National contest.

Terry believes that all students, not just a select few, can substantially benefit from a well-balanced agriculture science program. His goal is to involve as many students as possible in his program in an effort to prepare them for a career in conservation and wise use of agriculture and wildlife resources.