

Star in Agriscience

Austin Stoveall Clinton FFA

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The 2004-2005 Star in Agriscience is Austin Stoveall of the Clinton FFA Chapter. Austin is the son of Tim and Bettsey Stoveall of Clinton, Tennessee. His advisors are Mr. David Rogers and Mr. Rodney Mann. He has been an active FFA member for four years and was involved in many FFA activities and Career Development Events.

CRESO (Clinch River Environmental Studies Organization) is a major part of Austin's SAE. CRESO is a partnership between Anderson County Schools and the Department of Energy designed to give high school and college students experience in conducting actual scientific research. Austin's main project is a long term turtle population study which he conducts at the Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery. There he captures, measures and marks turtles so they can be identified after being released. He takes very detailed measurements on every turtle so when it is caught in the future it's growth can be recorded and monitored.

After the data is collected, Austin enters it on to a computer data base where it can be analyzed. He wrote a research paper on his findings, comparing the populations of turtles at the fish hatchery to those in a natural setting. He is also asked to give educational programs to groups. He really enjoys sharing his love and knowledge of animals with people young and old.

Through CRESO, he also takes part in a bird banding project conducted at two sites at the University of Tennessee Forestry Experiment Station. The birds are caught using large nets erected in various locations around the experiment site. The data collected goes into an international data base called MAPS (Mapping Avian Productivity and Survivorship) This information is used to look at population trends of migratory song birds around the world.

Austin also volunteers with the Clinch River Raptor Center, a bird of prey rehabilitation center, located in the courtyard of Clinton Middle School, which uses volunteers from middle and high school. When Austin began at the Raptor Center in 1999 his responsibilities included cleaning cages and feeding birds. Now he trains new volunteers and helps give educational programs. At the Raptor Center, Austin first learned the importance of taking accurate measurements and proper record keeping; important skills he now uses in his work with CRESO, and as treasurer of his FFA chapter.

Austin's hard work, dedication and commitment to excellence is why he is your 2005 Star in Agriscience.

Regional Stars in Agriscience

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