

New Faculty Spotlight  
Dr. Richard Ford  
Department of Agricultural Sciences



Kyra Rost  
College of Science & Engineering Technology  
Sam Houston State University

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Dr. Richard Ford obtained his bachelor's degree in agricultural education from Texas A&M, College Station. He earned his master's degree in agricultural education from Texas A&I University in Kingsville (currently Texas A&M University–Kingsville). He then obtained a Doctor of Education (Ed.D) in agricultural education through Texas A&M and Texas Tech.

Dr. Ford was a high school agriculture teacher for 23 years, where he trained students for FFA Career and Leadership Development Events. He then moved on to complete his doctoral degree, and became the Director of Education at the Craft Training Center of Coastal Bend in Corpus Christi. The school had 250 high school students during the day and 250 adults at night. They were taught agricultural trades such as welding, pipe fitting, painting, instrumentation, plumbing, and electrical skills. Dr. Ford then moved to Afghanistan for 2 ½ years, for the Norman Borlaug Institute Program with TAMU. In Afghanistan, he supervised the construction of the Herat University College of Agriculture, along with equipping the building. He also aided in the supervision of 5 Women's FPC's and 2 Women's Saffron Plants, and trained the women to use the equipment safely and properly. After completing his mission in Afghanistan, he briefly went back to his hometown of Corpus Christi. A short time later, he moved to South Sudan for another TAMU Borlaug Institution program. In South Sudan, he supervised the construction and equipping of the laboratories at the Dr. John Garang Memorial University of Science & Technology, for 9 months.

Dr. Ford later moved to a home along the Trinity river and began lecturing and instructing online classes at Sam Houston State University. He took a small break, then started teaching full time in fall 2018. He teaches AC electricity, soil water conservation, agriculture construction, fusing metals & nonmetals, agriculture power & machinery, and tractors & engines. Dr. Ford's research interests are in agriculture education preparation and training. He hosts workshops to help establish the preparedness of high school agriculture educators. He simply loves teaching and preparing teachers and students for the future.

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# Interesting facts

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## 1. Do you have any advice for current students?

“I encourage all college and high school students to be passionate in whatever you choose. It does not matter what you want to do. If you do it better than the next person does, you’ll get paid for it. Find something you enjoy and be the best you, you can be.”

## 2. How do you spend your free time?

“I have a small ranch northwest of Junction, Texas, so in my free time I’ll visit there. I also like to go deer hunting, turkey hunting, fishing, and occasionally visit my hometown in Corpus Christi to see my friends and family. Along with attempting to be a granddad, when I see my family.”

## 3. What are your favorite movies?

“My favorite movies are *Braveheart* and *Lonesome Dove*.”

## 4. What are your favorite books?

“My favorite books when I was younger were by Shakespeare. My current favorite books would be *The Prince* and The Bible. This year will be me and my wife’s 3<sup>rd</sup> time reading The Bible. I encourage all potential agriculture teachers to read *The Prince*, it’s not that big and it’s worth the read.”

## 5. Did you participate in any organizations or clubs while in college?

“I was a part of the Collegiate FFA, in which I judged crops and did grain grading with my college’s crop team.”

## 6. Is there any extra information you would like to add?

“I typically am at the Harrell Ag Engineering Tech Center but my door is always open. I would also like to mention, for any students, high school and college, academics are important. A lot of people are okay with just getting by; be prepared and be aggressive in your studies.”