



*2013 TSSRM President Jeff Goodwin and Grass Roots Award Recipient Buddy Dechert*

**Texas Section Society for Rangeland Management**  
**Grass Roots Award-Vocational Ag**  
**Buddy Dechert**

Buddy was a Teacher/FFA Advisor at Boerne ISD for 35 years and currently lives in Helotes, Texas.

Buddy has trained Plant ID, Range and Pasture Evaluation and Land Teams for 30 years which has resulted in District Champions, Area Champions, State Champions and National Qualifiers – Top Five Finisher.

Buddy's range management contributions has included the Blanco Invitational Land, Range, Plant ID Contest for 10 years, Area VII Land, Range, Plant ID for 7 years and Hill District Land, Range, Plant ID for 9 years.

Buddy was instrumental in the transition in Texas to the National Range Contest guidelines. He set up the following contests since the inception of the new Texas FFA rules that were adopted in 2011.

- Blanco (three years)
- Sequin, (one year)
- San Marcos (Area Contest two years)
- Bandera (Area Contest one year)
- Participated in the statewide initial training of FFA supervisors.

Buddy has set up and hosted numerous Range and Pasture and Plant ID Workshops for High School Teachers. He has collected plants for new teachers for the past 10 years as a volunteer. He has assisted the Kendall County NRCS Office with County Wide Plant Identification Contests.

Buddy has also trained State Qualifying Livestock, Poultry, Meats and Horse Judging Teams and State Qualifying Skills, Chapter Conducting, Quiz, Radio, Creed Speakers.

Many of his former students are currently worked as FFA Advisors and he continues to mentor them with their career and teaching.