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Photo by Kiki McKendrick

"Allsup has treated me like one of his own kids. He has encouraged me to become a better FFA member and an even better person. He has had a positive influence on the Ag program by his hard work ethic and determination for our chapter members to be successful."

*-Lauryn Luttrull (10)*

Photo by Kiki McKendrick

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# 26 years of service takes agriculture to new heights

Photo by Kiki McKendrick



Photo by Morgan Lamance

"Mr. Allsup was one of the teachers that showed me all that FFA had to offer. He pushed me to get involved in FFA and I'm thankful for that. Mr. Allsup shows that he cares about his students. The Decatur FFA chapter has been super successful because of him and all that he has done."

*-Kelsey Blase (12)*

*People*  
Teacher Dedication



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# The 75th edition of *The Crag* is dedicated to

# Jim Allsup

Photo by Kiki Mickendrick



## Adviser Excels Program to National Success

By Mickey Drewry

As his 13th year at Decatur comes to a close, agricultural teacher and FFA advisor Jim Allsup serves as the heart and soul of the high school. Students go out of their way in the hallway to shake his hand and hold the door just to exchange a "good morning" with him.

"I've wanted to do this my whole life and I really can't see myself doing anything else," Allsup said.

Allsup joined the DHS Ag department in the fall of 2003 after more than a decade at Calallen in Corpus Christi. He took the esteemed program and built it into one of the most respected FFA chapters in the state.

"I had a very influential Ag teacher when I was in high school," Allsup said. "I remember junior year when they asked me about my future plans, I always said I wanted to be an Ag teacher."

Over 25 years later, still teaching, Allsup remarks that the advancing technology has been the toughest trial.

"I remember when we had maybe one computer and all our grades were turned in on big Scantron sheets," Allsup said. "We even had to check all the kids' grades with a calculator."

When asked about the hardest part of the job, he leaned back in his chair in thought, not quite sure there was a negative side to his dream career.

"I struggle with the kids that are just up here for the credit or because they need an extra elective," Allsup said. "I like showing them the importance of agriculture in their lives. It's amazing the number of kids that come up here their junior or senior year and realize what they've missed out on. They get disappointed that they didn't start earlier."

In April of 2013, Allsup was named Teacher of the Year by the district. He considers this one of the highlights of his career.

"When I found out that I had been nominated, I was so surprised and honored to be voted for by so many people," Allsup said.

Another milestone for Allsup was having the opportunity to serve on the National FFA Board as a consultant in 2001 and serving as president of the National FFA Alumni Council for three years.

"I got to travel to Washington D.C. for the board meeting, which was a cool experience," Allsup Said. "I've been able to train teams that advance to nationals, which is a highlight in itself."

Teaching three different classes leaves him with many adventurous memories at the end of the day. However, his favorite is one that can only come with an educator's job.

"I like that moment when the light bulb goes off in students' heads," Allsup said. "That's education: finally getting the big picture."

Allsup says his favorite part of the year is not the tedious stock shows or the seasonal flower sales, but rather the career development contests in which his teams compete.

"We compete from January to April and they all work so hard," Allsup said. "I still enjoy stock shows, but I enjoy the competitiveness of FFA teams.

With career contests they start to find their niche and I like watching them find something they're interested in that they never saw themselves doing."

Allsup has spent half of his career in the Decatur Ag Barn, his home away from home, and couldn't praise the district enough for their support.

"Decatur truly supports our Ag department and not just because it's an agricultural area," Allsup said. "The community and school supports everything this program stands for and that's why it's a pleasure to work here everyday. It's nice to know they believe in us."

Now at 48 years old, Allsup is up for retirement soon.

"The paper says I can retire in four years, but I'm not going anywhere," Allsup said. "I don't see myself doing much else anyway."

The 2016 yearbook staff would like to dedicate the 75th edition of *The Crag* to Jim Allsup to commemorate his hard work and complete dedication to the students of DHS.

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