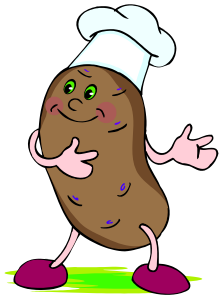


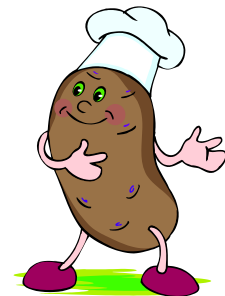
**Texas Extension Education Association State Conference**  
**September 10-11, 2013**



“Taters

Take the

LEAD”



**“Lunch & Learn” Leadership Workshop**  
**Presenters: Linda Wells, Burnet County CEA/FCS**  
**Burnet County EEA Members**

## **“Taters Take the Lead”**

### **Objectives:**

By the end of this workshop participants will be able to:

1. Define positive leadership
2. Identify positive and negative qualities of leadership
3. Identify personal leadership traits
4. Identify the importance of group involvement to insure success
5. Recognize the leadership traits in others

### **Outcomes:**

1. Experience a creative technique to address both positive and negative leadership traits
2. Gain an understanding of ways to develop effective leadership skills that enhances individual & group involvement that leads to successful organizations
3. Ability to increase understanding of individual leadership traits and those of others that will result in a decrease of conflict during group settings and an increase of participation and productivity

### **Background information:**

The “Taters Take The Lead” Leadership Workshop is a result of many years of collecting leadership information and ideas for addressing this most important topic. The use of “taters” came about since many of the descriptive words that describe “leaders” end with “tator”. The CEA/FCS originally presented this program using real potatoes, however, the Burnet County EEA members chose to “enhance” the program by bringing real “life” to the Tater characters, making it even more effective and enjoyable for the participants. The Burnet County CEA/FCS Agent wrote the scenario and script by adapting the character traits that either were positive or changed in a setting where training for leadership skills was emphasized. Participants in the skit have and those in the audience have the opportunity to learn how important being a good leader is to the overall success of any organization or group.

### **Preparation:**

1. Make copies of the 4 Handouts. Can be printed 2 sided to save paper.
2. Make “Tater” Character Name Signs
3. Collect door prizes – suggestions: 5# potatoes, box of instant potatoes, Potato Chips, etc. (optional)
4. Character costumes, table decorations, and potato themed meal (optional)

## **Presentation:**

(READ OR PARAPHRASE)

Welcome to the Leadership Academy located at Tater University in Tatersville, Texas, where “Tater Leaders” of all types bring their skills, characteristics and personalities to become the best LEADERS they can be. To attend “Tater University” and the Leadership Academy there are two pre-requisites:

1. Have a sincere desire to become a “better leader”
2. Understand that “Taters CAN & WILL Take The Lead”

Please know that some “Taters” have had excellent opportunities prior to coming to the Leadership Academy, while others may have not been on the right track at all to become successful and beneficial leaders for their communities, clubs and organizations. The mission of the Leadership Academy is to make sure that ALL participants fully understand the importance of being or becoming a leader that is successful and that they can be proud as they LEAD!!!

We appreciate you joining us this afternoon to attend the “Accreditation” review of our Leadership Academy. You will have the opportunity to meet our students who are striving to become better leaders. In order for us to be an accredited Leadership Academy we need YOUR help. You have received handouts that will assist you in listing leadership qualities that you will observe while meeting the participants. The “good” leadership qualities are to be listed in the left hand column and the ones you feel are traits of a leader that needs more training in the right column on Handout #1. This will help us be more successful at training leaders here at the Academy.

I will be serving as your “Narrator” – better known today as the “NARRATOR TATER”. A brief overview of their background will be given and as a group we will have the opportunity to recognize the leaders who have developed outstanding leadership skills and you will also see a few who might need additional training to overcome some inhibiting obstacles or bad habits and become “better” leaders. Each “tater” is making remarkable progress. As you have the opportunity to meet the “Tater Leaders”, sit back and relax – and see if YOU are or have been related to any of the “Tater Leaders”!

Our first “Tater Leader” that I would like to introduce to you is MRS. DICTATOR. ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) Before coming to the Leadership Academy, her leadership skills included being the type of a leader that was always up front, yelling and making a lot of noise. Everything had to be done exactly as she wanted it to be done or she would get very angry. Another one of her traits was that she had to be the leader or she would not support the activity or the program. She really has been working on trying to improve her leadership skills by letting others step up to the plate and agree on their ideas, and most of all learning when to turn loose of control, by not being so “bossy”. She is beginning to realize how important it is become not only a leader but a follower!!

The second “Tater Leader” I would like to introduce to you is MRS. SPECTATOR. ( \_\_\_\_\_ ). Before coming to the Leadership Academy, she usually wanted to sit on the sidelines and watch the rest of the group do all of the work. She learned that the ideal leader will pitch in and work right along with the rest of the group. She also learned that it is better to help than just let everyone else do the work. She admits that she has been able to “SEE” a difference in her attitude toward leadership since enrolling at the Leadership Academy. One of the most exciting opportunities she is learning is to have skills that have a clear “VISION” of what needs to be done and participating to “SEE” that the job accomplished.

Our next “Tater Leader” has been with us for quite some time. You might have already guessed what her name is . . . sure enough it is MS. PROCRASTINTATOR!!! ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) Just about the time we think she has seen how important it is NOT to keep putting off duties, assignments and responsibilities, she slips back, puts things off until the last minute and doesn’t quite get the job done – hopefully, she will learn that it is VERY important to “get ‘er done” and “get ‘er done” on time!! Until she learns that, we will have to “Procrastinate” about giving her certificate of completion from the Leadership Academy.

We never have to worry about anything for the classes or meeting being in order when MRS. FACILITATOR ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) is on duty or has the assignment. She always finds out the details that are important, makes sure the rooms are available, unlocked, warm or cool, and even has the bathrooms clean!! She is known for her friendly greetings at the door, and also to make sure everyone signs the attendance sheets for every meeting. Her leadership skills include making lists and checking them twice to make sure everything is “nice”.

Our next “Tater Leader” comes to us in a ROUND ABOUT way. You may think that to be strange, however, we are really working closely with her, because she seems to rotate round and around all of the time. MISS ROTATER, ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) rotates in an out of classes, never quite finishing anything she starts, and causes problems when she can’t seem to stop going in circles. She does excellent work, once we get her headed in the right direction and thinking “outside” the circle. Hopefully the Leadership Academy will help her to realize how important it is to stay focused in the right direction and having the ability to see a project from start to finish, instead of just going in circles.

One of our most difficult tasks here at the Leadership Academy is to help “Tater Leaders” realize how important it is to be sure to “EXTERMINATE” the right things – such as bugs & spiders – not to “EXTERMINATE” great ideas and wonderful groups. MS. EXTERMINATOR, ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) realized that she had a definite need to attend the Leadership Academy, because she got to where she would rather see the club fold up than to help them exist. She also is changing her thoughts toward the possibility of exterminating bad attitudes, not good ones when it comes to community service and holding offices – she still has plenty that can be done – but is working hard on making sure the “sprays” she uses are the kind that will foster good & positive things instead of bad, negative ones for club members and organizations.

Sometimes we have participants at the Leadership Academy that can either be “good leaders or not so good leaders”. This is very true of MS. MEDIATOR ( \_\_\_\_\_ ). The good side of her is that she thinks through completely before taking action, and therefore can eliminate a lot of problems for the program or group. On the other hand, she can also be a hindrance to the program if she takes too much time arriving at a decision. She is working hard on this and I am quite sure that she is learning how to take care of the not so good side. We are proud of her for that effort.

There are always a few that never really get interested enough in anything besides what they can do from the COUCH – and for the first time we have had one of these “Tater Leaders”, MRS. COUCHTATER, ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) enroll in the Leadership Academy. We are so glad she did, in fact what she has learned here at the Leadership Academy has been amazing. For the first few weeks she observed the other leaders from the couch and saw them “exercising” their skills, and guess what?? She decided to sell her couch and join them. She even donated the money from the couch sale to the scholarship

fund for others to attend the Leadership Academy and have the opportunity to learn good leadership skills. We are so proud of her accomplishments!!!

I am hoping the next “Tater Leader” will join us this afternoon. Sometimes she hesitates so long, things are totally over before she gets a chance to take part. You guessed it, her name is MS. HESITATOR. ( \_\_\_\_\_ ). She is never quite sure of herself. One of the reasons that she may not be sure of herself is the fact that she sometimes does not adequately prepare for the program or lesson. She also is the person who will hold back her thoughts and ideas until after the decision has been made, then be upset because her thoughts and opinions were not incorporated into the plans. She really has come a long way and I am so glad she didn’t hesitate on attending today, since that would have caused her to miss getting to meet you this afternoon.

The next “Tater Leader” has been with us for quite a while and has brought a “breath of fresh air”. MISS COMMENTATOR, ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) is a natural. Perhaps she was born with leadership skills. She is steady, hardworking, and dedicated. She puts her fellow co-workers wishes before her own. She contributes new ideas, uses democratic methods in conducting activities and programs, and adds much spirit and enthusiasm to the classes. This person receives recognition due to her outstanding leadership, however is willing to share the glory with everyone. We are so proud of her!!

Every year at the Leadership Academy, we face challenges, and this year is no different. In January, MS. AGITATOR, ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) signed up and so far has lived up to her name. She has been known to get the program or office all fired up and ready to jump in with both feet in order to complete a project or activity – THEN – after she has excited or agitated the others, she drops out or quits. Another thing we are really trying to help her with is being more respectful. She sits in the back of the room and “cracks jokes” and makes silly remarks in order to draw attention to herself. This makes the job of the true leader most difficult and keeps the group from being the best they can be. We are hoping that in the next few weeks, many of her “not so good” qualities will turn out for the best.

Sometimes it isn’t best to have the “Tater Leaders” around their fellow class mates – in the case of MISS IMITATOR ( \_\_\_\_\_ ), she really “imitates” the others. She hasn’t developed the true qualities of a leader yet and as long as she tries to get the job done by imitating another person, her true abilities won’t ever lead others. She usually doesn’t think of any original ideas and is tradition bound. She just can’t stand to think of

changing a thing. In other words, she is just fine by always wanting to do the same old thing, just like someone else did it last year. Hopefully, she will have a break through and realize, she too can have good ideas and be a leader herself!!!

All groups need Tater Leaders who bring ideas to them in a way that is pleasing and productive. MS. INNOVATOR ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) has a calm, energetic and humble personality that when she suggests “innovative” ideas the group or class feels she has “hung the moon” – and yet she never wants to get credit for herself – by the way, she must lie awake at night thinking of ways to improve meetings and activities. It is a good thing that her ideas are positive and in the best interest of the group – sometimes leaders seem to have the opposite effect and innovative in the wrong direction. We are glad she is on the right track and is innovative!!!

Have you ever met a person, that loves her job and you can tell because it shows??? That Tater Leader is known to us as MRS. SWEETATOR. ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) Everything she does comes straight from her heart. She is sweet on the inside and outside. She strives to make the best of every situation and always does what she says she will do. She is always prepared to stop whatever she is doing and lend a helping hand. She is constantly bringing real “sunshine” into the lives of others. She is a model leader that has the qualities of a great leader that we would all like to have. She will be graduating from the Leadership Academy with top honors very soon.

Two of our participants here at the Leadership Academy have had the opportunity to go on a field trip today to “Leader Land” as a result of an application they submitted. We would like to recognize their characteristics and accomplishments at this time in their honor.

Every group needs someone to keep the meetings and business going, as well as keep the members engaged and on their toes. MRS. CITATOR, ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) comes to us from a long line of “tater” officials – and she prides herself in seeing the good things people are doing and rewards them with honor citations, however, beware, if she sees you doing something that is out of order, you will get a citation with a consequence. We are working really hard to channel her talents and make sure they are beneficial for everyone.

It takes a true leader to get a group back together again after a period of time when there was no activity due to lack of membership, lack of interest, lack of time or lack of money. We are tickled that our Leadership Academy has the “Tater Leader” for the job,

MISS REHABILITATOR. ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) Although her job is never easy, she seems to love being able to work through the situations and bring goodness back to the clubs and organizations, by rehabilitating them and finding a way to get the cause going again. What a skill that is for a leader.

As we wrap up the introductions this afternoon, I have a very special introduction that I would like to make. Here at the Leadership Academy and Tater University, we pride ourselves in working with all genders, ethnicities, and ages. We are never too young or too old to become better leaders, so with that in mind I would like to introduce you to our youngest “Tater Leader” Tater Tot – better known as “TEEA TOT”. She joined the team on August 10, 2013, yes, she is only 1 month old. Doesn’t it make you wonder which “TATER” she will have as a role model and mentor as she grows up. We can only hope that she chooses one of the very best!!!

Now that you have been introduced to all of the “Tater Leaders” in the Leadership Academy at Tater University, located in Tatersville, Texas, how many feel the participants are making great progress toward being better leaders? Also, which one do you feel that you might be related to? Some will be graduating very soon, and obviously, some will need to spend a bit more time here at the Leadership Academy. Our goal is to help them all we can to learn how to be a better leader!!! We appreciate your help with this endeavor by being a part of this accreditation review meeting. You are all invited back to the Leadership Academy for their graduation ceremonies on \_\_\_\_\_. To have a group of individuals from all over Texas join us today to review our progress for accreditation means so very much to us.

Lessons can be learned about Leadership in unique and creative ways. Let’s name some of the outstanding Leadership qualities that these “Tater Leaders” have brought to us this afternoon . . . (Handout #1)

On the other hand, let’s review some of the qualities that need to be worked on to be a successful leader. We will also be looking for ways to expand our training classes to include a wider variety of needs to produce outstanding leaders. (Handout #1)

TEEA members are certainly great cooks and always have wonderful recipes to share. We even have a recipe for “A Successful Leader”. Be sure to have the ingredients on hand and follow directions carefully for the best of show leadership awards!!!! (Handout #2)



As your special gift from the Leadership Academy for being such a great group this afternoon, each one of you has additional handouts that will help YOU become a better leader, and in turn you will be giving your groups and organization the “gift” of being a better leader by processing leadership skills that you have experienced and want to practice.

In addition we would like to give away a few door prizes!!! Thank You.

### **“Tater Leaders” Cast of Characters**

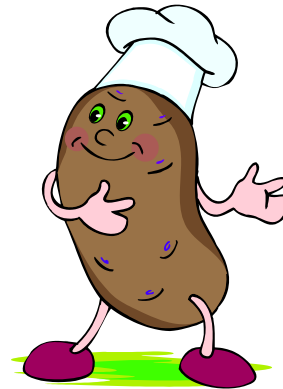
<b>Name of “Tater Leader”</b>	<b>Name of TEEA Member</b>	<b>Costume Color</b>
<b>Mrs. Dictator</b>	<b>Deloris Meiske</b>	
<b>Mrs. Spectator</b>	<b>Lela Goar</b>	
<b>Ms. Procrastinator</b>	<b>Sharon Spencer</b>	
<b>Mrs. Facilitator</b>	<b>Hazel Gatliff</b>	
<b>Miss Rotator</b>	<b>Ollie Ann Baker</b>	
<b>Ms. Exterminator</b>	<b>Lynda French</b>	
<b>Ms. Mediator</b>	<b>Barbara Rieger</b>	
<b>Mrs. Couch Tator</b>	<b>Doris Poe</b>	
<b>Ms. Hesitator</b>	<b>Ann Cospere</b>	
<b>Miss Commentator</b>	<b>Reta George</b>	
<b>Ms. Agitator</b>	<b>Roberta Eacott</b>	
<b>Miss Imitator</b>	<b>Polly Krenek</b>	
<b>Miss Innovator</b>	<b>Lisa Zinz</b>	
<b>Mrs. Sweetator</b>	<b>Linda Rogers</b>	
<b>Mrs. Citator</b>		
<b>Miss Rehabilitator</b>		
<b>Miss TEEA Tot</b>	<b>Baby Tot</b>	
<b>Ms. Narrator</b>	<b>Linda Wells, CEA/FCS Agent</b>	



“Taters Take the Lead” Handout #2

## Recipe for a Successful Leader

- 4 cups of intelligence
- 1 ½ cups of responsibility
- 2 cups of open-mindedness
- 1 quart of understanding
- 1 ½ teaspoons of initiative
- Dash of judgment
- 1 ¾ cups of sifted positive attitude
- 3 cups of ambition
- 2 cups of unbeaten patience
- 1 cup of tactfulness
- 4 cups of ability



Have all ingredients at body temperature. Sift intelligence, ambition, and understanding together. Mix cooperation, initiative, and open-mindedness until dissolved. Add gradually ability, tactfulness, and responsibility. Stir in positive attitude and judgment thoroughly. Beat patience until smooth. Blend all ingredients well. Sprinkle liberally with cheerfulness and bake in oven of determination. When absorbed thoroughly, cool and spread with kindness and common sense. Enjoy

Famous Bakers: The Tater Leaders from Burnet County!!!!

**“Taters Take the Lead” Handout #3**

***Rate Yourself as a Leader. . .***

**Instructions:** Use the following checklist to rate yourself as a leader.

**Traits of an Effective Leader:**

- I work well with youth and adults.
- I help develop leadership qualities in others.
- I communicate well with club members and leaders.
- I am a good listener.
- I show appreciation and give recognition as earned.
- I work to instill confidence and pride in the group.
- I show genuine interest and involvement in the club’s activities.
- I place group interests above self-interests.
- I encourage other members to participate and work toward group goals.
- I accept responsibilities and follow through to complete tasks.
- I make decisions and stand by them.
- I am flexible when change will benefit the group.
- I manage time, energy, and resources well.
- I involve everyone when delegating responsibilities, considering individual abilities, and interests

***SPECIAL NOTE: Look again at those traits you didn’t check. Those are potential areas for personal growth as a leader.***

## “Taters Take the Lead” Handout #4

### My Personal Thoughts on Leadership

*Some think leaders are born. Others believe leaders are made—by their experiences, the skills they acquire, the successes they achieve. **EVERYONE** has leadership potential.*

- 1) My definition of leadership is
- 2) I think the three most important leadership skills are:
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
- 3) Three leaders I really admire are:

Who	Leadership trait(s) they possess
a)	
b)	
c)	
- 4) Name two club members you would choose to organize a project to help your local 4-H club.
  - a)
  - b)
- 5) Name two club members you could ask to introduce a skit at a community fun night.
  - a)
  - b)
- 6) Name two club members you would ask to organize a Children’s Celebration in your community.
  - a)
  - b)

**SPECIAL NOTE: Are the names the same?**

Probably not. Club members have varied talents and skills but may be overlooked as potential leaders. Keep in mind that everyone has something unique to contribute. Effective leaders discover abilities in themselves and also in others.