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Appendix 3: Hats Off to This Alum!

Part 1

Directions:

Read the article “Hat Off to This Alum!” in the spring/summer 2025 issue of *FFA New Horizons* and answer the questions below.

1.

What inspired Nate’s interest in cowboy hats, and how did this interest eventually shape his career?
2.

How are cowboy hats viewed in Nate’s hometown of Manor, Texas?
3.

Name two places Nate would wear his cowboy hat:

a.

b.
4.

What responsibility did Jackson have when he first started working at Double R Hat House, and what skill did he learn there?

Responsibility:	
Skill:	

5.

Why was Nate so excited about the full-time position with Double R Hat House?
6.

Explain what Nate means when he says, “the way a hat is shaped can tell you where a person’s from.”
7.

What skill helped Nate stand out in the classroom during his time as a student at Texas A&M?
8.

What two roles did Nate take on in Texas A&M University’s Minorities in Agriculture and Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) chapter?
9.

What inspired Nate to start his podcast, *Beneath the Hat*, and what does he aim to accomplish through it?
10.

According to Nate, why is it important for people from different backgrounds to share their stories, especially in agriculture?

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Part 2

Directions:

Watch both videos linked below to learn more about the history of the cowboy hat and complete the questions for each video.

Video 1: *History of the Cowboy Hat* (<https://youtu.be/HNqAzyBfXe0?si=S03VHs-XOZdHcYZW>)

What is the most defining staple of a cowboy's persona?	Why was a cowboy hat more than a fashion accessory to cattlemen?	Who designed the "boss of the plains" hat in 1865?
Name two animals that are commonly used to make cowboy hats.		Describe one of the shaping modifications that cowboys did to their hats, including what they did and why.

Video 2: *A Crash Course on the History of the Cowboy Hat* — CBS Texas
(https://youtu.be/-KiQzltv_kk?si=m4lLq4eulIVN8Nkm)

Why are cowboy hats so popular right now?	How far back do historians believe the cowboy hat has been used?	Name two things a cowboy hat has been used for.
Who has been mostly responsible in the surge of cowboy hat interest and why?		Name one example of cowboy hat etiquette.

1. How do you think the design and features of the cowboy hat make it practical for a cowboy's daily work and environment today?
2. Name two ways the cowboy hat became a symbol of the identity and culture of the American West and cowboy heritage.
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Part 3

Directions:

Using the space below, you will explore different hat shapes and styles and then design your own custom cowboy hat. You must be able to explain why you chose specific characteristics in your custom design. Use the Double R Hat House hat-shaping guide (<https://doublerhathouse.com/pages/hat-shapes>) to help select specific shapes, including the crown and brim of the hat.

Based on the shapes, creases, and brim and crown styles found on the Double R Hat House website, determine which type of characteristics on a cowboy hat would be best for each individual described below.

1. The Rancher: a rancher managing livestock on a sprawling Texas ranch a. Crown needs a classic shape with three evenly spaced creases, giving it a professional yet practical appearance. b. Brim provides excellent sun protection without obstructing vision during tasks like herding or mending fences.	2. The Rodeo Competitor: a competitive bull rider participating in events across the Southwest a. Crown needs a high front with a deep crease running backward, giving the hat a stylish and rugged appearance. b. Brim has a pronounced roll on the sides to reduce wind resistance while riding and provide visibility during stunts.
Which crown shape would you recommend? Which brim shape would you recommend?	Which crown shape would you recommend? Which brim shape would you recommend?

Now design your own cowboy hat. This can be based on real necessities or what you feel is cool or fashionable.

Draw your hat:

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Which crown shape did you choose? Why?

Which brim shape did you choose? Why?

Did you design your hat more for function or fashion? Explain.

Now that you have seen examples of many shapes, how do the specific shapes and features of cowboy hats help meet practical needs of a cowboy in different environments and jobs? Give an example using a shape from the website.