



N E W S L E T T E R

April 1930

Alabama Association Future Farmers of America

Montgomery, Alabama

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To Future Farmers of Alabama:

In this edition of the News Letter, it has been deemed advisable to give some happenings of a few chapters of Future Farmers of America in various parts of the State. It is to be hoped that each chapter will read this information and compare it with what your own chapter has been doing. If you find in these items suggestions which can be included in your program for the remainder of the year or which can be used in your annual program next fall, I hope you will make the greatest possible use of them.

The plan for our annual meeting is going forward satisfactorily. We have a committee working on the local arrangements for the meeting. This, of course, includes sleeping and eating facilities while attending the meeting, as well as the meeting place and the program. Some of the chapters are planning a tour to points of interest for two or three days prior to the annual meeting and will close the tour at the time and place of the meeting.

Let me call to your attention again at this time the importance of submitting credentials on any person whom you desire to nominate for the State Farmer degree. According to action of the Executive Committee, which met on January 18, all of this information must be in my hands not later than June 1. It will be necessary that I have it by that time in order that I may have sufficient time to review it and make my recommendations to the Executive Committee. You will find in the Constitution, Article IV, Section D, the qualifications for members who make application for this degree. Let me urge that you study this carefully at the earliest possible date in case there are members of the local chapter who are planning to make application for the State Farmer degree.

It has been called to my attention that there is a splendid book entitled "Future Farmers in Action", written by Getman and published by John Wiley and Sons of New York. I have not read this book and therefore cannot vouch for the worthwhileness of it. I do not know the price. I hope, however, that some few chapters will purchase it, have the members read it, and report on it at our annual meeting as a suitable book to be owned by the various local chapters in the State.

Mr. J. R. Roberson, Rogersville, Alabama; Mr. W. M. Reader, Lexington; Mr. W. P. Whitlock, Haleyville; and Mr. G. T. Sargent, Auburn, have been appointed as a committee on revision of the constitution. They will greatly appreciate suggestions relative to changes which you think should be made in the constitution. This committee will take these suggestions and work them into such revisions as seem desirable in making recommendations to the Executive Committee early in July. The Executive Committee in turn will make recommendations to the House of Delegates at our annual meeting. I believe this is a very good plan for revising the Constitution. Read the constitution over and if you have suggestions to make about any section or article, write Mr. G. T. Sargent, Auburn, Ala.

Lloyd Ezell, Ozark, Alabama, is the State Reporter. It is his duty and responsibility as such to communicate with the various chapters and collect material for news letters, for the Alabama School Journal, for state papers, etc. It is also his responsibility to report meetings of the Executive Committee as well as the annual meetings. This is to urge all reporters in local chapters to cooperate with Lloyd in sending him such information as he may request from time to time. You understand that it is impossible to publish a news letter and get proper publicity in our state publications unless the reporters of the local chapters cooperate with the state reporter in giving him prompt replies to requests. I am sure you will be glad to do this. The state reporter received only 11 replies to the last communication sent out to the 51 chapters. This is a rather low percentage.

There is to be held a public speaking contest at the national meeting in November. Some of the Future Farmers of Alabama have written making inquiry about Alabama's entering this national speaking contest. I am rather doubtful as to the advisability of entering this year. I much prefer waiting until our annual meeting and getting thoroughly organized before we attempt to enter any national contest. I believe if we attempt too many things while we are so young that we may handicap the doing of the essential things well. This will make a good item for discussion at our annual meeting.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee we became very enthusiastic over the possibilities of each chapter learning the national F. F. A. song. We told you in the first news letter where copies of this song might be obtained. As State Adviser, I certainly hope you have bought at least one copy of the song and that each member of your local club has learned the tune and the words. We expect to sing this song morning, noon and night at our annual meeting. We will have a pianist and musical director present at the meeting for the purpose of leading us in the singing of this national song. I know of nothing that will add so much to the enthusiasm of our meeting as for all of us to sing this song. If you have not already purchased a copy for your chapter, let me urge that you do so immediately and spend considerable time between now and the closing of school in singing it as a group. If it is possible to get together a quartet, do so, for I am sure we will have an opportunity at our annual meeting to sing this song over radio and let the people of Alabama know that we have a real, wide-awake, enthusiastic, thoroughgoing, peppy bunch of Future Farmers in Alabama.

It has indeed been a pleasure to work with the local chapters this year in the capacity of State Adviser. It has meant much work but I have derived much pleasure from it. I am happy to report to you that at present in addition to the 51 chapters already chartered, we have 14 applications in the hands of the clerical secretary. This will make a total of 65 chapters which will be chartered this year with an approximate membership of 1200. I think this is just fine. I do not want to be too enthusiastic or unreasonable in my expectations for next year, but I am counting on the chartered chapters reaching 100 with a membership of 2000. As State Adviser, I am setting this as a goal. Let's start now to reach it.

----- State Adviser.

## ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL CHAPTERS

### Ramer

The F. F. A. club at Ramer consists of a live group of farm boys who believe in doing things. They have just completed an outstanding piece of work for the home economics department. The home economics kitchen was divided into five units by using iron pipe as guard rails between the units. After doing this job the boys took the old model tables in the kitchen and converted five of them into modern kitchen cabinets. This means a saving to the school of about \$150.00.

The club sponsored a town clean-up day which was very successful. After cleaning the town up, they made agreements with the citizens that the first week of every month will be designated as town clean-up day.

Other plans for the year include: an annual barbecue supper for their parents and friends, putting up a bulletin board in the town for public use, fertilizing and cultivating trees and shrubs on school grounds, and summer camping trip.

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### McKonzie

The McKonzie Chapter of Future Farmers of Alabama held its first annual father and son banquet on Saturday night, February 1. Each boy and his father attended this banquet. A home raised menu, consisting of soup, baked capon and dressing, candied sweet potatoes, corn muffins, baked lima beans, pickles, peaches and cake, was served. The program consisted of talks by the boys on the nature of the F. F. A. and plans for the year. County Agent J. D. Sanford, and Professor Geo. S. Williams of Frisco City gave talks on cooperation of the parents in giving the boys better projects.

The major aim of the local chapter for the year is that of home and school improvement. Already the school campus has been graded and the boys have sodded the lawn in bermuda grass. Noted improvements are also being made around many of the homes.

Plans are being made to send a local delegation to the state meeting at Auburn this summer, and also for a local summer camp.

The boys are working hard to complete an average of three projects each during the present year.

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## Reform and Palmetto

There are 27 boys actively enrolled in the Reform F. F. A. chapter. These boys meet twice a month and carry out an interesting program. There are twelve active members in the Palmetto chapter. (The same teacher teaches both groups of boys.)

The following activities are some of the accomplishments of the Reform chapter: (1) Cooperative buying of fertilizer, (2) Every boy using the "Auburn Maximum" fertilizer in his crop project, (3) Practically all members have placed a cooperative order for D.P.L. No. 4-8 cotton seed, (4) Several members have placed a cooperative order for Whatley's seed corn, (5) Nearly every member attended the annual father-son banquet, (6) Every member has had an active part in setting out shade trees and shrubbery about the high school buildings, (7) One group of the boys aided the Three Arts Club of Reform in planting crepe myrtle plants by the roadside leading into town, (8) The boys cooperated with the town of Reform in "clean-up day".

The members of the Reform chapter and the Palmetto chapter have planned an educational tour to be made together. They have planned to go to the University of Alabama, the State Capitol, Tuskegee, Auburn, Birmingham, and Muscle Shoals. This trip will be made the week just before the Auburn summer school for vocational teachers. They have also planned to visit some of the projects of the boys in the two chapters, and some outstanding farms.

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## Fairview

The work of the Future Farmer club of Fairview, which was organized in January, has been very interesting.

This club has taken two very good problems for projects this year: (1) The production of long staple cotton, and (2) School ground improvement. As a result of the club's work, there have been purchased 150 bushels of long staple cotton seed. There has also been purchased \$50.00 worth of shrubbery for the campus improvement. Members of this club have set 200 cuttings to be used in continuing the improvement of school grounds next year.

On Tuesday evening, March 11, the Home Economics and Future Farmer clubs gave a banquet to which they invited 50 farmers and their wives and 35 business men of Cullman.

Arrangements have been made with the county agent to use the members of the F. F. A. club as assistants in the 4H club camp this summer. A tour has been planned for the summer on which they expect to visit the experiment station of Sand Mountain, Muscle Shoals, and points of interest in Tennessee.

## VERNON

The F. F. A. club of the Lamar County High School has just completed one of its main projects for the year. This project began with the boys hauling 32 truck loads of sand and gravel. This was done at vacant periods during school. The vocational departments gave a play from which was raised a sufficient amount of money to purchase the cement for the building of a very much needed walk on the school grounds.

This walk connects the main building with both the junior high school building and the agriculture and home economics building. The topography of the soil here on the school grounds made it almost impossible to pass from one building to another during the winter months, hence the necessity for this walk.

With the F. F. A. club sponsoring this movement, the aid of every boy in the high school was enlisted, resulting in the completion of a cement walk 310 feet long, 5 feet wide, and 4-6 inches thick, in three days and a half working during school hours. No time from classes was lost by pupils, the work being done during vacant periods. This entire job cost approximately \$50.00, and was financed by the F. F. A. club. It would have cost at least \$200.00 if done by public workmen.

The club at present is doing some work on school ground beautification: laying out walks and a driveway, removing hedge to rear of buildings to be used as screens, and placing of shrubs for beautification.

An outing is planned in the near future for those who have assisted in the completion of the work listed above.

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## DANVILLE

In the latter part of November the two vocational classes met to organize an F. F. A. chapter. They decided to elect the officers from the senior class, because this is their last year in school and in the organization. They also decided to initiate from three to four members every Monday night so that the initiation would soon be over and some real work begun. We now have sixteen members. We were requested to initiate the officers of the Falkville F. F. A. and by doing this we met the Falkville boys and their instructor.

Our program for the summer is as follows:

1. To fix the entrance to school campus.
2. To install light at entrance of campus.
3. To award trophy to boy carrying out best project.
4. To give the boys' dads a banquet.
5. To have community fair.
6. To devote one day to visiting projects.
7. To give a five-day tour.
8. To go to State Fair at Birmingham.
9. To beautify campus.
10. To have sow, cow and hen show.

We set aside a day to fix entrance and by the cooperation of the members we did and have kept it in good shape. We have also installed the light.

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OZARK

The F. F. A. chapter of the Dale County High School, Ozark, has 29 Green Hand members and one Future Farmer member. The program of work of this chapter includes:

1. Father and son banquet.
2. Award loving cup to the boy having the outstanding project.
3. Continue campus beautification.
4. Root shrubs for home beautification.
5. Visit State Fair at Montgomery.
6. Organize a thrift bank.
7. Have another vacation tour.
8. Raise membership from 35 to 50.
9. Have a "Cow, Sow, Hen" show on the square at Ozark and award \$500.00 in prizes -- \$250.00 in cash and \$250.00 worth of improved pure bred live stock.

The objectives under 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 9 have already been accomplished, or definite work is being done looking to that end.

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URIAH

There are 33 Green Hand members in the Uriah chapter. The program of work includes:

1. Father and son banquet.
2. Joint party with home economics girls.
3. Summer camp.
4. Promote Cooke 3076 cotton in the community. One hundred per cent club boys pledged to plant.
5. Send two delegates to the state convention.
6. Improve sanitary conditions of homes. Boys now making screens.
7. School ground beautification.
8. Light agricultural building.
9. Improve poultry in the community.
10. Erect flag pole and raise flag daily.

The items under 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 have already been accomplished or definite work is being done looking to that end.

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LIBERTY

The program of work of the Liberty chapter includes:

1. Make attendance 100 per cent.
2. Create interest among vocational boys.
3. Maintain school grounds.
4. Creditable projects.
5. One hundred per cent using Auburn method of fertilizing.
6. Each member with a saving account.

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CORNER

There are 25 Green Hand members in the Corner chapter. The program of work follows:

1. Get 25 farmers to field select corn.
2. Initiate all worthy vocational agricultural students.
3. Hold regular meetings.
4. Bring fathers to evening classes.
5. Install rural telephone system.
6. Visit and assist in initiation work in Alliance school.
7. Have father and son debate.
8. Have father and son banquet.
9. Summer tour.

The items under 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 have already been accomplished.

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JACKSON

There are seven Green Hand members and twelve Future Farmer members in the Jackson chapter. The program of work is as follows:

1. Business meeting twice a month.
2. Program at each meeting.
3. Cooperative selling.
4. Social activities monthly.
5. Educational tour.
6. Father and son banquet.
7. Cooperative buying (feeds).

One hundred per cent of the vocational boys are members of this chapter.

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