

The Alabama

FFA NEWS

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TODAY'S CHALLENGE TOMORROW'S FUTURE

Bill Cofield, State FFA President

The "FFA... Building Our American Communities" program is off to a great start! During the last month or so each of the state officers has officially "kicked off" the FFA's newest community action project in his respective district.

Here, especially for those of you who could not attend these meetings, is, in essence, what they had to say:

"The first two words of the FFA Creed are 'I Believe.' Forty-two years ago, the first Future Farmers believed that America's future could be based on the strength of her rural areas. They had faith that, through action, rural America would advance.

"Today, America faces a gigantic task--that of providing her surging population with food and living space. We, the Future Farmers of today, believe that the future of rural America is in our hands. All of these words come easy, but only action will bring about progress. Progress, however, can only be obtained through purpose and useful objectives.

"With this in mind, the program, 'FFA...Building Our American Communities' relates to the National FFA theme for 1971--'FFA...involved in America's Future'. This means not only the National FFA involved in America's future, but also each chapter and every individual member being involved.

"The purpose of Building Our American Communities is to get young people constructively

involved in helping to make their communities more attractive places in which to live and work.

"The FFA...Building Our American Communities program was developed by the National Organization of the Future Farmers of America in cooperation with the Farmers Home Administration.

"I believe that the BOAC program can do more to strengthen rural America and the FFA's standing than any other program that the FFA is presently involved in or has ever been involved in.

"Many of you are asking yourselves, 'Why was FFA chosen for this task?' FFA members have participated in community improvement activities since the foundation of the organization in 1928. Leadership and cooperation are the backbone of FFA and are keys to making rural communities better places in which to live and work.

"Alabama's Congressmen and Senators--and Congressmen all across the United States--have already endorsed this program and given their enthusiastic

support.

"James V. Smith, administrator of the Farmers Home Administration; Clifford M. Hardin, Secretary of Agriculture; and the President of the United States, Richard Nixon, have endorsed this program.

"The Alabama FFA Association's Executive Committee also endorses the program with this statement: 'The full potential of all rural development in Alabama can never be realized until every FFA member participates in this program.'

"Fellow FFA members and advisors, the materials and challenge are set before us. The question is: Will we accept the challenge of this program? I know we surely shall."

Many chapters have already started on their individual BOAC programs. We have already started seeing some of the results. Has your chapter decided what it can do to make your community a better place in which to live and work?

If not, YOU should get started on it right away. After all, it is your community and you will be the community leaders of tomorrow! BUT, why not start being leaders--and builders--in your community TODAY.

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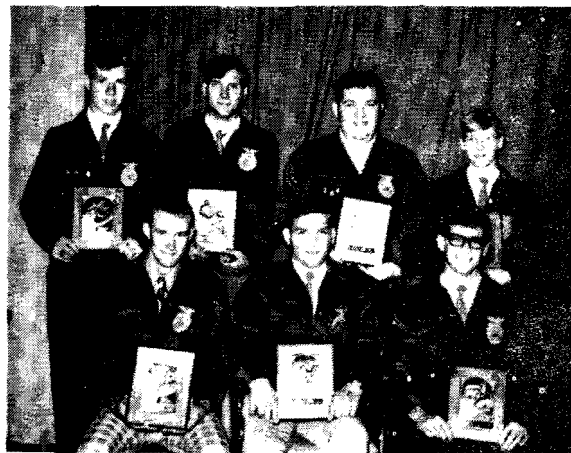
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**A M E R I C A N
F A R M E R S**---Twenty-six Alabama FFA members were awarded the coveted American Farmer Degree during ceremonies at the 43rd annual National FFA Convention on October 15.

Those members present to receive the honor are shown above. (L-R) Front row: Lynn Brothers, Douglas FFA; James C. Copeland, Jr., Fairhope FFA; Miles B. Covin, Evergreen FFA; Bobby Eaton, Carrollton FFA;

Second row: Albert Eiland, Wadley FFA; Andrew H. Haynie, Eclectic FFA; Ted John Hoffren, Fairhope FFA; Ronnie W. Jackson, Ashford FFA; Albert Mack Lipscomb, Foley FFA; Third row: Danny Mathis, Wicksburg FFA; Ronnie Earl Outlaw, Hartford FFA; Tommy Scott, Sparkman FFA; Charles Rodney Styron, Foley FFA; and Wesley Thompson, Dale County (Midland City) FFA.



Horticulture; Royce Jones, Section FFA, 2nd place in Farm & Home Electrification; and Jimmy Brannon, Hartford FFA, 4th place in Placement in Agricultural Production.

**N A T I O N A L
A G R I C U L T U R A L
P R O F I C I E N C Y
A W A R D S**---(L-R) Front row: Jeff McKenzie, Section FFA, 1st place in Natural Resource Development; Steve Adams, Crossville FFA, 1st place in Poultry Farming; Gerald Salter, Evergreen FFA, 1st place in Livestock Farming; Back Row: Elton Romine, Rogersville FFA, 4th place in Agricultural Mechanics; Mike Mitchell, Gardendale FFA, 2nd

DUE DATES

JANUARY 1
Future Farmer of the Year

JANUARY 15
Chapter Public Speaking
Contests should be
held by this date.

FEBRUARY 1
String Band Contest entries
should be submitted to
county chairmen by this
date.

FEBRUARY 15
State Farmer Degree applica-
tions should be sent to
district supervisor by
this date.



LIVESTOCK JUDGES---Alabama's livestock judging team from Hartford won 12th place in the National FFA Livestock Judging Contest in Kansas City. Team members include: Stacey Hatcher, Mike Cotton, and Eddie Dillard. Mr. Paul Dean, FFA advisor at Hartford, coaches the team.

SPOTLIGHTING

STEVE ADAMS

Efficiency and expansion are keys to success for Steve Adams, a young poultryman from Albertville, Alabama. Steve's outstanding program recently led to his selection as the Future Farmers of America National Agricultural Proficiency Award recipient in Poultry Farming.

Steve's interest in poultry actually began in 1960 when his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Adams decided to build two poultry houses suitable for producing 80,000 broilers a year. At that time young Steve and his older brother made an agreement with their father to share half the profits equally for the work they did on the farm.

A few years later Steve enrolled in vocational agriculture at Crossville High School. Under vocational agriculture instructor, James R. Hamilton, Steve began learning about the importance of volume and efficiency and became "really interested in farming".

With his parents consent, Steve decided to expand the broiler operation by building two additional 250 x 40 foot houses so that they could accommodate a total of 250,000 birds. The additional buildings were completed in 1966 and by efficient operation Steve was able to pay off loans quickly on the structures.

In 1968 Steve expanded his operation further with the purchases of an adjoining 61 acres of land. Using borrowed capital he purchased machinery and expanded his farming operation with the addition of livestock. The purchase of a bulldozer enabled Steve to clear several acres on the newly-purchased land making it more valuable for livestock and crops. He also uses the bulldozer to do custom clearing and grading for neighbors. Profits from this operation are helping him buy a truck and trailer to haul the equipment.

Careful attention to detail has enabled Steve to develop one of the top flocks on contract. He regularly averages one pound of gain on two pounds of feed and has been ranked as one of the top ten growers 12 times in his area. Steve averages 97.8 percent livability in his flocks. He has full responsibility for managing the flock, and has applied many innovative practices in the operation. Steve was one of the first in the state to insulate his houses.

An active FFA member Steve has been FFA class secretary and was vice president of the Crossville FFA

Chapter. He has been on the Livestock and Land Judging Teams and has participated in parliamentary procedure demonstrations and public speaking contests.

GERALD SALTER

A trip to a local barrow show inspired Gerald Salter of Evergreen, Alabama, to establish himself in the hog business. Since that first barrow show Gerald has built a farrowing and feeding operation that recently earned the Future Farmers of America National Agricultural Proficiency Award in Livestock Farming.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Salter, Gerald is a member of the Evergreen FFA Chapter, where his advisor is Mr. D. C. Fleming. Since he entered Mr. Fleming's vocational agriculture class as a freshman, Gerald's hog project has grown from three sows, one boar and no feeder pigs to a high of 15 sows, two boars, and 875 head of feeder pigs.

Although Gerald has based his operation on five acres of land given him by his father, he has maintained complete management responsibility and has made all decisions relating to his feeder operation. In addition to the five acres at home Gerald also leases 100 acres of land where he also maintains part of his feeder operation.

Since he began the operation, Gerald has tried to make it more efficient. He built a lagoon for manure and waste disposal, and has constructed a five unit farrowing facility. In addition, he has made his job easier by installing augers to handle feed.

Gerald's sow herd has averaged 9.5 pigs per litter and he has been able to market hogs in less than five months. His records also show that he has been able to market 100 pounds of hog on 301 pounds of feed and 75 percent of the hogs he markets are graded U.S. No. 1.

An active member of the Evergreen FFA Chapter, Gerald has held the offices of chapter treasurer and secretary. He has participated on Dairy, Livestock and Land Judging Teams and has exhibited his hogs in Chapter and District FFA Barrow Shows. Gerald is a member of the Alabama Duroc Breeders Association as well as the Alabama Hampshire Breeders Association. In 1969 he showed the Grand Champion Barrow carcass at the Greater Gulf State Fair and Hog Show.

At the present time, Gerald is enrolled in Junior College. After completing two years in Junior College he hopes to attend Auburn University and study Vocational Agriculture Education.

JEFF MCKENZIE

An outstanding conservation program on the home farm has enabled Jeff McKenzie of Section, Alabama, to earn the Future Farmers of America National Agricultural Proficiency Award in Natural Resources Development. Jeff is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. McKenzie and was a student of vocational agriculture teacher, Cecil Gant at Section High School.

Jeff, who plans to make farming a full-time occupation firmly believes that "a person worth his salt will develop the natural resources rather than let them deteriorate." In carrying out this belief, he has tried constantly to improve and further develop the natural resources on the 240-acre farm which he now operates in partnership with his father.

With only 240 acres, it has been necessary for Jeff to make every acre on the farm productive. This has been done by intensifying production on land suitable for crops and by developing wooded and rolling land into forestry cash crops. At the present time Jeff has 150 acres in crops, 50 in pasture and 40 acres of woodland. He feels that the woodlands are important not only for the cash crop of pulpwood they provide, but also for the beneficial wildlife that thrives in them.

Working closely with the Soil Conservation Service, Jeff is continually reviewing the land use plan on the farm. Following recommendations from the Soil Conservation Service, he has built two ponds totaling 3 acres primarily for watering livestock but also used for recreational purposes.

In his conservation work on the farm, Jeff's ultimate goal has been to develop the natural resources and improve productivity. It has paid off in yields of 3½ bales of cotton per acre and up to 152 bushels of corn per acre.

----- CHAPTER NOTES -----

The Mt. Hope FFA Chapter held its first meeting of the new school year on October 13. During the business session the chapter sweetheart for 1970 was elected. This honor goes to Kay Jackson, a senior, who is a member of the Future Homemakers of America, Beta Club, and Who's Who. She has also served as a cheerleader.

Newly elected officers are Steve Lansford, president; Tommy Roberson, vice-president; Tommy Vinson, secretary; Donnie Vinson, treasurer; Joe Britnell, reporter; and Marvin Steele, sentinel.

This year our chapter has 74 members--the largest membership yet on record. Our goal is to better our agricultural standards and to develop better citizens in this changing world.

The big news this month is that we won third place in the State Fair (Birmingham) with our exhibit. The prize was \$200 which will go into the treasury to be used for a worthwhile project.

Our apologies to the Mt. Hope FFA Chapter for the error in last month's list of fair exhibit winners. Mt. Hope won third place for their exhibit at the State Fair in Birmingham instead of "New Hope" as we reported.--JBM

Officers of the Douglas FFA were elected at the first meeting of the year on September 30. They are Verlon Blackwood, president; Larry Frasier, vice-president; Steve Morrow, secretary; Larry Johnson, treasurer; Dale Brothers, reporter; and Edward Jimmerson, sentinel.

The Douglas FFA is composed of 28 Greenhands, 36 Chapter Farmers, four State Farmers and one American Farmer for a total of 69 members.

Officers and senior members of the Florala FFA Chapter recently initiated the "greenhands." They each selected a greenhand to initiate and wrote him a note telling him what to wear on the day of the initiation.

There were some mighty cute boys all dressed up on that day. Some of them were wearing mini skirts, some wore diapers, and some came in corn sacks. Some were wearing high heeled shoes or cowboy boots with stockings.

Each initiate had his hands painted green and was formally declared a member of the Florala FFA.

Three Boykin FFA members won top honors in the South Central Fair and Show in Selma. Reserve Champion went to Curtis Nicholson who entered a Hampshire Boar. Nicholson also won first place in his division. A. C. Mooney, who entered a Yorkshire Gilt, won first place of his division and Roman Gene Pettway, who entered a Hampshire Gilt, placed third in his division.

A registered Black Angus heifer was presented to Bruce Thomas, a member of the Greensboro FFA Chapter, by Miss Melville Sledge of Greensboro in memory of her brother, Levin Sledge, Jr., who was a former president of the chapter and also a holder of the State Farmer Degree.

The heifer was presented to Bruce to begin a calf chain to be known as the "Levin Sledge, Jr., Calf Chain." The first registered heifer from this one, whose registered name is "Erica of Prairie-Eden, III", will be given to another FFA member who wishes to begin a cattle project, and thus the chain will continue.

The Luverne FFA Chapter has launched an unusual fund-raising plan--a community birthdate calendar. Ronnie Jeffcoat, senior member of the FFA, has been named chairman of the drive. His committee members include Ronnie Holland, John Searight, Jim Capps, Donnie Butler, Martin West, David Crenshaw, Ray Hilburn, and Howard May. All profits will be used to sponsor the various activities of the FFA throughout the coming year. The money is raised through the sale of birthday, anniversary, in-memoriam, in-service, and meeting date listings, sale of the three-color lithographed calendars: and sale of advertising space on the calendars.

The calendar will contain a large picture of the Luverne FFA Chapter, their officers, and sweetheart, with Luverne High School in the background.

Officers of the Elkmont FFA Chapter for the year 1970-71 are Mike Jones, president; Ricky Woodfin, vice-president; Steve Pettus, secretary; Mike Brock, treasurer; John Morris, reporter; and Freddie Moss, sentinel.

The Falkville FFA Chapter has chosen officers for this school year. They include Ray Gandy, president; Allan Gandy, vice-president; David Jeffreys, secretary; Paul Henderson, treasurer; Mike Cagle, reporter; and David Holmes, sentinel.

