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FAULKNER NAMED DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

T.L. Faulkner, State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture and State FFA Advisor for the last 13 years, was recently named Director of Vocational Education for Alabama by Dr. Ernest Stone, State Superintendent of Education. Mr. Faulkner succeeds J.F. Ingram who retired in June.

In his new assignment, Mr. Faulkner will head the Vocational Division of the State Department of Education. This division consists of many "services" including two with which we are the most familiar—Vocational Home Economics and Vocational Agriculture. There are more than 2,500 employees on the state and local levels involved in Vocational Education.

In making the announcement, Dr. Stone paid tribute to Mr. Faulkner as one of the State's leaders in vocational education and predicted that under his leadership Alabama would continue to hold its place among the top states in this field. "His college education and his experiences since graduation have given him knowledge of every phase of the total vocational education program," Dr. Stone added.

In accepting the promotion, Mr. Faulkner remarked: "I appreciate the confidence placed in me and it will be my goal to serve the people of Alabama by promoting a vocational education program that will provide education and training for persons of all ages in all communities of this state."

A native of Lamar County, Alabama, Mr. Faulkner attended high school at Vernon; attending the University of Alabama, where he studied electrical engineering for two years; studied methods of teaching and industrial arts at New Mexico State Teachers College for a year; received his B.S. degree in vocational education at Mississippi State University; and received a M.S. degree from Auburn University, majoring in vocational education.

His experience in vocational teaching and supervision includes three years of teaching industrial arts in Silver City, New Mexico; one year as superintendent of Bond Vocational High School in Louisville, Mississippi; five years of teaching vocational agriculture in Fayette, Alabama; 16 years as



T. L. FAULKNER

assistant state supervisor; and 13 years as state supervisor of vocational agriculture.

Until his successor is named, Mr. Faulkner will continue to supervise the vocational agriculture service while assuming the duties of his new position as director of vocational education.

Involved in
America's
Future

The Alabama FFA NEWS



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NEW COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

Making rural communities better places in which to live and work is the objective of a new community action program being started by the National FFA. Theme of the new program is "Building Our American Communities."

Harry Birdwell, National FFA President, officially "kicked off" the program recently at a Capitol Hill breakfast for State FFA Presidents, their Congressmen and Senators. "This is an opportunity for young people to show their concern for America by getting actively involved in their community," Birdwell told the group of 80 State Officers and 40 Congressmen.

"We want to make it clear," said Birdwell, "that students of vocational agriculture and members of the FFA are training for occupations in both farming and agribusiness. Because of our expanded interests and the desire of our members to be associated with agriculture, we feel it is essential to build strong rural communities where they can live and work in agriculturally related jobs. This will be possible only if jobs are available and rural communities are desirable places in which to live and work," he said.

Alabama was represented at the breakfast—and the week-long leadership and citizenship conference

that followed—by President Bill Cofield. During the week Bill met with Congressman Bill Nichols and Senators Jim Sparkman and Jim Allen to discuss the program in detail.

Upon returning from the conference Bill was enthusiastic about the new national community action program. "We realize this project is quite an undertaking," he said, "however, we anticipate that many other organizations will become actively involved in community projects as a result of FFA efforts to help coordinate rural development."

The Building Our American Communities program is a joint effort of the FFA, the U.S. Office of Education, and the Farmers Home Administration (FHA)—an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In addition to support from the FHA, several top government officials including President Nixon (see letter on page 3) have given their verbal support of this FFA community action program. Lilly Endowment, Inc., of Indianapolis, Indiana, is sponsoring the "Building Our American Communities" program through the National FFA Foundation, Inc. More than 5,000 awards will be available to FFA chapters that take an active role in improving their communities.



Program Highlights



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

9:00 a.m. Registration Opens
1:00 p.m. Kansas City Tours for Non-Delegates
1-5 p.m. Agricultural Career Show
7:15 p.m. Vespers Program

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

9:00 a.m. Special Program: "This is My Country"
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Agricultural Career Show
1:00 p.m. Kansas City Tours for Non-Delegates
2:00 p.m. Business Session
7:30 p.m. National FFA Public Speaking Contest
Recognition of Kansas City Advisory Council
Special Service Citations
Special Recognition of Individuals and Groups

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

9:00 a.m. Presentation of FFA Foundation Awards
Distinguished Service Awards
10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Agricultural Career Show
2:00 p.m. Honorary American Farmer Degree Ceremony
American Farmer Degree Ceremony
Star Agri-businessman of America Pageant
4:45 p.m. Reception for Foundation Sponsors
6:00 p.m. Buffet Dinner for Foundation Sponsors and Guests (Tickets to be purchased by 11:00 a.m.)
7:00 p.m. FFA Talent Revue
8:00 p.m. Introduce Foundation Sponsors
Special Program
Star Farmer of America Pageant

NAT'L CONVENTION PREVIEW

A delegation of more than 50 Alabama FFA members, including all the state officers, will travel to Kansas City in mid-October for the 43rd Annual National FFA Convention. For those of you who are preparing to go—or those who are still just “thinking about it”—we have included herewith a brief schedule of program highlights. But—this little schedule can't begin to relay the fun, excitement, and honor in store for the Alabama boys in blue going to the convention.

To begin with, our own Harold Grooms of Prattville, already Tri-State winner in Public Speaking, will take on his three opponents in the Southern Regional contest at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 13. Hopefully, he will emerge victorious and go on to win the National Public Speaking Contest on Wednesday night.

Also on Wednesday—in addition to the opening session with roll call, the seating of delegates, etc.—the National FFA Band will hold its concert. Alabama will be represented in the band by two A. G. Parrish (Selma) FFA members—Kenneth D. Nichols (french horn) and William Pate, Jr. (tenor sax)

Then on Thursday the dam really breaks loose. The presentation of National Chapter and Chapter Safety Awards will get Alabama's day off to a good start. We won't tell you “who” or “what they are getting” but we will say that there are no less than five Chapter awards and four Chapter Safety Awards just waiting to be picked up by representatives of the

hard-working Alabama chapters.

Next on Thursday's program is the presentation of Agriculture Proficiency Awards. Alabama should really clean up here, too. In case you haven't heard, Alabama took seven out of the 13 proficiency awards at the Southern Regional competition. (And we understand that it was “mighty close” on several of the ones we didn't win.) Each of these seven has an outstanding program that will be hard to beat.

As if all of this weren't enough thrills for one day, Thursday's program continues with the conferring of American Farmer Degrees - and 26 Alabama members will receive the coveted honor this year. (This is the most the Alabama FFA Association has ever received.)

And then, too, according to all indications, Alabama might have someone walking across the stage Thursday afternoon when they start passing out the Honorary American Farmer Degrees. (???)

To finish off a perfect day the National FFA Chorus will present its special program. Two of our Barbour County (Clio) FFA members - David Alto Jackonn and Jon Estus - will represent Alabama in the chorus.

Hopefully, Friday will bring more rewards for Alabama when the announcement of the Top Judging Teams is made. Our Livestock Judging team is from Hartford and includes Stacey Hatcher, Mike Cotton, Eddie Dillard, and Dock Pippin, as alternate. The Dairy Judging team is made up of Wayne Gibbs, Joey Griffin and Mastin Watson from Linden. These teams really know their business—and we know they will be going out there to win.

Well, this is only a sneak preview of a small part of the convention. There will be many, many other events to educate, enlighten and entertain those who attend. But—we wish you all, each and every one, could be there to share in the Alabama FFA Association's most glorious year.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

The Future Farmers of America can play an important role in helping this country meet the perplexing challenges it faces in the last third of the twentieth century. Among those challenges is the need to revitalize the vast rural areas of our nation -- improving the quality of life for those who live there now and for the millions of additional Americans who will be moving into rural areas in the next thirty years.

Programs like the “FFA...Building Our American Communities” program can make a significant contribution to that effort and I am pleased to give such activities my strong support.

A wise man once said that a crisis is just another word for an opportunity. No one realizes this better than the young people of our land. Through groups like the FFA, American youth is constantly turning the crises of our time into opportunities for service. The environmental crisis offers an especially dramatic illustration of this truth.

As you work to reform and restore and renew your own local communities -- making them more attractive places to live and work -- you are also working to reform and restore and renew the nation. For patriotism -- like charity -- begins at home. I commend you for the constructive energy you have displayed on so many occasions in the past and I urge you to keep up your excellent work.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard Nixon".

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

- 9:00 a.m. Announcement of Top Judging Teams
International Guests
Election of New National Officers
- 11:30 a.m. FFA Day at American Royal
- 7:00 p.m. Honor Retiring National FFA Officers
Installation of 1970-71 National FFA Officers
Special Entertainment

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

—Officers of the Attalla FFA Chapter took a tour of agricultural and scenic points of interest in Etowah, DeKalb and Cherokee counties on August 17. The event was part of the annual FFA officers' training school held at the Etowah High School Vo-Ag department each year for the benefit of incoming officers.

Stops on the tour included: Gilbreath's Hog Farm, Collinsville; Brent-Needle Farms, Collinsville; Weiss Dam Power House, Leesburg; the John Steed Farm, Centre; the J. W. Stepps Farm, Centre; and the John B. LaGarde Farm, Piedmont.

Officers attending were George Duncan, president; David Smith, secretary; Wallace Campbell, sentinel; and Eddie Craft, reporter. They were accompanied by advisors W.L. Webb and Lloyd Borden.

Highlighting the tour was a visit to the trophy rooms of big-game hunter John B. LaGarde where some two hundred species of game from all parts of the world are on display.

Other 1970-71 FFA officers at Attalla are: Steve Hill, vice-president and Larry Vickers, treasurer.

—A workshop was held at Gist Camping Park near Greenhill on August 3-4, for FFA officers of the five chapters in Lauderdale County.

Those FFA members participating in the workshop were: Phillip Truitt, Larry Killen, Gary Grigshy, Randy Watkins, and Phillip Hines -- from T.M. Rogers; Gary Irons, Grady Holcombe, Charles Adams, Greg Adams, Wendell Irons, and

Donnie White -- from Waterloo; Elton Romine, Ricky Hannah, and Marty Wilbanks -- from Lauderdale County (Rogersville); and Dallas McCarley and Steve Humphries -- from Central.

The workshop was held for improving FFA leadership, improving character, learning to accept responsibilities, and improving cooperation between students and schools.

Some very interesting sessions on the programs included an FFA quiz, establishing a program of work, conducting chapter meetings, parliamentary procedure, FFA contests and awards, and public relations.

—The Sand Rock FFA Chapter spent the week of August 3-9 in training for their duties of their respective offices for the coming year at Benson's Camp in Shelby County.

The program for the week included two group conferences each day, plus chapter advisor conferences with each officer concerning his duties. The highlight was the making of the program of work by the new officers.

Some unexpected excitement came when Jerry Kirby, chaplain; Glen Clanton, secretary; Gerald Lee, sentinel; and Roger Pearson, treasurer, went fishing and came back with two cottonmouth snakes which were each about three feet long. They had speared the snakes with a fork tied to a broom handle.

Other officers attending the camp were: Billy Lundsden, president; Nathanael Duncan,

reporter; Tommy McDaniel, vice-president; and Phil Sexton, parliamentarian.

—The annual meeting of Cullman County FFA chapter officers was held at Cullman High School on August 7.

The officers for the forth coming school year underwent training at this meeting to prepare them for their duties.

Three schools were represented at the meeting — Cullman, West Point, and Fairview.

DUE DATES

DECEMBER 15
CORN GROWING AWARD
APPLICATIONS
FORMS WILL BE SENT WITH OCTOBER MAILING. EVERY CHAPTER SHOULD PARTICIPATE.

NOW
MEMBERSHIP DUES
AND ROSTERS
ADDITIONAL ROSTERS WILL BE SENT IF NEEDED. CONTACT MR. REED.



THE BEAVER IS THE SYMBOL OF YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY ACTION.

WHAT IS YOUR CHAPTER DOING TO MAKE THE COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE AND WORK?