



The Alabama

FFA NEWS

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PEEBLES CHOSEN FOR NATIONAL OFFICE

Sammy Peebles, 1969-70 President of the Alabama FFA Association, was elected Vice-president of the Southern Region of the Future Farmers of America during the recent National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. He is 19 years old and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Peebles, Route 1, Brewton, Alabama.

Other National Officers elected for 1971-72 are: Tim J. Burke, 20, of New Hampton, Iowa, National President; Dennis C. Sargent, 20, of Bradford, Ohio, National Secretary; Kevin Ernest Hall, 19, of Keymar, Maryland, North Atlantic Region Vice-president; Philip H. Johnson, 20, of Mead, Nebraska, Central Region Vice-president; and Clifford Wayne Saylor, 19, of Glendale, Arizona, Pacific Region Vice-president.

The National Officers of the FFA serve one full year from the time of their election at the close of the annual convention to the close of the following convention. During the year they spend approximately three-fourths of their time traveling in the interests of the FFA. They receive no salary, but their travel expenses are paid by the FFA organization.

Sammy Peebles is a sophomore at Jefferson Davis Junior College in Brewton; however, he will take a year's leave of absence from college to fulfill his duties as Vice-president of the Southern Region.



NATIONAL FFA OFFICERS FOR 1971-72: (L-R) Kevin Hall, North Atlantic Region Vice-president; Cliff Saylor, Pacific Region Vice-president; Dennis Sargent, National Secretary; Philip Johnson, Central Region Vice-president; Tim Burke, National President; and Sammy Peebles, Southern Region Vice-president.

Sammy is a 1970 graduate of W. S. Neal High School and a member of the East Brewton FFA Chapter. He served as a local chapter officer for three years before being elected as president of the state association. He was secretary for his chapter in 1966-67; vice-president in 1967-68; and president in 1968-69. His FFA advisor is John Andress.

In 1970, Sammy was a summer intern for the White House Conference on Children and Youth. He also served as a Freshman Senator in the Student Government at his college.

Sammy served as a voting delegate and director of the Alabama Junior Cattleman's Association. He is also a member

of both the American Polled Hereford Association and the American Hereford Association.

His farming program includes 144 acres, 11 of which are in corn; five Polled Herefords, and ten hogs.

Other activities include serving as an assistant Sunday School teacher, lettering in varsity basketball for two years while in high school, the National Honor Society, class president, Beta Club vice-president, class salutatorian, sports editor on the Annual staff, manager of the football team, a member of the FFA judging team for four years, and second-place winner in the district FFA public speaking contest.

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COFIELD SCORES AGAIN !

Bill Cofield, of Woodland, Alabama, won first place in the FFA National Public Speaking Contest recently. He delivered his winning speech before an audience of over 10,000 FFA members and their guests in the Kansas City Municipal Auditorium on October 13, and was presented a \$300 cash award. Herewith is Bill's speech:

A MIRACLE IN OUR TIME

A miracle is something that does happen that is out of the ordinary, unusual, and often considered impossible. Let us start, here-and-now, to see if we can discover a new dimension in our thinking and in our lives—in short—a miracle in our time! I realize this is a difficult assignment for we live in an age of superlatives, of pressure, of rush, and excitement. National and world events are harshly thrust upon us by the all-seeing eye of television. New discoveries and products come at us from every direction. For those of us who were born in the automobile age, today's rocket age is overwhelming and overpowering. The thunder of the blast-off at Cape Kennedy crackles and roars in our ears. We are reduced to head-shaking wonder as we watch men orbit the moon and ponder: How is it all possible? But, if we look and listen we will hear and see the results of countless billions of blast-offs that are of far greater significance to mankind and his future.

The greatest blast-off in the world today is still the blast of a tiny seed—touched by the finger of God—putting forth a tiny green shoot that powers its way up, through, and out of the crusty soil. Some scientists estimate that on a comparative basis, more brute power is exerted by the first thin, fragile stem as it thrusts up through a heavy, dense soil than was used to get Apollo 11 off the launching pad.

In any case, so far as mankind is concerned, the blast-off of an awakening seed and its food potential is far more important to mankind than any rocket launch. Why? Because the one single question most often asked at NASA or any other place is: "When and what do we eat?"

I suggest to you that there is as much excitement in the fields and in the laboratories of Agriculture as there is anywhere else in the world. Consider these facts:

1. That plants and animals are now biting bugs.
2. That we now have weed-destroying chemicals that can tell the difference between plant cousins.
3. That we are near the point in being able to decide before breeding whether a cow will give birth to a bull or a heifer.

4. That we are using the sex life of insects to induce them to breed themselves out of existence.

Yes, indeed! A miracle in our time! Think of it—5% of the U. S. population produces enough food and fiber for the other 95% and still has enough left over to share with many of the less fortunate nations of the world. The U. S. today is the one and only nation to ever live in an "Economy of Abundance." This is being done at less cost to the consumer than ever before in recorded history of mankind.

The sheer abundance of food and fiber we have is a blessing enough, but we are even more fortunate than that. It takes fewer minutes of work today to buy television sets, boats, cars, swimming pools, and dish washers. This is the American secret and the strongest secret weapon we possess. While it is unknown and certainly not acknowledged or appreciated by the average American, "Foodpower U. S. A." is studied and envied by every other nation in the world today.

Need I suggest to you that the balance of power in the world today and certainly in the future will depend on who can and will feed the masses of people?

How is it that we are allowed to live in the "Age of Abundance" in the United States when most of the world exists in the "Age of Scarcity"?

I do not profess to know the whole answer. But, I do know this: This great country and its private enterprise was not built by people who felt sorry for themselves; by people who staged sit-ins, riots, and burned and wrecked college campuses and homes; or by gutless and traitorous draft dodgers and flag burners.

This country is what it is by faith—by faith in man's ability to profit from work; by pride in family, country, and flag—and will prove it by fighting for it if necessary. America did not just happen as a part of a backlash. It was built by people who took pride in building—not in wrecking. A portion of the creed accredited to Abraham Lincoln put it so well over a century ago:

"You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.

You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.

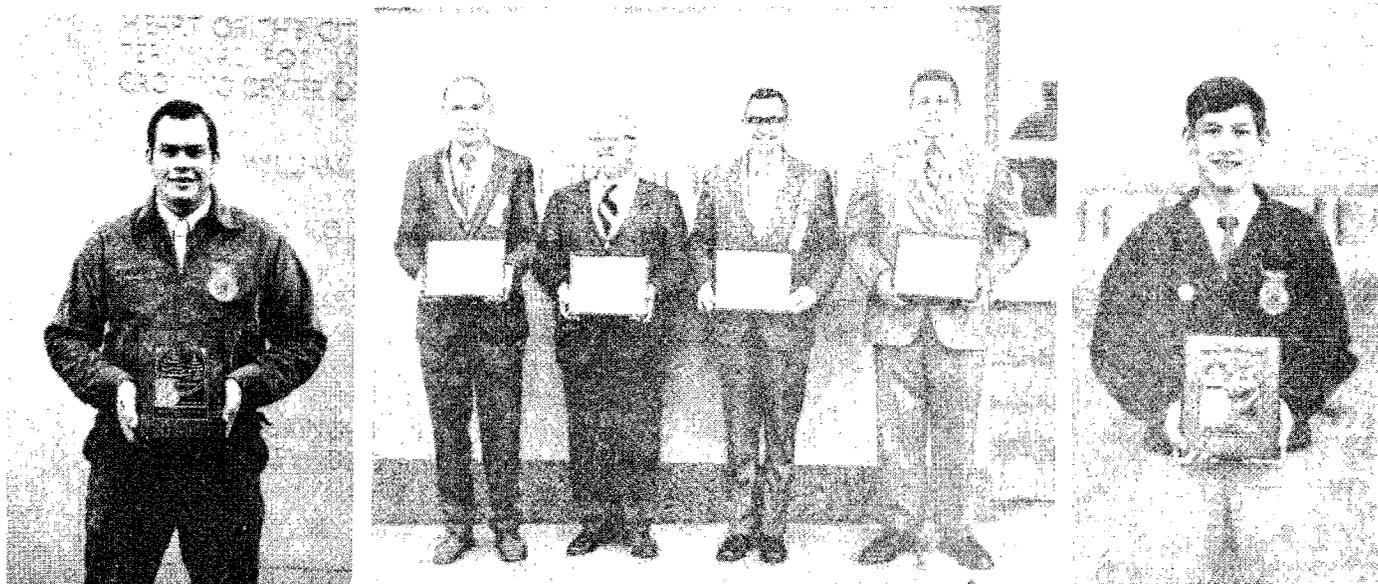
You cannot help men by doing for them what they could and should be doing for themselves."

Through scientific research and improved farming methods the blast-off of seeds and its food potential grow louder and stronger each year. With this as a secret weapon, the United States holds a corner on the bid for world power. Along with our free enterprise system and man's desire to better himself, there is no reason why America cannot continue to be the miracle of the world—A Miracle in Our Time.

NATIONAL WINNERS, TOO



LEFT: Alabama's Livestock Judging Team from J. B. Pennington FFA in Uriah took 33rd place in the national contest recently. Shown (L-R) are: R. T. Andrews, team coach; Ronnie Silcox; Mason Stabler; and Mike Saucer. Ronnie and Mason won a gold and a bronze emblem, respectively, for their individual scores. CENTER: John Crum Sessions, Evergreen FFA, national winner of the Placement in Processing Award. RIGHT: Enterprise FFA's Dairy Judging Team represented Alabama in national competition and won 38th place. Shown (L-R) are: H. B. Thompson, team coach; Benjy Moates; Joe Smith; and Mike Crocker, who received a silver emblem for his scoring.



LEFT: Van Smith, Billingsley FFA, won the second-place national award for Forest Management. CENTER: This year's American Farmers from Alabama are: (L-R) W. D. Strickland, Agribusiness Teacher at West Point High School; M. D. Thornton, Agribusiness Teacher at Montevallo High School; J. C. Horton, Agribusiness Teacher at Eva High School (formerly at Haleyville High School); and M. E. Ekstrom, Local Vocational Director, Walker County Board of Education (formerly Agribusiness Teacher at Curry High School). RIGHT: Robert Leland Gossett, Pell City FFA, second-place national winner of the Agricultural Electrification Award.

- - - CHAPTER NOTES - - -

Governor George C. Wallace was guest speaker of the Auburn Collegiate FFA Chapter on October 28. The meeting was held in Haley Center Auditorium and drew a capacity audience. Jeffery Clair, chapter president, welcomed the many visitors and Dr. Harry Philpott, president of Auburn University, also extended his welcome. Roger Dutton, chapter treasurer, introduced Governor Wallace.

The audience was captivated by Governor Wallace's speech, which was seasoned with much humor, and was very responsive during a question and answer session following the speech.

Governor and Mrs. Wallace remained in Haley Center for more than two hours after the meeting to talk with students and tour the new facility.

Moore Academy FFA Chapter emerged as first place winner in the exhibit competition at the Greater Gulf State Fair recently.

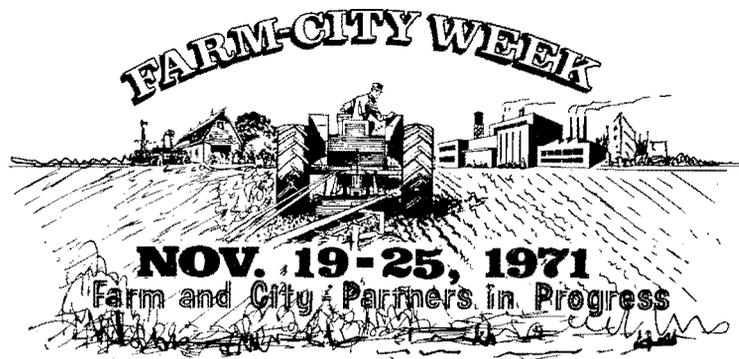
The theme of their exhibit was "FFA's Solution to Pollution" and showed scenes of "before" and "after" clean-up. The "before" side of the exhibit had eroded land, buildings that were falling down, dead animals, old poison cans, filth, and waste. The "after" side had trees growing, green grass, water flowing through a straight channel, healthy animals, and a well landscaped farm. A small FFA boy turned to show the changes.

**ONE FARMER
Feeds himself 
48 OTHERS!**

The Straughn FFA Chapter held their first meeting of the year on October 13. Mr. Billy Henderson, a former officer of both the Straughn FFA Chapter and the Alabama FFA Association was guest speaker at the meeting. Mr. Henderson discussed the advantages of being a member of the FFA. During his talk he displayed one of his FFA scrapbooks which included pictures taken while he was state FFA president.

The Chelsea FFA Chapter is off to a busy start this year. During the first six weeks of school they have initiated 22 Greenhands, toured the State Fair in Birmingham, and constructed a chapter greenhouse.

Officers for the year are: Chad Hughes, president; DeWayne Blackerby, vice-president; Randy Braden, secretary; Cecil Burney, treasurer; Shane Ayon, reporter; and Melvin Isbell, sentinel.



The Citronelle FFA Chapter won third place for their exhibit at the Greater Gulf State Fair. The title of the exhibit was "Farm Safety....A Flashing Thought in Every Farmer's Mind." The exhibit called attention to the five areas of accidents causing the largest number of deaths. These areas are: Machinery, firearms, burns, falls, and electricity. The chapter received an award for \$135.

The chapter held a "Litter Wagon Drive" recently after school to aid in the Citronelle All-Out Beautification Campaign.

Newly elected officers for this year are: Joe Skipper, president; Ronnie Turner, vice-president; Douglas Earle, secretary; James Myers, treasurer; Mike Turner, reporter; and William Frazier, sentinel.

The Eva FFA Officers attended the fair in October. Everyone enjoyed the FFA-Agribusiness exhibits, the new tractors, and the flowers and plants.

At the last chapter meeting two game wardens gave an interesting discussion on wildlife and game laws. Initiation was also held.

The chapter sold popcorn and chances on a Hampshire gilt at the Halloween Carnival.

The Elkmont FFA Chapter recently elected their 1971-72 officers. They are as follows: President--Stanley McNatt; Vice-president--Roger McCurry; Secretary--Jackie Clark; Treasurer--Tony Ganoy; Reporter--Steve Smith; and Sentinel--Ricky Jackson.