



The Alabama

# FFA REPORTER

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**JORDAN HAMILTON**  
**Alabama FFA President**  
**Sand Rock Chapter**

Wow!!! What an honor it is for me to be selected to serve and represent over fourteen thousand fellow FFA members from across the magnificent state of Alabama.

At a glance I may not appear to be the “poster boy” for FFA. While I live in a rural agricultural community on a farm in northeast Alabama, my family is no longer involved in poultry or livestock operations; therefore, one would not typically think that there would be a place for me or I would have an interest in the FFA organization. But this could not be further from the truth!

As I started my first “Ag” class in seventh grade and began to learn about FFA, I realized that FFA is an inclusive, rather than an



**2005-2006 STATE FFA OFFICER TEAM—Newly Installed**

Back Row L to R, Vice-President – Brooke Head, Treasurer—Jared Beasley, Reporter – Karen Baggett, Sentinel — Kimberley Henderson,

Front Row L to R, President – Jordan Hamilton, and Secretary — Matt Wilson

exclusive, organization. FFA is an organization that encourages diversity, so there is a place for everyone. Many of the core members are involved in the organization to strictly take advantage of the agricultural opportunities. Such opportunities include poultry judging, forestry, and livestock evaluation. Then there are others within the organization who participated in parliamentary procedure, public speaking, and leadership roles. FFA offers a great opportunity for students to develop skills in all of these areas. This is an awesome organization!

Over the past four years I have been actively involved in various FFA Activities. I am a

member of my chapter’s forestry team, vice president of my local chapter, and I have participated in numerous beneficial leadership workshops. I attended two state conventions and the 76<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention. My current project is developing and maintaining a website for the Sand Rock High School FFA Chapter (<http://sandrockffa.tripod.com>). In short, over the past few years, FFA has served me, but now the roles have been reversed. I have now been given the opportunity to give back to the FFA.

What a privilege it is for me to serve as Alabama’s FFA President. I take this role, in which I have been selected to

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### STATE OFFICERS 2005-2006

President.....**Jordan Hamilton**  
Sand Rock Chapter

Vice President.....**Brooke Head**  
Marbury Chapter

Secretary.....**Matt Wilson**  
Jacksonville Chapter

Treasurer .....**Jared Beasley**  
Gaston Chapter

Reporter .....**Karen Baggett**  
Lawrence Co. Chapter

Sentinel .....**Kimberly Henderson**  
Enterprise Chapter

State Advisor .....**Troy D. Newton**  
State Department of Education

Exec. Secretary.....**Jacob Davis**  
State Department of Education

#### Staff

Ed. Specialist.....**Bobby Thomas**

Printing.....**Kenny Boyd**

Secretary.....**Pam Kilpatrick**  
State Department of Education

serve, very seriously. As I begin to contemplate my contributions to our state's association, my thoughts continue to drift back to this year's National FFA theme, "Living to Serve." My personal beliefs are that a strong leader works to promote the advancement of others. The chain is only as strong as its weakest link. This role is not about what I can do to better myself, but it's about what I can do to advance the Alabama FFA Association and its members.

Each year the National FFA Organization promotes a theme. I hope this year's theme "Living to Serve" will not be a one year goal, but a life long commitment. It's my aspiration that over the next year we will together develop life long skills in which we serve our states agricultural stability, our organization, the communities in which we live, and our family and friends. Finally, it occurs to me that we best serve ourselves by

serving others.

This is the beginning of an exciting year. I look forward to the opportunity to meet many of you as I travel across the state speaking at various chapters. If I can be of service to you or your chapter, please feel free to contact me via email at: JordanTy\_2007@yahoo.com.



**BROOKE HEAD**  
**Alabama FFA Vice-President**  
**Marbury Chapter**

"Your Vice President from the Central District....and the Marbury FFA Chapter is... Brooke Head." Words can't even describe the feeling I had when I heard this statement. I ran on stage, admittedly in tears. I couldn't believe that I finally had made it. Becoming a state officer has been a goal of mine since I first started FFA in the 8th grade. All of the hard work and dedication, along with the sleepless nights during the convention had finally paid off. I knew that this excitement was only the beginning of a long journey. However, I did not fail to realize that this journey wouldn't have been possible without the support of my parents, my advisor, and of course the Marbury FFA members.

Arriving at the convention, I knew only three of the candidates. But I soon found out that you can learn a lot about

people when you're stuck in a room with them over a three day period. Each candidate told their life story, and we learned from each other, whether it was about FFA or just life in general. I left the convention with ten amazing new friends, five with whom I would be spending a lot of the next year with.

We left the convention on Friday, only to be seeing each other Sunday for BLAST OFF. We met Mr. Davis at the Holiday Inn in Montgomery. That night we had our first executive meeting, along with our first meal together. That was one eventful experience that the state officer team will never forget. The next day we began BLAST OFF, and as usual the FFA officers were far ahead of the game. We met all of the state officers from career/technical organizations such as SKILLS USA, FCCLA, TSA, HOSA, FBLA and DECA. We had workshops day to day, in which we learned how to be a positive influence, how to perform consistently, and how to model expectations. In the meantime, we, as a state officer team were getting to know each other and the relationships started to build.





**MATT WILSON**  
**Alabama FFA Secretary**  
**Jacksonville Chapter**

WOW! What an awesome opportunity I have been given to serve more than 14,000 members of the Alabama FFA Association. This amazing fact did not seem to hit me until after the state convention. All I remember is hearing my name ringing through the convention hall and then running up on stage to accept my new duties. My work as your 2005-2006 State FFA Secretary has just begun, and it has already been an adventurous journey.

Immediately after the convention, the six new officers attended BLAST-OFF. It is a program designed to help state officers learn how to conduct business as a state leader. Since we basically had to live together, the six of us had plenty of time to get to know each other. It is my personal belief that having the ability to work with other people is important in life.

I believe that I have been placed with one of the best groups of state officers that the Alabama FFA Association has ever seen. I am truly blessed to be able to work with such a group of talented and dedicated individuals. As I have grown to know my fellow officers, their way of life, traits, talents, and

even living habits, I realize that this group of people has the power to influence every single member of the Alabama Association. I can't wait to work and spend more time with them.

For almost 80 years, FFA has touched the hearts and minds of many. The FFA has made a positive impact on millions of people, and I am no exception. Throughout this year, I am looking forward to traveling the state of Alabama and meeting as many different FFA members as possible. Being awarded this office gives me a sense of unbreakable pride for the FFA organization, and I will always hold the FFA dear to my heart.



**JARED BEASLEY**  
**Alabama FFA Treasurer**  
**Gaston Chapter**

Wow! What an amazing first week as your State FFA Treasurer. After the experience of receiving a state office, it seemed like I had just enough time to grab a quick nap at home, and then return to Montgomery on Sunday afternoon. When Jordan and I arrived at the Holiday Inn Conference Center to attend the BLAST-OFF Leadership Conference, we knew then that this was going to be an experience of a lifetime. As I

think back on the past years of serving as a chapter and district officer, it reminds me that being involved in the FFA has already been an unforgettable journey. As I continue this journey of service throughout this year, I challenge each and every member of the FFA to become more involved at the chapter, state, and national levels. If you are a chapter officer, set the example for your members to follow. Lead your chapter by example, but lead your members through positive influence. Thank you for this opportunity of a lifetime and I am looking forward to an exiting year as your State FFA Treasurer!



**KAREN BAGGETT**  
**Alabama FFA Reporter**  
**Lawrence County Chapter**

Butterflies, sweaty palms and a constant sense of nervousness plagued me all throughout the week of the State FFA Convention and peaked Friday morning as Mr. Carter approached the microphone and all of the candidates interlocked our arms. "Your 2005-2006 Alabama FFA Reporter is, from Lawrence County High School, Karen Baggett." As Mr. Carter read my name out at the last session of our 2005 State Convention, I was relieved to know that I had the honor of

serving as your State FFA Reporter. I was also anxious as I waited for the last four names to be called, filling all of the positions of our state officer team. Although we spent almost the entire week of convention together during interviews, we got to know each other even better at BLAST – Off. I feel very confident saying that this officer team has many things to offer you, our members, throughout our year of service. I am excited about what this year will hold for me, as well as the rest of the officers! Already, I have met many of you who make our great organization the BEST student organization, and I hope to meet many more of you during the year. Please call on me if I can be of any help to you or your chapter. I appreciate being given this opportunity to represent the Alabama FFA Association across the state and country this year. Thanks for your support!



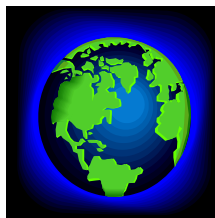
**KIMBERLEY HENDERSON**  
 Alabama FFA Sentinel  
 Enterprise Chapter

Weeks of preparation and three days of intense interviews lead me to June 3, 2005 where eleven other deserving officers from all over Alabama were sitting on the front row at the state convention. Every officer was sitting and waiting to see if their name would be called out to

represent Alabama as an officer. I think back to the moment and remember sitting there so nervous, but anxious to hear if my name would be called. Then it was time to announce the new 2005-2006 Alabama state officers. I hardly remember much from that point except hearing representing the south district from the Enterprise FFA Chapter, about that time I just jumped up and ran to the stage with such excitement! I do not even remember hearing my name being called! I was so happy and thankful that I had family and friends that supported me though the past week. Also, great advisors, Mr. Mike Harrelson and Mr. Alan Waters, without whom I would have never made it to the stage were it not for the encouragement and guidance that they give to me constantly.

I know this year is going to be great! I am so excited to be able to share this opportunity with five other awesome officers! I look forward to meeting fellow FFA members, and to have the opportunity to visit many FFA chapters and banquets!

**Touch the world  
 one student at a time.**



**Teach Agriscience!**

**JACOB DAVIS**  
**Alabama FFA Executive  
 Secretary**

I would like to take this opportunity to say that it is a pleasure to serve the FFA. I have been privileged to grow through my experiences through this organization as a student, teacher, and now as a state staff member. I know that we have a wonderful organization that builds up young people and helps them to become the productive citizens that our society so desperately needs.

I would like to encourage the Agriscience teachers to utilize this publication by sharing it with your members in the classrooms of Alabama. The experiences that these officers are going to share through this publication on a bi-monthly basis should be an inspiration to your chapter members.

Please utilize this publication as a means of promoting our fine organization in your school and community to let them know what the FFA is all about. The officers are going to share their experiences and also give pointers through this publication, so stay tuned and be sure to look for the FFA Reporter in your mailbox to spread the good news of the National FFA Organization through the Alabama FFA Association.

**If you have any suggestions for helpful topics to include in this publication please email me at :  
 ddavis@alsde.edu**