

# NEWS LETTER



## ALABAMA ASSOCIATION FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, FEBRUARY, 1931

### Notes On National Convention Of F. F. A.'S At Kansas City, Missouri, November, 1930

By Harvey Milligan and Leon Smith, Ramer Chapter,  
Delegates to the Convention.

The most outstanding thing about the National Convention and the thing that impressed the delegates most was the brotherly friendship that existed among the delegates and officials who attended the meeting. Everything was carried out in an excellent manner.

During the few days' stay at the convention, the Alabama delegates tried to collect from the other states that were represented information about their programs of work, and some of the things they are doing to hold the interest of F. F. A. members in the local chapters. Some of these things are listed below.

Several states have small printed membership cards bearing the names of the state president, the state secretary, and the state adviser. These cards are presented to each member of the State Association. To be eligible to receive this card a person must be a member of a local chapter that is chartered and in good standing.

The State of Illinois is having printed F. F. A. emblem placards 9" x 12" to be used in marking vocational agricultural projects. These placards are made of thin sheet steel and are colored in natural colors. They can be had for 8c each when ordered in quantities of 3000 or more. They will sell to any State in the United States.

The Tennessee F. F. A. organization owns and operates a camp valued at thirty thousand dollars, and issued an invitation to every state in the Union to send one delegate to be their guest for one week this summer.

One of the things that seemed to be stressed most, as shown by the different state reports, was a "Thrift Program." A good many states have gone so far as to establish thrift banks for F. F. A. chapter

members. Prizes are given to the local chapter having the biggest bank account at the end of the year.

The reports of the different states on their state programs of work were very interesting. The State of Virginia was awarded the prize for the best state program for the year 1929-30. It appeared that the states that are accomplishing the most are the ones that have strong state programs set up at their annual meeting each year. Virginia set up a state program and each local chapter set up a local program in line with the state program. In this way all of the local chapters were working to put over their part of the state program. The results were outstanding. An F. F. A. plaque was awarded by the state organization to the local chapter putting over the best local program.

Texas F. F. A. organization has had printed automobile windshield stickers with the F. F. A. insignia and in our national colors. They use these on tours and at their annual meetings.

The following amendment to our constitution was presented and passed: "In the future State Farmer Degree keys will be made gold filled rather than solid gold at a cost of \$2.50 instead of \$5.00."

Another amendment reads that in the future any candidate for the degree of American Farmer must have at least one year's farming experience from the time he receives his State Farmer Degree.

A new F. F. A. Creed was adopted by a majority vote. The Alabama delegates voted against the new creed as it is much longer and very little more effective than our present creed.

Alabama had one boy who received the American Farmer Degree. We take our hats off to Earl Solomon of Uriah, Alabama.

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#### OFFICERS OF THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA FOR 1930-31

President—Leslie Fry, Louisiana, Missouri.  
First Vice-President—Arthur Macie, Pine Bluff, Wyoming.  
Second Vice-President—Joe Henry Gardner, Holland, Virginia.  
Third Vice-President—William Showalter, Mishawaka, Indiana.  
Fourth Vice-President—Ralph Bender, Waldo, Ohio.  
Student Secretary—Malcolm Wilkins, Mainsburg, Pennsylvania.  
Executive Secretary—W. A. Ross, Washington, D. C.  
Treasurer—Henry C. Groseclose, Blacksburg, Virginia.  
National Adviser—C. H. Lane, Washington, D. C.

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#### REVISED F. F. A. MANUALS READY

We are informed by the Farm Journal, of Philadelphia, that the revised F. F. A. Manual, containing 64 pages, including all ceremonies in connection with F. F. A. activities as well as many helpful suggestions to local and state advisers is now ready for distribution. It contains songs which an F. F. A. member should know and the piano music for the F. F. A. March composed by Captain Stannard. The price remains the same—15 cents per copy. Send in your orders to the Farm Journal, Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. We are suggesting that each chapter provide itself with at least six copies of this manual at the earliest possible date.

## F. F. A. SONG

Each chapter should learn to sing all songs in the manual. We are sure the music teacher or some person in the community would be glad to cooperate in assisting you to learn these songs. It will add a great deal to our annual meeting this summer if each person attending knows the words to the songs and is able to sing them.

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### 'POSSUM SUPPER AT FLAT ROCK

By J. N. Esslinger, Acting Secretary

A 'possum supper was given by the Green Hand Farmers and the Future Farmers at the vocational building of the Flat Rock High School last Saturday night. The affair was well attended by the vocational boys whose mouths began to water as soon as they entered the building and smelled the 'possum that was thoroughly side-dressed with potatoes. The persimmon eater was the center of attraction for several minutes until all of the boys had arrived.

The food was spread on a long table in the class room and supper was announced by Principal J. N. Esslinger, who acted as toastmaster and gave a short Hambone Meditation on the 'possum. He complimented the boys on the fine spirit they were showing in their F. F. A. and vocational agricultural work. No one said anything about the financial depression, because there was food enough for twice the number present.

The animal that suffered, bled, and died for the occasion had a very interesting history which was related by James Frasier, who had been successful in catching him in a small tree near his home. The animal had been fed nutritious food more than four weeks. He liked persimmons and rabbits the best. However, no one saw him eat because he preferred eating after dark.

The vocational teacher, H. E. Phillips, made an interesting talk about the use of fertilizer under cotton this year. Every member of the organization made talks concerning the project that he had selected for this year. Many interesting points were brought out by the boys about chickens, calves, and pigs.

All of the boys are interested in vocational activities and work in the Flat Rock High School. Two boys walked three miles over muddy roads in coming to the supper.

A committee was appointed to arrange for a rabbit hunt soon. No guns will be allowed; hickory sticks will be the only weapons. The rabbits will be sold to pay club dues.

The club of happy boys left for their homes at 9:00 P. M.

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### COOPERATIVE BUYING OF GARDEN SEED AND PLANTS SUCCESSFUL AT BEAUREGARD

By Palmer Long, Reporter

Cooperative buying of garden seed and plants is proving successful at Beauregard. The F. F. A. chapter composed of the vocational agri-

cultural boys is working with much interest in distributing seed and plants to the homes in the community.

A survey of 50 farms of the community shows that an average of less than two kinds of vegetables were grown per family during the winter months, and many did not have any winter vegetables at all. This shows a weakness on our part when 10 to 15 different vegetables can be grown in our home gardens during the winter.

At present 12,500 cabbage plants at 10c a hundred and 280 packages of seed at 5c a package have been distributed to the homes in the community. Within the last three months, 93 homes have received service of this type through our vocational agricultural department. A saving of about \$40.00 has been estimated.

The F. F. A. chapter is booking orders daily for home garden seed and plants.

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### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ABBEVILLE CHAPTER

By Frank Owens, Reporter

We are doing good work in the F. F. A. chapter now. We have accomplished several things during the year, and have made plans for a number of other things. The following have already been accomplished:

1. Beautiful School Campus.

We bought Austrian Winter peas and planted on the campus for fertility of the soil. Later we are going to plant Bermuda grass for a permanent lawn. We purchased some shrubbery a few years ago and planted it about the building. We now have a very attractive campus. However, we are not going to discontinue our work on it.

2. Built Driveways on Campus.

When we started our work on the campus there were no driveways at all. Now we have worked and finished two driveways on each side of the building. During this time we have built a walk in front of the building. We are going to grade these drives and walks.

3. Educational Tours.

During the past year we have made several tours. We made one down to the Sub-Experiment Station which is located at Headland. From there we went through Midland City and Pinkard to Ozark. Here we went through several of the different buildings that were of interest to us.

On July 11 and 12, 1930, we attended the F. F. A. annual meeting at Auburn and it was enjoyed by every one of us.

We went to the State Fair at Montgomery a few months ago. We chartered a bus from Dothan to carry us.

4. Father and Son Banquet.

Last year we had a father and son banquet and it was enjoyed by everyone. We had a program that was very interesting. The fathers enjoyed it so much that they want us to put on another one.

5. Constructed Poultry House.

We constructed a poultry house for Mr. Murry. This is an up-to-date poultry house.

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CURTIS HALE AWARDED PRIZE AT RECENT F. F. A. FATHER AND SON BANQUET AT FRISCO CITY

Curtis Hale, a member of the farm management class in the Frisco City High School, was awarded a watch at the recent F. F. A. father and son banquet for having done the best vocational agriculture work for 1929-30.

In the fall of 1929, Mr. Hale, Curtis, and the agriculture teacher decided that a pure bred flock of chickens should replace the Mongrel flock, then on the farm. Therefore, Curtis' major project was poultry. Two hundred and fifty pure bred Rhode Island baby chicks were purchased and two hundred and thirty-one raised. After disposing of a portion of his flock, Curtis added fifty pullets to the number remaining. These now made up his laying flock and on January 1, a laying project was started. Thirty-nine eggs were gathered on that day. His net profit for growing these chicks, based on market prices, was \$47.68. Farm Bureau feed was used.

Cotton was his minor project. He ginned an average of 661 pounds of lint per acre and the cost of production per pound of lint was 6.9c. Curtis used the Auburn Maximum fertilizer and Cooks 307-6 seed to make this high yield. His profit per acre on cotton was \$34.61.

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A feature of the recent get-together father and son banquet at Frisco City was a vocational selection by the F. F. A. quartette. Songs were arranged to fit the occasion and the idea of "Son Sing to Dad" was a hit. Two of the songs are given below.

Tune: Coming Through the Rye

If a laddie has a daddy  
Then he has a friend  
If a daddy has a laddie  
Pleasures never end.  
Every dad should help his laddie  
Every way he can.  
Then the lad will grow the right  
way  
To a splendid man.

Tune: Sweet Adeline

Oh dad of mine,  
Oh dad of mine,  
We'll stand as one  
In the rain and shine.  
Each night and day,  
I'll always say,  
You're the best dad in the world  
Oh dad of mine.

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PINE APPLE

At the first of the year the old members of the F. F. A. chapter met and adopted the following program:

1. Get 100 per cent membership.
2. Have barbecue supper for fathers.
3. Further the beautification program at school.
4. Build play ground equipment for elementary school.
5. Put on community rat killing campaign.
6. Hold summer meetings.

7. Make tour of important agricultural points.
8. To beat Dad at farm work.
9. Buy pure seed cooperatively.

The old members put on a drive to get new members at the first of the year and initiated all but a few of the boys taking vocational agriculture. The others are expected to join at an early date.

In order to get the cooperation of parents and business men of the town and to put before them the program of work of the F. F. A. chapter and what it stands for, a father and son barbecue supper was held.

Due to the depressing conditions we have not been able to set out any more shrubbery around our school, but have a small nursery started and in this way expect to grow our own shrubs to carry out our program of planting another year. We have made some improvement, however, by building a concrete walk at the vocational agricultural building.

At this time we are petitioning the men and patrons of the school to give material so that we may build play ground equipment for the grammar school. Most of the material, such as, cedar posts, piping, cement, planks, and chain, has been promised, so the work will start at an early date. We are expecting to save the school many dollars in this way. Plans are also under way for carrying out the rest of the program.

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#### CHEROKEE

Our chapter has completed the following projects:

- Constructed walks and drives.
- Built basketball court.
- Built tables for vocational agricultural class rooms.
- Built teacher's desk for each class room.
- Built physical equipment for library.
- Built dressing room and put in shower bath for ball players.
- Installed water system for the school.

The following projects are now being undertaken:

- The beautification of school grounds.
- An arch at entrance to school grounds.
- Cultivating and maintaining laboratory area.
- Equipment for home economics room.

Our plans for the remainder of the year are:

- A membership goal of fifty.
- Father and son banquet.
- Build equipment for science room.
- Construct sewerage system.

We are looking forward to a tour in the summer which will bring us back to Auburn for the annual F. F. A. meeting.

## RAMER

At the beginning of our school year the Ramer Chapter of the Future Farmers of Alabama set up eight major objectives for the year. Up to the present time three of these objectives have been accomplished.

The first objective accomplished was that of installing a lunch room for the high school. To date we have made a net profit of about \$150.00 on the lunch room.

The second objective accomplished was that of sending one delegate from our chapter to the National Convention held in Kansas City, Missouri. Through the cooperation of the school and The Ramer Industrial Club, our chapter made it possible for one member to attend this convention in November.

The third objective accomplished and the one we are most proud of is the erection of play ground equipment for our elementary school. So far we have erected play ground equipment that cannot be duplicated for less than \$300.00. Through the cooperation of our chapter members, our principal and agriculture teacher, we constructed this equipment at a total cost of \$92.00. This saved for our school a total of \$208.00.

All of the equipment is made of galvanized pipe and is modern in style. We had to invent quite a few fixtures to take the place of the more expensive ones found in catalogues.

We now have installed a six swing frame equipped with six modern swings, six "see-saws", two athletic bars, and one log swing. We hope to add to this equipment before the year ends.

We are now making plans to erect two brick gate posts at the entrance of our campus, and to sponsor a rat killing campaign.

Edward Menefee, Reporter.

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## BLOUNTSVILLE

The program of work for the Blountsville Chapter is as follows:

1. Business meeting twice a month.
2. Program at each meeting.
3. Conduct chapel exercises once a month.
4. Each member sow his project area in winter cover crop.
5. Plan to build walks and grade campus.
6. Sponsor buying rye grass seed to sow entire campus.
7. Father and son banquet.
8. Educational tour during summer.

Items under 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 have been accomplished.

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## BRUNDIDGE

The Brundidge Chapter has 47 members enrolled. This is the largest chapter Brundidge has yet had. Last year there were only 37 members. This is about a twenty per cent increase and shows that there is an interest taken in the club by the boys.

We could ask for no better cooperation between the club and its members than we now have.

Our aims are:

1. To promote better cooperation in the community.
2. To promote home improvement plans.
3. To promote father and son banquet.

William Caldwell, Reporter

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### OHATCHEE

The biggest project which we have so far accomplished was the buying of a wrecked Ford roadster and overhauling it into a half-ton truck to use in helping carry out this year's plan and program of work.

Our annual program of work is as follows:

1. Beautify the school grounds.
2. Every member completing more than one life size project.
3. Put on an exhibit of the shop work done.
4. Stage a father and son banquet.
5. O'possum hunt and contest game with other F. F. A. chapters.
6. Consider community soil conservation by doing terracing.
7. To bring about the use of better seed cotton and corn.
8. Organize a Thrift Club.
9. Plan and give program semi-monthly.

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### FIVE "DONT'S" FOR F. F. A. CHAPTERS

1. Don't neglect having a definite plan of work for your chapter. This plan should include definite objectives.
2. Don't depend upon a few members of your chapter doing all the work. Every member should have certain work to do.
3. Don't depend upon your local adviser doing a great deal of work. His main duties are to give you advice and to help you with your problems.
4. Don't neglect having at least one executive meeting each month to discuss plans for the regular monthly meeting.
5. Don't finish the year's work without making a report to your chapter of the achievements you have made during the year. You will likely be surprised what you have accomplished.

—E. R. C.

(Copied from The Future Farmer of Oregon)