

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION

FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

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News Letter - September 1933

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

To Local F. F. A. Chapters:

At a meeting of the State Executive Committee held recently, several very important items closely related to local chapter work were discussed. I wish to pass the action of the Committee on to you and sincerely trust that you will apply your greatest effort in cooperating with us in putting this work over.

As all schools in the State have already opened or will soon open, F. F. A. is now facing an important period of its year's work. The first thing to be done is to reorganize. If new officers have not been elected for this year, they should be elected at an early date. Preparations should be made to initiate all boys who are eligible for the Green Hand degree, and all Green Hands should be raised to the Future Farmer degree as soon as they are ready.

It is very important that both State and National dues be paid by November 1, 1933. A check or money order, made payable to Willard Brown, Treasurer, should be mailed to Mr. R. E. Cammack, Montgomery, Alabama, and should cover the dues of all the members. Membership form together with a copy of your chapter's program of work should be submitted with the membership check.

Alabama is entitled to two official delegates at the National F. F. A. Convention at Kansas City in November. It is my belief that every true-spirited, wide-awake chapter will want to aid in sending these two delegates. The Executive Committee is requesting that each chapter contribute 50¢ to help defray the expenses incurred by the trip. I am sure that each chapter can comply with this request and will consider it a privilege to promote F. F. A. interests. Please mail your contribution to Mr. R. E. Cammack, check or money order payable to Willard Brown, Treasurer, not later than November 1, 1933.

I wish to urge that every chapter adviser and president become familiar with the constitution and by-laws of the State Association. Every member, and especially every officer, should own a copy of the F. F. A. Manual. If the procedure of chapter meetings as recommended in the Manual were used, our State Association would click much more uniformly.

--- Austin Ezzell, President

EXCERPTS FROM MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING  
HELD IN AUBURN IN JULY, 1933

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

It is not my purpose to make a big speech but I am going to give you a few suggestions that I believe will improve the efficiency and standing of the F. F. A. organization if they are put into effect. I am not saying these things because of my displeasure as president, for it has been a great

pleasure for me to serve you in this capacity. I hope that you will take all criticism as constructive and not destructive.

#### State Farmer Degree Applications

The honor of this degree is determined by the standards set by those who are elected to it. The purpose of conferring this degree is to create a desire among the members to reach out and climb upward. If boys are getting this degree without doing real work and making themselves outstanding, then the purpose of conferring the degree is being defeated. Before a member receives this degree he should be a good student in all required high school subjects. He should at least have a good general knowledge and have good command of the English language.

The number of applications for the State Farmer degree this year was entirely too small. This is a reflection on the work of the members and is evidence of the lack of enthusiasm.

The project programs listed on these applications gave evidence of one or more of the following:

1. They have not been planned.
2. They were carried out by the student for the purpose of only "getting by."
3. The boy has not been allowed to carry out his project program on the farm as he wanted to, or in other words, it has been a "pet patch" to be kicked about on the farm.

A project program in vocational agriculture should be a well-planned, complete farming program. It should be planned by the boy and the teacher before the boy enters the agricultural course. This plan should be in the form of a three-year project program and should be filed in the vocational teacher's office. In carrying out his projects the boy should follow this plan. This project program should be owned, operated, and managed by the boy himself and not by his father or teacher. Farmers are watching projects of vocational agriculture and if they fail because of either of the three reasons mentioned above, then vocational agriculture is getting a discredit that it is not responsible for.

#### Chapter Reports

The reports that were given were good but the number of chapters that reported was very small. This is evidence that the chapters are not doing anything to report. A chapter that has done a good year's work and completed its program of work is always anxious to report what it has done. The chapter that has done nothing has nothing to report. I hope that next year every chapter will get started at the beginning of the year and carry out a good year's work and give a good report of accomplishments.

#### Program of Work

The first thing that a chapter should do is to plan its program of work for the year. In planning this program of work the chapter should take into consideration the items on the state and national programs of work. Before the chapter can intelligently plan this program it must know the needs of the school, community, and county. A committee should get this information by consulting the principal of the school, the farmers of the community, and the county agent. You should plan this program with the purpose of carrying it out because the value of it will be determined by the use to which you put it. Every officer and member should be familiar with every item on the program of work and responsibilities for carrying it out should be designated.

Vocational agriculture and the F. F. A. organization should do more advertisement. We need to sell our ideas to the public. How can we do this advertising? We can do it by keeping a good wide-awake reporter in the chapter who will put articles in the newspapers and send in reports for the news letter. The best way to advertise is to let your work and training show for itself.

We should bring congressmen, judges, members of local boards, and influential men into the work of the organization. We should invite them to listen to our programs and visit the agricultural department. We should invite them to go to our camps, outings, and fishing trips to enjoy the fun with us. Most of all we should invite them to our banquets and allow them a part on our program. We should also let them hear members of the chapter tell about what they are doing and the training that they are getting in vocational agriculture. We should present them with honorary degrees and membership and make them feel that they are a part of the organization. When these representatives and senators go back to Congress and cutting vocational agriculture is mentioned, they will say: "No, we won't cut agriculture!"

The only thing that others can see in the organization is what they see in you and me. Are we forming favorable impressions upon the minds of those who are watching us? Every member is helping to make the name that the organization gets and we should make this a challenge to our very best efforts. We should ask ourselves the question, "If every member were just like I, what kind of organization would this be?"

We should try to give new members a better vision of the organization. We can do this by first making them welcome and making them feel that they are really on the inside of the organization. They should know more of the history of the organization and the purposes and aims for which it was organized. We should help them to gain a vision of the unlimited number of opportunities that are before them. The organization should be visualized before them as a ladder upon which they can pull themselves higher and higher by developing those qualities of leadership and efficiency which they possess.

I believe that this is a place where many vocational agriculture teachers fall down in their duty. If we would reap a harvest we must first sow the seed. When a boy enters vocational agriculture the teacher should feel that this boy is a part of the raw material which is to be made into a finished product by his processes of moulding and shaping. This is a good time to become discouraged but we should always be patient and realize that the big job is in getting the boy started himself. If we plant a spark of determination and instill correct principles to guide this determination, then we have begun the job correctly and permanently.

The job cannot be done in one year or even in five years, but we must stay on the job and keep in mind the good for which we are striving. We can make this a distinctive organization and there is no limit to our opportunities. The answer depends upon you and me, as members.

--Barnest Thornhill.

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#### REPORT OF CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

1. Amend Article V, Section A of the Constitution by striking therefrom No. 2, which reads as follows: "Each chapter shall be represented by the vocational teacher as a delegate."

2. Amend Article V, Section A, No. 3 by striking therefrom the words: "the teacher casting both votes in absence of second delegate." No. 3 when amended to read as follows: "Each local chapter shall be entitled to two delegates to the state convention, with two votes on official matters."

3. Amend Article V, Section A by striking therefrom No. 5, which reads as follows: "Student delegates must have degree of Future Farmer." This will make it possible for Green Hands to serve as delegates to the annual meeting.

The Constitution Committee went on record as interpreting the Constitution to mean that in applying for the State Farmer degree projects not completed may be estimated and included in the amount given as productively invested.

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### REPORT OF NEW ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

1. A radio program should be given once each quarter. The vice-president of the State Association shall have the responsibility of securing the fifteen minutes for the program each quarter and shall also have the responsibility of arranging an appropriate program. The programs are to be given in Montgomery.
2. It is suggested that the members of this organization give a buffet supper at the next annual meeting at their own expense. Songs and yells should be included on the program.
3. Encourage local chapters to give more agricultural plays.
4. Each chapter in making out a program of work should survey the community to ascertain the agricultural needs. After this survey is made a five-year program which will meet the needs should be worked out.
5. The Association should purchase all standard equipment for holding meetings as listed on page 18 of the F. F. A. Manual.

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### REPORT OF PROGRAM OF WORK COMMITTEE

The Program of Work Committee recommended the following program for 1933-34:

1. Have an active F. F. A. chapter, with not less than four members holding the Future Farmer degree, in every school in Alabama offering courses in vocational agriculture.
2. A state convention to be held in July 1934.
3. Each chapter represented at the state convention by two delegates.
4. Confer the degree of State Farmer on at least 40 members.
5. Send two official delegates to national convention.
6. At least 10 Alabama Farmers apply for American Farmer degree.
7. Each county strive to establish a county F. F. A. camp.
8. A thrift bank to be promoted in every chapter.
9. A father-son banquet to be held by each chapter.
10. Each chapter do whatever is necessary to keep local chapter in touch with state organization.
11. Each chapter to set up a definite written annual program of work consisting of: (a) agricultural, (b) social-civic, and (c) recreational activities.
12. Each chapter to make a written report of accomplishments during the year to state adviser by June 1, 1934.
13. Each chapter confer the degree of Future Farmer as rapidly as Green Hand members are eligible.
14. Each chapter to start F. F. A. library by getting at least eight books.
15. Chapters to aid teachers in supervised practice program by:  
(a) helping to make project standards for various types of programs, (b) promoting the keeping of accurate project records.
16. Live-at-home program to be sponsored by each chapter by making a five-year plan to suit the needs of the community.
17. Encourage cooperative projects such as: (a) producing soy bean seed, (b) producing plants for sale, and (c) sowing cover crops.
18. Each chapter conduct a project tour.
19. Start F. F. A. nursery for beautifying homes of F. F. A. members and each member have a home nursery plot.
20. Have joint meeting each quarter with home economics club.

21. Each F. F. A. member help vocational teacher in at least one night class.
22. Each member pay chapter dues out of profit from this year's project.
23. Procure necessary equipment for conducting chapter meeting and conduct meeting as recommended in manual.
24. Promote F. F. A. orchestra.
25. Each chapter learn to sing at least two F. F. A. songs.

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#### REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following report was received from the Nominating Committee and approved unanimously by the House of Delegates:

Executive Committee for 1933-34

President	- Austin Ezzell, Spruce Pine, Alabama
Vice-President	- Perry Clay, Glencoe, Alabama
Secretary	- Ed Christian, Fernbank, Alabama
Treasurer	- Willard Brown, Owassa, Alabama
Reporter	- Clifford Manning, Maplesville, Alabama
Adviser	- R. E. Cammack, Montgomery, Alabama

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#### IMPORTANT ACTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

##### Charters Revoked

On a yeo and nay vote of the members of the Committee, it was unanimously agreed to revoke charters of chapters that failed to pay state and national dues for the year 1932-33. Ten dollars was set as a penalty fee for delinquent chapters that wish to be reinstated. The vote on the penalty fee motion carried four to one. In addition to submitting a \$10.00 fee it was decided to require that each chapter making application for reinstatement submit a statement giving reasons why the chapter was delinquent, as well as a statement as to what the chapter expects to do in the future, together with copy of the chapter's annual program of work, state and national dues for the year and membership form. The following are the delinquent chapters:

Blountsville	Goodwater
Cuba	Gordo
Milltown	Gorgas
Moulton	Iyeffion
Notasulga	Midland City
Reform	Smiths Station
Brundidge	Vincent
Beauregard	Winfield
Berry	
Citronelle	
Corner	
Falkville	
Geraldine	

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Scholarship Required for State Farmer Degree

The Committee also went on record as not approving the lowering of scholarship required for the State Farmer Degree.

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WINNERS IN ESSAY CONTEST

Below are listed the state and county winners in the essay contest conducted on the Experiment Station Tour as a part of the annual program of the convention held at Auburn.

- State Winners - First prize - Raymond Prater, Weogufka Chapter  
Second prize - Earnest Thornhill, Holtville Chapter  
Third prize - W. D. Smilie, Ramer Chapter
- County Winners - Coosa County - Raymond Prater, Weogufka Chapter  
Elmore County - Earnest Thornhill, Holtville Chapter  
Montgomery Co. - W. D. Smilie, Ramer Chapter  
Stowah County - Dennis Walker, Walnut Grove Chapter  
Lee County - Ted Pennington, Auburn Chapter  
Chilton Co. - Alton Cobb, Jemison Chapter  
Perry County - William Lester, Marion Chapter  
Randolph Co. - Walter Shivers, Wadley Chapter  
Cherokee Co. - Hershel Van Pelt, Gaylesville Chapter  
Conecuh Co. - Clinton Johns, Evergreen  
Lamar County - Ed Christian, Millport Chapter  
Walker Co. - Grady Myers, Curry Chapter  
Clay County - Joel Thompson, Lineville Chapter  
Franklin Co. - Austin Ezzell, Belgreen Chapter  
Barbour Co. - John Scarborough, Blue Springs  
Baldwin Co. - John Haupt, Foley Chapter

Space will not permit the printing of all state and county winning essays. It was decided, however, to give the essay winning first prize on a state-wide basis.

MY IMPRESSION OF THE AUBURN EXPERIMENT STATION

By Raymond Prater, Weogufka Chapter

I have often heard the Auburn experiment station mentioned. I have heard my teacher mention it; I have read experimental data from its bulletins; I have read about it in farm papers, but I will have to confess that up until my recent visit I knew nothing about it. I have always thought of this station as just a place in our State, where a few "white collared farmers" get together and make outlines as to how we should farm-- but I'm still wrong.

We F. F. A. boys had the pleasure of seeing this station a few days ago. We not only saw it but we saw the inside of it. We were carried to five different divisions of this station where the actual "Whats, Hows, and Wheres," were explained to us. The actual picture of what it takes to carry out an experiment was pointed for us. During this picture painting I began to see what it was all about. I had no idea it took so much time, energy, patience and money to find out the best ration for a hen, or how to space cotton, or how to kill and cure meat. I had no idea this bulletin information was so accurate. When one of these experiments is published you can depend on it -- It's accurate and will do to follow.

Personally I'm sold on our experiment station. I think every farmer in the State should pay this place a visit and see just what these "white collared farmers" are doing and trying to do for the farmers of this State.

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