Slocomb Youth Finds Chickens Profitable

By Floyd Butler
Slocomb Chapter

In September, 1937, I started to school at Slocomb and enrolled in the Vocational Agriculture class. Soon Mr. Reagan, the agriculture teacher, and I began making plans for a three-year project. This program included a chicken project, the most important accomplishment. I planned to get 325 baby chicks and to have at least 125 laying pullets after culling out in the fall of 1938.

About the first of February, 1938, I started building my brooder house by the Auburn type. It was a 12 by 14 foot house with the furnace type of brooder located about the center of the house. I divided the house into four parts with partitions to keep the chicks from piling up on each other and smothering.

On March 2, 1938, I bought 307 chicks and divided them equally among the apartments prepared for them. I started them off on starter and growing mash, keeping it and water before them all the time. When the chicks were six weeks old, I fed them growing mash alone. Then about six weeks later I changed to laying mash. Up to this time I had lost only 12 from the total 307 purchased at first.

On July 21, 1938, I got my first egg. From that date they increased gradually up to as high as 93 eggs per day, but averaging about 80 per day. They continued laying until about the second week in October when they began to decrease in egg production. In a week's time they had dropped 35 per cent. I asked Mr. Reagan to explain the cause of the decrease. He examined them and found that they had a slight touch of roup and were infested by lice.

On October 21 I had them blood tested, culled and treated for lice. After the non-layers and reactors were taken out it left me 110 hens.

At the present time I have 105 blood-tested hens and 7 pedigreed cocks. My eggs are selling at a 10-cent premium, and total receipts last month were $52. Expenses for the month were $22. My hen house cost $5 and serves my purpose well. Money made from this project is to be used in going to college.

Brother and Sister Enrich Home Life With Improvements

Dorothy and Kenneth Galloway, of Fayette, have brought happiness to their entire family through their joint projects in home improvement.

Their family, five children and mother and father, live five miles from Fayette in a family-owned home. At the beginning of the school year, Dorothy and Kenneth planned their projects to include improvement of the interior of the home, work on the porch and porch furniture, and improvement and beautification of the grounds surrounding the house.

Redefecorating the living room was the first job undertaken. The room was very large and seemed to need more furniture. As there was no money for a new sofa, an old one that had been on the back porch several months was brought in and work begun on renovating it. The springs, which were broken and stuck through the upholstery in several places, were taken out by Kenneth and turned upside down so they would be smooth on top.

The sofa was rather "shaky" and needed reinforcement, and a few nails helped to make it more sturdy. Dorothy and Kenneth then padded the back with cotton and old grain sacks to make it more comfortable. By the time this work was completed, the slip-cover material Dorothy had ordered for 25 cents a yard had come. She made the cover, sewing it with French seams on top and pleats around the bottom, then pressed it well and fitted it on the sofa. After the furniture was rearranged and the "new" sofa moved in, the living room presented a much more attractive appearance.
One of the bedrooms has been improved through the addition of shelves and a boudoir chair and footstool. Kenneth removed the rockers and cut off part of the arms of a discarded old chair, which was then padded and covered by Dorothy and Mrs. Galloway. Seven cans fastened together and covered made a very nice footstool.

Dorothy says, "Although boys aren't very interested in sewing the covers, they are very handy when repair work has to be done."

Refinishing the floors was the next step in improving the interior of the house. The floor in one room has already been varnished, and the floors in two more rooms will be varnished soon and the front porch painted. Flower-boxes and porch furniture will be repainted before school is out.

A great deal of work has been done toward beautifying the large yards surrounding the house. Shrubbery and grass have been planted, a log bridge built across the ditch separating the house from the spring where milk, eggs, and butter are stored during the summer, and the spring house repaired so that water will not stand in it. The many rocks found around the house have been used for rock walks and flower beds. A large flower garden on one side of the house will have flowers in bloom at almost any time of the year, and a rose garden has been started at another place in the yard. Hyacinths and buttercups are blooming now.

In addition to their joint program work, Dorothy and Kenneth have supervised practice projects in poultry, orchards, foods, and clothing.

Magnolia Chapter

Heading the list of activities of the Magnolia FFA Chapter for February was the launching of broiler projects for chapter members. With $240 borrowed from a local bank, 2,000 baby chicks were purchased for members, and of this number the club will raise 200.

A brooder house was also built for the chapter, and repairs were made on the school light plant.

In the money-making field, the chapter cleared $15 on a musical program, and made $25 on cabbage plants grown in the FFA nursery. A chicken dinner was served by the chapter at the district meeting, boxing gloves purchased for the chapter, and plans made for ordering a banner for the chapter room.

Sulligent Father-Son Banquet

Labeled a great success was the third annual Father-Son Banquet held by the Sulligent chapter of FFA on Feb. 8th in the agriculture building of the high school. Seventy-seven fathers, sons, and visitors were in attendance.

Brunswick stew, served piping hot, was made with fifteen hens raised by chapter members plus contributions of corn, beans, tomatoes, potatoes and onions. It was supplemented by other delicious refreshments.

Archer Gilmore, president of the chapter, told of the organization's work. Bankhead Collier spoke on shop work, while Dewey Northington added spice to the party with his tales of jokes on members. Frank Buckley was toastmaster for the evening.

Talks stressing the progress of agriculture in the Sulligent community since installation of the FFA chapter eleven and a half years ago were made by several members of the board of education, including Felix Sizemore, E. C. Lawhon, and Truitt Weaver.

Constructive remarks were also made by a number of fathers who said how glad they are their boys are getting such "splendid training".

The string band furnished music and also played a number of pieces by request.

Milltown Landscapes Homes

Twelve homes of Milltown Chapter FFA members have recently been landscaped through efforts of members. In addition, they are now preparing to sod lawns and build rock and cement walks up to their homes.

Shrubbery for the landscaping project was secured from a home beautification project started by the chapter three years ago. At that time all members helped to root shrubbery cuttings in the laboratory area. Enough of these shrubs were left to take care of not only the landscape project, but to fill the needs of future chapter members.

New cuttings are rooted by the chapter annually, and the chapter hopes in a year or two that it can landscape cemeteries, churches, and schools of the county.
Scrap Iron Turns to Money

Scrap iron is rapidly turning into money at Pine Apple. At the present rate of turning iron into money, the Pine Apple Chapter of FFA will have no financial worries connected with their educational trip this summer, for they already have more than $90 on hand.

Recently the chapter struck on the idea of collecting scrap iron as a method of making money for their trip. Each member agreed to give two hundred pounds or more.

When the truck committee went on a collecting tour the first afternoon, two tons were turned in. The following week ten tons were gathered. Right now the chapter has more than ten tons and still has seven places to visit.—IKE FULLER, Jr., Reporter.

Waterloo FFA

A net profit of $21.25 was made by Waterloo Chapter of FFA when two hogs raised on a feeding project were butchered and sold by the members during February. Citizens of the community were buyers of the meat.

Twenty-five baby chicks were purchased and placed in a brooder in the chapter room to be used as a feeding demonstration.

Four regular meetings were held during the month, and four delegates from the chapter attended the District FFA meeting at Central High School. Three of these delegates were raised to the Future Farmer Degree.

Pine Apple FFA

Setting a goal of 25 sportsmen to carry out wild life practices, the Wilcox Chapter of FFA in connection with the program also is sponsoring the planting of Lespedeza Sericea, Sudan Grass, Wild Plum, Blackberry, Privet, and Common Lespedeza in ditches and around the edges of fields.

Application for fish to stock the streams in the school district has also been made by the chapter.

Arrangements for construction of a complete bathroom have been made and actual building will get under way immediately.

During the month of February, Wilcox made $22.55 on the FFA minstrel. The chapter has $39.25 in the bank, has collected 10 tons of scrap iron and commenced a broiler project, and made plans for each member to bring one or more approved books to increase the FFA library.

As result of a chicken project undertaken some months ago, Floyd Butler, Slocomb chapter, is now selling his eggs at a 10-cent premium. His flock, shown above, has been blood-tested, culled and treated for lice.
The Alexandria FFA is doing a fine work. There is interest and pride in the class work as well as in the organization. The organization has a nice string band, much to the delight of the school. Most of the boys are enthusiastic about their plans which are in operation. Definite steps have been made to carry out good projects at home and to arrange for another educational trip next summer.

It seems to me that the FFA, as an organization, is potent with possibilities for future good to our community and nation. The boys who belong feel a responsibility that is not possible for other boys of school age to feel. No boy can be a member of this organization without feeling that the community is looking for him to render superior service. With this in mind he is stimulated to do his best.

Parents are looking at the organization as a kind of honor which their sons are permitted to share at school, and which they foster and attend outside of school. FFA carries with it opportunities not found anywhere else.

Boys should cultivate the organization, putting the best they have into it. Honor, honesty, superior school work, outstanding projects at home and high rating school records should be the ambition and characteristic of every FFA member. — FRANK J. LITTLE, Principal.

What I Think of FFA

I am proud of the fact that I have been a member of the Future Farmers of America for three years. This is my fourth year. During this time I have been a member of three different Chapters; this on account of changing my place of residence so often.

I first joined the FFA in Orrville, Alabama, and was initiated to the Green Hand Degree at that Chapter. I was among that Chapter's first members because it was the first year Vocational Agriculture was established at this school.

Before that same year was up, I moved to Scott's Station and became a member of the Marion FFA Chapter. The next year at this Chapter, I was raised to the Future Farmer Degree.

The following year I became a member of the White Plains Chapter.

During this time I have lived in several parts of Alabama and have been a member of the FFA at each place where I have lived. Why did I join the FFA at each place of residence? First, in the FFA there is a great spirit of cooperation. Secondly, and most important it aims to make a brighter future for the farmers of America. That in itself, I believe, is fully comprehensive. With more enlightenment, a new day will dawn for the farmers.

During this time I have made many friends, which probably I would not have made, had I not been a member of the Future Farmers of America. I congratulate myself on having the opportunity of being a member and taking part in such an organization as the FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA. — HARVEY ALBRE, White Plains Chapter Reporter.

Orville's Dewitt

Practical use of his FFA vocational training has been made by Spurgeon Dewitt, former member of the Orrville Chapter, who recently has made money from terracing 1,800 acres of land.

After finishing high school young Dewitt helped purchase a terracing outfit. His only experience in terracing was gained while taking three courses in vocational agriculture at Orrville. But he has since terraced over 1,800 acres in Dallas, Perry, and Autauga counties. He hopes to save enough money from this work so he can go to college.

Aliceville FFA

A trip to the coast is anticipated as the result of a two-acre potato project started in February by the Aliceville FFA Chapter. Members are hoping proceeds will be sufficient to finance the trip.

Added to the chapter nursery were 333 lining out plants and a hot bed plus another 100 plants that were rooted by the members. The plants will be distributed among the members.
each member to work in nursery; sponsored picture show and basketball game to raise money for banquet; selling shrubbery to horticultural students at 7c a plant. Ashville - Made individual tool cabinets; wounded 12 pigs; pruned 6 orchards; planted kudzu in lab. area; graded ground behind vocational building; held membership drive.

Atmore - Organized softball team; entered magazine-selling contest; landscaped 6 homes; planting 100 azalea plants in front of high school; enlarged bicycle rack; entered Chieeann demonstration and will plant 2½ acres of rose ear corn as chapter project. Augustaville - Initiated 1 Green Hand; ordered 400 fruit trees and shrubs cooperatively; built brooder and bought 100 hogs; negotiated 1000 shrubbery cuttings; assisted farmers in terracing and in pruning fruit trees.

Bear Creek - Made cots for County Camp; had meeting at County Camp. Growing out 25 baby chicks for feeding demonstration; pig feeding demonstration drawing to successful close; have enough money in treasury for F-S, M-D banquet; had chapter eliminations in Public Speaking Contest. Berry - Ordered 500 pieces of shrubbery to set out in lab. area with 1000 cuttings; gave musical entertainment at school building; raising 50 baby chicks in electric brooder given to the chapter by the Purina Feed Company; plan to build 5 electric brooders and raise more chickens.

Billingeley - Initiated 13 Green Hands; ordered 10,000 cabbage plants cooperatively; assisted in one-varietv cotton program; cleared $15 from sale of 12 hogs; continuing hog project. Blue Springs - Continued operating school supply store; wired agronomy chairman for classroom; finished fencing new laboratory area; continued raising funds for paying amount due on new lab. area. Brantley - Initiated 10 Green Hands; ordered 100 azalea plants for County 5 Future Farmers; gave F-S, M-D banquet with 215 present; purchased chicks for poultry project; landscaped 4 homes; ordered and sold 725 fruit trees cooperatively; sold $52 worth of shrubbery; made hotbeds and planted seed; made windows and door shutters for County Camp; donated old stove for use at Camp; set out 1500 cuttings.

Columbiana - Bought shrubbery and landscaped new home; distributed 500 baby chicks among chapter members to be raised in kerosene lamp brooders, brick brooders, or electric brooders; started rooting bed; put out 3,000 cuttings; attended Kiwanis Club luncheon at Jasper.

Cotacl - Pruned 500 fruit trees; landscaped new Methodist Church; purchased 3 pigs. Curry - Landscaping new Methodist Church; made rooting bed and put out 3,000 cuttings; attended Kiwanis Club luncheon at Jasper.

Dannville - Invited FHA girls to Nitrate of Soda show in Decatur; attended district "Dad's Night" in Cozaco; cooperated with farmers in community in putting on annual "Fat Cattle and Hog Sale" - 400 farmers and business men attended and $5,000 worth of cattle and hogs were sold; cooperated with school and FHA in making and serving stew "Parents' Day." Dozier - Put out 5,000 kudzu crowns; pruned 12 dozen fruit trees cooperatively; converted district radio program; cleared $11 on chapter poultry flock in February; bought 4 pigs; members bought $20 worth of fruit trees cooperatively.

Ecklectic - Presented radio program; prepared 1000 cuttings for later planting; practiced playmade trip to Dadville Soil Erosion Pro-

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 Gleason — Initiated 2 Green Hands; sold pigs; held regular sessions of chapter literary meetings; demonstrating good spraying and pruning practices in communities; started campaign for protection of wild life; sold spray material to farmers; borrowed money from P.C.A. to finance projects; cooperating with teacher in conducting evening and part-time work; cooperating in 2 veterinary clinics in school patronage area.

Kennedy — Built truck by removing bed of old car and building a trailer to it; using truck for making tours, inspections, and odd jobs.

Kline — Initiated 2 Green Hands; sold one hog for $13.65 and bought 2 to fatten; pruned several orchards in vicinity; landscaped city lot; sold several dozen fruit trees to farmers; pruned shrubbery on school grounds.

Leighton — Initiated 3 Future Farmers; cooperating with county agricultural committee in planning a county-wide series of informational programs; cooperating with vocational teacher in recreational program in connection with evening school programs.

Leroy — Plan to join district string band; arranged program for F-S, M-D banquet.

Liberty — Ordered fruit trees for members; sending weekly article to county paper; put new posts around lab. area and mended fence; enlarged nursery; destroyed old farrowing house; dug ditch to drain

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project. Odenville—Host to district meeting with program devoted to development of musical talent; elected officers. Orrville—Host to FHA; made arrangements for electrical farmers. Osceola—Initiated 1 Green Hand; prepared barbecue for County Farm Bureau members and cleared $35.00; made $17.00 on school store during month and $10 by operating check-room at two community dances; set out 175 shrubbery on campus; cooperated with Civitan Club in sponsoring pig project; constructed 8 kerosene lamp brooders during month; initiated 2 Future Farmers; began preparations for F-S, M-D banquet; added $8.40 worth of tools to shop; planning trip to New York. Phil Campbell—Hosted joint FFA-FHA social. Pine Hill—Made arrangements to collect scrap iron and buy shop equipment. Pisgah—Participated in second anniversory FFA broadcast over WAPO, Chattanooga, Tenn.; initiated 3 Green Hands. Pleasant Home—Planned trip to Mobile to see Ballingrath Gardens. Ramer—Presented radio program and made arrangements to give two each month; host to district tournament. Ranburne—Purchased l ining-out stock for nursery; gave chicken stew for local farmers. Red Level—Sold 20 hogs for $220.00, proceeds to go to chapter; made 5,000 shrubbery cuttings of 12 different kinds; landscaped 15 homes; planned town street plantings and set out trees. Reeltown—Pruned and sprayed 703 trees in 26 orchards; put out 2800 hardwood cuttings; secured P.C.A. loan for $400 to be used to establish poultry projects; raising 50 chicks in Purina breeder; made kitchen tables and trimming boards for Home Economics Department. Reform—Prepared exhibit for Pickens County Teachers Association; exchanged classes with Home Economics Department; transplanted shrubbery from old lab, to new one; trimming base plantings about the churches of the town and several homes. Riverton—Built table for girls' dressing room; had joint meeting with FHA. Rockdale—Initiated 2 Green Hands; went on fishing trip; sponsored picture show; one member received Poland China gilt from chapter. Rockford—Had FFA-FHA wiener roast; several members landscaped their homes with shrubs from school nursery; enlarged nursery. Samson—Eighteen members who are growing from one to four acres of cotton have organized a one-variety cotton club; landscaped vocational building; bought 5 hogs to raise and sold for $220; gave one radio program; held joint social with FHA; had joint classes with FHA; initiated 6 Future Farmers. Sand Rock—Worked shrubbery around school; had FFA-
FHA social; presented radio program; sold drinks and candy at tournament. Sardis — Gave radio program; transplanted 400 shrubs in nursery; held joint meeting with FHA. Silas — Initiated 5 Green Hands; landscaped new school building; had joint meeting with FHA; helped organize district FFA. Slocomb — Initiated one Green Hand; reported “Dad’s Night”; had FHA-FFA chapel program; set out shade tree on campus. Smith’s Station — Host to district meeting; had charge of chapel program; set out 25 native shrubs on school campus. Southside — Went on camping trip; had F-S, M-D banquet; put on radio program; received Purina brooder. Straughn — Transferred shrubs from propagation bed to lab. area; set out 2000 cuttings in propagation bed; ordered about 50 fruit trees for farmers; wormed 22 hogs; pruned 3 orchards; had talks on home improvement and health. Sweetwater — Initiated 4 Green Hands; entertained FHA at oyster supper; sponsored appearance of “Radio Cowboys”; assisted teacher in evening schools.

Tanner — Bought a radio; purchased U. S. flag; set out shrubs around high school. Tanner-Williams — Attended F-S, M-D banquet at Citronelle; moved shrubs from nursery area to homes of boys; set out cuttings. Thomasville — Moved into new building; ordered 250 fruit trees; raised 500 baby chicks; set out 25 redbud trees on campus; held open house in building; built tool racks; planted vegetables in lab. area; sponsored livestock survey of school district. Town Creek — Planning F-S, M-D banquet; operating candy and supply store at school. Uriah — Had weiner roast at Little River State Park; planning to have motion picture once a week on some agricultural subject; raised 800 shrubs; made 600 cuttings to root for next year; set out about 500 plants around boys’ homes this year. Valley Head — Bought purebred Duroc Jersey boar and 3 purebred sows; bought 2 pigs to fatten out and sell to raise money for chapter; built self-feeder; held stunt night jointly with FHA and made $20.40; helped put on program for P-T.A. rally. Vernon — Feeding out 600 broilers; enlarging nursery area; landscaped Junior High School. Vincent — Initiated 18 Green Hands and 19 Future Farmers, organized district brass band; bought 2 hogs; one member painted emblem of FFA; presented 45-minute chapel program; prepared lunch for Shelby County Shining Convention; proceeds to be used to enlarge iron shop. Wadley — Spraying all orchards in community; had F-S, M-D banquet. Walnut Grove — Presented radio program; sponsored free picture show; conducting rat-killing campaign. Ward — Discussed trip to coast. Weogufka — Sponsored fiddlers’ convention; bought 400 lining-out shrubs, bringing nursery stock to about 1000 shrubs; built hotbed for starting tomatoes, peppers, etc.; bought fruit trees for farmers. West Limestone — Bought radio for chapter room; had owl mounted; pruned several orchards in community; set out shade trees on campus; wormed hogs for farmers.

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