State Farmer Degrees Awarded to 117 Boys

One hundred and seventeen of Alabama’s young Future Farmers were awarded the State Farmer Degree this summer. Requirements for the degree include a minimum average of 85 per cent, two years of FFA membership with outstanding supervised farming projects in operation, productive investment or bank deposit of $200, ability to lead a 40-minute group discussion, and evidence of definite leadership qualities.

The following FFA boys received the State Farmer Degrees:
- Ed Pollard, Butler County High School;
- Wayne Mitcham, Clarence Stephens, Chambers County High School;
- Wyndol Murrah, Harry Sims, Chilton County High School;
- Wayne Perry, George Tims, Choctaw County High;
- Max Watkins, Coffee County High;
- William Henry Uhman, Colbert County High;
- Julian Payne, Dale County High;
- J. D. Wooten, DeKalb County High;
- Leon Estes, Bernard Fowler, Duward Gardner, Leroy Lawrence, Fayette High;
- Paul Dean, Page Kelley, Geneva County High;
- James Earl Beasley, Hubert Tew, Henry County High;
- Paul Glasgow, W. L. Glasgow, J. E. Hollis, Lamar County High;
- Almon White, Lauderdale County High;
- Carl Montgomery, Lawrence County High;
- Malcolm Conway, Lowndes County High;
- Robert Bentley, Bernard McGhar, Macon County High;
- Warren Bozeman, Lee Roy McLeod, Montgomery County High;
- David Crawford, Perry County High;
- Grover Monroe, W. E. Taft, Shelby County High;
- James C. Bracy, St. Clair County High;
- Jack Sharpe, Wilcox County High;
- Morgan Lee, Addison; Kenyon Davis, Troy Lindsey, John Foster Nelson.

State President

L. C. Fitzpatrick

Alabama’s new State FFA President is L. C. Fitzpatrick, senior in the Gaylesville High School. L. C. is well qualified to head the State Association, having been president of his local chapter for two years, president of the Cherokee District organization for one year, State Reporter for one year, and violinist in his district’s string band.

During his first year in vocational agriculture L. C. carried three productive projects consisting of three acres of corn followed by vetch, two pigs, and an orchard. For his second year’s projects he secured one registered boar, one registered sow, planted three acres each of corn and clover, improved his pasture, and continued his home orchard. His third year of project work was a continuation of these projects on a larger scale.

Electrical Wiring Done by FFA Boys

Last year, prior to the coming of rural electrification to the Blue Springs community, a practical course in the fundamentals of wiring farm homes and choosing electrical appliances for the farm was studied by the classes in vocational agriculture at the high school. After a few days spent in making plans and in purchasing wire and fixtures, the boys undertook the task of wiring the agricultural building. After this job was completed and approved by an inspector, the home economies building, auditorium, and main building were wired and they also passed inspection.

In performing these jobs, all the boys were given an opportunity to learn how to do simple wiring. Besides having the distinction of being the first rural high school in Barbour County to get R.E.A. power, it is estimated that this project saved the Blue Springs school over $100.

As a result of this course in electrification, Duward Parr, a member of the Senior I class, wired his own home and two of his neighbor’s homes. These passed inspection and he plans to continue this work on more homes in the community.

Duward is an officer in the local FFA Chapter and served as Reporter for the Pea River District during the past year. His last year’s project program consisted of cotton, peanuts, and orchard improvement. Duward, who already ranks at the top in voca-

In addition to his FFA work, L. C. has been president of the Beta Club and a member of the football, basketball, and baseball teams of the high school.
Durwood Parr is shown here wiring his home. (From Page 1)

State Farmer Degrees

(From Page 1)

Honorary State Farmer Degrees Awarded to 13

Thirteen men were awarded the Honorary State Farmer Degree by the Alabama Association of FFA during the eleventh annual convention. This award was made to the following men in recognition of the outstanding contribution they have made to FFA work in Alabama:
- Alexander Nunn, managing editor, Progressive Farmer;
- A. C. Dunaway, county superintendent of education, Coffee County;
- E. D. Hess, instructor in public speaking, Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

Teachers of vocational agriculture who were among those honored were:
- J. J. Lewis, Blountsville;
- J. A. Benford, Daviston;
- J. H. Jackson, Elba;
- L. G. McDonald, Eva;
- W. R. Martin, Center Hill;
- H. R. Morgan, Vincent;
- D. O. Langston, Ashville;
- C. E. Searles, Samson;
- E. S. Collier, Wetumpka.

WHO'S WHO IN FFFA

An effort is being made in the national FFA office to set up a file on outstanding records of FFA members, regardless of the degree held in the organization, accomplishments while in school, or the length of time out of school. It's to be the beginning of a cumulative "Who's Who in the FFA."
State Speaking Contest
Won by R. C. Horn

"Soil Conservation" was the subject of the speech made by R. C. Horn, of the Samson Chapter, when he defeated Roy Fuller, Notasulga, Lawson Anderson, Athens, and Wil­lis Bouchillon, White Plains, in the State Public Speaking Contest held in Auburn on July 15. As Alabama champion FFA speaker, R. C. went to the Georgia State FFA Camp on July 19 to compete in the Tri-State Contest. There he was defeated by Henley Vansant, of Georgia, who later won the Southern Contest held in Columbia, S. C.

Presiding at the State Contest was Joe Bill Knowles, Headland, State FFA President. Judges for the Contest were: E. D. Hess, Auburn, instructor in public speaking; K. Brown, Auburn, director of publicity; Alexander Nunn, Birmingham, managing editor of the Progressive Farmer; Dr. A. R. Meadows, Montgomery, supervisor of Research and Surveys, State Department of Education; and Dr. J. W. Tidmore, Auburn, head professor of Agronomy.

In his winning speech at Auburn R. C. traced the history of soil conservation down through the ages. He dealt with the efforts that are now being made by the state and federal governments in behalf of saving the soil.

R. C. Horn

STATE FFA ACTIVITY PROGRAM
1940-41

I. Organization
A. State
1. To increase active membership in State Associations to 6,000.
2. Continue to have committees handle business at the convention.
3. Hold State convention annually, to be attended by delegates from each chapter.

B. District
1. Each chapter affiliate with a district organization where possible.
2. District organized on a county basis if there are three or more chapters in the county.

C. Chapter
1. Each chapter set up an activity program and appoint a committee to carry out each activity.
2. Each chapter set up a calendar of activities for the year.
3. Each chapter increase membership where advisable.
4. Each chapter advance members from one degree to another as rapidly as they become eligible.
5. Each chapter follow the initiation ceremony in the FFA Manual.
6. Each chapter encourage fathers and others interested in FFA to attend chapter meetings and where advisable elect three or more honorary members during the year.
7. Each chapter have a well-planned program posted in advance of each regular meeting.
8. Each chapter strive to have two or more members eligible for State Farmer Degree.
9. Each chapter practice parliamentary procedure in meetings and encourage members to become familiar with parliamentary rules.

II. Cooperation
1. Each chapter cooperate in all activities for the betterment of agricultural conditions in the community.

III. Publicity
1. Publication of "Alabama Future Farmer" in printed form seven times yearly.
2. Each chapter strive in all activities to promote vocational agriculture and FFA organization.
3. Monthly FFA reports to be submitted on time for the "Alabama Future Farmer."
4. Each chapter reporter submit regular articles to local newspapers.
5. Plan other activities as a part of the publicity program such as: radio programs, chapel programs, bulletin boards, exhibits, etc.

IV. Contests
1. Each chapter enter contests sponsored by the State Association.

V. Recreation
1. Each chapter sponsor "Father-Son" or "Father-Son, Mother-Daughter" program or banquet.
2. Encourage recreational activities.

VI. Joint Program
1. Promote joint activities between FFA and FHA organizations.

VII. Library
1. Each chapter add new books to library and sponsor a wide use of the library.

VIII. Music
1. Each chapter encourage and develop musical talent.

IX. Finance
1. State, district, and chapter operate on a budget for financing the activities of the organization.
2. Each chapter appoint a finance committee.

X. Education
1. Each chapter plan educational tour when possible.

(Turn to Page 6)
Horn's Winning Speech

SOIL CONSERVATION

May I invite you to consider with me the greatest earth problem of all ages, namely, the subject of soil conservation. Erosion is as old as the earth itself, and in regard to the problem of erosion may I direct you not only to our United States, but to our beloved Southland, and especially to my native Alabama. Let us give major attention to our Southland, because this is the region of greatest soil erosion, greatest rainfall, and longest annual exposure to washing and destruction with little protection from freezing.

Man is known as the greatest destroyer. His tillage has bared acres once covered with soil-holding grasses, trees, and shrubs. We have thoughtlessly but constantly destroyed our top soil, gullied our fields, burned our forests, decreased our game, and filled streams with an over-burden of silt and debris until America stands today at the cross roads.

On one hand we face national soil-wasting such as ages ago destroyed the balance of nature in many ancient countries. In Central America, erosion blotted out the first and most wonderful civilization of ancient times, the Mayans.

If we take the other alternative, we will learn lessons from these ancient civilizations which destroyed themselves largely through soil erosion. We will save and prolong our national life and especially our Southland.

Here is today's problem. We either save and survive, or waste and perish. These and other civilizations tell us that if we save we can survive.

There is little need for me to mention our early wasteful soil practices. We plowed up hill and down. We grew a tilled crop one year and let the land lie out two years to accumulate enough humus for a third crop. We deserted our tired soils every few years and cleared "new ground" while burning and wasting wonderful virgin timber.

Sixty-one per cent of the nation's badly eroded land is in the South. With regard to Alabama, we now have twenty-two million acres of marginal and sub-marginal land, fit only for forestry or limited pastures. We have left for tillage today only eleven million acres of land, much of which is washed. We thus have two acres unfit to plow, for each acre of plow land. We have left only one-third of our state on which to grow crops.

The South, with one-fifth of the nation's income, pays three-fifths of the nation's fertilizer bill. Can you imagine how wealthy the South and Alabama might be, had we begun one hundred years ago to save our soil? We all know that soil productivity is the key to profitable farming. Where does Alabama stand if we
measure farm productivity? In 1937, the average per capita farm income, excluding benefit farm payments, was but eighty-four dollars. Alabama stands not only at the bottom, but nineteen dollars per capita lower than the average of the other thirty-eight non-cotton growing states of the Union.

What is the main reason for the poverty of the South and of Alabama? The answer to the question is not hard to find, for we have wasted our capital stock of soil. This is the big reason for our poverty.

The United States Soil Conservation Service estimates that the Mississippi River carries away about a million tons of top soil for each workday in the year. Four hundred million dollars is their estimated annual bill charged against erosion. No wonder economists have labeled erosion our greatest national farm problem!

May we now study briefly what we are doing in regard to the problem of erosion. I am far from being a pessimist. We are learning from history. Our state and national experiment stations are working as never before. The Extension forces in my native County of Geneva and elsewhere have done much to stop forest burning, soil waste, and to secure a sounder agriculture, based on soil saving. The vocational agricultural schools of the land are teaching youth as never before.

Of a more recent origin is the A.A.A. which pays farmers to undertake soil saving by growing soil saving crops. Our Tennessee Valley Authority is teaching and helping farmers in North Alabama and Tennessee. The Farm Security Administration is aiding farmers by almost daily supervision, advice, and control. The Civilian Conservation Corps has many hundred men working on erosion problems in Alabama. These men make fire lanes, set trees, and take up an entire watershed and terrrace it in cooperation with farmers. Our Alabama Forest Commission furnishes trees, puts out forest fires, and enforces laws against burning. The United States Government has purchased millions of acres to be used as forest reserves and all these acres are soil too rough for tillage.

The best minds of America are trying to aid the South, which is the economic problem number one. May we never forget with L. H. Bailey, the greatest authority on Horticulture, that the "Earth is Holy." A lecturer of national experience, in speaking before our future farmers of America, said: "Remember the soil is sacred." No man owns land. We merely have a quitclaim deed to land, as long as our life holds out.

Our greatest battle is not fought with cannon and sword, but with cover crops, terraces, strip cropping, tree planting, and other suitable soil-holding crops. There can be no let up on the battle of soil saving. If a foreign country tried to seize even one acre of our Nation's land, our Country would summon a brigade of artillery, the entire navy and standing army, if needed, to hold this single acre from an invader.

Verily, farmers have sat complacently, and until recently agricultural agencies and legislators have been concerned with things they considered more important.

The day of conservation is here. The hour has struck. America has never failed on any battle front. We will not and we must not fail today.

New State Officers

L. C. Fitzpatrick, Gaylesville High School, was elected State president of FFA at the annual convention held in Auburn during August. Fitzpatrick succeeded Joe Bill Knowles, Headland, at the post. Other officers elected at the convention included A. F. Caley, Orrville High School, vice president; Martin Ables, Fyffe High School, secretary; Leon Estes, Fayette High School, treasurer; Page Kelley, Geneva County High School at Hartford, reporter.

R. E. Cammack was re-elected State adviser and A. L. Morrison, assistant State adviser.
News From The Chapters

Akron—Attended State convention and toured western part of Georgia; held two-day meeting in Oakmulgee District of the Talladega National Forest. Ashford—Initiated 27 Green Hands; sent two delegates to State convention; spent three days on the Gulf. Auburn—Attended convention; made plans for year.

Bay Minette—Attended FFA convention; advised; held individual conferences with prospective officers and made plans for year; wrote article on FFA convention for local paper.

Belgreen—Held watermelon cutting with members of the FHA and faculty members as guests; elected able and efficient officers.

Billingsley—Attended State convention at Auburn; discussed program of work.

Blue Springs—Participated in district stunt at FFA convention; planned entertainment to raise money for buying equipment for agriculture department; purchased pigs to raise on campus from lunch scraps; delegates attended State convention.

Brantley—Attended State convention; making drive to get all the boys in vocational agriculture to join the FFA; planning picnic with FHA at first social event of year.

Brundidge—Attended FFA convention in Auburn and performed with FHA.

Butler—Fifteen members spent three days in Pensacola, Florida, and while there visited the Naval Air Station, Coca-Cola Plant, Sanderson Beach, Spearman Brewery, Warren Fish Co., Bayview, Pensacola Beach, Fort Missouma; visited cold storage plant and the State docks at Mobile; officers attended State convention.

Centerville—Held meeting of officers and executive committee; sent delegates to FFA convention; had “ice cream social.”

 Cherokee—Delegates attended State convention.

Citronelle—Held regular business meeting.

Clio—Eleven members made trip to Panama City, Florida; took part in district stunt at FFA convention; officers attended convention.

Coffee Springs—Officers attended FFA convention.

Cold Springs—Made plans for fishing trip and visit to Sand Mountain Experiment Station; officers attended State convention.

Corner—Held two meetings during summer; set up summer activity program; qualified three members for State Farmer Degree; conducted tour to Gulf Coast; five officers attended State convention.

Cullman—Held one social during summer; went on three-day camping trip; officers attended FFA convention; wrote news articles for local papers.

Curry—Chapter went on a two-day fishing trip; officers attended State FFA convention; made plans for fish pond.

Dixon’s Mills—Attended two district meetings and State FFA convention at Auburn; cleaned campus and school building; had fish fry.

Dozier—Went on trip to Florida and enjoyed deep sea fishing; attended State FFA convention.

Elena—Attended FFA convention; made tour of five of the Southern States and old Mexico, traveling 3250 miles in 12 days.

Evergreen—Delegates attended State FFA convention.

Fairview—Arranged for initiating Green Hands; planned project tours.

Falkville—Officers attended State convention; chapter went on three-day fishing trip to Guntersville Lake; planning to buy a two-row vetch drill.

Five Points—Completed appointing committees for year; arranged for district meeting to be held at Five Points; made project tours; made arrangement for chapter members to get gifts for year’s program.

Flomaton—Five members attended convention; made plans for increasing size of nursery; cleaned nursery area; bought material of value for use after school opens; obtained new gavel for use by president.

Fort Payne—Chapter went on annual two-day fishing trip on the Tennessee River and caught 125 fish; won first place in the State FFA Chapter Contest.

Fyffe—Chapter made four-day trip to Florida attended State convention, two of whom received the State Farmer Degree; planning trip to Shaw Fair.

Gaylesville—Sent delegates to State convention; made tour to Washington, D. C.; made plans for purchasing FFA Scrapbook and other chapter equipment; operating school store; Chapter president, L. C. Fitzpatrick, was elected State President; three members received the State Farmer Degree.

Geneva—Three officers attended State convention and all received State Farmer Degree.


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Hackleburg — Held regular meeting and made plans for year; discussed Negro minstrel and radio programs; officers worked on community fair; chapter built bale of cotton.

Hanceville — Five members attended State Convention; purchased register of Poland China gift for pig chain; officers wrote articles on State Fair.

Heflin — Initiated 15 Green Hands; officers working on community fair.

Hickory Plains — Attended State Convention; purchased register of FFA library; sent delegates to FFA Convention; planned project tour; five members bred their registered Poland China gilt; published three articles; started plans for next year.

Huntsville — Made a trip to Washington, D.C.; sent delegates to FFA Convention; planned project tour; five members bred their registered Poland China gilt; published three articles; started plans for next year.

Jackson — Delegates attended State Convention, also visited points of interest in Montgomery, Auburn, and Pensacola. Millport — Five members attended State Convention; purchased register of FFA library; sent delegates to FFA Convention; purchased $21 worth of books for FFA library; sent delegates to State Convention.

New Hope — Attended State FFA Convention; sponsored picture show each week to raise money for the chapter. New Hope (Randolph) — Went on educational tour through North Alabama and Southern Tennessee, August 6-9, and visited Boiling Spring, Noccalula Falls, Desoto Falls, Lookout Mountains, Milky Way Farm, Wilson Dam, Wheeler Dam, Ave Maria Grotto, Vulcan, and the Birmingham Municipal Airport. Notasulga — Had a musical program; officers attended State Convention; purchased calf for adviser's station.

Oakman — Made 900-mile FFA tour including Tuscaloosa, Mobile, Pensacola, Montgomery, Tuskegee, Auburn, Fort Benning, and Birmingham; chapter officers attended State FFA Convention. Odenville — Officers held meeting and decided to make a drive for old members to retain their membership long enough to become associate members; all officers except one attended State Convention. Ohatchee — Made five-day educational tour; sent delegates to State Convention; had four news articles in local paper; held monthly meetings during summer; one member received State Farmer Degree.

Oneonta — Made trip to Washington; attended State Convention; purchased register of FFA library; sent delegates to State Convention; worked the shrubbery and had representatives at State Convention; entertained fathers with chicken barbecue.

Pine Apple — Constructing playground equipment for grammar school; fattening hog with corn and soybeans grown in lab area; officers attended State Convention. Pleasant Home — Made a trip to Washington, D.C.; elected new officers and made plans to increase membership; started selling magazine subscriptions to raise money for chapter.

Ram — Made trip to Tennessee; attended State Convention; Red Bay — Elected officers; made educational tour through Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida; attended State Convention; worked the shrubbery and purchased register of FFA library; sent delegates to State Convention. Mellow Valley — Elected officers; attended State Convention; purchased register of FFA library; sent delegates to State Convention.

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moved lawn on school campus; picked peas off of lab. area; made arrangements to sponsor radio program for raising money for the FFA chapter; made a schedule whereby each member of the local FFA will be responsible for feeding the purebred boar and sow kept on school campus. Red Level—Made 3,216-mile tour to North Michigan by way of Ontario, Canada, Niagara Falls, World’s Fair, New York, Washington, Atlanta, and other interesting places; attended State FFA convention. Reeltown—Held meeting of all officers to plan program of work for the coming year; sponsored campus clean-up day; added ten new books to FFA library. Robertsdale— Went on tour to Kentucky, Ohio, Washington, D.C., and came back by way of Skyline Drive; four members attended State convention at Auburn. Rockford—Made tour to Panama City, Florida, and went deep-sea fishing; officers attended State convention.

Samson—Attended State convention; R. C. Horn won State FFA Public Speaking. Sand Rock—Attended State convention; made 1500-mile tour of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi; running school store. Sardis—Made tour to Panama City, Florida, and other points of interest; five officers attended FFA convention. Silas—Held two business meetings; cancelled annual fishing trip because of amount of work to be done on farm. Smith’s Station—Attended FFA convention; made fishing trip to Florida; elected officers; planning program of work; assisted with school bart; nue. Southside— Went on six-day trip along Gulf with Pensacola, Mobile, Biloxi, New Orleans, Hattiesburg, Meridian, and Birmingham among places visited. Straughn—Twelve members made fishing trip to Panama City, Florida; two officers attended State convention; started a purebred pig chain by giving three purebred Durocs to three Sr. 1 FFA members; made plans for sponsoring Roy Acuff and his “Smokey Mountain Boys,” the proceeds to be used in equipping the vocational agriculture shop. Sulligent—Five members attended State convention; Archer Gilmore gave report on chapter achievements at the convention; won district award in Chapter Contest. Sweet Water—Twelve members attended State convention; played with district in softball tournament; three members received State Farmer Degree.

Thomasville—Delegates and officers attended convention in Auburn; planned activities for year; attended district meeting at Grove Hill. Town Creek—Held watermelon cutting for the FFA boys and their dates; sent four officers to the State convention.

Vernon—All officers attended State FFA convention; three members received State Farmer Degrees. Vina—Chapter made educational tour to Washington, D.C., and to the New York World’s Fair; officers attended State FFA convention.

Wetumpka—Attended State convention. West Limestone—Held one regular meeting; took a 1200-mile educational tour to some of the Gulf states; sent two delegates to State convention. Weogufka—Attended State convention. West Point—Three FFA officers made trip to State convention; ordered and sold 750 pounds of lespedeza sericea last spring; sponsored Negro minstrel; cleared money on strawberries and kudzu planted last spring; FFA nursery kept in good state of cultivation. Wetumpka—Attended State convention; officers discussed general plans and policies of the year. Winterboro—Attended State convention; sixteen members made 700-mile tour of Florida; started membership drive.

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