Convention Closes Successful Year; Dan Easterling Takes Top Honors

Three years of work and training in good agricultural practices reached a shining climax for Dan Easterling of Barbour County High School when he received a shower of honors at the 13th annual FFA convention in Auburn June 4.

After defeating three opponents to take top place in the public speaking finals, the 17-year-old president of the Clio Chapter was chosen to serve as president of the State Association for the coming year. He was among the 108 members awarded the State Farmer Degree, and he was named delegate to the national convention at Kansas City, Mo., in October.

Easterling was recently re-elected for a second term as president of Clio FFA. He served the past year as district president, and has been chosen vice president for 1942-43. Next year he will be graduated from high school after acting as class president four years. In addition he has headed his Sunday School class for four years and has been active in other organizations.

In his supervised practice programs Easterling has specialized in hog and poultry raising, gardening and dairying.

Other state officers elected to serve with President Easterling include Hilton Register of the Slocomb Chapter, Geneva County, vice president, who also was chosen a national delegate; John Eddins of Frisco City, Monroe Co., treasurer; Revis Hall, Gordo Chapter, Pickens Co., secretary; and Hudson Calfee of Isabella, Chilton Co., reporter.

Mr. R. E. Cammack of Montgomery was re-elected state adviser, and Mr. A. L. Morrison, Auburn, was retained as assistant adviser. Mr. Cammack, organizer of FFA in Alabama, missed his first convention this year on account of business related to the war effort.

Vice President Register has served his local chapter as president and vice president, and the district organization as vice president. He won second place in the quarter finals of the public speaking contest. Eddins has held office as district president, as chapter president two years, and as chapter treasurer, and has done outstanding Boy Scout work.

Hall has been president and reporter of the Gordo Chapter, was president of the Junior class, and served on the school defense council.

Public Speakers Stress War Efforts

Theme of this year’s State convention was “We’re in the war”, and this motive was emphasized in each of the addresses delivered in the finals of the Public Speaking Contest.

“Agriculture and the War Effort” was the subject Dan Easterling chose for the speech which won him first place in the State. Expressing the belief that farmers form the most patriotic groups in the country, Dan pointed out that most of them are “getting up earlier, buying more fertilizer, and planting more food crops to keep the United Nations on the road to victory”.

He observed that helping win this war is not the first problem the farmer has had to face, and he recalled problems of clearing land, labor shortage, controlling insects, tenancy, and over-production.

In citing the progress made in recent years which has better prepared agriculture for the problems of today, Easterling gave credit to great farm leaders, farmer organizations, and government agencies, and laid particular stress on the value of vocational agriculture. “Farming is more complicated than most any other business and needs men with more training in management ability and farm skills than probably any other occupation,” he declared.

While terming mechanization of farming as “a natural development,” Easterling warns that “we must have brains enough to master machines or they will master us just as Hitler and his machines have been used to enslave most of Europe.” “One of our chief aims”, he said, “is to have more...”
These fellows made their way to the top bracket in the State Public Speaking contest, beginning competition with 1,000 other FFA members who entered chapter contests in January. Riding successfully through the quarter and semi-finals they took their winning speeches to the convention in Auburn June 4 when Easterling captured the silver cup with his "Agriculture and the War Effort." Gates of Greensboro, Hale County, spoke on "Future Farmers As Pioneers" to win second honors, and Broughton of Riverton, Madison County, was third with delivery of "The American Farmer Takes His Stand." Fourth place went to Davis of Haleyville, Winston County, whose subject was "The Challenge of Conservation."

Guest speaker at the FFA convention was Miss Mary Katherine Barker of Ashville, president of the State Future Homemakers Association, who told the boys something of what club girls in the state are doing in the war effort.

About 350 members and teachers attended the convention, which was presided over by President Nicholas.

Convention Closes

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Calfee has had experience as chapter reporter, and as president of his school's Beta Club.

"Victory Program"

Under Easterling's guidance the new staff will direct the 206 chapters of the State in an activity program designed for maximum contribution to the war effort. The "Victory Program" is one of the four chief divisions in the 1942-43 activity set-up presented at the convention by Eugene Smith, committee chairman. Emphasis is placed in this section on promoting war bond and stamp purchases, food and feed production, farm equipment repair, conservation of vital materials, morale building, and farm labor participation.

Chapter Contest Awards

Beauregard FFA in Lee County was declared winner of the Chapter Contest this year, and State President Francis Nicholas presented the coveted first place plaque to John Cowart, president of the winning chapter. Second place award went to the Gaylesville Chapter in Cherokee County, and third was won by Isabella in Chilton County. Honorable mention was accorded chapters at Beatrice, Smith Station, and Wetumpka.

State Farmer Degrees

The State Farmer Degree was awarded this year to 108 boys who have completed at least two years of FFA work with outstanding supervised farming projects, and who have met the requirements in leadership and scholarship. Those approved for the degrees included:

John Wilburn McLean, Jr., Dan Allen Easterling, Barbour County High, Clio; Alton Lowe, Harmon Bynum, Blount County High, Oneonta; William Simmons, David Mosley, Butler County High, Greenville; Sewell Garmon, Cherokee County High, Centre; Lamar Parker, Cleburne County High, Heflin; Marx Le Compte, Martin Moates, James Stephens, Phil Pridgen, Collins Goodson, Wayne Ellis, Coffee County High, Enterprise.

Julian Dunlap, Judson Dunlap, Frank Penton, Coosa County High,
THE ALABAMA FUTURE FARMER

Public Speakers

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independent family-sized farms operated by families with a high standard of living”.

Asserting that “There can be no thought but of victory, no triumph but of justice”, Easterling continued, “I know that agriculture, which has never failed under fire, will strain its every resource that the American people and the American ideal shall emerge from this war clean, powerful, and forever enduring”. Judges for this year’s contest were E. D. Hess, Auburn English instructor; T. W. Speno, Macon County superintendent of education, and J. B. Page, principal of Smith Station high school. Easterling was named winner over Eugene Gates, who took second place, James Broughton, third, and Aubrey Davis, fourth.

Easterling will repeat the winning speech at the tri-state contest.

Biffle Lee Adams of Eva FFA Chapter is shown at graduation exercises explaining to an audience of nearly 500 the use of various plane models made by 16 members of his Senior I Class. The five models made and displayed include three Japanese Navy Fighters, three British Fighters, three German Bombers, three U. S. Army Bombers, and four U. S. Navy Patrol Bombers. Vocational agriculture students throughout the state have participated in similar projects to aid Uncle Sam in training his men to recognize any type of plane.
Well on the Way

By Bill Jones, District President

As president of the St. Clair County District, I represent 158 Future Farmers of America—from the Pell City, Ashville, and Odenville Chapters. Right now our organizations are working above all on the national war effort, because we feel like that is our biggest job. And with outstanding farm boys heading each chapter, and with each member pitching in, we’ve already made good progress in our war program.

We know that cooperating is the big thing in times like these. But Future Farmers have had a lot of practice in cooperation. That’s why we’ve already collected big piles of scrap materials and turned them over to manufacturers for making war equipment. And that’s why we’ve gone as far as we have in the Food for Freedom drive.

These jobs aren’t hard for Future Farmers of America because we’ve been especially trained for this work. Ever since we were old enough to
Boys at the Institute helped raise 338 bushels of Irish potatoes last year, hope to produce 700 bushels this year. An electric fan keeps air moving in the potato house pictured above.

To the right above James Moore, Selma, and J. P. James, Ashford, are busy in the fruit orchard. The boys pruned and sprayed 1,300 peach trees and about 300 apple trees.

Willie Harmon of Bessemer and Edgar Hall of Cullman, pictured directly below, are among the four boys at the Institute especially interested in bees. Last year they took off 850 pounds of honey from 41 stands. The two boys in the picture at the lower right, Frank Holly of Blountsville and Elmer Boger of Danville, have built terraces on 75 acres of land.

Other members of the vocational agriculture class not pictured here are Charles Burdick, Montgomery; Vernon Lackey, Munford; Thad Stripling, Yolande; Elmer Cooper, Manchester; Wallace McCue, Portersville; Ford Smith, Sulligent; Virgile Lee Banks, Empire; and Huston Dutton, Birmingham.
**Well on the Way**

(From Page 4)

follow Dad to the barn, we’ve been taught to milk the cow, hoe the garden, feed the chickens, and all the other farm jobs. When we went to high school, the Ag. teacher took over and taught us scientific methods of balancing rations, crop rotation, how to terrace land, and other things a young farmer should know.

Our Pell City, Ashville, and Odenville Chapters have already gone a long way toward our goal for this year. The Victory Garden is one of our main enterprises. We learn the different varieties of vegetables, how and when to plant, fertilizer requirements, insect and disease control and other things that make an ordinary garden into a Victory garden. Secretary of Agriculture Wickard has said a number of times that food will win the war—and as Future Farmers we realize that our organization can do a lot to help raise that food.

In our Scrap Salvage campaign we have a lot of fun collecting things like iron, rubber, tin and paper. Nobody’s surprised now to pass a school building and see a large pile of scrap material out in front. And it’s not at all unusual to run across a small garden on the school grounds. But this isn’t all we do. Most of our FFA chapters have bought at least one Defense Bond or Stamps, in addition to those that members have bought themselves.

As Future Farmers we’re trying to take the lead in both school and community life. We’re glad to take the responsibility placed on us to do our part in the national war effort. We know that some day it will be up to us to take charge of the soils of America. And were glad to have experience now in producing food in our agricultural projects and in our gardens at home.

To sum up our part in the war effort, Future Farmers of the St. Clair District are pushing three main drives—buying Defense Stamps and Bonds, helping to collect scrap materials, and planting Victory gardens. And we’re not going to stop till the war is won!

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**Miss Vicy Morris Is Tri-State FFA Queen**

Tri-State FFA Queen for 1942 is Miss Vicy Morris of DeKalb County High School, who was sponsored by the Fort Payne FFA Chapter. Miss Morris was winner over contestants from 17 chapters in Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama.

The representatives were honored with a banquet at Ooltowah High School April 14, and Miss Morris was crowned Queen by Monzon B. Petrus, tri-state farm news editor of the Chattanooga Daily Times.

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**Chapter News**

Addison—Initiated 1 new member; repaired farm machinery; collected paper for defense; cleared $40.00 on paper and candy store.

Akron—Each member bought one defense stamp, and chapter bought $50.00 bond; held F-S-M-D banquet; transplanted 240 shrubs from last year’s cutting bed; participated in Portrait-unveiling ceremony; piped running water to edge of nursery; constructed all stage properties for Senior play and commencement; Jr. III members propagated shrubbery to be used around homes during their Horticultural year; two members served, one as chairman, of district committee on State Activity Program for 1942-43.

Albertville—Initiated 6 Future Farmers; gave wiener roast for FHA girls; elected new officers; host to semi-final speaking contest.

Abbeville—Initiated 1 Future Farmer; bought a defense bond; published sheets on kinds and varieties of vegetables that can be planted now; set out shrubbery around homes from lab.; entertained FHA girls at party.

Arley—Made improvements on interior of ag. building; held campus cleanup campaign; set up water tank for plant lab; increased size of FFA Nursery.

Auburn—Sodded and fertilized campus to main school building; sold 12,000 lbs. scrap iron for 50 per 100 lbs.; directed scrap collection during "MacArthur Week"; sponsored annual district softball tournament at Auburn; plowed lab. area and prepared for summer garden; elected new officers; held wiener roast; sponsored dance; collected scrap material to buy bond.

Belgreen—Initiated 2 Future Farmers; collected scrap rubber; planted Victory garden; assisted F. S. A. in farm machinery repair.

Berry—Repaired and refurnished twin; Billingsley— Held officers’ meeting and joint social with FHA girls.

Brilliant—Initiated 2 Green Hands; put out forest fires; landscaped grounds of main building; joint picnic with FHA girls.

Carrollton—Initiated 5 Green Hands; planted project patch; cleared $3.00 selling candy.

Carrollton—Initiated 3 Green Hands; treated 318 bu. cotton seed; held F-S-M-D banquet; bought 2 highway stakes; sold ice cream.

Cherokee—Initiated 4 Future Farmers; held F-S-M-D banquet; elected new officers; sponsored spring clean-up campaign and rat control.

Citronelle—Held F-S-M-D banquet.

Clanton—Sold 8000 lbs. of scrap iron; 350 lbs. scrap rubber; bought 2 $25.00 bonds.

Coffee County—Wrote news article each week; elected new officers; host to district meeting; made 40 model airplanes; joint social with Home Ec. girls.

Cold Springs—Elected new officers; sold $3.50 strawberries.

Columbiana—Appropriated $31.00 for school shrubbery; held 2 ball games with Vincent clearing $40.00; held fish fry and party with FHA; elected new officers.

Cataco—Elected officers; showed Green Hand in Chapel; bought 2 registered gilts and placed in pig chain; dehorned 20 head of cattle; castrated 6 pigs and 2 bulls; completed wir-
of vocational bldg.; transplanted 250 shrubs from cutting bed; planted garden in lab. area; added 13 books to FFA; purchased 525 lbs. W. L. baby chicks for poultry project; continued victory garden; treated 1200 bu. cotton seed at 15c per bu.

Cuba—Built F-S-M-D banquet; collected model airplanes. Crossville—Initiated 9 Green Hands; won 2nd place in Dist. FFA softball tournament; purchased 200 lbs. scrap iron; constructed model airplanes. Cummington—Built 45 lamp brooders; elected new officers. Georgiana—Treated 100 bu. cottonseed; spayed or treated fruit trees; killed 200 A; elected officers; landscaped 2 FHA members homes with shrubbery from lab.

Eufaula—Built lamp type brooders.

Elba—Host to Dist. FFA basketball tournament for 3rd year; won 1st and 2nd place dist. Essay contest; worked, fertilized, and pruned shrubbery around vocational bldg.; made 2-day educational tour to Pensacola and Mobile; assisted farmers in hog cholera control.

Evergreen—Built 23 brooders; collected paper for recycling; held F-S-M-D banquet.

Enterprise—Built lamp type brooders.


Jackson—Repainted Vocational Bldg.; revarnished tables; bedded sweet potato shreds; had chicken fry and dance.

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Kolton—Built lamplike brooders.

Kingston—Bought $100 in war bonds; 4 write-ups in county paper; planted garden; held social with FHA; elected officers; landscaped 2 FHA members homes with shrubbery from lab.

Lexy—Worked shrubbery around bldg.; sent out mimeographed farm news to farmers in community; sold 4 hogs for $60.00; had chicken fry and dance.

Lexington—Initiated 20 Green Hands, and 5 Future Farmers; held fish supper; entertained district organization; Cedric Brown won registered Jersey heifer; collected scrap iron; held joint meeting with FHA.

Louvilles—Host to Dist. FFA basketball tournament for 3rd year; won 1st and 2nd place dist. Essay contest; worked, fertilized, and pruned shrubbery around vocational bldg.; made 2-day educational tour to Pensacola and Mobile; assisted farmers in hog cholera control.

Luna—Host to semi-final speaking contest; wrote 2 newspaper articles; gave medal to best agv student for year, Clay Sheffield; placed 2 more purebreds on FHA pig chain; reworked 2 cabinets for county agents office.

Macedonia—Built 23 brooders; collected scrap iron; held joint FHA and FHA picnic; purchased 200 W. L. fish fry; poured 1 set of concrete steps on campus.


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D. C., to take positions with F. B. I.; planted lab area; made model planes.

Magnolia—Secured and shaped anvils; fixed school fence; turned under winter legumes on 10½ acres FFA corn land; constructed model airplanes; assisted farmers in running terrace lines to control erosion; screened Home Economics Dept.; held F-S-M-D banquet. Reeltown—Initiated 9 Future Farmers; held F-S-M-D banquet; sent 6 articles to local papers. Riverton—Held F-S-M-D banquet; gave program before 3 Huntsville civic clubs; sold $3,000 lbs. scrap metal, paper, rubber and rags; put on show exhibit; assisted W. P. A. in re landscaping campus; elected new officers; bought $60.00 bond, and sold $335.00 worth defense bonds and stamps. Rogersville—Elected new officers; landscaped 5 homes; held F-S-M-D banquet. Rowlie—Collected scrap paper and metals; joint meeting with FHA.

Sanne—Elected new officers. Slid—Held F-S-M-D banquet; killed 6 goats and 1 hog. Smith Station—Field trip to Cibewalla Park with FHA; planted hot bed in lab. area; built 4 brooders; elected new officers; held chapel program. Southside—Sold 5,675 lbs. scrap metal; sponsored beauty contest; host to W.Junit Grove FFA; landscaped 2 homes in community; bought $25.00 bond; held spend-the-day party in riverside cabin; treated cotton seed; built model airplanes. Sweet Water—Planted 3,000 luspedia bicolor plants given us by Soil Conservation Camp.

Tanner—Williams — Initiated 1 Green Hand. Thomasville—Collected scrap materials for defense. Town Creek—Sent 2 articles to local papers. Vernon—Initiated 5 Green Hands and 4 Future Farmers; held F-S-M-D banquet; elected new officers.

Walnut Grove—Bought a set of boxing gloves; treated cotton seed; made cotton seed screen; spent day at Southside.

Washington Co. High—Screened office in main building; constructed strip house over nursery bed; held F-S-M-D banquet; gave program at evening school; sponsored fiddlers convention; cleaned and oiled tools.

Waterloo—Initiated 1 Future Farmer; collected D paper, rubber and aluminum; held F-S-M-D banquet; built 3 farm brooders, 4 lamp brooders, 4 workshop tables; assisted rebuilding of lab. area fence and school building blown down by step-up farmed equipment.

West Point—Treated cotton seed; harvested strawberries. White Plains—Made and sold brooders; published bulletins on home gardening; 100% members planting victory gardens.

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