Plans For Convention

Plans for the State Convention in Birmingham, June 12-13, are being made. Here are some brief notes on these plans. More details in the next Alabama Future Farmer.

Future Farmers and advisers attending the convention will be in Birmingham two nights. Arrive by noon Thursday, June 12, and leave Saturday morning June 14th. . . . Cost of hotel room will be $4 per person. . . . Program will vary from business meetings to string band contests. . . . Visitors will include Bill Morgan, National FFA Vice-President. He will address the convention, probably on Friday night. . . . Another visitor the delegates will like is Elna Frame, State President of Future Homemakers of America. You'll see! . . . Two delegates from

(Continued on page 5)

"Vulcan", largest iron man in the world and second largest statue in America. It weighs 120,000 pounds. Its thumb is 3 feet long and weighs 175 pounds. It is 53 feet tall and is mounted on a 120-foot pedestal atop Red Mountain overlooking the City of Birmingham. It was cast in a Birmingham foundry of pig iron made from iron ore from the Birmingham district and sent to the World's Fair in 1903 in St. Louis. It typifies the natural resources of the district, the only spot on the globe where coal, iron ore and limestone, the three essentials for manufacturing steel, are found together in large quantities.

—photo courtesy B'ham Chamber of Commerce
Honorary State Farmer

It's a fact that we are only one of three or four State FFA Associations who have named Mr. Coffey as Honorary State Farmer. But we claim him anyway because he is a native Alabamian (from high Jackson) and now lives in Birmingham. In spite of the fact that he is just about tied to that Assistant Managing Editor's desk of the PROGRESSIVE FARMER, several Alabama chapters have succeeded in getting him to visit them this year. From the reports coming to the State F.F.A. office, lucky is the chapter which can get him to speak at their banquet. Mr. Coffey believes in publicity for the F.F.A., and has done much to prove it. The only subject which seems to be of no interest to him is himself. Getting the picture for this article was some job. Mr. Coffey will just have to guess how the ALABAMA FUTURE FARMER got the picture.

The citation read at the State Convention last year when Mr. Coffey received his Honorary State Farmer Degree said, “Alabama Future Farmers believe in The Progressive Farmer. We use it every month in our vocational agriculture classes. We expect it to help keep us progressive farmers in the years to come.

Mr. Coffey is interested in all farm youth. He has cooperated in giving the F.F.A. publicity through the Progressive Farmer and has always shown interest in our program. Our only regret is that Mr. Coffey's many duties in helping publish The Progressive Farmer do not permit him to visit our FFA chapters as much as we would like.”

Mystery

THAT GIRL on the cover last month seemed to worry some people. “Who is she?” was the most common question. Sorry I don’t know. Perhaps, some Future Farmer will meet her in Birmingham, June 12-13.
1947 State Champion Speaker In This Group
Four Will Be In Finals At State Convention

Herbert Sims
Winterboro

Dane Lowery
Jemison

Jimmy Morris
Jacksonville

Edward Tidwell
Susan Moore

Tommy Watkins
Russellville

Milford Bonner
Reform

Elton Grey
Lexington

Willard Evans
Arab

Clarence Mill
Kinston

Bill Manring
Kinston

Marcus Whiddon
Headland

Austin Clark
Rawls

Earl Brown
Jackson

James E. Robbins
Evergreen

Billy Childress
Orrville
Our Platform for Alabama FFA

1. Every farm boy in high school taking three years of vocational agriculture.

2. Every boy in vocational agriculture an active FFA member.

3. All the State and American Farmers allowed under the Constitution each year.

4. Two State camps owned and operated by and for Alabama Future Farmers.

BEST JUDGE AT DEMOPOLIS SHOW was Willie James Kirksey, State Farmer from Sidney Lanier chapter. He also teamed up with his brother Richard to place first as a team in the judging contest. Willie James is shown above receiving a check for $10 for making the highest score in the judging contest from S. H. Graves while Mr. Henry Whitfield, chairman of the Demopolis show committee, looks on with a smile.—Photo courtesy of Austin Ezzell.

"AMOS BOBO" AND "FELIX WINSET" are two baby bees which make up a part of Bill Roberson's farming program. Bill says, "I have never done anything which has given me more pleasure than growing out my calves." For his other productive projects, he has 42 sheep and five acres of corn. "The easiest money I ever made was from my sheep," Bill added. His corn will feed beef calves next year, according to his plans. As improvement projects, he plans to paint his dad's barn and improve his dad's orchard.

Bill, the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Roberson, is 15 years old, a first year student in agriculture, and a member of the Mt. Hope F.F.A.—C. C. O'Mary, Adviser.
New Officers Work

The first complete report of new officers elected to reach the state office was from Uriah chapter. At their regular meeting April 4, the following officers were elected: Lemuel Gulby, president; James Ether Tuck, vice-president; Charles Waisen, secretary; Manton Mims, treasurer; John Weatherford, reporter; Mr. A. G. Driggers, adviser.

These new officers went right to work. They made a calendar of FFA activities for April, and talked about summer work and play in the FFA.

Cups Awarded

160 attended the annual FFA-FHA father-son, mother-daughter get-together at Greenville April 11. The feature of the program was awarding of cups to the most outstanding Future Farmer and Future Homemaker. Narva Jean Gibson and Leroy Dunn won the honors for their leadership, scholarship and help to their chapters during the past year. New chapter officers for both FHA and FFA were presented. Leading the groups this next year will be Ann Trice and Cranford Tremble.

State Convention

(Continued from page 1)

Each chapter should be selected soon. Plan now to take part in the business of the convention. Brush up on your parliamentary procedure and be ready... FFA headquarters will be at one of the hotels. To be announced later... Finials in the State Speaking and Quartet Contest will be held Friday night, June 13th. Will it be Hanceville quartet again?... The general sessions will be held in Phillips High School Auditorium. Thanks to Dr. Frazer Banks, Superintendent, and Mr. Sellers Stough, Principal... An important item of business is the adoption of State Activity Program for 1947-48. The program is being prepared by Chilton County FFA.

Orrville Landscapes One Hundred Year Old Church

The Orrville Methodist Church held its Centennial Celebration this year. Originally the church stood in a magnificent pine grove, and for that reason they had planted no ornamental shrubbery around it. A storm destroyed the pine grove, leaving the church rather bare, as our first snapshot shows. Funds were appropriated to buy shrubbery and the Ag Teacher, J. H. Staggers, was asked to help in landscaping the grounds.

Plans were drawn up by the horticulture class and submitted to the church for approval. The shrubs were purchased and FFA members did the planting. The plans included the whole church plot of about an acre. However, only those used as a base planting for the building were put on this year. The borders are to include mostly native flowering shrubs and will be completed next fall.
Gangsters in the Grass

Weeds and brush are gangsters in the grass. They literally steal your cattle and sheep by reducing the carrying capacity of grazing land or pastures. They rob your soil of moisture and minerals. They choke the life out of your grass.

Mesquite and sagebrush in Western range country are often the victims of these gangsters. They're tough and aggressive. The carrying capacity of a hundred million acres of good grazing land has been greatly reduced by these two alone. Weeds and brush can be burned or poisoned, grubbed out with bulldozers or yanked out with tractors and cables. Grass thrives again when the brush is gone. Then, cattle or sheep production can be increased, sometimes as much as 300%.

From farming states come reports of doubled beef production per acre of pasture simply by mowing weeds. In dairying sections startling improvements in production, flavor, and milk and cream profits have resulted from cutting pasture weeds two or three times a season. Promising experimental work is proceeding with 2, 4-D and other new chemical weed killers. Spraying pastures is proving effective in destroying these livestock rustlers.

Once weeds are under control, pastures benefit by liming, fertilizing, and restocking with new pastures. We have found that a penny saved is a penny earned. There are many dollars to be saved by making the most efficient use of grass lands. We suggest that you contact your state agricultural college, county agent, or vocational agricultural teacher for further information.

Judging Producing Ability of Heifer Calves

by W. W. Swett, Bureau of Dairy Industry

The results of preliminary analyses of data obtained by scientists in the Bureau of Dairy Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, offer much promise that dairymen will soon have a new, practical, money-saving system for judging the future producing ability of heifer calves.

We have found that by examining the udder of a dairy heifer when she is 4 months old we can get a good idea whether or not she will be a good milk producer. We think that with a little practice any farmer can learn to judge heifer calves the same way.

Working with our experimental dairy herd at Beltsville, Maryland, we first determined, by feel, the average udder development of calves. Then we graded all the heifers as High, Medium, or Low. Later we checked the grades of these calves against their milk production records as cows. We found a fairly close match between the grades of the calves and the milk production of the cows.

Since these results are based entirely on the study of animals in one herd, the plan must be rigidly tested for reliability in other herds where the inheritance for milk production may be at different levels and more variable. Before it can be recommended for practical use, the pay-off, of course, comes in cutting out low producers at any early age. It costs about $125 to raise a heifer to milking age. Nearly one-third of the heifer calves now raised turn out to be unprofitable cows. If the method stands up under field tests it appears that this proportion and the resulting monetary loss can be materially reduced.

Martha Logan's Recipe for FRANKFURTS AND HOT POTATO SALAD

(Yield: 6 servings)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 frankfurts</td>
<td>¼ cup diced green pepper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 large potatoes</td>
<td>3 tablespoons water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 tablespoons</td>
<td>3 teaspoons sugar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bacon</td>
<td>1 teaspoon salt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drippings</td>
<td>¼ cup vinegar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>onion</td>
<td>¼ teaspoon black pepper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cook potatoes. Peel and cut in ½-inch cubes. Place frankfurts in saucepan of boiling water. Remove from heat and let stand from 5 to 8 minutes. Heat drippings. Add onion and green pepper, and brown. Add vinegar, water, salt, and pepper. Cook over low heat until flavors are thoroughly blended. Pour hot sauce over cubed potatoes and mix lightly. Top with frankfurts and serve hot.

Swift & Company

UNION STOCK YARDS

CHICAGO 9, ILLINOIS
Things are NOT always as they seem

Which weighs more? The cubic foot block of iron, or those four big rolls of 26" fence wire? The wire looks much heavier, but it isn't. They weigh the same—491 pounds each.

No, things are not always as they seem. Take that fence wire, for example. The fence maker paid perhaps 26 a pound for the iron. You buy it as fencing at around 76 a pound. That leaves a "spread" of 50 a pound between the raw material and the finished product. This "spread" covers heat treating, drawing the wire, weaving it, rolling, and other processes we may not know about. It includes also manufacturer's profit, transportation, jobbers' and retailers' costs and profits, and delivery to you.

There is also a "spread" between what you producers get for livestock and what you pay the meat dealer for meat. For one thing, an average 1000-pound steer produces only 543 pounds of meat and 161 pounds of by-products, both edible and inedible. In processing there is unrecoverable shrink and waste of 296 pounds. We also have the costs of "disassembling" live animals into meat, refrigerating, transporting to market, and delivery to retail stores. The "spread" covers also retailers' costs and profits—plus a profit for the meat packer which averages only a small fraction of a cent per pound of product handled.

Price balances supply and demand

There is always a demand for meat. Yes, at some price. But that price is not determined by the meat's cost, or set by the meat packer. It is set by what the consumers are willing and able to pay for the meat and by-products. That is something which must be known and remembered if one is to understand the meat business.

A good many people think that the meat packers sell meat for the cost of the livestock, plus expense, plus a profit. But that is not how meat prices are made. We must sell our meat—because it is perishable. We hope, of course, to sell it at a price which gives us a profit. But profit or loss, we must sell it. As our president, John Holmes, said recently, "We seek the price that balances supply and demand. Sometimes this is a profitable price; sometimes there is a loss. The records show that, on the average, we make a modest profit year by year."

As for prices paid for livestock, they, too, are set by the forces of supply and demand. No meat packer could control them because there is so much competition both in buying and selling. There are over 4,000 meat packers and 20,000 commercial slaughterers competing daily for live animals.

Soda Bill sez:

... the time to hold on hardest is when you've just about decided to let go.

Agricultural Research Department

F.M. Simpson.

City Cousin, Smart in school, Thought that he could Lead a mule... April fool!

NUTRITION IS OUR BUSINESS—AND YOURS

Right Eating Adds Life to Your Years—and Years to Your Life
Facts Philosophy
Activities

Clyde Turner, president of the Clanton FFA chapter, writes in to say that 25 Future Farmers from Clanton and Millry marched as a group in Governor Folsom’s inaugural parade. They represented Washington County schools. Thank you Clyde, glad to get your letter.

* * *

Originality is simply a pair of fresh eyes.—T. W. Higginson.

* * *

Mr. M. H. Pearson, Honorary State Farmer, received another big honor. The Progressive Farmer named him the Man-of-the-Year in Agriculture for Alabama in 1946. Mr. Pearson has his State Farmer certificate framed and always keeps it hanging in his office. Alabama Future Farmers are proud of the new honor for Mr. Pearson in recognition of his leadership in the Farm Security Administration, now the Farmers Home Administration.

* * *

Another Honorary State Farmer who keeps his certificate on the wall of his office is Mr. A. B. Hope, President, First Bank of Notasulga. Mr. Hope is an active booster for the F.F.A. and vocational agriculture, and never misses an opportunity to help in local and State F.F.A. activities.

* * *

Still another very active Honorary State Farmer is Superintendent G. S. Smith of Lamar County. Mr. Smith wanted to know if he could get his State Farmer key replaced. He had the hard luck to lose his key and wants to get another to wear on his watch chain. Glad to fill the request, Mr. Smith, your continued interest is needed and appreciated.

* * *

A good letter from Adviser K. V. Reagan at Greenville raises a timely question. He asked about an official emblem to place on a cup or other award. The reason it is so timely is that the Balfour Company, Attleboro, Massachusetts has made this very thing available.

BIG CHAPTER HAS BIG PROGRAM AS WELL AS BIG ADVISER

The Centre FFA chapter up in Cherokee is one of the largest in the state. With 110 active, paid voting members it is number one in Alabama as to size. Lamar Ray, chapter reporter, thinks they are about the most active in the state. In addition to the things he sent in that they had already done at Centre, he said they were planning an educational tour this summer. Some of the activities for the past year Lamar listed in his report are as follows: Sent representatives to Birmingham stock show; sent 3 members to State FFA convention; four boys got the State Farmer Degree at this convention; operated school supply store; social with FHA (or is that NEWS?): initiated 34 greenhands; initiated 32 chapter farmers; took summer trips to Florida; planned a corn-growing contest for FFA members; 1,072 pieces of shrubbery used in landscaping 18 farm homes; built cement walkways for elementary school; ordered 13 bushels each of hybrid and prolific seed corn; chapter visited fat calf show in Rome, Ga.

The National Future Farmers of America Camp will be open from June 1 until September 10 this year to accommodate FFA chapter groups visiting the National Capital area, according to an announcement by the National Executive Secretary.

Located 10 miles south of Washington in Virginia on U. S. Highway 1, the camp provides an ideal stop-over place for groups touring the east. Facilities at the camp include a barracks building with 76 bunks, a building with a kitchen and combination dining and recreation room, as well as outdoor recreational facilities including horse shoe pits, a ball diamond and volley ball courts.

George Washington’s Grist Mill is located adjacent to the camp property and is open to the public under the auspices of the FFA, showing many tools and relics of Washington’s day.

Reservations for groups to stop at the camp are now being accepted by the National Executive Secretary, A. W. Tenney, U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C. Requests should state the date of arrival, the date of departure and the number of individuals in the party. A fee of fifty cents per day is charged each person staying at the camp. This covers the cost of cooking and shower facilities at the camp. Sheets, blankets and towels are not provided and must be brought by the individuals staying at the camp.