The State FFA Convention will be held in Birmingham, June 12-13. The Executive Committee voted to accept the kind invitation to meet in Alabama's largest city. This marks the first time a State FFA Convention has been held away from Auburn. Details of the Convention program are now being planned. It can be announced now that each chapter is to send two delegates. Members attending the convention will stay in hotels. We will be in Birmingham two nights, June 12-13. See you in Birmingham.

A PREVIEW OF THE STATE CONVENTION shows the state officers, at the top, making plans for the big Birmingham meeting June 12-13. They are, l to r, Joe Pace Palmer, reporter; Carl Watson, Vice-President; C. C. Scarborough, Executive Secretary; Edsel Thomaston, President; Kerna B. Tidwell, Treasurer; Milford Bonner, Secretary.

The bottom picture is a bird's-eye view of the Magic City where our 18th annual convention will be held.
WANNA WIN $100?

What does the winner of $100 FARM MECHANICS award do the next year? That is the question we asked Mr. J. W. Locke, adviser to J. W. Carraker, last year's winner. Mr. Locke followed his usual plan of letting the boy tell his own story. Below is J. W.'s account of his work this year.

Here is a list of jobs done with my farm implements. Did all the work myself. 1. Repaired and repainted 1 hayraker. 2. Repaired and repainted 1 mower. 3. Repainted 2 2-horse turning plows. 4. Repainted 2 1-horse turning plows. 5. Repainted 2 1-horse wood beam plow-stocks. 6. Repaired and repainted 3 large scratchers and 1 small one. 7. Repaired and repainted 1 planter and 1 fertilizer distributor. 8. Put handles (and painted them) in 2 pitchforks. 9. Made and put handle into 1 large hoe. 10. Painted 5 hoe handles. 11. Put handle into 1 shovel. 12. Painted 1 garden rake, 1 sledge hammer, and 2 claw hammers. 13. Put hoops around 1 large keg for a stool. 14. Built a sled for field use.

Outside work which I helped my father do:
1. Covered 1 large 5-room house with steel roofing. 2. Finished cultivating 1 large truck crop. 3. Hauled several loads of sand, stove wood, fertilizer, etc. moved people.

Farm Improvement and Conservation. Father and I together did this:
1. Planted 20 acres of winter cover crop (vetch and Austrian peas). 2. Planted 4 acres of oats. 3. Built up 3 long terraces. 4. Cut 3 short ditches. 5. Cleaned off and shoveled out 1 large, long ditch. 6. Cut down dense growth of trees, bushes, briars, vines, and weeds; and piled the brush and made firewood and stove wood of all the suitable part. 7. Hauled 1 truckload of rich dirt and put it into a washed-off space. 8. Hauled 2 truckloads of manure to poor spots in field.

Farm Crops. My father began this crop while I was still in school. After I got out of school, about the last of May, I then helped my father regularly until we finished harvesting the crop.

- 10 acres corn—250 bushels. 2½ or 3 acres cotton—1½ bales. 4 acres bean hay—6 tons. 4 acres oats—4 tons. 1/8 acre Irish potatoes—15 bushels. ¼ acre sweet potatoes—50 bushels. 1/8 acre cane or syrup—30 gallons. 1/10 acre peanuts (large type)—5 bushels. 1/8 acre watermelons—(didn't sell any).

JAMES WOOD CARRAKER, Cook Springs, Alabama. 1946 Winner of State Farm Mechanics Award. Member Pell City Future Farmer Chapter. Outstanding student in general school work as well as in vocational agriculture. Graduated from high school, May 1946.

Would you like to win that $100 this year?
Write C. C. Scarborough
Executive Secretary
Auburn, Ala.
Plantin' Pines

The Vocational Agriculture boys of the Chilton County High School have begun a program of reforestation.

They have learned that trees are a crop and can keep on producing useful harvests for the future. On many acres, best suited to the production of timber, trees are being planted, protected, grown and harvested like any other crop.

Alabama is the third state in the nation in production of timber, being exceeded only by two larger Pacific coast states.

In the picture above L. C. Ray and Gene Parrish were caught in action as they were about to plant a pine on the former's farm.

The following boys received pine seedlings from the State Chamber of Commerce and planted them on their farms, Jonnie Wells, Douglas Todd, L. C. Ray, Horace Headley and John Zimmerman. Next year we are hoping to get twice this number planted.—Russell Williams, Reporter.

Another record has been broken by Alabama Future Farmers! 53 county winners in the speaking contest and 31 county champion quartets were decided in February. These will be reduced to 16 during March as the quarter-final contests are held. Semi-finals in April will result in the top 4 in each contest for the finals at the State Convention in June.

Groups like the one shown here were meeting all over Alabama in February. This picture was made at Odenville at the St. Clair County FFA Speaking and Quartet Contest. It shows the speakers, singers and judges.

Sitting on the front row at the left are Eugene Goss, Bob Cornett, Ray Watson, and Millard Welden, members of the Pell City quartet. Next are Russell Harp, Ray Wyatt, Horis Beason, and Charlie Bartlett, who make up the Ashville quartet. Horis Beason, the fellow with the bow tie, was also Ashville's speaker. In the back row, 1 to r, are Mr. H. L. Eubanks, county agent, one of the judges; Arlon Smith, Pell City speaker and St. Clair county champion; Miss Betty Easter, Assistant Home Agent, another judge; Jack Churchill, Odenville speaker; Mr. David Jackson, Assistant county agent, the other judge.

FFA Advisers in St. Clair county are D. J. Bartlett, Odenville, D. O. Langston, Ashville, and J. W. Locke, Pell City.

Ninety-four Future Farmers planted 96,000 pines this year. Five thousand more seedlings were used to start four demonstration plots. All were a part of the Alabama FFA Forestry Program. The seedlings were made available to Future Farmers through the cooperation of the State Forestry Department and State Chamber of Commerce.

See You at State Convention In Birmingham June 12-13

Bo Loyd, Stevenson Future Farmer, is looking over his brood sows. These are only part of his livestock projects. Bo has 4 beef calves he is getting ready to show at Birmingham in May. He also has 18 sheep.
The Alabama Future Farmer

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Editor ______ C. C. Scarborough
Alabama Polytechnic Institute
Auburn, Alabama

STATE OFFICERS, 1946-47
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Vice-President
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C. C. Scarborough _______ Auburn
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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.

STAFF MEMBERS HONORED

Honors have been coming our way recently. Mr. R. E. Cammack, State Director of Vocational Education, has been elected president of the national association of State Directors. Mr. Cammack was Alabama's first State FFA Adviser and helped us grow year after year until he became State Director in 1945. We like to think that he still puts FFA first in spite of his many other duties.

Mr. R. W. Montgomery, Associate Professor of Agricultural Education, was appointed to the State Course of Study Committee. This appointment came from Dr. A. R. Meadows, State Superintendent of Education. Mr. Montgomery is a former teacher of vocational agriculture at Riverton and Camp Hill and has been district supervisor in Central Alabama.

HONORARY STATE FARMER

The citation read at the convention last year when Mr. Gregory was awarded the Honorary State Farmer Degree follows: "No livestock show in Alabama seems complete without Mr. W. H. (Mutt) Gregory. Teachers of vocational agriculture and FFA members always get 100% cooperation from Mr. Gregory in their livestock shows. We have called upon him many times for judging shows and he has always responded. We especially appreciate Mr. Gregory's interest in the development of a livestock program in Alabama for the benefit of all of us. Without Mr. Gregory's cooperation, the progress that Alabama Future Farmers have made in livestock shows would not have been possible."

W. H. Gregory
STATE SECRETARY IS SPEAKER AND SCHOLAR

Our State Secretary specializes in speaking. Last year he won his chapter, county, quarter-final and semi-final contests and placed second in the State Finals. His subject was “A Balanced Farm Program.” He is in the contest again this year and hopes to be State champion. Milford says the public speaking contest gives valuable training to FFA members.

Milford’s supervised farming program has been built around corn and cotton. In 1943-44 he had 3 acres of corn, 2 acres of cotton, 75 chickens, and 2 calves. His program has increased each year. For the past year, he had 5 acres of corn, 3 acres of cotton, 5 acres of oats, 2 gilts, 1 beef cow, and home orchard of 25 trees. Improvement projects have included home grounds, library, home garden, pasture, dairy herd improvement, soil conservation, and use of legumes.

The highlights of Milford’s FFA record include State secretary, placing second in State finals speaking contest, delegate to State convention, and president of Reform FFA chapter. Mr. L. J. Howell, teacher of vocational agriculture at Reform for 29 years is Milford’s FFA advisor.

Milford is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Olive Bonner. They live on a 960 acre farm near Reform in Pickens county. He will celebrate his 18th birthday on June 12, the first day of our convention. Milford is a senior this year and plans to go to college and study forestry.

“Checked FFA Individual Score Sheets today, each man making his own check. (This is the same score that you sent out some time ago, we just mimeographed enough to go around and used it that way.) It sure works fine. Had some who scored low, but the average for second and third year boys was around 200 points. Prince Preston had a score of 478. This thing is an asset to a chapter that will make use of it, tending to put some pep in some of the boys that have a lazy tendency.” Jack Locke on back of Weekly News Report.

Milford Bonner
Reform, Ala.
Feb. 15, 1947
Dear Future Farmers:
Are you a member of an active chapter? If you are not you can be, because every member has something to do with making the chapter active. Many times the responsibility is put on the officers and adviser but no matter how good the officers and adviser are the chapter cannot be active unless every member takes part in the activities of the chapter. So make your chapter more active by taking part in all of the activities of the chapter.

Your chapter should study Parliamentary Procedure, use regular opening and closing ceremonies at chapter meetings. You should use the official ceremonies for advancing members, use the official Secretary and Treasurers books. You should take up a study of the manual, because the Manual is the “FFA Bible.” There is much valuable information in this book.

In closing let me say that you will get out of the FFA what you put into it so it is my sincere wish that every one of you as members of the FFA will do your best the remaining part of 1947 so that we might have the greatest year in Alabama FFA History.

Sincerely yours,
Milford Bonner

There are many chapters in the state that do not have and use standard equipment. Any chapter that uses all the equipment will get a much fuller meaning of what the F.F.A. really is than the chapter that does not have and use the standard equipment.

A chapter that is able to operate is able to afford the equipment. If a chapter is not able to afford the equipment they should never have been granted a charter. A newly organized chapter should begin with all of the standard equipment.

The standard equipment consists of: 1 American Flag, 1 F.F.A. felt banner, 1 miniature plow, 1 ear of yellow corn, 1 picture of George Washington, 1 picture of Thomas Jefferson, 1 owl, 1 gavel (and block), 1 secretary’s book, 1 treasurer’s book, 1 scrapbook, 1 charter, 1 creed, 1 proposes, and 1 profanity order issued by General George Washington. Every member should have an official manual. The rising sun is placed behind the president’s station.

All of this equipment is simple and inexpensive but it improves the appearance of the chapter room and creates interest among members. It lends dignity to F.F.A. gatherings and creates a desirable spirit of pride and enthusiasm.

Since this equipment helps a chapter so much every chapter in the state should have and use Standard Equipment.

Milford Bonner
State Secretary

DATES FOR DISTRICT

FAT STOCK SHOWS

Grove Hill—March 25
Demopolis—March 26-27
Montgomery—April 2-3.
Selma—April 10-11
Dothan—April 15-16
Gadsden—April 17-18
Mobile—April 22-23
Decatur—April 24
Birmingham—May 8-9
Are you using these "hired hands"?

It often seems as though a farmer or rancher never has enough help. But did you ever stop to think that there are literally thousands of people who work for you that you seldom, if ever, see?

These unseen "hired hands" are the scientists of agriculture, who work for you the year round in agricultural experiment stations of the nation. Their accomplishments are many—and can benefit you directly in proportion to the advantage you take of their services. They've helped increase productivity of the land, helped develop better-yielding crops, better livestock and poultry. Yet, never satisfied that perfection has been reached, the experiment stations continue to explore the possibilities of further aid to agriculture.

The experiment stations in the 48 states are to the business of agriculture what our research laboratories are to Swift & Company. It is in the research laboratory that we put science to work for us, to improve our products and our business. It costs us money—but we consider it money well spent. Farmers and ranchers are indeed fortunate to have much of their research work done for them—and paid for out of public funds derived from taxes.

We like to think of these agricultural experiment stations as a vast bank of valuable scientific knowledge. To maintain the assets of this bank, millions of dollars from this year's $1,235,055,000 budget of the United States Department of Agriculture go to the various state experiment stations, to conduct experiments sponsored by the U. S. D. A. In addition, about $12,000,000 is provided by the states to staff and maintain the stations. Remember, this is your bank, from which you can make withdrawals of real value any time you wish. Information is available on any subject relating to farming or ranching. Direct your request either to the Dept. of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., or to your own state college, state experiment station or extension service. If you do not have the address, ask your county agent or vocational agriculture teacher. Or write to us at Swift & Company, Department A-5, Chicago 9, Illinois.

A Big Market of Little People

A new outlet for meat has been developed! Hundreds of thousands of "little people" in America, the babies of the nation, are now eating meat. Swift's Meats for Babies and Juniors are specially prepared for them. These new products give today's babies a better chance than ever before for robust health and full physical development.

The better the food, the better the baby! That's why doctors are so enthusiastic about Swift's Meats for Babies. They know that meat provides complete, high-quality proteins, the essential body-builders—iron, the blood-builder—and needed vitamins in natural form. They know, too, that these vital food elements in meat are most important when babies are young—actually building their bodies. And so, many doctors are recommending Swift's Meats for Babies and Juniors—strained for the very young and diced for older children.

This is but one example of the many ways Swift's research, distribution and promotion contribute to the nation's nutrition and build new markets for the products of your farm and ranch.


Martha Logan's Recipe for BEEF GOULASH

2 pounds beef chuck 1 clove garlic
1/4 cup flour 1 teaspoon dry mustard
3 tablespoons fat 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
1 1/2 cups water 1 teaspoon dry mustard
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce 1/4 teaspoon sage
3/4 cup celery leaves 1 teaspoon caraway seed (optional)
3/4 teaspoon pepper 1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon salt

Cut beef into chunks and roll in flour. Melt fat in skillet. Brown meat well. Add remaining ingredients. Cover skillet and cook slowly for 3 1/2 hours, or until tender. (Yield: 6 servings.)

Our City Cousin

City Cousin is shocked to see

How strong a one-wire fence can be... Wheeee!

Things are NOT always as they seem

Which of the two shapes shown at left is the larger? The white one or the black one? The white one certainly appears to be bigger. But actually they are exactly the same size.

In the livestock-meat industry, too, things are not always as they seem. For example, sometimes people think of Swift's total profits as being large. Yet the actual fact is that in 1946 dividend payments to shareholders were less than 5% on the shareholders' investment; the company's net earnings from all sources were 13% per dollar of sales... only a fraction of a cent per pound of product handled. That seems to be doing business on a mighty narrow margin—and it is!
A farm business should be large enough to pay operating costs, interest on the investment, and family living expenses. A southern New England dairy farm, for example, should have at least 18 cows per man; a poultry farm, 1,500 layers; a market-garden farm, 10 acres; a potato farm, 40 acres; and an apple farm, 20 acres.

Doing more business with the same capital investment is one way to lower costs and higher profits. With the larger business, the operator can spend more of his time at productive work. For example, workers on a dairy farm with 9 to 10 cows per man will be just as busy as on a farm with 15 to 18 cows per man. The gross sales and net income on the larger operation will be much higher because more of the time is used in producing milk. Reducing costs per unit puts the farm operator in a stronger competitive position.

If more crop land cannot be bought, perhaps it can be rented. Another plan is to check means by which crop production on present acreage can be increased. Ways to do this include: the use of lime and fertilizer; winter cover crops; higher yielding varieties; double cropping; drainage and terracing.

Another step toward efficiency is to install modern equipment which enables one person to produce more per hour. Overhead costs per unit of product can be lowered when each machine is used profitably for as many hours as possible.

**Two Different Things**

There seems to be a good deal of misunderstanding about two factors which are important in the marketing of livestock—grade and price.

Simply defined, the purpose of grading is to provide a convenient but necessary means for comparing qualities of the meat animals in a market; or for comparing the animals in one market with those offered for sale in another market. However, grading is not an exact science because it depends quite an extent on the judgment of the person doing the buying or selling. Grades are standards which take into consideration the sex, weight, quality, conformation and finish of animals.

Now, let’s have a look at price. Price is not a factor in determining grade. Just because some animals are in a higher grade does not mean that they always will sell for a higher price than animals in a lower grade. For example, it happens at times that a medium grade of cattle sells for as much or more than a good grade. Such a condition may come about when there is a heavy demand for, but only a light supply of, medium cattle; while on the same day a big supply and a light demand of good grade cattle will not bring so high a price.

The same situation may exist in the case of lambs. In communities where racial customs affect eating habits, there are times when carcasses of lightweight, thin, lean lambs sell for as much as the fat, well-finished, choice type. Again the law of supply and demand is in action.

Always remember that price and grade are two different things. Try to think of each separately, and we believe you will have a much clearer and truer picture of grading and marketing of livestock.

P. C. Smith, Vice President
In Charge of Beef, Lamb, Veal

**Soda Bill Sex:**

...a feller that’s wrapped up in himself generally makes a mighty puny package.
FAMILY HEALTH

With need for every pound of food produced, the nation cannot afford the loss of millions of dollars in feed, chicks and eggs destroyed each year by rats.

Rats can be controlled—with the aid of concrete. Ratproof and sanitary, firesafe and thrifty ... concrete is particularly well suited for granaries, poultry and hog houses, barn and feeding floors, milk houses and cooling tanks, manure pits and other structures needed for increased food production.

There is no shortage of concrete materials for necessary farm construction, repairs and improvements.

Concrete farm buildings are moderate in first cost. They offer sanitation, firesafety and lifetime service at low annual cost.

If you need help, get in touch with your concrete contractor or your building material dealer.

Write for free booklet, “Restoring Old Farm Buildings with Concrete.”

PORTLAND CEMENT ASSOCIATION
Dept. Q3-11, Watts Bldg., Birmingham 9, Ala.

Mellow Valley goes on a project tour. This was in October. Another tour is planned for this spring. Top picture shows Charles Fargason (on the left) and classmates looking over two heifers and the family milk cow that are over knee deep in some good old Clay County Kudzu. The heifers were placed on the Kudzu about the first of May and have never been off. This picture was made October 16, just after the first light frost. The heifers have about doubled in value, with very little expense. Charles was asked as to what he was planning to do with the heifers and he said “milk them when they freshen, keep the calves, and plant more Kudzu.”

In the second picture above, Hugh Young is telling the group the kind of pines these are. where he got them, and how to set them out. Hugh says he is going to set out pines or Kudzu on all of the waste land on his Daddy’s farm.

H. S. McKay is teacher of vocational Agriculture.

The January issue of The Alabama Farmer carried the picture, left, of Robert Bedwell, State Farmer from Centre FFA chapter. He is Associate Editor of the student publication on Ag Hill at A.P.I.

While in high school, Robert was active in the FFA, and was the Cherokee County champion FFA speaker. After finishing high school in 1944, he joined the Navy and went to the Pacific on a destroyer. He has now returned to Auburn to complete his course in agriculture. Robert’s FFA adviser at Centre was Mr. D. P. Whitten.