

# The ALABAMA FUTURE FARMER

FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA  
EDUCATION  
FFA  
CULTURE

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Vol. XVII Auburn, Ala. September 1947 No. 1

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## ALABAMA CHAMPS TAKE GEORGIA and FLORIDA



**TRI-STATE CHAMPS**—Alabama's top FFA quartet proved they were just that good by winning over Georgia and Florida champions. They stole the show over in Georgia at the tri-state. They not only won the contest but the approval of everyone there.

In the above picture Jack Day, leader of the champion singers, is presenting the tri-state plaque to Adviser S. C. Doughty for the chapter room. The Georgia FFA Association gave the big plaque. Other members of the quartet are, left to right, Joe Harris, Walter Naish, and Albert Dennis. (More on Page 8).

## The Alabama Future Farmer

Published Seven Times A Year

by

**ALABAMA ASSOCIATION FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA**

*The National Organization of  
Boys Studying Vocational  
Agriculture*

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Alabama Polytechnic Institute  
Auburn, Alabama

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## Plea to Young Farmers

(Editorial in the BIRMINGHAM  
AGE-HERALD during State  
FFA Convention.)

The young farmers plow straight furrows; if they do not as soon as they begin to toddle, they learn quickly; strong backs and eager minds carry them forward in agricultural development. These are not just "phrases." This is literally true: the farmer of Alabama is improving himself year in and out. He is becoming a better man all around; he is earning more money; his family is enjoying more modern conveniences, more scientific services;

there is simply more plain, everyday happiness as he goes about raising food for the nation, and he is relating himself to the rest of his state, his nation, in an intelligent manner.

\* \* \*

Birmingham people are grateful that for the first state convention of the Future Farmers of America ever held in an Alabama community other than Auburn, this city was selected. Citizens here have been awakened as never before in recent years to the interdependency of agricultural Alabama and industrial Alabama.

Young farmers will realize readily enough that industry means good wages. Good wages mean good markets for farm products. They will realize too that the "country" could not enjoy high living standards without selling to cities, without buying in turn the products manufactured in cities. And they may feel assured that the city no longer—if ever it did—feels "independent." The men who run Birmingham businesses, who speak the voice of our industry through the Chamber of Commerce and other agencies long have been pointing out that Birmingham never can achieve its ultimate greatness unless it makes itself one with rural Alabama.

We here in Birmingham consider farmers' problems our problems. We do so because we know well that the prosperity and well-being of rural Alabama unqualifiedly are essential to our own well-being. That is the "realistic" approach. But we go beyond this: we want rural Alabama to know that we think seriously of its problems because among our number are thousands who still have links with rural areas, who lately departed therefrom.

\* \* \*

We of Birmingham would commend the FFA young men and women of Alabama, of course. But these young people likely do not care for mere casual words of praise. They know well enough the job they are doing is important; they have the confidence not only of youth, but of citizens who have considered, who daily consider, the

meaning of the work they have undertaken.

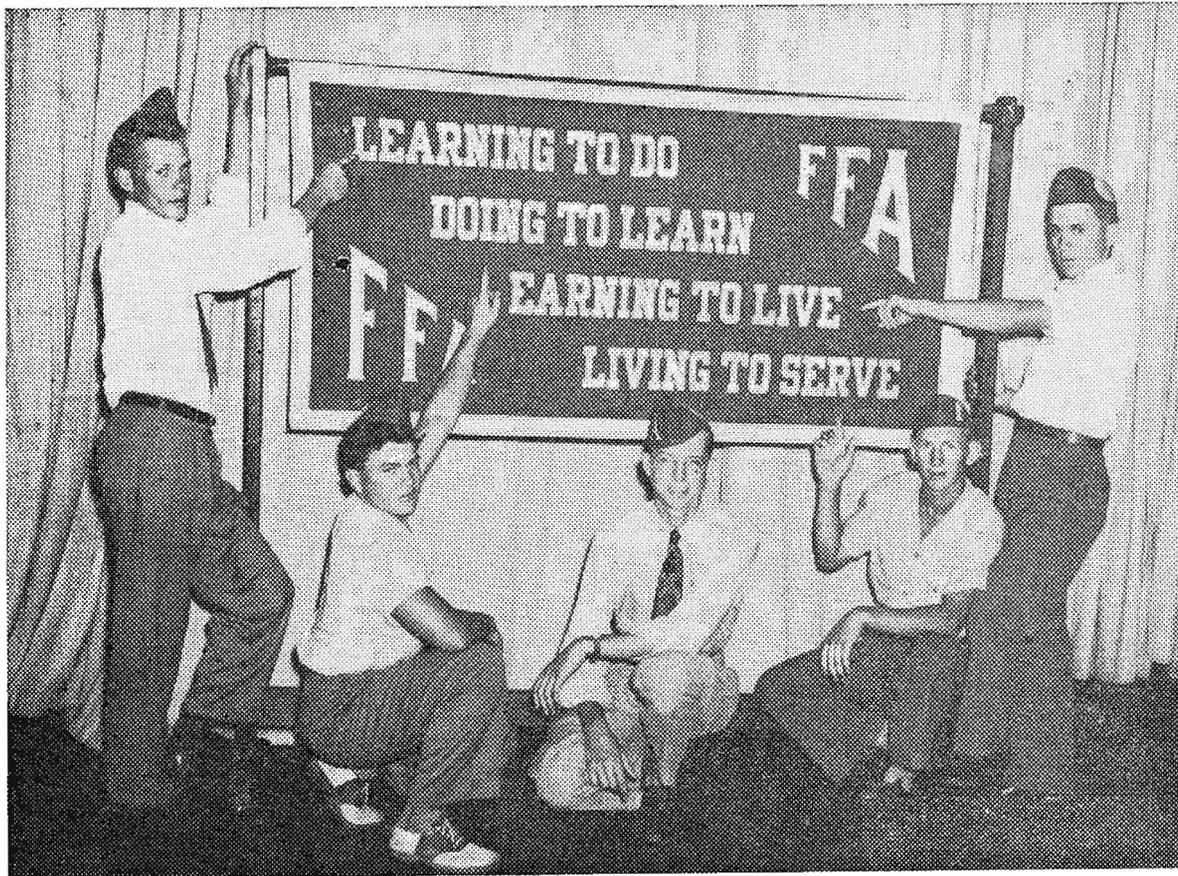
But with FFA members in Birmingham, we feel urged to utilize the opportunity of speaking directly to them. When it is said that young people of today are leaders of tomorrow, there is a meaning there which many do not appreciate always. We believe so completely that this is so: that we would attempt to "propagandize" you while you are with us, while you are having your meetings, having your pleasures in the valley of iron where Bessemer converters bellow forth their golden images.

We say to you frankly, FFA members, that we would like to see you go back to your farm homes, to your homes in small Alabama towns, and carry for us a message. Tell it, if you will, to your parents, your teachers, your elders generally. Tell it particularly to all your young friends who could not come here with you.

Our message is simple: We want you to say to all you know—and believe it, please, yourselves—that Birmingham today stands awakened to the needs, the problems, the present and future opportunities of agricultural Alabama. Say to all you see that Birmingham is ready to be of any assistance it can be as you go forward with your work, your plans for your lives and your communities. It is no idle declaration; it is not spoken in any easy flowering of routine welcome. We mean it truly, and seek only the opportunity to prove it to you. For, FFA members, you may feel assured that we know this, and know it well, that you are the backbone of all that Alabama will be in our mutual future. So pass along our message, please. And thank you for your visit.

The Tri-State Contest was held at the Georgia FFA Camp near Covington. George Future Farmers take great pride in their State FFA Camp. They should, it is one of the best FFA Camps in the country.

## NEW STATE OFFICERS START BUSY YFAR



Leaders of Alabama's 10,000 Future Farmers are proud of the FFA motto. Our State FFA officers shown above are, left to right, Bobby White, Vice-President, Riverton, Madison County; Ralph Ethridge, Secretary, McAdory, Jefferson County; Dane Lowrey, President, Jemison, Chilton County; Wayne Upton, Reporter, Centre, Cherokee County; and Eldred Croft, Treasurer, Straughn, Covington County.

Our State officers this year have already won the title of the "most photographed!" From the minute they were elected, until they left Birmingham flash bulbs were popping in their faces. It was explained to these officers that there was more to being a State officer than having pictures made!

Our State officers this year should make good leaders. As a group, they have perhaps the best record of FFA activities of any State officers. They meet in Auburn in September for an officer-training school. They are all planning to attend the National FFA Convention.

The State officers will visit as many chapters as possible this year. Write them early for a visit to your chapter. Invite the officer nearest you.

### State Champ Loses

Earl Robbins, State champion speaker, lost in the Tri-



State Contest. Winner was Champ Traylor of Blountsville, Florida. (We decided he was just trying to live up to his name). Champ spoke on the subject "The Past, Present and Future obligations of the Future Farmers." He was good. Joe Turner, Powder Springs, Georgia placed second with his speech on "The Secret of Profitable Farming."

### Want To Sell

Reg. OIC pigs. \$20 each here at Tanner FFA, G. C. Aderhold, Adviser.

Reg. Jersey bull. Famous Winchester line—Susan Moore FFA, Vernon Perry, Adviser, Blountsville, Rt. 3.

Shrubbery. Owned by FFA boys. Prices reasonable—Lexington FFA, M. Thornton, Adviser.

Popcorn popper. Pops O.K. but needs re-condition job. \$50. Reel-town FFA, Notasulga, Rt. 1, P. C. Dean, Adviser.

### Want To Buy

One Reg. med. type Poland China male, 4-6 months old—Jemison FFA chapter, L. C. Shields, Adviser.

One cow giving milk—Cold Springs FFA, Bremen, Rt. 1, N. D. Kilgo, Adviser.

# Feedlots Are Food

Now, with the approach of fall, the endless streams of cattle and lambs flow down out of the high summer pastures. Last spring's pigs soon will be on the way to market. The sorting lots and corrals will soon be busy.

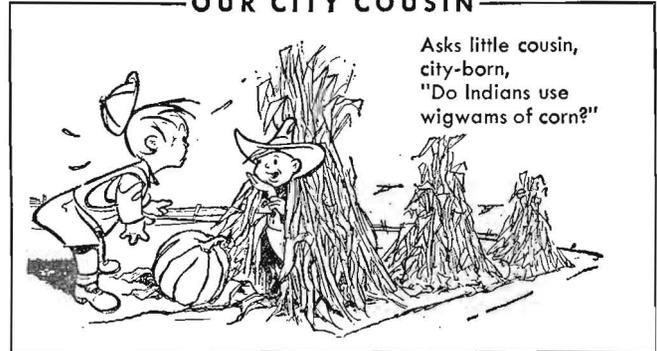
In the valleys and plains the feedlots begin to fill. They dam back some of this fall flood of animals . . . You who feed livestock know well how important this is. You realize that it helps avoid periods of glut and scarcity, by stretching out, over months, the time of marketing. You know, too, how such year 'round marketing serves to lessen big "feast-or-famine" price fluctuations. And who should understand better than you how the feedlots of America add millions of pounds to the nation's meat supply?

*Feedlots save for the land much of the fertility which the selling of grain crops and hay would take out of the land.* For example, you sell a steer that has gained 500 pounds in your feedlot. You are selling off your land only about 12½ pounds of nitrogen, 3 pounds of phosphorus, 1 pound of potash, which his body has absorbed out of your feeds. But suppose you were to sell as cash crops the grain and hay which you put into that steer. Then you would deplete your soil of about seven times as much nitro-

*gen, four times as much phosphorus, and twenty times as much potash.*

Keeping the soil fertile through use of manure from livestock is only one factor in judging whether "feeding" is likely to be a profitable venture. There are many others which are being constantly studied by individuals, colleges, and experiment stations. In every feeding area they are trying out new rations, watching costs, plugging "leaks," developing more efficient feeding techniques. So if you are feeding livestock, or are considering it, it may be worth your while to consult your county agent, vocational agriculture teacher, or state agricultural college. Ask them what they have that's new in up-to-the-minute feeding information . . . maybe you'll find some new wrinkle that will lower your costs, increase your profit possibilities.

## OUR CITY COUSIN



Asks little cousin, city-born, "Do Indians use wigwams of corn?"

## Martha Logan's Recipe for SAUSAGE AND LIMA BEAN CASSEROLE

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1 pound pure pork sausage                    | ¼ cup chopped onion    |
| 1½ cups dried lima beans<br>(3½ cups cooked) | ¼ teaspoon dry mustard |
| 3 cups hot water                             | 1 teaspoon salt        |
|  | ½ cup tomato juice     |

Soak beans in hot water for 8 to 10 hours. Simmer beans about 1½ hours in the same water in which they were soaked. Brown half of the sausage and the onion, stirring lightly. Drain off excess fat. Combine cooked beans, browned sausage, onion, mustard, and salt. Place in a one-quart casserole. Make ten small balls from remaining sausage meat. Place on top of hot bean mixture. Pour tomato juice over beans. Bake in a covered casserole in a slow oven (325° F.) for 45 minutes. Uncover. Bake 15 minutes longer to brown sausage. (6 to 8 servings)

## WINTER FEEDING AFFECTS SUMMER GAINS

Summer gains made by yearling steers on grass vary with the amount of gain made during the previous winter, according to new data reported by the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station.

The experiments conducted by the Department of Animal Husbandry there were designed to find an answer to this question, "How much should calves gain during the winter months in order to make the best use of grass the following summer?"

Six lots of choice calves were used in the test. They were fed to gain at three different rates—high (1.3 pounds per head daily); medium (about 1 pound per head daily), and low (about ½ to ¾ of a pound per head daily).

The report of the experiments indicates: (1) that steer calves which gained at the medium to low rates made the most economical use of grass during the early part of the grazing season; (2) that combined profits from wintering and early-season grazing were in favor of the lots wintered at medium and low rates of gain; (3) that, of four lots of steers which were continued on grass during late summer and early fall, the ones which had been fed at the lowest rate of winter gain (.69 pounds per head daily) continued to make the greatest gain on grass; (4) that there is definite evidence that calves wintered on grass and cake to gain ½ to ¾ of a pound a day will produce desirable feeder yearlings at a greater profit than those which gain from 1 to 1½ pounds per day in winter.

This interesting experiment is reported in detail in Oklahoma A. & M. College (Stillwater), Miscellaneous Publication No. MP-11.

## Track Down the Facts



If you ever see tracks like this in the snow, dust, or mud, you'll know there's been a white-tailed deer around. An experienced hunter can tell from the tracks how long since they were made, the approximate size of the deer, and whether it was in full flight or quietly going about its business.

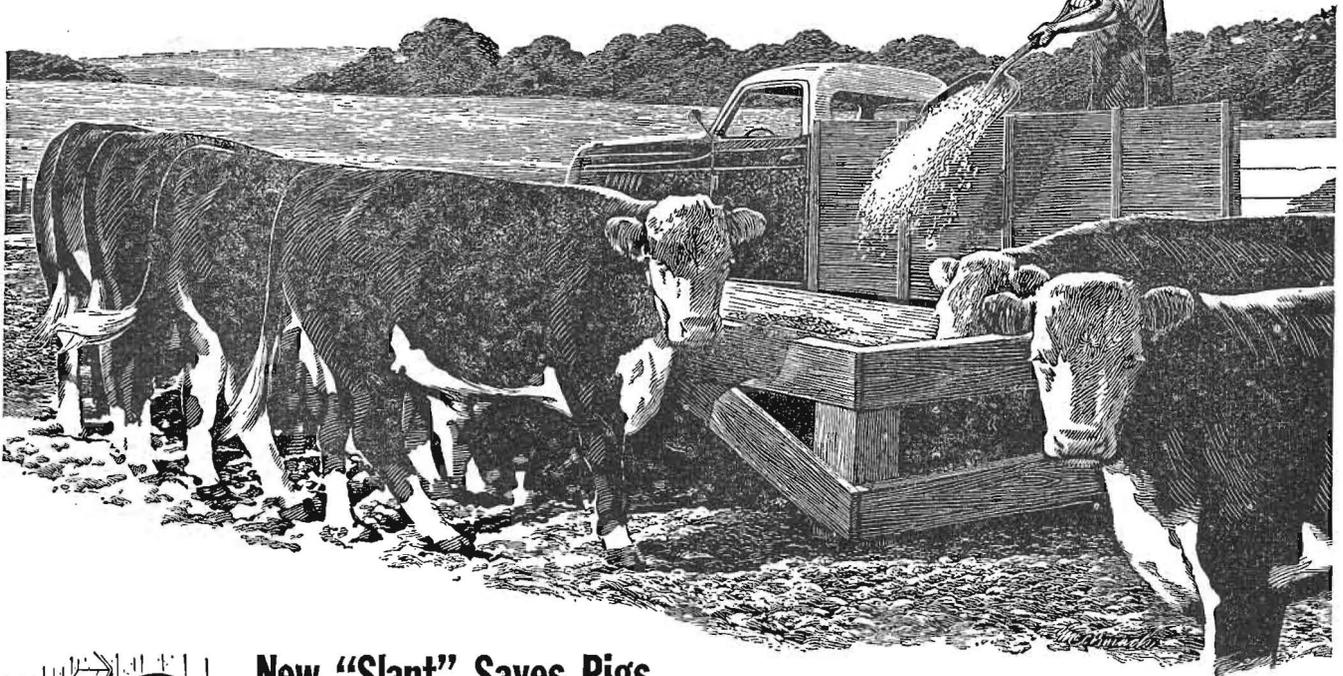
Deer tracking is considerably out of our line here at Swift & Company. But we do have a staff of trained fact hunters. Their job is to track down the facts which control our business operations. They study the U. S. Department of Agriculture figures on livestock supplies. They "track down," too, the demand for meat . . . what weights and grades housewives everywhere are asking for . . . what cuts they prefer.

Our "fact trackers" know full well that the price of livestock is determined by what the meat packer can get for the meat and by-products.



**Swift & Company** UNION STOCK YARDS  
CHICAGO 9, ILLINOIS

# Factories



## New "Slant" Saves Pigs

Farrowing pens with sloping floors are the answer to clumsy sows that step or lie on baby pigs. The slant of the floor takes advantage of the natural tendency of sows to lie with their backs uphill, while the tiny baby pigs

tumble downhill safely out of her way. Used extensively in Kentucky, sloping floors have cut baby pig losses to *only one out of thirty*, according to W. P. Garrigus of the University of Kentucky. He writes:

"Crushing or crippling by brood sows is the chief cause of pig losses. Normally, one out of every five new-born pigs is doomed to be mashed or severely crippled by clumsy, awkward brood sows the first day or so after farrowing. This loss to the swine industry adds up to a staggering total. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, each pig killed at farrowing represents a loss of 140 pounds of the feed consumed by the sow during the gestation and suckling periods. Figuring two pigs killed to the litter, this loss in one year alone, 1944, cost hog men 75 million dollars.

"Very little of this tremendous loss needs to be tolerated. Three years of experimentation and observation of herd tests in Kentucky show that sows farrowing on sloping floors raised from one to four pigs more than when they farrowed on level floors. On 49 Kentucky farms where records have been kept, with 385 litters, an average of only one pig out of 30 farrowed has been crushed on sloping floors."

The College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky., has detailed information on sloping floors for farrowing pens, instructions for building, etc.



### Soda Bill Sez:

... it doesn't take much of a horse to pull a load downhill.

## How many Meat Packers?



Here's an interesting thing to note. There is, on an average, more than 1,000 miles between the point where livestock is raised and the point where the meat products are eaten. Largely because of this 1,000-mile gap, national meat packers came into being.

The small meat packers buy livestock locally, slaughter and sell meat in the territory surrounding their plants. In addition to this service, nationwide organizations are equipped to do another big job—and do it economically. They perform the service of moving dressed meat the long distances from areas of production to large consuming areas where relatively little livestock is produced. These areas of great meat *consumption* and small meat *production* depend upon nationwide meat packers, like Swift & Company, for a large part of their meat products. *Livestock-producing* areas also depend on the large meat packers, as an outlet for the livestock their immediate market cannot consume.

Most livestock producers market their livestock at only one market. So they come in contact with only a few livestock buyers. Dealing with such a small number of firms leads farmers and ranchers, naturally enough, to the thought that there is only a small number of meat packers in the United States. Actually, according to the latest figures available, there are approximately 4,000 meat packers and about 22,500 other commercial slaughterers of livestock. Some slaughter millions of head per year. Others kill thousands of head annually, and still others only hundreds.

F.M. Simpson.

Agricultural Research Department

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Right Eating Adds Life to Your Years—and Years to Your Life

## Summer Tours

Here's a short story on FFA tours reported. In most cases the FFA chapter paid all expenses.

**Bay Minette**—John Jones, reporter says they took their annual camping trip early in the summer. Sports enjoyed were deep sea fishing, swimming, boat riding, and softball. Good record music and a movie completed the entertainment.

**Belgreen** — Twenty-four Future Farmers headed South July 7. Kept going until they reached the Gulf. Spent four days there, with Gulf State Park as headquarters. Riding the waves, motor boat riding in inland lakes and a trip to old Fort Morgan took up the time. Back by Pensacola. Stopped at our State Capitol. Met Mr. Haynes, Franklin county representative. Went in to see Governor Folsom and sat in his chair. In Birmingham saw the iron man.

**Cedar Bluff**—Eighteen FFAers took a four-day trip to the Tennessee Valley in July. Two reasons for the trip (1) to compare cotton farming at home with livestock farming in TVA near Knoxville (2) See Norris Dam, have a good time and catch some fish. "Everyone was nice to us", reports Charles Clayton. The conclusion seemed to be that they were doing better farming on poorer soils than in Cedar Bluff Community.

**Centre**—Went to Atlanta, big sight there was Grant Park. Spent first night at Jacksonville, Florida.

Toured old St. Augustine and on to Daytona Beach. Spent three days there. Jack Fortenberry says they "saw all there was to see there." (That's hard to believe!) Saw the sights at Silver Springs and headed toward home. Spent last night at Albany, Georgia. Jack says they all enjoyed the trip.

**Fairhope** — Three-day camping and fishing trip at old Fort Morgan.

**Sidney Lanier** — Twenty-four FFAers and Adviser E. P. Gieger made the longest tour reported this summer. Here are a few high spots of the 2,650 mile tour. Farming in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia was noticed. Tobacco farms and curing barns were most interesting. Two days and nights were spent in Washington, D. C. Three days were spent in New York City seeing the sights. A night at Coney Island beat such sights as Radio City and Statue of Liberty. Entered Canada at Niagara Falls. Went to London and Windsor Canada. In Detroit, saw a Ford made in fifty-eight minutes. Also saw the first Ford and many other old cars. Down through the Corn Belt into the blue grass country. Saw the famous Kentucky Derby Race Track. Visited Mammoth Cave. Saw fine farming land in Tennessee and North Alabama. And back to Montgomery after fourteen days.

**Straughn**—Four-day tour to Florida. Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Daytona Beach, Orlando, and Silver Springs were main stops.

(More on page 8)



## 'Seens' at State Convention

We had a good convention in Birmingham. We had a big time. For you Future Farmers who could not be there, we are showing you a few of the sights.

1. Star Farmer John Hartley is congratulated by Mr. Cannon, State Adviser. John's Mother was a most welcome visitor.

2. Bill Morgan, National FFA Vice-President, stayed with us for the entire convention. He made a fine talk and helped in many ways.

3. Mr. Glenn Stebbins, Montgomery, one of the Honorary State Farmers receives his degree from President Edsel Thomaston. Milford Bonner, secretary, looks on.

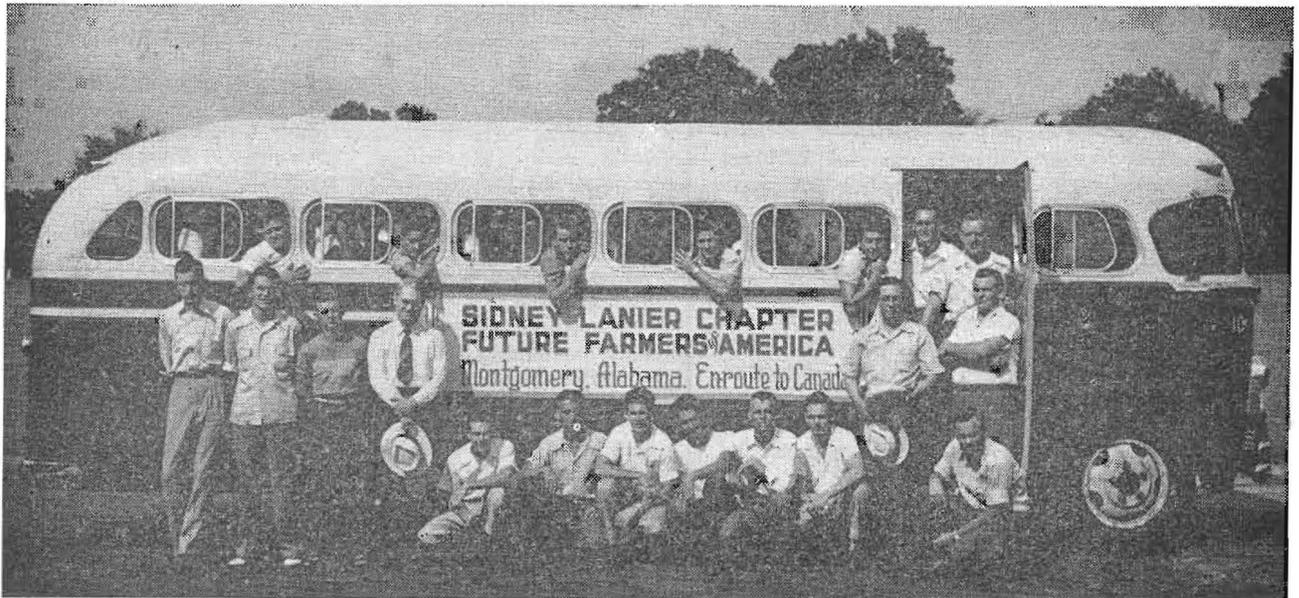
4. Mr. Luther Fuller, our most active Honorary State Farmer, gets his key from Edsel.

5. Registration at the Tutwiler Hotel. Professor Chesnut and Miss Walker helping Future Farmers register. Do you know the fellow?

6. Our State Adviser advises us.

7. Mr. R. E. Cammack, State Director of Vocational Education and former State FFA Adviser, talks to outgoing State officers. He gave them past State Officer pins.

8. Ballard Phillips, Samson, takes time out for a big milk shake.



**MADE LONGEST TOUR.** One of the many FFA chapters making tours this summer was Sidney Lanier. Members are shown above with Adviser E. P. Gieger and Principal J. J. Farris just before leaving on the 2,650 mile tour. (See story above.)

SEEN AT STATE CONVENTION IN BIRMINGHAM



## Tri-State Champs

From *The Progressive Farmer*,  
September 1947

The Future Farmer Quartet, McAdory High School Chapter, Jefferson County, Alabama, was the winner over Florida and Georgia chapters in the tri-state contest held at the Georgia FFA camp, near Covington, July 31.

According to S. C. Doughty, vocation teacher and chapter adviser, the quartet was organized in the fall of 1946. Prior to this time there were only three in the group and they sang as a trio for about a year. An amusing story is told about the boys. They wrote to C. C. Scarborough, Alabama FFA Executive Secretary, asking if there was any way to call three singers a quartet. The group was advised to get a fourth member. All have taken voice.

To get in as much practice as possible, the quartet has sung at school, in the local churches, at FFA meetings, and has broadcast several times over a nearby radio station. The boys all live in the Greenwood community, are close friends, and all farm on a part time basis.

Mr. Doughty has accompanied the unit wherever it has gone to take part in contests or to furnish entertainment. He is always urging the boys to do their best, reminding them that they are representing their chapter, their school, and their community. Before each contest the boys have secluded themselves for a moment of prayer.

The winner's plaque received by the boys at the Georgia camp was presented to Mr. Doughty with appropriate ceremonies August 1 as a token of the group's appreciation of his work in making the quartet a success. The McCalla Civitan Club will have each boy's name placed on the plaque which will be hung in the chapter room at the McAdory High.

See You at  
STATE FAIR

Birmingham, Sept. 29 -Oct. 4

## SUMMER TOURS (From page 6)

**Stevenson**—Carried own food and did cooking on three-day camping trip near Huntsville.

**Falkville**—Chartered a bus for the trip to Montgomery, Gulf Shores, Orange Beach and Pensacola, Florida. Swimming in Gulf and deep sea fishing enjoyed by all. Eats were carried from home and all did some cooking. Howell Hogan says that expenses were paid by FFA chapter. They had fed out and sold a fat steer at the Birmingham Stock Show.

**Floral**—In spite of seasickness, the deep-sea fishing trip was a success. Kenneth Matthews caught the biggest one, an 8½ pound red snapper. Mr. Guthery, our adviser, was next with a 6 pound grouper. In all about 200 pounds of fish were caught—besides those that got away. (Ed. Note—I'm just passing on these fish stories as sent in by Ned Perry, chapter reporter. He didn't send any pictures and I wasn't there!)

**Geneva**—Enjoyed a three-day camping trip at Phillips Inlet in June. Chapter paid expenses and committees looked after the work.

**Goshen**—Tour of Experiment Station at Auburn. Saw grazing crops, artificial insemination plant, forestry plots and fertilizer tests.

**Greenville**—The best short story sent in was the one from Lewis Crenshal, reporter, and Adviser K. V. Reagan. They said "We left de tails (of de fishes) on the coast!"

**Hartselle**—Sixteen FFAers headed South August 4th. Noticed different soil types and farming. Spent two days at Pensacola Beach, in the city and on the docks. One pair of shoes was lost, but that didn't stop the sightseeing. Back by State Capitol at Montgomery.

**Kinston**—Twelve-day tour of Eastern U. S. and Canada. Points of special interest were Great Smoky Mountains, Mammoth Cave, Washington, New York, homes of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Grover Cleveland, Robert E. Lee, James Monroe, and James K. Polk; battlefields of Revolutionary War and Civil War; and of course, Niagara Falls.

Adviser F. W. Wood says that all boys were impressed with the friendliness of the Canadians. Principal E. C. Nevin, Coach Swain made the trip too.

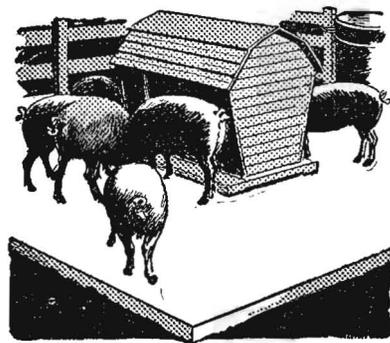
**Lexington**—Made local project tours in planning supervised farming programs.

**Marbury**—Seven-day trip to Gulf State Park. Caught plenty of fish. All meals were cooked by boys. Sight-seeing trips to Mobile and Pensacola. Deep-sea fishing trip

called off after some of the fellows got seasick in Mobile Bay!

**Pleasant Home**—First stop was at State Capitol in Montgomery. Probably best part of tour was here. Visited Kilby prison. Spent night at Noccolula Falls near Gadsden. Pretty place but the rocks made hard beds. Went on atop Lookout Mountain. Coming back stopped at Guntersville Dam. Saw several TVA projects. Spent two days here fishing and sunning. Spent the last night at Piedmont with Mrs. Adderhold, our adviser's Mother.

## FASTER GAINS WITH LESS FEED



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