ALABAMA'S AMERICAN FARMERS for 1963
See Page 4
Alabama Participates In National FFA Convention At Kansas City

ALABAMA'S OFFICIAL DELEGATES to the National FFA Convention were John Varner and Mickey Humphries. They sat in the delegate section at all times and took part in the business of the Convention.

NATIONAL BAND MEMBERS from Alabama who entertained at the Convention were, left to right, Julian Van Wright, Excel; Roger Marsh, Eufaula; and Mike Reynolds, Union Springs. Shown with the band members is Dr. Anderson, National FFA band director.

Alabama's participation was heavy at the National convention of Future Farmers of America in Kansas City, Missouri, this year. More than 50 high school boys, vocational agriculture teachers, and business and professional men interested in the FFA attended the annual meeting.

Official delegates, judging teams, band members, and others took part in all activities of the convention, which attracts 10,000 farm boys from every corner of the United States and Puerto Rico. Alabama dairy cattle and poultry judging teams won gold emblem awards, while an honorable mention certificate was presented to the livestock judges.

John Varner, Wetumpka, president of the Alabama FFA Association, and vice-president Mickey Humphries, Reeltown, served as the state's official delegates. Other state officers were on the courtesy corps. Jimmy Maxwell, Union Springs, state secretary; Elwood Overstreet, Jackson, treasurer; and Barry Siniard, West Limestone, state reporter, were among this group. Two vo-ag teachers assisted the farm boys on the courtesy corps. They were: J. M. Johnson, Union Springs, and M. M. Cope, Eufaula.

Serving as a poultry official from Alabama was J. G. Goodman, associate professor of poultry science, Auburn University. Members of Alabama's medal-winning poultry judging team were Bill Russell, Earl Brannon, and Leslie Galloway, and their advisor, P. C. Dean, all of Hartford.

Alabama's flag bearer was Jim Anderson, an FFA member from the Buckhorn chapter.

Dr. Richard Baker, assistant professor of agricultural education, Auburn, was in charge of Alabama's stage crew for one session. Members of the crew were Abe Green, Eastaboga; Danny Patterson, Section; James Lumpkin, Montevallo; Terry Snow, Montevallo; Pete Rankin, Thomaston; Ronnie Mathis, Sparkman; Ronnie Vaughn, Sparkman; Sun Baker, and Carl Fears, both of Buckhorn.

The livestock judging team representing Alabama was headed up by vo-ag teacher and FFA advisor at Auburn high school, F. B. Killough. The members of the team, all from Auburn, were Rodney Rowell, Clyde Holt, and Gene Cox. Attending the convention also, and contributing refreshments and help when needed, was J. L. Kendrick, rural service engineer for Alabama Power Co.

The state dairy judging team came from Five Points. Members of this team were Ed Fuller, Chris Potts, and Frank Bishop. They were accompanied by their advisor, C. H. McKay. They participated in the National contest in Waterloo, Iowa.

National band members from Alabama, who entertained at the convention...
Farming—Vital To America's Future

By MICKEY HUMPHRIES

Daniel Webster once said, "The farmers are the founders of our civilization." Through the years the world's eyes have continued to look toward the farmer. His occupation is slowly beginning to emerge into the limelight as a profession. As agriculture students, you have learned that agriculture is this nation's largest single industry. It is basic to our continued economic stability.

Although farming is only one phase of agriculture, it is known as the nucleus; therefore, it is considered the most important phase. Our great cities, our mighty industries, our business and professional accomplishments, our educational institutions, and our high living standards are possible because of the efficiency and productivity of the American farm.

America must have a constant supply of new farmers every year to replace those who die, retire, or otherwise leave the farm. These must be men with experience and training, for the successful farmer today is both a scientist and a businessman; mechanic and a laborer; and at the same time capable of leadership in the affairs of the community. Generally speaking, they must be men who have begun farming at an early age, so that by the time they are ready to marry and start a family they will be firmly established in a farming program that promises a good future.

The number of young men on farms is more adequate to meet the needs for replacements, but not enough of those who enter farming have the educational background that is necessary for success under modern conditions. Vocational agriculture and the FFA constitute the most effective training yet developed for boys to be good farmers and good citizens, and helping them to become established in agricultural occupations of their choice.

Young men stay on the farm or in some agricultural business! There is a future in farming that will remain as long as people inhabit the earth, and the future is even greater for those who are trained in the field.

It has been said, "Only the adventurers in life accomplish great things." To the adventurous young man a whole new, exciting world will open if the many talents God has bestowed are utilized.

On The Cover

Carey Ayers, American Farmer from Buckhorn, is a typical American Farmer. He spent his time in school developing his farming program and since that time has developed into a full-time farmer and citizen of his community. The details of his program are described in his individual story, page 9.

Mickey Humphries, Reeltown, State FFA Secretary.

and also played in the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show parade, were Roger Marsh, Eufaula; Mike Reynolds, Union Springs, and Julian Van Wright, Excel.

The American Farmer degree, highest degree that can be conferred on a Future Farmer, was presented to nine Alabama boys attending the convention. These American Farmer degree recipients were Tommy Shields, Jemison; Kenneth Royster, Maplesville; Abe Green, Lincoln; Billy Mercer, Wetumpka; Freddie Russell, Boaz; James Ed Ikard, Gurley; Joel Gurley, Somerville; Mickey Motley, Coffee Springs, and Paul Wise, Kinston. Seven others received the degree but did not attend the Convention.

THE POULTRY judging team from Hart­ford represented Alabama in the poultry judging contest and received a gold emblem rating. The members of the team are Bill Russell, Earl Brannon, and Leslie Galloway. Their chapter advisor is Mr. P. C. Dean.
Alabama can well be proud of the 16 young farmers who received the American Farmer Degree from this State in 1963. These are the FFA members who, through hard work and self-application, have proved themselves outstanding in FFA work and agriculture.

This degree can be awarded to only one boy in a thousand so you can see why these members might be termed “best” among FFA members in Alabama.

These American Farmers are the members who decided early to do an outstanding job in their supervised farming programs and to apply themselves through FFA.

The records of these young farmers show that the road chosen by each, no matter how rough in spots, in the end led to success.

To these young farmers, the entire membership extends its wholehearted congratulations and wishes for many more successes in the field of agriculture.

NINE AMERICAN FARMERS attended the National FFA Convention and received their American Farmer Degrees in person. They were proud boys when they walked across the stage and received this degree. It was a reward for many years of hard work. They are, left to right, Joel Gurley, Paul Wise, James Ikard, Mickey Motley, Freddie Russell, Billy Mercer, Tommy Shields, Abe Green and Kenneth Royster.

Curtis Nolen
Susan Moore

During the summer of 1957, Curtis Nolen became interested in vocational agriculture. The interest Curtis had in agriculture led him to enroll in the vocational agriculture course offered at the Susan Moore high school at the beginning of the 1957-58 school year.

Curtis soon became tremendously interested in the FFA. He sensed the challenge the FFA presented to boys like himself. Curtis was initiated by members of the Susan Moore chapter on November 5, 1957.

After talking to his FFA advisor and his parents, Curtis selected three acres of corn, one dairy calf, and four acres of cotton as his first year farming projects. From these projects, he received a profit of $654.74.

Curtis continued to expand his supervised farming program during the succeeding years to the point that he had earned $1,118.10 at the time of his graduation from high school in 1961.

Curtis participated in many of the contests sponsored by his State FFA Association. He won the State FFA public speaking contest in 1960. In addition to his other FFA work, Curtis represented the Alabama FFA Association at the American Institute of Cooperation held at the University of California in 1960.

In the fall of 1961, Curtis decided to enroll in the nearby Snead College. He continued to live on the farm. During the two years he spent at Snead College, Curtis expanded his supervised farming program to include 4,000 laying hens. Needless to say, these FFA projects have done much to defray many of the expenses that Curtis has had while attending Snead College. At the time Curtis graduated from Snead College, he had earned a grand total of $4,103.96 from his supervised farming program.

During the time that he was not in school, Curtis operated the farm feedmill. In addition, he delivered eggs produced on the farm to customers in Birmingham, Alabama. For these services, Curtis was paid $980.01. Curtis has continued to work, whenever possible, to secure non-farm income while attending Auburn University. He is now a member of the Junior class at Auburn where he is majoring in Poultry Science.

Curtis believes that his four years of
study at college will prove to be of enormous help to him when he returns to the home farm two years from now. Curtis and his father are operating the home farm in partnership.

F F A

Bill Barnes
Hartford

Bill Barnes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Abner Barnes of Hartford, Alabama, Route 1, discovered early in life that he had a natural love for livestock. He always helped his father with the feeding and care of the hogs and cows on the farm, but he did not really realize the value of good stock and good management un-

B I L L  B A R N E S

til he started showing beef calves in 1956.

He entered vocational agriculture at Hartford and joined the FFA chapter in 1958. He started building his farm program with a purebred Poland China gilt. He went with his father and Paul Dean, vo-ag teacher at Hartford, to Georgia to select this gilt before school opened. With this as a start, he added two beef calves, and another purebred Poland China gilt and four acres of corn to round out his first year farming program in vocational agriculture. Upon Mr. Dean's advice, he entered one of the gilts in three shows and won two grand championships and one reserve grand championship that first year along with more than enough prize money to pay for the gilt.

The second year Bill increased his farm program to five sows, two beef steers, ten acres of corn and three acres of small grain. The third year he added two acres of peanuts to his operation. The fourth year he increased his scope to eight sows, three market steers, ten acres of corn and five acres of peanuts and added four purebred Angus heifers.

Upon graduation from high school he expanded his operation to 11 registered Poland China sows, 18 registered Angus heifers and one bull, 40 acres of corn, 15 acres of wheat and four acres of rye and crimson clover, five acres of peanuts and 14 acres of grain sorghum. Bill has also established 25 acres of improved pasture and is well along toward clearing and establishing pasture on 75 additional acres.

All of Bill's supervised farming programs have been on shares with his father with the idea of developing into a full scale partnership as soon as he finishes college. His main emphasis has been on his purebred hog program, and it has been very profitable for him as well as making some much needed meat type hogs available in his community.

Bill has not purchased any equipment because he thought his profit could be better used to invest in purebred livestock than in equipment. His profits from his farming program to date have been $3,715.37.

In addition to his farming program, Bill feels that he has received valuable training in leadership through his FFA work. He served as president of the Hartford FFA chapter for two years. He was a member of the livestock judging team for three years including one year as a member of the state champion team that went on to win a silver emblem in the national contest. He has also served as chairman of several committees and his senior year, he received the DeKalb award as the outstanding senior FFA member.

Bill has also been active in school and community affairs. He served as president of his high school class one year, has been secretary of the county Junior Cattlemen's Association, is a member of the American Angus Association, the Poland China Record Association, and was the representative of the Poland China breed on the steering committee of the South Alabama all-breed hog sale in 1962.

He has served as vice-president of the MYF and has been active in Sunday School and other church activities.

Bill is now attending Auburn University majoring in Agricultural Education and he and his dad are both looking forward to his graduation and a full time partnership in livestock farming. Their goal is 120 registered Angus cows and 25 registered Poland China sows and plenty of pasture and grain to feed them by the time Bill receives his degree from Auburn.

A good example of Bill's continuing interest in his FFA work was recently demonstrated. While at home from Auburn during spring holidays, he volunteered his services as a coach and the use of some of his beef cattle in training the Hartford livestock judging team.

F F A

Freddie Russell
Boaz

Freddie Russell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Russell of Route 6, Boaz, Alabama. His father is a farmer and his youth was spent running around over the farm helping his dad.

When Freddie entered the third grade, he joined the 4-H Club and his first proj-

F R E D D I E  R U S S E L L
winner in the county, district, State and received a bronze rating in the national contest. He was also selected to be the official delegate to the State FFA convention at Auburn.

In 1959, he was the county public speaking winner and gave his speech to two community farm meetings and at the Marshall county poultry convention at Albertville. He was also appointed chairman of the Carnation ball. That year, Freddie was elected class president in the sophomore class.

In 1960, he was FFA treasurer, a member of several committees and entered the public speaking contest winning second place in the area contest after winning the county. He was on the dairy judging team and had expanded his farming program. He received his State Farmer Degree at the State Convention that same year.

Freddie became the vice-president of the Marshall County Jersey Cattle Club, was tapped for the Key Club at Boaz high consisting of the top 10% of the high school, and in 1961 was chapter reporter and chairman of the Carnation ball committee. He was also the county public speaking winner for the third straight year.

--- FFA ---

Paul Wise
Kinston

Paul Wise, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Robert Wise of Route 1, Kinston, Alabama, enrolled in vocational agriculture in September 1956. His first year's supervised farming program consisted of two acres of corn, two acres of cotton, and one acre of popcorn. From this program a labor income of $347.46 was made which encouraged Paul to expand his farming program. Although more acres of cotton and corn were planted the second year, less profit was made due to a bad crop year. Being a member of one of Progressive Farmer's Master Farm Families, Paul was not discouraged and came back strong with a greatly increased production of cotton and corn. In addition to field crops a beef calf was bought to get experience in feeding, training, and showing beef animals.

In the district Fat Stock Show at Dothan, Paul's call "Busty" was judged the Grand Champion. Also, first place in showmanship was won by this Kinston Future Farmer. With this success in livestock he started feeding out market hogs, more cattle, and now is getting into the beef cattle business along with his dad. During the last five years of supervised farming programs, an average of three improvement projects and 12 supplementary practices have been completed.

Many honors have come Paul's way. In 1957 he was elected FFA reporter and in 1958 local president. Many active committees have been headed by this FFA'er. He has been on TV, radio, and Lions Club programs. In a 4-H club cattle judging contest, third place was won in the state finals at Birmingham. FFA contests entered were livestock judging, land judging, and tractor driving. Some of his leadership activities were an educational tour to Mexico City, Beta Club, Sunday School class officer, president of Training Union, 4-H Club vice-president, and Reporter of Thespian Troupe 775.

Young Wise attended his first State FFA Convention in 1958 as his chapter's official delegate. The next year he was honored with the State Farmer Degree and was also a candidate for State office. Paul is now enrolled in agriculture at Auburn University but stays in close touch with his family and farming activities.

--- FFA ---

Alvie Smith
Sparkman

Alvie Smith began his vocational agriculture freshman year with three goals in mind: for an opportunity to be a speaker; to be a State Officer in FFA; and to show the Grand Champion Fat Calf in the Birmingham Fat Calf Show.

The first goal was reached while a Green Hand when he won the chapter public speaking and competed in the county contest. He reached the second goal his senior year when he was elected Secretary of the State FFA. His third goal was almost a success when he showed the county Grand Champion his junior year in school, but lost out in Birmingham. His senior year, Alvie's calf won first place in the Birmingham Fat Calf Show. This was his third goal.

--- THE ALABAMA FUTURE FARMER ---

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in the FF A was spent becoming familiar
had numerous improvement projects. He
work gives him first hand experience as
served as chairman of the Supervised
improvement projects. He served as
these projects he served on the live­
stock judging team. Most of his first year
was in the process of buying into a part­
nership with his father and
home place. However, he managed to
beef cattle and 50 percent in 50 market
beef cattle. For his feed program, Billy
had grown out for the fat calf show, one
acre of corn, and a home garden. Dur­
ing his time in high school, Billy's proj­
ects were limited due to facilities on the
home place. However, he managed to
develop a program consisting of five
acres of corn, two show calves, 15 beef
cows, and three acres of hay.

After graduation from high school, Billy
went into the armed forces for one
year. During this time his father and
brother kept his program going. After
separation from the army, Billy went
into partnership with his father and
grandfather in the farming operation. At
the present time he is one half owner of
twelve brood cows and a purebred bull.
He has one third interest in 33 market
beef cattle and 50 percent in 50 market
beef cattle. For his feed program, Billy
has 33 acres of corn and 50 acres of hay.

However, in the spring of 1960 Mr.
Clark died, leaving the responsibility of
the farming program in his hands. Since
that time Bobby has taken the respon­sibility of the farm in stride.

In the fall of 1960 Bobby enrolled as
a senior at Bibb County High School. He
rincipal, Mr. H. L. Creer, worked out a
schedule so that he could
finish his classes at 12 noon each day.
This gave him a chance to utilize all of
his time in the afternoons on the farm.
During this year he served his chapter as
Treasurer. He attended the State FFA
convention as a delegate and was
awarded the State Farmer degree and
the District Star Farmer Award. During
the year his productive enterprises con­sisted of 20 market cattle, 30 acres of
hay and pasture, 22 brood cows, and
two bulls.

In 1962 Bobby's productive enter­prises consisted of 15 market cattle, 22
brood cows, 6 heifers, 1 bull, and 36
acres of pasture. He continued to im­prove and expand his herd by carrying
on a grading-up program. He continued
his FFA membership even though he
was out of school.

At the present time Bobby is engaged
in a full-time specialized farming pro­gram - beef cattle. He is continuing to
expand and improve his herd. His farm­ing program consists of 17 market cattle,
five calves, 26 brood cows, 7 heifers, 1
bull, and 36 acres of pasture. In addition
to his farming program and FFA activi­ties, he is an active member of his
church and his community.

BILLY MERCER
Wetumpka

Billy Mercer enrolled in vocational ag­riculture at Wetumpka High School in
September 1957. His first productive
projects consisted of two beef calves that
he grew out for the fat calf show, one
acre of corn, and a home garden. Dur­ing his time in high school, Billy's proj­ects were limited due to facilities on the
home place. However, he managed to
develop a program consisting of five
acres of corn, two show calves, 15 beef
cows, and three acres of hay.

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He has one third interest in 33 market
beef cattle and 50 percent in 50 market
beef cattle. For his feed program, Billy
has 33 acres of corn and 50 acres of hay.

In the farming operation, Billy has the
responsibility of all the feeding and care
of the entire livestock program. He has
improved and fertilized the pastures
which consist of oats and clover, oats and
rye grass, and bahia grass. Billy is re­sponsible for all of the fencing and other
phases of the feed program.

During his high school days Billy was
very active in the FFA, school and com­munity. He served on several commit­tees and showed fat beef calves at the
county and district shows for two years.
He was a member of the football team,
and is an officer in his church and Sun­day School.

In addition to his farming activities,
Billy is in partnership with his father in
the concrete pipe and septic tank busi­ness. It is Billy's plan to expand his
business and at the same time keep im­proving his livestock and pasture pro­gram.

JAMES EDD IKARD
Gurley

James Edd Ikard, age 21, is the son
of Mr. and Mrs. Edd H. Ikard, Route 1,
Brownsboro, Alabama.

Being a son of a farmer, James Edd
has grown up involved in farming activi­ties since a very early age. At the
age of eight years, he had his first corn
crop to feed his first brood sow. Since
that time, it has been a continuous
growth in farming with him.

In July 1956 he became a Green
Hand in his local FFA chapter. That
year's projects were corn, beef calf, and
brood sow. Then in January 1958 he
was elected to the Chapter Farmer De­gree, and June 1959 he was elected by
the State to receive his State Farmer De­gree.

During his second year in agriculture,
James Edd made the decision that farm-
ing was to be his life. He began to increase his projects and return the profits back into farming enterprises.

In the fall of 1960, his father, Edd H. Ikard, became paralyzed and unable to operate and manager of the farm. Mr. Ikard furnished the land and the equipment while the son furnished labor and the management, they formed a partnership on a 50-50 basis.

To cut costs, James Edd became a fertilizer dealer and sells to a few local farmers for cash. This way he utilizes his truck and labor while at the same time he saves on his own fertilizer.

James Edd was the State Champion Corn Grower one year. He has won the area and county championship five times. While in high school he was active in public speaking, parliamentary team, tractor driving, radio program, chapter officer for two years, chairman of the co-op committee and corn growing contest. He has been very active in church and community activities. In the church he has served as moderator, church choir and Bible School teacher. He has also helped with community chest and magazine drives in the community. He expects to make his permanent home in this community and raise his family there.

Kenneth Royster
Maplesville

The story of Kenneth Royster, Maplesville American Farmer, is a story of progress. In 1959, Kenneth became an FFA member with Mr. Carlos Owens as his teacher. His projects that year were corn, a hog and chickens. The corn made good, the chickens grew fast and healthy and the sow soon farrowed ten pigs. Six of these were sold as top hogs, two were kept for brood sows and two were butchered for the family.

In 1960, he had corn, a cotton patch, okra, calves and more hogs. His part of the cotton yielded four bales. There was some profit from the okra. He entered two show calves in the fat calf show and won fifth place with a Hereford.

For 1961, he had more corn, calves and hogs. By this time there were two brood sows and eighteen pigs. His calves consisted of two Herefords and one Angus. The Angus won the Reserve Champion ribbon. By this time he had won the chapter Champion Corn growers certificate and pins for three years straight.

Kenneth planted seven acres of okra in 1962. Due to the fact there was plenty okra on the market he lost money on the project. He also had corn and calves that year. He won second place with an Angus again. In the fall and winter of 1962-63, he and his Dad started building a new barn. The old barn was too small. Material from the old barn was salvaged and timber was cut from the farm to furnish material to build a new barn. Paperwood and timber have also been cut from the farm to help with other improvements.

Kenneth's individual inventory includes a truck, horse and buggy, a horse and saddle, power saw, three show calves and two brood sows, one with pigs. He also has a welder and new shop building started.

Kenneth has been very active in his chapter, school and community since he became a member of the FFA.

Lawson Spivey
Blue Springs

Lawson Spivey entered the Blue Springs vocational agriculture department in the fall of 1957, and enrolled in vo-ag I class. Since that time his vocational experiences have been many. Lawson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Durward Spivey of Route 1, Louisville, Alabama. Lawson is the oldest of eight children.
Mickey Motley  
Coffee Springs

During the spring of 1958 Mickey Motley first discovered his interest in farming. He was in the 9th grade and studying his first year of vocational agriculture. Although he had lived on a farm all his life it had not appeared to him before that he would enjoy farming. His first year in vocational agriculture he formed a partnership with his Granddaddy. His productive projects included five acres of peanuts and 15 acres of truck crops. He had good success with his projects and added hogs to them for another year.

In 1960 he realized the need for modern equipment to increase the farming program. A tractor was purchased along with cultivating equipment to fulfill this need. This year he had 21 acres of peanuts, 21 acres of cotton and 20 acres of corn.

In 1961 his farming program consisted of 35 acres of peanuts, 15 acres of cotton, 15 acres of corn and four brood cows. His crops produced good this year but bad weather caused him to lose almost half of his crops during harvest season.

At the beginning of his fifth year of farming he took an auto mechanics course at the Dothan Trade School. This training took much time and caused a temporary reduction in the scope of his farming program. However, he believes this training will help in his farming.

Last fall 40 acres of land was purchased. He plans a gradual increase in his farming program until he has as much as he can handle.

He is responsible for planting, harvesting and marketing crops and livestock on the farm. He is also responsible for all notes and mortgages pertaining to the farm and farm program.

During his school days, Mickey participated in many leadership activities in his chapter and school. He is now on his way to becoming a responsible citizen in his community.

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Tommy Shields  
Jemison

Tommy Shields, American Farmer from Jemison, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Shields. Tommy, who has been handicapped physically since birth is a good example of what a person can do who really tries.

Although Tommy made very high grades in school and is a member of the Beta Club he knew that he would be limited as far as occupational opportunities were concerned. Realizing this, and at the same time having a love for farm life, caused Tommy to turn to beef cattle production. This in turn produced a program that at the present is a full time job for Tommy on the farm.

Under the supervision of Mr. L. C. Shields, who was his vocational agriculture teacher, Tommy took three years of vocational agriculture and during this time he was expanding and upgrading a herd of cows, which started with his first project, the family milk cow. Tommy used the Sears bull, which was owned by the Jemison FFA chapter, in converting his herd from dairy to grade beef animals. This meant that he had to carry on a careful program of culling and selecting his heifers.

Today, Tommy is becoming established in the livestock business and this is the direct result of a big desire and his training in vocational agriculture. His program is now expanding with the purchase of 55 acres of land. This land is being renovated and will be used altogether for grazing, both temporary and permanent.

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Carey Ayers  
Buckhorn

Carey Ayers, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Ayers, New Market, Alabama, and a member of the Buckhorn chapter, has completed an enviable record of achievements in his farming program and FFA work. He is a good example of what ambition and hard work can do.

He has a net worth of more than $15,000 from his farming program since entering vocational agriculture in 1957. In addition to his farming program he has found time to serve his chapter as vice president and on numerous committees. When a job had to be done, Carey could always be counted upon to do it.

Perhaps he is better known in the showing than any other place. The fact that he showed the Reserve champion steer twice and the Grand champion steer twice in the highly competitive Madison county livestock show is proof enough of his ability to select, feed, fit, and show cattle. Other achievements with cattle showing were winning two Birmingham News calves, placing second, third and first in showmanship in the Huntsville, Birmingham and Chattanooga shows. He fed and showed the champion Sears bull in the Birmingham show and showed another chapter bull in the Montgomery show. He was also state winner of the first M. K. Heath Animal Health Award, sponsored by the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association. He also served two years on the livestock judging team. His farming program has shown consistent growth and efficiency in production and marketing.
His farming program now consists of 20
acres of corn, 102 acres of cotton, 35
acres of soybeans, 85 acres of hay, 28
brood cows, 25 market calves, 13 bred
heifers, and four bulls. He already has
24 purebred Angus cattle and his ambi-
tion is to become an Angus breeder.

For the past two years Carey has
been selected by his chapter as Future
Farmer of the Year. He has spent much
time at his expense in helping other
chapter members to find good calves,
and has assisted them with the many
problems which arise until the show is
over and the calves have been sold.

His father is employed with Post En-
gineers at Redstone Arsenal and Carey
has assumed the major responsibility on
the 116 acre home farm and the 439
acres rented.

Carey and his wife, Jean, like farm-
ing and both are looking forward to the
time when they will be devoting full
time to cattle farming on their own farm.

---FFA---

Abe Green
Lincoln

Abe Green, son of Mr. and Mrs.
Howard Green of Eastaboga, Route 1,
began his study in vocational agriculture
in September, 1959. At the present time
he is continuing his farming operation.
Being an only child, he is in partnership
with his father in the farming operation.
Abe does practically all the work, and
he is primarily responsible for the op-
eration and management of the farm,
since his father works for the government
and is away from home often.

Abe has carried out an outstanding
farming program each year since becom-
ing an FFA member. During his first
year in vocational agriculture, he had

FFA activities were wide and varied
for Abe. He entered many contests with
success, but in farm mechanics he was
most successful, winning third place in
the state one year and second place the
following year. He was also chosen Star
Farmer for the Central district one year.
In the local chapter, Abe was considered
a leader. He served as president and sec-
retary and on the Earning and Saving
committees.

Abe has been very active in church
work having served many offices in the
Sunday School class. His help could al-
ways be counted upon in school by all
his teachers when a job needed to be
done.

---FFA---

Robert Bishop
Fairhope

Robert Bishop, son of Mr. and Mrs.
Aaron Bishop of Route 1, Fairhope, Al-
abama, is an example of what a young
man can accomplish in the field of agri-
culture today, by working together with
his family.

Robert, who is married to the former
Linda McMahon, has a son one year
old. They were married during Robert's
senior year in high school.

There was never any doubt in Robert's
mind about his future vocation, even
when he was in Junior high school, he
knew he was going to farm. So when
he enrolled in the 10th grade he knew
he wanted to take vocational agriculture
and be a member of the FFA. Since his
parents and brothers are potato farmers
it was natural that one of Robert's pro-
ductive projects would be Irish pota-
toes. He also had green corn his first year.

In his second year of vo-ag Robert de-
cided he wanted to get into the hog busi-
ness. He got a purebred Duroc gilt from
the FFA pig chain. He also had five
acres of Irish potatoes and five acres of
soybeans. His senior year in vocational
agriculture he had five acres of Irish po-
tatoes, five acres of soybeans, five acres
of field corn and three brood sows.

When Robert finished school he be-
came partner with his Dad and his broth-
ers. His share was 14% of everything on
the farm, including 478 acres of land
owned, 160 acres rented, nine trucks,
one self propelled combine, one crop
dryer, and seven tractors and equipment.
This seems like a lot of equipment but
when land is used for two crops every
year time and equipment are very im-
portant. The trucks are used to haul pro-
duce up North.

Robert's 14% of the farm was not
given to him, but he had a very definite
part in working to buy the land and
equipment that they now own. It is not
usual for Robert to work 14-16 hours
a day during potato digging time and
during soybean planting and harvest
time. By working together with his Dad
and brothers they have been able to
grow from a small farm to their present
size and they are still expanding. They
pack and ship all of their own produce
such as Irish potatoes, cabbage, water-
melons, cucumbers, cantaloupes and pe-
cans. By doing this they get the profit
normally made by the middle man.

Recently Robert bought a house and
20 acres of land. He has moved his hog
operation to this 20 acres, he now has

< THE ALABAMA FUTURE FARMER>
over 100 head of hogs, mostly purebred Duroc.

In some areas 478 acres of land wouldn’t be very much land but land suitable for farming in this particular area cannot be bought for less than $300-400 per acre. As land is available Robert and his family plan to continue to buy more.

Robert was very active in the FFA. He entered the county tractor driving contest two years. He was secretary of the local chapter his second year in vocational agriculture and vice president his senior year. He was also a member of the land judging team his senior year that was second in the district. At the present time he keeps the FFA pig chain boar on his farm.

Joel Gurley
Cotaco

Joel Gurley, Cotaco FFA chapter, is fulfilling an early desire to earn his livelihood on the farm. In 1957, entrance into vocational agriculture classes helped him learn how to make farming a profitable enterprise.

In October of 1957, Joel was initiated as a Green Hand. During this first year, Joel’s productive projects included three market hogs and one boar, one acre of corn, 100 broilers, and one half acre of truck crops. He also carried several improvement projects and supplementary practices. In addition to those activities, Joel found time to enter contests such as public speaking, tractor driving, livestock judging, and land judging. He served on various committees and worked extensively in the planning of the joint FFA-FHA parents banquet and the county fair exhibit.

Joel’s interest in agriculture increased progressively with each year of agriculture. During the second year, he earned the Chapter Farmer Degree. He added to his projects in various ways. He pur-chased two sows, which averaged 11 pigs per litter. That year he also had 125 laying hens and 50 broilers, three acres of grain sorghum, 10 acres of hay, two acres of corn and 1¼ acres of truck crops.

In his third year, he added another sow to his brood and also had six market hogs. This year he also had seven acres of cotton, 20 acres of corn, and 20 acres of hay.

Joel’s fourth year of agriculture included continuation of past projects, plus some new ones. His brood sows numbered five, and he again owned a boar. He had 12 market hogs and increased acreages of crops, including 18 acres of cotton, 28 acres of corn, and 30 acres of hay. He owned one head of market cattle.

Joel was graduated from high school in May of 1961 and achieved State Farmer status that June. Because of his fervent interest in farming, his parents gave him the family farm of 180 acres, which he had been operating and overseeing throughout the vo-ag years. He now has complete freedom of operation and improvement.

He continued his in-school projects, but on a larger scale. Within the two years since graduation he has acquired numerous farm machines necessary to efficient production, including two tractors and accessories plus haybaler, cornpicker and feed crusher. At present his outstanding gains include 155 acres of hay, 64 market hogs, 50 acres of corn, and 20 acres of grain sorghum, besides other smaller additions to projects begun in agriculture classes.

Throughout high school and the following years, Joel did work outside his own farm work such as plowing and hay baling for neighbors and testing neighbors’ cattle for Bangs disease. He rents 70 additional acres for hay.

Joel has maintained FFA membership since graduation. For two of the three years that he was a member of the Cotaco FFA Quartet, the foursome won county and area honors. While in school, he participated, sometimes in places of leadership, in such clubs as Glee Club, 4-H Club, Sportsman’s Club, and photography. He was active in class projects and plays. At present he maintains membership in the Farm Bureau. He is an active member of the Methodist Church, having held various offices in the Sunday School.

Joel seems to be actively engaged in making a successful life for himself and his family, from whom he receives encouragement in his endeavors.

Oh, great Father, never let me judge another man until I have walked in his moccasins for two weeks.

LAVERNE HUGHES
Town Creek Sweetheart

SANDRA WILLIAMS
Centreville Sweetheart

SANDRA POPE
Camp Hill Sweetheart
Hurst Mauldin Retires

Hurst Mauldin, Birmingham, who for more than 27 years was employed by Alabama Power company to work in youth education and agricultural engineering, has retired.

Ceremonies honoring his retirement and his long years of service were given Mr. Mauldin in the vocational agriculture shop on the Auburn University campus recently. One of the classes of undergraduate agriculture teachers, which Mr. Mauldin taught in connection with his work, were on hand for the ceremonies.

Professor D. N. Bottoms, on the AU teacher training staff, was in charge of the program and presented Mr. Mauldin with a silver bowl engraved with a tribute to his outstanding work with agricultural education.

Also attending the ceremonies were: T. L. Faulkner, state supervisor of vocational agricultural education; B. P. Dilworth, H. W. Green, J. A. White, L. L. Sellers, all district vo-ag supervisors; H. R. Culver, B. F. Rawls, and H. N. Lewis, specialist on the vo-ag staff; Dr. R. W. Montgomery, Dr. R. A. Baker, and H. T. Pruett, AU teacher trainers.

Walter Baker, and John Spence attended as representatives of Alabama Power. Mr. Spence will be Mr. Mauldin's replacement.

Mr. Mauldin has worked throughout the state with in-school and post-school groups for years. Nearly 36 years ago, in a Lamar county high school, he had the task of teaching Mr. Faulkner and Dr. Montgomery. After 14 years of teaching, Mr. Mauldin left professional education and took a position with Alabama Power. He stayed with them for more than 27 years, and now plans to return to teaching at Banks Academy in Birmingham.

During his teaching years Mr. Mauldin's specialty had been science and biology. While employed by the company he specialized in rural electrification. Now he will begin teaching English and literature on a part-time basis. For years during his employment with Alabama Power, he had been involved in his spare time with the writing of childrens' verse. Retired, Mr. Mauldin plans to devote more time to creative writing for children.

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FARM INTERPHONE...

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To find out more about Farm Interphone, contact your Southern Bell Manager.
ABAB—went on a field trip; ordered Green Hands and Chapter Farmer pins; held officer meeting; initiated Green Hands; held meeting and joint FFA-FHA social; Ag II boys began a welding course; members and officers had pictures made of themselves.

ATTALLA—collected dues; purchased 15 official jackets; bought saw for shop and acetylene welder; held two regular and one mailbox post participated in D-Con program.

BARD—held annual initiation of Green Hands, submitted dues and received membership cards; held regular meeting.

BLOUNTSVILLE—purchased 2 drill presses, 2 portable electric drills, jig saw, and 6 tons of steel for shop use; poured concrete; four trailers under construction in shop; operated concession stand for home football games; selected chapter winner in corn growing contest; held FFA-FHA fish supper; Ag I members have planned farming programs; purchased surplus property for shop.

BOAZ—held two meetings; completed calendar campaign; built an electric and plumbing board; all classes preparing speeches for speaking contest; installed 4 metal doors in building; joint classes on party manners.

CAMDEN—held regular business meeting and one officer meeting; initiated Green Hands; several members ordered jackets; elected Sweetheart and alternating; held Hoof Day and harvesting peas for chapter funds; Ag II completed unit on landscape.

CARROLTON—17 new members; 6 jackets ordered; FFA-FHA calendar sold to community; received National Silver Emblem in chapter contest; weekly articles in newspaper; conducted rat control campaign; built one hog house and attended meeting; held Fall Festival and FFA-FHA party; made 7 platforms for school band; all classes preparing speeches for speaking contest; installed 4 metal doors in building; joint classes on party manners.

CENTREVILLE—held annual Forestry Awards meeting; initiated 26 Green Hands; did recycling; initiated 38 Green Hands; participated in dean-up drive in downtown Eufaula; member played in the Covington FFA Association; held overshirt ceremonies.

CLIP—national organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete.

DECEMBER-JANUARY, 1963-64

ELBA—held regular meetings with new officers presiding; seven boys feeding calves for county show and sale in spring; all classes completed welding course; participating in sale of mixed nuts for income; elected county secretary.

ENTERPRISE—initiated 55 Green Hands; raised 4 to Chapter Farmer Degree; held 2 regular meetings; bought new bower for chapter pig chain.

EUFALOA—held regular meetings; initiated 17 Green Hands; participated in chow down drive in downtown Eufaula; member played in the National Band during National Convention; ordered 17 jackets and other FFA material.

FAIRVIEW—established program of work: started a pig chain for the chapter; all ag classes making milking goats; ordered supplies; making plans for chapter banquet.

FALKVILLE—visited Birmingham Zoo and State Fair; sold concessions at ball games; held two regular meetings; made plans to initiate Green Hands; organized quartet and string band; the Ag class made several field trips; ordered jackets; published paper, diary and picture.

FLORA—held two regular meetings; went to South Alabama Fair; received dues from all vocational agriculture students in school; purchased heavy duty Delta shaper for shop; made picture for calendar and school annual; had a hamburger supper with FFA; attended meeting of the Covington FFA Association; held overshirt ceremonies.

FORT DEPOSIT—sold Tickets on Thanksgiving turkey; selling peanuts at ball game; held meeting on Forest Fire Prevention; passed out membership cards and Alabama Future Farmer: working on contest; selling "Keep Alabama Green" car tags.

GAYETT—nine Green Hands initiated; held regular meeting; submitted dues and received membership cards.

GERALDINE—held regular meeting; initiated 51 Green Hands; total membership 104; light bulb sales campaign; all classes preparing speeches; reviewed contests; painted classrooms; planned corn husking party; participating in D-Con program.

GORDO—3 articles in newspaper; held corn growing contest; ordered 8 tickets and 18,000 pine seedlings; member attended National FFA Convention; held officer training school and regular meeting; had Mr. C. W. Burrage as guest; initiated sales campaign of peanuts; purchased $100 worth of new equipment.

GOSHEN—initiated 21 Green Hands and awarded each a button; feeding out oats on livestock show; report made at Farm Bureau Convention in Birmingham, for the Rotary Club at Troy State College, the Pike county teachers in-service program and at the Halloween program at Goshen; sold 100 copies of the official calendar, received money from campus land in soil bank; selling mixed nuts and Progressive Farmer subscriptions; two columns working on notebook rack; 37 boys attended South Alabama Fair; bought 20 official manuals for library; 20 Chapter Farmer buttons, new secretary and treasurer books and copies of the Creed and Aims and Purposes.

GROVE HILL—held 2 regular meetings; received officer jackets and pins; initiated Green Hand members; ordered manuals and pins for Green Hands; submitted Chapter program of work and duties; held chapter corn growing contest; entered float in Homecoming parade; report given by delegate to State Convention; planning combination FFA-FHA party; held two officer training periods; sold three market hogs; placed 2 gifts in pig chain; ordered 2 jackets and 28 Green Hand pins; served school campus in rye grass.

HAMILTON—made mailbox posts; a cabinet for the athletic department, concrete blocks and a partition, leading chute; repaired the doors for the pig house; selling peanuts; made waste cans for campus.

“We got 1,440 sq. ft. of machinery shelter for $834 with ‘tilt-up’ concrete!” says CARL CRUSBENBERRY, Whitesburg, Tenn.

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A national organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete

Please send free booklet on "tilt-up" concrete construction. Also send material on other subjects I've listed:

NAME.
ST. OR R. NO.
CITY
STATE
HARTFORD—held one regular meeting; chapter declared October "oil testing" month; poultry judging team attended National Convention; had 4 radio programs; began Christmas card drive; selling subscriptions to Progressive Farmer; bought six registered gilts; began work on public speaking contest; six members showed 25 hogs at the Alabama State Fair.

HEFLIN—held monthly meeting; initiated Green Hands; sold calendars; studying horticulture; officers held training meeting; Ag II studying a unit on electricity; Ag I studying tools; Ag III studying fruits and vegetables.

HOEKES BLUFF—held 9 regular meetings; placed six gilts in pig chain; sold supper for all members; ordered 14 jackets and 11 rings; organized quarterly; elected sweetheart.

HOLLY POND—held one meeting; initiated 40 members; had joint party and dance with FHA; sold ads for calendars and purchased a radial arm saw and a popcorn machine; plan to buy two more welders and a oxyacetylene rig for vocational shop this year.

JACKSON—enrolled 63 members; elected chapter Sweetheart; helped with FFA Halloween carnival; planted shrubs around school; State officer attended National Convention; planned chapter yearbook; ordered 9,000 pine cones.

JACKSONVILLE—was first place with exhibit in Calhoun County Fair on farm sewage system; gathering pine cones as a fundraising project; took parts of plants and surveying.

LEROY—held one regular meeting; subordinated dues and received membership cards.

LEIGHTON—completed light bulb sale; had an excellent mixed nut sale; making mailbox posts for 40 boxes; new officers for the year elected; held regular meeting; submitted dues and received membership cards.

LUTHER—held one officer and one chapter meeting; discussed plans for FFA-FHA banquet; ordered candy to sell to raise money for chapter; ordered pine seedlings and fruit trees.

LUVERNE—held monthly meeting; initiated Green Hands; ordered 20 jackets and 5,000 pine seedlings.

MONROEVILLE—elected officers and student council representative; held regular meeting; submitted dues and received membership cards.

MONTEVALLO—attended State Fair; sent 2 delegates to the National Convention; sold 40 baskets of pine cones and over 60 subscriptions to our county newspaper; purchased a new Westinghouse electric air welder; plan for annual hunt; annual chili supper and basketball tournament set and annual parent night program; plan to attend county FFA-FHA meeting; chapter budget completed; Ag I group attended auction sale in Birmingham and Farmers Market; all Ag II and Ag III students taking special course in welding fundamentals; all students using notebook procedure as suggested at summer conference.

NEW SITE—attended Fair in Montgomery; entered judging team in Chattooga Valley livestock contest; held tractor clinic; finished selling contest; constructed 13 tables for the commercial department.

NORTHSIDE—selected winner in the corn growing contest; painting some areas of the school building; purchased 8 calendar ads; Ronnie Glass is the Future Farmer of the Month; selected winner in the corn growing contest; ordered 8 jackets and a set of four过来 books; attended convention; completed sales of calendar ads; Ronnie Glass is the Future Farmer of the Month of our chapter.

SAND ROCK—elected chapter Sweetheart; passed out programs of work to members; elected new parliamentarian; three members attended National Convention; attended State Fair.

SARDIS—held regular, project committee, and officers meetings; paid feed expenses for chapter bull; sold calendar ads; operate concession stand at football games; ordered jackets and rings; selected chapter corn grower; attended convention; published new articles and pictures in two area newspapers; working on and organizing contest entries; new officers pressing; painted athletic field house and concession stands; went on annual fishing trip; initiated 50 Green Hands; cleaned and repaired department; worked on football stadium and wired with lights; painted bleachers and rails; erected additional bleachers; 35 members entered corn growing contest; ordered chapter calendars; bought new shop equipment; entering all contests.

SECTION—published four new articles; acquainted all members with FFA purposes and ideals; ordered new shop materials and supplies; developed safety thought for each day; developed new skills through woodworking; distributed T-shirts; presented Green Hands with pans; bought new source for FFA news; gave out membership cards; selected Future Farmer of the Month; held fund raising campaign, stressed rat control and safety; eat up money raising cash at harvest festival; finished woodwork and welding projects; had safety program; held 2 meetings; announced FFA quarter members; selected Sweetheart.

SILAS—elected officers; added around 105 research books to library; elected Sweetheart; had a championship appearance of FFA in which we expect to make a small profit; selling peanuts to raise money; held regular meetings; all boys passed the FFA test; prepared landscaping plans for each individual home; Ag I boys are learning to identify and maintain tools; Ag II boys are using shop equipment.

SMITH STATION—initiated 46 Green Hands; ordered 8,000 pine seedlings; entered livestock judging in the Chattooga Valley Exposition;
selling mixed nuts, planning to sell magazines; elected chapter officers; sold calendar ads.

SOUTHSIDE—building trailer to shop to sell and also mailbox posts for members; W. C. McCullar built self feeder for his hogs, chapter core grower selected; held regular meeting, planning Green Hand initiation; Ag III class studying landscaping; building book cabinets for library and classroom; have recreation meeting every Tuesday night.

SPARKMAN—initiated 42 Green Hands; held two executive council meetings, one regular meeting; painted one pick-up truck and three cars; working on the selection of a land judging team, Ag II learned about electricity; made plans to draw up a chapter Constitution; conducted adult welding class and selected soil judging team; Ag I boys studying landscaping, see work have begun and have pruned two orchards; plan to enter Public Speaking contest.

ODENVILLE—initiated 26 Green Hands; all classes learned Parliamentary procedure; sold Farm and Ranch magazines to raise chapter funds; held office training school; sold 3 jackets; organized string band and a quartet; elected Chapter Farmer; elected Chapter Star Farmer; ordered one jacket.

STRAUGHS—held Green Hand initiation; executive council met and had a hamburger supper; attended county meeting and planned oyster supper; built three gates in the shop; gathered corn on school property; several gifts in pig chain forwarded; sold subscriptions to Progressive Farmer; completed program of work; placed 10 pigs on farm in school area.

SULLIGENT—forestry and land judging team working on activity program completed; 100% vo-ag students are FFA members and all subscribe to National Future Farmer magazine; held 2 meetings; FFA banquet banquet date set; members selling subscriptions to Farm Journal; published 8 articles in local papers; initiated Green Hands and presented them laps buttons; ordered 5 rings, 5 jackets, 12 ties, pencils and notebooks; planned skating party with FFA; member entering Future Farmer of the Year contest; summarized project records; subscription campaign with Farm Journal; speaking competitions at week.

SUSAN MOORE—member awarded American Farmer Degree; 40 new members to be initiated; FFA basketball team organized; judging teams being trained; educational tour of the Alabama State Fair enjoyed by about 30 members.

SUTTLE—classes built a set of concrete steps to vocational building; harvested 173 bushels of corn from demonstration plot; built a breeding pen for chapter hogs; carried 6 Landrace hogs to State Fair; held one day officer training school; elected chapter sweetheart; bought market hogs; added 11 new members.

SWEETWATER—elected officers; sold mixed nuts and magazine subscriptions to raise money; ordered 3 wheel chisels and small motor tools; planned FFA program of work; held executive meeting; ordered fruit trees cooperatively; planned program on road safety; showed 2 films; had a field trip on forestry; made plans for selecting honor student each six weeks on scholarship, supervised farming, FFA participation and shop program.

SYLVANIA—have 100 members; initiated 37 Green Hands; ordered pine seedlings; planning prize for public speaking contest; working on program of work; held regular meeting and one executive meeting; showed film "Stop Rats Forever"; published 18 articles and 2 pictures; Ag I class studied breeds of cattle and hogs; selling ads for calendar; appointed committees; ordered Green Hand and Chapter Farmer pigs; close chapter champion corn grower; to hold public speaking and tractor driving eliminations soon; completed record books; all members own a manual; bought three electric hand saws and other supplies for shop; planning Chapter Farmer initiation; several members working toward the State Farmer Degree.

THOMASTON—held regular and officer meeting; initiated Green Hands; had joint barbecue with FHA; plan to raise Green Hands to Chapter Farmers; dairy judging team participated at State Fair in Birmingham; member attended National Convention; selected chapter champion corn growers; raised Green Hands to Chapter Farmers.

THOMASVILLE—helped with Halloween carnival; poured cement driveway is front of shop and walks outside gym; built bleachers on south side of football field and a retaining wall next to Ag building; ordered FFA stickers; bought new edition of manual for members and new equipment for shop.

TOWN CREEK—selected chapter Sweetheart; sold ads on FHA, calendar, elected champion corn growers; selling "Keep Alabama Green" cur tags; ordered rings, bracelets and other supplies for members; bought new soldering iron and saw, and sander for shop; making plans to enter several FHA contests.

UNION SPRINGS—two members and local advisor attended National Convention; have a practice teacher from Auburn; showed two hogs at the State Fair in Birmingham and three at the South Alabama Fair in Montgomery; held regular meeting; submitted dues and received membership cards.

WOODVILLE—held regular meeting; planned projects for year; assigned work committees; submitted dues.
A SALUTE TO THE F.F.A.

What if there were no farmers!
No one to cultivate the ground,
No one to raise the cows and hogs,
No one to bring the "taters" to town.

"Farmers? What do we care about them.
When they don't care about us."
"But oh, they make a lot of difference,
They raise the food for all of us."

Every time you sit to eat,
Whether it's soup, or salad, or biscuits warm,
Whether it's meat, potatoes, eggs or milk,
Remember! It came from off the farm.

Let us not look askance upon the farmer.
The farmer, his tractor, and his plot.
He's not ignorant, dumb, and dirty.
He's the "Cream of the Crop", "The top of the pot."

"But what about the Future Farmers?
Who are they and what do they do?"
"They're the farmers of tomorrow,
Who'll provide the food for you, and you."

We hold the F.F.A. in high esteem,
In their jackets of blue and emblems of gold.
They work tirelessly in Summer,
And in bleak Winter's cold.

"Future Farmers of America", They're called,
Farmers for tomorrow, and farmers for today.
We look to you, we trust in you,
Yes indeed, the F.F.A.!

— Ralph E. Beasley