AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED

Twenty-six Alabama members of the Future Farmers of America will be recommended for the organization’s highest honor, the American Farmer Degree, at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, on October 15.

T. L. Faulkner, state supervisor of vocational agriculture and state FFA advisor, was informed of the recommendations following a recent meeting of the National FFA Board of Directors at National FFA headquarters in Washington, D. C. The Board of Directors and the National Officers reviewed the applications and jointly agreed to recommend to the convention delegates that each of the 26 Alabamians receive the coveted degree. Recommendation by these boards usually assures approval by the delegates.

FFA members are eligible for the American Farmer Degree after having earned the State Farmer Degree. They must have been an active member of the FFA continuously for at least three years and have a record of participation in the activities of the local chapter and state association. In addition, the FFA member must have earned at least $1,000 by his own efforts from a supervised farming or other agricultural occupational experience program.

Those to be recommended are:

Ken Banks - Wetumpka
Bobby Bearden - Plantersville
Lynn Brothers - Douglas
Joe Henry Carmichael - Enterprise
Lavid B. Carpenter - Clio
James C. Copeland, Jr. - Fairhope
Miles B. Covin - Evergreen
Donald Drummond - West Point
Bobby Eaton - Carrollton
Albert Eiland - Wadley
Andrew H. Haynie - Eclectic
Ted John Hoffren - Fairhope
Hoyt Hutson - West Point
Ronnie W. Jackson - Ashford
Eddie R. Jones - Section
Albert Mack Lipscomb - Foley
Danny Mathis - Wicksburg
Larry Dale McDaniel - Enterprise
Henry A. Minter - Camp Hill
Ronnie Earl Outlaw - Hartford
Laymon D. Phillips - Clio
John D. Sargent, Jr. - Section
Tommy Scott - Sparkman
Albert Carney Sharpe - .
Sidney Lanier
Charles Rodney Styron - Foley
Wesley Thompson - Dale County

Those from Alabama are among 471 FFA members throughout the nation to be recommended for the American Farmer Degree. This degree is limited to approximately one FFA member in a thousand in any given year. Each of the new American Farmers will receive a gold key and a certificate from the FFA organization, plus a cash travel allowance to the National Convention from the Future Farmers of American Foundation, Inc.

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The American Farmer Degree is awarded only to FFA members who have demonstrated their leadership and scholarship ability during high school and who are showing evidence of becoming successfully established in an agricultural occupation. **

GROOMS WINS TRI-STATE MEET

Harold Grooms, Prattville FFA member and current State Public Speaking champion, captured the Tri-State (Ala-Ga-Fla) title at a meet on July 13 in Gainesville, Florida.

He will represent the three-state area in the Southern Regional Meet and, hopefully, will then go on to the national competition.

As winner of the State FFA Public Speaking Contest, Harold received a $500 cash prize and a chapter banner at the state convention in June.

Harold is a 1970 graduate of Autauga County High School and plans to attend Auburn University this fall. **

NATIONAL CONVENTION

OCTOBER 13 - 16
CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

The 41st annual convention was held at Garrett Coliseum in Montgomery, June 3-4 with some 2,000 delegates and their advisors in attendance.

Highlights of the convention were: outstanding talks by Montgomery Circuit Judge Richard P. Emnett, National FFA Student Secretary Dennis Pharris, and Past National FFA Officer Jerry Batt; competition in individual and chapter contests; the awarding of Honorary State Farmer Degrees to 11 prominent Alabamians; the conferring of 488 State Farmer Degrees; recognition of Star Farmers; and election of 1970-71 State FFA Officers.

(For more details of these highlights see other stories herein.)

Listed below are winners of the 1970 State Awards and Contests.

CROP FARMING
1--Gary Childers..............Vina
2--Jeff McKenzie...............Section
3--Bobby Eaton...............Carrolton
4--James Gottler..............Foley

LIVESTOCK FARMING
1--Gerald Salter..............Evergreen
2--Roger McWaters.............Geneva
3--David Johnson..............Woodland
4--Richard Galloway..........Fayette

DAIRY FARMING
1--Teddy Hoffen..............Fainhope
2--Joe Hartzo.................Choctaw
3--Harvey Kyles..............Reform
4--Terry Chapman..............Evergreen

POULTRY FARMING
1--Steve Adams.................Crossville
2--Jerry Busby...............Fairhope
3--Curtis Clark...............Section
4--James Seay...............Boaz

FORESTRY
1--John Tillman..............Strawhnn
2--Van Smith.................Billingsley
3--Lewis Elmore..............Cortez
4--Dalton Eason, Jr..........Perry

ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE
1--Mike Mitchell..............Gardendale
2--Donald Smith..............Fairhope
3--David Wright..............Plantersville
4--Donald Pilkington........McAdory

SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT
1--Johnny Goolsby.............Wetumpka
2--Johnny Thompson............Centreville
3--Eric Pugh.................Eufaula
4--John Morrow..............Red Bay

HOME IMPROVEMENT
1--Edward Woerner.............Foley
2--Louivelle Hoggles........Aiken
3--Alfred Snoddy..............Carver (Cataw)
4--Harvey Earl McCord, Jr......Princeton

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS
1--Elton Romine..............Rogersville
2--Richard Savage.............Brookwood
3--Carol Snider..............Bleakwood
4--Randy Earnest..............Northside

FARM & HOME ELECTRIFICATION
1--Royce Jones.................Section
2--Don Towns................Rockford
3--Richard Woerner............Foley
4--Gray Wilkinson.............Jackson
5--Jimmy Taylor...............Ashford
6--Herbert Kerr..............Pell City

AGRIBUSINESS
1--Chris Bush.................Sidney Lanier
2--Glen Jones.................Bay Minette
3--Rosilyn Wilson.............Gardendale
4--John Sessions..............Evergreen

NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
1--Jeff McKenzie...............Section
2--Arthur Batchelor...........Reform
3--William Bailey.............McAdory
4--Tommy Roberson............Mt. Hope

PLACEMENT IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
1--Jimmy Brannon..............Hartford
2--Randy Adair..............Wetumpka
3--Jimmy Yarbough.............Wetumpka
4--Calvin Stalhood............Talladega

PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST
1--Harold Grooms..............Prattville
2--Bill Minor................Douglas
3--Tommy Hays.................Susan Moore
4--Tom Freeman.................Columbia
5--Brett Bullington...........East Limestone
6--James Gottler..............Fainhope

STRING BAND CONTEST
1--Bay Minette.................
2--West Point.................
3--Jacksonville..............
4--Mount Hope.................
5--Union Springs.............
6--Stanhope Elmore...........

(continued on next page)
LAND JUDGING CONTEST
1--Enterprise
2--Fairhope
3--Thomaston
4--LaFayette

LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST
1--Harford
2--Uriah
3--Belgreen
4--Ranburne

DAIRY JUDGING CONTEST
1--Linden
2--Arab
3--Hackleburg
4--Mellow Valley

CORN GROWING CONTEST
Champion Corn Grower
Rodney Moon.. Sparkman
District Winners
Ken Banks.................Wetumpka
Albert Wilson.............McKenzie
Jimmy Copeland............Fairhope
Joe Johnson...............Greensboro
Jerry Davis................Vina

SAFETY CONTEST
1--Moulton
2--Sylvania
3--Wedowee
4--Haleyville
5--Gurley

CHAPTER CONTEST
Standard Chapters.....
Goshen
Fairview
Hillcrest High
Russellville
Sumter County Training
Athon
Waterloo
Tovn Creek
Milby
Moore Academy

Superior Chapters.....
Chelsea
Marengo County Training
Grove Hill
Evergreen
Reform
Crossville
Catver (Eutaw)
Speake
Woodford Avenue
Leighton Training
Curry
Brookwood

Gold Medal Chapters.....
Fairhope
Ourai
Haleyville
Section
Sparkman

** McKENZIE - STATE STAR FARMER **

The highest honor the Alabama FFA Association can bestow upon a member has gone to Jeff McKenzie, 19, of Section.

Jeff, a recent graduate of Section High School, was named 1970 Star Farmer of Alabama during the 41st annual State FFA convention in Montgomery, June 4.

He was one of six District Star Farmers from Alabama honored by more than 2,000 FFA members at the convention. Other district star farmers were: James Gottler, Foley; Tim Presley, Opp; Richard Galloway, Fayette; Johnny Goolsby, Wetumpka; and Sammy Hinkle, Fairview.

During the convention, this enterprising Future Farmer was awarded twice for his outstanding achievement in agricultural proficiency (1st place in Natural Resource Development and 2nd place in Crop Farming) and also received his State Farmer Degree. Jeff’s farming program features swine production--20 sows for breeding and 1800 market animals--and embraces row crops as well as a small herd of beef cattle. His net earnings from three years of completed projects total over $22,000. This might be considered a good indication of his success in farming.

One reason for his success stems from his belief in conserving and improving his facilities. Jeff is always looking for ways to make his farm better. This includes everything from improving his shop, orchard, and farm pond to planting seedlings, treating his buildings for termites, and vaccinating his pigs. In 1967, he was cited by Governor Brewer for his exceptional conservation work.

Jeff also realizes full well the importance of breeding high-quality stock. He knows how to select the best animals for his breeding program and his proficiency in this area has made him a champion livestock judge. The result is that he breeds and grows picture-perfect feeder pigs—and markets 1800 top hogs per year. ***

ALABAMANS HONORED

Eleven outstanding leaders in Agriculture and Business were presented with Honorary State Farmer Degrees by the Alabama FFA Association at the state convention, June 3.

The ten men and one woman receiving the honorary degrees were: Dr. Y. S. Eaddy, Coordinator, Agricultural Teacher Education, Auburn University; Mr. W. E. Cooper, Special Supervisor, Agricultural Education Service, Tuskegee Institute; Mr. E. L. Donald, Teacher Educator, Agricultural Education, Tuskegee Institute; Mr. J. D. Hays, President, Alabama Farm Bureau Federation, Montgomery; Mr. William B. Lingle, State Conservation Director, USDA-Soil Conservation Service, Auburn; Mr. John A. Garrett, Director, Farmers Home Administration, Montgomery; Mrs. Mary George Waite, President, Farmers and Merchants Bank, Centre; Mr. B. A. Wright, President, Peoples Trust and Savings Bank, Goodwater; Mr. Ozell Thrasher, President, East Lauderdale Banking Company, Rogersville; Mr. Dewey K. Wilson, President, Farmers and Merchants Bank, Arinton; and Mr. Hugh C. Dale, Vice-president, Camden National Bank, Camden.

In addition, Outstanding Service Plaques were presented to the Honorable Richard P. Emmet, Judge of the 15th Judicial Circuit of Alabama, Montgomery; and Mr. Eddie Downs, President, Bank of West Blocton, West Blocton.
EDITORIAL COMMENT

CHAPTERS SHOULD INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN THE ACQUISITION OF FAVORABLE PUBLICITY FOR THE FFA AND VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE -- PARTICULARLY IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES. A SOUND PUBLIC IMAGE AND ACCEPTANCE BY PARENTS, FACULTY, AND BUSINESS LEADERS CAN ADD STRENGTH AND SUPPORT TO EVEN THE BEST CHAPTER.

THE OFFICIAL FFA CALENDAR PROGRAM IS ONE TOOL WHICH CHAPTERS CAN USE TO GAIN ADDED PUBLIC AWARENESS, AND NOW IS THE TIME TO DISCUSS THIS PROGRAM.

CALENDAR ORDERS FOR 1971 NEED TO BE IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN 1970.

SO, START THE BALL ROLLING AND LET THESE CALENDARS DO A BIG PART OF YOUR CHAPTER'S PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK.

THERE ARE THREE STYLES OF FFA CALENDARS AND THREE PLANS OF PARTICIPATION. A TWO OR THREE MAN COMMITTEE CAN EASILY HANDLE THE PROJECT.

THE THREE TYPES OF CALENDARS ARE: 1) HOME AND OFFICE STYLE WITH 12 COLOR PICTURES; 2) TENT-STYLE DESK CALENDARS; AND 3) A LARGER POSTER STYLE.

A FREE CALENDAR KIT (AVAILABLE FOR ALL CHAPTERS UPON REQUEST) CONTAINS SAMPLES, ORDER FORMS, AND MORE COMPLETE DETAILS.

THE THREE WAYS A CHAPTER MIGHT PARTICIPATE ARE DESIGNATED AS PLAN A, B, OR C. PLAN A INVOLVES A BUSINESS FIRM SPONSORING THE CALENDARS IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHAPTER. IT PROVIDES A 25% COMMISSION TO THE CHAPTER, A MONEY-RAISING BENEFIT FOR CHAPTER TREASURIES.

PLAN B HAS NO SELLING OR COMMERCIAL INVOLVEMENT. THE CHAPTER ORDERS CALENDARS WITH ITS OWN NAME AND FFA MESSAGE TO BUILD GOODWILL OR EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO THE COMMUNITY.

PLAN C CALENDARS ARE NOT PERSONALIZED BUT HAVE A GENERAL FFA MESSAGE, INSTEAD. THEY ARE AVAILABLE IN SMALL QUANTITIES TO CHAPTERS OR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS.

WHATEVER YOUR CHAPTER DOES TO PROMOTE FFA AND VO-AG, OFFICIAL FFA CALENDARS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE PLAN. --JBM

CHAPTER NOTES

NOTICE CHAPTER REPORTERS

THIS COLUMN BELONGS TO YOU. PLEASE MAKE USE OF IT TO REPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS.

JUST A FEW LINES ON A POSTAL CARD WILL TELL US WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR CHAPTER.

SO, LET'S HEAR FROM EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU.

--JBM

SEVEN MEMBERS WIN REGIONALS

The State FFA Association has just been informed that seven of Alabama's 13 proficiency award winners have won in Southern Regional competition.

This means that these outstanding FFA members will each compete for national honors along with three other regional winners in their particular award at National Convention in Kansas City, October 13-16.

The winners and their award areas are: Livestock Farming-Gerald Salter, Evergreen; Poultry Farming-Steve Adams, Crossville; Ornamental Horticulture-Mike Mitchell, Gardendale; Agricultural Mechanics-Elton Romine, Rogersville; Farm and Home Electrification-Royce Jones, Section; Natural Resource Development-Jeff McKenzie, Section; and Placement in Agricultural Production-Jimmy Brannon, Hartford.

The Southern Region includes Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Puerto Rico. ***