



The Alabama

FFA NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA FFA ASSOCIATION

Volume 41

February, 1971

Number 6

PREPARE FOR AGRICULTURAL PROFICIENCY AWARDS

Now is the time of year to be thinking about what you have probably been working toward in your supervised occupational experience program for the last few years. What we are referring to are Agricultural Proficiency Awards.

Agricultural Proficiency Awards are available to any FFA member who, at the time of application, is regularly enrolled in secondary classes of vocational agriculture, or has been out of high school not more than one year, and has completed at least three full years of vo-ag or all the vo-ag offered in the school. These awards are available in the following areas:

- Crop Production
- Livestock Production
- Dairy Production
- Poultry Production
- Forest Management
- Ornamental Horticulture
- Soil, Water, and Air Management
- Home Improvement
- Agricultural Mechanics
- Agricultural Electrification
- Placement in Sales and/or Service
- Natural Resource and Recreation
- Placement in Agricultural Production
- Placement in Processing
- Fish and Wildlife

The purpose of these awards is to stress proficiency in developing programs in the areas covered. In judging these awards major emphasis is placed on the work done by the applicant. Applications for these awards may include reports of activities and records completed up to January 1, 1971. Consideration is given to the applicant's

cumulative record in vocational agriculture, FFA, and their supervised work experience program.

A member may be granted only one first place Agricultural Proficiency Award on the state level per year and may receive the award for any one area only once. All of the Agricultural Proficiency Awards are individual awards; that is, they are each based upon the work and accomplishments of the

Proficiency Awards must be submitted to the district supervisor by April 1. The awards will be presented at the State FFA Convention, June 3-4. The first place winner in each of the award areas will be eligible to compete for regional, and possibly national awards.

You may not think your program is good enough to try for one of these awards; but you would be surprised at the number of FFA members in Alabama who have really outstanding programs--yet they don't even apply for an award. Don't be one of these "doubting Toms" and let your chance go by. Start working on your application right NOW.

DISTRICT CONTESTS

The 1971 District FFA Contests will be held according to the following schedule:

- Southeast March 27
- Southwest April 3
- East Central..... April 10
- West Central..... April 17
- Northeast April 24
- North May 1

Each district will hold contests in Land, Livestock, and Dairy Judging; Public Speaking; and String Band. Only winners of county contests will be eligible to participate in the district competitions.

FFA members are involved in America's future.



The Alabama FFA NEWS



February, 1971

Published monthly during the school year under the supervision of the Agricultural Education Service, Division of Vocational Education, State Department of Education. Address all communications to: The Alabama FFA NEWS, 607 State Office Building, Montgomery, Alabama

Vol. 41

No. 6

Editor Joyce B. McCay

STATE FFA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Bill Cofield . . . Route 3, Wedouge
Woodland Chapter

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Herbert Brown . . . Route 1, Ouassa
Evergreen Chapter

Kenny Morrou Route 2, Vina
Red Bay Chapter

Jimmy Hayes . . . Box 374, Goodwater
Goodwater Chapter

Frankel Hunnicutt . . . Route 1, Kennedy
Kennedy Chapter

Joel Jones Box 187, Elba
Elba Chapter

STATE ADVISOR

Ben P. Dilworth Montgomery

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

C. W. Reed Montgomery

NATIONAL FFA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

J. Dan Lehmann Illinois

SECRETARY

John H. McCulley Oregon

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Wayne L. Humphreys Iowa

George E. Allen New York

Daniel M. Dooley California

Jim Beard Oklahoma

NATIONAL ADVISOR

H. N. Hunsicker . . . Washington, D. C.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

William Paul Gray . . . Washington, D. C.

DISTRICT CHAMPION CORN GROWERS

The District Corn Growing Champions for 1970 are:

N	Gary Irons	Waterloo
NE	Kent Bouldin	Crossville
WC	Michael Freeman	West Point
EC	Edward McCullers	Wetumpka
SW	Ronnie Silcox	Uriah
SE	Arthur Tew	Florala

As district winners, five of these Corn Growing Champions will each receive \$100 and a chapter banner during the State FFA Convention in June. The State Champion FFA Corn Grower will be presented \$200, a loving cup trophy, and a chapter banner.

This contest is sponsored by Gold Kist (better known as the Cotton Producers Association).

ATTENTION STATE FARMERS

Any State Farmer who has been out of school for one year, but not more than three; who has been a Future Farmer at least three years; and who has had three years of vocational agriculture or all the vocational agriculture that was offered in your school; and who is an active FFA member is eligible to receive an American Farmer Degree.

The purpose of this degree is to recognize outstanding supervised farming and/or other agricultural occupational experience ability and

leadership. This year about 25 FFA members from Alabama will be able to receive the American Farmer Degree. (Each state is limited to 2% of its membership for this degree.)

Each American Farmer will receive a check from the Future Farmers Foundation for \$100, the American Farmer Key, and a certificate presented by the National FFA Organization. The candidate must be in Kansas City to receive the degree in person, or he will not receive the cash award.

LOOK AHEAD

for a promising future in teaching

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

CHALLENGING—Helping develop those responsible for feeding a hungry world.

INTERESTING—Working with young people, in the school, on the farm, in the agricultural industry.

SATISFYING—Recognition of your efforts by students, parents, school, community.

SECURE—You join a GROWING profession of 10,000 dedicated vocational agriculture teachers located in every state in the union. You can expect a good salary, generous vacation, retirement, and other benefits.

The great use of a life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.—William James

FFA MEMBERS . . . SHINING THROUGH

As the week of Feb. 20-27 approaches what will your chapter be doing to promote National FFA Week. Will your chapter be telling the FFA story and showing the community that FFA members are "Involved in America's Future"?

National FFA Week is set aside each year for the purpose of promoting FFA at one time by all chapters across the nation. During this special week, all Future Farmers and advisors should make every effort to help the public understand what the FFA is—and what it is doing.

There are many ideas on how to promote the FFA during National FFA Week, and we can't begin to list them here. Your chapter advisor should have already received packets from both national and state FFA Week committees. These packets contain a multitude of information for local chapter use in celebrating FFA Week. We hope your chapter will make good use of this information.

The State FFA Association will also be busy promoting the FFA by distributing, on the state-wide level, news releases, editorial material, radio announcements, slides for television spots, and large outdoor billboards. However, this should not interfere with each chapter seeking out ways to publicize FFA activities in its own community or county.

We all know that the Future Farmers of America is one of the greatest youth organizations and during FFA Week, members have a chance to show the community, and even the world, that the Future Farmers of America is a great organization, doing great things for the benefit of the community, state, nation, and world.

But, whether you realize it or not, the real image carried by the FFA is dependent upon the actions of its individual members. As the old saying goes, "a chain is only as strong as its weakest link."

All the public relations activities you can think of will be of little value if the FFA image is tarnished by the thoughtless actions of just one FFA member.

It is up to every FFA member to maintain the FFA status on the high level as members of the past have made it. FFA members should be on their very best behavior and reflect the best image at all times.

So remember: Do your part. Support and promote the FFA, both during National FFA Week and all year round. But, whatever you do, be proud you are a member of the FFA—and make sure your fellow members have reason to be proud that you are a member of the brotherhood.



MONTGOMERY STATE STEER SHOW

The 1971 Montgomery State Steer Show and Sale will be held on March 15, 16, and 17, at Garrett Coliseum.

According to Mr. C. Ed Teague, Director, Agricultural Division, Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, about 300 steers are expected to be shown and sold at the event this year. There will be entries from 35 counties representing all areas of the state.

The steers for the State Show this year will be selected from five district shows which will be held at Dothan, Birmingham, Huntsville, Monroeville, and Montgomery. To be eligible to participate in the State Show a steer must grade Choice or better in one of the district shows.

Dr. Gary Minish, Animal Science Department, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia, will judge the State Show. Dr. Minish has

judged many big shows throughout the country.

The steers will be brought in on Monday, March 15. The show will start at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 16, and should be over about 3:30 p.m. The sale will start at 8:45 a.m. on Wednesday, March 17, and should be over about 3:30 p.m.

All FFA members planning to enter steers in their district shows should find out when and where the show will be held.

Mr. H. N. Lewis, Vo-Ag Livestock Specialist at Auburn, says that FFA members should start NOW on final training and preparations of steers. He suggests that steers be clipped about 20 days before a show to avoid the "just clipped" look.

Remember—all steers must enter a district show and grade Choice or better to be eligible for the State Show.

PRESIDING . . .

Bill Cofield
State FFA President

Most every FFA member aspires to officership in the local FFA chapter. Quite a few hope to become state officers. Some even dream of becoming national officers.

Well, this is the season for Alabama FFA members to consider filing applications to become State Officers.

If you are interested in becoming a State Officer, you should confer with your Vo-Ag instructor and school administrator regarding your intentions. You should prepare in detail your personal achievement folder in Agricultural Education and FFA. You should formulate your objectives in becoming a State Officer and become thoroughly knowledgeable of the total FFA program.

You should remember that becoming a State Officer in Alabama involves considerable obligation. An officer of the Alabama FFA Association must be enrolled in high school and be taking vocational agriculture. He must be able to keep up with his studies eventhough he has several conferences to attend in and sometimes out of the State. He also has many official chapter visits to make and local chapter programs to attend.

Yes, an Alabama FFA Officer has a real job to do. In the doing, however, he grows in stature and experience. The job is a real education in itself. It is not only an education but both an honor and a challenge.

The 1970-71 State Officers are looking for well qualified candidates to carry on for them this next year. Think about it. It could be you!!!

* * * * *

We all know that FFA is a definite part of our vo-ag program. FFA provides the leadership training and incentives to motivate us to work harder. FFA gives us the prestige and satisfaction of belonging to a

--- CHAPTER NOTES ---

The Russellville FFA Chapter recently laded 2400 square yards of Bermuda sod as a BOAC project. The sod was installed at the new Westside Elementary School by members who worked two days during school and one day during the Christmas holidays.

The chapter had earlier installed playground equipment for the city at the Five Oaks Park.

* * * * *

Safety with Electricity was the topic of Mr. Claude Lipscomb, Marketing Division, Montgomery office of the Alabama Power Company, when he spoke to the Auburn High FFA Chapter recently. He used a series of transparencies to explain how to recognize electrical hazards and avoid dangerous shock.

local, state, and national organization.

But, are all vo-ag students in Alabama taking advantage of being a FFA member? The answer is NO!!

Every chapter in Alabama should have in its enrollment 100% of the students taking vocational agriculture in its school. If this isn't true in your chapter then you and your chapter officers are not getting the FFA message across to the non-member vo-ag students.

Every vo-ag student who is not an FFA member is missing an invaluable experience. So, let's all see to it that our chapters have the most members possible.

* * * * *

FFA Week February 20-27

TEN FFA DRIVERS (Which one are you?)

Ten FFA drivers cruising down the line,
One had a heavy foot
Then there were nine.

Nine FFA drivers, the hours were getting late,
One dozed a moment
And then there were eight.

Eight FFA drivers, and the evening seemed like heaven,
One showed his driving skill
And then there were seven.

Seven FFA drivers, with lives full of kicks,
One bought a bottle
And then there were six.

Six FFA drivers, impatient to arrive,
One jumped a traffic light
And then there were five.

Five FFA drivers, wheeling near the shore,
One viewed the scenery
And then there were four.

Four FFA drivers, as happy as could be,
One passed on a hill
And then there were three.

Three FFA drivers, so busy it is true,
One neglected car repairs
And then there were two.

Two FFA drivers, with the day nearly done,
One didn't dim his lights
And then there was one.

One FFA driver who's still alive today,
By following safety rules
He hopes to stay that way.

* * * * *

Thanks to the Sparkman FFA Chapter for submitting this poem to us. It makes you stop and think, doesn't it?---JBM