



The Alabama FFA NEWS

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STATE PROFICIENCY WINNERS TAKE REGIONAL HONORS

Three of Alabama's 15 agricultural proficiency award winners have captured regional honors in competition with winners from 11 other southern states. Each of these outstanding Alabama FFA members will vie for national titles in their particular award area at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, October 13-15. They will compete with winners from the three other regions in the nation.

The regional winners from Alabama and their award areas are: Van Smith, Billingsley FFA Chapter, Forest Management; Robert Leland Gossett, Pell City FFA Chapter, Agricultural Electrification; and John Crum Sessions, Evergreen FFA Chapter, Placement in Processing.

The purpose of the Forest Management Award is to recognize FFA members who adopt and use forestry practices that conserve and increase the productivity and economic value of a forest.

Van Smith, 18, a 1971 graduate of Billingsley High School, has planted over 20,000 seedlings and harvested some 350 cords of pulpwood within the last four years. He also practices hardwood control in his woodland management program.

The purpose of the Agricultural Electrification Award is to recognize FFA members who have developed an interest in and knowledge of basic electricity used in agriculture and the home, and have gained preliminary experience needed for an electrical career.

Leland Gossett, 17, a senior at Pell City High School, has become very efficient and knowledgeable in electrical work. Some of his projects include wiring new houses, rewiring old houses, installing entrances for mobile homes, and installing

housepower boxes on buildings.

The purpose of the Placement in Processing Award is to recognize FFA members who have developed occupational competencies needed by individuals planning to enter the field of agricultural processing.

John Sessions, 18, a 1971 graduate of Evergreen High School, began working at his father's quick freeze and packing plant three years ago. Since that

time he has become proficient in every operation in each department of the plant.

The FFA will present awards for agricultural proficiency in 15 different categories this year. Four regional winners have been chosen for each category and will be recognized during the convention. Each regional winner will receive a \$200 cash award and the national winners will receive an additional \$50.

The Southern FFA Region includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. Each of the FFA associations in these states had entrants in all 15 categories at the regional competition.

SMITH MAKES NATIONAL FFA BAND

Michael Smith, a member of the Samson FFA Chapter, will participate in the FFA's 118-piece National Band this year. Michael plays the trumpet and will go to Kansas City early to start practice sessions on October 10. He will remain until the 16th to participate in the opening parade of the 1971 American Royal Livestock and Horse Show.

The FFA band is organized and directed by Roger Heath of

Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana, who recruits members by mail on the basis of recommendations from high school band directors. More than 500 FFA members across the nation applied this year but Mr. Heath never hears the students play until they arrive in Kansas City for the first practice session.

The band has two and a half days to develop into a smoothly performing musical unit before their first public appearance.

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FFA & FHA HOLD CONFERENCE

"Building Our American Communities," a cooperative venture of the Future Farmers of America and the Farmers Home Administration (FHA) to engage youth in the improvement of rural communities, was the topic of discussion in a recent meeting of state FHA directors and the national staffs of both the FFA and the FHA at the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia. Dan Lehmann, national FFA president, and James Smith, administrator of the FHA, were on hand to address the group.

In speaking to the state FHA directors, Dan Lehmann noted that one of the major problems in rural America today is the rural to urban migration of some of our most talented young people. "Too many young rural Americans are graduating with a diploma in one hand and a bus ticket to the big city in the other," Lehmann emphasized. "One of the primary purposes of the BOAC program is to get young people involved in finding solutions to the lack of employment problem in rural America," he added.

In explaining the operation of the BOAC program to the state directors, Lehmann said that the first step is a classroom educational program to make students aware of the community development process. Students enrolled in vocational agriculture classes are now receiving this instruction, Lehmann noted.

According to Lehmann the next step is for students to survey their own community and determine its needs. "We are encouraging students to look beyond recreational and beautification needs and to seek out the job, housing, health, and social needs of the community," he said.

Such surveys, noted Lehmann, usually indicate several different needs of the

community; therefore, the third step for students is to determine which problems to work on first. "Once the priorities have been established," Lehmann explained, "the FFA chapter sets out to find solutions to the problems. Other community groups and organizations are also encouraged to work with the FFA chapter in carrying out these worthwhile community improvement activities."

"It is easy to see how such a planned program can benefit a community," said Lehmann. "But the value of this program lies not only in the immediate benefit to the community, but also in the long range benefits. The whole process of community development creates interested community leaders," Lehmann emphasized. "The Building Our American Communities program will develop better leaders who will take a personal interest in the community in the future."

James Smith urged the state directors to set aside some time each week to work with youth in the BOAC program. "This is a great effort that can mean a lot to our country," Smith told the group. "We must look to today's youth for leadership in the future--and the FFA is a strong force in developing the type of leaders this country needs," he added.

Smith also encouraged the state directors to get more young people involved in rural development activities. "Young people have the ability to contribute to our planning commissions and should be involved wherever possible," he said.

AGRIBUSINESS--THE WAY TO GO!

More than 23 million people, or about 30 percent of the total U. S. work force, are employed in the complex field of "agrifusiness." Of these, the farm firms and farm supply firms together employ about 11 million persons, while processing and distribution firms employ some 12 million.

JUDGING TEAMS ENTER NATIONAL CONTESTS

Alabama will be represented in two of the five National FFA Judging Contests to be held in Kansas City, Missouri, October 13-14.

The judging contests are held during the National FFA Convention in cooperation with the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show which provides animals for contestants to evaluate. This year's contests will include judging of dairy cattle, dairy products, poultry, livestock (beef, swine, sheep), and meats. The national judging contests are competitive activities which test FFA members' abilities to select top quality livestock and animal products.

The Alabama teams will match their skills against teams from 48 other states. Each of the 191 teams participating in national contests has earned top honors in their respective states. Only FFA members who are currently enrolled in vocational agribusiness or who have completed all the courses in vocational agribusiness in their school are eligible for the contest.

Members of the Enterprise FFA Chapter will represent Alabama in the Dairy Cattle Judging Contest. Team members are Benji Moates, Joe Smith, and Mike Crocker. Their coach is H. B. Thompson.

Nine classes of dairy cattle will be provided by the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show for judging by 44 teams. The team members will observe the animals for 12 minutes, but will not be allowed to touch them. After the allotted time they will be given 12 minutes to prepare oral reasons.

Mike Saucer, Jerry Ferrell, and Ronnie Silcox of the J. U. Blacksher FFA Chapter will participate in the Livestock Judging Contest. Mason Stabler is the team alternate and R. T. Andrews is the team's coach.

The team will compete against 45 other teams in judging classes of both breeding and market cattle, sheep, and swine. Like the dairy and poultry judging teams, they will have 12 minutes to observe the animals, 12 minutes to prepare reasons, and no

more than two minutes to give their oral answers.

The FFA Foundation, Inc., sponsors the national judging contests. Foundation funds are used to provide plaques and trophies for winning teams and medals for the high scoring individual judges. In addition, the National FFA Foundation pays a portion of each team's travel expenses to Kansas City.

We Salute

Our Sponsors

We are proud to announce the 1971-72 sponsors of the FFA contests and awards in Alabama. Some are new and some have been faithful sponsors for many years, but we take this opportunity to acknowledge and salute each and every one of them for the time and money they have invested in the Alabama FFA Association.

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AG INSTRUCTORS TO BE HONORED

Four vocational agriculture instructors from Alabama will be recognized for outstanding achievement during the national convention this year. In all, 67 teachers will be presented the FFA's Honorary American Farmer Degree, the highest honor that the organization bestows upon non-members.

The Alabama teachers who will receive the degree are: M. E. Ekstrom, Curry High School; J. C. Horton, Haleyville High School; M. D. Thornton, Montevallo High School; and W. D. Strickland, West Point High School.

Selection for the honorary degree is based on a score card of achievement which includes the teacher's years of service, the number of award winning FFA members who have developed under his leadership, and the records of group achievements

posted by the local FFA chapter that he served as advisor.

The 67 men to be honored this year have a total of 1,522 years experience teaching vocational agriculture---an average of nearly 22 years per man. They have helped 2,739 students achieve the FFA State Farmer Degree. Of these members, a total of 197 went on to be elected state FFA officers and 226 earned the American Farmer Degree.

Each year the FFA selects a limited number of outstanding instructors to receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree. The instructors who will receive the degree this year come from the ranks of some 10,000 men and women who are teaching vocational agriculture throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

- - - CHAPTER NOTES - - -

The Fort Deposit FFA Chapter recently purchased \$225 worth of tools for the Vocational Shop with money made in a cooperative project last year. The equipment bought included six claw hammers, six hand saws, 5 carpenter squares, a disc sander, and a rotary sander. Other tools will also be purchased to bring the areas in the shop up to state recommendations.

The new officers of the Fort Deposit FFA Chapter are: Derrell Strickland, president; Danny Lee, vice-president; Paul Barganier, reporter; Kim Wilson, secretary; Bobby Heartsill, treasurer; and Jack Callens, sentinel.

The Sand Rock FFA Chapter held its annual officer training camp this summer at Armstrong's Fish Camp just above Lay Dam on the Coosa River in Shelby County.

During the week-long meeting the officers planned the chapter's activities for the coming year.

The 1971-72 officers include Ronnie Duncan, president; Gary Cook, vice-president; Lewayne Goodwin, secretary; Allen Goodwin, treasurer; Dewayne Goodwin, reporter; John Pate, sentinel; and Tom Coffey, chaplain.

WHICH ONE ARE YOU?

Some members keep their association strong
While others join to just belong.
Some volunteer and do their share
While some lie back and just don't care.
On meeting days some always show
While there are those who never go.
Some always pay their dues ahead
While others stay behind instead.
Some do their best, some build, some make
Some never do, they just sit and take.
Some lag behind, some let things go
And never help their group to grow.
Some drag, some pull, some don't, some do
Consider, member, which one of these is you?

The West Limestone FFA Chapter turned "nothing" into "something" and helped its community in the "doing."

The chapter had been given some lumber not useable by the local lumber company, so they decided to turn it into a worthwhile project to help the people in the community.

The members and their advisor built a greenhouse out of the lumber, then planted tomatoes and furnished the community with plants for the summer.

Prattville FFA Chapter elected the following officers for 1971-72: Tim Solley, president; Mike Ward, vice-president; Gary Keene, secretary; Tommy Reeves, treasurer; Roger Lester, reporter; Randy Moncrief, chaplain; Robert Robinson, sentinel; and Jerry Tatum, parliamentarian.

Eva FFA Chapter's officers for 1971-72 are: Ricky Holmes, president; Danny Woodall, vice-president; Gary Southern, treasurer; Junior Hudgins, secretary; Michael Caudle, reporter; Ricky Brown, sentinel; and Keith Morgan, chaplain.

Members of the Brookwood FFA Chapter constructed athletic equipment this summer and presented it to the athletic department of their school. The items built included three leg machines for strengthening knees, two shoulder machines to help build shoulder and leg muscles, and a weight press machine to build arm and chest muscles. The equipment was produced primarily from scrap or used materials and represented a savings of many hundreds of dollars to the athletic department.

REPORTER VITAL TO CHAPTER

An FFA chapter cannot hope to have a successful year without six interested, hard-working officers. One of these six officers is the chapter reporter.

As the reporter, you are the chapter's public relations director. Your work as a chapter reporter will mold the image of your organization in the mind of the public.

An active reporter will not miss an opportunity to get news of the chapter or its members before the public by means of newspaper, radio, television, or "The Alabama FFA News."

He must learn to identify news. Normally, a regular chapter meeting is not news; however, a guest speaker or a

visiting state officer might make the meeting news worthy. Members winning scholarships, exhibiting livestock, entering contests, attending conventions, outstanding farming programs of members, advancing members to higher degrees, election of officers, National FFA Week activities, chapter trips, and parent-son banquets are only a few possibilities for news stories.

Remember--the office of chapter reporter is an important one. The results from reporting will be no better than the efforts you put into the job. Your work determines what type of image the people in your community will have of your FFA chapter.

What kind of image will you develop?