State Convention Preview

Star Farmer Summaries

Future Farmer of the Year

Shelby Agribusiness Salute

FFA Sweethearts

Jimmy Bebbles
National Vice President 1971-72
PREVIEWING the 43rd State FFA Convention program are State officers (seated) John Patterson, Carl Shewbart, Johnnie Wood, (standing) Ernest Gabel, Joel Ellis, and Randall Smith. According to these officers, this year's Convention will long go unmatched.

Awards, Farm Woodland Improvement Contest, Building Our American Communities, Agricultural Mechanics, M. K. Heath Animal Health & Sanitation Award

Introduction of Vocational Youth Leaders - FHA, DECA, FBLA, VICA, Auburn Collegiate FFA Chapter

Awards to String Bands 1:30 P.M.

Star Farmer Ceremony

State President's Message

Honorary State Farmer Degree - Presentations to Agribusiness Education Teachers

Entertainment - Mike Oliver, Vocalist; Tim Dennis, Guitarist; Stanhope Elm-more FFA Members

Awards Presentations - Crop Production, Dairy Production, Livestock Production, Placement in Agricultural Production, Placement in Sales and/or Service, Outdoor Recreation, Soil, Water, and Air Management, Poultry Production, Agricultural Mechanics, Agricultural Electrification, Placement in Processing, Ornamental Horticulture, Fish

On The Cover

Sammy Peebles, National FFA Vice President, represents the Southern Region on the National Officer Team. From Brewton, Sammy is a former State FFA President and has done Alabama proud in his extensive travels and work on the National level.

FFA'ers across the Nation and especially in Alabama appreciate his laudable contributions.

ALL SIX district eliminations were outstanding. Note the quality of animals for judging and the important people in attendance at the Southeast competition. No names are available on the swine but the dignitaries are R. F. Dilworth, State FFA Advisor; Mrs. S. A. Cherry, State Board of Education member; Mrs. Frances Mizell, Agribusiness and FFA secretary; Willis Bell, Agribusiness teacher who was in charge of livestock judging; J. T. Willoughby, Houston County Superintendent; and Bob Stembridge, Houston Probate Judge.
Call To Convention And To Greater Involvement In FFA

By CARL SHEWBART
State FFA President

As your president it is my responsibility to issue a call to the 43rd State FFA Convention. This is an official duty which I am honored to do, but I should like to do more. In addition to inviting you to a three-day confab, I solicit your involvement in FFA on a broader scale.

During FFA Week "Youth with a Purpose" flashed before us many times. Billboards, newspaper releases, and TV programs directed much attention to the meaningful theme.

Yet connotations to the theme remain uncovered. This is why we are emphasizing "Youth with a Purpose" at this year's Convention. During your stay in Montgomery we want to put our best on display. If you are a delegate, a State Farmer, a competitor, or an award winner, let me strongly encourage you to "look sharp" and "be sharp." Get a haircut, keep your shirt tail tucked in, shine your shoes, shave off your beard.

You know, at a recent luncheon in Montgomery which I attended three National FFA Officers made quite a hit. They were enthusiastic about FFA; they told a good story; they were neat; they had no maverick mustaches; they wore short hair. AND THEY WERE IMPRESSIVE! Comments everywhere were: "Aren't they wholesome?" "How refreshing." "If this is FFA, give us more of it!"

Reports from some of our recently held district eliminations indicated that over 50 percent of the audience was in official FFA dress. This is great! Other compliments abounded such as nobody smoked in bathrooms, or threw trash in the wrong places, or got boisterous on buses. THIS IS ALSO IMPRESSIVE. THIS IS FFA PURPOSE IN ACTION!

Fellow FFA'ers, this is your Convention; get involved in it. Come to make a good impression. We have been promised television coverage; contest sponsors and other people who really count will be on hand to witness first-hand Convention activity. They will decide for themselves if we are the youths with purpose we declare ourselves to be.

Each chartered chapter is allotted one voting delegate. While the Convention is the showplace of our FFA work, year-long, it is also the place to gain new inspiration. Quite a number of previous winners in high-level contests developed aspirations at Convention awards ceremonies. Many former state officers resolved to be state officers while watching other officers perform.

Come to the Convention attuned to inspiration. Be receptive to new goals. Dream a little.

At the Convention resolve to get more involved in the many good programs of the FFA. Then, in returning home, activate your plans.

I hope to see you at the Convention in FFA T-shirt or FFA jacket, cleanly shaven, and neatly groomed. Resounding echoes of "Hello there, FFA" will delight the ears, and we will have our very best Convention.

"At our 43rd Convention,
You, as 'Youth with a Purpose' will decree
That FFA still means as much to you
As FFA means to me."
AND NOW let's 'har - mo - nize!' The Falk­ville FFA quartet, winners at the North Dis­trict Eliminations really know how. They are Jo-Ann Duskin, pianist; Mike Stinson, Gary Byrd, Jeff Stinson, and Mike Tarpely.

DAVID JACKSON, Clio, will represent the Southeast District in public speaking at the Convention. He and advisor Curtis Eiland display his first-place district banner.

WORD IS OUT that Bay Minette is the band to beat in state competition. South­west District champions and definite State hopefuls are Terry Goins, Kent Stewart, Nolan Yarbrough, Douglas Wiggins, Randy Vinson, and Steve Dean. With them is Mr. Haniel Croft, vice presi­dent, Monroe County Bank, Monroeville, who organized area bankers as sponsors of district-level competition in the Southwest.

The Line-Up 1972 Convention Competition

PUBLIC SPEAKING
North
Northeast
West Central
East Central
Southwest
Southeast
Tim Tuggle, Winfield
Mark Saxon, Ohatchee
Spenser Means, Jr., Carver
Albert Blakenship, Stanhope Elmore
Steve Pate, Castleberry
David Jackson, Clio

North
Northeast
West Central
East Central
Southwest
Southeast
Hackleburg, first; Sparkman, second
Munford "B," first; Collinsville, second
Millport, first; Paramount, second
Hayneville, first; Vincent, second
Repton, first; Marion, second
Louisville, first; Hartford, second

LAND JUDGING
North
Northeast
West Central
East Central
Southwest
Southeast
Speake, first; Red Bay second
White Plains, first; Springville, second
Gordo "A," first; West Point, second
Wetumpka, first; LaFayette, second
Thomaston, first; Grove Hill, second
(Tie) Enterprise, first; Hartford, first

North
Northeast
West Central
East Central
Southwest
Southeast
Falkville
Pell City "B"
Hanceville
Auburn
Bay Minette
Kinston

STRING BAND
North
Northeast
West Central
East Central
Southwest
Southeast
Lexington
Ashville
West Point
Dadeville
Bay Minette
Wicksburg

North
Northeast
West Central
East Central
Southwest
Southeast
Sparkman, first; Hartselle, second
Ranburne, first; Crossville, second
Hayden, first; Aliceville "A," second
Stanhope Elmore, first; Goodwater, second
Thomaston, first; Monroe County, second
Ariton, first; Slocomb, second

MILLPORT dairy judges, along with Para­mount, carry the West Central District's chances to win the state championship. Mr. Eddie Downs, West Blocton bank president, who works to secure West Central district prize money, is shown with Randy Bittle, Jerry Cunningham, and David Newman. Advisor Stanley McAdams also appears with his team.

STANHOPE ELMORE livestock judges are proud to be participating in the State Finals. Representing the East Central District, they are Bill Kyser, Alan Byrd, and James Smith. Their coach and FFA advisor is W. J. Hol­land.

THE WHITE PLAINS land judging team gladly accept the challenge afforded by state competition. They represent the North­east District and are Donald Edwards, Rob­ert Stephens, and Gary Frames. Their ad­visor is H. H. Martin.

THE ALABAMA FFA REPORTER
The year 1972 is a good crop year as far as top candidates for State Farmer goes. Six boys have been declared Star Farmers of their respective districts. After on-the-farm visitation, Neil Outlaw, Hartford; W. M. Patterson, III, Cullman; Roy O'Neal Young, Beulah; Billy Williams, Centre; Jimmy McNeil, Evergreen; and Phillip Hammock, Red Bay were adjudged most outstanding of the State Farmer Degree recipients in their districts. One of these youthful agriculturals will be elevated to State Star Farmer during the Convention.

Southeast Star Farmer Neil Outlaw is completing his second year in agribusiness education. During this time he has cleared almost $5,000 from his farming activities. He lives on a 200-acre farm and his family's farming embraces an additional 150 acres. Some 75 acres of Soybeans and 52 acres of peanuts keep young Outlaw busy during cropping season. He particularly enjoys raising and showing swine. He presently has a 14-head breeding herd of hogs and 45 market animals in addition to a cow and calf.

In leadership Outlaw has participated in public speaking, has chaired several key committees, and has been vice president of his chapter.

Moving from Star Green Hand to Chapter Star Farmer to District Star Farmer, Outlaw hopes his stepping stones culminate in State Star Farmer. His FFA advisor is Paul Dean.

Northeast's Billy Williams is a senior student of agribusiness instructor Earl Gardner. Williams specializes in hog production. He has 17 market hogs and a 20-head breeding herd of Hampshires which are 100% his. Since he is the only child, he has a lot of responsibility in his family's farming of 176 acres of cotton and 150 acres of corn. Supervised projects have brought him roughly $2,000 in farm incomes.

Williams has been a four-year participant in FFA activities ranging from showing hogs to selling peanuts. He is a chapter officer and won champion corn growing competition in his chapter and county.

For his all-around FFA activity, Williams is a good contender for Star Farmer of Alabama.

With net earnings greater than $5,000, Jimmy McNeil is this year's Southwest District Star Farmer. His present individual program includes 20 acres of corn, 61 acres of soybeans, 58 acres of wheat, 10 head of beef cattle, 14 market swine, and three breeding hogs. He shares in the work and income of 360 acres of soybeans, 60 acres of corn, six acres of Coastal bermudagrass, 16 acres of Argentine bahiagrass, and 100 acres of permanent pasture.

In FFA, McNeil leads his chapter as president, shows swine and cattle, and works on the "Building Our American Communities" program. D. C. Fleming is his advisor.

Indeed, McNeil is a worthy candidate for the distinction of Alabama's leading State Farmer.

Seventeen-year-old Wesley Patterson is Star Farmer of the West Central District. He is president of his FFA chapter. In addition to being the second-place state winner in outdoor recreation last year, Patterson has been involved in the "Building Our American Communities" program. D. C. Fleming is his advisor.

With supervised project earnings exceeding $7,500 Patterson carries six acres of wheat for seed production, one sow, seven head of cattle, 90 acres of soybeans, and six acres of forestry. These projects are individually his. Besides these projects, he has an interest in family farming of 675 acres of row crops, almost 300 head of livestock, and seven fish ponds.

With such an extensive program, Patterson, who is a third-year student of K. R. Ball's, is a prime candidate for State Star Farmer.

East Central's Roy O'Neal Young is his district's best. He concentrates on efficiency in farming on a limited acreage. Individually, he has six brood cows and six calves, three acres of corn and 15 acres of hay. He also does custom work such as baling hay, plowing gardens, bush hogging, and chain saw work. His accumulated productive project and work experience earnings total almost $3,000.

Beulah FFA advisor, L. D. Justice, says Young has been a strong participant in FFA. He has engaged in livestock judging, public speaking, dairy and land judging.

State Star Farmer is Young's noblest aspiration.

North District hopes for State Star Farmer rest with Phillip Hammock. Hammock farms in a big way. He has 20 acres of corn, 20 acres of cotton, and 83 acres of soybeans. These projects are 100% his. His accumulated profits from farming over the three-year period he has been enrolled in agribusiness amount to a massive $12,616.05.

As a star student under Cecil Pound, Outlaw hopes his stepping stones culminate in State Star Farmer honors.

Who Will Be State Star Farmer—1972?

PREPARING for on-the-farm visitation by the screening committee for Alabama State Farmer are D. C. Fleming, Evergreen FFA Advisor, and Jimmy McNeil, winner of Southwest District Star Farmer honors.

NEIL OUTLAW, Southeast District Star Farmer, and Paul Dean, Vo-Ag teacher at Hartford, explain Neil's entry in Alabama Star Farmer competition to Geneva County High Principal Gene Brannon.

"HOW MANY Hamps have you shown, Billy, and where is this listed on your application?" asks Centre's Earl Gardner of Northeast District's Star Farmer, Billy Williams. Billy is now under consideration for No. 1 ranking among State Farmer Degree winners.
Edward Woerner of Foley is Alabama's Future Farmer of the Year for 1971-72. According to B. P. Dilworth, State Supervisor, Agribusiness Education, Woerner was chosen the No. 1 FFA'er in a membership exceeding 25,000. He will receive a $300 cash award from McDonnell Ford Tractor Company in Montgomery and a loving cup from Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity in Auburn.

In modern-day lingo Eddie Woerner is a "super-youth" who can't separate farming from living. Yet there is a definite traditional flare to this young farmer. He personifies ingenuity, radiates ambition, and he won't back away from a day's work. He is Purpose and Dignity. And he "rekindles faith in his generation," said Dilworth.

Eddie completed three years of agribusiness instruction at the Foley High School. He was a slow starter and late bloomer in FFA. His farming activities

A BALANCED system of production agriculture is pursued by Eddie and his partner-father, Edward J. Woerner. Hogs and beef cattle complement large-scale soybean, wheat, corn, and sweet potato production.
SWINE production was introduced on the Woerner farm by youthful Eddie. As an aspiring FFA'er, Eddie worked off the home farm for extra work experiences and used his proceeds to begin a farrowing and feed-out pork program at home. Hogs still make us money and pay bills when crops are out of season," relates Alabama's Future Farmer of the Year.

broadened gradually, and today this Baldwin county youth works in a family partnership which grows 225 head of beef cattle, 300 swine, and 450 acres of wheat. Add 705 acres of soybeans, 100 acres of corn, and 20 acres of sweet potatoes and categorize Eddie as the big-time operator he is. Eddie gets a $40 per cent take.

"To farm is to live fully; to live without farming — well," says Eddie, "I just couldn't." Born on a farm, Woerner has known nothing else. His initial farming activity was an egg production enterprise in which Eddie and his younger brothers gathered the eggs, washed and packed them, and with their father peddled them house to house in nearby Pensacola, Florida. At 15, Eddie milked cows at a neighborhood dairy and did custom plowing for his uncles in addition to helping with the farming at home.

With earnings from these work experiences, Eddie introduced swine on the Woerner farm. Today the pork enterprise still brings in good returns. In 1968 the elder Edward Woerner, Eddie's father, made son Eddie a partner in the farm business.

Eddie's wide range of on-the-farm activity has included clearing 20 acres of land with a bulldozer for a watermelon crop which paid for household furnishings for Eddie and his bride; saving repair bills by doing his own welding on equipment; and cutting logs from his farm forests for building a home. He built that home virtually with his own two hands! He admits to having technical advice from his grandfather and father-in-law, but the bulk of the carpentry and all the electrical and plumbing work are purely Eddie's handiwork.

The finished product is a $30,000 brick structure you dream about but which Eddie and his family inhabit on a $10,000 cash investment.

If you go near Alabama's Future Farmer of the Year, he'll just about "blow you down" with talk about his newest farming venture, sweet potatoes. He's that enthused. "We've never grown sweet potatoes before and this is to be a year of experimentation," Eddie pointed out, "but I'm determined to make the crop profitable. Otherwise, the next time I want to try something new, I'll have a tough time of convincing my partner-father that it is feasible." Judging from his progress already, "Eddie boy" is off and running. He's just about finished modeling and building a grading unit for his sweet potatoes to the tune of a $2,500 savings. He has contracted with a local broker to handle the yams after they have been graded and packaged in wooden crates built by Eddie on what he calls his "off days."

According to the senior partner in the Woerner farming enterprises, most of Eddie's ideas pay off. Last year he bought a hay baler and rake and fully paid for them with custom baling.

Eddie credits much of his success to his agribusiness and FFA training under Mr. Troy Newton and Mr. Bobby Hanks at Foley. "My wife Sharon does my record-keeping and I just couldn't make it without her. In addition to handling records, she's responsible for my most important crop," mused Woerner. The reference is to a couple of daughters Gwendolyne - 2, and Brenda - 1.

Distinction is not altogether a novelty with 20-year-old Edward Woerner. He was Alabama FFA's top winner in the Home Improvement contest in 1969 and placed third in Farm and Home Electricity the same year. He gained elite status as an FFA member last year with his earning of the American Farmer Degree, given to only one in every 1,000 FFA'ers. Additionally, he was nominated by the Alabama FFA Association for Star Farmer of America.

Taking active roles in church, Eddie has participated in youth night programs and has been an assistant Sunday School teacher and youth counselor. Membership in Farm Bureau and a local farmer cooperative strengthen him professionally.

Accomplishment ... devotion to farming ... boundless energy ... faith in the future. ... They all belong to Edward Woerner. It is no wonder that 25,000 Alabama FFA'ers idolize him as their youthful "Man of the Year."

"A HOME IS a man's castle," and Eddie is out to prove it. With a $10,000 investment, his skill, and a lot of ingenuity, Eddie is turning out a $30,000 brick home for his family. He did the construction including the wiring and plumbing virtually with his "own two hands."

SWEET POTATO production, rather a novelty to Baldwin county farming, is being tried this year by Alabama's foremost youth with a purpose, Eddie Woerner. "I undertook the enterprise only after doing thorough exploration and projections," Eddie points out. Making a trip to Cullman county, Eddie talked with sweet potato producers about yield potential, fertilization and cultural practices, grading and packaging for market. Then he contracted with a local firm to handle his product. Here, Eddie observes "potato slips" in the rooting bed.
(Editor’s Note: Previous pages tell of Edward Woerner’s accomplishments as Alabama’s Future Farmer of the Year. For the benefit of younger and aspiring FFA'ers, we are printing an analysis of how Eddie reached this goal.)

QUESTION: With what projects did you start your supervised project program?

EDDIE: My first-year projects were two beef steers, two hogs, 100 layers, and two acres of corn. This was a small beginning, but at the time, it seemed the best I could do.

QUESTION: How did you acquire these projects?

EDDIE: Like most young boys I had to “earn my keep” by working on the home farm. But also typical of a young boy, I wanted ownership, some things all my own. So I worked off the home farm for my uncles for money to buy the first hogs on our farm. Of course my father, like most Dads eager to see their sons do well, allowed me a few advantages, too. But I believe a boy should prove himself. Don’t depend altogether on hand-outs. Show your folks you want to take on new responsibility. They’re usually ready to oblige.

QUESTION: Do you advise “growing into farming”?

EDDIE: I suggest that a student broaden the scope of his projects from year to year. In so doing he can experiment with several different crops and animals. He will find out what he likes working with best and can increase the scope on these particular enterprises. If a person wants to go into full-time farming, this is the soundest route. Bankers would not loan $20,000-$30,000 to a person who has no farming experience.

QUESTION: How were you able to finance a broader farming program?

EDDIE: By entering into a partnership with my father. At the start I had but few assets. All I could promise was my labor and willingness to work. Now I have a 40% interest which is the result of my labor and continued re-investment of earnings into the partnership.

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QUESTION: Do you recommend setting high goals, or does this prove discouraging?

EDDIE: A farmer must constantly look for new and better ways. To be efficient he must try reaching the impossible. Farming is no place for the “weak at heart.”

QUESTION: Who had the biggest influence on you as you progressed in your program?

EDDIE: I would have to give my father the most credit. Also, I learned a lot from my uncles who were very successful farmers. Of course I couldn’t over-emphasize the guidance of my Vo-Ag teachers, the success of other farmers, and the inspiration provided me by the FFA.

QUESTION: What advice would you give one wishing to do well in FFA?

EDDIE: First, he should recognize early the worth of FFA training and figure out how he can make use of FFA opportunities. Try for awards; the trying creates ambition even if first-place goes to somebody else. I can’t say too much about how important it is to have high goals and ambition and to follow these up with work and good management.

RECORDS are useful tools to Edward Woerner, Foley, Alabama’s Future Farmer of the Year. Records allow him to make farm projections which are economically sound. Sharon Woerner, wife of Alabama’s No. 1 FFA member, and Mr. Troy Newton, Eddie’s agribusiness education teacher at Foley, are right-hand personnel to Eddie’s record-keeping and decision-making processes.
SELECTING State Farmer candidates this year was a comparison of superlatives. Note the intensity of thought being devoted to the selection by State Officer John Patterson and District Supervisor B. J. York. Beneath the surface, secondary thoughts of John come through, "Boys, just look who has the best District now. Who has 129 State Farmers?"

W. C. District Leads In State Farmers

With 129, the West Central District had the most State Farmer Degree winners this year. According to B. P. Dilworth, State Agribusiness Education Supervisor, statewide there are 514 State Farmer recipients.

District Supervisors and State officers charged with the gigantic task of recommending State Farmers report they had no pleasant task. The volume of applications was the heaviest of any previous year, and the overall quality of the applications was exceptional.

One District Supervisor expressed the sentiments of all when he bemoaned, "I wish every student meeting minimum qualifications could be granted the degree. It breaks my heart to reject an application after 'beating the bushes' and encouraging teachers to submit them."

As it now stands, only two percent of a state's membership can be elevated to State Farmer. You can bet that Alabama will be pushing for a change in the National Constitution to allow more State Farmer winners.

Following the West Central District in State Farmers was the Northeast District with 93; the North and Southeast with 87 each; the East Central with 82; and the Southwest, 36.

Alabama Power Hosts State Officers In B'ham

State FFA Officers made a whirlwind visit to Birmingham representing Alabama FFA as a part of their National FFA Week activity agenda.

Under the supervision of Mr. James R. Edwards, senior agricultural engineer for Alabama Power, the six state FFA leaders witnessed the highly efficient system of electrical operations at Alabama Power facilities in Birmingham. While there, they toured computer centers and were somewhat dumbfounded by the electronic systems control and enjoyed immensely the hospitality of all Alabama Power personnel. Mr. S. H. Booker, Vice President-Marketing, conversed with the group at length in his private office.

Highlighting the Birmingham trip was a luncheon held at the city's most exclusive, The Club. Playing host, Alabama Power invited Birmingham's most influential agribusiness leaders to hear Alabama's FFA officers explain agribusiness education and FFA program objectives. Three Birmingham television stations covered the event.

Alabama FFA - over 25,000 members strong - is grateful to Alabama Power for providing opportunity for such FFA promotional activity.

JINGLEJOFFY DEPT.: She took my flowers with loving care. She took my candy and books so rare. Yes, she took all that I could buy - and THEN, she TOOK another guy!

IMPRESSED with computerized operations at Alabama Power Company facilities in Birmingham were State Officers Johnnie Wood, Ernest Gabel, and John Patterson. Charles Allen answers officers questions about programming information on the computers. The tour of facilities was part of the officers visit to Birmingham during National FFA Week.

MARK SAXON and Mike Howard, Ohatchee FFA members, show off the new sign their FFA Chapter made and installed on their school campus. Incidentally, letters on the sign were done with a portable router.

"WHILE THE cat's away, mice will play." That might be a fitting description of the activity above which was photographed in the Governor's office. Clifford Saylor, Sammy Peebles, and Dennis Sargent, all National FFA officers were in Alabama recently as part of their National FFA Good Will tour. Joined by Carl Shewbart, Alabama FFA President, they went to the Capitol to see Governor Wallace. Finding him home with the flu, Sammy and colleagues couldn't resist a little "supposing."
"DID YOU see that tomato beetle?" Thomp­
son High students at Siluria earn funds for 
their programs by growing potted plants 
such as tomatoes and pepper. With Instruc­
tor W. T. Carter are Hazen Dismukes, 
Ronald Popwell, Larry Reeser, and Danny 
Bishop. (Dismukes missed the beetle.)

BUILDING construction is a highly profit­
able field of work. Chelsea agribusiness in­
structor M. H. Humphries says students 
Chad Hughes and Eddie Hooks credit their 
masonry skills for summer and part-time 
employment. They demonstrate their pro­
ficiency in block-laying to Superintendent 
Elvin Hill.

THE SHELBY COUNTY Area Vocational 
Center in Columbiana offers extensive train­
ing in career "hort." Students Steve Philen, 
Terry Davis, and Janice Portis are taking 
advantage of the specialized training. With 
them are Superintendent Hill and Fryer 
Murphree, instructor.

Agribusiness Education Departments 
in Shelby County are gearing their pro­
grams to match the streamlined concept of 
agribusiness training in Alabama, ac­
cording to B. P. Dilworth, State Super­
visor, Agribusiness Education.

"Realizing that only a limited number of 
students will be needed as replace­
ment farmers, Shelby County agribusi­
ness instructors are focusing accelerated 
instruction on servicing and supplying 
the modern commercial farmer," Dil­
worth noted. The functions of handling, 
storing, processing, and distributing agri­
cultural products are receiving heavy 
emphasis, also.

Recent surveys done by Shelby County 
agribusiness personnel indicate that 30 
per cent of the total work force devote 
their energies to producing, processing, 
and distributing food and fiber. Shelby 
County ranks 17th in the state in agri­
cultural production.

According to Elvin Hill, Superinten­
dent, Shelby County Schools, regular ag­
ribusiness education is available in six 
high schools in the county. "Calera, 
Chelsea, Columbiana, Montevallo, 
Thompson, and Vincent High Schools 
maintain agribusiness units," Hill said. 
These instructional programs serve area 
students in a highly special way. Be­

ginning at the eighth-grade level, stu­
dents are introduced briefly to the world 
of work. Occupations of all kinds, in­
cluding semi-skilled, skilled, semi-profes­

"YOU DON'T yet have a neutral flame," 
instructs J. M. Thomas, to metalworking 
students at Thompson High School.

"DON'T CUT a hole," advises C. G. Kidd 
as he supervises Montevallo students Ronald 
Kramer and Wayne Booth in campus shrub­
bery maintenance.

VINCENT agribusiness education students, 
Johnny Slaughter and Buddy Gibson prac­
tice oxyacetylene welding under the guid­
ance of W. R. Kelley, vo-ag teacher. Metal 
working receives heavy emphasis in the 
new agribusiness curriculum.

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sional, and professional, are studied with emphasis on the development of positive attitudes toward all occupations. Thirty-nine Shelby County students are enrolled in the eighth grade program. The ninth grade students conduct a giant exploration into the world of work whereby they "try on" such occupations as carpenter, electrician, welder, and horticulturist. Broad coverage of the occupations is not practical but actual performance of samples from these and other respective occupations affords career alertness and discovery of occupational aptitudes. Shelby County has 238 students enrolled in this type of vocational program while 164 Shelby students are engaging in a 10th grade study of the occupational clusters of agribusiness education, mechanics and metals, and construction. Some 156 students have elected to continue their studies in advanced agribusiness; others have left and will leave the agribusiness program for technical instruction in area centers or trade schools.

Thus Shelby County agribusiness vocational training is instrumental in preparing students for agribusiness pursuits, and, in addition, provides valuable carry-over in career exploration and basic vocational training to students entering the Shelby County Area Vocational Center at Columbiana for specialized vocational preparation.

Specialized instruction in agribusiness horticulture is available to Shelby County students at the area vocational center. Fifteen full-time students are pursuing horticulture training there under Pryor Murphree, instructor.

Agribusiness education teachers are C. H. Thornburg, Calera; Mickey Humphries, Chelsea; R. C. Hughes, Columbiana; M. Thornton and C. G. Kidd, Montevallo; Pryor Murphree, Shelby County Area; W. T. Carter and J. M. Thomas, Siluria; and R. H. Holston and W. R. Kelley, Vincent. Collectively they have 174 years of teaching experience.

C. H. Thornburg, a teacher of 27 years, has participated in broad and sweeping changes in the agribusiness instructional program. As a beginning teacher he taught in subject matter blocks which covered an entire year. The first-year agriculture course was field crops; second-year was animal husbandry; and third-year horticulture.

"Today's agribusiness teacher must be proficient in a number of areas," Thornburg relates. "He must know something of carpentry, electricity, plumbing, welding, horticulture, masonry, mechanics, and forestry besides having some proficiency in row crops and livestock production," revealed Thornburg. The biggest agricultural improvement Thornburg has witnessed is farmers' production ef-

MECHANICAL drawing requires mental visualization. That must be what Jeff Hill, extreme right, is doing with his eyes closed. Student Edward Whitten uses T-squares and triangles at Instructor R. H. Hughes' direction in the Columbiana agribusiness classroom.

CALERA agribusiness students enjoy lawn mower repair. Getting with it are Tommy Trimm and Jerry Littleton, working at floor level; and Johnny Osborne, Ollie Woodruff, Instructor C. H. Thornburg, and Gil Marquess, around the workbench.

SHELBY Superintendent of Education Elvin Hill is "all for" improvements in study habits afforded by home study centers built in Moon Thornton's shop. With Hill are Montevallo students James Ray Booth, Philip Harper, and William Martin.

ADVISORY COUNCILS assist in aligning instruction to need. Vincent vo-ag teacher R. H. Holston considers a proposal of advisory council member Lamar Hinds with Shelby Superintendent Elvin Hill and Principal Braxton Baker.

Electricity's the name of the game being pursued by these Coffee Springs FFA boys. They are Doyle Ellenburg and Curtis Massey. Both assumed active roles in their chapter's wiring of four 12,000 capacity chicken brooder houses this year. The wiring job included a 200-amp circuit breaker load center to distribute current to the four houses, catching lights, automatic feeders and night lights.
Sweetheart And Girl Involvement In FFA

WHAT A pleasure! That's how Ricky Flynt, Centre FFA president, regards his assignment to present beautiful Mary St. Clair with a jacket designating her Centre FFA Sweetheart. She is a Future Homemaker and a member of her school's Pep Club. She sings in the chorus, is president of her Sunday School Class, and is an active Acteen. She is a sophomore.

GOSHIEN'S FFA Sweetheart is attractive Martha Jane Davis. A senior, Martha is co-salutatorian, co-editor of school annual, vice-president of her class and "Good Citizenship Girl."

OHATCHEE FFA'ers prove an eye for beauty with their selection of good-looking Penny Bowden as Ohatchee FFA Sweetheart.

FFA BOYS at Cold Springs demonstrated their good taste by electing lovely Jeanette Smith as their FFA Sweetheart.

BERRY FFA'ers elected this beauty as Chapter Sweetheart. She is Glenda Gail Sartain, a 10th grader. A member of FHA, 4-H, Science and Pep Clubs, Miss Sartain enjoys swimming, sewing, and biking.

A REAL sweetheart of the entire Alabama FFA is Mrs. Mary George Waite. A Centre banker, Mrs. Waite has been instrumental in securing FFA contest sponsorships and has personally moved Alabama to second-place in number of donors to the National FFA Foundation. Loved by FFA'ers Mrs. Waite has been nominated for National FFA honorary membership.

MISS RETHA HOLLIS is the 1971-72 Chapter FFA Sweetheart at Chelsea High School. Glamorous Retha is a member of the junior class, member of the FHA, FFA, and takes ornamental horticulture.

THE THORSBY FFA Sweetheart this year is vivacious Judy Barnett. Judy was presented the official sweetheart trophy by Donny Bean, chapter president. Judy is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ismael Barnett of rural Jemison.

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FFA SWEETHEART of the Bay Minette Area Center FFA is pretty Gail Watkins, right. She is enrolled in the floral design curriculum at the vocational school and is treasurer of her FFA chapter. Discussing techniques of floral design with her is fellow student Sandra Parker, who also is actively involved in FFA at Bay Minette Area School. Sandra is chapter secretary.
SUCCESS of FFA projects at the Bay Minette Area Vocational Center can be attributed largely to this hardworking group of officers. They are (seated) Randall Jones, reporter; Gail Watkins, treasurer; Randall Hastings, president; Sandra Parker, secretary; and Bobby Gerrel, sentinel. Standing is Mitchell Davis, the vice president.

Bay Minette Area School Developing Strong FFA

After receiving its charter, the FFA Chapter at the Bay Minette Area Vocational Center has initiated a highly creditable program of work. William M. Martin, horticulture instructor, serves as advisor to the chapter. He is ably assisted in FFA projects by J. W. Porter, who teaches diesel and auto mechanics, and Newton P. Beasley, instructor of buildings and construction.

B. H. Nall, area school director, is appreciative of his FFA group's contributions to the total vocational program. Nall credits the FFA with completing such projects as grading the area center grounds and landscaping the Horticulture unit. "They also took a big hand in our open house. They obtained flowers from vendors and directed traffic for us," Nall beamed.

Right now the group is doing the actual construction of the greenhouse which will be used in conjunction with horticulture instruction.

B. P. Dilworth, State Supervisor, Agribusiness Education, encourages other agribusiness units in area vocational centers to equal Bay Minette's FFA effort. "Area centers can have some of our stronger FFA programs," Dilworth said.

FFA MEMBERS at Eutaw Middle School get practical experience in home landscaping.

Geraldine: Won county speaking and quartet contests. M. H. Moses, former agribusiness instructor at Fyffe, secured speaking prize money.

Moore Academy: Featured electrical lecture and demonstration by Mr. Jimmie Kendrick at monthly meeting. Basic use and safety with electricity stressed. Held "Father-Son, Mother-Daughter" banquet with chapter sweetheart, Margaret Anderson, participating in the program.

Mt. Hope: Moved into new Ag. Ed. Building which has new classroom equipment, a new shop, and a paint room. Shop equipment had been financed with proceeds from a chapter-owned Angus herd.

Odenville: Won county and area speaking. Hosted St. Clair County Speaking, Quartet, and String Band Eliminations.

Reform: Initiated Clean-up campaign during National FFA Week. Put up campus and community clean-up posters.

Smith's Station: Completed a most successful chapter fund drive. Drive included a turkey shoot, sale of chapter-made planters, sale of fruits; and netted $700. Purchased honorary membership in Friendship Fire Department with part of proceeds. Chapter banquet and greenhouse for department planned with remaining proceeds.

Sylva: Held Parent Night Supper jointly with FFA. Had State Vice President Randall Smith as speaker. Presented proficiency awards to chapter members. Presented nominees for State Farmer and American Farmer Degrees.

Montevallo: Harvested and sold 150 bushels of pine cones at $2.50 per bushel. Sold over 100 subscriptions to County newspaper. Visited number of local agribusinesses. Enrolled 130 members. Sold FFA calendars for financing president's trip to National Leadership Conference in Washington.

“What FFA Has Done For Me”

By KENNY MORROW
Former FFA State Secretary & National Officer Candidate

In August of 1967 a young ninth-grader walked into a vocational agriculture classroom which would result in a complete about-face in his life. The department: Red Bay FFA under Mr. C. T. Pounders; the boy: Kenny Morrow. Yes, that was me. I was about the “shyest,” most timid fellow in the ninth grade. I lacked confidence in practically everything except class work and kind of had a negative approach to everything. I didn’t know about this new organization, FFA. Sure, I’d heard about shop work, recreational activities, etc. but not much about what FFA really is.

Pretty soon, our Greenhand group studied FFA and I realized that maybe there was something to FFA. But when my advisor asked me to enter public speaking, my reaction was, “No, I can’t get involved. I can’t do it.” I was finally persuaded to enter that contest and after many hours of hard work with the encouragement of Mr. Pounders, I was prepared for the contest. I won the county, area, district, and came in fourth in the state. That shy, timid guy had gone to the state and now FFA was becoming highly interesting. That state convention really moved me. I saw something in those state officers that I wanted, but I wasn’t sure. Things really swirled around in my head when Greg Banford, National President, sat down with me and talked to about FFA and state officers. I found that all that stuff Mr. Pounders had been saying was true, but I just couldn’t be sure. Could I do it? That was my question.

I finally decided that my goal was to be a state officer and then a national officer, maybe. A lot of dreams, but some of it began shaping up as I entered public speaking again and came in third in the state. I ran for state officer that year, but I was not elected. I was really let down, but Mr. Pounders and my parents convinced me that if I wanted it badly enough, I could become a state officer.

One year later, my dreams were realities and my life was changed. Looking back, I saw that shy fellow was not so shy and confidence replaced self-consciousness. But the real changes occurred while I was a state officer. My whole life — my personality, my outlook on life, my ability to work with people — all these were developed through leadership training, and with the help of Mr. C. W. Reed, our executive secretary. He has meant more to my development as an individual than anyone else except my parents. That year, working with Mr. Reed and the other five officers was the most fantastic experience in my life.

I suppose that once I finally got involved in gear with FFA and got some confidence, there just wasn’t any stopping point. I began looking toward that other goal: being a national officer. Well, that’s where I am now, halfway between being a state officer and the national officer interview. Only time can tell the story now. But you can rest assured of one thing, I’ll represent our great association to the best of my abilities.

Fellows, FFA has so much to offer. But you must become involved! Don’t let shyness, timidity, lack of confidence, or anything keep you from getting every- thing that FFA has to offer. It frightens me to realize that I almost passed up the fantastic opportunities for those little reasons. I challenge you to set high goals, and then work toward them. Madeline Bridges expressed the challenge in verse far better than I can when she wrote: “For life is the mirror of king and slave / ’Tis just what we are and do; / And the best will come back to you.”

“EMPHASIZE efficiency and individual ownership to the reviewing committee,” tells L. D. Justice, FFA advisor at Beulah, to his State Star Farmer hopeful, Roy O’Neal Young. Roy represents the East Central District.

We wasted no time in getting involved! Don’t let shyness, timidity, lack of confidence, or anything keep you from getting everything that FFA has to offer.

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“ADD PRESIDENT of Cullman Chapter to your leadership activities,” advises K. R. Ball, Vo-Ag teacher of State Star Farmer contender Wesley Patterson. Wesley represents the West Central District.

“When you have COMPLETE control of yourself at the time of the accident?” Meek Little Man: “No sir, my wife was WITH me.”

CHECKING arithmetic on the Star Farmer application is Cecil Pounders, Red Bay FFA advisor, and candidate Phillip Hammock. Phillip is “carrying the ball” for the North District.

THE ALABAMA FFA REPORTER
FUNNY BONERS

She called her baby Encore because he wasn't on the program.

PROUD PARENT: "My son is only three, yet he can spell his name backwards."

SKEPTICAL NEIGHBOR: "That's interesting. What's his name?"

PROUD PARENT: "Otto."

The man was more than a little annoyed when a neighbor telephoned at 3 A.M. and complained, "Your dog is barking so loudly that I can't sleep." The neighbor hung up before he could protest.

The following morning at 3 A.M., he called his neighbor and said: "I don't have a dog."

HUSBAND: "I hate to mention this dear, but you're getting fat."

WIFE: "Well, aren't you lucky? I remember you once told me I was worth my weight in gold."

While her husband was out of town on a business trip, the young mother had her hands full managing the house and their two-year-old son. When she had finally tucked the child in bed for the night, come back for the last kiss and the last drink of water, she collapsed at the desk and started to write her husband a letter.

"Dearest Bob," she wrote, "I have certainly worked from son-up to son-down today!"

Battle of the sexes: Men say women can't be trusted too far; women say men can't be trusted too near.

Among the questions asked in the examination of an applicant on the Chicago police force was this one: "What would you do to disperse a crowd quickly and quietly?"

The answer: "I'd pass the hat."

CITIZEN: "It must be terrible for two great political leaders to split!"

HENCHMAN: "Not if they split 50-50."

A nationally prominent Republican was prevailed upon to attend a Democratic dinner incognito. He was soon recognized, introduced to the guests and invited by the chairman to give the invocation.

"I'm terribly sorry I can't oblige you," apologized the Republican leader; "I don't even want God to know I'm here."

PREACHER (offering prayer for the forgiveness of the shortcomings of his congregants): "Oh God! Forgive us for our falling shorts!"

The preacher had tied the knot and was filling out the certificate. The young man, who appeared very nervous, spoke at last. "How much do I owe you?"

The parson smiled. "As much as you think the girl's worth."

The young man handed him a dollar, which the minister took without comment. The young man was reluctant in leaving; in fact, the minister thought he wasn't going to get rid of the couple.

"Have I forgotten anything?" he finally asked.

Said the young man, "Yes, sir, my change."

Centreville Leads In FFA Membership

With 209 members, the Centreville FFA is the state's largest chapter. The top ten local FFA chapters in the state collectively enrolled almost 2,000, or 7.5 percent of the total state membership. Latest figures indicate that Alabama FFA chapters have signed up 25,762 FFA'ers this year. This number is good enough to put Alabama No. 2 in membership nationally.

The top ten chapters in membership are:
1. Centreville - 209
2. Wetumpka - 207
3. Prattville - 204
4. Jacksonville - 188
5. Leroy - 172
6. Leighton - 167
7. Hokes Bluff - 166
8. Northport (Co. High) - 162
9. Fairhope - 160
10. (tie) Centre - 156
   Dadeville - 156

Reporter Honor Roll

(A tribute to local reporters doing their job of submitting chapter news.)

Mike Williams, Straughn
Bobby Claridy, Smith Station
Joe Smith, Odenville
Joe Britnell, Mt. Hope
Don Duncan, Moore Academy
Johnny Moore, Montevallo
Bimbo Gilbert, Geraldine
Tim Whitley, Falkville
Verlon Blackwood, Douglas
Dale Mims, Clanton
Shane Ayon, Chelsea
Dennis Gurganus, Berry
Kenneth Baggett, Goshen
Bruce Stevens, Reform
Bruce Anderson, Sylvania

Swap And Shop

This section is devoted to free advertisement by FFA members and advisors of items they would like to sell or trade or to post their desires for merchandise. Send us your contributions. We are glad to serve you.

TAKING ADVANTAGE of their new greenhouse are these Chelsea female ornamental horticulture students. They are Micki Parker, Gail McDaniel, Kathy Limbaugh, and Denise Parker. The Chelsea greenhouse was built this spring and horticulture students, such as these, sold enough tomato, pepper, and other bedding plants to pay for the greenhouse.

1971-72 EDITION
Lonicera Garden Club
Montgomery, Alabama
March 31, 1972

Mr. Carl Shewbart, President
Alabama Future Farmers of America Association
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Shewbart:

The members of the Alabama FFA Association are people who can take pride in many accomplishments during the past year. Our Montgomery Lonicera Garden Club wishes to congratulate you, and to express our great pleasure in having worked with you on a special occasion here in Montgomery. This was the trees, beautification program for our capital city for which FFA members donated cherry trees for planting on the grounds of Garrett Coliseum. This action has contributed immeasurably to our goal of making Montgomery the most beautiful capital city in America. We are also aware of your participation in the cattle judging and livestock events that took place at the coliseum and elsewhere in the state during the year, which we commend most highly. This participation has set a notable example of leadership in one aspect of our state's economy, contributing to the improvement of our nation's supply, and encouraging young people everywhere to find concrete ways of adding both economic and cultural values to our society.

As officers of our Lonicera Garden Club, we express the deep appreciation of all our members for the outstanding contributions that your FFA members are making as we work to achieve our goals of beautification, health, and wholesome activity. We, of course, recognize the generous support given you by Mr. Dilworth and Mr. Reed, but we also recognize your own initiative in carrying through.

Sincerely,
Margaret Nichols
President
Elizabeth Fleming
Chairman, city beautification

Copies to:
Mr. Ben Dilworth
Mr. Charles Reed

"Keep those cards and letters coming..."

SECTION FFA'ers Roy Blevins and Chris Reed do something about air pollution by planting more trees.

KENNY BROWN, Evergreen FFA member, trains another show calf to obey his lead.

"Building a better way—through Alabama FFA"