

# The Alabama FFA REPORTER

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NO. 1

## THE FFA AND YOU

By JERRY BATTS

It really wasn't so long ago. I can remember it quite vividly. There was really nothing extraordinary about the time, place or even the people involved. Actually, this is a story about your local chapter, and it is a story that may be about you.

A young 9th grader had been hearing about a "great organization" and what it could do for young people. It sounded good, but really it was for "the other" members. These "opportunities" were just too far away. The organization was just too big, the local chapter was too small. He didn't have what it takes (excuses, excuses, excuses.)

Well, the words, "I need a speaker," spoken by a concerned advisor, started the wheels rolling that were going to take a rural Alabama farm boy on a journey beyond his wildest expectations.

So he entered the local speaking contest, and he didn't even win the county. But, really, on that day he had won, and he had won big, because the doors were beginning to open. Those opportunities he had heard about were now within his grasp — the opportunity to participate in many different contests, serve as a chapter officer, state officer, and even national officer. The experiences of a life time were now available to him, and possibly the greatest opportunity of all was the opportunity for service to others. He was able to work with individuals who could teach him some of the best lessons in life. He was able to grow a little more as an individual, to develop some self discipline, to develop a sense of responsibility, and to recognize that there is always room for improvement.

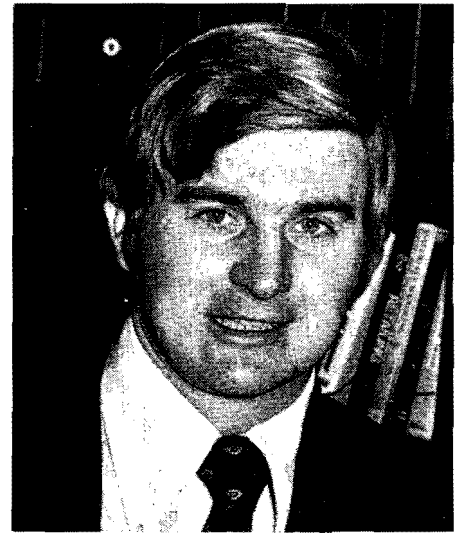
Well, I know you have probably heard this story a thousand times, and you have probably said, "Well, it always happens to someone besides me. I just don't have what it takes." I think that the greatest tragedy of life is for a young person to sit on the sidelines and to refuse to explore and to develop his God given talents.

It is sad to hear young people, and even adults, complain about their particular situation in life. It seems that we have become authorities on griping, grumbling and complaining. It would be a great world if we could determine within ourselves to take advantage of the things that are offered us and then make a positive contribution in some way to an organization, school, community, or whatever it may be.

You can be what you want to be. It does not matter who you are, where you come from, or what school you attend. Those of you who are now active members of the Alabama FFA have the greatest opportunity that can ever come to a young person. You can achieve things you never thought possible if you are willing to get involved and to work together with others.

Right now, you are probably saying, "No, it can't happen to me." You are probably making excuses right now about why you can't participate actively and fully in the FFA programs. The sad part is opportunities come only once and they may never return. Seldom do we get a second chance.

Well, I could tell you more about that fellow who entered that first speaking contest. I know him quite well. I could



JERRY BATTS

tell you that his situation was very similar to yours. I could tell you about the many friends who stood with him, about his classmates, about his advisors, and about his family. It took all of them, offering their support and encouragement.

Everything that he had, you have today. The Alabama FFA is probably stronger than it has ever been. Your family, your friends, and advisors are waiting to help you. It gets down to whether or not you want to do it. I know. I can remember my advisor saying, "Jerry, I need a speaker."

★ ★ ★

About Jerry Batts

*There could hardly be a better prepared person to author an article such as "The FFA and You" than Jerry Batts. He has served in all capacities of FFA work, having started as a local officer in the Clements High School FFA. From there he provided leadership as a State President and as National Secretary. At the present time Jerry is associated with Lt. Governor Jere Beasley's Staff.*

# The Alabama FFA Reporter



SPRING 1974

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Montgomery 36104

FFA

## The Editor's Pen

With 1974, the Alabama FFA Reporter takes on two new faces. The spring 1974 issue will drop its usual red and white glossy face and begin as a black and white with a mat finish.

Another new face is found with the new editor. This face is new to the reporter, but an old hand in Agribusiness.

The changes in the size and paper used in the publication were brought about by the decision not to ask Future Farmers for a subscription price and the exclusion of advertising. Without these revenues we will be sending only five copies to each chapter and the reporter will be published quarterly with only four pages.

Continued on page 4

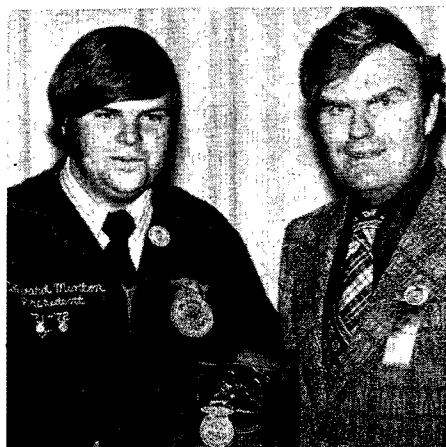
# FOUR AT THE TOP



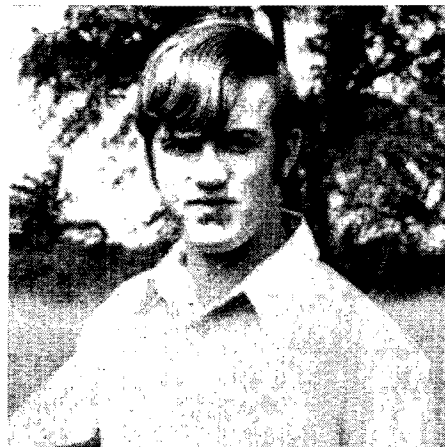
MIKE FULLER



ANTHONY WELLS



EDWARD MINTON  
JAMES TURNER



CURTIS MASSEY

Alabama found room at the top in the 1973 national proficiency awards program. The four Future Farmers shown above were judged to be among the nations best at the 46th National Convention in Kansas City. Pictured at the upper left is Mike Fuller, Enterprise FFA, second place winner in Agricultural Production. Upper right is Anthony Wells, Sylvania FFA, first place winner in Poultry Production. Lower left is Edward Minton and his advisor James Turner, Attalla FFA. Edward placed second in Agricultural Mechanics. Lower right is Curtis Massey of Coffee Springs FFA, first place winner in Agricultural Electrification.

Congratulations are due each of these Future Farmers and their advisors. These winners have set the pace for many other Future Farmers on the way to the top.

## FFA Dates to Remember

March 23.....	Southeast District Eliminations
March 30.....	South Central District Eliminations
April 1.....	Proficiency Awards
April 6.....	Southwest District Eliminations
April 13.....	North Central District Eliminations
April 15.....	Chapter Awards
April 20.....	West Central District Eliminations
April 27.....	Northeast District Eliminations
May 1.....	American Farmer Application
May 4.....	North District Eliminations
June 4-5-6.....	State Convention, Montgomery
August 6-9.....	Annual Teachers Conference
October 15-18.....	National Convention, Kansas City

# Bouldin Speaks For You



State President Elton Bouldin is pictured above speaking to the Annual Meeting of the Alabama Rural Electric Association held recently in Montgomery. Bouldin thanked the AREA members for their support of the FFA. The AREA co-sponsors the Agricultural Electrification award and sponsors the chapter award program.

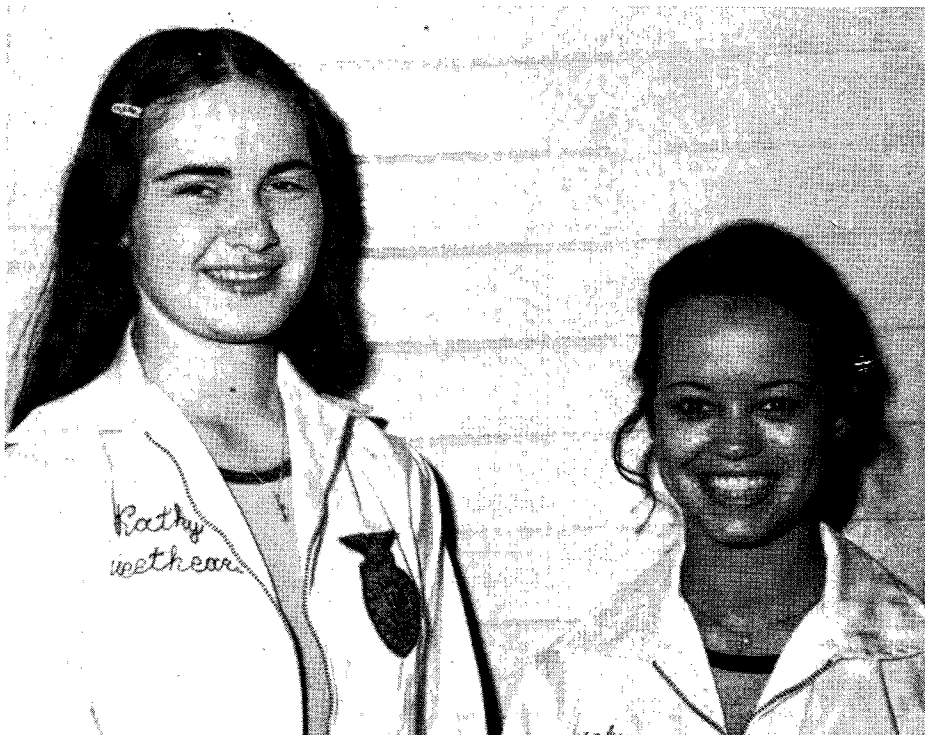
JAN — BEULAH



HOLLILYNN — ATTALLA



KATHY & EVELYN — BAY MINETTE



MONICA — SANFORD



SHEENIA — SECTION



## THE FUTURE FARMERS PICK A SWEETHEART

Picking a sweetheart is a very popular activity for many FFA Chapters in Alabama.

Following her selection, the FFA Sweetheart represents the chapter wherever Future Farmers meet; at socials, civic meetings, Fairs, school assemblies and at the regular Chapter

Meetings. The Sweetheart Jacket is her crown. This jacket and a pretty smile can win many friends for the FFA.

Pictured from left are Kathy Coleman and Evelyn Chastang of Bay Minette; from top to bottom, Jan Rudd of Beulah, Hollylynn Holley of Attalla; Monica Marie Jones of Sanford Junior High; and Sheenia Beam of Section.

# WE SALUTE

# FFA ROUND-UP

## Membership Over 100%

School	Advisor
Alabama Boys Industrial	Halcombe, Shade
Ardmore	Cornelison
Baldwin County	Nelson
Brantley	Carroll
Citronelle	Terrell
Clay County	Estes
Cleveland	Talley
Crossville	Hamilton
Danville	McCay
Elmore County	Porter
Etowah County AVS	Borden
Evergreen, Marshall Annex	Powell
Fairhope	Beasley, Moore
Falkville	Bryan
Fayette County	Shackelford
Fyffe	Galloway
Gaylesville	Herren
Geneva County	Dean
Georgiana	Thompson
Geraldine	Sisco
Graves, Bibb	Horn
Guntersville	Williams
Hackneyville	Martin
Hatton	Thompson
Hayneville	Lewis
Holtville	Gibbons
Jemison	Hayes
Lexington	Hawkins
Madison County	Adcox
Mellow Valley	McKay
Millry	Crawford
Montevallo	Thornton, Kidd
Pennington, J. B.	Jones
Pisgah	Womack
Ranburne	Ottis
Randolph County	Worham
Red Bay	Pounders
Rehobeth	Ezell
Robertsdale AVS	Walters
Rogers, G. M., AVC	Strickland
Sand Rock	Pate
Southside	Owen
Sparkman	Dulaney
Springville	Harrell
Stanhope Elmore	Holland, Nickerson
Sunshine	McCurdy
Sylvania	Butler
Thomasville	Lawhon
Valley Head	Roberts
Waterloo	Walker
Weogufka	Porter
West Point	Strickland, Alldredge
Winston County AVC	Porter
Woodville	Lewis
York West End	Eppes

## Over 100 Members

School	Advisor	Members
Choctaw Co.—Ezell, Dees, Richards		216
Wetumpka—Bazemore, Martin		215
Hokes Bluff—Bazemore, Millander		203
West Point—Strickland, Alldredge		191
Jacksonville Lab.—Smith, Todd		190
Pickens County—Irvin, Shackelford		190
Bibb County—Meigs, Chambers		172
Foley—Hanks, Rhodes		172
Winfield—Kirkpatrick, McDonald		171
Stanhope Elmore—Holland, Nickerson		169
Greensboro, East—Brown, Essex		167
Fairhope—Beasley, Moore		166
C. Henderson—Carter, Owen, Kennedy		162
Washington County—Quimby, Jordan		156
Randolph Co.—Worham		155
Arab—Britnell, Dennis		152
Lowndes Co. Tmg.—Haynes, Jackson		151
McAdory—Fuller, Bristow		149
Slocomb—Bass, Staples		142
Albertville—Hodges		132
Southside—Owen		132
B. B. Comer—Jernegan, McMurphy		131
Lexington—Hankins		129
Munford—Hunkapiller, Easley		128
Sylvania—Butler		126
J. B. Pennington—Jones		123
Morgan County—Lockhart		122
Boaz—Jackson		121
Escambia County—Lyons		121
Montevallo—Thornton, Kidd		121
Alexandria—Stiefel		120
Chilton County—Walker, Sims		120
Corner—Reaves		120
Paramount—Ayers, Outland		120
Maplesville—Washington		119
Sulligent—Mixon, Gray		119
McIntosh Union—Fisher		117
Millry—Crawford		117
Falkville—Bryan		116
Geraldine—Sisco		116
Clarke County—Beckham		115
Cleveland—Talley		114
West End—Hardman		114
Carbon Hill—Harbison		113
Alex City Jr.—Campbell		112
W. S. Neal—Ellis		111
Phil Campbell—Morrow		111
Headland—Yeager, Drake		109
Jasper—Hendrix, Wilson		109
Thorsby—Shields		109
Madison County—Adcox		107
Sardis—Shellhorse		106
Millport—McAdams		105
Ohatchee—Morris, Howard		105
Tuscaloosa County—Galloway, Palmore		105
Georgiana—Thompson		104
Robert C. Hatch—May		104
Hatton—Thompson		104
Holtville—Gibbons		103
York West End—Eppes		103
Abbeville—Lawson, Hooper		102
Clarke County—Lindsey		102
Eutaw Middle Grade—Underwood		102
Hayneville—Lewis		102
Red Bay—Pounders		102
Sparkman—Dulaney		102
Brookwood—Cunningham		101
Etowah—Turner		101
Fyffe—Galloway		101
Addison—Porter		100

—FFA—  
**More Than 450,000 Students  
 Of Vocational Agriculture  
 Are Members Of The FFA.**

**ABBEVILLE:** Sold 467 boxes of citrus fruit. Built a bookcase for the BOE department at Abbeville High School. Studied Careers in Agribusiness.

**ATTALLA:** Former state officer spoke at chapter meeting; constructed cabinet for home economics department; installed bell system in one section of school; held gospel singing; stringband is practicing for the county contest.

**BOAZ:** Built bicycle safety course; sold 300 safety triangles; displayed two wrecked cars; fixed toys for needy families.

**COTACO:** Studied oxyacetylene welding; sold 5,000 pounds of black walnuts to A & M University; re-landscaped the agribusiness building; erected bleachers for annual horse show; sponsored Sadie Hawkins Day; presented an FFA Christmas assembly; and we are providing \$50.00 prize for Watermelon growing contest.

**GREENSBORO:** Recognized local bank for its support of the National FFA Foundation; held chapter meeting with a program on wildlife.

**HAMILTON:** Held sweetheart banquet; sold magazines for a profit of over \$300.00; and we are preparing for the FFA Public Speaking contest.

**NORTH SUMTER:** Elected Miss Wyantha Newton FFA Sweetheart; participated in the Alabama School Gardening program.

**OAKMAN:** Sold concessions at football games; castrated 24 pigs; placed two gilts on pig chain; completed leadership training for officers; planned budget for the year.

**SECTION:** Elected Miss Sheenia Beam FFA Sweetheart; invited State FFA President, Elton Bouldin, to speak at chapter meeting; installed street signs in the city of Section.

**SYLVANIA:** Won three national awards at the recent National FFA Convention in Kansas City; held regular meeting with veterinarian as a guest speaker.

—FFA—

## EDITOR'S PEN

*Continued from page 2*

Your advice and encouragement is urgently needed. I must ask for stories and pictures from you, the FFA Reporter and the Agribusiness teacher. You make the news, just give me an opportunity to reflect it in the Reporter.

I'm optimistic about the future. I'm optimistic about the Future Farmers of America. I'm optimistic about America. It's great. We have a great people, a great land and a great future. I refuse to listen to the doomsayers who can only report the bad things about our way of life.

It's a real pleasure to be assigned the job of reporting on the FFA. Every-time I find a story it's refreshing and positive.

Thank goodness Future Farmers are busy building and feeding a great nation and I don't have to report on news of a negative nature.

Frank B. Killough

## NEW CHAPTERS

Atmore Area Vocational Center  
 Auburn (Gold)  
 B. B. Comer "B"  
 Cullman Middle School  
 Dadeville (Blue)  
 Gadsden State Junior College  
 Loachapoka  
 Moore Academy  
 Opelika Area Vocational Center  
 Scottsboro "B"  
 Talladega Area Vocational Center  
 Tallassee  
 Walker Area Vocational Center