



# The Alabama FFA REPORTER

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## FFA Opens Doors

*Mary George Jordan Waite  
Alabama FFA Foundation Chairman*

"Opportunity does knock only once" — on one door, that is! But FFA opens so many doors that it offers many many opportunities — the opportunity to learn, the opportunity to develop skills, the opportunity to become self confident, the opportunity to grow as a whole person, the opportunity to make friends, the opportunity for self-expression, the opportunity to recognize values, the opportunity to be a leader, the opportunity for self-respect, the opportunity for self-reliance, the opportunity to cultivate poise, the opportunity for professional choices and so many many more. The words of the song, "Welcome to My World" describes exactly what I am saying, "Knock and the door is opened; seek and you shall find; ask and you shall be given the key to this world" — It's just that easy! Our own Helen Keller said, "Life is a daring adventure or nothing". Who wants to live in a world of nothing? Nobody does, but we all like the sound of a daring adventure! FFA opens doors to a world that is a daring adventure; because FFA helps equip young men and women to live that exciting whole life made of the spiritual, the social, the economic, and the cultural. Be glad you are in FFA!

Where else can young men and women ninth graders begin learning and practicing all at the same time on their very own in poultry production, swine production, dairy production, land judging, horticulture, public speaking, crop production, agricultural mechanics, and *countless* other choices? FFA opens doors! How can any young American who knows the importance of food, clothing, and shelter keep from being excited about an organization like the FFA - the organization that is agribusiness through and through? How can any young American keep from joining? And how can

any young American not want to stay a member of FFA as long as he or she is not over the age limit? FFA dropouts should never be! What a great thing it would be if every young American could be a part of FFA in his school, his county, his district, his state, his region, his nation and attend these meetings, competing in some! Many successful businessmen, governors, Congressmen, and distinguished educators got their start in their own FFA Chapter. They heard opportunity knocking on FFA doors and they let FFA help them open these doors! Enter and Excel!

The story goes of the first grader whose teacher asked that each pupil bring a birth certificate to school the next day. One little boy didn't know what one was, but his mother did. The next day he came into class waving a small piece of paper yelling, "Teacher, teacher, here is my excuse for being born". FFA gives us our excuse for being born! Let FFA keep opening the doors of opportunities for you! I believe you will!

### About Mrs. Waite

Mrs. Mary George Jordan Waite is a graduate of Huntingdon College in Montgomery where she received her AB Degree in English and Sociology. Mrs. Waite is also the recipient of the Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Huntingdon. In 1974, she was elected to the Board of Trustees of her alma mater.



**Mrs. Waite**

An avid businesswoman, Mrs. Waite has been Chairman and President of the Farmers and Merchants Bank in her native town of Centre, Alabama, since 1957. She graduated from the School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University. Mrs. Waite has recently been elected Chairman of the Advisory Council for Vocational Education in Alabama.

Mrs. Waite is an Honorary Chapter, State and American Farmer with the Future Farmers of America; is the first woman State Chairman of the National FFA Foundation and is the first woman elected to the Board of Trustees of the National FFA Foundation.

Mrs. Waite is a member of the First United Methodist Church in Centre where she teaches a Young Adult Sunday School class. Married to Dan Waite, Jr., Mrs. Waite has one daughter and three grandchildren.

Mrs. Waite devotes unlimited energy and talents for the FFA and youth of Alabama.

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**Goshen FFA'er  
In Washington**



During the National FFA Bicentennial Conference held recently in Washington, Moses Griffin (left) of the Goshen FFA Chapter accepted greetings from Ron Wilson, National Vice President of Manhattan, Kansas.

The FFA Conference program is designed to improve leadership skills, develop an understanding of the national heritage, and prepare FFA members for more effective leadership roles in their chapter and community. The Conference is also a forum for the exchange of FFA Chapter activity ideas among members from across the nation.

Moses, 18, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mattie Griffin of Troy. His vocational agriculture instructor is Glenn Carmichael.

**Ider's 27 State Farmers—Tops**

**By Justin Hasting—Chapter Reporter**

When you think of a Chapter of Future Farmers being first in the number of State Farmers you would think of places with large chapters as Mobile, Montgomery, or Birmingham. But, who would think of a chapter with only a little over a hundred members to end up being number one in the State of Alabama?

Ider was that chapter in 1976. Ider was graced with 27 State Farmers which was the most in the state. Mr. Jasper Wagner, the Agribusiness teacher and FFA Advisor, said the chapter was pushing for big things and things began to fall into place.

Everything began during school year 1975-76 with what many have said was the best group of officers being elected to the posts in years. They were: Terry Smith, President; Lannie Johnson, Vice President; Ray Greeson, Secretary; Justin Hasting, Reporter; Don Kessler, Treasurer; Jeff Watkins, Sentinel; and, of course, the Advisor, Mr. Jasper Wagner.

The chapter was visited by the State Vice President, acting as reporter, Ronnie Day. Ronnie gave an impressive speech and then congratulated the Chapter. The officers and Mr. Wagner also met with Mr. W.L. Minor, the Northeast District Supervisor. Mr. Minor also congratulated the Chapter.

Ider planned to enter the Safety Award, and the State and National Chapter Award contests. They had an entry in the livestock judging, dairy judging, land judging, and mechanics contests.

They won second place in the DeKalb County Quartet and String Band contests. The first place Public Speaker in the county was from Ider. They also captured the second place ribbon at the VFW Fair for their exhibit of "200 YEARS OF PROGRESSIVE FARMING". Another honor Ider had was the second place Coker Corn Grower in DeKalb County who averaged 150.77 Bushels Per Acre.

Ider is certainly not a do-nothing Chapter, and they are still growing as 45 greenhands were accepted into the chapter in 1975-76. All of these hope to advance to the State Farmer Degree some day, just as the State Farmers hope to apply for the American Farmer Degree. The Chapter is not only well represented with State Farmer recipients but they also had 3 American Farmers.

Ider had a remarkable year.

**FFA DUES - \$2.00**

**- DUE OCT. 1**

**Meet Your State Officers**



Ready to serve you are the 1976-77 State FFA Officers. They are (standing L-R) Jimmy Veazey, Treasurer, Isabella; Pamela Tate, Second Vice President, Mary G. Montgomery; Mike Bradford, President, Scottsboro; David Hicks, Secretary, Russellville; Chris Green, Sentinel, J.B. Pennington; and (kneeling L-R) Tolton Anderson, Reporter, Cottonwood; and Marvis Futral, First Vice President, Eclectic.

These officers represent the finest in FFA leadership. A visit by one of them in your local chapter would serve to inspire your entire membership. Arrangments for a chapter visit by a state officer can be arranged by contacting Mr. C.W. Reed, FFA Executive Secretary, 824 State Office Building, Montgomery, Alabama 36130.

## Retires



**L.L. Sellers**

Mr. L.L. Sellers, District Supervisor, Agribusiness Education, retired June 30, following 46 years of service to education and agriculture in Alabama.

A retirement dinner honoring Sellers was held recently at the Holiday Inn at Troy. At this time, his many friends and associates presented gifts and citations for his outstanding service.

Sellers has received many honors and citations for outstanding service to education of youth and adults in the state and nation. He holds the distinction of having the longest tenure with the State Department of Education, 39-1/2 years. He also holds the longest tenure of any supervisor of agriculture with the State Department of Education in the nation.

Mr. and Mrs. Sellers will continue to make their home at 549 South College Street in Auburn.

## FFA Sweetheart



Anah Whitehead, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Whitehead, is the Rogersville FFA Sweetheart. A senior at Lauderdale County High School, Anah is a member of the Tri-Hi-Y and FBLA. She has served as Junior Class secretary, Pep Club reporter and vice-president, FTA secretary, FHA vice-president, 11th grade Homecoming representative, and May Queen.

## President Meets President



President Gerald R. Ford welcomes Mike Bradford, President of the Alabama FFA Association to the White House. Mike was one of 80 FFA members to participate in the State Presidents' Conference sponsored by General Motors Corporation through the National FFA Foundation, Inc. Purpose of the week-long conference was to help new state officers be more effective leaders by giving them firsthand knowledge of the National FFA Organization and national agricultural issues. Mike is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie D. Bradford of Scottsboro, Alabama.

## New For 1977 Bi-District FFA Contest Eliminations

Alabama now has eight supervisory districts. This will enable us to hold Bi-District eliminations. This will eliminate the semi-finals during the FFA Convention. All state contests will be held during the annual convention which will result in substantial travel savings for advisors and team members. See your new contest and awards booklet for details. District pairings for 1977 are:

North -West Central  
Northeast-Northeast Central

Southwest-Southwest Central  
Southeast-South Central

## FFA Dates to Remember

October 1 \_\_\_\_\_ FFA Dues and Activity Program  
September 27 - October 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Central Alabama Fair, Selma  
October 7 - 16 \_\_\_\_\_ Alabama State Fair, Birmingham  
October 11 - 16 \_\_\_\_\_ Chattahoochee Valley Fair, Columbus  
October 18 - 23 \_\_\_\_\_ South Alabama Fair, Montgomery  
October 18 - 23 \_\_\_\_\_ National Peanut Festival, Dothan  
October 22 - 30 \_\_\_\_\_ Greater Gulf State Fair, Mobile  
November 9 - 12 \_\_\_\_\_ National FFA Convention, Kansas City  
December 15 \_\_\_\_\_ Champion Corn Growing Contest  
January 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Future Farmer of the year

## We Commend — 1976 State Contest and Award Winners

CONTEST OR AWARD	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH
Public Speaking	Eric Summerford Falkville	Tim Watts Eclectic	Bill Gibson Curry	Beverly Scott Bay Minette
String Band	Hokes Bluff	Goodwater	Enterprise	Danville
Dairy Judging	Tanner	Enterprise	Millport	Lamar County
Livestock Judging	Enterprise	J.B. Pennington	Pisgah	Crossville
Land Judging	Wetumpka	Slocomb	Lexington	Louisville
Quartet	Elmore County	George P. Austin	Crossville	Berry
Agricultural Mechanics (team)	Eclectic	Rogersville	Citronelle	J.B. Pennington
Forestry Judging	West Point	Bibb Co. AVC	Pleasant Home	Eclectic
Chapter Contest (Gold)	Cotaco	Sylvania	Scottsboro "A"	Crossville
Orn. Horticulture Judging	Tanner	Enterprise	Huntsville	Mary G. Montgomery
Building Construction	Escambia- Brewton AVC	Haleyville	Albertville	Brantley
Power and Diesel Mechanics	Atmore AVC	Tuscaloosa County	Troy	Eclectic
Home and Farmstead Improvement	Rickey Baker Crossville	Doug Hamilton Arab	Mike Allen East Limestone	David Green Russellville
Crop Production	Rickey Rhodes Arab	Richard K. Haynes Section	Mike Sisk Paint Rock	Sidney Smith Geneva
Dairy Production	Stanley C. Brown Citronelle	Allen M. Stiffel Geraldine	Mark Richards Millport	Greg Smith Holly Pond
Livestock Production	Larry Ray Sparkman Danville	Andy Elkins Mount Hope	Johnny D. Kittle Crossville	Ricky Jones Kennedy
Beef Production	Douglas Harris Holly Pond	Sidney E. Smith Geneva	Mark Maddox Danville	Rickey Rhodes Arab
Swine Production	Chris Gilliam Kennedy	Russell Miliam Gurley	Ricky Tubbs Oakman	Tim Olds Woodland
Poultry Production	Sam Spruell Mount Hope	Don King Chelsea	Rodney Butler Crossville	Danny Henderson Woodland
Placement in Ag. Production	Danny McKinney Russellville	Steve Mobley Foley	John Jacobs Cullman	Steve Yelverton Enterprise
Agricultural Sales/Service	Jean Andrews Geo. M. Rogers AVC	Lowell Sampson Arab	Joe Curlette Blountsville	Ricky Patterson Etowah
Agricultural Mechanics	David Moates Enterprise	James Barclift Arab	Michael Shewbart Red Bay	Clark Sanders Wetumpka
Agricultural Electrification	Glen Bruce Crossville	Mark Delfunt Jackson	Dwight Pullen Sylvania	Randy Weeks Scottsboro "A"
Agricultural Processing	Jimmy Wayne Tyler Arab	Ronnie Brown Jackson	George D. Brantley W.S. Neal	Phillip Dollar Odenville
Ornamental Horticulture	James Williamson Tanner	Brian Crane Geo. M. Rogers AVC	John Bailey Wetumpka	Joe Gregory Curry
Soil and Water Management	Robert Summerford Falkville	Mack Maddox Danville	Greg Culpepper Section	Larry Sellers Foley
Fish & Wildlife Management	John Summerford Falkville	Stevie Farmer Wetumpka	Dale Dumas Grove Hill	Mark Wilson Hanceville
Forest Management	Seth Evans W.S. Neal	Jimmy Sullivan Gordo "B"	Henry L. White Bibb County AVC	Rhonald Randolph Reform
Safety	Scottsboro "A"	Crossville	Anniston Agribusiness Center	Boaz
Farm Woodland	Reform	Carrollton	Bibb County AVC	Gordo "A"