December 5-10 was FFA Foundation Week in Alabama. Observing in approval as Governor George C. Wallace signed the proclamation were state leaders and foundation supporters (L-R) Charles Reed, FFA Executive Secretary; Wayne Teague, State Superintendent of Education; Douglas Rigney, Director of Field Services, Alabama Farm Bureau Federation; David O'Shields, President, Alabama FFA Association; J.C. Hollis, State FFA Advisor; Mary George Waite, President, Farmers and Merchants Bank of Centre, and T.L. Faulkner, Director, Vocational Education.

Using the foundation theme, “PAVE THE WAY WITH FFA”, we are seeking additional financial support to promote an increased interest in the leadership training found in our 378 high school chapters.

Yield from investments of foundation funds will finance incentive awards, scholarships for FFA members, travel for state winning teams to compete in national competition, sponsorship of county, district and state contests and other varied projects of the FFA.
SELECTED 1977-78 FFA Sweetheart at Straughan High School is Theresa Aplin, 18 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Aplin of the Gantt community.

**Agribusiness Staff Supports FFA Foundation**

The Alabama agribusiness staff are 100% “founding” supporters of the recently chartered Alabama FFA Foundation. Each member has contributed $100 or more to assist in promoting the many leadership development programs of the Association.

In addition to the cash contribution, each member has devoted many extra hours to planning, contacting state leaders, drafting and printing literature and many other varied tasks to see that the Foundation was launched in a successful manner.

Shown examining foundation brochures are contributors (l-r) Frank Killough, Specialist, Agricultural Mechanics; George White, District Supervisor; H.N. Lewis, Livestock Specialist; J.E. Smith, District Supervisor; B.J. York, District Supervisor; J.C. Hollis, State Supervisor; J.D. Granger, District Supervisor; L.W. Crook, District Supervisor; C.W. Reed, FFA Executive Secretary; A.H. Halcomb, Subject Matter Specialist, and M.J. Campbell, District Supervisor.

Not shown are staff members Paul Holley and W.L. Minor, District Supervisors, who are also “founding” supporters.

Other vocational educators who are founding contributors include Dr. Cayce Scarborough, Professor, Vocational and Adult Education, Auburn University; Dr. T.L. Faulkner, Director, and B.P. Dilworth, Branch Director, Vocational Education, State Department of Education.

**FFA AT 50**

We have selected “gold” paper for the FFA REPORTER during the observance of our 50th anniversary.

**1978 ... FFA’s Golden Anniversary Year**

**FFA Dates to Remember**

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<td>Future Farmer of the Year</td>
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<td>FFA Contest Entry Survey</td>
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FFA Goes to the Fair

GRAND CHAMPION GILT—Dr. Wayne Teague, (left) State Superintendent of Education, attended the FFA Hog Show held in connection with the Alabama State Fair. During the show Dr. Teague posed with Willie Harris, (center) exhibitor of the Grand Champion Gilt, a Duroc. Harris is a member of the McAdory High School FFA Chapter and was assisted in showing his hogs by Gary Jackson (right), FFA advisor at McAdory.

HIGH SCORING INDIVIDUAL—Gwen Strahan (left), Agribusiness Farm Center FFA member, was the highest scoring individual in the FFA Livestock Judging Contest held recently in conjunction with the Greater Gulf State Fair. Assisting in displaying the plaque is Donnie Blanton, FFA advisor at the Agribusiness Farm Center. Twenty FFA judging teams participated in the event.

WINNING FFA EXHIBIT—The Enterprise High School FFA Chapter entered the first place winning FFA exhibit in the National Peanut Festival held recently in Dothan. Using the theme, "FFA at 50", the exhibit depicted fifty years of progress in the Future Farmers of America youth organization.

CHAMPION FFA BULL—The Notasulga FFA Chapter exhibited the Grand Champion Bull during the FFA Bull show held in connection with the South Alabama Fair in Montgomery. Shown with the winning Polled Hereford bull is Jack Berry, a senior and FFA member at Notasulga High School.
Southern Regional

PROFICIENCY WINNERS

HENRY LYLE WHITE, The Southern Region FFA Forest Management Proficiency Award Winner, is enrolled in the pre-forestry program at Brewer State Junior College, having completed two years in forest marketing and harvesting at the county vocational center. Henry also works full-time for a timber and pulpwood producer, primarily harvesting pulpwood and fuelwood. Since joining FFA, Henry has planted 16,000 seedlings, cruised 450 acres and marked 20 areas. "Participation in district and state Forestry Judging Contests," says Henry, "has provided an opportunity to develop my skills in measuring pulpwood and saw timber."

LONNIE GRIGSBY, the Southern Region FFA Ornamental Horticulture Proficiency Award Winner, has ambitions of owning his own wholesale and retail greenhouse and nursery business. In pursuit of this goal he attended classes at Rogers Area Vocational School for three years, where his FFA advisor placed him on a work program that included building and managing his own greenhouse and nursery operation. Lonnie started as a tenth grade Greenhand with a 6 x 10 foot greenhouse and only a few plants. Since then he has outgrown two greenhouses and is currently building a 30 x 100 foot greenhouse.

HENRY OLIVER, the Southern Region Winner of the FFA Poultry Production Proficiency Award, has 50 percent interest in the family egg laying operation. Since his father works at a public service job during the day, Henry assumed much responsibility for the operation at an early age. As a result, Henry has the knowledge and experience to assume full duties of the poultry enterprise when he graduates from high school. The family now owns 55,000 layers and markets eggs on a contract basis. Henry is from New Site.

There was plenty of work for DOUG HAMILTON, Southern Region Winner of the FFA Home and Farmstead Improvement Proficiency Award, when the family purchased their home farm of 200 acres. Doug and his family built fences and a driveway, remodeled two rundown barns, dug two ponds, constructed a new equipment storage building and completely landscaped the home grounds. When his family purchased another farm two years ago to add to their beef grazing pasture, they cleared the land on the 215-acre farm. In high school Doug took special training in landscape and home and farmstead improvement under his agribusiness teacher, Mr. O. R. Dennis, of Arab.

STEVE FARMER, the Southern Region Winner of the FFA Fish and Wildlife Management Proficiency Award, hopes to become a forest ranger with the Alabama Forestry Commission. Steve's development of the family farm into a productive small game preserve was a natural outgrowth of his love for the outdoors. An abundant population of deer, doves, turkey, rabbits, squirrels, quail, ducks and fish is the result of Steve's vocational agriculture study and conservation efforts over four years. He has worked extensively with the Soil Conservation, Forestry, Wildlife and Extension Services, as well as with his vocational agriculture instructor. Steve's Fish and Wildlife Management program will surely be an asset to him as he seeks employment as a forest ranger. Steve is from Wetumpka.

LARRY RAY SPARKMAN, the Southern Region FFA Horse Proficiency Award Winner, is a five-year FFA member from Alabama. "My father gave me a horse in 1971," Larry explains, "He helped me in training it and from that point on my interest in horses continued to grow." He gained his training through vocational agriculture classes and working on a horse farm. Today Larry raises nearly 100 horses of his own and serves the public with his skills, too. "The community has placed much confidence in Larry's skills with horses by letting him train, break, shoe, breed, groom and buy horses for them," says his FFA advisor, Andrew McCay of Danville.