THOUGHTS ON LEADERSHIP

by Joe P. Bethea

With the advent of my company, Chevron U.S.A. Inc., sponsoring the FFA Leadership Development Conference, I am pleased and privileged to share my thoughts on group leadership with you.

In our democratic society, we have the freedom to form any number of groups. Future Farmers of America is but one of thousands of groups which has come into existence for a most worthy purpose. When one becomes a member of a group, that person's personality and values are reflected in the organization...this is most important because our sense of values determines what we believe to be important in our daily lives and how we regard and respect other people.

Groups are powerful influences on our lifestyle and play a tremendous role in the way we conduct ourselves in human relationships. Groups such as FFA make it possible for individuals to become vital parts of their community, the state and the nation.

To accomplish a group's goals, it is essential that the group has good leadership as well as responsible members. The membership must understand the group's goals and be willing to work the tasks as the leadership cannot do the job alone. The attainment of goals is always the result of joint responsibilities being assumed by the leaders and the members through their efforts of working together. For the leaders and members to join together in meaningful progress, certain conditions must prevail:

1) Believe that their task is of great importance and once accomplished will make a difference in their lives and within their community.  
2) Be secure and sincere enough with one another so as to appreciate differences of opinion without losing regard for the individual's rights and  
3) Realize that ultimate goal accomplishment takes time and effort and progress needs to be evaluated on a timely basis.

For a leader to be effective, understanding leadership responsibilities is essential; however, this same understanding by the membership makes for a keen awareness of the group's tasks. Leadership is a shared responsibility...multiple leadership prevails in most effective groups as many individuals perform leadership roles. With this concept comes the tag "we did it" in lieu of "I did it." Leadership is fulfillment of purpose as well as a process of meeting human needs. With leadership rides the major responsibility for helping the membership understand and achieve their purposes while meeting the human needs of individuals to experience satisfaction in the process. In the past, leadership has been accomplished greatly by the assumption of authority by force and power. In our modern society, leadership is accomplished through personal appeal and magnetism. Today's effective leader is able to help the various individuals fulfill their own separate responsibilities needed for group achievement.

To fulfill leadership responsibilities, the leader must have or acquire certain basic qualities and have the ability to blend them together for successful accomplishment of stated goals. Briefly, some of the qualities that make a leader are: Responsibility (willingness to accept the challenge), Wisdom (ability to form and carry out wise judgements), Self confidence (being secure in one's ability), Integrity (reputation for honesty-strong moral and ethical principles), Ambition (strong desire to succeed), Decision (make wise decisions and stand by them), Positive thinking (have assurance-it can be done), Competitive spirit (will to win-extra effort), Persuasion (be convincing), Delegator (delegate authority and work), Timing (know when to take action), Humanity (have concern for others) and Plan of action (act in accordance with a preconceived plan).

As FFA'ers you have elected to become a member of a group which has state goals of improving the quality of life of its membership, the community, state and the nation. The success of Future Farmers of America depends greatly on you as you strive to accomplish your individual goals relative to the goals of FFA. I challenge you to establish a purpose and direction of life and to work hard to achieve the desired success. You can do it!

Joe P. Bethea

About Joe Bethea

Joe P. Bethea is Public Affairs Manager—Alabama for Chevron U.S.A. Inc. He is a native Alabamian having grown up in Brewton and graduated from Auburn University. Seventeen years ago, Joe began his career with Chevron as Farm Representative and has had varied work experiences throughout Alabama and in Kentucky and Florida.

Joe is active in many community and civic endeavors and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Alabama FFA Foundation, Marketing and Distributive Education Advisory Council, Vice Chairman Public Affairs Committee-State Chamber of Commerce and Director, Boy's Clubs of Montgomery. He is a member of Capital City Kiwanis Club and Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Joe is married to the former Kathy Brooks and they reside with their three children in Montgomery.
Meet Your New FFA Executive Secretary

State FFA Advisor
Troy P. Newton

Troy Newton was named Executive Secretary for the Alabama FFA Association on August 18. He brings fourteen years of successful experience to the position, held by C. W. Reed for fifteen years.

Newton taught agribusiness four years in Foley and was the horticulture instructor at the Huntsville Area Vocational Technical Center for ten years. During three of the four years that he was at Foley, his FFA Chapter was represented by the Alabama Future Farmer of the Year, and the state-winning Horticulture Team in 1975.

Newton is a native of Lauderdale County and completed high school at Lexington. He holds BS and MS Degrees from Auburn University and has earned the AA certificate. He was named Alabama’s Outstanding Young Teacher in 1973 and was awarded the Honorary American Farmer Degree in 1980.

(Continued on page 4)

1982-83 State FFA Officers

The State FFA Officers for 1982-83 were selected during the 53rd annual convention of the Alabama Association of the Future Farmers of America. Shown left to right: Robert Weaver, Falkville, President; Patrick Tucker, DAR Chapter, Grant, Vice President; David Nokes, Tallassee Chapter, Secretary; John Meacham, Elba Chapter, Treasurer; Tracy James, Montevallo Chapter, Reporter, and Paul Pinyon, Holly Pond Chapter, Sentinel. The officers will represent the association during goodwill tours, attend officer leadership workshops, visit local chapters, and will participate in the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, in November.

State Officers Attend National Conference

Two officers of the Alabama FFA Association worked with the National FFA Officers at the State Presidents’ Conference in Washington, D.C. Pictured are (left to right) Randy Hedges, Southern Region Vice President; Melanie Burgess, Eastern Region Vice President; Scott Newsham, National President; Robert W. Weaver, Alabama Association President; Patrick Tucker, Alabama Association Vice-President; Scott Watson, Central Region Vice President; Jack Stewart, Western Region Vice-President, and John Pope, National Secretary. During their visit to Washington, Weaver and Tucker met with President Reagan in special ceremonies at the White House Rose Garden.
State Star Farmer

Jack Harris, of the Geo. W. Long High School FFA Chapter, has been named State Star Farmer for 1982. Pictured above with Harris is his FFA advisor and agribusiness instructor at Geo. W. Long High School, Bob Moorehead.

Harris was recognized for this honor during the 53rd annual State FFA Convention held at the Civic Center in Montgomery recently.

As a state winner, Harris received a $200 cash award, certificate, plaque, and a chapter banner. The Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity sponsors the plaque for the State Star Farmer. Making the presentation on behalf of Alpha Gamma Rho was (right) Neil Catlett.

Future Farmer of the Year

Jeffrey Peek, of the West Limestone FFA Chapter, was named Future Farmer of the Year during the recent State FFA Convention in Montgomery. Each year this award is given to recognize an outstanding FFA member for his/her work and accomplishments in the FFA, agribusiness education, and his/her school and community.

Pictured above (l-r) are Darwin Siniard, FFA advisor and agribusiness education teacher at West Limestone High School; Harold Hamilton, representing the Farm House Fraternity, Auburn University; Peek, and Joe Bethea, Public Affairs Manager-Alabama, Chevron USA.

The Farm House Fraternity provided the trophy, and a cash award of $500 and a plaque is provided by Chevron USA.

FFA Dues—
FFA Member $2.50
Non-Member 2.00
Due October 1

FFA Dates To Remember

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 27 - October 2</td>
<td>Central Alabama Fair, Selma</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>East Alabama Fair, Opelika</td>
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<td>October 7-16</td>
<td>FFA Dues, FFA Roster, Program of Activities, Daily Schedule</td>
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<td>October 11-16</td>
<td>Alabama State Fair, Birmingham</td>
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<td>October 18-23</td>
<td>Chattahoochee Valley Fair, Columbus</td>
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<td>October 22-30</td>
<td>South Alabama Fair, Montgomery</td>
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<td>November 10-13</td>
<td>Peanut Festival, Dothan</td>
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<td>December 15</td>
<td>Greater Gulf State Fair, Mobile</td>
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<td>January 1</td>
<td>National FFA Convention, Kansas City</td>
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<td>Champion Corn Growing Contest</td>
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<td>Future Farmer of the Year</td>
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Southern Regional Proficiency Winners

**Bobby Bolt,** the Southern Region winner of the FFA Beef Production Award, has begun developing his own farm. Realizing that efficiency is necessary for a profitable farm, Bobby uses by-products from the broiler industry to develop rations for his beef cattle and to fertilize his hay and pasture land. This profit is not a guess but a fact because Bobby keeps a complete set of records to evaluate his program closely which is important in today’s beef market. Bobby is assisted in his program by Lamar Dewberry, his agribusiness advisor at Lineville High School.

**Lavon Bradley,** of the W.S. Neal Chapter, the Southern Region winner of the FFA Fish and Wildlife Management Proficiency Award, plans to make wildlife management a vital part of his future. Lavon completed a portion of his work on game preserves; however, he carries on a personal involvement on company land, personal property, and even on National Forest land. Lavon is a product of a hunting family and through added efforts of T. R. Miller Mill Company and his involvement in agribusiness education under Phillip Ellis, his teacher, he has become a trained wildlife management.

**Jon Carter,** The Southern Region winner of the FFA Placement in Agricultural Production Proficiency Award, did not grow up on a farm. Through agribusiness and placement in a production program, he has acquired the skills and knowledge to become a successful farm operator. He began his work experience program working with farmers as a seasonal laborer. With this experience Jon started work at Ralston Acres. Here Jon worked with a 500 brood cow beef herd; 100 head of stocker cattle; 2800 head of market hogs, as well as 800 acres of row crops. This operation gave Jon a chance to develop his skills in herd health, safe operation of farm machinery, prepare feed rations, planning the breeding program, and repairing farm equipment and facilities. His agribusiness teacher at Selma High School, Van Smith, has seen Jon progress from a student with no agricultural knowledge to a successful farm operator.

**Chip Bright,** the Southern Region winner of the FFA Processing Award, is employed through the Enterprise Vocational Agribusiness Co-op program with Southland Broilers of Enterprise. Chip's vo-ag teacher, C. C. Martin, credits the outstanding working relationship with Southland Broiler with much of Chip's success.

**New FFA Executive Secretary** (Continued from page 2)

Newton states that he “especially enjoys working with young people and would like to see every agribusiness student become a participating member of the FFA.” He is a firm believer in teamwork.

He, his wife Becky, and their two children, Steven and Stephanie, will reside in Montgomery.