TEACHING VOCATIONAL AGRIBUSINESS
By Richard A. Baker

What are you going to do when you finish high school? Do you enjoy working outdoors as well as indoors? Do you like being around adults as well as young people? Do you like to grow plants, work with animals and build things in the shop? If your answer is yes to these questions, then you should consider teaching vocational agribusiness. It is an active, interesting and rewarding career.

There are approximately 13,000 high school agribusiness teachers in the United States plus an additional 1,800 teaching in junior colleges. Each year more than 1,775 of these teachers retire or resign.

In the southeastern United States alone there are approximately 6,000 agribusiness teachers. Approximately 800 of these retire or resign, creating a need for 800 new agribusiness teachers; however, when school starts each fall there is still a shortage of over 80 agribusiness teachers.

In Alabama there are 437 agribusiness teachers and approximately 40 of these resign or retire each year.

There are jobs available in agribusiness teaching. Discuss the possibilities with your agribusiness teacher. (See related story on Page 2)

### Employment and Replacements Needed in Vocational Agriculture Teaching for Selected Southern States, 1980

<table>
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<tr>
<th>State</th>
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### HONORARY AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE RECIPIENTS

AWARDED FFA'S HIGHEST DEGREE—Receiving the Honorary American Farmer Degree are (l to r) Frances Mizell, Dr. Richard Baker from Auburn, and Antnet Daughtry of Montgomery. They were among 202 adult supporters of the FFA to receive this award recently at the National FFA Convention held in Kansas City, Missouri.

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The Honorary American Farmer Degree is the FFA's highest recognition given to adult supporters. Honorary membership is bestowed to individuals who have given service to youth, agriculture, education, and the FFA organization. This year three Alabamians were among the 202 men and women who received the degree in a special ceremony on Friday afternoon, November 12, at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mrs. Frances Mizell has been associated with Agribusiness Education in Alabama for the past 33 years as Secretary in the Auburn Office. Mrs. Mizell is a native of Choctaw County and graduated from Choctaw County High School in Butler, Alabama. After graduation, she attended the (Continued on Page 4)
Agribusiness teachers enjoy many outdoor activities such as assisting FFA members in grooming and entering their steers in competitive livestock events. A typical example of this is represented above with Randy Huffman of the Auburn High School FFA "Blue" Chapter. Randy's steer is a Chianina Cross which was a class champion during the 1982 State Steer Show.

There's a Career for You in Teaching Vocational Agribusiness

Each year there are a great number of positions for new teachers of vocational agribusiness in Alabama high schools. In the past almost every qualified graduate, who desired to teach vocational agribusiness has been employed. These graduates are being employed at higher salaries each year.

You are now faced with the problem of choosing your life work or your vocation. When you choose your life's work, you will be looking for something that you can do well. You will be seeking an occupation that offers you a chance to help others, make you a good living, and be a member of a respected profession. In making this decision have you considered teaching vocational agribusiness?

Teaching vocational agribusiness is interesting. As a teacher of vocational agribusiness, you will enjoy a variety of activities in the classroom, in the shop, and on the farm. Few other occupations give you an opportunity to work as closely with farm people on their farms. In fact, much of the work is on farms of the members of your classes. In your teaching you deal with practical farm problems which the members of your class need to solve. In a single day an agriculture teacher may take a class on a field trip to select dairy heifers, teach another class to overhaul a grain drill, and teach another group practices in fertilizing corn that will result in higher profits. You will teach high school boys and girls, young farmers, and adult farmers.

Another part of your work as a vocational agribusiness teacher is that of serving as Advisor of the local chapter of the Future Farmers of America. Some typical chapter activities under your direction might include a trip to the State Future Farmer Convention, training a livestock judging team, or other activities which will help students become successful farmers, rural leaders, and good citizens.

As a teacher of vocational agribusiness, you enjoy many advantages. It is hard to spell out all of these advantages but experienced teachers tell us they have unequaled opportunity to be of service to rural people. They find their work interesting, practical, and enjoyable. They receive an income which provides a comfortable living and an equally comfortable retirement.

As a teacher in an Alabama high school, you can make a real contribution to the youth of today, who hold our future in their hands. The future of our country is to be determined to a large degree by the teaching in our schools.

Your work results in improving the farming of the community in which you teach. Better farming results in a more prosperous community, state, and nation.

You can be a leader in your community. Alabama's modern rural schools need good teachers to provide and develop rural leadership.

Teaching vocational agribusiness gives you an opportunity to be creative in your work. It challenges you to put forth the best that you have.

You will enjoy watching the development of those whom you teach. There is a real thrill awaiting you the day your first State Farmer receives his gold key.

Your work is practical and useful. It deals with the interesting and changing science of agriculture. For example, you would enjoy driving through your community and seeing contour farming, one of the results of your teaching in adult farmer classes.

Much of your time is spent out of doors in the country, working with farm people. Your work consists of many different activities. You do not have a routine which must be followed day by day.

Your preparation for teaching vocational agribusiness requires a four-year college degree in agribusiness education.

Therefore, if you have a farm background, are a good student, possess a pleasing personality, can work well with people, and have a certain quality of leadership that is so hard to find, you can become a successful teacher of vocational agribusiness in Alabama's public high schools.

FFA

Old Chinese Proverb

Tell me, I'll forget,
Show me, I may remember,
But involve me and I'll understand.
COLLEGIATE FFA—SEARS HOG SHOW AND SALE

The annual Sears FFA Show and Sale was held on October 31, 1982. The consignment number was good and quality was deep, especially in the gilt drive. The 89 head show was judged by Warren Beeler from Kentucky. He selected a February Hamp boar owned by Danna McNeil from Wicksburg, as Grand Champion. Filling the reserve boar slot was a February Duroc owned by Barry Tye of Abbeville. The grand champion gilt was an Abbeville FFA consignment shown in the March Duroc Class. A February Spot shown by Lee Gunter of Ozark moved up to the reserve grand champion gilt position. Thirty four sold, with the average price being $252/head. Top selling boar was the Reserve Champion at $625, and the top gilt was sold by the Abbeville FFA for $270. The Auburn Collegiate FFA Chapter thanks the participating FFA members and Sears for this help in preparing for the future.

Roger McWaters
Auburn University Collegiate FFA Chapter

FFA MEMBER THANKS THE NATIONAL FFA FOUNDATION

Hi,

"Ever since I was very young, I'd watch my brothers get into their beautiful blue FFA jackets, with their starched white shirts and blue ties, and I'd be very proud of them, even though I never understood why. I'd watch them win ribbons and shiny trophies for the pigs that they worked so hard to raise and then sell them.

I'd watch them leave very, very early on Saturday mornings in their jackets and at night, I'd listen to the stories they told about the tough classes they judged and the great reasons they gave and how hard they tried. In the morning I'd get to see the beautiful trophies that they had brought home late that Saturday night. I just couldn't understand what it was like.

I'd see their picture in the paper constantly. I didn't understand when my brother, who had been gone for quite some time, came home with a plaque and gavel with "State President - 70-71" on it.

I had never understood, or realized what the gavel was for, or the trophies, or the wonderful blue jackets and the shiny medals and how proud my brothers looked in them. But this past year, I have been lucky enough to find out and I have to say, you never really can comprehend it, until you experience it yourself.

I was lucky enough to have five older brothers who laughed when I bought a steer, but never discouraged me against doing what I wanted—just to learn.

I was lucky enough to have an advisor that got me interested in public speaking, agronomy, parli-pro and being an officer-secretary.

I was lucky enough to meet new friends, especially in our small chapter, who encouraged me by just being my friends.

I was lucky enough to be picked to attend the state convention, where I finally realized how it was for my brothers, especially Paul, who was "up there once."

I was lucky enough to go to judging contests and come home tired, but happy on Saturday nights.

I was very happy to be picked Star Greenhand, and grateful to people who have sponsored FFA for so long. Thank you very much. I can't wait to go farther—how can I stop now?"

Sincerely,
Ms. Marianne Muller
Douglass Jr. High School Chapter
Woodland, California

FFA DATES TO REMEMBER

| January 1 | S-1 Report; Chapter Public Speaking Manuscript |
| February 1 | State Farmer Degree Applications |
| February 15 | National FFA Week |
| February 20-26 | Proficiency Awards; M. K. Heath Award |
| March 15 | Safety, Chapter, BOAC and Crime Prevention Awards |
| April 1 | SW - SWC District Eliminations |
| April 9 | NEC - SEC District Eliminations |
| April 16 | NE - SE District Eliminations |
| April 23 | WC - N District Eliminations |
| April 30 | Future Farmer of the Year |

TOP SELLING ANIMAL - at the Sears Show and Sale was the Reserve Grand Champion Boar owned by Barry Tye of the Abbeville FFA Chapter. The boar was purchased by Art Thomas for $625. Pictured with Tye is Warren Beeler, of Caneyville, Kentucky, who judged the show.
PATTI DUNN
PRESIDENT OF THE AU COLLEGIATE FFA

Patti Dunn is no ordinary farm girl. Born in Frankfurt, Germany to a career Army man and his wife, she had lived in eight foreign countries and 49 of the 50 United States by the age of 12. Now, at age 20, this Smiths Station High school graduate is the first female president of the Auburn Collegiate chapter of the Future Farmers of America.

"The FFA," says Dunn, "is an organization which promotes agribusiness at a high school and college level. We try to educate and prepare students to be good agribusiness leaders for the future."

The Auburn chapter has 30 members, and is open to anyone who was a member in high school. "We have a lot of good activities this quarter," says Dunn, "and the collegiate FFA needs members. We have meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in 118 Petrie Hall from 7 to 8:30 p.m." Dunn says that the FFA plans an exchange program with either North Carolina or Mississippi State University, a Sears Pig show and sale, and other activities to promote agriculture.

Dunn says she started her agricultural career as a freshman in high school. "When I was in ninth grade, all the girls wanted to take home economics. But," she says, "I thought that all they did was sew and boil water." Dunn continues, "I knew mama could teach me that, so I took vo-ag (vocational agriculture) instead."

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