Convention Issue

Call to Convention
Lamar White
President

It's that time again! Convention time is here! It's time for FFA members across the state to gather in Montgomery for the highlight of the FFA year. I have always looked forward to convention week with great anticipation. It's an exciting time for members, advisors, and other friends of the FFA who will be attending the week's activities.

There is something about a FFA Convention that is far more important than the fans, the entertainment, or the office. We want you in Montgomery for the highlight of the FFA year. I don't want you to just be an spectator - meeting you has to start somewhere.

Montgomery Civic Center

When coming to the Convention, one expects and sees a wide variety of people. We see advisors, guests, officers, chapter, state, and national, and the members of the FFA. Each of these people have a role in leadership. Advoeses have a very active role in helping each of us develop our own skills. Guests serve as people that we look up to, because of their achievements. The officers are put in positions of leadership, with their primary purpose to make the FFA the best that it can possibly be. But before all of these, the most important of all - the FFA member. There are 24,000 of us across the State of Alabama. While we are all different, we are held together by the common love of Agriculture. We all have our own abilities, and we all serve as leaders in our own special way: whether it be for a younger brother or sister, first year FFA member, or others in the community.

We are the future - the Future Farmers of America and the future of America itself.

Don't Miss the Chance to Meet New Friends
Norman Mason
Vice President

This year's FFA Convention is one that you will not forget. The people you encounter and the time you spend with them is a time you will always treasure.

Meeting new friends always seems like an awkward situation, but what is so awkward about it? Whether you introduce yourself or just start talking to them — meeting them has to start somewhere. How else will you get acquainted?

At the State Convention you will be able to meet FFA members from as far north as Rogersville to as far south as Citronelle. Our great "Southern Hospitality" will shine as strangers become friends.

During our year as State Officers, we have had the opportunity to travel from city to city and see many new faces and make many new friends. We want you to experience the same joy that we have had by attending the State Convention and seizing the opportunity to make new friends.

Opportunities In Agriculture
Maury Minton
Sentinel

Have you ever wished for the opportunity to achieve something great? Perhaps you have seen successful people and wondered where they received their start. The opportunities in Agriculture are tremendous, and the best place to start is in the FFA. The FFA gives all members a chance to have Supervised Occupational Experience Programs, participate in contests, and work with others.

Attending the State Convention in Montgomery is definitely an unforgettable experience. Mapping out a future in Agriculture and having the chance to learn more about Agriculture each day in our Agribusiness classes is other opportunities. The FFA helps us to develop leadership skills, speaking abilities, cooperation, and trains us to be responsible citizens.

These opportunities are available to each of us. All we must do is challenge ourselves and take advantage of every opportunity sent our way.
**Contribution Dress Code**

When you become an FFA member, you agreed to abide by the FFA Code of Ethics. The Code simply states that “You will conduct yourself at all times in order to be a credit to your organization, chapter, school, and community.” We can have a great convention if FFA members will keep the points of the Code of Ethics in mind during the Convention. This means that all members will dress appropriately for the occasion, either the official jacket or official FFA T-shirt. Shorts and other such dress are not a part of official dress for the Convention. We should also respect the rights and property of others, demonstrate good sportsmanship, and take PRIDE in our organization. Together, we can have a great convention and do our part to “Keep Agriculture #1.”

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**PROGRAM**

56th Annual FFA Convention
June 11, 12, 13, 1985

**Monday, June 10**

P.M.
1:00
Forestry Judging Contest (Montgomery)
Livestock Judging Contest (Auburn)
Dairy Cattle Judging Contest (E.V. Smith Research Center, Milstead)
Land Judging Contest (Montgomery)
Agricultural Mechanics Contest (Auburn)
Small Engines Contest (Montgomery)
1:30
Final Interview of Officer Candidates (Civic Center)

**Tuesday, June 11**

A.M.
8:00 - 12:00 Registration (Civic Center)
8:00
Building Construction Contest (Montgomery)
9:00
Nursery/Landscape Contest (Civic Center)
Floriculture Contest (Civic Center)
Public Speaking Contest Preliminary (Civic Center)
String Band Contest Preliminary (Civic Center)
Quartet Contest Preliminary (Civic Center)
P.M.
1:00
Delegate Orientation
1:30
Opening Ceremony
Invocation - Robert Weaver, Falkville, AL
National Anthem
Official Seating of Delegates
Greetings - Dr. Wayne Teague, State Superintendent of Education
Greetings - Brad Bass, National FFA Vice President
Business Session
Appointment of Committees
Retiring Address - Maury Minton, Sentinel
String Band Contest Finals

**Wednesday, June 12**

A.M.
8:30
Music - Convention Organist
9:00
SECOND GENERAL SESSION
Opening Ceremony
State FFA Officers’ Annual Report - Denise Smith, Reporter
Address - Brad Bass, National FFA Vice President
Retiring Address - Walker Martin, Treasurer
Chapter Awards
Crime Prevention Awards
Activity Program
Retiring Address - Denise Smith, Reporter
Building Our American Communities Awards
Awards - Building Construction, Agricultural Mechanics, Small Engines
Address - Governor George C. Wallace
Announcements
Closing Ceremony

**Thursday, June 13**

A.M.
9:00
LAST GENERAL SESSION
Opening Ceremony
State Farmer Ceremony
Retiring Address - Lamar White, President
Entertainment - The Mayor and Buford
State Farmer Degree Ceremony
Installation of New State Officers
Presentation of Past Officer Pins
Presentation of Gavel to Past President
Announcements
Closing Ceremony
New Officers and their Local Advisors Meeting (Civic Center)
Dear Sponsors:

On behalf of the 24,000 FFA members in the Alabama Association, the 1984-85 State Officers wish to express our sincere thanks to you for your financial support of the FFA Contests and Awards Program in Alabama. Without your support, we would not be able to have the cash awards that FFA members will receive at the State FFA Convention. You have provided financial support very generously, and we appreciate it very much.

We extend to you a special invitation to attend the 56th Annual State FFA Convention, June 11-13, at the Civic Center in Montgomery, Alabama.

Through your continued support, we pledge to you that we will do our very best to "KEEP AGRICULTURE #1" in Alabama.

Sincerely,

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Reporter

Sentinel
**To Appear on Convention Program—**

**Governor Wallace**

On January 17, 1983, George C. Wallace was sworn in as the Governor of the State of Alabama for an unprecedented fourth term. No other Alabama governor has equaled his record of service. And on completion of this historic fourth term, Governor Wallace will have been in office longer than any other governor in the Nation's history. Governor Wallace, an Honorary State Farmer in Alabama, will address the Convention on Wednesday morning.

**Brad Bass**

**National Vice President**

Brad Bass of Mt. Vernon, Texas, is the Western Region Vice President of the FFA. While enrolled in high school, Brad built a Supervised Occupational Experience Program of 33 dairy cows. He served as Chapter Treasurer, Secretary, and President, as well as District Treasurer, Area and State FFA President. These agricultural operations and leadership activities earned him the American Farmer Degree. Brad will address the Convention on Wednesday morning.

**The Mayor and Buford**

The funniest act around! The Mayor and Buford have appeared from California to Bermuda, Florida to Alaska, Mexico to Massachusetts, and most stops along the way. They give a sparkling presentation of homespun philosophy, droll wit and ad-libs, spiced with folk and country music. The Mayor and Buford will appear during the Thursday morning session.

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**1984-1985 FFA Sweetheart Selections**

**Saderia Jackson**

West Jefferson Chapter

**Javalla Peterson**

West Jefferson Chapter

**Allison Prater**

Millport Chapter