MADE IN THE FFA . . . . . .

EXCELLENCE in '86

by
Michael Kaiser
State FFA Reporter

NATIONAL FFA VICE PRESIDENT
Jayme Feary

Jayme Feary, of Falkville, is the National FFA Vice President for the Southern Region for 1986-87. As one of six national officers, Jayme will serve over 430,000 members from nearly 8,000 chapters. His advisor at Falkville is B. W. Bryan.

Jayme served as the Alabama State FFA President in 1983-84. After his selection to state office, he served his local chapter as vice president. He's been involved in steer shows, quartet, livestock and public speaking contests.

Jayme's Supervised Occupational Experience Program included cattle, goats, horses and forage crops.

Jayme will take a one-year leave of absence from Auburn University where he is a junior majoring in Agribusiness Education.

Each national officer travels over 200,000 miles making hundreds of appearances on behalf of the FFA. Their travel includes visits with FFA members, government and industry leaders across the country.

STAR FARMER OF AMERICA
Chris Thompson

Making a tough decision in a crisis situation has led Chris Thompson to be the 1986 Star Farmer of America of the National FFA Organization. Chris, of Midland City, took over the entire family operation after his father had a heart attack in 1984. He decided to continue on as the third generation producing 500 to 600 acres in vegetables and 200 to 300 acres in row crops in their operation.

In the future, Chris hopes to increase his vegetable production to 1,000 acres and to expand his sales area into some northern states. Currently, he sells produce in Georgia, Florida and Alabama.

While most young people have not made long-range career decisions, Chris' choice will keep Thompson Farms operating for a third generation.

Chris' FFA advisor at Dale County High School is Mike Casey.

DIVERSIFIED CROP PRODUCTION WINNER
Tommy McKenzie

Tommy McKenzie, of the Fairhope FFA Chapter, has the best Diversified Crop Production SOEP in all the FFA and was named national winner during recent ceremonies at the 59th National FFA Convention. He competed as a national finalist with three other regional winners in the Diversified Crop Production Proficiency Award Program.

Tommy was eight years old when he began diskimg for his father. He is now responsible for planting more than 500 acres of corn; 600 acres of soybeans, and 140 acres of wheat. Not only is he responsible for planting those crops, he also grows 150 acres of Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, and sweet corn. Involved full time in the farm, Tommy now helps in making managerial decisions. He says, "My goal is to one day own and operate my own farm."

Tommy's advisor at Fairhope High School is Frank Trione.
When Jayme Feary was elected to replace Robert Weaver as Southern Region Vice President, a new national record was made. Never before in the history of the FFA have two National Officer from the same FFA chapter served back-to-back terms. Both Robert and Jayme are from the Falkville Chapter where Billy Bryan is FFA Advisor. Congratulations Billy, Robert, and Jayme for making FFA history!
THE DOUGLAS FFA CHAPTER represented Alabama in the Agricultural Mechanics Contest. Representing the sponsor, The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, are Larry A. Jensen and Terry Renninger. Team members are (l-r) Tommy Robertson, Greg Bonds, Brent Sloman, and FFA Advisor Larry Wilson.

THE OPELIKA FFA FLORICULTURE TEAM was the state's representative in the National Floriculture Contest. Shown representing the sponsor, National FFA Foundation, is Tom McKitrick. Team members are (l-r) Todd Angel, Paul Willis, Robert Simpkins, Stanley Trimble, Jeff Greely, and FFA advisor Jerry G. Williamson.

THE J. B. PENNINGTON FFA FORESTRY JUDGING TEAM was Alabama's entry in the National Forestry Contest. Representing the sponsor, Homelite Division of Textron, Inc., is Robert Bonine. Team members are (l-r) Barron Hendon, Tony Price, Huetl Sweatman, David Price, and FFA advisor Don Jones.

THE OPELIKA NURSERY/LANDSCAPE JUDGING TEAM competed in the National Contest during the National Convention in Kansas City. Representing the sponsors, Kubota Tractor Corp., American Association of Nurseriesmen, Inc., and True Value Hardware Stores-Professional Lawn Care Program, are (l-r) Richard Anderson, Maureen Nichols, and Cheryl Gaus. Team members are Troy Clark, Rusty Hays, Jimmy Trammell and Jimmy Knight. Shown with the team (right) is FFA Advisor Russell Avery.

THE FAYETTE COUNTY FFA DAIRY JUDGING TEAM was the state's representative in the National Dairy Contest. Shown representing the sponsor, Associated Milk Producers, Inc., is Harold Jacobson. Team members are (l-r) Garry Lawrence, Butch Cargile, Lyn Christian, Micah Dunn, and FFA advisor Richard Galloway.

THE HOLLY POND FFA LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM competed in the National Livestock Contest during the National Convention. Representing the sponsor, Kansas City Purina Mills, Inc., is Don R. Maury. Team members are (l-r) Leigh Ann Penn, Tim Donaldson, David Benefield, Rusty Roden and FFA advisor Darrell Hicks.

SWINE PRODUCTION — John Gibson, member of the Arab FFA Chapter, was one of four regional winners competing for the title of 1986 National Swine Production Winner. Gibson is pictured with Jan Westmoreland, Director of Public Affairs, Pfizer, Inc., Agricultural Division, sponsor of the Swine Production Proficiency Award program. John's FFA advisors at Arab are Randy Britnell and Randy Wilkins.

OFF TO K C — Alabama's State Officer Team had a special guest with them on their trip to the National FFA Convention. Taneen Pulise, Central Region Vice President, Future Farmers of Thailand, accompanied the officer team. Pulise was in Alabama through the Work Experience Abroad Program (WEA). While in Alabama Pulise lived with the Charles Waters family in Dusville. Pictured above are Pulise, Bronwyn Bishop, Vice President; Michael Kaiser, Reporter; (back row) Donny Johnson, Sentinel; Merle Flowers, Treasurer; Ricky Dorman, Secretary; Jody Brewer, Past State President, and Brad Lewis, President.
Topping It Off In ‘86

The 1986 National FFA Convention was definitely a way to top off ‘86. To begin our outing to Kansas City, Missouri, all the State Officers, Jody Brewer, past Alabama State President, and Tanoem Pulsie, National Vice President from Thailand, boarded the plane bound for Atlanta, then on to Kansas City. Kansas City’s weather greeted us with harsh reality. The temperature was 40°; it was drizzling rain, and freezing temperatures that night created snow.

Committee orientation and meetings kept some busy on Tuesday, but others eagerly awaited Wednesday for the action to begin. On Wednesday Jody Brewer competed in the Southern Regional Speaking Finals. Although Jody did not win, he is commended for representing Alabama so well. The secretary’s report of 16,000 members and guests present was applauded, but the steady climb in attendance from session to session brought the most attention.

We had many exciting guest speakers. One of the most interesting speakers was Susan Forte. Ms. Forte, a Vo-Ag teacher in Pensacola, Florida, was a finalist for the Teacher in Space Program.

Another guest speaker who “fired” up the sea of blue jackets was Bob Moawad. His interest in young people and encouragement for everyone definitely motivated the audience. Dan Quisenberry, John Schneider, Bruce Jenner, Jack Anderson, and the Mayor of Kansas City also spoke during the Convention.

Of all the speakers, the most touching and thoughtful remarks were given by our National Officer from Alabama, Robert Weaver. Robert’s retiring address entitled “Friends” moved a place in everyone’s heart helping us realize what a friend really is. He concluded his address with a melodramatic song which he sang to end a brilliant FFA career.

Two other special people from Alabama attended the Convention—Brent Bridges, of the Scottsboro Chapter, a member of the National Band and Michael Bankston, of the Beauregard “A” Chapter, a member of the National Chorus.

How proud we were on Thursday night when Chris Thompson was named Star Farmer of America.

With almost everything completed, one session remained. The report by the secretary indicated that over 22,000 members and guests were present setting a record over the past two years. Then when new officers were nominated, and Jayme Feary was elected Southern Region Vice President—What a way to top off a fantastic year in ‘86.