



The Alabama FFA REPORTER

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Convention Issue—

SHARE THE SPIRIT



WHY ARE WE HERE?

Curt Lee, State President

"Future Farmers, why are we here?" Soon the gavel will tap to begin the 59th annual Alabama State FFA Convention. FFA members from all over the state will participate in the FFA's wide variety of contests and awards. The state officers and the state staff have spent many hours preparing for the highlight in the life of many FFA'ers. What a great feeling it will be to have so many young people in one place that are excited about agriculture. Many agricultural and industrial leaders from across the state will be here to help us celebrate "Agriculture's New Spirit." Great things are going to happen when so many people come together for one cause. What is that one cause? Youth in agriculture, the FFA member. Many FFA'ers will be coming to Montgomery for their first FFA Convention. To those of you who will be attending for the first time, I know you will want to return. I attended my first FFA convention as a freshman. I saw the opportunities that were offered to FFA members, and I knew I wanted to be a part of this. My first convention really motivated me to become more involved in the FFA.

I invite you to come and be a part of this year's FFA convention and share with us "Agriculture's New Spirit!!!



PREPARATION

Keith Phillips, State Vice President

Have you heard of the six "P's"—Proper Prior Preparation Prevents Poor Performance. You may ask what I mean by this. You and I know that the "final countdown" to the 59th State Convention has started. Each of the six state officers has begun work on the six-P system in order that our performance at the Convention will be to the best of our abilities. It is important that we make the necessary preparations.

When I say we, I'm speaking of the 23,753 FFA members of the Alabama FFA Association. It is not only important that you prepare for the State Convention, but for other activities as well. Make preparations to study for that test Friday; make preparations for the first livestock judging contest with the county rival; whatever it may be, be prepared! If your advisor sets a time to help you study for that contest or fill out that proficiency award application, be there. Don't put off until tomorrow what you can accomplish today!

One of the keys to being prepared is self-commitment. Make the commitment to yourself that you will perform at the best of your abilities. Do the best you can and that is all that can be asked of you. It has been said that you never reach your full potential and there is always room for improvement. You may do the best you can do, but always try to excel and do better.



OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURE

Brian Petty, State Secretary

"Too many cameras and not enough food, that is what we see." Someone made this comment after having watched thousands of starving Africans being fed by a television ministry, "Food for Ethiopia." Do we watch the world through rose-colored glasses? Some do, but the most realistic, and often most optimistic people are those involved in agriculture.

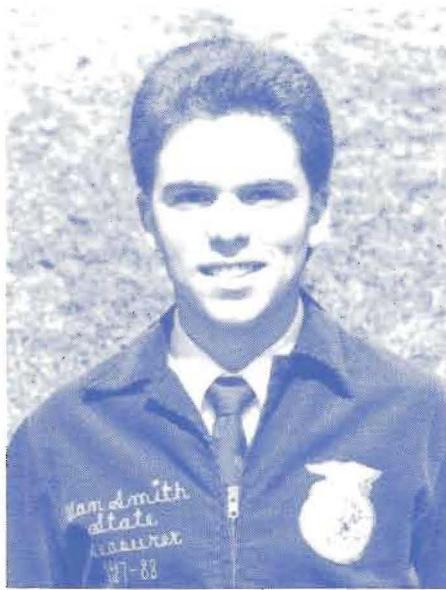
The American farmer produces enough food and fiber to feed and clothe 116 people. In doing so, he creates a job for five other people who will provide services, materials, processing, transportation, and marketing.

When you entered high school agriculture, you exposed yourself to the world's largest commerical industry. Of all agricultural professional career opportunities, 32% are in marketing, merchandising and sales representation; 29% scientists; 14% financial specialists; 11% social service professionals; 6% in education, and finally, only 8% farmers. Who said agriculture was a dead-end road. True, only 8% of those involved in agriculture are farmers, but without them, other opportunities would not exist. Whether a farmers, sales representative, or research scientist, they are all part of the American agricultural system. And, through the FFA and Agribusiness Education, you have the opportunity to join them.

THE ALABAMA FFA REPORTER
SUMMER 1988

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Call to Convention continued....



TEAMWORK

Alan Smith, State Treasurer

As human beings, we sometimes place importance on a person's ability to work and achieve on his or her own personal talents. It is important that we have the ability, courage, and the desire to be successful as a result of our individual works. But what we sometimes fail to emphasize is that a person's ability to work on a team or in a group is equally important.

As FFA members, we have the opportunity to work individually, reaching our goals, or as a team working together towards one common goal.

The opportunities provided to us in the proficiency awards, public speaking, and corn growing contest give us a medium to display our individual talents and resources. The team contests, on the other hand, provide students with a way of learning not only the subject matter of the contest, but also a firsthand account of what it is like to sacrifice some individual goals for the good of the team.

In life every person must have the desire to excel; one must then get along with one's fellowman in order to achieve things for him or herself.

In the FFA members are given the opportunity to excel both individually and as a team.

Life is much like a relay race—with each participant depending on the other. As FFA members, we learn not only to depend on each other, but also to sacrifice, pull together and do our best to excel as individuals.



SETTING GOALS

Brad Weaver, State Reporter

While reading this issue of the *Alabama FFA Reporter*, many of you are thinking that there is no possible way that you can set, much less reach, high goals. Fellow FFA members, I am here to tell you that with a little motivation, determination, and dedication—the children of enthusiasm, you can achieve any goal that you set for yourself.

There is basically one difference between man and the other animals that God placed on this earth—God gave man the power to choose. We have the power to choose between right and wrong. We have the power to choose our environment; but most importantly, man has the power to choose his own destiny.

If your dedication and persistence are strong enough, there is no way that you can lose, for even if you do not achieve your goal, you will be a winner, simply because you will have learned and gained in the process.

As your State Reporter, I have one final goal. As I have pondered the thought of achieving it, I have come to the realization that it will be impossible to achieve without your help. I would like to make a team goal with you and the nearly 24,000 FFA'ers in Alabama. As FFA members, you and I share common interests and aspirations. I want each and every one of you to help me achieve my final, but yet my greatest goal...your cooperation and support in helping make the 1988 Alabama State FFA Convention the most successful one to date.



SHARING THE SPIRIT

Tom Whatley, State Sentinel

"Sharing the spirit"—most of you may be asking, "What spirit?" The FFA is the new spirit in agriculture; we, FFA members, are that new spirit. Therefore, we must work together to share that spirit. There are several ways that we can share the spirit. We can do it by telling others about agriculture. We can also share the spirit through a public relations campaign. I think it would work best through a combination of both. By doing this we are sharing the spirit. We can prepare for agriculture through workshops, where we get experience in the different areas of the industry. Through seminars we can motivate people so that they will believe that the FFA is truly the new spirit in agriculture. Another way of sharing the spirit is hands-on experience. This way we learn about agriculture while being directly involved. We can also see

what a big part the FFA plays in agriculture. We can share the spirit in agriculture through contests—by competing in team contests, we show everyone that agricultural interest is not dead. The same goes for the proficiency awards. In their awards FFA members deal directly in agriculture and show everyone that the young

people in the FFA are still striving to be their best in their chosen field. One last way we can all share the spirit together is by all attending the 1988 State FFA Convention. By doing this, we will show America that there is a youth organization that believes we have a bright future in agriculture.

Program
59th Annual Convention
Alabama FFA Association
June 7, 8, 9, 1988
Montgomery Civic Center

Monday, June 6

A.M.

11:00
Livestock Judging Contest (Livestock Arena,
Auburn)
Dairy Cattle Judging (E.V. Smith Research
Center, Milstead)

P.M.

1:00
Forestry Judging Contest (Montgomery)
Land Judging Contest (Montgomery)
Agricultural Mechanics Contest (Auburn)
Small Engines Contest (Montgomery)
Agricultural Construction & Maintenance
Contest (Montgomery)
Nursery/Landscape Contest (Civic Center)
Floriculture Contest (Civic Center)

7:30
Final Interview of Officer Candidates (Civic
Center)

Tuesday, June 7

A.M.

8:00-12:00
Registration (Civic Center)

9:00
Public Speaking Contest Preliminary (Civic
Center)
String Band Contest Preliminary (Civic Center)
Quartet Contest Preliminary (Civic Center)

11:30
Courtesy Corps Meeting (Civic Center)

P.M.

1:00
Delegate Orientation

1:30
Opening Ceremony
Invocation - Shane Bobo, Attalla
National Anthem - Lisa Peavy, Uriah
Official Seating of Delegates
Business Session

String Band Finals
Retiring Address - Tom Whatley, Sentinel
Proficiency Awards—Horse Proficiency, Beef
Production, Poultry Production, Soil and
Water Management, Sheep Production,
Placement in Agricultural Production,
Agricultural Sales and/or Service, Specialty
Animal Production, Safety Awards Line-up,
Special Proficiency Awards
Safety Awards
Awards—String Band Contest
Closing Ceremony
Meeting of all Local Advisors (Civic Center)

Judging, Nursery/Landscape, Floriculture
State Officers Annual Report
Superior Chapter Awards Line-up
Retiring Address—Brad Weaver, Reporter
Chapter Awards
Crime Prevention Awards
Awards—Agricultural Mechanics, Agricultural
Construction and Maintenance, Small
Engines
Retiring Address—Alan Smith, Treasurer
Computers in Agriculture Awards
Activity Program
Closing Ceremony

P.M.

1:00
EDUCATIONAL TOURS

Wednesday Evening

P.M.

7:30
THIRD GENERAL SESSION
Opening Ceremony
Address—Kevin Ochsner, National FFA
Secretary
Conferring of Honorary State Farmer Degrees
BOAC Awards Line-up
Retiring Address—Keith Phillips, Vice President
Building Our American Communities Awards
Quartet Contest Finals
Awards—Corn Growing, Quartet Contest
Closing Ceremony

Thursday, June 9

A.M.

9:00
LAST GENERAL SESSION
Opening Ceremony
Star Farmer Ceremony
Retiring Address—Curt Lee, President
Entertainment—“Three on a String”
State Farmer Degree Ceremony
Installation of New State Officers
Presentation of Past Officer Pins
Presentation of Gavel to Past President
Closing Ceremony
New Officers, Parents, and Advisors Meeting
(Civic Center)

Wednesday, June 8

A.M.

8:30
Music—Convention Organist

9:00
SECOND GENERAL SESSION
Opening Ceremony
Awards—Dairy Judging, Livestock Judging,
M.K. Heath Award, Forestry Judging, Land

To Appear On Convention Program



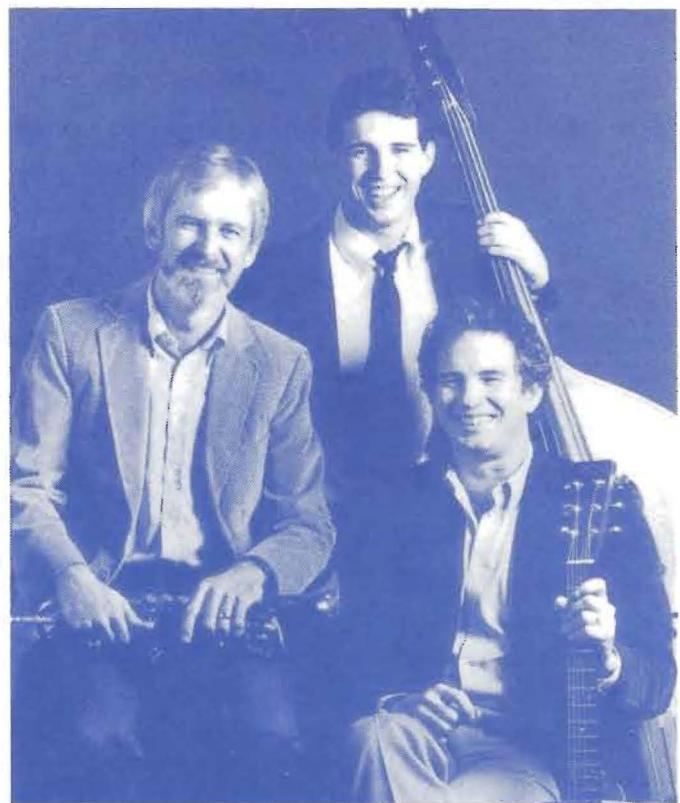
Kevin Ochsner

National Secretary

Kevin Ochsner, National FFA Secretary, will address the convention on Wednesday evening. Prior to being named National Secretary, Ochsner served as Colorado State President, District President, and President of the Fort Collins FFA Chapter.

Ochsner has been active in Public Speaking, placing second in the nation in the Prepared Public Speaking Contest in 1983. He has also been involved in Parliamentary Procedure and Agricultural Judging Contests. His registered Limousin cattle earned him the Colorado Beef Proficiency Award in 1983.

Ochsner is taking a year's leave from his sophomore studies in Agricultural Journalism and Agribusiness at Colorado State University to fulfill his duties as National Secretary.



"Three On A String"

This trio will return to our convention stage for a repeat performance on Thursday morning. According to these guys, "The show's the thing. We feel like we should make people feel good. If music does it—fine, if it's the jokes—fine, if it's a combination—fine...whatever it takes." And whatever it takes, "Three on a String" will help make our convention a great deal of fun.

Convention Dress Code

When you became 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 show that FFA is Agriculture's New Spirit!!!

FFA
AGRICULTURE'S
NEW **SPIRIT**

FFA and high school agriculture . . .
here today to make sure
American agriculture is here tomorrow.

