



The Alabama

FFA REPORTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA FFA ASSOCIATION

CONVENTION ISSUE...

AGRICULTURE'S LEADING EDGE--FFA



CHANGE BRINGS PROGRESS

A wise man once said, "Before one can make progress, one must change." This is very true. By failing to change, many businesses and people have had their dreams dashed and watched as their hopes crumbled. Change opens the door for improvements and opportunities.

Our organization has always realized this. As the years have passed, the FFA has always held its position on the forefront of change. In the sixties, the FFA merged with the New Farmers of America, a change for the better, and a change that strengthened our organization. Just a few years later, the FFA admitted girls into its ranks. These changes were both progress.

There have been many changes made in the FFA since its birth in 1928, but perhaps none have been as progressive as the ones occurring this year. We all know that agriculture is no longer just a field of blooming cotton or a pasture full of grazing cattle, but it is a bustling industry filled with many different areas of agriscience and technology. Agricultural graduates now enter fields such as biotechnology, genetics engineering, and food science. As a reflection of this, the FFA has updated itself providing an accurate picture of modern agriculture. Many of the changes may be cosmetic, but together they paint a picture that will represent FFA across the nation.

This year, at Alabama's 60th FFA Convention, delegates from every chapter in the state will help usher in these changes. At their delegate stations, these members will be the pioneers of progress, paving the way for a brighter day in the FFA. This progress will serve as another factor that keeps "FFA Agriculture's Leading Edge." *Shane Black, State Vice President*



LEADERSHIP

Leadership has always been an important aspect of the FFA. When this sixtieth annual State FFA Convention kicks off in June, each of us will have the unique opportunity to improve our leadership qualities. It's these qualities that we develop today that will be with us for the rest of our lives. As FFA members, we can all look forward to the many exciting contest and awards programs set up to challenge us to improve our leadership skills. These skills can be attained from competing in a proficiency contest or participating in a public speaking contest.

As each of us strive to sharpen our leadership qualities, we should remember that we're not as important as we are essential. In all we do we must realize that an important person is often one who has achieved a certain level of prosperity. An essential person is often one who makes the organization function properly. An example of an essential person would be an FFA member, since he is the driving force behind the organization.

In talking about how we can improve our leadership skills and become a better leader, what does it really take to be an effective leader? One might say that it takes courage, drive, ambition, and desire to be a leader. Although these things are needed, we might also stress the importance of involvement in a successful organization to strengthen our leadership skills. Just as agriculture is the backbone of America, the FFA is the backbone of our youth...our youth being the leaders for tomorrow.

As you attend this year's State Convention, participate in its many contests, and just enjoy yourself. *Kelvin Whitaker, State Treasurer*



FFA, OUR COMPETITIVE EDGE

The judges have reached a final decision. The envelope please...June 6, 1989, will begin a week full of excitement and suspense for many FFA members. This convention will serve as the culmination of many long hours in preparation for the various contests held in Montgomery. For several FFA members, the dedication and hard work each has put into these contests, will offer them the opportunity to compete on the national level.

Competition is every where in today's society. As students we compete for grades, scholarships, college placement and jobs. If we are not prepared, the competition can be overwhelming.

The FFA is giving us a competitive edge so that we stand out from the crowd. In the competitive world we live in today, this can really make a difference. Leadership demands self-confidence, and dedication as FFA members. We have the opportunity to *serve* as an officer, *lead* a committee, *express* ourselves through public speaking, and pull together as a *team*.

It's very important that you remember that you can work hard, reach your goals, and practice to perfection; but unless you have the support and strength of others, you may never find true happiness with success. You must surround yourself with people who sincerely want to help instead of hinder; who will pick you up when you fall, push you to be your best, and applaud you when you succeed.

The winner is...the FFA member who is dedicated, determined, and prepared for the competition in the contest and awards program. I invite each of you to the 60th FFA Convention. See you there! *Kim Sanders, State President*

**THE ALABAMA FFA REPORTER
SUMMER 1989**

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Call to Convention Continued....



CELEBRATION



NEW FRONTIERS IN AGRICULTURE



A "WINNER" IN VICTORY OR DEFEAT

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going." We are faced with this feeling in day-to-day life. There have been or will be times when you feel as if you're holding the world in your hands. Then there may be times when the world has a hold on you. This feeling is like the feeling of victory and defeat.

Many of us show victory and defeat in different ways. You can express victory in a job well done. The expression of defeat is well known by the pain in someone's heart and the look in their eyes. Defeat is sometimes a setback, but I feel it is a chance to grow.

Our organization has taught members to take victory and defeat as equals, not enemies. Remember, it's not whether you win or lose, just as long as you understand how the game is played.

When someone is being presented with an award, be ready to congratulate all members

Do you hear it?...the laughter, the music. The sounds of celebration will be at the State FFA Convention. There will be approximately 1200 members, agribusiness education teachers and guests in Montgomery to celebrate the progress made in agriculture during the past 60 years.

Many forces have challenged American agriculture in the 80's. We have reason for celebration because our organization is meeting these challenges head on. You can be a part of this statewide celebration. All you have to do is arrive at the State Convention with a positive attitude and an optimistic outlook for the future. I hope that you have worked hard to make this year a memorable one. If you have, then the State Convention is just the climax to a busy year in the FFA. Every day in itself is a celebration because we have so much for which to be thankful. This is not a week-long celebration, but one that will last throughout the year.

Certainly, if you're attending the convention with hopes of winning in a contest, you should be excited; but even if you are not involved with competition, we still hope you will be enthusiastic about attending the convention.

Our theme this year is "Agriculture's Leading Edge." As FFA members, we must be ready and willing to accept the changes and challenges of agriculture, if we are to remain the "Leading Edge." The FFA is the best and most progressive youth organization in the world. This is truly something worth celebrating!!!

Mindy Stringer, State Secretary

Just as our forefathers, who tamed this great nation, we are now standing on the edge of a vast new frontier--the many unexplored areas of agriculture. From agrimarketing to zoology, the agricultural industry lies waiting for someone to expand the achievements of our predecessors.

In the universe of agriculture, beyond our current domain, there are rich fields that will yield countless bushels of knowledge and endless adventures in the form of new discoveries. As FFA members, we are given the opportunity to be the first to explore agriculture's new frontier--to be agriculture's leading edge.

You can take the boundless opportunities in the field of agriculture and use their many riches, but you must first choose the path you will travel as you explore these uncharted regions. You may wish to pursue biogenetics, agriscience, or one of the almost innumerable other agricultural-related careers, but you must choose the direction of your life.

Once you know where you are going, go there. Decide to have enough faith in yourself to step further into the unknown than anyone has before. If you want to walk on water, you can't stay in the boat!

The choice is yours. Choose your path in life, then work to reach its end. As you travel to Montgomery this June, I challenge you to use the State Convention to learn how to live life on the edge--the new world of agriculture.

Chris Cone, State Reporter

on both winning and losing teams. This shows you care not who has placed where, but that you are aware of others' feelings.

In dealing with defeat, you are a winner after all! As you attend the State Convention, I challenge you to keep this thought in mind-- "A precious stone cannot be polished without friction, nor people without failure."

Beckie DeBruler, State Sentinel

Program
60th Annual Convention
Alabama FFA Association
June 6, 7, 8, 1989
Montgomery Civic Center

Monday, June 5

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 6

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 - Shawn Hubbard, Marbury FFA Chapter
 Honoring Our Flag - DeWayne Owes, Thomasville FFA Chapter
 Official Seating of Delegates
 Greetings - Dr. Stephen B. Franks, Director, Division of Vocational Education Services
 Greetings - Jaye Hamby, National Vice President, Southern Region
 Business Session
 Public Speaking Contest - 1st Speaker
 Proficiency Awards - Horse Proficiency, Beef Production, Poultry Production

Public Speaking Contest - 2nd Speaker
 Proficiency Awards - Soil and Water Management, Sheep Production, Diversified Crop Production
 Public Speaking Contest - 3rd Speaker
 Proficiency Awards - Dairy Production, Swine Production, Nursery Operations
 Public Speaking Contest - 4th Speaker
 Safety Awards Line-up
 Proficiency Awards - Agricultural Mechanics, Agricultural Electrification, Turf and Landscape Management
 Retiring Address - Mindy Stringer, Secretary, Castleberry
 Safety Awards
 Public Speaking Awards
 Closing Ceremony
 Meeting of all Local Advisors

Tuesday Evening

P.M.
 7:30
FIRST GENERAL SESSION
 Opening Ceremony
 Proficiency Awards - Home and Farmstead Improvement, Wildlife Management, Forest Management, Fruit and/or Vegetable Production, Floriculture, Placement in Agricultural Production, Agricultural Sales and/or Service, Specialty Animal Production, Special Proficiency Awards
 Address - Jaye Hamby, National Vice President, Southern Region
 Honor Parents and Advisors of 1988-89 State Officers
 String Band Contest Finals
 Future Farmer/Agribusinessman of the Year Award
 Retiring Address--Shane Black, Vice President, Clements
 String Band Awards
 Closing Ceremony

Wednesday, June 7

A.M.
 8:30
 Music - Harold Whitton, Section FFA Chapter
 9:00
SECOND GENERAL SESSION
 Opening Ceremony
 Star Farmer Ceremony

Awards - Dairy Judging, Livestock Judging, M.K. Heath Award, Forestry Judging, Land Judging, Nursery/Landscape, Floriculture
 State Officers' Annual Report
 Chapter Awards Line-up
 Retiring Address - Beckie DeBruler, Sentinel, Daleville
 Chapter Awards
 Crime Prevention Awards
 Awards - Agricultural Mechanics, Agricultural Construction and Maintenance, Small Engines
 100% Membership Recognition
 Retiring Address - Kelvin Whitaker, Treasurer, Kate Duncan Smith DAR
 Computers in Agriculture Awards
 Activity Program
 Closing Ceremony

**1:00
 EDUCATIONAL TOURS**

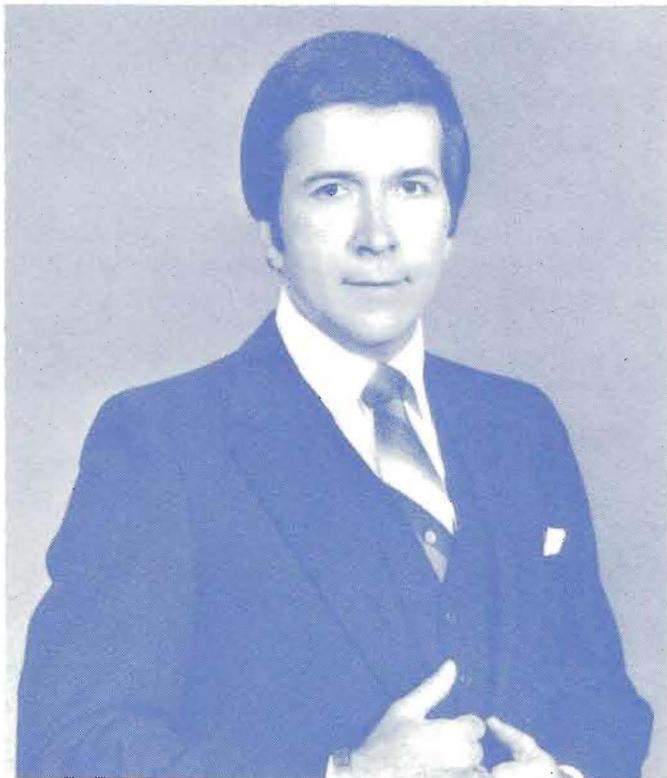
Wednesday Evening

P.M.
 7:30
THIRD GENERAL SESSION
 Opening Ceremony
 Conferring of Honorary State FFA Degrees
 BOAC Awards Line-up
 Retiring Address - Chris Cone, Reporter, Cleveland
 Building Our American Communities Awards
 Quartet Contest Finals
 Corn Growing Awards
 Quartet Contest Awards
 Closing Ceremony

Thursday, June 8

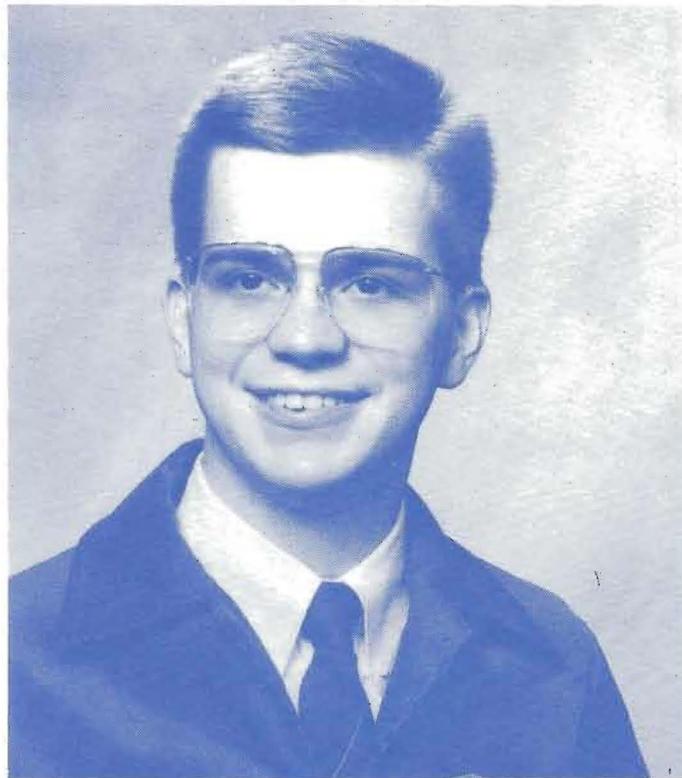
A.M.
 9:00
LAST GENERAL SESSION
 Opening Ceremony
 Retiring Address - Kim Sanders, President, Marbury
 Address - Dr. Tom Powell
 State Farmer Degree Ceremony
 Installation of New State Officers
 Presentation of Past Officer Pins
 Presentation of Gavel to Past President
 Closing Ceremony
 New Officers, Parents, and Advisors Meeting (Civic Center)

To Appear on Convention Program



Dr. Tom Powell

Dr. Powell has served as motivational consultant to some of the largest corporations in America - General Motors Corporation, Westinghouse, General Electric, Champion Paper Corporation, Hammermill Paper Company, and many others. He will appear on our convention program on Thursday morning.



Jaye Hamby

Jaye Hamby of Benton, Tennessee, Southern Region Vice President of the FFA, will address the convention on Tuesday evening. In addition to serving as State President, he participated in public speaking, livestock judging, and was named National Home and/or Farmstead Improvement Proficiency Winner in 1986. His Supervised Agricultural Experience Program consists of purebred sheep, pasture and hay production. We look forward to having Jaye attend our 60th State Convention.

21,000,000

Which high-tech industry employs more than 21 million Americans and needs millions more?

AGRICULTURE!



Today's agriculture includes careers in: **Research, Engineering, Finance, Computers and Marketing.** Together, FFA and agricultural education are preparing students for over 200 different high-tech careers.