The National FFA Organization elected new officers during the 64th National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Mo. in November. Pictured (l-r front row) Lee Thurber, President, Roca, Neb., Michael K. Stevenson, Secretary, Hobson, Mont., (back row l-r) Louie A. Brown, western region vice president, Hanford, Calif., Shane Black, southern region vice president, Athens, Ala., Wesley Barefoot, eastern region vice president, Dunn, N.C., and Chad Luthro, central region vice president, Moorland, Iowa.

Shane is the son of Edward and Gayle Black, of Athens, and attended Clements High School. His advisor at Clements was Donald Wilson. Shane served the Alabama Association as Vice President. He participated in the state public speaking, nursery landscape and quartet competition. Shane’s SAEP consists of cotton production and work placement at Progressive Farmer magazine. He uses management methods such as conservation contour farming and integrated pest management in his cotton operation.

In order to fulfill his duties as a national office, Shane will take a year’s leave of absence from Birmingham-Southern College, where he is majoring in political science. He plans to pursue a career in agricultural law.

During the year, the National Officer Team will travel more than 200,000 miles making hundreds of appearances on behalf of the FFA. The national officers represent members to officials in government, education, business and agriculture. As they travel during the year, they meet with members on the chapter, state and national levels.

Our congratulations to Shane Black and the other members of the national officer team.
President George Bush's address, at a special session of the 64th National FFA Convention, was one of the highlights for the participants. President Bush commended the FFA for bringing together the 'best young people in the whole world' to exchange ideas and forge friendships. Approximately 27,400 were in attendance which set a new record for convention attendance. There were approximately 300 from Alabama in attendance which set a new record for our state.

Miss America, Carolyn Suzanne Sapp, appeared during the same session as President Bush. She told the FFA members that "Getting an education is a one-way ticket to accomplishing goals." Miss America also spent Wednesday afternoon greeting members and signing autographs at the National Agricultural Career Show.

American FFA Degree Recipients (l-r) Jason Bryant, Speake; Chris Carrol, Ider; Jason Birchfield, Enterprise; Dondi James, Russellville; Edward Kane, Robertsdale; David Grissom, Russellville; Patrick James, Russellville; Lowell Strock, Marbury; Alan Thomas, Cullman; Andrew Holcomb, Russellville; Mike Tompkins, Russellville; Shane Moore, Russellville; Kenneth Collins, Brewer "Blue", Jason Cross, Russellville, and Richie Haney, Tanner.

Honorary American FFA Degrees were presented to (l-r) Lamar Dewberry, Lineville; Van Smith, Billingsley; Jimmy Owen, Rehobeth; Bill Gibson, Jasper; Michael Grissom, West Jefferson and Hewell Bishop, Woodland. The teachers and supporters of the FFA program were honored during the Friday morning session at the National Convention.

National Band Members -- Maxie Gray, Bibb County High School, percussion, and Jason Gardner, Fruitaile, trombone. The band had the honor of playing "Hail to the Chief" to signal the entrance of the President of the United States, George Bush.

National Chorus -- Jennifer Hughes, Ariton, represented Alabama. Jennifer was featured soloist in one of the performances.
State and National Winners

Diversified Crop Production -- Matt Haney, member of the Tanner FFA Chapter, represented the Southern Region, as a national finalist in the Diversified Crop Production Proficiency Award program at the 64th National FFA Convention. Shown congratulating Matt are representatives of the sponsor, Cargill. Matt’s advisor is Keith Turberville.

Diversified Livestock Production -- Jim Shaver, of the Goshen FFA Chapter, represented the Southern Region as a national finalist in the Diversified Livestock Production Proficiency Award program at the 64th National FFA Convention. Congratulating Jim are representatives of the sponsors, Wayne Feed Division/Continental Grain Company and Livestock Marketing Association. Jim’s advisor at Goshen was Terry Sheffield.

Specialty Animal Production -- Tami Andrews, of the Hayden FFA Chapter, was the Southern Region finalist in the Specialty Animal Production Proficiency Award Program at the National Convention. Tami is congratulated by a sponsor representative. This award program is sponsored by Purina Mills, Inc.; Country General Stores and American Dairy Goat Association. Tami’s advisor at Hayden is Johnny Mills.

Horse Proficiency -- Kathy Marschat, member of the Grand Bay FFA Chapter, represented the Southern Region as a national finalist in the Horse Proficiency Award program at the National Convention. Congratulating Kathy is Dr. Larry Case, National FFA Advisor. Kathy’s advisor at Grand Bay is Robin Clark.

Turf and Landscape Management -- John Parrish, member of the Rehobeth FFA Chapter, was the Southern Regional finalist in the Turf and Landscape Management Proficiency Award program. Congratulating John is a representative of the sponsor, The O. M. Scott & Sons Company. John’s advisor at Rehobeth is Jimmy Owen.

Wildlife Management -- Donna Eason, member of the Central Coosa FFA Chapter, represented the Southern Region, in the Wildlife Management Proficiency Award Program. Shown congratulating Donna is National FFA Advisor, Dr. Larry Case. Donna’s advisors at Central Coosa are Lee Wilder and Donald Griffin.

The Red Bay Quartet performed during the National FFA Convention in Kansas City. Members of the quartet are (l-r) Jason Thrasher, Gary Armstrong, Ricky Pike, and Darrell Underwood. Their advisor at Red Bay is Herbert Trulove.

BOAC Award Winners (l-r) Jacqueline Walker, R. C. Hatch; Kevin Davis, Isabella; Brandon Culp, Isabella; Greg Brown, Rehobeth; Rebecca Jackson, Marbury; Jason Devane, Rehobeth; Karen Cheesboro, Paramount; Kathy Marschant, Grand Bay, and Kenny Hodges, Kinston.
The Bibb County Agricultural Mechanics Team was Alabama’s representative during competition at the 64th National FFA Convention. Pictured (l-r) Les Thompson, representing the sponsor, The Bridgestone/Firestone Trust Fund; Tony Lawley, Jason Allred, Toby Hubbard, and advisor T.J. Holder. The team received a bronze award.

The Woodland FFA Floriculture Team was one of 41 teams competing during the National Convention. Pictured (l-r) Susan Alberts, Chevron Chemical Company, sponsor; Sally Spratlin, Jeff Nolen, Jamie Dukus, Wade Spratlin, and Advisor Hewell Bishop. The team received a silver award.

The Lineville Forestry Team was one of 30 teams competing during the National Convention. The team received a gold award. Pictured (l-r) Robert Lee, Champion International; Kevin Parker, Phillip Edge, Kenneth Rush, Jason Daugherty and Advisor Lamar Dewberry.

The Arab Dairy Cattle Judging Team competed during the recent National Convention. They were one of 44 teams competing. Pictured (l-r) Irvin Elkin, Associated Milk Producers, Inc., and Nick Babson, Babson Brothers, sponsors; Matt Britnell, Joe Wallace, Shannon Dyar, Wade Handley, and Advisor Randy Britnell. The team received a bronze award.

The Danville Livestock Team represented Alabama during competition at the National Convention. The team was one of 47 competing. Pictured (l-r) Don Maury, General Manager, Purina, sponsor; Jason Summerford, Chad Bolen, Marty Blackwood, Jeremy Summerford, Brandon Betterton, and Advisor Sandy Fields. They received a bronze award.

The J. R. Pittard AVC Nursery/Landscape Team was one of 41 teams competing during the National Convention. They received a silver award. Pictured (l-r) Chris Flock, Kabota Tractor; Clint Albin, American Association of Nurserymen and Dennis Niemeyer, Chipco Products; Beth Holmes, Brandy Isbell, Jesse Waites, Amy Plunkett and Advisor Ken Boyd.

National Chapter Awards Received (l-r) Mark Bean, Scottsboro; Will Morgan, Daleville; Shawn Wesley, Daleville; Brad Tucker, Rehobeth; Karen Cheesboro, Paramount, and Chris Gray, Rehobeth.

National FFA Safety Award Program Winners receiving recognition for their chapter’s achievements were (l-r) Mark Dean, Scottsboro; Steven Jenkins, Rehobeth; Karen Cheesboro, Paramount; Jason Parker, Rehobeth; Shawn Wesley, Daleville; Will Morgan, Daleville; Steven Thomas, Cullman; Tracey Warren, R. C. Hatch, and Alan Thomas, Cullman.