



The Alabama

FFA REPORTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA FFA ASSOCIATION

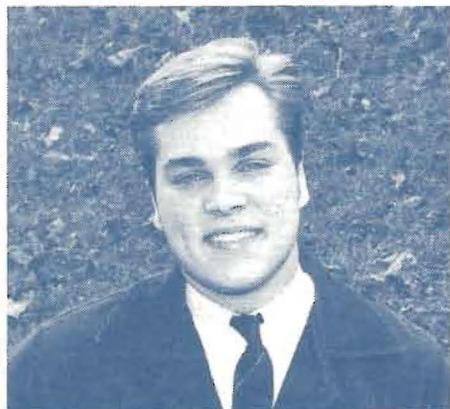
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CONVENTION ISSUE

FFA - INVOLVEMENT IS THE KEY



TURN IT AROUND
Brandon Abbott, President

Technology! Technology! Technology! It seems like everywhere we turn we see it. If it's not in our cars, it's in our kitchens. From the way we watch TV to the clock that wakes us up in the morning, we are constantly affected by the ever-present advancement of worldwide technology. I believe that if we're smart we, as FFA members, will find ways to capitalize on this advancement. You've probably heard about things like biotechnology, hydroponics, and computer graphics. Sure these things are exciting to think about. But really, we've only scratched the surface. It seems like the harder we look, the more we find. Take AU Lean for example.

According to an article in *Alabama Living*, AU Lean is a product developed here in Alabama that is drawing major interest among consumers. Not too long ago, many people began to be concerned about the fat content in ground beef. So strong was this concern that the beef industry began to face some pretty stiff odds. Then researchers from Auburn University decided to capitalize on their technology and developed AU Lean, a lean ground beef that is more than 91% fat free. Conventional ground beef contains 230-260 calories per quarter pound. However, AU Lean has only 130 calories in the same amount. Thus, health-conscious consumers were satisfied, and the beef industry acquired yet another promising product to market.

We, like the AU researchers, are being presented with an opportunity that must be seized and developed. This opportunity, fellow members, is to turn things around. And how do we do this? Through the FFA, of course! Technology and the FFA make up the team that will, together, turn the world around.



IMAGE OR LIMIT
Jerie Browning, Vice President

Last year in Japan the number one selling tee shirt boasted the emblem "We're #1." During this same year, the number one selling tee shirt in the United States carried the slogan, "Underachiever and proud of it!" Mark Timm, the 1991 National FFA President, pointed out this painful statistic within his "My Turn" in an issue of the *FFA New Horizons* magazine. This aspect of American life is a largely portrayed image of America, and it is time we decided to do something about it.

Action! We must take some form of action. We can get involved within our communities, schools and state. We can correct the image that has plagued many Americans. The FFA allows people this opportunity to get involved. It creates a working knowledge of agriculture, and it develops qualities of leadership and responsibility in today's young people. Using the FFA we can change our image. The FFA challenges you to replace your "underachiever" attitude with something you can be proud of. Remember, we are #1.

Future! You can build your future using the knowledge you gain from the present. The skills you will learn through Agricultural Education will help prepare you for a great future. The ability to lead and act responsibly will allow you the skills you need to face all challenges you confront. The agricultural skills you gain will prepare you for almost any career field related to agriculture.

It seems the opportunities of the FFA are limitless. This is true, but limits can be created if people cease to get involved. Remember, it is important to create an image and not a limit.



ENVIRONMENTALLY SPEAKING
John Clement, Secretary

Our surrounding, known as our environment, is supposedly being terrorized by pesticides, pollutants, weather, and man.

We are told that the future of our environment is headed straight down. But if we look at the information provided by different organizations, we will find that it is not as bad as it is explained to us. Yes, it is a serious matter, and we, as a nation, need to take a stand on these problems or we will be doomed along with our environment.

We, as agribusiness students, are taught in class to be knowledgeable of the management of soil, water, animals, and natural resources. Since we are all disturbed about the environment and filled with responsibility to local communities, we should meet this challenge and make information available and our environment better and more comfortable. We have available to us a program—Building Our American Communities—which encourages us to meet local needs through projects pertaining to recycling, land recovery and replanting.

From the BOAC program, members will benefit by developing leadership, problem solving and communication skills, as they get involved in improving our environment. Members can help with physical labor, as well as tell the unknowing about things being taught in our classes. If we need more information with the problems we are facing, we should ask the ones with first-hand knowledge—the farmers and conservationists. They can tell us how to effectively deal with our problems.

**THE ALABAMA FFA REPORTER
SPRING/SUMMER 1992**

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EXCEL-ERATION
Tony Simmons, Treasurer

The future of the Alabama FFA Association is in *your* hands. The FFA is going to be just what you make it. The future will hold many new changes for the Alabama FFA Association, as we have already seen this past year. The realignment of the district lines was just one of many changes. The only way for us to take these changes in stride is to get involved. That way we know what is coming our way.

Before you get involved, you must have the knowledge of what the FFA really is. FFA is the part of the agribusiness class that brings us opportunities for learning responsibilities and furthering our education. The FFA almost forces an individual to excel above and beyond. Competition is very fierce. If you do not believe me, just join a contest team and see for yourself.

I encourage you to get involved with your local contest teams. There is so much to be learned from your agribusiness teachers, especially in a field you enjoy. Once *you* get involved, it will not be hard for your friends to do the same. Membership is important, but the FFA is interested in quality as well as quantity. We will see FFA's membership goals be fulfilled with the renewing of members' interest.

I once read where heroes are the parents of today's society. But, why did they make such an impact? It was simply because they influenced someone. Your excitement will easily lead to someone else's involvement in our organization. Just remember that the FFA is what you make it. "FFA—a chance to excel!"

What do you think about at least three times a day? Food! Right! Agriculture and farming make it possible. On the average the American Farmer provides food for 114 persons; 92 of them in the United States and 22 of them in other countries. It's not just farming we need. It's professionals such as agronomists, farmers to grow cash crops and fruit growers. Maybe you're interested in mechanics. Agricultural mechanics and engineering are the key to keeping all operations functioning smoothly and profitably. Today's agriculture has more than



AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION
Nina Weston, Reporter

One of the most crucial elements to the growth of the FFA is education. Education serves as a source of general knowledge, but it is a vital link that fosters interest, subsequent involvement, and FFA membership. In ever increasing numbers and intensity, agricultural opportunities and challenges will ultimately shape the world in which we live. In taking advantage of these opportunities, lies the responsibility of educating, making people aware of the potential in agriculture, and the necessary need for agricultural education in the future.

An innovative means of learning and applying science and information—an integral part of agriculture—lies in education. By allowing members to put classroom instruction to practical use, classes in soil science, forestry, and horticulture prepare members for over 200 careers. Additionally, the agricultural education program prepares many whose goals lie outside the realm of agriculture, by emphasizing areas such as marketing, sales and service and personal growth. Other benefits in agricultural education are provided where the whole person is developed.

Involvement is the result of initiative which comes from an inner drive that is the product of being educated, aware and prepared. Taking action, being a "doer" as well as a "thinker" will be the impetus behind the FFA's growth and survival as well.

200 rewarding careers, which provide financial stability and the satisfaction of making this world a better place for mankind. In the United States alone, agriculture generates 19.6 million jobs. There are many opportunities for young people who are interested in American agriculture. How can we get more involved in agriculture? The first step is accept the challenges agriculture has to offer. Step two is to get involved in any way we can in the FFA. Step three is to set goals and work as hard as we can to reach them.



AGRICULTURE
Chris Null, Sentinel

Today the demand for agriculture continues to grow larger. We need more and more people to fill places where needed. Did you know that the world population is expected to grow at a rate of 1.6% a year? This means we are going to need 1.6% more people involved in agriculture and agricultural industries. Currently people die everyday from starvation. How can we help these people? This answer is agriculture.

PROGRAM
63rd Annual Convention
June 9, 10, 11, 1992
Montgomery Civic Center

Monday, June 8

A.M.

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

P.M.

1:00
 Forestry Judging Contest (Auburn)
 Land Judging Contest (Montgomery)
 Agricultural Mechanics Contest (Auburn)
 Small Engines Contest (Auburn)
 Agricultural Construction & Maintenance Contest (Montgomery)
 Nursery/Landscape Contest (Civic Center)
 Floriculture Contest (Civic Center)
 6:00
 Final Interview of Officer Candidates (Civic Center)

Tuesday, June 9

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 SESSION
 Opening Ceremony
 National Anthem
 Invocation
 Official Seating of Delegates
 Greetings - Shane Black, National Vice President
 Business Session
 Public Speaking Contest - 1st Speaker
 Proficiency Awards - Horse Proficiency, Beef Production
 Public Speaking Contest - 2nd Speaker
 Proficiency Awards - Poultry Production, Soil and Water Management, Diversified Crop Production
 Public Speaking Contest - 3rd Speaker
 Proficiency Awards - Dairy Production, Swine Production, Nursery Operations
 Public Speaking Contest - 4th Speaker
 Proficiency Awards - Agricultural Mechanics,

Agricultural Electrification, Truf and Landscape Management
 Safety Awards Line-up
 Retiring Address
 Safety Awards
 Awards - Public Speaking
 Closing Ceremony
 Meeting - All Local Advisors (Civic Center)

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
 Address - Shane Black, National FFA Vice President
 Honor Parents and Advisors
 Miss Alabama Agriculture
 Future Farmer/Agribusinessman of the Year Award
 Mindy Stringer Memorial Scholarship Award
 Retiring Address
 String Band Contest Finals
 Awards - String Band
 Closing Ceremony

Wednesday, June 10

A.M.

8:30
 Music - Mark Ponder - Lincoln 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
 Proficiency Awards - Sheep Production, Placement in Agricultural Production, Agricultural Sales and/or Service, Specialty Animal Production
 Chapter Awards Line-up
 State Officers Annual Report
 Retiring Address
 Chapter Awards
 Crime Prevention Awards
 Awards - Agricultural Mechanics, Agricultural Construction and Maintenance, Small Engines
 100% Membership Recognition
 Retiring Address
 Computers in Agriculture Awards
 Activity Program

State FFA Degree Ceremony - Southwest and Southeast Districts
 Closing Ceremony

P.M.

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
 Corn Growing Awards
 BOAC Awards
 Quartet Contest Finals
 Awards - Quartet Contest
 Closing Ceremony

Thursday, June 11

A.M.

9:00
LAST GENERAL SESSION
 Opening Ceremony
 Retiring Address
 Speaker - Dr. Jim Wand
 State FFA Degree Ceremony - North and Central Districts
 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



Shane Black
National Vice President

Shane Black, of the Clements Chapter, is the Southern Region Vice President of the FFA. Shane's SAEP includes cotton production. He utilizes methods such as conservation contour farming and integrated pest management in his operation. Shane's program also includes work placement at *Progressive Farmer* magazine. Shane is a junior at Birmingham-Southern College, studying political science. He plans to complete graduate school and pursue a career in agricultural law. Shane served as state FFA vice president in 1988-89. He also served as president at the chapter and district levels, and participated in the state public speaking, nursery/landscape and quartet contests. Shane will address the convention on Tuesday evening.



Tammy Walker
Miss Alabama Agriculture

Miss Alabama Agriculture, Tammy Walker, will appear on the convention program during the first general session Tuesday evening, June 9. Miss Walker is a student at the University of Alabama majoring in Special Education.

BEYOND IMAGINATION



Dr. Wand's presentations and stage demonstrations are hilariously entertaining and informative. Each performance is unpredictable and takes on a unique style all its own.

Dr. Wand has worked with some of the country's hottest entertainers including Jay Leno, Miami Sound Machine and The Judds and he performs to sell out crowds everywhere.

Don't miss your chance to see and participate in this totally unique and side-splitting adventure.



State FFA Convention
Thursday Morning
June 11, 1992
Montgomery Civic Center

