



The Alabama

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65 Years of Excellence - The Tradition Continues



WHAT THE FFA MEANS TO ME

Jamie Brothers, President

When asked the question, "What does the FFA mean to me?", I hardly know where to begin with an answer. It is difficult for me to put into words how I feel. Sure, being a member of the FFA means occasionally I could miss a day of school, win some money in a contest or get my picture in the paper. None of that really counts for much when it is put on the scales with the long-term affects.

Since joining the FFA, I have gained knowledge of agriculture and various phases of agribusiness by being instructed in the classroom, by my SAEP and by participating in contests. I have learned from participating in the contest how to work as a team member rather than trying to do it alone. Countless doors of opportunity have been unlocked, and I have discovered aspects of myself that I never knew existed. Not only did I discover them, but also learned to use them.

In attending various functions, traveling to different states and serving as part of an officer team, I have made friendships that will last a lifetime.

Self-confidence builds character. The best place I have found to gain self-confidence is in the FFA. Whether it be believing in myself or being able to effectively communicate with a group of people, the FFA can definitely improve self-confidence. In addition to opportunities, friendships, teamwork, and self-confidence, the FFA has given me the ultimate direction in my life. I have always believed in order to do something properly and to the best of my ability, I first have to enjoy it. That's why I wish to devote the rest of my life and abilities to agriculture, because I enjoy it. I am comfortable with it.

So finally you ask, "What does the FFA mean to Jamie Brothers?" It means everything!



LEADERSHIP FOR AMERICA

Elizabeth Ellis, Sentinel

Who are you? Where do you stand? What is your purpose in life? Do you have the answers? Your answers cannot be found in books, television, nor in clothes. The answer can be found in your heart, mind, and soul. So now you ask, "What does the FFA have to do with my answers?" The FFA can be used as a key to unlock your mind, heart, and soul. But are you ready to discover these answers? Take the FFA now, use it properly and unlock these doors. Reach out, grab the answer and go forward.

For years the FFA has supplied us with influential leaders. These leaders took the organization and used it as a stepping stone. All of you have heard of former President Carter, Bo Jackson and Garth Brooks. These people have one thing in common—the FFA. All were members of their local chapter. Some even served as chapter officers. They have made huge impacts in the lives of others. You have the same chance and opportunities as these people, possibly even more.

The FFA has come a long way since 1928. You must use the progress to your advantage. The FFA offers so many contests, proficiency awards and offices. How can you miss out?

For 65 years Alabama has been producing its own crop of leaders. Our association has worked hard every year for maximum improvement. We strive for perfection, but only then are we satisfied with excellence. You are the present and future of this organization. Now is your chance to become a leader and make a difference in this association. Reach out, grab that dream; grab that success. Face your struggles with determination and enthusiasm. Your willingness to persevere, despite the odds, will inspire those who follow you to do the same. We need your leadership for America! We need your help to make sure the tradition continues!



AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

Charlie Jones, Treasurer

Life on the farm has been an important part of my life. When my family moved back into a farm setting in 1987, my life changed. Being on the farm and in my rural community has taught me a lot about commitment, family, hard work and dedication. I remember the days of planting or picking and the conversations and advice I would receive from my parents and grandparents. I know this is where my love for agriculture began. This is where I was made the person I am today. I know a lot of you face the same things every day. We've all faced challenges and had to work to overcome these challenges. All the hard work makes up a part of something bigger than we could ever imagine, American Agriculture.

America is the largest food-producing country in the world. In 1991, farm exports totaled 37.6 billion dollars and cut the nation's non-farm trade deficit by 14%. Agriculture is an area where the United States is #1. America has the smallest percentage of farmers, but the highest output of any country in the world. American farmers face many challenges in coming years. Meeting a challenge is what has made them great at what they do.

Life is not all easy on a farm. Looking at it in a positive light, you are part of something that makes not only you a better person, but a part of something that does good for the entire world. I recently had the opportunity to talk to a Russian man visiting the United States. He told me that in Russia the American farmer is highly respected, because he can produce so much from so little land. American Agriculture has much respect worldwide. We should all be proud of our accomplishments and strive to continue the tradition.

**THE ALABAMA FFA REPORTER
SPRING/SUMMER 1994**

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MOTIVATION PROVIDES MOTION

Holly Stinson, Secretary

I would like to challenge all agribusiness advisors and students to uphold the "Tradition of Excellence" that the Alabama FFA Association has established over the past 65 years. The advisors are responsible for the education and the involvement of their students. Advisors are the keys to our organization. We depend on them for the motivation they provide to FFA members throughout the state. Without competent advisors, I daresay that we would be as successful as we are today. Advisors cannot accomplish their goals for the FFA chapters without involved students. Advisors begin this union by providing the key of motivation to the students that will unlock the stagnant shell of boredom that surrounds each student. Students are craving something new and exciting that is not offered in their normal curriculum. Advisors have a chance to show their students the benefits of learning by doing. The Alabama FFA Association needs motivated advisors and students in motion in order to keep the



MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES

Norman Atkins, Jr., Reporter

When I was younger, I had a strong desire to get an American Express card. It seemed as if one credit card was the most valuable item anyone in the world could own.

Upon entering the seventh grade, I tried to find activities and organizations to join that would satisfy my craving for membership. The drama club was unsatisfying; student council was missing day-to-day excitement, and the library club eventually evolved into a discussion of pointless fiction books and non-fiction journal articles. The math team involvement led to my confusion of the use of alphabets and numbers. Science club participation literally blew up in my face. My searching ended, ironically, in the one place I did not expect to find a challenging, yet interesting and rewarding experience — the classroom. The activity that has had the most profound affect on my life is the FFA.

The organization and its complimentary experiences have introduced me to the alphabet of agriculture—aquaculture to zoology. Leadership is more than a word to me now. It is a personal goal that all people must strive to attain. Through FFA contests and awards, I have experienced the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat, both of which have instilled sportsmanship in me. After I was not selected as a state officer in 1992, I did not forget the goals I set for myself. Instead I worked diligently for another school year, polishing my skills and remaining certain that dedication would eventually make my dream of serving the Alabama FFA Association, as a state officer, a reality.

As I now approach adulthood, I can look back on memories of my youth and smile. Above all of my memories, I most fondly remember my obsession with the American Express credit card. I have found the most rewarding and life-changing possession I can ever have is my membership in the FFA. Membership definitely has its privileges!

"Tradition of Excellence" alive for an additional sixty-five years. Try to motivate your students by having creative and different ways of doing things, rather than what has always been done before. Students, help your advisor to keep a fresh outlook on things by recommending new ideas or projects. The challenge of upholding the "Tradition of Excellence" is not to be taken lightly. It is a big job involving everyone in the FFA. You must accept the challenge in order for the Alabama FFA Association to continue to grow and prosper. Whether you are an advisor or a student, you play an important part in the "Tradition of Excellence." Advisors provide



L-E-A-D-E-R

April Wise, Vice President

The word **LEADER** can best be described as someone who Lives well, gives Encouragement, has a good Attitude, possesses Determination and exhibits Enthusiasm. These descriptions can be added together to get a Result.

It has been said that it does not matter how you play the game but what you do to achieve in that game. A leader becomes an example; therefore, Living a good life helps mold others. The next description is that a leader has the ability to give positive Encouragement. Today the media tends to sensationalize the negative; therefore, it is up to the individual to make a positive difference.

Then there is a need for a good Attitude. Coach Terry Bowden, Auburn University, told the 1993 football team, as well as the fans, that winning was all in attitude which gave them an undefeated season. One must believe with a good attitude before one can achieve.

The next description is Determination. In order to succeed, one must be able to dream and have determination. Robert Kennedy, quoting Robert Frost, said, "Some men see things as they are and say, Why? I dream of things that never were and say, Why Not?" A leader can become determined to find an answer as long as he or she has a dream.

The most important description of a leader is Enthusiasm. A leader will get more people involved if he or she is enthusiastic about his or her own job. President John Kennedy used enthusiasm in his speeches because he wanted his followers to feel what he felt.

If all of the above-mentioned descriptions are present, the Results will come about. For every tragedy, there is a story of courage; for every robbery, there is a tale of giving and every mishap, there is a miracle. These positive situations have been made possible by some **LEADERS** of yesterday, today and even tomorrow. These leaders are **FFA** members!

the key of motivation to the students. The students take the key and put into motion the task of accomplishing their goals. If you all strive to do what is best for the Alabama FFA Association, then by working together, you will be upholding the "Tradition of Excellence."





PROGRAM
65th Annual Convention
June 7,8,9, 1994
Montgomery Civic Center



Monday, June 6

A.M.
 11:00
 Livestock Judging Contest (Auburn)

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)
 Parliamentary Procedure Contest (Montgomery)
 6:00
 Final Interview of State FFA Officer Candidates
 (Civic Center)

Tuesday, June 7

A.M.
 8:00 - 12:00
 Registration (Civic Center)
 9:00
 Tractor Driving Contest (Montgomery)
 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.
 1:30
OPENING SESSION
 Opening Ceremony
 National Anthem
 Invocation
 Official Seating of Delegates
 Greetings - Steven Mitchell, National FFA 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, Forest Management
 Public Speaking—4th Speaker
 Proficiency Awards—Agricultural Mechanics,
 Agricultural Electrification, Turf and
 Landscape Management
 Safety Awards Line-up
 Retiring Address—Holly Stinson, Secretary, Elba
 FFA Chapter
 Safety Awards
 Awards - Public Speaking
 Closing Ceremony
 Meeting—All Local Advisors (Civic Center)

Tuesday Evening

P.M.
 7:30
FIRST GENERAL SESSION
 Opening Ceremony
 Address - Steven Mitchell, National
 FFA Officer
 Honor Parents and Advisors of 1993-94 State
 FFA Officers
 Miss Alabama Agriculture—Heather Stinson
 Future Farmer/Agribusinessman of the Year
 Award
 Mindy Stringer Memorial Scholarship Award
 Retiring Address—Norman Atkins, Jr., Reporter,
 Paramount FFA Chapter
 String Band Contest Finals
 Awards - String Band
 Closing Ceremony

Wednesday, June 8

A.M.
 8:30
 Music - Shad Smith, Spring Garden FFA Chapter
 9:00
SECOND GENERAL SESSION
 Opening Ceremony
 Star Farmer Ceremony
 Awards—Livestock Judging, M.K. Heath Award,
 Forestry Judging, Land Judging,
 Nursery/Landscape, Floriculture,
 Parliamentary Procedure
 Proficiency Awards—Agricultural Sales and/or
 Service, Floriculture, Fruit and/or
 Vegetable Production, Home and
 Farmstead Improvement, Nursery
 Operations, Placement in Agricultural
 Production, Sheep Production, Specialty
 Animal Production, Wildlife
 Management, Special Proficiency
 Awards
Chapter Awards Line-up
 Retiring Address—Elizabeth Ellis, Sentinel, W.S.
 Neal FFA Chapter
Chapter Awards
 Crime Prevention Awards
 Awards—Agricultural Mechanics, Agricultural
 Construction and Maintenance, Small
 Engines, Tractor Driving
 100% Membership Recognition
 Retiring Address—April Wise, Vice Pres.,
 Geraldine FFA Chapter
 Agriscience Student Recognition Program
 Activity Program
 State FFA Degree Ceremony—Southwest and
 Southeast Districts
 Closing Ceremony

PM
 1:00
EDUCATIONAL TOURS

Wednesday Evening

PM
 7:30
THIRD GENERAL SESSION
 Opening Ceremony
 Conferring of Honorary State FFA Degrees
 BOAC Awards Line-up
 Retiring Address—Charlie Jones, Treasurer,
 Billingsley FFA Chapter
 Corn Growing Awards
 Building Our American Communities Awards
 Quartet Contest Finals
 Awards - Quartet Contest
 Closing Ceremony

Thursday, June 9

AM
 9:00
LAST GENERAL SESSION
 Opening Ceremony
 State Officers Annual Report
 Retiring Address—Jamie Brothers, President,
 Douglas FFA Chapter
 Speaker—James "Butch" Robbins
 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)

FFA
Develops
 ★ Premier
 Leadership
 ★ Personal
 Growth
 ★ Career
 Success
FFA
 LEADERSHIP FOR AMERICA



Steven Mitchell
National Vice President

National Southern Region FFA Vice President, Steven Mitchell, will address the Convention on Tuesday evening. Steven is a member of the Calico Rock FFA Chapter in Pineville, Arkansas. Steven's supervised agricultural experience program consisting of diversified livestock and experience in the feed industry along with farm labor earned him the coveted American FFA Degree. He is a sophomore at Arkansas State University at Beebe majoring in agricultural education.



Heather Stinson
Miss Alabama Agriculture

Heather Stinson is the 1994 Miss Alabama Agriculture. She is the 19 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Stinson of Coffee County. She likes public speaking, dancing, flower gardening and jogging. Heather is a freshman at the University of Alabama where she is pursuing a career in environmental law.



James "Butch" Robbins

Mr. Robbins owns and operates a custom hay business in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. When he isn't baling hay, he's auctioneering or speaking to a group, telling his life story - on and off the farm. Among his many honors include "Outstanding Veteran of the Year" in 1989, by the Daughters of the American Revolution. You won't want to miss "Butch" Robbins on Thursday morning during the Convention.

April 26, 1994

Fellow FFA Members:

We, the 1993-94 State Officer Team, would like to extend to you a special invitation to join us in Montgomery, June 7-9, for the 65th State FFA Convention. This will be a celebration of 65 years of Alabama FFA excellence and a celebration of the achievements of FFA members, advisors and friends.

We look forward to seeing you in Montgomery.

Sincerely,

Janie Brothers
Janie Brothers
President

April Wise
April Wise
Vice President

Holly Stinson
Holly Stinson
Secretary

Charlie Jones
Charlie Jones
Treasurer

Norman Atkins
Norman Atkins
Reporter

Elizabeth Ellis
Elizabeth Ellis
Sentinel