The FFA is a national organization of students enrolled in agricultural education throughout the fifty states, along with Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. FFA's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. To reach this potential, the FFA offers various opportunities in which members can achieve the “Leadership Advantage”. Through participation in contests and awards, leadership workshops, and chapter involvement, FFA members can develop into well-rounded leaders.

“TOMORROW’S LEADERS”
by Heath Hughes
Leadership is a necessity for the survival of our nation. As FFA members, we are tomorrow's leaders. The outcome of tomorrow depends on how we apply ourselves today. Leaders are not born, but developed. Through the FFA, this development has an opportunity to take place. This should be a challenge to every FFA member. As time passes, you will be expected to accept responsibility. Anyone sincerely dedicated to the challenge of becoming a leader will be able to accept and fulfill this responsibility. This is what a true leader must do in order to accomplish his/her goal.

However, if we fail to accept the challenge of being a leader, we will be placed in the category referred to as “followers”. As members of the FFA, we have an advantage over others. The experiences and challenges we encounter in the FFA enable us to become better leaders.

FFA members, you have the ability to become great leaders! It's up to us to accept the “Leadership Advantages” offered through the FFA!

THE LEADERSHIP ADVANTAGE - The 1994-1995 State Officers invite you to the 66th Annual Convention. The officers are (seated) Jason Stone, President, DAR; Carla Moore, Secretary, Billingsley; (standing l - r) Heath Hughes, G.W. Long; Jeremy Simpson, Sentinel, Centreville; Kenny Smith, Reporter, McAdory, and Jeremy Douglas, Treasurer, W.S. Neal.

“PERSISTENCE AND DETERMINATION ALONE...”
by Kenny Smith
President Calvin Coolidge said, “Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not. Nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.”

Two of the most important qualities that one sees in a leader are his or her persistence and determination. If we are persistent in our actions, our goals will quickly become our accomplishments. All that we must have is the will to make our dreams a reality. Our determination, which is defined as having come to a decision or resolution is the most important factor of all. As a good friend of mine will quickly say, “If it is to be, it's up to me.” If you and I were to decide right now to accomplish a certain goal, the most important factors pertaining to our success would be how persistent and how determined we are. As the saying goes, “You have nothing to lose and everything, everything, everything to gain.”

Keeping all of this in mind, let us establish some goals. Any goals will do, becoming a better public speaker, a better chapter officer or a better judging team member. Then to achieve them, all we have to do is begin the journey to success. Each day, the FFA provides all of us with avenues which we can easily use in order to accomplish all of our goals. All we have to do is use these experiences in a positive way and get the most out of them that we possibly can.

When we can do this, then we have truly gained the Leadership Advantage.
The Alabama FFA Reporter
Spring/Summer 1995
EDITOR: Troy D. Newton
SECRETARY: Betty L. Wright
State Officers 1994-95
President: Jason Stone
Kate Duncan Smith DAR Chapter
P.O. Box 362, Grant 35747
Vice President: Heath Hughes
G.W. Long Chapter
Route 3 Box 413, Ozark 36360
Secretary: Carla Moore
Billingsley Chapter
2411 County Road 19 North, Prattville 36067
Treasurer: Jeremy Douglas
W.S. Neal Chapter
Route 1 Box 49A, Wing 36483
Reporter: Kenny Smith
McAdory Chapter
5831 Allen Drive, McCalla 35111
Sentinel: Jeremy Simpson
Bibb County Chapter
P.O. Box 307, West Blocton 35184
State FFA Advisor: C.W. Reed
State Department of Education
Montgomery 36130
FFA Executive Secretary: Troy Newton
State Department of Education
Montgomery 36130

"I BELIEVE IN LEADERSHIP..." by Jason Stone

I remember as a boy, on Dave Rice's farm in Grant, playing softball in the pasture, fishing in the pond, and climbing on the "big wooden gate."

As I remember that place in time, I remember most about the cows. Every once in a while I would go to the barn, around milking and feeding time, just to watch. At that time, I was about four-foot tall and large for my age. Yet, those cows looked so big. I must admit I was scared of them, and I spent some time on the ladder leading to the hay loft.

To many young people, life can seem the same way. With peer pressure, school work, and activities, and the many other problems facing today's youth, life can seem like a big cow standing in front of you.

That is why I am thankful for an organization like the FFA. It has given me opportunities to grow in areas which otherwise would go unchallenged. Through training in my ag classes, I have had an opportunity to learn how to weld, work with plants, utilize woodworking equipment, and electricity. This tied with competition in contests, such as land judging, parliamentary procedure, and public speaking has helped develop me into a better person. So just as I grew physically to make cows look smaller and more harmless, I grew through my involvement in the FFA, which makes life's problems seem smaller.

"I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of progressive agriculturalist to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil."

"THE LIGHT" by Jeremy Simpson

"There is a light at the end of the tunnel," I have always been told. But what actually is the light and who will get you there? To me, it would be our advisors. The advisors act somewhat as a trolley car carrying us around. They are not only our teachers but also our companions. Advisors take the time and endure the trouble of "taking care of us" usually brings. Advisors help you in a variety of ways. Advisors assist you with your work; they help you seek a particular office, or even help you get into college. (Advisors serve as role models to a lot of people and actually serve as a father figure, to the people who need that extra hand, or that extra edge, to achieve that goal for which they are striving.) I believe advisors go beyond the call of duty. The theme this year is "FFA: The Leadership Advantage". How do we achieve this extra edge? I believe by your own self-determination and to set solid goals, you can gain this advantage. Once more, we look to our advisors, because they have "The Leadership Advantage" and they know how to keep the edge!

"TEAM INVOLVEMENT" by Jeremy Douglas

As an FFA member, I have had the chance of being part of one of the largest youth organizations in the world. The way I used this organization in gaining my leadership skills was by getting involved. Involvement is the only way to improve yourself and this organization. You have to first get involved in order to gain the rewards. The FFA allows members to learn more about life and most importantly to learn more about themselves. My involvement increased as I ran for State Officer. As once said by an unknown person, "There are people who make things happen, people who watch things happen, and people who don't know what happened." By getting involved, I have already begun to make things happen and you can too. Through hard work, dedication, and teamwork, FFA members can achieve their goals. As you already know there's no "I" in TEAM. Together we can make a difference by getting involved. Everyone has to do their part in order for the group to be successful. Through teamwork, everyone accomplishes their goals. And finally, the More involvement we have in this organization the better it will become. As country music star Garth Brooks once said, "The will to win is as important as the will to prepare to win." A successfully involved FFA member is one who says "I can" which adds "I will" and results in "I did." By getting involved, I obtained the Leadership Advantage and you can too.

"WORKING TO SUCCEED" by Carla Moore

"Success comes before work only in the dictionary." As FFA members, we should realize how true this saying is.

To succeed in a worthwhile endeavor, we must each work hard. The FFA offers many contests and proficiency awards through which we can succeed. Through these activities, we learn the importance of diligent work and labor. As we work, we gain many valuable skills that help improve us and our community. We learn things such as self-confidence, responsibility, communication and leadership skills. Each year as we participate, we build upon these skills, which prove to be very valuable as we look to the future.

The FFA is a vital component of the future. Millions of Americans have benefitted and continue to benefit from the organization. Thousands of young people are learning, as they work, to overcome challenges.

As we face each new day, we should remember the FFA Motto: "Learning To Do, Doing To Learn, Earning To Live, Living To Serve." If we would each work hard toward this motto, we could succeed and obtain the Leadership Advantage.
# PROGRAM
## 66th Annual Convention
### June 6, 7, 8, 1995
### Montgomery Civic Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, June 5</th>
<th>Tuesday Evening</th>
<th>Wednesday Evening</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00 A.M.</td>
<td>7:30 P.M.</td>
<td>7:30 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Livestock Judging Contest (Auburn)</td>
<td>FIRST GENERAL SESSION</td>
<td>THIRD GENERAL SESSION</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 Noon</td>
<td>12:00 Noon</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony</td>
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<td>Ag Construction &amp; Maintenance Contest (Montgomery)</td>
<td>Honor Parents and Advisors of 1994-95 State FFA Officers</td>
<td>Address - National FFA Secretary, Travis Hagen, Chico, California</td>
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<td>Nursery/Landscape Contest (Civic Center)</td>
<td>Miss Alabama Agriculture - Kelly Stilworth, Brewton, Alabama</td>
<td>Conferring of Honorary State FFA Degrees</td>
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<td>Floriculture Contest (Civic Center)</td>
<td>Future Farmer/Agribusinessman of the Year Award</td>
<td>BOAC Awards Line-up</td>
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<td>1:00 P.M.</td>
<td>6:00 P.M.</td>
<td>Retiring Address - Heath Hughes, Vice-President, G.W. Long FFA Chapter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forestry Judging Contest (Auburn)</td>
<td>Final Interview of State FFA Officer Candidates (Civic Center)</td>
<td>Corn Growing Awards</td>
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<td>Land Judging Contest (Montgomery)</td>
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<td>Building Our American Communities Awards</td>
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<td>Agricultural Mechanics Contest (Auburn)</td>
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<td>Quartet Contest Finals</td>
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<td>Small Engines Contest (Auburn)</td>
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<td>Closing Ceremony</td>
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<td>Parliamentary Procedure Contest (Montgomery)</td>
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<td>9:30 P.M.</td>
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<td>6:00 P.M.</td>
<td>9:30 P.M.</td>
<td>FFA Dance - Civic Center</td>
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<td>Final Interview of State FFA Officer Candidates (Civic Center)</td>
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<td>Thursday, June 8</td>
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<td>LAST GENERAL SESSION</td>
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<td>Opening Ceremony</td>
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<td>State Officers Annual Report</td>
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<td>Awards - Quartet Contest</td>
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<td>Retiring Address - Jason Stone, President, Kate Duncan Smith - DAR FFA Chapter</td>
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<td>Speaker - Lesha Campbell</td>
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<td>State FFA Degree Ceremony - North and Central Districts</td>
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<td>Installation of New State Officers</td>
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<td>Presentation of Past Officer Pins</td>
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<td>Presentation of Gavel to Past President</td>
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<td>Closing Ceremony</td>
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<td>New Officers, Parents, and Advisors Meeting (Civic Center)</td>
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<td>EDUCATIONAL TOURS</td>
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**Tuesday, June 6**
- 8:00 - 12:00 Noon: Registration (Civic Center)
- 9:00 A.M.: Tractor Driving Contest (Montgomery)
- 9:00 A.M.: Public Speaking Contest Preliminary (Civic Center)
- 9:00 A.M.: String Band Contest Preliminary (Civic Center)
- 11:30 A.M.: Courtesy Corps Meeting (Civic Center)

**1:30 P.M.: OPENING SESSION**
- Opening Ceremony
- National Anthem
- Invocation
- Official Seating of Delegates
- 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, Sheep Production
- Safety Awards Line-up
- Retiring Address - Jeremy Simpson, Sentinel, Bibb County FFA Chapter
- Safety Awards
- Awards - Public Speaking
- Closing Ceremony
- Meeting - All Local Advisors (Civic Center)

**Wednesday, June 7**
- 8:30 A.M.: Music - Shad Smith, Spring Garden FFA Chapter

**9:00 A.M.: SECOND GENERAL SESSION**
- Opening Ceremony
- Star Farmer Ceremony
- Awards - String Band Contest, 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, Specialty Animal Production, Turf & Landscape Management, Wildlife Management
- Chapter Awards Line-up
- Retiring Address - Jeremy Douglas, Treasurer, 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 - Kenny Smith, Reporter, McAdory FFA Chapter
- Activity Program
- State FFA Degree Ceremony - South and Southeast Districts
- Closing Ceremony

**9:30 P.M.: THIRD GENERAL SESSION**
- Opening Ceremony
- Address - National FFA Secretary, Travis Hagen, Chico, California
- Conferring of Honorary State FFA Degrees
- BOAC Awards Line-up
- Retiring Address - Heath Hughes, Vice-President, G.W. Long FFA Chapter
- Corn Growing Awards
- Building Our American Communities Awards
- Quartet Contest Finals
- Closing Ceremony

**Thursday, June 8**
- 9:00 A.M.: LAST GENERAL SESSION
- Opening Ceremony
- State Officers Annual Report
- Awards - Quartet Contest
- Retiring Address - Jason Stone, President, Kate Duncan Smith - DAR FFA Chapter
- Speaker - Lesha Campbell
- 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)
Mrs. Frances L. Mizell of Auburn, presents a check to, from left, Alabama State FFA Alumni Officers Neal Lewis, Auburn; Jim Cravey, Montgomery and Pete Turnham, Auburn. The money will be used to set up an endowment scholarship for former state FFA officers studying to be vocational agribusiness education teachers.

Mrs. Frances L. Mizell

Travis D. Hagen
National FFA Secretary

Travis Hagen, from Chico, California, is the National FFA Secretary. He is a sophomore at California Polytechnic State University - San Luis Obispo majoring in agricultural science. Travis was a state finalist in both the agricultural sales and service proficiency and the state star in agribusiness awards. His supervised agricultural experience program consists of raising breeding and market sheep. Travis will address the Convention on Wednesday evening.

Kelly Stallworth
Miss Alabama Agriculture

Lesha Campbell
Lesha Campbell is an entertainer/comedian; humorist/speaker; actress and ventriloquist. Lesha has made numerous appearances with well-known acts all across the country. Lesha will appear on the convention program Thursday.

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