The 1996 Summer Olympics will be held in our neighboring state of Georgia in the city of Atlanta. Team USA will compete in the summer games. We would like to capture the Olympic spirit at our state convention with the FFA theme, "Leadership for a Lifetime." The five rings of the Olympics are linked together to represent the unity of competing countries. Likewise, there are three rings of "Team FFA" that represent the mission of our organization—Premier Leadership, Personal Growth, and Career Success.

**Premier Leadership**
Throughout the history of the Olympic games, many athletes have excelled in their respective sport. Athletes, such as Dan Jansen, have been looked upon as role models because of the leadership skills they possess. Because of his special determination, he was able to achieve his lifelong dream, winning an Olympic gold medal. This shows that real leadership does not come easy. It is a long process of giving and taking that leads to the finish line of success.

Giving, for some, is the first and hardest step to acquiring leadership. This is because many people are self-centered. When a person learns to give up personal time; learns to accept new and different ideas, then he has advanced to a new level in the game of life. Once he has reached this new level, his goal of achieving real leadership is now in sight.

In the second phase of a person's quest to real leadership, he has to take the initiative to seize opportunities as they come along. The FFA teaches members this ability through the many Career Development Events offered. Participation in career development events gives members a competitive edge in life. By grabbing hold of these opportunities, one has now reached the "finish line."

This past year the State Officer Team has worked diligently to excel to this level of leadership. In growing closer to each other, we have learned how to give and take in order to be a successful team. The team hopes we have made a positive difference in the lives of members of the Alabama Association.

**Personal Growth**

The second ring of "Team FFA" is personal growth. The National FFA Organization sparks a flame in young people that burns for a lifetime. Motivation includes critical thinking and goal setting. Critical thinking—FFA members apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to real-life situations. Goal setting—What are goals? Are they simply those things we want in life? Are they those things our parents want us to do? Just exactly what are goals? Our definition—anything you want to accomplish or acquire.

(continued on Page 2)
Whether reaching out to an elementary school student with special needs, or cleaning up a town's drinking water, we see the world from a new perspective and grow from the experience. FFA members develop self-confidence, responsibility, and decision-making skills not taught in other classrooms. We learn to excel. These experiences provide us with the skills necessary to develop "Leadership for a Lifetime."

The FFA also equips us with a strong sense of character. It provides role models for us to follow and gives us the opportunity to take part in character building events that make us better individuals. We learn from all the peaks and valleys along the way. Without struggles, we will never overcome obstacles that help us mature.

**CAREER SUCCESS**

The third and final ring of "Team FFA" involves the participation, scholarship and career opportunities available through the National FFA Organization. Through active participation in the FFA, members learn that agricultural education is more than time spent studying in a classroom. Students receive hands-on learning while competing in various Career Development Events. Just as there are several levels of competition, in which an athlete must advance to reach the Olympics, FFA members must advance through county, area, and district eliminations to reach Team FFA's Olympic level---state competition.

The high levels of scholarship that our organization exemplifies is also vital in career success. The FFA offers cash scholarships for various events. Corporate and individual sponsors invest over $50,000 for our Career Develop Events and Awards Program, annually. Former U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Espy, stated, "Nowhere in the world is there an organization as active in providing incentives to our youth and recognizing their achievements and activities at all levels as the National FFA Organization."

There are diverse, challenging and rewarding career opportunities in agriculture. Today, this growing industry offers more than 200 career choices. You can be whatever you want to be in agriculture. Marketing, communication, processing, engineering, law, finance, medicine, horticulture, and many more career areas are represented. FFA members who preside over chapter meetings today may preside over board meetings tomorrow.

Florence Joyner, an Olympic gold medalist, has four Ds for success—Dream, Discipline, Determination and Desire. FFA members can apply these to their lives to obtain the career choice they desire, just as Flo Jo won the Olympic gold medals she desired.

All of these rings—Premier Leadership, Personal Growth, and Career Success—work together to form "Team FFA." If one ring is missing, the team will not function properly.

(continued from Page 1)

Why is goal setting such an important part of life? Let us look briefly at what the letters in the word GOALS stand for. Decide on a definite, positive goal; define the steps necessary to reach that goal and use these steps for (G) guidance. Then do not be afraid to try and try again, and you can overcome and remove the (O) obstacles. Just remember that the only limitations upon you are those limitations that you place upon yourself. Think positively and be consistent, and you will (A) accomplish that goal. Do not forget to enjoy and to profit by the (L) learning experiences you received along the way. (S) Success can only be yours by setting goals.

We, as FFA members, help others, and in the process learn more about ourselves. Whether reaching out to an elementary school student with special needs, or cleaning up a town's drinking water, we see the world from a new perspective and grow from the experience. FFA members develop self-confidence, responsibility, and decision-making skills not taught in other classrooms. We learn to excel. These experiences provide us with the skills necessary to develop "Leadership for a Lifetime."

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Amber, Dennis, Michael, Rachel, T.J., Chad
PROGRAM
67th Annual Convention
June 11, 12, 13 1996
Montgomery Civic Center

Monday, June 10
A.M.
10:00
Small Engines Career Development Event
(Auburn)

P.M.
12:00
Ag Construction & Maintenance Career Development Event (Montgomery)
Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event (Civic Center)
Floriculture Career Development Event (Civic Center)
1:00
Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event (Auburn)
Forestry Career Development Event (Auburn)
Land Career Development Event (Montgomery)
Livestock Career Development Event (Auburn)
Parliamentary Procedure Career Development Event (Montgomery)

6:00
Final Interview of State FFA Officer Candidates (Civic Center)

Tuesday, June 11
A.M.
8:00 - 12:00 Noon
Registration (Civic Center)
9:00
Tractor Driving Contest (Montgomery)
Public Speaking Career Development Event 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 and Roll Call
1:30
OPENING SESSION
Opening Ceremony
National Anthem
Invocation
Official Seating of Delegates
Greetings - Dr. Ed Richardson, State Superintendent of Education
Greetings - Clara-Leigh Horn, National FFA Vice President, Ashville, Alabama
Business Session
Public Speaking - 1st Speaker
Proficiency Awards - Equine Science, Beef Production
Public Speaking - 2nd Speaker
Proficiency Awards - Poultry Production, Soil and Water Management, Diversified Crop Production
Public Speaking - 3rd Speaker
Proficiency Awards - Dairy Production, Swine Production, Forest Management
Public Speaking - 4th Speaker
Proficiency Awards - Agricultural Mechanical Technical Systems, Agricultural Sales and/or Service, Sheep Production
Retiring Address - Chad Chaney, Sentinel, Sylvan FFA Chapter
Frances Mizell Agricultural Education Scholarship Awards - Public Speaking
Closing Ceremony
Meeting - All Local Advisors (Civic Center)

Tuesday Evening

P.M.
7:30
FIRST GENERAL SESSION
Opening Ceremony
Honor Parents and Advisors of 1995-96 State FFA Officers
Miss Alabama Agriculture - Roslyn Gore, Clanton, Alabama
Future Farmer/Agribusinessman of the Year Award
Mindy Stringer Memorial Scholarship Award
Retiring Address - Michael Manning, Secretary, Billingsley FFA Chapter
Corn Growing Awards
Quartet Contest Finals
Closing Ceremony

100% Membership Recognition Line-Up
Crime Prevention Awards
Awards - Agricultural Mechanics, Agricultural Construction and Maintenance, Small Engines, Tractor Driving
100% Membership Recognition
Retiring Address - T.J. Odom, Reporter, Citronelle “Blue” FFA Chapter
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
Address - National FFA Vice President, Clara-Leigh Horn, Ashville, Alabama
Conferring of Honorary State FFA Degrees
Retiring Address - Dennis Fuqua, Vice President, W.S. Neal FFA Chapter
String Band Contest Finals
Closing Ceremony
9:30
FFA Dance - Civic Center

Thursday, June 13
AM
9:00
LAST GENERAL SESSION
Opening Ceremony
State Officers Annual Report
Retiring Address - Amber Miller, President, Louisville FFA Chapter
Awards - String Band Contest
Speaker - Dr. Rick Rigsby
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)

100% Membership Recognition
Crime Prevention Awards
Awards - Agricultural Mechanics, Agricultural Construction and Maintenance, Small Engines, Tractor Driving
100% Membership Recognition
Retiring Address - T.J. Odom, Reporter, Citronelle “Blue” FFA Chapter
State FFA Degree Ceremony - Southwest and Southeast Districts
Closing Ceremony

PM
1:00
EDUCATIONAL TOURS
Clara-Leigh Horn, of the Ashville FFA Chapter, is the Southern Region Vice President of the FFA. Clara-Leigh served the Alabama Association as the 1992-93 State Vice President. She received the American FFA Degree for her hands-on program including exhibition of market lambs, hogs and steers, breeding heifers and horses. She held the title of Miss Rodeo Alabama in 1993. Clara-Leigh will address the convention on Wednesday evening.

Roslyn Gore, Miss Alabama Agriculture, is the eighteen year old daughter of Keilan and Ann Gore of Clanton. She attends Auburn University - Montgomery, where she is pursuing a degree in nursing. Miss Gore will appear on the convention program Tuesday evening.

Dr. Rick Rigsby serves as an assistant professor in the Department of Speech Communication and Theater Arts at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. In addition to his university duties, he conducts seminars on ways to communicate more effectively. Dr. Rigsby is Chaplin of the Texas A&M Football Team and is a special assistant to Head Coach R.C. Slocum. Dr. Rigsby will address the convention on Thursday morning.