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JORDAN HAMILTON
Alabama FFA President
Sand Rock Chapter



National FFA Week A Huge Success!!!

National FFA Week (February 18th-25th) is a time to recognize members and advisors from all across the nation. It is also an opportunity to publicize FFA and many of our accomplishments.

FFA chapters from all across the state recently celebrated National FFA Week in various ways. Some chapters appeared on a television news broadcast like the Marbury Chapter. Some held an annual Farm/ City Day for elementary students like the Montevallo Chapter. Some submitted articles to local newspapers, such as the Jacksonville Chapter. Yet another way was by thanking local farmers in the community with an appreciation breakfast like the Spring Garden Chapter. Many other similar activities were replicated by numerous chapters from all across the state. Each of these activities highlighted the best FFA has to offer. The Alabama State FFA officer team's National FFA Week festivities included an appearance on Fox 6's *Good Day Alabama* (Birmingham), a

legislative visit with many prominent government officials, a proclamation

signing with Governor Bob Riley, along with various chapter visits.

As FFA members, we each celebrate National FFA Week once a year. We spend this one week out of the year devoting it to as many FFA activities as we can possibly endure. I challenge each of you. Make EVERY week FFA Week! Never miss the opportunity to publicize the FFA whether it be encouraging new membership or highlighting your chapter's achievements to the community. By informing the public about FFA, you are not only affecting your chapter but the state and national level as well.

Best wishes to you this spring as district eliminations quickly approaches and I hope to see you at convention!!! GOD BLESS



BROOKE HEAD
Alabama FFA Vice-President
Marbury Chapter

When thinking about the Alabama FFA Association, one thought comes to mind - State Convention! It is incredibly hard to believe that in less than four months we will be attending a similar State Convention to the one in which I was installed as a state officer. Now, this

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very same team is diligently planning for a new convention. We are looking at it with a positive and optimistic view that this years State Convention will be the best ever.

Just hearing the words career development events, proficiency applications, in addition to District and State Officer candidates gives me absolute excitement. I would personally like to wish all of the chapters participating in a CDE, every individual filling out a proficiency application, and those who are running for District and State Office good luck! I hope that all of the preparation and time that you have offered towards your event pays off for each of you in the County, District, and hopefully the State event.

As a state officer, I have had the privilege of going on quite a few chapter visits and meeting many of the Alabama FFA Association members. Being able to see all of the accomplishments of each chapter throughout the year makes me even more proud to be an officer for such a wonderful organization. I am looking forward to meeting all of you, to seeing the positive image that you embody for our organization, and to seeing the hard work that each of you have put forward make a difference in the success of our State Organization.



MATT WILSON
Alabama FFA Secretary
Jacksonville Chapter

After the past year's events in the Gulf of Mexico, the 77th Annual Alabama State FFA Convention theme of "Living to Serve" has never been more appropriate. Heart-breaking scenes from the Gulf of Mexico have touched our hearts and lives. FFA members across the nation saw the staggering losses and moved into action. In response, the National FFA Organization has launched Seeds of Hope, a fundraising campaign to rebuild agricultural education and FFA programs in the Gulf Coast states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida hit hard by Hurricane Katrina. Together, FFA members across the nation have raised more than \$528,000 to support the rebuilding of FFA in the Gulf of Mexico. FFA members across Alabama and the nation are "Living to Serve."

What makes service so special? Of course you can find the phrase "Living to Serve" in the last line of our motto, but what does it really mean? First of all service is defined as "helping one another." Our hands-on labor, monetary contributions, and sincere prayers have truly helped those in the Gulf and continue to help those around us. Whatever you decide to give away today will eventually come back to you ten fold in the future. I promise you will be rewarded through your generosity. It might not be tomorrow, but unfailingly, it will come.

The Alabama FFA Association is strong because of you and your service. It takes both dedicated advisors and students to accomplish what we do, and at this year's state convention, you will have the opportunity to show those accomplishments. Among the presentation of CDE and proficiency awards, you will have the opportunity to meet with FFA members across the

state. This may be your chance to step out of you comfort zone and be involved for a change, or for those that regularly attend convention, it will be a chance to further your ambitions in the FFA by running for state office or applying for a proficiency award. No matter your situation, it is never too late.

Believe in yourself because so many believe in you. I believe that just like in past years of FFA, we will be successful. I hope to see you all at state convention in Auburn. It will be a motivating time for all. Remember to believe in yourself, and above all, give more.



JARED BEASLEY
Alabama FFA Treasurer
Gaston Chapter

Wow! National FFA week was a very busy week for all FFA members across the Nation. My fellow state officers and I had the opportunity to travel to Montgomery Alabama and visit with several state officials. We met with Kay Ivey, State Treasurer and she spoke to use about being leaders. She emphasized the importance of us to be a back bone in all situations. Nancy Worley, Secretary of State, is trying to influence young people to be more involved in elections and executing their right to vote. We also met with Representative Lindsey as he signed a document from the senate declaring it National FFA Week for the State of Alabama. Lt. Governor Lucy Baxley also spoke to all of the state officers. Finally, the group met with Alabama's governor, Bob Riley, and he signed an official proclamation declaring National FFA Week for the state of



Alabama. The state visit was very educational and productive as we developed relationships with our elected officials of Alabama. I hope your National FFA Week was as great as it was for my fellow state officers and me!



KAREN BAGGETT
Alabama FFA Reporter
Lawrence County Chapter

I recently read something in a journal that I jotted down just after I started this school year. I was reflecting upon state convention and what being a state officer meant to me. I read the following passage and was stunned at how true my words were. *That week I learned much about myself. I learned that I am only as prepared as I want to be and even though we have doubts about ourselves, others are constantly believing in and supporting us.* Wow! Did I really write that? If you really think about it, we ARE only as prepared as we want to be. If you only spend 10 minutes a day on an hour's worth of homework, that 10 minutes of work shows how well you want to do in your class. On the other hand, if you practice identifying plants for the Nursery/Landscape CDE everywhere you go, constantly testing your knowledge, you show that you are dedicated to the team and want to do your best.

Besides being prepared for the things we have on our calendars, I thought about the phrase after that: *even though we have doubts about ourselves, others are constantly believing in and supporting us.* The first people that came to my mind were Katie Gann and my advisors, Mr. King and Mr. Daniel. All three people encouraged me to run for state office. Without them behind me, I would not have had the confidence to even apply. All three of them are examples of people that believed in and supported me when I did not. As I mentioned Katie, let me say that all of the state officers believe in you as I am sure your advisors do. You have unleashed potential and I know that our association will prosper as long as



Paul Pinyan and Brandon Moore from the Alabama Farmers Federation with the State Officers in the State House.

students like you and me are willing to **Risk Boldly** and believe the words of those that believe in us! Abraham Lincoln once said, "That some achieve success is proof to all that others can a c h i e v e i t t o o . " Good luck at District Eliminations!!!



KIMBERLY HENDERSON
Alabama FFA Sentinel
Enterprise Chapter

Hello FFA Members!

Since the last time I wrote to you, I had the wonderful opportunity to be a part of the International Leadership Conference for State Officers, visiting Portugal and Spain. The trip enabled me to meet fifty-two other state officers from our great nation and to witness agriculture in a completely different environment! It was extremely educational to be able to see other country's farming practices and experience different cultures.

I had the opportunity to visit agriculture companies including an

olive oil production plant and a military horse training farm. I visited a citrus production facility, the Danna Yogurt Farm, a marine farm, and many others. It was amazing to see the people so willing to share their communities and their farming operations.

The fellow state officers that I traveled with were from Washington State to Florida. I was able to learn new leadership skills through adapting to the change in time and traveling in different countries. The students where amazing, each student brought something new to the group.

It is really hard to express the experience I had through words but it was definitely one of the best experiences of my life! This is just another way the FFA allows students to broaden their future by experiencing new people and environments!

**Touch the world
one student at a time.**



Teach Agriscience!



Top Left: State Officers with Nancy L. Worley, Secretary of State.

Top Right: State Officers with Kay Ivey, State Treasurer.



Middle: State Officers with Senator Larry Means holding a Senate Resolution declaring National FFA Week in Alabama.



Bottom: State Officers with Representative Richard Lindsey signing a House Resolution declaring National FFA Week in Alabama.

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