



# The Alabama FFA REPORTER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA FFA ASSOCIATION

Volume 34

October/November 2006

NO. 4

[www.alabamaffa.org](http://www.alabamaffa.org)



**SALORA WRIGHT**  
State President



**Justin Posey, Alabama State FFA Reporter, is pictured assisting the Alabama Cattlemen's Association with their beef tent at the Talladega Superspeedway's John Deere 250 and UAW-Ford 500 this October in celebration of Beef Month.**

In preparation for the national convention, I have attended seven conferences and traveled over five thousand miles. The preparation for the 79th National FFA Convention began in early June and now the time for the convention is here. The issues that were prepared at State Presidents Conference (SPC) ranged from creating Spanish resources to changing the female official dress.

The state delegates will arrive in Indiana early to decide what issues created at SPC will go on to change our organization on the delegate floor. The number of delegates that represent each state association is based on that association's membership. All associations are guaranteed at least two delegates. Alabama has twelve delegates and

the associations with the largest delegate counts are Texas and California.

At the convention each of the delegate issues will be discussed and voted on by the 475 delegates in attendance. If any delegate has a strong opinion on a specific issue they can present testimony on that issue. The testimony is a personal account of why the delegate is for or against the issue. I am presenting testimony on the "middle school membership" issue. Middle school members (members in the 7th and 8th grades) are not allowed to compete in Career Development Events at the national level, with the exception of creed speaking. If

the issue passes, middle school members may be allowed to compete with all other members in CDEs.

The time we will spend in sessions will take up most of our week. Since there are six issues, two Alabama delegates will serve on each committee. Brandon and I will serve as secretary and discussion group leader respectively, in our committees. The other ten delegates will help to make up the most essential part of the committee, the voting body.

It's not all work at convention. We have the opportunity to attend concerts and a rodeo. Not to mention the time we get to spend with all the friends we

## THE ALABAMA REPORTER

### STATE OFFICERS 2006-2007

President.....**Salora Wright**  
Clements Chapter  
Vice President.....**Travis McGowin**  
Billingsley Chapter  
Secretary.....**W. Brandon Smith**  
Slocomb Chapter  
Treasurer .....**Jerika Buttram**  
Geraldine Chapter  
Reporter .....**Justin Posey**  
Montevallo Chapter  
Sentinel .....**Caleb Colquitt**  
Marbury Chapter

State Advisor .....**Troy D. Newton**  
State Department of Education  
Exec. Secretary.....**Jacob Davis**  
State Department of Education

#### Staff

Ed. Specialist.....**Bobby Thomas**  
Printing.....**Kenny Boyd**  
Secretary.....**Pam Kilpatrick**  
State Department of Education

made over the summer. I really look forward representing our state in Indianapolis. I know that all of our hard work will pay off and we will have a few more priceless memories to show for it.



**TRAVIS MCGOWIN**  
State Vice President

Effective chapter meetings are essential to a good, active FFA Chapter. For a chapter to accomplish anything, it must perform business in an organized manner that effectively states what is happening in that chapter.

The first step in making this happen begins with the chapter officers. The officers are responsible for meeting together to

discuss the agenda for the upcoming meeting. Each officer should have a clear position on the information that will be presented to the chapter. If the officers are not informed about the information, then the members of the chapter will definitely not be able to process the information.

The second step in effective chapter meetings is the meeting itself. The opening ceremony should always begin the meeting. This reminds us of what the officers do and what our organization stands for. Also, the meeting itself should have an order. The order of business is one of the most important parts of a meeting. If there is no aim in the meeting, then the meeting will be ineffective.

The final step in an effective chapter meeting falls upon the members themselves. Lets say the members are assigned to a committee. If that committee does not act and find out the information that it is supposed to, then all of the work that was put into the meeting has failed. Without active members, the chapter itself will never reach its full potential. The cooperation between the officers and the members is essential for the success of the chapter.



**W. BRANDON SMITH**  
State Secretary

I hope that your year of agriscience education is going well so far. I now that you are progressing the future of our



program in this state and, quite frankly, I appreciate the help.

My subject to you in this article is responsibility and accountability. Let me start with a story. There was once a wise old man - an Alabama resident, no less. His son had just gotten caught in a lie over some trivial matter. Now, I know what most of you are thinking at this moment. There was a bunch of yelling and screaming, not to count the grounding. But, to my surprise too, there was none of this. The man had only one thing to say. "Son," he began, "a man only has one thing in this life that no one can take from him. That's his word."

Friends, never have truer words been spoken. As the song goes, "You've got to stand for something, or you'll fall for anything." You have to be accountable for what you do and what you are supposed to do. If you can't be trusted, who can? Stick to your word. If you say you are going to do something, do it. You aren't the only one that will benefit. It *is* one of the essentials to



a successful chapter. Set the tone for others to follow. The FFA has always been the leader in morals and values. Why should now be any different? Oh, and in case you are still in suspense about who relayed those words of wisdom, let me enlighten you. Those words were spoken by none other than my father, William Smith. That would leave only one person to be that little fibbing boy - me. Just let that go to show you. Accountability is key. God bless!



**JERIKA BUTTRAM**  
State Treasurer

The domain of a leader is the future. A leader's unique legacy is the creation of valued organizations that survive over time. The most significant contribution a leader can make is to the long-term development of people and organizations so they can adapt, change, prosper, and grow. Leadership is important, not just within your own chapter, but in every chapter, every community,

and every country. We need more leaders and we need them more than ever. There is so much extraordinary work to be done. Don't be afraid to reach out, not only in your own chapter, but in your community. We need leaders who can unite us, and ignite us, and keep our organization growing strong.



**JUSTIN POSEY**  
State Reporter

The National FFA Convention is the pinnacle activity of our organization. The focus of national convention is entirely on the achievements of fellow FFA members. Even though a lot of the convention is focused on recognizing those students who have excelled in our organization; there are also many more things to do while at the convention and thousands of new friends to be made. National convention is nearly a week long process that starts on Tuesday for delegates, and lasts until the final session is held on Saturday morning where a new slate of National Officers will be chosen to lead our organization of nearly half a million members.

If you have never attended an FFA convention, whether it is State or National, I encourage you to talk to your advisors and show them your interest in participating in these gatherings. Sometimes all it takes is a little push from you the members to get the ball rolling.

Convention is definitely an experience never to miss. Throughout the week you will have numerous fun things to do like checking the FFA and other shopping malls, attending leadership workshops, taking tours of the National FFA Center and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, etc., the possibilities at convention are endless.

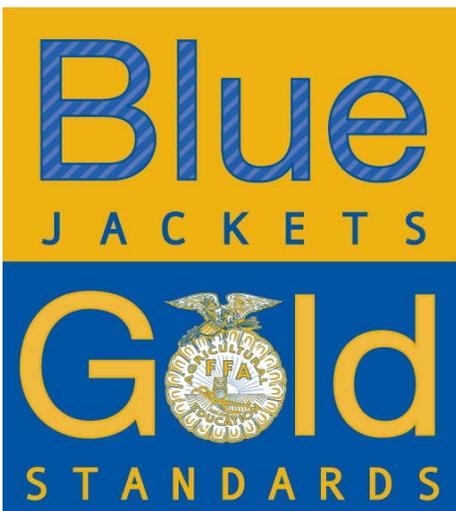
With over 50,000 FFA members attending national convention, you are sure to strike up a life-long relationship. From personal experience I can tell you that friends you make in the FFA are friends that you will keep with you for the rest of your lives.

So the next time you have the chance to attend a national or our state convention, it will be well worth your time. Your next opportunity to attend a convention, by the way, will be our State FFA Convention which is going to be held in Auburn, AL in June 2007. Hope to see you there and at National Convention next year.

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



**Teach Agriscience!**





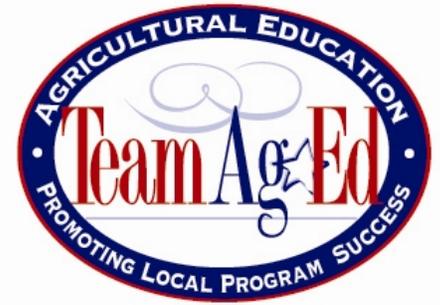
## CALEB COLQUITT State Sentinel

The FFA is truly great because it is a national organization, but it is only so because of the national convention. In 1928, thirty-three young boys met in Kansas City to found our great organization. Many other state agricultural organizations already existed since 1917, but all were divided because they were only state-wide. These thirty-three young farmhands probably never thought they would have such an impact on over 490,000 seventy-eight years after that first FFA meeting. These boys were the very first national delegates. As far as I know, none of the original members are still with us, but they will always be an inspiration to all FFA members. They had the foresight to give us the ability to have an influence over others as they did.

The tradition of national delegates and the national delegate meetings are still a huge part of our upcoming national convention. At every national convention, a select few chosen by the state serve the national organization as a delegate. The delegates debate about and decide on the most important issues facing the FFA.

Last year, I was given the great honor of serving as a delegate by the state. It was one of the most

enjoyable and rewarding experiences of my life. There are only 475 delegates and I was one of them. My vote would have a significant role in the FFA and my debate could influence even more of the delegates. This meant that hundreds of thousand of FFA members would be affected by my choices. However, I quickly learned something. I wasn't there to change the organization on a whim. Even with over four hundred delegates, that small number deciding for nearly 500,000 members would be little better than a dictatorship. I, as well as the other delegates, was there to make the decisions based on what the other members wanted. All the FFA members in Alabama were part of my decisions. I will return as a delegate this year, and what you have to say is important to



me. Just as those thirty-three farm boys had no idea the influence they had, you probably don't realize how much you have either. We have over 14,000 members to serve in Alabama, but we try to do what is most beneficial to all of them. I guarantee that no matter how small you see yourself, in the FFA you opinion matters.



**Pictured above are the members of the 2005-2006 Ider FFA quartet that performed for the state school board on August 7, 2006. (l-r): Drew Smith, Dustin Payne, Whitney Tinker, and Victoria Inman**