2009 State FFA Convention a Success!

The 80th Annual Alabama FFA Convention was held June 3-5, 2009, on the campus of Auburn University. The opening session began at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3. Mr. James Paul Bailey, 2007-2008 State President, delivered the invocation. Mickey Humphries, State FFA Advisor, delivered a challenge to the members and advisors of the Alabama FFA Association. The Federal Land Bank Associations of Alabama, 2009 Corporate Sponsors of the Alabama FFA State Convention, brought greetings to the members, advisors, and guests. The 2008-2009 District Officers and the 2009-2010 State Officer candidates were introduced. Justin Posey from Montevallo was introduced as Alabama’s National Officer candidate. The Past State Officers Alumni recognized the 2009 Wall of Honor recipients. Josh Sundquist was the keynote speaker for this session. He entertained the crowd with his inspiring and energetic presentation.

The second session began at 7:30 p.m. on June 3. National Chapter Award recipients were recognized along with the Top Five Chapters in the state. The State FFA Officers honored their parents and advisors. Andy Revels from the Samson Chapter was named as the State Star Farmer. Numerous teachers and supporters were recognized by receiving Alabama FFA’s highest honor, the Honorary State FFA Degree. Brittany Kendall Oliver from the Horseshoe Bend Chapter was named as the Future Farmer/Agribusinessman of the Year. Michelle Vasbinder from the Enterprise Chapter was named recipient of the Mindy Stringer Memorial Scholarship in the amount of $1,000. The Keel family presented the Hunter Keel Memorial Scholarship, and Raven Buchanan gave her retiring address.

June 4, at 8:30 a.m., marked the opening of the third session. The Crime Prevention awards were distributed recognizing the top chapters in the state that have crime prevention activities included in their program of activities. Chapters which had 100 percent chapter membership were also...
recognized. The M.K. Heath Animal Health Award winner was recognized, and Anna Leigh Peek delivered her retiring address. CDE awards were given for the following specialty areas: Agricultural Construction & Maintenance, Agricultural Mechanics, Creed Speaking, Dairy Cattle Evaluation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Floriculture, Forestry, Horse Evaluation, Land, Livestock, Nursery & Landscape, Parliamentary Procedure, Prepared Public Speaking, Poultry, Quiz Bowl, Safe Tractor Driving, and Small Engines. Proficiency Awards were given for Agricultural Mechanics, Agricultural Sales and/or Service, Beef Production, Dairy Production, Diversified Crop Production, Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management, Equine Science, Floriculture, Forest Management, Fruit/Vegetable Production, Home and/or Community Development, Landscape Management, Nursery Operations, Poultry Production, Sheep Production, Specialty Animal Production, Swine Production, Turf Grass Management, and Wildlife Management. Proficiency awards were also given out in the following specialty proficiency areas: Agricultural Communications, Agricultural Education, and Forage Production. To close out the session the top six quartets vied for top honors in our quartet competition.

On Thursday afternoon, students also had an opportunity to attend the FFA Social sponsored by the Auburn University College of Agriculture and the AU Horticulture Department. The event was held at the Alfa Pavilion. A meal was provided for the attendees as well as donated potato chips from Golden Flake and donated ice cream from Blue Bell. At the close of the social, the Alabama FFA Alumni had an organizational meeting to renew the state charter for our state.

The fourth general session began promptly at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 4. This session was changed up from previous years to be a more fun and interactive session for the attendees. Awards were presented for the String Band Contest and the 1st Place String Band from Sand Rock performed for the crowd. Brandy Feltman and Michelle Vasbinder gave their retiring addresses; and Laila Hajji, National FFA Central Region Vice President from the Guthrie, Oklahoma, FFA Chapter delivered her keynote address. Awards were given out to the top four quartets in the quartet competition. The convention was also privileged to hear the harmony of the state winning quartet from the Tallassee FFA Chapter.

Pictured above are Brittany Kendall Oliver, 2009 Future Farmer/Agribusinessman of the Year from the Horseshoe Bend FFA Chapter, along with Rick Norton, Vice President of Interstate Oil (right); and Richard Farrow, Horseshoe Bend FFA Chapter Advisor (left).
The fifth general session began at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, June 5. Zachary Jones, 2008-2009 State FFA President, delivered his retiring address. Then the State Officers gave their end-of-the-year report. About 175 FFA members from across the state received their State FFA Degrees during the State FFA Degree Ceremony. The convention closed with the installation of the 2009-2010 State FFA Officers. The state officers were assisted with the announcement of the new slate of officers by the chair of the Nominating Committee, Heath Golden, who is an advisor from the Albertville FFA Chapter. The new State FFA Officers for the 2009-2010 school year are: President – Hunter Garnett from the Danville Chapter; Vice President – Mary Helen Jones from the Wetumpka Chapter; Secretary – Wiley Bailey from the Sand Rock Chapter; Treasurer – Kacey Colquitt from the Marbury Chapter; Reporter – Patrick Howard from the McAdory

2009 Mindy Stringer Scholarship Recipient
Michelle Vasbinder of the Enterprise FFA Chapter is shown with Melissa Madden, Mindy Stringer’s sister, receiving a plaque and check for $1,000. The Enterprise FFA Advisors are Alan Waters and Michael Harrelson.

2009 State Star Farmer
Andy Revels of the Samson FFA Chapter was named the 2009 State Star Farmer for Alabama. He is shown with his advisor, Mr. Chris Kennedy.

Pictured left is the keynote speaker for the 2009 State FFA Convention, Josh Sundquist.

Pictured right are the 2009 Agriscience Teachers of the Year, as selected by the Past State FFA Officers Alumni: (l-r) Donya Holland, Ashford; Keith Adair, Montevallo; and Robby Vinzant, Speake.
Chapter; and Sentinel – Joey Stabler from the Daphne Chapter.

The new State Officer Team participated this summer in two training workshops. The first was Blast Off. This is a leadership workshop that was held in Montgomery on June 10–12, 2009, at the Drury Inn and Suites. This is an FFA-sanctioned training workshop, but Alabama includes all Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) in the training: FFA, FCCLA, HOSA, TSA, SkillsUSA, FBLA, and DECA. During the Blast Off conference, the officers learned items such as: dinner etiquette, speech development and delivery, how to address a group, and various other leadership activities. The State FFA Officers then traveled to Raymond, Mississippi, to attend the National Leadership Conference for State Officers (NLCSO) on June 16-19. They were involved with a four-day training program conducted by two of the National FFA Officers. They will then be trained and ready to conduct and assist with the District Officers’ Leadership Conference and the Chapter Officer Leadership Workshops held in the three districts across Alabama. They will also have opportunities to meet with various public officials and become spokespersons for FFA and agriculture in the state of Alabama.

For a complete listing of the CDE results from our State Convention, please visit our Web site: http://www.alabamaffa.org.

No person shall be denied employment, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity on the basis of disability, sex, race, religion, national origin, color, or age. Ref: Sec. 1983, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.; Title VI and VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Sec. 504; Age Discrimination in Employment Act; Equal Pay Act of 1963; Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972: Title IX Coordinator, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101 or call (334) 242-8444.

The Falkville FFA Chapter placed first in Forestry CDE state competition. Shane Bryan (right) is the advisor of the Falkville Chapter.

Above: The Douglas FFA Chapter placed first in the State Livestock CDE. Pictured with the state winning team is Kevin Williams, Douglas FFA Advisor (right).

Below: The Oakman FFA Chapter placed first in the State Quiz Bowl competition. Pictured with the state winning team is Chris Thrasher, Oakman FFA Advisor.