



The Alabama FFA REPORTER

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The Alabama FFA Association attends the 81st National FFA Convention

Pictured are the members, advisors, and supporters of the Alabama FFA Association attending the state photograph session at the Annual National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The 81st National FFA Convention was an exciting experience for thousands of FFA members from across the nation. There was an attendance of 54,731 members, advisors, parents, and supporters that converged on Indianapolis, Indiana, for the event at the end of October. Alabama had over 580 of the attendees participating in competitions, workshops, convention sessions, and other activities.

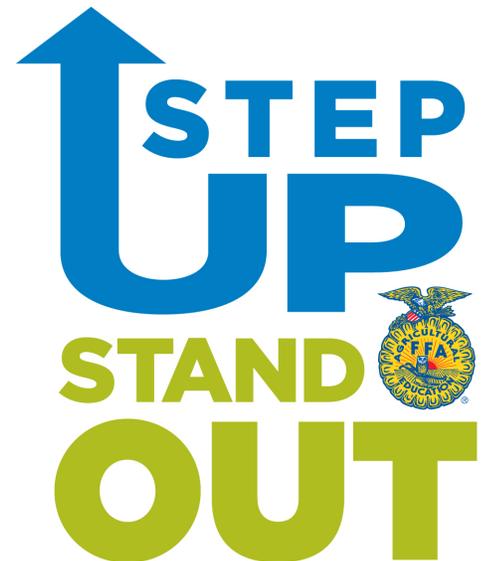
Eufaula High School won first place in the Chevron Delo National Tractor Restoration Program. Eufaula FFA students and advisor, Buster Padgett, fully restored a 1946 Case DC tractor to its original condition.

Noah Sims, an Alabama FFA member at Falkville High School, was selected as the nation's overall top winner of the prestigious Agricultural Mechanics Energy Systems Entrepreneurship Award. Sims was one of only four students from across the nation chosen to compete for this special award. After school each day, Sims constructs and

repairs ammonia absorption refrigeration systems. His responsibilities have grown from just cleaning the refrigeration units to now designing, welding, and fabricating them. Sims received a national plaque and \$1,000. Sim's advisor is Shane Bryan.

Bethany Lewis, Alabama FFA member from Ashford High School, was one of only four students selected nationwide to compete in this year's National Dairy Production competition. Bethany works at a dairy farm each day after school and is a third generation dairy farmer. In the beginning, she only helped with feeding the calves, but now she assists in managing the company's records, oversees the animal health care program, and assists with breeding management. In recognition of being selected a national finalist, Lewis received \$500.

We had several state-winning Career Development Event (CDE) Teams representing Alabama in the National



competition. The following list identifies those teams and the results of their efforts. A special recognition goes to Richard Farrow and the Horseshoe Bend FFA Forestry Team for placing 2nd in the Nation.

CDE Event

Agricultural Mechanics
 Creed Speaking
 Dairy Cattle Evaluation
 Extemporaneous Speaking
 Floriculture
 Forestry
 Horse Evaluation
 Livestock Evaluation
 Nursery Landscape
 Parliamentary Procedure
 Prepared Public Speaking
 Poultry

Team

McAdory HS FFA
 Lauren Bass (Jacksonville HS FFA)
 Arab HS FFA
 Zach Jones (Spring Garden FFA)
 Lexington HS FFA
 Horseshoe Bend HS FFA
 Arab HS FFA
 Holly Pond HS FFA
 Speake HS FFA
 Marbury HS FFA
 Salora Wright (Clements HS FFA)
 Pell City HS FFA

Result

Silver
 Bronze
 Bronze
 Bronze
 Silver
 Gold (2nd)
 Silver
 Silver
 Bronze
 Silver
 Bronze
 Silver

Alabama FFA's membership of 15,132 afforded the association 11 voting delegates to the National FFA Convention. The delegate process is an important part of the convention and concludes the debate on issues that were brought out in July at the State President's Conference in Washington, D.C.

Four chapters from Alabama participated in the National FFA Talent program at this year's convention. The Enterprise and Sylvania chapters had quartets that performed at various functions during the convention. The Montevallo and Sand Rock chapters had string bands that performed at various functions as well as on stage at the National Talent Review.

The Albertville FFA chapter was responsible for Alabama's Hall of States Exhibit. The advisors of the Albertville Chapter are Phillip Williams and Heath Golden.

Kimberly Henderson, 2006-2007 State Sentinel from the Enterprise chapter, was Alabama's choice as a national officer candidate for the nominating committee process. Even though Kimmey was not selected as a national officer this year, we are proud of her and wish her the best with her pursuit of a degree in agricultural communications from Auburn University.

Touch the world one student at a time.



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THE ALABAMA REPORTER

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 Oakman Chapter
 Secretary **Michelle Vasbinder**
 Enterprise Chapter
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Ten FFA chapters in Alabama submitted applications for recognition in the National Chapter Awards Program. They are: Brantley HS FFA, East Lawrence HS FFA, Enterprise HS FFA, Eufaula HS FFA, Fort Payne HS FFA, Geraldine HS FFA, Montevallo HS FFA, New Brockton HS FFA, Pell City HS FFA, and Speake HS FFA. This program allows chapters to receive recognition for the chapter's Program of Activities they conduct throughout the year. Each of these chapters is very deserving of the recognition they have received. We encourage other chapters with great programs to have their chapter officers complete and submit an application for recognition.

The highest honor that the National FFA Organization offers to its members is the American FFA Degree. This degree is bestowed upon members that meet certain criteria which substantiate their growth as a productive member of society. Honorary American Degrees are also awarded to teachers, superintendents, partners, and others to recognize their support of the agriscience education program and FFA. The following are Alabama's recipients.

Honorary American Degree

Gary Aycock Pell City

American FFA Degree

Caleb Colquitt Marbury
 Benjamin Jared Etrass Cottonwood
 Stephen Edward Noblett Eufaula
 Randa R. Owen Fort Payne





Pictured above are the members of the Eufaula Tractor Restoration Committee that won first place in the Chevron Delo National Tractor Restoration Program. The Eufaula Tractor Restoration Committee and advisor, Buster Padgett, fully restored this 1946 Case DC tractor to its original condition. Below are some photos from the National Convention.





National FFA Week in Alabama

The Alabama FFA Association and the National FFA Organization celebrated National FFA Week, February 21-28, 2009. The theme this year, “Step Up/Stand Out,” embodies all the best about FFA members.

More than half a million members around the nation, including over 15,000 in Alabama, participated in FFA Week activities at the local and state level. The focus of National FFA Week is to inform America about the great opportunities available in agriscience education for all youth.

The picture collage above portrays the State FFA Officers making some important visits in the state’s capitol city during National FFA Week.

With its beginning in 1928 as the Future Farmers of America, the National FFA Organization today reaches out to all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The Alabama FFA Association was chartered in 1929. FFA is committed to developing character and leadership skills and preparing members for a lifetime of civic leadership and career success. FFA members have opportunities to attend national leadership conferences, develop a supervised learning project, learn life skills, and serve their communities with service projects.

Through classroom instruction and hands-on learning, agriscience education and FFA are making a positive difference in the lives of students everyday. FFA members are the leaders of tomorrow. They are our future

engineers, scientists, teachers, and producers. Students may earn awards and recognition and educational scholarships to pursue their career goals.

One of every five Americans is employed in the critical food, fiber, and natural resources industries of agriculture, and former FFA members and supporters serve in these essential careers. Today, more than 300 career opportunities are available to students through agriscience education. FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. For more information about the Alabama FFA Association, visit its Web site at <http://www.alabamaffa.org> or the National FFA Organization’s Web site at <http://www.ffa.org>.