The Alabama FFA Association attends the 82nd 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 82nd National FFA Convention was an exciting experience for thousands of FFA members from across the nation. There was an attendance of over 53,000 members, advisors, parents, and supporters that converged on Indianapolis, Indiana for the event at the end of October. Alabama had over 520 attendees participating in competitions, workshops, convention sessions, and other activities surrounding the convention.

Alabama had several state-winning Career Development Event (CDE) Teams representing Alabama in National Competition. The following chart identifies those teams and the results of their efforts. A special recognition goes to Shane Bryan, Advisor, and the Falkville FFA Forestry Team for placing 3rd in the Nation. The team members were: Ashley Holmes, Justin Jacobs, Christopher Wilhite, and Jordan Saint.

<table>
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<th>CDE Events</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Results</th>
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<td>Agricultural Mechanics</td>
<td>Douglas HS FFA</td>
<td>Silver</td>
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<td>Creed Speaking</td>
<td>Danielle Cassady (East Limestone)</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dairy Cattle Evaluation</td>
<td>Arab HS FFA</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extemporaneous Speaking</td>
<td>James William Haynes (Tallassee)</td>
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<td>Floriculture</td>
<td>Enterprise HS FFA</td>
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<td>Forestry</td>
<td>Falkville HS FFA</td>
<td>Gold (3rd)</td>
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<td>Horse Evaluation</td>
<td>Southside HS FFA</td>
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<td>Prepared Public Speaking</td>
<td>Elizabeth Wilson (Jacksonville)</td>
<td>Silver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>Arab HS FFA</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
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Ten FFA chapters in Alabama submitted applications for recognition in the National Chapter Awards Program. Those chapters are listed here alphabetically followed by their star ranking (3 being the highest): Brantley HS FFA (2), East Lawrence HS FFA (2), Eufaula HS FFA (2), Fort Payne HS FFA (3), Geraldine HS FFA (2), Montevallo HS FFA (2), McAdory HS FFA (1), New Brockton HS FFA (2), Pell City HS FFA (2), and Speake HS FFA (3). This program allows chapters to receive recognition for the chapter’s Program of
Activities they conduct throughout the year. The Speake FFA Chapter was honored this year by being named as a National Finalist for the Models of Innovation competition of the National Chapter Award Program in two categories: Community Development and Student Development. Each of these chapters is very deserving of the recognition they have received. We have other chapters that do some great programs and don’t receive the recognition they deserve because the chapter officers don’t fill out an application.

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 list is of Alabama’s recipients.

**Honorary American Degree**
Jerry Newby, President, Alabama Farmers Federation
Dr. Joseph B. Morton, State Superintendent of Education

**American FFA Degree**
Taylor Andrews, Brantley
Jared M. Beasley, Gaston
Ciara Crotzer, Speake
Judy Elizabeth Eldred, Smiths Station
Robert Samuel Ginwright, Montevallo
Brittani Landers, Montevallo
Sarah Lesley, Red Bay
Bethany Ray Lewis, Ashford
Josh Maples, Elkmont
Jonathan Micah Martin, Gaston
Amanda Pangburn, Geraldine
Justin Bryant Posey, Montevallo
Zac Rutherford, Speake
Steven Turbyfill, Red Bay
Salora Wright, Clements

Attending the National Convention with Jerry Newby, President of the Alabama Farmers Federation, was Representative Richard Lindsey of the 39th District and chairman of the Education Finance and Appropriations Committee; Mike Kilgore, Executive Director of the Alabama Farmers Federation; Paul Pinyan, Director of Governmental Affairs of the Alabama Farmers Federation; and Brandon Moore, Director of the ALFA Young Farmers Program of the Alabama Farmers Federation.

The Alabama FFA’s membership of 15,067 afforded the association 12 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. One item that the delegates passed was to increase national membership dues from $5 per member to $7 per member for the 2010-2011 school year.

Three chapters from Alabama participated in the National FFA Talent program at this year’s convention. The Enterprise chapter had a quartet that performed at various functions during the national convention. The Kate Duncan Smith D.A.R., Enterprise, and Sand Rock chapters had string bands that performed at various functions as well as on stage at the National Talent Review.

The Goshen FFA chapter was responsible for Alabama’s Hall of States Exhibit. The advisors of the Goshen Chapter are Rusty Yeomans and Kelly Pritchett.

Justin Posey, 2006-2007 State Reporter from the Montevallo chapter, was Alabama’s choice as a national officer candidate to go through the nominating committee process. Even though Justin was not selected as a national officer this year, we are still proud of him and wish him the best.

Alabama also had a great showing in the National FFA Alumni activities at convention this year.

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.