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2014-2015 STATE FFA OFFICER TEAM

Will Graves, President; Levi Colquitt, Vice-President; Lacey Newman, Secretary;
Cody Maddox, Treasurer; Clay Tew, Reporter; Colten Farley, Sentinel





by Will Graves
President

Reflections From The Rising Sun



Wow! What an incredible summer it has been! After the conclusion of the 86th Alabama FFA State Convention, it was time for my fellow officers and I to get to work.

We began our year of service by attending the State Officer Leadership Training Seminar in Montgomery where we met with state officers from other Career and Technology Student Organizations in the state and kicked off our leadership training. We participated in some fun activities that helped us learn while actively engaging us in using valuable leadership skills. After a few days at home to re-pack our bags, we met back in Auburn for our BLAST Off training. This training was much different than our first. BLAST Off was focusing more on our individual personality qualities and how we can use those qualities to be an efficient and productive team throughout this year. The National Leadership Conference for State Officers was our first big-time road trip together and we had a lot of bonding time during this week. Our awesome executive secretary, Mr. Paramore, was our fearless driver during our journey to Raymond, Mississippi, and we all had a great time. We spent the entire week with state officers from Mississippi and Louisiana, and built friendships that will last a lifetime. That was the last week of our outstanding leadership training the National FFA Organization provided for state officers, and when we arrived back home in Alabama preparations began for our District Officer Leadership Conference, which was held in Columbiana at the 4-H Center. DOLC is a conference we facilitate for all district officers so they can receive much of the same information state officers learned during our training, which will prepare them to facilitate the Chapter Officer Leadership Workshops held across the state in July. Since the district officers were equipped

with the skills needed to present workshops for chapter officers, planning continued and the COLWs were a huge success!

Levi Colquitt and I had the opportunity to travel to the State Presidents Conference in Washington, D.C. It was here where the delegate process began in preparation for the 87th National FFA Convention and Expo. Each state had two representatives present, both of which made decisions on behalf of their respective states. Levi and I met with senators and congressmen representing our state on Capitol Hill and discussed current issues facing agriculture and agricultural education. We also met with industry professionals and partners of the National FFA Organization, all of which continue to show unending support for the National FFA Organization and agricultural education.

Overall, the state officer team has had a very exciting and very productive summer. It amazes me how close my team and I have become in such a short amount of time. We have traveled far and wide this summer and learned so much along the way. We kicked off our year of service with a great start, full of new ideas to bring forward to members. I am so excited to see what the rest of the year holds for our state association!

*“Always do your best.
What you plant now,
you will harvest later.”
-Og Mandino*

Until next time,




Touch the world one student at a time.



Teach Agriscience!



by Levi Colquitt
Vice President

**The Alabama FFA
Reporter
State Officers 2014-2015**

President.....**Will Graves**
Cleveland

Vice President.....**Levi Colquitt**
Marbury

Secretary.....**Lacey Newman**
Reeltown

Treasurer.....**Cody Maddox**
Geraldine

Reporter.....**Clay Tew**
G.W. Long

Sentinel.....**Colten Farley**
White Plains

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State Advisor.....Jacob Davis
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Admin. Asst.Pam Kilpatrick



This year the Joint Leadership Development Conference, JLDC, was bigger and better than ever! The theme was “Made In Alabama,” and it was a showcase of speakers and students who make Alabama the great state we like to call home. A record-setting attendance reached approximately 8,000 students at this year’s conference. State officers from each of our state’s career and technology organizations met the night before the conference began to prepare for the main sessions the following morning. That night we held a short opening session and had a spectacular concert with the very talented, Donica Knight, a singer from Alabama. We heard many excellent speakers and enjoyed the career show. Bobby Jon Drinkard, one of the speakers during the main session, spoke to us about his opportunities growing up in Alabama and being part of career and technology programs. Drinkard encouraged all students to work hard and try new things in career and technology classes. In Alabama, jobs are always available for those who are interested in becoming certified to work in a certain field. After graduating from Troy University, Drinkard went on to host

the television series “On the Job,” which aired on the Alabama Public Television channel. This television program highlighted the many technical careers available for students. Another speaker we had the pleasure of hearing was novelist, Winston Groom. Groom is the author of “Forrest Gump.” At the conclusion of the main sessions, students broke out into 3 large groups to attend workshops presented by more outstanding facilitators. Lunch was served and the rest of the afternoon was spent visiting the vendors and booths in the trade show, and mingling with other students from all across the state. In all, the 2014 Joint Leadership Development Conference was a fantastic success and we showed Birmingham what Alabama Career and Technology Students are all about. Alabama FFA was definitely well represented and brought our best and brightest to participate in this year’s conference. If you were able to attend this year, you definitely experienced the best JLDC to date. If you did not attend, however, I hope you look forward to being in attendance next year!



Get to Know Your State FFA Officers



by Lacey Newman
Secretary



Currently serving as the 2014-2015 Alabama FFA State President is Will Graves from the Cleveland FFA Chapter in the North District. Will has been a devoted FFA member for seven years where he competed in Livestock Career Development Events and has raised and exhibited multiple breeds of show cattle. Presently he is eighteen and a freshman at Wallace State Community College with plans of transferring to Mississippi State University. Although unsure of a major, he is considering animal science or poultry science, with a minor in political science.



Levi Colquitt is serving as the 2014-2015 State Vice President from the Marbury FFA Chapter in the Central District. Levi has served as an FFA member for five years and has previously competed in Extemporaneous Speaking Career Development Events, Parliamentary Procedure Career Development Events, and Creed Speaking Career Development Events. Levi is seventeen and a senior in high school where he has raised and exhibited show hogs and hopes to attend college to major in Computer Engineering.



Currently serving as the 2014-2015 State Secretary is sixteen year old Lacey Newman from the Reeltown FFA Chapter in the Central District. Lacey has been a passionate FFA member for five years and has recently competed in Quizbowl Career Development Events, Poultry Career Development Events Safe Tractor Driving Career Development Events and Quartet Career Development Events. Being a junior in high school, she plans to graduate and go on to college to major in Agricultural Education and minor in Agricultural Communications.



Cody Maddox presently holds the 2014-2015 State treasurer position as a senior in high school at eighteen years of age. Cody is from the Geraldine FFA chapter in the North District where he has been a member there for four years. Cody raises Beef cattle for his Supervised Agricultural Experience and has competed in the Parliamentary Procedure Career Development Events. Cody plans to attend college to major in Agricultural Business and Economics with a minor in Political Science and go on to attend Law school.



Clay Tew from the G.W. Long Chapter in the South District is currently the 2014-2015 State Reporter. Clay Tew is seventeen years old and a junior in high school where he has been a dedicated member for three years and also raises and exhibits shorthorn and crossbreed steers. Clay has competed in the Livestock Career Development Events and after high school hopes to attend college to become a Veterinarian.



The 2014-2015 State Sentinel is Colten Farley from the White Plains FFA Chapter in the Central District. Colten is seventeen years old and a senior in high school serving as a member for four years. Colten raises and exhibits Duroc Yorkshire and Crossbred hogs, Shorthorn and Simmental Cattle, Crossbred Market Lambs and timed Event Horses. He has competed in the Livestock Career Development Events and after high school wants to attend college to major in Agricultural Education and minor in Animal Science.



by Cody Maddox
Treasurer

Another National Convention is in the books. The 87th National FFA Convention and Expo was a outstanding, with a record attendance of 64,409 members and guest present. We had the opportunity to hear from Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Mrs. Jane Jenkins Herlong and many more great speakers. We also heard six amazing retiring addresses from the National FFA officers. Alabama was represented phenomenally well in the career development events, as shown in the results below:

CDE Event	Competitors	Results
Ag Tech. & Mech. Systems	Arab FFA	Silver
Creed Speaking	Rachel Hollingsworth, White Plains	Bronze
Extemporaneous Speaking	Destiny Barthel, Pleasant Valley	Bronze
Floriculture	Pleasant Valley FFA	Bronze
Forestry	Lawrence County FFA	Silver
Livestock Evaluation	Brantley FFA	Bronze
Meats Evaluation	Thorsby FFA	Silver
Nursery and Landscape	Hatton FFA	Bronze
Poultry Evaluation	Albertville FFA	Bronze
Prepared Public Speaking	Wade Gossett, Hokes Bluff	Bronze

Alabama proudly held 11 seats on the delegate floor. The six delegate issues being considered were middle school participation, agricultural conference, FFA and agricultural advocacy, careers in agricultural education, CDE evaluation, and Agricultural Career Network. The middle school participation was proposed by the Alabama FFA Association. The proposed issue would allow seventh grade state winners to participate in the National Contest. The issue was passed by the delegate body and is now under consideration of the Board of directors. All in all, the 87th National FFA Convention was a huge success!



The 2013-2014 National FFA Officer Team



by Clay Tew
Reporter



by Colten Farley
Sentinel

This past October the Auburn University College of Agriculture Ag Ambassadors hosted the first annual D.I.G. Leadership Conference (Dedication, Innovation, and Growth). This new leadership conference attracted over 150 high school students to the Auburn University campus where they were able to develop leadership and professional skills that will help them succeed in their future. The students attended several leadership workshops throughout the day led by Ag Ambassadors, alumni, industry representatives, and professors. Students also got a chance to take a tour of some of the amazing facilities at Auburn University and meet the famous Auburn mascot, Aubie. This was a great experience and my fellow officers and I were excited to be able to attend. I urge everyone to plan on attending next year and help further your abilities in leadership and understandings of agriculture.

Students from all over the state have SAE's that involve livestock whether they raise them or they work on a farm that does. A lot of students that have livestock related SAE's also are involved in training and showing their livestock. Pretty much any species of livestock raised in Alabama can be shown and several of the 2014-2015 State Officers show now, or have shown before. Will shows Angus, Hereford and Crossbred heifers, Clay shows Shorthorn and Maine Anjou heifers as well as Crossbred steers, and I show Shorthorn and Simmental heifers, Duroc, Yorkshire, and Crossbred market hogs or breeding gilts, Crossbred Market Lambs and also train Timed Event horses. Showman typically spend more time in their barns than they do in their houses. We usually purchase our show stock as young animals as soon as they are weaned so it is easier to tame and train them. After the animals are home and settled in, they are fed the highest quality feed and supplements to get them on the right nutritional plan so they grow to their maximum potential from a market or breeding standpoint. We work hard all year with our projects and haul them to jackpot shows or county fairs to

prepare us, and our stock, for the State Show or Alabama National Fair! There are numerous shows in Alabama and surrounding states that exhibitors haul their animals to. Some of us also attend National shows such as the NAILE (North American International Livestock Exposition) in Louisville, Kentucky, our respective breed Junior Nationals with our cattle, or even a National Junior Swine Association Regional show! No matter the species' or the level of competition we show, all exhibitors give it our all at the National Fair! Usually held the first full week of October in Montgomery, Alabama showman bring all species of livestock to be exhibited at the Fair. For some species such as lambs, this is the last show they attend but for others, like prospect market hogs, it's their animal's first show of many! Shortly after the National Fair is the National Peanut Festival which is in Dothan, Alabama every year the first week of November. There are livestock shows at both of these events but that's not all the fair has to offer. Vendors are invited and a carnival crew is rented for the week so anyone who wants to come out can have some fun too while also being able to walk the barns and admire the livestock Alabama FFA members pride themselves on and work diligently all year for the moment they can hopefully be named Grand Champion in their Breed or Division!



District Officer Spotlight



2014-2015 North District Officer Team

Seated (left to right): Ivy Harbin, President; Lane Bonds, Vice President; and Shelby Atwood, Treasurer. Standing (left to right): Hunter Paff, Sentinel; Ethan Mobley, Reporter; and Wade Gossett, Secretary.

The North District FFA is represented by a fantastic slate of officers this year.

The President is Ivy Harbin from the West Limestone FFA Chapter. She likes to spend her spare time with her show cattle and helping her father on the family farm.

Lane Bonds, from the Cherokee FFA Chapter, is serving as Vice President. She is a volunteer firefighter in her community.

The Secretary, Wade Gossett, is from the Hokes Bluff Chapter. He was the Alabama Prepared Public Speaking Contest winner. Wade went on to compete at the National Contest, where he placed bronze.

The Treasurer is Shelby Atwood from the Florence FFA chapter. Shelby has an obsession with all things

that involve cattle. When Shelby was younger she would go to her grandfather's farm and help with the cattle. Currently she does not personally have any cattle, but one day she would like to have a cattle farm of her own.

Ethan Mobley is serving as the Reporter. He is from the Red Bay FFA Chapter. Ethan has plans to become a preacher after high school; he always puts God first in his life.

Hunter Paff, from the Lawrence County Chapter, is serving as the Sentinel. He has a passion for restoring antique automobiles; his favorite car is the 1957 Chevrolet Belair.



ALABAMA FFA ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OFFICIAL MINUTES

22 August, 2014

Will Graves called the meeting to order.

Mr. Paramore moved, Cody seconded, to approve the minutes. The approval of the minutes passed.

Mr. Davis moved to amend the agenda, Levi seconded, amendment and approval of the agenda both passed.

Mr. Jacob Davis informed the committee of the Alabama FFA Account balances and bank account activity. The profits and losses of the Alabama FFA Association from 2011-2014 were discussed.

The association budget was set and Levi Colquitt moved to accept the yearly budget as it was read. Levi Colquitt called a point of order stating that the chair failed to get a second to the motion. The second was then stated by Colten Farley and the motion to accept the budget was passed.

Levi Colquitt moved, Colten seconded, to set a \$5,000 budget to buy a cargo trailer and screen printing for the trailer. Colten Farley supplied the second and the motion to buy the trailer and screen printing passed.

A new Request for Special Needs Accommodation form was discussed and Mr. Jacob Davis moved, Levi seconded, to adopt the form of request. The motion passed.

The 2014 Joint Leadership Development Conference, held in Birmingham, Alabama, is set for November 18th and 19th.

The 87th National FFA Convention and Expo is October 27th, 2014, held in Louisville, Kentucky. The state officer team along with 5 other Alabama delegates will be attending National Convention. There are six committees for the delegates to participate in: Middle School Participation, Agricultural Conference, FFA and Agricultural Education Advocacy, Careers in Agricultural Education, CDE Evaluation, and Agricultural Career Network.

The state officers were assigned to particular counties throughout Alabama.

Mr. Davis moved, Levi seconded, to accept the changes discussed in the Forestry CDE Booklet. The motion passed.

Mr. Davis informed us that the FFA Policy had been updated in all printed materials.

Mr. Paramore moved, Levi seconded, to change the team activity in the Poultry CDE from 200 points to 150 points. The motion passed.

Mr. Paramore moved, Colten seconded, to only host the Parliamentary Procedure CDE competition at the state level. A voice vote was taken and division of assembly was called. The rising vote was 5-2. The motion passed.

Cody moved, Lacey seconded, to recess for lunch. The motion passed.

The Meeting was called back to order.

Mr. Davis moved, Levi seconded, to accept a policy for local chapter activity. The motion passed.

Mr. Jacob Davis moved, Colten seconded, to establish a stripe account for payments and FFA donations. The motion passed.

Colten moved, Lacey seconded, to rescind the motion to make Parliamentary Procedure a state only event. The motion passed.

Clay moved, Colten seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.



State Officers from Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi with Facilitators at NLCSO



Will Graves, and Levi Colquitt with Southern Region Vice President Jackson Harris at the State Presidents Conference in Washington, D.C.



State officers with their facilitator, Amy Gallimore, at SOLTS



State Officers with National Secretary, Mitch Baker, after dinner at Jerry's Cat-fish House in Florence, Mississippi during NLCSO.



Alabama's National Officer Candidate, Nikki Giba, receiving her American Degree.



*District and State Officers at DOLC
with National Officer Candidate, Nikki Giba.*



*Opening session at the 87th National FFA
Convention & Expo*



Alabama's 11 Delegates at National Convention



Newly-elected National FFA Officer team

(L to R) Andy Paul-President, Caleb Gustin-Western Region VP, Stephen M^cBride-Southern Region VP, Kristen Schmidt-Central Region VP, Ruth Ann Myers-Eastern Region VP, and Victoria Maloch-Secretary

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, gender, race, religion, national origin, color, age or genetics. 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; The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008; Equal Pay Act of 1963; Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972; Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008: Title IX Coordinator, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101 or call (334) 242-8165.