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The Alabama Reporter State Officers 2013-2014

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National FFA Week



William Norris
State President

Each year, in this wonderful organization, we celebrate National FFA Week during the third week of February. Each one of the Alabama FFA State Officers had a very busy week. I started my week by visiting the West Morgan FFA Chapter in Morgan County early Monday morning and spent the day with their members and advisor, Mr. Kevin Sanders. Tuesday afternoon, I then had the pleasure to travel to the Shelby County Chapter to help their members and advisor, Mr. Dustin Cleckler with proficiency award applications. The state officer team then traveled to Wetumpka High School for an assembly hosted by Wetumpka FFA members. While at Wetumpka High School, two additional chapters joined in the festive assembly, Marbury FFA and Stanhope Elmore FFA. I especially enjoyed our Thursday visit considering it was hosted by my home chapter. I then concluded my National FFA Week celebration by visiting the Lincoln FFA chapter and their advisor, Mrs. Amy Stephens. I spoke to their members about FFA Opportunities and the Awards that are available in FFA. I thoroughly enjoyed the time I got to spend visiting chapters and meeting amazing FFA members. Once again, I was reminded of why I love this organization.





Bailey Sims
State Vice-President

FFA week for a state officer is a busy and fun time. I had the opportunity to be a part of the Wetumpka FFA chapter's annual FFA week celebration where chapters from all over the river region came together to hear William Norris, state president, speak. William enlightened the attending members about the real problems in the world, versus the things we think are problems here in first world America. After the assembly the state officer team retired to a yummy lunch at Zaxbys! On Friday of FFA Week I had the opportunity to visit the Hale County FFA chapter where I discussed with the chapter officers and members about the importance of FFA and agriculture. I got to see some amazing things they had built from scratch in their shop, and I was even given a fire starter (made from wax and a combination of other "secret" ingredients) that was part of a chapter member's SAE project! This year's FFA week was definitely one to remember! All throughout Alabama, chapters are truly grasping the theme of "Ignite FFA!"



Hayden Whittle
State Secretary

FFA Week in Geneva is an amazing experience. This year our planning began about two months in advance in order to reach our event goals. The schedule was all set and ready to go in plenty of time before FFA week. On Monday we had a scavenger hunt for members and the prize was a \$50 gift card. Tuesday was a special day, as the new Greenlands were inducted and had their hands printed along with all the other members on a banner. Wednesday was our teacher appreciation day, where we expressed our gratitude to the entire faculty for their continued support of FFA at Geneva. Thursday was another special day as the Geneva FFA officers and your friendly neighborhood State Secretary went to the local middle school to talk to the 8th grade class about Ag Education and FFA. A chapter meeting in which the chapter president and myself gave words of encouragement for the members of the Geneva FFA Chapter rounded up a very eventful FFA week. This year also included a special trip for me to Wetumpka, Alabama for their annual FFA Week Celebration. This FFA Week was extremely memorable for me and I look forward to future FFA weeks.



Shelby Windham
State Treasurer

National FFA Week was a blast here in southeast Alabama. At my home chapter we started the week out with a scavenger hunt. Some of the other activities we held were cake at break for all FFA members, a teacher appreciation lunch, and a wild game cook out! I heard a lot from other chapters during the week. Goshen held the Ag Olympics, G.W. Long introduced their new green house to the community on Channel 4 News, and Enterprise welcomed FFA Week in on the Charlie Platt Show. On Wednesday our chapter CDE Livestock and Nursery Landscape teams visited Auburn for training for the state competition. After the training was over I headed over to the Embassy Suites in Montgomery for the Alabama Cattlemen's Association Convention. That night about one hundred seniors and college students receive cattlemen scholarships. I rounded the week out Friday and Saturday with the Tri-States Beef Expo. I had a wonderful time getting in the show ring that weekend for the next to last time. I always have a blast at the shows because I get out and talk to my friends and rekindle those friendships, and also get to show my livestock off.



Kelsey Faulkner

State Reporter

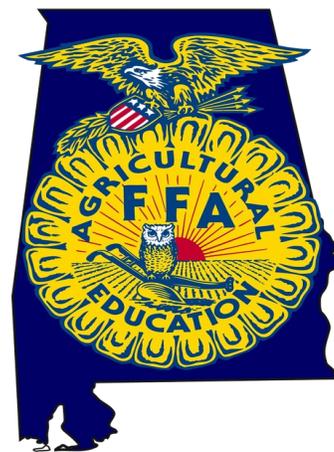
FFA week as a state officer flew by fast. On Tuesday, we celebrate FFA Pride day at my High School, where we encouraged members and displayed opportunities provided to them through the FFA. On Thursday, the state officer team attended a FFA week celebration hosted by Wetumpka High School. There we heard from William Norris, state president, who discussed problems we think we have vs. problems that actually exist. Later on in the day, we enjoyed some free time and had lunch at Zaxby's. On Friday, Alyssa and I attended Albertville's Ag Industry Breakfast where we talked with local supporters of the FFA chapter. We also had the privilege of hearing from Senator Clay Scofield who discussed the importance of local agriculturalists' role in the state of Alabama. Afterward, we headed back to my school to enjoy our annual Chicken Stew for FFA members. Alyssa and I talked with members about their SAE projects and upcoming FFA events. FFA Week was a busy one, but it was a blast. Alabama FFA members truly embody what it means to IGNITE FFA!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 3– South District Eliminations, Enterprise HS
- April 11– Central District Eliminations, Jeff- State: Clanton
- May 2– North District Eliminations, Wallace State: Hanceville

AG/FFA FACTS:

- Farm and Ranch Families comprise 2 percent of the U.S. population
- Agriculture employs more than 21 million American workers to produce, process, sell, and trade the nation's food
- Collectively, FFA members earn more than \$4 Billion annually through their hands-on work experience



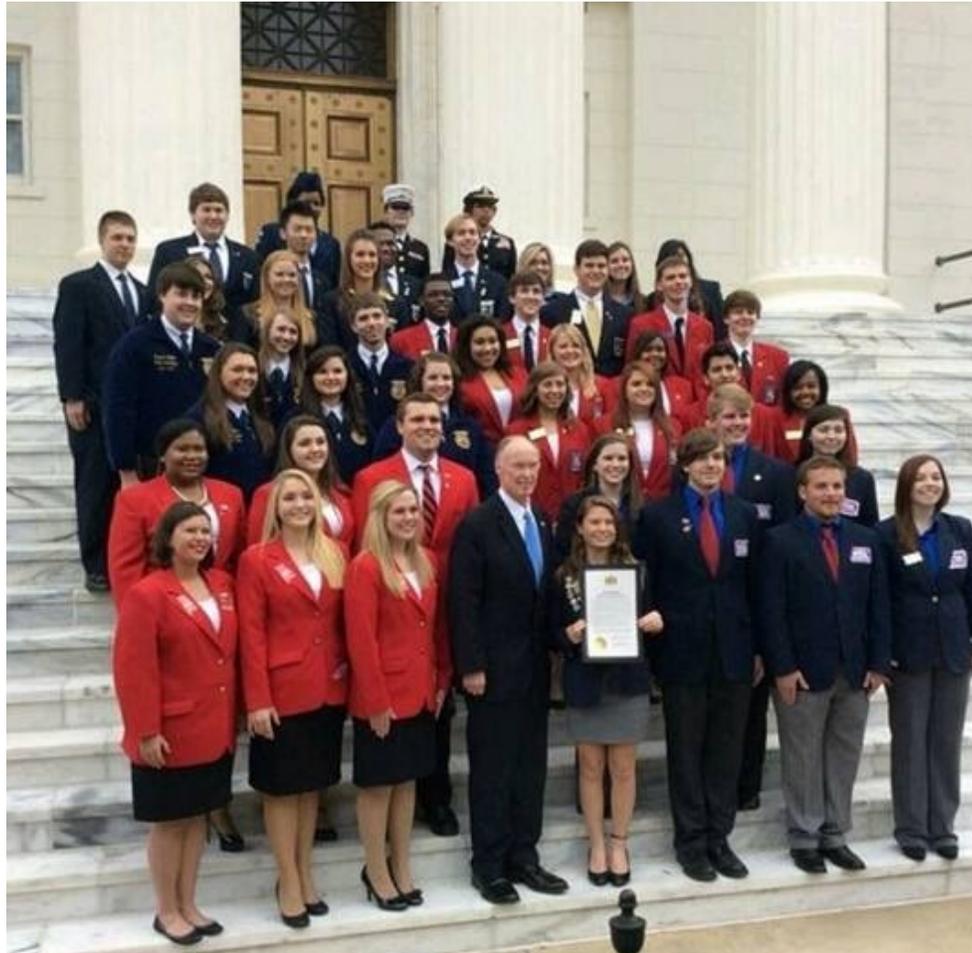
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Wednesday, February 26, 2014
Governor's Proclamation Signing

the Career and Technical Student Organizations of Alabama attended a special ceremony at the capitol in Montgomery. Governor Bentley signed a special proclamation dedicating February as Career and Technical Education Month. The state officers of the different organizations had an opportunity to mingle and interact with each other prior to the photo take on the capitol steps. Sawyer, a state officer on the FCCLA officer team, even asked the Governor for a



Tuesday, March 4, 2014
FFA Goat Hill Gathering

Alabama FFA members had the opportunity to attend the annual Goat Hill Gathering. There, FFA members had the opportunity to take a photo with the Governor, interact with their local legislators, and learn the role that agriculture and FFA play in government. In the opening program, we heard from William Norris, FFA State President. We also heard remarks from Commissioner of Agriculture, John McMillian, Senator Tom Whatley, and Representative Alan Boothe. Jennifer Himburg of the Alabama Farmers Federation shared with members the proper way to interact with legislators. We also learned the Federation's involvement in the Legislative Process with remarks from Matthew Durdin. FFA members also had the opportunity to view the opening of the House and Senate Sessions for the day. Overall, it was a great to interact and network with those

