<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OCTOBER</th>
<th>NOVEMBER</th>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convention (Indianapolis, IN)</td>
<td>*Available ONLY for animals entered in the host show.</td>
<td>(Calhoun County Ag Center, Anniston)</td>
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<td>27: Jr Beef Expo Livestock Validation: Perdido River Farms, Atmore</td>
<td>2-11: National Peanut Festival (Dothan)</td>
<td>3-4: Joint Leadership Development Conference (Birmingham-BJCC)</td>
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<td>30: $100.00 Chapter Fee Due in Montgomery Office</td>
<td>7-9: National Peanut Festival Swine Shows (Dothan, AL)</td>
<td>TBA: Christmas Classic/Tiger Classic Cattle Shows (Auburn University Beef Teaching Unit)</td>
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<td>9: North District Land CDE (Cullman County)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>13-14: Alabama Winter Alumni Conference: AL FFA Alumni (Alabama 4-H Center 10 am start)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>30 - December 1: North AL Jr Beef Expo (Cullman County Ag Center)</td>
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Greeting Alabama FFA,

If you are reading this North District Newsletter I want to thank you for taking the time to expand your knowledge of what North District FFA does yearly. My name is William Aycock and I am serving as the 2018-2019 North District President this year. Through my year service so far I have had the privilege to meet many outstanding FFA members and I am proud to say they represent the North District. With that being said I am sure you are one of these outstanding members, and I would like to help you with bettering yourself and chapter.

I would first like to start off by discussing how to grow yourself as a leader. I remember growing up seeing teenagers in these blue FFA jackets and how they had made a positive impact in their school and on the lives of the students below them. I hope that you strive to make a difference in the people around you as well. In order for a plant to grow they must be out in the sun and sometimes in the rain during a storm. This is not a comfortable area for them but it makes these plants stronger and enables them to grow more. The same goes for you, if you do not step out of your comfort zone you’ll never grow as a leader. For me I remember going to the Washington Leadership Conference in Washington D.C as a student entering 9th grade. This was an amazing chance for me to come out of my shell and be saturated in learning how to be a great leader. I also highly recommend for you to attend any type of FFA Leadership conference or training such as the Chapter Officer Leadership Workshops, Auburn University Green-hand Conference, Alabama Winter Alumni Conference, and many others as listed on alabamaffa.org. It is a great idea to attend conferences that are out of the Agricultural area as well so you can see other individuals perspectives and how FFA is viewed. This will then help you be able to present the National FFA Organization in a professional manner. I would also give this piece of advise have a district or state FFA officer come help work with your officers and have a training day and prepare yourself for success. Next, I would like to touch on making sure your FFA chapter has a firm foundation on which to build on. When many chapter officers are newly elected they are sometimes lost on what their duties may be and how to serve their chapter. This may be you, and if so that is okay. Below you will read about several tools and tips to help you and your chapter to a great start this year. The first thing is when working with a chapter officer team is to make sure each officer knows his or her duties. Each officer is in charge of a certain task for a reason, and when we all individuals do these duties to the best of our abilities our organization runs smoothly the way it should. Such examples of this would be the reporter taking plenty of photographs, and publishing on social networks and corresponding with local news authorities. You see many times people believe just because someone is the president or may hold a “higher” office they are more important. When in all reality that is not the truth at all, everyone will hold a “high” and respectable office when you work as a team and get the job done.

Moving on, another important part of having a successful team of any sorts is you must serve each other. There are two types of leaders in this world: the ones who command orders and are none compassionate about their people, and the kind that get in the work and are loving to their partners. An example of this would be if I were rude and demanded things from my district officer team then we would have issues as a team. This would then result in a decrease of moral and nobody would want to associate or work with me. You see, being a true leader means you care and love for you people before yourself, always serve others. Many times we image a leader in our mind and they are the person in the spotlight twenty four seven. If you really want to examine yourself and see if you are leading well as yourself this, “Am I leading by example”. The most respectable leaders are not afraid to get hands on and lead by example with their peers.

Now that we have covered those items that focus on the foundation of you and your officer team functioning well it is time to plan. If you attended the North District Chapter Officer Leadership Workshops this past year
you more than likely learned about planning for your chapter. In the FFA we follow what is called a Program of Activities, or “POA”. By following this program you can see when, where, who, why, and how this activity will be held. I will not go into specific detail on how to plan your POA but here are a few tips. I highly recommend using the “AET” to plan your chapters POA. The AET is the Agricultural Experience Tracker which is website used by many FFA chapters throughout our nation. If you have an AET account discuss with your advisor about using the program. If your not already using this program then contact Mr. David Defoor (Colbert, Cullman, Fayette, Franklin, Lamar, Lawrence, Lauderdale, Jefferson, Marion, Morgan, Walker & Winston Counties), or Mr. Chip Blanton (Blount, Cherokee, DeKalb, Etowah, Jackson, Limestone, Madison & Marshall Counties). Their emails are ddefoor@alabamaffa.org and cblanton@alabamaffa.org.

I hope that when you start preparing your chapters activities you will make use of these tools and use them to your advantage this year.

Lastly, I would like to cover boosting your membership. Many times as chapter officers we struggle to get students to join our organization. The issue is we often times do not show off what the FFA can do for its members and what opportunities are within. Make sure to let students know of what Career, Leadership, and Talent Development Events are and how they can be plugged in with them. Also, make sure to post on social media and get the word out. Have a speaker or fun and interactive activities at your next chapter meeting. I know on behalf of myself and all the Alabama FFA North District and State Officers we would love to visit your school. This is my last piece of advice to leave you with. Let your peers know it is not all about sows, cows, and plows. Yes, the FFA is rooted with agricultural heritage and that is how we prepare our members to be leaders, however you do not have to be from that background to be a great member.

In conclusion, I hope the advice and all I have left will help you and your chapter strive this year. I know my team of district officers and I would love to come help train your officer team, or possibly visit your school one day. Please contact us for any help this year, or for anything in general. My email is waycock@alabamaffa.org. I would like to say I am truly proud of all the members of the North District, and I am humbled to serve you this year. Keep doing great things out there!

Serving always,

William Aycock
2018-2019 North District President

How can we be better as FFA members?

As North District officers, we have had the privilege of speaking to many fellow FFA members throughout Alabama’s largest district. Through our exchanges with members, we have received many questions; some of those questions being, “How can I be a better FFA member?” And, “How can I be more involved?” The answer to these questions is quite simple: find what you’re good at and what you have a passion for, work hard to get better, and work even harder to achieve the goals you’ve set for yourself. Do you have a passion for livestock judging? Spend every extra minute you have around animals and study them. Do you have a talent for public speaking? Take every opportunity and volunteer to be a keynote speaker at your chapter. The FFA has something for everybody, but it is up to you to go above and beyond and apply yourself. Be the first person from your chapter to get a district office, and don’t stop and settle for it. Run for state and maybe even a national office. Push yourself beyond your limitations. That is how you become the best FFA member possible.

Sincerely,

Dakota Scott
2018-2019 North District Reporter
STATE CONVENTION
AND INTERVIEWS

Vice President's Newsletter

State convention is a big deal for any member, but especially for those on a contest or running for state office. This last year, I was on a contest and running for a state office, so I felt the stress of both. I was on the meats evaluation contest and while my team did not place, I still enjoyed being on the contest itself.
The next day started the real challenge of the week. On the Wednesday that state convention started, so did the state officer interviews. There were three rooms in total, two holding rooms and the interview room. All twelve of us candidates were full of anxiety and a nervous anticipation for what was to come. We were surveying each other, but trying not to seem weird about it.
Everyone knew that only half of us were going to get a position, but we all thought that it would be ourselves. We started off by introducing ourselves to the nominating committee, and then they introduced themselves to us. After that, we went back to one of the holding rooms and started on our test and business letters, which were both hard in themselves without the nerves that were going through us. After we finished, we would go into the other holding room to wait till everyone was done. I was the last one finished, and therefore the last one in the second holding room. After that, we went straight into the first interview, which was our personal interviews. We rotated between all the members of the nominating committee, then went back to one of the holding rooms to prepare for our parliamentary procedure and FFA interviews.
That interview was harder than the personal one because of how hard it was to learn as much as possible about parliamentary procedure. Then in the middle of those interviews, we had the opening session of state convention where we introduced ourselves in front of hundreds of people. After that, we went back to the holding rooms and finished up the parliamentary procedure and FFA interviews before hopping straight into the group interviews. We went through those and that finished up day one of interviews.
The next day we started out in the holding room again and headed straight into our agriculture issues interview, which in my opinion was the hardest one. It was also the longest one, so it took forever for everyone to get through it. The last one was committees choice, which was just another interview for them to ask us any last questions that they wanted to ask. After that, we thanked them for their time and went to wait till the next morning, when six people would get elected to state officer position.
The next morning was a rush of packing to go home, nerves, and people asking if I was ready. After Cameron’s retiring address, we were led backstage to wait. Then the Chicago Bulls theme song started up, and we were all holding hands and hoping that our names would be the ones called.
All six officers names were called, and they were welcomed on stage. While I did not get elected to state officer position, I still was district vice president for my new team, and happily serve with those five amazing people, and know that I am still serving this wonderful organization. I could not have asked for a better team, and I am thankful everyday that I was chosen to be on that team.

Sincerely,

Skyler Eckl
2018-2019 North District Vice President
Every year at the beginning of June, members from across the state prepare for the Alabama State Convention; whether it be preparing for a contest, cramming for officer interviews, or just being excited to attend. When you arrive, Montgomery is abuzz with blue jackets everywhere you turn. We are not an organization in which there is only one of us. Rather, we are a part of something much larger than ourselves. We stand together and have created a face of leadership and growth for our organization through the years which still stands true today. When I started my FFA journey I could never have imagined the level of passion I hold for this organization today. Joining FFA is like becoming one piece of a much larger puzzle or like being one bee in a hive. Each district officer started their year at state convention where we were able to step into a role much larger than ourselves. I now have the opportunity to help nearly 5,000 people within our great state and it is such an honor to have met the many people I have within these last several months. As a team we have traveled far and wide to unique places, from outdoor seminar in Jackson County to COLW’s in Albertville and Hartselle. At this same time, members have been stepping up themselves into new officer positions and growing their chapters to be their best possible. On a state, district, chapter, and high school level, people all across the state are stepping up and becoming a part of something bigger, because when you put on that jacket you are no longer only yourself, you are representing something as big as our nation.

I credit my FFA jacket to the beginning of my journey, as it has taken me places that I will never forget. Members will become family so cherish it while you can, because you won’t always have that opportunity for long. With every day in FFA I have only grown more involved as my piece in this puzzle continues to grow. So, step up and step out because nobody is you and only you can fill your piece in our puzzle.

Sincerely,

Megan Woodall
2018-2019 North District Secretary

I went into the High Point Conference knowing nothing about what we were going to do. I was scared, nervous, and not prepared. I didn’t want to get out of my comfort zone and have fun. There was one quote that I have taken from the conference to heart, “There is no growth in comfort zones.” This is completely true. Until we decide to get out of our comfort zone we can never grow. This is what happened for me at the High Point Conference. Truly this is what the FFA is all about (Growth).

The State Officers held workshops for all the district officers. Some were about communication and others about leadership, but every workshop was meant to grow us as Officers. These workshops caused us to step out of our comfort zones. I’m an Introvert and talking to random people that I do not know about personal things was not my forte. Once I realized that every person there was just like me in some way, shape, or form I began to take that step out. I began to GROW.
WHERE PREPARATION AND OPPORTUNITY MEET

Treasurer's Newsletter

I recently heard a quote by Colin Powell: “Success is where preparation and opportunity meet.” This quote is so accurate, especially as to why I am a district officer, that’s why I am where I am. I finally had the opportunity to reach one of my goals, with lots of preparation. I immediately took the opportunity and began filling out the application. Subsequently, I began asking questions to district officers about the best way to prepare myself. Thanks to the district officers and mock interviews, I was prepared and successful with my attempt.

This year I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve as the North District Treasurer, and this position didn’t just fall into my hands. I spent hours upon hours studying everything FFA and answering dozens of sample interview questions. During some of those long hours and late night studying, I have to admit, I had my doubts. I felt as if I was preparing for a very unrealistic goal, but I pushed through, and I worked harder for that position than I had for anything in quite a while. After the interviews, I was still quite unsure of what was about to happen, but seeing my name on that board is definitely going to be a moment I remember forever, and my name being on that board has brought me nothing but good things.

I spent hours preparing for the interviews, and then hours preparing for what being on this team would be like, but even after all that preparation, the time I have spent on this team has exceeded my expectations. The people on my district team have become my best friends. Being on this team has made me realize how I can have so much in common with someone, yet at the same time, so little. But that is what FFA is about--branching out into other areas, getting outside my comfort zone, getting into my growth zone. That’s what I have done on this officer team. I took the opportunity, spent hours preparing, and trust me, all that preparation was truly worth it.

Thank you to the ones who made it great,

Austin Abercrombie
2018-2019 North District Sentinel
Our first chance to show off some of our leadership skills was Jackson County Outdoor Seminar. I know for me that was a huge boost in confidence. Getting up and speaking in front of a crowd, especially teenagers, close to my age, is tough, but I made it through. After that, saying an elevator speech in front of all eighteen district officers from across the state and the state officers was no problem. Chapter Officer Leadership Workshops was even easier. Thanks to the opportunities given to me by FFA, I have grown so much. I have grown as a person, in my ability to lead, in my ability to effectively speak, and in my knowledge of FFA and agriculture. Thanks to the opportunity and the preparation, I have stepped out of my comfort zone, and into my growth zone, and I owe it all to FFA.

I took the opportunity, I prepared, and I succeeded. Even though I was discouraged at times, I pushed forward, and I am wholeheartedly glad I did. At High Point Leadership Conference held at Mt. Cheaha State Park, we had the opportunity to climb the tower at the highest point. There were lots of stairs, and about halfway up, we were questioning our decision, but the climb was worth the view.

I want to encourage each of you that have the opportunity to run for district office to do so. If you have the opportunity, feel free to contact me or any of the other officers for information on what you need to know.

Sincerely,

Millie Grace Drake
2018-2019 North District Treasurer

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICERS

To all the FFA members and advisors reading this, we thank you for your unwavering support to the district and state associations. We could not do all that we do without you! We are still early into our terms in office, and we expect many great things in the coming months. If you would like for us to speak at any functions, meetings, or events, help out with chapter improvements, or would like to request a chapter visit, please feel free to use the contact information provided on www.alabamaffa.org. We would love the opportunity to help support our district!