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Fall 2014

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# South District F.F.A. Newsletter

## *Recruit, Plan, Be Successful*

The Ariton FFA chapter kicks off the beginning of a new year each year by having recruitment week. Recruitment week is a great way to get people excited for the year ahead and get a ton of new members. The Ariton Chapter has different things going on each day from competitive games such as corn hole to sitting around the AG shop and having a cook out. The whole chapter looks forward to it every year so they can all get together and hang out and just plan the year together. It's a week full of fun and they suggest it to every chapter out there!

- Gracie West  
South District President



## *Fall is finally here!*

Fall is a busy time of the year for many FFA members. From county fairs to football games FFA members can be seen working diligently and representing their chapters everywhere. My favorite thing about fall is definitely local fairs. Because with most county fairs there's a livestock show. A good way to let people know about your chapter is to have a booth at your local fair. Next, there's the reason many people live and breathe, high school and college football. I hope all your local teams are doing well. My high school is 5 and 2. Have you ever thought of how FFA can benefit from a football game? Many chapters sell things like roasted corn or boiled peanuts. Or you can do something a little simpler like split the pot or raffle tickets. Also you could advertise your chapter with a homecoming float in your local parade. I'm sure by now most everyone's fruit sales are underway and your mum sales are wrapping up. I hope that everyone's fall fundraisers were a success. Remember when selling something that a smile can make all the difference. I'm sure everyone is enjoying this cooler weather, I know I am. I encourage you to be involved in your community this fall.

- Emily Williams  
South District Secretary



DID YOU KNOW...?

There are over 2 billion pigs within the world. Only about 10% of these pigs are kept in the United States on average.

## Boston Butt Fundraiser

On September 25, 2014 the Eufaula FFA chapter had a fundraiser which included selling Boston Butts to help pay for

some of the expenses for their trip to the 87th FFA National Convention on October 29 – November 1, 2014. The officers including the Student Advisor: Cassandra Gifford, President: Kelley Brown, Vice President: Zachary Barnes, Secretary: Becky Hawkins, Treasurer: Joe Koon, Reporter:

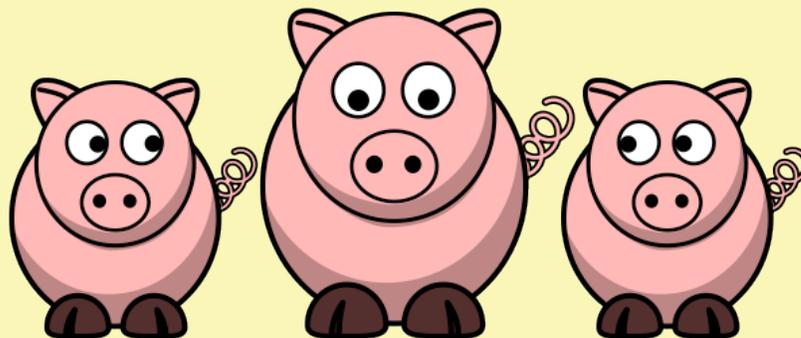
Cameron Snell, and Sentinel: Damien Smith all

prepared for the fundraiser by: ordering meat, collecting fire wood, cleaning grills, and arriving at school that morning at 4:00 a.m. to begin loading grills with the butts. The whole chapter was involved in this fundraiser as they helped flip the butts and package them for consumers.

The Eufaula FFA chapter will be taking officers to accept the National Chapter award which they have earned by filling out an application for an outstanding P.O.A. The Eufaula Chapter has 3 members receiving their

American degrees, while their Advisor, Buster Padgett will also be getting an Honorary degree which is the highest award that can be bestowed to an FFA Advisor.

- Cassandra Gifford  
South District Vice President





### DID YOU KNOW...?

There are over 610,000 FFA members, aged 12-21, in over 7,000 chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



## National Convention

National Convention (n.): An experience that typically lasts a week that completely changes one's life forever; creates memories and friendships that last a life time. I could not think of a better definition of National Convention than the one stated above. Being a Convention attendee last year absolutely changed my life and FFA career. After attending National Convention, seeing over 65,000 blue jackets, making new friends, attending the rodeo, Convention Expo, concert, and of course, shopping, my heart burned even hotter with a passion for the FFA. This experience made me realize that there are over 60,000 people just like me that are absolutely in love with agriculture and FFA; there are people just like me that live hundreds or even thousands miles away. I did not



have the opportunity to compete at National's; however, the experience was nevertheless phenomenal. This Convention lit my fire where I realized I wanted to make it to the top, I wanted to be a higher level officer than just president of my chapter. I wanted to talk to and meet more FFA members even after the final day of National Convention. I wanted to be a district officer. I did not want the feeling I had to stop. I was determined; I was inspired. I highly recommend every FFA member to attend National Convention at least once in their FFA career. It was definitely one of the best moments of my life. Along with realizing my passion to be a district officer, I realized that I never wanted to completely abandon the AG community. Attending this event even helped me decide on my college major next year as AG Engineering. Attending National Convention is not always as easy as many of us would think; there are costs that accompany the trip. Foley FFA does a LOT of fundraising to attend the Convention. This past year, there were several students that met during the summer to carry out different fundraisers such as a watermelon sale. The three people, along with one of my school's advisor's that attended this past year, said it was a once in a lifetime trip. Overall, their favorite part was meeting new

people from all the different states. Easton Corbin and Justin Moore played at this year's concert, Wyotech as well as other colleges were featured in the Career Expo, and National Officers gave their retiring addresses, and the new officers took their place. Nationals can change your life, it definitely changed mine! I can guarantee you that it is an experience you will never forget!

- Alysa Gauci  
South District Reporter



**DID YOU KNOW...?**

It takes about 540 peanuts to make a 12-ounce jar of peanut butter.



## Harvest Time!

One of the best times of the year is upon us, HARVEST SEASON!!!! All around my house I hear tractors pulling peanut pickers gathering peanuts. One of the best smells on this earth is the smell of peanuts plowed up and picked. One festival that commemorates the peanut is the National Peanut Festival in Dothan, Alabama.



The NPF is the nation's largest peanut festival. NPF is held each fall to honor local peanut farmers and to celebrate the harvest season. The festival was inaugurated on November 10, 1938. The three day event included a pageant, parade, historical play and grand ball. The guest speaker was Dr. George Washington Carver.

The peanut festival was celebrated annually through 1941, but was postponed until after World War II. In 1947, the first post-war festival was presented and has continued every year

since. Today, the National Peanut Festival has grown from a three-day event in 1938, to a ten-day event with attendance in excess of 150,000 fairgoers.

At NPF there are rides for all ages, from kids to adults. Also at NPF you have local tractor companies that have areas where they show off the latest farm equipment.

NPF also has agricultural displays. Also at NPF there is a livestock shows. One of the most visited attractions is the calf scramble and the greased pig contest. Last year I had the privilege to be in the greased pig contest. It is much harder than it looks.

Another attraction that is widely visited is the demolition derby and the cubmobile derby. At this year's NPF there will be four concerts. On November the 2nd

Country music singer Thomas Rhett will perform. On November the 6th Sanctus Real will perform. Also on November the 6th Josh Wilson will perform. And finally on November the 9th The Pointer Sisters will perform.

The NPF is a very fun and clean family event. It's an event that the whole family can enjoy, from toddlers all the way up to senior citizens!! Make sure you pay a visit to the NPF!!!

- Nathan Parker  
South District Sentinel