



Volume 6, Issue 2; Fall 2016

South District FFA Fall Newsletter 2016

Chapter Community Involvement-Petting Zoo

We can reach out to our community and tell them about FFA in many ways. For instance, my chapter New Brockton, started a petting zoo for the community over 20 plus years ago. It was started by my AG teacher Mr. Lee Gunter and in corporation with Mr. Stan Windom at the Coffee County Extension Office. It was intended to be just a community activity and to talk to everyone about FFA. Now it has grown into an annual petting zoo every year. Over 1,500 plus attended this two-day event and several other schools FFA chapters come now to help and support FFA along with my chapter. Being involved with your community is a great way to talk about FFA and its meaning. This year we had over 900 kindergarteners and elementary school kids come. The older ones really learned about the care of farm animals and were enthused about joining FFA in high school. The younger ones had a blast and some families adopted baby chicks to help support agriculture. Don't let go of the opportunities to let your community know about your chapter events. You'll enjoy every second of interacting with your community, I know I did! It made me feel good, to see all the kids faces light up and to hear them say "Can we come back?" It's a great experience and it's a great way to get support for your program!

~Caitlyn Nolin

South District Reporter





## *Fundraising*

"Fundraising is the gentle art of teaching the joy of giving."

-Hank Rosso

"No one becomes poor from giving."

Anne Frank

Ken Burnett, author and noted lecturer on fundraising, stated "There are two 'I's in fundraising. They should be for inspiration and innovation, not imitation and irritation."

Fundraising is a vital function to many chapters and organizations as well as getting your local community involved. The first two 'I's in fundraising are the most important, inspiration and innovation. People are more likely to support you if you show excitement and dedication to your fundraiser. Approach your potential supporter with confidence and a warm smile up. Be unique and innovative when considering a fundraiser. Don't be afraid to step outside the box. Our chapter sells fruit and meat annually which supports our chapter and local farmers and orchards each year.

For the other 'I's - Imitation and irritation. Be distinctive, don't do the same things other clubs or organization in your school have done. Even if you are not intentionally imitating or duplicating someone else's fundraiser, it may not be as productive and raise as much money for your chapter as another fundraiser might.

Last but not least, don't hassle people into buying from you! Irritating a potential buyer to invest in your product may lessen your chances of them buying it. If someone is not interested in your product, you should thank them for their time and move on to other potential buyers. I hope with these tips, you can be successful with your chapter fundraisers and Transform your chapter this year.

~Grady Gunn  
South District Secretary



## Service Project

As FFA members, we aim to fulfill our motto – “Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve”. One way of fulfilling this motto is by participating in service projects. The Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) is the state-wide service project selected by our 2016-2017 Alabama FFA State Officer team. FFA chapters throughout Alabama are asked to begin collecting pop tabs for this project. Pop tabs are recycled and the funds used to aid families needing a play to stay while their children receive medical care. Collecting pop tabs is an educational experience which teaches FFA members about philanthropy and the importance of recycling.

So, before you throw away another soda can, remove the pop tab and start your collection today. Pop tab donations will be turned in at the state convention in June. Donations will be weighed to determine the success of the service project. We challenge all South District FFA Chapters to take part in this service project to show everyone we are #SouthDistrictStrong because #SouthDistrictServes

~Cameron Catrett

South District President



Learning to Do

Doing to Learn

Earning to Live

Living to Serve



## *South District Fall Eliminations 2016*

The 2016 South District fall eliminations were held in Atmore, Alabama at Perdido River Farms on September 29, 2016. There were 389 members, advisors, and guests present. Land Evaluation, Livestock Evaluation, and the Forestry Event were events that members from all across the district competed in. The Brantley FFA Chapter took top honors in the Land CDE, the Samson FFA Chapter placed first in the Livestock CDE, and the W S Neal FFA Chapter won the Forestry CDE.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the events and give a special thanks to Perdido River Farms for helping the South District host the 2016 fall eliminations.

~Bryce Hendricks

South District Vice President





## *National Teach AG Day*

On September 22, 2016, we celebrated National Teach Ag Day. This day is for celebrating school based agricultural education and to encourage those who are agricultural advocates to continue sharing their knowledge and passion of agriculture. Agriculture teachers are especially celebrated and thanked for their huge contribution to the next generation of agricultural leaders. Ag teachers have the ability to reach and connect with students, including those who do not do so well in traditional classrooms. It truly takes a unique person to teach students to be leaders, problem solvers, and entrepreneurs. And while we are incredibly thankful for our agricultural teachers nationwide, National Teach Ag Day is for everyone. This day is for anyone who wants to share the effectiveness of agriculture with others and encourage others to consider careers in agriculture. Teachers and students all across the nation celebrated this day by engaging in special lessons, joining rallies, and getting involved in community activities. There was also a live webcast event with panels of Ag teachers and special appearances of agricultural leaders. National Teach Ag Day is a great way for the nation to unite through agriculture, but each agricultural advocate should make it their goal to always be advocating for such a great purpose. And remember, thank your Ag teacher!

~ Gracie Sims

South District Sentinel



# September 22



## *National FFA Convention*

This October over 65,000 FFA members will flood the streets of Indianapolis, Indiana. The National FFA Convention is a place where no matter where you come from; you can share the passion of agriculture and love for FFA. I look back on my first National Convention in 2014, held in Louisville, Kentucky. I remember listening to retiring address's from national officers, inspirational keynote speakers, and walking through the Expo for the first time. That trip gave me the drive to become a state officer. As we hear in our opening ceremonies "FFA reaches from the state of Alaska to Puerto Rico and from the states of Maine to Hawaii", you never really grasp the wide range of this organization until you go to the convention. Seeing jackets that read Wisconsin, California, and Rhode Island was absolutely amazing and after having conversations with those FFA members I realized the different accents didn't matter, because we all come together for that same purpose. As I get ready to head to the 89<sup>th</sup> Annual National FFA Convention, I remember those 33 farm boys who started this event back in 1928, and I wonder if they had any idea how much it would grow. I encourage you to go to National Convention you are granted the opportunity, the experience will change your life, forever.

~Becky Hawkins  
Alabama State Treasurer





## Chapter Visits

1. Inspire people to be more active in chapter and district.
2. CDE teams [career development events/leadership development events].
3. Talk about SAE'S.
4. Get familiar with your chapters.
5. Promoting leadership.
6. Opportunities.
7. Get people to run for district or state office.
8. Tell chapters who aren't aware of FFA events and invite them.
9. Public speaking skills.

Chapter visits are educational opportunities for FFA students. These visits take place during the regular school day when local, district, and state officers travel around their state to visit agricultural education classes. There are a variety of topics covered during these chapter visits. The visiting officer can speak on a subject that is currently being covered in the ag class or he or she can speak about the many ag related topics such as SAE's, CDE's, leadership opportunities in FFA, upcoming FFA events, current agricultural issues, and chapter involvement, to name a few. When officers visit local chapters they energize the school chapter and get them excited about upcoming events for their chapter. It's time for a visit! Don't you think?

~Calan Ates  
South District Treasurer



PROMOTE

IT'S TIME TO  
**INSPIRE**

Trust

Communication

# Learn

OPPORTUNITIES

Alabama State Department of Education, Michael Sentance, State Superintendent of Education

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