



Alabama FFA: South District Newsletter



Fall 2017

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On Campus Farms

by Kaleb Wright, South District Reporter

When a school has an on campus farm, it gives the students better knowledge on how to raise and care for animals. For this reason I will be doing a school spotlight on my own chapter. Hillcrest High School in Evergreen has developed a school farm over the past 3 years. On this farm we have raised cows, horses, chickens, and pigs.



Like most agriscience teachers the ones here at Hillcrest show generosity by allowing the students to keep their personal show animals on campus if they do not have proper housing for them elsewhere. This is just one of the many other uses where school farms come in handy for the students.



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State Degrees

FFA State President, Cameron Catrett, from the Brantley Chapter receives her State Degree from former state president Sierra Goodwin.

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National FFA Convention

The Alabama FFA Members who attended National Convention gather for a group photo.

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State Degrees

by Cameron Catrett, State President



"Take pride in how far you've come. Have faith in how far you can go. But don't forget to enjoy

the journey." – Michael Josephson

As FFA members, we are given the opportunity to show our progression in the National FFA Organization by earning degrees. The degrees awarded by the National FFA Organization recognize our members' hard work in their Supervised Agricultural Experiences, leadership and career development skills, and academic advancement. The National FFA Organization offers five degrees to its' members: Discovery FFA Degree, Greenhand FFA Degree, Chapter FFA Degree, State FFA Degree, and the American FFA Degree. Each degree represents a different level of advancement in our Organization.

The State FFA Degree is the highest honor any state FFA Association can bestow on its' members. Annually, the Alabama FFA Association recognizes hundreds of members state-wide by awarding them their State FFA Degree. To be eligible to receive the State FFA Degree from the state association, a member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Have received the Chapter FFA Degree.
2. Have been an active FFA member for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree.
3. While in school, have completed the equivalent of at least two years (360 hours) of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above

the ninth grade level, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program.

4. A student after entering agricultural education must have:
a. Earned and productively invested at least \$1,000; or b. Worked at least 300 hours in excess of scheduled class time; or c. A combination thereof, in a supervised agricultural experience program.

5. Demonstrate leadership ability by: a. Performing 10 procedures of parliamentary law. b. Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or FFA. c. Serving as an officer, committee chairperson or participating member of a chapter committee.

6. Have a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the local agricultural education instructor and the principal or superintendent.

7. Have participated in the planning and completion of the chapter's Program of Activities.

8. Have participated in at least five different FFA activities above the chapter level.

9. Have participated in at least 25 hours of community service, within at least two different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid supervised agricultural experience hours.

This year, the South District Officer Team has set a goal to have 85 members apply and receive their State FFA Degree. Receiving a state degree is a great honor and wonderful opportunity to showcase your skills and advancement in the organization. State Degree Applications will be due February 15, 2018. The State FFA Degree Ceremony will be held during the final session of the 90th Alabama FFA State Convention.



fulfilling workshops and a sweeping expo floor bustling with agriculture education and industry opportunities will have you snapping pics and grabbing videos of all the experiences you'll remember forever. This year's keynote speakers were Laila Ali, Undefeated boxing champion, TV host, author and speaker, Mick Ebeling, Motivational Speaker, and Jon Petz, Motivational Speaker. These speakers spoke during the sessions led by the 2016-2017 National Officer Team. During these sessions were held in the Bunker's Life Fieldhouse. Wednesday night the Rascal Flatts FFA concert was held in Lucas Oil Stadium in downtown Indianapolis. Thursday and Friday night there was the World's Toughest Rodeo and the Hypnotist show. The Expo floor was open from 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. everyday. Throughout the Expo you could find almost any college with an Agriculture program from all over the United States. There are also many Agriculture industries available at the Expo. Some industries bring their equipment ranging from small things to large tractors. This year a new record attendance of 67,006 people at the National FFA convention was set.

National FFA Convention

by Kayla Green, District Sentinel

I Can. We Will. The 90th National FFA Convention & Expo took place during the week of October 25-28, 2017 in Indianapolis, Indiana. It is a life changing experience to attend. The National FFA Convention & Expo is a sea of blue jackets – FFA members from all corners of the nation converging in one place to celebrate their accomplishments and find inspiration for their FFA experience. Motivational keynote speakers, energetic concerts,



The Enterprise FFA Chapter pumped for Opening Session!



The Alabama FFA Delegates!

Fruit Sales

by Ally Jackson, District Treasurer



South District Secretary, Jodie Spivey and South District Vice President, Summer Parker got the chance to meet up before a session!

Fundraising is a vital part of every FFA chapter. From supplies for the shop to FFA jackets and ties, trips, and even the plants for your greenhouse. Without the money from fundraising, you would not be able to make your chapter as incredible as it can be.

Each year, fruit sales play a tremendous role in fundraising for the FFA Chapters in the Alabama South District. These sells can include a large variety of fruit such as apples, oranges, grapefruit, and pineapples. They are normally very successful and not only help financially but also socially throughout the community.

When students go out into their community, they make a connection with those who reside in it. Fundraisers promote a healthy relationship between the members and alumni. It also helps bring your members together. By working as a group to improve your chapter, the members are also working on relationships that can last a lifetime. And fundraising does not just have to stop at selling fruit.

Some more examples of fundraising include raffling off prizes or merchandising projects made in your shop. Selling bowls your members turned can make a great profit for your chapter. Also

selling ferns or other plants you produce in your greenhouse can make a remarkable profit and make your town beautiful.

To conclude, fundraising is a key to success in any FFA Chapter. It helps financially, promotes a good relationship between your members and alumni, and can improve the look of your town. So get creative, get together, and get fundraising!



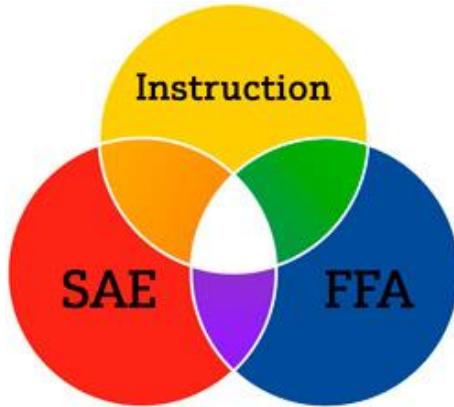
SAE Benefits

by Bryce Hendricks, State
Sentinel



An SAE or supervised agricultural experiences is an opportunity for FFA members to take the knowledge learned from the classroom and apply it by creating a hands-on project. Students are supervised by their agriculture instructors throughout the course of their project. The ultimate goal of these projects is for students to be able to learn more about a particular career they are interested in relating to the agriculture industry. There are four types of SAEs FFA members can pursue. These types include entrepreneurship, placement, research, and exploratory. My SAE is beef cattle production on an entrepreneurship and placement level. I have been able to take the knowledge I learned in my animal science class and begin my very own Hereford beef cattle herd. This SAE has not only allowed me to become more educated about the beef cattle industry, but it has also given me an idea of what I want to pursue as a career. There are endless amounts of benefits for FFA members who participate in an SAE. One benefit FFA members with SAEs have is to be able to apply for proficiency awards. FFA members who have built strong SAEs can apply for the

the agriculture proficiency award their most closely aligns with their project(s). These awards honor those members who have gone above and beyond to learn extensive skills they can apply to their futures. There are forty-seven proficiency areas students can compete in which include everything from Agricultural Sales to Swine Production. The amount of SAEs is astounding, allowing FFA members to truly create a project they are interested in. Recently, Trent Thomas, a former south district FFA member from the Goshen FFA chapter, became a National winner in the poultry production SAE. In order to receive this honor, Trent had to constantly document what he did every day with his SAE project. This is a great accomplishment that not only represented the South District FFA well, but also the Alabama FFA Association as a whole. FFA members, I challenge you to get engaged in a supervised agricultural experience, strengthen your project, and apply for proficiency awards to show your knowledge of the agriculture industry!



2017 South District Fall Eliminations

by Jodie Spivey, District Secretary

FFA members from across the South District gathered in Atmore at the Perdido River Farms for the Fall CDE eliminations on October 5, 2017. There were 350 members, advisors, and guest present. Shortly after all registered chapters arrived and completed registration, the competition was called to order by the South District President, Caitlyn Nolin, during opening ceremonies. We then heard a word from Tribal Elder of the Porch Band of Creek Indians, Mr. Billy Smith. Livestock evaluation, Land Evaluation, and the Forestry Event were the 3 competitions participated in throughout the day. The Brantley FFA chapter took home first place in Land Evaluation and the Forestry Event. The Arinton FFA chapter placed first in Livestock Evaluation. The first place winners as well as the second, third, and fourth place



winners will be awarded their banners at the Spring Eliminations. They will then go on to compete at the State competitions held in June. We then enjoyed lunch provided by the Porch Band of Creek Indians. We want to thank the National Guard for providing water and recreation to the members. If you were unable to attend this year's fall eliminations, we hope you will be able to attend the Spring CDE Eliminations. They will be held April 26, 2017 at Enterprise High School. We would like to thank everyone who participated in the events and also those who played a role in organizing the event!





The Delegate Process

by Caitlyn Nolin, District President

This year at the 90th National FFA Convention & Expo, I had the privilege to serve as a delegate from our state. There were 471 delegates serving this years delegate group. We brought 12 delegates with us- State Officers, Cameron Catrett, John Crawford, Gracen Sims, Jacey Black, Will Jordan, Bryce Hendricks. District Presidents- Banx O'Barr, Jordan Brown, and myself, and a former District officer Maggie Edwards. There were different committee topics the delegates discussed. The committee for which I was assigned was the Inclusion for Unpaid Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs, and Jacey Black served on the committee with me. We had numerous meetings the first three or four days we were there, with late nights in our discussion groups to



early mornings back at it. But it was worth it! I learned a lot about other state associations. Some of the differences I found interesting. I made many new friends and I met many people. It was amazing to see 67,006 people come together to celebrate agriculture and FFA. The delegate floor was always exciting during sessions and just as a group. We got to meet all of the former National Officers, as well as the newly elect National Officers. It was amazing having the opportunities like that. Even though we had to cram in time to go grab food and didn't get much sleep it was an absolutely amazing trip! I left Indiana knowing a lot more than I did before I arrived and I came back with memories that will last a life time. Whether it was hearing Puerto Rico delegate, Delvin, speaking Spanish, seeing thousands of FFA members walking down FFA Way, and coming closer with my state officer team and my fellow district presidents and officers. There is so much more I took away from this trip, as it was a once in a life time opportunity for me. I will never forget it that's for sure! This was my first National Convention and I am glad to say it was amazing and I cannot wait to return. Even more so that I got to go through the delegate process!



INSPIRE. Reach the unreachable.
Motivate. Be a catalyst. Change
 Become a role model. LIVES.
 Find your Better society. Help solve
PASSION. Innovate global hunger.
 Go Places. LEADERS. Impact your world.
Collab•orate. Mentor young leaders.
 Make a difference...TEACH AG.

National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. Agriculture Educators impact lives daily and have the ability to connect with the students through various activities not otherwise used in a traditional classroom setting. It truly takes a unique individual to teach students how to be leaders, problem solvers and entrepreneurs. While we greatly appreciate our agriculture teachers nationwide, National Teach Ag Day is for everyone. This day is for anyone wanting to share the great effects of agriculture with others and encourage others to consider a career in the agriculture industry. Across the nation teachers and students celebrated this day by engaging in special lessons, joining rallies, and getting involved in community activities. #Teachag flooded social media and there was also a live webcast event with a panel of agriculture educators and special appearances of agriculture 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!

National Teach Ag Day

by Summer Parker, District Vice President



On Thursday September 21, 2017, we celebrated National Teach Ag Day and honored our agriculture teachers who have answered the call to change lives and teach ag. The National Teach Ag Campaign is a project of the

NATIONAL TEACH AG DAY
SEPTEMBER 21, 2017
WWW.NAAE.ORG/TEACHAG



A project of

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P.O. Box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36130

Alabama State Department of Education, Dr. Ed Richardson, Interim State Superintendent of Education

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