Chances are if you’re an FFA member, you are familiar with the term SAE, or Supervised Agricultural Experience and if I’m guessing, you have one of your own. Within the realm of SAEs, there are many different options, opportunities, and communities, in a sense. Although I participate in a Placement Equine Science SAE, there are endless possibilities of other ways to get involved with other projects. I began my project at the young age of three, long before I was thinking about school, or before I had even heard of FFA! I guess one could say I was, “born into it.” Nevertheless, my SAE has continued to help push, challenge, and mold me throughout the years. A few short weeks ago, I was competing at the Alabama State Open Horse Show, and I began asking myself, “What does my SAE, what do these horses mean to me?” Before beginning my journey within FFA, I knew I loved my horses, I loved showing, I loved every aspect. FFA, however, has allowed me to further explore opportunities within the Equine world. FFA, allowed me to take an at-home hobby, and turn it into something bigger, more productive. It gives me a new challenge to face daily, and although sometimes aggravating, I am very appreciative. My SAE has allowed me to learn and further develop skills such as patience, communication, a good work ethic, dedication, and perseverance. No one’s SAE will be exactly identical, they are all uniquely their own. Any SAE can help a member in numerous ways, and I strongly recommend finding something you are passionate about and fully pursuing it. Members also have opportunities to fill out proficiencies and win prizes for their SAE project. The opportunities are endless; be sure to get out there and have some fun!

Thank you, Millie-Grace Drake  
2019-2020 North District President
On August 26th, the district and state officers conducted a large-scale chapter visit at the Albertville FFA chapter. The point of this chapter visit was to recruit new FFA members at the chapter. While there, my fellow district officers and I all learned very valuable lessons on how to conduct a visit. However, I learned more than just how to talk to a group of students or how to keep a group entertained. I learned that FFA truly is an organization for anyone. One of the classes that my state officer partner and I talked to was an English learning class. These students barely knew any English. It was to the point that they needed a translator with them. Despite all of this, this class enjoyed the visit just as much as their English speaking counterparts, if not more. This class really inspired me to remember that FFA has a spot for anyone. With this in mind, I want to remind you that there is a place for you in FFA. FFA is not just an organization for farmer’s kids. It has something to offer for anyone who comes from any walk of life. From those whose only agricultural experience is mowing the lawn, to those who have grown up on a farm, I can assure you that FFA will have something for you. And for those of you who are already FFA members, spread this message. Let those who are wary of joining an organization that has a reputation for being just “sows and plows” know that FFA can cater to anyone’s needs. As we enter this new school year, I challenge you to not grow complacent with those who are a part of your chapter. Don’t let the same three people do everything in the chapter. Help recruit those who you would least expect as an FFA member. And above all, live to serve everyone and anyone, not just FFA members.

Thank you, Gavin Lee 2019-2020 North District Vice President
Secretary's Newsletter

The FFA Creed has always been a treasured document within our organization. This document has become so popular that reciting it has become its own Leadership Development Event. However, one document that I have found to be overlooked throughout my time in the FFA is the FFA Code of Ethics. This document is "the words to live by" within this organization. The document begins: FFA members conduct themselves at all times to be a credit to their organization, chapter, school, and family. As an FFA member, I pledge to: This line is explaining that you need to be involved within not only the organization as whole, but as well as your chapter, school, and family diligently. Develop my potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. This shows that, as an FFA member, you should always be trying to better yourself according to the FFA Mission. Make a positive difference in the lives of others. This is a reminder to always choose your words and actions carefully and in a positive manner. Dress neatly and appropriately for each occasion. This shows that you need to always be paying attention to the occasion and dress for that occasion. In other words, don't wear official dress to an FFA day at the barn and don't wear casual clothes to a FFA meeting. Respect the rights of others and their property. You should never think that just because something is not yours that you have the right to mistreat it. Not only do you need to respect property rights but as well as the rights of others. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion and it may disagree with yours, but their rights allow them to believe that even if it is different from yours. This shouldn't give you a reason to dislike or disrespect their property because of their entitlement. Be courteous, honest, and fair with others. Whenever you are representing the FFA, always keep in mind that you are a face of this organization so whenever you are not courteous, honest, or fair non-members see a bad reputation associated with our organization. Communicate in an appropriate, purposeful, and positive manner. One thing that we as FFA members need to always remember is to be positive. I know that sometimes things may seem difficult and it's hard to remain positive through the hard times, but always try your best to be positive. Demonstrate good sportsmanship by being modest in winning and generous in defeat. This phrase is the hardest to live by for most members. I myself understand that after you work so hard to achieve your goal, it is hard to be generous to those who received a higher ranking. One thing that you always need to remember is that there will be your times for you to win and the times for you to lose. So when you may lose, be generous and others will learn from that. Maybe the next time you will win and they will be generous in return. Now, let's talk about if you were to win. You don't need to go around bragging to everyone in the competition that you won and they are losers. The best thing to do is tell them that they did a good job and that they don't need to give up and to try next time. Through your efforts to be modest or generous I am sure that your competitors will return the gratitude. Make myself aware of FFA programs and be an active participant. Conduct and value a supervised agricultural experience program. I feel like these two sentences go hand in hand. As an FFA member, you need to know what programs are happening locally, statewide, and nationally. As well, your SAE needs to be well developed and valued in both your eyes as well as the eyes of others. Strive to establish and enhance my skills thorough agricultural education in order to enter a successful career. This pretty much means that you need to be willing to know more about agriculture at all times. For most FFA members this will also carry into the workforce and allow you to be more successful in your career. Appreciate and promote diversity in our organization. At one point in the FFA women were not allowed to join. This was the same for people of other ethnic backgrounds other than white. Now both women and the other ethnicities are allowed in our club. So always remember that it is not 1928 anymore and everyone is viewed the same these days so treat them the same. In conclusion, the code of ethics has always been a part of the FFA. These standards should always be in the back of our minds whether we are in our blue jackets or not. Just keep in mind that you are always being seen by the eyes of someone who looks up to you. Make those people look at you and say “I want to be just like them”. If you will follow this code I promise that you will be one of those people.

Stay positive and be your best, Alexis Stevens 2019-2020 North District Secretary
Treasurer's Newsletter

Your north District officers have been up to a lot this summer. One major event that we are super proud of, is 2019 COLWs. On July 15 and 16th, the North District hosted its annual Chapter Officer Leadership Workshop. They two workshops took place at Albertville High school and Falkville High School. The over theme was FFA cinemas, a COLW experience. Two officers teamed up together and delivered an informational workshop to students attending. Millie Grace Drake, district president, and I based our workshop off of The Lion King. We discussed conflict management and balancing your plate. Alexis Stevens, district secretary, and Gavin Lee, district vice president, teamed up to present The SpongeBob movie. Goal setting is super important in an officer position, and these two stressed it heavily. Corley Williams, district reporter, and Gabe Hallmark, district sentinel, used Moana to describe opportunities through Agriculture and FFA. During each of these, the district officers implemented a series of games and discussions, to get students really thinking about their positions. After the second workshop, students are lunch while listening to a representative from the National Guard speak. Finally after all workshops were completed, students met up in the auditoriums for a mini knowledge bowl. Questions ranged from "What does E.M. Tiffany stand for?" to "What year were women accepted into the FFA?". Then, each officer presented an award to a student who they thought was outstanding. In between the two days, the district officer team had many reflections and one-on-one conversations with each other. These interactions are what I’d have to say, really affected me as a person. Getting to truly know your other officers is something that I strongly believe in.

Thank you, Leanna Burkhalter, 2019-2020 North District Treasurer
The National FFA Organization’s mission statement says that FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. This is the simplest explanation of the diverse and unique opportunities that FFA can provide you! From learning about a new area of agriculture to getting to travel with your best friends, FFA has something for everyone. The first aspect of the mission statement, leadership, is something that has allowed me to grow into the person I am today. Not only does this aspect reach everyone regardless of background, but it also gives all members the skills they need to become the leaders of tomorrow. This is done in our organization through individual chapters growing their chapter officers into leaders. We accomplish this growth through leadership development competitions that allow many students to improve upon their public speaking and organizational skills. We also provide guided interviewing practice with all offices from the chapter level up. The next piece of the mission statement is personal growth. This element is extremely important, from learning how to properly interact with adults and peers to simply having fun and meeting new people. This personal growth I feel is true for most members ... whether they create an amazing work ethic from competing in various competitions, or learn how to behave professionally while in official dress, or simply gain confidence speaking to strangers. Everyone can grow and achieve new skills from being involved in FFA. The third and final portion of the mission statement is career success. This vital component can open so many doors for FFA members. While you learn valuable skills to take into the workforce, you just may find your passion from something as simple as a career development competition. Many also discover their passions with their supervised agricultural experience which gives them personal hands on opportunities in a variety of possible fields. Others discover passion in class experiences like working in the school nursery, or in the metal shop welding. These wide ranging opportunities truly allow students to catch a glimpse of their possible future and the vast career paths agriculture has to offer.

Thank you, Corley Williams your 2019-2020 North District Reporter
On the 26th and 27th of June the North District Officer Team had the opportunity to speak and be a part of the Jackson County Outdoor Seminar. The Jackson County Outdoor Seminar is an event where different FFA chapters in Jackson County come together to learn more about FFA, and all of the opportunities in the agricultural field by having several speakers come tell the students about their line of work, and how they got there. This was such a great experience for many reasons. The first being, it was our first time working with our officer team and it gave us the opportunity to practice and learn how to work together to conduct a workshop before our next events that were coming up. While we were there on our first day, we held two workshops which were beneficial to both the students and us as an officer team. This experience helped us learn how to work better with each other and how to operate smoothly. Our two workshops were on “The Many Opportunities In FFA” and “Setting Goals and How To Reach Them”. Both workshops had great meaning with fun activities to get our main points across. I felt like everyone there was very interactive and attentive and I am sure they got as much out of it as we did. We were also invited to stay and participate in other activities as well and had an amazing time doing so. All the students and teachers did everything they could to make us feel welcomed. We ended up making new friends and connections we may have never gotten to do if we had not gone. That night our officer team went out by the lake to talk and get to know each other better so we could be a stronger team and work better during all of this year’s events. We were invited to stay the night and go out to a shooting range with the group. They split us up in groups and we had a wonderful time learning about gun safety, and how to shoot different firearms. We then were able to participate in their skeet shooting contest. This whole experience has helped our team learn how to conduct a workshop; furthermore, it has helped us get to know each other and grow as a team as we continue this year’s service for the Alabama North District FFA. In closing, on behalf of the 2019-2020 North District Officer Team I would like to thank all the teachers and speakers involved in this event and thank them for making us feel welcomed, and letting us have an incredible time.

Thank you, Gabe Hallmark 2019-2020 North District Sentinel