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FFA Newsletter

STATE CONVENTION!

-Alysa Gauci

The 86th Annual Alabama FFA Convention was held at Montgomery Renaissance and Montgomery Performing Arts Centre from June 4-6, with June 3 being dedicated to State CDE Finals in Auburn. Many members took part in the state level contests, bagging meals to rally the fight against hunger (over 75,000 meals were donated), the Montgomery Biscuits baseball game, opening sessions, closing sessions, workshops, the career exposition, along with much more! State Convention was an absolute blast for myself as well as other members in my chapter and the state of Alabama. It is truly incredible to have the opportunity to compete at the state level and meet fellow FFA brothers and sisters from all around the state. I hope everyone has an incredible, successful year!



AJCA ROUND UP!

-Clay Jew (State Reporter; GW Long Chapter)

Alabama Cattlemen Association recently held its 8th Annual AJCA Round Up this past July at the Garrett Coliseum in Montgomery, AL. This is an amazing event that brings people together from all over the state and gives them an opportunity to compete in a range of individual and team contests as well as youth cattle shows. During this 3 day event individuals have an opportunity to participate in a variety of contests such as: public speaking, photography, posters, essays, record books, ad design, volleyball, livestock judging, showmanship, steer and heifer shows and much more! I encourage any Alabama Junior Cattlemen member to mark your calendars and participate at the AJCA Round-Up next year, whether you show livestock or not! Remember to have fun and use your earnings to get involved and promote FFA.





*Meet the 2014
- 2015
Alabama
South District
FFA
Officers!
- Gracie West*



Back Row (Right to Left): Nick O'Farrell, Nathan Parker, Cassandra Gifford. Front Row (Right to Left): Gracie West, Emily Williams, Alysa Gauci

President: Gracie West, Ariton FFA Chapter, Junior
Gracie's favorite aspect about FFA is "being able to travel to places that [she] would never have got to go without FFA, and also having the opportunity to meet people from all over the United States." Of the three years being engaged in the wonderful organization, Gracie's favorite memory of being a member is going to state convention for the first time. When asked why the South District President joined FFA, her answer was, "Honestly I just got involved because I wanted to travel and go on a ton of field trips but the more and more I done with FFA the more I fell in love with it!"

Vice President: Cassandra Gifford, Eufaula FFA Chapter, Senior

In her freshmen year (9th grade), Cassandra decided to get involved with FFA because "[she] loves being outdoors and helping other people!" Her favorite memory of the last few years of being engaged with FFA "would definitely be restoring [her] 8n Ford tractor for Breast Cancer Awareness." Her favorite thing about FFA is "all the opportunities that are available to the students." "FFA has helped me with various skills that I use on a daily basis, FFA has totally changed my life and made me the person I am today," says Cassandra.

Secretary: Emily Williams, Fruitdale FFA Chapter, Junior

Emile has been in FFA for five years. Her favorite thing about FFA is "meeting new people." Winning district land judging is Emily's favorite FFA memory. She explains why she got involved with FFA, "I got involved because I live on a farm and have been around agriculture."

Treasurer: Nick O'Farrell, Gulf Shores FFA Chapter, Senior

Nick's favorite thing about FFA is "the family mentality." Nick, being in FFA for one year, explains his favorite FFA memory as "going to DOLC and COLW with [his] fellow South District officers and getting to know them." Nick joined FFA because he "loves agricultural and plans on basing [his] life and career around it!" Also, Nick would also like to add, "War Eagle!"

Reporter: Alysa Gauci, Foley FFA Chapter, Senior
Alysa, being in FFA since 7th grade, joined because "[she] learned about it in middle school and it seemed pretty interesting so [she] got involved and has been hooked ever since!" Her favorite FFA memory, although "a tough choice," is "going to national convention for the first time as well as seeing [her] fellow members grow with the aid of FFA." Her favorite thing about FFA is "being able to meet new people!" She would also like to share "involvement is key, get involved. FFA is a big family. I don't know what I would do if I didn't join FFA! I'd also like to add, WAR EAGLE!"

Sentinel: Nathan Parker, Houston County FFA Chapter, Junior

Nathan's favorite thing about FFA is "having the opportunity to learn about agriculture with [his] classmates as well as a ton of other people. DOLC and COLW are Nathan's favorite FFA memories. "I wanted to learn more about agriculture," is Nathan's response to why he joined FFA. Nathan has been a member for three years. "WAR EAGLE!"



DOLC RECAP!

-Cassandra Gifford

On July 8-10 FFA District officers met with Alabama state officers where they conducted a series of workshops on leadership, parliamentary procedures, supervised agricultural experiences, career development events, Proficiencies, and officer expectations. The state officers trained the 3 districts including the north, central, and south districts. District officers were taught important techniques so that they would be able to teach chapter officers important ways to run a successful chapter. The workshop took place at the Alabama 4-H Center close to Columbiana, Alabama over the summer.

OVERVIEW OF COLW!

-Nathan Parker

The 2014 Chapter Officer Leadership Workshops (COLW) was fun and also a success. We decided at District Officer Leadership Conference that our theme for COLW would be from Funnel Cakes to Ferris Wheels. We also decided that the room where we was going to present our presentation for COLW was going to be decorated in a carnival theme. COLW started for us on July the 15th. We met in Dothan, Alabama, at 3 P.M. at the Fairfield Inn. The next morning we awoke bright eyed and bushy tailed (not exactly, we all went to bed about 1 o'clock in the morning) and we departed for our 1st workshop at Rehobeth High School. About 3 P.M. we left Rehobeth for Daphne. Now my fellow Alabama FFA brother and sisters, Nick O'Farrel, Mr. Davis, and Clay Tew could be Nascar drivers. My friends, we were I-10 and Nick just floors it, going at least 90 down I-10. I learned on the drive to Daphne that State Officer Clay Tew drives exactly like Bo Duke. We arrived in Daphne and checked in at the Holiday Inn. After supper we walked around Malbis, the Daphne mall. We went to bed about 1:30 in the morning and woke up around 5:30. We were wore out! We headed out to Daphne High School and had a good workshop there. After receiving and giving bear hugs, we all left to go back to our homes. I had the privilege to experience again the driving of Clay "Bo Duke" Tew on I-10, which was an experience.

At COLW we talked about various subjects, from SAE to Planning Chapter Activities. Here is a list of what every South District Officer presented at COLW: Gracie West, President: Officer Responsibilities; Cassandra Gifford, Vice President: SAE; Emily Williams, Secretary: Planning Chapter Activities; Nick O'Farrell, Treasurer: Communication-Public Relations; Alysa Gauci, Reporter: Teamwork; Nathan Parker, Sentinel: Effective Chapter Meetings

COLW was very fun but, more importantly, it was a success. We believe we made an impact on the South District Chapter Officers and also we gained some experience on talking in front of large groups of people. We also became even more closer as a group of officers. We are a family of six people and we are very close. I have a firm belief that if any of us needed one of our fellow South District Officers, they would come running to help one of us that was in need. That's how close we are. If anyone of you is thinking about running for a district officer position, I urge you to run for it. It is truly one of the best experiences I have ever had. I hope all of you have a great year this year in FFA and WAR EAGLE!



FUNDRAISING!

-Emily Williams

Fundraising is a vital part of every FFA chapter. Stop and think for a moment of all the expenses your chapter has. From supplies in the classroom, to jackets and ties, trips, and plants for your green house. Without the money from fundraising all of this would go away.

When planning an FFA fundraiser always keep in mind what other organizations are selling, because we are all really all competing for the same customers. Always ask yourself, "Would I buy this?" Although most FFA chapters do fruit sales, meat sales, plant sales, t-shirts, and my favorite

doughnuts, does not mean that you have to also. Do fundraisers no one else does! Be creative and do a petting zoo, auction of items, donkey basketball, or even an ice cream social.

A tip for fundraising is to explain. Tell the what their money is going to be used for, it might inspire them to support your FFA chapter. Always remember to have fun and use your earnings to get involved and promote FFA.



CREATING A POA!

-Nick O'Farrell

Making a POA, or program of activities, is a vital step to the success of your chapter as we begin this new school year. A POA is simple really, just an organized list of activities, dates, and times to help keep your chapter events flowing smoothly and prevents missing any important deadlines! Making a successful POA takes just 5 easy steps!

First, list the activities you have to schedule. Sit down with a calendar and sketch in the dates, times and places. Second, identify the facilities you are going to use for each activity. Determine if there are time conflicts and plan accordingly. The Red Bay FFA Chapter, for example, might meet at the town hall every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., but if the space is booked for other events in October, they might assemble at the library instead. Third, decide if you are going to design your own program of activities, download materials from the Internet or use sophisticated software. Make sure whichever option you select meets your needs to indicate activity, location and time. Fourth, draft your program schedule and leave it for a day. Time and distance will help you see things you may have missed in your program schedule for activities. Fifth, review the program schedule with another advisor, teacher or coordinator. Getting someone else to look at the program schedule with a fresh eye may help identify something you overlooked. If you follow these steps you will have a fun and successful year! Good Luck and God Bless!

No person shall be denied employment, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination any program or activity on the basis of disability, gender, race, religion, national origin, color, age or genetics. Ref: Sec. 1983, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.; Title VI and VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Sec. 504; Age Discrimination in Employment Act; The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008; Equal Pay Act of 1963; Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972; Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008; Title IX Coordinator, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101 or call (334) 242-8165.