



Lesson on fire safety and firefighting procedure at JCOS

North District FFA Newsletter

Summer, 2015

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Jackson County Outdoor Seminar

By Lane Bonds

Jackson County is one like no other. These group of students can make you feel welcome right when you walk into the door. From listening to bluegrass all night long when we are supposed to be in bed, to sitting outside in the rocking chairs listening to the crickets chirp. This group of students participated and listened so well in our workshops we presented to them. I am honored to know such a great group of FFA members. It is nice to know that I have a group of lifelong friends in the great place of Jackson County! The topics for these workshops varied and I feel like the students really enjoyed them. Our main goal in the workshops we present is to make a difference in our member's lives and most of all have fun!



What is Leadership?

By Sierra Goodwin

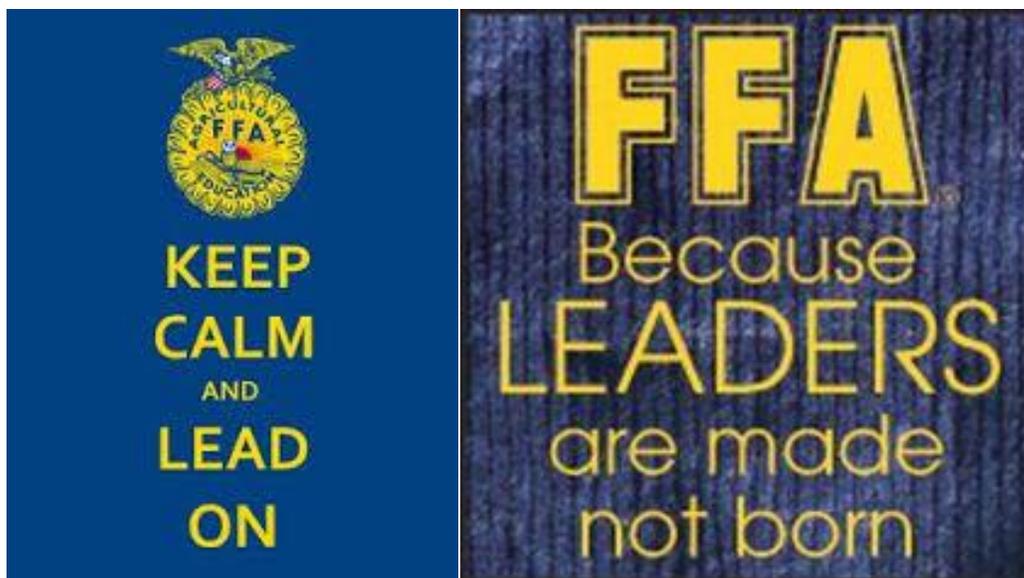
What is leadership? This question is asked all the time and every answer is different yet alike in some ways. There are many definitions of leadership that can be found in books and on the Internet. Some define leadership as those who give orders and have people follow them; some say leaders are born, not made.

In the FFA, we believe that leaders are made, not born. There are leaders in each and every one of us, some just show it more than others. I used to be one of the people who had no idea that I could be a leader, but then came my ninth grade year when I met my advisor, Mr. Sandy Fields.

He pushed me to try Creed Speaking and then I started to be more outgoing, and trying to do more and be more than I ever thought I could be. I told him I wanted to be a District, State, and National FFA officer. I asked him what do I need to do to achieve my goals. He looked at me and said, "You are on the right track. I have seen you grow into an amazing leader and young woman. So, always be yourself and take every opportunity to grow that you can. I will be there to help prepare you and to help you to reach your goals."

I have witnessed and felt firsthand what leadership is because my role models that I look up to in the FFA brought out the leader in me. Sometimes the best things they did were to just believe in me, and also to inspire me in everything I did. They helped me grow into who I am today. They taught me many things without teaching me at all. Leaders are watched all the time and they are teaching and inspiring the people around them, not knowing that they are doing it.

Leaders are always helping people to become the leaders that they know they can be, sometimes without knowing that they are helping them. Leadership is not a person born into the role, but it is a living thing in each and every person. Leaders are inspiring individuals who want everyone to be the best they can be. Leaders have the power to ignite a fire, a passion in individuals to become leaders like themselves. I know this because when I get to see the passion and the leader inside someone who doesn't think they are or could be a leader and I get to inspire, nurture, and help them grow into and want to be leader, that is what leadership, in part, means to me because I can't put all of what leadership means to me in words but I can put some of it in words. Leadership is a living thing in all of us and to me it can be defined using one word, inspire because that is what leaders do. So, what is leadership to you?



District Officer Leadership Conference

By Ethan Mobley

The annual District Officer Leadership Conference is one of the largest events in the calendar for Alabama FFA staff, as well as state and district officers. The Alabama 4-H Center in Columbiana, AL was the locale for the 2015 DOLC. It has always been a great teaching opportunity and time of learning for our state and district officers respectively. As a three day conference from July 7th to July 9th, many things are presented by each of the state officers.

Starting the first day of the conference, state officers facilitate a variety of workshops that aid district officers in our year of service. The workshops show us how to better serve others, ways to properly represent the FFA through social media and interaction, and to properly facilitate workshops of our own. This is a critical time of learning for district officers and trains us to better serve our respective districts throughout the year. However, it is also the only time that the state officers and district officers from across the state all interact together in one environment. This gives us all a time to better understand how we will serve the Alabama FFA Association all throughout the state.

The 2015 edition of our Alabama FFA DOLC has held true to the traditions of previous years and helped lay the foundations for years to come. For next year's district officers attending the 2016 DOLC, Get Ready.



The 87th annual Alabama FFA Convention

By Coleman Lett

The 87th Annual Alabama FFA State Convention has come and gone, but before we totally forget about the enjoyable week let's have a recap of the happenings. CDE competitions kicked off in Auburn on Tuesday June 9th and came to a close that afternoon. Tuesday afternoon competitors and many other members and guests filled the hotels of Montgomery.

To start off the convention, upon arriving Tuesday afternoon, members and advisors attended a memorable tradition: a Montgomery Biscuits game and dinner before at the appetizing boxcar buffet. Sadly, the meal will be our fondest memory of the night because the game was rained out shortly after we had eaten.

After the rain Tuesday night the sun was shining bright Wednesday morning as the State Convention, officially began. Wednesday started off with some exceptional entertainment as the string band competition took place. Later, everyone went for some lunch and relaxation as we had to return for the First Session at 2 O' clock. The first session started with some entertaining pre session activities led by the visiting Louisiana State Officers. The keynote speaker of this session was Kristen Schmidt as she gave a very motivating speech. As the first session came to a close it was then time for dinner before the second session. After dinner my friends and I had a chance to talk with the visiting National Officer, Kristen Schmidt. Kristen, who is from Colorado, had some very encouraging words and you can quickly detect her passion for the FFA. The second session began with the Star Farmer awards and the retiring addresses of Lacey Neman and Levi Colquitt. This session closed out the events of Wednesday.

Thursday morning started off with the third session where many CDE awards were given, congratulations to all winning teams and individuals. After the session it was a day of relaxing, visiting the attractions around Montgomery, and visiting the career show. Later in the evening the Fourth session began where the keynote speaker was the very inspiring Jane Herlong.

Friday morning was a time of celebration of the things accomplished throughout the past year. The Fifth general session closed out the 87th Annual Alabama FFA State Convention as the new state officers were elected and installed. The theme of this year's convention was "Go All Out" and as you go throughout the rest of your summer I encourage you to Go All Out and keep the passion and the fire that you attained for FFA at this year's state convention!

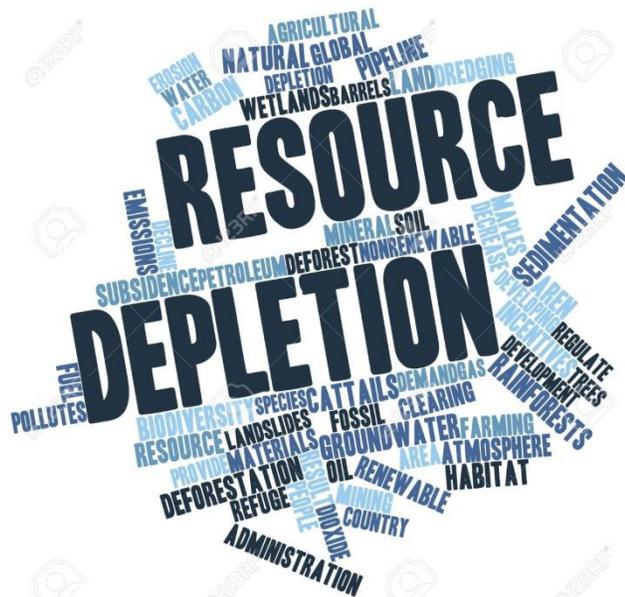


A Growing Issue in Agriculture

By Hannah Black

There are many agricultural issues facing America today, but one major problem is resource depletion. This is the consumption of resources faster than they can be replenished, or replaced. From mechanized feedlots to automatic irrigation systems to agricultural machinery, the agricultural world has become increasingly industrialized, making fossil fuels, water, and topsoil resources needed more than ever. "We have an industrial agricultural system that's totally dependent on the assumption that cheap fossil fuels will last forever," (John Gerber). We've heard our entire lives about one day we'll run out of natural resources but have never put much stock into it actually happening. The environment is becoming less predictable and without any change there could be serious consequences. Rainfall has already shown signs of unpredictability in the means of bursts of rain and then significant droughts. Also, soil is eroding much faster than it can be replenished, which takes away the land's fertility and many nutrients vital to plants and the people eating the plants.

But of course, there are things we can do to decrease these harmful effects. Just remember to conserve as much as possible and live a greener and healthier life. Our generation is facing a lot of problems, but without change everything will only get worse. We are the future of agriculture if we don't care enough to make a difference then who will?



Community Fun With the FFA

By Blayne McCafferty

Over the years the FFA Organization has rapidly changed and expanded. There has been much community involvement brought along with the growth of the FFA. This was exhibited this year by many chapters; one in particular was the Lexington Chapter.

The Lexington Alumni, assisted by chapter members, held their second annual farm equipment auction this year working to earn money for the scholarships provided at Lexington to further students agricultural education. The chapter also started something new by holding their first annual Spring Fling on school campus consisting of a car show, indoor mall, food, and music for a whole day of fun for the Lexington community. The chapter ended up the school year by holding their annual grill out in the City Park. The community was provided with food, games, and musical entertainment by the chapter's string band.

Using these events, the Lexington chapter was able to fund numerous scholarships to dedicated FFA members. Consider the possibilities to get your community involved in your FFA chapter. As the FFA grows, get help from your community to improve and expand your school's chapter. It is almost a given that the people around you have in some way supported your chapter, so be sure to give back to your locals with fun for the whole community.

The 2015 - 2016 North District Officer Team. Top left - Coleman Lett - Middle - Hannah Black - Right - Blayne McCafferty. Bottom Left - Sierra Goodwin - Middle - Ethan Mobley - Right - Lane Bonds.

