



South District FFA Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Strawberry Sale
- Chapter Visits
- Chickens on Campus
- State Convention
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Serving at the State FFA Convention

By: Dawn Turner

State FFA Vice President

As the end of the school year approaches FFA members begin looking forward to attending and competing at the State Convention.

Set to take place in June, the State Convention will definitely be a convention to remember.

FFA members have worked all year in preparation for the various Career Development Events in which they will participate, working on their SAE projects, preparing their applications for a proficiency award, and getting ready to receive their State Degrees.

Just as these things are an integral part of the FFA, so is service to the community.

This year the National FFA theme has been "Grow".

In honor of this theme the state officers have decided to package 30,000 meals at the State Convention this year.

Preparations have been made so that FFA members can be a part of this service activity by attending the session where we will be packing these meals.

These meals will be sent to needy families in Alabama.



LEADERSHIP. GROWTH. SUCCESS.

So as you look forward to attending the State Convention, get excited about being a part of an organization that helps make a difference in the world.

Don't miss your chance to embrace an attitude of service at this year's Alabama FFA State Convention!

Ryan Marler— Chicks at Zion

Shhhhh....babies are sleeping in the Zion Chapel AG classroom. We recently purchased 10 Black Jersey Giants, 10 Rhode Island Reds, and 15 Silver Laced Wyondettes. Last fall we built, what we call, the "Chicken Condo" with its four story roosting for the six Rhode Island Reds that were donated to the school. By next school year all of our chickens will be residing in the Chicken Condo and laying eggs. All of the eggs gathered in the Chicken Condo go straight to faculty and staff. We hope to have enough eggs to fully supply the cafeteria.



Heather Grice— FFA Week & FFA Day At the Capitol

The 2013 FFA week was a success at Enterprise High School. It is a tradition to dress up as something that relates to agriculture everyday and on Tuesday we always bring teachers food, known as 'Teacher Appreciation Day'. With it being Career Tech month, on Thursday EHS has a career tech cookout. At this cook-

out, every career tech organization is invited to come enjoy hamburgers and good music!

Also, the FFA Day on Goat Hill was super fun! We had a lot of guest speakers and we were able to watch session on that Tuesday. We also met with our Senators and Representatives.



April 2, 2013

Hayden Whittle— Greenhouse Project

At the Geneva FFA chapter, we are finally reaching the end of our long awaited new greenhouse. The project has allowed for me to mold my FFA into something bigger and greater by helping oversee the construction of the project. Through our greenhouse we do a variety of fundraisers including: plant sale, Christmas greens sale, and a fruit and vegetable sale. For all those chapter considering renovation, there are many grants and opportunities available for you. They may be hard to come by, but they are out there. The Greenhouse project as well as many other construction type projects provide members with a chance at leadership and to explore new regions of their SAE. It has provided me with many chances at enhancing my Supervised Agricultural experience and can do the same for your members if they have the same opportunities as I have been blessed with through this project.



Madison Tew— SLE Rodeo and Expo

For those who missed the SLE Rodeo and the State Beef Expo this past March, you missed one of the most fun-filled weekends of the year. This show is the show every exhibitor looks forward to because they know all of their hard work for the year paid off.

The steer show was on Friday, showmanship on Saturday and the heifer and breed steer show on Sunday. The SLE rodeo was on Thursday night through Saturday night. After the rodeo on Friday and Saturday night, Justin Moore and John Michael Montgomery put on some great concerts. I would like to thank the sponsors of this year's rodeo and state show, and congratulations to the ones who exhibited a steer or a heifer!

If you are interested in showing cattle, you can talk to your ag teacher or e-mail me at mtew@alabamaffa.org. I encourage you to look into showing livestock because it is very rewarding and you will make some of the best memories.



Shelby Windham— SAE's

Supervised Agricultural Experiences... Your SAE can be as big as you want or as small as you want. It could be having a lawn management company, showing livestock, or just planting a garden. Having a SAE can teach you responsibility, money management, time management and team work. There are a lot of ways a SAE can benefit you as a person. For example, when your SAE develops enough, you can fill out a proficiency award application and compete at the

state and national level. You also have the opportunity to apply for grants through the National FFA Assoc. to make your SAE's better.

My SAE has helped mold me into the person I am today. It is in Beef Production. In the 4th grade I started showing livestock, Charolais particularly. That first heifer made me fall in love with the breed. I have been showing for 8 years and have grown my herd to about 100 head of cattle. Through this experience it has lead me to fall in love with live-

stock judging. I hope to attend a junior college to judge for 2 years then attend a 4 year school and go into a pre-vet program and eventually become a veterinarian. All of this has helped me form a path for my future endeavors. You can do the same!

I hope by reading this article it will encourage you to form an outstanding SAE for next year. I hope YOU will work hard and make it what YOU want it to be not what it just is. If you need any help I would love to be there for you guys. Just give me a call!

Katie Lowery— Christmas with the Officers

In December, the South District Officer team decided to get in on the holiday festivities. We decided to have a simple game of Dirty Santa. The unique choice of gift ranged from gift cards to movies and after a riveting game of gift swapping, we all had lunch together there at Mr. Davis' house. Each of us brought different family specialties to be devoured over at lunch. After lunch, we discussed our new Program of Activities, and District Eliminations. After our mini-Christmas was finished we all took pictures, said our goodbyes, and went our separate ways.



*****EXTRAS*****

By Hayden Whittle

Chapter Visits

Since the release of the last newsletter, I have been blessed to visit two great chapters in two different regions of our district. I recently spoke at the Ariton FFA chapter and had the privilege to see how they run their official chapter meetings. In fact that is a very important activity that I urge every chapter to do. They conducted their meeting in an orderly fashion and had a set of guidelines they stuck to during the meeting which thoroughly impressed me. The second school that I, along with Alabama State Treasurer Abby Himburg, visited was the Southern Choctaw FFA chapter. After a four hour drive, we were very excited to get to speak with some of the younger members of the chapter and give our FFA story, along with the SAE's and CDE's we are involved in. Later in the day we were invited to their chapters cookout to celebrate FFA week. Thanks to the guys who grilled those hamburger... They were delicious! As the chapter visit "season" kicks off for our District officer team, we all look forward to visiting our assigned chapters and seeing what cool, and creative things you do in your chapter.

Strawberry Sale

This time of year around the Geneva FFA Chapter, there is one thing you can ask any member we are doing, and that is our annual strawberry sale! Over the years we have grown in our sales and even built a rival for top spot in sales, the rival being the Ariton FFA chapter. But even as fun as the thrill of who will come out on top, strawberry sales also provide a large amount of money for our chapter activities for the rest of the year. If your chapter doesn't partake in this sale, or even if they are looking for other fundraising activities, the Strawberry sale is a fast, fun, and easy way to make money for your chapter and you would be surprised how well they sell! For more information you can get in contact with any district officer for fundraising tips or ideas.

Kennedy Sanders— Zion Chapel FFA Sentinel shares some chapter activities

Tractor Restoration

In the fall of 2012 the Zion Chapel FFA was approached by the MichaelDeSandro family about the restoration of a 1955 model 800 Ford tractor. After assessing the situation a group of young men from the chapter decided to accept the challenge. All of the materials and parts were supplied by the DeSandro family, and the labor was provided by the FFA chapter. In March of 2013 the completely restored tractor was showcased in front of the school. The before and after pictures were astonishing! The FFA restoration crew gained many valuable experiences throughout the process, and the DeSandro family was able to take a like new tractor back home! The DeSandro family gave a generous donation to the FFA chapter as a token of their appreciation.

Community Garden

The Zion Chapel FFA of Jack Alabama planted a community garden last fall conveniently located at the heart of the small county community. The garden was initiated by a 2,500 Food for All grant awarded by the National FFA Organization. Once the grant was received the chapter started preparing the soil for the garden. Elementary students, high school students, faculty, and staff were all involved in the planting process of hogoin turnips, curly leaf mustards, georgia collards, rutabaga, white egg turnips, yellow onions, rates collards, red onions, purple top collards, and kale. Harvesting took place early this March. While harvesting the garden FFA officers were sure to take pictures to display in the lunchroom on the days that the vegetables from the garden were served. The winter garden was so successful that the spring garden is planned to be three times larger. Crops to be grown include corn, potatoes, tomatoes, peas, okra, squash, eggplant etc.

Your chapters articles can be here! Just email me your articles!!

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As the school year comes to an end I reflect back on this past year as a senior at Ariton High School. I am also reminded of the 13 years I have spent there. Although I have enjoyed my time in school I am excited to start a new chapter in my life. While I start applying for colleges and different scholarships I am constantly reminded of the choices I made while in high school. The decisions to be involved in FFA or making good grades have paid off. Because of my achievements, I have been offered scholarships and admission to several colleges. Without deciding to excel in school I wouldn't have had as many opportunities. So while you end your year and start a new one in several months, strive to be successful. Explore new opportunities in high and strive to excel in your school work, no matter if it's high school or college. Alabama FFA members live to your infinite potential.

No person shall be denied employment, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in 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.