It’s great for your chapter to be involved with your community. Not only doing community service, but giving back to your community. They’re your number one supporters. For example, volunteering to help with events. Coffee County held their annual Farm City Banquet in New Brockton on November 17 and my chapter, New Brockton FFA, set up the event and got the arena ready. The Enterprise Chapter served at the banquet, which is our Vice President, Bryce Hendricks’ chapter. We also had some of our South District Officers there including myself to help out. By assisting with events like these, it lets your community know that you care about them. That means a lot to them and it makes them proud. The New Brockton Agriscience Program has two tunnel houses. We give our local community the first pick on the produce we grow in them and allow the community to give us input into what they would prefer us plant in them. They love it! Today a lot of schools have a tunnel house and that’s a good public relations project. The community gets to see what you’re doing and it lets them know that you’re an active chapter. Another way you can get your community involved and show off the talents of your members is to make things and sell them! Selling projects can be a great fundraiser for your chapter! My chapter is filling orders for wooden door hangers. The customer describes what they want, shows us a picture of the item and we make it for them! It’s a very fun and simple fundraiser that also provides your chapter with opportunities for team building while working together! Always take the opportunity to do things for your community, it’ll pay off!

-South District Reporter

Caitlyn Nolin
**State Degrees**

FFA members are given the option to receive degrees by showing progress in their leadership skills, career skills and academic skills. Each year, the Alabama FFA Association recognizes the top members across the state by awarding them their State FFA Degree. The State FFA Degree is the highest honor the Alabama FFA Association can bestow on its members. In order to receive a state degree, members must have already met the requirements listed in the Official FFA Manual to earn the Greenhand and Chapter FFA Degrees. This year the South District’s goal is to have 75 members apply and receive their state degree. In previous years, we have come just short of our goal, but this year we are determined to get more members excited about receiving their State FFA Degree. Receiving a state degree is a wonderful opportunity, because it allows members to become one step closer to receiving the American FFA Degree from the National FFA Organization. Members, make sure to mark your calendars because the deadline to fill out a state degree application is February 15, 2017!

-South District Vice President

Bryce Hendricks
It’s almost the start of a new year and each chapter should be setting goals for what they hope to accomplish the second half of this school year. One thing each chapter should include in their list of goals is proficiency awards. These awards are based on your Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) and give you recognition for the hard work you put into your project. There are many categories of proficiency awards and you can check them out on the Alabama FFA Website. Our South District Officer Team has a goal this year to have 50 proficiency award applications completed by the deadline of February 15th, so please take this initiative on as a chapter priority!

-South District Sentinel
Gracie Sims

The Eufaula FFA Chapter spread Christmas joy throughout the community through its sponsorship of the Christmas Child program. Members sponsored several children through the program and provided those children with many of the wishes on their Christmas lists. The ages of the children served ranged from 1 to 13 years. FFA members donated $5 toward the gift fund and went as a group to local stores to purchase the gifts. Members who donated to the project enjoyed a hamburger lunch cooked by the agriscience classes at Eufaula High. This service project promotes community service and encourages members to get involved to help those in need during the holiday season.

-South District Treasurer
Calan Ates
Every year thousands of FFA Chapters across the nation celebrate National FFA Week. This week-long tradition began in 1947, when the National FFA Board of Directors voted to designate the week of George Washington’s birthday as National FFA Week. During this week members, alumni and supporters of the FFA advocate for agriculture, promote agricultural literacy and share their FFA stories. For our local chapters, this week also serves as a time of recruitment. This week increases participation and ignites passion in our current and future FFA members. FFA week is fun! Some chapters host farmer appreciation breakfasts, an Ag Olympics, dress up days and many other events. Now is the time for chapter officers to come together and begin planning local events. Proper planning prevents poor performance! Share your chapter activities on social media using the hashtag #SDFFAWeek17 and tag South District FFA on Facebook and Instagram. FFA Week runs from February 18-25, 2017.

-South District President

Cameron Catrett

National FFA Week

ALABAMA FFA ASSOCIATION
PREMIER LEADERSHIP - PERSONAL GROWTH - CAREER SUCCESS

GO ALL OUT!

STEP UP STAND OUT

TRANSFORM PURPOSE TO ACTION
Entering fall season always comes with traditions here at Eufaula High School. We are competing in the Delo Tractor Restoration Competition; several education field trips, including going to the National FFA Convention; and making sugar cane syrup. The purpose of making sugar cane syrup is to display the functionality of antique machinery and exposes the FFA members to hard work involved in this project. The process begins in the spring for our chapter by planting the sugar cane. After the sugar cane grows to maturity, it must be harvested before the first frost of the winter. On a cold, crisp day in December all the FFA members and our guests will meet at 6 o’clock in the morning to start grinding our sugar cane, after we eat breakfast, of course. As we hook up the sugar cane grinder to our antique tractor to make it turn, we begin grinding the juice out of the sugar cane. Once our sugar cane is all juiced, we pour the juice into our large boiler pot and stir over heat for the next 4 or 5 hours. Cooking the juice removes the water from the juice and leaves the sugar in the boiler pot. This experience is not just about hard work but fun as well. We have Eufaula FFA Alumni who are in college home for the holidays, administration, and specials guests that attend. Our syrup is finally prepared for packaging in 8 ounce jars to pass out to members, teachers, alumni and guests. The members have put in time, hard work, and knowledge into this activity. The next morning when we pour the delicious syrup on our pancakes and biscuits is the one of the many rewards we receive.

-Alabama State Treasurer
Becky Hawkins
Did you know one in six people in America face hunger? That’s right, over 49 million Americans struggle to put food on the table. One of the best ways to combat food insecurity is to conduct a food drive at your high school or in your community. Local food banks can always use non-perishable food items to stock in their pantry. Recently, my home chapters of Foley and Foley Magnolia conducted a joint food drive with the National Technical Honor Society at our school. In less than 2 weeks, we raised over 300 canned goods for a local food drive called the Turkey Take-Out that provided thanksgiving meals for less fortunate families in our community. Not only is this a worthwhile endeavor, you can actually have fun with it! We set up this joint food drive as a competition. The organization with the number of cans of food got to treat the officer team of the losing organization to a pie in the face. The National Technical Honor Society won and our FFA chapters lost, so the FFA officers lined up and got pied! Even though FFA didn’t come out on top, no one really lost. It was all for a good cause which will benefit the community and serve as a tool to help build a positive reputation for your chapter in the community.

-South District Secretary
Grady Gunn