

WINTER 2020

# NORTH DISTRICT FFA NEWSLETTER

## Upcoming Events

December

12/4-6- Check Point #2

12/7-8- JLDC @ BJCC

12/25- Christmas

January

1/18- MLK Day

1/19- South District Mid  
Winter

1/20- Central District Mid  
Winter

1/21-North District Mid  
Winter

February

2/14- Valentines Day

2/15- Proficiency  
Applications Due

2/21-27- FFA Week

## PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER



The 93rd National FFA Convention and Expo was held virtually this year. Due to Covid-19 concerns the decision to move to a virtual platform was made in late June. Even though the conference was held virtually, there were more than 217,415 viewers and participants for the convention. The Convention and Expo kicked off on October 27, giving students the opportunity to participate in a new virtual platform. Live general sessions could be viewed on RFD-TV, The Cowboy Channel, and streaming live on FFA.org. Even though the event was virtual, it held many great opportunities for the FFA members from around the country. Participants were able to watch their peers receive recognition for their hard work through award ceremonies. Congratulations to all of the North District FFA members who were recognized for their participation on the national level. We are extremely proud of each and everyone of you. National FFA even kept with tradition by hosting a virtual FFA band and choir performance. Your Alabama State Officers and District Presidents served as your 2020 state delegates and attended several work sessions to perform the business of the National Association. These delegates met in Auburn, AL and attended all sessions virtually. This was a great opportunity for the state association to bond as a team and make plans for the state association. The convention wrapped up on October 30 with the announcement of the new national officer team. Keeping with tradition, the new national officers were presented with their new national FFA Jackets live from around the country. This year's convention might have looked a little different, but it was still the same wonderful FFA Convention that many of us have participated in in the past. If you missed it, highlights can be found on FFA.org. We look forward to a new year of hard work by our FFA members in the state of Alabama. We hope to see you recognized at the 94th National FFA Convention and Expo.

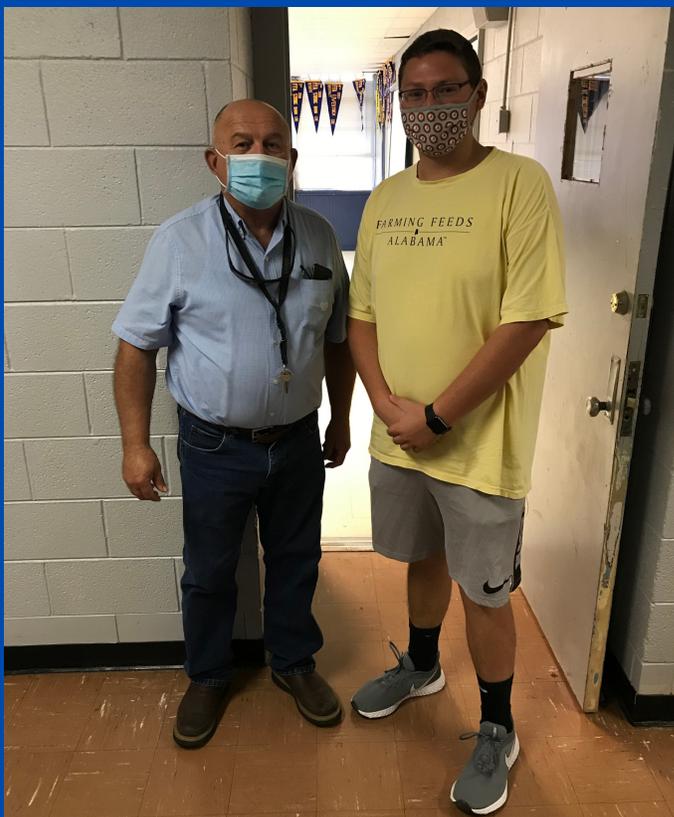
Thank you, Leeanna Burkhalter  
2020-2021 District President



# Vice President's Newsletter

2020 has truly been a rollercoaster of a year. It began as a pretty normal year, but little did we know that in March it would be a totally different world. COVID-19 would hit our country and state like no one would have ever believed. However, this year has taught me many things about life. One of the major things is to be flexible. In early March, I was planning for a long season of tennis and studying for District officer interviews. Life was pretty much normal. I planned study time around tennis matches and other events that were happening. My schedule was pretty set in stone about what I wanted to do. Covid would soon wreck those plans though. I went from knowing what was happening the next day to having no clue what the next day would be like. I played a tennis match one day, and the next we were out of school with no extracurricular activities. It seemed like a whole new world with things rapidly changing. I did not want to plan anything in fear of not being able to do it. However, I soon learned to make flexible plans that could change with whatever the difficulty was. This allowed me to continue to do what I loved to do but still be safe. We need to be able to do the same thing with FFA. This year has not and will not be a typical year. Some of our favorite events have already been canceled or went virtual. We can not let this shut us down though. Some events might look different but you can still get just as much out of them. Our High Point Conference was on Zoom this year which felt totally different. However, the other district officers and myself still were able to enjoy the time we spent together as well as learning how to implement chapter visits virtually. I am so glad that I did not give up on this year. You can not give up either. This year may not be the best ever, but if we work together, we can make it through.

Thank you, Wilton-Mark Pettus  
2020-2021 District Vice President



# SECRETARY'S NEWSLETTER

If you would have told me this time last year all that the year 2020 would include, I probably would have said that you were crazy and there's no way that all of this could happen. Even though this year hasn't been ideal there's still some great things that have happened. Back in March I didn't think I would have the opportunity to be a district officer because of Covid-19, and now I have the opportunity to serve FFA members across the North District. FFA is more important now than it ever has been, this organization gives students the chance to focus on the good in the world. Many FFA chapters have been giving back to their communities in these times of hardship, this helps students understand the value of hard work and community. My chapter is giving back to the community by participating in our local food drive and the angel tree. I had the chance to reach out to some members in my chapter and I asked them to describe what FFA meant to them in one word. These are some examples of what they said: "Family", "Community" and "Leadership". FFA gives students a chance to not focus on the negative in the world and instead focus on how they can serve others. FFA is important for many different reasons but now more than ever students feel like they have a voice and the ability to have a lasting impact in their communities.

Thank you, Kaitlyn Burroughs  
2020-2021 District Secretary



# TREASURER'S NEWSLETTER

Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve

The FFA Motto is the basis of our great organization. Using the motto, we can find a connection to the three circle model: classroom and laboratory, Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), and FFA. “Learning to Do” and “Doing to Learn” are seen in the classroom and laboratory. Agricultural programs are based on a combination of classroom and hands-on education, which provide a new type of learning to get students interested and involved. The next line, “Earning to Live,” is seen when a student works on their SAE. Taking what they learned in the classroom and lab, as well as what they already know, they can turn their learning into a productive job or project that will prepare them for the future. The final line, “Living to Serve,” is the part I would like to focus on right now. As FFA members, we are expected to serve others. In the time we are living in, full of uncertainty and worry due to the Coronavirus, we should now more than ever work to serve those around us. Whether it’s cleaning up around the yard or buying groceries for someone who can’t get out of the house, or writing an encouraging note to someone who is struggling, we should all do our part to help out however we can. Today and everyday, I challenge you to take a moment and make someone’s day the way FFA has taught us.

Thank you, Raegan Rogers  
2020-2021 District Treasurer



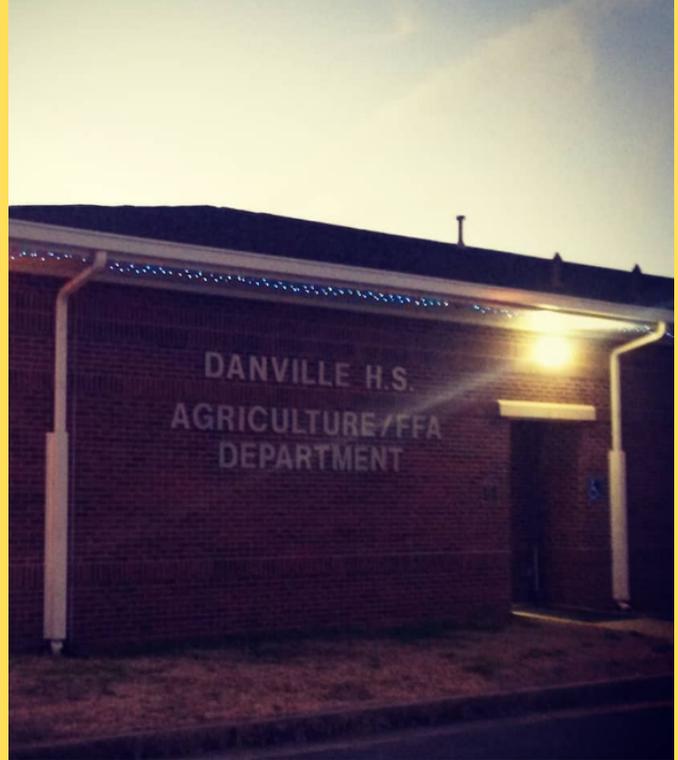
Spring Garden chapter officers clean up a fallen tree from a storm at a nearby pumpkin patch.



# Reporter's Newsletter

Nearly two months ago, I had the honor of attending the 2020 High Point Conference where I had the opportunity to meet the officers from the Central and South district. The State Officers shared their experiences as they were once district officers themselves, which was enlightening. One of the state officers said it was surreal to him that he was once sitting in our position listening to the previous state team talk to them and now he was the one helping direct the new district officers. I was very excited to be there because I knew there was so much I was going to learn from them, and I did learn a lot. Going into the conference, I had the mindset that I am coachable, had much to learn and am always open to learning from others. My message here today is to always be a teachable person regardless of how much you think you might know because there will always be someone who can teach you. It doesn't matter how educated you are on a topic. No matter what, there is always room for learning and improvement.

Thank you, Clayton Copeland  
2020-2021 District Reporter



# SENTINEL'S NEWSLETTER

We have been told all our lives that tomorrow is never promised, or that we should not take our daily privileges for granted. The year 2020 has shown us both those statements are true, but how do we keep positive with all these challenges? How do we as leaders be a leader and help students in different ways we never thought we would? I'm about to tell you. There are many ways you can stay positive and be the leader you need to be. It just matters on how you take these challenges and your actions you proceed to apply. In FFA, but also in life itself. For FFA members, that means no in person chapter meetings, possibly no in person contests where we meet new people, no national convention or state convention and so much more. FFA officers and staff have to look at options and other perspectives for all of these events just so we can have our normal events. Even if it is virtual we can make it fun and memorable. Let's not make excuses, let's make efforts. Efforts that might create new ideas or opportunities for officer teams to come. Chapter visits are a must for a district or state officer but also the students. Not because we are forced to do it, but because we want to do it. Virtual chapter visits are normally not what we would think we would do in our year of service but this year we as officers have no choice. We are given the opportunity to make history and let these students learn more about FFA and the agriculture world. Even though we can't meet new people in person, we can be grateful we are meeting new people. If we all do our part and make the best of this "Learning to Do" a virtual experience will be a success. Year 2020 you will be remembered for all the good and bad ways. But we should be more grateful for everything this year has offered us. It has offered us the chance to learn more and grow more by thinking out of the box and making the most out of the chances we have to spend with others.

Thank you, Kyla Dean  
2020-2021 District Sentinel

