

WINTER 2020-2021

# THE FFA REPORTER

Official Newsletter of Alabama FFA

## Beneath the Rising Sun

BY MILLIE GRACE DRAKE

It is safe to say that this year hasn't looked anything like what we expected. We are facing a global pandemic that has completely shifted the way our world functions. While many aspects of our "normal" lives have changed, we have all done our best to play the cards we were dealt. For anyone who has been in FFA for a while, it has been easy for us to miss events like State Convention, National Convention, Joint Leadership Development Conference, and the Upcoming District Eliminations and State Convention. As a state officer, it has also been frustrating to miss out on all the many opportunities to interact with members, but I can quickly say that I have jumped at every opportunity to get out and serve our state association. The act of "getting out" hasn't been what it would seem during this chaotic year. Mostly, I have gotten out in front of a camera to film virtual workshops for various conferences, one being JLDC. The Joint Leadership Development Conference combines the vast array of Career Technical Student Organizations throughout the state of Alabama. Although this year, we were unable to gather for an in-person conference, I was able to spend two days filming sessions of JLDC with other state presidents in early October and a few weeks later I was able to film materials for CTSO Connect Sessions with my state officer team! Although this year has been frustrating for everyone, I hope you all have made the most of the year by utilizing virtual materials and attending virtual conferences!

Best Wishes, Millie Grace Drake State FFA President

## February

- 9th: Central District Mock Interviews
- 15th: County Speaking Manuscripts Due
- 15th: Form 1 of National Chapter Due
- 15th: Proficiency Applications Due
- 21st-27th: FFA Week

## March

- 1st: BOAC Application Due
- 1st: Membership Entered and Paid
- 1st: Membership Submitted to State
- 1st: District and State Officer Application Due
- 1st: M.K. Animal Health Award Due
- 5th: County Contest Deadline
- 8th: District and State FFA Contest Registration Opens
- 10th: Land CDE Registration Closes
- 10th: State Livestock Judging Contest
- 12th: District Officer Interviews
- 15th: Crime Prevention Due
- 15th: Frances Mizell Scholarship Due
- 15th: Mindy Stringer Scholarship Due
- 15th: Form 2 of National Chapter Due
- 15th: State Public Transcript Due
- 17th: State Land Contest
- 19th: FFA Contest Registration Closes
- 18th-20th: Southeastern Livestock Expo



## Stationed by the Plow

BY MAGGIE BUSH

This past fall has been a little unusual compared to those in the past. Usually, we hold a conference in the summer to train the district officers for the upcoming year. However, due to covid, we were not able to hold it in the summer and had to hold it over the fall virtually. Despite the change, we still had an amazing conference. The other officers and I taught them how to navigate their year of service and how to conduct a chapter workshop. This fall we also attended the National FFA Convention. Instead of spending a week in Indianapolis, I was able to spend a week in Auburn with my team. Even though National Convention looked different, my team and I still had a great time. During that week, not only did we spend time enjoying National Convention, but we also spent that time preparing multiple events. Two events that we prepared for were the Joint Leadership Development Conference and the Alabama Winter Alumni Conference. We developed and filmed workshops for both of these events. JLDC was released about two months ago and if you missed our jeopardy skit you should check it out! Even though this fall has been different from others in previous years, we are still so excited for what is to come and what we have already done!

Sincerely,

Maggie Bush State FFA Vice President

# I Believe in the Future of Agriculture.

E.M. TIFFANY



# Stationed by the Ear of Corn

BY BROOKE PERRY

What's up, Alabama FFA? I hope your year has been safe, healthy, and hopefully a little relaxed. In August, the 2020-2021 state officer team and myself got sworn into office. Since then, we have been able to do a good deal of filming for you guys. We know virtual has its challenges but we are doing our best to make your year a little brighter. My favorite thing of this fall was National Convention. In case you missed Virtual National Convention, the new national officers had one of the most unique ways of being sworn in. The nominating committee members were able to go to each of the new officer's homes and present them with their new jackets, all filmed live. The emotion of each new officer was something so humbling to be able to watch. After national convention, some of the state officers were able to join the Puerto Rico Western Region Convention in December. That was by far the coolest zoom I've gotten to be a part of! This pandemic may have taken a lot from us, but there's so much to be seen and so much to still do. We want to be a part of your year! If you want to schedule a chapter visit with any of us, make sure your advisor goes to our website and completes a request form. We hope to see you soon! Stay safe!

Forever Blue,

Brooke Perry State FFA Secretary





# Stationed by the Emblem of Washington

BY LEE ENFINGER

How's it going Alabama FFA? It's been a year since COVID entered the United States and our world has changed dramatically. I can say without a doubt our lives are altered forever for better or worse. Ever since the state officer team was elected we have been hit with struggle after struggle. Events, conferences, chapter visits, and even the Alabama FFA State Convention were moved virtually. During all of this time however, the team and I stayed positive. We want to bring you the best experiences of your FFA career. But with the announcement that several events would take place virtually I've noticed a bit of a downturn in the positivity, I once saw in the FFA. So, I challenge you to spread a positive message in your life. Only together will we all come out on the other side and conquer this troubling time. Then we will all look back and talk about the struggles of former years in the road to come.

Sincerely,  
Lee Enfinger

**FFA  
Provides  
the Next  
Generation  
of Leaders  
Who Will  
Change the  
World.**





## Stationed by the Flag

BY CORLEY WILLIAMS

This fall my state officer team and I have been busier than ever despite the pandemic. From filming virtual workshops, and national convention, to finally getting to visit chapters and finishing up our last training session it has been awesome. This past week I was actually able to interact with members in person for the first time since 2021 began. Raegan Rodgers, the North District Treasurer, and I were able to visit Sylvania High School and do a leadership workshop that was so much fun. Getting back into schools is an experience I have been so looking forward to during my state year so this was amazing. Another big thing we have been working on is planning out social media and FFA week. This has been a daunting task but I am super excited about all the big things we have coming up. The announcement of our state convention theme, our national anthem competition, and the living to serve challenge are just a few of the activities I am particularly looking forward to! Even with everything going on I hope that our efforts to impact members pay off and that we can have a successful spring!

Forever Blue,

Corley Williams FFA State Reporter

# Stationed by the Door

BY CASE EDWARDS

Covid has slowed everything down this year. What it hasn't slowed down this year, however, is FFA member's passion for their SAEs. I myself have logged over 1200 hours in my SAE because I chose to take the opportunity to invest my time into an area that I normally wouldn't have as much time for. I have also taken the time to work on other projects for our state association to improve the success of members. Our team this year has not had the opportunities others have had in the past but we have made the most of it by filming new virtual workshops for members and making changes to competitions to create new opportunities for members in the state. While many members have not had the opportunity to have in-person instruction, we have all been afforded a great opportunity to put in the time for things that matter to us. I encourage all of you to continue putting in time in your SAEs or other projects to help your community or fellow members in our organization.

Sincerely, Case Edwards FFA State Sentinel

