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Agricultural Education

Georgia FFA Has A Busy Summer; Making Plans For A Successful 2012-2013

Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve. That is the FFA motto. This summer FFA members from across Georgia lived out the FFA motto by attending leadership development conferences, working to improve their local chapters and earning success with their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs.

In June, 42 Georgia FFA members and 8 advisors attended the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) in Washington D.C. FFA members from across the nation gathered in our nation's capitol for the FFA's most premier leadership conference. Students developed a personal and local service plan, worked on projects in D.C. and had the opportunity to take in all of the historical monuments, museums and sites of our nation's capitol.



In July the Georgia FFA Association hosted a chapter officer leadership training (COLT) conference. Local chapter officers from 28 chapters across the state gathered to grow as leaders, come together a team, and put together their chapter's Program of Activities (POA) for the year. In addition to leadership training from Mr. Patrick Grady and the 2012-2013 State FFA Officer team, the FFA members attending also went through the mud challenge course together.

Georgia FFA continued

The 85th National FFA Convention will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana in October. In August, the Georgia FFA Association learned that several Georgia members will be recognized in Indianapolis for their outstanding Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs. Three Georgians were named American Star Finalists for 2012. Bradley Weaver of Dawson County (Star in Agribusiness), Kaylyn Stout of Lowndes County (Star in Agriscience), and Justin Cochran of Franklin County (Star in Agricultural Placement) were each chosen as one of the four top SAE programs in the nation. The American Star Finalists interview with judges in Indianapolis, and have the opportunity to be named Stars Over America.

“Three Georgians
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Additionally, 24 Georgia FFA members were named National Finalists in the FFA proficiency award program. To earn this recognition these students were determined to have one of the top 4 SAEs of their type in the nation. Georgia led the nation in number of National Finalists. Georgia also had National Finalists in 21 of the 24 divisions of the Agriscience Fair.

A complete list of Georgia’s Star and proficiency finalists, photos from leadership conferences, and more information about the 85th National FFA Convention can be found at www.georgiaffa.org



Camp John Hope Welcomes New Camp Manager



Mrs. Casey Shumate is the new manager at Camp John Hope near Ft. Valley. She is a former agriculture teacher at Upson Lee Middle School. Mrs. Shumate brings a passion and commitment for student achievement and has some great ideas on how to better utilize the camp facilities to support student learning opportunities. In addition to a variety of events and activities for student groups, there is also meeting space available for any meeting. Being centrally located in the state, and within a few miles of Interstate 75, the facility offers a great place to conduct meetings. There are many improvements taking place at Camp John Hope. In addition to the new private room lodging accommodations, construction has begun on two new "state of the art" buck cabins for students. Plans are also in place to improve meeting rooms and add a new activity center in the very near future. Many agricultural education leadership and technical training events and activities are already scheduled to take place at Camp John Hope this coming year. Casey Shumate will play a key role in providing quality opportunities for students and teachers. To find out more about the facilities and improvements at Camp John Hope, or to schedule a meeting or event, you can contact Casey at caseyshumate@gaaged.org or 478-967-2302.



FFA-FCCLA Center
Camp John Hope
Fort Valley, GA

South Region Welcomes Two New Members



Mr. Danny Bartlett



Mr. James Hunter

This year, the South Region Agricultural Education office welcomed two new members to the staff. Mr. James Hunter is the new Area Agriculture Mechanics Teacher. Mr. Hunter has had a successful career as an agricultural teacher in Berrien County and brings with him a wealth of experience in agricultural education and the agricultural mechanics pathway. Mr. Danny Bartlett is the new Area Forestry Teacher. Mr. Bartlett has taught agriculture in both Georgia and Florida and most recently was the Agriscience teacher at Ware County High School. Mr. Bartlett also brings a lot of experience in agricultural education and forestry to our office. Both of these gentlemen are excited about the coming year and are looking forward to being a resource for the teachers in our region. Please have your teachers contact them or any of our region staff for assistance with technical content, curriculum, FFA, or any other area pertaining to agricultural education.

Growing Leaders for the Future of Agriculture Education

Selected for instructional excellence and professional dedication, fourteen agriculture education teachers were recognized at this year's Georgia Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association summer conference. As a team, the teachers attended agriculture education's Leadership Academy and served as an advisory committee to, John Bridges, Georgia's state director of agriculture education.



The fundamental purpose of the Leadership Academy is to prepare and leave a legacy of educational leaders throughout Georgia who support and strengthen the mission of agriculture education. The Leadership Academy provides opportunities for professionals to increase their awareness of educational, industry and policy issues, to learn the skills necessary to handle today's changes, and to discover the leadership potential within each of us.

The objectives of the Leadership Academy are to:

- ❖ Develop participants' leadership capabilities;
- ❖ Promote the effective implementation of quality agriculture education programs that produce student success in academics and career and technical education;
- ❖ Reinforce understanding of program of work standards, policies and procedures;
- ❖ Provide resources of implementing effective career preparation learning opportunities; and
- ❖ Promote effective administrative, business and industry partnerships and effective practices to improve parental and community involvement.

Participants of the 2010 -2012 Agriculture Education Leadership Academy included: Allie Randall-Crockett Burke Co Middle, Virgil Blalock Northside High, Chad Crews Brantley Co High, Travis Hyman Creekside High, Abbey Needham-Nash Loganville High, Justin Bennett Mossy Creek Middle, James Hunter Berrien Co High, Bert Bodiford Berrien Co High, Todd Dobson Japser Middle, Trisha Lastly Madison Co High, Dustin Keener White Co High, Josh Allen Malcom Bridge Middle, and Kitty Simmons Early Co High.

Welcome Back From the North Region

North Region FFA Chapters make their presence known at State Convention

Congratulations to the following FFA Chapters that were recognized as State Winners at the 2011-2012 Georgia FFA State Convention in April. These Chapters put in many hours of hard work and that work will continue as they prepare to represent Georgia FFA at the National Competitions in October.

Athens Christian	Banks County High	Cedar Shoals High
East Jackson High	Franklin County High	Franklin County Middle
Gladden Middle	Gordon Central High	Greene County High
Jackson County High	Madison County High	Newton County High
North Murray High	North Oconee High	Northwest Whitfield High
Oconee County High	Oglethorpe County High	Paulding County High
Pepperell High	Rabun County High	Sonoraville High
White County High		

Participation up again in North Region FFA Leadership/Career Development Events

Student participation in FFA Events continues to rise across North Region despite tight budgets and reduced funding. This is a credit to the outstanding commitment shown by teachers across the Region. Congratulations to the following Chapters that lead North Region in overall student participation:

Area I High Schools

Total of **1951** above the Chapter level student participations

North Murray High School	115 Participations
Bowdon High School	105 Participations
Ridgeland High School	102 Participants
Dawson County High School	101 Participations
Chattooga County High School	95 Participations

Area I Middle Schools

Total of **394** above the Chapter level student participations

Gladden Middle School	77 Participations
Bagley Middle School	52 Participations
Clear Creek Middle School	44 Participations
Summerville Middle School	40 Participations
Fannin County Middle School	35 Participations

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Area II High Schools

Total of **2114** above the Chapter level student participations

White County High School	176 Participations
Madison County High School	159 Participations
Franklin County High School	117 Participations
Winder/Barrow High School	94 Participations
Oglethorpe County High School	80 Participations

Area II Middle Schools

Total of **702** above the Chapter level student participations

Wilbanks Middle School	70 Participations
Oconee County Middle School	66 Participants
Banks County Middle School	57 Participations
Franklin County Middle School	56 Participations
Madison County Middle School	54 Participations

Upcoming North Region Activities

North Region FFA Rally

The North Region FFA Rally will be held on September 6th and 7th for Area I schools and September 7th and 8th for Area II schools.

Activities will include Leadership/Team Development opportunities in the Mud Obstacle Course and in group team building activities. Students will also participate in Mini CDE Events such as: Small Engine Parts Identification and Problem Solving, Nursery/Landscape Plant Identification, Floriculture Plant Identification, Wildlife Identification, GPS Practicum, Livestock Judging and Reasons Demonstration, and Parliamentary Procedure Training Tips and Demonstration.

Stan Mitchell



Central Region Agriculture Education

2012-13 school year, ready or not it is here, let's take it by the horns and ride like crazy. I am excited about this new adventure and I hope you are as well. If this past year has any influence on the future, we have some exciting times ahead. 2011-12 is definitely a year to remember for the Ag programs in the Central Region. We have had an increase in FFA membership, in CDE participation, in new programs, and we had several chapters that found success on the area, state, and national levels. I would like to take this time to recognize two outstanding folks that helped get the Central Region National recognition, Bill Waldrep, Ag teacher at Mary Persons High School in Monroe County was named the NAAE Region V Outstanding Teacher and Dr. Freddie Waltz and the Effingham County Young Farmers where named the NAAE Region V Outstanding Adult Ag Education Program. These two gentlemen will receive the use of a Toyota Tundra truck for the next two years as a thank you from the Toyota Corporation. Most importantly, thousands of students developed premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education and your continued support. I look forward to the ride ahead, if I can be of any service to you please let me know how I can help. I hope you have a great year.

Chris Corzine



NAAE Region V Outstanding Teacher

Bill Waldrep



NAAE Region V Outstanding
Adult Ag Education Program
Dr. Freddie Waltz and Effingham County
Young Farmers

A Note from the South Region Director

As we begin the 2012-13 school year, I am excited about the opportunities that exist for all of our agricultural education programs. If last year is any indication, we have a lot to look forward to. In 2011-12 we saw participation increase in many FFA events and CDEs, we added new agriculture programs in the region, and we had many chapters that found success on the area, state, and national levels. Most importantly, thousands of students developed premier leadership skills, discovered personal growth, and found career success through agricultural education. John Dewey once said, "Give the pupils something to do, not something to learn; and the doing is of such a nature as to demand thinking; learning naturally results." In the midst of tough economic times, I am thankful to know that we have great teachers who love what they do and continually look for new and better ways to reach and teach students and provide them the opportunity to learn by doing. I hope all of you have a great year!

Dr. Lynn Barber



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“Making Agricultural Education Work for All Georgians”

From the Agricultural Education Program Manager

There is so much excitement and enthusiasm with the anticipation of another great school year. The agricultural education team is ready, willing, and able to serve agriculture teachers and students. We are expecting another great year of success with the agricultural education program. I would like to take this time to say THANK YOU for supporting your teachers and students. With your leadership, many great opportunities await your schools Ag-Ed program in 2012-2013. Hopefully this newsletter will detail some of the latest news about how Georgia FFA is recognized nationally, I encourage you to also visit the FFA website (www.georgiaffa.org) and click on the news and updated information tab. Here are just some of the highlights that I would like to mention: (I hope it is your school system recognized here)

- *Screven County Middle School FFA is a finalist for Outstanding Middle School FFA Chapter
- *Lowndes County, Franklin County, and Dawson County each have a student finalist in the American FFA Degree Award program.
- *Georgia has 17 different schools with a National FFA Proficiency Finalist -- there are 24 students being recognized as a National Proficiency Finalist.
- *Georgia FFA has a finalist in 21 of the 24 categories for the National Agriscience Fair event. Several school systems are represented in this National Event.
- *Southeast Bulloch High School is a "Models of Innovation" finalist in the National Chapter Award Program.

In closing, I would like to share an excerpt from a letter written in 1787 from Thomas Jefferson to George Washington: "Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness." Even though this was written many years ago, I suggest that this sentiment is still true today. My wish is for a productive and successful school year for each of you.

Chip Bridges

