Agricultural education in South Carolina experienced another “interesting” year. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to wreak havoc on many planned activities, but in typical Agricultural Education fashion, activities went on and our students were provided activities to participate in to enhance their educational experience.

2020-21 will ever go down in history as the year that the SC Governor’s School for Agriculture opened its doors to serve the students of South Carolina. The unique 1,800-acre campus at the John de la Howe school began serving students from across the state, many of whom come from areas where the students have no other opportunity to enroll in agriculture. The campus began on a small scale, due in part to COVID limitations, but began it did. The program is scheduled for continued growth in 2021-22 and has become an exciting integral part of the SC Agricultural Education program that truly is a source of pride.

In addition to the opening of the SC Governor’s School for Agriculture, the Agriculture Program in South Carolina also saw continued growth by adding several new agricultural education programs and additional teachers in existing programs, a trend that has occurred on a regular basis for the past few years.

The year was also highlighted by a mixture of virtual and in-person events held. While the SC FFA State Convention and FFA CDE’s were forced to be held virtually, the SC FFA Camping program and the Farmer and Agribusiness Summer Tour were held in-person, following strict safety protocols for all attendees.

Another noted event that occurred in 2020-21 was the sale of some beach property by the SC FFA Foundation. This sale will translate into additional funds to be used to create programs for FFA members around the state. The work of the SC FFA Foundation and Executive Director Frank Stover Jr., often goes unappreciated but it is their wise management and pursuit of funding for the FFA that our state has enjoyed financial support and stability for so many years.

Truly 2020-21 will go down as another unique year in agricultural education in South Carolina, but it will also be remembered as a successful year. Despite experiencing another year with limitations placed on it by a pandemic, the year brought historical success and accomplishments.
Every student enrolled in Agricultural Education is required to have a Supervised Agricultural Experience. This program allows students to gain work experience through exploratory, placement or entrepreneurial experiences, gaining them much needed job skills and training. In addition to the career preparation, the students also make quite an impact each year on the economy in South Carolina. In 2020-21, Agricultural Education students generated the following economic impact on our state:

**Unpaid Hours Dedicated to SAE’s**
577,105

**Paid Hours through SAE’s**
722,069

**Wages Earned through SAE’s**
$5,351,807

**Amount Invested by Students in SAE’s**
$888,341

**Amount Earned from SAE Investments**
$3,392,143
Region I High Schools
Anderson I & II Career and Technology Center
Anderson Institute of Technology
Belton-Honea Path High School
Berea High School
Blue Ridge High School
Crescent High School
Dorman Freshman Campus
Greer High School
H.B. Swofford Career Center
Hillcrest High School
Honea Path Middle School
Landrum High School
Liberty High School
Mauldin High School
Palmetto High School
Pendleton High School
Pickens Co. Career & Technology Ctr.
Pickens High School
RD Anderson Applied Technology Center
SC School for the Deaf and Blind
Seneca High School
Travelers Rest High School
Walhalla High School
West Oak High School
Woodmont High School

Region I Middle Schools
Belton Middle School
Bryson Middle School
Ralph Chandler Middle School

Regional Coordinator
Troy Helms
107 South French Street
Lancaster, SC 29720
Fax: 803-286-6650
Cell: (803) 320-1064
E-mail: rthelms@clemson.edu

24 High School Programs
41 High School Teachers
10 Middle School Programs
10 Middle School Teachers
Region II High Schools
Abbeville High School
Blythewood High School
Calhoun Falls Charter School
Catawba Ridge High School
Center for Advanced Technical Studies
Cherokee Institute of Innovation
Chester County Career Center
Clinton High School
Clover High School
Dixie High School
Fairfield Career & Technology Center
Floyd D. Johnson Tech Center
Fort Mill High School
Governors School for Agriculture at
John de la Howe Heyward Career and Technology Center
Laurens District 55 High School
Nation Ford High School
Newberry Career Center
Ninety-Six High School
Rock Hill ATC
Saluda High School
Strom Thurmond Career Center
Union County Career and Technology Center
Ware Shoals High School
WJ Keenan High School

Regional Coordinator
Troy Helms
107 South French Street
Lancaster, SC 29720
Fax: 803-286-6650
Cell: (803) 320-1064
E-mail: rthelms@clemson.edu

Region II Middle Schools
Clover Middle School
York Middle School

25 HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS
37 HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS
2 MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS
2 MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS
Region III High Schools
Andrew Jackson High School
Aynor High School
Buford High School
Carolina Forest High School
Carvers Bay High School
Central High School
Cheraw High School
Chesterfield High School
Conway High School
Darlington Co. Institute of Technology
Florence Co. Career Center
Georgetown High School
Green Sea Floyds H.S.
Indian Land High School
Lake View High School
Lakewood High School
Lancaster Co. Career Center*
Latta High School
Lee County Career & Technology Center
Manning High School
Marlboro County High School
McBee High School

Region III Middle Schools
Furman Middle School
Manning Middle School
McBee Middle School*

Regional Coordinator
Frank Saldana
1069 FFA Circle Drive
N. Myrtle Beach, SC 29582
Fax: (843) 249-4033
Cell: (765) 336-4300
E-mail: jsaldan@clemson.edu

Agricultural Education Programs

Region III

26 High School Programs
33 High School Teachers
3 Middle School Programs
3 Middle School Teachers

*new program
Region IV High Schools
Aiken High School
Ashley Ridge High School
Bamberg-Erhardt High School
Barnwell Co. Career Center
Batesburg-Leesville H.S.
Battery Creek High School
Branchville High School
Cane Bay High School
Cross High School
Denmark Olar High School
Dorchester Co. Career & Technology Center
East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies*
Edisto High School
Estill High School
Gilbert High School*
Lexington Technology Center
Lowcountry Leadership Charter School
Midland Valley High School*
Pelion High School
Ridgeland-Hardeeville High
Ridge Spring-Monetta HS
Swansea High School
Thunderbolt Career & Technology Center
Timberland High School
Wagener-Salley High School

Region IV Middle Schools
Cane Middle School*
Pelion Middle School

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*new program
*additional Ag teacher
Located on 1,310 acres in McCormick, S.C., the John de la Howe School is the oldest educational institution in South Carolina below the college level. Established in 1797 through the will of Dr. John de la Howe, a French physician, just nine years after South Carolina’s incorporation as a state. His will provided the establishment of an “agricultural seminary” for 12 poor boys and 12 poor girls – with the provision that they study the basic courses, agriculture, and related subjects. For many years, it was known as the “state’s orphanage.” This mission continued Dr. de la Howe’s desire for children in need to have a home and receive an education in an agricultural setting. In the 1980s, the school served as an alternative school with a mission to offer a haven for children to grow, heal and make lasting changes.

After a state-conducted feasibility study on the effectiveness of agriculture-focused schools in South Carolina and a change in administration, the school now embarks on an entirely new mission as the South Carolina Governor’s School for Agriculture at John de la Howe. In September 2020, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster signed Enabling Legislation S.613 officially designating the John de la Howe School as the third Governor’s School for the state. This is now the only residential high school for agricultural education in the nation. As such, it provides extraordinary opportunities for young South Carolinians to enter their state’s largest industry. The SC Governor’s School for Agriculture “will go a long way in shaping the future of South Carolina’s superior agriculture industry,” said Gov. McMaster.

“Becoming the South Carolina Governor’s School for Agriculture is the pinnacle of several years of work to re-brand our school. The legacy of Dr. John de la Howe will live on in the lives of our current and future students due to this historical legislation,” said Tim Keown, president of the SC Governor’s School for Agriculture.

This bold new direction comes at a time when agriculture jobs are plentiful, but too few have the skills to enter the industry. The SC Governor’s School for Agriculture’s mission is to provide a place where students don’t just learn about the world in a classroom – they get out and experience it. The school’s curriculum offers four agricultural pathways, with experienced teachers to cover each: Agricultural Mechanics & Technology, Environmental & Natural Resources, Horticulture, and Plant & Animal Systems. Academic core course offered are all taught on the honors level and presented through a lens that shows how they relate to agriculture. Additionally, dual enrollment is offered, meaning students can take courses for college credit and also obtain certifications in such critical agricultural skills like artificial insemination and chainsaw use.

Doubled since its inaugural school year, the SC Governor’s School for Agriculture has 61 students from South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia. The spring of 2022 will graduate its first class under this new mission. Admissions applications for the 2022-23 school year are available online at www.delahowe.sc.gov/admissions. Students in grades 10-12 from South Carolina and surrounding states are eligible to apply. Application checklist items include a personal essay, three recommendations, transcripts, attendance and discipline records. Applicants can apply as a residential or day student. Residential students live in on-campus housing and will have the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the campus atmosphere, farm life and their studies.

The gated campus has spacious residence halls with all the comforts of home and a variety of activities to enrich the student life experience. Students participate in extracurricular events, coined “ag-tivities”, such as livestock shows, rodeo events, field trials and shotgun practices. All students are heavily involved in the National FFA Organization and 4-H. Additionally, the school offers clubs such as Astronomy, Student Council, Yearbook and more.

“We’ve sent a message to our children that it’s never too late to be what you have been and it’s never too early to start,” said Sen. Gerald Malloy, chief sponsor of Enabling Legislation S.613. He predicts graduates will become “leaders here in our great state.”
OUR OFFICERS

Gracie Helms (President)
Central FFA Chapter.
Majoring in Pre-Law at the University of South Carolina, Lancaster

Gunnar Black (Secretary)
York FFA Chapter.
Majoring in Agricultural Mechanization and Business at Clemson University

Ashlyn Patterson (V. President)
Seneca FFA Chapter.
Majoring in Animal and Veterinary Science at Clemson University

Lee Padgett (V. President)
Pelion FFA Chapter.
Majoring in Agricultural Mechanization and Business at Clemson University

Adisyn Lyles (Vice President)
West-Oak FFA Chapter.
Majoring in Vet Technology at Tri-County Technical College

Victoria Gillis (Vice President)
Lexington Technology Center FFA Chapter. Majoring in Biology at Erskine College

SC FFA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

8,252  7,340  8,252  8,409  7,155

2021 South Carolina Regional Star Winners

Region 1
Farmer: Hannah Alice Martin
Clinton Chapter
Agribusiness: Nathan Clark
Nation Ford Chapter
Placement: Bronson Thomas
Buford Chapter

Region 4
Agribusiness Placement: Jordyn Twitty
Barnwell Co. CC
Placement: Bryson Shumpert
Pelion Chapter

2021 South Carolina Honorary American Degree Candidate
Michael Tighe
2021 NATIONAL CHAPTERS

Gold Chapters
Ashley Ridge
Buford
Calhoun Falls
Carvers Bay
Fort Mill
Lexington Technology Center
Loris
Nation Ford
Thurmond
West-Oak
Woodmont Middle
WJ Keenan

Superior
Abbeville
ACTC
Anderson
Andrew Jackson
Battery Creek
Belton Honea Path
Berea
Blythewood
Bryson Middle
Cheraw
Cherokee County
Chester County
Chesterfield
Clinton
Clover
Colleton County
Crescent
Darlington County Inst. of Technology
Dixie
Dorchester County Career & Technology Center
Gilbert
Green Sea Floyds
Greer
Honea Path Middle
Indian Land
Lake View
Lakewood
Landrum
Latta
Laurens
Lee County Career Center
Lexington Richland 5
Lowcountry Leadership
Manning
McBee
Midland Valley
Newberry County Career Center
North Central
Palmetto
Pelion Middle
Pendleton
Pickens County Career & Technology Center
Ridge Spring-Monetta
Riverside Middle
Saluda
Seneca
Swansea
Travelers Rest
Union County CTC
Wagener-Salley
Walhalla
Ware Shoals
York

Silver Chapters
Barnwell County Career Center
Governor’s School of Agriculture
RD Anderson
WTC Kershaw

Bronze Chapters
Aynor
Carolina Forest
Central
Conway

2021 SOUTH CAROLINA HONORARY STATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Alan Abernathy - Wood Procurement and Land Management Forester
Jeremy Brooks - Agricultural Educator from Strom Thurmond Career Center
Beth Foley - SC Forestry Commission
Ben Gibson - Agricultural Educator at Ashley Ridge High School
Ashley Granata - Agricultural Educator at Pickens County Career & Technology Center
Garrett Howard - Agricultural Educator at Landrumn High School
Angel Malone - CTE Director at the Department of Education
Hunter Massey - Clemson University, Department of of Agricultural Mechanization and Business
Allison Moses - Owner and Operator of Penland Tree Christmas Tree Farm
Martin Moses - Owner and Operator of Penland Tree Christmas Tree Farm
David Taylor - Owner of STEC Equipment.
Beth Tolson - Agricultural Educator at Lee County Career Center
Dennis Way - Financial Manager of the FFA Foundation
## 2021 Agricultural Proficiency Awards

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<th>Proficiency Award Area</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Chapter Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural Education</td>
<td>Veronica Corteville</td>
<td>Laurens</td>
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<td>Agricultural Mechanics Design &amp; Fabrication</td>
<td>Colby Gordon Suggs</td>
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<td>Agricultural Mechanics Repair &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>Chase Martin</td>
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<td>AgriScience – Integrated Systems</td>
<td>Kaylie Ortega</td>
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<td>Agricultural Sales</td>
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<td>Wildlife Management</td>
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## 2021 State FFA Degrees

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<td>West Oak</td>
<td>Clarissa Chapman</td>
<td>Gracie Herring</td>
<td>Eli Holbrooks</td>
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<td>Caitlyn Krout</td>
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<td>Breona Flemming</td>
<td>Jenna Wilson</td>
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<td>York</td>
<td>Madison Reid</td>
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<td>WTC Kershaw</td>
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## 2021 American FFA Degree Candidates

- **Sabrina Stein** - Aiken
- **Virginia Kackley** - Ashley Ridge
- **Haleyley** - Aynor
- **Blane Butler** - Aynor
- **Thomas Gasque** - Aynor
- **Lucas Damian Graham** - Aynor
- **Chase Martin** - Aynor
- **Bradley Rabon** - Aynor
- **Dakota Roberts** - Aynor
- **Nathan Roberts** - Aynor
- **Gracie Helms** - Central
- **Gabrielle McCarthy** - Fort Mill
- **Kylie Cathcart** - LR5
- **Katie Silver** - Nation Ford
- **Abbey Huff** - Pickens Co. CTC
- **Shyann Oglesby** - Pickens Co. CTC
The South Carolina FFA Camp has drawn thousands of young people and teachers to its gates since 1956. For the first time in the history of the camp, it was closed in March 2020 and did not reopen until June 2021 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

FFA camps are steeped in ritual. For over 65 years campers have attended FFA Camp, the same camp that was attended by their advisors, and in many cases, their parents. It was now their turn to experience, what is almost considered a “rite of passage” for FFA members in South Carolina.

When FFA camps are in full swing they give members the opportunity to make new friends, engage in team-building activities and hone their leadership skills – not to mention create memories that will last a lifetime.

Unfortunately, along with so many other activities, the COVID 19 Pandemic caused the FFA Camp to be closed for the summer of 2020 to ensure the utmost safety of our state’s FFA members and advisors. However, 2021 brought the reopening of FFA Camp, which made it possible to once again spend time outdoors, take turns on the high and low ropes courses, complete an obstacle course, play putt-putt golf and volleyball, as well as enjoy water activities like swimming, fishing and kayaking. Precautions were taken to ensure the safety of all students attending, to include operating at one-third capacity to ensure appropriate distancing, having a nurse on site to monitor for symptoms and temperature and requiring all students to be tested for the COVID virus prior to attending.

Students and advisors alike were all thrilled to be back at the FFA Camp in 2021 as once again memories were made and an honored tradition was continued.
SC Farmer and Agribusiness Association Tours Orangeburg County

A great crowd of over 150 SC Farmer and Agribusiness members, advisors, sponsors and their families arrived in Orangeburg County for the Annual SC Farmer and Agribusiness Association Summer Farm Tour. The Orangeburg County Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter planned the tour and welcomed visitors to their county on July 23-24. Members of the Orangeburg County Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter did a wonderful job planning the Summer Tour while facing the challenges presented by COVID-19. They are to be commended for their hard work in offering an in-person summer tour for the members.

The Friday tour stops included Palmetto Malt Company, a Nuisance Wildlife Seminar conducted by Parker Johnson with Clemson Extension and an overview of the SC State University 1890 Research and Demonstration Farm, followed by a meal at the 1890 Research and Demonstration Farm sponsored by the SC State University 1890 Research and Extension. Greetings were brought to the attendees from representatives of SC State University and the meal sponsors.

The Saturday tour stops included a tour of Carolina Peanut, Calhoun Gin, and US Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Hatchery. The tour concluded with lunch provided by the Branchville Young Farmer Chapter and greetings brought by Thad Wimberly, SC Farmer and Agribusiness Association president.

The Orangeburg County Summer Tour was educational, well planned, family friendly and will be remembered by all who attended. The tour highlighted the diversity of Agriculture in and around Orangeburg, S.C.

SC Farmer and Agribusiness Association Officers
Thad Wimberly- President, Branchville Chapter
Scott Bodie- President Elect, Laurens Chapter
Edwin Terry- Region I VP, Woodmont Chapter
Tim McSwain- Region II VP, Blackstock Chapter
J.T. Tolson- Region III VP, Lee County Chapter
Mike Ulmer- Region IV VP, Colleton, Bamberg and Barnwell Chapter
David Simmons- Past President, Turbeville

2020-21
827 Members and 68 Chapters

Learning is a Life-long Process
SC Agricultural Education believes that learning is a life-long process. As a result, each program in the state that has a teacher on extended contract is required to conduct adult education programs. In the process of providing adult education, the Young Farmers of America Association was born. The association allowed teachers to organize adults in the community and more easily provide ongoing education. The Young Farmers of America has evolved to become the SC Farmer and Agribusiness Association, as it is known today.
David M. Beasley, executive director of the World Food Program of the United Nations and former Governor of South Carolina, has been named recipient of the John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award by the SC Association of Agricultural Educators.

Mr. Beasley, a native of Lamar, SC, was elected Governor of South Carolina in 1994 and guided the state during years of economic transformation, helping reshape the state’s economy into a healthy, diverse and robust market.

Mr. Beasley was appointed executive director of the World Food Program of the United Nations in 2017. The World Food Program is the food assistance branch of the United Nations. For his work with the World Food Program, he received Nobel Peace Prize in 2020.

The John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award was established several years ago by the SC Association of Agricultural Educators in honor of Mr. Parris of Columbia, SC. A graduate of Clemson University, Mr. Parris is a nationally recognized agricultural leader and conservation visionary with more than 60 years of professional service.

Gayle Posipanko was named the recipient of the 2021 SCAAE Clark Woods Distinguished Teacher Award during the 2021 SC Association of Agricultural Educators Summer Conference. Posipanko is beginning her 40th year as an educator with 6 of those years as an administrator. Posipanko began her teaching career in her home state of Virginia.

During her time in the classroom, Posipanko has trained award winning career development event teams, had numerous students recognized at the local and state level, and has multiple recognitions as a National Chapter Award winner. In addition, Posipanko has received numerous state and national teaching awards, including being the first of two SC CATE Teachers to achieve National Board Certification.

The Clark Woods Distinguished Teacher Award is named for the late Clark Woods, Agricultural Educator at Hillcrest High School. The award is presented based on voting by Agricultural Educators across South Carolina.

### 2021 SCAAE Award Winners

- **NAAE Star State Teacher Scholarship** – Brooke Hall
- **30 Minute Award** – Josh McCall and Libby Templeton
- **Outstanding Early Career Educator of the Year** – Scott Tager, Lexington Technology Center
- **Outstanding Educator of the Year** – Blake Berry, Pendleton High School
- **Outstanding Program of the Year** – Aynor High School
- **Outstanding Post-Secondary Program of the Year** – Laurens County Young Farmers
- **John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award** – Hon. David Beasley
- **Clark Wood Distinguished Teacher Award** – Gayle Posipanko, Buford High School

### Teacher of Teachers

- Frank Stover Jr. – Brooke Hall
- Blake Berry – Joey McCannon, Katie Martin, Hunter Morton
- Tom Wilingham – Audrey Cutlim
- Robert Bollier – Grant Hall
- Derrick Cooper – Kassidy Roof
Clemson Extension helps improve the quality of life of all South Carolinians by providing unbiased, research-based information through an array of public outreach programs in youth development; agribusiness; agriculture; food, nutrition and health; and natural resources. With offices in all 46 counties of the state, Extension works to help support South Carolina’s $42 billion agriculture and forestry industries; strengthen families and communities; improve stewardship of natural resources and the environment; strengthen connections between people and their food; and expose South Carolina youth to opportunities in agriculture, science, technology, engineering and math.