



South Carolina Agricultural Education

Annual Report 2019-2020



2019-2020 LEADERSHIP

State FFA Officers

Kylie Cathcart - President, Irmo
Sydney Gambrell - Secretary, Pendleton
Virginia Kackley - Vice President, Summerville
Cooper Brown - Vice President, Wagner-Salley
Matthew Brownlee - Vice President, Laurens
Jake Faulkner - Vice President, Indian Land

FFA Board of Directors

Robert Bollier - Chairperson, Lexington
Nate Bellamy - Loris
Ben Gibson - Summerville
Christina Addis - Seneca
Kevin Sox - Chapin
Jimmy Roberts - Aynor
Derrick Cooper - Gilbert
Dr. Curtis White - Seneca
Troy Helms - Lancaster

SC Farmer and Agribusiness Association

Thad Wimberly - President, Branchville Chapter
Scott Bodie - President Elect, Laurens Chapter
David Simmons - Past President, East Clarendon 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

State Agricultural Educators Officers

Nate Bellamy - President, Loris
Ben Gibson - President Elect, Summerville
Robert Bollier - Past President, Lexington
Clair Hammonds - Treasurer, Loris
Beth Ann Melton - Secretary, Battery Creek
Josh McCall - Vice President, Walhalla
Kelsey McClean - Vice President, Clover
Bert Beasley - Vice President, Darlington
Desiree Still - Vice President, Swansea

Associate Vice Presidents

Ashley Granata - Pickens
Henderson Rowe - Ninety Six
Tyler Outen - Latta
Ethan Busbee - Wagener-Salley

Clemson University Agricultural Education Staff

William E. Keels - State Director, Columbia
Jillian Lash - Executive Director SC FFA, Pendleton
Troy Helms - Associate State Director, Lancaster
Frank Saldana - Associate State Director, North Myrtle Beach
Jason Gore - FFA / 4H Program Coordinator, Pendleton
Brenda Baldwin - Administrative Assistant, Pendleton

SC FFA Leadership Center

Megan Stevens - Program Director, North Myrtle Beach

FROM OUR STATE DIRECTOR



Well, if you can say nothing else about 2019-20, you can certainly say that this was an interesting year. The year began with some major changes to the Ag Ed program staff and ended with teachers and students having to adapt to a totally new way of teaching and learning.

The fall of 2019 began with the introduction of two new regional coordinators. Troy Helms accepted the position as program coordinator for Regions I and II and Frank Saldana took over the position of program coordinator for Regions III and IV. With new staff in place, the Agricultural Education Program Team already faced some challenges, challenges that were only magnified when a microscopic virus dubbed COVID-19 changed the way our world operated.

But as the saying goes, “the only thing that overcomes hard luck is hard work.” State staff, teachers and students alike were determined to succeed, even in trying times.

And meet the challenge they did. 2019-20 has been another successful year for Agricultural Education in South Carolina. FFA had a national winner at the National FFA Convention for the first time in a very long time, the Farmer and Agribusiness Convention had a very successful state convention and had a member serve as the National NYFEA President and, despite limited access to schools, South Carolina actually experienced program growth this year in adding five additional agriculture teachers. Teachers and students did not let eLearning slow them down, and the FFA staff continued to provide opportunities for FFA members. FFA Career Development Events and Leadership Development Events went on, albeit virtually. The first ever virtual FFA State Convention was held and new state officers were elected through a virtual nominating committee process. Yes, the world had changed, but never doubt the resolve of an agriculture teacher or an FFA member.

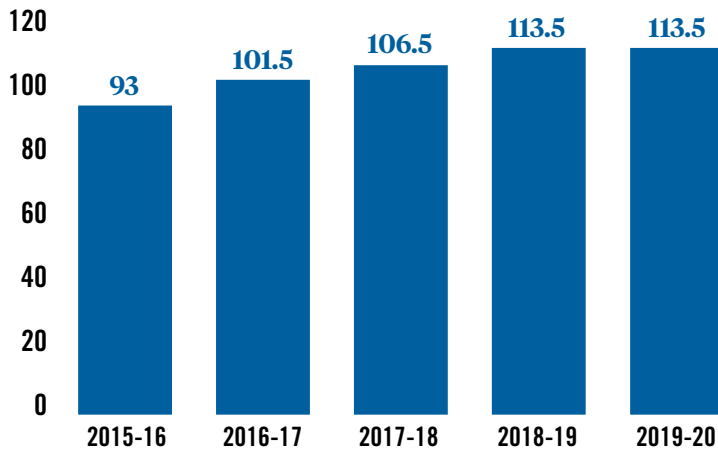
2019-20 was a challenge, but great people meet challenges and become better for it. This edition of the Annual State Report will highlight the successes of the Agricultural Education program in South Carolina, serving as proof of the resolve of our staff, teachers and students to ensure that hard work will overcome hard luck.

William E. Keels
State Director, Agricultural Education
South Carolina

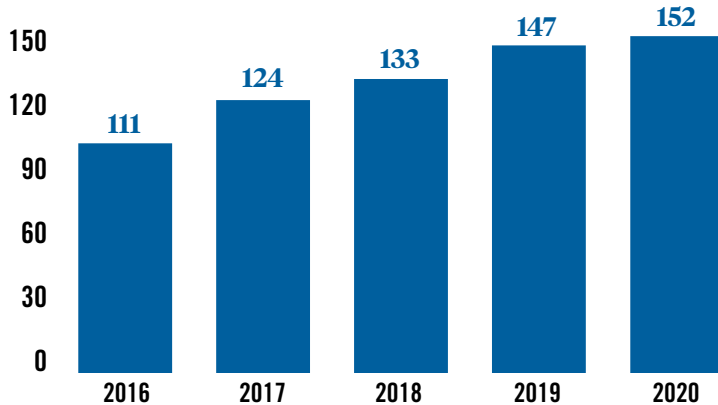


SC AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

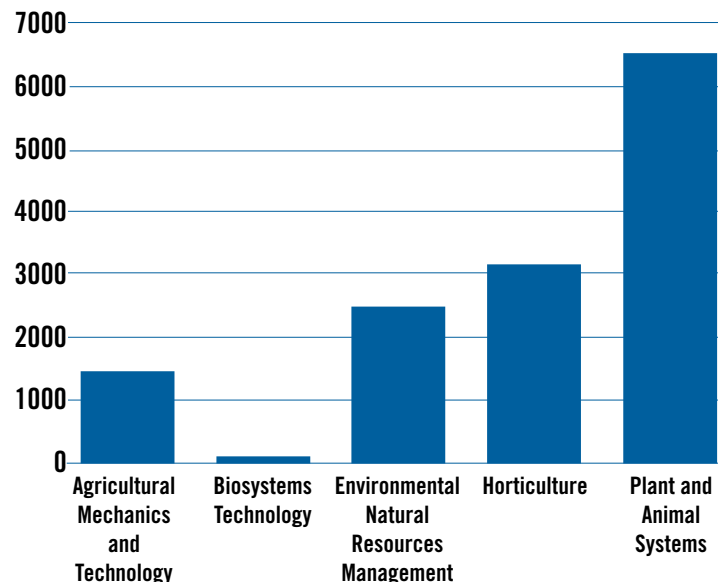
Program Growth



Teacher Growth



Enrollment by Pathway



Agricultural Education Students Impact on South Carolina's Economy

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 2019-20, Agricultural Education students generated the following economic impact on our state:

UNPAID HOURS DEDICATED TO SAE'S

241,127

PAID HOURS THROUGH SAE'S

346,162

WAGES EARNED THROUGH SAE'S

\$4,434,122

AMOUNT INVESTED BY STUDENTS IN SAE'S

\$339,435

AMOUNT EARNED FROM SAE INVESTMENTS

\$1,212,139

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Region I



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
Landrum High School
Liberty High School
Mauldin 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

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 I Middle Schools

Belton Middle School
Bryson Middle School
Honea Path Middle School
Landrum Middle School
Pickens Middle School
Riverside Middle School
Seneca Middle School
Starr-Iva Middle School
Walhalla Middle School
West Oak Middle School
Woodmont Middle School

23
HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

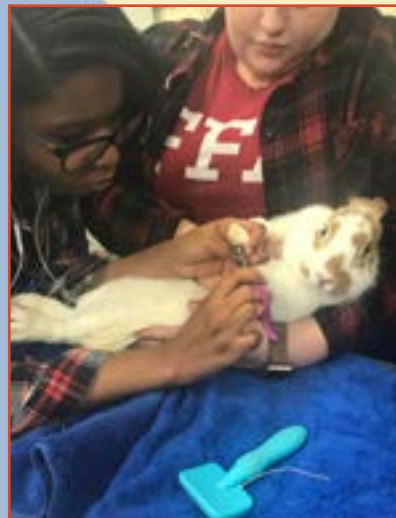
40.5
HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

11
MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

11.5
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Region II



Region II High Schools

Abbeville High School
Blythewood High School
Calhoun Falls Charter 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
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 Career and Technology Center
Ware Shoals High School
WJ Keenan High School

Region II Middle School

Clover Middle School*
York 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

**new program*

23

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

29

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

2

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

2

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Region III



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
 Crestwood High School
 Conway High School
 Darlington Co. Institute of Technology
 East Clarendon High School
 Florence Co. Career Center
 Georgetown High School
 Green Sea Floyds H.S.
Indian Land High School*
 Lake View High School
 Lakewood High School
 Latta High School
 Lee County Career & Technology Center
 Loris High School
 Manning High School
 Marlboro County High 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

McBee High School
 North Central High School
 Socastee High School
 Woolard Technology Center

Region III Middle Schools

Furman Middle School
 Manning Middle School

**additional Ag teacher*

27

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

33

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

2

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

2

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Region IV



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
Edisto High School
Estill High School
Gilbert High School
Lexington Technology Center
Low Country Leadership Charter School
Midland Valley High School
Pelion High School
Ridge Spring-Monetta HS
Swansea High School
Thunderbolt Career & Technology Ctr.
Timberland High School
Wagener-Salley High School

Region IV Middle School

Pelion 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@clermson.edu

23

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

29

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

1

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

1

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER

**additional Ag teacher*

A WORD FROM THE SC FFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The great basketball coach John Wooden once said, “Don’t let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.”

Not too long ago, COVID-19 seemed like a disease far, far away that might one day come to the United States. Little did we know how it would affect our home, school and communities.



Jillian Lash

The 2019-20 year began as has been in the past; leadership workshops, CDE’s, the State Fair, National Convention went on as planned. However, in early spring of 2020, our regular routines were changed dramatically due to COVID-19 as banquets, graduations, CDE’s were put on hold.

For the first time, the South Carolina FFA State Convention was held virtually. FFA members could not physically gather together to recognize achievements and accomplishments, however, the FFA members and their families throughout South Carolina and the nation were able to watch from the safety of their homes.

While adjusting to the new norm, FFA members around the state and country did not step back from their dedication to agriculture and the FFA organization. South Carolina FFA saw record high membership and active participation in virtual CDE’s and workshops.

When presented with the challenges of an uncertain world, South Carolina FFA members adapted and faced adversity head on.



Kylie Cathcart
Lexington Richland 5 FFA Chapter
Clemson University majoring in
Agricultural Education



Sydney Gambrell
Pendleton FFA Chapter
Winthrop University majoring in
Fine Arts

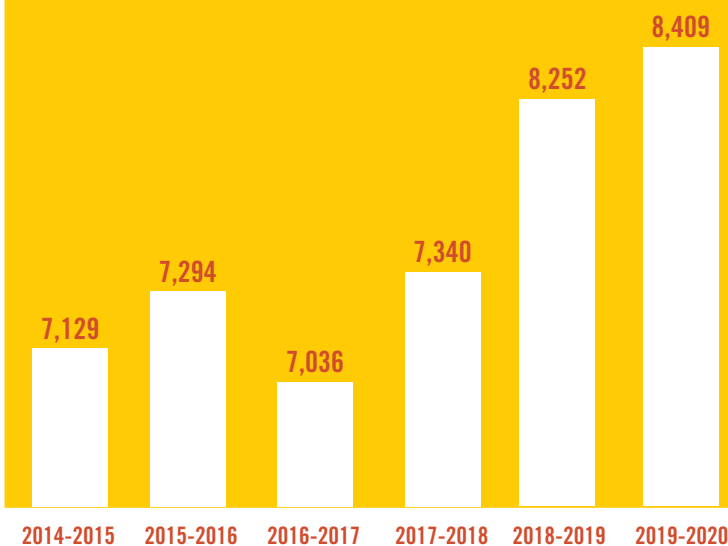


Cooper Brown
Wagener Salley FFA Chapter
Piedmont Tech majoring in
Applied Science



Matthew Brownlee
Laurens FFA Chapter
Piedmont Tech majoring in
Applied Science

SC FFA MEMBERSHIP REPORT



Jake Faulkner
Indian Land FFA Chapter
Clemson University majoring in
Agricultural Education



Virginia Kackley
Ashley Ridge FFA Chapter
Senior at Ashley Ridge High School

SC FFA: A YEAR OF SUCCEEDING AND LEADING

SC FFA Members Shine at National Convention *National Winner Crowned*

SC FFA Members represented South Carolina quite well in competitive events held at the 2019 National FFA Convention. The accomplishments were highlighted by the first National winner in an FFA event in quite some time.

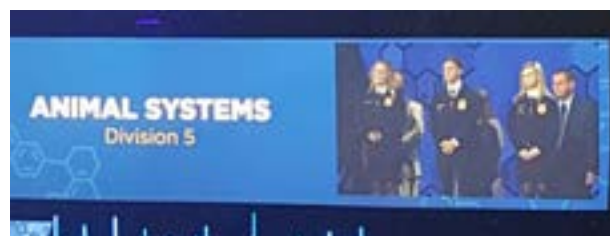
Cayden Gates of the Nation Ford FFA Chapter in Fort Mill was crowned the National Agriscience Fair winner in Animal Systems area - Division 5.

SC FFA members competed in 20 National Career Development Events and Leadership Development Events throughout the week. Some notable accomplishments included:

- Clover FFA earned a Gold Emblem in Horse Evaluation CDE
- Manning Middle FFA earned a Silver Emblem in the Conduct of Chapter LDE
- Christina Knotts, Belton-Honea Path FFA, earned Silver Emblem in Employment Skills LDE
- Kyle Cathcart, Lexington-Richland 5 FFA, earned a Silver Emblem in the Extemporaneous Public Speaking LDE
- Crestwood FFA earned a Silver Emblem in the Parliamentary Procedure LDE
- Aynor FFA earned a Silver Emblem in the Forestry CDE
- 10 Agriscience fair projects placed at the National level
- Additionally, the Buford, Clover, Crescent, Crestwood, and Loris FFA Chapters received a 3-Star National Chapter Award.



Cayden Gates



SC FFA: Virtually Unstoppable

When schools and events began to shut down in the wake of COVID-19, the South Carolina FFA found ways to continue reaching out to FFA members around the state. The FFA did not step down on its mission of providing premier leadership, personal growth and career success to agricultural education students.

State officers started by reaching out to members around the state via social media outlets. Daily interactive videos were released, including "Cooking with Cooper" and "Sketching with Sydney".

FFA members have worked hard for years and deserve to be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments. While this was not done in person, every FFA member who earned a degree, placed in a competition, or received an award was recognized at the 93rd State FFA Convention. Instead of walking across the stage, FFA members' photos and names were announced and the sessions were released on YouTube for members, families and communities members to watch.

The officers wanted members to know that we are all in this situation together and we will excel at any challenge that is presented.



2019-2020 SC FFA CDE-LDE AWARDS

Agricultural Mechanics - Belton Honea Path
(Sponsored by SC FFA Foundation)

Agronomy - Aynor
(Sponsored by SC FFA Foundation)

Conduct of Chapter Meetings - Manning Middle
(Sponsored by SC FFA Foundation)

Creed Speaking - Ellie Harman, Gilbert
(Sponsored by SC Governor's School for Agriculture)

Dairy Cattle Evaluation - Clover
(Sponsored by SC FFA Foundation)

Extemporaneous Public Speaking - Kaylee Jackson, McBee
(Sponsored by SC Farmer & Agribusiness Association)

Farm Business Management - Aynor
(Sponsored by SC FFA Foundation)

Floriculture - Pendleton
(Sponsored by SC FFA Foundation)

Forestry - Crestwood
(Sponsored by SC FFA Foundation)

Horse Evaluation - Laurens
(Sponsored by SC FFA Foundation)

Livestock Evaluation - Lexington Technology Center
(Sponsored by SC FFA Foundation)

Meats Evaluation & Technology - Lexington Technology Center
(Sponsored by SC FFA Foundation)

Milk Quality and Products - Lexington Technology Center
(Sponsored by SC FFA Foundation)

Nursery & Landscape - Green Sea Floyds
(Sponsored by SC FFA Foundation)

Parliamentary Procedure - Crestwood
(Sponsored by SC FFA Foundation)

Poultry - Lexington Technology Center
(Sponsored by SC FFA Foundation)

Prepared Public Speaking - Sarah Osborne, Lexington-Richland 5
(Sponsored by SC Farmer & Agribusiness Association)

Soils - Pelion
(Sponsored by SC FFA Foundation)

Tractor Operations - Woodmont
(Sponsored by STEC)

Wildlife - Loris
(Sponsor Horry Georgetown Technical College)

2020 AGRISCIENCE FAIR WINNERS Sponsored by SC FFA Foundation

Animal Systems - Division 3
Alexus Brooks, RD Anderson

Animal Systems - Division 5
Anna-Frances Reinert, Anderson Institute of Technology

Animal Systems - Division 6
Ryan Schrank & Caroline Shirer, Lexington Technology Center

Environmental & Natural Resource Systems - Division 3
Kylie Ortega, Lexington Technology Center

Environmental & Natural Resource Systems - Division 5
Tabitha Swygert, Batesburg-Leesville

Plant Systems - Division 5
Aspen Lawrimore, Aynor

Plant Systems - Division 6
Victoria Gillis & Loni McKenzie, Lexington Technology Center

AWARDS

2019 Agricultural Proficiency Awards

National Finalist = NF Gold = G Silver = S Bronze = B

Proficiency Award Area	Student Name	Chapter Name	Rating
AED-Ag Education - En/PI	Hannah Wooten	Crescent	S
AVE-Ag Services - En/PI	Nathan Roberts	Aynor	S
BPP-Beef Production - PI	Michaela Herring	Crescent	S
DAP-Diversified Ag Production - En/PI	Matthew Brownlee	Laurens	B
DCP-Diversified Crop Production - PI	Carson Strickland	Aynor	B
DHE-Diversified Horticulture - En/PI	Joshua Duke	Aynor FFA	B
DLE-Diversified Livestock - En/PI	Catherine Faulkner	Clover FFA Chapter	B
EQE-Equine Science - En	Abi Clinkscales	Crescent	B
EQP-Equine Science - PI	Jordan Meek	Fort Mill	B
FOE-Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production - En/PI	Bradley Rabon	Aynor	S
GTE-Goat Production - En/PI	Lucas Graham	Aynor	S
HCE-Home and/or Community Development - En/PI	Rachel Eades	Crescent	S
ORE-Outdoor Recreation - En/PI	Eric Brown	Crescent	B
SAE-Specialty Animal Production - En/PI	Danielle Nicholson	Crescent	B
SCE-Specialty Crop Production - En/PI	Dawton Davis	Aynor FFA	S
SME-Small Animal Production and Care - En/PI	Kelley Miller	Fort Mill	B
TGE-Turf Grass Management - En/PI	Cale Craig	Aynor	S
VPE-Vegetable Production - En/PI	Dakota Roberts	Aynor FFA	S
WME-Wildlife Production and Management - En/PI	Fisher Owens	Aynor FFA	B

2020 SC FFA Star Award Winners

Star Farmer (Sponsored by SC Advocates for Agriculture)

State Winner – Christian Wilhelm, Laurens
Region 1 – Hailee Campbell, RD Anderson

Star in Placement (Sponsored by SC FFA Foundation)

State Winner – Lee Padgett, Pelion
Region 1 – Katie Shirley, Pendleton
Region 2 – Cayden Gates, Nation Ford
Region 3 – Dakota Roberts, Aynor

Star in Agribusiness (Sponsored by SC FFA Foundation)

State Winner – Kelsi Bradshaw, Crescent



DEGREES

2020 State FFA Degrees

Abbeville	Ashlyn Gordon Sydney McCurry Victoria Minger		Jadee Dean Eusebio Munoz Encarnacion	Fort Mill	Mark Kershaw Gabi McCarthy Kelley Miller	Pickens CCC	Elaina Aldrich Anna Black Alexis Craig Angelina Gonzalez Jarred Jones Hannah Loffler Casey McJunkin Brady Moody Leann DeVall Hadassah White
Aiken	Rylee Hall Gavin Layfield Josey Spencer		Leah Evans Allison Fisher Justin Gullede	Green Sea Floyds	Jared Hewitt Carroll Dillon Kenney		
Anderson	Bryce Krakos Dajon Burts Sadie Wood		Gracie Helms Kyleigh Hough Jacob Jordan	Indian Land	Gabe Bobo Colt Thompson		
Andrew Jackson	Brent Catoe Samuel Ellis Anna Hinson Ethan Hinson		Grant Mulls Xanaa Myers Kaitlyn Nicholson Nathan Perez	Lakewood	Erin Croft Noemi Reyna Kenneth Burton	RD Anderson	Devin Bowling Hailee Campbell Thomas Hampton Chumley Evelin Echavarria Dakoda Lane Morton Caroline Paige Patterson
Ashley Ridge	Sophie Ecklund Caroline Grace Mary-Marks Leonard Reagan Motley Madison Harlan	Cheraw	Anna Plyler Eddie Spencer Tristan Moore Gage Ayer Huner Childers Hunter Davis	Lee CCC LR5	Quadriyyah Brown Maya Brown Garrett Michael Amanda Baker		
Aynor	Blane Jeffery Butler Kenneth Taylor Gasque Thomas Gasque Dustin Hucks Chase Martin Mason Nobles Bradley Rabon Dakota Roberts Grayson Roberts Nathan Roberts	Chester County Clinton Clover	Logan Long Brianna May Carly Hall Mary Grace Hopkins McKenna Johnson	Lexington TC	Victoria Gillis Sarah Herring Loni McKenzie Ryan Schrank Hailey Williamson	Saluda	Wesley Padgett Hunter Proctor Kelly Wertz Daniel Hudson Ashlyn Patterson Amber Rackley
	Morgan Waide Harlee Yearry Natalie Nobles Morgan Tucker	Colleton County	Kayce Bell Carol Gardner Ronald Nettles Michael Pollack Luke Bowman Nicklas Kelsi Bradshaw Eric Brown Savannah Chambers	Loris	Toni Bell Adam Branton Kasey Gerrald Carson Grainger Nathan Todd	Seneca	Ashlyn Patterson Amber Rackley Logan Mann Davis Martin Aiden Turbeville Harrison Weitzel Abigail Krasselt Kassidi Smith Charles Amos Autumn Bates Dalton Gallagher Katie Parker Star Story
Barnwell CCC	Olivia Jones Jada Patterson Odessa Poore Elise Scott	Crescent	Michael Pollack Luke Bowman Nicklas Kelsi Bradshaw Eric Brown Savannah Chambers	Marlboro County McBee	Cy'Heim O. McRae Elena Urbaniak Jacob Brooks Gabe Mangum Baylee Johnson	Socastee	Logan Mann Davis Martin Aiden Turbeville Harrison Weitzel Abigail Krasselt Kassidi Smith Charles Amos Autumn Bates Dalton Gallagher Katie Parker Star Story
BHP	Morgan Tucker Olivia Jones Jada Patterson Odessa Poore Elise Scott		Madison Cross Noah Hoskins Andrew Patterson	Midland Valley	Zeke Proctor Lane Owenby Andrew Stone Justin Hutto	Swansea	Abigail Krasselt Kassidi Smith Charles Amos Autumn Bates Dalton Gallagher Katie Parker Star Story
Calhoun Falls	Elise Scott Bryson Ashley Josie Parnell	Crestwood	Kiera Brown Caleb Buford Nathan Clement Ma'niya Dawson Raven Dorio-Howard Sydney Maynard Kaylan Sanders Guillermo Vargas Kaleb Gambrell William Seawright Ann Marie Brooks	Nation Ford Ninety-Six Pelion	Cayden Gates Logan Wall Sommer Lucas Austin Shumpert Lee Padgett	Thurmond	Charles Amos Autumn Bates Dalton Gallagher Katie Parker Star Story Turner Bishop Hunter McGee Jason Payton
Carvers Bay	Joseph Pressley Joshua Cribb Justin Williams			Pendleton	Emylee Blake Dobbins Chase Mathew Greene Justice Peek Madisyn Reid Katie Shirley Daylee Vaughn-Gilreath	Ware Shoals	Turner Bishop Hunter McGee Jason Payton
Central	Rontavius Benjamin Carrie Brandon Jayden Clark Roger Courtney Kaylee Davis	Dixie				West Oak Woodmont	Allison Anderson Sierra Donahue Charlotte Rhoden Meliah Washington Kinlyn Hinson Brannon M. Burns

2019 American FFA Degree Candidates

Callie Barnhill - Aynor	Brandon Floyd - Aynor	Allyson Sanford - Swansea	Holden Turner - Aynor
Brandon Craig - Aynor	Kendall Herring - Aynor	Mariah Swygert - Batesburg-Leesville	Zachary Vorp - Aynor
James Faulkner - Indian Land	Mackenzie Jones - Anderson		

SC FFA CAMP - HIGHLIGHTING HISTORY

FFA Camp Dedicates Building to Mr. H.C. Edens

“Up, up, up, all campers up!” These were the words that could be heard blaring over the loud speaker each morning of FFA Camp; a welcoming voice in the morning from Mr. H.C. Edens, FFA Camp Director. Mr. Edens served as FFA Camp Director from the time the camp opened in 1957 until the mid-90’s.

As buses drove into the FFA Camp, Mr. Edens would be there to greet teachers and students. Teachers would then walk into his office, where he would have his ledger open and enter each student’s name before collecting payment. Through the many years at the SC FFA camp, Edens kept impeccable records and ensured that the facility operated on a tight budget.

In honor of the late Mr. H.C. Edens, the SC FFA dedicated the Camp office as the H.C. Edens Administration Building. The dedication was attended by FFA members and advisors, as well as many members of Edens’ family, the SC FFA State Officers, members of the Clemson University Agricultural Education staff as well as local and state officials.



*FFA State Officers with Senator Greg Hembree
L-R: Kylie Cathcart (President), Cooper Brown, Jake Faulkner, Senator Hembree, Matthew Brownlee, Virginian Kackley*

South Carolina FFA Leadership Center



The South Carolina FFA Leadership Center has been a productive component of Agricultural Education and the FFA in South Carolina since 1957. Every year, without fail, students would make that trek to the beach to attend a camping session. Every year, until 2020. For the first time, the SC FFA Camp had to close down to protect the health of the young people who would normally attend such an event due to the unprecedented times created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the camp laid silent this summer, it provided a great time of reflection on the changes that this facility has undergone in its over 60 years of existence. And yes, many things have remained the same, but that is what traditions are made of.

All of the original structures from the camp that was constructed in the mid-’50s are still in existence and still being utilized. However, the camp has undergone quite a bit of improvements. A swimming pool was added in the ‘80s and the SC FFA Foundation donated a beach cottage which now sits on the camp property. Thanks to a million-dollar donation from the SC FFA Foundation, a new water system was installed and four dorms were updated to be climate controlled with new roofs and a more “user friendly” floor plan. In addition, two additional dorms were fitted with air conditioning, updated electrical systems and new flooring. Additionally, most of the remaining buildings have new roofs and new flooring. The camp’s point house has also undergone some major structural repairs.

In addition to the facilities, the camp program has also been upgraded. The camp has taken advantage of its waterfront location by the addition of kayaking and canoeing. The camp added a high ROPES course as well as a Low ROPES course, and more recently, the camp has added a paintball course.

To take advantage of the improved facilities, the camping program has been expanded as well. At one time, the camp was only offered during the summer. With more climate-controlled facilities now available, camping programs are offered throughout the year. These educational programs provide training in such areas as forestry, equine management, and aquatic and marine science.

Yes, the FFA Camp may have laid dormant for this summer, but that is not the norm for this facility. With improved facilities and programming, the FFA Camp at Cherry Grove has provided opportunities for the youth of South Carolina for the past 60 years, and is equipped to provide opportunities for years to come.

FARMER AND AGRIBUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Faulkner to serve as National President

The state of South Carolina has provided many national leaders that have served the mission of the NYFEA and given guidance to the organization effectively. Our current NYFEA president, Tim Faulkner, has been another wonderful leader and has represented both the national members and his home state of South Carolina with class and character.



Tim Faulkner

2020 has been an interesting year. Filled with the dynamics of COVID-19 and the lingering impact that it has had on both the economy and the lives of the people, NYFEA seems to have found a unique way to serve. Faulkner has been a great leader for the association during this time. He understands the need for service and yet he also has an awareness of the challenges.

Faulkner has a work ethic that is evident and serves while having a strong commitment to his family and faith. He loves the industry of agriculture and is committed to making it more successful. Faulkner has attended conferences, works behind the scenes to provide strong leadership and performs the duties of president in a masterful way.

NYFEA and the South Carolina Farmer and Agribusiness Association is proud of the service of Tim Faulkner as our 2020-2021 National President.

SC Farmer and Agribusiness Association Tours Historic Abbeville County

A great crowd of 230 SCFAA members, advisors, sponsors and their families arrived in Abbeville County for the Annual SC Farmer and Agribusiness Association Summer Farm Tour. The Abbeville County Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter, along with advisors Katie Finley, Nancy McCannon and Josh Murdock planned the tour. Members of the Abbeville County Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter along with local FFA Chapters led the efforts for registering all of the guests and meal planning.



The Friday tour stops included McPhail Tree Farm, Southern Oaks Farm and Creamery, and John de la Howe School, followed by a meal at John de la Howe. Greetings were brought to the attendees from representatives of John de la Howe school and the meal sponsors.



The Saturday tour stops included a tour of Charlie's Creek Nursery, The Farm on Blueberry Hill, Amos Cunningham Mine, and shopping in the city square of Historic Abbeville. The tour concluded with a visit and lunch at the farm of Fred Raines.

The Abbeville 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 Abbeville.

Chapter of the Year

Region II Winner

Saluda - Amanda Crouch Advisor

Region III Winner

Lee County - Beth Tolson Advisor

Region IV Winner and State Winner

Colleton-Bamberg Chapter -
Mindy Sandifer Advisor

Chapter Advisor Award

Region II Winner

Jeremy Brooks - County Chapter

Region III and State Winner

Beth Tolson - Lee County Chapter

Agribusiness Person of the Year

Region III Winner

Carey Middleton - Darlington Chapter

Region II Winner and State Winner

Reggie Padgett - Saluda Chapter

South Carolina Farmer and Agribusiness Association Farmer of the Year

State Winner from Region I

John Davis - Crescent Chapter

SC FAA Award Winners

Irrigated Corn Producer of the Year

William Jameson - Edisto Chapter

Non-irrigated Corn Producer of the Year

Brad Elliott - Green Sea Floyds Chapter

Soybean Production Winner Non-irrigated Soybeans

Brad Elliott - Green Sea Floyds Chapter

The Cotton Production Winners

Jimmy Farmer - Darlington Chapter

Peanut Winners

Clark Stillinger - Edisto Chapter

The Beef Producer Award

William Bowman - Crescent Chapter.

Farm Shop Winner

Jim Jarrard - Crescent Chapter

Horticulture Award Winner

Kyle Penland - Laurens Chapter

Chapter President Winner

Henry Herndon - Colleton-Bamberg Chapter

Chapter Membership Award

Darlington Chapter

Largest increase in membership

Edisto Chapter

Continuing Education Scholarship Winner

Kinsley Miller - Edgefield Chapter

Energy Efficient Farmer of the Year

Tim Faulkner - Laurens Chapter

Conservation Farmer of the Year

Ben Choate - Lancaster County Chapter

SC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS

Bland wins John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award



Hugh Bland was named the 2020 recipient of the John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award presented by the SCAAE. Mr. Bland is a retired agricultural educator and FFA advisor and has also served as a member of the faculty at Piedmont Technical College in the diversified agriculture program. He currently

serves as chairman of the board for the Governors School for Agriculture at John de la Howe. Mr. Bland is a strong advocate of agricultural education in South Carolina and has been instrumental in the development of the nation's first residential high school for agriculture. Throughout Mr. Bland's career, he has tirelessly worked to provide opportunities to students through agricultural education and to grow agricultural education programs at the secondary and post-secondary level.

Hall Wins Clark Woods Distinguished Teacher Award



Kellon Hall was named the recipient of the 2020 SCAAE Clark Woods Distinguished Teacher Award. Mr. Hall has served as the agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at Marlboro County High School for 42 years. During his time in the classroom, Mr. Hall has trained award winning career development event teams and had numerous

students recognized at the local and state level. He has served as a mentor to teachers in both his region and the state throughout his career, and he has served his region by planning and coordinating invitational tractor operations. He has been previously recognized with the Honorary State FFA Degree and will receive the Honorary American FFA Degree during the 2021 National FFA Convention and Expo. Mr. Hall resides in Cheraw with his wife and has four children and four grandchildren.

The Clark Woods award is named for the late Clark Woods, agricultural educator at Hillcrest High School.

2019-2020 SCAAE Board and Award Winners

2019 - 2020 Board Members:

President - Nate Bellamy, Loris, SC
President Elect - Ben Gibson, Summerville, SC
Past President - Robert Bollier, Lexington, SC
Secretary - Beth Ann Melton, Beaufort, SC
Treasurer - Clair Hammonds, Loris, SC
Region 1 VP - Josh McCall, Walhalla, SC
Region 1 AVP - Ashley Granata, Pickens, SC
Region 2 VP - Kelsey McClean, Clover, SC
Region 2 AVP - Henderson Rowe, Ninety-Six, SC
Region 3 VP - Bert Beasley, Darlington, SC
Region 3 AVP - Tyler Outen, Latta, SC
Region 4 VP - Desiree Still, Swansea, SC
Region 4 AVP - Ethan Busbee, Wagener, SC

2020 SCAAE Award Winners:

Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher - Lee Petitgout, Nation Ford
Outstanding Early Career Teacher - Kelsey McLean, Clover
Outstanding Middle or Secondary Program - Green Sea Floyds
Outstanding Postsecondary Program - Springhill YF (LR5)
Teacher Mentor - Mindy Sandifer, Barnwell CCC
Outstanding Service Citation - Jay Copelan, STEC
Teacher Turn the Key - Caroline Snellings, Crescent
Outstanding Cooperation Award - Ag South Ideas Unlimited - Scott Tager, Lexington Technology Center
Clark Woods Distinguished Teacher Award - Kellon Hall, Marlboro County



SC Agricultural Education

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