Clemson celebrates 100 Years of Ag Ed
Our State Leaders

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Jason Gore - FFA Program Assistant, Clemson
Brenda Baldwin - Administrative Assistant, Columbia

SC FFA Leadership Center
Megan Stevens - Program Director, North Myrtle Beach

From Our FFA President

On behalf of the 2017-18 State Officer Team, I would like to announce that the 91st Annual State FFA Convention will take place at Clemson University, Tuesday, June 12 through Thursday, June 14, 2018. The sessions will be held in the Brooks Center for the Performing Arts. Breanna Holbert, National President, will present the keynote on Wednesday evening along with a number of Honorary State Degrees. For fun, hypnotist Cory Osborn who has 20 years of experience entertaining crowds throughout the Midwest and beyond will be the entertainment on Tuesday evening. Look at page 10 for more info on this great convention!

We are stoked for State Convention this year and hope that you are too! There is no doubt, this is going to be one of the best ones yet! As you prepare to zip up that blue corduroy those three days in June, remember that I Can have an impact, but together We Will make a difference. We challenge you to strive to make a difference while at convention and after in your chapters and communities. Whether you’re just excited to come, competing in a CDE or running for state office, we can’t wait to see everyone there! It’s been such a blessing for my teammates and I to serve all of you through this year, and we’re looking forward to the 91st South Carolina FFA State Convention just as much as you are. We are so excited to hopefully see each and every one of you in Clemson as we continue to count down to opening session!

Philip Rhodes
2017-2018 SC FFA State President

Stay Connected
www.SCAgEd.org

Inside this issue
Agricultural Education at Clemson 3
History of Ag Ed magazine 5
SCYFA Awards 7
CDE Winners 9
Cox to retire 10
Legislator Appreciation Day 14
Plant Presentation 15

#scffaofficers
#ICanIWillSCFFA

AgFuture is published 3 times a year by Clemson University PSA Publishing. For more information, please contact the State Director, William Keels, at wkeels@clemson.edu
The end of the Second World War brought many changes to the American society and to educational programs. The rise of urbanization, increased dependence upon mechanization and the sheer numbers of returning veterans were just a few of the change agents. The world’s best machinery, certified seeds and agronomic practices were useless without educating the farmer to make use of these resources. R. E. Naugher, program specialist for the U.S. Department of Education and former teacher and district supervisor of Agricultural Education in South Carolina, may have had his South Carolina friends in mind when he concluded by emphasizing the importance for teacher in-service training to keep teachers “alert” in the future about what to teach. “They must realize that changes are taking place and that a constant adjustment in what they include in the ‘long-time community agricultural program’ will be necessary.”

Growth of Vocational Agricultural Education at Clemson College

By 1950, the Clemson Department of Agricultural Education had evolved from a one-man operation in 1917 to a faculty of five professors. The end of World War II and the benefits provided by the G.I. Bill of Rights found many veterans enrolled in evening classes in high schools across the state. Consequently, numerous additional teachers were needed to teach the veteran classes. Clemson College Agricultural Education faculty members F.E. Kirkley and W.C. Bowen directed much of their efforts to assisting agricultural teachers to meet the needs of this additional duty by providing training to 500 or more special veteran teachers throughout the state. By May 1951, the number of veterans enrolled in on-farm training classes had grown to 12,892, an average of 275 veteran students per county.

By June 1957, Vocational Agricultural Education at Clemson College had exceeded 1,000 graduates of the program since its start in 1918. A survey conducted in 1940 of the first 410 graduates of the program determined that 56 percent were teaching Vo Ag, 21 percent percent were teaching in an area other than agriculture and 17 percent were in various business, professional and miscellaneous occupations. These figures have held relatively true through the years.

Evolution and Location of the Agricultural Education Program at Clemson

The Agricultural Education department, in addition to maintaining offices in various locations on campus, has been under the auspices of several departments and even colleges at Clemson College and later Clemson University. During its infancy, the Division of Agricultural Education was housed in the Agricultural Hall, which is now Sikes Hall. This relationship remained even when the Division was raised to department status. In 1933, the Department of Agricultural Education was transferred to the School of Vocational Education that also included the Industrial Education Department. Upon the completion of Long Hall in 1937, the Ag Ed department moved into offices there. In the late 1950s, the Agricultural Education department moved into first floor offices of the newly completed Poole Agricultural Center, often referred to as the P&A by students. Agricultural Education maintained headquarters in Room 144 of the P&A until 1972 when it was relocated to 108 Tillman Hall as a department within the College of Education. Faculty and staff were located on the first floor with classroom, laboratory, and storage located on the second floor. As a result of physical renovations to Tillman Hall, the department vacated in 1980 and secured temporary offices on the fourth floor of the Nursing Building, now Edwards Hall from 1980-1982. During the 1982-1983 year, the department returned to Tillman Hall, locating in the basement area of G-01.

In 1984, the Agricultural Education Department abruptly left the College of Education and returned to its roots in the College of Agriculture Sciences and the P&A Building. The Agricultural Education Department maintained offices in 112 P&A for over 10 years until its move to the 109 Office Suite area of Barre Hall in May 1995. Reduced enrollments in the department and even the College of Agriculture in the early 1990s led the university to examine the feasibility of merging departments. The threat of a merger and the transformation of the Agricultural Education Department to a program became a reality in 1997. Dean William Wehrenberg requested that a merger between Agricultural Education and Biology Instruction be completed by July 1, 1997. At that time, there were two full-time Ag Ed faculty members, C.D. White and J.G. Harper; three part-time faculty members, R. Holliday, R. Poling and R. Lambert; and one administrative assistant, Stacy Whitaker. The new department was later named Biology Instruction & Agricultural Education with William “Bill” Surver serving as the Department Chair. The Agricultural Education program continued to occupy offices in 109 Barre Hall until April 2002.

(continued on next page)
Beginning in early 2002, an initiative to separate Agricultural Education from Biology Instruction was underway. Supported by the Agricultural Education teachers within the state, a resolution provided by Farm Bureau and the fact that the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences was going through a re-organization provided the necessary impetus to support this move. A possible merger with Agricultural Engineering and the Agricultural Mechanization program had been suggested by the Agricultural Education faculty as early as 1993. Prior to the official merger with Agricultural and Biological Engineering in July 2002, the Ag Ed program moved offices from Barre Hall in April 2002 to second floor offices of McAdams Hall where it has remained. The Ag Ed faculty following the July 2002 merger consisted of four individuals: T.R. Dobbins, D.R. King, P.M. Fravel and C.D. White.

In 2018, Agricultural Education is a program in the Agricultural Sciences Department along with the Agricultural Mechanization and the Agri-business programs. It should also be noted that the first female faculty member, Dr. Catherine DiBenedetto, was added in July 2015 to bring the current Ag Ed faculty to four professors. They include A.P. Byrd, C.A. DiBenedetto, P.M. Fravel, and K.D. Layfield.

By January 2018, it was determined that the Agricultural Education program at Clemson University has graduated over 1,800 undergraduates and in excess of 500 graduate students of Agricultural Education during the past 100 years. The program remains strong and prepared to continue to produce agricultural educators and leaders for the next 100 years.

Clemson University Agricultural Education Program Celebrates 100th Anniversary

By P.M. Fravel

The Clemson University Agricultural Education Program celebrated its centennial anniversary on Saturday, March 3, 2018. The Clemson University Madren Center ballroom was filled with over 225 returning alumni, current students, teachers of agriculture and numerous supporters of the program. Founded in the summer of 1917, the program graduated its first class of teachers in the spring of 1918. To review the accomplishments of the past 100 years, a diverse program was delivered to those in attendance.

Highlights of the four hour event included a theatrical-style play featuring the founding of the landmark federal Smith-Hughes Act of 1917 portrayed and delivered by Professors Gary Moore of North Carolina State University and Brian Parr of Murray State University.

Further details of the centennial event will be featured in the fall 2018 edition of AgFuture magazine. Photographs from the March centennial celebration can be viewed at the following Internet links:

- Program Pictures from CU Ag Ed Centennial Celebration
- Snapshots from the CU Ag Ed Centennial Celebration
- Historic Artifacts from CU Ag Ed Centennial Celebration
- Group Pictures from Centennial Celebration
Public school Agricultural Education in South Carolina has a long and rich history. Beginning formally in 1917, the program has served millions of students over its years of existence. In June of 1950, in an effort to document the work of the Agricultural Education programs, newly appointed State FFA Executive Secretary Frank Barton along with Jim Whiten, who served as editor, produced the first issue of The South Carolina Young Farmer and Future Farmer Magazine (SC YF & FFA Magazine). The magazine published 11 issues during 1951, but averaged four to six issues per year thereafter. Issue Number 1 contained 20 pages of FFA and Young Farmer news. Reports of student contests, veteran classes, various fairs, and local and state activities of the FFA comprised a majority of each publication.

The insert publication of South Carolina YF & FFA was replaced in 2000 with a new statewide Agricultural Education magazine, AgriBiz! subtitled: The South Carolina Agricultural Education Magazine. John W. Parris, who also served as the executive director of the SC FFA Office of Public Affairs, created, edited and produced the first copy in the fall of 2000. AgriBiz! was produced in a full color format and high-quality paper with approximately 10,000 copies being mailed out directly to members and supporters of Agricultural Education. Parris published four issues of AgriBiz! per year until his retirement in 2011.

In 2011, following the resignation of Parris after a very distinguished 15-year career with the SC FFA Association, the Agricultural Education state staff at Clemson University continued to produce the AgriBiz! Magazine, however, the number of issues was reduced from four per year to three per year, due to budget constraints.

The final issue of the SC YF & FFA Magazine, in true magazine format, ended with Volume 45, Number 6, dated spring 1996.

Beginning in the fall of 1996, the magazine format was replaced with an “insert” style publication, but retaining South Carolina YF & FFA for its title. This insert was placed into the National FFA student magazine, New Horizons, that FFA members received. Bi-monthly publication of the inserts began with the September/October 1996 issue and continued until the last insert was printed in May/June 2000.

In mid-2018, South Carolina Agricultural Education is proud to announce, in a continued effort to improve the Agricultural Education publication, the AgriBiz! title has been retired and the name has become AgFuture. This publication will continue to cover the activities of Agricultural Education, the FFA and the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, as reported by the Clemson University Agricultural Education state staff. However, the publication design, editing and printing will be handled by the communication department of the Clemson University Cooperative Extension and the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences. The distribution of the magazine will remain the same, and the publication will continue to document and promote the efforts of the Agricultural Education programs around the state.

The Clemson University Agricultural Education staff has archived and maintains a near complete set of the South Carolina Young Farmer and Future Farmer Magazine as well as the AgriBiz! magazine. Dr. P. M. Fravel of the Clemson University Agricultural Education program is currently working on preparing the magazines of the past for viewing in an on line, searchable database format.
South Carolina Young Farmers and Agribusiness Association
70th Annual Conference

By Tim Keown

The South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association held its 70th Annual Conference in beautiful Isle of Palms. The conference was well attended with over 300 members, advisors, and guests present. The conference was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the S.C. Pork Board and the S.C. Soybean Board. The conference was highlighted by the presentation of awards to deserving farmers and agribusiness persons from around the state, highlighted by the recognition of the state’s Farmer of the Year and Agribusiness Person of the Year. In addition, conference attendees were able to attend numerous educational workshops such as Website Design for Agribusiness, CAMM, Soybean Research, Smokin’ Coles BBQ and Pesticide Recertification.

The SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association also conducted its annual business meeting at the State Convention. Key areas covered in the business meeting included: the election of the 2018-19 State Officers; Kevin Sox, Advisor for the Spring Hill Young Farmer Chapter, presented a report on the Lexington County Summer Tour, which was hosted by the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapters in Lexington County in 2017; and Sumter County Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter Advisor, Adam Gore, announced the Summer Tour schedule for the 2018 event, which will be held in Sumter County.

The SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association holds its annual convention in the winter each year. The 2019 State Convention is scheduled to be held at the Hilton in the Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, February 1-2, 2019.

The SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association is an affiliate of the National Young Farmer Education Association, whose mission is to promote personal and professional growth for all people involved in agriculture.
SCYFAA Award Winners for 2018

Conservationist of the Year
Andrew Carter, Colleton-Bamberg-Barnwell Young Farmers. Sponsored by the SC Conservation Foundation.

Pork Producer of the Year
Reggie Padgett, Saluda Young Farmers. Sponsored by the SC Pork Board.

Soybean Producer of the Year
Jason Wright, Tyger River Young Farmers. Sponsored by Scoular Grain.

Chapter President of the Year
Chapter of the Year
Peanut Producer of the Year
Sponsored by the SC Peanut Board.
Non-Irrigated Corn Producer of the Year
Sponsored by Pioneer.

Kayla Player, Lee County Young Farmers.

Not pictured:
Irrigated Corn Producer of the Year
Jimmy Lee Shaw, Bush River Young Farmers
Sponsored by Pioneer.

Small Grain Producer of the Year (wheat)
Jimmy Lee Shaw, Bush River Young Farmers
Sponsored by Mixon Seed.

Beef Producer of the Year
Danny McKittrick, Lancaster Young Farmers
Sponsored by J & D Feeds.

Energy Efficiency Farmer of the Year
Reggie Padgett, Saluda Young Farmers
Sponsored by Mid-Carolina Electrical Co-Op
L-R: Reggie Padgett and Advisor Amanda Couch

Cotton Producer of the Year
Clark Stillinger, Edisto Young Farmers
Sponsored by Americot.
L-R: Clark Stillinger and Advisor Travis Ard

Pork Producer of the Year
Reggie Padgett, Saluda Young Farmers
Sponsored by Mid-Carolina Electrical Co-Op
L-R: Reggie Padgett and Advisor Amanda Couch

Soybean Producer of the Year
Jason Wright, Tyger River Young Farmers. Sponsored by Scoular Grain.

Chapter President of the Year
Chapter of the Year
Peanut Producer of the Year
Sponsored by the SC Peanut Board.
Non-Irrigated Corn Producer of the Year
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Kayla Player, Lee County Young Farmers.

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Sponsored by Mid-Carolina Electrical Co-Op
L-R: Reggie Padgett and Advisor Amanda Couch

Soybean Producer of the Year
Jason Wright, Tyger River Young Farmers. Sponsored by Scoular Grain.
McLeod named outstanding farmer in South Carolina

By Tim Keown

Mac McLeod of Sumter, SC was named the 2017 Farmer of the Year by the South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association. The award was given at the annual SCYFAA conference held in Isle of Palms, SC. He received an engraved plaque and a monetary contribution from Ag South Farm Credit.

McLeod is the owner and operator of Fralo Farms and Wildlife Catering Service. He worked his entire life on his family farm prior to purchasing it himself. The farm consists of 100 acres each of corn and soybeans; 40 acres of hay; 140 acres of timber; two turkey farms; one acre of okra; and over 100 head of cattle.

The cattle are on a rotational grazing program, helping to maintain the health of the herd while easing the stress of the pasture land. Mac also produces his own hay to feed his herd; he does his best to produce a high quality hay in order to ensure and maintain the nutrient intake of his herd. Mac also is a turkey grower for Prestige farms. Through his twenty years of experience in turkey production, he realizes the importance of this portion of his diversified operation and currently operates two turkey farms.

To further diversify his operation, McLeod started a wildlife catering service. Through this service, he became a seller of Mixon Seed products that he uses to assist hunters in planting food plots. He also purchased a cleaner for the wildlife catering business to guarantee a quality product for the hunters he serves. Additionally, McLeod provides bagged deer corn, which is kept on hand, for his customers. Through the wildlife catering, McLeod began to provide miniature grain bins to plantations, hunting clubs, and private landowners, offering convenient grain and seed delivery service. He now delivers to eight counties in South Carolina as well as several areas in North Carolina.

In addition to his membership, McLeod has also served the SCYFAA as Regional Vice President and State President. He has also served as a voting delegate to the NYFEA at five different National Institutes and served on the 2015 NYFEA Institute committee.

McLeod believes in passing his knowledge of farming on to the next generation. He always tries to educate his grandchildren in the industry that he serves. He is a true conservationist and believes in maintaining the land to ensure a future in farming and hunting for the next generation. He and his wife Sandy, have both been long time supporters of the South Carolina Young Farmers and members of the Sumter Chapter where Adam Gore and Katie Long serve as the advisors.

Cromer receives state agribusiness award

By Tim Keown

The SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association was honored to name Gerald Cromer from the Saluda County Young Farmer Chapter as the recipient of the 2017 State Agribusiness Person of the Year Award. The award was presented at the annual SCYFAA Conference in Isle of Palms, SC. Along with the impressive title, Cromer received an engraved plaque and a monetary contribution from ArborOne Farm Credit.

Cromer developed Cromer Trucking, a family-owned business headquartered in Saluda, in 1985 while searching for a way to supplement and add to his farming revenue. Cromer worked between farming and trucking until the 1990s. In 1991, he sold his farming equipment and began hauling for a local building supply company while adding a sod haul and several brick customers. He began his business with one truck (his own) and then began to build his customer base. He gradually added more trucks as owner/operators until he was able to purchase more trucks of his own and hire employees.

Today, Cromer has a brokering division and a sand hauling operation. The company transports flat-bed hauls in the Southeastern states using the latest technologies and equipment in order to deliver high quality customer satisfaction.

After graduating college with a degree in business finance, his son Joey joined the business with responsibilities for customer oversight, marketing, and office operations. Cromer saw a need for sand when delivering to jobsites, so he added a sand bagging business to incorporate into the trucking operation. He currently sells 1,000-1,500 bags a month. Cromer also began custom adding brand names for the companies he markets his white and yellow masonry sand to. The growing brick demands facilitated the construction of an independent office and maintenance shed, followed by additional drivers, trucks, and office personnel to handle the expanding volume and customer base.

Cromer’s family are fully supportive of the business. He is proudly married to Dr. Pam Cromer, and has two sons, Joey and Jeremy. He is a member of the Saluda County Young Farmers, led by advisor Amanda Crouch.
1st Place Team – Wildlife CDE – Gilbert FFA
L to R: Deanna Ruth (HGTC); Henry Gunter, Carl Spears; Zachary Shumpert; Albert Weymouth; Derrick Cooper (Gilbert FFA Advisor); Philip Rhodes (SC FFA President)

1st Place Team – Floriculture CDE – Indian Land FFA
L to R: Philip Rhodes (SC FFA President); Jake Faulkner, Jason Bagwell (SCC Horticulture Chair); Becca Davis, Joseph Gomez, Heather Alligood (Indian Land FFA Advisor); Anna Juarez; Matthew Bonnette (SC FFA Vice-President)

1st Place Team – Poultry CDE – Clover FFA
L to R: Matthew Bonnett (SC FFA Vice-President); Mackenzie Campbell (3rd High Individual); Addison Baird (2nd High Individual); Cyerra Dixon; Mary Mason Carpenter; Kelsey Anderson (Clover FFA Advisor)

1st Place Team – Equine CDE – Belton Honea Path FFA
L to R: Samantha Parker (SC FFA Vice-President); Cearah Jones; Carissa Branyon; Alyssa Levasseur; Jill Shoolbred (2nd High Individual); Glenn Stevens (BHP Advisor); and Philip Rhodes (SC FFA President)

1st Place Team Nursery/Landscape CDE – Green Sea Floyds FFA
L to R: Philip Rhodes (SC FFA President); Michael Hyatt; Jason Bagwell (SCC Horticulture Chair); Shawn Tyree; Logan Gore; Lee Mayfield (Green Sea Floyds FFA Advisor); Caleb Hewitt; Matthew Bonnette (SC FFA Vice-President)

1st Place Team – Livestock CDE – Saluda FFA
L to R: Allison Harmon (SC FFA Secretary); Wyatt Doolittle; Sarah Shore; Ginger Wertz; Cody Clary; Philip Rhodes (SC FFA President)

1st Place – Dairy Handler CDE – Clover FFA
L to R: Philip Rhodes (SC FFA State President); Allison Harman (SC FFA State Secretary); Catherine Faulkner; Kelsey Anderson (Advisor, Clover FFA Chapter)

1st Place – Agricultural Mechanics CDE – Belton Honea Path FFA
L to R: Benjamin Woody (BHP FFA Advisor); Hunter Hanks; Ranson Poore; Chandler Mitchell; Cade Gambrell; Philip Rhodes (SC FFA President)
When Your Blood Runs Blue and Gold

By Steve Sanderson

Keith Cox, the South Carolina state executive secretary, has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2018. Cox has had a long and distinguished career in Agricultural Education and has successfully led the SC FFA through some of its most successful years.

Cox fell in love with FFA organization while he was in high school in Loris, SC. It was there that he was elected to a chapter office, competed in the state and national soil judging contest, and began to live out the FFA motto: Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live and Living to Serve.

This attitude of service is what lead Cox to run for a state FFA office. After being elected and serving as the state FFA president, he set his mind on becoming an agriculture teacher. He felt that the best way to give back to the organization that he loved so much was to teach and advise the next generation. Cox began his career in agriculture education by accepting a teaching position at Latta High School. It was here that he was able to build an outstanding program that truly made a “positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.” While at Latta, Cox served as advisor to numerous state officers as well as trained several state champion CDE teams.

In 2004, Cox was named as the SC FFA executive director and became a part of the SC Agriculture Education State Staff. Over the years, Cox has had the opportunity to work with and train 15 state FFA officer teams. He also managed and develop the FFA CDE program as well as ensured the SC FFA was properly represented in the National FFA Awards program. One of Cox's noted accomplishments was the development of both the C.O.W. (Chapter Opportunity Workshop) and the P.O.W. (Potential Officer Workshop) program. These programs were designed to provided leadership training to FFA members across the state. Cox also worked to maintain the image of the SC FFA by conducting countless FFA Legislator Appreciation events, SC FFA Day at the State Fair, as well as numerous other events. Cox also represented South Carolina FFA on the national level as he had the honor of serving on the National FFA Board of Directors and the National FFA Foundation. For his work with the SC FFA and National FFA, he was honored with being presented the Honorary American FFA Degree, the highest honor awarded by the National FFA.

Throughout his extraordinary career, Cox always found the time to serve his family and community. He and his wife Sherryl reside in the Latta community and have two children, Logan and Kerry Lee. He also attends the Dillon Church of God, where he serves as Sunday School Director and Church Council Member. Cox has always put his Savior and family first in his life which lead to a successful career and a life of true service.

91st Annual State FFA Convention • Clemson University, June 12 - June 14, 2018

Tuesday - June 12
(2:00 pm, first general session)
Recognition of CDE winners; introduction of state officer candidates; retiring address; general business of the association; FFA State Degree ceremony

(6:30 pm - second general session)
Official welcome to Clemson University; recognition of National Chapters winners (Superior; Gold; Silver and Bronze Emblems); scholarships awarded; Entertainer Hipnotist Cory Osborn

Wednesday - June 13
State finals in eight Career Development Events (CDEs) will be conducted; workshop and tours.

(6:30 PM - third general session)
FFA Stars over South Carolina Ceremony recognizing regional and state stars in farming; agribusiness and agricultural placement; keynote speaker Breanna Holbert National President; Presentation of Honorary State Degrees to friends and supporters of the FFA.

Thursday - June 14
(closing session)
Announcement of state winners in Career Development Events held during the convention; recognition programs; election of the 2018-19 State FFA Officer team.
Spartanburg Community College provides students with the knowledge and skills required for a successful career in the horticulture industry. Thanks to a widely respected campus arboretum with many gardens and greenhouse production facilities, SCC students gain hands-on experience with plant production, landscaping, nursery operations, greenhouse management and more. Students also attend conferences and field trips for diverse horticulture experiences and many complete internships with various companies such as Walt Disney World, The Greenery and the Biltmore House.

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Credits transfer to Clemson University

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Evening program

**Palmetto Professional Landscape Certificate**  
Online program

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Baldwin to Retire After 14 Years of Dedicated Service

By Billy Keels

Brenda Baldwin will retire from the Clemson University Agricultural Education staff on June 30, 2018. Baldwin has provided 14 years of dedicated service to Agricultural Education in South Carolina.

Baldwin began her career at Clemson University in 2004, after a distinguished career in the medical field as a cytotechnologist. During her time at Clemson University, she provided support to the SC FFA Association, the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, the SC Association of Agricultural Educators, as well as the entire Agricultural Education staff. Baldwin was instrumental in the development of the Agricultural Education website and supervised the transitioning of the website to a Clemson University server. A few of Baldwin’s accomplishments included: overseeing deposits for both FFA and Young Farmer and agribusiness associations; ensuring dues were properly submitted annually for the FFA and YFAA; arranging state block housing at the National FFA Convention for the SC delegation; overseeing student assessment registration; and implementation and assisting in conducting the FFA State Conventions, YFAA State Conventions and numerous public relations activities.

For her years of service and accomplishments, Baldwin was awarded an Honorary State FFA Degree and was awarded her Honorary American FFA Degree in 2017. The Honorary American Degree is the highest honor bestowed by the National FFA Association.

Baldwin will retire on June 30 when she hopes to spend more time with her daughter, Emily, who is an agriculture teacher in Texas.

Jason Gore Joins Clemson Ag Ed Staff

By Billy Keels

Jason Gore, originally from Loris FFA has been named the South Carolina FFA Program Assistant for Agricultural Education. Gore will have the primary responsibility of conducting all South Carolina FFA Career Development Events as well as coordinating participation for FFA winning teams on the national level.

A graduate of Clemson University with a BS in Agricultural Education, Gore taught Agriculture in Sumter County at Crestwood High School for eight years. While at Crestwood, his FFA Chapter participated in numerous FFA CDEs and received many distinguished awards for his FFA Chapter, including the Governor's Citation.

Gore was active with the state FFA Association. He served on the South Carolina FFA Association Board of Directors, and the South Carolina FFA Foundation.

Gore was also active in the South Carolina Association of Agricultural Educators throughout his career, most recently serving on the SCAAE Board of Directors as association secretary.

Gore is a past FFA State Officer, where he served as association vice-president of the Pee Dee Region in 2005-06.

Gore’s office will be located in Pendleton, where he will have statewide responsibilities.

Mark your calendar!

FFA Summer Camps!
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On a beautiful day, South Carolina Agricultural Education students attended the annual SC FFA-sponsored State Legislators Appreciation Day Ceremony on Feb. 21st. The students and their FFA advisor began the day by visiting with state senators and representatives from their home districts to thank them for their support of agriculture and education in South Carolina. This also gave the students time to learn first-hand how our state government works.

Following the visits with local legislators, approximately 1,300 FFA members and advisors from throughout the state gathered on the north steps of the State Capitol for a recognition ceremony. The event was started with the FFA opening ceremonies.

The group was lead in prayer by Christie Tindall, state vice president, and heard a wonderful rendition of the National Anthem by Emily McDaniel from the McBee Chapter.

The State FFA Officers introduced Mr. Josh McCall, president of the South Carolina Association of Agriculture Educators, to present Representative and Speaker of the House, Jay Lucas, with the John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award. Speaker Lucas is a great friend and supporter of Agricultural Education and the FFA.

The John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award is the most prestigious recognition presented by the South Carolina Association of Agricultural Educators. This award was established several years ago by the association and named in honor of Mr. John W. Parris.

Molly Spearman, state superintendent of education, applauded the FFA organization for their hard work and concern for the welfare of the community. She also stated that she is a firm believer in Career and Technical Education and how students learn citizenship and leadership in classes such as Agricultural Education.

Commissioner Hugh Weathers, SC commissioner of agriculture, presented the Governors Proclamation to the State FFA Officers on behalf of Governor McMaster. This was in recognition of National FFA Week Feb. 17-24, 2018. Commissioner Weathers also stated that this was one of his favorite days at the capital.
The FFA positively influences the young people of America by developing character and leadership skills and preparing members for successful careers. FFA members are the leaders of tomorrow. Through agricultural education and hands-on learning, FFA members are preparing for more than 300 career opportunities in the food, fiber and natural resources industries of agriculture. With more than 653,000 members, the organization has a history of service and a legacy of leadership.

Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Daniel B. Verdin, of Laurens presents the Resolution to the state officers.

The State Officers present the Honorary American Degree, on behalf of the National FFA, to Mr. Cleveland Jackson, a retired Agricultural Educator, that taught 47 years in Union County.

2018 Plant Presentation Ceremony at the Capitol

By Tim Keown

Each year in April, the South Carolina Association of Agricultural Educators and the South Carolina FFA Association organize the “Plant Presentation Ceremony” on the State House steps to demonstrate their support and appreciation for the State of South Carolina. Many of the Agricultural Education programs in South Carolina teach several units of Horticulture and/or Plant Science. Greenhouse management is a major educational component of their curriculum and students are taught how to produce plants as a portion of their coursework. The plants are sold to their local communities to help financially support the local Agricultural Education program as well as provide plants to homeowners or local businesses at an affordable cost. In 2001, Pat Black, then the agricultural education teacher at Branchville High School, presented an idea to the SC Agricultural Educators to take a portion of these plants and donate them to the State of South Carolina to help beautify the State House and other state-owned facilities throughout Columbia. Since 2001, thousands of flats of plants have been donated to the state. According to Dennis Haigler, leader of the Horticulture Board, the plants are used at state buildings located around the city. Haigler stated, “Receiving the plants is like Christmas for my team.” Senator Thomas McElveen, member of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and David Hiott, chairman of the House of Representatives Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee both addressed the audience. Sally McKay, the newly appointed director of communications for the South Carolina Department of Agriculture, delivered an outstanding message to the FFA members who were in attendance. Pat Earle, the legislative liaison for South Carolina Agricultural Education Program served as the ceremony emcee. Senator McElveen, Representative Hiott, Sally McKay and Dennis Haigler all accepted the plants on behalf of the State of South Carolina.
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