2019 SC FAA Officers
Our State Leaders

State FFA Officers
Erica Wearing - President, Seneca
Mariah Swygert - Secretary, Leesville
Jessie Comer - Vice President, Hickory Grove
Payton Busbee - Vice President, Troy
Emily McDaniel - Vice President, Hartsville
Amanda Taylor - Vice President, Beaufort

FFA Board of Directors
Josh McCall - Chairperson, Walhalla
Robert Bollier - Lexington
Nate Bellamy - Loris
Christina Addis - Seneca
Kevin Sox - Chapin
Jimmy Roberts - Aynor
Ronnie Ford - St. Stephens
Dr. Curtis White - Seneca
Tim Keown - Iva

SC Farmer and Agribusiness Association
David Simmons - President, East Clarendon Chapter
Thad Wimberly - President Elect, Branchville Chapter
Stanley Rawl - Past President/Treasurer, Pelion Chapter
Scott Bodie - Region I VP, Laurens County Chapter
Tim McSwain - Region II VP, Blackstock Chapter
Maxcy Frye - Region III VP, Lee County Chapter
Mike Ulmer - Region IV VP, Colleton, Bamberg and Barnwell Chapter

State Agricultural Educators Officers
Robert Bollier - President, Lexington
Nate Bellamy - President Elect, Loris
Josh McCall - Past President, Walhalla
Clair Hammonds - Treasurer, Battery Creek
Lisa Stansell - Vice President, Mauldin
Kelsey Bridges Anderson - Vice President, Clover
Kristen Jacobs - Vice President, Conway
Casey Ann Attaway - Vice President, Summerville

Associate Vice Presidents
Caroline Davis - Iva
Henderson Rowe - Ninety Six
Bert Beasley - Darlington
Desiree Still - Swansea

Clemson University Agricultural Education Staff
William E. Keels - State Director, Columbia
Jillian Lash - Executive Director SC FFA, Pendleton
Tim Keown - Associate State Director, Anderson
Pat Earle - Associate State Director, Darlington
Jason Gore - FFA Program Assistant, Pendleton
Betsy Hwang - Administrative Assistant, Pendleton

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

I would like to take the time to introduce myself and send greetings to you all. My name is David Simmons. I am originally from the hills of Northwest Georgia where I grew up on a family farm. Since my youth I have always been involved in agriculture, from fertilizer and seed sales, flour milling, row cropping and raising beef cattle. I have been very blessed to have worked in many different agricultural fields. I then transitioned into my career in the grain buying business. I was employed by the former Governor of Georgia, Sonny Perdue, who now serves as the National Secretary of Agriculture. Sonny was the owner-founder of AgrowStar. Through expansion into the Pee Dee region of South Carolina, I was named Regional Manager - South Carolina. Lynchburg is where I called home for six years. I recently accepted another position with Amick Farms, Grain Procurement Manager - South Carolina. I now reside in Monetta, S.C.

While in Lynchburg, I became a member of the East Clarendon Young Farmer Chapter. That chapter grew from 10 members to one of the largest in the state, where I served as the chapter president. Now that I have moved to the Midstate, I joined the Ridge Spring-Monetta Young Farmer chapter.

One of my goals this year is to visit as many chapter meetings as I am able to. I have already visited several around the Midstate and would like to attend more. This organization means a great deal to me and I want to share my passion for the agricultural industry and grow this organization. I hope you all have a prosperous and safe 2019 season. If I can be of any service, please contact me via email at Dsimmons@amickfarms.com.

Stay Connected
www.SCAgEd.org

Inside this issue
Farmer/Agribusiness Person of the Year 5
FFA State Convention 7
Legislator Appreciation Day 9
Plant Presentation 10
Tom Dobbins receives award 11
Speciality Camps 13
Did you know? 15

AgFuture is published three times a year by Clemson University PSA Publishing. For more information, please contact the State Director, William Keels, at wkeels@clemson.edu
Irrigated Corn Producer of the Year:
William Jameson, Edisto Chapter
Sponsored by Pioneer

Non-Irrigated Corn Producer of the Year:
Brad Elliott, Horry County Chapter
Sponsored by Pioneer

Soybean Producer of the Year:
Jason Wright, Tyger River Chapter
Sponsored by Scoular Grain

Cotton Producer of the Year:
Clark Stillinger, Edisto Chapter
Sponsored by Americot

Peanut Producer of the Year:
Clark Stillinger, Edisto Chapter
Sponsored by the SC Peanut Board

Small Grain Producer of the Year (wheat):
Ryan Freeman, Darlington County Chapter
Sponsored by Seed-Way Seed

Beef Producer of the Year
Blake Wisher, York County Chapter
Sponsored by Nance Tractor

Energy Efficiency Farmer of the Year:
Tim Kelley, Crescent Chapter
Sponsored by Mid-Carolina Electrical Co-Op

Conservationist of the Year:
John Cuttino, Colleton-Bamberg-Barnwell Chapter
Sponsored by the SC Conservation Foundation

Farm Shop of the Year:
Jim Jarrard, Crescent Chapter
Sponsored by Agri-Supply

Advisor of the Year:
Brenda Wright, Tyger River Chapter

Chapter President of the Year:
Kayla Player, Lee County Chapter

Chapter of the Year:
Edisto Chapter

Agribusiness Person of the Year, Sponsored by ArborOne
Piedmont Region Winner: John Davis, Crescent Chapter
Pee Dee Region Winner: Jason Tyner, Darlington County Chapter
Midstate Region Winner: Beth White, York County Chapter
State Winner from the Low State Region: John Cuttino, Edisto Chapter

Farmer of the Year, Sponsored by AgSouth
State Winner from the Pee Dee Region: Ryan Galloway, Darlington Chapter

ON OUR COVER
The newly elected officers have already been planning the program of activities for the upcoming year. Mac McLeod, past President from the Sumter Chapter, served as the nominating committee chairman and presented the following officers for 2019.

President: David Simmons, Ridge Spring-Monetta Chapter
President Elect: Thad Wimberly, Branchville Chapter
Low State Associate Vice President: Mike Ulmer, Colleton-Bamberg-Barnwell Chapter
Mid State Associate Vice President: Tim McSwain, Blackstock Chapter
Piedmont Associate Vice President: Scott Bodie, Laurens County Chapter
Pee Dee Associate Vice President: Maxcy Frye, Lee County Chapter
Past President: Stan Rawl, Pelion Chapter
The South Carolina Farmer and Agribusiness Association held its 71st Annual Conference at the Hilton at Kingston Resort, Myrtle Beach, S.C. in February. The conference was well attended with over 250 members, advisors and guests. The prior focus of the conference was 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 Dicamba Training, CAMM, Ladies Painting Course, Smokin' Coles BBQ and Pesticide Recertification.

Another highlight of the convention was guest speaker Don Munson, who addressed the crowd at the Friday evening banquet. Munson serves as the "voice of the Clemson Tigers." He provided motivation to the audience with his stories of meeting the challenges in his life, while also providing some insight into the world of Clemson athletics.

The SC Farmer and Agribusiness Association also conducted its annual business meeting at the State Convention. Adam Gore, former advisor of the Sumter Chapter, gave a report on the Sumter County Summer Tour, which they hosted in 2018. Abbeville County Advisor Nancy McCannon then announced the Summer Tour schedule for the 2019 event, which will be held in Abbeville County. A major item at the business meeting was the changing of the name of the Association, from South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association to South Carolina Farmer and Agribusiness Association. In addition, a new slate of state officers was presented by the nominating committee, and elected by the delegates present.

The SC Farmer and Agribusiness Association holds its annual convention in the winter of each year. The 2020 State Convention is scheduled to be held at the Hilton in the Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, SC on Jan. 31 - Feb. 1, 2020.

The S.C. 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.

---

**Tim Kelley’s Family Honored**

Past SC FAA State President Tim Kelley from the Crescent Chapter, was posthumously honored by the Executive Officer Committee at the State Convention. Tim was a long-time member and current President of the Crescent Young Farmers, located in Iva, S.C. At the time of his untimely passing in November of 2018, he was serving the state association as the Past President/Treasurer.

Tim was a true advocate for this organization and served in many capacities over the years. He was named SC's Farmer of the Year in 2012 and also named the Energy Efficient Farmer of the Year multiple times. He ran a breeder egg and beef cattle farm in Iva. His family continues to operate the farm with his legacy and vision in mind.

For all that Tim did for this organization and his advocacy for agriculture, the state officers decided to name a $1,000 scholarship in his honor to be given to a deserving student each year. His family came to the state convention to receive a plaque of Outstanding Service to the SCFAA, and he was also posthumously named the Energy Efficient Farmer of the Year.
Cuttino receives State Agribusiness Award

By Tim Keown

The South Carolina Farmer and Agribusiness Association (SCFAA) was honored to name John Cuttino as the recipient of the 2019 State Agribusiness Person of the Year Award. The award was presented at the 71st annual SCFAA Conference in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Along with the recognition, John received an engraved plaque and a monetary contribution from ArborOne Farm Credit.

Cuttino is the owner and operator of Longcreek Plantation in Orangeburg County, which is a very diverse operation. John is involved in landscaping and lawn maintenance, site preparation, grading, backhoe, trackhoe and bulldozer work.

Cuttino also provides wildlife and forestry consultation and maintenance, including food plot planting, control burning and tree removal. In addition to those services, he also operates a hunting lodge and hunting leases.

Cuttino started working on his father’s farm as a child and strived to develop the skills needed to be successful since an early age. He was employed by the SC Forestry Commission for almost 27 years, retiring in 2014. He now serves as chairman of the Orangeburg Soil and Water Conservation District and is involved with the Orangeburg Clemson Extension Advisory Council, Orangeburg-Calhoun County Forest Landowner Association and Mid-Carolina Gun Club.

Cuttino is a member of the First Baptist Church of Orangeburg and is married to Mrs. Susan Cuttino and they have one son, John Jr. He is a member Edisto Young Farmer Chapter, where his advisor is Travis Ard.

Galloway named Outstanding Farmer in South Carolina

By Tim Keown

Ryan Galloway of Darlington, S.C. was named the Outstanding Farmer in South Carolina by the SC Farmer and Agribusiness Association during a ceremony at the 71st annual conference of the organization in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Ryan received an engraved plaque and a financial contribution from AgSouth Farm Credit who sponsors the Outstanding Farmer Recognition Program.

Ryan is a fourth-generation farmer and is a partner in his family’s farm. Ryan operates a 2,500-acre farm located in Darlington County consisting of peanuts, cotton, beef cattle, corn, soybeans, wheat and Coastal Bermuda grass for hay. Peanuts recently replaced tobacco as the farm’s leading crop. The Galloway farm includes personally-owned land, family-owned land and some rented acreage.

Ryan is always searching for more efficient ways to manage his farming operation. He has recently sold older cotton harvesters and replaced those with a new round bale machine that allows him to pick, bale and dump the bale all on the fly. For marketing, he contracts his cotton to a company to help him with stability, guidance and strategic ideas to make more efficient and knowledgeable decisions for my operation. To reduce labor, fuel and equipment costs, Ryan uses conservation tillage technology which also substantially reduces soil erosion and enhances water quality.

A graduate of Anderson University with a B.S. degree in Human Resources and Services, Ryan is a member of the Darlington County Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter. Ryan is married to the Dohnia and they have two children, Donna Elizabeth, who is six, and Goodson, who is three.

Bert Beasley, Agricultural Education Instructor at Darlington Institute of Technology, serves as the advisor to the Darlington County Young Farmer and Agribusiness organization.
Agricultural Education in South Carolina is very diverse with many activities throughout the year. Currently, there are 146 teachers in over 110 programs in the state with around 13,000 students and nearly 7,000 FFA members. The adult education program consists of over 50 chapters and nearly 1,300 members. Agricultural Education in South Carolina is a program that is truly growing.

In an effort to ensure that the activities of the state’s Agricultural Education program are reported and accounted for, starting in the fall of 2019, in cooperation with the Clemson Extension Service, an annual report of the activities of the South Carolina Agricultural Education program, conducted by Clemson Cooperative Extension, will be published.

The annual report will include photos of state award winning teams and individuals, in both the SC FFA Association, the SC Farmer and Agribusiness Association and the SC Association of Agricultural Educators. The report will provide an insight into the demographics of our students and teachers, and even provide a breakdown of each region.

The annual report of South Carolina Agricultural Education will be made available to all who currently receive the AgFuture magazine, to include all FFA members and all Farmer and Agribusiness Association members. In addition, the report will be made available to program supporters, Legislators, S.C. Department of Education officials and Clemson University officials. The purpose of the publication is to provide the constituents and supporters of Agricultural Education in South Carolina, a report of activities, and an opportunity to see just how their investment into this program is paying dividends.

So, be on the lookout in the fall of 2019 for the first South Carolina Agricultural Education Annual Report. A very special thanks to the Clemson Extension Service for their support in this initiative.

At the 71st Annual South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association (SCYFAA) conference, delegates from the Laurens County chapter moved that the SCYFAA change the organization’s name by striking out the word “Young” from the official name, so that the new name would be, South Carolina Farmer and Agribusiness Association (SC FAA). The motion carried unanimously by the delegates from each chapter in attendance.

The organization has a rich history and has been a valuable asset to thousands of farmers and agribusinessmen across South Carolina. This is not the first official name change of the organization. It began as the South Carolina Association of Young Farmers in 1948 and was the third Young Farmer organization formed nationwide. The organization stemmed from previous years of states offering agricultural education classes to World War II Veterans. This was a joint venture of the Veterans Administration and the Department of Education in those states who chose to have adult agricultural education courses. The original age limit was 35 years of age. This has been since lifted from the bylaws and now there is no age limit to be a member.

As the organization evolved and South Carolina agricultural industry evolved, other name changes were needed, such as adding “Agribusiness” to the official title. This was done to include the numerous other careers that surround agriculture. Ag lenders, fertilizer and seed representatives, animal health representatives, FSA employees, Clemson Extension agents, etc., are all proud members of the organization, not just production farmers as it was in the early years.

Now, the average age of the South Carolina farmer is 59 years of age. So, to be more accurate in the demographic description of the organization, a name change was needed. Now the organizational name does not give the impression of only those who are young can be members.

For those who are interested in learning about various areas of agriculture and would like to become a member of the SCFAA, please contact the state executive secretary, Tim Keown at 864-940-0188, or trkeown@clemson.edu.
The 92nd South Carolina State FFA Convention will be held at Clemson University, June 12-14, 2019. All general sessions will be held in the Brooks Center for the Performing Arts.

The first general session will begin at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12, with an official welcome by the State Officers. State CDE winners will be recognized, followed by the retiring address by State Vice President, Amanda Taylor. A business meeting and the awarding of 194 State FFA Degrees, are included in this session.

The second session will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a welcome from Keith Belli, the Dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences. The association will recognize 50 years of women in the FFA followed by the retiring address from State Vice President Emily McDaniel. National Chapter winners in the Superior, Bronze Emblem, Silver Emblem and Gold Emblem categories will be recognized. The evening will end with youth motivational speaker and best-selling author Richie Contartesi former walk on for Ole Miss football team.

State CDE’s will take place on the morning of Thursday, June 13. For those not competing in CDE’s can attend a workshop by the National FFA Vice President, Adrian Schunk. After lunch, FFA members, advisors and guests can participate in a state-wide community service event, bagging meals with Meals of Hope.

Thursday will conclude with the third General Session starting at 6:30 p.m. Retiring addresses from State Vice Presidents Payton Busbee and Jessie Comer along with the recognition of the FFA Stars of South Carolina make up this session. The session will conclude with a keynote from National FFA Vice President Adrian Schunk. Immediately after closing ceremonies, FFA members are invited to Pickens County Career Center for an evening of fun and fellowship.

The closing session on Friday morning will include the announcement of state winners in the Career Development Events held during the convention, other recognitions and finally the election of the 2019-2020 State FFA Officer Team.

---

A Message from the SC FFA State President

Hello FFA members, advisors and supporters!

My teammates and I have had an amazing year getting to know each of you and share in your FFA journeys. Now the time has come for us to invite you to the 92nd SC FFA Convention which will take place at Clemson University, June 12-14, 2019. The business and general sessions will take place at the Brooks Center for the Performing Arts.

Our theme this year is Just One. This theme reminds us that we each have the ability to make a difference in our communities and the lives of those around us if we are willing to take Just One step, have Just One conversation or take Just One risk.

We hope you are as excited as we are for state convention! Whether you are preparing for CDEs, running for state office or just experiencing convention for the first time, we can’t wait to see you. We hope that as each of you prepare for this exciting week, you remember that you have the power of Just One.

Be sure you tune in on Facebook and Instagram @SCFFAOfficers as we countdown to opening session.

see you all at the convention!
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.

**SCC PROGRAMS**

**Horticulture Technology Associate Degree**
Credits transfer to Clemson University

**Landscape Management Certificate**
Evening program

**Palmetto Professional Landscape Certificate**
Online program

**Why SCC?**
- Lowest tuition in the region
- Experienced instructors are respected industry experts
- Classes offered in the day, evening and online
- Horticulture scholarships available

www.sccsc.edu/horticulture
(864) 592-4646 • bagwellj@sccsc.edu

Like SCC Horticulture on Facebook at facebook.com/SCChorticulture.
Legislators Appreciation Day

By Jillian Lash

Inclement weather did not prevent hundreds of South Carolina Agricultural Education students from attending the annual South Carolina FFA State Legislative Appreciation Day Ceremony on Feb. 20. The FFA members and advisors began the day visiting with state senators and representatives from their home districts to thank them for their support of agriculture and agriculture education in South Carolina.

Following the legislative visits, FFA members and guests from throughout the state met in the Blatt Building for a recognition ceremony. The ceremony began with a welcome from State FFA President Erica Wearing, followed by National FFA Vice President Jordan Stowe, who provided remarks on behalf of the National FFA Association.

Chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee David Hiott from Pickens County, praised the FFA and Agriculture students for their dedication and commitment to the future of the state. Representative Hiott presented the Governors Proclamation to the State FFA Officers on behalf of Governor McMaster. The Proclamation was in recognition of National FFA Week, Feb. 16-23.

State Senator and member of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Daniel Verdin, of Laurens County, presented a Resolution of Recognition and Commendation to the State FFA Officers on behalf of the members of the SC General Assembly.

Stanley Rawl, Lance Tully and Heather Matthews were presented their Honorary State FFA Degree. This degree is awarded to those who have gone above and beyond to promote and support South Carolina FFA.

The ceremony concluded with Jordan Stowe presenting Will Lever, from the Newberry County Career Center, with his American FFA Degree.

The SC FFA Legislator Appreciation Day is held annually as a part of National FFA Week. The week of George Washington’s birthday was designated as National FFA Week in 1947 at a National FFA Board of Directors meeting. FFA Week always runs from Saturday to Saturday and encompasses Washington’s Birthday.
2019 Plant Presentation Ceremony at the Capitol Sets Record

By Jillian Lash

The South Carolina FFA Association, in conjunction with the South Carolina Association of Agricultural Educators, holds its Plant Presentation Day Ceremony on the steps of the South Carolina State House to demonstrate their dedication and support for the state of South Carolina. The event is held annually in the month of April. This year, over 300 flats of plants were donated to the State House grounds. According to Dennis Haigler, Horticulture Team Leader with the South Carolina Division of Facilities Management and Property Services, the plants are used at state buildings located around the city. Haigler was overwhelmed at numbers of plants being donated this year from the Agriculture programs. Many Agricultural Education programs around the state offer Horticulture and Greenhouse programs, which teach hands-on learning on how to properly grow and maintain plants.

In 2001, Pat Black, then the agriculture education teacher at Branchville High School, presented the idea to the South Carolina Association of Agricultural Educators to take a portion of the plants grown in the school greenhouses throughout South Carolina and donate them to the State Of South Carolina to help beautify the Capitol grounds and others facilities around Columbia. Since 2001, thousands of plants have been donated to the state.

In front of a large crowd of FFA members, advisors and guests, Agriculture Education Regional Coordinator Pat Earle served as emcee of the ceremony. Nancy Smith, General Manager of the South Carolina State Fair, was awarded her Honorary American FFA Degree. Robert Bollier, President of the South Carolina Association of Agricultural Educators, Aaron Wood, Associate Commissioner, and Representative David Hiott, chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, addressed the audience.

In front of a large crowd of FFA members, advisors and guests, Agriculture Education Regional Coordinator Pat Earle served as emcee of the ceremony. Nancy Smith, General Manager of the South Carolina State Fair, was awarded her Honorary American FFA Degree. Robert Bollier, President of the South Carolina Association of Agricultural Educators, Aaron Wood, Associate Commissioner, and Representative David Hiott, chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, addressed the audience.

Representative David Hiott, chairman of the House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee, address the crowd in attendance.

Dennis Haigler, Horticulture Team leader, with the South Carolina Division of Facilities Management and Property Services, accepts plants from the SC FFA State Officer Team and Robert Bollier, SCAE State President
Tom Dobbins, state director of the Cooperative Extension Service at Clemson University, is the recipient of the Outstanding Professional Service Award presented by the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences at Clemson in concert with its National Agricultural Alumni Board of Directors.

A farm boy from the Townville community and a graduate of Pendleton High School where he was an FFA member and state FFA president, Dobbins graduated from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia in 1980 with an associate degree in Agriculture and from Clemson University in 1982 with a B.S. in Agricultural Education. He also received an M.S. in Dairy Science from Clemson in 1988.

Dobbins’ professional career began as an agricultural education instructor at West Oak High School followed by the position of Dairy Specialist with the Clemson Extension Service. He entered Virginia Tech in 1997 and graduated with a Ph.D. in Vocational and Technical Education in 1999. He then served as professor and chairman of the Agricultural Education Program at Clemson University until 2014 when he was named state director of the Cooperative Extension Service at Clemson.

As a result of Dobbins’ leadership, the Clemson University Extension Service is at the top of the list of outstanding programs in the nation. Significantly increased support by the S.C. General Assembly has provided Dobbins with the opportunity to add a number of new professionals to serve agricultural businesses and industries in South Carolina. He is in the process of improving and expanding the T. Ed Garrison Livestock Arena, one of the premier multi-purpose livestock facilities in the Southeast. He is also improving the research and educational centers throughout the state. He initiated the S.C. Extension Service Hall of Fame to recognize and honor outstanding county agents of the past and present.

Dobbins supervises the state agricultural education administrative staff who assist agricultural educators in more than 100 schools in South Carolina. He serves as superintendent of the livestock division of the S.C. State Fair and founded the popular Commissioner’s School for Agriculture held at Clemson University each summer.

A widely recognized leader in public education, Dobbins serves as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Anderson County School District Four and is an active member of the S.C. School Boards Association.

“Dr. Dobbins is a strong believer in keeping agriculturalists informed of the latest scientific technology, crop improvement systems and marketing strategies,” John Parris said. “He has a positive vision for the future of agriculture in South Carolina that inspires agriculturalists, legislators, educators and other friends to join him in making his goal an exciting reality,” he added.
Ashley Ridge FFA Introduces THE FOXTIVAL

By Ben Gibson, Advisory, Ashley Ridge FFA

In the fall of 2018, officers of the Ashley Ridge FFA Chapter came to their advisors with an amazing plan—let’s have a Fall Festival! Their answer was a very quick, “NO.” There was no time to plan and get activities or sponsorships in place, so it was determined that there would be a spring festival instead. From here, the wheels of organization began to spin and The Foxtival was born.

On March 16, the Ashley Ridge FFA hosted the first Foxtival to promote everything Ashley Ridge and everything agriculture. Over 20 local vendors were in attendance and over 1,000 community members showed up between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to enjoy all that the day had to offer. In addition to the vendor fair, there were bounce houses and obstacle courses, goat yoga, a goat fashion show and student demonstrations where they made both goat milk soap and cheese. The Ashley Ridge FFA was happy to welcome the Dorchester County Career Center FFA and their students from the Equipment Operations program, who spent the day demonstrating their skills on a mini excavator. To go along with all the festivities, the program was able to open the greenhouses for the first ever on-site spring plant sale, as well as host the Tri-county Master Gardeners to offer plant help to customers and interested participants.

Thanks to a great weather day, fantastic chapter member and parent support and, most importantly, the support of the community, The Foxtival was able to raise over $10,000 for Ashley Ridge High School clubs and organizations. As with anything occurring for the first time, there was a lot to learn and even more to improve for the next time, but the expectation is clearly to repeat The Foxtival for years to come. Being able to host such an event has really improved the Ashley Ridge FFA’s ability to share agriculture with the Summerville community and showcase their unique 10-acre, student-run farm.
In the last few years, as the SC FFA Association expanded its concept of what FFA Camp is, a growth of various theme camps began to emerge. A multitude of interest were addressed as each camp held to the roots of agriculture. FFA members were able to access the beauty and wonder of the SC FFA Leadership Center at various times of the year as these camps are scheduled throughout the school year.

While the traditional summer weeks are still most popular, the expanded specialty camps allow FFA members to explore specific areas of interest in the world of agriculture. Participants may investigate subject areas as different as to how control burns are conducted in Forestry Camp, to how to saddle a horse at Equine Camp.

The specialty camps offered this past year included Forestry Camp, which was conducted by the S.C. Forestry Commission staff and was highlighted by activities such as Lumberjack Olympics, the Equine Camp, which includes a secluded trail ride on the beach, and the Fishing Camp conducted by Department of Natural Resource agents, which include instruction in casting shrimp nets and deep sea fishing charters. Other specialty camps included the annual Greenhand Camp where first year members were introduced to a wide range of FFA activities by the SC FFA State Officers and the Outdoor Recreation Camp where members participated in many activities, including learning how to SCUBA.

Each camp offers team building activities. Night life packages may be included in these camps which take advantage of the many fun activities found in the Grand Strand area.

For more info on all SC FFA Camping programs and to register, go to: http://www.clemson.edu/extension/scaged/camp/programs.html.
Brodie had always loved the outdoors, plants — and FFA. When he came to Clemson he found that all his interests could come together in one even bigger passion — feeding the world.

At Clemson, Brodie conducted research on plant pathology with professors who shared his goals. He then applied that research to the campus’ Tiger Gardens where he also taught nutrition and sustainability. Brodie is now in graduate school, with plans to travel to third-world countries to help them solve their food crises.

It’s a big task. But with knowledge, enthusiasm and the support of his mentors, Brodie is up to the challenge.

Learn more about Brodie’s story at clemson.edu/moments.
Erica: Did you know the Ashley Ridge FFA Chapter has a farm on campus with over 23 goats and various other animals? Members fully take care of these animals from feeding and cleaning stalls to giving medicine when needed. They also make and sell goat milk soap that is milked from the goats on the farm.

Payton: Did you know the Belton-Honea Path FFA Chapter hosts a Farm Day each year? Hundreds of elementary school students from the area come to the high school on this day. Members have the opportunity to display different activities for the kids to participate in, such as horse rides, carnival games and sawmill demonstrations.

Amanda: Did you know in the tiny town of Hollywood, Lowcountry Leadership Charter School is home to one of our state’s newest programs? LLCS FFA membership has increased tremendously since their chartering two years ago. These young leaders are bursting with excitement for the FFA. They truly make you believe in the future of agriculture.

Emily: Did you know Saluda FFA has an on-campus farm where students learn to handle and care for animals? Animals include a donkey, goats, cows and even a pet chinchilla. They work diligently to make sure these animals are treated well, and they even learn how to properly show the animals in competitions.

Jessie: Did you know that Nation Ford Small animal care class schedules a variety of dogs to come to their class to be groomed? Students each take on a different task in completing the grooming and care for the dog. In their classroom, students have a wash area, equipment used to blow dry animals and grooming tables.

Mariah: Did you know students from the Laurens and Clinton FFA Chapters gathered together on Nov. 6 at the Eastglen Dairy Farm to give their day off from school to a local farmer in need of help around the property. The students, under the supervision of their agriculture teachers and employees of the farm, washed the milking parlor, fed and watered the calves, removed litter from the property and constructed a new pasture fence. These students showed true compassion and action behind the last line of the FFA motto, “Living to Serve.”
FOR CONTINUING THIS JOURNEY

we thank you!

AgSouth
Farm Credit, ACA
844-AGSOUTH
AgSouthFC.com
NMLS #619788

ArborOne
FARM CREDIT
800-741-7332
ArborOne.com
NMLS #449370

LOANS FOR LAND, FARMS AND HOMES