2014-15 State Officers
87th State FFA Convention
Contest Winners
Teachers Conference
2014 Retirees
SCYFAA Tour
Anna Catherine Wayne is from McBee, S.C. and is a member of the McBee FFA Chapter. She is the daughter of Susan and Kirby Wayne and has a brother, Corey.

Her favorite activity outside of FFA is being in the marching band.

Her SAE was in Ag Sales – Placement. Her most memorable FFA activity was her first state convention. It inspired her to run for state office. She was in awe of the state association and was happy to be a part of it.

The most important lesson that she has learned from her Agriculture Teacher, Pat Earle, is that giving is better than receiving. Anna Catherine says, “My advisor spends countless hours with our chapter and calms our nerves when we’re stressed. He is the best encourager because he gives freely.

Anna Catherine wants her lasting contribution to the SC FFA program to be one of service. She hopes to be the ultimate servant of the FFA members and an eternal advocate for FFA and agriculture.

Courtney Barnett is from Clover, S.C. and is a member of the Clover FFA Chapter. She is the daughter of Mickey and Jamey Barnett and has a brother, Lee.

Her activity of choice outside of FFA is showing horses which she has been doing since she was little.

Courtney’s SAE was Equine Entrepreneurship. Her most memorable FFA activity so far was her journey with her chapter’s Horse Evaluation team through state, regional and national competitions. It opened her eyes to the endless opportunities the FFA has to offer. The most valuable lesson that she has learned from her Agriculture Teacher, Kelsey Anderson, is to take pride in everything that you do.

She would like to pursue a career in agriculture after attending college. She wishes for her lasting contribution to the SC FFA to be for members to take advantage of every opportunity they can and to grow from it because our days in this outstanding organization are limited.

Paul Dolan is from Summerville, S.C. and is a member of the Cane Bay FFA Chapter. He is the son of Dennis and Dala Dolan and has a brother, Patrick, and a sister, Meghan.

His favorite activities outside of FFA are reading and sleeping.

His SAE was Swine Production. Paul’s most memorable FFA activity so far, is his participation in the Leadership Camp. The most valuable lesson that he has learned from his Agriculture Teacher, Jeffery Whisenhunt, is to never give up because there is always more to do and learn.

He plans to attend Tri-County Technical College with a goal of obtaining a Master’s Degree in Agricultural Education in the future. He wants his lasting contribution to the SC FFA program to be “to create a chapter full of healthy, active young adults who love the FFA just like me.”

Brent Summers is from Pelion, SC and is a member of the Pelion FFA. His parents are Wade and Amy Summers, and he has a sister, Brittany.

His favorite activities outside of FFA are hunting and fishing.

Brent’s SAE was Greenhouse Operation. His most memorable FFA activity so far was attending the National FFA Convention. The most valuable lesson that he has learned from his Agriculture Teacher, Frank Stover, is to always keep going and “don’t be not smart.’’

He plans to attend Clemson University in the fall and would like to become an agriculture teacher in the future. He wants his lasting contribution to the SC FFA to be a memorable and fun year for everyone.

DeShawn Blanding is from Manning, SC and is a member of the Manning FFA chapter. He is the son of Barbara and Carlton Blanding and has three brothers, Donte, Damien, and Darius; and a sister, Katrina.

His favorite activities outside of FFA are reading, bowling, working in the garden, and spending time with family and friends.

DeShawn’s SAE was Crop Production and Food Services. His most memorable FFA activities so far is having the opportunity to learn and grow on multiple CDE teams and being Gavin McGraw while hypnotized at the 86th State Convention. The most valuable lessons that he has learned from his Agriculture Teacher, Michael Haynes, are that “knowledge is not power...how you use knowledge is what gives you power” and “stay connected to the spiritual vine.”

In the future, DeShawn is looking forward to a career in agriculture and wants to slowly but surely make a difference in the world. On his lasting contributions to SC FFA, he says, “I want to make a difference in the life of at least one of the thousands of students. I want to make footprints that future generations can follow in. I want to be able to open doors and opportunities for our members, so that they can reach their goals by discovering their potential and going that extra mile.”

Hunter Morton is from Seneca, SC and is a member of the Pendleton FFA. He is the son of Richard and Mickie Morton and has a sister, Taylor.

Outside of FFA activities, Hunter enjoys fishing.

Hunter’s SAE was Environmental and Natural Resources Management. His most memorable FFA activity so far is attending the Washington Leadership Conference. The most valuable lesson that he has learned from his Agriculture Teachers, Blake Berry and Ben Woody, is to always do your best.

He wants his lasting contribution to the SC FFA Association to be inspiring to as many members all across the state as he can.
Clemson University was “Ignited” with blue corduroy jackets of FFA members as over 800 members, advisors and guest attended the 87th South Carolina FFA Convention. The convention was held in the Brooks Center for Performing Arts on June 11th – 13th, 2014.

During the First General Session, the Clinton FFA chapter posted the colors, Abbee Carnes of the West Oak FFA sang the National Anthem and Trent Rushton, 2012-2013 State FFA President gave the invocation after the State FFA Officers opened the session. The convention was formally welcomed to Clemson University by Dr. George Askew the Vice President for Public Service & Agriculture at Clemson University.

During the First General Session, the outstanding chapters were recognized during the National Chapter and Governor’s Citation presentations. Individual FFA members were recognized for receiving over $15,000 worth of scholarships for their hard work in school and with their Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE). This was a record amount for the association. Appreciation was expressed to the SC Young Farmers and Agribusiness Association, National FFA and the SC Fertilizer and Agrichemicals Association for their continued support of the SC FFA. Jason Wetzler, 2013-2014 National FFA Western Region Vice President, inspired the group with his keynote address. The session was concluded by a wonderful performance from SC / McBee FFA Alumnus and country music artist, Doug McCormick. Doug has not forgotten about his love of the FFA and American Agriculture.

Thursday morning began with members competing in the eight State CDE events that were conducted on the Clemson University campus. Those not competing in CDE’s had the opportunity to attend a workshop presented by National FFA Vice President, Jason Wetzler or participate in a service project with the local Helping Hands organization.

The Second General session was held on Thursday afternoon, where the convention had a chance to meet the state officer candidates as they introduced themself on stage. The SCAAE recognized 14 “Teach Ag” students. These students have shown a serious interest in teaching agriculture in the future. Over 154 members received their State FFA Degree. The keynote speaker for the session was Carrie Raines Cavanaugh the 1994 -1995 Vice President for the SC FFA Association from the Abbeville FFA chapter.

At the Third General Session held on Thursday evening, fifteen members were recognized as candidates for the American FFA Degree. This is the highest degree the National FFA offers. The Honorary State FFA Degree was bestowed to nine adults that have supported the South Carolina FFA Association. In addition, FFA members were recognized for their Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) project during the “FFA Stars over South Carolina presentation”. The session ended with a keynote presentation by Mark Black, a professional speaker, best-selling author and success coach.

The Convention concluded on Friday morning with the Fourth General Session where thirty-five chapters received awards for having 75% -100% membership. Aaron Wood SC Department of Agriculture, then made a special presentation as one of the 100% membership chapters was randomly selected to have dinner with SC Commissioner of Agriculture, the Honorable Hugh Weathers.

The session also included the honoring of twenty- five members as State Proficiency Award winners. And concluded with the announcement of six FFA members who will serve as the 2014-15 State Officer Team.

The 2013-14 State FFA Officer team, which just for the second time in 87 years was comprised of six ladies, is to be commended for their hard work during their year of service and for conducting a very rememberable state convention.
FFA National Chapter Award Winners

Conducted by Keith Cox

The National Chapter Award program recognizes FFA chapters that successfully complete an annual Program of Activities that includes a series of activities designed to encourage its members to grow as individuals, to work as part of a team, and to serve others.

Mr. Wesley Harris, Secretary/Treasurer of the South Carolina Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, Mr. Larry Rogers, Farm Loan Specialist - USDA Farm Service Agency and William C. Stanley, President of the South Carolina Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, presented the chapters with a check for $1000 on behalf of SC Rural Rehabilitation Corporation.

The Gold chapters honored are Calhoun Falls Charter High School, Darlington C.I.T., Lakewood High School, Nation Ford High School, Seneca High School and Swansea High School. The SC FFA Foundation presented each of the Gold Chapters with funds to attend the National FFA Convention.

2014 State FFA CDE Winners

State Creed Speaking Winner: (L-R) Blake Berry (Advisor), Gabby Vickery

State Extrem Winner: Brandon Myers with Advisors Frank Stover & Daphne Jensen (Pelion)

State Prepared Speaking Winner: (L-R) Blake Berry (Advisor); Hunter Morton

State Greenhand Knowledge Bowl Winner: Manning High School

State Farm Business Management: Strom Thurmond FFA

State Job Interview: (L-R) Lee Pettigout, Courtney Pettigout; Nation Ford

State Meats Evaluation Team: Dixie High School

State Upper Creed: Brooke Felder with advisors Frank Stover and Daphne Jensen (Pelion)

State Parliamentary Procedure: Manning High School

Manning
Larry Rogers, Sarah Farmer, William C. Stanley, DeShawn Blanding, Wesley Harris, and Michael Haynes Advisor

Pickens Co Career Center
Ashley Granata, Advisor, Gillian Black, Advisor, Christopher Lunsford, and Steve McCannon, Advisor

McBee
William C. Stanley, Larry Rogers, Anna Catherine Wayne, Pat Earle, Advisor and Wesley Harris

Agriscience Fair Winners

Animal Systems
Div 1: Alexandria McDonald, Cheraw
Animal Systems,
Div 4: R.J. Risner & Alyssa Ashley, Dixie
Envir. Services/Natural Resource Systems
Div 2: Brittany Shook, Seneca
Envir. Services/Natural Resource Systems
Div 3: Selena James & Tucker Douglas, Cheraw
Envir. Services/Natural Resource Systems
Div 4: D’Aunthony Harvey, Cheraw

Food Products and Processing Systems
Div 1: LaJeanne Blair, Cheraw
Food Products and Processing Systems
Div 2: Hannah Griggs, Cheraw
Food Products and Processing Systems
Div 3: Cayde Hamilton & Eliana Lord, Seneca
Food Products & Processing Systems
Div 4: Chandani Patel & Andrea Harbin, Seneca

Plant Systems
Div 1: Andrew Hall, Cheraw
Plant Systems
Div 2: Jesse Egan, Seneca
Plant Systems
Div 3: Mark Purvis & Patrick Pruitt, Cheraw

Power, Structural & Technical Systems
Div 1: Kurt Miller, Strom Thurmond FFA
Power, Structural & Technical Systems
Div 2: Kristin Morongill, Darlington County Inst of Tech
Power, Structural & Technical Systems
Div 4: Katie Roscoe & Nikki Burden, Cheraw

Social Systems
Div 1: Alexis Harris, Cheraw
Social Systems
Div 2: Samantha Ferguson, Dixie
Social Systems
Div 3: Kennedy Hart & Shay Sanford, Seneca
Social Systems
Div 4: Sydney Snowberger, Nation Ford
The South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association offers assistance, through scholarships, to students who have chosen to attend a college or technical school to prepare for a career in Agriculture.

**Mr. and Miss SC FFA Scholarship**

Each year the Batesburg-Leesville FFA Chapter hosts a Mr. and Miss FFA Pageant. Contestants enter from FFA Chapters throughout the state and winners are awarded a scholarship. The 2014 Miss SC FFA is Taylor Cordavano and the 2014 Mr. SC FFA is Brent Summers, both of the Pelion FFA Chapter.

**Individual FFA Award**

The Individual FFA award is offered as an incentive to students that are well rounded in the FFA, their Supervised Agriculture Experience, Leadership, School and Community Activities, and Scholastic Ability. The state winner is awarded a $500 scholarship. Bayleah Jackson from the Pelion Chapter is the winner and her advisor is Frank Stover.

**SC Fertilizer & Agri-chemicals Association Scholarship**

The SC Fertilizer and Agri-chemicals Association annually presents a scholarship in honor of Hilton V. Rogers, John Tricoche of the Manning FFA Chapter received the Hilton V. Rogers scholarship. His Advisor is Michael Haynes.
The State Star in Agribusiness is Jared Momberger from the Clover FFA Chapter. He is the owner of JM Lawn Care and Contracting Service.

Jared started his lawn care service as a freshman in high school in order to meet a need in the community and to begin his Supervised Agriculture Experience Program. He currently owns 100% of his equipment and he has developed his mechanical skills by servicing and maintaining all of his equipment. His current duties require him to mow and trim lawns, rake leaves, and blow off all walks and driveways. Jared recently diversified his operation by adding a gutter cleaning service. He is currently serving 10 houses in his neighborhood. He hopes to expand this portion of his business through good advertising and hard work.

Jared also works part time at Bush-in Time Farms. His duties include operating equipment, assisting in the fields during production, packing trucks for shipping, and working in the roadside market.

Jared has been very active in the FFA and is a firm believer that you should use the skills that you have to give back to your community and try to make a difference. He has participated in numerous FFA Activities that include: Tool Id, Livestock Evaluation, FFA Day at the Fair, State Convention, and Legislators Appreciation Day. He is also very active in his community. His service hours included working in God’s Kitchen for Thanksgiving, the Lake Wylie River sweep, the Veterans Day Luncheon, his community. His service hours included working in God’s Kitchen for Thanksgiving, the Lake Wylie River sweep, the Veterans Day Luncheon, and the Children’s Attention Home Christmas Party. His advisor is Kelsey Bridges-Anderson.

The State Star Farmer is Coltin Nobles from the Barnwell County Career Center FFA. He is the part owner of Rocking N Farms in Barnwell, SC. Rocking N Farms is an equine farm that concentrates on training horses for roping events. Coltin is the lead trainer and has currently trained 12 start up horses for ropers this year and is currently in charge of 10 potential roping horses on the farm. He also competes in roping events in the High School Rodeo Circuit with some of the horses that he has trained.

In his enterprise, Coltin decided to start to raise longhorn cattle for roping events. His job is to maintain a herd healthy enough to be leased out for team roping events. His many duties on the farm besides horse training include; fence building and repair, working in the farm's hay and forage production area, and the day to day operation of the farm.

Through his earnings on the farm, Coltin is able to participate in many team-roping events around the Southeast and he has been very successful over the past few years. He is able to invest his earnings back into the farm and has been able to build a rodeo facility on the farm location that acts as host to many of the roping events in the area.

Coltin is planning to attend Horry-Georgetown Technical College and transfer to Clemson University to major in Agriculture Business. His advisor is Mindy Sandifer.

The State Star in Agricultural Placement is Michael Thomas Wilkerson from the York FFA Chapter. The Wilkerson Logging Company employs Thomas, where he is a fourth generation logger.

He started learning how to operate the skidder at 12 years old and now he is currently one of the lead skidder operators for the company.

Thomas is also responsible for the preventative maintenance for his skidder. He must check and maintain oil levels and he must be sure that all of the components are properly lubricated.

Thomas’ duties were recently expanded in the operation. Along with being a skidder operator he is a truck trimmer for the company. After the trucks are loaded, Thomas is required to trim all stray limbs before the trucks are allowed to travel on the highway. He also learned how to treat customers, but he says the one of the most important things that he has learned is how to treat the land and to ensure that production continues for the future generations.

In his spare time, Thomas started a pine straw baling operation on 1.5 acres of Loblolly pines. In his operation he rakes and bales pine straw for sale. Thomas baled and sold 50 bales in his first year. He is now baling and selling 230 bales. Thomas has also built a custom baler to make the job more efficient.

Thomas has participated in numerous CDE’s and the state FFA Convention. He is also very active in his chapter’s greenhouse plant sales and he was the top seller for the FFA Fruit Sale. His advisor is Jessie Miskelly.

ArborOne contributed $17,890.00 to the South Carolina FFA Association during the State Convention from proceeds from the 2013 Aim-at-Ag sporting clays fundraiser.

The 2014 Annual “Aim-at-Ag” sporting clays tournament will be held on November 15th at Black River Sporting Clays in Kingstree, SC. All FFA Chapters are encouraged to attend.

For more information, visit their website www.ArborOne.com and click on Aim-at-Ag for sponsorship opportunities.
Over 400 members and advisors attended the South Carolina FFA Camp over the summer. By all accounts, this summer’s camping programs were a major success! The SC FFA Center saw the successful addition of the newest activity rotation, paintball, as well as the addition of a new member of the SC FFA family, Cole Almassey, served as cook and cafeteria manager.

This year many camp traditions were continued, namely the nightly bonfires, counselor-led dodge ball matches, and the SC FFA Center staple first meal—low country boil. The camp also started what is sure to become a new tradition, a Tuesday evening barbeque.

In addition to the many activities at the camp, campers also enjoyed thrilling evenings at Broadway Grand Prix, Legends in Concert, and an evening dolphin cruise.

If you missed out on the opportunity to visit the SC FFA Center over the summer don’t fret, a number of weekend “special interest camps” are planned for the fall and spring semesters. These camps will include outdoorsmanship, fishing, equestrian sport, and a camp created just for new, greenhand, FFA members. If you have questions about these camps feel free to contact the center’s staff at 843-249-6104, or email us at SCFFACenter1@aol.com.

Each year the South Carolina Association of Agricultural Educators and the South Carolina FFA Association team up to demonstrate their support and appreciation for the state of South Carolina.

The majority of the Agricultural programs in South Carolina have greenhouses. These greenhouses produce plants, which are sold to their local communities to help support the local Agricultural program as well as provide plants to homeowners or local businesses at an affordable cost.

In 2001, Mr. Pat Black, then Agricultural Teacher at Branchville High School, presented an idea to the SC Agriculture Teachers to take a portion of these plants and donate them to the State of South Carolina to help beautify the Statehouse. Since that time 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 his team.”

In April, the SCAAE in conjunction with the SC FFA Association, in front of a crowd of FFA students, advisors and state officials presented nearly 400 flats of plants contributed from Agricultural programs from all parts of the state to Commissioner Hugh Weathers who accepted them on behalf of the State of South Carolina.
Mr. Clark Woods was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Teacher Award by the SCAAE at the 2014 annual conference held in July. Mr. Woods taught for six years in Florida before returning home where he served thirty-eight years as an agricultural educator at Hillcrest High School in Simpsonville, SC.

This award is presented by the SCAAE to recognize excellence in the classroom and other components of the overall agricultural education program. To receive this award, a teacher must be nominated and voted on by their peers, making this award very personal.

Mr. Woods’s influence will be felt for generations to come. He coached numerous FFA CDE state championship teams throughout his career. Even with all of his success, he remained one of the most humble spirits. He cared especially for younger agriculture educators and wanted nothing more than to see them succeed. Glenn Stevens is a long time colleague of Mr. Woods and he shared the following statement:

“As a first year teacher, I had no idea which FFA contests to do. He offered to give me his notes and information on any contest that he took part in. My greatest victory in FFA contests came in 1988 when my Livestock Judging team beat Hillcrest in the Greenville Federation Livestock Judging Contest. Although he was disappointed for his team, he was happy for this young skinny kid from Travelers Rest.”

For those who knew him, his legacy will be forever carried on. For those who unfortunately did not know him, the SCAAE renamed the Distinguished Teacher Award to honor his legacy and to help ensure that his name will be forever known among South Carolina agricultural educators; the SCAAE’s top award will now be called the Clark Woods Distinguished Teacher Award.
Horry Georgetown Technical College hosted the 2014 annual Agricultural Teachers Summer Conference in July. The conference was attended by over 100 Agricultural Educators from across the state.

The conference began with a turf grass workshop held at the Myrtle Beach Pelicans baseball field. Following the workshop, teachers enjoyed a picnic supper at the ballpark before taking in a Pelicans baseball game.

The conference also included a general session, which was highlighted by greetings from Neyle Wilson, President of Horry Georgetown Technical College and a presentation by Susan Flanagan, Director of Career and Technical Education in South Carolina.

The conference also included the annual SCAAE Awards Banquet where teachers and supporters were recognized for their accomplishments and years of service.

The conference concluded with a day of workshops that offered professional development credit for teachers in areas such as wildlife management, computer apps, turf grass, irrigation and updates in FFA awards and applications.

The faculty of the Horry Georgetown Technical College’s Golf and Sports Turf Management program lead by program coordinator Rick McGuines served as host for the conference as well as conducted many of the workshops. Teachers were exposed to the outstanding facilities in which the program is housed as well as had a chance to meet all of the faculty. Teachers were encouraged to send their students to HGTC to obtain an associate degree and / or attend to prepare to complete their degree at Clemson University.
Mr. James Ulmer

Contributed by Billy Keels

James Ulmer’s interest in agriculture began as he grew up on a small farm in Orangeburg County.

Mr. Ulmer took that interest in Agriculture to South Carolina State where he graduated with a degree in Agricultural Education. He later obtained a Masters Degree from Clemson University.

Mr. Ulmer’s long and distinguished career in Agriculture, included 6 years with the Federal Government USDA—ASCS office as the County Executive Director, 6 years as a Clemson University Extension agent, 3 years as Regional Coordinator for Agricultural Education with Clemson University and 28 years as an Agricultural Education Teacher. Mr. Ulmer spent 25 of his 28 years teaching with the Orangeburg Consolidated School District 3.

Mr. Ulmer won numerous awards throughout his career, some of his notable recognitions include: recipient of the Honorary American FFA Degree, Teacher of the Year at Holly Hill—Roberts High School, Teacher of the Year Elloree High School and recipient of the Distinguish Service Award at Clemson University.

Mr. Ulmer remains active in his community where he serves on the Orangeburg County Forestry Commission, the SCSU Club Board of Directors, the Edisto Federal Credit Union Board of Directors and the Kappa Alpha Psi Board of Directors. Mr. Ulmer also stays active in agriculture where he currently serves as an Agricultural Consultant and a Tree Farmer.

Mr. Ulmer and his wife Linda have two sons Jamie and Jason as well as two granddaughters.

Mr. Fred Raines

Contributed by Tim Keown

Mr. Fred Raines began his career in agricultural education as an FFA member at Abbeville High School where his FFA advisor was Mr. Stan Keaton. Mr. Raines was an active member of the Abbeville FFA Chapter, competing on the Soils, Parliamentary Procedure, and Livestock Judging teams. He was also a young leader, serving as the chapter FFA president during his senior year.

Mr. Raines graduated with a BS in Animal Science from Morehead State University in Kentucky. He then returned back to his home county and began his career as an agricultural educator at Calhoun Falls High School from 1973-1978. In 1977, while teaching at Calhoun Falls, he earned his Master’s Degree in Agricultural Education from Clemson University. He has since earned 30 hours + above his Masters Degree and is a National Board Certified teacher. From 1978-1987, he left the teaching profession to run his own dairy farm. He eventually returned to teaching; however, this time his career brought him to his alma mater, Abbeville High School. He taught there from 1987 until his retirement in June of 2014. He served South Carolina Agricultural Education exceptionally for 33 total years. His FFA CDE teams have won the Soil Judging CDE nine times, Dairy Evaluation four times, Dairy Foods seven times, Parliamentary Procedure three times, Equine Judging once, and numerous top three state finishes. He advised nine state FFA officers, three of whom served as the state president.

Mr. Raines has been married to his lovely wife, Faye, for 40 years. They have three daughters: Carrie, Kristen, and Amanda who all reside in South Carolina. He also has three grandchildren: Landon, Collins, and Cason whom he and Faye have already spoiled! His retirement plans are to expand his 300 acre beef and hay farm to include more brood cattle and hay land. He has recently purchased his retirement gift to himself: a new John Deere tractor and new hay equipment. He also intends on purchasing a John Deere Gator to give his grandchildren rides around the farm and instill in them his love for agriculture. He and Faye are active members of Abbeville First Baptist Church where he serves as the parliamentarian.

Mr. John Weathers

Contributed by Billy Keels

In June 2014, Mr. John Weathers concluded his distinguished teaching career at the same school that he began in 1975, Sumter County Career Center.

Mr. Weathers’s interest in Agriculture began as he grew up on his family farm in Bowman, South Carolina. His love for education came through the many teachers who touched his life during his years in school.

His life’s commitment to Agricultural Education began at Clemson University where he worked to obtain a Bachelors Degree in Agricultural Education and a Masters Degree in Agricultural Mechanization.

Upon completion of his degrees at Clemson, Mr. Weathers was hired to teach Agricultural Mechanics at Sumter County Career Center where he served faithfully for 39 years.

Over the years, Mr. Weathers transformed his program from an Agricultural Mechanics program to a Golf Course Maintenance / Horticulture program as he worked to ensure that his students were prepared for successful careers. Mr. Weathers always worked to ensure his program kept up-to-date with current technologies and trends. An example of that occurred in his final years of teaching when he obtained a grant to build a high tech “green” greenhouse. The greenhouse was designed to save electricity and also utilize rain barrels to assist with irrigation. In honor of Mr. Weathers, the school officially named the greenhouse the John O. Weathers facility.

Mr. Weathers has won numerous awards throughout his years of teaching. Some of the most notable awards received, include: South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association Advisor of the Year, Sumter County Career Center Teacher of the Year and Sumter Chamber of Commerce Red Carpet Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award.

Mr. Weathers believes that teaching is not only about teaching technical skills and abilities but also about teaching responsibility. He summed up his philosophy of teaching in the following statement: “I put responsibility of appropriate behavior on the shoulders of my students. When my students weigh their options, most make the right decisions. If not, they will take ownership of their behavior.”

Mr. Weathers and his wife Kathy have four children, Wes, Danielle, Amanda and Kimberly, as well as ten grandchildren.
Over 200 SCYFAA members, advisors, sponsors, and their families swarmed to Saluda and Newberry counties this year for the Annual SCYFAA Summer Tour. The Saluda County Young Farmers hosted the tour on Friday afternoon. The Newberry County Young Farmers hosted the Saturday morning tour. Saluda advisor Amanda Nichols Crouch and Newberry advisor Ashley Priester led the efforts for this huge undertaking. Many commented that this was one of their favorite tours that they had been on in the last few years due to the diverse nature of the tour stops.

The Saluda County tour included stops at Hickory Hill Milk, Watsonia, Yon Family Farms, and the historic Marsh Johnson House. The day ended with a delicious hickory-smoked BBQ supper with all of the trimmings along with homemade desserts made by the Saluda County members.

The Newberry County portion of the tour visited Enoree River Winery, Overbridge Farms, LLC, Satterwhite Farm, LLC, and the historic Newberry Opera House. The tour concluded at the school cafeteria where the Newberry members had been busy preparing grilled burgers and hot dogs before everyone departed for home.
Keown Named Associate State Director

Contributed by Billy Keels

Tim Keown of Iva, SC has been named the Associate State Director for Agricultural Education. He will serve as the Regional Coordinator for the Piedmont and Mid-State Regions of South Carolina. In addition, he will serve as the adult education coordinator and Executive Director of the South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association.

A graduate of Clemson University with a BS and MS in Agricultural Education, Keown taught Agriculture in Marion County at Creek Bridge High School and most recently has served as the Agriculture Teacher at Crescent High School in Anderson County for the past 8 years. Keown is also close to completing his doctorate in Educational Leadership at Clemson University.

During his teaching years, Keown has received numerous awards. Some of his most noted recognitions were: Crescent High School Teacher of the Year, SCAAE Young Agricultural Teacher of the Year and Anderson County SC Conservation Teacher of the Year. In addition, Keown was recognized by the SC Legislature through a concurrent resolution for his accomplishments as a teacher.

Keown also has had much success with both the FFA and with the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association. He has won numerous State Contests with the FFA and was advisor to several FFA State Officers elected from the Crescent Chapter. His Young Farmer Chapter is the largest in South Carolina and consistently wins awards year after year and the current National Young Farmer President is a member of the Crescent Chapter. Keown was named SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association Advisor of the Year on four occasions. Keown will be housed at the Anderson County Extension office in Anderson, SC.

Aiken County FFA and Walther’s Potato Farm Team Up To Fight Hunger

FFA members from Wagener-Salley, Ridge Spring, Midland Valley and Aiken County Career Center visited Walther’s Potato Farm near Windsor. While on the Farm, FFA members and advisors picked a truckload of sweet corn planted and donated by Walther’s Farm. The truckload of corn was delivered by Mr. Allen Williams of the Wagener-Salley FFA and donated on behalf of all the FFA Chapters to the Golden Harvest Food Bank in Aiken.

After the corn was picked, Mr. Jeremy Walther explained the growing and harvesting of the potatoes. While there, members saw potatoes cleaned, sorted and loaded onto large trucks for delivery to processing plants.

A special thanks goes to Jeremy Walther for the tour and for donating the corn to the FFA Chapters.

Pictured above, left to right: Michael Crim, Jacob Laughin, T.C. Rushton, Joseph Miller, Henderson Rowe, Chris McCormick, Amanda Poole, Haley Williamson, Haley Turner, Thomas McCord, Andrew McDaniel, Wyatt Morris and Jeremy Walther of Walther’s Potato Farm, Windsor.

Lakewood High School Works To Beautify Community

Lakewood High School students utilized Earth Day as an opportunity to work to improve their community and to improve the environment. During a community Earth Day festival, Chapter members sold birdhouses. The proceeds from the sale of the birdhouses were used to purchase trees. The trees were then planted around the community.
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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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