



Ruth Brock  
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News Release

## **First Piggy Bank Pageant a Success**

In an effort to encourage youth to save money, Ruth Brock, Regional Extension Agent in Consumer Science and Personal Financial Management, collaborated with Ashville Elementary School and local banks to host a Piggy Bank Pageant in celebration of America Saves Week, February 22<sup>nd</sup>—March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Fifty-one 4<sup>th</sup> graders created piggy banks for judges from local banks to review. The rules allowed for much creativity. First, second, and third place prizes were provided by a grant from the Consumer Federation of America. The prizes were awarded in collaboration with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System for opening new savings accounts or adding to existing ones. Colonial Bank of Ashville also provided a \$50 savings bond for honorable mention; Metro Bank and Union State also provided prizes. Each entrant received a certificate. Winners were:

Dillon Griffin- 1st place, \$100

Katlin Payne- 2nd place \$75

Jerry Smith- 3rd place \$50

Gina Brown- Honorable mention \$50 Savings bond from Colonial Bank of Ashville

Many positive comments like, “This has been fun! I’m going to start saving money and open a savings account at a bank,” and “My mom said she will match what I can save for the next year,” proved the success of the program. Plans are already underway for next year’s Piggy Bank Pageant.



*Pictured (l to r): Jerry Smith, 3rd Place; Gina Brown, Honorable Mention; Katlin Payne, 2nd Place; and Dillon Griffin, 1st Place*