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Alabama A & M and Auburn Universities

Fall 2004

# Pathways

T O T H E F U T U R E

## Alabama Power Makes Significant Contribution to Alabama 4-H

The Alabama Power Company and the Alabama Power Foundation have made a significant contribution to Alabama 4-H that continues a strong relationship established more than 60 years ago.

The gift totals \$450,000 over 5 years and will ensure that 4-H'ers across the state are taught the fundamental concepts of citizenship, leadership and character development throughout its many 4-H programs.

"Alabama Power has been a strong and dedicated friend of Alabama 4-H and we appreciate their gift," said Gaines Smith, interim director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. "Alabama Power understands the commitment Extension employees and volunteers make to the youngsters of Alabama because they have a kindred commitment to the people of Alabama."

Lamar Nichols, Extension assistant director for Alabama 4-H and Youth Development, said, "Alabama Power's long-standing commitment to 4-H speaks for itself and we are proud Alabama Power sponsors our electrical demonstration event as well as provides funds for all Alabama 4-H'ers to be the best they can be."

Willard Bowers, vice president of Environmental Affairs for Alabama Power, said, "Our company and the Alabama Power Foundation are proud to support this initiative, which takes into consideration civic duty, safety and environmental responsibility. We recognize the importance of 4-H in the lives of many Americans and are looking forward to great things from this center and the organization."



### Alabama Power Supports 4-H

Alabama Power Vice President Willard Bowers, second from the left, shakes hands with Jack Odle, chair of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation Board of Directors, during a recent visit to announce a substantial gift to 4-H. Also on hand were Luke Brymer, left, a 4-H'er from Jefferson County who serves on the State 4-H Council, and Bill Johnson, right, president with the Alabama Power Foundation.

All monies donated to 4-H support youth programs and activities, and are not spent on administrative expenses or salaries. 4-H is a division of Extension based at Auburn and Alabama A&M universities. Extension agents and more than 15,000 volunteers statewide provide programs to youth in Alabama.

Alabama Power provides the valuable combination of competitive prices, reliable electricity supply and unparalleled service to 1.3 million homes, businesses and industries in the southern two-thirds of Alabama. It is one of five U.S. utilities operated by Southern Company, one of the nation's largest producers of electricity.

The Alabama Power Foundation provides support and funding for thousands of worthy projects throughout the state. Our mission is to improve the quality of life of Alabamians and to strengthen the communities in which they live.

Created to provide a meaningful way to invest in the future of Alabama and its citizens, the Alabama Power Foundation is one of the largest corporate foundations in the nation.

## Alabama's 4-H Forestry Judging Team Wins National Forestry Invitational Again

Alabama's 2004 4-H Forestry Judging Team has kept the state's winning tradition intact by taking first place at the 25<sup>th</sup> annual National 4-H Forestry Invitational. This win marks the 14<sup>th</sup> national championship for Alabama 4-H forestry teams, which is why forestry judging has become one of the most successful team-oriented events in the history of Alabama 4-H.

This year's invitational was held at Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp and Conference Center near Weston, W. Va. Alabama was one of 17 states competing.

Alabama's team, representing Clay County, includes Greg and Ben Gasser of Lineville and Tyler and Kacie Smith of Cragford.

The event, sponsored by the International Paper Company Foundation and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, has attracted more than 1,000 4-H'ers from at least 24 states since 1979. 4-H teams compete for overall team and individual awards in several categories. Events include a forestry written exam, tree identification, compass orienteering, topographic map reading, forest insect and disease identification, tree measurement, forest evaluation and the Forestry Bowl.

Alabama's team had the top team score of 1,702.5 points. The second place team was from Illinois and received 1,617.5 points. The Tennessee team placed third.

Three Alabama team members received high individual scores. Ben Gasser received the top high individual award, with second place high individual going to his brother, Greg Gasser. Tyler Smith placed sixth in high individual. The Alabama team also won the Forestry Knowledge Bowl, a rapid question and answer challenge that tests skills in forestry and natural resources.

"Our team has practiced for years, rain or shine, for a chance at the national title and over the last few weeks, we couldn't have asked them to do more in preparation,"



### National Champs!

Members of the national championship 4-H Forestry Judging team include, kneeling, from left, Ben Gasser, Greg Gasser, Kacie Smith and Tyler Smith. Standing, from left, are proud dads, Earl Smith and Jim Gasser; Clay County Extension Agent Marsha Moorehead; and proud moms, Linda Smith and Marie Gasser.

said Marsha Moorehead, Alabama Cooperative Extension System coordinator for Clay County.

"When the contest day arrived, it rained and the team got wet, but they still did well. I am proud of them for their accomplishments. I'd also like to thank the coaches -- Jim and Marie Gasser, Earl Smith and Norphlett McCollum -- for their work and commitment. It would not have been possible without them."

The national contest stresses the importance of conserving forestland and developing an appreciation for the significant role that forests play in providing products, benefits and services for quality living. The contest also focuses

on real-life challenges facing resource professionals attempting to care for the nation's forests.

"I was a little nervous going in but I knew we had worked hard to prepare," said team member Kacie Smith. "Everything turned out great and it was a trip I will never forget. I knew it would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

The Alabama Forest Owners Association and the Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences sponsored Alabama's state event.

## Have a Story Idea?

Do you have a story idea for Pathways? Do you know a 4-H'er who has achieved an honor and want others across Alabama to know about it? The Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc. is the nonprofit fund-raising arm of

Alabama 4-H. The Foundation seeks to recognize youth for their achievements. Send your story ideas to Janet McCoy, Extension development and communications coordinator, at [mccoyjl@aces.edu](mailto:mccoyjl@aces.edu), or call (334) 844-2298.

## Alabama Propane Gas Association Supports 4-H

The Alabama Propane Gas Association has donated \$25,000 to support the mission and goals of Alabama 4-H.

The association has also given more than \$4,500 of in-kind support of propane to be used at the 4-H Youth Development Center in Columbiana.

"We are pleased that the members of the Alabama Propane Gas Association recognize the importance of supporting Alabama's young people," said Jack Odle, chairman of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc., the fundraising arm of Alabama 4-H.

"Their gift will ensure that Alabama children learn important values to be tomorrow's leaders."

"We are so pleased to be able to assist the Alabama 4-H in achieving its mission," said Lisa Fountain, executive director of the Alabama Propane Gas Association. "The propane gas industry realizes that tomorrow's homeowners are Alabama's young people today.



**Alabama Propane Gas Association Gives to 4-H**  
Alabama 4-H recently received a donation from the Alabama Propane Gas Association. Pictured are, from left, Alabama Cooperative Extension System Associate Director Sam Fowler; Phillip Drummond, immediate past president of the Alabama Propane Gas Association; and Lamar Nichols, state program leader for Alabama 4-H and Youth Development.

"Our hope is to educate them on the many benefits of propane gas as an exceptional energy source and what better way to do this than through Alabama 4-H."

Lamar Nichols, Alabama Cooperative Extension System assistant director for Alabama 4-H and Youth Development, says gifts to Alabama 4-H are important. "We rely on the financial support from many generous organizations, businesses and individuals in our state, and we are grateful for Alabama Propane Gas Association's gift."

Alabama Propane Gas Association serves dealers, suppliers, consumers and builders by promoting the growth of the propane gas industry and the many benefits of propane as a superior energy source.

## Alabamian Named National 4-H Shooting Sports Teen Ambassador

Jefferson County 4-H'er Joshua Young has been named a National 4-H Shooting Sports Teen Ambassador.

As an ambassador, Young, a 10<sup>th</sup> grader at Homeland Christian School in Warrior, will have the opportunity to demonstrate his skills in leadership, citizenship and community service through ambassador activities that promote and encourage 4-H Shooting Sports. Ambassador activities include speaking on the local, state, regional and national levels to media, civic and community service groups, 4-H clubs and 4-H donors, supporters and volunteers.

Young, 16, was introduced to 4-H at age 10 through a school club. His first project was in woodworking. Later, his school administrator told him about a 4-H shooting sports club sponsored by the Magic City Gun Club. After completing a 12-week firearm safety course, he joined that club. He has been shooting with the team for 5 years and has competed in numerous local, state and national shooting competitions.

In addition to shooting sports, Young has competed in 4-H bicycle safety, wood science demonstration,



Joshua Young

informative and persuasive public speaking, photography exhibit, junior baked foods, plant and soil science exhibit and honey bee essay. He has also served as president of his local 4-H club for 2 years and as reporter for 1 year.

Young was highly recommended for the ambassador position.

"Josh is an excellent student and a very conscientious person. I think he will make an excellent 4-H Shooting Sports Teen Ambassador. I do not think you could find a finer young man to represent Alabama 4-H," said Donald Trawick,

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Publisher: Beth Atkins Lawrence, Assistant to the Director, Development

Editor: Janet L. McCoy, Extension Development and Communications Coordinator

Contributing Writers: Jim Langcuster, Extension Specialist, Communications; Maggie Lawrence, Extension Specialist, Communications; Donna Reynolds, Editor, Communications

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## Alabamian Named National 4-H Shooting Sports (continued)

his 4-H shooting sports coach and a Birmingham attorney.

“Joshua is very deserving of this opportunity to represent Alabama in the Shooting Sports Teen Ambassador program,” said Joann Wissinger, 4-H regional Alabama Cooperative Extension System agent in Jefferson County. “He works well with people and does his very best in everything he attempts to accomplish.”

“Joshua has many talents, the foremost being leadership,” said Debbie McKeever, administrator of Homeland Christian School in Warrior. “He is an intelligent, disciplined, organized young man who always presents himself in a respectful manner. Joshua places a high standard on himself and has been successful in meeting his goals.”

Young says perhaps his greatest accomplishment in 4-H has been public speaking.

“When I joined 4-H, I was very bashful and did not intend to do anything that required me to speak.”

He was afraid to speak in public. However, after his Mom suggested he

do a speech on three-position shooting, Young tried it and decided public speaking was not so bad. Although he admits his first speech was boring, it got him on stage and that was the first step to building confidence in himself and his abilities to speak.

“Whether I win or lose, 4-H has been a wonderful experience,” Young said. “I have continued to improve my skills, thanks to 4-H. Through continued discipline, practice and determination, I have made my essays better, my speaking clearer and my shooting scores higher. My 4-H experience will surely continue to enrich my life as I attempt to present a good image to future employers and others in authority.”

“4-H has been one of God’s tools in my life that has developed my communication skills, confidence and character, thus making me a better man,” Young added.

Young’s first official duty as a shooting sports ambassador was to represent 4-H at the Buckmaster’s Expo this summer at the Montgomery Civic Center.



Jack Odle

## From the Foundation Chairman

On behalf of the members of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation Board of Directors, I want to congratulate all the Alabama youngsters who won awards and honors at the 2004 State Congress this summer. You all did an excellent job, and we are proud of your accomplishments!

To those youth who participated in local, county and district events, we are equally proud of you because you also strived and accomplished goals. That is what 4-H is about – not winning, but setting goals and working to achieve them.

As a former 4-H’er, I know the steps you have taken to write and give a speech or to compete in an electrical demonstration contest. These steps are similar to the path you will take in your life, and 4-H is proud to help you along the way.

For the nearly 15,000 adults who volunteer to help youth in clubs, events, programs and other activities, we are grateful to you. Alabama’s youth and our programs are successful because you are involved. You deserve a pat on the back!

I’d like to take this opportunity to make sure all the faces of 4-H – our youngsters, volunteers, our contributors and Extension employees – know the deep level of commitment each member of the Foundation Board of Directors has to the youth of our state and to Alabama 4-H. We are all former 4-H’ers and we know the positive impact 4-H had on us. Because we participated in 4-H, we know how it can change a youngster’s life, and we pledge to you our best to ensure that our youth receive the same.

Again, congratulations to all of you. Your hard work and determination will be rewarded.

Jack Odle

Chairman

## Winners Announced at State 4-H Congress and Leadership Conference in Huntsville

State 4-H winners in more than 30 categories were recognized and presented ribbons, scholarships, plaques, trips and other awards recently at a special ceremony at the State 4-H Congress and Leadership Conference held in Huntsville.

More than 260 4-H’ers, volunteers and Alabama Cooperative Extension System agents attended the 3-day event held at Alabama A&M University, the Alabama Space and Rocket Center and the Huntsville Hilton Inn.

State academic scholarships in the amount of \$600 each were presented to nine deserving 4-H’ers: Kate Green, Tuscaloosa County, received the 4-H Achievement Award; Kendra Wood, Cullman County, the 4-H Animal Science Academic Award; Sabrina Balch, Lawrence County, the Breads Leadership Award; Rebecca Turner, Covington County, the Citizenship/Leadership Academic Award; Lea Hadley, Randolph County, the Dairy Foods Leadership Award; Ruth Garrett, Shelby County, the Farris Prickett-Breads Award; Traci Beams, Tuscaloosa County, the Fisheries and Wildlife Academic Award; Heather Parker, Calhoun County, the Foods and Nutrition Leadership Award; and Tyler Smith, Clay County, the Forestry Academic Award.

State winners were announced in 16 competitive events. Event winners and their sponsors are:

**Automotive Driving** – Micah Witt, Colbert County, first place; Nick Pettit, Cullman County, second place; and Jonathan Griffith, Fayette County, third place.

**Breads Exhibit** – Kimberly McGraw, Mobile County, first place; Jelesa Johnson, Lee County, second place; and Noelle East, Randolph County, third place. Multifoods sponsored this event.

**Bicycle Safety** – Vincent Brown, Lee County, first place; Johnathan Santana, Cleburne County, second place; and Anthony Westbrook, Lamar County, third place.

**Chicken-que** – Ruth Garrett, Shelby County, first place; Anna-Marie Adcock, Randolph County, second place; and Corey Rudolph, Lowndes County, third

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## Winners Announced at State 4-H Congress continued

place. The Alabama Poultry and Egg Association sponsored this event.

**Avian Bowl Team** – This team of 4-H'ers will represent Alabama in national competition this fall in Kentucky. Team members selected include Corey Rudolph, Lowndes County, Robert Slaton, Morgan County, Nick Murphy, Lamar County and Rob Coe, Randolph County. The Alabama Poultry and Egg Association sponsored this event.

**Egg Demonstration** – Kaitlin Crenshaw, St. Clair County, first place; Rachel Voss, Etowah County, second place; and Chanda Easterwood, Limestone County, third place. The Alabama Poultry and Egg Association sponsored this event.

**Dairy Foods Demonstration** – Casey East, Pike County, first place; Carol Harden, Escambia County, second place; and Amanda Floyd, Tallapoosa County, third place.

**Applications of Electrical Energy Demonstration** – Michael Robertson, Marshall County, first place; Jessica Pearlstein, Pike County, second place; and Ben Gasser, Clay County, third place. The Alabama Power Foundation sponsored this event.

**Lawn Tractor Operation** – Nick Gilpin, Fayette County, first place; Ben Johnson, Randolph County, second place; and Cody Tapley, Jackson County, third place.

**Photography Exhibit** – Jarrett Moore, Lee County, first place; Bailee Dykes, Pike County, second place; and Andrea Brown, Autauga County, third place.

**Plant and Soil Science Exhibit** – Scotty Rainwater, Marshall County, first place; Andrew Reed, Franklin County, second place; and Daniel Sellers, Jefferson County, third place. The Alabama Crop Management Association sponsored this event.

**Informative Public Speaking** – Luke Brymer, Jefferson County, first place; Kenneth Pinkston, Lowndes County, second place; and Casey Phillips, Chilton County, third place. Laird, Baker and Blackstock, LLC, Attorneys at Law in Opp, Ala., sponsored this event.

**Persuasive Public Speaking** – Katie Guess, Jackson County, first place; Antheus Ezell, Washington County, second place; and Brittany Bivins,

Chilton County, third place. Laird, Baker and Blackstock, LLC, Attorneys at Law in Opp, Ala., sponsored this event.

**Tractor Operation** – Chase Dunham, Tallapoosa County, first place; Junior Strain, Randolph County, second place; and Daniel Hindman, Fayette County, third place.

**Wood Science Demonstration** – Clay McDaniel, Etowah County, first place; Amanda Gibson, Pike County, second place; and Charles Cummings, Marion County, third place.

**Wood Science Exhibit** – Erica Lewis, Coffee County, first place; Gregg Gasser, Clay County, second place; and Jesse Pettit, Cullman County, third place.

The Animal Science and Consumer Judging events were held July 15 and 16 in Auburn. State winners included:

**4-H Agri-Knowledge Contest** – Walker County team, first place; Hale County team, second place; and Fayette County team, third place. Winners in the High Individual Overall were: Blake Romano, Walker County, first place; Morgan Eads, Walker County, second place; Jed Burroughs, Hale County, third place; Bethany Bigham, Tuscaloosa County, fourth place; and Mary Potts, Fayette County, fifth place.

**Livestock Judging Contest** – Hale County team, first place overall; Pickens County team, second place overall; and Fayette County team, third place overall. The High Individual Overall winners were: Andrew Burroughs, Hale County, first place; Jed Burroughs, Hale County, second place; Drew Smithart,

Hale County, third place; Ramie Grace, Pickens County, fourth place; and Bethany Bigham, Hale County, fifth place.

**Meats Judging Contest** – Tuscaloosa County team, first place overall; Hale County team, second place overall; and Coffee County team, third place overall. The High Individual Overall winners were: Jed Burroughs, Hale County, first place; Rebecca Morrison, Tuscaloosa County, second place; Andrew Burroughs, Hale County, third place; Andrew Faulkner, Tuscaloosa County, fourth place and Peter Kimbrell, Tuscaloosa County, fifth place.

**Consumer Judging Contest Junior Division** – Shelby County team, first place; Elmore County team, second place; and Mobile County, third place. Junior Division High Individual Overall winners included Trevor Motes, Shelby County, first place; Taylor Nelson, Mobile County, second place; and Thomas Nelson, Mobile County, third place.

**Consumer Judging Contest Senior Division** – Shelby County team A, first place; Mobile County team, second place; and Shelby County team B, third place. Kim McGraw from Mobile County was the senior division High Individual Overall winner.

The 4-H program is available in all 67 counties in the state and is conducted by regional and county Extension agents. More than 180,000 youngsters, ages 9 to 19 are involved in 4-H programs in Alabama.



**4-H Honors Alabama Cattleman's Association for Support**

Lamar Nichols (right), assistant director for Alabama 4-H and Youth Development, thanks Reid Blossom (center), youth director of the Alabama Cattleman's Association, for the longtime and continuing support the ACA has provided to Alabama 4-H Youth Livestock Program. Bob Ebert (left), Extension animal scientist and coordinator of 4-H youth livestock programs, looks on.

# Lee County 4-H'ers Win State Wildlife Judging Championship

For the first time since 1999, Lee County 4-H'ers won the state Wildlife Judging championship, held June 28 and 29 in Auburn.

Team members include Joey Goff, Matt Goff, Capers Whatley and Luke Wood.

For coach and team members alike, it was about time. "4-H wildlife judging is not something you step into," said Chuck Browne, Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Lee County coordinator and team coach. "They've suffered second and third place in past years, but now it's their turn."

All of the team members are seasoned veterans of wildlife judging, Browne said. "The Goff brothers, Matt and Joey, have been in it since they were old enough to be in it," he said. "Capers Whatley has been doing it long before he was old enough to compete, practicing with his brother Byron, who was part of the 1999 championship team." Team member Luke Wood is completing his third year.

Forestry and wildlife judging competition are among the most grueling of 4-H competitive events, often requiring years of study.

"We've been practicing since January, working at one of our teammate's houses, going over flash cards and just reading through different parts of the book highlighting things," said Matt Goff.

Browne also made sure the team members honed their judging skills through fieldwork. "Since January, the boys have been studying on their own and really had to do a lot of memorization about the foods different wildlife consume and the kinds of habitats they prefer," he said. "Once they learned that, we did field work exercises in the spring, going out and looking at different properties to determine how the land was suited to different species of wildlife."

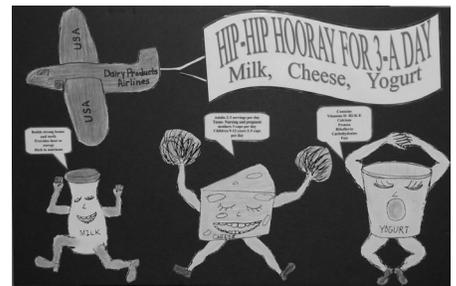
The payoff often comes in statewide and even national recognition, in better study skills and, ultimately, in better grades. "It obviously teaches study skills — everything from learning lists to being able to think critically," said Jim Armstrong, an Extension wildlife scientist and a coordinator of wildlife judging competition. "And it not only involves rote memorization, you also have to learn about best management practices associated with managing wildlife habitats in both rural and urban settings."

Contestants must be familiar with feeding habits and habitats of a wide variety of animals in their region. When they compete in other areas of the state — or when they compete for the national title out of state — they also are expected to be familiar with animal feeding patterns and habitats in these places.

As an added challenge, they have to identify a series of aerial photographs

of potential wildlife habitats, ranking them from best to worst according to how well they are suited for a particular species. Contestants must learn what they should do on a farm to improve its suitability as a wildlife habitat for various species, and are also required to write an urban wildlife management plan, which involves how to improve the wildlife habitat potential for a backyard landscape.

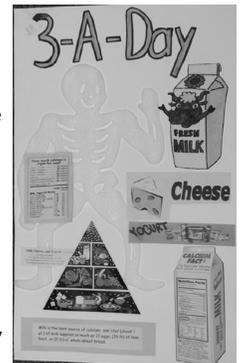
"In this contest, you have to take book knowledge and be able to go out into the field and apply it practically," Browne said. "It's a great skill for any young person to acquire — one that prepares them for college and even the working world."



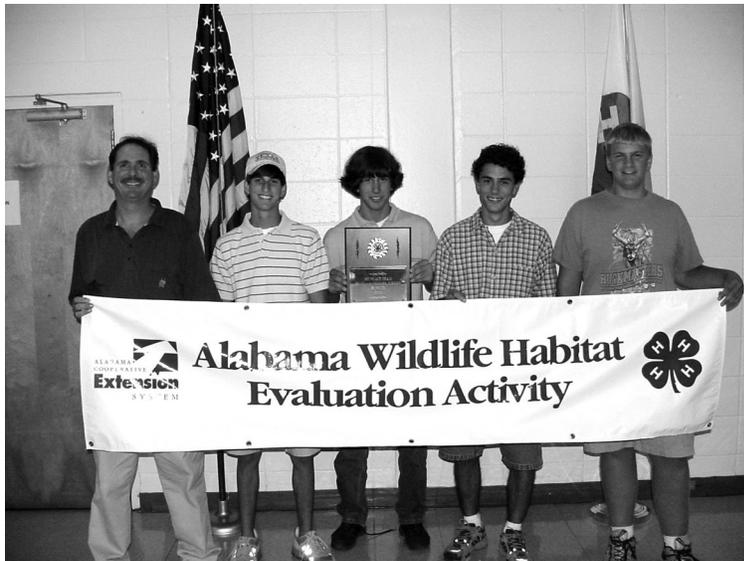
### 2004 State 4-H Dairy Poster Winners

Paul Houston of Jefferson County created the winning poster in the senior division of the state 4-H Dairy Poster Contest. Cortney Elkins of Lawrence County was the first place winner in the junior division. Both received a rosette and a cash prize from contest sponsor, the American Dairy Association of Alabama.

Boyd Brady, dairy associate with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, coordinated the contest. "We had a number of really good entries focused on the '3-A-Day: Milk, Cheese, Yogurt' theme," said Brady. "Interest and participation continues to grow each year. In the 39 participating counties, we had more than 5,000 entries."



In the senior division, Marnita Stallworth of Clarke County was second and Robert Slaten of Morgan County was third. In the junior division, Michael Johnston of Jefferson County was second and Shelby Foote of Calhoun County was third.



### Lee County 4-H'ers Win State Wildlife Judging

Four Lee County 4-H'ers won the Alabama 4-H Wildlife Judging championship this summer. Team members included, from left, Chuck Browne, Lee County Extension coordinator and coach, Luke Wood, Joey Goff, Matt Goff and Capers Whatley.

## New 4-H State Council Installed and Ready to Lead

The 2004-2005 4-H State Council was installed at the State 4-H Congress and Leadership Conference in Huntsville. Eleven 4-H'ers will represent all Alabama 4-H'ers in planning 4-H state events and bringing current youth issues to the attention of 4-H leaders.

"State 4-H Council members serve as the voice of the youth of their region and are ambassadors of Alabama 4-H," said Molly Gregg, Alabama Cooperative Extension System 4-H specialist and adult leader of the council.

Each state council representative was elected by 4-H'ers in their respective districts during district roundups held in June.

New 4-H State Council representatives are Heather Partin and Derek Thacker, both from Morgan County; Erika Lewis, Coffee County; Kari Freeman, Pike County; Jo-Ann Ceasar, Tallapoosa County; Carrie Todd, Mobile County; Jackie Wilson, Mobile County; Beth Ingram and Brittany Bivins, both from Chilton County; Luke Brymer, Jefferson County; and Deborah Garrett, Shelby County.

Lamar Nichols, Extension assistant director for 4-H and Youth Development, said his vision for the new Alabama 4-H Council is for council members to be more involved in statewide 4-H marketing and public relations efforts.

"We want the council to be educational ambassadors for the 4-H program, informing Alabamians about the value of 4-H and our youth development efforts.



**New 4-H State Council**

Members of the 2004-2005 4-H State Council include, front row from left, Jo-Ann Ceasar, Heather Partin, Derek Thacker and Beth Ingram. Back row from left are Erika Lewis, Jackie Wilson, Kari Freeman, Luke Brymer, Deborah Garrett and Brittany Bivins.



**Alabama 4-H'ers in D.C.**

Twenty-four Alabama 4-H'ers attended Citizenship Washington Focus, a 4-H leadership program for high school youth. For 7 weeks of the summer, delegations of 14- to 19-year-olds from across the country attend this 6-day program at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center, located just outside Washington, D.C. The program is aimed at enriching young people's lives by broadening their appreciation and respect for themselves and others in the world. Participants attend workshops, committees, field trips and social events, giving them hands-on opportunities to learn and grow. Participants learn and practice skills that will make them better citizens and more successful individuals. Alabama's delegation is pictured in front of the National Cathedral in the nation's capital.



**Thank you for your support of the Alabama 4-H Annual Fund!**

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Lawrence, Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.  
117 Duncan Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-5613 Phone: (334) 844-2247 Fax: (334) 844-5544



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*Beth A. Lawrence*

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