

September 2014

# COOSA

COUNTY FARMERS FEDERATION



## Coosa County Farmers Federation

The Coosa County Farmers Federation is a membership organization built by farmers as an advocate for agriculture, family values and good government to improve life for all residents. Members enjoy hundreds of benefits including access to great insurance rates and personal service from hometown Alfa agents.

The Federation supports Coosa County's \$40.3 million agriculture and forestry industries through youth programs, farmer workshops, education and promotion. Agriculture, forestry and related industries generate 449 full- and part-time jobs in Coosa County, representing 21 percent of the county's total workforce.

### County Officers and Directors

Raymond Shaw President	R.D. Morris, Director Young Farmers Chairman
Phillip G. Neighbors 1st Vice President	Ronnie Brown, Director Ricky D. Cardwell, Director
Thomas L. Reichert Treasurer	Blake Kelley, Director
Pinky Reichert Secretary Women's Leadership Chair	Allan Lamberth, Director Roger D. Morris, Sr., Director Ann G. Rogers, Director

## Coosa County Facts

**Total Land Area: 417,562 acres**

**Farmland: 45,333 acres**

**Timberland: 383,402 acres**

**Number of Farms: 207**

***On the cover:** Coosa County is blessed with an abundance of wildlife and natural resources.*

*Photo courtesy of National Wild Turkey Federation*

## Women's Leadership Committee

The Coosa County Women's Leadership Committee consists of Alabama Farmers Federation ladies interested in promoting agriculture in Coosa County. The team partners with schools, home school groups and the community to educate others on how agriculture impacts their daily activities.

The Women's Leadership Committee is involved in numerous activities within area schools, including farm coloring books that are delivered to each second grade class and sponsorship of the Farm-City poster and essay contests. For the second year, high school students were encouraged to participate in a Farm-City multimedia contest.

Teachers throughout Coosa County are invited to take advantage of the Ag In The Classroom Summer Institute and the county organization is working to establish partnerships with the local 4-H regional agent and the FFA adviser at Coosa Central High School.

Throughout the year, educational programs on health-related issues, building skills to help interact with the community and discussions on legislation and political education are held for Women's Leadership Committee members. The committee also sponsors a cooking contest, and the winner goes on to represent Coosa County in the state competition. Winning recipes are featured in *Neighbors* magazine.

To educate the community on the Farmers Federation and encourage new memberships, booths at local events such as city festivals, Mule Day and Farm Day provide information about member benefits and recipes that feature Alabama commodities.

The Women's Leadership Committee collected pop tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House and participated in community beautification projects such as the county-wide trash cleanup program.



*Coosa County student Georgia Blanchard won second place and \$200 in the Alabama Farm-City essay contest. From left are Jim Allen of Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Georgia Blanchard, Leah Blanchard and Alabama Farm-City Chairman Jeff Helms.*

The Leadership Committee interacts with the Coosa County Farmers Federation board of directors, which represent the commodities in Coosa County, and participates in related meetings throughout the year.

Each spring, representatives of the county Women's Leadership committee attend the Women's Leadership Conference in Birmingham. Each summer, the committee provides a table centerpiece showcasing Coosa County at the Alabama Farmers Federation's Commodity Producers Conference.



# Women's LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

A Division of Alabama Farmers Federation

Members of the Coosa County Women's Leadership Committee sponsored booths at the annual Mule Day Festival in Weogufka. The event helped promote member benefits, scholarship programs, the Farming Feeds Alabama Cookbook and plants from the Coosa Central High School FFA. From left are Women's Leadership Committee member Nellie Ferguson; Coosa County Farmers Federation Director Allan Lamberth; Women's Leadership Committee members Debra Lamberth, Katie Greene and Chairman Pinky Reichert; ag teacher Alex Davis; and FFA members Cody Varner and Tanner Cleveland.

## Coosa County Young Farmers

The Young Farmers Division of the Alabama Farmers Federation is dedicated to developing the next generation of farmers and agricultural leaders.

The program is designed to advance leadership skills; network with fellow young farmers; expand understanding on the issues facing agriculture and rural Alabamians; educate on opportunities within agriculture and farm programs; provide information on agribusiness; and give young farmers a voice within the Federation.

The program is available to anyone interested in agriculture between the ages of 17 and 35. After a number of years without an active program, Coosa County is proud to have a viable Young Farmers organization back in the county. The primary focus of the program is to grow membership within the county and educate the public on the importance of agriculture and how it impacts them daily.

For more information contact R.D. Morris, Coosa County Young Farmers chairman at (256) 249-9916.

A letter to members of the Coosa County Farmers Federation:

The Coosa County Farmers Federation has gone above and beyond on numerous occasions throughout the past two years.

They have provided us with funds to travel to FFA events and to conduct FFA activities. Most of all, they have provided us with support and wisdom that is essential to having an outstanding FFA program. The generosity that they exhibit towards our FFA program is unmatched by any other organization.

The FFA encourages all the residents of Coosa County to become a member of the Farmers Federation. Even if you do not have a farm, but if your children are enrolled in agriculture education classes, your involvement with the Farmers Federation would be beneficial to your family and community.

These types of organization are invaluable resources when it comes to representation, assistance and resources within our small communities. Thank you Coosa County Farmers Federation for providing those resources to our students in Coosa County.

Sincerely,  
Alex Davis, FFA adviser, Coosa Central High



The Coosa Central High School FFA attended the Feb. 13 regular board meeting of the Coosa County Farmers Federation. The Federation donated \$555 to the FFA. From left, front row, are Coosa County Farmers Federation President Raymond Shaw; and FFA members John Kemp, Hallie Pennington, Gavin Mallory and Brandon Maxwell. Back row are FFA adviser Alex Davis; Coosa County Young Farmers Chairman R.D. Morris; FFA members Jasper Ingram, Tanner Cleveland and Mitchell McDaniel; and Area 4 Organization Director David Farnsworth.

# Coosa County 4-H Calf Exhibitors Show Off Their Best

The annual Coosa County 4-H Calf Show was held March 9 at the Cattlemen's Barn in Hanover with Van Smith judging.

Dylan Brown, Cody Cash, Ebone' Pierson and Travis Rawls, all 4-H members, spent the past year raising beef calves, learning herd management and fine-tuning showmanship skills.

Cody is a third-generation 4-H beef calf exhibitor and has been showing since he was nine. His mother, Monica Allen, and grandfather, Ronnie Brown, also showed as 4-H members. This is Dylan's second year showing and the first for Ebone' and Travis.

We look forward to seeing these youth grow in beef knowledge and leadership to hopefully build beef herds in the future. Those interested in joining the Coosa County 4-H Livestock and Horse Club, please contact Josine Walter at (334) 750-2032 or [jaw0023@auburn.edu](mailto:jaw0023@auburn.edu).



4-H Livestock Members, from left, front row, Drew Eason, Dylan Brown, Ebone' Pierson, Cody Cash, Travis Rawls and Destiny Pierson. Back row, Judge Van Smith.

## Showmanship Class

Dylan Brown (Jr. Div. Winner)  
Cody Cash (Sr. Div. Winner)

## Heifer Exhibitors

Cody Cash (Supreme Champion)  
Travis Rawls (Res. Champion)  
Ebone' Pierson (Third Place)

## Steer Exhibitors

Dylan Brown (Grand Champion)  
Cody Cash (Res. Champion)

## Coosa County Farmers Support TREASURE Forest Program

The Coosa County Farmers Federation has been a long-time supporter of the TREASURE Forest Program in the county. By providing funding for tours and events, the Farmers Federation has helped to reach hundreds of landowners over the years. Fortunately, many Coosa County landowners have warmly embraced good stewardship and, just as importantly, have passed the idea on to their family, friends and neighbors. This mentoring, combined with the encouragement provided by natural resource professionals, has resulted in 116 certified TREASURE Forest properties in the county.

Since this is more than any other county in the state, Coosa County can rightfully claim it is the "TREASURE Forest Capital of Alabama."

However, for each well managed property in the county, there are hundreds that could be improved. If you own 10 forested acres and are interested in managing for multiple objectives, you may be a candidate for the TREASURE Forest program.

Whether you are interested in the program or not, remember everyone benefits from well-managed property. Contact the Alabama Forestry Commission at (256) 377-4638 for advice and more information about the program.

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