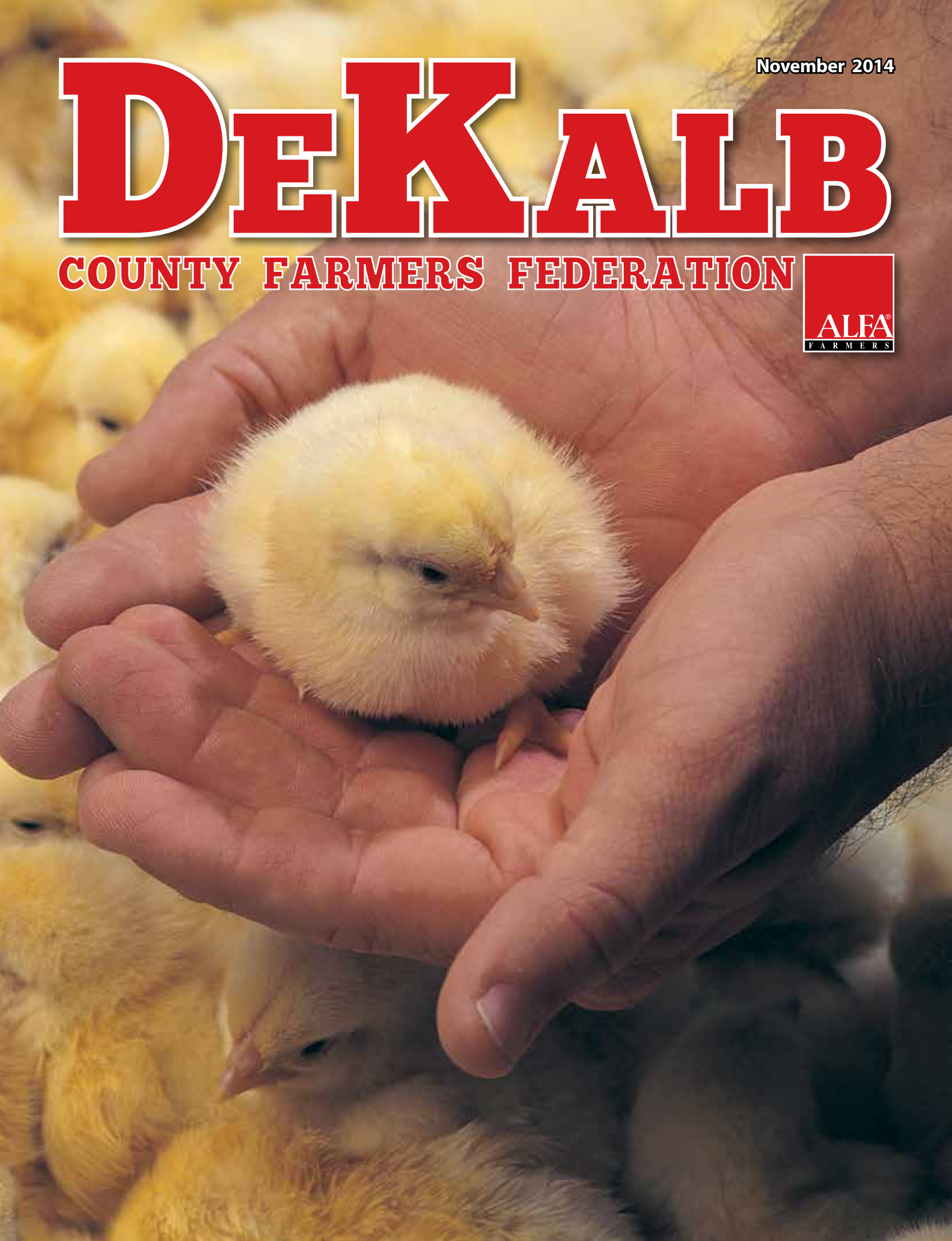


November 2014

DEKALB

COUNTY FARMERS FEDERATION



DeKalb County Farmers Federation

The DeKalb 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.

Being a part of Alabama's largest farm organization, DeKalb County benefits from state and national programs through the Alabama Farmers Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation. Those programs help increase profitability for farmers and provide jobs and healthy, local food for DeKalb County families.

Federation members enjoy added benefits such as competitive insurance rates from great Alfa agents and savings on travel, food, recreation, entertainment and more through the Federation's Everyday Extras program. See AlfaFarmers.org for details.



The DeKalb County Farmers Federation invests in the future of the county by awarding educational scholarships to students seeking careers in agriculture.

This year, Jonathan Roberts and Peyton Gilbert of DeKalb County each received a \$1,750 scholarship to Auburn University, where they are studying poultry science production. Scholarships were funded by the DeKalb County Farmers Federation and the Alabama Farmers Agriculture Foundation.

The DeKalb County Farmers Federation encourages development of future leaders through the Young Farmers pro-



DeKalb County Farmers Federation Board Members seated from left are Milburn Chesser, President Waymon Buttram and Secretary/Treasurer Raymond Hale; standing, David Bailey, Thomas Ridgeway, W.J. Dalton, Milford Warren, Clint McElmoyl, Vice President Randy Tomlin, Roland Williams and Toby McCormick. Not pictured is Spencer Hall.

gram. Young farmers between the ages of 17-35 in the county make up the program. The Young Farmers work to promote farm safety and present programs to educate young people about



the importance of farming. Jeff Whitaker is the county Young Farmers Committee chairman.

The talents and creativity of the Women's Leadership Division promote agricultural issues on the local, state and national level. The committee promotes county commodities

through fun and educational activities. Patty Tumlin is chairman of the county Women's Leadership Committee.

The DeKalb County Farmers Federation actively supports the county's Farm-City program, which strives to strengthen the relationships between rural farmers and urban workers.

The Farm-City program helps educate the public about the importance of agriculture in today's world. Members of DeKalb County's Farm-City Committee include residents with both rural and urban occupations. Joyce McGee is committee chairman.



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Patty Tumlin
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Clint McElmoyl
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Thomas Ridgeway
Milford Warren
Roland Williams

Ag In Action Learning Lab Creates Rolling Farm Experience

Ag in Action is an agricultural learning lab on wheels. It is an enclosed trailer that houses a transformed cotton picker cab, an electronic learning station and more.

The Ag in Action trailer allows children from kindergarten to middle school the opportunity to experience farming without leaving campus. Students at Ider and Sylvania schools had the opportunity to experience farming through the Ag in Action Trailer.

A committee of representatives from agriculture organizations and agencies was formed to develop the trailer. The DeKalb County Farmers Federation was among the groups.

Committee members from DeKalb County and six other north Alabama counties collaborated to sponsor the project. A cotton picker cab donated by a local farmer serves as the cab for the Ag Simulator.

Students have the opportunity to become a farmer and harvest virtual row crops through the magic of audio visuals in the cab. The simulator provides students the experience of riding in the combine cab, wrangling cattle, harvesting timber and working in a poultry house.



School children experience farming activities through the Ag in Action trailer.

In addition to the ag simulator, the Ag in Action experience allows students to learn different aspects of farming while playing at the learning labs. They visit local farms through virtual reality.

The mobile ag classroom is available for use at schools, county fairs

and agricultural events in and around DeKalb County. This project coincides with the local Farm-City programs, which ensure the connection between the farm and everyday urban life is not forgotten while teaching students where food and fiber comes from.



Auburn University students and scholarship recipients Jonathan Roberts and Peyton Gilbert of DeKalb County were honored at the Alabama Farmers Federation (AFF) 2014 Scholarship Recipients Luncheon earlier this year at the Grand National Hotel in Opelika. Both are studying poultry science-production. The scholarships were funded by the DeKalb County Farmers Federation and the AFF's Alabama Farmers Agriculture Foundation. From left are AFF President Jimmy Parnell, Roberts, Gilbert and DeKalb County Farmers Federation President Waymon Buttram.



The DeKalb County Young Farmers Committee and nearby counties sponsored a farm equipment safety day at Northeast Alabama Community College. Through the school's continuing education program, area volunteer firefighters and first-response personnel received training credit for attending. Participants received hands-on training for combines, hay balers and poultry house control panels. The training illustrates the importance of being familiar with farm equipment. The Young Farmers continued the program for fifth- and sixth-grade students at Farm Day at Sylvania School.

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