Tuscaloosa
COUNTY FARMERS FEDERATION
September 2014
The Tuscaloosa 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. The Tuscaloosa County Farmers Federation supports the multi-million dollar agriculture and forestry industries within our county by sponsoring local youth programs, promoting agriculture through our Young Farmers and Women’s programs and investing your annual dues into worthwhile, charitable causes across Tuscaloosa County.

**Young Farmers**

The Tuscaloosa County Young Farmers Program is designed to engage and challenge young farmers in the county to get involved and serve their communities through agriculture. Membership is open to Federation members from 18-35 years old. Anyone interested in agriculture or who works in the agriculture industry is welcome to attend county meetings.

The Young Farmers Program participates in many statewide programs each year including chaperoning the Youth Leadership Conference, State Young Farmers Conference, state annual meeting, A.L.F.A. Leaders Program and many other local events.

We invite you to join our program and get involved with this exciting organization. Contact Young Farmers Chairman Scott Anders at (205) 764-8300 or Tuscaloosa County President Joe Anders at (205) 339-9853 for information about the Young Farmers program.

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**County Officers and Directors**

*Joe Anders*  
President

*John E. Walker, III*  
First Vice President

*Grady Bobo*  
Second Vice President

*Lawrence Fair*  
Secretary/Treasurer

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Parliamentarian

*Donna Anders*  
Women’s Leadership Chair

*Scott Anders*  
Young Farmers Chairman

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*Jim Lavender*  

*John Lavender*  

*Clyde Leavelle*  

*Robert Nuckols*  

*Mike Ryan*  

*John E. Walker, IV*  

*Clay Wiggins*  

*Forrest Wiggins*

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**Tuscaloosa County Farmers Federation Scholarship Recipients**

*Ashley Durrett*, Auburn University-$2,000  
*Taylor White*, Auburn University-$2,000

*Robert Hemphill*, Auburn University-$2,000 plus the State Federation Scholarship of $1,750

*Katherine Flowers*, Mississippi State University-$2,000

Scholarships are awarded to students pursuing agricultural degrees.

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*Agriculture and forestry has a $2.1 billion economic impact in Tuscaloosa County, generating 19,824 jobs.*

*Tuscaloosa County President Joe Anders and his wife, Donna, county Women’s Leadership Committee chair.*

*Top commodities produced in Tuscaloosa County are poultry and eggs; forestry; greenhouse, nursery and sod; and cattle.*

*Longtime Tuscaloosa County Farmers Federation Board member Thomas “Ed” Harless.*
The Tuscaloosa County Farmers Federation donates three farm-accurate books as part of its annual Farm-City Week activities. The books are given to the county’s three public libraries and all 38 city, county and private elementary schools. The books hopefully will encourage young people to understand farmers and agriculture.

The Federation sponsors local K-6th grade teachers who participate in the Alabama Ag in the Classroom program. That program informs teachers and provides ideas to incorporate farming into classroom studies.

This three-day workshop includes field trips and hands-on seminars to help educate teachers and students about the nutritional and economic importance of the food and fiber systems in their daily lives.

The Tuscaloosa County Farmers Federation supports youth agriculture and natural resources programs.

The county financially supports the Tuscaloosa County 4-H Rifle Team to help youth better understand the responsibility of operating firearms and learn accurate shooting.

The Federation provides food and prizes for youth showing livestock in the Tuscaloosa County 4-H Steer and Heifer Show annually. It has sponsored the annual Tuscaloosa County 4-H Natural Resource Short Course for more than 25 years, enabling hundreds of young people to learn to become wise stewards of the land and to appreciate natural resources.

The sponsorship of the Tuscaloosa County 4-H Forestry and Wildlife Judging Teams provides encouragement for local teams to be leaders in state and national competitions. The group won 13 national championships and four reserve national championships.

The Federation assists the Brookwood High School FFA by supporting attendees for the State FFA Leadership Conference and the Joint Leadership Conference. Assistance also helps FFA members purchase materials for the school greenhouse and purchase FFA jackets for chapter members.

This year, students built an interactive booth at Brookwood High School’s career fair, where more than 700 students attended.

Several board members have participated on the Agriculture Department Advisory Board and attended various “town hall” meetings to promote the importance of agriculture education in all schools.

“The Farmers Federation is an essential part for our students learning about the industry of agriculture,” said Brookwood High School ag teacher, Brooke Chhabra. “Its impact goes beyond the four walls of our school classroom and is helping to give students opportunities to learn about agriculture in a way that would have otherwise not been possible.”