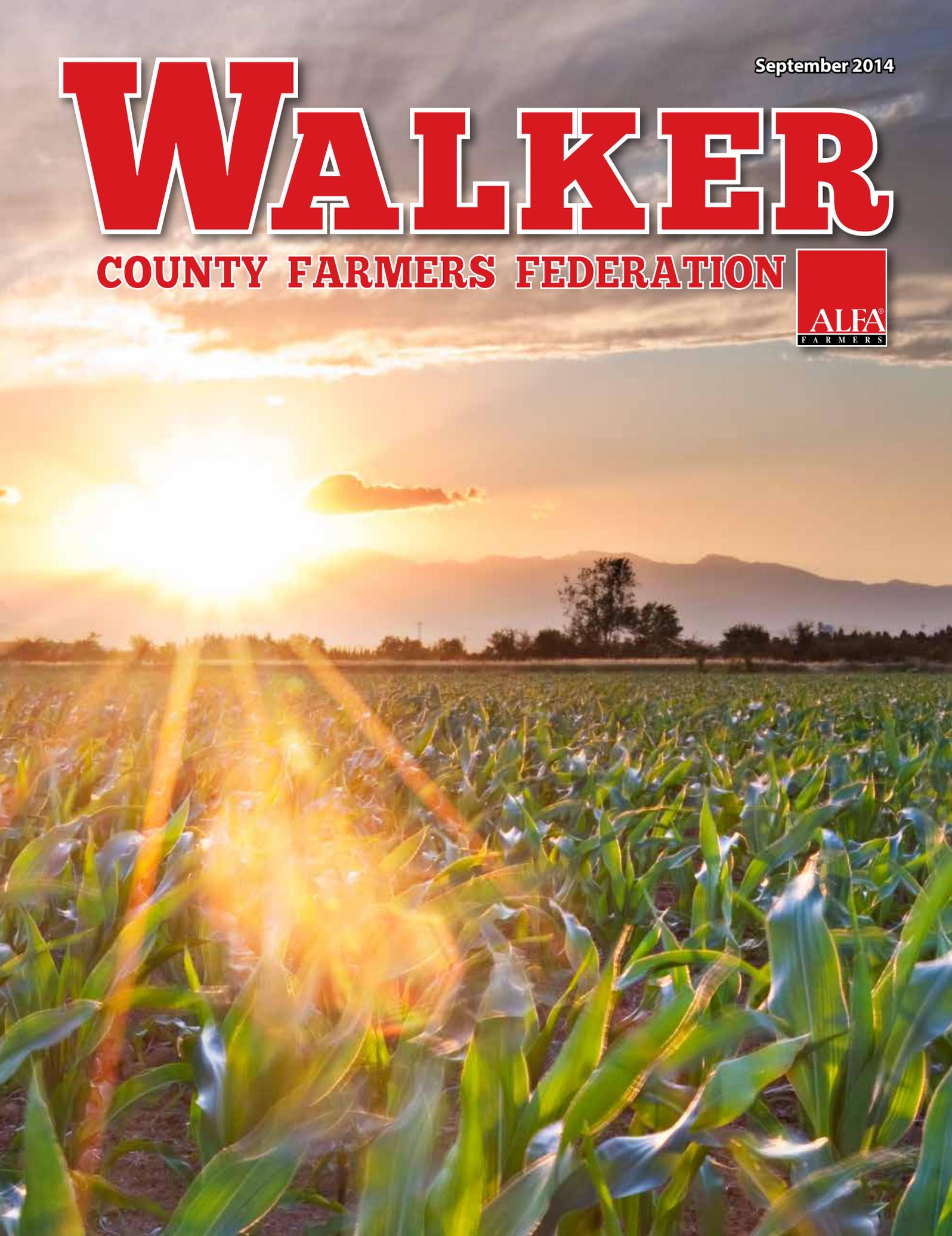


September 2014

# WALKER

COUNTY FARMERS FEDERATION



## Walker County Farmers Federation

The Walker 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 of Walker County and Alabama.

The Walker County Farmers Federation strengthens the

multi-million dollar agriculture and forestry industry within the county by supporting local 4-H and FFA clubs, promoting agriculture through its Young Farmers and Women's Leadership programs, and investing annual dues into worthwhile, charitable causes across Walker County.

## Young Farmers: Building Leaders, Serving The Community

The Walker County Young Farmers Program is designed to engage and challenge young farmers within the county to get involved and serve their communities through agriculture.

Membership is open to anyone from the ages of 18-35 who is a member of the Alabama Farmers Federation. Anyone interested in agriculture or who works within the agriculture industry is welcome to attend meetings.

The Young Farmers participate in statewide programs each year including chaperoning the Youth Leadership Conference, the State Young Farmers Conference, the Annual



At left, Walker County students Landon Minor, Austin Vance and Jessie Tidwell joined more than 90 teenagers from across Alabama for the Alabama Farmers Federation's annual Youth Leadership Conference. The program, held at the Alabama 4-H Center in Columbiana June 30-July 2, fosters agricultural involvement through interactive workshops.

Meeting, A.L.F.A. Leaders program and local events. Young members are invited to get involved with this exciting organization. If you have any questions

regarding the Young Farmers program, contact Walker County Young Farmers Chairman Chris McCullar at (205) 275-7523 or county President Dorman Grace at (205) 221-5455.

## County Officers and Directors

**Dorman Grace**  
President

**Joey King**  
Vice President

**Russ Runyan**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Chris McCullar**  
Young Farmers Chairman

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**Mike Jones**  
**Richard Lovelady**

**Chris McCullar**  
**John Nabors**

**Garry Rowland**  
**Wayland Sherer**  
**Bartley Wyers**

## 2013-14 Walker County Farmers Federation Scholarships

Martin Roberts, University College-Dublin, Ireland

Dylan McNeal, Beville State Community College

Jamie Campbell, Auburn University

Anna Kilgore, Beville State Community College

Cody King, Auburn University

## Walker County Farmers Federation Recognized At American Farm Bureau Meeting

Walker County was recently recognized at the American Farm Bureau (AFBF) annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, as a County of Excellence for the construction and distribution of learning barns.

The learning barns are bookshelves built to resemble barns and are filled with agriculture-related books. The barns were built by local high school agriscience departments and distributed to all elementary schools within Walker County. Walker County was one of only two Alabama counties recognized at the AFBF annual meeting this year and one of only 24 nationwide to receive the honor.

Walker County Farmers Federation President Dorman Grace said it was a wonderful experience to share the county's program with thousands of other Farm Bureau leaders at the AFBF annual meeting trade show.

"We've been overwhelmed with folks from all over the country asking where we got the bookshelves, the books we used and project funding," Grace said.



Walker County Farmers Federation President Dorman Grace discusses the learning barn project with visitors to the county's booth at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in San Antonio.

# County Federation Supports Local FFA Chapters

The Walker County Farmers Federation is focused on growing the agriculture industry within the county through aggressively promoting youth education opportunities through high school agriscience programs and FFA chapters.

The county Farmers Federation provides funding for agriscience programs in the county. It has provided support to all six programs in Walker County including Carbon Hill High, Curry High, Dora High, Oakman High, Parrish High and the Walker County Center for Technology.

The county Federation awards \$2,500 to each high school agriscience program that completes a rigorous checklist developed by the county board of directors. Agriscience teachers complete the items on the checklist to receive the award. Checklist items focus on student involvement in Supervised Agricultural Experience projects, FFA contests and activities, teacher professional development opportunities and involvement within the community.

Money awarded to the schools goes to fund student travel opportunities to district and state contests, as well as the National FFA Convention hosted in Louisville, Kentucky. Checklist funding has also been used to modernize and update equipment in each of the respective school's agriscience shops, greenhouses and welding programs.

In a time of decreased funding on a state and national



*Thanks to a grant from the Walker County Farmers Federation, students in Cordova High School's agriscience program can get hands-on experience in carpentry skills.*

level, these funds help teach students valuable, hands-on experience necessary to succeed in the workforce or in secondary educational opportunities.

The Walker County Farmers Federation is dedicated to the youth of Walker County and actively encourages agriscience students to pursue careers in agriculture.

## Walker County Receives Recognition At State Annual Meeting

Each year, the Alabama Farmers Federation recognizes county Federations in five areas including Organization, Young Farmers, Governmental Programs, Women's Programs and Agriculture Programs at the state annual meeting held in Montgomery. Walker County was recognized in two of those divisions, including Organization and Governmental Programs. The Organization category focuses on county com-

modity committees promoting locally-grown commodities. The Governmental Programs category focuses on involvement in endorsing and promoting candidates aligned with the organization's core values of faith and good government. Walker County is excited and proud to have gained statewide recognition for its success in those areas and looks forward to growing its involvement in the other categories.

## Agriculture And Forestry Impact Economy, Create Jobs in Walker County

A recent survey reveals how big of an impact agriculture has on Alabama and Walker County.

"Farming drives the economies of many Alabama communities," said Alabama Farmers Federation President Jimmy Parnell. "With more than \$70 million in economic impact, our industry creates one in every five jobs. The future is bright, but we must continue to invest in agriculture and give farmers the freedom to compete in the marketplace."

In Walker County, the top three agriculture commodities produced are poultry and eggs; cattle; and greenhouse, nursery and floriculture.

Poultry and eggs produces 73.5 percent of the total agriculture-related revenue in the county. Cattle accounts



*Forestry is one of Walker County's largest industries. Russ Runyan is the county Farmers Federation Forestry Committee chairman.*

for 3.1 percent, and the greenhouse, nursery and floriculture industry rounds out the top three with 2.5 percent of the total agriculture-related revenue.

Another key agricultural industry in the county is forestry. Walker County has a substantial timber industry in both harvesting and planting.

In total, the agriculture industry generates \$731.7 million dollars and sustains 7,185 jobs in Walker County.

Some other things to consider when taking a broad look at Walker County are the total number of acres being farmed and the total of farms, which is 70,448 acres and 629 farms, respectively.

Walker County agriculture is definitely one of the largest industries in the county.

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