

LAMAR

COUNTY FARMERS' FEDERATION



Lamar County Farmers Federation

The Lamar 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 Lamar County.

The Federation supports Lamar County's \$154.2 million agriculture and forestry industries through youth programs, education and promotion of commodities grown in our county. These efforts help strengthen the county's farm community, which generates 1,725 jobs and provides healthy, locally grown food for Lamar County families.

Federation members enjoy access to great benefits including savings at many major retail stores and excellent rates on home, auto and life insurance through Alfa Insurance.

The recently reorganized Lamar County Young Farmers program is a vital part of the Lamar County Farmers Federation. It focuses on training the next generation of farmers in Lamar County by offering leadership, communication and agricultural training through the A.L.F.A. Leaders Program, State Young Farmers Conference, Discussion Meet contest, Excellence in Ag contest and other opportunities offered through the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The Lamar County Young Farmers program focuses on promoting county agriculture and teaching the next generation of Lamar County youth about the importance of agriculture in our county.

Membership in the Young Farmers program is for anyone in the county



Above: Lamar County Farmers Federation President Will Gilmer presented copies of the book "Who Grew My Soup?" to libraries in the county. Right: Brenda Jagers, left, took first place in the county cooking contest and Sofina Crosby designed the winning tablescape entry.

age 18-35 who is interested in agriculture or works in the agriculture field.

For information about the Young Farmers program, contact Chairman John Cunningham at (205) 712-0195.



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A Letter From The Lamar County Farmers Federation President

It has been my great honor to serve as our organization's president over the past year, and I've enjoyed working with your elected Board of Directors on issues critical to the mission and objective of the Lamar County Farmers Federation.

The objective of our Federation has been and remains "to advance and improve the agriculture of this county... to make farming more profitable and country life more attractive," and we strive to meet these goals by working for better economic, social and educational conditions for our members.

Helping Lamar County's farmers improve their bottom line is always one of our top priorities. Through our affiliation with the Alabama Farmers Federation and partnerships with other local groups, our members have access to programs that can help make their farms more productive and profitable.

We also have local membership benefits to help defray farmers' costs, as we provide two free soil and/or forage tests annually and pay the fees associ-



President Will Gilmer

ated with obtaining a Restricted-Use Pesticide permit.

Two programs in which we are helping foster a social connection between

members are our Women's Leadership Committee (WLC) and our newly reorganized Young Farmers Program. The WLC offers activities ranging from cooking and sewing contests to advocacy training on today's most important agricultural issues.

Likewise, the Young Farmers Program offers a broad range of opportunities designed to help members develop business and leadership skills while building relationships with one another.

I would encourage anyone interested in these programs to get more information and get involved.

Finally, education remains a key component of our Federation's mission. We sponsor youth programs such as 4-H and FFA, provide agricultural literacy resources for our school classrooms and libraries and even offer scholarships for local students seeking a college degree in agriculture, forestry or related fields.

Education efforts don't end with students though, as we use both traditional and social media outlets to keep all Lamar Countians apprised of agricultural news and related issues.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank all of the people and organizations that have partnered with us in serving our members, especially our wonderful Alfa Insurance staff.

Most importantly, though, I want to thank you for your membership and continued support of the Lamar County Farmers Federation. Thank you for allowing us to serve you in the past, and we look forward to serving you in the future.

Sincerely, Will Gilmer



Trevor Dale Cunningham, a second grader at Vernon Elementary School, won second place in the Alabama Farm-City Poster Contest for kindergarten through third grades. Dale and his school each received \$100 from the Alabama Farmers Cooperative (AFC) at the Farm-City Awards Luncheon April 2 in Birmingham. His winning poster will be featured in the 2016 Farm-City calendar. Pictured from left are Jim Allen of AFC, Cunningham and Alabama Farm-City Chairman Jeff Helms.

Lamar County Supports Youth Programs

The Lamar County Farmers Federation realizes the importance of supporting the next generation of agricultural leaders and is proud to support local FFA and 4-H groups. Our organization has been supporting youth agriculture programs in Lamar County since our founding in the 1920s. Recently, the county organization bought equipment and tool storage for a local agriscience program, sent students from an agriscience program to state and national conventions and contests and supported the F.A.W.N. program through 4-H. The organization also supports other 4-H and Extension programs aimed at developing and training the future generations of Lamar County's agricultural leaders.

Agriculture's Impact on Lamar County

A recent survey conducted by Auburn University and the Alabama Agribusiness Council shows how big of an economic impact agriculture has on our state and Lamar County.

"Farming drives the economies of many Alabama communities," said Alabama Farmers Federation President Jimmy Parnell. "With more than a \$70 million 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."

Lamar County has a wide variety of both animal and traditional agriculture such as row crops.

The report showed agriculture and forestry have a \$154.2 million annual economic impact on Lamar County, creating 1,725 jobs.

Lamar County's top agricultural commodities, the amount of total receipts and the number of jobs created by each commodity are:

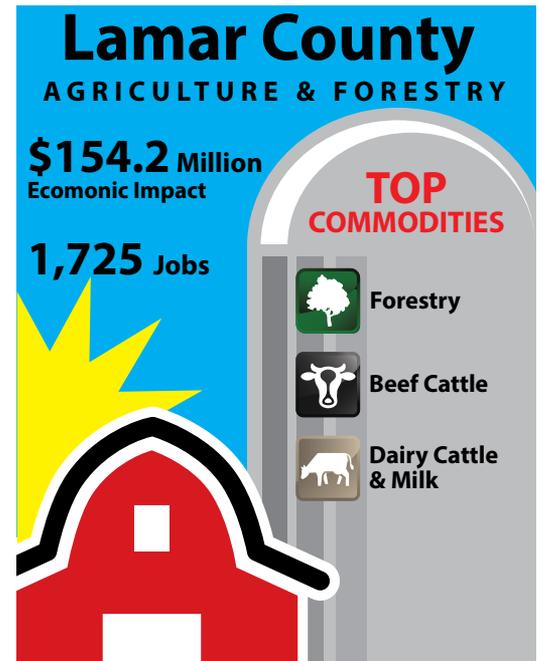
Forestry-\$29.3 million and 297 jobs.

Cattle-\$3.5 million and 107 jobs.

Dairy Cattle & Milk Production-\$900,000 and 26 jobs.

There are 422 farms in Lamar County, encompassing more than 84,822 acres.

Timberland covers nearly 318,065 acres in Lamar County.



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