Annual Report

Bacon-Wrapped Meatball Recipe

Young Farmers Win National Acclaim

Local Member Benefits
The Clay County Farmers Federation (CCFF) is a membership organization created by farmers as an advocate for agriculture, family values and good government.

We support scholarship programs and proudly provide over $1,400 in prize money for the Clay County Farm-City contests.

Clay County Women’s Leadership Committee members compete in cooking contests; sponsor a family through the Department of Human Resources; collect pop-tabs for the Ronald McDonald House; promote Ag in the Classroom; and volunteer at the Watermelon Festival. We thank Chair Faye Dial for her service.

The Clay County Young Farmers is open to individuals age 17 to 35. In the past year, members competed in the state Discussion Meet and Outstanding Young Farm Family (OYFF) contests. Chris and Jordyn Upchurch won state OYFF and made the Top 10 nationally. Abby Stewart is the outgoing committee chair, and we thank her for her hard work. The CCFF could not be successful without members like you. For more information, contact any board member or visit the Alfa Insurance office in Ashland.

— Gerald Dial
President
Clay County Farmers Federation
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Chris Upchurch

From The Clay County Farmers Federation President

Chris and Jordyn Upchurch had already claimed the title of Alabama’s 2018 Outstanding Young Farm Family when they traveled to New Orleans in January 2019 for the American Farm Bureau Federation’s (AFBF) annual convention.

As the state OYFF, the Upchurches represented Alabama in AFBF’s national Achievement Award contest where they finished in the Top 10.

“It was an experience we’ll never forget,” said Chris. “We’re grateful for the opportunity and can’t wait to see what’s next for our family and for the Alabama Farmers Federation.”

The poultry and cattle farmers were one of 26 contestants nationally. “It was such an honor to make Top 10 in the Achievement Award contest,” Jordyn said. “Representing Alabama and our county meant the world to us. We were so thankful to bring that recognition back to an organization that has given us so much.”

The expenses-paid trip to New Orleans was just part of the OYFF prize package, valued at over $70,000. The Upchurches also received $35,000 toward a new Ford truck courtesy of Alfa Insurance; a John Deere 825i Gator sponsored by Alabama Ag Credit and Alabama Farm Credit; a lease on a John Deere tractor provided by John Deere, AgPro, SunSouth and TriGreen Equipment; and a 30-by-40-foot pole barn from Register Barn Co. The couple’s Rockin U farm in Lineville spans more than 300 acres with a herd of 130 cows and three poultry houses. Chris is a fifth-generation farmer, and Jordyn is the fourth-generation farmer.

To compete in OYFF, contestants must be between 18 and 35 years old and receive more than half their income from production agriculture.

On the Cover
Alabama’s 2018 Outstanding Young Farm Family Chris and Jordyn Upchurch welcomed son Charlie in September 2018.

Photo credit: Little E Photography
State Heritage Cooking Contest Highlights Pork Appetizers

Lori McGill of Clay County entered her recipe for Sweet and Savory Bacon-Wrapped Meatballs in the 2018 Heritage Cooking Contest. The annual contest is sponsored by the Alabama Farmers Federation Women’s Leadership Division and highlights a specific commodity. Pork was the highlighted commodity in 2018.

**Sweet and Savory Bacon Wrapped Meatballs**

**Ingredients**

- **Meatballs**
  - 1½ pounds ground beef
  - 1 onion, chopped fine
  - 1 cup Saltine cracker crumbs
  - 1 ½ teaspoon salt
  - ¼ teaspoon pepper
  - 4 tablespoons ketchup
  - 1 egg

- **Sauce**
  - ¼ cup milk
  - 1 pound bacon
  - 6 teaspoons vinegar
  - 3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
  - ¾ cup ketchup
  - 6 tablespoons brown sugar

**Directions**

Preheat oven to 350F.
Mix first eight ingredients in a bowl. Roll mixture into two-inch balls. Wrap each ball in a strip of bacon.
Place in a casserole dish. In a separate bowl, whisk together sauce ingredients. Pour over meatballs. Cook uncovered for 45 minutes. Drain after cooking for about 20 minutes.
Yields approximately 20 meatballs.
Membership in the Clay County Farmers Federation has its perks, and saving money is one of them! Present your Alabama Farmers Federation membership card at participating businesses to receive these discounts. Find a full list of local and national benefits at AlfaFarmers.org/perks or in the Member Perks app.

LOCAL PERKS

A-1 Forestry Service & Appraisal
10% discount

Britches and Bows
$1 off embroidery or vinyl service

City Auto Parts NAPA
$5 off any purchase over $100

Child Car Seat Program
$25 car seat or $15 booster seat for Federation members. Must visit a local Alfa Insurance office to order.

*Note: Participating businesses and/or discounts are subject to change without notice.

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Clay County Agricultural Facts
Total county area: 387,840 acres
Forested land: 310,628 acres
Total farmland: 71,280 acres
Number of farms: 381
Average farm size: 187 acres
Total cropland: 12,210 acres
Average farm production expenses: $154,847

*Based on 2017 USDA Census of Agriculture and 2019 Forest Inventory Analysis

Runyan Earns Scholarship
Colton “Cole” Runyan of Ashland earned a $1,000 scholarship for the 2019-2020 academic year, awarded through the competitive Alfa Foundation Scholarship Program. Runyan graduated from The Donoho School and is a freshman at Auburn University studying professional flight. For details on Alfa and Federation scholarships, visit alfafarmers.org/scholarships.

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