It has been a pleasure serving as our organization's president for another 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.

As a member, you have access to a growing number of benefits that can help you save money and improve the bottom line of your farm or household. With discounts ranging from hotels to child car seats; a fee waiver for Restricted Use Pesticide permit testing; and two free annual soil tests, membership really does have its advantages! We are also seeking to partner with local businesses to provide you with even more savings close to home.

Our Women’s Leadership Committee (WLC) and the Young Farmers (YF) Program foster a social connection among members. The WLC offers activities ranging from cooking and sewing contests to advocacy training on today’s most important agricultural issues. Likewise, YF helps members develop their 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, FFA and the annual Farm-City Poster and Essay Contests; provide agricultural literacy resources for our schools’ classrooms and libraries; and offer scholarships for local students seeking a college degree in agriculture or a related field.

Our educational efforts don’t end with students. We use traditional and social media outlets to update Lamar countians about agricultural news and related issues. We hope you enjoy the weekly “Ag Updates” we submit to our county’s newspapers, as well the information we share via our Facebook page and Twitter account (@LamarCoFarmers).

On behalf of the board of directors, I want to thank all the people and organizations that have partnered with us to better serve 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. It has been our honor to serve you in the past, and we look forward to serving you in the future.

Sincerely, Will Gilmer

The purpose of the Lamar County Women’s Leadership Committee is to provide women with the opportunity to actively participate in creating and executing policies of the Alabama Farmers Federation.

The committee, chaired by Cindy Foster, acts as a liaison between the Lamar County Farmers Federation board and other Federation members in the county to help implement the organization’s policies and programs.

The group meets quarterly and is open to Federation members. For more information, contact Foster at (205) 712-1785.
Lamar County Farmers Talk Agriculture With Politicians

Political involvement plays an important role in fulfilling the goals of the Lamar County Farmers Federation (LCFF).

LCFF members engage with local elected officials to ensure they understand how bills and proposed regulations may impact farmers and other rural Alabamians. The county’s two Farm-PAC trustees — Will Gilmer and Jessie Lee Barnes — attended the Alabama Farmers Federation’s Taste of Alabama Legislative Reception in February 2017 to discuss issues with local legislators.

Right: Lamar County farmer Jessie Lee Barnes, right, visits with State Rep. Mike Millican, R-Hamilton, center, and Alabama Farmers Federation Area 2 Organization Director Wiley Bailey.

### County Ag Facts

**Total Land Area:** 387,104 acres  
**Farmland:** 84,822 acres  
**Timberland:** 318,065 acres  
**Number of Farms:** 422

#### Top Commodities
- No. 1 - Forestry
- No. 2 - Cattle
- No. 3 - Dairy cattle & milk
- No. 4 - Vegetables & melons

### Officers and Directors

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<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Will Gilmer</td>
<td>Wayne Baines</td>
<td>Curtis McLellan</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Jessie Barnes</td>
<td>Jay Buckley</td>
<td>Johnny Glasgow</td>
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<td>Secretary-Treasurer &amp;</td>
<td>Cindy Foster</td>
<td>David Gilmer</td>
<td>Mitchell Puckett</td>
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<td>Women's Leadership</td>
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<td>Terry Gosa</td>
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<td>Committee Chair</td>
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<td>Richard Jaggers</td>
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<td>Young Farmers Chair</td>
<td>John Cummingham</td>
<td>John McDaniel</td>
<td>Mac Washington</td>
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### Savings across the state or around the country.

As an Alabama Farmers Federation member, you already enjoy savings on products and services you use every day. But now, you can save even more when you’re traveling around Alabama or around the country with Alfa Farmers’ Member Perks.

Go to the website below or download the “Alfa Farmers Member Perks” app to start saving today!
Lamar countians were honored during the 2017 Alabama Farm-City Awards Luncheon for outstanding artistic talent and a strong commitment to excellent farming.

Millport’s Kimber Brooke Cunningham, a first-grader at Vernon Elementary School at the time of the competition, won first place in the state Farm-City Poster Contest in the kindergarten-third grade division. Her depiction of farm animals and a girl hugging the world exemplified the 2017 Farm-City theme — “Agriculture: Stewards of a Healthy Planet.”

Cattle and timber farmers Bill and Carol Freeman also were recognized during the luncheon as one of six finalists for the 2017 Alabama Farm of Distinction Award. Their farm, Timberland Cattle, includes 200 acres of pine plantation, 600 acres of pastureland and 50 acres of hay. They have a 300-cow purebreds Angus, Simmental and SimAngus herd, along with a 100-cow commercial beef herd.

Farm-City events are celebrated throughout the year, culminating with the official Farm-City Week starting the Friday before Thanksgiving. Learn more at AlabamaFarmCity.org.