From north of Hackleburg to south of Winfield, we are blessed to call Marion County home. We are a diverse county with good schools and good neighbors. When we all work together, good things can happen.

The Marion County Farmers Federation (MCFF) contributes to our county through the work of our board of directors, Women’s Leadership Committee, Young Farmers and Alfa Insurance agents.

This year, we actively supported and promoted the Rural Broadband Act that will provide better and faster Internet connections. This will attract new businesses to our area and help current businesses and schools.

We also were honored to host U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue in Marion County, along with Congressman Robert Aderholt and Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture John McMillan for a roundtable discussion.

Our board represented you at the Alabama Farmers Federation’s annual meeting, along with meetings for policy development, FarmPAC and county presidents. Our members were also represented at a meeting with Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance President Jimmy Parnell this past year to discuss insurance and Federation issues.

Our Young Farmers Committee reorganized last year under the direction of Alabama Farmers Federation Area Organization Director Wiley Bailey, and this group of enthusiastic young men and women is making us proud. The group’s accomplishments include raising $1,600 for Christmas for Kids with a dove shoot fundraiser, representing the county in the state Young Farmers Discussion Meet and attending the Alabama Ag in the Classroom Summer Institute.

If you know a young person actively engaged in agriculture who may be interested in joining Young Farmers, please have them contact us.

We currently have six students who were awarded MCFF scholarships to pursue a degree in an agriculture-related field. Any MCFF member with a child interested in the scholarship may obtain an application from the school guidance counselor or from Alfa Insurance service centers.

As an MCFF member, you qualify for numerous benefits ranging from a $500 discount on a new Ford vehicle to a free drink at a local restaurant. Members may also purchase a car seat for $25 and a booster seat for $15 (shipping and handling included). See your local Alfa office to place your order.

The member benefits you receive alone can pay for your membership. For a full list of benefits, go online to AlfaFarmers.org/perks.

— Kenneth Real
President

Winfield City High FCCLA Wins $300

Students in Winfield City High School’s Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapter earned a $300 prize from the Alabama Farmers Agriculture Foundation (AFAF). They earned the money for having the second-highest sales numbers in a special cookbook fundraiser sponsored by AFAF. The funds may be used for the FCCLA club or the Family and Consumer Sciences Department.

From left are Winfield City High School FCCLA adviser Kayren Burt; FCCLA officers Meg Bowen, Savannah Williamson, Alana Mallard and Kati Rose Hardin; and Marion County Farmers Federation Women’s Leadership Committee Chair Lisa Murphy.
The 2017 Marion County Farm-City Banquet celebrated farmers who are dedicated to producing the basic needs of everyday life.

Community members, politicians, students and farmers gathered to celebrate the blessings of the year Nov. 16 at the Hackleburg First Baptist Church Life Center.

The Hackleburg Elementary School chorus provided entertainment. Commissioner Roger Knight signed a Farm-City proclamation, and awards were presented.

Rebecca Danley of Marion County Extension presented awards to student winners of the county’s annual Farm-City poster, essay and multimedia contests.

From top: J.L. Javier won first-place in the county poster contest. Kade Bryant took top honors in the county essay contest for seventh- through ninth-graders. Abraham Humphrey took home two first-place awards: multimedia and essay for 10th- through 12th-graders.

Alabama Farm-City Week is celebrated annually beginning the Friday before Thanksgiving. County Farm-City committees host numerous events throughout the year to build better relationships between rural and urban neighbors. For more information, visit AlabamaFarmCity.org.

The Marion County Farmers Federation awarded $11,000 in renewable scholarships to Marion County students pursuing agriculture-related degrees.

Seth Armbrester of Hamilton High School
Mississippi State University

Seth Armbrester of Hamilton High School
Mississippi State University

Kolbie Young of Hamilton High School
Itawamba Community College

Jordan Byars of Marion County Byars
Bevill State Community College

Robert Byars of Marion County Byars
Bevill State Community College

Three additional renewable scholarships were awarded to Hamilton High School graduates: Mississippi State University students Taten Palmer and Ally Taylor and Southern Arkansas University student Kolt Shaw.

Scholarship information is available every January at the Alfa Insurance offices in Winfield and Hamilton or through local high school guidance counselors.

Marion County Farmers Federation Officers and Directors

Kenneth Real
President

Randy Robbins
Vice President

Chad Williams
Secretary-Treasurer

Lisa Murphy
Women’s Leadership Committee Chair

James Allen Weeks
Young Farmers Chair

Scott Alldredge
Herman Bostick

Greg Burgett
Ben Burleson

George “Chip” Enlow
Carl Lucas

Jim McRae
Bruce Miller

Sue Shackleford
Andy Skinner

Gary Weatherly
Warren Williford

The Marion County Farmers Federation and Hamilton High School’s Student Government Association sponsored “Fatal Vision” March 23 for juniors and seniors. Students wore goggles to simulate the impairing effects of alcohol while driving and also wore the goggles while taking a field sobriety test.
The Marion County Farmers Federation (MCFF) and Marion County Young Farmers (MCYF) gave over $2,800 to Marion County’s Christmas for Kids Christmas drive in 2017. The money purchased gifts for children in need throughout Marion County.

“We had a great turnout for our first dove shoot, which made this donation possible,” said MCYF Chairman James Allen Weeks. “We’re excited about what our organization is doing and look forward to helping those in the community in the future.”

The inaugural MCYF Dove Shoot in September 2017 raised $1,622.93.

The remaining $1,200 of the donation was collected through the MCFF and its board of directors, along with collections from employees at Alfa Insurance offices in Winfield and Hamilton.