The past year has been an active one for the Talladega County Farmers Federation. Our board was busy this year with efforts to strengthen our organization including:

- Providing two scholarships to Talladega County students
- Participating in state matched scholarship program
- Supporting Farm-City programs and hosting a banquet for 150 urban and rural residents
- Providing financial support to the Talladega County Extension System, Alabama Junior Cattlemen’s Association, American Cancer Society and Alabama youth livestock competitions
- Sending representatives to Washington, D.C., to work on agricultural issues
- Hosting county Farm-City multimedia, poster and essay contests for area students
- Purchasing a sample child car seat for each Alfa service center — Federation members may purchase discounted car seats as part of their benefits package.

Our directors and commodity members continue to be engaged in the organization at the county and state levels. Members attended the following meetings, which helped them gain additional knowledge of agriculture and our organization: Alabama Farmers Federation annual meeting, Commodity Producers Conference, Commodity Organizational Meeting, FarmPAC meetings, Women’s Leadership Conference, Young Farmers Conference and Presidents’ Conference.

We could not operate without the hard work of our Alfa Insurance agents and CSRs. I would like to thank them for collecting the membership dues that allow us to work to protect and enhance the standard of living for farmers and rural Alabamians.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Talladega County Farmers Federation president.

— James H. White Jr.
President

County Activities and Awards

Top: Talladega County Farmers Federation members meet with Congressman Mike Rogers, R-Anniston, during the Washington Legislative Conference. From left are Dell and Carolyn Hill, Rogers, Donna and Jimmy Hugh White, and Sharon and David Wilson.

Left: Talladega County Farmers Federation President Jimmy Hugh White, center, presents Women’s Leadership Committee scholarships to Quadarius Whitson, left, and Jasmine Williams, right. Jasmine is a sophomore at Auburn University; and Quadarius is a freshman at Jacksonville State University.

Alabama Farmers Federation Executive Director Paul Pinyan presented awards to Talladega County leaders at the 96th annual meeting. Top: President Jimmy Hugh White accepts a county Award of Excellence. Middle: Amy Stephens accepts a leadership award for Young Farmers. Bottom: Catherine White and Claude Friday accept Senior Leader awards.
Farm-City Week Awards and Activities

For the past 61 years during the week of Thanksgiving, Americans have observed National Farm-City Week. It’s a time to express gratitude for the bounty with which God has blessed our land and to recognize the achievements of the farmers, rural townspeople and city residents who make our nation’s agricultural production and distribution systems so successful. The cooperation between rural and city dwellers helps to ensure our country’s well-being.

American agriculture, and the many service industries that depend upon it in cities, towns and all routes in between, is a story of extraordinary labor creating extraordinary abundance. It seems only fitting at this time of year to recognize and express our gratitude to God and all those who grow, harvest and bring to our nation’s tables the fruits of sun, seed and soil.

The Talladega County Farmers Federation held its annual Farm-City Banquet Nov. 16, 2017, with the theme, “Agriculture: Food for Life.” We hosted approximately 150 people at First Baptist Church in Talladega for a wonderful Thanksgiving meal and program. In attendance were farmers, rural and city neighbors from across Talladega County, area clergy, city mayors, county commissioners, and students and teachers who participated in our Farm-City poster, essay and multimedia contests.

The Talladega County Farmers Federation sponsors student contests for Talladega County Schools and presents the awards to the winners at the banquet. Each contestant receives cash prizes ranging from $50 to $100.

Investing In The Future of Agriculture

The Talladega County Farmers Federation (TCFF) is proud to support Young Farmers, students and local schools. Through scholarship programs, sponsoring students to attend leadership development and helping county FFA students attend state and national conventions, TCFF is working to secure the future of agriculture.

The Talladega County Young Farmers is a division of the TCFF. It exists to help young farmers develop leadership skills while learning new techniques to improve their operations.

Young Farmers may compete in statewide contests including Outstanding Young Farm Family, Excellence in Agriculture and Discussion Meet. For more information about Young Farmers, visit a local Alfa office.

Four Talladega County Young Farmers members competed in contests at the Alabama Farmers Federation’s 2017 Commodity Producers Conference. From left are Amy Stephens; Alexandra and Will Brooks; Chase Hammock; and Alabama Farmers Federation President Jimmy Parnell.

Lincoln High School’s Ryleigh Keith attended the 2017 Youth Leadership Conference in Columbiana. She was sponsored by the Talladega County Farmers Federation.
A member of the Talladega County Farmers Federation, Rachel Chastain was delighted to present at the Alabama Ag in the Classroom Summer Institute in Mobile, May 30. Rachel has taught special education for 18 years and is passionate about developing new ways to help her students succeed. Currently, she teaches in the Transition Department at the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind’s (AIDB) Helen Keller School in Talladega.

AIDB’s Helen Keller campus strives to provide functional-based instruction for students with sensory loss and multiple disabilities. Rachel’s master’s degree from Auburn University, along with her certifications in Hearing Impaired and agriscience, enables her to teach in this specialized setting.

Along with Rachel, AIDB enthusiastically supports using agriculture as a platform to prepare students for the workforce and promote independence for their students. Through receiving several Ag in the Classroom grants and the support of the Talladega County Farmers Federation, Rachel has brought to life her dream of using this platform for the betterment of her students.

We also want to thank everyone who made the 10th annual celebration of Get Outdoors Day a huge success. The event celebrates conservation education at Munford Schools. Classes, clubs, sports and community partners were highlighted during the event. More than 1,200 students from preschoolers to 12th-graders attended, along with volunteers, vendors and special guests. We are already looking forward to next year’s event.

Talladega County Officers and Directors

President: James H. White Jr.
First Vice President: David Wilson
Second Vice President: Claude Friday
Secretary/Treasurer: Bob Luker
Young Farmers Chair: Amy Stephens
Women’s Committee Chair: Rachel Chastain

Frank Bannister
Bruce Brooks
Clay Campbell
Dell Hill
Justin Lackey
Robert Luker
Greg Myrick
Jeremy Wilson

Talladega County’s Chase Hammock, right, was elected to the State Young Farmers Committee during the Alabama Farmers Federation’s 96th annual meeting. He represents District 3, composed of Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Randolph, Shelby, Talladega and Tallapoosa counties. He is pictured with State Young Farmers Committee Chairman Ben Maples of Limestone County.