

Alabama Farm-City Awards

May 12, 2020

Alfa Auditorium
& Facebook Live



Congratulations on being selected to receive a state Farm-City award.

We are disappointed the Alabama Farm-City Awards Luncheon was cancelled. Your accomplishments are worthy of recognition, and we are committed to honoring your work. County Farm-City activities, student contests and Farms of Distinction truly make a difference for agricultural education and understanding.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of the Farm-City mission. As producers, grocers and others in the distribution chain work to keep up with consumer demand, we are reminded of the interdependence of farmers, businesses and shoppers.

Through Farm-City Week and related activities, we are building bridges that will last long after this crisis ends. May we never again take for granted the blessing of living in a nation where rich natural resources, dedicated farmers, entrepreneurial businesses and countless others work together to make food and fiber safe, abundant and affordable.

Thanks again for sharing your time and talent in furthering Farm-City's goals. I appreciate your work, commitment and perseverance. If you would like for me to attend a county event this fall to recognize your accomplishments, please contact Paula Culver at 334-613-4410 or pculver@alfafarmers.org.

Please join me in praying for healing, containment and a quick end to this pandemic.

Jeff Helms
Chairman, Farm-City Committee
Alabama Farmers Federation



2019-2020 Alabama Farm-City Committee

Jeff Helms, Chairman

Alabama Farmers Federation

Amy Belcher

Alabama Department of
Agriculture & Industries

Sonny Brasfield

Alabama Association of County Commissions

Samantha Carpenter

Alabama Farmers Cooperative

Andy Chamness

Alabama State Department of Education

Kim Earwood

Alabama Ag in the Classroom

Kayla S. Greer

Alabama Cattlemen's Association

Horace Horn

PowerSouth Energy Cooperative

Dr. Paul Mask, retired

Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Keith McCurdy

First South Farm Credit

Katie W. Nichols

Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Paul Pinyan

Alabama Farmers Federation

Mike Tidwell

Alabama Farmers Federation

Mary Wilson

Alabama Farmers Federation

Josh Woods

College of Agriculture Auburn University

Ex-Officio Members

Doris Patterson

Co-Chair, Cullman Co.

Pat Floyd

Co-Chair, Cullman Co.

Deborah Huggins Davis

Chairman, Pike Co.

Poster Contest Winners

Kindergarten – 3rd Grade

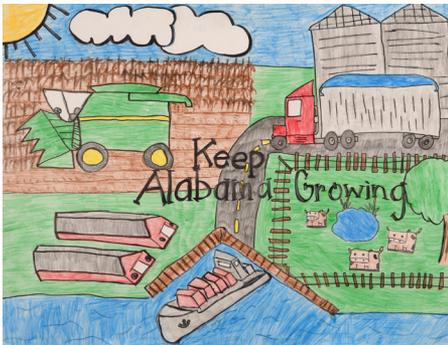
4th – 6th Grade



Sam Thornton – 1st Place
1st Grade, Houston County



Kendall McVay – 1st Place
4th Grade, Lawrence County



Danie Fielder – 2nd Place
3rd Grade, Talladega County



Will Thornton – 2nd Place
6th Grade, Houston County

Honorable Mention

Asa Thompson
4th Grade, Pike County

Maggie Phillips
1st Grade, Cullman County

Kadence Provens
3rd Grade, Jackson County

Corey Ellis
2nd Grade, Montgomery County

David Thomas Aldridge
5th Grade, Fayette County

Mattie Wisener
6th Grade, Marshall County

Greer Jones
4th Grade, Dale County

Emerson Champagne
3rd Grade, Etowah County

Essay Contest Winners

7th – 9th Grade

Audrey Teaster
1st Place

9th Grade, Autauga County

Ciara Laird
2nd Place

9th Grade, Pike County

10th – 12th Grade

Emma Wendland
1st Place

12th Grade, Autauga County

Alex Simmons
2nd Place

11th Grade, Elmore County

Multimedia Winners

9th – 12th Grade

Marion Bell
1st Place

11th Grade, Shelby County

Rio Murray
2nd Place

11th Grade, Calhoun County



Finalists

Thomas & Melissa Ellis

Triple E Farm
Lowndes County

Andy & Karen Williams

Circle W Farms
Henry County

County Awards

Division I

Best Farm-City Committee

Coffee County

Cindy Kinney, Chairman

Runner-up Best Farm-City Committee

Cullman County

Pat Floyd & Doris Patterson, Co-Chairmen

Best Farm-City Tour

Lee County

Bob Harris, Chairman

Scrapbook Award

Coffee County

Cindy Kinney, Chairman

Innovative Idea Award

Cullman County

Pat Floyd & Doris Patterson, Co-Chairmen

Best Farm-City Breakfast/Luncheon/Dinner

Colbert County

Danny McWilliams, Chairman

Best Media Coverage / Proclamation

Coffee County

Cindy Kinney, Chairman

Best Civic Club Programs

Cullman County

Pat Floyd & Doris Patterson, Co-Chairmen

Best Special Activities

Houston County

Randy Davis, Chairman

Target Award

Dale County

Monica Carroll, Chairman

Division II

Best Farm-City Committee

Pike County

Deborah Huggins Davis, Chairman

Runner-up Best Farm-City Committee

Cherokee County

Barry Bailey, Chairman

Best Farm-City Tour

Chambers County

Mary Helen Benford, Chairman

Scrapbook Award

Chambers County

Mary Helen Benford, Chairman

Innovative Idea Award

Cherokee County

Barry Bailey, Chairman

Best Farm-City Breakfast/Luncheon/Dinner

Fayette County

Warren Griffith & Debbie Roberts, Co-Chairmen

Best Media Coverage / Proclamation

Pike County

Deborah Huggins Davis, Chairman

Best Civic Club Activities

Pike County

Deborah Huggins Davis, Chairman

Best Special Activities

Pike County

Deborah Huggins Davis, Chairman

Target Award

Cherokee County

Barry Bailey, Chairman

Individual Awards

Volunteer Of The Year Award For 2019

Bob Harris, Lee County

Service Award For 2019

Phillip Carter, Houston County

Honorable Mention

Mental Health

Barbour County

Know Your Farmer

Lawrence County

First Place, 7th-9th Grade Essay Keep Alabama Growing

By Audrey Teaster

Autauga Academy, Autauga County

Agriculture and forestry are two of the top industries in the state of Alabama. With more than 40,000 farms across the state, the agriculture industry helps to "Keep Alabama Growing" by providing food, fiber, and jobs to its citizens. One out of every 4.6 Alabama jobs is related to agriculture, and the industry contributes over \$70 billion to the state's economy every year. Whether someone works directly on the farm, for a food manufacturing company, in a restaurant, in a clothing store, or in a lumber store, that person's job depends on agriculture.

Today's farmers raise poultry, cattle, cotton, peanuts, soybeans, pecans, and corn; furthermore, Alabama holds the third most timber acreage. The state makes it mark, ranking second in the country in broilers, catfish, and quail. That being said, it doesn't take long to realize the lasting effects and the many advantages that modern farmers and farming have on growing our state. Many times, it is overlooked at how big a role farmers play in our economy. Equipment purchases, maintenance, fertilizer, crop production products, research and development, and transportation services are some of the ways farmers continue to keep Alabama growing.

Agriculture and forestry keep Alabama growing through their values and service along with the production of food and fiber, as well as the preservation of the environment. Agriculture and forestry heavily contribute to our health, nutrition, and comfort. Farmers provide food and fiber for people in Alabama and all over the world. From

fresh vegetables to fresh meats, Alabama grows a bounty of wholesome food. Farmers even grow flowers for aesthetic purposes; after all, who doesn't love the appeal of brightly colored and fresh-smelling blossoms?

Farmers also keep Alabama's natural resources growing. Today's farmers are moving more towards using conservation tillage practices and using fewer fossil fuels. Instead of plowing the soil and leaving it bare, farmers plant a cover crop of wheat, rye, or clover to protect the soil, add organic matter, and reduce erosion. They are recycling nutrients, improving soil health, and practicing healthy weed control. Furthermore, recently, many people have been recycling more and more in order to protect the environment. Farmers and farming provide hunting land and that land is habitat for all kinds of woodland and wetland creatures.

Without doubt, agriculture is connected to our manner of living, and growing. Not only does it provide necessary food for our bodies to grow, it improves almost every aspect of our lives. Durable clothing, comfortable blankets, soft linens, and paper products are just a few of the products that make our lives better, day in and day out. So, in addition to keeping Alabama growing, farming and farmers can be attributed to helping keep not just Alabama, but our entire country, more enjoyable.

Our governor, Kay Ivey, has been quoted, saying, "Alabama is a state where dreams do come true. Because in Alabama, anything is possible." She is absolutely right, and a big part of that is due to agriculture and forestry. Farmers help contribute to this dream because they make so many of our every day needs and wants possible. ■

**Are you ready
for the 2020
Farm-City
theme?**

**Sweet Grown
Alabama**

First Place, 10th–12th Grade Essay **Keep Alabama Growing**

By Emma Wendland

Autauga Academy, Autauga County

Agriculture is an industry that has relied on growth, change, and ingenuity since the beginning of time. Most people think of cattle and row crops when they think of agriculture, however, agriculture encompasses many areas of our lives – from what we wear to what we drive and what we eat. Agriculture in Alabama is a very diverse industry including, but not limited to, timber, poultry, cattle, aquaculture and a variety of row crops. This diversity creates a strong agricultural economy in Alabama that is not reliant on any one sector or market.

I've grown up in a family that values agriculture and the impact farmers have on everyday life. My family owns and operates Autauga Farming Company, the farming operation that my great-grandfather started in 1919. A century ago, my great great-grandfather and his fellow producers did not have the technology or the resources that farmers in Alabama have today. Contrary to some widely held beliefs, farmers are some of the smartest people I know. Technology guides tractors via GPS, calculates yields on the go, weighs logging trucks in the field, helps to perfectly map yards and landscapes, and times fish feedings perfectly day-by-day. Technology and manpower are what keep Alabama growing.

New farming techniques have helped Alabama keep growing tremendously. Farmers are able to make more informed land management decisions to preserve their land through precision agriculture practices, allowing them to more effectively use crop inputs and minimize trips over the field. Targeted soil samples allow for a prescription fertilizer application plan that usually proves beneficial when the combine or cotton picker calculates yield numbers. Technology has allowed farmers to run their farms from their fingertips, literally. From phone operated irrigation systems, to computer driven tractors, Alabama's farmers have been moving towards

modernization.

Agriculture is a driving force in Alabama's economy. Contributing \$34.7 billion in economic output and 8 billion dollars in direct wages, Alabama's ag products are always in season and in need of skilled, hard-working hands. These numbers are a powerful reminder that while the numbers are important – and necessary – there is a reason the numbers reflect positive growth in our state. While there are many factors that can contribute to the expansion and advancement of Alabama agriculture, people are irreplaceable when it comes to keeping Alabama growing. Investing in agricultural infrastructure, easing regulations that may prevent agricultural investors from putting down roots in Alabama, and creating tax incentives for people who want to open – or who already run – ag-related businesses in the state are some options for literally keeping Alabama in a growing pattern.

However, nothing is possible without willing and able manpower. Farmers have proven themselves to be adaptable, knowledge-seeking individuals with a desire to be good stewards of their surroundings. These are foundational characteristics that will help keep Alabama growing. Without men and women who are willing to go the extra mile, read the extra page, and take the extra step – we would live in a state of constant. While in some regards that would be a comfort, in order to continue to feed, clothe, and transport a rapidly growing population, Alabama agriculture must move forward step by step.

Because agriculture is a leading industry in Alabama, what is good for agriculture is good for Alabama. While farmers are the driving force in the industry, there are many friends of agriculture who help producers push the yield envelope and be competitive in a world where the number of agricultural acreages seem to dwindle by the day. Technology and manpower were the way forward in 1919 and have remained constant as the way forward in 2019. Alabama is blessed with dedicated farmers and farm families who are the heart of agriculture, and who will work tirelessly to keep Alabama growing. ■

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