



Cultivator

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Farmers Federation members elect new officers, board members

Steve Dunn of Conecuh County, Jake Harper of Wilcox County and Dean Wysner of Randolph County each retained their positions as officers with the Alabama Farmers Federation during elections at the organization's 90th annual meeting in Mobile, Dec. 4-6.

President Jerry Newby, a Limestone County row crop and cattle farmer who was elected to his seventh straight two-year term in 2010, presided over the election process in which almost 500 voting delegates elected new officers and board members. All officer positions are for two-year terms. Newby, 64, announced he would not seek re-election at the end of his term in December 2012.

Dunn, a row crop and cattle farmer, was re-elected as secretary-treasurer of the 400,000-plus member organization.

Harper, a cattle and timber farmer, was unopposed in his two-year term as vice president of the Southwest Area, a region that includes Baldwin, Butler, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Escambia, Hale, Lowndes, Marengo, Mobile, Monroe, Montgomery, Perry, Sumter, Washington and Wilcox counties.

Wysner, a Randolph County cattle and hay producer, retained his post as vice president of the Central Area, which includes Autauga, Bibb, Calhoun, Chilton, Clay, Cleburne, Fayette, Greene, Jefferson, Lamar, Pickens, Randolph, Shelby, St. Clair, Talladega, Tuscaloosa and Walker counties.

Elections were also held for four district board positions, which are three-year terms.

Waymon Buttram of DeKalb County won the District 3 board seat. That district includes Cherokee, DeKalb, Etowah and Jackson counties.

Dell Hill of Talladega County was elected to represent District 6. That district includes Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Randolph, Shelby, St. Clair and Talladega counties.



Newly elected and re-elected board members and officers of the Alabama Farmers Federation are, seated from left, Waymon Buttram of DeKalb County, District 3 director; John Bitto of Baldwin County, Young Farmers Committee chairman; Rita Garrett of Cherokee County, Women's Leadership Committee chairman; S. Steve Dunn of Geneva County, District 12 director; standing, Dell Hill of Talladega County, District 6 director; Dean Wysner of Randolph County, Central Area vice president; Jake Harper of Wilcox County, Southwest Area vice president; Garry Henry of Montgomery County, District 9 director; and Steve Dunn of Conecuh County, secretary-treasurer.

Garry Henry of Montgomery County was re-elected to the District 9 seat, which includes Autauga, Butler, Chilton, Lowndes, Montgomery and Wilcox counties.

S. Steve Dunn of Geneva County was elected to serve as the District 12 board member. That district includes Dale, Geneva, Henry and

Houston counties.

Elected to one-year, ex-officio terms on the state board were Women's Leadership Committee Chairman Rita Garrett of Cherokee County and State Young Farmers Chairman John Bitto of Baldwin County.

Awards For Excellence



Several counties received the Award for Excellence during the Federation's 90th annual meeting in Mobile, Dec. 4-6. The Award for Excellence is the highest recognition a county Federation can receive and recognizes its achievement in organization, the Young Farmers and Women's Leadership programs, commodity work and governmental affairs. Leaders who accepted the award for their county are, seated from left, David Bitto of Baldwin County; Keith Bryant of Calhoun County; Joe Braden of Cleburne County; Kenneth Neal of Cullman County; Jerry Byrd of Dale County; Sammy Roney of Houston County; standing from left, Phillip Thompson of Jackson County; Randy Gilmore of Jefferson County; John Dorrill of Pike County; Jimmy Fetner of Randolph County; Joel Bearden of Shelby County and Stanley Morris of St. Clair County.

Federation's Walker named director of National Legislative Programs

Mitt Walker, former director of the Catfish and Meat Goat and Sheep Divisions, was recently named the National Legislative Programs director within the Governmental and Agricultural Programs Department of the Alabama Farmers Federation.

In his new role, Walker will monitor federal legislation, regulations and issues for members relevant to policies approved by the voting delegate body. He will also serve as a liaison between the Federation's members, Congress, federal agencies and national agricultural groups.

Walker, a native of Clarke County, joined the Federation staff in June 2005. Since that time, his duties have expanded to include the monitoring of environmental and regulatory issues relating to the Clean Water Act. He also served as co-director of the Agricultural Leaders for Alabama (A.L.F.A.) program.

Prior to joining the Federation, Walker was an environmental scientist for the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

A graduate of Troy University with a bachelor's degree in environmental analysis and management, Walker lives in Montgomery with his wife, Brandi, and their children: Olivia (11), Addi Leigh (5), and Ford (4).



Walker

Winners named in Young Farmers competitions

Jeremy and Lindsey Brown of Montgomery County were named Alabama's Outstanding Young Farm Family (OYFF) during the Alabama Farmers Federation's 90th annual meeting in Mobile, Dec. 6. The Browns, who are poultry farmers, were selected to compete for the award earlier this year after being named the Outstanding Young Farm Family division winners in their commodity. They have two daughters: Ansley, 2, and Lydia Grace, 2 months.

The OYFF program, now in its 54th year, seeks to recognize young farm families and farmers between the ages of 18 and 35 who are doing an outstanding job in their farm, home and community activities and promote a better understanding of agriculture with the urban populace.

As this year's winner, the Browns will participate in many activities promoting Alabama agriculture during 2012. They will also receive a John Deere Gator courtesy of Alabama Ag Credit and Alabama Farm Credit; a personal computer package courtesy of Valcom/CCS Wireless; a lease of a John Deere tractor courtesy of Tri-Green, Sun-South and Snead Ag; the use of a new Chevrolet Traverse from the Alabama Farmers Federation; and an expense-paid trip to the 2012 American Farm Bureau (AFBF) Annual Meeting in January, where they will compete for the American Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher Achievement Award.

Other winners chosen in Young Farmers competitions to represent Alabama at the AFBF annual meeting were Excellence in Agriculture Award winner Jena Perry of Choctaw County, who received \$250 from the Alabama Farmers Federation and \$500 from First South Farm Credit, and Discussion Meet winner Stan Usery of Limestone County, who received \$500 from the Alabama Farmers Federation and \$500 from First South Farm Credit.

Kirk Smith of Blount County was the second-place winner of the Discussion Meet and received \$250, while third and fourth-place finishers Tyler Dunn of Dale County and Colin Wilson of Jackson County each received \$150. Prizes for these winners were courtesy of the Alabama Farmers Federation and First South Farm Credit.

The Young Farmers program provides opportunities for young farm families to become involved in the organization and offers leadership training and experience to expand the varied interests of young Alabamians.

Outstanding Young Farm Family



Jeremy and Lindsey Brown of Montgomery County captured the 2011 Outstanding Young Farm Family award during the closing session of the 90th Annual Meeting of the Alabama Farmers Federation. Among the prizes presented were a new John Deere Gator, courtesy of Alabama Ag Credit and Alabama Farm Credit. From left are: Doug Thiessen of Alabama Ag Credit; Jeremy and Lindsey Brown and their daughters Ansley, 2, and Lydia Grace, 2 months; Ben Gore of Alabama Farm Credit and Federation President Jerry Newby.

Discussion Meet Awards



From left are First-Place Discussion Meet Winner Stan Usery of Limestone County and Second-Place Discussion Meet Winner Kirk Smith of Blount County.

Excellence in Ag Award



Jena Perry of Choctaw County was recognized as the 2011 Excellence in Agriculture Award winner during the Federation's 90th Annual Meeting.

Women's, Young Farmers Divisions Elect Leaders



The Alabama Farmers Federation's Women's Leadership Division elected state officers and committee members during the annual meeting. They are, seated from left, Debbie Freeland of Mobile County; Chairman Rita Garrett of Cherokee County; Vice Chairman Faye Dial of Clay County; Secretary Sharon Byrd of Dale County; standing, State Women's Leadership Division Director Kim Earwood, Kathy Anderson of Jefferson County, Cheryl Lassiter of Choctaw County, Debra Bowen of Randolph County, Regina Carnes of Marshall County and Gloria Jeffcoat of Houston County.



The Alabama Farmers Federation's Young Farmers Division elected state committee members and officers during the annual meeting. They are, from left, front row: Allie Corcoran of Barbour County, Scott Poague of Elmore County, Heather Wright of Dallas County, Kevin Holland of Baldwin County and Secretary Mandy Wesley of Jefferson County; back row: Stan Usery of Limestone County, Vice Chairman Clint McElmoyl of DeKalb County, Jon Hegeman of Calhoun County, Ben Haynes of Cullman County and State Committee Chairman John Bitto of Baldwin County.

Annual Meeting Photos

Photos from the Alabama Farmers Federation's 90th annual meeting are posted to the photo gallery section of AlfaFarmers.org.