

2025

Alabama Farm-City

Grow Alabama

Alabama Farm-City Week
November 21-27, 2025

2025

Alabama Farm-City

Grow Alabama

Alabama Farm-City Week
November 21-27, 2025





Alabama Farm-City Calendar 2026 Order Form

Order Deadline: August 25, 2025

Quantity	Item	Each	Minimum	Setup	Shipping	Cost
	2026 Alabama Farm-City Calendar (Standard)	\$1.50	10	–	See Below	
	2026 Alabama Farm-City Calendar (Personalized)	\$2.00	100 <small>Quantities over 100 must be ordered in increments of 50</small>	\$16	See Below	
Total Cost						
Total Shipping						
GRAND TOTAL						

Shipping Cost Chart

Quantities	Shipping Cost
10-50	\$5
51-100	\$10
101-200	\$15
201-up	8¢ per calendar

Check here to receive
invoice via email with online
payment option: ☐

Personalized Calendar Information

Up to four lines of information can be printed on your personalized calendar.

Include your logo? (Check One): ☐ Alabama Farmers Cooperative
☐ Alfa Insurance® ☐ Alabama Farmers Federation ☐ Alabama Ag in the Classroom

SHIPPING INFORMATION

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Payment due upon receipt of invoice. For online invoice and payment option, check box above. Make checks payable to Alabama Farmers Federation. Mail form to:

Alabama Farmers Federation
Attn: Tanner Hood
P.O. Box 11000, Montgomery AL 36191

For questions, contact: Tanner Hood • (334) 613-4410 • thood@alfafarmers.org

2026 ALABAMA Farm-City Calendar

Featuring the artwork of 12 Alabama children, grades K-6, this beautiful calendar makes a great gift for your customers, clients and members of the community. Each month, you'll see a new scene illustrating the importance of agriculture to this state as seen through the eyes of Farm-City Poster Contest winners. The calendar also features the winning entries in the Farm-City Essay Contest. Thanks to our sponsors, this calendar is an affordable marketing tool for businesses or organizations, and it can be personalized with your imprint.

**ORDER DEADLINE:
AUGUST 25, 2025**

SPONSORED BY:



AlfaFarmers.org



AlfaInsurance.com



AlaFarm.com







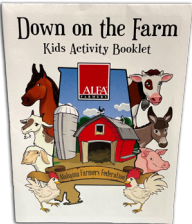
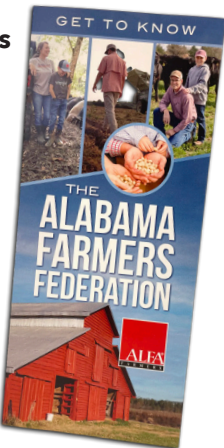


AlabamaAITC.com

**\$1.50 EACH
MINIMUM
ORDER: 10**



**\$2.00 EACH
MINIMUM
ORDER: 100**



Farming Feeds Alabama Plastic Bag 85¢ each (12" x 15") NEW SIZE & COLOR! 	Farm-City History Card 5¢ each 	Farm-City Placemat 11¢ each (100 min.) 
Ag Tag Placemat 11¢ each (100 min.) 	"God Made A Farmer" Placemat 11¢ each (100 min.) 	Alabama Ag Facts Brochure 18¢ each 
Down on the Farm Activity Booklet 10¢ each 	Grow Alabama Rack Card 10¢ each 	
Get to Know Alabama Farmers Federation Brochure 21¢ each 	Mental Health Brochure 22¢ each 	Distracted Driving Brochure 22¢ each 





2025
















MERCHANDISE CATALOG



Youth Hat \$12.50 each 	Low Profile Hat, Choose from Five Colors \$15 each  <div> Blue Green Mustard Pink Stone </div>	
Trucker Hat with Leather Patch Logo Choose Grey/Green, Grey, Navy or Brown \$16 each <i>(Leather patch style may vary.)</i> 	Trucker Hat with Embroidered Logo Choose from Four Colors \$16 each  <div> Blue Navy with White Back Navy with Tan Back Grey </div>	
	Rain Gauge \$7.60 each \$5.00 each 34% OFF!	Bonnie Bee Book 60¢ each 
Farming Feeds Alabama Stickers 20¢ each 	Alfa Farmers Drawstring Bag \$4 each \$2 each 50% OFF! LAST CHANCE! 	Pop Out Fan with Lanyard \$2.60 each 
Farming Feeds Alabama Glasses Cloth with Cover \$4 each 	Farming Feeds Alabama Koozie \$2.50 each 	Leatherette Key Fob \$2.50 each 
Adhesive Silicone Card Wallet \$1.50 each 	Alfa Farmers Rain Poncho \$5.50 	Alfa Farmers Tumbler \$10 each <i>(Limited quantity.)</i> 
Yardstick \$2.75 each  NEW ITEM!	Measuring Cup \$2.50 each  NEW ITEM!	Measuring Spoon \$2.00 each  NEW ITEM!

A shipping charge will be added to each order based on overall weight.

Farming Feeds Alabama Sunglass Strap \$1 each 	Magnetic Clip \$1.30 each 	Farming Feeds Alabama Wristband \$1 each 
Cork Coaster 50¢ each  LAST CHANCE!	Assorted Farming Feeds Alabama Pencils 35¢ each 	Farming Feeds Alabama Green Pen 80¢ each 
Alfa Farmers Pen Choose Red or Grey 95¢ each 	Farming Feeds Alabama Cap Pen 55¢ each 	Stick Lip Balm \$1.50 each 
Hand Sanitizer \$2 each 	Barn Sticky Notes \$1 each 	Alfa Farmers Luggage Tag \$2 each 
Farming Feeds Alabama Car Tag \$5 each 	Ag Tag Magnet 27¢ each 	Farming Feeds Alabama Tote, Choose Royal Blue or Dark Green \$3.50 each 
Farming Feeds Alabama Vinylboard Sign \$18 each (24" x 18") 	Slow Moving Vehicle Decal \$6.79 each (16" x 14") 	Slow Moving Vehicle Metal Sign \$9.70 each (16" x 14") 
Alfa Farmers 3" Sticker 55¢ each 	Farm Vehicle Sticker 35¢ each 	Farming Feeds Alabama Bumper Sticker 55¢ each 

A shipping charge will be added to each order based on overall weight.

Alabama Farmers Federation 2025 Merchandise Catalog Order Form

(A shipping charge will be added to order based on overall weight.)

Name/County Federation

Address:

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

Please send payment with order if being picked up. **Make check payable to Alabama Farmers Federation.** Orders that are being shipped will be weighed and invoiced for cost & shipping.

Mail order form to: Alabama Farmers Federation / Tanner Hood / P.O. Box 11000, Montgomery, AL 36191 Phone: (334) 613-4410 • Email: thood@alfafarmers.org

ITEM	EACH	MINIMUM	COST
NEW Alabama Farm-City Measuring Cup	\$2.50	0	
NEW Alabama Farm-City Measuring Spoon	\$2.00	0	
NEW Alabama Farm-City Yardstick	\$2.75	0	
NEW COLOR Farming Feeds Alabama 12"x15" Plastic Bag	\$0.85	10	
LAST CHANCE Cork Coaster	\$0.50	10	
Adhesive Silicone Card Wallet	\$1.50	0	
Ag Tag Magnet	\$0.27	10	
Ag Tag Placemat	\$0.11	100	
Alabama Ag Facts Brochure	\$0.18	25	
AFBF God Made a Farmer Placemat	\$0.11	100	
Alfa Farmers 3" Sticker	\$0.55	10	
Alfa Farmers Pen - Red or Gray	\$0.95	10	
Alfa Farmers Rain Poncho	\$5.50	0	
SALE Alfa Farmers Drawstring Bag	\$2.00	0	
Alfa Farmers Luggage Tag	\$2.00	0	
Assorted Farming Feeds Alabama Pencil	\$0.35	10	
Barn Sticky Notes	\$1.00	5	
<i>Bonnie Bee Book</i>	\$0.60	25	
Distracted Driving Brochure	\$0.22	25	
Down on the Farm Activity Booklet	\$0.10	25	
Farm Vehicle Sticker	\$0.35	10	
Farm-City History Card	\$0.05	25	
Farm-City Placemat	\$0.11	100	
Farming Feeds Alabama Bumper Sticker	\$0.55	5	
Farming Feeds Alabama Stick Pen w/ Cap	\$0.55	10	
Farming Feeds Alabama Glasses Cloth w/ Cover	\$4.00	10	
Farming Feeds Alabama Green Pen	\$0.80	10	
Farming Feeds Alabama Koozie	\$2.50	0	
Farming Feeds Alabama Stickers - 5 Designs	\$0.20	25	
Farming Feeds Alabama Sunglasses Strap (blue)	\$1.00	0	
Farming Feeds Alabama Sunglasses Strap (green)	\$1.00	0	
Farming Feeds Alabama Tote - Dark Green	\$3.50	0	
Farming Feeds Alabama Tote - Royal Blue	\$3.50	0	
Farming Feeds Alabama Vehicle Tag	\$5.00	0	
Farming Feeds Alabama Wrist Band - 3 colors	\$1.00	5	

Farming Feeds Alabama Vinylboard Sign	\$18.00	0		
Get to Know the Alabama Farmers Federation Brochure	\$0.21	25		
Grow Alabama Rack Card	\$0.10	25		
Hand Sanitizer	\$2.00	0		
Jumbo Magnetic Clip	\$1.30	5		
Leatherette Key Fob	\$2.50	0		
Low Profile Hat - Choose from 5 Colors	\$15.00	0		
Mental Health Brochure	\$0.22	25		
Pop Out Fan with Lanyard	\$2.60	0		
SALE Rain Gauge	\$5.00	0		
Slow Moving Vehicle Decal	\$6.79	0		
Slow Moving Vehicle Metal Sign	\$9.70	0		
Stick Lip Balm	\$1.50	5		
Trucker Hat w/ Embroidered Logo	\$16.00	0		
Trucker Hat w/ Leather Patch	\$16.00	0		
Tumbler	\$10.00	0		
Youth Hat	\$12.50	0		

**To order coloring books, call
Ashton at ext. 4272.**

Subtotal	
Shipping	
Total	

(Tax included in item price.)

TO: Farm-City Leaders and Volunteers
FROM: Jeff Helms, State Farm-City Committee Chair
SUBJECT: 2025 Theme and Resources
DATE: July 16, 2025

Thank you for your continued support of the Farm-City mission to bridge the gap between rural and urban families and businesses. Participation in yearly events like Farm-City Week and related activities helps create common understanding and appreciation for both rural and urban aspects of life.

This year, Farm-City Week is Nov. 21-27, but we know many of you have already started planning events, contests and programs to promote the Farm-City purpose.

On Feb. 11, the “Agriculture & Forestry Grow Alabama: An Economic Contribution Study,” was released by the Alabama Agribusiness Council in partnership with Auburn University and Alabama Cooperative Extension System. The study reports on the value of agriculture on Alabama’s economy by providing commodity-specific information including timber, poultry, beef, wheat and feed grains, cotton, peanut, catfish and greenhouse, nursery and sod production. While the volume of information can be overwhelming, the numbers offer a closer look at the significance of farmers across the state.

The Alabama Farm-City Committee feels the “Grow Alabama” theme allows students and volunteers to further understand the importance of agriculture while learning what kinds of farmers and forest landowners are in their local areas. Young artists can effortlessly include images of nearby farm operations while teachers can make direct correlations to products and people in the community. Rising writers and video creators can bring the theme home and localize the raw statistics by featuring real farmers.

For activities, county committees are once again encouraged to customize the theme to promote local banquets, tours and other events for the county or individual community. For instance, the committee may use “Grow DeKalb County” or “Grow Jackson.”

Please remember, state rules require the theme of “Grow Alabama” for student contests. But committees are allowed to be creative for local events.

We hope every committee, teacher and volunteer has a spectacular 2025 Farm-City Week, and we look forward to seeing what you do.

You can access the Agriculture & Forestry Grow Alabama: An Economic Contribution Study at GrowAlabama.org.

Other Resources:

Sweet Grown Alabama – sweetgrownalabama.org
Alabama Farmers Federation – alfafarmers.org
American Farm Bureau Federation – fb.org
U.S. Department of Agriculture – usda.gov
Alabama Ag in the Classroom – alabamaaitc.org
Alabama Cattlemen’s Association – bamabeef.org
The Catfish Institute – uscatfish.com
Alabama Peanut Producers Association – alpeanuts.org
Alabama TREASURE Forest Association – treasureforest.org
National Agriculture in the Classroom – agclassroom.org
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries – agi.alabama.gov

2025 Alabama Farm-City Committee

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2025 FARM-CITY COUNTY CHAIRMEN

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2025 FARM-CITY COUNTY CHAIRMEN

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2025 FARM-CITY COUNTY CHAIRMEN

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2025 FARM-CITY COUNTY CHAIRMEN

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2025 FARM-CITY COUNTY CHAIRMEN

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WASHINGTON	Russell Hendrix PO Box 247 Fruitdale, AL 36539 (251) 827-6631 cdearmon@alfains.com		

2025-2026 Alabama Farm-City Artificial Intelligence Policy – Student Contests

July 16, 2025

The Alabama Farm-City Committee recognizes the increasing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education, creativity and communication. To preserve fairness, originality and ethical standards in all contests, the following policies apply to all student contest entries.

General Guidelines:

- **Required Transparency:** Any use of AI (e.g., chatbots such as ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot; Canva AI; Photoshop AI; AI video generators, etc.) must be clearly disclosed at the time of submission.
- **Human-Centered Creation:** Entries must primarily reflect the ideas, work and creativity of the contestant(s). AI may assist, but cannot replace, the contestant's originality and effort.
- **Prohibited Use:** Contestants may not submit fully AI-generated works as their own original creation. Entries primarily or completely AI-generated will be disqualified.

Essay Contest:

- **Allowed uses:**
 - Using AI to brainstorm ideas, create outlines, or suggest improvements.
 - Using grammar or spelling correction tools (i.e. Grammarly).
- **Prohibited Uses:**
 - Submitting AI-generated content as original work.
 - Copying AI-generated content directly into the submission without substantial revision and personal contribution.
- **Disclosure Requirement:**
 - A brief statement must be included at the end of the essay if AI tools were used. A fillable disclosure is located at the end of this document.

Video Contest:

- **Allowed Uses:**
 - Using AI for editing suggestions, subtitles, or enhancing video quality.

- Using AI-generated background music or visuals, provided they are properly licensed.
- Prohibited Uses:
 - Submitting fully AI-generated videos or scripts as original work.
 - Using AI avatars or AI-generated voices to represent content intended to appear as student-created.
- Disclosure Requirement
 - A brief statement must be attached to the video entry sheet if AI tools were used. A fillable disclosure is located at the end of this document.

Consequences of Non-Compliance:

- Failure to disclose AI use or submitting primarily AI-generated work as original may result in disqualification.
- Judges reserve the right to question entries and request clarification regarding AI involvement.

Alabama Farm-City encourages students to explore technology responsibly. Proper AI use demonstrates critical thinking, creativity and ethical decision-making, aligning with the mission of Alabama Farm-City to promote understanding and cooperation between rural and urban communities.

Policy Effective: July 1, 2025

Approved by: Alabama Farm-City Committee

Model Disclosure Statement:

I acknowledge that artificial intelligence (AI) tools were used in the creation of this project. Specifically, AI was utilized for [briefly describe the purpose, e.g., generating text, editing images, assisting with coding, etc.]. All AI-generated content was reviewed and edited to ensure originality, accuracy, and alignment with the contest guidelines. I affirm that the final submission reflects my own creative direction and decision-making.

2025 Farm-City Poster Contest

2025 Farm-City Theme: Grow Alabama

1. Entry is open to all students in grades kindergarten through sixth grade and **must be the original work of the student.**
2. There are two categories of competition: K – 3 grades and 4 – 6 grades. First- through sixth-place winners will be named in each category.
3. Posters must relate to the theme. **The name of the theme must be on the poster.**
4. Posters must be on display during the month of November in a shopping mall, library, retail businesses, or other place of public view.
5. The poster should be horizontal with the length no greater than 28 inches and height no greater than 22 inches. It should be no smaller than 22 inches in length and 14 inches high (full sheet or half sheet of standard poster board). Standard thickness poster paper is preferred. (Vertical posters will be judged but **NOT** considered for the calendar due to format requirements.)
6. Any flat medium can be used (such as pen and pencil, crayon, watercolor, ink, or oil). **No three-dimensional posters (such as gluing products on to a poster) will be eligible.**
7. Each student is required to complete the enclosed information form and attach it to each poster entry.
8. **All entries will be judged first at the county Farm-City committee level with the first-place winner in each county being submitted to the State Farm-City Committee. One entry per division, per county may be submitted for judging at the state level.**
9. Criteria for judging: creativity, originality, neatness, overall appearance, and relevance to the theme.
10. **Deadline for entry at the state level is January 23, 2026. Winners will be notified by mail no later than March 1, 2025. Award winners will be announced at the state 2026 Farm-City Awards Luncheon.**
11. Compliance with enclosed Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy is required.

Entries become the property of the Farm-City Committee of Alabama and may be photographed or reproduced in a calendar or any other publication as the Committee sees fit without further permission or monetary consideration.

Awards in Each Category

1st PLACE: \$200 Cash

Student's Classroom: \$200 Cash

2nd PLACE: \$100 Cash

Student's Classroom: \$100 Cash

For further information, contact your local Farm-City Committee or the State Farm-City Committee at 1(800) 392-5705 or 1(334) 613-4410. E-mail: thood@alfafarmers.org. Mailing address: Alabama Farmers Federation, Attn: Tanner Hood, P.O. Box 11000, Montgomery, AL 36191.

2025
Farm-City Poster Contest
(Please fill out the entire form.)

Date: _____

Grade: _____

County: _____

Age: _____

Student's Name: _____

Student's Home Address: _____

Student's/Parent's Phone Number: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Email: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

School Phone Number: _____

Teacher's Name: (Print First & Last name) _____

Sponsored by
Alabama Ag In The Classroom
Alabama Farmers Federation/Alfa Insurance

2025 Farm-City State Essay Contest

2025 Farm-City Theme: Grow Alabama

Eligibility and Rules

1. Division I - open to all students in grades 7 – 9.
Division II - open to all students in grades 10 – 12.
2. First- and second-place winners will be named.
3. Essays must relate to the theme. The name of the theme must be stated in the essay.
4. Each student is required to complete the information form and attach it to the essay entry.

All entries will be judged first at the county Farm-City committee level with the first-place winner in each county being submitted to the State Farm-City Committee. One entry per division, per county may be submitted for judging at the state level.

5. Criteria: Essay should be 500-1000 words, neatly typed, and double-spaced, on 8 ½ x 11, white paper. They will be judged on:
 - a. Content
 - i. Topic Sentence
 - ii. Adherence to theme
 - iii. Accuracy of information
 - iv. Supporting details
 - v. Originality
 - vi. Reader Appeal
 - b. Mechanics
 - i. Grammar
 - ii. Punctuation
 - iii. Sentence Structure
 - iv. Capitalization
 - v. Spelling
 - c. Organization
 - i. Clarity
 - ii. Flow of material
 - iii. Conclusion
6. **Deadline for entry at the state level is January 23, 2026. State winners will be notified by mail no later than March 1, 2026. Award winners will be announced at the state 2026 Farm-City Awards Luncheon and Program.**
7. All entries may be used at the discretion of the Ag in the Classroom Steering Committee and Farm-City Committee of Alabama without further permission or monetary consideration.
8. Compliance with enclosed Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy is required.

Awards in Each Category

1st PLACE: \$300 Cash

Student's Classroom: \$300 Cash

2nd PLACE: \$200 Cash

Student's Classroom: \$200 Cash

For further information, contact your local Farm-City Committee or the State Farm-City Committee at 1(800) 392-5705 or 1(334) 613-4410. E-mail: thood@alfafarmers.org. Mailing address: Alabama Farmers Federation, ATTN: Tanner Hood, P.O. Box 11000, Montgomery, AL 36191.

2025
Farm-City Essay Contest
(Please fill out the entire form.)

Date: _____

Grade: _____

County: _____

Age: _____

Student's Name: _____

Student's Home Address: _____

Student's Phone Number: _____

Student or Parent Email: _____

Parent's Name: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

School Phone Number: _____

Teacher's Name: (Print First & Last name) _____

Sponsored by
Alabama Ag In The Classroom
Alabama Farmers Federation/ Alfa Insurance

2025 Farm-City State Video Contest

The Alabama Farm-City Committee is excited once again to offer a Video Contest for high school students in the 9th through 12th grades. The contest is sponsored by Alabama Farmers Cooperative and complements the Farm-City poster and essay contests by providing students another channel to express their creativity.

The 2025 theme for all three contests is
“Grow Alabama.”

Eligibility and Rules

Entry is open to ninth through 12th graders. A \$300 cash prize will be awarded to the first-place winner at the state level, and his or her school will receive a matching award. The second-place state winner will receive \$200, as will his or her school.

The presentation must be created in video form and must relate to theme. Images, audio, and narration may be included, but all components must be packaged with the video. The presentation should be 2-3 minutes in length and should not require live narration (by the viewer.)

Each student must complete the information form and submit it with their entry link. The presentations will be judged on the following: content, adherence to theme, accuracy of information, appearance, originality, and production. The presentation must be uploaded to YouTube.com and a link to the video included on the online application form that can be found at www.AlabamaFarmCity.org.

Students are responsible for ensuring their project is copyright compliant and for obtaining any necessary usage or reproduction rights for music, images, videos, or voice content. Photos and videos do not have to be original to the student, but majority of imagery should be reflective of Alabama agriculture. Royalty free images are available on the Alabama Farmers Federation’s Flickr page: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/alabamafarmers> and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries Flickr page: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/144363278@N06/>.

All entries will be judged first at the county level. The first-place winner in each county must be submitted to the Alabama Farm-City Committee by the deadline. **One entry per county may be submitted for judging at the state level.**

Compliance with the enclosed Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy is required.

Deadline for entry at the state level is January 23, 2026. Winners will be notified by mail no later than March 1, 2026. Award winners will be announced at the 2026 Farm-City Awards Luncheon and Program. All entries may be used at the discretion of the Alabama Farm-City Committee without further permission or monetary consideration.

2025
Farm-City Video Contest
(Please fill out the entire form.)

Date: _____

Grade: _____

County: _____

Age: _____

Student's Name: _____

Student's Home Address: _____

Student's Phone Number: _____

Student or Parent Email: _____

Parent's Name: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

School Phone Number: _____

Teacher's Name: (Please Print)_____

Sponsored by
Alabama Farmers Cooperative
Alabama Ag In The Classroom
Alabama Farmers Federation/ Alfa Insurance



Farm-City Service Award

The State Farm-City Committee would like to give special recognition to individuals who help administer Farm-City Programs. The Farm-City Service Award is for someone who has selflessly given their time and talent to improve the Farm-City program in their county. The nominee should exhibit: • Exceptional leadership • Exceptional commitment • Exceptional initiative • Significant sustained impact to the mission of the Farm-City program • Personal commitment to the advancement and promotion of Farm-City.

A deserving candidate may be nominated by anyone serving on a county Farm-City committee. Nominations must be accompanied by a Nomination Form and a 250-word statement. The 250-word narrative is very important as it explains the nominee's commitment to Farm-City to the judges. Pictures, newspaper articles and letters of support are encouraged, but cannot be returned to the nominator.

The deadline for submitting nominations is 5:00 p.m. on January 23, 2026.

2025 NOMINATION FORM

Name of Individual: _____ County _____

Name of Farm-City Chairman: _____ # Committee members: _____

Phone #: _____ Other #: _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Street Address City Zip

NOMINATED BY: (Person or group submitting the nomination)

Name _____

Agency/Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Street Address City Zip

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

NOMINATION GUIDELINES:

This award is for an individual who has Farm-City duties as a part of their job but makes a personal commitment to the success of the Farm-City program and goes beyond what is expected of them.

Complete the information above and return with your nomination narrative. Narratives must be 250 words or less. You may also include **non-returnable** pictures, news articles & letters of support. Describe why your nominee should be recognized and include the following: • Compelling examples and/or stories of the nominee's service and support of the Farm-City committee. • Describe how this nominee stands apart from all the rest.

Remember, you may know your nominee very well, but the 250-word statement you submit is how the judges get to know your nominee and their level of service. Please return this form along with your narrative to: Tanner Hood, Alabama Farmers Federation, P.O. Box 11000, Montgomery, AL 36191.



Farm-City Volunteer of the Year

The State Farm-City Committee would like to give special recognition to an outstanding county Farm-City Committee Volunteer. The Farm-City Volunteer of the Year is someone who has selflessly given their time and talent to improve the Farm-City program in their county. The nominee should exhibit:

- Exceptional leadership
- Exceptional commitment
- Exceptional initiative
- Significant sustained impact to the mission of the Farm-City program
- Personal commitment to the advancement and promotion of Farm-City.

A deserving volunteer may be nominated by anyone serving on a county Farm-City committee. Nominees must currently be an active Farm-City Committee member or volunteer (or active within the past 12 months).

Nominations must be accompanied by a Nomination Form and a 250-word statement. The 250-word narrative is very important as it explains the nominee's commitment to Farm-City to the judges. Pictures, newspaper articles and letters of support are encouraged, but cannot be returned to the nominator.

2025 NOMINATION FORM:

Deadline for nominations is January 23, 2026

Name of Individual Volunteer: _____ County _____

Name of Farm-City Chairman: _____ # Committee members: _____

Phone #: _____ Other #: _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Street Address City Zip

NOMINATED BY: (Person or group submitting the nomination)

Name _____

Agency/Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Street Address City Zip

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

NOMINATION GUIDELINES:

Complete the information above and return with your nomination narrative. Narratives must be 250 words or less. You may also include **non-returnable** pictures, news articles & letters of support.

Describe why your nominee should be recognized and include the following:

- Compelling examples and/or stories of the nominee's service and volunteer support of the Farm-City committee.
- Describe how this nominee stands apart from all the rest.

Remember, you may know your nominee very well, but the 250-word statement you submit is how the judges get to know your nominee and their level of service. Please return this form along with your narrative to:

Tanner Hood
Alabama Farmers Federation
P.O. Box 11000
Montgomery, AL 36191

ALABAMA FARM-CITY WEEK – 2025

A PROCLAMATION

For 70 years, the American people have joined together during Thanksgiving week to observe Farm-City Week, a time set aside to express gratitude for the bounty with which God has blessed our land. Throughout the week, Americans recognize the hard work and achievements of the farmers, rural townspeople, and city residents who make our nation’s agricultural production and distribution system so successful. This cooperation between rural and city dwellers for mutual benefit truly helps ensure our country’s well-being.

Here at home, Alabama farmers have provided for the state over the years by producing the food and fiber everyone relies on. This year’s Farm-City theme of “Grow Alabama” focuses on the impact of agriculture on local communities and the state. Farmers, foresters and ag professionals generate over \$77.3 billion a year for Alabama’s economy while accounting for over 270,000 jobs – 10% of the state’s workforce.

American agriculture — and the many service industries that depend upon it — is a story of extraordinary labor creating extraordinary abundance. The American farmer has an impact on every aspect of life, from big cities to small towns and all of the routes in between. At this time of year, it is only fitting that all Americans offer a special sign of thanks to those who grow, harvest, and bring the fruits of sun, seed, and soil to our nation’s tables.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, _____,
_____ of the _____ of _____
by virtue of the authority vested in me do hereby, proclaim the week of November 21 through November 27, 2025, as Alabama Farm-City Week. I call upon all citizens in rural and cities alike to join in recognizing the accomplishments of our productive farmers and of our urban residents, who cooperate to create abundance, wealth, and strength for our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand _____ day of _____
_____ in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five.

ALABAMA FARM-CITY WEEK PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alabama Farm-City Week November 21-27, 2025

Did you know agriculture and forestry generate \$77.3 billion for Alabama's economy each year and create 273,271 jobs – 10% of Alabama's workforce? During Farm-City week, November 21-27, take a moment to thank an ag professional for their contribution to a thriving state economy.

Alabama Farm-City Week November 21-27, 2025

Alabama farmers, foresters, truck drivers and retailers continuously work to provide the fuel, food and fiber we all rely on every day. During this Thanksgiving holiday, take time during Farm-City Week, November 21-27, to say "thank you" to all those who feed and clothe us while helping "Grow Alabama."

Alabama Farm-City Week November 21-27, 2025

What do a truck driver, a rancher, a grocery store clerk, a logger, a futures broker and biotechnologist have in common? They all play an important role in making sure that Americans have access to a healthy and abundant supply of food, fiber and natural resources.

During Farm-City Week, November 21-27, take a moment to thank someone who was involved in this process.

IMPORTANT: 2025 Activity Report Format

The Alabama Farm-City Committee provided counties with revised guidelines for the Farm-City activity report in 2022. Here is a reminder of the biggest changes:

1. This is no longer a fill-in-the-blank form. A county volunteer will have to type and print the activity report for your county. Please remember to include the title of the award you are reporting on at the top of each section of the report.
2. Most report categories now have a word limit.
3. You do NOT have to submit a report for every award category. However, counties vying for Best Farm-City Committee will most likely have a report for each award category.
4. Activity reports should no longer include photographs. Any photographs or images should be compiled into a scrapbook and submitted for the Scrapbook Award.
5. The National Ag Day Award has been removed. If your county holds an event for National Ag Day in the spring, please include that in your submission for Special Activities.
6. Awards for Best Farm-City Committee will be judged for each division, but there will no longer be an Overall Best Farm-City Committee Award.
7. Weight limit on scrapbooks is now 10 pounds.

If you have questions about any of these changes, please contact Tanner Hood at thood@alfafarmers.org.

Farm-City Committee of Alabama
P.O. Box 11000
Montgomery, AL 36191-001
Phone: (334) 613-4212

Street Address: 2108 E. South Blvd.
Montgomery, AL 36116

2025 Farm-City Activity Report
2025 Theme: Grow Alabama
Deadline: January 23, 2026

Farm-City Week events encourage better understanding between rural and urban citizens. Public relations efforts should be directed toward that goal and will be judged accordingly.

Counties are split into Division I and Division II based on population. This year division awards will be given out for the following categories:

- Farm-City Tour
- Civic Club Program(s)
- Farm-City Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner
- Media Coverage/Proclamation
- Innovative Idea - Judges may also award honorable mentions
- Scrapbook
- Special Activities

Based on activity reports, judges will also select a Target Award in Division I and Division II for committees that incorporated this year's theme into their Farm-City activities. Judges will also select Best Farm-City Committees in Division I and Division II.

Please note any uses of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in your report. Using AI is not prohibited, but disclosure is required if used to compile your report.

Reports should be typed and should **not** include photos. This form provides a guideline for what to include in your submissions.

Please submit your report by Jan. 23, 2026. Reports may be emailed to thood@alfafarmers.org or printed and mailed to:

Alabama Farm-City Committee
c/o Tanner Hood
P.O. Box 11000
Montgomery, AL 36191

Scrapbooks may be mailed to the same address or delivered to the street address listed above.

Basic Information

Date submitted:

County:

County Chairman:

Provide a list of Farm-City Committee members including their names and occupations. List any committee officers and subcommittees. Include a brief treasury report of financial support received from individuals, businesses and/or organizations.

Farm-City Tour

In 500 words or less, describe your county's Farm-City tour. Answer the following questions in your submission:

- Where was the tour held and why was the location(s) selected?
- Who was the target audience? Include special guests and/or media who were invited and how many were able to attend.
- How many people attended?
- How did the tour encourage better understanding between urban and rural residents?
- What feedback did you receive following the tour?
- What made this tour creative or unique?
- Was this year's Farm-City theme incorporated into the tour? REMEMBER - the answer to this question will be used to select Target Award winners in both divisions.

Judging criteria for a perfect Farm-City Tour entry

- Event targets people from farm and city
- Audience is impressive, either because of number of attendees or position of attendees, such as mayor, city council, leadership program or every student from a certain grade
- Purpose for selecting tour locations is explained
- Each tour stop represents something unique, either different commodities or part of industry/business
- Agenda helps attendees make the connection between farm and city life
- Incorporates numerous creative elements beyond simply touring a farm or business

Civic Club Program(s)

In 300 words or less, describe how your county committee spread the Farm-City message during Civic Club Program(s). You may use a bulleted list, if preferred. Answer the following questions in your submission:

- How many civic clubs did your committee engage?
- How many people attended each event? Include special guests and/or media who were invited and how many were able to attend.
- What were the civic club programs?
- How was the message of Farm-City presented?
- How did the programs encourage better understanding between urban and rural residents?
- What kind of presence does the civic club have in your community?
- Was this year's Farm-City theme incorporated into the programs? REMEMBER - the answer to this question will be used to select Target Award winners in both divisions.

Judging criteria for a perfect Civic Club Program(s) entry

- Events target diverse groups of people OR entry explains why one group was targeted
- Committee targeted civic club events with large attendance, considering the county's overall population
- Programs/presentations stayed on topic of connection between farm and city and incorporated the annual Farm-City theme
- Presentations display creativity in driving home the Farm-City message
- Media partners were invited, even if they were not able to attend
- Farm-City Committee used its own resources to publicize the event, such as social media or sending photos/stories to reporters who could not attend

Farm-City Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

In 500 words or less, describe your county's Farm-City breakfast, lunch or dinner. Answer the following questions in your submission:

- Who was the target audience for the event? Include special guests and/or media who were invited and how many were able to attend.
- How many people attended?
- What was the agenda for the program?
- How did the meal encourage better understanding between urban and rural residents?
- What feedback did you receive following the meal?
- What made the event creative or unique?
- Was this year's Farm-City theme incorporated into the meal? REMEMBER - the answer to this question will be used to select Target Award winners in both divisions.

Judging criteria for a perfect Farm-City Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner entry

- Event targets people from farm and city
- Audience is impressive, either because of number of attendees or position of attendees, such as mayor, city council, leadership program or every student from a certain grade
- Programs/presentations stayed on topic of connection between farm and city and incorporated the annual Farm-City theme
- Entry provides thorough details, along with some anecdotal evidence that the audience displayed a greater understanding of the connection between farm and city life as a result of attending the meal
- Incorporates numerous creative elements beyond an awards dinner, such as social media, promotion, invitations, trivia, surveys, etc.

Media Coverage/Proclamation

In 300 words or less, describe your county committee's work to secure Farm-City proclamations signed by local elected officials and media outreach for all events. You may use a bulleted list, if preferred. Answer the following questions in your submission:

- How many proclamations were signed and by whom?
- Did you reach out to city and county officials? Explain your successes and challenges with getting elected officials to sign a proclamation.
- How did the media cover the proclamation signings?
- How many TV stations, radio stations and newspapers are in your county?
- How many Farm-City stories about your county's events appeared in the newspaper or on TV or radio?
- Explain your successes and challenges in getting media coverage for Farm-City events.
- How did the committee itself promote or display the proclamations once they were signed?

Judging criteria for a perfect Media Coverage/Proclamation entry

- Number of proclamations signed shows strong connection among cities, county and state representatives
- Every media outlet in the county did something to promote proclamations being signed OR were at least contacted by the committee
- Committee found unique ways to promote the signing and did something to display or promote the proclamations after they were signed

Innovative Idea

In 300 words or less, describe an innovative idea your county committee implemented for the first time this year. This could be a brand-new event, an innovative presentation of a traditional Farm-City activity or an unusual addition to an annual Farm-City event. Answer the following questions in your submission:

- What was the innovative idea?
- What makes the idea unique or creative?
- Who was the target audience for the event or program?
- How many people were impacted by this new idea?
- How did the idea encourage better understanding between urban and rural residents?
- What feedback did you receive about this addition?
- Were you able to incorporate the year's Farm-City theme into this innovative idea?
REMEMBER - the answer to this question will be used to select Target Award winners in both divisions.

Judging criteria for a perfect Innovative Idea entry

- The idea/program clearly targeted people from the farm and city
- Entry clearly states this was the first year this program or idea was implemented
- Idea does a superior job of driving home the Farm-City mission
- Entry provides thorough details, along with some anecdotal evidence that the audience displayed a greater understanding of the connection between farm and city life as a result of the innovative idea
- Displays creativity, going above and beyond to either reach a new audience with Farm-City message or present Farm-City message in a new light

Special Activities

Describe other special activities your county Farm-City committee either hosted or helped with during the year. For activities that are sponsored or developed by other groups, such as Classroom in the Forest or Ag in the Classroom, please be specific about how your committee assisted. Include any National Ag Day events in this section.

There is no word limit for this category. To organize your entry, please give each special activity a title, followed by paragraphs that answer the following questions about the activity:

- What was the target audience for the activity? Include special guests and/or media who were invited and how many were able to attend.
- Did the activity reach people who were not reached by other programs?
- What made the activity different from other programs hosted by the county committee?
- How did the activity encourage a better understanding between urban and rural residents?
- What feedback did you receive about the activity?
- Did the activity incorporate the year's Farm-City theme? REMEMBER - the answer to this question will be used to select Target Award winners in both divisions.

Judging criteria for a perfect Special Activities entry

- Activities target people from farm and city as attendees and/or hosts
- Reaches a unique audience not reached by the county's other Farm-City programs
- Shows dedication to celebrating Farm-City mission year round
- Variety of activities covers different farm commodities, non-profits, schools and/or industries
- Entry provides thorough details, along with some anecdotal evidence that the audience displayed a greater understanding of the connection between farm and city life as a result of the special activities
- Incorporates numerous creative elements, such as using social media, unique promotion/invitations, trivia, surveys, etc.

Scrapbook

Scrapbooks should provide a visual representation of your county's Farm-City events and activities throughout the year. Scrapbooks will be scored based on organizational structure, neatness, creativity and relevance of content. Quality of pages and content will be weighted more heavily than quantity of pages. Entries must not exceed dimensions of 24" x 30" x 8" and may not weigh more than **10** pounds.

Tips for winning entries:

- Focus on Farm-City events, or clearly explain how a county Farm-City committee was involved in other events sponsored by another group such as Extension, FFA, etc.
- Use one design scheme or theme throughout.
- Ensure photos are high-quality and in-focus. Better to leave out a low-quality photo rather than include it in the entry.
- Use a variety of creative elements including photography, journaling and embellishments.
- Support — but do NOT repeat or copy — the activity report.

Judging criteria for a perfect Scrapbook entry

- Included pertinent photos and explanations of county Farm-City events
 - If events were sponsored by another group, entry clearly explained how the Farm-City Committee was involved
- Information supports but does NOT repeat the activity report
- Structure is easy to follow, clear and organized
- Aesthetically pleasing design
- No glaring spelling or grammatical errors
- All photos are in-focus
- Follows one color-scheme or theme throughout (i.e.: fonts or handwriting matches, colors used on different pages are still complementary)
- Contains a variety of creative elements including photography, titles, journaling and embellishments
- Incorporates the Farm-City theme in an interesting way

Alabama Farm-City Week Event/Activity Ideas

July 16, 2025

Please use the following list of ideas to plan exciting and engaging events and activities to promote the mission of Farm-City. County Farm-City Committees are encouraged to promote/involve the “city” aspect to a greater degree in all activities and events. When reporting any event or activity, provide as much relevant context for the judges such as number of attendees, special guests, how the theme was incorporated, how farm and city were brought together and more.

Tour:

- Incorporate diversity of local agriculture production/initiatives.
- Involve local elected officials to create partnerships/opportunities.
- Bus/trolley tour to ferry people to different stops (including farm and city locations).

Civic Club Programs:

- Highlight local civic organizations through social media, presentations, etc.
- Present the Farm-City mission at civic club/program meetings.

Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner:

- Highlight farmers AND community businesses/leaders.
- Games/contests to engage attendees and to provide take-home gifts.
- Promoting the meal as a “youth celebration” to highlight the involvement of local young people in Farm-City.
- Incorporate local organizations such as FFA, FCLA, JRTOC, 4-H, etc. to help with the event.
- Support the community through a food drive or other related activities.
- Using locally grown products when possible.

Media Coverage/Proclamation:

- Using social media to highlight proclamations and share public service announcements.
- Encourage promotion through TV, radio and written news outlets.

Innovative Idea:

- Establish a Youth Council comprised of local students to help plan/work events.
- Elected official breakfast/tour
- Digital poster displays at fairs, meetings, etc
- Farmer for a Day: provide opportunities to showcase what happens on farms (could also incorporate other industries).
- Ag-accurate book drive for local schools/libraries.

Scrapbook:

- Short titles/descriptions are encouraged to provide context of what is happening in photos to judges.

Special Activities:

- Fair/Festival Booths
- Ladies Luncheon
- Volunteering/providing support for other community events.
- Parade float
- Ag Days
- Cookoffs

Target Award:

- Focus on using the Farm-City theme to develop events/activities and specifically find ways to highlight the theme.
- Use signage at events with theme and committee name.

Model Press Release

Please use the below information to create your own press release for any county Farm-City events you want to promote. Please edit any material to better match your specific activity or event you want to share with media.

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

[COUNTY] County Celebrates Farm-City Week Nov. 21-27

[COUNTY] County will celebrate National Farm-City Week Nov. 21-27 with [BRIEFLY LIST ACTIVITIES].

“[QUOTE FROM FARM-CITY CHAIRMAN OR LEAD VOLUNTEER]

This year’s theme is “Grow Alabama.” The goal is to communicate the important role agriculture plays on Alabama’s economy for both urban and rural dwellers. Organizers encourage their neighbors to consider impact of agriculture and forestry in creating over 270,000 various job opportunities in support of Alabama’s workforce. Farmers and foresters also contributed \$77.3 billion to state’s economy through commodities such as timber; poultry and eggs; soybeans, corn and wheat; beef; cotton; greenhouse, nursery and floriculture; peanuts; and catfish.

[COUNTY] County plans to [LIST ACTIVITIES IN-DEPTH].

National Farm-City Week was established in 1955 to unify urban and rural workers and improve the image of agriculture across America. Since its inception, Farm-City Week has been celebrated every year to connect urban and rural people. In Alabama, Farm-City Week is celebrated during the week leading to Thanksgiving.

For more information about [COUNTY’S] Farm-City Week observance, contact [NAME] at [EMAIL/PHONE NUMBER] or visit [WEBSITE OR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGE].

###

DALE COUNTY FARM-CITY

ACTIVITY REPORT

2024

Sample
Winning Report

"Our Community Counts on Farmers"



Contact: Monica Carroll
1310 Hwy 123 N.
Ozark, Alabama 36360
334-726-6064
4ccattle.4cfarms@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Dale County Committee is a broad base group of people from all over the county. They are all volunteers who are very compassionate about our communities and farming.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>
Monica Carroll – Co.Chair	Women's Committee
Melissa Voynich -Co. Chair	Dale County Extension County Coordinator
Faye Williams - Treasurer	Women's Committee
Sharon Byrd	Women's Committee
Melissa Walding	Women's Committee
Debbie Kirkland	Women's Committee
Rosemarie Williamson	Ozark Chamber of Commerce
Heather Cohen	Ozark City – Mayor's assistant
Steve McKinnon	Dale County Commission – Chairman
Frankie Johnson	Dale County Commission
Mayor Mark Blakenship	Ozark Mayor
Marshall Childers	First South Farm Credit
Bill Walding	Cattlemen's Association- Farmers Federation
April Moore	Dale County Extension System
Zandi Foss	Dale County Extension System
Madison Tew	Dale County Extension
Justin Jernegan	AL Ag Credit Association
John Cawley	Kiwanis Club- President
Les Perault	Kiwanis Club
Phil Simms	Ozark Baptist Church – Mission Leader
Jerry Byrd	Farmers Federation- AL Peanut Producers
Chris Carroll	Farmers Federation- Chairman
Christina Faulkner	Editor of Southern Star
Michelle Mann	Editor of Dothan Eagle
Bo Walding	Young Farmer's Chairman

Sample
Winning Report

subcommittees

- Media – Melissa Voynich & Christina Faulkner
- Downtown Open House – Rosemarie Williamsom
- Program – Zandi Foss & Melissa Voynich
- Door Prizes – John Cawley
- Plaques for Award Winners – Zandi Foss
- Poster Contest – Faye Williams & April Moore
- Tickets & Letter Sponsors – Zandi Foss & Monica Carroll
- Farm/City Tour – Heather Cohen, Mayor Blakenship, Melissa Voynich
- Proclamation – Steve McKinnon & Mark Blakenship
- FFA Exhibits/Booths – Zandi Foss
- Banquet –
 - Decorations – Women's Committee Melissa Walding, Sharon Byrd, Faye Williams,
 - Entertainment – Leah Harlow
 - Color Guard – Heather Cohen
 - Food – Monica Carroll
 - Commodity Awards- Zandi Foss & Melissa Voynich
 - Flowers – Women's Committee
 - Venue- Ozark City Staff
 - Pastor- Bill Walding

Sample
Winning Report

Financial Support of Dale County Farm City Banquet and Activities

Sponsors

Platinum \$750

Wiregrass RC&D

GOLD \$500

First South Farm Credit

Alabama Ag Credit

Dale County Farmers Federation

Ozark City

Dale County Extension Service

Dale County Commission

Dale County Cattlemen's Association

Kiwanis Club

Ozark Area Chamber of Commerce

Pea River Electric Company

Dale County SWCD

Dale Medical Center

SunSouth

Silver \$250

Frankie Wilson – Dale County Commissioner

Williams Farms LLC

Fuqua Bankston Funeral Home

John Cawley – Coroner

Frit Industries

The Southern Star

Dale County 200 Centennial

Bronze \$100

Dale County SWCD

Sample
Winning Report

Farm/City Tour November 18th

Hosted by: City of Ozark

Our tour is free and open to the public. It was promoted through the Farm City Committee members, Ozark Chamber of Commerce newsletter and Farmers Federation meetings. In this way, our committee worked to truly connect farmers with local businesses and chamber involvement in new ways and through a fun experience. Attendees included retired teachers, farmers, local business owners, extension personnel, city and county elected officials, administrators and other community leaders.

This year, our tour was organized by the Ozark Mayor's office. We got to visit new industry and sites located in our city of Ozark by the theme of "Trolley Tour". A local church bus was used to chauffeur the group to destinations throughout Ozark and Dale County. Ozark City offers a delightful blend of history, charm, and scenic beauty, making it the perfect day to see how Our Community Counts on Farmers.

Melissa Voynich, Dale County extension Coordinator & Mayor Mark Blakenship narrated the tour highlighting the city's history, pointing out new industry development, as well as sharing the new renovations made to our local high school and Stegall Park. As we rode around the new athletic facilities the school played the Auburn Fight Song in dedication to the agriculture group. As we were traveling thru town, we were treated to the views of the picturesque downtown lined with historic buildings, quaint shops, and welcoming cafés. It was valuable to explore our local landmarks, Ozark's rich heritage and see our town developments.

During the tour, our guides did a Q&A session and had introductions to every person on the bus so that we can build understanding and connections. It was a memorable experience and just showed how our community continues to thrive today.

Once we were done with the "Trolley Tour" the group was then transported back to the beautiful historic Holman House on broad street for lunch catered by a local business in town, Diflippio's, who was a finalist for BEST PIZZA 3 years ago in the Farmers' Federation State Contest. During lunch the people that attended the tour were allowed to mix and mingle and discuss events that were happening in

the county and build stronger relationships between farmers and merchants along with city and county officials.

In all, approx. 25 people were directly involved with the tour and tour stops. All attendees joined in networking afterward to discuss their various positions in the community and working together. Specifically, we discussed developing the farmer's market through producers and our chamber of commerce! Dale County will be better because of this tour opportunity.

Word count :436

Sample
Winning Report

Civic Club Programs

The Civic Clubs targeted this year represented more diversity to focus on new connections with farming programs.

- We spoke to the Distinguished Young Women of Dale County participants (17 present), and the Ozark Chamber Ambassadors (30) about Farm-City.
- Ozark Kiwanis Club - John Cawley (President) and member Les Perault sits on the Farm City Committee and shares the importance of Farm City events and impact of agriculture with Kiwanis. 32 members were present when the County coordinator visited.
- Dale County Farmers Federation Women's Committee – Monica Carroll briefed members on the events for Farm City and asked the ladies if they would help decorate the banquet this year. She also invited them to the Farm-City Events. 15 members were present.
- 4-H –Mrs. April Moore and Madison Tew visit students K-6th grades in city and county schools to teach about Farm-City Week, shares where our food comes from, and help evaluate posters. We have access to each school. Approx. 2400 students are included.
- Our Government Building which houses County Engineer Office, Garbage Payment Office, Driver's license Office, The Board of Education, and County Extension Office– displayed posters in the center lobby where everyone comes through, during the week of Farm City Celebration Week November 22nd-28th
- Each member on our committee represents an organization they are involved in and additional meetings are held where Farm-City is discussed. It is through the support and involvement with these partners that makes promoting agriculture such a success for Farm City Celebration. By involving so many diverse members it truly exposes agriculture in a wide area of civic groups.

Farm City Banquet Dinner

November 19th

Ozark Civic Center

Instead of selling tickets to our banquet we use it as an annual food drive to give back to our community.

We publicized to get a door prize ticket you must bring a can good. We collected over 200lbs of food items to distributed to our local food banks. The Farmers' Federation also purchased 700 jars of peanut butter to distribute along with the can goods that was collected during the banquet. The committee worked hard on sponsorships so anyone that wanted to attend could, this way more of the public would understand the importance of our rural/city partnership and making tickets free. Special Invitations are sent out to local legislators, county and city officials.

Local FFA Chapters were invited to exhibit booths revealing their talents and displaying our theme **"Our Community Counts on farmers"**. The FFA students are also present to help distribute door prizes that our local Kiwanis members gather for the banquet attendees. This allows FFA students to interact and use social skills with area farmers, merchants and local leaders in our community. Each chapter also donates a door prize item made by them either woodworking items, plants, meat products or steal ornaments. This year we allowed each FFA chapter to come to the mic introduce themselves and share with the crowd their item and what school they represent. We always get compliments from the crowd having the students present for our banquet. The students also helped with the can food collection going on during the beginning of the banquet.(all 5 chapters came)

The program began with an introduction from Farm-City Chairs discussing the events that took place the prior week. Invocation was given by a local pastor (we rotate this among the different districts of the county). Local City School Carroll High Jr. ROTC brought in the colors of the flag. Dinner was catered by Hoppergrass, a local restaurant. Local music artist played as attendees entered the banquet and ate their meal. The musical guitarist also played the national anthem before the awards ceremony. Emcee this year was our Dale County Extension County Coordinator, Melissa Voynich she read out the information on award winners as they came forward to receive plaques and sponsors presented the plaques to winners. Our local Young Farmers and Rodeo Committee also donated to the Dale County AgPlex \$21,000 from the proceeds. These proceeds help to maintain the AgPlex facility where livestock and Ag Educational events take place. The poster winners were displayed along the banquet hall to display this year's theme for decorations. Extension created a slide show which exhibited all sponsors while scrolling through the meal using the theme **"Our Community Counts on Farmers"**

How did it promote better rural-urban relations?

The Chairman reminded the audience the importance of this celebration and the need of the partnerships rely heavily on each other to provide the abundant way of life. Having so many diverse sectors of attendees from our county and city creates a great way to see how we all need each other to sustain our way of life.

This year we collected 275 tickets from the food bank allocation for door prizes.

Word count 500

Sample
Winning Report

Media Coverage/Proclamation

Farm- City Proclamation signing was during Dale County Commission Meeting, and Extension did Open House afterward with invitations that went out to the public, as a special way to commemorate. The Ozark City Mayor was present, and media provided high visibility.

WTVY Regional TV Station was present at our Rodeo and Claybank Jamboree.

Regional Radio station **The Legend** broadcast live from our Rodeo.

Woof FM broadcast live from Claybank "Farmer for a Day"

Southern Star is our local subscription paper, and the **Dothan Eagle** is a paper distributed in the Wiregrass.

In addition, Wiregrass local TV stations located in **Houston County WDHN** covered Farm Day at Ariton School and Be a Farmer For A Day at Claybank.

The **Ozark Chamber of Commerce Facebook**, **The Ozark City Facebook**, **Dale County Farmer's Fed.**, and **Alabama Dale County Extension** posted Farm-City information repeatedly.

How many photos in newspaper? At least 38 in Southern Star; 6 in Dothan Eagle

Counts:

Insights on social media: 162,000 views on posts and videos

Proclamations: 45 present in meetings/Open House

WTVY: 55K followers/views

Peanut Festival Exhibit Booth and summer Camplify! for Dale County: 200,000 in attendance

Dothan Eagle and Southern Star: 36,000 reach+subscriptions

We estimate 470,000 were reached with the message of Community Connecting Farmers!

Special on the ground Coverage: Farmer For A Day was the highlight this year for media coverage. Young Farmers, Farmers Federation, FFA Chapters, Extension, RC&D, Master Gardner, Dale County Cattlemen's, Dale County Forestry, ALFA Insurance, Dale County Beekeepers, Sweet Grown Alabama, First Farm Credit (Sponsor), Ozark City Chamber of Commerce...650 Extension goody bags were given out to children who came thru our street, filled with peanuts, butterfly garden, honey straws, ALFA pens, sweet grown magnets, soybean crayons, forestry coloring pages and cattlemen info sheets.

Word count: 291

Innovative Farm-City Idea

Farmer For A Day is an interactive one day program for our community, during the Claybank Jamboree Festival. So many partnerships went in together to make this happen. Young Farmers, Farmers Federation, County FFA Chapters, Extension Service, Alabama Peanut Producers, RC&D, Master Gardener Program, Dale County Cattlemen's, Dale County Beekeepers Association, Sweet Grown Alabama and First South Farm Credit Sponsored our event and worked together to make this possible.

Participants got to learn about agriculture commodities that are grown here in Dale County and gained an appreciation for where their food comes from. White tents were distributed along the street with a commodity fun event in each area, illustrating a Farmers Market Appearance. Hands on demonstrations like grind corn, rope a hay bale steer, view a live colony of bees, hold a baby chicken and watch cotton be ginned was some of the agricultural demonstrations found at "Farmer for A Day".

Our local City Mayor dressed up like a cowboy and broke bread using a freshly grilled PBJ sandwich provided by The Alabama Peanut Producers Association commodity tent, on the main stage for the Opening Ceremony. He was accompanied by Mr Peanut, local county commissioners, city council personnel, Representative Steve Clouse and the Farm-City Committee.

This event helped to promote our farm city theme **"Our Community Counts on Farmers"**. This year's Claybank Jamboree Festival saw more than 15,000 visitors.

Local Radio Media Wolf FM 99.7 interviewed both Co-Chairs Melissa and Monica Live, to share about the Farmer For A Day events and why Farm-City is so important to celebrate. Also, local newspaper coverage was listed on the front page.

Word count 278

Special Activities

The Farm-City Committee works year-round providing access to farmers and bringing them to community event opportunities. A close working relationship among Extension, ALFA Farmer's Federation, the Commissioners and City Council, along with the Ozark Chamber, allowed for a full slate of events providing access to ALL to connect agriculture with farms with communities. Our activities covered schools, non-profits, dairy production, and adult education. Here is a selection of our event offerings this year:

- **NEW! Summer Farm Animal Camp with Extension:** The Extension service celebrated summer with a youth camp that included Farm-City Committee members bringing animals to our AgPlex for a showcase. Local children were able to see animals they have never seen before, and got to meet our County Commissioner and Mayor, who were present with the Committee. Monica Carroll and other volunteers spoke about raising animals, including cows, sheep, goats, chicken and horses. The kids were more excited than ever before and did not want to leave the Agplex!
- **EXCLUSIVE! The Smithsonian Exhibit "Crossroads of America" Opening and Ribbon Cutting at Ann Rudd Art Center Ozark Downtown**
 - The Extension service, Local producers, RC&D representations, city councilors and state legislators gathers to open the traveling Rural America Exhibit in Downtown Ozark. Regional media, city commissions, and the general public were invited to attend. About 100 people gathered for the event, which opened the event and had foot traffic throughout the summer. This was a first-time, unique event planned primarily by Extension to create a local display, and of course Farm-City was included. Urban and rural residents were able to view Farm-City scrapbooks from years' past, so Farm-City Committee members were happy to be involved. This uniquely connected urban and rural audiences in an accessible way. This venture is supported by grants and donations – truly a community effort!
- **Extension programming at the Farmer's Federation and Young Farmers Meetings -** The Extension service, local row crop producers, and city commissioners gathered to learn more about Master Beef Cattle production and marketing exclusively in Dale County this year through a series of 15 meetings. The general public was invited to attend this workshop time. Approximately 40 specialists and general public audience learned during the event. Farm-City Committee members helped set up, attend, and cook at the graduation banquet. this is an excellent connection of urban and rural leaders helping others gain access to knowledge in agriculture.
- **Master Gardener plant sales in the Farmer's Market –** All general public and Farm-City Committee members assisted in setting up a large plant sale for anyone in the region. Claybank Master Gardeners provided unique plants in pots, along with instruction on maintaining the plant, during this day-long sale. Foot-traffic in the open-air market allowed for a lot of visitors, and there was no exact count except through revenue generation of \$400 going toward our flower growers. This sale was not to generate money but to allow for knowledge of those who are starting out with plants. Our hope

as a Farm-City Committee is that exposing new people to ideas, like plant care, and allow them an easy way to access plants and knowledge. We are so glad for this partnership!

- Cattleman and Farmer's Federation reading to Kindergarteners and speaking to FFA chapters: this occurs throughout the year in multiple schools. We are grateful that the Regional Cattleman's Vice-president sits on our Farm-City committee as a strong advocate for production in Dale County. Approx. 95 teachers and students heard from cattleman this year.
- National Peanut Festival Booth: Attended by more than 200,000 people, our peanut festival booth featured the "Nutizens" of Dale County in a new way, introducing commodities and people of Dale County, including many of our Farm-City committee members. Our booth won BLUE RIBBON first place in the Peanut Festival Judging, and Dale County Commission celebrated with us during the Farm-City Proclamation Open House, where everyone was invited to view the Nutizens.
- Groundwater Festival and 4H youth agriculture and Forestry programs: We must educate our kids about ag in order to build our future generations and Extension takes this seriously, recruiting Farm-City committee members and teachers to assist and help youth understand more about water sources, plant material, and even how to grow their own plant buddies. More than 350 students attend these events. We have established a brand-new Livestock Judging team of local youth that has jumped to more than 20 youth involved!

1. Estimated number of man hours spent on activities: 500 hours+
2. Number of volunteers involved in county activities: in addition to our 24 committee members approximately 100 other volunteers : FFA students, extension staff, teachers, city council members, Kiwanis club members collecting door prizes, media coverage, farmers helping collect decorations
3. Estimated number of people reached by county activities: elementary students being educated all throughout the county, 250 banquet attendees, 400 visitors to the local library where we have flyers, 15 organizations that receive chamber letters, Newspaper coverage in local paper around 400,000 views weekly , Open House exposure, flyers placed in local businesses....we have a population of around 50,000 in Dale County, and with 15,000 people alone visiting Claybank Jamboree, plus our monthly events and students involvement, we safely agree most everyone that lives in Dale County is aware of the Farm City Celebration!
- We love where we live!**

Signed:

Monica Cannon - Co Chair
Chairman Women's Committee

Address

112 Co. Rd 108

Ozark, Ar

36360

Geneva County Farm-City

2024 Activity Report

Sample
Winning Report



“Our Community Counts on Farmers”

1486 Goose Hollow Road

Geneva, AL 36340

Geneva County Farm-City Activity Report 2024

“Our Community Counts on Farmers”

Date Submitted: January 10, 2025

County: Geneva

Farm-City Committee:

Nikki Dyess, Farm-City Chairperson, Geneva City Schools Career Coach, Geneva County CattleWomen’s President, Geneva County Cattlemen’s Association Secretary, Warren Beck Youth Leadership Program Vice-President Board of Directors

Jessica Morris, Farm-City Treasurer, First South Farm Credit

Amber Thornton, Farm-City Secretary, Geneva County Schools Career Coach, Young Farmers Chairman

Debra Dunn, ALFA Geneva County Women’s Leadership Committee Member and ALFA State Women’s Leadership Committee Chair and Region IV State Board Member

Daniel Coleman, City of Geneva City Council Member District 7

Gloria Marks, Geneva County Extension Coordinator

Sharon Turner, ALFA Geneva County Women’s Leadership Chair, Retired Teacher

Geneva County Farm-City Activity Report 2024

“Our Community Counts on Farmers”

Farm-City Treasury Report

The Farm-City Committee received financial support through sponsorships from the following:

Geneva County Soil & Water Conservation

Bank Plus

City of Hartford

Geneva Lions Club

Geneva County Commission

SunSouth – Samson

City of Geneva

City of Samson

Wiregrass RC&D

Covington Electric Cooperative

Senator Donnie Chesteen

Geneva County Cattlemen’s Association

Representative Jeff Sorrells

Geneva County Historical Society

First South Farm Credit

Friend Bank

Geneva County Farmers Federation

Geneva Family Dentistry

Alabama Ag Credit

Tax Professional Services, LLC

City of Slocumb

Geneva County NAACP Branch 5031

Geneva County Farm-City Activity Report 2024

“Our Community Counts on Farmers”

Farm-City Tour

The Geneva County Farm-City Committee was excited to coordinate an exceptional farm tour that showcased how “Our Community Counts on Farmers!” The tour was held on October 23, 2024, and tour participants included members of Geneva County’s highly selective youth leadership program for high school juniors. Students are selected through an application and interview process and the delegation includes students from each of the four high schools in the County. The program holds themed field trips each month that educate delegates on the various aspects of community, economy, and government in Geneva County and Alabama. This year, for the group’s Agriculture Day, they joined the Geneva County Farm-City Farm Tour. Other attendees included our district court judge, a representative from Wiregrass Electric, our new 4-H agent, our new Soil & Water Conservation Specialist, a representative from a local investment firm, and members of the Geneva County Farmers Federation Women’s Leadership Committee.

Prior to tour day, participants completed an online evaluation to determine their current financial literacy levels. The tour day began with a game to educate tour participants about agriculture in a fun, interactive format. To showcase how our community counts of farmers, most questions in the game were farm facts, taken from the most recent census of agriculture.

Next, the group visited Brannon Brothers Farm. Todd Brannon (County Commissioner and board member of the Geneva County Farmers Federation) welcomed the group and discussed row crop production. He explained modern technology and demonstrated the farm’s cotton picker.

The next stop on the tour was Hendrix Produce in Slocomb. Hendrix Produce grows row crops, cattle, and a variety of produce, including famous, Slocomb Tomatoes. Rhonda Hendrix welcomed the tour group at the produce market, which is located on the farm. Her son, Donnie Hendrix, then toured the participants around the farm and showcased the impact of pivot irrigation that the farm utilizes.

Next, the group enjoyed lunch and an agriculture leadership panel. Panelists were Dean Mitchell, Hudson Alpha; Shelby Easterling, Alabama CattleWomen’s President; Ashley Merritt, Alabama Ag Credit; and Commissioners and Farmers Todd Brannon and Bart Wilks.

After lunch, the group visited Enterprise Livestock in Geneva, where they learned about cattle buying and observed a recent load of cattle being worked before shipment to buyers out west.

They observed deworming, tagging, and branding. They also toured the onsite horse barn and show facilities.

The final stop on the tour was Sessions Peanut in Geneva. Jason Vinson explained the process for getting peanuts to market and the USDA inspection process.

This year's tour was unique because of the group selected and the diversity in agriculture that was displayed. Participants expressed that they were amazed by the impact that agriculture has in Geneva County, as well as the many products produced, and the far-reaching geographical impact of our locally grown products. The tour participants were current and future leaders of Geneva County. They are not all from farming backgrounds and the tour highlighted how our community counts on farmers!

Geneva County Farm-City Activity Report 2024

“Our Community Counts on Farmers”

Civic Club Programs

This year Geneva County Farm-City engaged 7 diverse civic organizations to spread the message that “Our Community Counts on Farmers.” These groups were Rotary, Lions Club, NAACP, Historical Society, Cattlemen’s, CattleWomen’s, and Farmers Federation. These groups are comprised of almost 500 men and women of diverse backgrounds and careers. These audiences are the embodiment of the relationship between rural and urban workers.

Farm-City Chairman, Nikki Dyess, and members of the Farm-City Youth Council presented to Rotary. The presentation showcased photos of the various events throughout the year. In furtherance of this year’s Farm-City theme, facts from the Census of Agriculture were shared. These facts highlight the dependency on agriculture and how other industries are involved in getting our food to market. Several Rotary members are sponsors of Farm-City, so this presentation provided an opportunity to highlight the importance of their sponsorship. A reporter from the *Geneva County Journal* covered the presentation with a detailed article and colored photograph.

Other civic clubs that assist with Farm-City are the Lion’s Club, NAACP Geneva County Branch 5031, and the Geneva County Historical Society, these organizations are sponsors of the annual banquet, and are knowledgeable of Farm-City events. One of the Farm-City Committee members, Danny Coleman, is an active leader in the Lions Club and keeps the group up-to-date on activities. Most of the members of these organizations are not actively engaged in agriculture, so their partnerships are especially important in strengthening the relationship between urban and rural workers.

The other agricultural organizations listed above partnered with Farm-City to host multiple events this year. These groups were targeted because of the common goals of these organizations to educate the community about agriculture.

The committee spotlighted these civic organizations on Facebook by thanking them for their sponsorships and sharing photographs from presentations and partner events.

Geneva County Farm-City Activity Report 2024

“Our Community Counts on Farmers”

Farm-City Appreciation Banquet

Geneva County Counts on Farmers! The annual Geneva County Farm-City Banquet celebrated the many ways we all count on farmers. The dinner banquet was held on November 21, 2024, at the regionally acclaimed, Ketchem’s Venue in Hartford. It was an exceptional evening celebrating farming, business, and community leaders. Approximately two-hundred (200) people attended. Guests included community leaders, farmers, agricultural business professionals, business owners, and youth contest winners and their families. Dignitaries in attendance were Alabama State Senator, Donnie Chesteen, Geneva Mayor David Hayes, Hartford Mayor Wendell Nolen, Slocomb Mayor Rob Hinson, Commission Chairman Toby Seay, and many commissioners and city council members.

The beautifully decorated banquet hall welcomed guests for a festive evening. “Our Community Counts on Farmers” was the essence of the evening. The theme was visually displayed on each table with farm facts and Geneva County Agriculture Reports from the recent US Census of Agriculture. The theme was further emphasized on the winning posters which were displayed on stage, as well as the lovely keepsake programs.

Guests were welcomed by Farm-City Chairman, Nikki Dyess. The pledge of allegiance was led by members of the Geneva County Farm-City Youth Council, and Rev. Tim Bedsole, Farmer and Director of the Geneva County Baptist Association, led the invocation.

The awards presentation followed the delicious dinner. We were honored to once again have Mrs. Marlee Jackson, Publications Director for the Alabama Farmers Federation serve as emcee for the evening. Mrs. Jackson welcomed various presenters and award winners to the stage, the four (4) local mayors presented their “Business of the Year” award for their respective community. Mrs. Jackson then announced the agricultural awards. Winners were presented with unique wood and leather plaques, which were hand-crafted by a local artisan. A script was prepared, including a short biography for each of the award winners and representatives from supporting agencies presented the plaques to the winners. This year, our award categories were updated to reflect our current agriculture production and support systems in Geneva County. Eleven (11) agricultural awards were presented to outstanding producers of row crops, cattle, poultry, horticulture, as well as outstanding conservationist, forest land owner, agricultural business, young farmer, champion of agriculture, farm family, and the lifetime achievement award.

The 2024 Geneva County Farm-City banquet encouraged a better understanding between urban and rural residents by highlighting the wonderful successes of local business owners and farmers. Municipal leaders were present to acknowledge the contributions of the local farming community and farming families were able to learn more about the towns throughout the County. The banquet showcased the many commodities produced in Geneva County, as well as highlighting the variety of goods and services offered in our towns, through our successful local businesses. Following the banquet, Geneva County Farm-City committee members received praise for an evening of wonderful food, fellowship, and community celebration. The winners and their bios were highlighted on the newly created Geneva County Farm-City Facebook page and showcased in the Geneva County Journal newspaper. The Geneva County Farm-City Banquet truly emphasized the many ways that our community absolutely counts on farmers!

Geneva County Farm-City Activity Report 2024

“Our Community Counts on Farmers”

Media Coverage/Proclamations

New in 2024, was the Geneva County Farm-City Facebook page. Our greatest challenge in media coverage is the lack of media outlets in Geneva County. Being a small, rural county, we only have one weekly newspaper and no TV or radio stations. For that reason, we decided to overcome that challenge by utilizing social media to showcase proclamation signings, highlight outstanding producers and businesses, and generally support the story of agriculture!

The Geneva County Farm-City Committee had a total of five (5) proclamations signed. Mayors from Geneva, Slocumb, Hartford and Samson signed the proclamation along with the Chairman of the Geneva County Commission.

A presentation was given at each city council and commission meeting by a member of the Farm-City Committee. Members of the Geneva County Farm-City Youth Council also attended the proclamation signings. The presentations included information about committee activities, state recognition for past performances, and an invitation to upcoming events. The presentations also included announcement of the new youth council, and provided the youth council an opportunity to interact with community leaders. The proclamations were readily signed by every city and the county commission.

Media coverage of the proclamation in Geneva was on the front page of the *Geneva County Journal*, which also ran an article when the proclamation was signed in Hartford. All of the proclamation signings were promoted on the Geneva County Farm-City Facebook Page, and the proclamations themselves were publicly shared on the Facebook Page.

The numerous other Farm-City events this year were also published in the newspaper, shared on the committee’s Facebook page, and school events were shared on school social media pages. Publicity for these events reached a large audience, due to the numerous followers for the school social media pages. Our committee had fantastic community support for our activities and programs!

Geneva County Farm-City Activity Report 2024

“Our Community Counts on Farmers”

Innovative Idea

In 2024, the Geneva County Farm-City Committee was thrilled to launch the Geneva County Farm-City Youth Council! The council is comprised of a representative from each Career Tech Service Organization and Student Government in Geneva County. There are seventeen (17) members from four (4) high schools, representing FFA, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Future Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), SkillsUSA, and Student Government Associations. This diverse group of students represents both farm and city.

There are three primary goals for the council: 1) assist the Geneva County Farm-City Committee with school and community programs, 2) provide networking, leadership, and personal/career development opportunities for the youth, and 3) create a pipeline for future Farm-City committee members.

This year, students have attended proclamation signings, worked hospitality at the annual banquet, helped lead agricultural literacy programs at the elementary schools, and created an educational exhibit at the National Peanut Festival. The fair exhibit educated onlookers about agriculture in the Wiregrass by displaying farm facts from the recent US Census of Agriculture, while keeping with the festival’s theme “A Family Tradition for 80 Years.” The play on numbers worked perfectly with this year’s Farm-City theme. The students were thrilled that their exhibit won grand prize!

Our community was positively impacted by the youth council, because the students have reached community members that were unfamiliar with Farm-City. Many of the youth council members are not from farming families, so their participation in the program has helped create a better understanding between urban and rural residents.

The youth council has been a huge success! The council has received incredibly positive feedback from schools and community leaders. We look forward to continuing to spread the reach of Farm-City with the youth council for years to come.

Geneva County Farm-City Activity Report 2024

“Our Community Counts on Farmers”

Special Activities

Geneva County COUNTS on Farmers, and our Farm-City Committee is using the power of numbers to organize a county-wide, comprehensive agricultural literacy program that reaches each school student in our county, at least one time per year. The Geneva County Farm-City Committee and partner organizations in Geneva County are working to establish an agricultural encounter for each school grade level. We are still lacking a few grade levels, but have made progress in organizing our endeavors to consistently reach a wide audience. The current school events that the Farm-City Committee leads or substantially assists with, organized by grade level, are:

- Dirt Day (Kindergarten)
- Soil Babies (1st grade)
- Ag Literacy Day (2nd grade)
- Ag Day (3rd grade)
- Groundwater Festival (4th grade)
- Cattle Class (6th grade – postponed in 2024 because of Farm Center renovations)
- Career Fair (8th grade)
- Ag Career Day (9th – 12th grades)

Dirt Day

Dirt Day is an annual event sponsored by Geneva County Soil and Water Conservation District, and executed by the Farm-City Committee. Committee members visited every kindergarten classroom in Geneva County (approximately 300 students). Farm-City Committee members were accompanied by high school students from the Education and Training Program at the county’s career technical education center. This event provides an excellent career development opportunity for these future teachers! The goal of this program is to promote the importance of soil health to our children. Committee members read books about soil, including “Oh Say Can You Seed?” and “Seed Soil Sun.” Kindergarten students learned about the layers of soil as they created their own layered “soil” dessert using cookies, pudding, gummy worms, and green licorice grass. It was a wonderfully messy lesson on a fun way to remember the layers of soil.

Soil Babies

Soil Babies is another annual event sponsored by Geneva County Soil and Water Conservation District, and executed by the Farm-City Committee. Committee members and Farm-City Youth Council members visited every 1st grade classroom in Geneva County (approximately 300 students). The goal of this program is to educate students about how plants grow from seed. Youth Council members read “Oh Say Can You Seed?” The committee members then led the students in creating a “head” with a stocking, seed, and soil. SWCD provided instructions on how to decorate the “head” and grow grass “hair.” The soil babies were returned to school after 2 weeks and displayed in the schools. Committee members were amazed by the creativity

of the students! The soil babies looked like pirates, political leaders, mermaids, animals, and more. It was a wonderfully creative way for students to learn to appreciate the plant growth cycle.

Ag Literacy Day

Ag Literacy Day is an annual event organized by the Geneva County Farm-City Committee. During National Ag Literacy Week, committee members visited each second-grade classroom in the County, speaking to over 300 students. They were accompanied by high school students from the Education and Training Program at the county's career technical education center. This event provides an excellent career development opportunity for these future teachers! Committee members and/or high school students read the American Farm Bureau's 2024 Book of the Year, "My Grandpa, My Tree, and Me." Volunteers led classroom discussions on agriculture, locally grown crops, and pecan production in Alabama and Geneva County. Students were then given locally grown pecans from Alabama Pecan Company in Samson. This program furthers the Farm-City mission of bringing awareness of where and how food is produced. The committee donated copies of the books to each of the four (4) elementary school libraries. The pecans and the books were a big success!

Third Grade Ag Day

In observance of Ag Day, Geneva County Soil and Water, Geneva County Extension and the Farm-City Committee partnered to host Ag Day for all 3rd grade students in Geneva County and Geneva City schools. The event was held at Mulkey Elementary School, and approximately three hundred (300) students were in attendance. Educational stations were operated by Geneva County Extension (Row Crops), Geneva State Forestry Department (Heavy Equipment), Commissioner Bart Wilks (Poultry), Geneva County Soil and Water (Soil), Geneva County Cattlemen's Association (Cattle), Geneva County S.N.A.P (Fruits and Vegetables), and Alabama Department of Fish and Wildlife (Habitats). Stations had hands-on activities and live animals. Volunteers from Geneva County Alfa Women's Leadership Committee, Geneva NRCS Department and Geneva County Farm-City Committee served lunch to all students in attendance. The students had a wonderful day and learned about the variety of agricultural operations in Geneva County.

Groundwater Festival

Groundwater Festival 2024 was held at Landmark Park in Dothan, Alabama. This event was for all 4th grade students in Geneva County. Approximately three hundred forty (340) students, teachers, and bus drivers attended. Sponsors for the event included Geneva County Extension, Geneva County Soil and Water, Wiregrass RC&D, ADEM, Geneva County Forestry Commission, Choctawhatchee, Pea and Yellow Rivers, Watershed Management Authority, ALFA Women's Leadership Committee, Wildlife Services, State Representative Jeff Sorrells, Geneva City Water Works and many volunteers. Geneva County Farm-City Committee members volunteered at the festival and recruited high school volunteers to work as group leaders. Farm-City Committee members led classes for students on water conservation and the water cycle. These lessons included creation of an edible aquifer, using ice cream and soda, and creation of a water bracelet, identifying the different phases of the water cycle. This fun event was true

community partnership and an excellent introduction for students to understand the importance of being good stewards.

8th Grade Career Fair

Eighth grade students in Geneva County and Geneva City schools participated in the 2nd Annual Geneva County 8th Grade Career Fair at the Geneva County Farm Center. The theme for this year's event was "To Your Future, and Beyond!" The event is organized by Geneva County Farm-City Committee members, who also work as school career coaches. Over three hundred (300) students attended the event. Since 1 in every 4.6 jobs in Alabama is related to agriculture and forestry, these industries were well represented. Students rotated through hands-on displays from over twenty (20) industry and college partners in the fields of healthcare, utilities, business, finance, agriculture and natural resources. The high school career tech service organizations were also present to recruit future members. Stations set up and students rotated through special activities and information sessions. Students gained information reinforcing and introducing the theme of sustaining agriculture. Pictures were published by the local newspaper.

Ag Career Day at Landmark Park

In 2024 Auburn Extension coordinated an agriculturally focused career day at Landmark Park in Dothan. This regional event was attended by eighty (80) students from Geneva County (20 from each high school). Geneva County Farm-City Committee members assisted with the event by serving on the steering committee, coordinating school participation, recruiting presenters, and serving lunch. Over thirty (30) different presenters talked to students about careers in agriculture, forestry, and supporting industries, as well as postsecondary educational opportunities. This event had good feedback from the local ag teachers, and our committee members look forward to this as an annual event.

In addition to the grade level specific activities listed above and the other events included in the report, the Geneva County Farm-City Committee led or volunteered at the following events:

Soup Social

The Geneva County Farm-City Committee and ALFA Women's Leadership Committee hosted a soup social, in conjunction with the 2nd Annual Career Tech Chili Cook-off. Twelve (12) teams, representing CTSO chapters in the county and city schools, competed in the following categories: taste, table décor, and oral presentation. The chili cook-off is sponsored by the Geneva County Cattlemen's Association as part of Beef Month in October. The Soup Social was essentially a hospitality area for teachers, administrators, and guests to enjoy a soup lunch while observing the students' creativity. The cook-off teaches students teamwork, presentation, and public speaking skills, and the Soup Social offers an opportunity for the adults to fellowship while the students compete.

Budget Boulevard

In April, members of the Geneva County Farm-City Committee volunteered at “Budget Boulevard” at Geneva High School. This event was for all 9th grade students (approximately 100) at Geneva High School. For this financial simulation activity, the school’s career coach (and Farm-City Committee member) led students in selecting a career and researching the salary and educational requirements. Students were assigned a family situation. At the simulation, community volunteers worked at the various storefronts and students rotated through the stations to pay their monthly expenses. This activity is a great eye opener to the value of a dollar and career exploration.

CTSO Communication Workshop

In January, Geneva City Schools’ Career Coach (and Farm-City Committee member) organized a communication workshop for all Career Tech Service Organization officers at Geneva High School (30 students). Presenters were Marlee Jackson and Maggie Edwards from the Alabama Farmers Federation’s Communication Department. Marlee and Maggie did a fantastic job teaching students about introductions, public speaking, and social media etiquette! Lunch was sponsored by Geneva County Soil and Water Conservation District. This interactive program was highly praised by the students that participated.

Geneva County Cattle Battle

The 3rd Annual Geneva County Cattle Battle is a youth cattle show that was held in September at the Geneva County Farm Center. Directors of the Geneva County Cattle Battle are members of the Farm-City Committee. Other committee members volunteer at the event that is hosted by the Geneva County Cattlemen’s Association. Hundreds of students, family members, teachers, community leaders, and spectators attended the event, which consisted of competitions for showmanship, breeding heifers, steers, and bulls. Cattle Battle has drawn participants from four (4) states. The out-of-town guests stay in hotels and rental homes, eat in Geneva County restaurants, and patronize local gas stations. This tourism draw provides a great opportunity to showcase Geneva County agriculture and business, thus highlighting Geneva County Farm-City.

National Peanut Festival Educational Booth

In November, the Geneva County Farm-City Youth Council created an educational exhibit at the National Peanut Festival. The fair exhibit educated onlookers about agriculture in the Wiregrass by displaying farm facts from the recent US Census of Agriculture, while keeping with the festival’s theme “A Family Tradition for 80 Years.” The play on numbers worked perfectly with this year’s Farm-City theme. The booth was a dining room scene, with a peanut family celebrating Pawpaw Peanut’s 80th birthday. One of the windows of the dining room looked out to a peanut field which was hand painted by a member of our Farm-City Committee. The other window looked onto a fair scene. The facts were displayed in picture frames that bordered the

windows. Students worked to assemble the booth and peanut people, and a birthday banner was hand painted by one of the youth council members. The students were thrilled that their exhibit won grand prize!