



Annual Alabama Farmers Federation Young Farmers
Conference

March 3-5, 2017

Montgomery Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center

Montgomery, Alabama

Alabama Farmers Federation
2108 East South Blvd.
Montgomery, Alabama 36116
(334) 288-3900
www.alfafarmers.org



NEWS RELEASE

Feb. 1, 2017
For Immediate Release

Contact:

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Annual Young Farmers Conference will be held March 3-5 in Montgomery

MONTGOMERY, Ala.-- Over 400 young farmers will be gathering in Montgomery for the annual Alabama Farmers Federation Young Farmers conference March 3-5 for a weekend of contests, education and fellowship.

The state Young Farmers Committee has worked hard this year to add new features to the conference while keeping the traditions from previous years. This year, instead of attending workshops on Saturday, young farmers will be traveling on various farm tours to see different farming operations in central and east Alabama.

“While workshops can be very beneficial, there's nothing like visiting with other farmers on a beautiful March day and seeing how they make a living,” said State Young Farmers Committee Chairman Jerry Allen Newby of Limestone County.

Jennifer Himburg, director of the Young Farmers, believes the tours will encourage and educate farmers on how to improve their own operations.

The conference begins on Friday night at the Montgomery Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center. Federation President, Jimmy Parnell, will open the conference by welcoming farmers to Montgomery during the kickoff banquet. Trotline, a country and Southern rock band, will perform during the banquet. Contestant interviews for Alabama's 2017 Outstanding Young Farm Family, OYFF, will be held on Friday night and Saturday morning.

OYFF interviews will continue during Saturday morning and attendees will hear about current legislative issues during breakfast. Following breakfast, attendees will participate in farm tours to various beef cattle, row crop and horticulture farms.

"Our goal is for these tours to trigger ideas and motivate our members so they can improve their properties and businesses," Himgurg said.

There will be three different tour options for the day.

People on Tour A will visit Parnell Inc., a cattle and timber operation; Wright's Nursery and Greenhouse; and Autauga Farming Co., a row crop and cattle farm.

Tour B will be to East Alabama with tours of Hornsby Farms, a fruit and vegetable operation; Southeast Kiwi Farming Cooperative; and Auburn University's E.V. Smith Research Station.

Tour C will be in Talladega County to Pursell Farms' golf course and resort destination and to Pinthlocco Plantation, a quail preserve in Coosa County.

The conference will conclude on Saturday night. OYFF finalists and commodity division winners will be named at the closing banquet. Finalists will compete during the Farmers Federation Annual Meeting in December for more than \$60,000 in prizes.

There will also be a live auction on Saturday night to benefit the Alabama Farmers Agriculture Foundation. This auction raised over \$7,000 last year.

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The Alabama Young Farmers is a division of the Alabama Farmers Federation. The Young Farmers program works to create awareness of the issues that today's young farmers face and focuses on finding solutions to the problems. For more information about the Alabama Farmers Federation and the Young Farmers of Alabama, visit www.alfafarmers.org.

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AUDIO NEWS RELEASE

Annual Young Farmers Conference to be held March 3-5

Total Time: 1:00

Alabama Farmers Federation and Young Farmers

Mary Kendall Dixon

Narrator: THE ANNUAL ALABAMA FARMERS FEDERATION YOUNG FARMERS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD MARCH 3-5 IN MONTGOMERY. THIS YEAR CONFERENCE ATTENDEES WILL PARTICIPATE IN FARM TOURS ACROSS CENTRAL AND EAST ALABAMA WITH THE INTENTION OF EDUCATING AND INSPIRING FARMERS IN WAYS TO IMPROVE THEIR OPERATIONS. DURING THE CONFERENCE, INTERVIEWS FOR THE OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARM FAMILY COMPETITION WILL TAKE PLACE. THE CONFERENCE WILL CONCLUDE ON SATURDAY NIGHT FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONTEST FINALISTS AND A LIVE AUCTION TO BENEFIT THE ALABAMA FARMERS AGRICULTURE FOUNDATION. JENNIFER HIMBURG, DIRECTOR OF THE YOUNG FARMERS, SHARES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONFERENCE.

Jennifer Himburg: This conference is a great networking and educational opportunity to inspire the next generation of farmers.

Narrator: THE CONFERENCE IS MARCH 3-5 AT THE MONTGOMERY RENAISSANCE HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTER AND THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS FEB. 3.

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PHOTO CUTLINES

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Young Farmer Garrett Dixon (left) of Lee County, talks with James Robert Parnell (right), State Young Farmers committee member, at the 2016 Young Farmers Conference in Montgomery. Each year young farmers from across Alabama gather together for the Young Farmers Conference. At each conference, farmers learn new ways to improve their operations, have the opportunity to fellowship with other young farmers and have a voice in the Alabama Farmers Federation.



Rep. Will Ainsworth, R-Guntersville (left) and Sen. Clay Scofield, R-Guntersville (center) met with young farmers during the 2016 Young Farmers Conference to discuss legislative issues. Alabama Farmers Federation State Legislative Programs Director for the House of Representatives, David Cole, (right) moderated the discussion. Each year, young farmers are informed on various legislative issues that will affect Alabama farmers and the agriculture industry. The Young Farmers Conference gives farmers an opportunity to hear from their legislators and allows them to let their issues be heard.



Lance and Stephanie Miller from Boaz, Alabama, are the Cotton Division winners in the 2016 Outstanding Young Farm Family, OYFF, contest. They were also named one of three contest finalists. Each year at Young Farmers Conference farmers from across the state compete in the nationally recognized OYFF contest. The Millers will compete against two other OYFF finalists at the Annual Meeting in December.

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Additional Photos



The 2017 Young Farmers Committee is, front row from left, Chairman Jerry Allen Newby of Limestone County, District 1; Vice Chairman Lee Haynes of Cullman County, District 2; Secretary Adam Wilson of Calhoun County, District 3; Russell Miller of Walker County, District 4; and Cooper Holmes of Perry County, District 5. Back row from left are Taber Ellis of Autauga County, District 6; Spencer Williamson of Escambia County, District 8; Ben Maples of Limestone County, North Alabama At-Large; James Robert Parnell of Chilton County, South Alabama At-Large; and Young Farmers Director Jennifer Himburg. Not pictured is Matthew Gunter of Crenshaw County, District 7.



Jerry Allen Newby, State Young Farmers chairman, his wife Ashley and their children Madalyn and Newby.



Jennifer Himburg, director of the Young Farmers Division with the Alabama Farmers Federation.



Alabama Farmers Federation President, Jimmy Parnell (right) with former Federation President, Jerry Newby (left).

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STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Jennifer Himburg

Director, Young Farmers, Alabama Farmers Federation

Jennifer Himburg has been the director of the Young Farmers of Alabama since September 2012. She serves as the spokesperson for the Young Farmers division and is responsible for promoting the mission of the Young Farmers across the state. She also represents Alabama Young Farmers on a national level with American Farm Bureau.

Himburg is a native of Arton, Alabama. She is a graduate of Auburn University with a Bachelor of Science in agricultural communications with a minor in agricultural leadership. She also served as a national FFA officer.

Jerry Allen Newby

Chairman, State Young Farmers

Jerry Allen Newby serves as the chairman of the state Young Farmers committee; he was elected at the Alabama Farmers Federation Annual Meeting in December 2016. As chairman, Newby serves as the voice of the state committee and works to strengthen Young Farmers committees across Alabama.

Newby and his wife Ashley have two children. They farm in Limestone and Madison counties and in Giles County, Tennessee. They raise Holstein steers and various row crops. Newby and his wife teach Sunday school and are members of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association.

Jimmy Parnell

President, Alabama Farmers Federation

Jimmy Parnell is the president of the Alabama Farmers Federation. He was elected in December 2012 at the Alabama Farmers Federation 91st Annual Meeting. As president, Parnell is responsible for leading both the Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance. He also represents Alabama farmers on a national level with the American Farm Bureau and in Washington, D.C.

Parnell is from Maplesville, Alabama, in Chilton County. He and his wife Robin, along with their two children, raise beef cattle and timber. Parnell graduated from Auburn University in 1985 with a bachelor's degree in agricultural business and economics.

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BACKGROUNDER

As a division of the Alabama Farmers Federation, the Young Farmers program is dedicated to training young farmers across the state in leadership skills and giving them a voice in the Alabama Farmers Federation.

Young Farmers of Alabama works to create awareness of issues and problems that young farmers face today. It works with the Alabama Farmers Federation to find solutions to the problems young farmers face in the agriculture industry. This program also helps to promote a better understanding of current farm programs and agribusinesses.

The annual Young Farmers Conference helps young farmers build leadership skills by providing in personal development workshops and opportunities for building relationships with other young farmers from across Alabama. It also helps educate young farmers about the purpose and mission of the state Young Farmers program and the Alabama Farmers Federation.

The Young Farmers Conference is planned each year by the State Young Farmers Committee. This committee is comprised of one member of the eight districts with a member at large from both north and south Alabama. The committee members serve a two-year term and work to strengthen county Young Farmers programs by developing leadership skills and working with the programs in their districts.

The Young Farmers Conference is an important event for Alabama and the agriculture industry because it gives young beginning farmers from across the state the opportunity to network with each other and expand their agricultural interests.

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