Mr. Larry Winters, State Board of Education member, took time out of his busy schedule to share his leadership skills with the students and serve as judge for the area event. Additional judges included Farm Bureau Representatives Carla Payne and Clint Weatherby, business industry representatives, Matt McCurley, Phillip Dial and Ricky Benevidous, retired teachers and agriculture alumni Sue and Dan Smith. The top two individuals have earned the opportunity to advance to state competition in Macon Georgia at the annual FFA convention. FFA members from 17 high schools competed in the area event. Contending in the final round of the competition were FFA members, Miranda Northrup of Sonoraville High and Taffany Hyatt representing Arabia Mountain High School. Judges for the event included State Board of Education member Larry Winters, Farm Bureau Representatives Carla Payne and Clint Weatherby, business industry representatives, Matt McCurley, Phillip Dial and Ricky Benevidous, retired teachers and agriculture alumni Sue and Dan Smith.

The Discussion Meet contest is designed to simulate a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each participant. This competition is evaluated on an exchange of ideas and information on a predetermined topic. The judges are looking for the contestant that offers constructive criticism, cooperation, and communication while analyzing agricultural problems and developing solutions. The event sponsored by the Georgia Farm Bureau, is one of many educational activities in which FFA members practice the lessons taught in agricultural education classes.

The Georgia FFA Organization is a youth organization of more than 32 thousand student members focused on preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Georgia Department of Education provides support, leadership and helps set direction for the FFA as a service to the local agricultural education programs.
We hope you all are doing well today. It was a pleasure to be able to visit with many of you at the recent winter conference in Athens. This is a busy time of year in Agricultural Education with many activities going on. Because of that, we have had the opportunity to see your teachers and students in action over the past few weeks at livestock shows, FFA Career Development Events and other activities. As always, we are impressed by the skill level and leadership ability of the students as well as the professionalism of our teachers.

On the following page you will find the FY13 budget planning worksheet for Agricultural Education as well as the instruction page which includes all upcoming dates for the budgeting process. You can also access these files on the Agricultural Education website at [www.gaaged.org](http://www.gaaged.org). Please return the budget worksheet via email to the Region Directors by April 2.

Also, our region staff will be conducting the annual Program of Work evaluations for each agriculture teacher receiving extended day/year in the North, Central, and South Regions. These evaluations will be conducted March 15-April 15. Please contact your agriculture teacher(s) about specific dates/times if you would like to sit in on the evaluations. Additionally, each agriculture teacher will need to complete the Ag Education Program of Work by May 2.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to give us a call or email. As always, thanks for all that you do to support the Agricultural Education programs in your schools!
Agricultural Education
FY13 Budget Planning Worksheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School System:</th>
<th>System Number:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please complete the following information for each in-school classroom teacher in your school system.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please indicate if you are requesting any funding for Ag Extended Day (Yes or No).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please indicate if you are requesting any funding for Ag Extended Year (Yes or No).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you are requesting funding for Ag Extended Year, please indicate the number of days for each category.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ag Extended Day can only be applied for if you apply for a minimum of 20 Days Ag Extended Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher's Name</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Certificate Level</th>
<th>Total Years Teaching</th>
<th>Ag Extended Day - Yes or No</th>
<th>Ag Extended Year - Yes or No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Doe</td>
<td>ABC School</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Smith</td>
<td>XYZ School</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FY 2013 Young Farmer**
- Program/Instructor Planning
  - The Agricultural Youth Farm Program has been established. The program has been designed to increase the availability of agricultural youth farmers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher's Name</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Certificate Level</th>
<th>Years Teaching Ag-GO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Johnson</td>
<td>EFG School</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FY 2013 Food Processing**
- Program/Instructor Planning
  - Please complete the following information for each teacher in your school system who is participating in the Food Processing program. Each teacher will be working in the lab.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher's Name</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Certificate Level</th>
<th>Years Teaching</th>
<th>Number of Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Susan Brown</td>
<td>GHI School</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Capital Equipment Grant**
- Please complete the following information if you are applying for a Capital Equipment Grant for your Agriculture Program in the form of equipment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed Grant</th>
<th>Proposed Grant Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please complete the form and submit it via email to your Agricultural Education Regional Office by April 1, 20XX.

North Region - Ms. Jane Johnson | janejohnson@agriculture.gov
Central Region - Mr. Chris Smith | chrissmith@agriculture.gov
South Region - Mr. Lynn Carter | lynn@agriculture.gov
Information on the FY2013 Local Plan Application for Agricultural Education and Budget Information Request Sheet can be found on the Georgia Ag-Ed Web Page: (Available on website March 1, 2012)
www.gaaged.org

1. Local CTAE Supervisors complete a Budget Information Request Sheet and please send it to the Ag-Ed Region Director By: April 2

2. Ag Teachers complete the 2012 Program of Work Evaluation with the Ag-Ed Region Staff. By: May 2

3. Ag Teachers complete the 2013 Program of Work on line. By May 2

4. Ag Region Directors return an Approved Local Plan Budget File to the Local CTAE Supervisor. By: May 7

5. Local CTAE Supervisor upload FY2013 Approved Local Plan Budget File to Consolidated Application. By: May 15

**Important Dates:**

- April 2 - Short budget Information Request sheet (basic info) due to Region Offices
- May 2 – Ag Teachers completed Program of Works and POW evaluations
- May 7 - Final budget sheets (from Ag. Region Directors) sent to local CTAE Supervisors
Regional Directors Contact Information

North Region
Stan Mitchell
204 Four Towers
UGA Campus
Athens, Georgia 30602
(706) 552-4461 Office
(706) 338-7230 Cell

Central Region
Chris Corzine
P O Box 4060
1005 State University Drive
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030
(478) 822-7386 Office
(478) 844-4412 Cell

South Region
Lynn Barber
2802 Moore Hwy ABAC 34
Tifton, Georgia 31793
(229) 386-3428 Office
(912) 584-8442 Cell

“Making Agricultural Education Work for All Georgians”
Sara Clark, agriculture education teacher at Sonoraville High School in Calhoun, Georgia has been selected as National Ambassador for Agriscience.

The National Agriscience Teacher Ambassador Academy is a commitment to promote Agriscience to other teachers in your state, region and across the nation. Ms. Clark will be part of the 2012-2013 team who will participate in an integrated training with science, education and agriculture at the Chesapeake Farms in Maryland this summer. Following the training she will be presenting and facilitating workshops at the National FFA Convention, the annual National Association of Agriculture Educators conference as well as lead regional and state agriscience trainings.

The Academy has several objectives, including:

♦ Provide teachers with educational resources, training and information on ways to implement science-based activities in classroom for environmental science, food science, sustainability and biological sciences.

♦ Share lesson plans, laboratory exercises and teaching strategies in order to improve the resources available to teaching agriscience.

♦ Train and influence the next generation and future employees who will advance agricultural sciences to the next level.

Applauds to Ms. Clark for her stellar representation of Georgia Agriculture Education and for making the world a better place by training and influencing the next generation.
Every first year agricultural education student and FFA member comes familiar with two simple words that demonstrate the character and promise of our future. These two words are used to start all five paragraphs of the FFA Creed. These two words resound within all FFA and FFA Alumni members. **I BELEVE...** is a powerful theme that will make the 84th Georgia FFA Convention one to remember. On behalf of the entire state agricultural education staff, I am happy to extend an invitation for each of you to attend the State FFA Convention in Macon, Georgia, on April 26-28, 2012. Please mark your calendar now and review this planning guide found on the FFA website so that you will be prepared to experience this awesome event.

Our 2011-2012 State FFA Officer team is already working hard in preparation for a great convention. **I BELEVE...** every FFA member should witness the sessions and events during the convention. There will be an informative career show, awesome talent and guest speakers in addition to the award winners in various career development events, proficiency areas, and the recognition of the State FFA Degree recipients and the naming of the State Stars. In addition, you will want to witness the excitement of enthusiasm when the newly elected State FFA Officer Team is introduced for the first time.

For 84 years in a row, members of the Georgia FFA will meet to conduct the business of this great organization. Macon is a great host and we have the opportunity to fill the Centreplex to capacity. With the support of many sponsors, great agriculture teachers and FFA advisors, and the best students in the world, **I BELEVE...** there will be record attendance, amazing events, and that this will be the most memorable State FFA Convention in history. Please join us for the excitement. This will be too good to miss!

I hope to see you at the 84th Georgia FFA Convention in Macon on April 26-28, 2012.

Chip Bridges
State FFA Advisor