

1950

Outline of NFA accomplishments in North Carolina

North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University

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The North Carolina Association of New Farmers of America, an organization of Negro farm boys studying Vocational Agriculture in the public schools of the state, had its beginning at the A. and T. College during the school year 1926-1927. At the time of its beginning there were 26 local chapters with a total membership of 741. At this state meeting plans for a permanent organization were perfected and Clarence Hunt, of the Waters Training School at Winton, was elected the first state president. Hunt, an outstanding farmer in his local community, is now a special teacher at the R. L. Vann High School at Ahoskie.

The first aims and purposes of the organization were purely social, but by the year 1936 more definite purposes were outlined in the national constitution which was adopted by all the state organizations at the national convention at Hampton Institute, S. C. The purposes of the New Farmers of America are to encourage and guide boys in the selection of the occupation of farming and to help them in becoming established in farming, to develop rural leadership, to encourage thrift, scholarship and cooperation, and the developing of good qualities of citizenship. There are four degrees of membership in the organization, namely, Farm Hand, Improved Farmer, Modern Farmer, and Superior Farmer. These degrees mark the steps by which young Negro men are given the basic fundamentals for becoming established in farming.

Activities of the New Farmers of America are many and represent the functional elements of the organization whereby the boys are taught to practice what they have learned in their classes. The activities are Public Speaking, which teaches the members to speak before audiences; Quiz Contests, which teaches the Guide and Parliamentary usage; Quartet Singing, whereby members are taught to appreciate the higher types of music; and the Tool Use and Identification Contest, which is designed to teach the proper method of using and selecting tools for the farm. In the activities that aim to establish young men in farming, the organization sponsors the following: Soil and Water Management Contest, Farm and Home Improvement Contest, Farm Electrification Contest, Farm Mechanics Contest, Dairy Farming Contest, Star Modern Farmer award, Star Superior Farmer award, and the H. O. Sargent award. The H. O. Sargent, Star Superior, and the Star Modern awards are given each year to the young men, both in and out of school, who have made the most outstanding achievements in farming.

Outstanding accomplishments of the NFA and its members are as follows:

1. Elbert Pettiford of Spring Hope, North Carolina presided over the first national meeting and was elected the Second National President.
2. J. W. Warren, Jr., of Spring Hope, N. C., has served as Secretary and President to the national organization.
3. The State Association displayed an exhibit at the Seventh World Poultry Congress at Cleveland, Ohio which was viewed by over 150,000 persons.

4. The band at the Lauringburg High School was the first to take part in the national meeting.
5. Raised over \$53,000 in cash for the Negro Orphanage at Oxford, and constructed the George Washington Carver Vocational building on its campus in 1949
6. Former students belonging to the organization are outstanding leaders in Agricultural work today. Mr. R. E. Jones, Negro State Agent for North Carolina and Prof. W. T. Johnson, Teacher Trainer at West Virginia State College are examples of such success.
7. James Bryant, of _____, served as the NFA representative on the President's Committee on Compulsory Training in 1947
8. Donated _____ cans of food to the UMNRA program during the war.
- 9.

The membership in the organization has continued to increase since the organization was chartered in 1927. We have seen the membership grow and expand from 741 boys in 1927-1928 to 4330 in 1949-1950. A graph showing the growth in membership is enclosed.