

# Young Farmers of Virginia Newsletter

Summer 2004

Volume 7, Issue 1

## State Officers:

Past President:  
Brett Seal  
4100 Scenic Hwy  
Mt. Solon, VA 22843  
540-350-4421

President:  
Mark Deavers  
8984 Phillips Store Rd  
Broadway, VA 22815  
540-833-4144

Vice President:  
Tom Lam  
77 Tory Farms Lane  
Bridgewater, VA 22812  
540-828-3287

Secretary:  
Scot Lilly  
1990 Creekside Court  
McGaheysville, VA 22840  
540-289-6864

Treasurer:  
Craig Bailey  
4498 Greenmount Rd  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802  
540-833-8315

Reporter:  
Chris Grove  
1566 Moffet Branch Rd  
Churchville, VA 24421  
540-350-4103

Sergeant At Arms:  
Jon McDonald  
520 Walkers Creek Rd  
Rockbridge Baths, VA  
24473  
540-348-5485

Director:  
James "Lucky" Graves, Jr  
970 Quaker Run Road  
Syria, VA 22743  
540-923-4921

## Meet the 2004-2005 Young Farmers Of Virginia State Officers



*From left to right, front row:*  
Tom Lam, Craig Bailey, Mark Deavers  
*From left to right, back row:* Jon McDonald, Brett Seal, Lucky  
Graves, Scot Lilly, and Chris Grove

## JOIN US FOR THE STATE YOUNG FARMER SUMMER FIELD DAY!

*A day of fun, food and fellowship*

**WHEN:** Thursday, July 29, 2004  
**WHERE:** Southern Augusta & Northern  
Rockbridge Counties  
**HOST:** Augusta County Young Farmers  
**SCHEDULE:** **8:30 a.m.**- Meet in the front parking lot of  
Riverheads High School off Interstate 81  
**Tour stops:** Rockbridge Vineyard, J.L. Limousin Farm,  
McCormick Farm for tour and catered steak  
meal, Wades Mill, and Buffalo Springs Herb  
Garden. Leave for home around 3 p.m.

**Registration:** For meal planning purposes, please R.S.V.P. for  
the tour by calling Riverheads H.S. (Gene  
McIlwee) 540-337-1921, Stuarts Draft  
H.S. (Darrell Steege) 540-886-8500 or email  
Darrell at [jdsteege@augusta.k12.va.us](mailto:jdsteege@augusta.k12.va.us) by  
**Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup>.**



## Message from the President's Tractor Seat



### National Young Farmer Educational Institute

The 2004 NYFEA Institute is only a few months away, so mark your calendar for December 9-12. This year's institute will be held in Orlando, Florida. There are plans for lots of exciting tours, contests, food, and a special evening at Disney's EPCOT. If you have not received registration information for the institute, please contact Terry Lam, [amttc@aol.com](mailto:amttc@aol.com).

Greeting from the Young Farmers of Virginia! I hope you have been able to dodge the raindrops all spring! The officer team has been working hard planning for next year's convention in Fredericksburg, January 28-30, 2005. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our summer tour in Augusta/Rockbridge Counties. Congratulations to Brett Seal, 2003 President for a successful state convention. We hope that everyone enjoyed their stay in Williamsburg. The YFV has been represented at different events across the state, including the VA FFA convention and will be at the State Agriculture Teachers Conference in Danville. We have also visited a few different associations. If you would like a state officer to visit your group, let us know.

I would like to see many of you attend the National YF Institute in Orlando, Florida this December. It sounds like it will be a fun institute! Next week, I head out for Memphis, Tennessee for the National Young Farmer Leadership Conference. Have a happy summer and safe vacation.

-Mark Deavers



Young Farmer News  
Terry P. Lam  
P.O. Box 221  
Bridgewater, VA 22812

**VIRGINIA YOUNG FARMERS FEATURED ON VIRGINIA FARMING PROGRAM:** Craig Bailey and John Liskey, Jr. were interviewed in a roundtable discussion by host Jeff Ishee on WVPT's Virginia Farming agricultural news program back in March 2004. They discussed the benefits of the Young Farmers organization and different activities they participate in on local, state and national levels. Thanks Craig and John for representing YFV well!

## AWARD WINNERS

The 54<sup>th</sup> annual convention was held at the Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center in Williamsburg January 30 through February 1, 2004. Award winners are listed below

**Corn Growing Award: Sponsored by Southern States Cooperative**

1. Shirley Powell, Northumberland Association 253 bushels / acre
2. Mark Deavers, Broadway Timberville Association

**Soybean Production Award: Sponsored by Syngenta**

1. Craig Brann, Northumberland Association, 69.7 bushels / acre
2. Mark Deavers, Broadway/Timberville Association

**Virginia Outstanding Young Farmer Association: Sponsored by YFV**

1. Northumberland Association
2. Turner Ashby Association

**Outstanding Young Farmer Agribusiness Person Award: Sponsored by VA council of farmer cooperatives**

1. Jason Kenner, Northumberland Association

**Diversification in Agriculture Award: Sponsored by VDACS**

1. J Craig Brann, Northumberland Association

**Outstanding Young Farmer Award: Sponsored by VA Farm credit association**

1. Mark Deavers, Broadway -Timberville Association

**Agriculture Stewardship Award: Sponsored by VDACS**

1. Tom Lam, Turner Ashby Association

**Farm Business Management Contest:**

1. Kevin Craun, Turner Ashby Association
2. Jon McDonald, Rockbridge Association
3. Mark Deavers, Broadway Timberville Association
4. Chase Lowe, Floyd Association
5. Oliver Lohr, Culpeper Association

**Ag Stewardship Contest:**

1. Vince Garland, Northumberland Association
2. Darrell Steege, East Augusta
3. Kevin Craun, Turner Ashby
4. Craig Bailey, Broadway-Timberville
5. Jon McDonald, Rockbridge Association

**Spokesperson Award: Sponsored by Houff's Feed and Fertilizer**

*State Winner-* Brooke Swecker, Turner Ashby Association

*Participants-* Stuart Melton, Patrick Henry Association

**Honorary Membership:**

Ed and Mary Kay Long, McGaheysville, VA

**Outstanding Young Farmer Advisor Award: Sponsored by Southern States**

Brian Crickenberger, Turner Ashby Association

**Attendance Award:**

Percentage of Members Attending: Spotswood Association

Most Members in Attendance: Spotswood Association

**Farm and Home Safety Award: Sponsored by Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company**

Turner Ashby Association

**Membership Development: Sponsored by Farm Choice Inc.**

Turner Ashby Association

### Ayrshire Farm of Upperville Purchases AGCO Tractor Lease

Bradley Seal, bidding for Ayrshire Farm, was successful in acquiring a 200 hour or six month lease on a tractor up to 180 horsepower donated by AGCO Corporation/Web Enterprises of Dayton, Virginia. The Young Farmers of Virginia would like to THANK both AGCO and Web Enterprises for sponsoring this lease. It was auctioned at the State convention in Williamsburg. The proceeds help fund the Executive Coordinator position for the Virginia Young Farmers.

## **STATE OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR VISIT YOUNG FARMER ASSOCIATIONS:**

This past winter, a few visits were made to different associations due to requests. First, President Mark Deavers and Executive Secretary Terry Lam drove to Culpeper to present a program at one of their dinner meetings. We enjoyed discussing Young Farmer activities with the members. Then, Terry Lam presented a program about Young Farmers and the state convention to the East Augusta group in Stuarts Draft. This was an interesting meeting where several Augusta County Board of Supervisors and school board members were in attendance. After the Young Farmer presentation, the other guests each introduced themselves and answered various questions from the group regarding education, area growth concerns and other local issues. A third visit was to Wilson Memorial High School in Fishersville. Vice President Tom Lam and his wife, Terry met with agriculture teacher Carrie Monger and a group of individuals interested in starting a new young farmer association. We gave them guidance in how to start and presented a program about ideas for meetings and state activities.

## **OTHER RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### ***NYFEA Fundraiser:***

NYFEA is going to raffle off a top-of-the-line John Deere Riding Lawn Mower in Orlando on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Each ticket is \$ 50 and there will only be 200 tickets sold. Ticket order forms are available from the NYFEA website, Terry Lam or President Mark Deavers. Other door prizes will also be awarded to make the total value over \$ 5000.

### ***Host for 2005 Summer Field Day:***

We are looking for an association to host next summer's tour for the Young Farmers of Virginia. Let us know if your group may be interested!

### ***Soybean Growing and Corn Silage/Growing Awards:***

With the planting season behind us and the harvesting season not too far off, it is time to START filling out a State Young Farmer award application! We have some generous sponsors for our awards and since most of us have gotten an abundance of rain this Spring/early Summer, the corn and soybean crops are sure to be good ones to consider entering plots into the contests. Also, tobacco producers, don't forget.... we have a State award for you too and we need applicants this year. Maybe even have a work night for these applications at a scheduled monthly meeting this year?? Completed applications will be due to Terry Lam by December 1, 2004.

### ***Here is a little background information on this year's state officers:***

**President** Mark Deavers is engaged to be married next summer! He farms with his father and they have a custom haymaking, planting, and harvesting business. He also runs his own lime and poultry litter spreading company. Mark is also active in the Pine Grove Church of the Brethren, Ruritans, and Virginia Farm Bureau. Also, he enjoys reading and camping.

**Vice President** Tom Lam is President of the Turner Ashby Association this year. He and his wife, Terry own and manage South-Bound Holsteins in Bridgewater. They have a 2 year old daughter, Cassidy. He is a lifetime member of the FFA Alumni and St. Jacob's-Spaders Lutheran church. Tom graduated from Virginia Tech in Agricultural Economics. He enjoys sports and traveling.

**Secretary** Scot Lilly graduated from Virginia Tech. He is treasurer of the Rockingham County Young Farmers and was state FFA president in 1987-88. He works for Farm Credit of the Virginias and manages the Harrisonburg branch. He is active in both the Harrisonburg-Rockingham and Augusta County Chambers of Commerce and also enjoys hunting and fishing.

**Treasurer** Craig Bailey has been active with Young Farmers the past several years. He is Vice President of the Rockingham County Young Farmers and he owns a poultry farm north of Harrisonburg. He also works on his family's dairy farm and is an active member of New Beginnings Church. He and his wife Holly have 4 children, Mikayla-9, Caleb-7, Allison-3 and Landon-4 months. Craig also enjoys hunting.

**Reporter** Chris Grove graduated from Virginia Tech in Dairy Science and is the owner/operator of Stillwater Farm, a custom dairy heifer operation and Stillwater Excavating. He and his wife Debbie and stepson, Michael live near Churchville. Chris was the 2002 VA Outstanding Young Farmer and has held offices in the Turner Ashby Association.

**Sergeant-at-Arms** Jon McDonald is from Rockbridge county and graduated from Virginia Tech. He lives on the family farm with his wife Jane and children, Sara-Jane and James. Jon farms with his father raising tom turkeys and works with the 150 brood cow beef operation. They also sell used tractors, hay and straw. He is an elder at Bethesda Presbyterian Church and a member of the Brownsburg Ruritan club.

**Director** James "Lucky" Graves and his wife, Missy live in Syria near Madison. They have 3 children-James 7, Zoe 5, and William 3. Lucky and his family manage Graves Mountain Lodge, Inc. and Graves Mountain Farms-a fifth generation family farm and agri-tourism operation. He is currently treasurer of the Madison County Young Farmers and serves on the county planning commission and Farm Bureau board of directors.