



# Farm Credit Mid-America at Tennessee FFA Convention

Gatlinburg, TN | March 26-29, 2017

## Representatives from FCMA:

- Macy Beaty
- Mike Estes
- Peyton Fair
- Scott Lewis
- Matt Neal
- Jessica Poore
- Tommy Stevenson
- Mark Wilson



*Scott Lewis with his daughter Emily.*

## Farm Credit Team Active at FFA Convention

Farm Credit Mid-America was represented well at the 89th Annual Tennessee FFA State Convention held in Gatlinburg March 26-29.

Employees assisted with judging competitions, presenting awards and even selecting the next slate of FFA State Officers. Plus, Farm Credit had a booth in what was the largest Tennessee FFA Career & Trade Show to date.

Several employees participated in the convention as VIPs and took time to visit with other sponsors in attendance. The VIPs had breakfast together Tuesday morning and attended the Alumni Banquet Tuesday afternoon. With more than 40 VIPs registered, this was the largest group of VIPs yet.

Volunteering backstage were Peyton Fair and Jessica Poore. These two ladies are essential to the success of the convention. They work every session to be sure students, sponsors and speakers are prepared for the stage. Peyton and Jessica also assist with training the State Officers for the convention.



*Farm Credit Mid-America employees and retiree, David Lynn, visit during a banquet.*

## Star Tour Featured, Star Greenhand Awarded

Farm Credit's sponsorship of the Tennessee FFA Star program as Star Tour and Star Greenhand sponsor has boosted the Star awards. Students are more excited than ever at the chance to be named one of five "Tennessee FFA Stars".

With plaques, checks, recognition, and a ticket on the Star Tour at stake, the competition was tough. Each of the three grand divisions of the state claimed at least one Star win. Two for West, two for Middle and one for East Tennessee.

A Star Tour video was played and featured Farm Credit Mid-America. Plus, Sr. Vice President Mark Wilson served as a judge and presented the award for the Star Greenhand award area. The winner was John Melhorn of Meigs County.





## State FFA Degree Ceremony

Farm Credit Mid-America with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture sponsors the Tennessee FFA State Degree Ceremony. The State Degree is the highest honor bestowed to an FFA member by the Tennessee FFA Association.



In 2017, more than 400 students earned the distinction of the State FFA Degree. Congratulating those students as they crossed the stage were Mark Wilson, Mike Estes, Matt Neal, and Scott Lewis, as well as, State FFA Advisor Steven Gass and State FFA President Mackenzie Clark.



Each degree recipient was given a plaque and degree pin. The plaque listed Farm Credit and the Department of Agriculture as joint sponsors.

## 2017-18 Tennessee FFA State Officers Elected

To cap off the convention, eight State Officers were elected. This year, three East Tennessee FFA members were elected. A first in the last sixteen years!

It was a competitive State Officer election process with 27 candi-

dates vying for the chance to become Tennessee FFA State Officers. And as usual, a committee of six students and six adults worked together to nominate the officers. Representing Farm Credit on that committee was Scott Lewis.

The entire interview and nomination process culminated in an exciting announcement on stage during the final convention session.

To kick off their year of service, the officers will receive



*Scott and fellow committee members listen to candidates during three interviews.*

training made possible by Farm Credit Mid-America. During the training, they will learn how to prepare for the many situations they will face as officers.



*The newly elected Tennessee FFA State Officer team is elated as they close out the convention.*

*Thank you for your support of the Tennessee FFA Foundation, Inc.  
If you would like high resolution versions of any photo, please email [chelsearose@tnffa.org](mailto:chelsearose@tnffa.org).*