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Madison's Clay Sapp

State FFA President's Year

By Todd Lawrence and
Pauline Fletcher Cogdill

Your Farmers Cooperative believes State FFA President, Clay Sapp, is destined to be a great leader. This handsome, energetic young man comes from a long line of agriculture folks. Both parents and grandparents farmed in Madison County for several years.

Clay learned a lot about farming from his family at an early age, and one of his fondest memories about the Cooperative was going there to get a cold RC cola drink. He also recalled seeing Mr. Johnny Davis always working so hard and Diane Williams getting just the right products they needed for their farm animals.

NOW AS A YOUNG adult he realizes how much community support Farmers Cooperative provides for Madison County.

Clay Sapp is a Madison High School graduate and the son of Ed and Gina Sapp in Madison.

Ed Sapp has been the Ag Teacher at Madison High School for 25 years. Gina is an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner in Perry, Florida. Clay is one of four siblings with two older brothers, Will and Blake, and a younger sister, Kimberly.

It's obvious Clay appreciates and enjoys all the opportunities that he has gained

from being a State FFA President. Keep in mind, it's not a position just handed to an individual because you get along well with others. It is work and sacrifice starting with putting everything else on hold for a year, except FFA, when you are selected State President.

The process begins with a detailed screening process in Haines City, Florida, and culminates with the results of the election process announced at the State Convention in Orlando. Initially, 31 candidates applied for the eight state officer positions. After two days of testing and interviews, the selection committee nominates two individuals for each of the six Area vice president positions. They also nominate two individuals for the office of president. After the nominations are announced the political campaigns begin.

First, nominees will create a letter that will introduce them to the nearly 500 voting delegates from FFA Chapters all over the state of Florida. Next they develop a business card that they will use to campaign with at the week long State Convention. At the convention they will have the opportunity to answer two impromptu questions in front of the voting delegates.

On the final day of the convention the results of the election are announced for each of the six Area vice presidents. The



results for president are announced with the runner-up automatically becoming State Secretary.

CLAY COMMENTS that having reached this honorable distinction of being chosen as a finalist for State President shows great strength and a feeling of gratitude for everyone that helped you along the way. Then comes the day of the announcement, and, yes, Clay Sapp, a North Florida individual has been named

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Cabbage Winners

By Pauline Fletcher Cogdill

Growing With Farmers Cooperative is the theme used for this year's Cabbage Plant Growing Contest. When you see a third grader wearing one of our Cooperative T-shirts with the logo, "Growing With Farmers Cooperative" you'll know they spent a lot of time caring for their cabbage for the weigh in on Saturday, May 14th in Live Oak, and on May 21st at our Madison Co-op store.

Farmers Cooperative and Bonnie Plant teamed up again for their third Annual Cabbage Plant Growing Contest. The Cooperative Cabbage Program included all third grade classes at Suwannee Elementary School, Branford Elementary School, Madison County Central School, Greenville Elementary School, Lee Elementary School and Pinnetta Elementary School.

General Manager, Todd Lawrence, Agronomy Division Manager, Barry Long, and Madison Manager Eddie Curl, delivered 800 plants to the various elementary schools in their area. Financial Secretary, Heather Kelley, and all the managers provided pizza parties for the winners.

In order for third graders to be eligible for the Bonnie Plant Farms Cabbage Contest, they simply had to plant the free Bonnie cabbage plant, provide the nutrients and attention the cabbage needed, and just watch it grow. Farmers Cooperative provided a small bag of fertilizer and a garden trowel free. Farmers Cooperative's website provided complete instructions on how to grow their Bonnie Plant cabbage.

We had a total of 23 class winners in the Cabbage Plant Growing Contest this year. Additionally, class winners will be entered into the State Bonnie Plant Farms drawing for a chance

to win a \$1,000 scholarship from Bonnie Plant Farms.

Our third grade gardeners learned responsibility along with a real sense of accomplishment to see how they can grow their own food. Children were encouraged to bring their cabbage to the weigh in regardless of the size or weight. In fact, they ranged from 29.90 pounds on down.

All the winners and their cabbages can be seen on our website at www.farmerscooperative.org and then click on photo gallery.

We would like to recognize all our winners: First Place Winner at Suwannee Elementary School, Jaxon Sansouci in Mr. Harris' class; Second Place Winner, Katelyn Floyd in Ms. Roberts class, and Third Place Winner Levi Bass in Ms. Edwards class. Other class winners included: Brianna Mays, Ms. Leavitt's student; Alyssa McBride, Class winner is Ms. Aikens student; Marcus Boatright, Ms. Gross' student; Alex Hawkins, Ms. McIntosh's student; Brent Long, Ms. Hurst's student; Blanton Alcorn, Ms. Mills' Student; Ms. Fry's student, Ariel Hodge, class winner Cade McKinley; Ms. Henderson's Student, Tristen Touchton; Ms. Smith's student, Marina Banks; Ms. Williams class winner, Kristin McCormick; Ms. Yanossy's student, and Grace Altemose, Ms. Tomlinson's student.

Branford Elementary School winners were Ms. Knighton's class, Dalia Hernandez. Taking First Place Winner as well as the winner of the pizza party. Ms. Conger's student, Hanna Massey took the Second Place Winner. Third Place Winner, Colton McElreath, a student of Ms. Conger's.

Getting off to a great start, Madison's First Place Winner,



SES 1st Place winner
Jaxon Sansouci : 29.90 lbs.



BES 1st Place winner
Dalia Hernandez: 13.29 lbs.



Madison County 1st Place winner
Alexandria Barker: 21.22 lbs.



SES 2nd Place winner
Katelyn Floyd: 22.56 lbs.



BES 2nd Place winner
Hanna Massey: 12.02 lbs.



Madison County 2nd Place winner
Kayte Martinez: 16.20 lbs.



SES 3rd Place winner Levi Bass: 17.47 lbs. and his grandfather Charles Bass



BES 3rd Place winner
Colton McElreath: 9.01 lbs.



Madison County 3rd Place winner
Trace Robinson: 12.06 lbs.



SES Class Pizza Party winner Katelyn Floyd (L) with her teacher, Ms. Roberts, and Barry Long, Agronomy Div. Manager (R)



BES Class Pizza Party winner Dalia Hernandez with her teacher, Ms. Knighton (R), and Barry Long, Agronomy Div. Manager (L)



Madison County Class Pizza Party winner Catlyn Jordan, a student in Ms. Joshua's class

Continued on next page

For the Past Quarter

NEW CO-OP MEMBERS

LIVE OAK STORE

Geza Keszei, Live Oak
Thomas Luke, Live Oak
Michael Yohn, Callahan
Stephenie Wood, McAlpin
David Newman, Live Oak
Aaron Pearson, White Springs
Miquel A. Class, Goldenrod
Paula W. Cooper, Branford
Wendy Hines, O'Brien
Trey Townsend, Live Oak
Michael Irizarry, Lake City
Yancy Scheurer, Lee
Ruby B. Bass, Wellborn
Lisa Haynes, Live Oak
LouAnn E. Bennett, Live Oak
KB Farms Partnership
Wilber & Diane Rye, Jasper
Jimmy Welch, Madison
Thaine O. Warren, Live Oak
Howard B. Jones, Live Oak
Ethel M. Jenkins, Live Oak
James & Valerie Mayfield, Wellborn
The Arbor Group, LLC, Orlando
Cedric O. Perry, Live Oak
Sam St. John, Live Oak
Jenna Chauncey, Live Oak
Jimmy D. Harris, Madison
James Brewer, Live Oak
David Shapiro, Live Oak
David A. Troesch, O'Brien
Helen Cribbs, Wellborn
Florine Wilson, Live Oak
Raymond A. "Drew" Jackson, Wellborn
Eugene C. Williams, Live Oak
Eugene & Donna Kramp, O'Brien
Roland A. Greenwood, Live Oak
Myrtie Broughton, Mayo
Kenneth Thrower, McAlpin
James E. Moffitt, Live Oak
William E. Rolison, O'Brien
Rick Mott, Live Oak
Jeff Willis, LLC, Lake City
Selma & Bob Austin, Live Oak

Diane Huelsman, Wellborn
Karen & Charles Shaw, White Springs
Paul & Sara Bishop, Live Oak
John Reynolds, Lake City
Pine Grove Farm, Ocala
Kimberly L. Wilcott, Live Oak
Ronald E. Meyer, Live Oak
Gerald Turner, Wellborn
Clarence Ray Jackson, Mayo
Daniel Velazquez, Lake City
Carl Salmi, High Springs
William Barkett, Jasper
Paul & Stacy Allen, Jasper
Jessica & Bobby Watts, Live Oak
Zail Lawson, Lee
Bill Kosty, Live Oak
Shelly House, Madison
Elaine Nelson, Live Oak
Richard D. Beach, Jr., Trenton
William Jason Hardee, Lake City
John Gallagher, Live Oak
Clarice Mounier, Live Oak
F. W. Williams, Jr., Live Oak
Robert K. Curl, Live Oak
Cheryl Kacher, Wellborn
Advanta Asphalt, Live Oak
Mace Bauer, Lake City
Tony E. Twiggs, Live Oak
Daniel Lack, McAlpin
Joanne M. Bell, McAlpin
Ashley Cooper, Live Oak

MADISON STORE

Willie Carter, Lee
Jim Smith, Jennings
Nathaniel S. Combass, Jasper
Geraldine Lundy, Greenville
Charlotte Miller, Jasper
Catherine Ellis, O'Brien
Johnny Mitchell, Madison
May A. Franklin, Madison
Thomas Wright, Monticello
Oneal Nixon, Madison
Robert F. Shelley, Lee

Joyce Tatum, Greenville
John W. Sirmon, Greenville
Craig Anderson, Madison
Earl G. Gribbins, Live Oak
Barbara Younglove, Pinetta
Jennifer Funk, Madison
David Hopkins, Cape Coral
Laura Graham, Pinetta
Kathy Miller, Greenville
Danny L. Lastinger, Perry
David Nance, Lee
Don Griffin, Monticello
Deloris Washington, Madison
John Reynolds, Lake City
Daryl Kaze, Madison
Greg F. Fritz, Madison
Zail Lawson, Lee
Stanley Bass, Pinetta
Cindy Pittman, Lee
Perry Marsh, Monticello
Robert Butler, Lamont
Teresa Fead, Greenville
Dustin Fletcher, Madison
Bonnie Blair, Perry
Chris Gunter, Perry
Patrick Watson, Lee
Janice Jones, Madison
Larry Cail, Jasper
Mary Ann Cox, Perry
Maceo Howell, Jr., Jasper
Jarrod K. Aman, Greenville
Larry Thigpen, Madison
Andrew Vance Hodge, Greenville
Michael CoField, Lake Park
Verdie Merritt, Greenville
James Spradley, Greenville
Donald I. Cadle Jr., New Port Ritchie
April Ziegenfelder, Englewood
David Neal Baer, Lee
Loyd Giddens, Perry
Ian Bare, Monticello
John Alexander, Madison
John Brinson, Miami
Patrick Haynes, Madison
Lance Fredericks, Madison

Kevin Hotchkiss, Jennings
Justin Surles, Greenville
Jeff Blesy, Lee
Peter Young, Greenville
Terry Parker, Perry
Maurice Evans, Pinetta
Ronnie Lee Blackshear, Madison
Lester Irby, Madison
Willie J. Mathis, Lamont
Josse L. Phelps, Lamont
Lula P. Tweggs, Greenville
Adriel Wisenbaker, Valdosta, Ga.
Michael Corbin, Lake Park
Reba Gramling, Madison
Frank S. Brugner, Greenville
Victor Benavides Jr., Valdosta, Ga.
McHargue Land Trust, Greenville
Dan & Bobi Hoecker, Lee
Raul E. Dominguez, Coconut Creek
Trudy Nicholson, Lee
John E. Deming, Greenville
John J. Langell Sr., Madison
Edward Solley, Lee
Terry LaDue, Lee
L.N. Mc Mullen, Shady Grove
Joe E. Alexander, Greenville
Brenda Freund, Perry
Mayme G. Pickles, Madison
Bonnie J. Bowen, Lee
Denni Furjanic, Madison
Earl Harry, Lee
Arnold Lawrence, Perry
Dorothy & Jimmy Abbott, Madison
Charles C. Myers II, Live Oak
Lindsey L. Plummer, Greenville
Jimmie Wilkes, Jasper
Henry Varley Grantham, Winter Park
Brian Martinez, Madison
Melvin Ellison, Lee
Freddie Gallon, Ft. Lauderdale
Jerome Thompson, Madison
Laura Little, Lamont
Timothy McGinniss, Monticello
Bryan Williams, Madison
William H. McGee Jr., Madison
Mark Taylor, Lee
James F. Rutherford, Madison
Lannie Parrott, Lee
William Williams, Lee
Billy J. Stephens, Madison

Cabbage Winners

Continued from previous page

Alexandria Barker, Pinetta Elementary, is Ms. Ross' student. Kayte Martinez, Ms. Pennington's student at Madison County Central School. Third Place Winner, Trace Robinson attends Lee Elementary School, and Ms. Salls' student. Class winners also include Bailey Watts, Ms. O'Quinn's class, and Richard Anderson, Ms. Anderson's class at Madison County Central School, and Catlyn Jordan, Ms. Joshua's class at

Lee Elementary School; Catlyn Jordan, Ms. Joshua's student at Lee Elementary School was very popular with her peers by winning the pizza party.

First place winners won a \$30.00 gift card from Farmers Cooperative, A Growing With Farmers Cooperative T-shirt and a Co-op hat.

Second place winners won a \$20.00 gift card from Farmers Cooperative, a Growing With Farmers Cooperative T-shirt and a Co-op hat.

Third place winners won a \$10.00

gift card from Farmers Cooperative, A Growing With Farmers Cooperative T-shirt and a Co-op hat.

Each class winner's name was put into a random drawing to win the pizza party, along with a \$10.00 gift card from Farmers Cooperative, A Growing With Farmers Cooperative T-shirt and a Co-op hat.

Congratulations third graders for your great participation in the Farmers Cooperative/Bonnie Plant Cabbage Growing Contest.

Madison Graduate Clay Sapp

Continued from Page 1

State FFA President for the year 2010 at the State Convention in Orlando, Florida.

It's an experience Clay will always treasure and has learned so much from the Area State Vice Presidents. Area 1, State Vice President, Lynsey Meharg; Area 2, State Vice President, Kaitlin Van Huesan; Area 3, State Vice President, Elise Stoddard; Area 4, State Vice President, Michelle Perez; Area 5, State Vice President, Nichole Liles; Area 6, State Vice President, Jillian Murphy and State Secretary, Valerie McKee.

"It's all pretty amazing with the talent of all these young ladies that I have been able to serve with and how much I have just been blessed and honored to be a part of the State FFA leadership team," Clay said. "It all seems just to be so much more than I feel that I deserve."

Clay added, "The screening process did prepare me to help build our team. Also, When you think of Florida's 15,000 FFA members—one of the largest student organizations in the State of Florida - and approximately 520,000 FFA members nationally, there's so much we could accomplish with all our outstanding human resources."

Clay's year as president has been a

very eventful one from learning about all the different crops Florida grows from Pensacola to Miami to cattle farming in Argentina.

"My year as State FFA President has been most exciting with the 10-day trip to Argentina in January 2011 where the temperature was about 10 degrees higher than Florida with extreme tropical humidity. The sight of Iguaza Falls, which are waterfalls of the Iguazu River near the City of Puerto Iguaza, are just breathtaking. The Devil's Throat with giant waterfalls cascading around you is an unbelievable picture, he said."

"These incredible waterfalls are up to 269 ft. in height and about 490 ft. by 2300 ft. wide. The only place you could think of comparing the water falls in North America is Niagara Falls with waterfalls that reach about 176 ft."

The Argentineans are passionate about their farming, especially with their beef cattle. However, their farmers are also struggling with the economy as well as the rest of the world. Clay stated. The steaks they served in the restaurant were just delicious. Clay recalls one evening when the FFA group went to a restaurant to eat, and the waiter brought about a 14-inch steak on the platter. Needless to say, two young men shared that steak.

"Argentine farmers believe grain fed beef is best and after eating steak for the 10 days we were there, we would tend to

agree with them," he added.

CLAY SAID HE had learned a lot about the global economy of agriculture this past year. For example, in the United States corn and soybean prices are affected by what happens in countries like Argentina. Just being able to network and see all the different types of farming, was an education in itself.

On June 17 when Clay Sapp turned over his gavel to the new State FFA President, he hoped all of his preparation helped him impart that he had done his best and that his audience felt he had earned the honor and distinction of being the best State President he could be because his experience has been one of a lifetime.

The future looks very bright for Clay. He plans to be able to get back to his hometown church, Hopewell Baptist Church in Madison, where he works with the College and Career Class. He has missed the uplifting he gets from his church. And this fall, he will be attending the University of Florida's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and plans to major in agricultural education.

Once Clay completes that degree, he will pursue his master's degree in Educational Leadership, and then he may consider teaching Ag in Madison—like father, like son. Perhaps he may even think of corporate or agricultural law. We at Farmers Cooperative believe he is destined to be a great leader in whatever profession he chooses.

Farming News

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500 Bucks



Barry Long (left) presents a \$500 gift card to Timmy Butler of Live Oak, the first place winner of Farmers Co-op's 3rd Annual Big Buck contest.

The results are final for the 3rd Annual Big Buck contest at Farmers Co-op. On January 29th, officers from the Florida Wildlife Commission came to the Live Oak Co-op store to measure potential winners for the contest. There was a good turnout of hunters and spectators to witness the event. First place and a \$500 gift card went to Timmy Butler of Live Oak with a net score of 144 & 1/8. Second place and a \$200 gift card went to Austin Long of Live Oak with a net score of 139 & 5/8. Third place and a gift card for \$100 went to Gil Peppers of Live Oak with a net score of 128 & 7/8.