

Assistant Commissioner of Education Ralph Barnett met with State FFA Officers and teachers/educators as members of Joint State Staff to discuss 2008-09 budget impacts, DOE updates and program of activities including State and National Convention, Goodwill Tour and Camp Clements. (5/27/08).

The Joint State Staff held a two-day session in Nashville on May 27-28 to get an update on the state budget situation, curriculum revisions and Quality Twelve-Month Programs. Discussed also were the teacher summer workshops, summer vocational conference, dual enrollment vs. dual credit and local teacher changes. Nominations were reviewed for American FFA Degrees and selections recommended for Honorary American Degree, National VIP Award and National Distinguished Service Awards from Tennessee. The past state convention was reviewed with the State FFA Officers and several changes have been recommended for the 2009 State FFA Convention. All of these items will be on our agenda for the Foundation Board of Directors meeting to be held at the MTSU Horticulture Center on July 16 at 1-4 p.m..

### **ANOTHER \$1 MILLION!!!**

Just hours before a midnight adjournment of the 105<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on May 21, lawmakers again approved \$1 million to be directed to the FFA and 4-H Endowments from the Governor's budget for 2008-2009. They appropriated the sum of \$500,000 (non-recurring) for grants of \$250,000 each to the Future Farmers of America (FFA) and the 4-H Foundations from the Department of Agriculture Market Development Funds. The Senate Republican Caucus allocated an additional sum of \$500,000 to be divided equally between FFA and 4-H. We are grateful to Governor Bredesen and all of our elected state legislators for recognizing the need to continue to invest in these important youth programs amid difficult economic times. Please send thank-you notes to all of our supporters.

Tennessee Department of Agriculture has notified us that our grant proposal for \$55,000 from the Ag Tag Funds for next

fiscal year has been approved. A meeting is set for June 5 to discuss implementation and proposed changes for 2008-2009.

Here is a list of **contributions** received in May:

Tennessee Ag In The Classroom Foundation, Inc. gave \$2,500 to support the Passing Literacy OnWard (PLOW) Program. The NRA Foundation made a donation of \$1,500 to purchase seven rifles and some ammunition for the firearms safety and training programs at Camp Clements. That brings the total of new rifles with scopes at camp to a dozen from the National Rifle Association and the Upper Cumberland Friends of the NRA. We will have a ceremony at Camp Clements sometime this summer to recognize this significant donation.

Tennessee Farmers Cooperative and local affiliates donated \$5,900 to support the three regional awards banquets. Knoxville Area Chamber Partnership contributed \$1,500 to the East TN Regional Awards Banquet held on April 16.

LQ Management contributed \$623 in rebates for room nights stayed at LaQuinta Inns. Rebates were also received from Chester County H.S. FFA (\$860) and Covington H.S. FFA (\$381) through the Dodge Hometown Scholarship Program.

### **Proficiency Award Sponsors**

Community South (\$500), Country Delite Farms (\$1,000), First State Bank (\$500), First Tennessee Bank (\$500), Sara Lee Foods (\$500), Southern Cotton Ginners Association (\$500), Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association (\$500), Tennessee Egg & Poultry Association (\$500), Tennessee Farmers Cooperative (\$1,000), Tennessee Society of Farm Managers & Rural Appraisers (\$500), Tennessee Feed & Grain Association (\$600), Tennessee Walking Horse and Breeders Association (\$1,000) and The Farmers Bank of White House (\$500).

### **Career Development Event (CDE) Sponsors**

Dairy Farmers of America (\$1,500), Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation (\$3,500), Tyson Foods (\$1,500) and Volunteer State Bank (\$1,000).

### **Scholarships**

AgCredit (\$500), Carhartt (\$2,500) and Kenneth K. Mitchell Alumni Scholarship Fund (\$344).

### **Star Awards**

Farm Bureau Insurance (\$2,000); TRH Health Plans (\$2,000)

### **CHARTER AND BY-LAWS AMENDMENT**

Please see the enclosed notice of the proposal to amend the charter and by-laws of the Tennessee FFA Foundation, Inc. at the next regular meeting of the board of directors set to be held at the MTSU

Horticulture Center in Murfreesboro on July 16 at  
1:00-4:00 p.m.