



*Dooly County Young
Farmers
Dooly County High School
715 Third Street North
Vienna, GA 31092
229-268-8181*

Long Range Plan
2017-2021

The Dooly County Young Farmer Program currently has the following characteristics:

1. An active membership of 31 single, 24 couples, and 1 junior for a total of 80 members engaged in production agriculture or a closely related field.
2. A number of members and prospective memberships of have an interest in agriculture (ex. Landowners, natural resources, etc.)
3. Average meeting attendance of 18 over 20 meetings, depending on topic and time of year.
4. One “wives” program on floral design was held. One awards and Christmas Social was held.
5. Region competitors for Young Beginning Producer.
6. Assisted in planning and conducted a Farm Day at Dooly County Elementary School.

The Long Rang Plan for the program is to focus on the objectives described within the mission of the Georgia Young Farmer Program. The objectives will be reached through the implementation of the priorities listed.

Objective 1: Agricultural Awareness

1. The program will provide local educators and others information regarding agriculture and its importance to the local, state, and national economy. This information will be made available to all citizens through organized instruction (ex. Ag in the Classroom and Ag Awareness) as well as news articles and one-on-one contacts with those not directly related to agriculture.
2. Instruction to all individuals will include aspects of safety that are relevant to their occupations and interests (ex. Small Tractor Operation and Worker Protection Standards Training).
3. Work with local media outlets to provide information on agricultural awareness, benefits, and activities of the local Young Farmer Program.
4. Continue working with Dooly County Elementary School on their Farm Day programs.



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Objective 2: Bridging

1. The program will continue to work with other local groups as needed to promote agricultural interests and support the local agricultural population. These groups include Farm Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, Cooperative Extension Service, Dooly county Livestock Association, and others.
2. The program will continue strive to integrate graduating seniors into the Young Farmer Program to provide continued instruction and development in agriculture and leadership. This will increase membership in the GYFA.
3. Work with local civic organizations to ensure continued understanding of the importance of agriculture to the local community.
4. The advisor will work with Extension personnel on program planning and research issues important to local producers.

Objective 3: Program Content

1. Annual needs assessment will continue to be conducted to enable the program to identify ways to better serve the community in ways that promote agriculture and successful agricultural enterprises. This assessment will be conducted in the late summer and will be used for instructional program planning and planning of community related activities. Primary tool used for the needs assessment will be a survey / questionnaire.
2. Through one-on-one contact, individual needs of participants will also be assessed. This assessment will indicate areas that assistance and education can be provided to best serve those particular individuals.
3. The program will continue to work with local, state, and national organizations, agencies, and companies to provide the most up-to-date information on agricultural and agricultural related practices to its participants. This network of contacts will be continually developed, especially as practices evolve.
4. Advisor will continue to seek opportunities for training and up-dating of skills related to the agricultural practices of the local area.



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Objective 4: Leadership Development

1. Emphasize leadership development as part of the local program content. This will enable those participants to become better voices for agriculture at all levels of activity.
2. Promote participation in leadership and leadership development activities within the GYFA and other organizations at the local and state level.

Objective 5: Economic Development

1. Continue to provide educational programs that highlight the benefits of sound agricultural practices and procedures. Topics include, but not limited to: Marketing, Retained Ownership, Best Management Practices, and Diversification.
2. Continue to work with local Chamber of Commerce to attract agricultural related businesses, especially those that are associated locally produces crops.

Objective 6: Membership Growth

1. Promote membership to high school seniors, both of Dooly County High School and Fullington Academy. This will be done through the Junior Membership program.
2. Promote membership to eligible individuals that are not currently involved with the Young Farmer Program. Member contact and referral will be expanded to gain new members
3. Seek individuals that are not in an agricultural related occupation on a full time basis (ex. part-time farmers, hobby farmers, landowners, and those interested in natural resource use and conservation) for inclusion in membership.