



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1995

New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION





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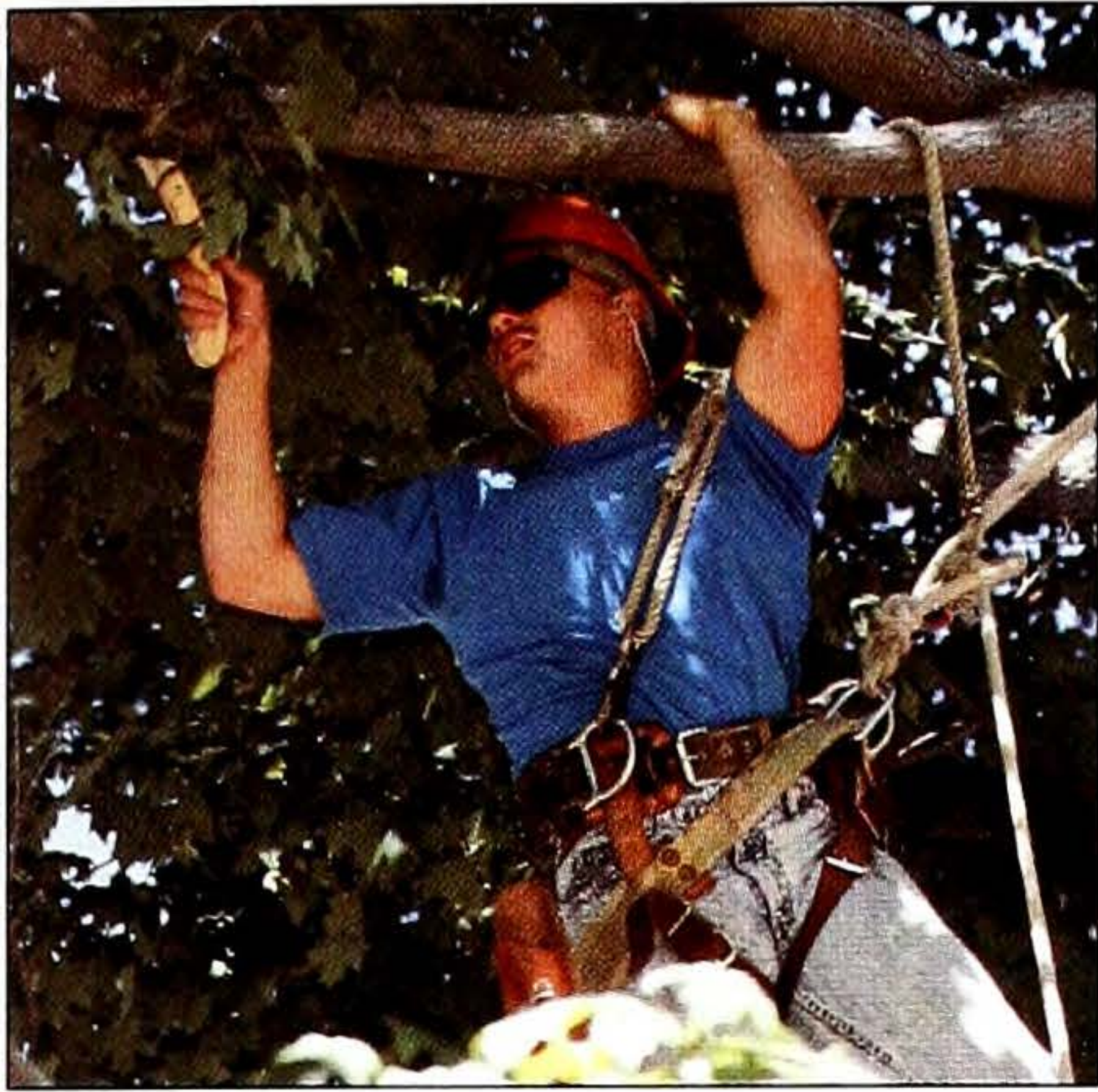
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FFA New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

November-December, 1995

Volume 44 Number 2



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The Days of Vines and Roses

Horticulture is a blossoming career field. Pennsylvania's Longwood Gardens offers a premier training program for those with a penchant for posies.

Photo by Jeri Mattics Freeman of Kim Hilgers, a former FFA member from Ankeny, Iowa, who is preparing for a horticulture career at Pennsylvania's Longwood Gardens.

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Smashing the Myths of Leadership

There are many different myths about leadership that can slow FFA members' progress. This story will smash some myths and get you pointed in the right direction on this powerful subject.

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Country songstress Trisha Yearwood has been burning up the charts with her recent hits. Now she's putting her powerful voice behind a scholarship program and making sure her fans know where she stands on the subject of education.



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The FFA Mission

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership**, **personal growth** and **career success** through agricultural education.

The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of all human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer.

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Editorial Management, Rocky Mountain
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MAIL BAG

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Taking a Stand

I would like to strongly second the suggestion of Jennifer Naber (You've Got To Stand For Something, September-October, 1995).

Future For Agriculture is a positive statement. I hope it will be adopted. The present meaningless FFA will become increasingly so in the years ahead.

As Jennifer correctly points out, agriculture is not just production any longer. So, if Future For Agriculture is not acceptable; what about Future For Agri=Food. This clearly connects food and agriculture—a fact some people today don't understand.

Think about it!

C.G. Scruggs

Texas State President, 1941,

American Farmer,

Editor-in-Chief, Retired

Progressive Farmer magazine,
 Hubbard, Texas

I agree that there should be something to go with the acronym, "FFA." I, too, have a hard time telling someone that the letters "FFA" mean nothing. Some people perceive this as FFA means nothing. That simply is NOT true! But as said in the letter published, the community does not fully understand what FFA is about. To most people I've met, it means "you're in FFA, you're going to become a farmer." That simply isn't true! FFA means something different to everyone. Every year at the national FFA convention, we hear from people who once wore the blue and gold and are now viewed by the public as role models. FFA tends to be an inspiration for most. That's why I agree with adopting a phrase to support the letters "FFA." The "Future For Agriculture" is great! But I think "For the Future of America" is even better.

Penny Walber,

New Holstein, Wisconsin

Horse of Course

I love your magazine, especially the September-October, 1995, issue which was based on equine careers. Can you tell me how to get in contact with the Carl Hayden Center for Agribusiness and Equine Science?

Also, how do you pick the Washington Leadership Conference staff each summer? I attended WLC on July 11-16 with Liam Brody, Jim Shertzer, Stacey Barger, Andrea Lynch and Robin Perez. I loved it, and want to re-attend in '96. I also met the national officer team. They're all cool!

Elissa Breitenstein

Mazomanie, Wisconsin

Editor's note: Thanks for the compliment! You can contact the Carl Hayden Center for Agribusiness and Equine Science by writing to: 3921 W. Baseline Road, Laveen, AZ 85339. WLC staff members are chosen through an application/interview process. For details write to: WLC, National FFA Organization, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

What's Not so Hot

While reading the "What's Hot...and NOT" at East Brunswick FFA in the July-August issue, we were deeply offended. We enjoy poultry judging. It was a fun and rewarding experience for us.

People often stereotype poultry judging as a boring contest for nerds. We've been mocked by our peers and called "poultry pluckers."

When you publish information about FFA activities not being hot, what are you trying to tell us? Are you trying to tell people not to get involved with the poultry team? Are you telling them to make sure they don't get stuck being a poultry judge? At Black Hawk, all FFA activities are hot. Everything our FFA does is important to someone.

Misti Sersch, Julie Gertsch, Sheila Berget
 The 1995 Black Hawk FFA Poultry Team

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All completed applications must be postmarked by March 15, 1996 and received by March 31, 1996.

National Officers On Tour



Photos by Bill Stagg

The national FFA officer team spent a week in the mountains of Montana testing their teamwork skills and relaxing.

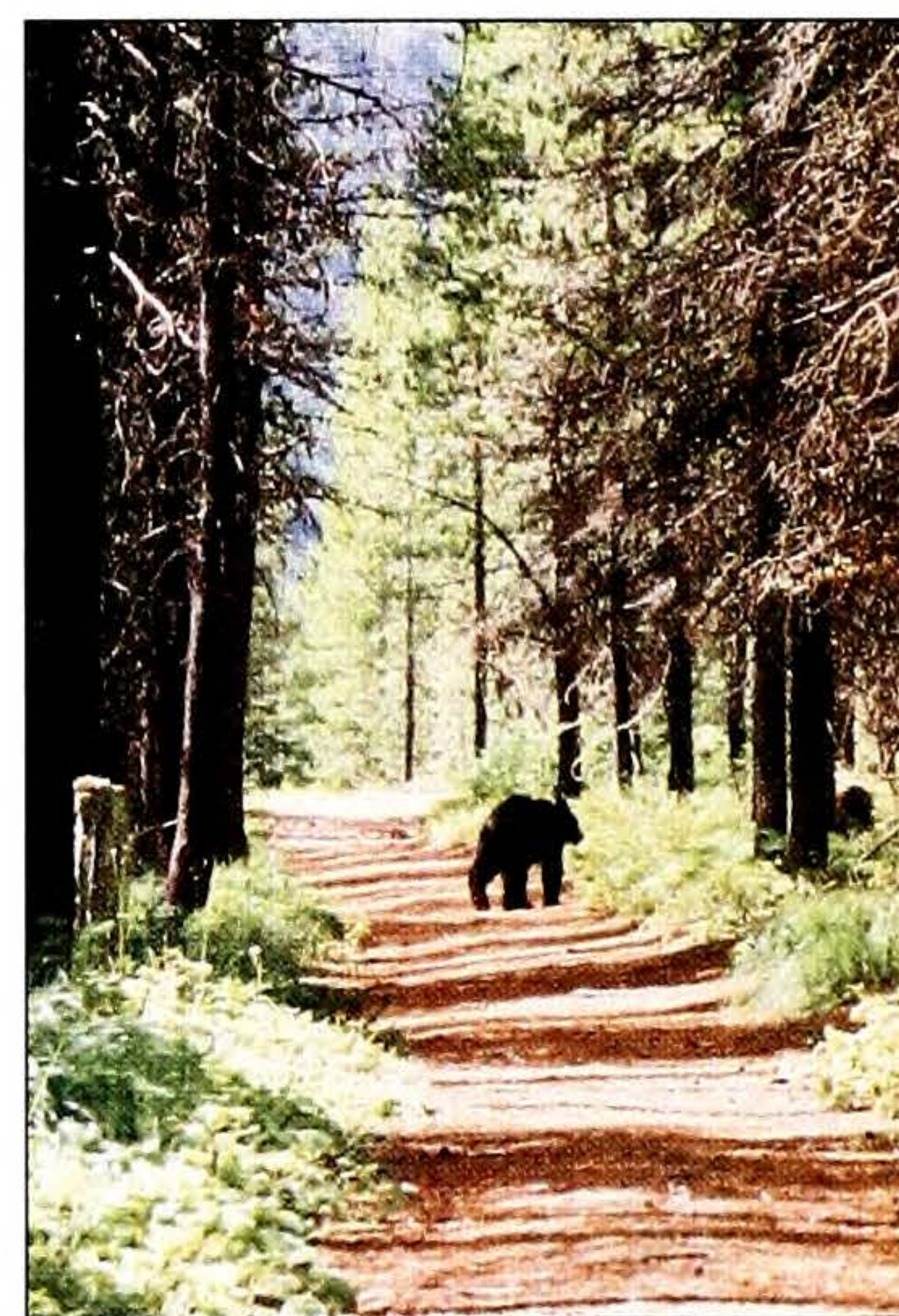
by Jeri Mattics Freeman

Frantic races to catch airline flights. Presentations to thousands of their peers. Convention planning deadlines to meet. Letters to return. Ahhh, the life of a national FFA officer. Sometimes it can all become a bit overwhelming and stressful.

So, how does the team recover? How about a week of solitude in the mountains of Montana? Pristine azure lakes. Crisp morning air. Invigorating hikes. Yeah, that sounds like a great way to relieve the tension and refresh the spirit. Right? Ha!

Mother Nature decided to add a little excitement to the officers' vacation. First, she put a bear and cub on their trail. Then, she threw a violent thunderstorm their way in an attempt to blow away their tents (one ended up in the lake). After the officers survived those two tests, good ol' Mom Nature decided to let the sun shine and gave the team a few days to rest and recuperate.

Although it wasn't the vacation the officers had envisioned, it will serve as great speech material. And besides, years from now they can brag about the bear! ...



NEWS IN BRIEF

Hit a Grand Slam!

When you share the benefits of membership in FFA by recruiting new members, you can receive a "FFA's Grand Slam" lapel pin. After you've paid your FFA dues and recruited three new members, fill out the following coupon and send it to FFA. You'll receive accolades from your friends and a great pin from FFA!

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Welcome New Chapters!

The National FFA Organization is growing not only in membership, but also in the number of chapters. If you're near one of the new chapters (listed below), be sure and welcome them to membership.

Alabama: Gilmore-Bell AVC; **Arkansas:** Sheridan; Marmaduke; Southside;
Arizona: Santa Cruz; Ganado;
California: Laguna Creek; Ridgeview; Mendota; Concord; Elsie Allen; Sierra; Lone Pine; Yucaipa Junior; Cathedral City; Frazier Mountain; **Colorado:** Eads; Douglas County; **Connecticut:** The Sound School; **Delaware:** Dover;
Florida: Manatee; Southeast Manatee Junior; Haines City Middle; South Plantation; Atlantic; Belleview Junior; Bronson Junior; Durant; St. Martin; Lake Region; Homestead; Northview; **Georgia:** Brooks County; Hahira Middle; Central;

Douglas County; North Forsyth Junior; Social Circle; Northeast; East Coffee Middle; Eastside Transitional; Houston County; Wrens; D.F. Douglas; Warren County; Metter Middle; Ware County Middle; **Guam:** Inarajan; Islanders; **Iowa:** East Greene; Spencer; Sentral; **Illinois:** J.F. Kennedy; Oakland; Palestine; Pekin Tech; **Indiana:** Henryville; Heartland Career Center; **Kansas:** Sedan; **Kentucky:** Seneca; Morehead State University-Collegiate; Clay County; **Louisiana:** Kentwood; Logansport; Mangham; Fontainebleau; Donaldsville;
Massachusetts: Franklin County Tech; **Maine:** Fort Fairfield; **Michigan:** Birch Run; **Minnesota:** Blue Earth Area; Blaine Senior; Houston; Russell Tyler Ruthton; Rocori/Cold Springs; Fridley; Wright Technical; **Missouri:** West County Technical; Bunker; Wyaconda; South Holt County; Dekalb; Strafford; Wheatland; **Mississippi:** Thrasher; Loyd Star; Columbus McKellar; Alcorn State University-Collegiate; McAdams; Coffeeville; S. V. Marshall; **North Carolina:** Guilford; Jacksonville Senior; Asheville; Wallace Rose Hill; Ayden-Grifton; John Neal Middle; **New Jersey:** Sussex County; **New Mexico:** Eastern New Mexico University-Collegiate; Lake Arthur; Dulce; Thoreau Middle; **Nevada:** Area Technical Trade Center; **New York:** Orange County BOCES; Sharon Springs; Pine Valley Central; Belmont Vo-Tech; Salmon River Central; **Ohio:** Akron Ellet; Mapleton; Patterson Career Center; Cincinnati Withrow; **Oregon:** Philomath; **Pennsylvania:** Adm. Peary Vocational; Liberty; Mansfield; Milton Hershey; Redbank Valley; Upper Bucks Technical; South Fulton; Crawford County; Wilkes Barre; Lackawanna County; **Puerto Rico:** S. U. Certenejas; S.U. Rafael Rexach-Palmer; **South Carolina:** Aynor; Calhoun County; Bowman; Branchville; Chesterfield; Dorman; Kingstree Senior; Hemingway; Estill; Clemson University-Collegiate; Laurens; Mullins; Bamberg Ehrhardt; **Tennessee:** Melrose; Red Boiling Springs; William James Junior; **Texas:** Dickinson; Hughes Spring; Santa Gertrudis; Bishop; **Utah:** Fremont; **Virginia:** James River; Narrows; Johnson-Williams Middle; Maury River Middle; **Washington:** Olympia; Pullman; Renton Alternative; Mount Tahoma; **West Virginia:** Cabell-Midland.

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Smashing the Myths of Leadership

by Scott Stump



Illustration by Bill Fricke

Myth #2

Leadership is being in the right place at the right time.

Leaders look for opportunities to serve. They don't stand still. Seek out opportunities where you can exert influence and make a positive difference in the lives of other people. Identify key areas where you can invest your energy and time.

Ask yourself, "What is the most important priority for our chapter or community right now?" Select areas in your community or chapter that interest you. Serve on a committee, volunteer for community service, become a big brother or big sister. Big or small, public or private, leadership begins with an attitude of service.

See beyond the Guess, Wrangler and Levi labels—look for commitment, determination and skill. See people for who they are, not what they are. Consider yourself a partner in the success of your chapter, community and country. If you focus on "WE" instead of "I" in the process, everyone wins. Effective leadership requires collaborating and cooperating with others.

Challenge these leadership myths by asking yourself these four questions every day:

1. Am I a part of the solution or part of the problem?
2. What's the most important thing we need to be doing right now?
3. Who needs to be a part of the team?
4. How do I make this important to them?

For example, say Kurt decides he wants to be part of the solution (question 1). He thinks the PALS program should be a priority for his chapter (question 2). He talks to each of the other chapter officers and the chairperson of the community service committee (question 3). He convinces them that this is a good idea because the chapter will receive national recognition and it will also attract more members into the chapter (question 4). In answering these questions, Kurt has developed his personal leadership plan!

What will your plan look like? You decide. Cast aside the myths and accept the challenge of leadership in your chapter and community!

The earth is flat—wrong! Cats have nine lives—I don't think so! Broken mirror = 7 years bad luck—who cares? The moon is made of cheese—Neil Armstrong says guess again. Leadership is genetic—not even close!

Myths are attached to almost every aspect of our world. New ones seem to pop up every time we come up against a mystery that can't be explained. When it comes to leadership, we're still mired in the myth trap. And it's time to smash some myths!

Myth #1

Leadership is genetic.

Although some babies rap their rattles like gavels on their highchairs, it doesn't mean they are destined to lead. Leadership is a combination of values, skills and abilities that are learned.

Leadership is not an office or elected position. It's definitely not power or authority over others! And, by the way, it doesn't change with the embroidery on the front or back of your blue corduroy jacket. True leaders empower each person in the group to contribute to the team's success.

Harry Truman considered leadership, "the ability to get people to do what they don't want to do and like it!" Combine this definition with the more than 350 in print today and you get something like, "leadership is the incredible action of people motivating each other to set and reach team goals." Sounds easy, but anyone that's tried to lead knows it takes tremendous effort and skill to lead effectively. Leadership takes practice! And that's what FFA can help you obtain.

Myth #3

Leadership has boundaries.

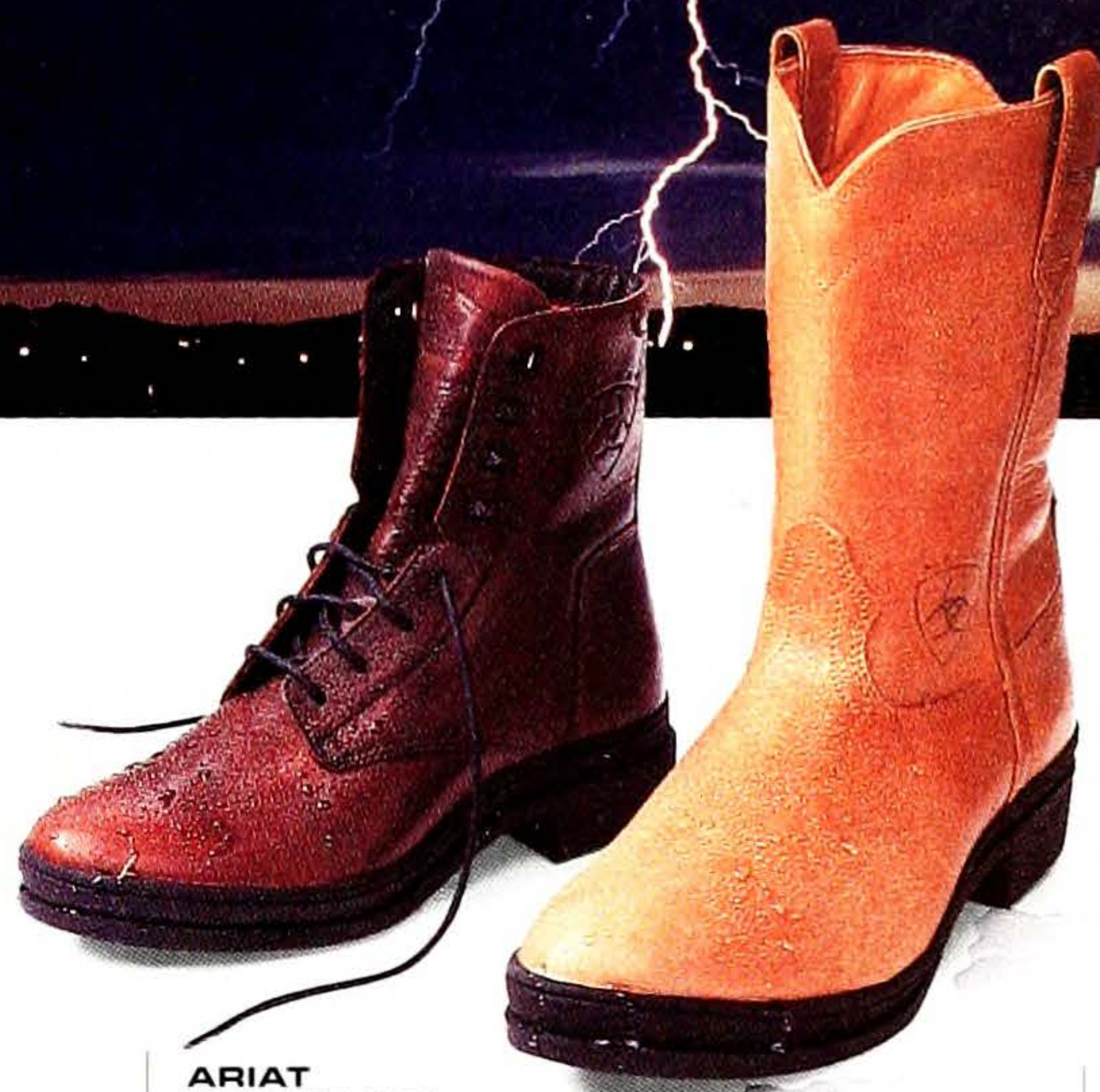
Leaders are not remembered for keeping things the same. Leaders push the limits of what has been done by asking the group to consider what should be done. Look beyond the limits and challenge your chapter and community to consider extreme ideas that would benefit everyone. Write down one new idea every day. At the end of a month you will have around 30. The odds are in your favor—some of these ideas are bound to positively change your chapter and community!

Myth #4

Leaders do everything themselves.

Leadership requires rallying the troops; becoming a cheerleader for your cause, so to speak. You must convince others of the importance of your cause. Invite everyone who can help to join. Leaders look past visible labels to see the real contributions each individual offers to the group.

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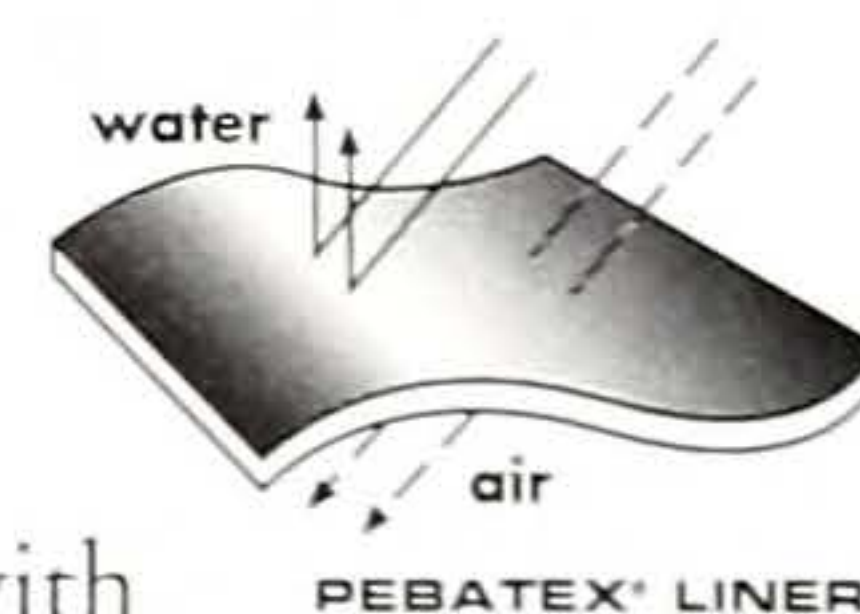
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The Days of Vines and Roses

by Jeri Mattics Freeman

Are you crazy for daisies? Fanatic for fuschias? Rabid for roses? Nuts for nasturtiums? If so, a career in the blossoming field of horticulture may be right up your alley, err...garden path.

Several former FFA members are soaking up horticultural knowledge at one of the world's premier public gardens. Located just 30 miles from Philadelphia, Longwood Gardens offers students an intensive training program that covers everything from arboriculture to zinnias.

Getting Selected

Every two years, a Longwood committee selects 14 students for the Professional Gardeners Training Program. They look for good grades in meaty subjects (physics, chemistry, upper-level math, biology), a high school diploma, and at least one year of work experience in horticulture. After the initial application screening, candidates are issued interview invitations. After a grueling interview process, the committee makes its final selection.

While getting into the program isn't exactly a stroll through the park, it may be the easiest part of this intensive program. Trainees work in all horticultural areas of the garden and receive classroom instruction from Longwood staff and outside consultants. Courses range from basic botany, plant identification and culture, to speech training and research paper preparation.

In addition to classes and their work assignments with Longwood's professional staff, each student is responsible for a 15' x 50' garden plot which is evaluated by the instructors. The students can create any style of garden they choose but must include flowers, vegetables and other non-woody plants. Often students create creeks and ponds filled with water lilies. The classes, work assignments and their gardens add up to 40-60 hours a week during the two-year course.

Of course, it isn't all work and no play. For anyone with a passion for posies, this is the place to be. There is no tuition and students are housed in dormitories free of charge. In addition, they receive a monthly stipend to cover living expenses. Plus, students can attend all of the many special programs offered at the garden for a nominal fee.

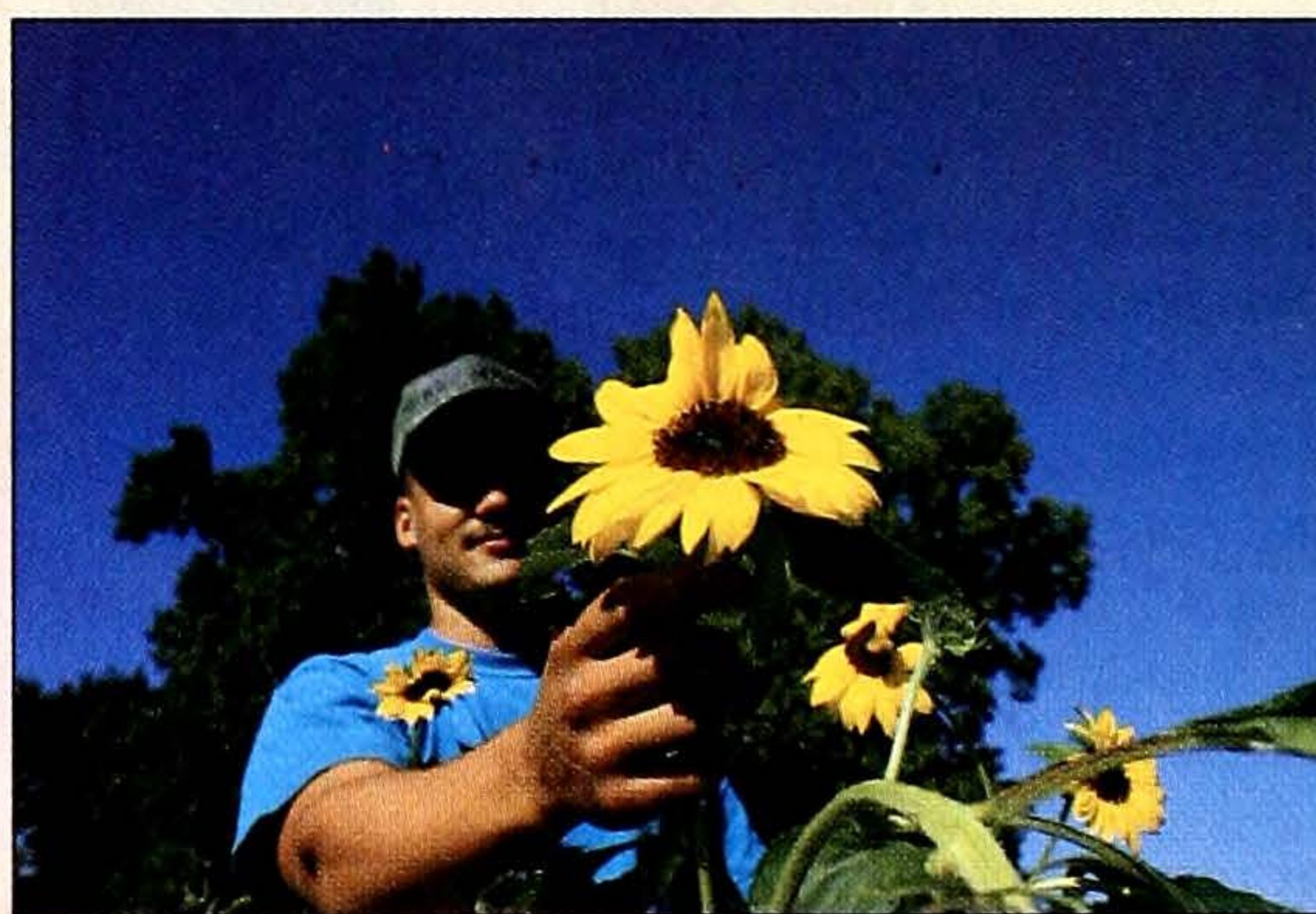
As an added bonus, graduates are highly sought after by botanical gardens, commercial horticulture enterprises and estate gardens.

"Our graduates can expect entry-level jobs that pay around \$25,000 annually," says Dave Foresman, student programs coordinator at Longwood. "In addition to salary, horticultural jobs frequently offer on-site housing as an added benefit," he adds.

FFA Members Share Strategies

Kim Hilgers of Ankeny, Iowa, discovered Longwood's treasure through an ad in *Flower & Garden* magazine. With her heart set on a horticultural

career, she visited the gardens with her father and applied for the Professional Gardeners program. When she graduates from the program in February, Kim hopes to stay in public horti-

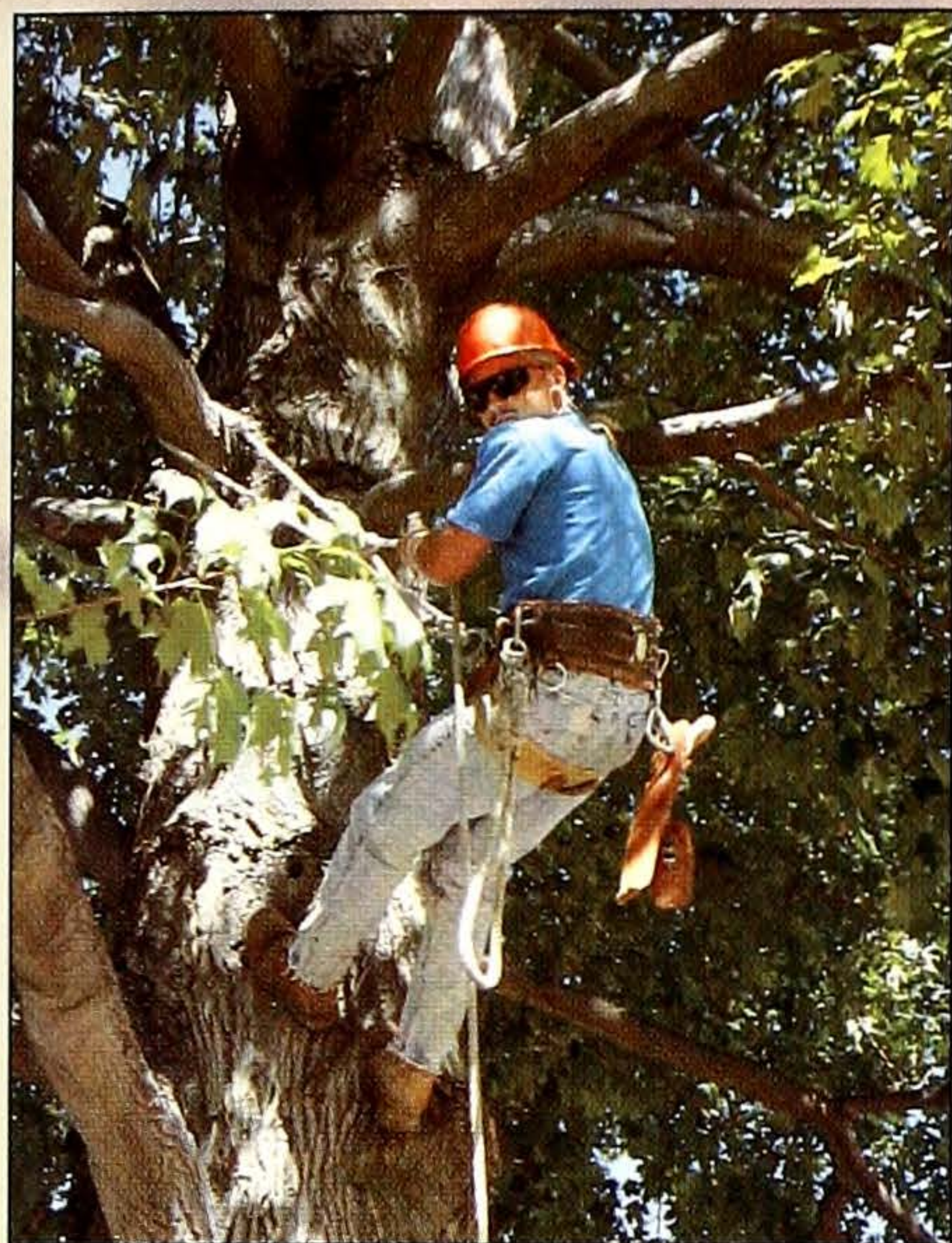


All the students in Longwood's program are required to develop their own garden. Dan's garden includes a creek that leads to a small pond, a tree and sunflowers.

culture preferably with a greenhouse or conservatory. Her advice to FFA members? "Take all the horticulture classes you can and get involved in community projects. Take advantage of any part-time work you can to gain experience in as many different areas as possible. I've done everything from greenhouse retailing to public gardening—horticulture is a broad field and you need to try different things to find your niche."

Dan Swanson was a member of the Tri-County FFA Chapter in Kane, Pennsylvania. In high school he participated in agricultural mechanics, forestry and the envirothon. Living in a small town in the Allegheny Mountains, Dan has always envisioned a career based on the forests and plants that surround his home. Now his dream is becoming reality.

"Longwood provides a great experience. Students get to work in all areas



Former FFA member Dan Swanson is training for a career in horticulture. His specialty is arboriculture—trees. Here, he uses the skills he's learned to safely climb and trim a tree.

of the garden and then choose a focal area in which to spend extra time," Dan explains. "I hope to open a full-service landscaping and tree business after I graduate, so I've chosen arboriculture as my specialty."

Dan also appreciates the life skills he's learning at Longwood. "Living in the dorms has been a tremendous learning experience. You really get to know your classmates. Our class has developed a special camaraderie. We help each other out and have a lot of fun. The international students add another whole dimension. They help you see things from a different perspective."

Freedom Joy Titus of Dickerson, Maryland, came to Longwood as a collegiate intern and will spend three months working on special displays in the gardens. After four years of horticulture classes in Frederick, Maryland, and serving as Maryland's 1993-94 state FFA president, Freedom Joy enrolled in the ornamental horticulture program at the University of Maryland's Institute of Applied Agriculture. Her goal is to transform a family farm into a bed and breakfast business and use it as a working educational display for agriculture. Freedom Joy's vision for the farm includes display gardens, a greenhouse and a craft barn.

About Longwood Gardens

Longwood Gardens was founded by industrialist Pierre du Pont in 1906 with the purchase of 203 acres. Longwood Gardens now encompasses 1,050 acres of gardens, meadows and woodlands, with outdoor formal and informal areas, 11,000 types of plants, nearly four acres of greenhouses and conservatories, fountains, a nursery, greenhouse production range and research plots.

An avid horticulturist, du Pont collected ideas for his gardens as he traveled the globe building the chemical business founded by his grandfather, E.I. du Pont. Wanting to leave a legacy and share his passion for horticulture, du Pont built Longwood Gardens as a public facility and included horticultural education in its mission.

In addition to the Professional Gardeners Training Program, Longwood offers a college internship program, continuing education classes, a graduate program, and an international gardener training program that hosts horticulturists from around the globe. In 1995, Longwood launched a pilot high school program and selected 10 students from inner-city Philadelphia to participate. For more information, call or write: Student Programs, Longwood Gardens, Inc., P.O. Box 501, Kennett Square, PA 19348-0501, 610-388-1000, ext. 524.



Longwood Gardens has a summer intern program for high school students. The 1995 interns were (from left to right) Adam Ganser, Karla Edwards, Latoria Banks, Aliya Hart, Donna Hernandez, Lizzy Butler (student programs intern), Mary Spada, Joe McGill and Pat McGill. These students are from W. B. Saul and Abraham Lincoln High Schools in Philadelphia.

Resources

For more information about careers in horticulture, check out the following resources:

Careers for Plant Lovers and Other Green Thumb Types, by Blythe Camenson, published by VGM Career Horizons, a division of NTC Publishing Group, 4255 West Touhy Avenue, Lincolnwood, IL 60646-1975.

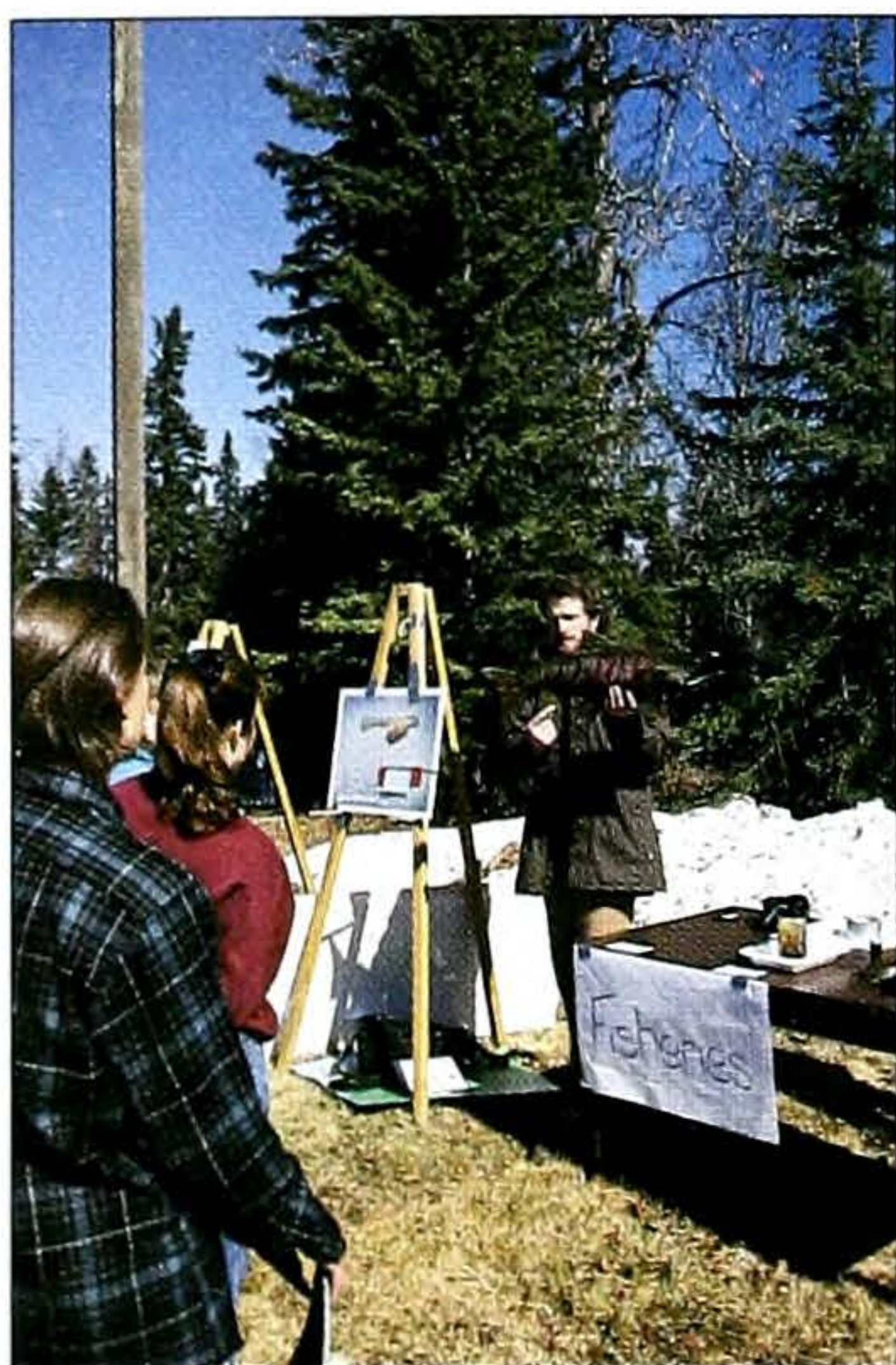
Rewarding Careers in the Nursery Industry, by William Flemer III; published by American Nurseryman Publishing Co., 111 N. Canal Street, Suite 545, Chicago, IL 60606.

Careers in the Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences, published by Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, Office for Resident Education, 101 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802, 814-865-7521.

1995 Annual Salary Survey, published by the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, 786 Church Road, Wayne, PA 19087, 610-688-1120.



During the envirothon, students took water samples from a nearby lake for testing.



Fisheries researcher Jeff Booth presented information on salmon migration to the students who were competing in the envirothon.



Alaska FFA members take a close look at a small fish during the competition.

NEW COMPETITION PROMOTES ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

by Andrew Arenson

Alaska FFA members had the opportunity this year to compete in a new event that is being adopted in several states—the envirothon.

The Envirothon Contest, which was organized by the Kenai Department of Fish and Wildlife, utilized specialists from the areas of wildlife management, fisheries science and biology, soil science, water quality, energy resource management and forestry to bring home the point that the environment is interconnected.

Participants listened to brief lectures and watched a demonstration on each subject, did hands-on research projects and answered a battery of questions based on their findings. In addition to taking a comprehensive written test incorporating all the issues, each team was given an environmental dilemma to work through—a ground-based oil spill.

Using the information they learned through each of the environmental substations, teams had to gauge the impact of the spill, determine ways to curtail its effects, and figure out ways to clean up and restore the contaminated area.

The Kenai FFA Chapter was one of seven groups that participated in the event. After spending one-half hour preparing for their oral team presentation, the team devised a

practical, logical and inexpensive way to save the contaminated area.

First, the Kenai team explained, they would isolate the area with a fence to keep wildlife and people out. Secondly, they would dig a trench around the spill's perimeter to identify how deep the oil penetrated the soil. At the same time they would use oil-absorbent rags to clean up visible accumulations. Their plan also included water quality tests to determine if the oil had seeped into the groundwater, and setting up oil booms at the base of a local lake to isolate the spill if it traveled that far.

The contest was met with an overwhelming, positive response by all its participants. Dimond student Heather Hamm received the highest overall individual score in the Envirothon.

"The best part of the contest was the oil spill problem," Hamm said. "We had to know what to do and we could really feel the rush of time just like if it really happened. It really forced our group to act."

Greg Vetter, national FFA vice president from Wyoming, watched the competition and admired its applicability. "This is one of the most unique events I've ever seen," Vetter said. "This contest is definitely meeting the needs of the students by giving them tools and skills needed for work in this particular region."

...

Reaching for the STARS

by Jeri Mattics Freeman

The stars will be shining brightly in Kansas City when the finalists for FFA's top two awards hit town. Each year, the National FFA Organization names four finalists for each of its two most prestigious awards, the American Star Farmer and American Star in Agribusiness.

A panel of judges will interview the finalists and select a winner in each category during the 68th National FFA Convention which will be held November 9-11 in Kansas City, Missouri. Read on to find out more about each of the finalists who will be reaching for the stars in Kansas City.

American Star in Agribusiness Finalists

Larry Edward Duffner, 21, of Ephrata, Washington, and his brother, Scott, began working together several years ago and now own and operate a successful haying business which offers services that include cutting, baling and delivering hay and straw. They also raise hogs and cattle. "My business has taught me many skills," says Larry, "including how to repair and maintain equipment and how proactive business planning can avert potential problems."

Wade Kallevig, 21, of Willmar, Minnesota, owns and operates a successful seed conditioning plant that processes more than 5 million pounds of soybeans annually. Kallevig sells his beans locally, regionally and in Japan. He began by growing 7.5 acres of soybeans as a high school freshman. The next year he increased his acreage to 43.5, bought a tractor and rented a neighbor's grain cleaner. He hasn't looked back since and now has contracts with ICI Seeds, Cenex/Land O' Lakes Seeds and Minnesota Public Seeds.

Chad Reinhart, 21, of Normal, Illinois, and his brother, Todd, have built a successful landscaping and lawn care service. While growing up on a farm, Reinhart spent many summer days mowing and came to the conclusion that he liked the work and loved to be outdoors. He bought a mower, borrowed his dad's weed trimmer, placed an ad in the local newspaper and began raking in a whole lot more than grass clippings. Reinhart Landscaping and Lawn Care now serves more than 100 accounts.

Chad Thixton, 21, of Salem, Indiana, has been cutting deals along with a lot of grass. When he was 10, Thixton invested six weeks worth of allowance and odd job money into a lawn mower. When he was 15, he landed his first large account, an 80-family retirement complex. Long term, Thixton wants to develop one of the largest landscape companies in the country. If his latest contracts are any indication (landscaping the first phase of 247 homes in Atlanta and grading and landscaping 8,000 homes near Albany, Georgia), he's well on his way.

American Star Farmer Finalists

Darrell Glodowski, 21, of Amherst Junction, Wisconsin, always knew he wanted to own and operate a dairy farm. It just happened a bit sooner than he had planned when his father was paralyzed in a farming accident. Suddenly the 18-year-old FFA member was in charge of 35 cows, 30 heifers and 140 acres of land. Taking over the farm was a tremendous challenge, but Darrell rose to the occasion. He set his goals high and has been achieving them annually. He has increased production by 3,000 pounds of milk per cow per year to date. His goal is to have a 40,000-pound rolling herd average by the time he turns 40.

Benji Ortman, 21, of Westport, Indiana, had to overcome some unusual obstacles on his journey to success. In 1987, a three-wheeler accident caused brain damage and forced him to sell his herd of hogs. After several months of therapy, his condition began to improve and he fought his way back into the mainstream. Today, he farms 266 acres (of which he owns 80 acres) and produces cattle and swine. Benji plans to increase his acreage and build his cattle herd to 100 head by next year.

Randy Petroschus, 21, of Allegan, Michigan, didn't have a very positive start in the dairy business. His first calf died soon after he entered it in a dairy show. But, his persistence paid off and now he has 190 head of Holsteins. As a student in the dairy management program at Michigan State University, Petroschus gained new ideas and continued showing livestock. He recently became a partner in his parents' dairy farm, an operation that includes more than 750 acres and 550 head of cattle. Randy's next project is designing and installing a state-of-the-art milking facility.

Ryan White, 21, of Morganfield, Kentucky, didn't waste any time getting into agriculture. While most of his peers were mastering their bicycles, seven-year-old Ryan was working alongside his father and three older brothers, raking hay for \$1 a day. Today he's responsible for the farm's 1,500 round bales and 28,000 small square bales of hay and 5,000 small square bales of straw in addition to many other aspects of the farm operation. Ryan owns three farms in partnership with his brothers and values land acquisition as a vital part of the farming operation. ...

The American FFA Degree recognition program and stars European tour are co-sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. of Des Moines, Iowa; American Cyanamid Company, Agricultural Division of Wayne, New Jersey; Case Corporation of Racine, Wisconsin; and Farm Credit System of Washington, D.C., as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

Beyond the Arena



The inside scoop on what's hot outside Municipal Auditorium

by Lynn Hamilton



National FFA Convention Shopping Mall and Career Show.

See bucking broncos, test new computer programs, witness state-of-the-art American manufacturing, get motivated to achieve your most ambitious goals...all of this and more awaits you outside Municipal Auditorium at the 68th National FFA Convention.

Don't get us wrong — the inspiring speakers, exciting award presentations, energetic national officers, brilliant lasers and snappy music inside the convention hall aren't to be minimized. But if you can't sit still inside the auditorium another minute, or if you have time between convention sessions, here are some great activities that will help you learn more about FFA, agriculture and the many opportunities that are waiting for you.

Career Show

One of the most popular attractions during the convention is the FFA National Agricultural Career Show® located across the street from Municipal

Auditorium in Bartle Hall. Covering the area of three football fields, you're sure to find something of interest as you stroll through the miles of aisles. Try your hand at new computer programs, talk to university and company representatives and see



what's new in agricultural technology.

Apollo 13 fans will enjoy the Air Force's mini-rocket display and NASA's huge space exhibit.

John Deere will give away a restored 4020 antique tractor, and Dewalt High Performance Industrial Tools will host a power tool demonstration area. More than 300 exhibitors will be on hand to dispense lots of useful information, plus free pencils, bags, hats and samples.

Next to the Career Show you'll find the FFA Shopping Mall where you can pick up the latest in FFA fashions and

start your Christmas shopping. Hungry? Not a problem; you'll find many familiar fast food restaurants at the FFA Food Court, visible from anywhere in Bartle Hall.

In addition to the Career Show, there are also National FFA Career Seminars. You'll learn about new career areas in the horse, beef and swine industries, as well as agriscience, agricultural education, international agriculture, agricultural communications and agricultural mechanics. In today's dynamic job market, it's important to know where the cutting-edge careers and technologies will be. This is your chance to discuss potential careers with people who are successful in the agricultural industry. It's never too early to start planning, and these seminars will give you a head start on your future. Plan to attend one that interests you Thursday or Friday in Room 4202 of the Convention Center.



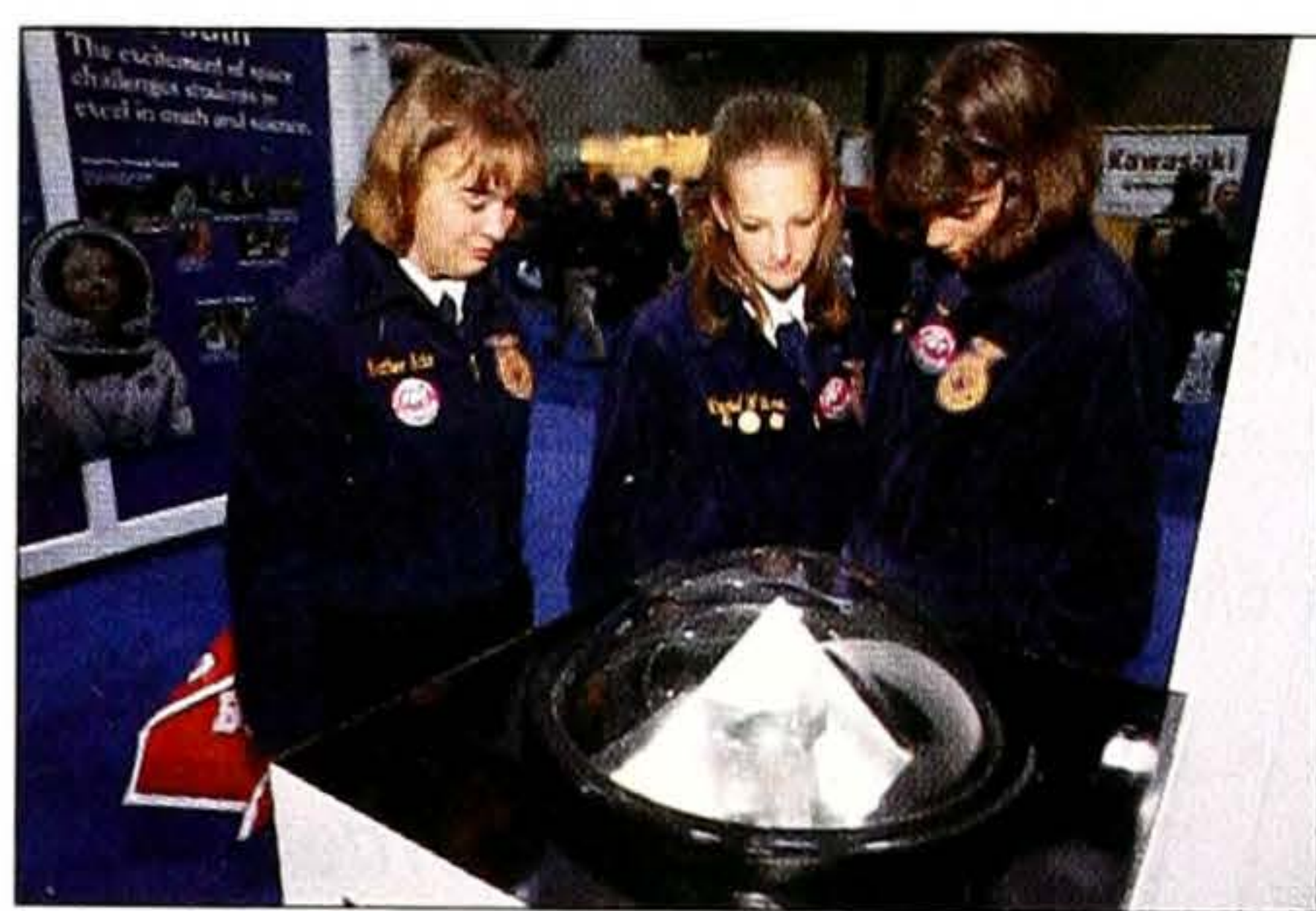
Leadership Workshops

Excitement at the convention hits a fevered pitch, but if you're

looking for a

more focused message to motivate you toward achieving your goals, the National FFA Student Leadership Workshops are a must. Brought to you by the National FFA Alumni Association, you'll learn what it takes to find your path to success from people who know—past national FFA officers. With such titles as "Maximum Power Required," by Andrew McCrea; "And the Winner Is..." by Todd Hingson and "Could It be Camelot?" by Liam Brody, these six high-energy workshops are sure to jump start your enthusiasm. All are held in Bartle Hall 2210 B&C Thursday and Friday. Ask your advisor or check your convention schedule for more details.

An additional line-up of nine specialized leadership sessions will focus on topics such as interviewing skills, public speaking, making the most of FFA opportunities and recruiting new members. If you're a chapter officer, a session is planned especially to help you reach your potential as a chapter leader. Past national officers, Washington Leadership Conference and Made For Excellence staff members will present these sessions which will be limited to 200 members. The sessions are held Thursday and Friday in the Convention Center 4201 and 4204; be sure to see the convention schedule for times and topics.



Check out agriculture in space at the NASA exhibit.

You may purchase tour tickets in advance by calling 913-432-1700; they will also be available in the south lobby of Bartle Hall Tuesday through Friday of the convention. All tours are \$6.50 to cover the cost of transportation; host companies do not charge for tours. Your advisor has a schedule of tours; they will also be listed in the convention schedule.

Tours

If you really want to stretch your legs and your understanding of American industry, go on one (or more!) of the 29 tours of Kansas City-area companies. Kansas City businesses have been rolling out the welcome mat to FFA members for years. "FFA has a really good reputation in Kansas City," says Dianne Bollman of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. She notes that the wide variety of tours are the result of Kansas City's general commitment to FFA, and also the national exposure the companies receive from the wide array of FFA visitors.

Favorite tours that are back again include the TWA Overhaul Base, AGCO Manufacturing and the Hallmark Manufacturing Plant. New tours this year include the Lee Company, where you'll see how some of the most popular jeans in America are made; BIOMAT, which makes growing mats of lawn grass, flower mixes and other plants; Hermes Nursery, a 150-acre nursery which grows more than 120 varieties of trees and shrubs; and Mid-America Car/ABC Rail Products Corp., which repairs locomotives and freight cars.

Other new tours include the Kansas City Zoo, where you can see behind the cages and talk with a veterinarian and a zookeeper; Kansas City Southern Railroad, where you'll tour the switching yards and fueling facility; and the House of Lloyd, a direct sales distributor which will be busy filling orders for the Christmas season. Another new tour offers a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the American Royal Rodeo, where you can visit with cowboys, cowgirls and rodeo clowns.

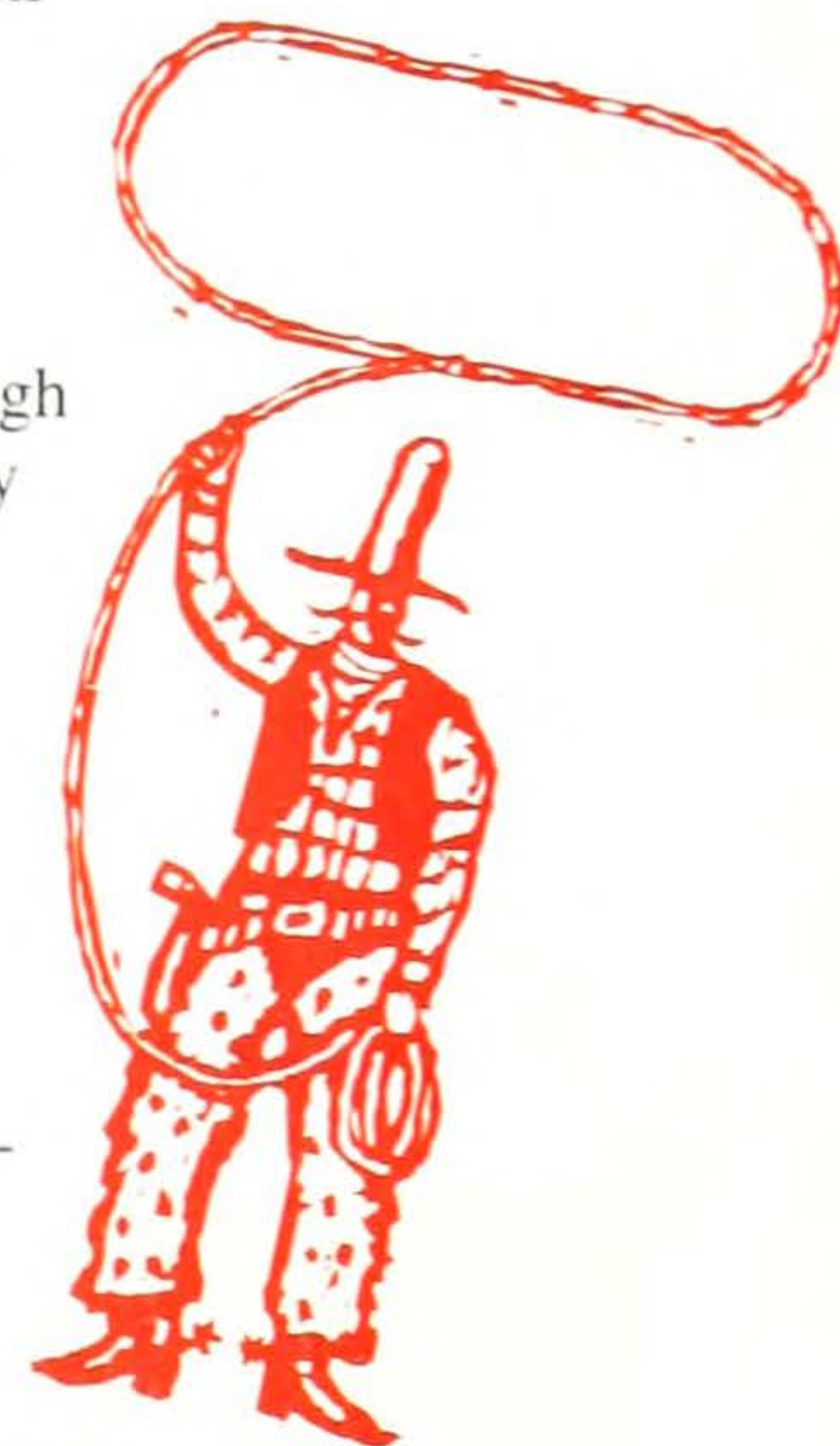


You'll find more than colleges when you explore the Career Show.

Rodeo

One of Kansas City's greatest agricultural traditions is the American Royal, and if you don't venture down to Kemper Arena while you're attending the convention, well, you're missing out. Bull riders, calf ropers and steer wrestlers will kick up the sawdust twice a day during convention, from Wednesday through Saturday. Country music stars Toby Keith, Collin Raye, Shenandoah and John Anderson will all belt out their hits at the rodeo, so get tickets for your favorite show. If you want to brush up on your judging skills, FFA and 4-H livestock competitions are also scheduled. It's easy to get to the Royal; shuttle buses leave every 15 minutes from the convention center and Kemper Arena.

Obviously, if you do everything above, you won't be able to attend any convention sessions! To find a good balance, work with your advisor and classmates in order to do and see as much inside and outside of the auditorium as possible. The more you do, the more you'll treasure your Kansas City experience. If you can't fit in everything, though, don't worry — it's a good reason to come to Kansas City next year!



How Sweet It Is!

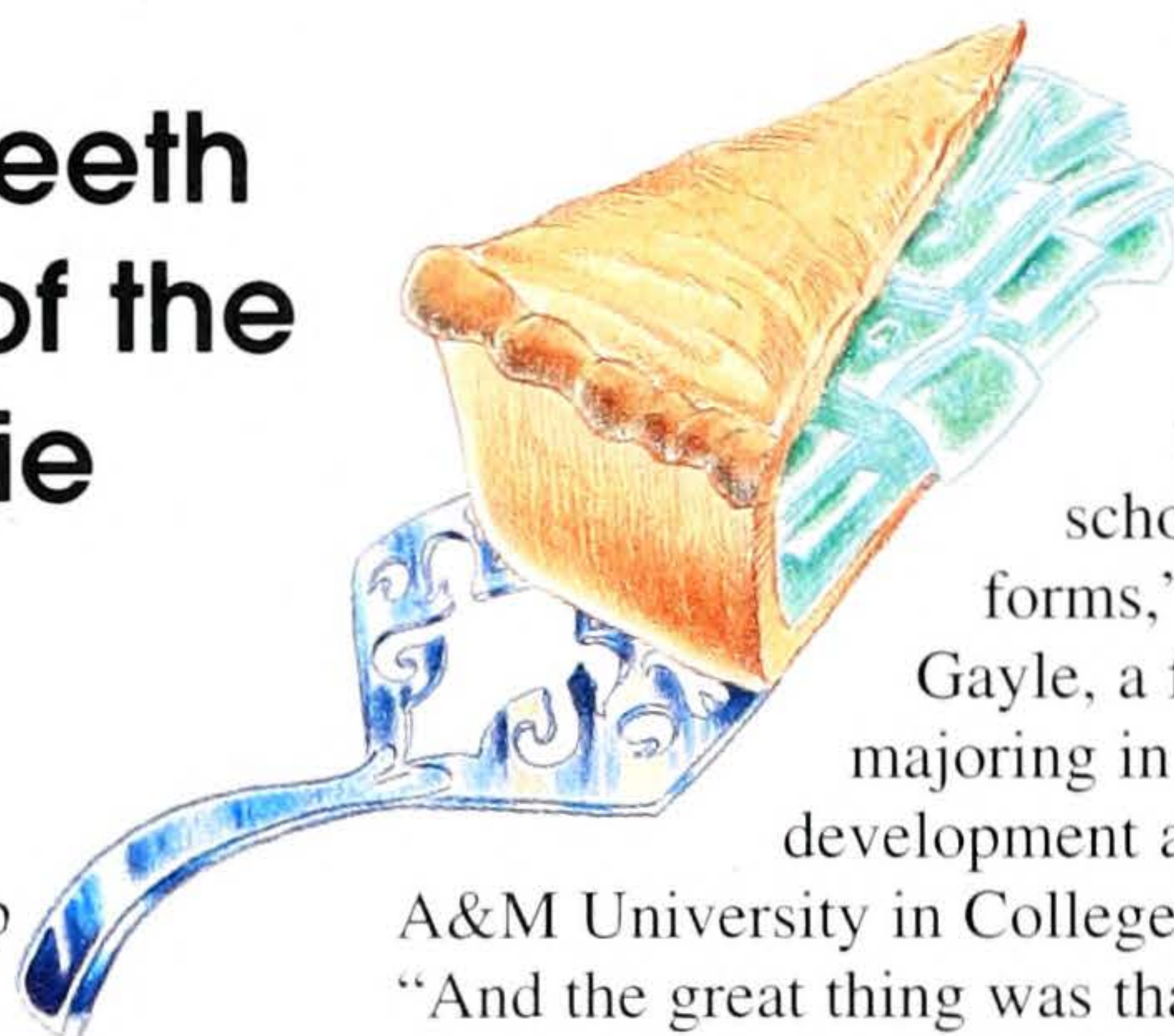
Tips for successfully sinking your teeth into a piece of the scholarship pie

by Debbie Coakley

Filling out scholarship applications completely and neatly takes time and thought. But the fruits of your hard work can pay off with awards that take a bite out of the ever-increasing cost of going to college.

Even though it will take some time and effort, don't let the idea of filling out applications and paying for college scare you off. FFA has streamlined its 1996 scholarship program so you can apply for scholarships totaling more than \$1 million dollars by completing just one application.

"The FFA scholarship application is long, but it didn't take any more time



than other scholarship forms," says Lauri Gayle, a freshman majoring in agricultural development at Texas

A&M University in College Station. "And the great thing was that I applied for 10 scholarships with just one form."

She adds that the three hours spent doing the paperwork were definitely worthwhile because she won \$1,000 from Business Men's Assurance Company of America. That's a pay-off of \$333.33 an hour! Gayle's was one of 850 scholarships awarded in the 1995 National FFA College and Vocational/Technical School Scholarship Program, sponsored through the National FFA Foundation.

Gayle is keenly aware how valuable scholarship money is. "College is so expensive, any scholarship money can

help. Books alone cost me \$300 this semester," points out Gayle, who was an active FFA member at Texas' Coolidge High School and the 1995

valedictorian. Eli Wiedenfeld, a freshman at the

University of Wisconsin in Platteville, applied for about 15 of the 1995 FFA scholarships. "It was really nice being able to fill out just one application that was used for all the scholarships I marked on the form."

Wiedenfeld won a \$1,000 Cargill scholarship and used it for tuition. "I'm majoring in law enforcement-criminal justice, so I applied for scholarships available to students not going into an agricultural field."

Paying the Tab

Although college costs vary from school to school, here's an example of what a student at the University of Illinois will fork out this year: \$3,000 for tuition (for a full-time student/Illinois resident); \$4,408 for meals and housing; \$540 for books; \$986 for fees (health insurance, etc.); \$1,966 for personal expenses; and \$400 for travel to and from home.

In 1996, the FFA scholarship program will offer 837 scholarships totaling more than \$1 million. Awards range from \$500 to \$10,000 and are to be used for tuition, fees, books and equipment required for classes to attain a vocational diploma or college degree from a post-secondary vocational/technical school or from a college or university.

Ordering Instructions

To apply for a share of the scholarship pie, you'll need an application booklet. They'll be sent to all FFA chapter advisors and guidance counselors about the first of December. Pick up a copy from your FFA chapter advisor or guidance counselor. Or, request the booklet from the FFA Scholarship Office, National FFA Center, P.O. Box 15160, 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160; phone: 703-360-3600, ext. 255.

Recipe for a Winning Application

1. Make two or three photocopies of the blank application. If you make any mistakes while filling it out, you can start over on a photocopy.
2. Type the application if at all possible—neatness counts.
3. Read every scholarship description and circle only those for which you qualify.
4. Fill in every space. Failure to fill in a section of the application will disqualify you.
5. Have your FFA advisor or guidance counselor review your application to check that you filled it out completely and made no mistakes.
6. Do not attach anything to the application (including transcripts, photos and additions). Fit all your statements into the space provided. All attached pages will be discarded.
7. Don't wait until the last minute to send in the application. You never know when weather or other factors might prevent you from mailing it by the Feb. 15 deadline.
8. Only those students who win an FFA scholarship will receive a notification letter between May 15 and June 1. If you want to know the results of the scholarship selection, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with your application.

Partial Listing of FFA Scholarship Sponsors

The sponsors listed below have each funded \$10,000 or more in National FFA Scholarships this year.

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Business Men's Assurance Company
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CHEVY TRUCKS
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ConAgra, Inc.
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NAPA AUTO PARTS
Santa Fe Pacific Foundation
Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.
Union Pacific Foundation
Vigoro Industries, Inc.
Viscosity Oil Company, a Division of
Pennzoil Products Company
Wal-Mart Foundation

A total of 190 sponsors provide scholarships as special projects of the National FFA Foundation. Several of the companies also support other FFA programs.

**If you have plans
for continuing your
education...**



National FFA Scholarship Opportunities

There are 837 scholarships ranging from \$250 to \$10,000 available through the National FFA Scholarship Program. If you are interested in continuing your education in college or technical school—why not apply for a scholarship? FFA scholarships are available for high school seniors and for FFA members currently enrolled in college.

Selection is based on your FFA leadership activities, academic record, supervised agricultural experience program and community involvement.

Early application is encouraged. Pick up a scholarship application from your FFA chapter advisor or guidance counselor. You may also write to the FFA Scholarship Office to obtain a copy of the application form.

IMPORTANT NOTE

**The application deadline is
February 15, 1996.
Applications postmarked later
than February 15
WILL NOT be accepted.**

Scholarship Office
National FFA Organization
P.O. Box 15160
5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy.
Alexandria, VA 22309-0160



The career landscape in forestry and wildlife management is shifting from one dominated by public sector jobs to one that offers more private sector positions.

LOOKING FOR A WILD TIME?

by Susan Zillinger

If your idea of a wild time is a walk through the woods, then a career in the great outdoors might fit you perfectly.

"There are a lot of opportunities out there," says Jim Altemus, director of corporate marketing for Jefferson Smurfit Corporation, a diversified paper, cardboard, container and recycling company. Unfortunately, he says, students tend to think only of opportunities such as forest or park rangers and there are a limited number of those jobs available.

Now is the time students should be looking at a combination of factors to help narrow down career choices says Altemus. His formula? "Determine these three things: what you like to do, what you're good at, and what other people think you're good at. Combine these with personality traits like whether you like working with people or alone, inside or out, etc., and you should have a good idea of which career path you'd like to take." For example, if you like nature, are

good at math and want a 9-to-5 job, you could be an accountant for a renewable resources company or work in an administrative job for the park or forest service.

"The breadth of opportunities has never been greater," agrees Larry Jervis, placement coordinator for the College of Forestry at North Carolina State University.

"Some of the most interesting and most lucrative jobs today are in the specialty fields such as the quantitative end of satellite imaging and computer mapping. The private sector is on the leading edge of this technology." Jervis

predicts that students who can come in and apply those skills to woodlands can write their own tickets.

Statistics indicate 1995 entry level salaries in forestry range from \$20,000 to \$32,000 with the average settling at \$25,000. Public agencies tend to fall

on the low end of that scale and the private sector at the high end.

"There is a big misconception that the business end of forestry and wildlife management are the bad guys. There is sound environmental management going on within the private sector. So if you're interested in ecology and environmental protection you should consider private sector job opportunities," says Jervis.

Foster Dickard, a wildlife and land stewardship forester for Champion International, says students should realize skills that weren't needed five years ago are in demand today. In order to implement environmental education outreach programs and work with schools and teachers, you need to have strong communications skills," he says.

How can you land one of these jobs? "Students need to have a broad understanding of how forest management fits into the overall land management scheme. Ecosystem management and how decisions

concerning land management affect the total environment is very important," says Dickard.

With few exceptions, most people in forestry and land management, including wildlife specialists, have four-year forestry and wildlife management degrees say these experts. Graduates are also pursuing additional education in specialty fields such as wetlands, ecology and business management and, in some specialty areas, master's degrees are needed even for entry-level positions.

Pat Todd, a human resource manager for Georgia-Pacific, recommends co-op programs and internships for students wanting a career in forestry or wildlife management. She also stresses, "students involved in FFA activities that hone skills in negotiating, leadership and entrepreneurial avenues would be a great asset to us." Personnel managers look at the balance between academic and other activities she counsels.

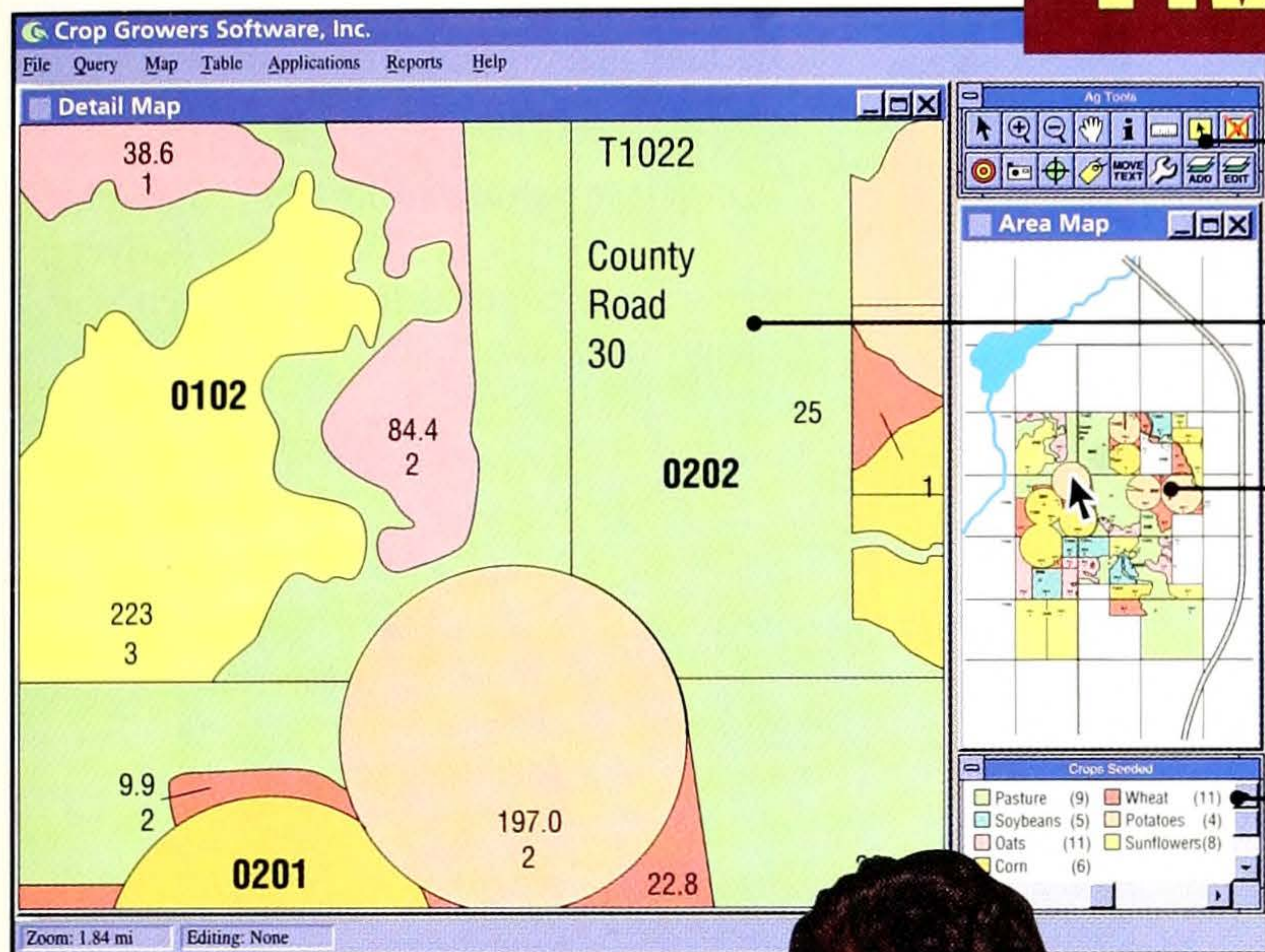
College cooperative programs are one way students can land one of the limited public service jobs, says Michelle Dawson, a public affairs specialist for the Bureau of Land Management. "We're always looking for students who are interested in biology, history, agronomy, soil surveying, archeology and paleontology. We always need temporary help during fire season." Students working as temporary or seasonal help have landed permanent positions because of this experience, she counsels. "It's a great way to get your foot in the door."

Other job opportunities are available in the National Park Service. "Many students only consider positions as park rangers," says Dana Dierkes, an NPS public information specialist. If you're interested in positions with the National Park Service, Dierkes recommends getting your parents' permission to volunteer at a park in your area. After you fill out a volunteer application, the park staff will match your skills and interests with projects that need to be completed.

The diversity of public and private sector jobs available in forestry and wildlife management is staggering. Opportunities are better than ever in specialty and nontraditional areas; a signal to FFA members that a career in forestry or wildlife management can be lucrative and rewarding.

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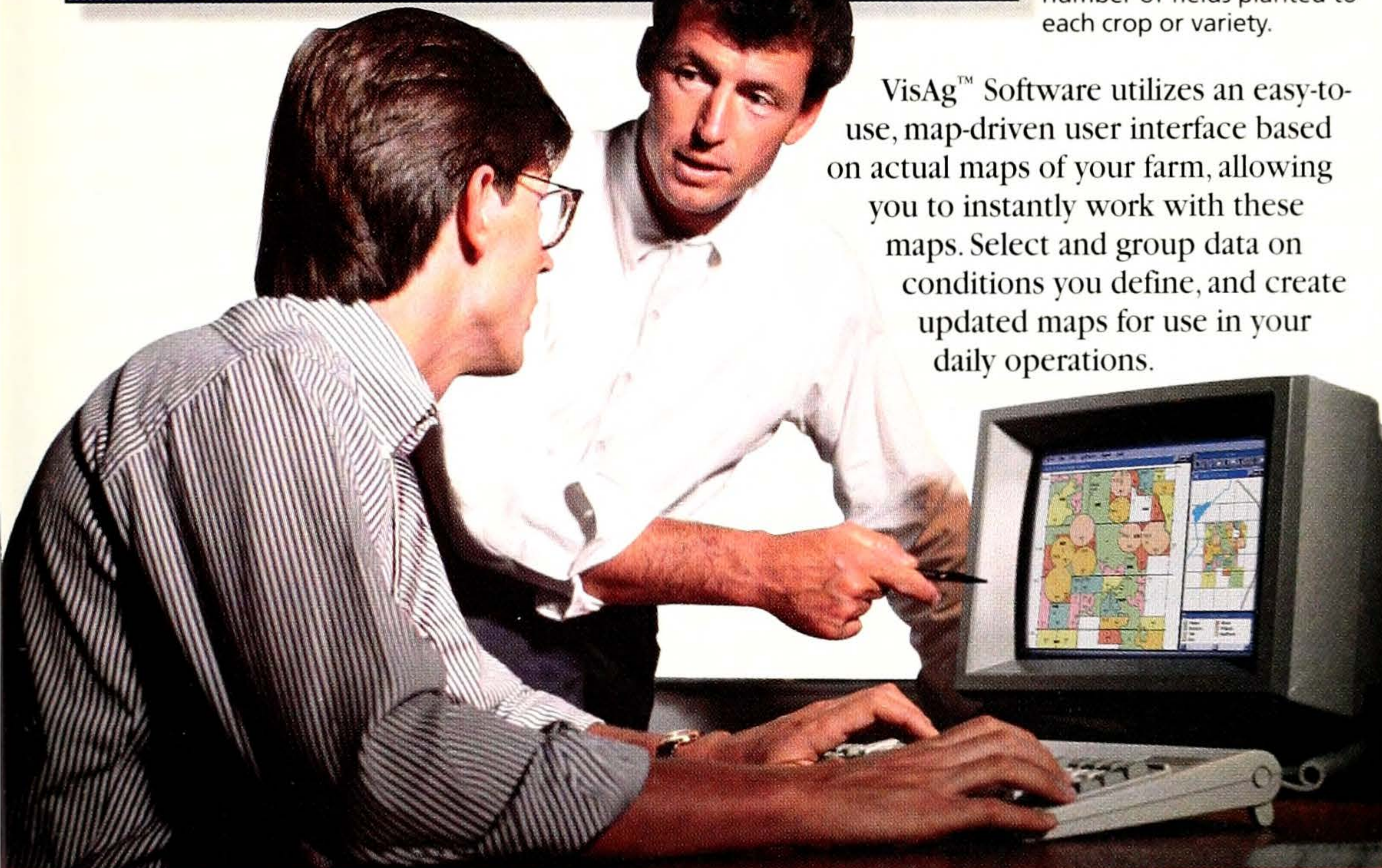
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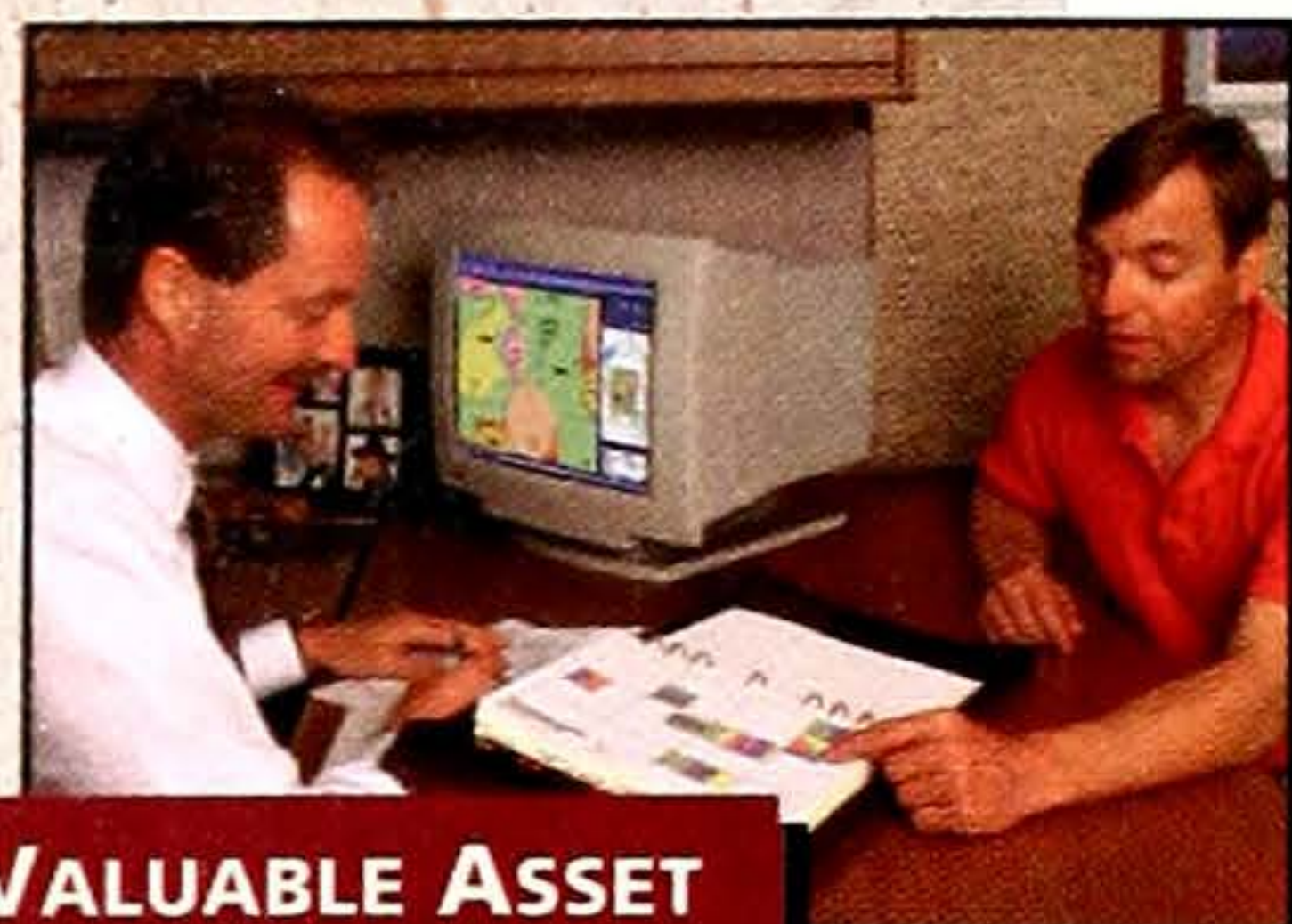
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Planting Information

Land Description
Place name: Home place-North 40
CFSA: 1933 Tract: 9198 Field: 2

Crop: Soybeans
Practice: Non-Irrigated
Variety: Brand X376
Row Width: 30"
Planted Acres: 40.8
Crop Year: 1996
Plant Date: 06/01/1996 Date

Info

Crop Growers Software, Inc.

Chemical Application

Home place-North 40
06/1/96 06:30 AM

Acres Treated: 36.2 Cost Per Acre: 3.90
Total Volume/Acre: 5 gal
Crop: Wheat

Chemical Ingredient
Brand name: 2,4-D AMINE 4 Rate per acre: 1 pts
Type: HERBICIDE
Target pest: Russian Thistle

Chemical brand name Rate per acre Units Target pest
Ally 0.1 oz Kochia

Lookups Add Delete

Additional Information

Employee Name: Todd Gruben
Hours: 1.8 Pay/Hour \$: 6.50
Vehicle: John Deere 4840
Attachment: Case IH Planter
Fuel: 34 Calc Fuel gal.

Planting Conditions
Ins. Unit: 0100
Soil Temp.: 67 degrees
Planting Depth: 1.5
Plant Population: 30000 per acre

OK Cancel

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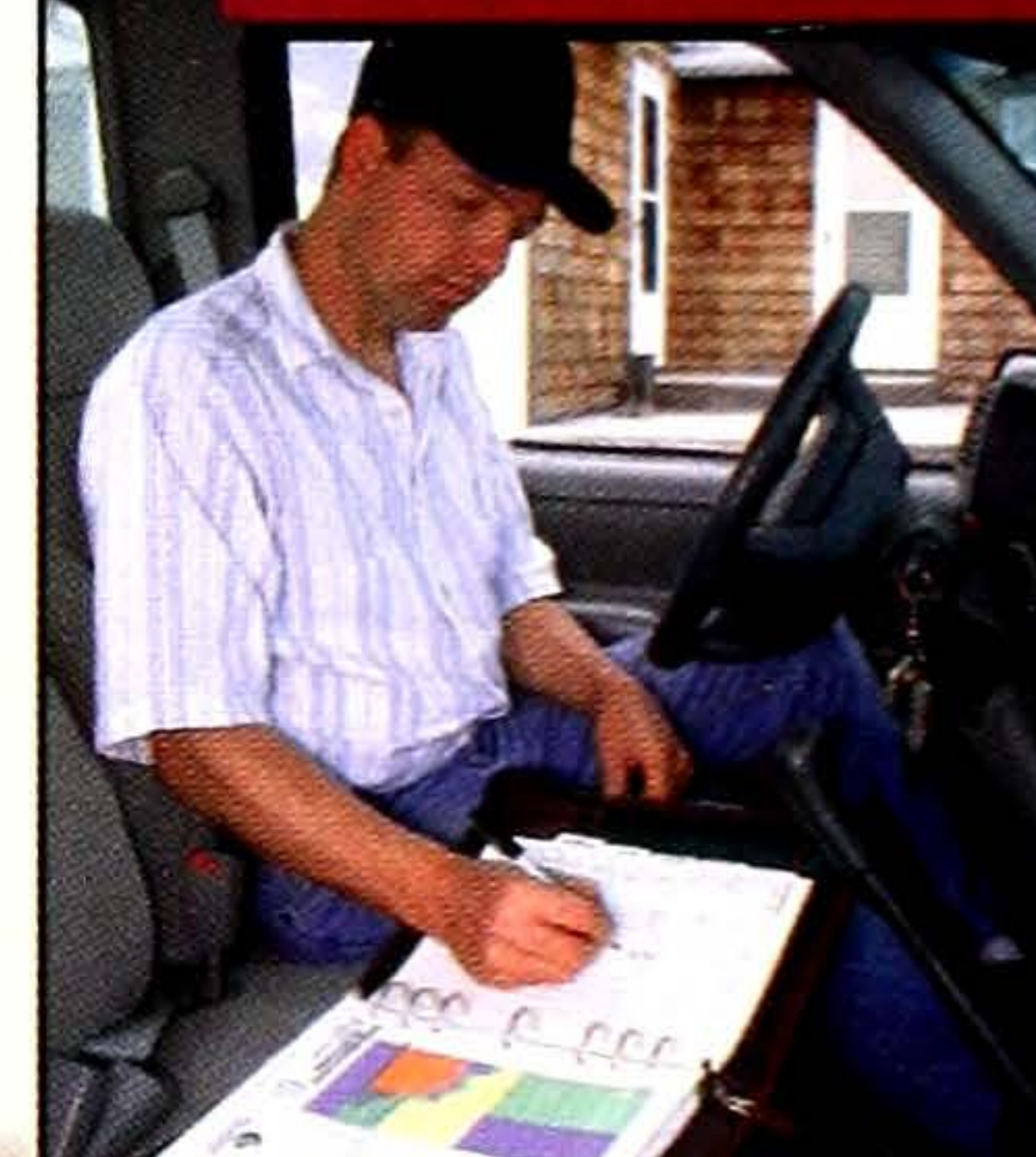
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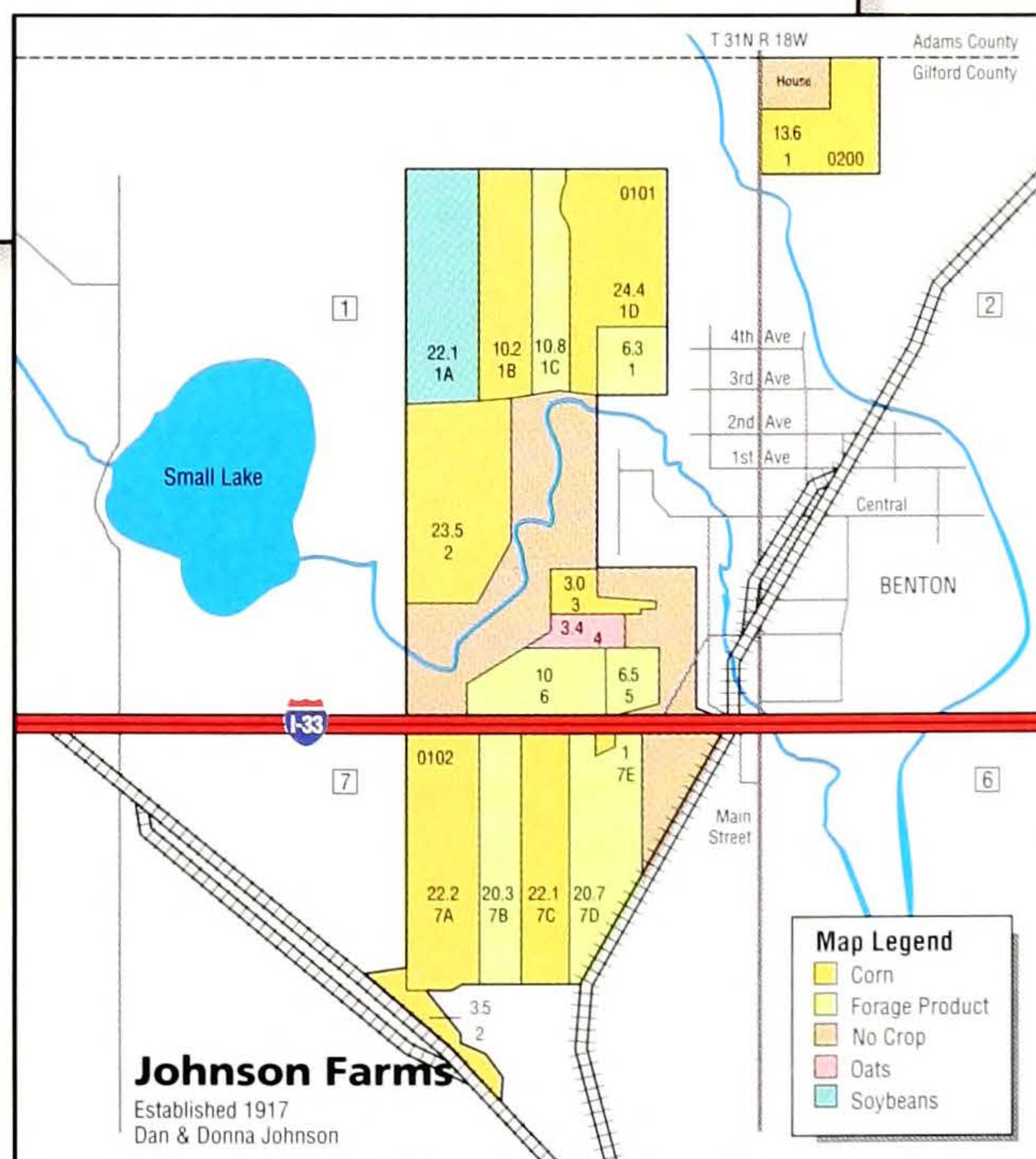


Valley Orchard

Map Legend

Plant Spacing

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| 13 1/2 X 7 | 18 X 15 |
| 14 X 6 | 7 X 9 |
| 15 X 3 | |



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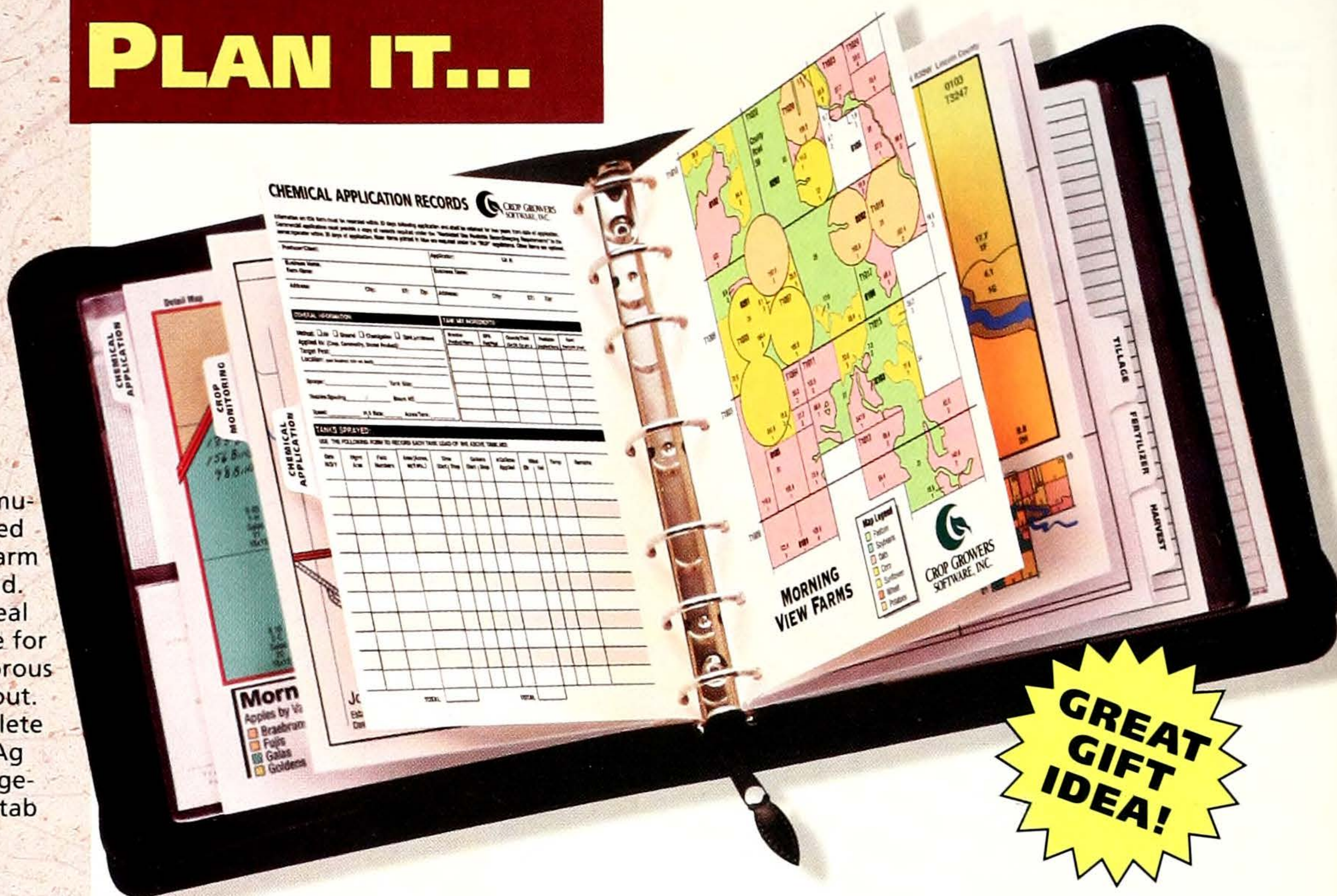
Strength and style are found in this spacious, easy open and close, fully zippered planner. The leather has a scuff-resistant, pebble finish to enhance durability. Complete with Ag Management tab set.

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This country favorite is made of water-resistant propex nylon, trimmed in oil-tanned harness leather. The spine offers a retractable leather handle

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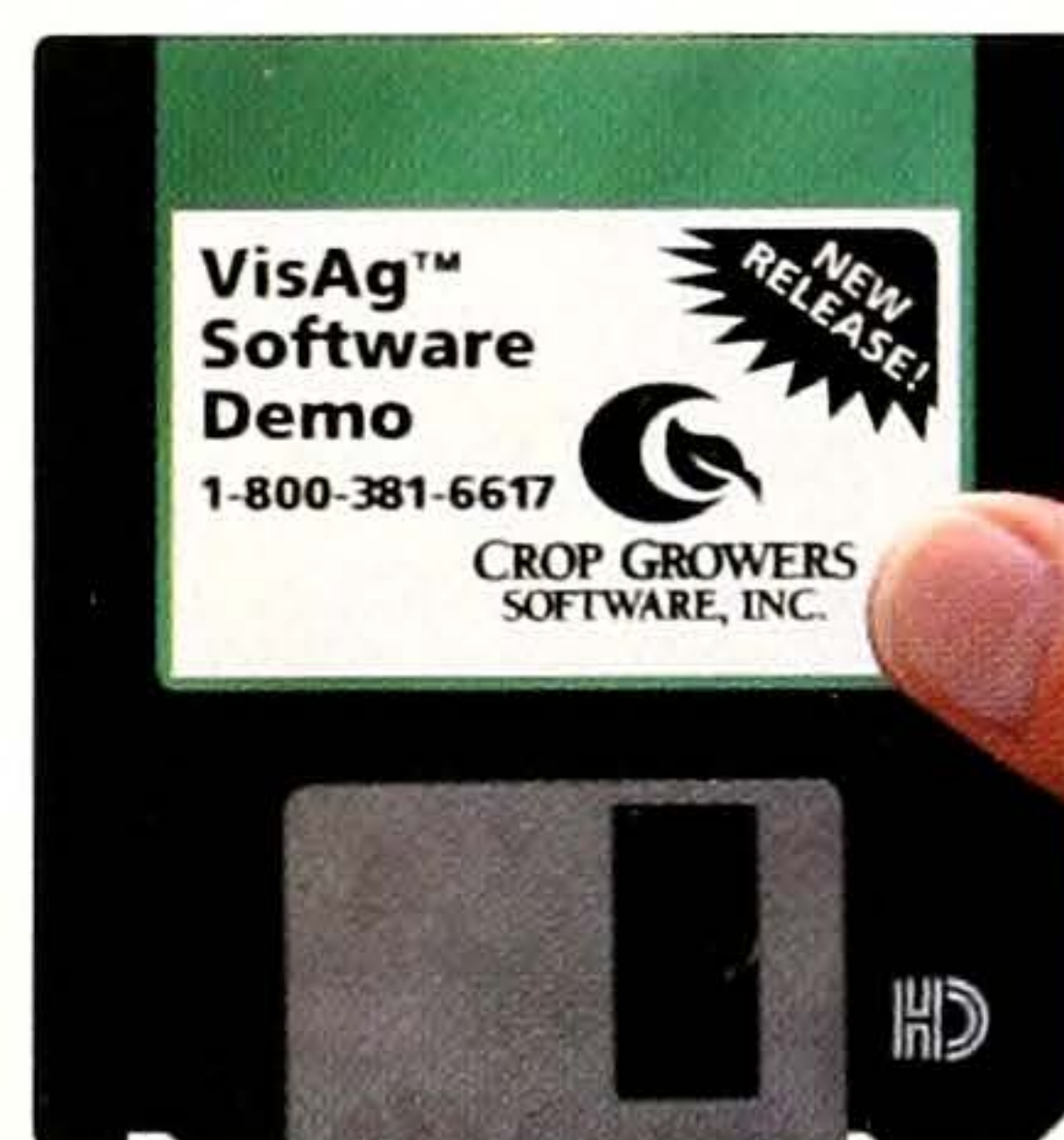
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Hitting the Trail

by Susan Zillinger

Interested in forestry and wildlife but don't know where to start? Here are a few ideas from the eight national finalists in these proficiency areas.

Wildlife Management

"Increasing wildlife habitat is a lot of work, but it can also be a lot of fun and is very rewarding."

Gary Chada

Finalist: Gary Chada, Denmark FFA Chapter, Denmark, Wisconsin

Activity: Raised 950 pheasants to be released for hunting purposes. Increased wildlife habitat by setting out feeding boxes around the woods for rabbits and squirrels. Cleared dead trees and weeds from lake area to keep it clean and usable for wildlife.

Finalist: Wesley McCollum, Lineville FFA Chapter, Lineville, Alabama

Activity: Managed 30 acres of mature hardwoods to increase and improve the habitat of deer, turkey and squirrel in the area. Used prescribed burning as a wildlife management tool. Planted clover and rye grass to provide food for wildlife. Piled brush from cut timber to produce nesting areas for small game.

"For me, all the work has been worth it because there is nothing I enjoy more than being outside working with my dogs and restocking wild game."

Ryan Ammons

Finalist: Ryan Ammons, Madison FFA Chapter, Marshall, North Carolina

Activity: With friends, leased 200 acres of mountain land to develop a small game reserve and camping area. Trained rabbit-hunting beagles to sell to local hunters. Cleared areas, trapped, spread feed and seed and maintained roads.

Finalist: H. Douglas Smith III, Fauquier FFA Chapter, Warrenton, Virginia

Activity: Instrumental in daily operation of school natural resources business. Fed trout and catfish seven days a week, holidays and summers. Directly involved in raising and releasing 700 quail and 400 pheasants, maintaining a large land laboratory area at school and improving several wildlife areas at home.

Forestry Management

Finalist: Jared Sasnett, South Lenoir FFA Chapter, Deep Run, North Carolina

Activities: Worked all aspects of a family logging operation including: loading logs onto trucks and skidders; felling trees using tree combines; bucking trees with Sawbuck (cuts trees in lengths so they can be transported to the saw mill more easily); and using a chain saw as needed.

Finalist: Janice Eivins, Orient-Macksburg FFA Chapter, Orient, Iowa

Activities: Owned and managed 20 percent of family Christmas tree enterprise. Mowed, constructed nurseries, mixed soil, sprayed for insects, dyed evergreens for sale as Christmas trees.

The Forestry Proficiency Award is co-sponsored by Chrysler Corporation Fund - Dodge Trucks, Homelite and Stone Container Corporation as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The Wildlife Management Proficiency Award is co-sponsored by Bass Pro Shops, Inc., and Buck Knives as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



Jared Sasnett trims a fallen tree as part of the timber harvesting process.

"The timber business is here to stay and I feel that the future is bright for our business."

Reggie Montgomery

Finalist: Reggie Montgomery, Riverside FFA Chapter, Parsons, Tennessee

Activities: Worked at father's sawmill doing all the jobs associated with the operation including: learning how to sell cross-ties on the open market; working with the public in selling slabs of lumber to individuals and companies; grading lumber; figuring board feet in lumber and logs thus determining their value.

Finalist: Jamie Jo Mekelburg, Yuma FFA Chapter, Yuma, Colorado

Activities: Raised and sold assorted trees through a tree farm. Weeded, mowed, trimmed trees, controlled insects, and placed weed barriers between trees. ...



by Jeri Mattics Freeman



Former FFA member Fred McClure (on far right) served in the Bush Administration as the assistant for legislative affairs.

Holding High the Torch of Leadership

When *Time* magazine went in search of America's 50 most promising leaders under age 40, they found Fred McClure. Where did this well-spoken Texan get his start? Wearing a blue jacket in San Augustine, Texas, that's where!

McClure, who served for three years as President Bush's assistant for legislative affairs, was bitten by the leadership bug in high school. After serving as the Texas FFA president and national FFA secretary, McClure earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural economics at Texas A&M University. While at Texas A&M he served as student body president and was elected president of the Student Bar Association while working on his law degree at Baylor University.

One of the first stops on McClure's leadership trek was at the White House where he served as an intern during the Ford Administration. "That internship was a direct result of having served as

an FFA officer," McClure says.

"The opportunities I had in FFA prepared me to move into other areas. FFA gave me the foundation needed to fulfill the many tasks I was assigned from the halls of corporate America to the White House," he continues.

McClure's list of other positions ranges from that of government affairs vice president at Texas Air Corporation to the office of associate deputy attorney general of the United States.

Now senior vice president of Public Strategies, Inc., an Austin-based public affairs consulting firm, McClure advises FFA members to take advantage of the opportunities FFA offers. "Figure out how they apply to other areas of life and how you can contribute to your school and community."

McClure is setting a great example in the area of service. He has served as vice president of the Texas A&M University Association of Former

Students and is a member of the Board of Directors of the 12th Man Foundation. In 1995, Governor George W. Bush appointed McClure to the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System.

McClure also serves as a board member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the State Fair of Texas, the John Goodwin Tower Center, the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association, and the Children's Medical Center of Dallas. In 1994, he served as chairman of the Board of Visitors of the United States Naval Academy. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation. McClure lives in Dallas with his wife, Harriet, and their two children, Lauren and Frederick, Jr.

Don't miss your chance to see this exemplary leader in action. McClure will address the 68th National FFA Convention on Friday, November 10, during the 4:00 p.m. session. ...

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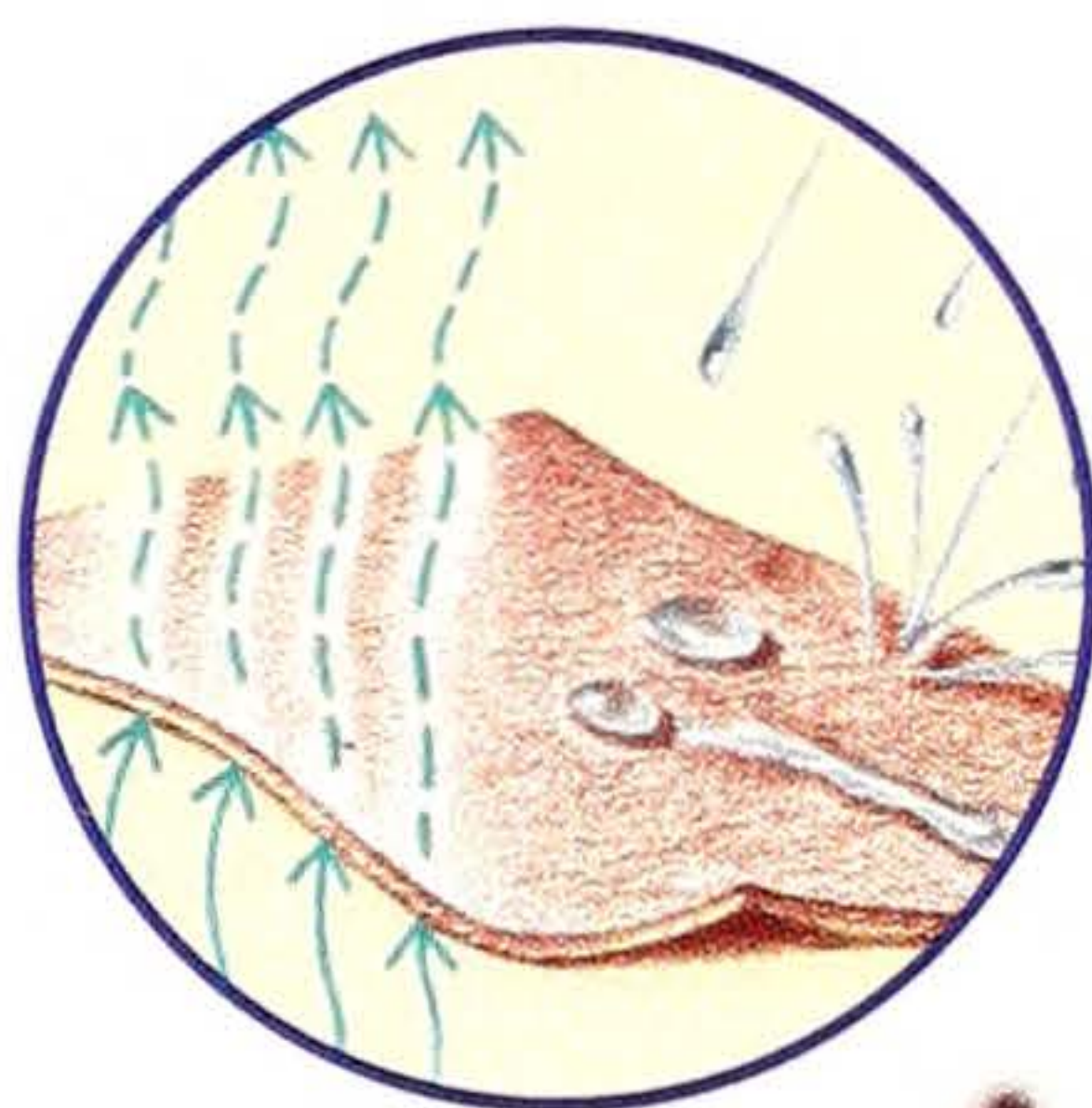
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The Golden Rule

by Jeri Mattics Freeman

Diana Golden is not your ordinary, garden variety gold medalist (if there is such a thing). Her claim to fame doesn't rest on having collected 19 national titles or 10 world gold medals in downhill skiing. Nor will you find it amongst the substantial pile of titles bestowed or honors earned. No, her distinguishing trait is much more intangible. It is her drive, her focus and her determination to be the best.

A self-described klutzy kid who was always chosen last in school yard games, Diana didn't think of herself as a world-class athlete. Although she wasn't adept at many sports, Diana thoroughly enjoyed skiing with her family on weekends and when the klutzy kid strapped on skis, she turned into a graceful athlete.

When, at age 12 she was diagnosed with bone cancer and told that her leg would have to be amputated, her first question was, "Will I still be able to ski?" When her doctor answered, "yes," she figured it couldn't be all that bad.

After surgery, she could have taken it easy. "At school they told me I didn't have to take gym," she quips. "At first I

was thrilled that I didn't have to take gym, but a couple of years later I found I wanted to." She learned to walk again and was soon shushing down the slopes. It was there that something magical happened.

Joining the Team

One weekend her school's ski team was training at the ski area where Diana and her family were skiing. Dave Livermore, the coach, sought her out, watched her ski and asked if she'd like to join the team. That little twist of encouragement turned on a gushing faucet of enthusiasm.

"Dave made a huge difference," Diana says. "I had never done a sit-up or a push-up in my life. He put a lot of effort into training me to use my body." Before long Diana was one of the better skiers on the squad and eventually became active in competitive disabled racing. She continued skiing while working on a degree in English literature at Dartmouth College and won her first world title in 1982 when she was a sophomore.

After completing her degree at Dartmouth, Diana went on to dominate disabled skiing and then tackled the slopes with able-bodied skiers. What is the secret to her success?

Becoming the Best

"Commitment and encouragement," she says. "I was committed to becoming the very best skier I could be. And a big part of the reason I was committed was because I had people encouraging me; people who made me believe that I could accomplish anything."

One of those people was her high school coach, Dave Livermore. Diana says, "Too often we think we can't make a difference in other people's lives, but we can. And what we say can either be encouraging or discouraging."

Diana recounts a time when she was competing in New England. In the



Diana Golden will share her insights on achievement during the 68th National FFA Convention.

middle of the championship series she overheard one of her competitors tell a friend that she had finished last. Her friend asked if there wasn't one other person behind her and the skier replied, "Yes, but that's Diana, and she's only on one leg. She doesn't count." Those comments cut deeply and reinforced Diana's resolve.

"I made a commitment to continue in the series through the rest of my career," Diana says. "Although I never shined there, I grew as a ski racer and a person. I fought like the rest of the racers to improve my personal results. I found that I didn't have to be on top, but that sometimes simply being involved is more important."

For the past few years, Diana has been sharing her story and captivating audiences across the country, reminding them that dreams pursued with determination, dedication and an unfailing commitment to excellence will take them places they can't even imagine. Diana will bring her message to the national FFA convention audience on Thursday, November 9, during the opening session.

Learning Found the World Around

by Susan Zillinger

"Life is not dated merely by years. Events are sometimes the best calendars."

Benjamin Disraeli, 1804-1881

The greatest experience of my life by far was my trip to Russia," says Ryan Pederson who during his sophomore year in high school spent three weeks living 40 miles north of Moscow with 13 other FFA members.

"I didn't know a soul going on the trip. I come from a North Dakota town of about 500 people where everyone is very much like minded. Learning how to interact with people from other states and the diversity of people from around the world have made me what I am, and are responsible for the successes I've had," credits Pederson.

He experienced the first FFA international exchange to Russia, a program funded through a grant from the United States Information Agency, that took place three years ago when he was 16 years old. Since then Pederson has been elected as North Dakota's state FFA secretary, won many awards and is now a freshman at North Dakota State University majoring in agricultural economics. As a direct result of his overseas experience, he hopes to transfer to Purdue University in a couple of years to major in international studies.

Fellow Russian exchange program participant Jim MacDonald, also from North Dakota, says his overseas exchange experience similarly impacted his life. "I credit my trip to Russia for more personal growth than at any other time in my life. It changed my whole outlook, especially my view of America."

MacDonald's memories are vivid though his exchange took place more

than three years ago and lasted only three weeks. "As Americans, we are so caught up with material wants that we forget what we have. Most of us are able to live for pleasure, they live for survival. Everywhere I looked, people were struggling. How many Americans realize that people in some countries can't go to Pizza Hut, Burger King or even to their own refrigerator for food?"

Why is traveling 12 time zones away so life-changing for most students? "International cross-cultural experiences enable students to improve their leadership and communication skills while increasing their international awareness and understanding," explains FFA international student services specialist Bruce White.

Through FFA international programs, 200 to 250 U.S. students annually have the opportunity to travel overseas. Stays range from 10 days to 12 months and destinations include locations in Europe, the Eastern Block, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Program costs range from about \$2,000 to \$6,000 depending on where you go and how long you stay.

"Before I traveled overseas, my understanding of FFA international programs was that they cost a lot of money and were only available to students wanting to stay six months to a year," says MacDonald. "That's just not true."

Dispelling another myth, MacDonald notes that students don't have to go for a long period of time to have a meaningful

exchange. "We had a full range of experiences in three weeks—experiences that changed our lives. Instead of 'I, I, I,' and 'Me, Me, Me,' we grew within to focus on helping others. I don't think I'd be the North Dakota state FFA president if I hadn't taken that trip."

His advice? "Find a program to suit your needs and go for it." Don't have the time or money to go on an exchange? You don't have to travel overseas to have an international experience. FFA international programs also include students from around the world visiting this country. According to White, approximately 200 students from around the globe stay anywhere from two weeks to one year with host families in the United States.

If you're interested in participating in one of FFA's many exchange programs or hosting an overseas guest, talk to your advisor or contact the National FFA Center's international staff by calling 703-360-3600, ext. 319, or writing to International Programs, National FFA Center, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160. ...



FFA members Ryan Wingenbach (left) and Clair Hauge (right) of Carson, North Dakota, with two of their new friends from Russia. The fall of the wall has resulted in a healthy demand for things American such as blue jeans and t-shirts (notice both Russians are sporting American shirts).

Trisha Yearwood Sings the Praises of Education



by Jeri Mattics Freeman

While growing up on a farm in Monticello, Georgia, Trisha Yearwood dreamed about being a singer. By the time she was five, she was an Elvis Presley fan. During high school she absorbed musical influences from all directions including the country artists of her parents' record collection, southern rock on the radio, and school musicals and choral groups.

Yearwood felt she had the talent to make it in music, but knew she needed an education to be successful. "I always dreamed of being a singer," Yearwood says. "And I knew it would take more than just getting discovered in Nashville. I believed I had to prepare for a career in music just like law students prepare for a career in law or education students prepare for a career in teaching." In 1987, she graduated from Belmont College in Nashville with a degree in music business.

While attending Belmont, Trisha worked first as an intern, then as a receptionist, at MTM Records. Soon she was singing demos for songwriters, then background vocals in actual recording sessions—including the one for Garth Brooks' second album.

When asked for advice, Yearwood encourages people to believe in themselves. Part of believing in yourself means discriminating between opportunities. "If somebody says they can get you a record deal but it will cost \$5,000, run—fast," she cautions.

She passed up one of those "opportunities" only to find herself

years later still waiting, working as a receptionist. "I realized when I was answering telephones that if I didn't tell somebody I sang, I would be ordering Liquid Paper forever," she smiles.

Yearwood's success came gradually, as a series of small steps. When she finally sat down with record company executives to discuss her contract, she commanded respect. "I know their first impression of me was

Scholarships Available

Discover Card youth programs include the Tribute Award Scholarship Program which rewards students for their accomplishments out of the classroom as well as in it. Yearwood served as one of the judges and helped select the 1995 winners. More than \$900,000 in scholarships is available each year to high school juniors who have a grade point average of at least 2.75 and who excel in four of five areas: special talents, leadership, obstacles overcome, unique endeavors and community service. Applications were sent to all FFA chapters in September and are due January 17, 1996.

For more information or an application, write the American Association of School Administrators, Discover Card Tribute Award Program, PO Box 9338, Arlington, VA 22219, or call 703-875-0708.

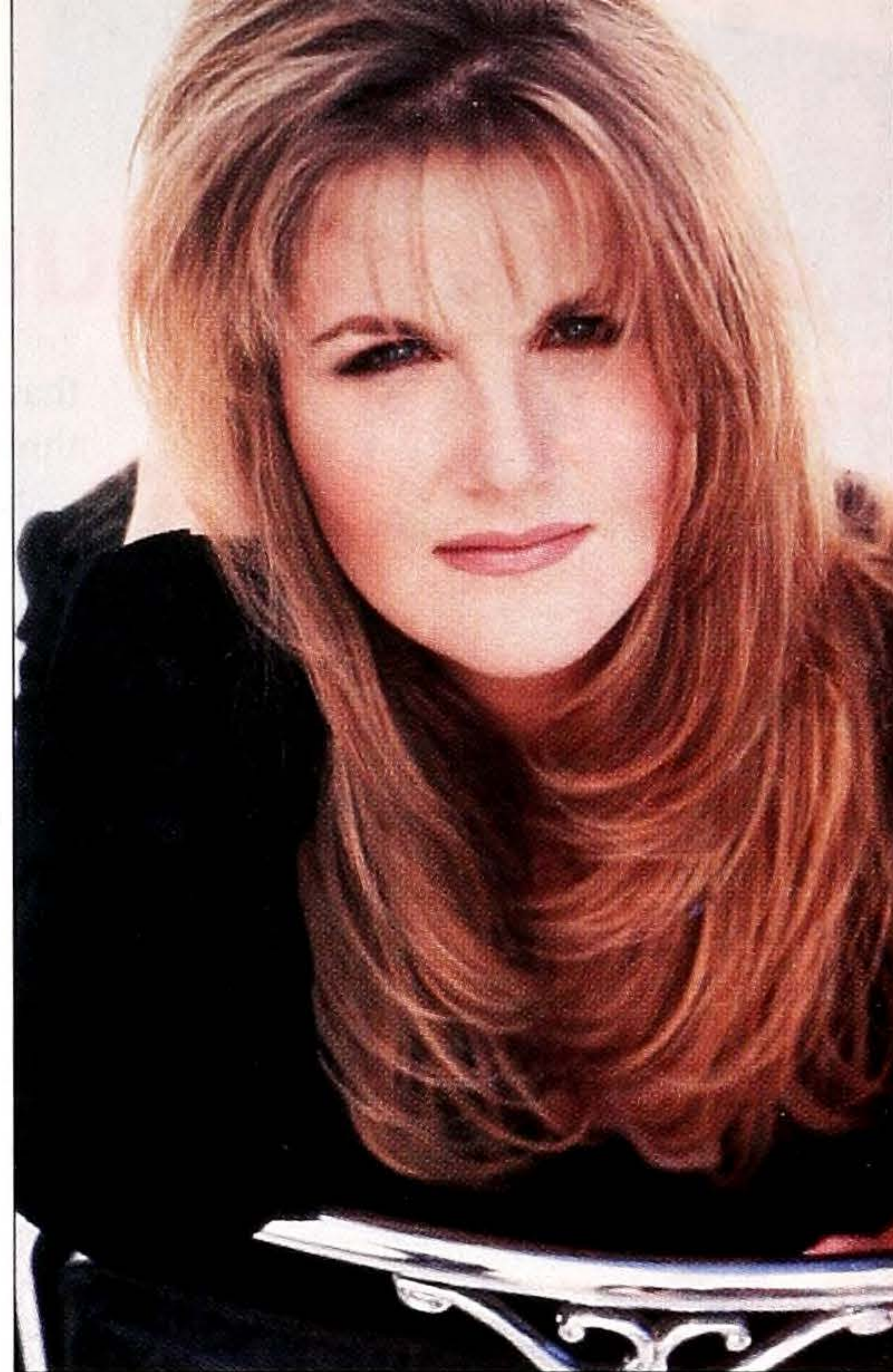


Photo by Russ Harrington

"Knowledge is power," is one of Yearwood's strong beliefs.

that I knew what I wanted and that I would be the one who decided which music I would record."

When her single "She's in Love With The Boy," debuted in 1991, Trisha found a new, youthful market for country music. The song shot up the charts and spent two weeks at the top. It was the first of four hits from her album, *Trisha Yearwood*, which went to #2 and was certified double platinum for selling two million copies.

Trisha's latest album, *Thinkin' About You*, is more positive than previous efforts, perhaps reflecting her personal life. In May 1994, she married Robert Reynolds, bass player for The Mavericks. "Thinkin' About You is more positive than the last album because I'm happily married and I realize relationships can actually work. I can sing these songs with feeling," she explains.

Yearwood's current tour is being sponsored by Discover Card Services and includes appearances at music and business classes at selected colleges and universities across the country. "Trisha is as recognized for her keen business savvy as much as for her great musical talent," says Robert Wood, executive vice president of marketing for Discover Card Services.



The Excellence Files

by Neil Schneider

The room is dark. Eerie music begins to play, at first rather quietly, but then grows in volume. Suddenly you see a flashlight bobbing about. No wait! There are two lights. Someone is searching for something. By the dim glow of the flashlight, you identify secret agents Jambalaya and Crayfish. What are they after? Could it be the excellence files?

Yes, it could and you could join their quest by attending a Made For Excellence conference in your area.

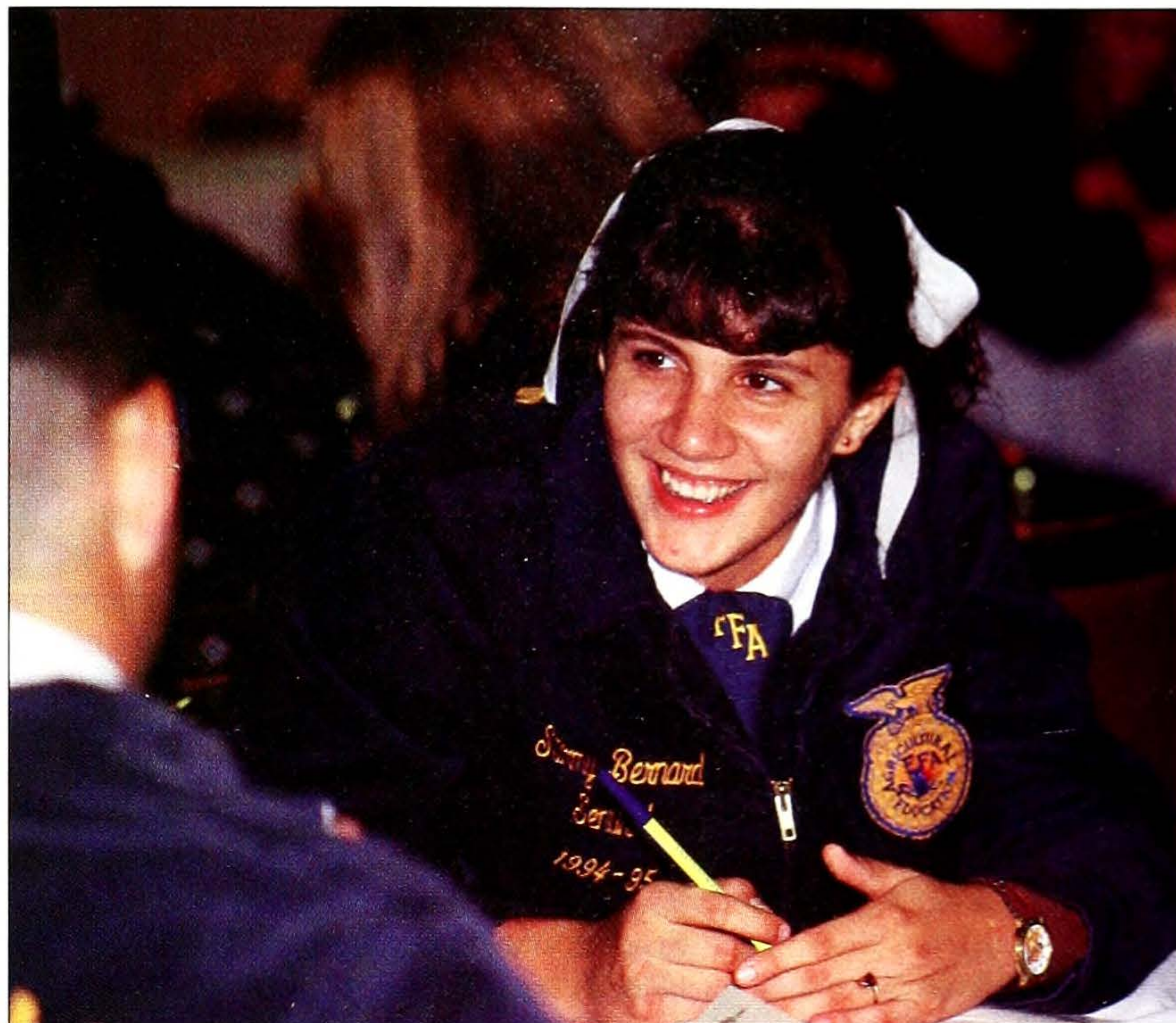
Made For Excellence (MFE) is a personal leadership development program designed with FFA members in mind. MFE finds the best FFA leadership trainers available and brings them straight to you, right in your state!

"The Excellence Files—Top Secret" is the 1995-96 MFE conference theme. "Each member will leave the seminar with a written mission statement to help guide them to their goals and provide daily direction for their lives," says Frank Saldaña, an FFA student services specialist who serves as the MFE director.

The MFE staff has carefully woven a thread of mystery through the fun, interactive sessions of this weekend conference. You'll become a secret agent assigned a mission of uncovering the secrets for success, removing self-esteem disguises and unlocking the goal-setting code. No one escapes until they've cracked the case and achieved the conference objectives. "MFE's primary objective is to develop leadership skills for a lifetime," Saldaña continues.

"MFE is a real positive thing," says Kim Kerr of Buckeye, Arizona. After attending MFE as a sophomore in high school, Kim returned to her chapter and spoke about the conference. She used the materials provided at the conference to train and develop leaders in her chapter. "It was completely motivational attending as a young FFA member," she bubbles enthusiastically.

Photo by Jeri Mattics Freeman



During each Made For Excellence conference FFA members discover their personal strengths and start paving their path to success by setting goals and developing a plan of action.

"MFE is definitely a meeting people thing. It's a great investment of your time."

Kerr's investment paid off handsomely. She is serving as Arizona's state FFA vice president and will be competing in the National FFA Extemporaneous Speaking Career Development Event during the national convention in November.

Tyson Stuhr of Wellton, Arizona, remembers discovering a few things about himself during an MFE conference several years ago. "The program makes you take a look at where you are now, and where you're going. Before attending, I wasn't sure where I was headed," says Stuhr. "The MFE staff made me feel like I could get up in front of a group and do the same things they were doing."

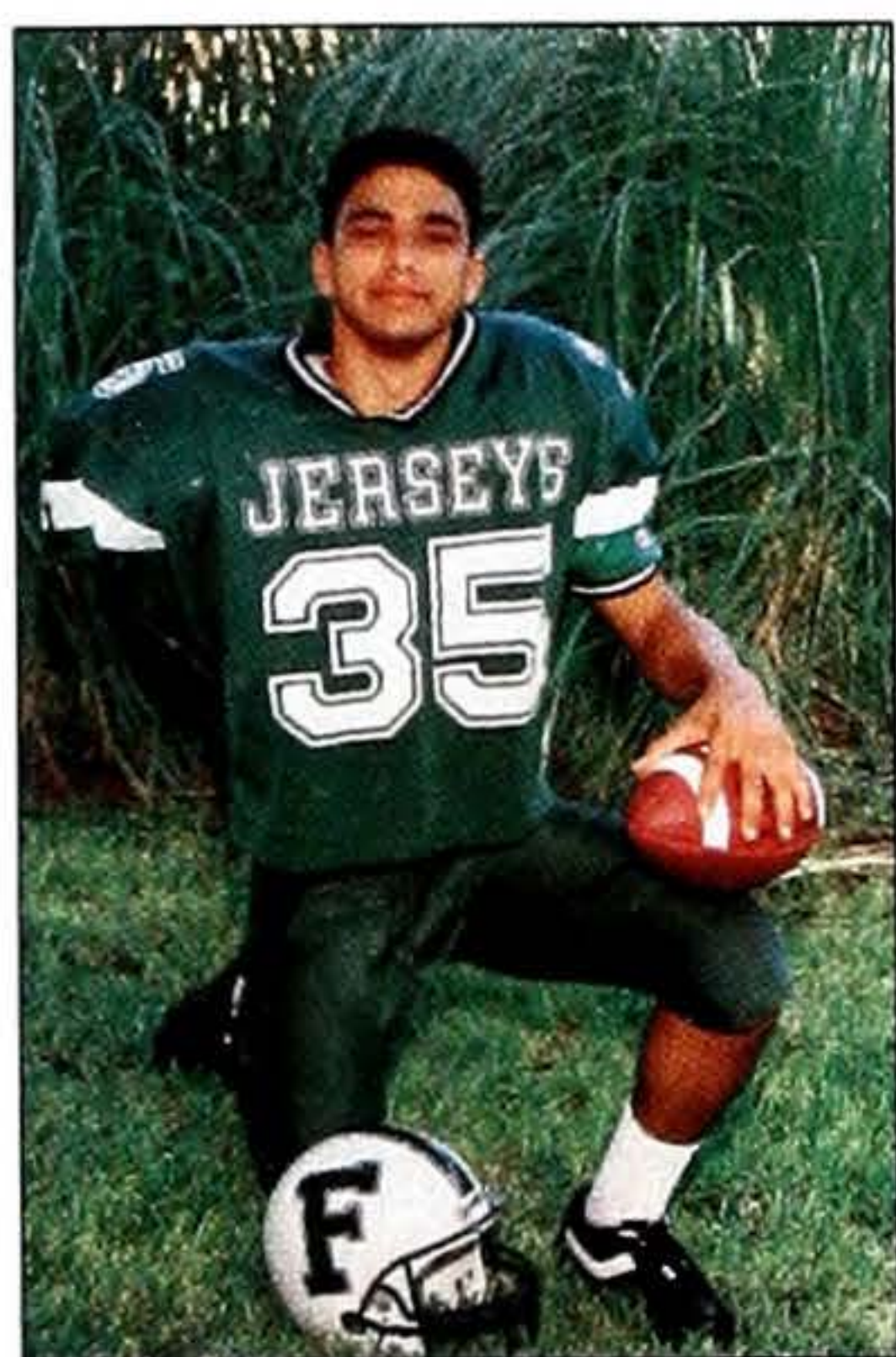
With the skills he developed at MFE and assistance from his advisor, Stuhr went on to serve as Arizona's state FFA

president and as a 1993-94 American Royal Livestock Show Student Ambassador. Today, Tyson is a senior majoring in agriculture business with a minor in water science at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo. Stuhr encourages students to attend the conference even if they've gone before. "Motivation isn't permanent, neither is bathing; we all need it occasionally," he jokes.

Becoming a Secret Agent

Made For Excellence conferences are available for chapters, districts, areas and as state-wide programs. They're also available for other organizations. Ask your FFA chapter advisor for more information about attending MFE when it comes to your state. Or, you can obtain further information by writing to Mr. Frank Saldaña, MFE Director, National FFA Organization, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

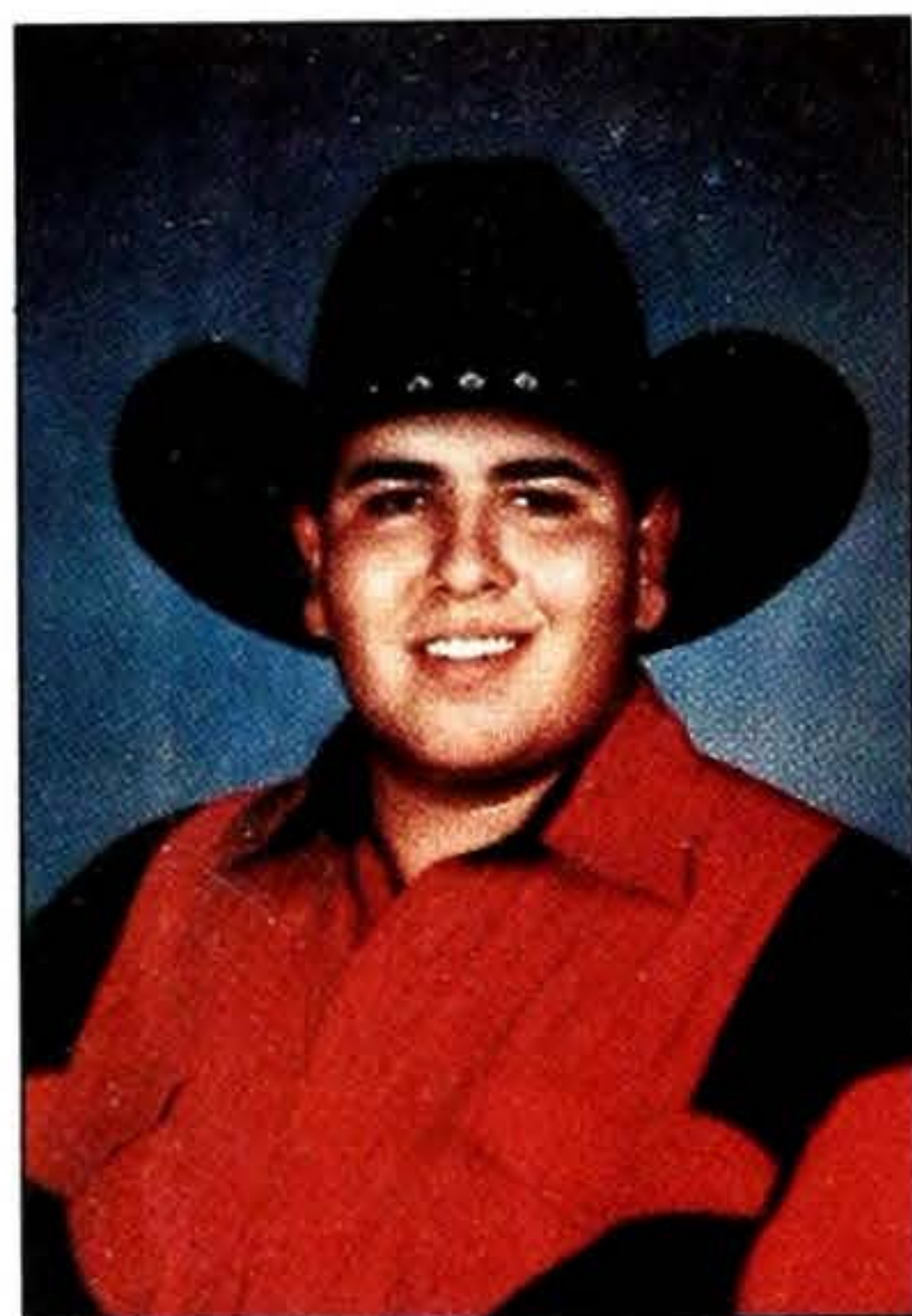
FFA Stars



**Marcus Nikolo Guerra,
Falfurrias, Texas**

Marcus Nikolo Guerra, at three, lost his right arm to bone cancer. Being right-handed, he had to adjust to being left-handed for the rest of his life. Over the years, Nikolo has accomplished many things. He was an outside linebacker in varsity football and played baseball for a state champion team. In FFA, Nikolo has shown lambs and won grand champion and showmanship three years in a row. He has shown in the Houston and the San Antonio livestock shows and went to state with the meats judging team. Nikolo survived a traumatic experience and came out of it with a fantastic personality and attitude, and will surely succeed in future endeavors. Nikolo is one of my biggest role models, as well as most everyone else's.

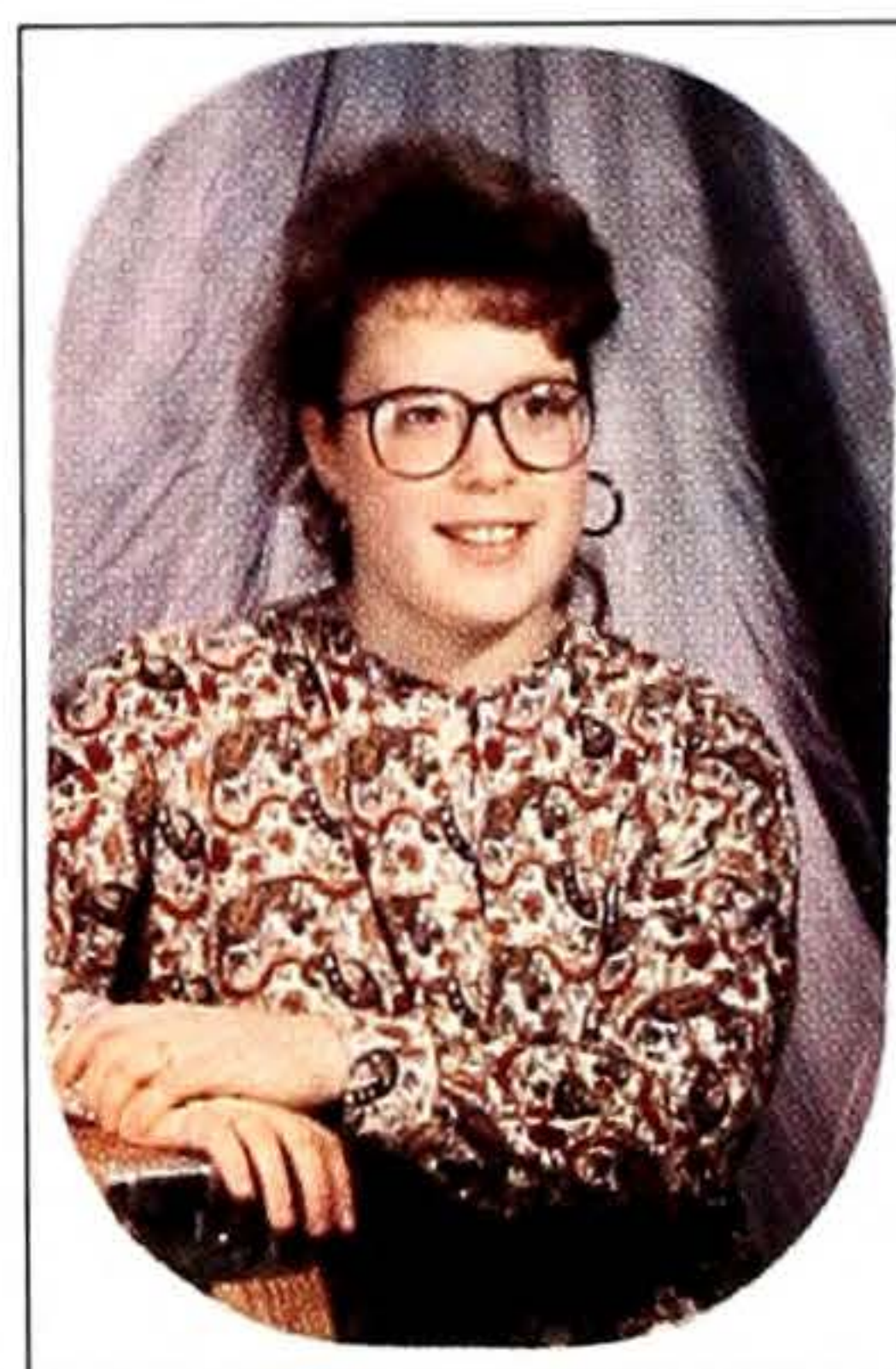
Submitted by:
Summer Solomon, friend



**Vincent Gatti, Raton,
New Mexico**

A senior at Raton High School, Vincent Gatti, has helped care for his grandfather, who had kidney failure, for the last three years. Gatti went to Pueblo, Colorado, and received training in home dialysis. Vincent helped care for his grandfather because he chose to do so. He is unselfish and truly cares about people. He has the strength and the faith to cope with just about anything. Vincent has raised 19 head of swine and is very excited about graduating this year. In school, he carries a 3.0 grade point average, is an active FFA member, has played football for three years and lettered in track two years. In his junior year, he served as chapter secretary and this year he is serving as treasurer. He plans to pursue a career in agribusiness.

Nominated by: Robert Albert
Gatti, the grandfather



**Aimee Hauck,
Bloomsburg,
Pennsylvania**

Aimee Hauck has battled diabetes since age 10 and has not let the disease interfere with any of her many activities. Since seventh grade she has worked as a feeder at a local nursing home and as a teacher's aide at a preschool. Aimee loves children and helped launch the Central Columbia FFA Chapter's PALS program. She excels in music and proved it by being Pennsylvania's sole representative in the 1994 National FFA Band (she plans a repeat performance this year). Aimee has served as chapter secretary, vice president and student advisor. She has received many awards, including the state FFA degree. Though she graduated last June, she is still active in her chapter and is an excellent role model. With her vibrant personality, good advice, and all-around knowledge, Aimee can bring smiles to almost everyone. She'll always be a star in my eyes!

Submitted by: Anonymous



**Tyrone Bacon, Fort
Valley, Georgia**

Tyrone Bacon represented the Fort Valley State Collegiate FFA during regional and national rural development conferences. Tyrone was invited to speak during a regional rural development conference by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman. Tyrone made such a dynamic and enthusiastic presentation that Secretary Glickman invited him to serve on a national panel with President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore. The national conference was held in Ames, Iowa, in May and was covered by national news agencies and broadcast around the world.

Tyrone's presentations were so well received that he and his advisor, Dr. Curtis Borne, were invited to speak before the Georgia Senate and House Agriculture and Appropriations Subcommittees. Tyrone emphasized the need for more minority teachers in order to prevent the development of rural ghettos.

Tyrone graduated from Fort Valley State College in June, and is teaching agriculture in the Lamar County School System.

Submitted by: Dr. Curtis Borne,
Advisor, Fort Valley State
College

My Turn

Lee R. Schroeder

Throughout my involvement in the FFA, I've worked with many different people on committees in my chapter, officer teams, meetings, and in other school groups. I remember one particular committee very well.

Our group contained a few people who were interested in getting involved for popularity and status. Another pair was easily distracted by girls. One young lady lost interest as soon as she was given responsibility. One guy in our group got stressed out and quit with

every challenge. Still another, said "yes" consistently, but couldn't follow through on tasks. A buddy of mine was jealous of the chairperson and refused to commit himself, while our chairperson was upset because she never got the respect she felt she deserved. Even though we all wanted what was best for the FFA in the end, we had trouble making decisions because we were so very different.

That group taught me a lot about getting along with people. My values, beliefs, thoughts, ideas and priorities were different than many others in the group. I realized that everyone sees life differently. If you have ever seen a beautiful painting of abstract art, you may have seen one portion of the picture, while your friend saw something totally different. Are you right? Or is your friend right? Most people would agree that you both are entitled to your personal opinions and you both are right.

As we work with others in our chapters, it's important to realize that others may not see life as we do and may not want to do things the way we believe is right. We need to ask questions to understand their position and reasons for their beliefs and actions. A good leader listens to the group and makes decisions based on others suggestions and the leader's values. Understanding the people we work with and the reasons they feel the way they do helps us grow and helps the group accomplish its goals. Think about how many times you have had the chance to listen and didn't.

Working in groups may include disagreements and misunderstandings. I've found a method of conflict resolution your group may want to try.

1. Identify the common ground and goals of the group.
2. Identify the disagreement, conflict or challenge.

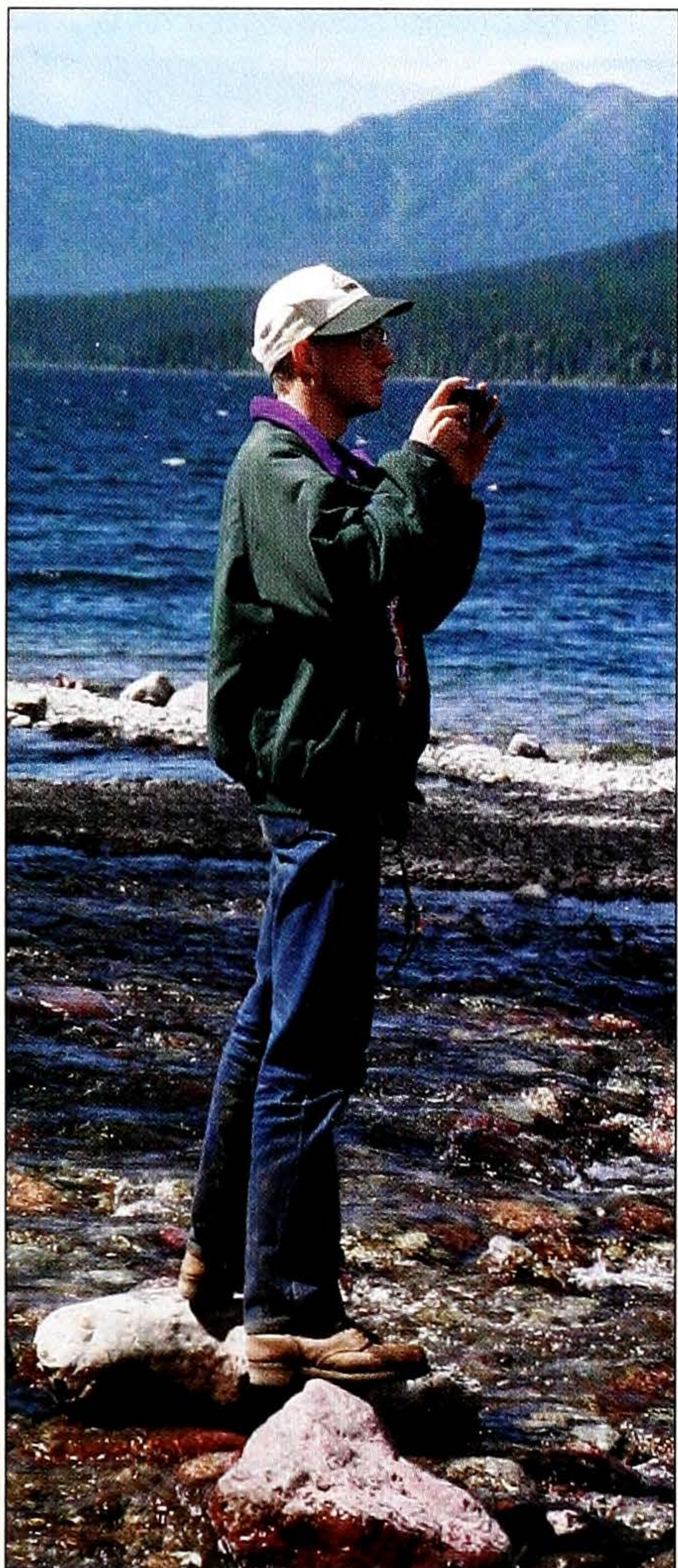


Lee R. Schroeder
Eastern Region
Vice President

3. Develop a list of solutions or options that may work.
4. Choose the option which best meets the group's goals.

Our values, beliefs and ideas may be different than others, but our potential to make an impact on our chapter committees and activities, officer teams and career development events cannot be limited by our inability to get along with others and accomplish group goals. What will your response be when you are put in a situation to lead? Will you listen to others and work toward the best decision for the group? How many opportunities will it take before you will recognize the leadership ability you have and can use in and out of the FFA?

Boys' Town was started as an orphanage/foster home for young boys some years ago. It is still recognized as a success story for improving young people from all walks of life. It operates on the philosophy of its founder, Father Flanagan. He will forever be remembered for his famous quote, "There is no such thing as a bad boy." I propose, fellow members, there is no such thing as a bad person. Working with others may not always be easy, but just remember the road to getting along with others begins with respecting them. ...



Lee captures Mother Nature's beauty during a recent camping trip.



FFA IN ACTION



Arizona

Arizona FFA Officers visit Four Corners, USA

Neil Schneider, Advisor, Highland FFA, Gilbert

The Arizona State FFA Officer team visited Four Corners monument this summer on their journey to Denver, Colorado, to attend the National Leadership Conference for State Officers. The Four Corners monument is where the borders of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah meet. The officers also visited scenic Moab, Utah, and Vail, Colorado, on the excursion.



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FFA IN ACTION

Oklahoma

Community Clean-Up

Leah Erickson, Reporter, Davidson FFA

During a recent weekend, the Davidson community received 12 inches of rain and part of the town was flooded. Davidson FFA members and their advisor, Timmy White, worked three days removing fallen tree branches and helping residents evacuate from their homes.

...

North Dakota

All-Female Officer Team Installed

Jessica Anderson, Secretary, Rugby FFA



The big news in Rugby is that this year's FFA chapter officer team is all female. The group is the first of its kind not only in the chapter's history, but also in the state of North Dakota. The Rugby chapter has 86 members, 27 of which are female.

Helping Habitat for Humanity

California

Ivan Cardenas, President, John H. Francis Polytechnic, Sun Valley

When Habitat for Humanity built two houses in their community, members of the John H. Francis Polytechnic FFA Chapter volunteered to landscape both homes. They installed automatic irrigation systems that had been donated by Rain Bird Corporation. The homes will be given to two elderly, disabled earthquake victims.

...

A Father's Advice

If a sportsman true you'd be
Listen carefully to me...

Never, never let your gun
Pointed be at anyone.
That it may unloaded be
Matters not the least to me.

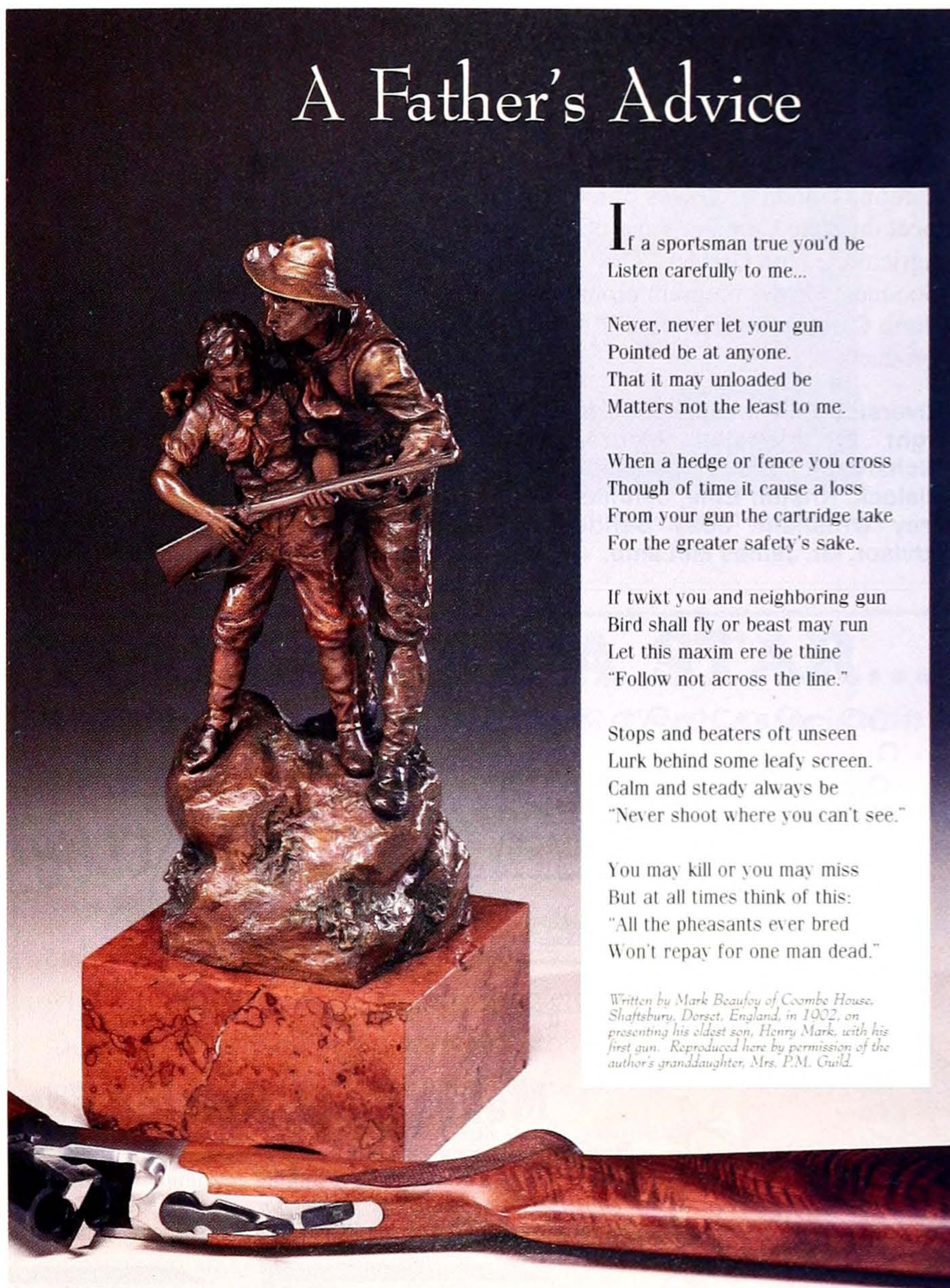
When a hedge or fence you cross
Though of time it cause a loss
From your gun the cartridge take
For the greater safety's sake.

If twixt you and neighboring gun
Bird shall fly or beast may run
Let this maxim ere be thine
"Follow not across the line."

Stops and beaters oft unseen
Lurk behind some leafy screen.
Calm and steady always be
"Never shoot where you can't see."

You may kill or you may miss
But at all times think of this:
"All the pheasants ever bred
Won't repay for one man dead."

Written by Mark Beaufoy of Coombe House, Shaftsbury, Dorset, England, in 1902, on presenting his oldest son, Henry Mark, with his first gun. Reproduced here by permission of the author's granddaughter, Mrs. P.M. Guild.



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FFA IN ACTION

North Carolina

Goodness Grows in North Carolina

Kristen Effle, Vice President, Riverside FFA, Durham

The Riverside FFA Chapter officers and FFA Week Committee recently went to Raleigh to visit the North Carolina Goodness Grows office and meet the state Commissioner of Agriculture, Jim Graham. The Goodness Grows program promotes North Carolina's agricultural products.

Riverside FFA members from left to right are Jennifer Moore, Amy Richardson, Brad McCaskill, Brian Blalock, Kristen Effle, Jennifer King, Trey Whisnant, Joey Bender and advisor, Mr. James McLamb.



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FFA IN ACTION

Wisconsin

Happy Campers

Patrick Sternitzky, Reporter, Granton FFA

Every spring, members of the Granton FFA Chapter travel to local farms and collect donations of cash, feed grain and batteries. They take the feed to a local mill and the batteries to a battery outlet store for cash. With this money, the chapter sends several local youth to Camp Wawbeek, in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. This special camp for children with handicaps and special needs is sponsored by the Easter Seals Society. Those who attend participate in special events designed for kids with special needs such as wheelchair races. "It gives me a chance to get away from home and gives my parents a break, too," says Edward Kastern, one of the camp participants.

Besides collecting and raising the money, the chapter members get involved with Easter Seals in another way. During the annual Easter Seals Telethon, chapter members volunteer two hours of their time answering telephones and taking pledges from the central Wisconsin area for the Easter Seals Society. They also get a chance to be on television and tell the viewers how they contribute to this very generous cause. Stephanie Garbisch, chapter secretary says, "It's an awesome experience being on TV and doing something that we can feel good about."

The Easter Seals Telethon raises money to help kids across the nation by financing camps or purchasing special equipment which they can utilize to make life easier. "Our chapter work with the Easter Seals Society helps our members as much as it helps the society and those in need. FFA members develop leadership, speaking and organization skills, while gaining a sense of pride and accomplishment in helping others less fortunate," says Cheryl Steinbach, chapter advisor. ...



Granton FFA members collect donations for handicapped children.

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FFA IN ACTION

Wisconsin

Taking the High Road



The Kickapoo and Westby, Wisconsin, FFA chapters took time during the summer to complete the first half of a cultural exchange program. Instead of leaving the country, they set up an exchange with the Durango, Colorado, chapter and spent time learning about the differences in culture and lifestyle within the United States.

In addition to attending part of the Colorado FFA Convention and staying with host families, the Wisconsin group visited Mesa Verde and Black Canyon national monuments and other sites along the way. During the week-long excursion, the group developed new friendships and a greater understanding of their country. They are eager to host their Colorado counterparts who will complete the exchange with a visit to Wisconsin next year.

Wisconsin FFA members take time out for a group photo during a visit to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument near Montrose, Colorado.

Louisiana

Live From LaCassine—Farm Safety

Joey Broussard, Reporter, LaCassine FFA

About 1,500 people die each year in farm accidents. "Experience has taught us that the better the emergency care a patient receives, the more

likely it is that the patient will survive or not suffer any worse injuries," says Farm Medic instructor Kelly Grayson. To increase the number of farmers who survive accidents, LaCassine FFA members hosted a Farm Medic Class. Part of their three-day seminar was aired live on TV.

Tractor power-take-off (PTO) shaft accidents sometimes claim arms, hands or fingers of farm victims. FFA member Joey Broussard poses as a mock-victim while a fireman stabilizes the tractor and the victim and then removes the PTO shaft from the tractor.





FFA IN ACTION



New Hampshire

FFA Family

Six members of the Fall Mountain FFA Chapter, Charleston, New Hampshire, are from one family. The Blaines, from left to right, Rachel, who is a past state reporter; Kevin junior, chapter sentinel; Duncan; Justin; Bridget, past chapter president; standing, Meganne. Mom and dad, Peggy and Kevin Blaine, are both active FFA Alumni and Peggy also serves on the New Hampshire FFA Advisory Council.

Wisconsin

FFA + WLC = PRIDE!

Elissa Breitenstein, Wisconsin Heights FFA, Mazomanie, Wisconsin

*"Join FFA," I once was told.
And now I wear the blue and gold.*

*It's to all of you, that I confide,
This organization has given me pride.*

*Given an opportunity to attend WLC,
I was taught to find the best in me.*

*The smile on my face shines so bright.
I've been given a chance to stand in
the light.*

*Because of FFA, I've never felt so
accepted.
Here, all of my fears were intercepted!*

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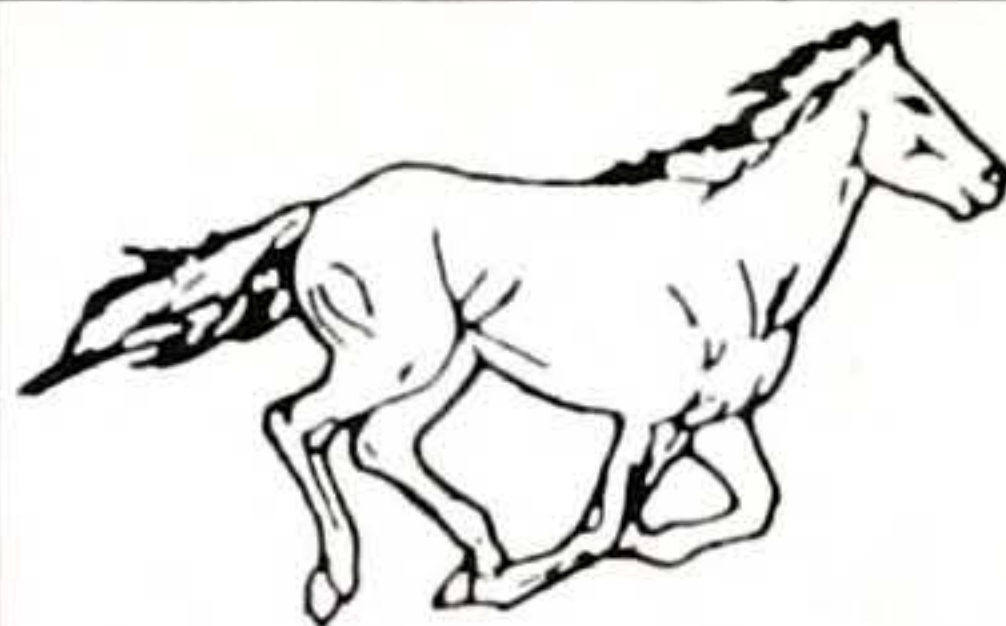


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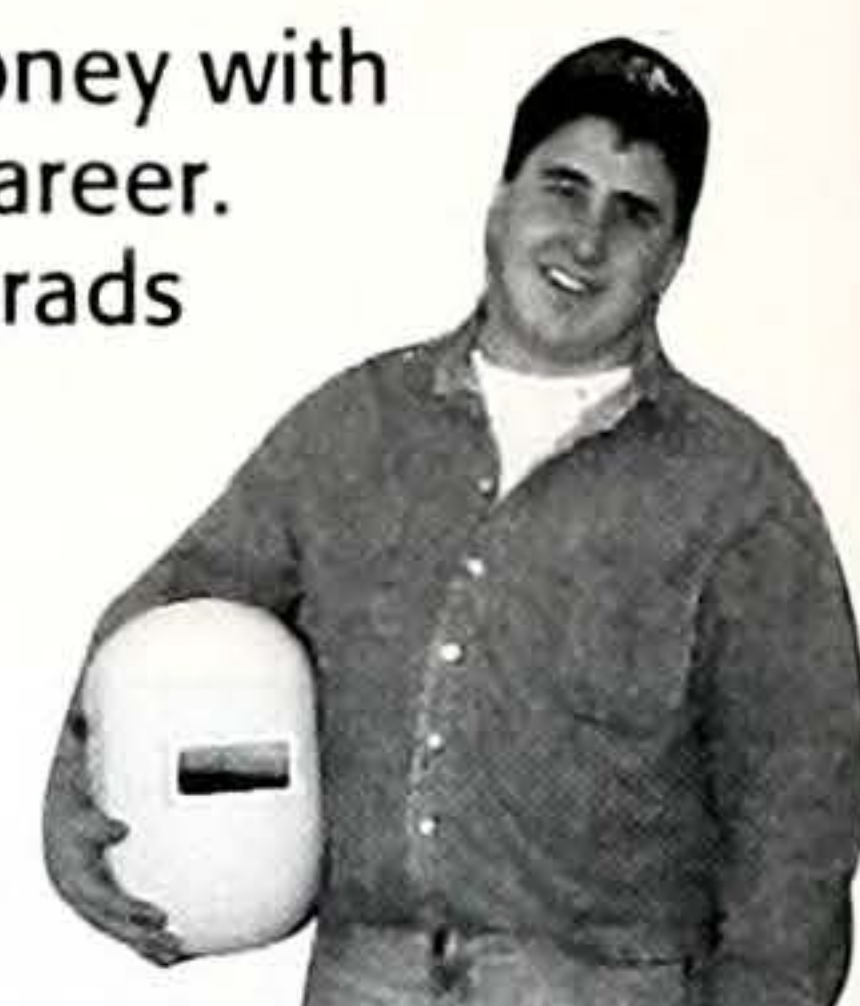


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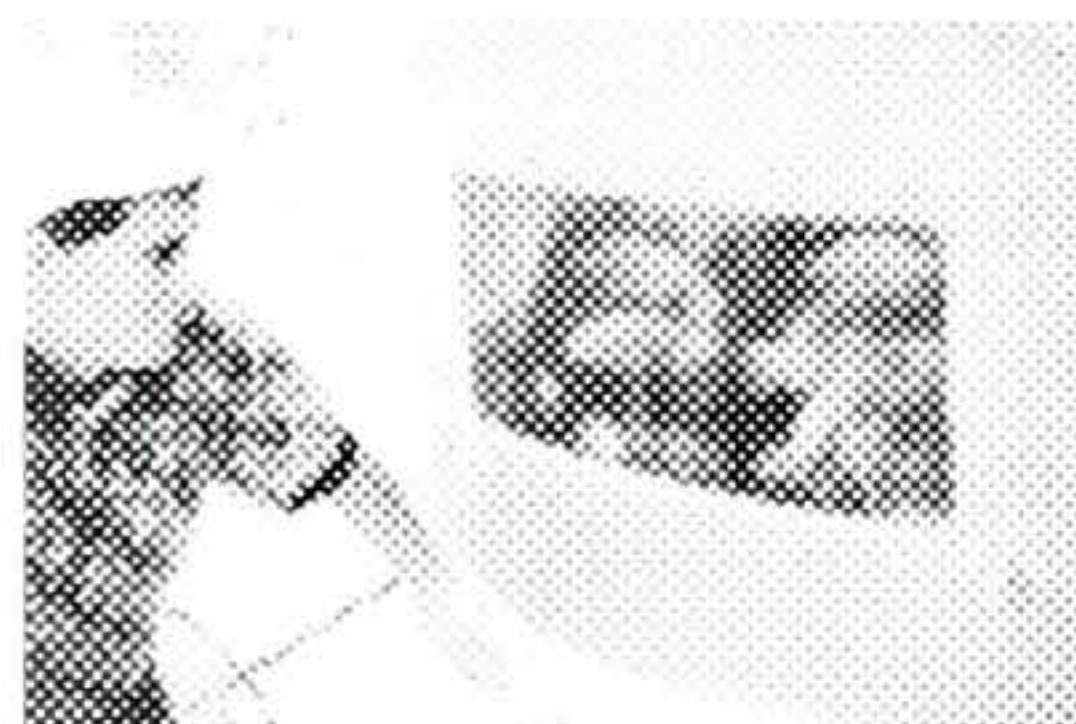
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Q: Why do gardeners wrap their potatoes in newspaper before they plant them?
A: To keep the dirt out of their eyes.
Samantha Hamilton, Farber, Michigan

Q: What did one egg say to the other?
A: You crack me up!
Linda Slonaker, New Matamoras, Ohio

Q: How do cowboys watch television when they're out on the range?
A: Via saddle lights.
Mike Batchelor, Andalusia, Alabama

Q: What is the difference between a hill and a pill?
A: One is hard to get up and the other is hard to get down.
Amy Rhine, Wichita Falls, Texas

Q: What do you call an elongated calf?
A: A stretch Limousin.
Becky Hiler, Rockwell City, Iowa

Q: Where do fish deposit checks?
A: In a river bank.
Steven Mabley, Prentiss, Mississippi

Q: Why do cows wear bells?
A: Because their horns don't work.
Logan Govier, Weissert, Nebraska

Q: What did one tomato say to the other tomato?
A: You go ahead, and I'll ketchup.
Amy Cheek, Rayville, Louisiana

Q: Why doesn't the corn like the farmer?
A: Because he picks his ears.
Jason Ramirez, Lodi, California

Q: Where do bees stop to get picked up?
A: At the buzz stop.
Benjamin Acedo, Lomita, California

Q: What is the longest word in the English language?
A: Smiles. Because there's a mile in between the first and the last letter.
Melissa Buhrman, Kennewick, Washington

Charlie and Friends



"But really Mom, my horticulture project ate my homework!"

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