

DECEMBER 2004

# ffa *new horizons*



THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

## D.C. United

FFA members gain a new perspective at Washington Leadership Conference





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This is where FFA members speak out. We read your letters and your thoughts about issues relating to FFA and agriculture.

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FFA chapters from around the United States chip in to help FFA chapters and FFA members affected by the destruction left by the four hurricanes that swept through Florida.

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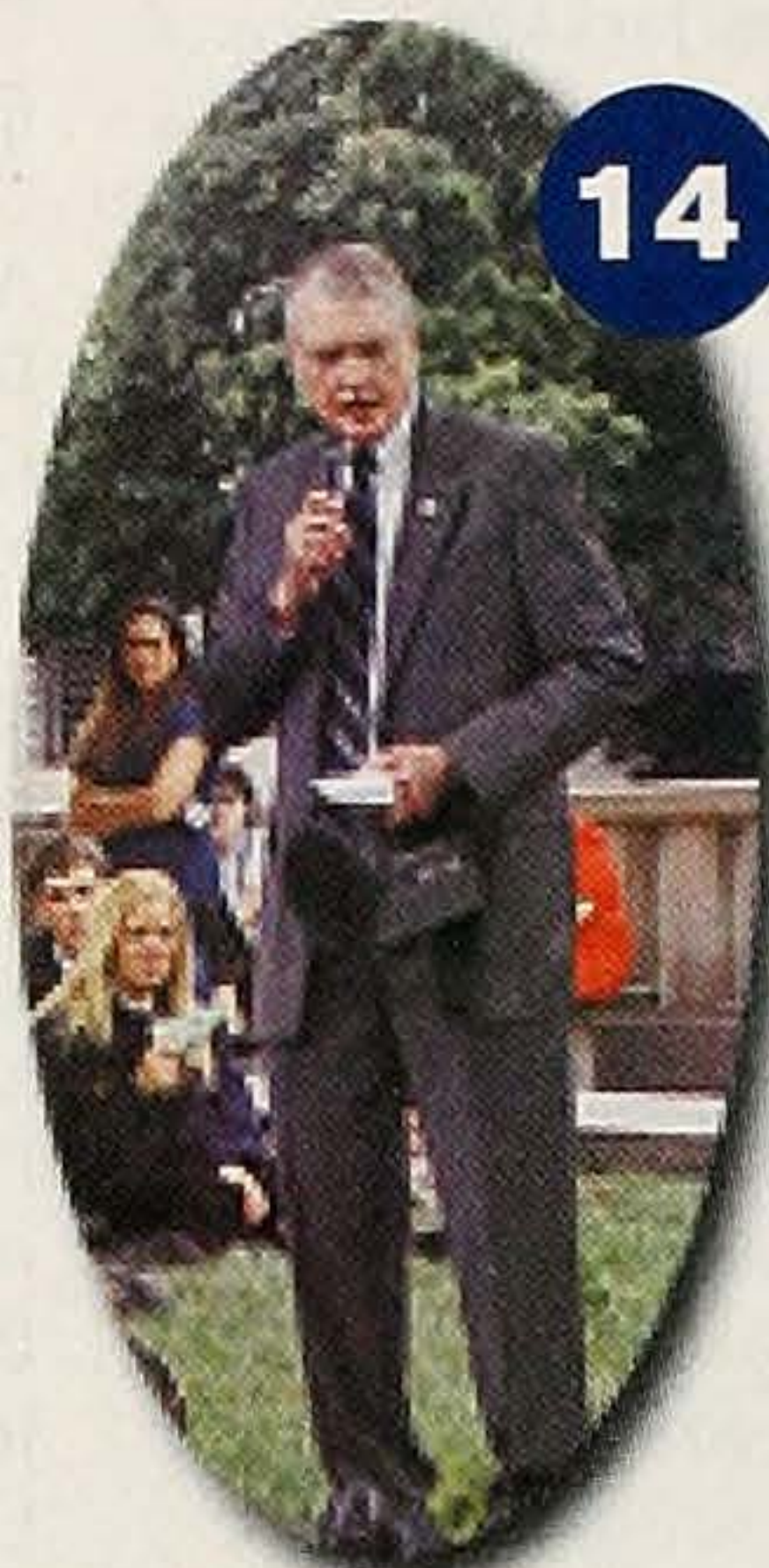
## Last Laff

Tori Peebles from Kite, Georgia, sent in this joke: What did the cow say about the national FFA convention? It was un-believa-bull. Find more jokes, plus the Puzzler.

## COVER

FFA members attending the FFA Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) took time to visit The Marine Corps Memorial.

*Photos by Erich Gaukel*





## Blue & Gold

News from the National FFA Center

### FFA membership climbs to 476,732

The latest numbers are in and FFA membership is currently at a 22-year high, with 476,732 members in 7,223 chapters across the nation. Part of the reason for the growing numbers: "Our teachers use innovative programs to reach out to all students and encourage them to learn, lead and succeed," said National FFA Advisor Dr. Larry Case.

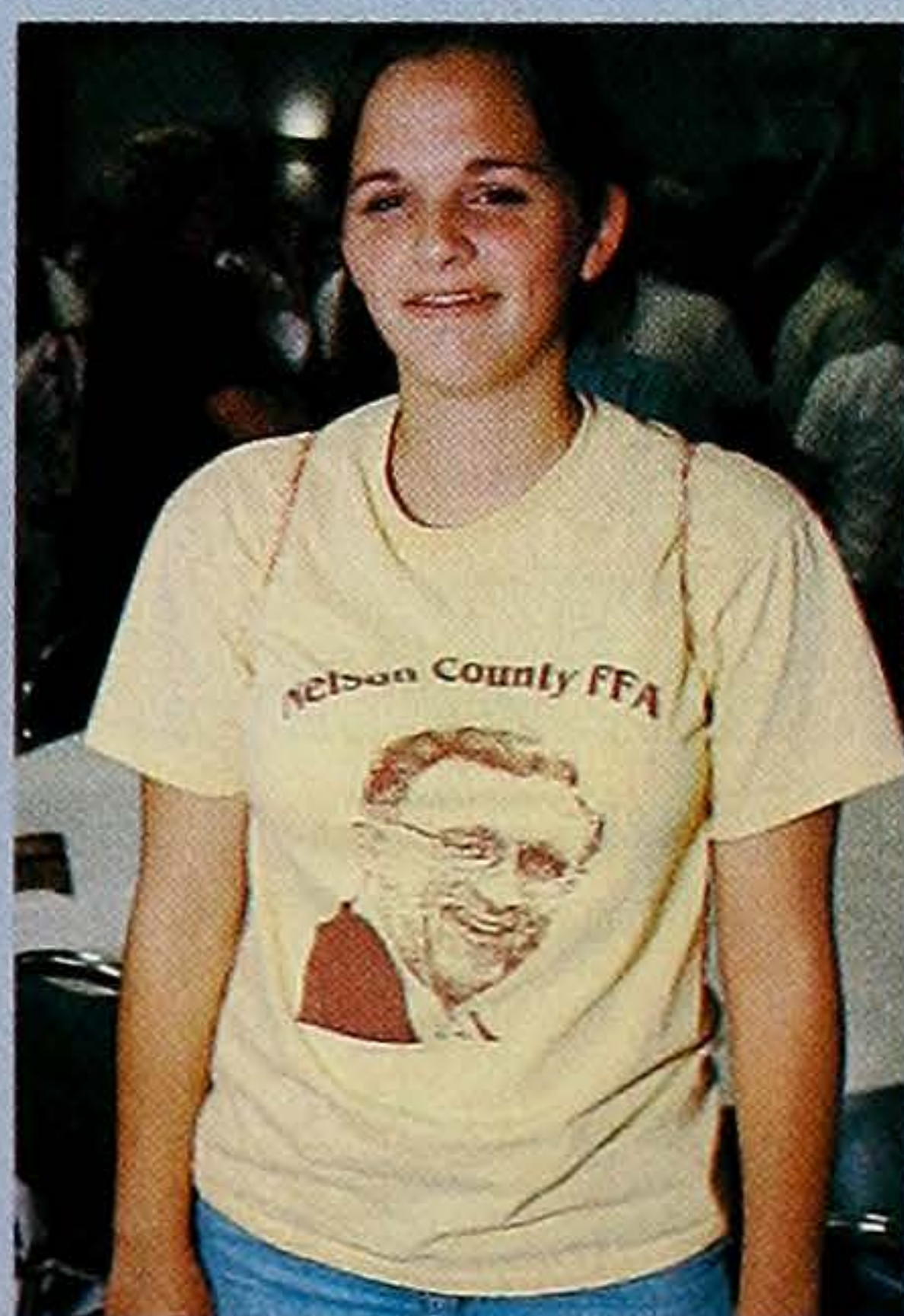
### FFA advisor named state teacher of the year

Jason Hughes, an agriculture teacher at St. Mary's High School in Pleasants County, West Virginia, was named the state's teacher of the year. He was chosen for the award from a field of 50 nominees. Dr. David Stewart, the state superintendent, made the announcement during a ceremony in September. "Mr. Hughes exemplifies the meaning of master teacher not only by his leadership skills, but also by displaying an extraordinary dedication to his students," Stewart said.

### New Century Farmers harvest ideas at conference

Forty FFA members who plan on careers in farming attended an intensive four-day seminar in Des Moines, Iowa, this summer. The participants learned from each other and industry experts during a series of workshops and sessions on such topics as global marketplace, farm financing, demographic trends and managing risk. Students learned about developments in agricultural technology, took field tours and attended sessions on personal and professional development and team building. The program is sponsored by DuPont Crop Protection, in cooperation with Pioneer Hi-Bred International, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

**If the  
shirt  
fits,  
wear it**



We spotted this Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) participant wearing a T-shirt featuring National FFA Advisor Dr. Larry D. Case. Above Case's image, the shirt says "Nelson County FFA." Read more about WLC on page 14.

# Shania Twain GREATEST HITS



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# FFA Talk

*What's on your mind?*

## YOUR LETTERS

I want to take a moment to tell you about two young men we are very proud of here in Fairfax, Missouri. The Fairfax R3 School FFA chapter is not a large chapter by any means, but this year we are very proud to say that we have two of our young men who have been selected to perform at the national FFA convention. Devon Sons is our chapter president and has participated in state FFA chorus for the past two years, and this year will be singing with the National FFA Chorus. Devon also is very active in our church and community. John Gilbert is our chapter sentinel and this year will be playing with the National FFA Band. John has participated in many different activities in our school and this past year went to Australia to play in the Good Will Games in Wheelchair basketball. We are proud that they will represent us in Kentucky. As a parent of an FFA member, I read your magazine and I have enjoyed the different stories about the success of the youth in your organization. I wanted to take time to share our story.

*Rick Sons  
Fairfax, Missouri*

## The *BIG* question:

*What is your dream job?*

Here is your chance to respond to an FFA- or agriculture-related question. We'll print some of your answers in future issues. For our next few issues, we want to know—in 50 words or less—your answer to the following question: What is your favorite CDE, and why? Send your responses to the address at the bottom of this page.

**Here are some of your responses to one of our previous questions: What is your dream job?**

My dream job would be a radio broadcaster. Not only would I play popular music, but I'd host a show where all youth could share their opinions on any given issue. Nobody's thoughts would be rejected and it would help to fulfill a natural human need to be heard.

*Mallory Wilk  
Alma, Michigan*

My dream job is to be a dolphin trainer at SeaWorld. I have loved dolphins my whole life. I love animals and I love to interact with them.

*Jennifer Jarvis  
Potosi, Missouri*

My dream job is to have my own welding shop and be the best female welder.

*Becky Warman  
Murphy, North Carolina*

My dream job is to be an FFA advisor. I love being with kids and my advisor said I would be good at it. I also would like to be a camp counselor, for the same reason.

*Leann Bush  
Delhi, New York*

I want to be a vet assistant. I have since I was four years old and had my own vet kit, and we were always wrapping my animals' legs up pretending I was the vet. I live on a dairy and have a lot of opportunity to help

our vet with any problem that comes up. I love animals, and it's a great feeling when you can save one and get it better.

*Justine McDougal  
Bonanza, Oregon*

## Show us your sign

Is there an FFA emblem painted on your neighbor's barn? Or outside your school? Or maybe there's a sign that says "FFA" on the highway just outside of town. Wherever it happens to be, we want to see it. Snap a photo and send it, along with a few sentences about the sign, to us at the address below. We'll feature one photo per issue.



**This issue's featured sign comes from the Loving FFA Chapter in New Mexico. "I was the Loving FFA President for the 2003-2004 school year," writes Valerie Onsurez, "and it was my goal to make sure we put signs up to show our pride before my term was over." Pictured here: (back row, from left) Leo Lopez (advisor), Leslie Clark, Albert Aragon, Ismael Molina and (front row, from left) Crystal Calderon, Leanne Ballard and Valerie Onsurez.**

Address all correspondence to:  
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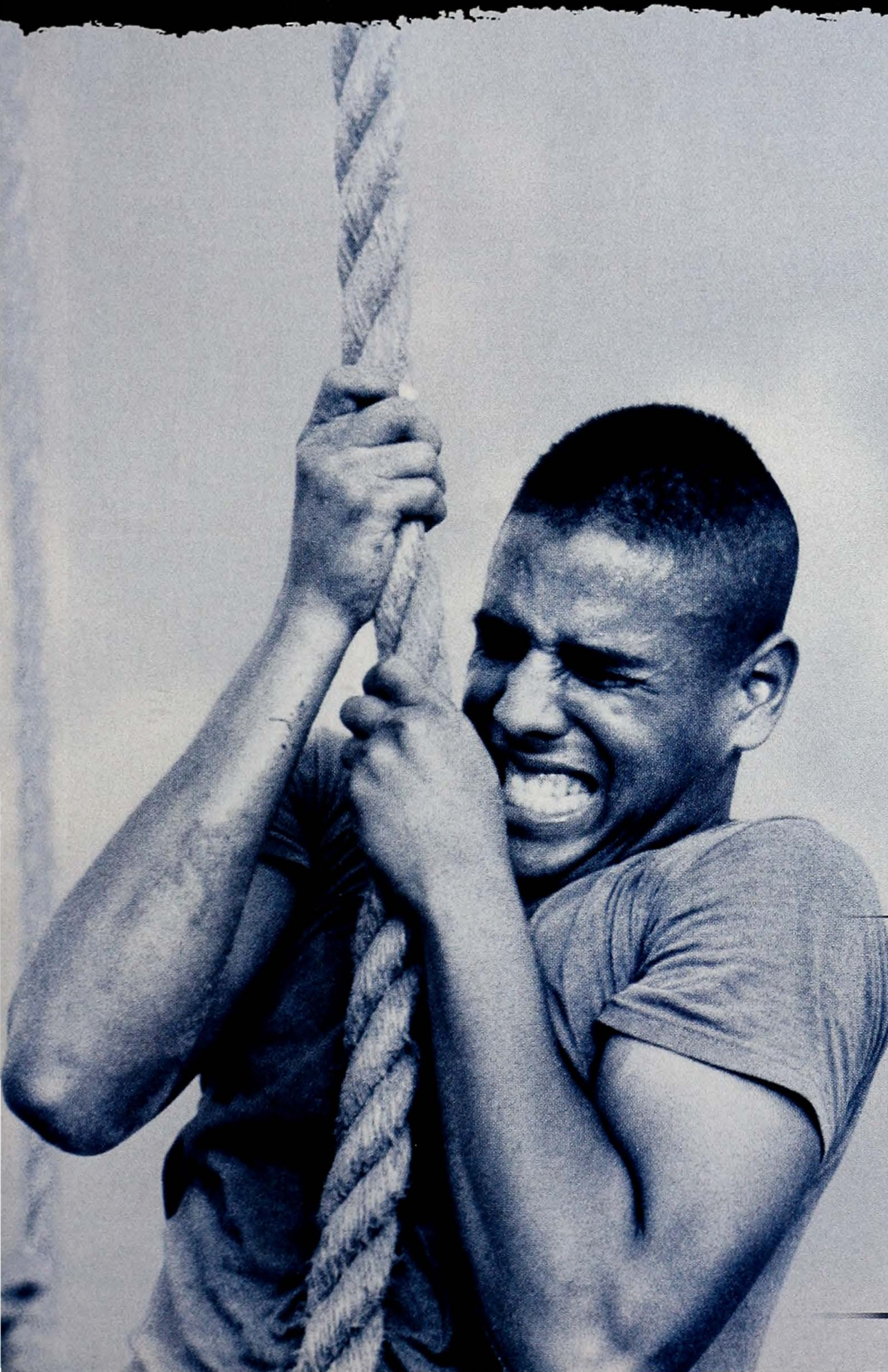
# PAIN IS WEAKNESS LEAVING THE BODY.

THE QUESTION ISN'T HOW MUCH MORE CAN YOU TAKE  
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# FFA Faces

Members making a difference

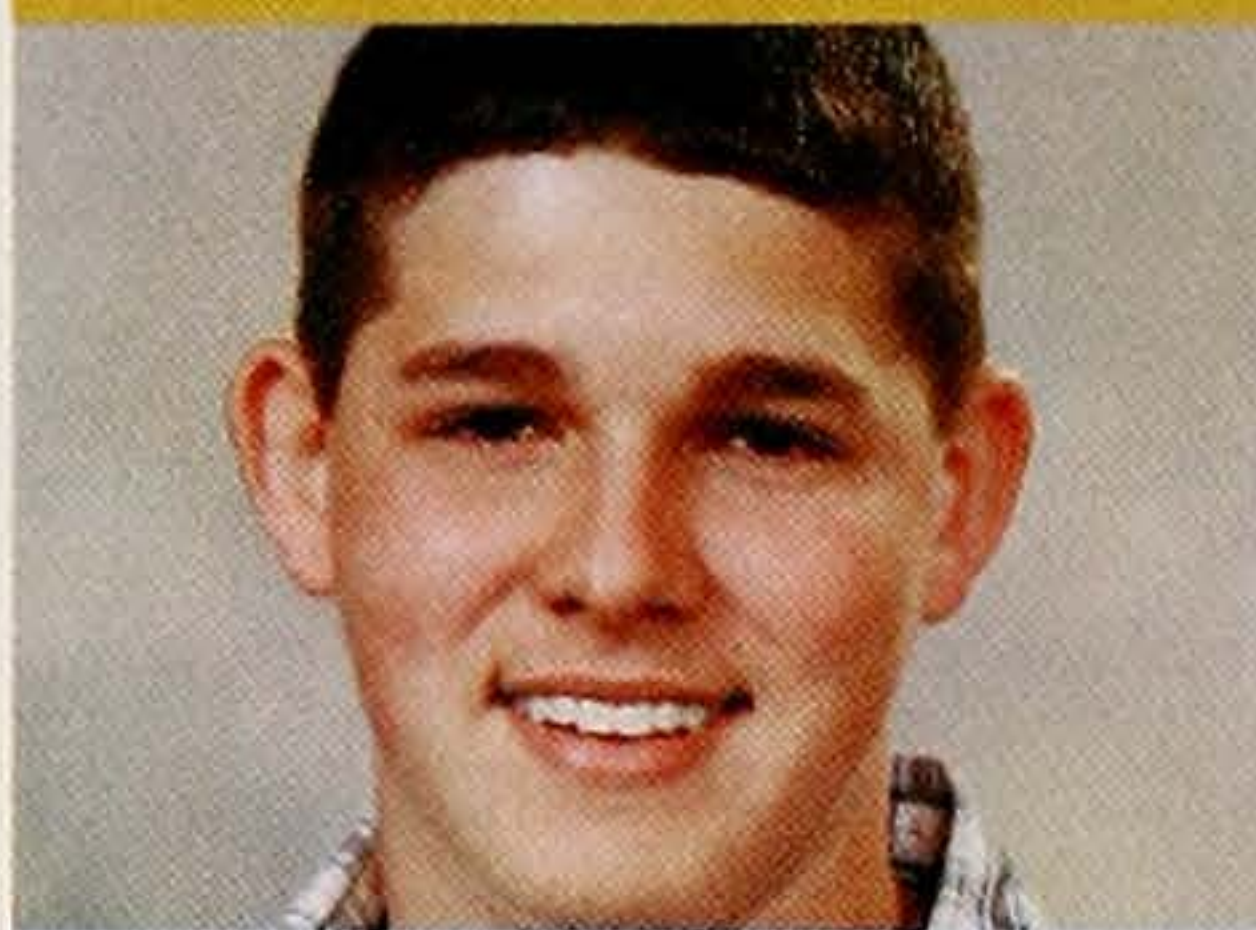
## Win a Chevrolet backpack!

Chevrolet, sponsor of FFA Faces, will award each FFA member and advisor featured on this page a heavy-duty backpack. Nominate yourself, a friend or advisor by sending us a letter with the following details about your nominee: name, grade, address, phone number, e-mail address, FFA and academic achievements, extracurricular activities. All submissions must include a color photo of the nominee. Due to the

large quantity of entries, we can't use every entry we receive, nor can we return or acknowledge submissions.



## Texas



### CLAY CHAPMAN

For his supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program, this DeKalb FFA Chapter member started out raising and showing rabbits. He now raises and shows and Beefmaster heifer. Clay takes advantage of many FFA leadership opportunities and also competes on his chapter's land judging and quiz bowl teams. A talented artist, Clay is president of his school's art club and has won several awards for his creative works.

## Ohio



### MEREDITH LOGSDON

This Upper Sandusky FFA Chapter member is now a freshman at The Ohio State University. Her lengthy list of FFA accomplishments includes: star Greenhand award; star chapter farmer; state FFA degree; and FFA chapter chaplain, secretary and student advisor. Her SAE program includes market chickens, ducks, turkeys, pygmy goats, potted mums and job placement at two local businesses.

## West Virginia



### AMANDA COMBS

Last year, as a freshman member of the Musselman FFA Chapter last year, Amanda laid the groundwork for success in FFA and school. In addition to her 4.0 grade point average, she won the star Greenhand award, the outstanding leadership award, and the outstanding scholastic achievement award. Plus, she participated in every FFA fundraiser. For her SAE program, she raises Southdown sheep and market hogs.

## New Mexico



### TANA SAUL

As a freshman, Tana won the Loving FFA Chapter's "No Guts, No Glory" award for all of her hard work. In her first year, she was a member of the wildlife management CDE team and helped the chapter forestry CDE team to a fifth place finish at state. Now, as chapter sentinel, she continues her active involvement in FFA. Tana also volunteers at a state park and spends time taking care of her horses, goats, dogs and cats.

## North Dakota



### JONATHAN ERICKSON

A member of the Park River FFA Chapter, Jonathan is proud to have served as a delegate to last year's North Dakota FFA Convention. He has earned his Greenhand degree and recently attended the Made For Excellence leadership conference for FFA members. An active member of the community, Jonathan served as a student representative to the city council. His career goal is to become an emergency medical technician.

## Georgia



### ALLIE CHAMBERS

As president of the Jones County FFA Chapter, Allie says her FFA experience is a large factor in her decision to attend Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College next fall. She has competed at the state level in public speaking and job interview career development events (CDEs), and she's a member of the dairy show team. Allie recently participated in the Governor's Honors Program, a six-week program where she chose to study agri-biotechnology.

## Florida



### MR. PAUL WEBB (advisor)

According to Amber Bowers, a member of the Frostproof Middle School FFA Chapter, Mr. Paul Webb always goes that extra mile for all of his students. As an example of his dedication, Amber says Mr. Webb hitches up his trailer and drives all the way to Kentucky every year to purchase hogs for his students' FFA projects. This agriculture teacher and FFA advisor is currently celebrating 20 years on the job.



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# National Officer Q&A

9 questions for Christy Windham, FFA southern region vice president

## Has your national officer experience been everything you imagined?

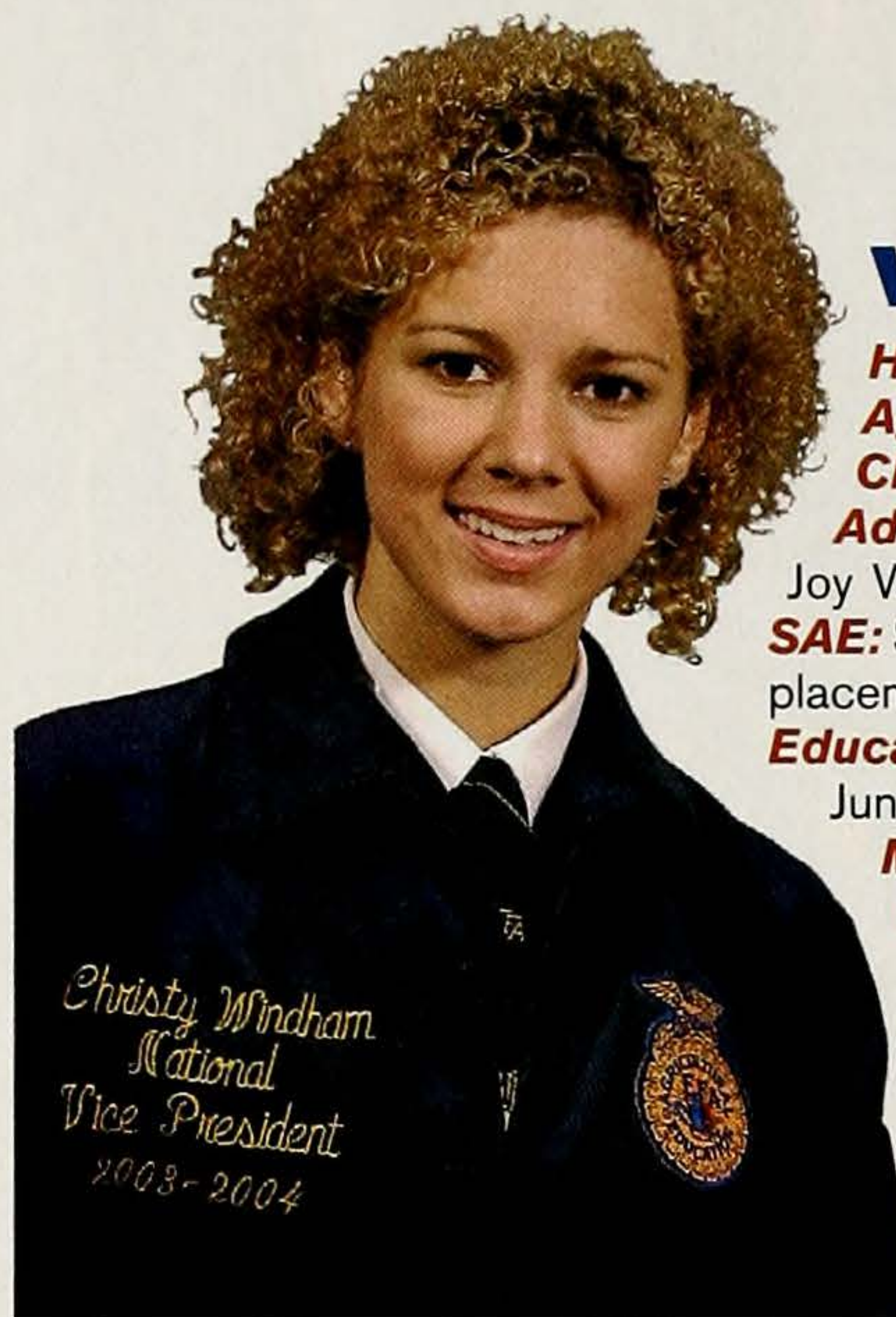
I've grown personally in more ways I would have ever thought possible. Getting to meet so many incredible students, teachers and sponsors are memories that I will treasure for a lifetime. I also have a deep appreciation for the agricultural industry because I've seen the difference that it makes on a daily basis.

## What are three important things you learned this year?

The first thing I have learned is the importance of kindness to others—there is always time for compassion. I've learned true success is measured by the contentment in your heart not the amount of awards on your wall. Finally, I've learned that no matter what—don't quit. Nothing is worth quitting when you believe in it.

## What was the hardest part of high school for you?

Easily, the hardest part of high school for me was always trying to fit in with the crowd. There were many times in high school that I didn't feel smart enough or pretty enough, but luckily, in my agriculture classroom, I never felt any pressure except to be myself and do my best. Looking back now, I realize that high school taught me that it can seem easier to imitate others who you think are cool or popular,



## vitals

**Hometown:** Laurel, Mississippi

**Age:** 20

**Chapter:** Northeast Jones FFA

**Advisor:** Randall Coker, Rusty Rutland and Joy Wayne Buchanan

**SAE:** Sheep production, beef production, placement at Mississippi Department of Agriculture

**Education:** Freshman, Jones County Junior College

**Major:** Agricultural development

**Favorite band:** Casting Crowns

**What I'm reading:** "Breaking the Da Vinci Code"

**Favorite food:** Boiled shrimp

**Favorite TV re-runs:** "Friends"

**Hobby:** Scrapbooking, and I want to learn how to fly-fish

**Car:** Blue Nissan Xterra

but true personal contentment only comes when you are happy with yourself.

## Why is Mississippi special to you?

I love Mississippi because of the hot summers and warm southern hospitality. I have always loved growing up in the south. It is a place rich in history, tradition and great food! I get my love of traditions and family from my wonderful heritage.

## Describe your SAE program and how it shaped you as a person.

I began working with lambs at the age of eight. I learned many life lessons from my SAE. It taught me responsibility, work ethic and the importance of fairness. These are lessons that will travel with me no matter where life may lead.

## Have FFA leadership opportunities played a role in your development?

The FFA has given me opportunities that I would not have gotten anywhere else. I've had the chance to meet some of the most influential leaders of our nation as well as learn leadership skills from FFA leadership conferences. Whatever professional success I attain in life, I will credit the FFA for teaching me about the importance of leadership.

## What are some similarities and differences you've noticed among FFA the chapters across the country?

Whether it's the Squeim Chapter in Washington, the Ola Chapter in Arkansas, the Narragansett chapter in Rhode Island or even the North Pole Chapter in Alaska, everywhere I have been I have seen chapters and teachers dedicated to student success. I firmly believe that agriculture teachers go above and beyond the call of duty for students. As students, we should make sure that we thank them for their hard work.

## What are your short-term goals?

I am looking forward to spending some time with my family during the Christmas season. I will be enrolling at Mississippi State University in the spring. I plan on getting back involved with campus organizations and continuing to have the opportunity to serve others.

## What are your career plans?

I would like to get involved in congressional lobbying for agricultural or educational policies. This year I also have gained a deep appreciation for teachers and, eventually, I think I would enjoy teaching in high school or college. ●

## timeline

age	
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>joined junior FFA</li> <li>began showing livestock</li> </ul>
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>received greenhand FFA degree</li> </ul>
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lost FFA state creed speaking</li> </ul>
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lost bid for FFA chapter president</li> <li>elected FFA chapter vice president</li> <li>placed first in state FFA extemporaneous speaking</li> <li>received chapter FFA degree</li> </ul>
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>elected FFA state vice president</li> <li>received state FFA degree</li> </ul>
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>graduated from high school</li> <li>elected FFA state president</li> </ul>
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>served on national FFA nominating committee</li> </ul>
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>earned American FFA Degree</li> <li>elected FFA southern region vice president</li> </ul>





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# D.C. United

FFA members at this summer's Washington Leadership Conference learned a lot about leadership—and even more about themselves

By Erich Gaukel



**D**uring a break from a work session at one of this summer's FFA Washington Leadership Conferences (WLC), Steven Pope took a sip from his soft drink, then tried to describe why he liked being in the big city.

Instead of invoking his experience at the Lincoln Memorial or his first view of the White House, this Missouri FFA member described an unusual-looking gas station a couple blocks away from the hotel. "From Waynesville, coming to a big city like this, it's cool—just to look at the way things are constructed. Like, just down the street, there are gas pumps right inside that building and you just drive right inside. That's pretty neat."

Traci Clark, also on break from the session, said she traveled from Idaho for the conference. Her most memorable moment in the city came just a few moments after walking into the National Museum of American History. "I saw the American flag that was rolled down the Pentagon wall after the September 11 attacks. It kind of just opened up my mind and made me realize, yeah, we were struck by a major tragedy and it hit a lot of people. But we rose to the occasion. We met the challenge."

Many of the other students in town that week for WLC had similar

**FFA members from Missouri and Texas rest at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. The appearance of hundreds of FFA jackets throughout the nation's capital stirred the curiosity of residents and tourists, many of whom approached the members to ask about FFA, and to relate their own FFA experiences.**

moments of discovery. That sense of experiencing something new helped prepare them for the real business at hand—learning how to become effective leaders.

## A PACKED SCHEDULE

For five days, WLC presenters—a group of enthusiastic and energetic former FFA members, most of them recently retired FFA state and national officers—offered an upbeat, but rigorous, schedule that started each day with a breakfast buffet at 7:30. The activities didn't stop until lights out, more than 15 hours later.

Twelve work sessions at the hotel, ranging from one to three hours each, were mixed in with meals and forays into Washington, where FFA members visited almost every monument, museum and significant government building.

During a "building relationships" session, the presenters acted out social situations. A handful of FFA

members in the ballroom were provided signs, each with a red "x" that they were instructed to raise when something inappropriate happened onstage.

In one skit, the "actors" presented a few different approaches one could take when meeting a member of Congress—a relevant topic, because later in the day this group of FFA members was scheduled to visit the Capitol building, where Tom Osborne, the legendary former University of Nebraska head coach, who is now a member of the House of Representatives, would speak.

The FFA members with the signs were quick to raise their signs when the actors had some fun, portraying an FFA member greeting the congressman with a football tackle.

## GETTING HEARD

In that same session, the presenters led a thought-provoking discussion among the conference attendees about the four stages of building relationships—first encounter, sharing/ comparing, defining roles and commitment. It's not easy to make your presence known in a room of 250 people, but, as Katie Recker, an FFA member from Ohio, pointed out, it forces you to come out of your shell. "Before, teachers would ask me ques-



tions, and I would talk so quietly. Here, you have to yell to get your point across. You act totally differently than you normally would."

The same sentiment was echoed by Jeremy Brown, a Missouri FFA member who hopes to attend West Point after graduation. The conference, he said, "will help my self-esteem, as far as speaking in front of other people, because you really have to speak up when you're at West Point, or else you're going to get yelled at a little bit."

Dane White, a former FFA national president who was one of the presenters, took a few moments the day before to talk about another aspect of leadership: service.

Dane explained that FFA members



**The summer heat didn't deter 400 FFA members from harvesting 250,00 ears of corn in one hour.**



**Representative Tom Osborne, the former Nebraska football coach, coached members on leadership.**

from this and another WLC going on at the same time in nearby Alexandria would be taking a buses to a farm in Virginia to handpick sweet corn for a local food bank. "Service is a real, tangible thing that each of us can do," Dane said.

#### **A DAY OF SERVICE**

So, the next morning, the buses hauled 400 FFA members to rural Virginia to pick corn. Ted Lund, a representative from Timberland Pro, the apparel and boot company, flew in from New Hampshire to help out. His company is deeply committed to community service and generously paid for all of the expenses associated with the day of service, including transportation, lunch and T-shirts for everyone involved.

FFA members got off the buses, grabbed orange mesh bags and headed for the fields. In one short hour, 400 FFA members picked 250,000 ears of corn, enough to fill two trucks.

Adam Segura, an FFA member from San Antonio, Texas, worked up a sweat picking several bags. "We were charged up, but the sun took a toll on us. It was fun, and I enjoyed doing it since it was for a good cause."

The enormity of this service effort left a lasting impact on Stacie Wenig, an FFA member from Ohio. "I've learned that with just a little time and a little effort, you can make a lot happen. It was amazing to me," she continued, "to think that we're out there having fun, joking around, but still getting so much done for people less fortunate than us. It was so fulfilling to be able to do that, and just to think that so many people are going to have full stomachs tonight just because we spent an hour out there."

Stacie's FFA chapter hadn't sent anyone to WLC in eight years. She summed it up for most of the FFA members here when she said, "I didn't really know a whole lot about WLC. The first day I was kind of nervous, but it's turned into a wonderful experience, and now I don't want to go home." ●

*For more information on WLC and other FFA leadership opportunities, talk to your FFA advisor and visit [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org).*

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**Bruce Timpano, a field forester for Pyramid Mountain Lumber in Seeley Lake, Montana, speaks to students and community members about methods used to improve forest conditions.**

By Chris Hayhurst

# Forestry

A career guide for FFA members

In a 30-year career, James Burchfield has studied trees and ecosystems from the mountains of Washington state to the jungles of Brazil. He's worked with primitive communities to show them how to better use the land, including introducing modern beekeeping techniques to Mayan Indians in northwestern Guatemala during the 1970s. He's fought forest fires and seen a mother bear walk peacefully with her cubs through the woods.

Burchfield, a 53-year-old Michigan native who's currently serving as the associate dean of the College of Forestry and Conservation at the University of Montana, admits that his career in forestry has been a bit out of the ordinary. He's traveled all over the Western Hemisphere. His job titles have ranged from timber sale planner to policy analyst. For three decades, he's been paid to analyze trees and hike through the woods.

But forestry is a career that involves much more than just hiking

through the forest, taking notes on trees. It's a complex, multidisciplinary career that Burchfield learned from countless hours of fieldwork and years of university study, culminating in a Ph.D. in natural resources from the University of Michigan in 1991.

"Forestry demands an understanding of all the ecological, biological and social factors that will be affected from how the land is used," Burchfield says. "Foresters must harmonize the objectives of land owners with the existing ecosystem."

## FORESTRY DEFINED

When trying to describe a career in forestry, many universities tout the variety of job choices new graduates can expect. Beyond saying that new foresters will spend much of their time outdoors, there isn't a lot of consensus as to what an average new forester may do the first day in the field.

Job duties for new graduates could

include consulting with lumber companies, measuring tree size for a government agency, evaluating insect outbreaks that affect trees in urban areas, surveying the land, planting seedlings, fighting forest fires or working in a park.

Steve Nix, a forestry professional who writes for About.com on the industry, divides forestry job options out into three broad categories:

1) The Industrial Forester: People in this area of forestry work with timber companies to assess all facets of a logging operation. The first step is often taking inventory of a potential forest, measuring trees, assessing the number of harvest-worthy crop and mapping tree locations. Next, the forester will appraise the value of the trees and maybe draw up a contract to negotiate the purchase of timber. They may also subcontract loggers, aid in road layout and make sure the operation meets federal, state and local environmental specifications.

2) The Consulting Forester: Consultants may work for themselves or small private companies. Job duties include acting as an agent to negotiate timber sales, supervising the planting and growing of new trees, advising on planting sites and the use of controlled burning or herbicides to benefit the forest. Consultants may also be contracted to search for signs of sickness or insect infestation in tree populations.

3) The Government Forester: This person will work for state or federal government, managing public forests and dealing with a range of topics—from forest recreation to fire prevention to select timber sale on public land. Foresters who work for state government also help private landowners manage their forests.

In addition to these jobs, foresters may work as policy advocates for timber companies or conservation groups like The Nature Conservancy, looking at laws, environmental



# INDIANA FFA THE IMPACT



## **Developing Team Leadership**

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## **Agriculture on the Flip Side**

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**M** FFA Charters a New Chapter

**N** Fire-Starter or Ag Teacher?

**O** Agriculture on the Flip Side

**P** Strain Your Brain



## Calendar of Events

**Nov.**

**19-21** FIRE Conference, Indiana FFA Center

**Dec.**

**11** State Crops, Entomology and Forestry CDEs

**Jan.**

**14-16** Leadership Development Workshop

**29** State Meats and Dairy Foods CDE

**Feb.**

**1** Nominating Committee Applications Due

**21** State Degree and Proficiencies Due

### Indiana FFA Staff

**Craig Rebich** Association Executive Director  
**Christian MacKinnon** Foundation Executive Director  
**Robert Juncker** State Advisor  
**Stephanie Warner** Program Specialist  
**Brian Buchanan** Development Director  
**Samantha Lucy** Magazine Editor  
**Joshua Coleman** Magazine Designer

### 2004-2005 State Officer Team

**Matthew Metzger** President  
**Jill Steiner** Secretary  
**Eric Barnard** N.R. Vice President  
**Todd Ault** S.R. Vice President  
**Jennifer Shepherd** Treasurer  
**Sara Egan** Reporter  
**Joey Dunn** Sentinel



# Stationed by the Door

## Joey Dunn, 2004-05 State Sentinel

### Fast Facts About Joey

**Parents:** Annette and Bill Dunn

**Siblings:** Andy and Ashley

**Hometown:** Franklin

**FFA Chapter:** Franklin

**Favorite Food:** Mexican

**Favorite Songs:** I Can Only Imagine, Mercy Me

**Favorite Sport:** Football

**Favorite Movie:** Gone in 60 Seconds

**Favorite FFA Activity:** Soils Evaluation CDE

Because Joey had some amazing advisors during his four years of FFA, he intends on majoring in Agriculture Education at Purdue University. After completing his four year degree he looks forward to being a full-time agriculture instructor and FFA advisor.

The 2004-2005 State Officer Team voted Joey most likely to be voted Mr. Congeniality of Indiana. Everyone loves the guy!

### Some Thoughts About Joey...

"Joey is the type of person who could help anybody if he could. If somebody needs something, he would be there to help them if he could."

Joan Dunn, *Joey's Grandma*

"Joey's ability to work well with people, to influence people, and to have a positive attitude toward others has probably attributed most to his leadership ability and will be the most noticeable throughout his officer year."

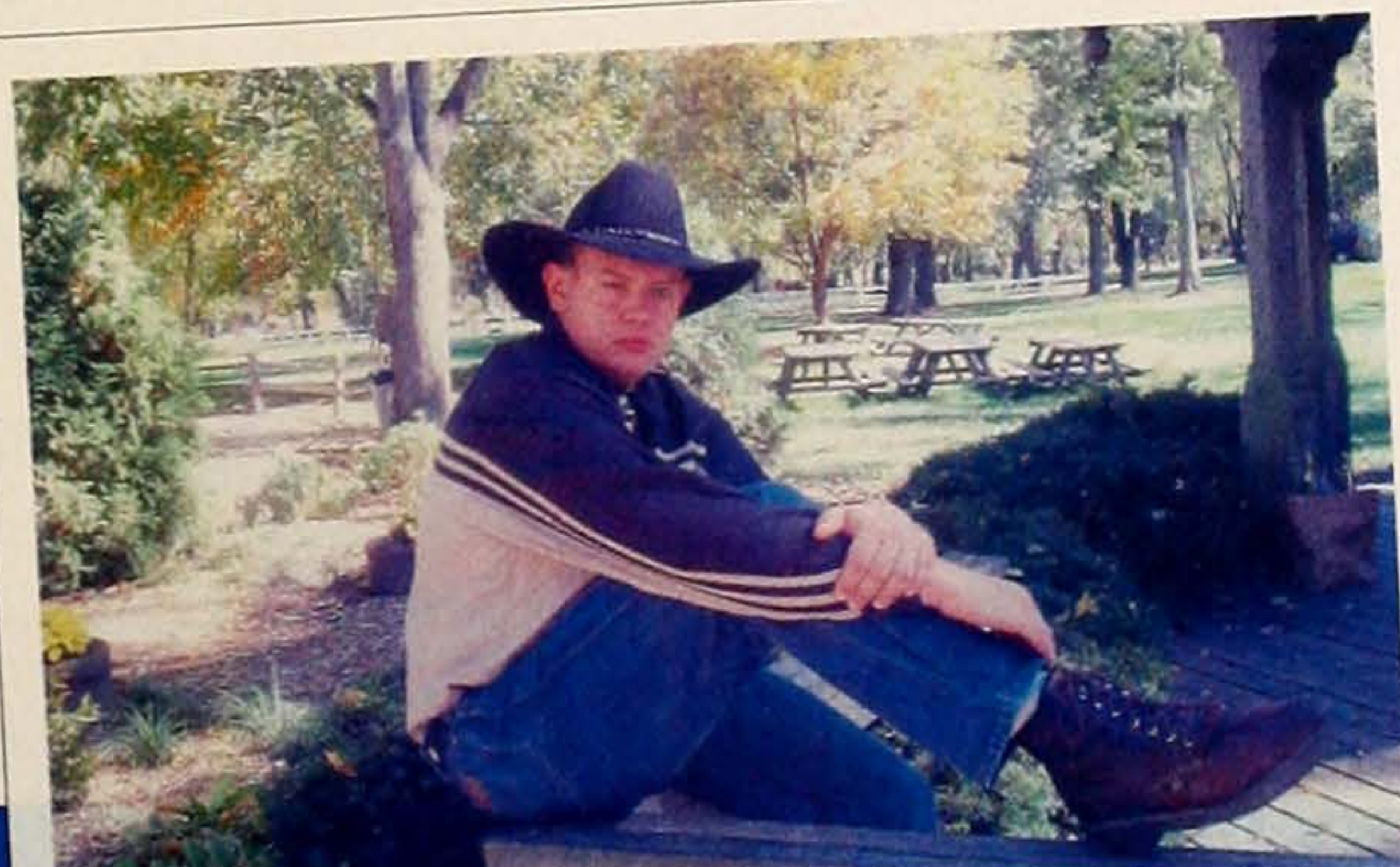
Mr. Craig Rebich, *Joey's Ag Teacher*

"Joey is the kind of guy you can really look up to. Because of his enthusiasm, he encouraged me to be in different CDE's like soils, and meats judging."

Amanda Kersey, *Joey's friend*

### FFA Timeline

- 14** Joined FFA  
Participated in first CDE, Soils Evaluation
- 15** Won District VIII Specialty Animal  
Production Proficiency
- 16** Received Chapter Degree  
Elected District VIII Treasurer
- 17** Received Hoosier Degree  
Traveled to Oklahoma for National Soils Evaluation  
Traveled to Denver for National  
Meats and Technology Evaluation
- 18** Lost District Job Interview  
Elected State Sentinel





# QUIZ BOWL

## ...Fundamental Trivia by Jennifer Shepherd



Who can name the National FFA President? How many Career Development Event areas are there? What do the letters FIRE stand for? For many these questions would seem difficult, absurd, or impossible to answer. Yet for some, these questions can be answered in the blink of an eye. So what activity requires jet fast reflexes, a great memory, and dedicated team members? Quiz bowl, of course!

While many are thinking about Christmas break, falling snow, basketball, or school work, FFA members across the state are starting the process of learning bits and pieces of FFA trivia and knowledge. They want to be prepared for the head-to-head, chapter-against-chapter, single-elimination quiz bowl contest occurring in March at district conventions across the state. This contest is a team event, comprised of at least two freshman and two sophomores, and teaches skills such as time management, responsibility, team work, and memorization.

The key to this competition is preparation. The state winning quiz bowl team, South Ripley, began preparing in October.

"The team had a 'quiz bowl guide' - Joyce Druba a guidance counselor at South Ripley High School," said Mr. Pat Holland, the advisor at South Ripley. "Together they developed questions and quizzed each other, but most importantly they took it upon themselves to win. They really wanted it."

The team must be able to answer the fifteen questions related to FFA and diversified agricultural topics. The questions come from the 19-page quiz bowl packet. It is impossible to think that one team member can be responsible for this entire packet. The team must work collectively to ensure that the packet is divided between the whole team. By using teamwork, members can hold each other accountable and responsible for their pages of information.

After the preparation is complete, it is important that team members realize that the judge is fully responsible for reading the questions which form the rounds. If a member decides to buzz in early the question cannot be finished, but instead answered in a matter of ten seconds. If the question is finished, each team will be given an equal opportunity to buzz in and answer the question following ten seconds of discussion.

The winner of each round will advance in rank, until a first place through fourth place winner is decided. These winning teams will receive a plaque for their great memorization skills, teamwork, time management, and responsibility.

"The Quiz Bowl Career Development Event was a lot of fun and I learned a lot," said Morgan Emery of the Mount Vernon FFA Chapter. "I found the information very useful when assisting younger FFA members." The grand champions will advance to the state competition held at Purdue University in June.





# FFA FINDS FRIENDSHIPS FOR ALL

By Jill Steiner

Whether you are playing a game of corn hole or just sitting around, you are always guaranteed to have a good time with Aaron Allgier, a senior from the East Central FFA Chapter. As a freshman, he was attracted to the FFA because many of his friends were FFA members, and he was excited about all the fun opportunities available through his chapter. Soon Aaron realized that he could participate not only in chapter-level activities but he could also participate in activities throughout the state.

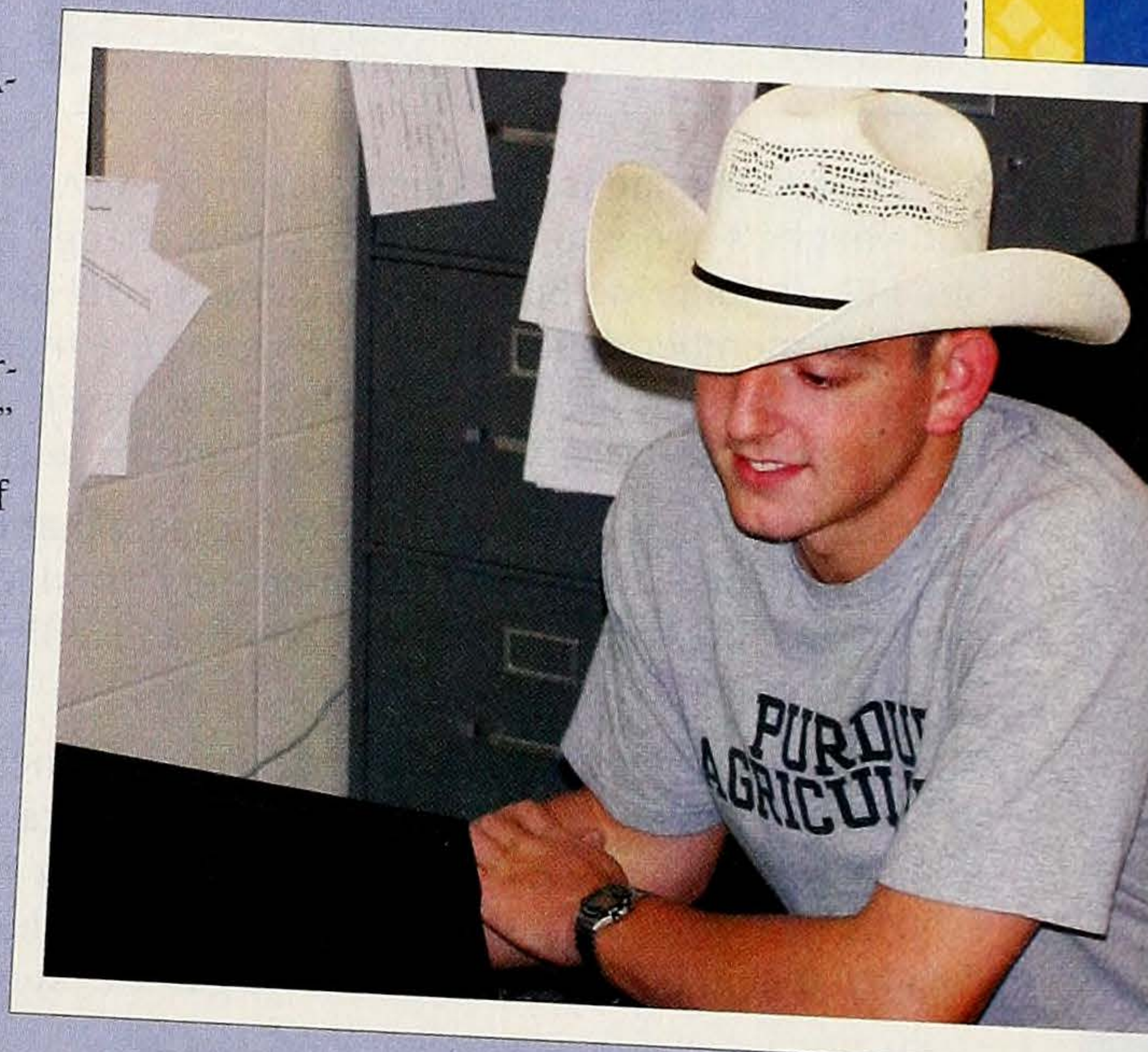
"Aaron is not only an excellent leader, but he can bring fun to every situation he encounters," said Keith Konradi, District XII President. "I have truly enjoyed serving on our district officer team with him this year."

Throughout Aaron's four years in FFA, he has participated in several CDEs and other events. He has participated in the Agriculture Sales Demonstration and Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest. Parliamentary Procedure is one event Aaron has participated in for all four years of high school. This year Aaron is serving as the East Central FFA President also serving as the District XII Reporter.

"My favorite CDE would definitely be livestock judging," said Aaron. "I enjoy being part of a team with my friends in my chapter."

Allgier started his Supervised Agricultural Experience in the Turf Grass Management area while he worked at a local golf course for two years mowing and raking. This fall Allgier expanded his SAE into the aquaculture area by working for the Pond Doctor part time. During his experience, he has learned plumbing and electrical skills by installing and servicing aerators. He also has been able to identify pond weeds and builds ornamental ponds.

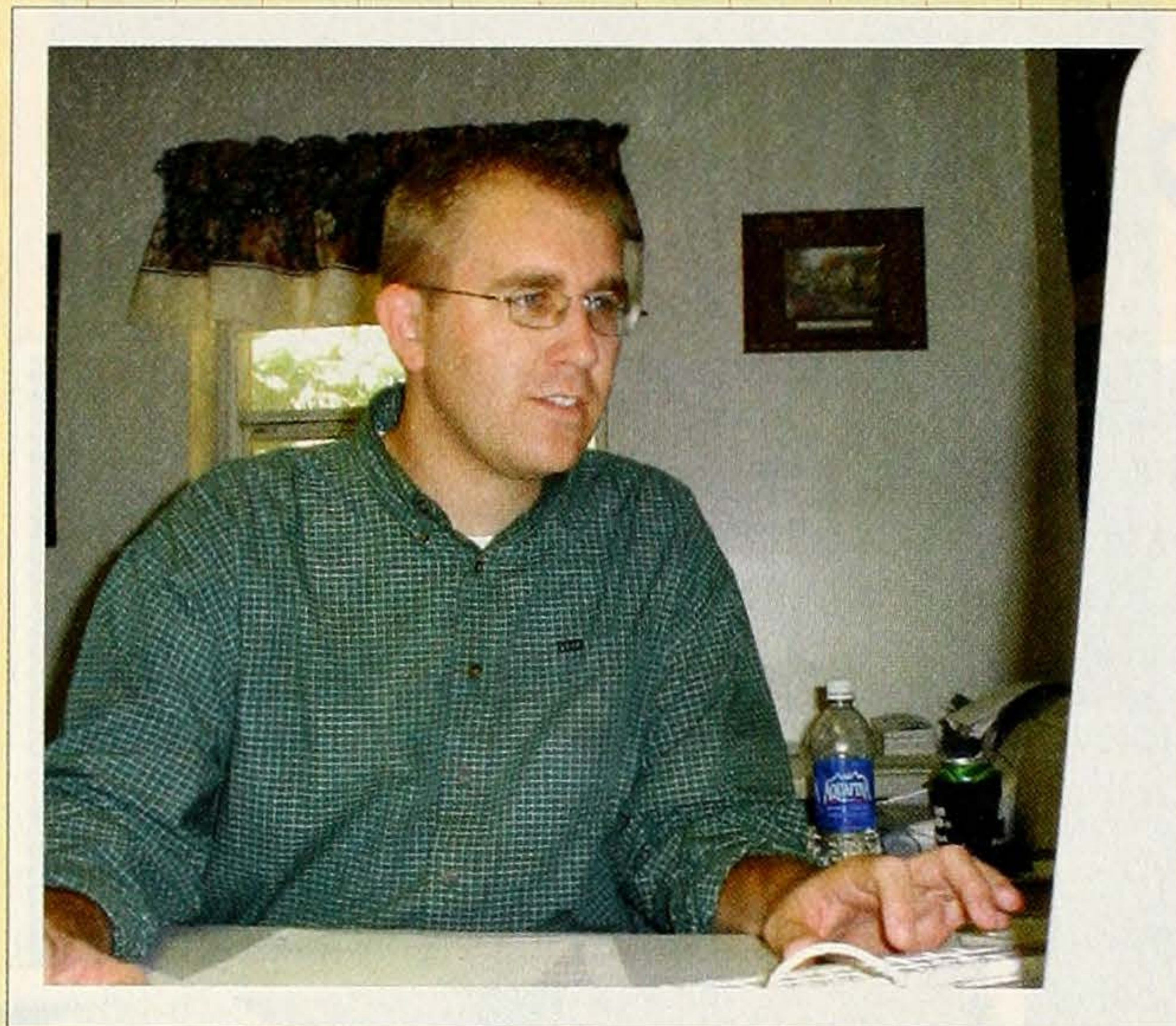
"The FFA has taught me a lot of life skills and found me a place where I felt comfortable and fit in," said Aaron. "My favorite part is the friendships I have encountered on the chapter, district, and state levels."





# HE'S OUR MAN

By Eric Barnard



Mr. Brian Buchanan is not a new face in the FFA world, but what he's about to do is going to help change Indiana FFA. In June, Mr. Buchanan became the full-time FFA staff member dedicated to developing the Indiana FFA Foundation, which helps to fund all of the FFA activities members participate in throughout the year.

"I am really excited about sharing the impact that Foundation partners can have on FFA members," said Mr. Buchanan. "I feel that the Indiana FFA Foundation is on the brink of some really great things."

Mr. Buchanan brings a great deal of FFA experience to his new position. He started out in the organization back in his freshman year at Evansville Reitz high school. He worked on a grain farm near Evansville, and decided to join FFA the first chance he got. He later

became the 1996-97 Indiana FFA State Sentinel. After his term as a state officer he attended Purdue University where he pursued a degree in agricultural education and student taught at Switzerland County High School. While at Purdue, Mr. Buchanan was very active in student life and a leader on campus.

Some readers may remember that Mr. Buchanan served as Program Specialist for the Indiana FFA and worked on the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation grant. He has actually worked for FFA for three years. Mr. Buchanan's former position dealt with implementing and executing the mission of the tobacco grant. He also developed programs for chapters to spread the mission of FFA and the tobacco grant.

Mr. Buchanan's new position is now the Development Director for the Indiana FFA Foundation. Some of his new duties include working with current foundation partners to educate them on their investment and where their money is going. He also works on acquiring new partners for FFA. One of his biggest goals is to develop an endowment campaign for the Foundation.

Mr. Buchanan sees the future of the Foundation as a continual growth that already has a great start. One of Mr. Buchanan's major mottos is, "Programming drives funding." The FFA has to continue to make great programs for members in order to keep the organization successful.

"Programs will continue to grow as long as we continue to have financial support."

It is a very exciting time for the FFA as this is the first time the Foundation has had someone totally devoted to developing the FFA Foundation. The Indiana FFA better buckle up and get ready because with Mr. Buchanan on board it's going to be an amazing ride!



# GOT MILK? JOE KELSAY DOES!

by Joey Dunn

What happens to FFA members after they graduate high school? Some become a state officer and some go straight into college. But what really happens to them afterwards? Well, most people who were involved with FFA during high school turn out to be very successful in their life, no matter what path in life they choose. Mr. Joe Kelsay, this article's job shadow, is no exception to that.

Mr. Kelsay, formerly of the Whiteland FFA Chapter, was the Indiana FFA 1995-96 Southern Region Vice President. While in FFA, he participated in Soils Evaluation, Crops Evaluation, Dairy Evaluation, and many leadership contests. He attended Purdue University, where he majored in Farm Management. Joe is now a co-manager of Kelsay & Sons farm in Whiteland, IN. Kelsay & Sons milk approximately 500 cows and grow 2,000 acres of corn, soybeans, and alfalfa.

Mr. Kelsay took a few minutes to share some of his experiences and his thoughts on how the Indiana FFA prepared him for life after high school.

## **What's a typical day like for you?**

I do not have a routine day. My daily goals are to make sure all jobs are being accomplished, forecast jobs for coming days and months, and to take care of any emergencies that may occur.

## **Are you still a supporter of FFA? How?**

I am a financial donor and I also donate my time locally when I can. I am also a member of the Indiana FFA Foundation board, where I serve as secretary.

## **What did the FFA teach you?**

I got leadership skills out of the FFA, skills mostly centered on facilitating a group and taking charge in a task. FFA also taught me the skills in setting goals, which have helped me with direction in my own life, both personally and professionally.

## **What would you tell a member who was just getting started in the FFA?**

You are going to get out what you put in. The more opportunities that you take part of the more you are going to, at the end, look back and say I'm glad I did that.

## **In your thoughts, what is the one most important thing the FFA teaches students?**

I think the FFA teaches students about real life situations. As an employer, I look for someone who has the knowledge and can apply it into hands-on situations. The other thing FFA teaches students is the ability to work with people in more of a leadership role. Anyone can work with a group of people, but not many people can work with them in a leadership position. I feel that it is very important to teach that to the students now, who will become the leaders of tomorrow.



# DOUBLE THE SCHOOLS, DOUBLE THE FUN

*by Jill Steiner*

Two schools—one chapter—one advisor. Sound unique? It is...but its exactly how the Columbus FFA Chapter operates. Students from the Columbus North and Columbus East High Schools come together to form the 98-member chapter, advised by Mrs. Charity Keffaber.

The past few years the Columbus FFA chapter has had a goal to increase their membership in the FFA chapter. Last year they were able to increase by bringing in 15 new members from Columbus North. Usually, Columbus East has more members but now Columbus North is catching up making the chapter a little more even in numbers. Even though the schools are city rivals, each member knows that they are not competing in the FFA.

"Our chapter is really close," said Nicole Fitzsimmons, chapter vice president. "We hang out not only in FFA activities, but other times as well."

Each year when electing officers, members from both schools are eligible for office. However, to make sure each school has representation on the officer team, the chapter elects two sentinels – one from the north and one from the east. The chapter's monthly meetings are held at members' houses rotating school districts so that the students are able to get to know each other on a more personal level.

"We hold officer meetings often," said Mrs. Keffaber. "It helps greatly that I teach at both schools each day,"

Columbus FFA Chapter joins their local Farm Bureau each year for their county's Ag Day Breakfast during National Agriculture Week.

The breakfast draws people from the agriculture industry as well as other business leaders in the Columbus area. The chapter conducts opening ceremonies, helps serve breakfast, gives the invocation, and participates in the program. The morning is filled with excitement and learning as leaders from all spectrums are present to celebrate agriculture in their community.

They also are working to increase their community service involvement. Each month the chapter finds at least one way to help out in their community. During the year they have worked with the Salvation Army ringing bells, parking cars for the pumpkin fest, serving at local dinners, assisting with a hog sale, and helping with their county's agriculture day.

"Even if the members don't all know each other, they still are kind and respect one another," said Mrs. Keffaber. "It makes it enjoyable for me to be around since they are all hard working."



# STORMING THE STATE HOUSE

by Jennifer Shepherd

The Indiana FFA is constantly striving to instill the quality of premier leadership into its FFA members. The government bodies of our great state realize the impact FFA has on young lives, and also works to instill leadership into FFA youth through a House of Representatives Page Program. \*

Throughout FFA week – February 20-26, 2005 – blue and gold jackets will become a common sight at the Indiana State House. Our government and the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture have teamed up to sponsor a program called CAREERS (Can Agriculture Really Electrify, Energize, and Recruit Indiana Students as a Prospective Career?). This program is geared for students over the age of 13, involved with Indiana agriculture, and a member of an FFA or 4-H program.

This program allows students to see their government in action, and it offers them the opportunity to meet and interact with key legislatures. Students will also have the chance to take a tour of government facilities in Indianapolis.

“This program gives students a chance to see government in action,” said Phyllis Pond, a House Representative from Hometown, Indiana. “They can really understand how laws are made.”

The day of a Page begins at 8:30 a.m. and wraps up at 3:30 p.m. During their time as a page, FFA members will tour the Supreme Court chambers and the governor’s office. They will also view the chambers of the House and the Senate.

“If young people are not aware of the importance of laws before they serve as pages, they certainly are aware of this afterwards,” said Representative Vernon G. Smith. “As a professional educator, I cannot over-emphasize the great potential for learning that is showcased in this exceptionally fun experience.” \*

This visit is an excused absence from the school day, and is both exciting and fun, at the same time it is an educational experience for students involved in agriculture.

“I want to be a page because I love politics and being involved,” said Jessica Quear, the Section II Director. “Being a page would give me the opportunity to represent the majority of people involved in agriculture.”

FFA members can begin reserving their spots as pages as early as December by contacting their local representative or legislatures. For more information on CAREERS, visit Indiana’s website [www.in.gov/legislative/house\\_democrats/page.html](http://www.in.gov/legislative/house_democrats/page.html).

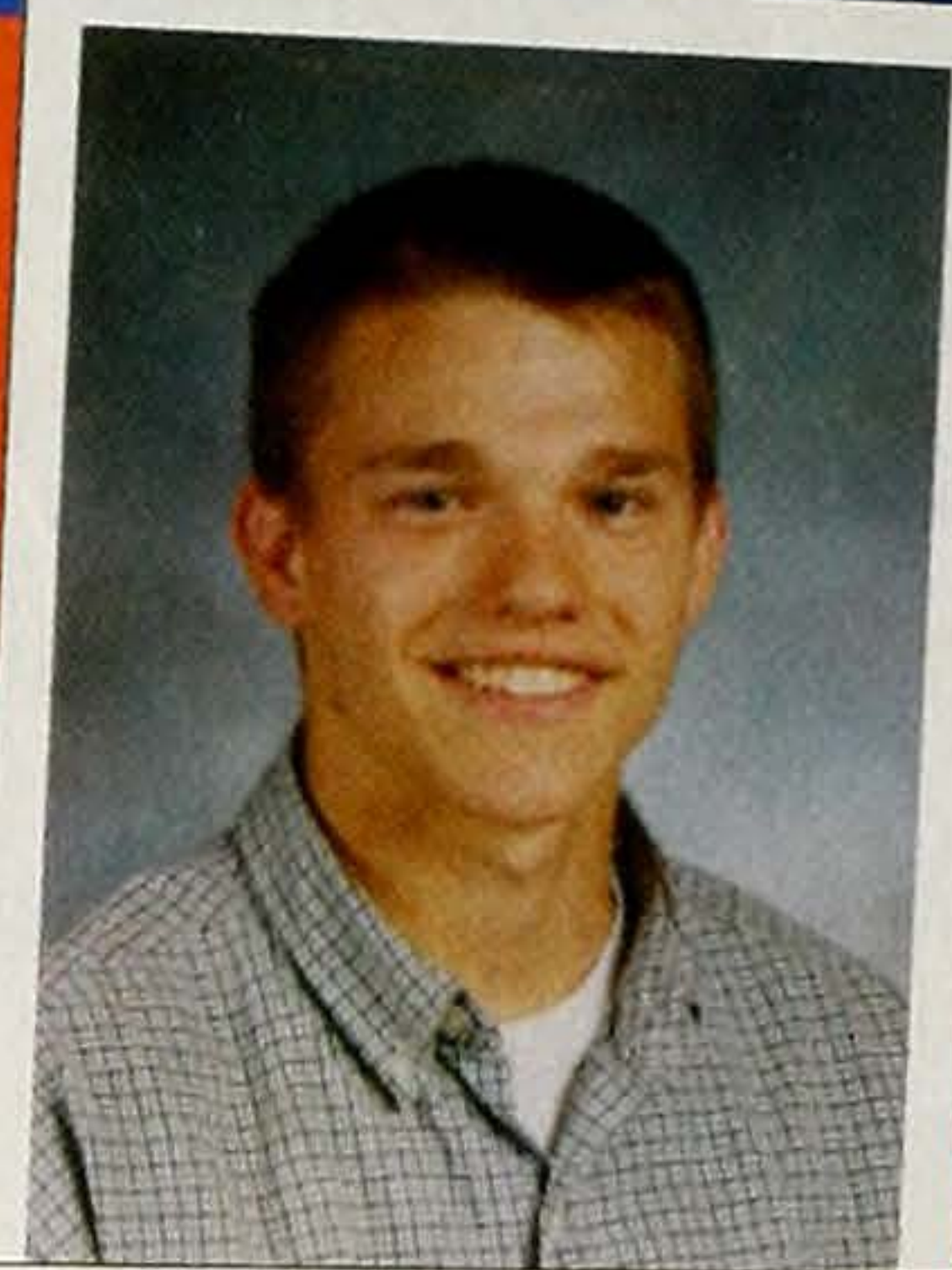






"My favorite fall FFA activity was when I visited another chapter who had a professional square dance caller and line dance instructor. He taught us to do many types of dancing, including a dance to Cotton Eyed Joe."

Kristin Konradi  
Junior High, Jac-Cen-Del

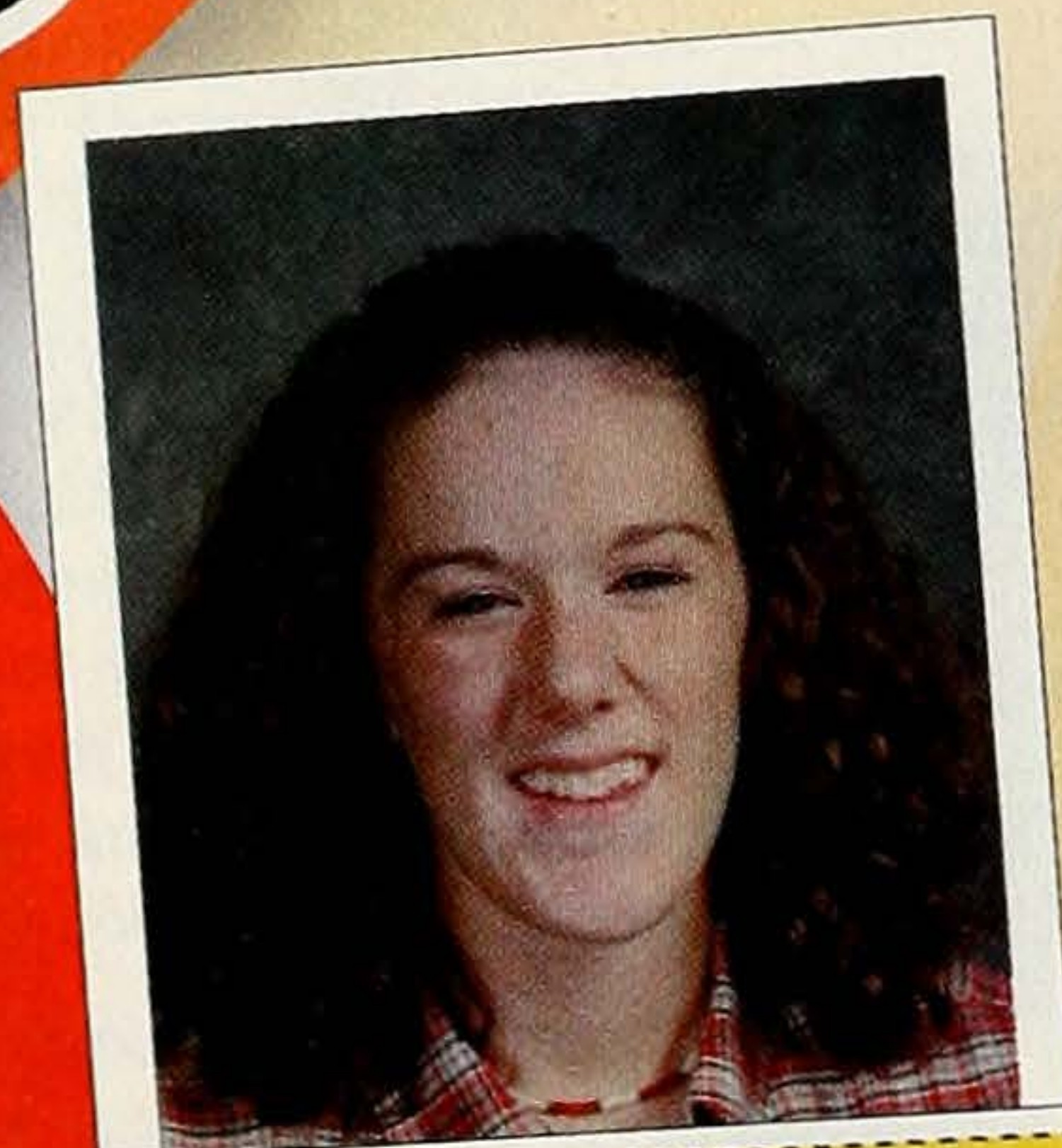


"My favorite fall FFA activity would have to be soils. Its a great way to meet members from all over the state."

Kyle Johnson  
Senior, Southern Wells

# Student Spotlight!

What is your favorite fall FFA activity?



"One of my most favorite activities to do in the FFA is attending my chapter's hog roast and high ride in the fall."

Kay Leigh Lawson  
Senior, Western Boone



"This fall my favorite activity was traveling to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to participate in the Eastern National Livestock Exposition and visiting the sites in Washington D.C."

Craig Amstutz  
Sophomore, South Adams

**NEXT ISSUE'S SPOTLIGHT QUESTION:**

**What is your favorite chapter activity?**

.....  
**E-mail your answer to [inffaspotlight@yahoo.com](mailto:inffaspotlight@yahoo.com)**



# ★ DEVELOPING ★ TEAM LEADERSHIP

Every January in the midst of the winter snowing and blowing something magical happens at the FFA Center. The Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) combines the serene winter setting with insightful points on team development to give chapter officers a truly amazing experience.

The weekend is full of experiences that will leave members excited and ready to take on their year's Program of Activities. Even though winter is still going strong, plenty of recreation and relaxation will be available. Many indoor activities will help attendees to have fun and get to know other officers from around the state.

LDW will be held January 14-16, 2005. It is hosted at the Indiana FFA Leadership Center. This workshop is not an opportunity that can be passed up by any means. The benefits that it can give a chapter officer team are extraordinary, and the conference is fun time to spend a weekend during the cold winter months. Mark your calendars and talk to your advisors today about attending LDW!

---

"LDW is a great opportunity to gain new leadership skills and meet new people. I really liked the activities that helped to build chapter officer teams."

Jessica Palmer, *Eastbrook FFA*



# ***THE INDIANA FARM BUREAU BELIEVES IN THE FUTURE OF THE FFA***

*by Sara Egan*

After supporting strong agricultural leaders through the Indiana FFA for more than 20 years, the Indiana Farm Bureau is proud to continue their tradition of supporting Indiana's premier youth organization. With the mission of developing the potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success, the Indiana Farm Bureau and the Indiana FFA have forged a strong partnership. Chris Fenner, coordinator of leadership development with the Indiana Farm Bureau, shares his thoughts on his company's partnership with the FFA.

**Full name of company:** Indiana Farm Bureau Inc.

**Number of employees:** 50 employees

**Location of headquarters:** Indianapolis, IN

**Years in Business:** 85 years

**Industry:** Agriculture Policy and Agricultural Education or Public Relations

## ***History of Company***

The Indiana Farm Bureau was originally started in 1919 by a group of farmers who wanted more purchasing power. The company began as a cooperative and the benefits from being a cooperative were evident. Farm Bureau later became active in legislative matters and eventually started an insurance group. Farm Bureau is still a very active part of the agriculture industry in the state of Indiana.

## ***If a student was interested in a career with Indiana Farm Bureau, what advice would you give them that would help them prepare for that career?***

Farm Bureaus works with many different areas of career interest. There are numerous employees with a wide background of careers. If a student were interested in a career with Indiana Farm Bureau, the advice given would be to call and find out more about Indiana Farm Bureau. Learn about the organization and what they do. Understand the company's core values. And eventually set up an internship to work one on one with the company in a working environment.

## ***How did the partnership between Indiana Farm Bureau Inc. and the Indiana FFA arise?***

Indiana Farm Bureau Inc. has been a long time advocate of Indiana Agriculture and youth leadership. Because of their sincere dedication to these industries, a partnership with one of the premier agricultural based leadership organizations in the state fell naturally. And as the agriculture industry branched out to cover a more broad spectrum, both the Indiana Farm Bureau Inc. and the Indiana FFA have worked together to keep the future of agriculture bright.

## ***How would you describe Indiana Farm Bureaus relationship with the Indiana FFA to a peer organization?***

The Indiana FFA and the Indiana Farm Bureau have an excellent working relationship. Farm Bureau is very interested in those students that have an interest in agriculture. Farm Bureau sees the benefits of the FFA every day. FFA members have a level of responsibility and leadership that stands out amongst those their age. Those are the people that Indiana Farm Bureaus wants to work with and are proud to support.

"Members of the Indiana FFA should feel very fortunate to have Indiana Farm Bureau as a partner. As a result of this partnership, members are able to easily take advantage of the opportunities available through the FFA Organization."

Brian Buchanan

*Development Director, Indiana FFA Foundation*



# FFA Charters A New Chapter

by Sara Egan

Attention Indiana FFA members, look out for a new name on the back of those national blue and corn gold corduroy jackets...the Lebanon FFA Chapter has arrived.

## Quick Facts

Chapter Name: Lebanon FFA

Location: Lebanon, IN (*Approximately 20 miles Northwest of Indianapolis on I-65*)

District: IV

Advisors: Mr. Byron Earnest and Ms. Stacey Hartley

Charter Date: June 8, 2004

Approximate Number of Members: 171 members 7-12

## An Insider's Perspective....

"The way Mr. Ernest combines real life with our Advanced Life Sciences, Animals course is entertaining, educational, and I always walk out the door when the bell rings amazed at how much agriculture affects my daily life."

Jared Martin

*Junior, Advanced Life Sciences, Animals*

"I am already seeing all of the possibilities that FFA can give an individual. Through the events that we have already participated in here at Lebanon, my leadership skills have been expanded. I only wish we would have started this sooner."

Mallory Wilhoite

*Senior, Lebanon High School*

"Things have been awesome here. I am excited that we turned in our FFA membership roster on October 1st with over 150 members and we still have students joining. We have very supportive administrators who care about students and consider them as customers. Our goal is to add a third agriculture instructor next year and continue to add all of the Advanced Life Science courses as they become available. It is great to be a part of agriculture education and the FFA here at Lebanon."

Byron Ernest

*Department Head, Lebanon Agriculture/FFA*



## Where Do We Stand?

Just in...the National FFA Organization has put out the ending results for the 2003-2004 State Standings and Statistics. Drum Roll Please...

**Membership Gain:** +8.22%--ranking Indiana 6th in the Nation

**Chapters Gained:** +10 (175 chapters -185 chapters)

**Total Member:** +672 (8177 members-8849 members)

**Proficiencies Competing at Nationals:** 4 Indiana FFA members have been announced as National Proficiency Finalists...Congratulations!

American Star Farmer Finalist: Indiana's Shanna Krull is named an American Star Farmer Finalist.



# ***FIRE-STARTER OR AG TEACHER? WITH MR. BLOEBAUM WE'RE NEVER SURE!***

*by Matthew Metzger*

Throughout the course of their careers, agriculture instructors are asked to participate in many activities that might not be within their designated contracts. Some of our advisors have been asked to do such things as make Wal-Mart runs for hosiery, stop at every available gas station for restroom breaks, and put up with rowdy games of euchre. But when conference time rolls around, one of our Indiana FFA advisors doesn't shy away from the optional tasks. When it comes to lighting those fires, Mr. Bloebaum is more than happy to step up to the challenge.

Mr. James Bloebaum grew up attending North Montgomery High School in northern Indiana. With Mr. Robert Bobe as a FFA advisor, Mr. Bloebaum quickly learned to enjoy the Livestock Evaluation CDE. When asked to recap a few of the more memorable experiences with his favorite activity and advisor, he simply said that some things should be left unsaid. He did, however, mention that he and his teammates were able to pull a few jokes that turned Mr. Bobe's face a "brand new shade of red!"

Because of the availability of scholarships, Mr. Bloebaum decided to attend Vincennes University for two years after high school. When his primary courses were complete, he made what some would call the smartest decision of his life; he transferred to Purdue University. After two more years of schooling, Mr. Bloebaum graduated with a degree in agriculture education. Although his exact location was still unclear, Mr. Bloebaum felt confident that he wanted to get back into the ag classroom.

Starting his career with substitute teaching positions in his area, Mr. Bloebaum took advantage of an opening at Eastern Greene High School when it became available. In his role at this school, Mr. Bloebaum gets to stay active in his favorite CDE – livestock evaluation – but also gets to stay active with many others based on what the interests of his students are.

"I just enjoy seeing the work ethic that the students possess," he says. "It's great to see the kids work so hard on something they enjoy."

To say that Mr. Bloebaum takes all the credit however would be far from the truth. He knows full well that the community plays a gigantic part in the operation of the chapter.

"It's great to see so many parents and alumni help with the contest," Bloebaum says. "There is no way we could do it without them!"

Mr. Bloebaum sets an excellent example for all FFA members to follow. He understands the importance of commitment to your position, but also knows that nothing can be accomplished without more than just a little bit of fun times! Next time you find yourself stressing out because of a contest, or just ripped up over a school project, take a step back, and find time to laugh.





# AGRICULTURE ON THE FLIP SIDE

by Matthew Metzger

Brazil. Uruguay. Chile. Do these sound like far off places? With the Indiana FFA, these far off lands aren't nearly as far as you'd think!

This past summer, three FFA members and an FFA advisor made the trek to Rio Grande de Sol, the southernmost state of Brazil. This trip was made possible by the Youth Agriculture Exchange (YAE), the newest program available to Indiana FFA members!

The YAE was test piloted two years ago here in Indiana, and is now in full swing with courses taking students from Indiana to Brazil and from Brazil back here to Indiana. The trips are made possible through an organization called Partners of the Americas, a special interest group that partners one state in the United States with one state in Brazil. Through this organization, Indiana has been partnered with Rio Grande de Sol, allowing members to travel to the most southern regions of the country. This partnership gives FFA members here in Indiana the chance to see areas of agriculture that previously would be beyond their reach. Blare Orme, the advisor at Rushville High School, and one of the most recent participants in YAE said, "From an advisor's standpoint, I believe the YAE is an experience that no FFA member should pass up!"

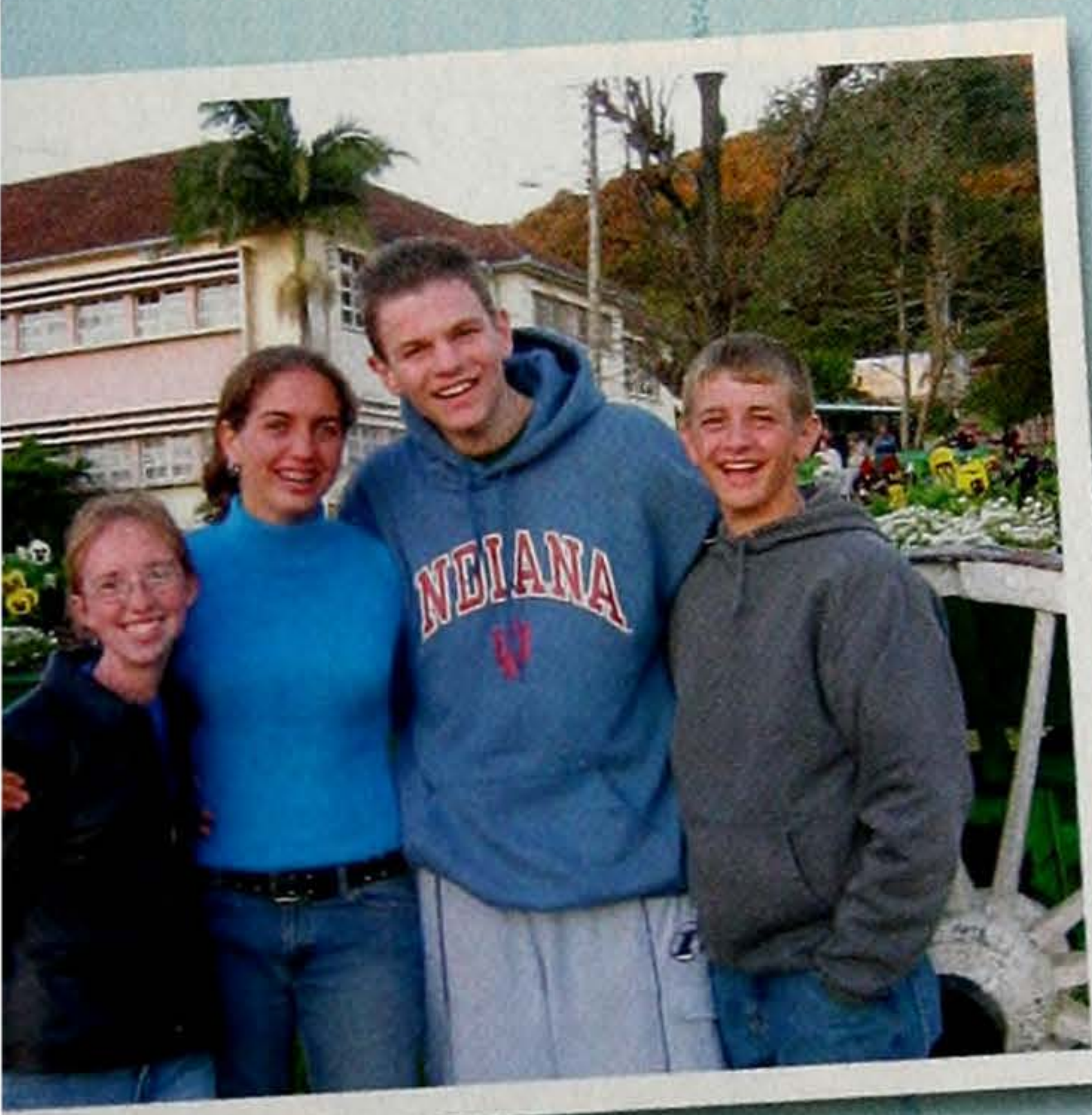
Students spend 20 days traveling throughout the cities and countryside seeing everything from the biggest 25,000 acre ranches, to the smallest of family farms, to the largest of government buildings, to the most humble of agriculture classrooms.

Of course Agriculture Education is at the center of this learning experience, but while traveling, students work with designated chaperones to help them get the most out of their visit. A few of the stops along the trip include such sights as the largest waterfall in Brazil, the "Labyrinth," and the best pizza place in the capitol city!



So where is the YAE going now? With a strong two-year foundation, the coordinators on both sides have great expectations. With continued core programming and a boost of interest from across the state, the Youth Agriculture Exchange could very well aspire to be one of the leading programs in Indiana FFA!

"I would encourage any student or teacher interested in Brazil or a life changing experience such as the Youth Agriculture Exchange to please contact me," said Stephanie Warner, the YAE specialist in Indiana.



For those who are interested, more information and the YAE application is available on the Indiana FFA website, [www.indianaffa.org](http://www.indianaffa.org), under the "Teacher Resources" link. For anyone who wants a peek at what last summer's trip looked like, you can head to the Youth Agriculture Exchange website, <http://www.geocities.com/harukazenohito/YAE2004.html>.



# STRAIN YOUR BRAIN

**What do you call products grown in Indiana  
that use more than just the seed to be made?**

*Unscramble the words below and use the clues to fill in the answer at the bottom.  
All products listed below were found in the Country Market at the 2004 Indiana State Fair.*

TNO STJU PPCOONR



STGOA KLIM LTIONO



SYBEONA LECNDAS



DRE GLDO MOATOEST



DRE VNISAA THO CAUSE



OLMPYINA DECAINS





concerns and human issues that relate to the use of the land. Other foresters may specialize in recreation, fire prevention, education, public relations or urban land management.

Starting salaries for graduates with a Bachelor's degree, says the University of Montana's Burchfield, average around \$25,000 to \$30,000. A Master's degree will get you around \$40,000 to \$45,000 to start, Burchfield says.

#### INDUSTRY VOICE

Gordon Sanders has worked in forestry since 1971. In his current position as the resources manager at Pyramid Mountain Lumber Inc. in Seeley Lake, Montana, Sanders oversees a team of four foresters who work with logging companies and private landowners to procure lumber for Pyramid Mountain's mill.

The mill counts on Sanders and his team of foresters to find new quality lumber sources and to make plans with landowners to harvest the trees.

Sanders says there is a certain amount of pressure on him to find new timber sources. "The continual uncertainty over the availability of new resources can sometimes be stressful," he says.

Getting up early and working long days are normal, Sanders says. But he also says that he and his team of foresters love their jobs. In particular, Sanders enjoys getting to know landowners and finding ways to meet their objectives while providing the mill with the materials it needs.

"I enjoy the creativity and flexibility of this job," Sanders says. "You're out there in the woods by yourself a lot of the time, and it's up to you to make a plan, work with the landowners and get the deal going." ●

#### WEB LINKS

For more

information on forestry, try these websites:

- The Society of American Foresters ([www.safnet.org](http://www.safnet.org))
- About.com ■ Forestry ([forestry.about.com](http://forestry.about.com))
- The World Forestry Center ([www.worldforestry.org](http://www.worldforestry.org))

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# Cardboard City

FFA members go homeless for a night to raise money for those who really need it

By Erich Gaukel



**Left: FFA members present a check to a representative of the Clinton County homeless shelter.**

**Below: Blanchester FFA Chapter members proudly display the elaborate decorating they performed on their cardboard structure.**



Sometimes the best way to understand someone else's situation is to experience it yourself. That's part of the motivation behind the Blanchester FFA Chapter's annual Cardboard City event, where FFA members go homeless for a night.

For the 50 FFA members and 21 friends who took part this fall's event, it was an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the issues facing the area's homeless citizens. While they were at it, they raised some cash for the Clinton County homeless shelter and a local children's hospital.

To participate in Cardboard City, which is held on the school grounds, each participating student had to secure at least \$20 in pledges and help

build and decorate a cardboard sleeping shelter.

Amenities were scarce for the students, but they were allowed to bring cans of vegetable soup, which were combined in a kettle and warmed over a fire. Other than that, it was just the students, their cardboard structures and the cool fall night sky.

Thanks to some hard work ahead of time, the Blanchester FFA Chapter was able to award prizes, donated by local businesses, for the student who collected the most money and the group with the most decorative box.


When the event was over, the

Blanchester FFA had raised \$1,600 for the shelter and hospital.

The cardboard city is just one the community development events in the Blanchester FFA Chapter's program of activities. They also organize a fall community parade and a food drive. Last year, the chapter was the student development division winner in the FFA National Chapter Award program. ●

## WEB LINKS

For more information about other community service projects, visit: ■ The National FFA Organization ([www.ffa.org/chapters/](http://www.ffa.org/chapters/)) ■ Timberland Pro ([www.timberland.com/timberlandserve/timberlandserve\\_index.jsp](http://www.timberland.com/timberlandserve/timberlandserve_index.jsp)) ■ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ([www.epa.gov/teachers/community-svc-projects.htm](http://www.epa.gov/teachers/community-svc-projects.htm)) ■ Toyota ([www.toyota.com/about/community/civic-community/index.html](http://www.toyota.com/about/community/civic-community/index.html))

This FFA community development story is brought to you by  **GET THE FEELING. TOYOTA.**

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Vehicles shown with available equipment. ©2004 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.



# WHAT'S HOT

Here's how FFA members from across the U.S. voted in our most recent poll.

## TOP 5 CDE'S

livestock evaluation  
public speaking  
soil / land judging  
horse evaluation  
agricultural mechanics

## TOP 5 FFA FUNDRAISERS

donkey ball  
meat and fruit sales  
dinners  
candy sales  
flower and plant sales

## TOP 5 BASEBALL TEAMS

new york yankees  
san francisco giants  
los angeles dodgers  
atlanta braves  
oakland athletics

## TOP 5 CAREERS

veterinarian  
farmer  
agriculture teacher  
welder/mechanic  
forest ranger/park ranger

## TOP 5 COLLEGES

oklahoma state  
fresno state  
cal poly  
university of california at davis  
ucla

## TOP 5 COMMUNITY PROJECTS

petting zoo  
feed homeless / soup kitchen  
helping senior citizens  
trash pick-up  
ronald mcdonald house / hospitals

## TOP 5 COUNTRY ACTS

kenny chesney  
shania twain  
toby keith  
garth brooks  
rascal flatts

## TOP 5 ROCK ACTS

blink 182  
ac/dc  
eminem  
usher  
linkin park

## TOP 5 WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

friends and family  
work  
sleep  
care for animals  
go to the movies

## TOP 5 FRUITS

apple  
strawberry  
watermelon  
grapes  
banana

## TOP 5 VEGETABLES

carrot  
corn  
potato  
cucumber  
green beans

## What's Hot Survey *Pick your favorite . . .*

College football team \_\_\_\_\_  
Career in agriculture \_\_\_\_\_  
Movie \_\_\_\_\_  
TV show \_\_\_\_\_  
Career in agriculture \_\_\_\_\_  
FFA career development event (CDE) \_\_\_\_\_  
FFA chapter activity \_\_\_\_\_  
Food \_\_\_\_\_  
Store \_\_\_\_\_  
Country band/performer \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-country band/performer \_\_\_\_\_  
Book \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail the completed survey to:**

### What's Hot

FFA New Horizons  
P.O. Box 68960  
Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960 OR e-mail to: newhorizons@ffa.org

*All surveys sent to FFA New Horizons are used in tabulating the above results. Here are the FFA chapters (in alphabetical order) that sent in the most surveys:*

### MADERA FFA

California

### TULARE UNION FFA

California

### TULARE WESTERN FFA

California

### WELLSTON FFA

Oklahoma

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**E**ven when 8.3 seconds feels like an eternity.

**E**ven when you're competing in three events a day.

**E**ven when you win back-to-back World All-Around Champion titles.

**E**ven when you realize tomorrow's practice just got twice as hard.



## TWENTY

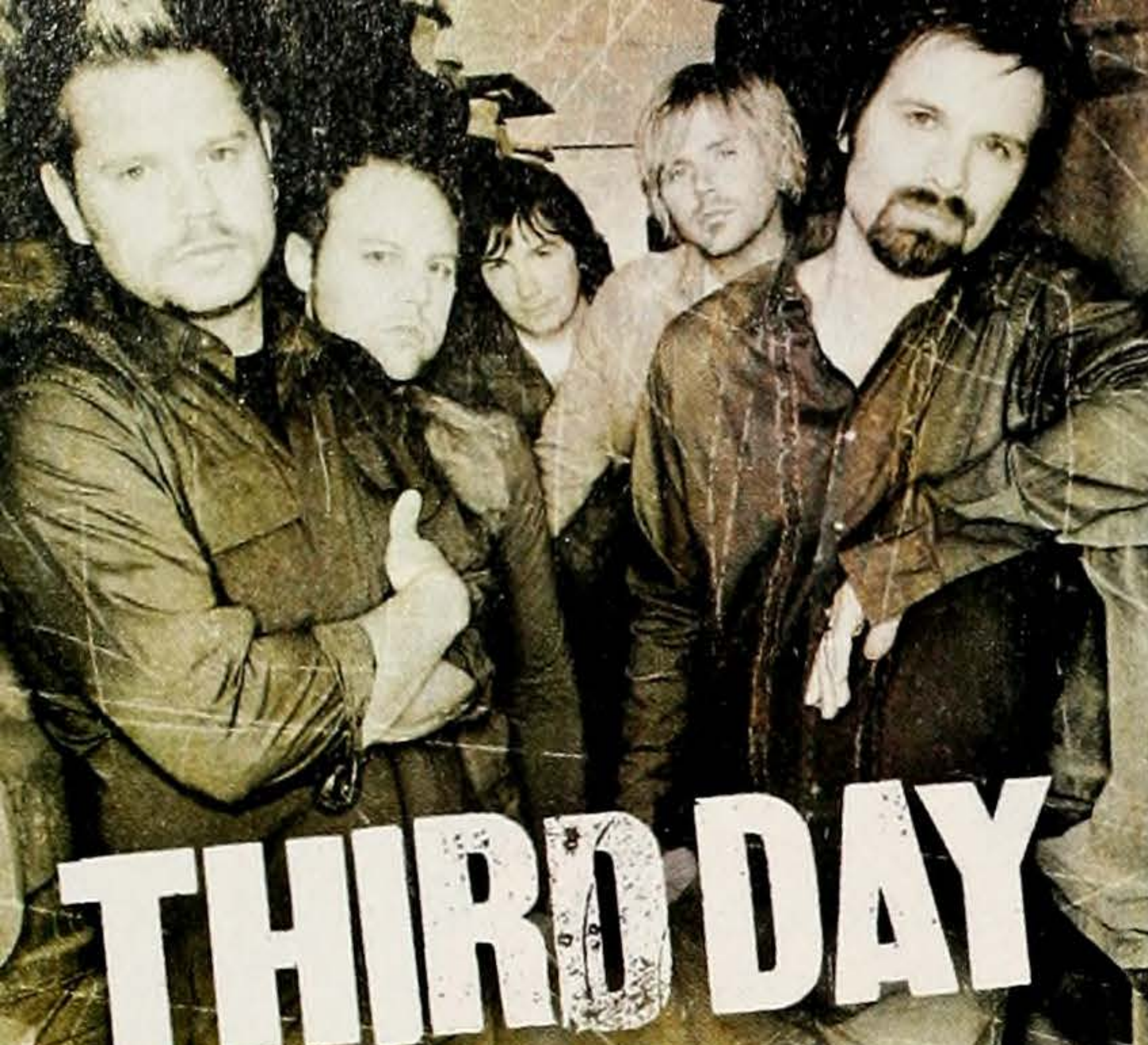
# X

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- |                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
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| 10/1 Chicago, IL       | 11/10 Jacksonville, FL     |
| 10/2 Cleveland, OH     | 11/11 Huntsville, AL       |
| 10/3 Toronto, Ontario  | 11/12 Chattanooga, TN      |
| 10/7 Atlanta, GA       | 11/13 Knoxville, TN        |
| 10/8 Montgomery, AL    | 11/14 Hattiesburg, MS      |
| 10/10 New Orleans, LA  | 11/18 Indianapolis, IN     |
| 10/13 Green Bay, WI    | 11/19 St. Charles, MO      |
| 10/14 Detroit, MI      | 11/21 Lake Charles, LA     |
| 10/15 Columbus, OH     | 11/26 Columbia, SC         |
| 10/16 Cincinnati, OH   | 11/27 Ozark, AL            |
| 10/17 Pittsburgh, PA   | 11/28 Tupelo, MS           |
| 10/21 Hershey, PA      | 12/1 Abilene, TX           |
| 10/22 Bethlehem, PA    | 12/2 Wichita Falls, TX     |
| 10/24 Lowell, MA       | 12/3 Belton, TX            |
| 10/27 Charlotte, NC    | 12/4 San Antonio, TX       |
| 10/28 Charleston, WV   | 12/5 Oklahoma City, OK     |
| 10/29 Hampton, VA      | 12/8 Amarillo, TX          |
| 10/30 Fayetteville, NC | 12/9 El Paso, TX           |
| 11/3 Tallahassee, FL   | 12/10 Albuquerque, NM      |
| 11/4 Savannah, GA      | 12/11 Colorado Springs, CO |
| 11/5 Fort Myers, FL    |                            |

All Dates & Cities Subject to Change



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# Trent's Country

Singer and songwriter Trent Willmon draws on his Texas roots for his music

It's said about West Texas native Trent Willmon that he handles a welding torch as well as he does a guitar. That's because his mom gave him a guitar when he was 16. At the same time, he was in the ag shop at school, working on class and FFA projects.

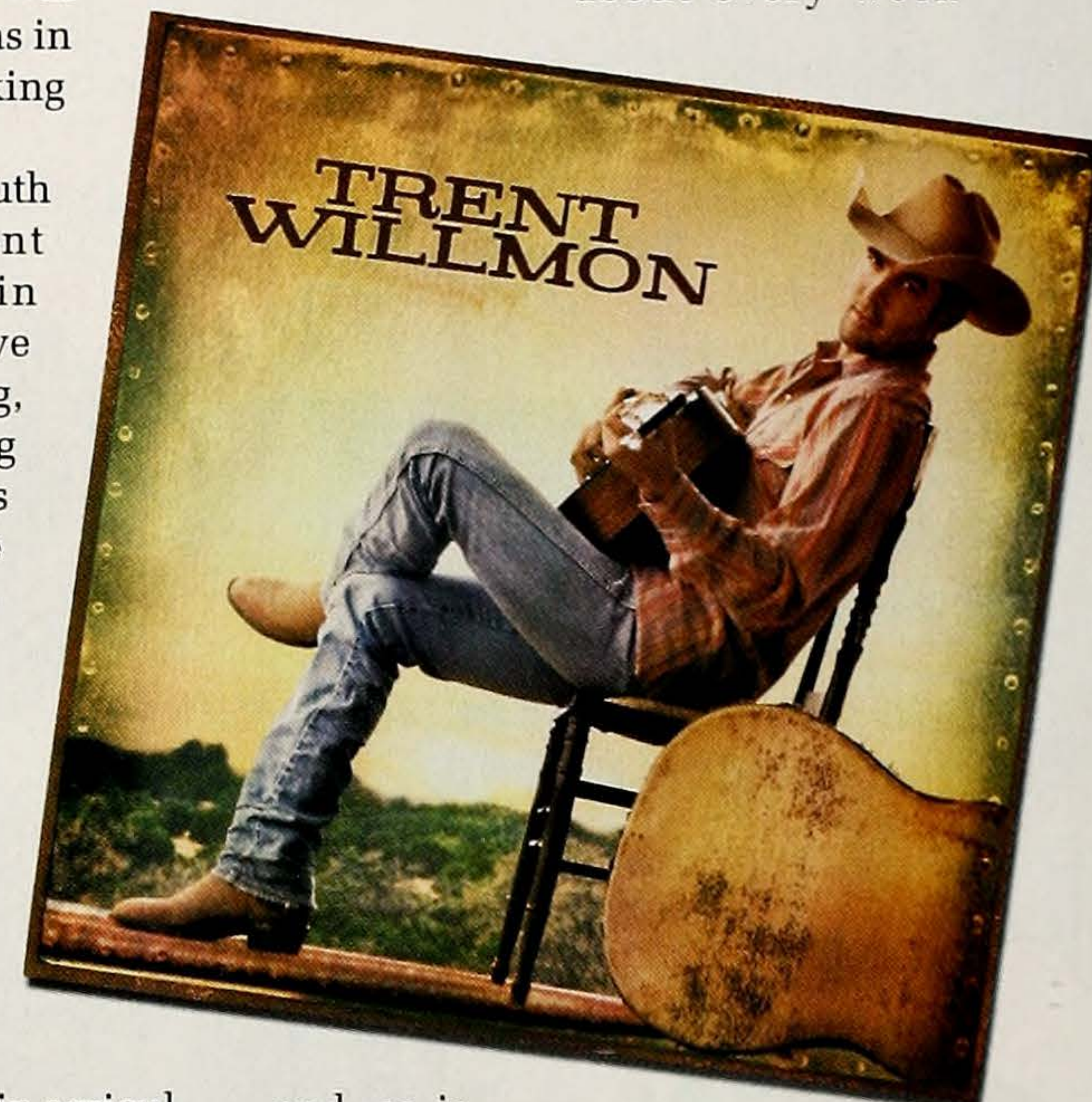
With a scholarship to South Plains College, Trent embarked on a major in animal science. But his love of music proved too strong, and when he started taking music classes, things changed. "That's when the passionate side of me came out. I was like, 'Yeah! *This* is what I want to do!' Concentrating on music, I built a guitar from scratch. I made the Dean's List. After my second year of college, I just went to playing in bands."

But Trent's background in agriculture and his interest in working with animals kept him going when he moved to Nashville to pursue a career in music. Trent found work caring for horses at record producer's ranch south of Nashville. His next job was riding and training steeplechase horses, which requires tremendous strength. For Trent, it meant learning a completely new riding style. After about a year on the job, he injured his shoulder in a fall.

Lucky for him, a music publishing company signed him to a contract at the same time. Montgomery Gentry and Darryl Worley both recorded Trent's songs; that helped propel his career, which soon took a natural progression toward performing and

recording his own music.

This country music newcomer sings country songs, wears a cowboy hat and competes in team roping just about every week-



end, so is he really a cowboy? "I use that term with a sort of reverence," Trent said. "It gets used loosely too much. I grew up with real cowboys, who wrote that occupation on their W-2 tax form. And they are a special breed. I know guys who are 65 years old, and they don't have a retirement plan. They're still working for 60 bucks a day. My heroes have always been cowboys."

If not "cowboy," call him "chef." For his album-release party, Trent served the crowd beef brisket, smoked sausage, potato salad, baked beans and strawberry cobbler he had prepared from scratch. ●

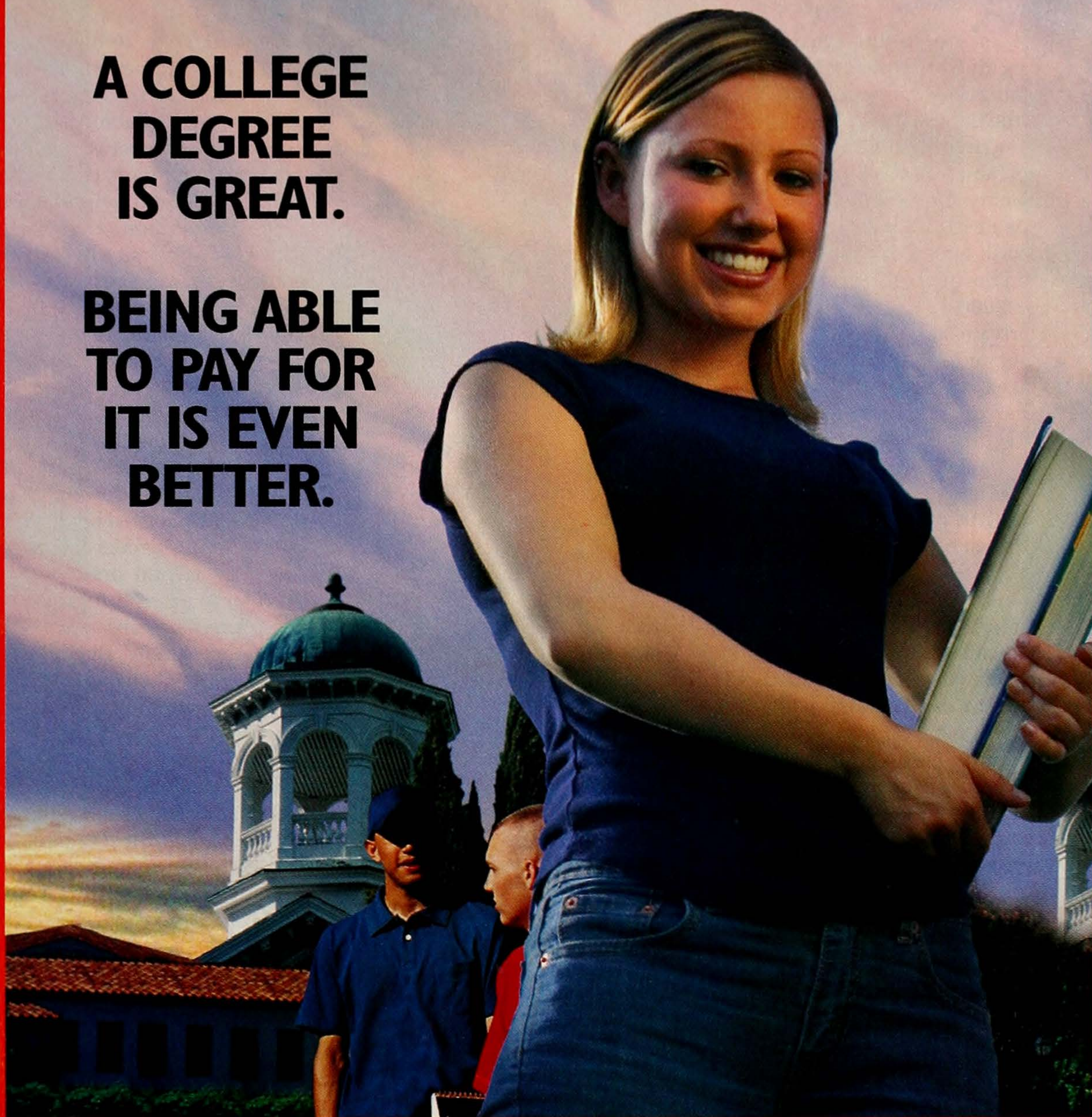
The new CD is "Trent Willmon." Learn more at [trentwillmon.com](http://trentwillmon.com).

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# FFA Across the USA

Dispatches from FFA chapters across the nation

## Working at the Car Wash

Members of the Newell FFA Chapter organized a car wash to raise money for a fellow FFA member whose family's home was destroyed by a propane explosion. Fifteen FFA members washed and dried cars for five hours, raising \$500. Their efforts helped bring the community's total contributions to more than \$14,000.

The Newell FFA members also were active in the state FFA leadership camp and boating party for new members. They also served at a Baxter Black performance benefiting the South Dakota FFA Foundation. *Reporting by Dani Herring, Newell FFA Chapter Historian*



## South Dakota

What's happening in your chapter? Send your news, along with a photo, to:  
FFA New Horizons P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268  
e-mail: [newhorizons@ffa.org](mailto:newhorizons@ffa.org)

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- I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Sarah Hess, Farm Progress



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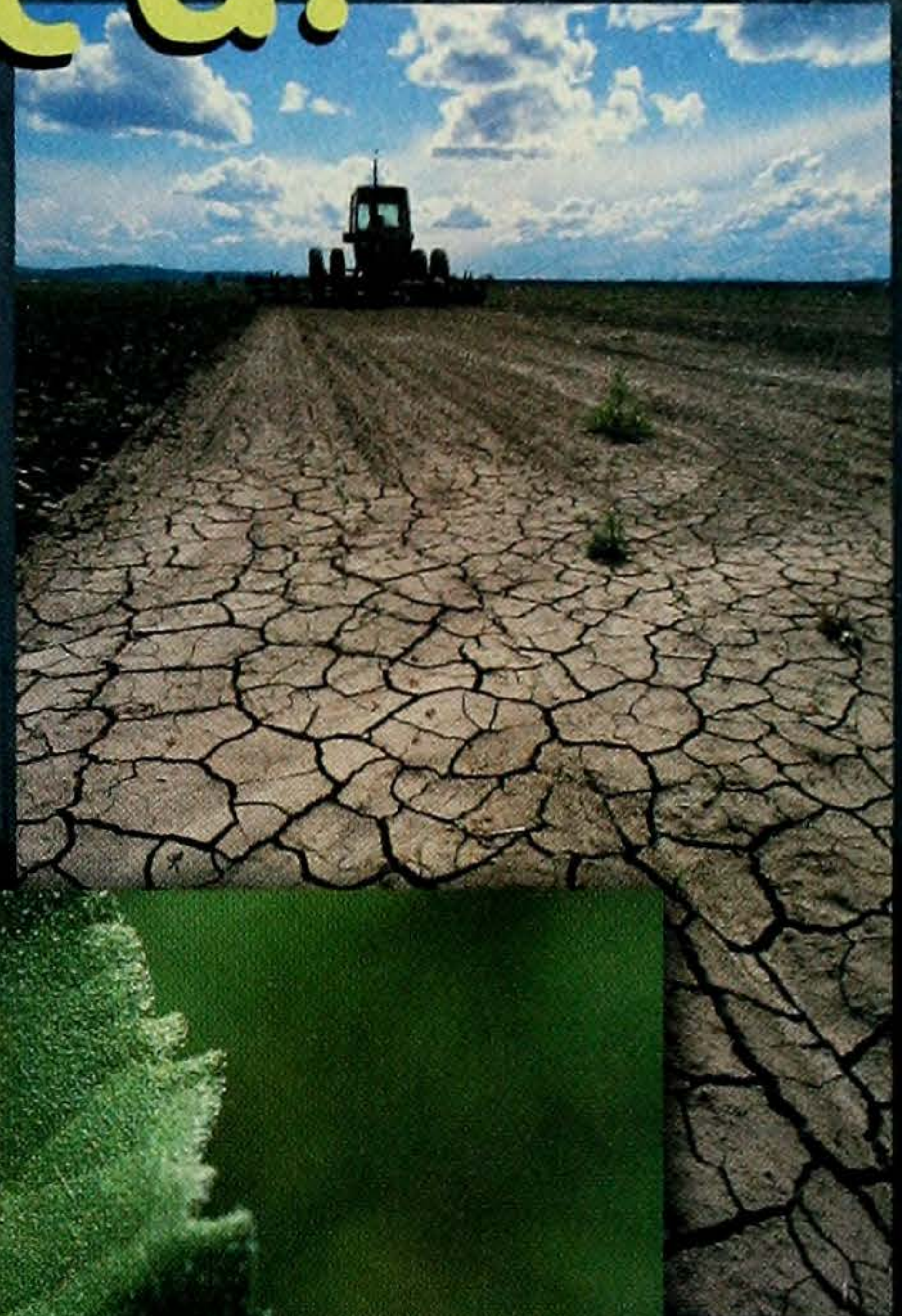
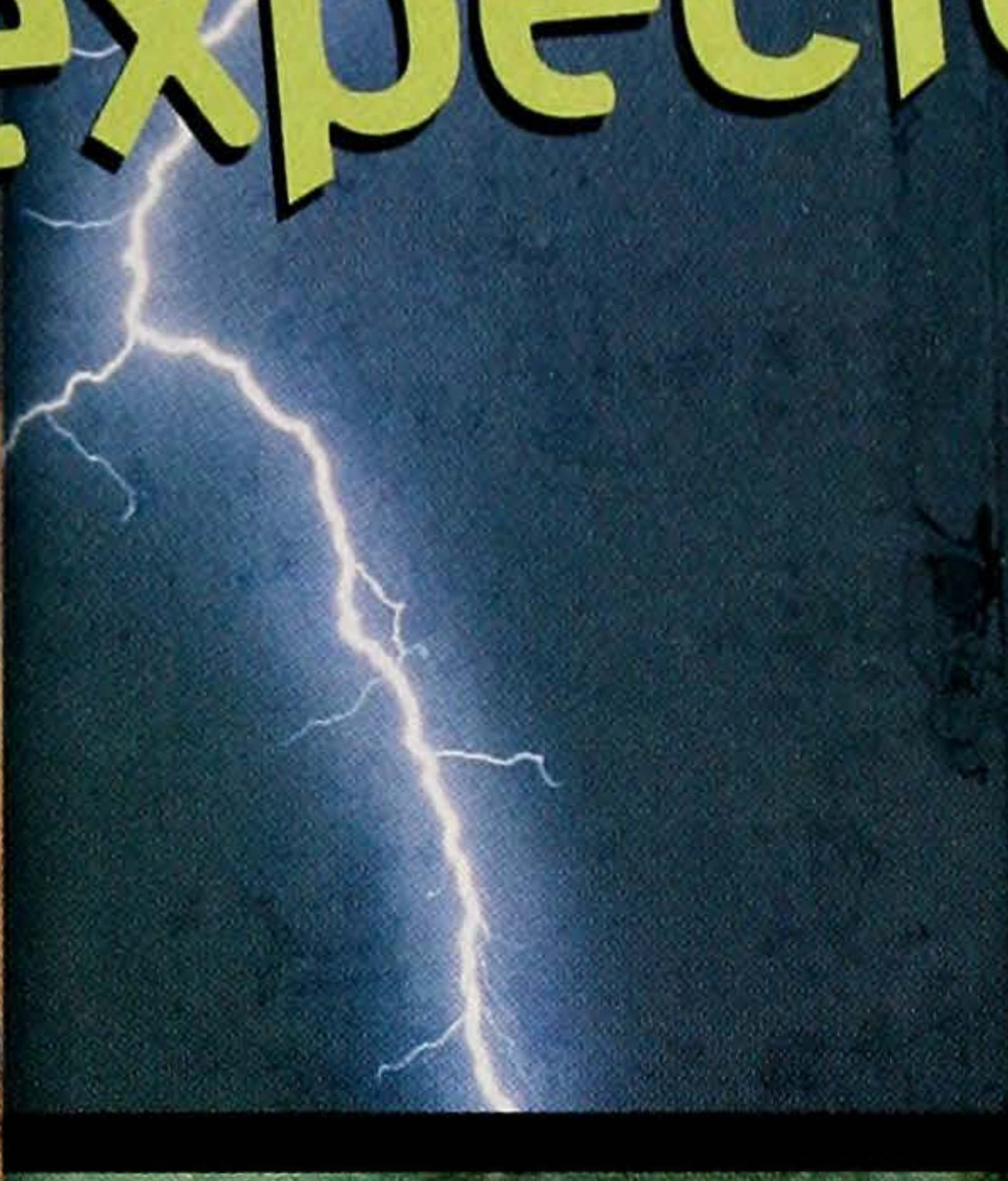


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This contest is sponsored by the Risk Management Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. All entries must be postmarked by Jan. 31, 2005. Send your entry to the Risk Essay Contest, National FFA Organization, 6060 FFA Drive, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

**RISK**  
management







## FFA chapters help each other after the destructive hurricanes of 2004

By Chris Hayhurst

**O**n Sept. 26, long before the light, people along Florida's East Coast, prepared for yet another storm. Hurricane Jeanne, having brewed and stewed for days over the Atlantic Ocean, was banging at the door.

Jeanne was the fourth hurricane in six weeks to strike the Florida peninsula, the last in a record-breaking series of devastating storms that began with the 145-mph winds of Hurricane Charley on Aug. 13. After Charley came Frances, the biggest of the four. Then Ivan. And now, just 10 days later, Jeanne made her presence felt with roof-ripping, car-flipping 120-mph gusts.

By the time the storms were gone, many parts of the "Sunshine State" were littered with piles of concrete, wood and shingles from demolished homes. Power lines and telephone poles lay strewn across homes and streets. The landscape also included toppled trees, shattered windows, abandoned cars and damaged bridges.

The people of Florida and neighboring states were stunned by what had happened. At least 70 people died in the state as a result of the storms. Damage estimates are in the billions of dollars. The president declared the state a disaster area.

### CLOSE TO HOME

Buddy Mills, an FFA advisor at Yearling Middle School in Okeechobee, Florida, felt lucky when Hurricane Charley hit. There were no major losses in his area. And even though

people had no electricity, and roofs and fences and yards had been pummeled by downed trees and branches, everyone was okay.

Not far away, however, it was a different story. Driving toward the coast to check on some friends, he quickly realized how serious the situation was. "The day I went over, I brought some food and water," Mills recalled. "It was obvious when I got there it wasn't enough. The devastation was overwhelming."

Returning home, Mills put FFA members to work. "I knew there must be something we could do," he said. "Anything would help." Back in Okeechobee, FFA members from 13 area chapters joined forces for a collection. Spreading the word through relatives, churches, the school board and other organizations, students were soon filling trucks and trailers with donations.

Nathan Candler, an eighth-grader at Yearling and a member of his chapter's livestock judging team, offered what he could from his parents' cattle ranch. "They had some extra fencing supplies and feed and that kind of thing, so we sent that off," Nathan said. "I felt lucky we got by with very little damage, so I wanted to help out."

Cash, diapers, animal feed, hay, and countless other items also came pouring in from local residents and businesses, as well as from people as far away as Georgia and South Carolina. "Anything you can imagine, they donated it," Mills explained. "We were completely inundated once the word got out."



As the donations piled up, FFA members and other volunteers loaded everything up for delivery to FFA chapters in harder hit, neighboring counties. The trips, hours in length, were made after school and on the weekends.

#### NATIONWIDE RESPONSE

The quick and generous reaction of the Okeechobee FFA was typical of many chapters from around the country, according to Belinda Chason, the Florida state supervisor of agriscience and natural resources education. In the aftermath of the hurricanes, more than 100 chapters from 20 states contacted Chason, wondering how they could help Floridian FFA members.

In response, Chason began matching FFA chapters unaffected by the hurricanes with those schools in Florida that needed assistance. A steady stream of money, school supplies, building equipment, and even letters and cards poured into the state. The Winfield FFA in Winfield, Kansas, collected 26 boxes of clothes, canned food, and other items in two days, said chapter advisor Chad Eppler. "Students went into their own closets and said 'I don't need this, I don't need that.' And they sent it off." Now they have even more to mail, but they're still raising money required to ship it.

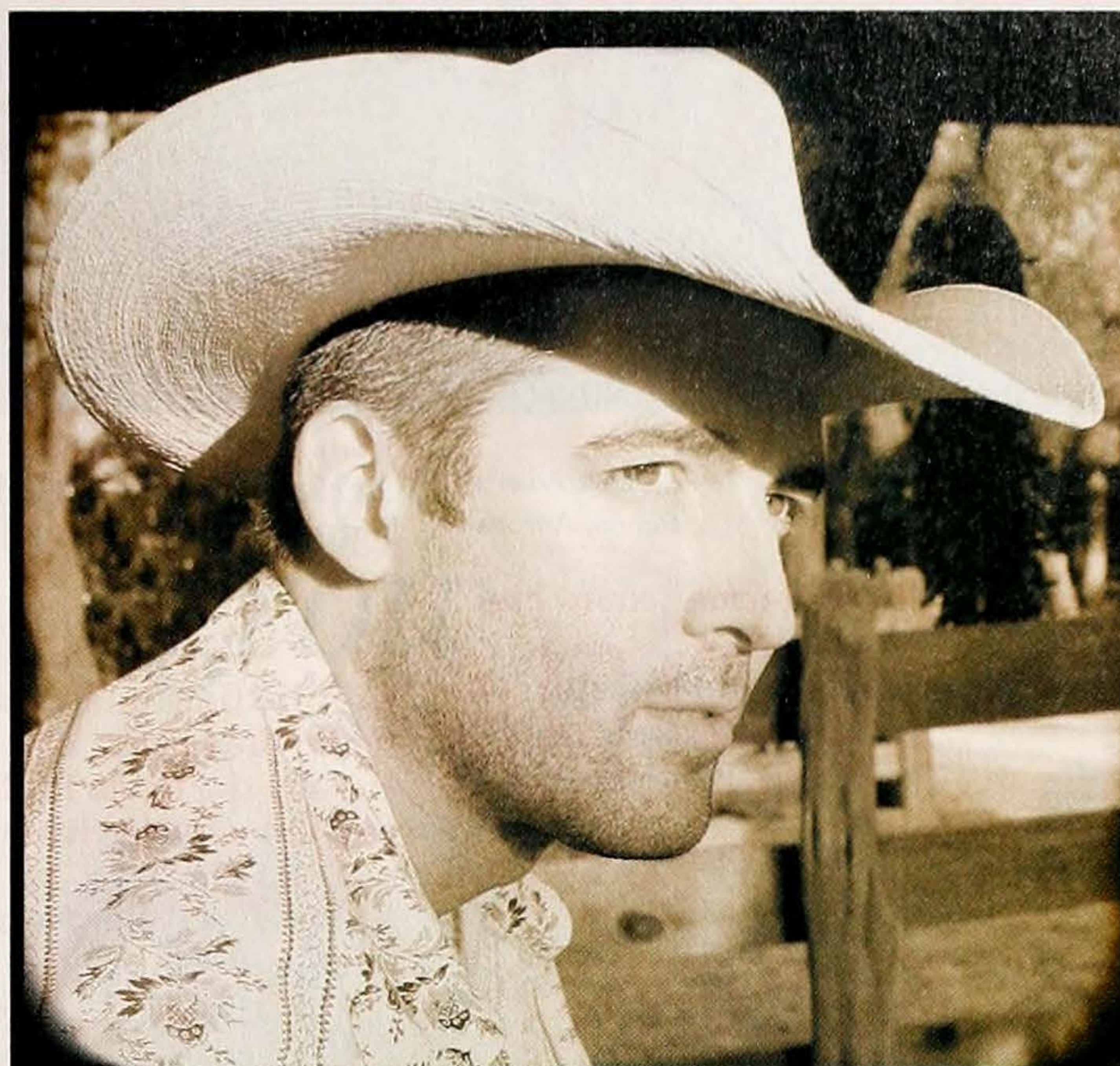
#### GRATEFUL RECIPIENTS

One of the many recipients of all that aid is the New Smyrna Beach High School FFA, just south of Daytona Beach. "We've had severe damage to our program," said chapter advisor Beth Guevera. "We're very close to the water, and our clam nursery was destroyed by Frances."

The nursery provides local fishermen with seed clams and is the chapter's main source of revenue. "We'll rebuild it ourselves," she said, "but we need the funding to do it." Fortunately, help is on the way. They've been "adopted" by the Liberty Union FFA Chapter in Baltimore, Ohio, which has collected everything from PVC piping to the lumber, fiberglass and glue required for reconstruction. New Smyrna Beach senior Dan Taylor says Liberty Union's efforts are greatly appreciated. "It's wonderful they're helping out," Dan said. "I know if it was our chapter, we'd try to do the same thing." ●

### You can help

If you or your FFA chapter would like to contribute to the relief efforts in Florida, there are several ways to get involved. To contribute directly to an FFA chapter in Florida, contact Belinda Chason of the Florida Department of Education at 850-245-9017 or [belinda.chason@fldoe.org](mailto:belinda.chason@fldoe.org). She can match whatever you have to offer, whether it's money, equipment, materials or personal items, to those chapters that need it most. To volunteer or send donations elsewhere in the state, visit the Florida Division of Emergency Management website ([floridadisaster.org](http://floridadisaster.org)) or contact Florida chapters of the American Red Cross ([www.tallytown.com/redcross/chapters.html](http://www.tallytown.com/redcross/chapters.html)).



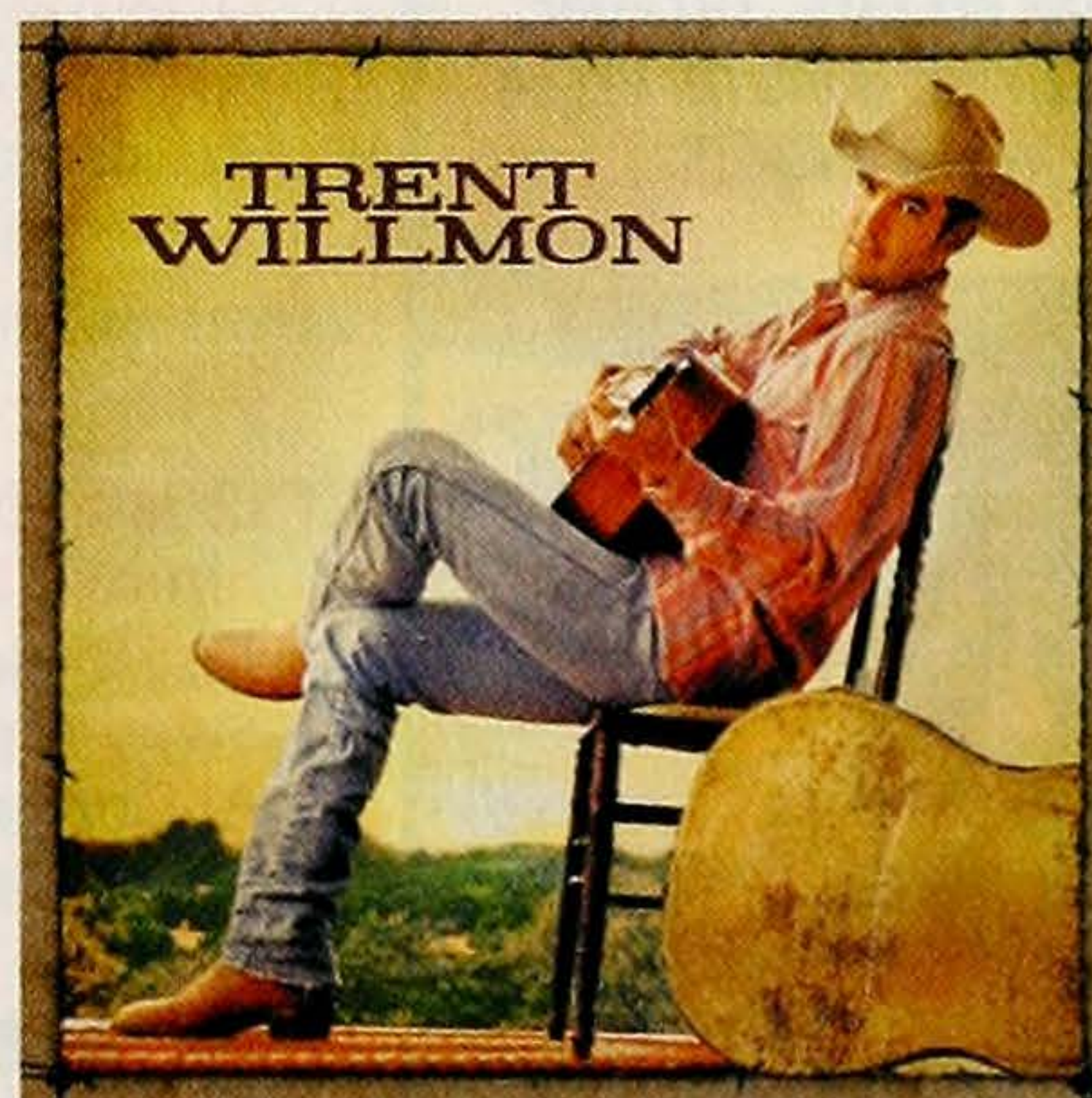
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# LAST LAFF

**Q: Why did the chicken cross the road?**

A: Because I-HOP was having a breakfast special.

Jamie Adams  
Peoria, Arizona

**Q: Why did the farmer count his sheep?**

A: Because he couldn't sleep.

Chanda Cregger  
Wytheville, Virginia

**Q: Why does everyone call money "bread"?**

A: Because everyone kneads it.

Elissa Shipp  
Corona, California

**Q: Why did the belt go to jail?**

A: Because it held up a pair of pants.

Matt Renfrow  
Kendrick, Idaho

**Q: Why didn't Noah do much fishing?**

A: He only had two worms.

Jodie Gilcher  
Quaker City, Ohio

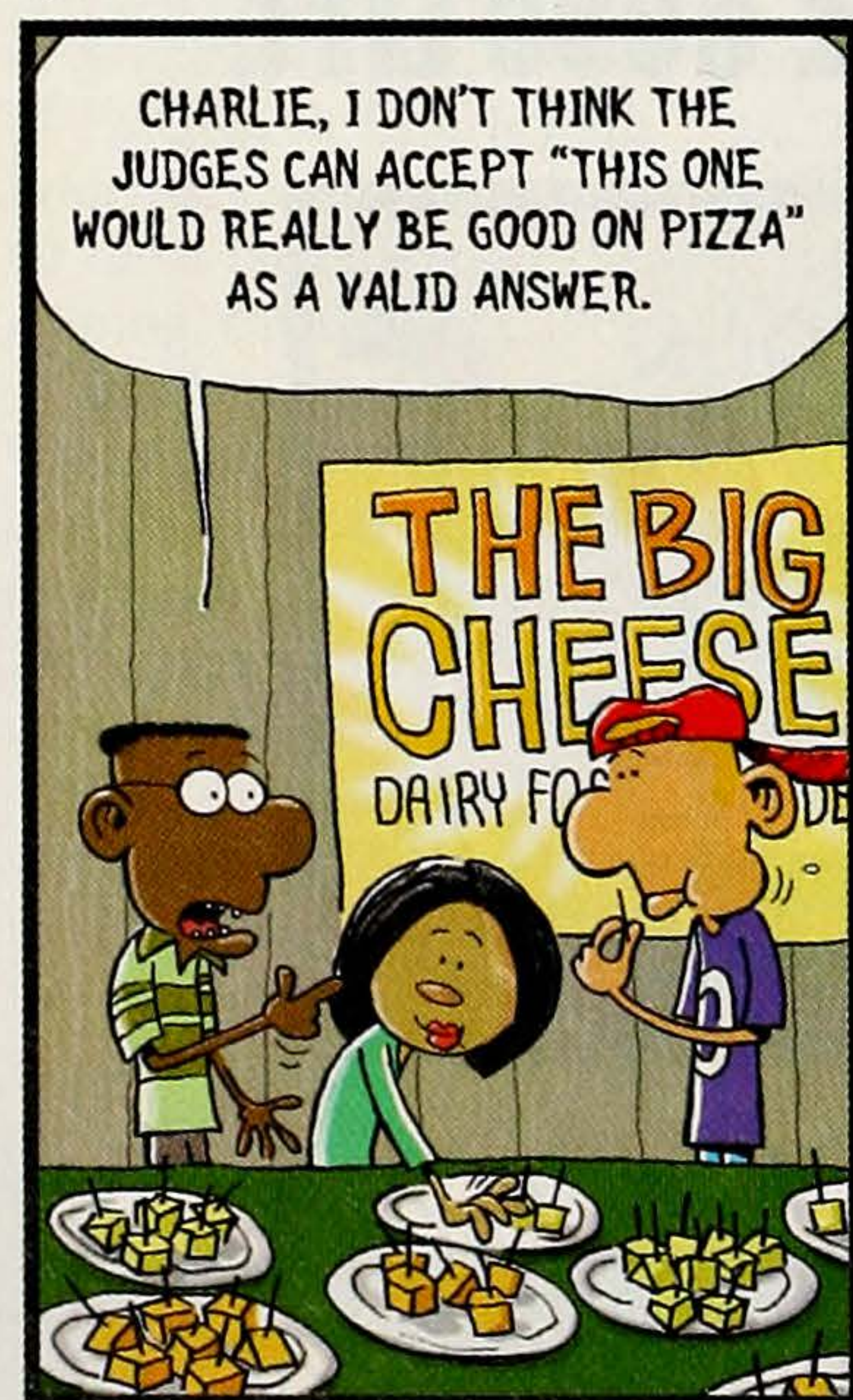
**Q: Why did the banana peel?**

A: It got sunburned.

Dane Tiedeman  
Adams, Nebraska

## The Agrinuts

By Jim Bradshaw and Michael Bettendorf



**Customer: Waiter, your thumb is touching my steak! Please remove it.**

**Waiter: What, and drop it again?**

Britt Mitchell  
Hartford, Kentucky

**Q: What happened to the camper who swallowed the flashlight?**

A: He hiccuped with delight (the light).

Robert Fowler  
Camden, Arkansas

**Q: A fly flew into a dairy barn while the farmer was milking.**

**He saw the fly go in the cow's ear, but why did it end up in the milk pail?**

A: Because it flew in one ear and out the udder.

Maggie Bumgardner  
Kenna, West Virginia

**Q: What is the difference between a teacher and a train?**

A: A train says, "Choo Choo" and a teacher says, "Spit your gum out."

Amber Bullard  
Pembroke, North Carolina

**Q: What did the cow say about the national FFA convention?**

A: It was un-believa-bull.

Tori Peebles  
Kite, Georgia

**Q: Railroad tracks, railroad cars. How do you spell that without any R's?**

A: T-h-a-t.

Mandy Brown  
Fort Bridger, Wyoming

**Q: What kinds of mistakes do ghosts make?**

A: Boo-boos!

Sara Lillard  
High Springs, Florida

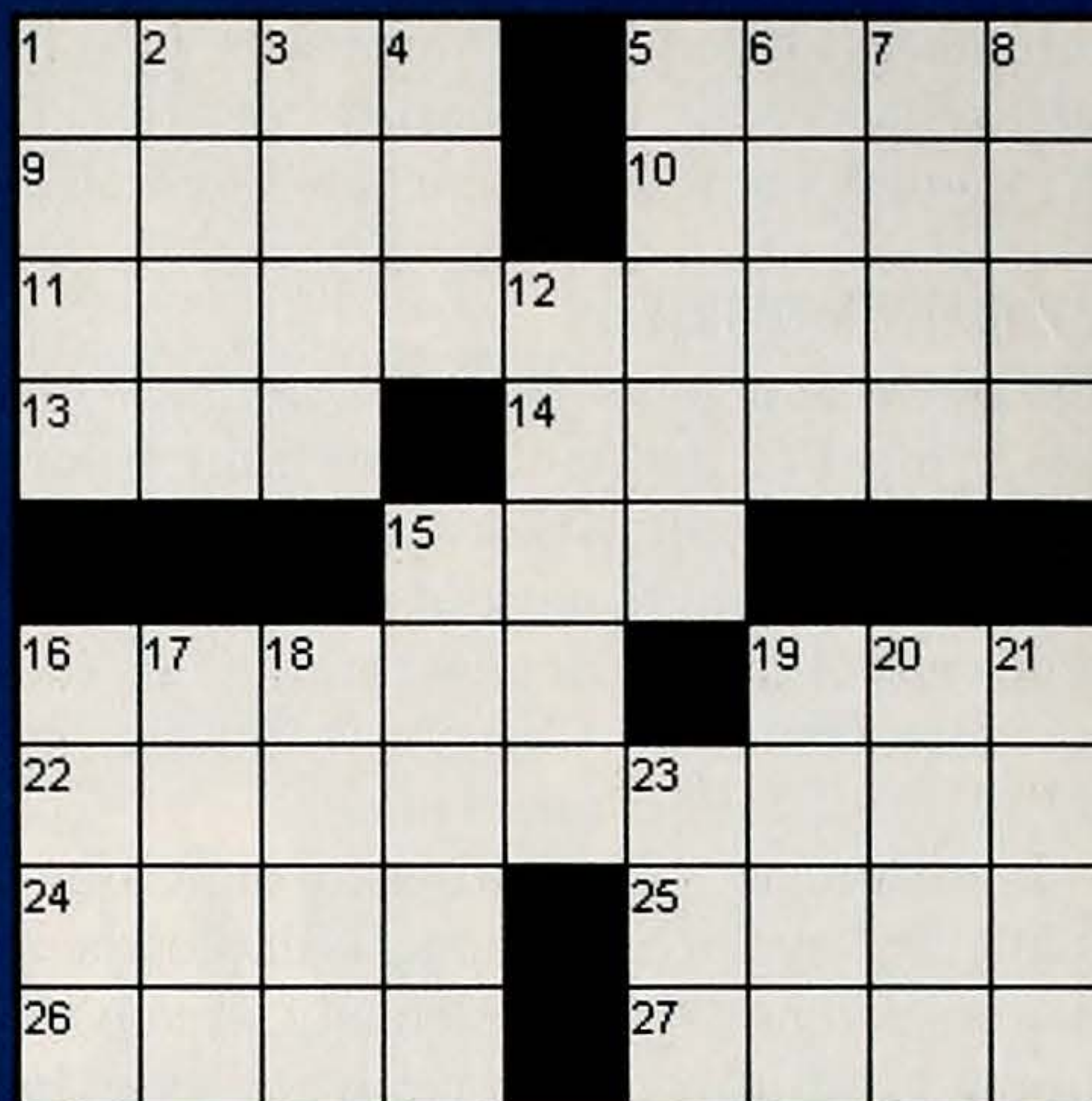
**Q: What kind of food do you remove the outside, cook the inside, eat the outside and throw away the inside?**

A: Corn on the cob.

Whitney Kemp

We pay \$5 for each printed joke. Because we receive so many jokes, we can't acknowledge receipt of submissions. E-mail your jokes to [newhorizons@ffa.org](mailto:newhorizons@ffa.org) or mail to FFA New Horizons, PO Box 69860, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

## Puzzler by Matt Gaffney



### ACROSS

- 1 It may say "FFA"
- 5 Car \_\_\_\_ (fundraising event held by members of the Newell, South Dakota FFA Chapter)
- 9 Suit to \_\_\_\_ (fit perfectly): 2 words
- 10 "Rolie Polie \_\_\_\_"
- 11 Country where forester James Burchfield worked in the 1970s
- 13 Season after winter: abbr.
- 14 Fog, mist, or steam
- 15 Number after nine
- 16 Actor Martin \_\_\_\_ of "The West Wing"
- 19 Has the ability
- 22 Kind of storm that Jeanne, Charley, Frances, and Ivan were
- 24 Russian man's name
- 25 Arena where the Atlanta Hawks used to play
- 26 "For \_\_\_\_ jolly good fellow..."
- 27 Not closed

### DOWN

- 1 Becomes droopy
- 2 "Give \_\_\_\_!" ("Throw in the towel already!"): 2 words
- 3 Equipment
- 4 Fisherman's tool
- 5 Laura Bush or FFA advisor Beth Guevera
- 6 Swim \_\_\_\_ (go around the pool): 2 words
- 7 Place to store grain
- 8 Listen to
- 12 "\_\_\_\_ knew that!": 2 words
- 15 Blue Nissan X-\_\_\_\_ (car owned by FFA southern region vice president Christy Windham)
- 16 \_\_\_\_ Tzu (cute breed of dog)
- 17 Enormous
- 18 Greek god of love
- 19 Spend the night in a tent
- 20 "\_\_\_\_ of Green Gables"
- 21 No, in German
- 23 Dove's sound

Note: Some clues are from stories in this magazine. You'll find the solution on page 26.



# INNOVATION *in* ACTION

## MODELS OF INNOVATION AWARD PROGRAM

### Honoring Our Best Chapters

**SUCCESSFUL FFA CHAPTERS** share one common trait—they understand that success is the result of planning and implementation. The FFA National Chapter Award program encourages chapters to develop and use a written Program of Activity (POA) and recognizes those chapters with the following awards:

- State Superior Chapter
- State Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards
- National Three-Star, Two-Star, and One-Star Gold Awards
- Model of Innovation Awards

### Get in the Competition

POAs are annual roadmaps that chart the year's events. Begin charting your chapter's path to national recognition through activities in the National Chapter Award Program's three divisions: Student Development, Chapter Development, and Community Development.

#### Division I—Student Development

Personal and group activities that improve life skills:

- Leadership
- Healthy lifestyles
- Supervised agricultural experience (SAE)
- Scholarship
- Agricultural career skills

#### Division II—Chapter Development

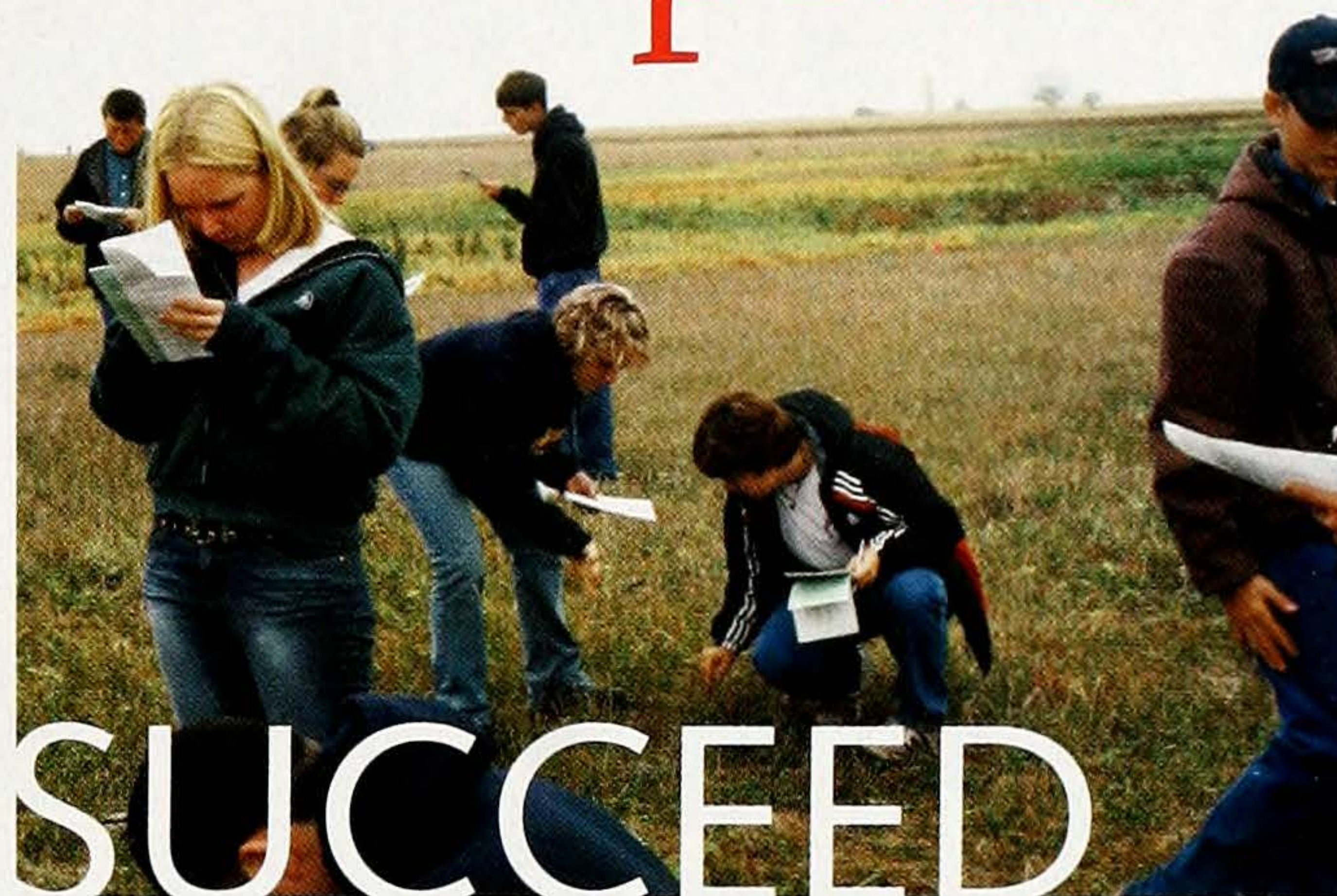
Activities that encourage students to work together:

- Chapter recruitment
- Finance
- Public relations
- Leadership
- Support groups



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#### Division III—Community Development

Cooperative activities with other groups that make the community a better place to live and work:

- Economic
- Environmental
- Human resources
- Citizenship
- Agricultural awareness

### For more information

National Chapter Award Program  
**National FFA Organization**  
6060 FFA Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46278

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email: [nationalchapter@ffa.org](mailto:nationalchapter@ffa.org) [www.ffa.org/programs/natchap](http://www.ffa.org/programs/natchap)



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