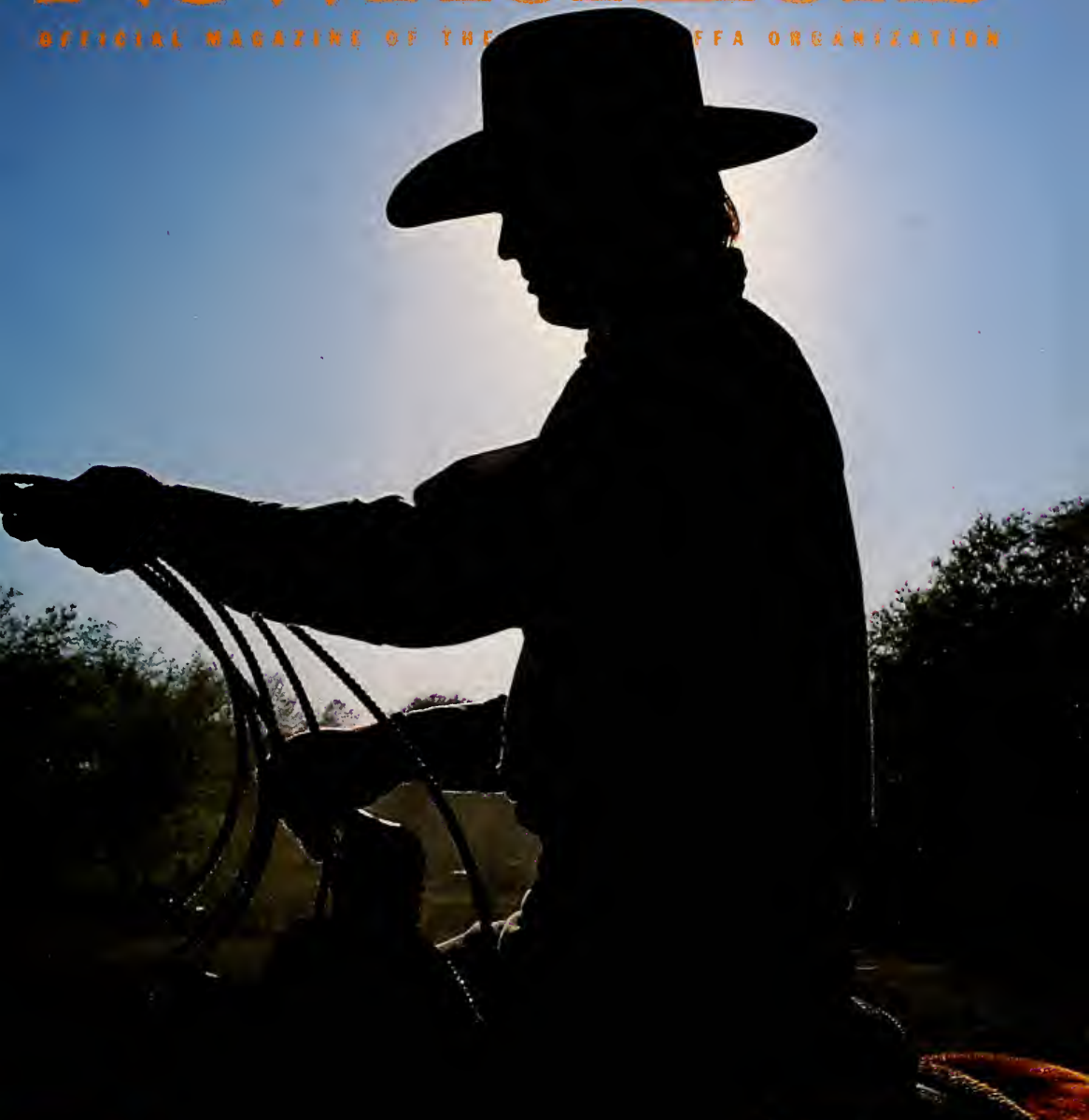




AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1990

New Horizons

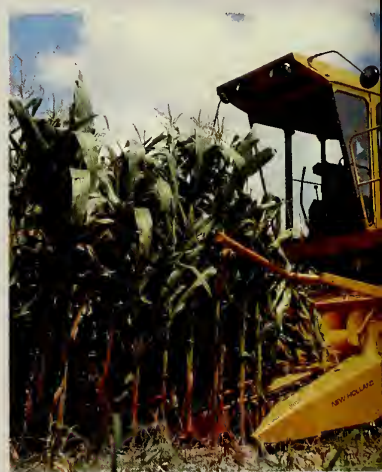
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FFA

THE BOTTOM LINE

Faced with a declining membership, it is absolutely necessary that FFA continually update its programs and activities to meet the needs of students. With this in mind, a special Task Force authorized by the Board of Directors and National Officers in January is studying the National FFA Center operations. Their charge is quite broad but essentially they will review the goods and services provided by the FFA Center as an integral part of a contemporary agricultural education program, examine and update organizational structure and staffing patterns, administration policies and procedures, relationship with the National FFA Foundation and other agricultural education organizations. The group will report their findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors in January of 1991.

The Task Force held its first meeting June 25-27, in Alexandria, Virginia. While much of their work is preliminary at this point, there appeared to be general agreement that any recommendations coming from the Task Force should follow the strategic plan for agricultural education. The next meeting is scheduled for August 27-29, also in Alexandria.

Members of the Task Force are: Rosco Vaughn, chairman, incoming member of the Board and state supervisor, New Mexico; Terry Heiman, member of the Board and state director of Ag Ed, Missouri; Jay Eudy, director of Ag Ed, Texas; Barbara Kirby, assistant professor of Ag Ed, North Carolina State University; Richard Katt, a supervisor and executive secretary of FFA, Nebraska; Jasper Lee, professor and head of the Department of Ag and Extension Education, Mississippi State University; Doug Spike, ag teacher and president of NVATA, Michigan; Wilson Carnes, administrative director FFA, Virginia; and Dana Soukup, Nebraska or Kevin Yost, Kansas representing past national FFA officers. Bill Henriksen, national FFA vice president from Iowa, represents the current national officers. Larry Case, national FFA advisor and Coleman Harris, national executive secretary both serve as ex-officio members of the Task Force.

The Task Force can make a major contribution to help achieve the goals of the strategic plan for agricultural education. So can you and your chapter. Here is the challenge. Examine your own agriculture department and FFA chapter in relationship to the following goals set forth in "The Strategic Plan for Agricultural Education." How do you rate?

Goal 1: To update instruction in agriculture and expand programs about agriculture.

Goal 2: To serve all people and groups equally and without discrimination.

Goal 3: To amplify and expand the "whole person" concept of education, including leadership, personal and interpersonal skills.

Goal 4: To develop educational programs that continually and systematically respond to the trends and demands of the market place.

Goal 5: To provide the stimuli that will foster the spirit of free enterprise and develop creative entrepreneurship and innovation.

Goal 6: To provide leadership and cultivate strong partnerships in the total educational system.

Goal 7: To elevate and extend our standards of excellence in classroom and laboratory instruction, supervised experience and student organizations.

Wilson Carnes



FFA New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

August-September, 1990

Volume 39 Number 6

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Jerry Wayne Courson of Live Oak, Florida, helped capture the 1989 National High School Rodeo Association team roping championship with his quick, accurate roping skills. Photo by Andrew Markwart.

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Wildlife and natural resource classes are becoming more popular.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Duval Named Manager of Contests and Awards

Carol Duval, Alexandria, Virginia, has been named Program Manager-Contests and Awards at the National FFA Organization. Duval, 27, began her career at the FFA in 1986 as an intern in the Contests Department. By 1988 she was coordinating the Agriscience and Building Our American Communities programs.

In her new position, Duval will work with agricultural leaders across the country to conduct and refine FFA's contest and awards programs. Duval has a degree in agricultural education from the University of Nevada, Reno, where she started a collegiate FFA chapter. She is a former member of the Ruby Mountain-Elko, Nevada FFA chapter and served as the Nevada state FFA reporter in 1981-82.



Carol Duval

Duval's new position was created after former program specialist Ted Amick resigned July 1 after 16 years of service on the national FFA staff. Amick was instrumental in developing the Building Our American Communities program and spearheaded such new efforts as Agriscience and Agri-marketing. He also served as a board member of the National Council for Agricultural Education. Amick will continue his involvement in agricultural education as a consultant based out of his new residence in Chadd's Ford, Pennsylvania.

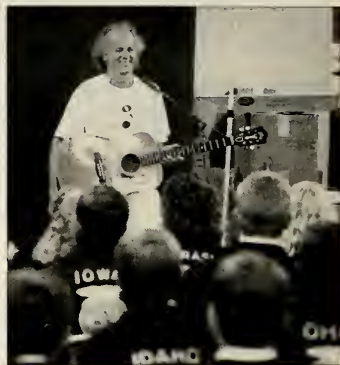


Ted Amick

FFA Anthem Performed Live

Washington Conference Program participants recently were treated to the first live performance of "America, We Are the FFA" by the song's composer, Alan Ross.

Accompanying himself on acoustic guitar, Ross performed the song for six groups of FFA members at the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia. The



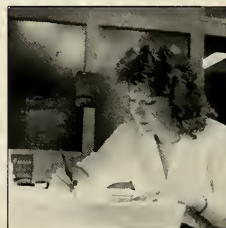
Alan Ross

video version of the song, complete with a studio produced soundtrack, was premiered at the 1987 National FFA Convention.

Ross is a professional music composer/producer and is the head of RINCON Co., based in Nashville, Tennessee. He was in Washington, D.C., promoting a commercial sampler tape when he accepted an offer to play at the FFA Center.

Mantey Interns at Magazine

Sue Mantey, an agricultural communications major at Ohio State University, has joined the *FFA New Horizons* magazine staff during June and July. Mantey was selected from a number of applicants vying for the American Agricultural Editors' Association magazine internship.



Sue Mantey

where Mantey spent three days observing how the future's markets function. *FFA New Horizons* was also selected out of a number of other agricultural magazines to host AAEE's intern. Watch for Mantey's articles in this issue and the October-November issue.

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LOOKING AHEAD

USDA Labs Give Students a Head Start on Science Careers

In the last ten years, over 2,000 high school students pursued careers in agricultural research. Some of these students got a head start at U.S. Department of Agriculture laboratories across the country.

Jane Giles, Agriculture Research Service personnel director, said the research agency takes in approximately 200 students each year through its Research Apprenticeship program.

College student Nikola Lockett has worked at the Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans, Louisiana since her junior year in high school. Lockett works on a project with scientists to improve cotton fiber quality. Although she is majoring in pharmacy, she says the lab work has helped her realize "research is where I want to be."

The experiences of Lockett and others in the ARS programs could fill a frightening gap in this country's scientific expertise, according to Giles.

"Over the last few years, fewer American students seem motivated to pursue careers in science and engineering," Giles said. "At the same time, demand for people in these professions is on the upswing. We're concerned enough about the decreasing student interest in science and engineering that we're continually looking for ways to spark the interest of young people."

Eye in the Sky

A new video for farmers and ranchers can't be found at the local video store. A USDA scientist said that special color videos taken from planes at 3,000 to 12,500 feet can reveal outbreaks of weeds, insects and plant diseases.

According to James Everitt of the Agricultural Research Service, agricultural consultants in the U.S. may offer farmers these videos in about a year. The



In studies to improve cotton fiber quality, student Nikola Lockett measures the quality of cotton plants in a USDA laboratory.

videos will allow farmers to act more quickly to protect crops and livestock and to make better use of fertilizers and pesticides.

It is not expected that aerial video will replace aerial photography and satellite data, but it does provide cheaper and faster information.

On a flight, three cameras record the same shot through different filters which are then compiled onto one tape called a color-infrared image. Color differences from the varying light-reflecting properties of plants and soil reveal potential problems such as mounds built by destructive harvester ants in cotton fields and pasturescholorosis, an iron deficiency that yellows grain sorghum leaves, salinity and waterlogging in soils; and nitrogen deficiencies as well as overall crop vigor in alfalfa, corn, cotton and other crop and range plants. Other possible applications include monitoring pest control programs, hail assessment and flood damage for insurance claims, and estimating crop production.

Cell Growth Predicts Weight Gain

Imagine predicting the yearling weight of steers while they are still calves. A benefit would be increased efficiency of beef production.

Recent studies at Iowa State University have shown it may be possible to predict the future growth potential of calves from the growth of their cells in culture.

The cells are obtained by removing a small sample of skin from a calf's ear using an ear notcher. The sample is taken to a laboratory where it is sectioned into thin slices and placed in petri dishes.

Research has shown that the cell growth in the petri dish corresponds to the animal's weight at later ages, said Allen Trenkle, ISU animal science professor. Cells from fast-growing animals grow faster in culture.

Many animals can be evaluated using the new cell tissue technique, which only takes about two weeks to complete, Trenkle said. "It may be possible to predict yearling weight from samples taken at birth."

The Turnip Alternative

Turnips are turning out to be a hit with sheep, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report.

Since 1986, animal nutritionist Steven Hart has let sheep graze on pastures planted with Purpletop, a familiar table variety of turnip. Hart works at the Forage and Livestock Research Laboratory operated by USDA's Agricultural Research Service at El Reno, Oklahoma.

"The sheep gain well on turnips," Hart said. "They'll eat the leaves first, then the top of the turnip. Then they'll actually eat down into the heart of the turnip, but they don't pull them out of the ground."

Turnips produce twice the dry matter of winter wheat for forage — about four tons of dry matter per acre for grazing. That means turnips could be an economical alternative to winter wheat as a source of cool-weather grazing.

Hart said he has been able to plant turnips in late September, put sheep on the pasture in late October and let them graze until Christmas.



MAILBAG

New Creed—Pro & Con

The Livingston FFA Chapter sees no need to revise the FFA Creed. The creed, written by E.M. Tiffany, has been around for a long time. If it is changed it might not mean the same thing to us as the creed we have now does. Why change it to mean something else?

*Signed by 64 members
Livingston, Texas*

I believe that a new creed should be written. The current creed focuses on farming, and farming only, as the objective of our organization. However, today's agriculture is very diverse, and our creed should reflect this.

I think a new creed should reflect the views of the entire membership. It should stress more modern agricultural careers, and possibly a clause for those who do not even enter the field of agriculture. As in the current creed, I think that leadership should be heavily stressed along with cooperation and working with others.

When these changes are made the National FFA Organization will be ready to charge full steam into the rest of the decade and soon, a new century.

*Brett Birchmeier
Chesaning, Michigan*

As a freshman in agriculture, I took the opportunity to recite the creed at my Greenhand Initiation. That night was one of my proudest nights in the FFA.

As I began to recite the creed, I felt something inside of me: a feeling of great admiration for what the creed stood for. It stands for freedom and change. The world in which we live, work and grow, all are the same world.

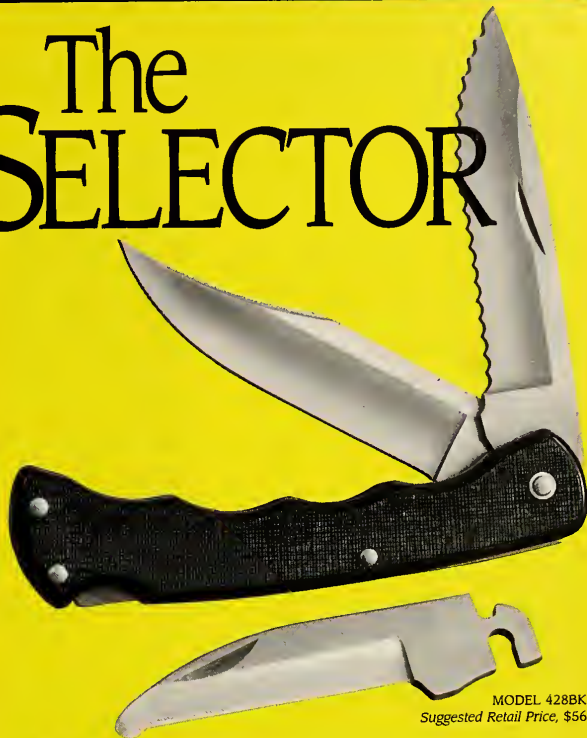
I don't feel that we need a new creed or need to make changes. The FFA Creed, My Creed, Our Creed is a "philosophy" to live by.

*Lee Ann Elder
Taylorsville, Kentucky*

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Agriculture's New Professionals

Agricultural Research

By Sandy Miller Hays

From the sweat marks on his Stetson to the scuff marks along his boots, Mike Brown has "cowboy" written all over him.

That might seem a little misleading for a research scientist working for the federal government — the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, to be precise.

But Michael Adrian Brown isn't the stereotypical research scientist, and his lab isn't the stereotypical research facility. There are white lab coats and test tubes, of course. But the South Central Family Farm Research Lab at Booneville, Arkansas, is also home to "Red," "Cat" and "Blue," saddle horses that have a way with cattle.

Brown jokes that there are special problems when your lab inventory includes not only computers, but also cow ponies: "We can't get those 'Property of U.S. Government' stickers to stay on the horses."

The mission of the nine-year-old South Central Family Farms Research Lab, as its name implies, is to find new ways the family farmer can harvest the most benefits from the land. Consequently, research projects range from cattle grazing studies to finding ways to make small fruit and vegetable crops more profitable.

Brown has special empathy for the small family farmer. A native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, he comes from a farming family.

As a teenager growing up in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Brown was very active in the Broken Arrow FFA chapter, serving on its dairy judging team, soil judging team, raising and showing dairy cattle and swine, and participating in public speaking competitions. He was chapter vice president in his senior year.

"I joined FFA as a freshman," he recalled. "One thing we had to do when we joined FFA was make a commitment to pursue a career in agriculture. Once I make a commitment, I stick with it."

After graduating from Broken Arrow High School in 1968, Brown went on to earn bachelor's and master's degrees in animal science and a Ph.D. in animal breeding, all from Oklahoma State Uni-

versity at Stillwater. He then joined the faculty of South Dakota State University, teaching courses in beef production and statistics. Three years later, he was back in Oklahoma, managing his father-in-law's ranch at Amber.

Brown's time on his father-in-law's ranch had almost convinced him to take up farming full-time when ARS offered him a position in 1980 as a statistician at Stoneville, Mississippi. He came to the Booneville lab in June 1985, and by the following February he was research leader at the lab.

"The job has some parallels to working a ranch," he said. "The things you do in research are considerably different; you have different goals and objectives, collecting information and getting it out to farmers."

"But if you have animals, just like on a ranch, you're on call seven days a week, 24 hours a day. If there's ice on the ponds or tanks where the cattle go to drink, you chop it. I know what the station looks like

on Saturdays and Sundays, at two in the morning. I've seen a few sunrises and a lot of sunsets here."

Hiring poses unusual problems at a station like the Booneville lab.

"We need special skills here," Brown said. "If you're on the ground tagging a calf and someone's on a horse keeping the mama away and she sets past them, they have to stop her with a rope. You know how hard it is to find people who can ride and rope? But fortunately, we find them — or they find us."

A key quality, Brown says, is empathy for the animals: "You have to find a certain attitude in your employees. They have to have a self-imposed commitment to taking care of animals."

"People often mistakenly assume that taking care of animals is unskilled labor. What they don't know is that by the time most people notice a health problem, it's no longer a problem — it's a disaster. A good cowboy notices problems in cattle or sheep while they're still solvable." ***



Mike Brown is the USDA research leader at the South Central Family Farm Research Lab in Booneville, Arkansas.



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Courson's job on the team is to lasso the steer's legs once his partner has roped its horns.



Photos by Author

Hot with a Rope

It takes speed, agility, concentration and years of practice to capture a national champion team roping title.

By Andrew Markwart



Jerry Wayne Courson is known as one of the top heelers in Florida. He helped set the state record at 5.6 seconds.

It was all over in 10.8 seconds. Years of dedication and thousands of hours of practice came down to under 11 explosive ticks on a stopwatch.

That's the time it took for Jerry Wayne Courson, Live Oak, Florida and Justin Morgan, Tallahassee, Florida, to capture a lively young steer and the 1989 High School Rodeo Association Team Roping Championship in Pueblo, Colorado. Their time was fast enough to beat the second-place team by a slim three-tenths of a second. The team also holds the Florida state record in team roping at 5.6 seconds.

Team roping is a timed rodeo event where a steer is released from a chute and is pursued by two ropers on horseback. The first team member, or header, ropes the steer's horns and second team member, or heeler, ropes the steer's back legs. When the two team members are facing each other with no slack in their ropes, an official raises a flag and the stopwatch stops ticking.

Like most rodeo events, team roping emerged from skills needed on cattle ranches. Cowboys would often need to capture and brand a large number of cattle in a short amount of time, and the team roping approach was the most efficient way to handle the job.

Winning the national championship was especially sweet for Courson, 19, and Morgan, 17, since it was only the second time in 40 years that a Florida team had captured the title. A year before, Courson and another partner had finished third at the national finals.

Courson says that since rodeo is more of an individual sport

than a popular team sport, such as football, participants can't expect as much recognition. Despite winning a national championship, and appearing on ESPN and other television shows, he received less attention in his community for being a national champion than the Live Oak football team who won the state championship the same year.

The term "team roping" can be misleading because the sport requires such a high level of individual talent and dedication. And since team members are often distanced by location and age, it is not uncommon to have a new partner every year, which is the case with Courson.

The Suwannee FFA Chapter member has earned the reputation in Florida as one of the best heelers in the state. (Courson jokes that "Ray Charles can head.") This reputation has begun to work against him because there are few other roping teams who will compete against him at private rodeos, called "jackpots" because he usually walks away with the prize money. "Anywhere there is money, they won't let me rope," he claims. His stockpile of prize-winning buckles, saddles and other awards bear testimony to his skill.

Courson says his next logical move is to join the Professional Rodeo Cowboy

It was all over in 10.8 seconds. Years of dedication and thousands of hours of practice came down to under 11 explosive ticks on a stopwatch.

Association, but that is an expensive venture, one that he will have to save money from his job at a local plumbing company to achieve.

Courson says that rodeo is an expensive sport because of the high entry fees and that it is important to know when to draw the line. "If you win, you can go again tomorrow night. It's a gamble and you have to use common sense," he advises. "Right now, I try to keep it in the perspective of being a hobby." In 1989, no one was better at Jerry Wayne Courson's hobby.

...

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AMERICAN MADE BOOTS SINCE 1879



One of Trista Ward's main responsibilities on her family's guest ranch is caring for the horses.

Happy Trails

Even Milli Vanilli has visited this FFA member's guest ranch.

By Melissa A. Thurston

The late humorist Will Rogers was as sharp with a rope as he was with his tongue. Another Oklahoman, Trista Ward, has a few rope tricks of her own.

The 1990 National FFA Outdoor Recreation Proficiency Award winner's trick roping skills aren't far behind those of the well-known humorist. In fact, Ward, 18, is very close to

mastering the Texas Skip — a difficult rope trick Rogers made famous.

Ward's trick roping is more than a hobby; it also played a role in helping her lasso both the Oklahoma and the national outdoor recreation proficiency awards.

Her grandmother, Norma Shultz Ward, taught her to trick rope when she was ten. By the time she was 12 she was trick roping on the rodeo circuit with her three sisters and younger brother. Her father, Tom Ward, worked many years as a rodeo clown and continues to clown in his Model T Bucking Ford at the nearby Lazy E Arena in Guthrie.

In 1984, Ward and the rest of the family quit the rodeo circuit — but they didn't lay down their ropes. Instead, the family started a horse-drawn hayride business on their guest ranch. The "5 W's Sunrise Guest Ranch" was something that her grandmother, father and uncle had wanted to do for a long time. They believed the hayrides would offer good family entertainment.

The hayrides include haywagons pulled by teams of Belgian horses; a chuckwagon menu of the customer's choice; background music by The Sons of the Pioneers, Riders in the Sky and Gene Autry; the rodeo trick roping act; and sometimes staged gunfights.

Guests ride the haywagons past a pond, Longhorn cattle and a cemetery on the way down to the main campground where there is a chuckwagon, bunkhouse and naturally, outhouses.



Attention to detail is important for the business.

Ward said it takes a lot of hard work to keep the business running smoothly. She said they are always mending fence or checking cattle.

The many tasks involved with operating the guest ranch are divided up among the family. Ward, who got her first saddle when she was seven, is responsible for caring for and harnessing the horses. She also helps cook the food, lead nature hikes and trail rides and performs in the trick roping act.

Ward also works at the Lazy E Arena during special events and ropes fairly frequently at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City.

She said since Guthrie was Oklahoma's first state capital, the guest ranch draws many tourists. The business is also listed with the Chamber of Commerce and the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department.

People that visit the guest ranch are as diverse as the entertainment found there. Groups have ranged from birthday parties to church groups to visitors from Japan, Germany and the Soviet Union, and even the rock group Milli Vanilli, who arrived at the ranch in a white stretch limousine.

"The thing I like best about what we do is meeting all the people from all over," Ward said. "The responses we get from people are always positive. They think it's great to see a family working together the way we do. It's really unique."

"I want the business to gain the distinction of being the place to go for western entertainment," she said. "I won't do anything that's not agricultural. Dad always says the three things you can count on for a good life are agriculture, religion and a big family and we've got all three. That's the only life I've ever known."

The national Outdoor Recreation proficiency award is sponsored by the Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A., as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



Photo by Author

It was Trista Ward's grandmother that taught her the art of trick roping.



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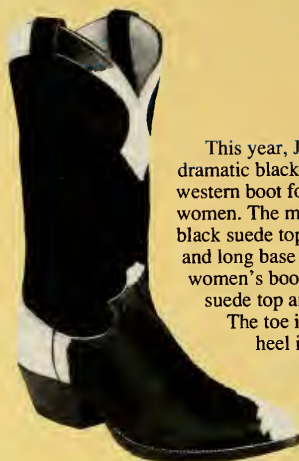
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What's New in



Wall's new Navajo jackets, the Navajo Canyon and Navajo Rodeo, combine the best of western and Indian styling. Both add colorful knit Navajo trim to long wearing 100 percent cotton canvas.



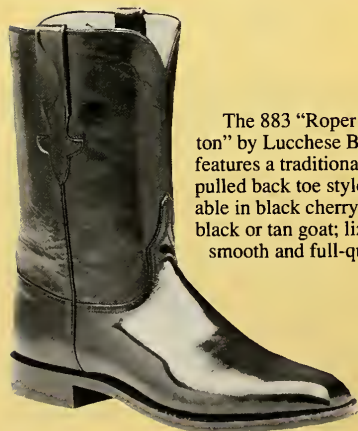
This year, Justin brings back the dramatic black-and-white hair-on-calf western boot for both men and women. The men's boot has a 13-inch black suede top, narrow round toe, and long base cowboy heel. The women's boot has a 12-inch black suede top and a cushioned insole. The toe is narrow round and the heel is long base riding.

Chocolate is the newest color from Abilene Boot Company's Italian Shrunk Shoulder Series. This all leather boot is supple and comfortable, with a luxurious high gloss finish.

Natural comfort is enhanced by a cushion insole. Sizes are 7-13 (D) and 8-13 (EE). Other colors available in Italian Shrunk Shoulder are: Cream, Aztec, Cognac, Black and Medium Grey.



The ROPER Apparel Collection offers a Sport Roper, black and khaki border stripe. It features traditional western styling with inset pockets and matching flaps.



The 883 "Roper Wellington" by Lucchese Boot Co. features a traditional square, pulled back toe style and available in black cherry, brown, black or tan goat; lizard; and smooth and full-quill ostrich.



You will find embroidery on both sides of these men's long sleeved fancy western shirts from Ely & Walker Co. Most of these styles are also available in ladies.

Western Style



At left, this men's Golden West 100 percent cotton ikat madras stripe shirt is available in aqua, grey and violet. The ladies Panhandle Slim 100 percent cotton southwest print stripe shirt with overlay front yokes is available in red/yellow, peach/tan and gray/beige.

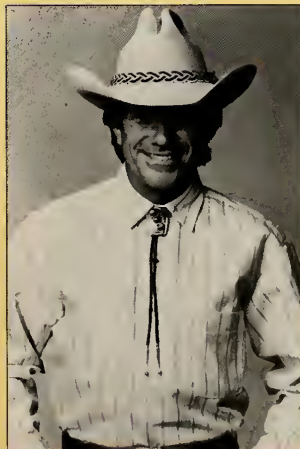
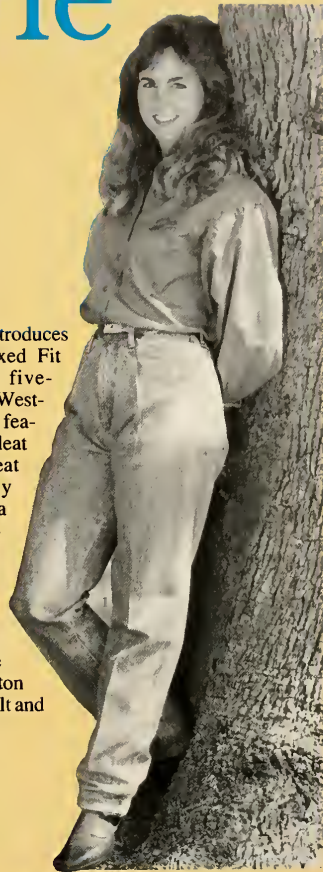
This arrow design 100 percent acrylic jacquard knit sweater for ladies by Kenny Rogers captures the mystical romance of the Southwest with the comfort of western styling. The arrow pattern is knitted on the front and back. The 25-inch, v-necked pull-over is available in ladies' sizes S, M, L, and XL.



From the Larry Mahan Straw Collection, the Spindletop features a feather veneer leather band. The hand-woven Imperial Shantung is available from the Milano Hat Co., Garland, Texas.



Wrangler introduces the first Relaxed Fit Cowboy Cut five-pocket jean for Western women. It features a front pleat and loosened seat and thigh. By stone-washing a new heavy-weight Crystal fabric, the jeans have an exceptionally comfortable feel and the mercerized cotton gives them a salt and pepper look.



Inspired from the authentic 1800's western styling, Roper Apparel from Karman creates the Rustic Roper Shirt. The striped, 100 percent cotton pull-over shirt is available in sizes S, M, L, and XL.

Kreg Coggins built nearly two dozen birdhouses as part of his wildlife project.

Below, Coggins dug three ponds and stocked them with fish.



Photos by Author

A walk through Kreg Coggins' backyard is proof that wildlife management is partly...

For the Birds

By Gary Bye

Sit in Kreg Coggins yard and you begin to appreciate the impact of his efforts. Blackcap chickadees, goldfinches, red wing blackbirds and mountain bluebirds vie for a meal at the birdfeeder. They are soon joined by tree swallows, evening grosbeaks, house finches, sparrows and wrens.

Coggins, the 1989 winner of the FFA Western Region Proficiency Award in

Wildlife Management, lives on the outskirts of Enterprise, Oregon. Kreg's efforts in wildlife management began right at home and grew in an ever widening sphere of knowledge and participation. The incredible array of birds visiting his yard only hints at his efforts to improve his surroundings and his world.

"I really began working with wild animals as early as I can remember," Kreg

admits. "My father works with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. He began taking me on elk and deer census when I was about six years old."

That early interest dovetailed naturally into active participation in FFA. Kreg's agriculture instructor, Richard Boucher, encouraged him to build on his early experiences and develop a solid project in wildlife management.

Since the Coggins home was surrounded by some natural springs, Kreg began there. With a tractor and a blade, three different ponds were dug. A variety of evergreen and deciduous trees were

(Continued on Page 26)



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This Ladd Can *SING*



As a state FFA officer, Norman Ladd would often speak and entertain at chapter banquets.

By Melissa A. Thurston

The FFA has long held the tradition of equipping members with lasting skills. Norman Ladd is living proof that those skills provide a sound foundation for almost anything—even a career in country music.

Ladd, an agricultural economics major at Oklahoma State University, released his debut album "Norman Ladd and The Cactus Canyon Band" in March.

The former Cushing, Oklahoma, FFA member and former state FFA reporter became interested in singing for an audience after he was chosen for the lead part in the musical "Oklahoma" in his sophomore year of high school. He said he tried out for the part "on a whim" and soon after was encouraged by his FFA advisor, Clay Young, to perform at the FFA chapter banquet.

A former state officer is launching a singing career while still in college.

Ladd agreed and made his first solo stage performance during the 1986 Cushing FFA chapter banquet. Since that first performance, the 21-year-old has had a lot of time to consider his style of music.

"For a long time I thought I liked George Strait's style of music. Then I decided to get more of a style of my own," Ladd said. "A lot of performers are good with one type of music, either hard or soft. I like to be diverse, but ballads are what I really like."

In addition to the support he received from his FFA advisor, Ladd said he owes a lot of credit to his mother.

"My mom always said you ought to be singing. I guess she was right," he said. "She has backed me from the very beginning."

While in the FFA, Ladd exhibited livestock and participated in public speaking contests and livestock judging.

"I have to give the FFA a lot of credit for where I am today," he said. "The FFA activities that put me before people have helped tremendously with my stage presence. The way you handle an audience when you're speaking is very similar to how you handle an audience when you're singing."

The FFA not only taught Ladd useful careers skills, it also provided a big musical opportunity for him in the summer of 1987. Stan Kingma, director of the National FFA Chorus, selected Ladd to travel with the National Band and Chorus U.S.A. and perform in Australia and New Zealand.

"I probably wouldn't have gotten as far with my music without the FFA," he said. "I based my career through the FFA and at

first that is where I got all of my opportunities to perform. When I was a state officer, a lot of times I would be both the speaker and the entertainment for chapter banquets."

In addition to the FFA tour, Ladd has made regular appearances at the Oklahoma Opry in Oklahoma City for nearly five years and held his own concert at the Payne County Fair in Stillwater.

"I'm facing many opportunities that I never thought I would be facing," said Ladd. "My musical abilities are a God-given talent that I'm going to use. I am the most comfortable and have more self-confidence when I'm standing on stage performing than I do any other time."

Earlier this year, Ladd served as the talent director and assistant chorus director for the 1990 Oklahoma State FFA Convention. He said he feels his performances at the state convention as an FFA member helped to influence others to try out for convention talent which lead up to the formation of the state chorus.

Ladd has found that no matter where you perform or how often, it takes a lot of hard work to make a career out of country music.

"I have no free time and I'm usually tired," he said. "The long hours

can get disappointing and keeping a band together is almost impossible. When I perform though, it makes it all worthwhile. To go out on stage and perform and know the audience had a good time is what it's all about."

What Ladd is looking for most now is a major recording contract. "For me to make it in country music it's going to take getting my music in the right hands of the right people in the right places," said Ladd.



Ladd listens to his music being fine-tuned in the recording studio.

Former FFA Member Wins Pulitzer Prize

Former Oregon FFA reporter Nicholas Kristof has won the international Pulitzer Prize for his reporting coverage of the political turmoil in China last year. He is the bureau chief for *The New York Times* at the newspaper's office in Beijing. Kristof shares the prestigious journalism prize with his wife, Sheryl WuDunn.

He joined the *Times* in 1984 as a financial reporter-trainee and became a reporter in April 1985. In October 1986 he became a foreign correspondent in Hong Kong. Before joining the *Times*, Kristof spent two summers as an intern for *The Washington Post*.

Kristof was the 1977-78 Oregon FFA Reporter and also served as the Yamhill-Carlton, Oregon chapter reporter in 1974-75. Following his year as a state officer, he worked for several Oregon newspapers and also spent a summer in France on FFA's Work Experience Abroad program.



Nicholas Kristof

He studied political science at Harvard and attended Oxford University in England as a Rhodes Scholar law student in 1981-82.

Kristof is featured in the new *FFA Reporters Handbook*. The handbook is aimed at helping chapter reporters become more effective communicators.

In the *Reporter's Handbook*, Kristof says that his experience as an FFA chapter

reporter helps him now as he writes for *The New York Times*. "On a different scale, it's the same challenge I faced writing about the successes of my FFA chapter" he says, "If one can make a creed speaking contest interesting to the general public, it's no problem to make a war interesting."

The Pulitzer winner goes on to say in the handbook that FFA members who may be interested in a journalism career should get plenty of experience. "Work for your school paper and offer to write for your town's paper, about anything at all. Go to college and write for a college paper. 'Write, write, write,' he says, 'and while you're at it 'read, read, read.' Reading newspapers, he says, will help you learn to write fluently. Take advantage of your agricultural knowledge. Most reporters have urban backgrounds, so stress your ability to write about the mysterious world of wheat and chickens and cattle."

American Quarter Horse Association Celebrates 50 Years

It was a half century ago that a handful of horsemen met in Fort Worth, Texas and organized the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA).

From its modest beginning in 1940, AQHA has grown to an international organization over 250,000 members with an equine registry approaching three million horses.

A number of special events are taking place throughout the year to mark the 50th anniversary. At the organization's national convention, held March 1-7, country entertainer Michael Martin Murphey debuted "America's Horse," a song he wrote specifically for AQHA's anniversary.

To heighten public awareness about the anniversary, special AQHA Golden Year Parade Units have appeared in several national and regional parades, including the Tournament of Roses Parade, Fiesta Bowl Parade and the Pegasus Parade held in conjunction with the Kentucky Derby

Festival in Louisville, Kentucky.

Coming up November 7-17 will be the 1990 American Quarter Horse Association World Championship Show held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Championship titles in 82 classes and more than \$500,000 in prize money will be on the line.

One major project will be completed next spring when AQHA will open the doors to a new American Quarter Horse Heritage Center & Museum, which is being constructed next to the AQHA headquarters in Amarillo, Texas. The facility will feature a mix of historical and contemporary exhibits that will illustrate the breed's role throughout American history.

The foundation of the American Quar-

ter Horse can be traced back to the ponies brought to America by the Spaniards.

Many of those horses returned to the wild and later were captured by colonists who domesticated the animals and began to breed them to their own stock from Europe. Over the years, the breed developed a consistency, characterized by its racing speed over a quarter-mile distance from which the name Quarter Horse was derived.

As part of the organization's involvement with FFA, The American Quarter Horse Association has sponsored the National FFA Horse Proficiency award as a special project of the National FFA Foundation for 12 years.



planted. Natural cover was also established. Then goose nesting platforms and duck nesting areas were built around the ponds.

The results were immediate. Each year geese nest in the platforms, lay eggs and hatch their young. Ducks also raise their young by the ponds. Smaller birds were also provided for. Nearly two dozen nesting boxes were constructed and installed around the pond areas. Swallows, hawks, owls and bluebirds immediately began moving into the houses. Each year the boxes are cleaned to keep the birds free from disease.

Kreg also piled brush at the pond sites for quail and pheasants. Rather than wait for the birds to arrive, he raised, tagged and released 24 pheasant. He did the same with a pen of valley quail.

Kreg placed gravel in the pond outlets for use by spawning rainbow and brook trout. He then planted the fish that today continue to thrive. Often Kreg takes his



The improved habitat around the Coggins' home attracts a wide range of wildlife.

pole and reels in a 16 to 20 inch brook trout for dinner.

But Kreg's world is much larger than what he can see from his backyard. Because his father works with fish and wildlife, Kreg is often able to work side by side with him on much larger wildlife projects. Within miles of his home lie the Wallowa Mountains and the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area. A herd of big horn sheep is located there. When the herd contracted respira-

tory pneumonia, Kreg helped his dad capture the sheep in traps and treat them with antibiotics. Although some of the sheep did die, the main body of the herd was saved through the management efforts.

Kreg's involvement with wildlife jumped a notch in 1988 when he was selected along with 22 others to become the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife "Youth Commission." The Commission, selected by Oregon Governor Neil Goldschmidt, spent three months participating in field events supervised by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife personnel.

Through the Commission Kreg found himself involved in many activities most high school students never get to see. He studied methods of shocking fish for transporting and tagging. He helped haze elk off pasture lands where they were damaging grazing areas. He rode in a helicopter while deer herd composition was being done. And he attended a public hearing on wildlife regulations. His work with the Commission also involved him in feeding over 200 elk from the back of a truck. Over 60 of those elk were moved by truck because of the damage they were doing to haystacks in the valley.



"The whole experience has been exciting," says Kreg. "One of the best aspects of my involvement was getting the chance to associate with a lot of other young people with the same interests."

Kreg says he is a compromising environmentalist. From his actions one knows he feels strongly for his surroundings and the wildlife that abounds there. Yet he is quick to point out that all aspects of environmental decision making must be taken into account. "You also have to realize that people are part of the equation too," he says.

In June, Kreg graduated from Enterprise High School as an honor student. He had been FFA chapter reporter and president as well as a champion sheep showman. He had also captained the football team and qualified for the state track meet as a runner. His immediate plans are to pursue a college degree from the University of Idaho in some area of Wildlife Management.

From Kreg Coggins' backyard, the world is a beautiful place, full of wild animals and birds and the habitat that supports them. In his future, Kreg intends to make more of the world more like his back yard. ...

The national Wildlife Management proficiency award is sponsored through the General Fund of the National FFA Foundation.




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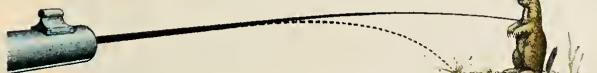
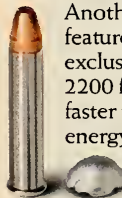
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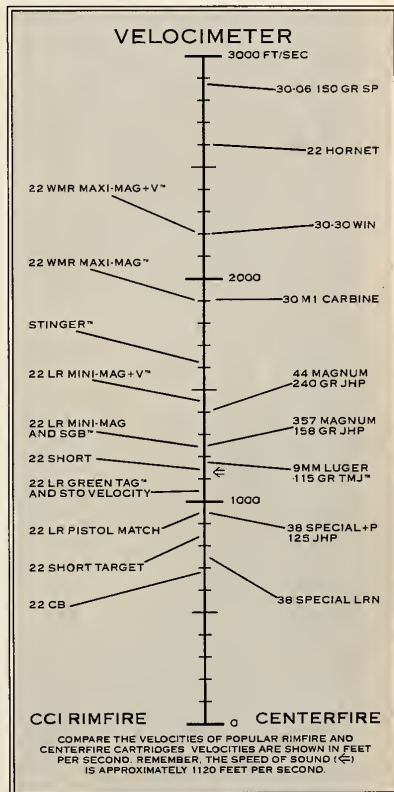


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Mural Photo by Ross Stansfield

FFA the Beautiful

An exciting new mural greets visitors to the National FFA Center.

By Sue Mantley

At first glance, it is just the American flag. But on closer inspection, the ripples in the flag emerge as profiles of FFA members. The stripes evolve into the FFA motto. Different stories about FFA begin to unfurl - national convention, the emblem, interaction with the earth, and international opportunities. Illustrations range from two Montana cowboys watching their herd to the future industries of aquaculture and biotechnology. In all, there are over 100 images that weave the complex details of FFA and agricultural education's past, present and future into a complete picture.

The thousands of people who enter the doors of the National FFA Center each year will now be able to see this painted vision of FFA in a new mural displayed in the lobby.

Installed on June 19, the 10-foot by 15-foot mural symbolizes agricultural education and FFA through a sweeping collage of images.

New Jersey artist Karen Kleinschuster undertook the mission of creating the true-to-life pictures. "For three months all I did was think about the project and gather images," Kleinschuster said. "I threw my entire life into FFA." It took her another three months to paint the mural.

Kleinschuster gathered information by talking with FFA staff, reading magazines and brochures, and listening to ideas. She also clipped photographs of actual FFA members from around the country from various FFA publications. Her interpretations of those pictures can be found throughout the mural.

Because the National FFA Center is located near Washington, D.C., the focal point of American democ-

racy, Kleinschuster felt the flag gave a natural flow to the mural. "To me, the American flag is one of our most powerful symbols," Kleinschuster explained. "It has passion and dynamics. It is an appropriate symbol to represent an organization made of stable, strong, self-sufficient adults who face the future not worried, but equipped."

One symbol woven into the flag is the words "We the People" from the Constitution. It's not a dusty docu-

ment lost long ago in the archives, Kleinschuster said. "I believe 'We the People' are the FFA."

From Kleinschuster's perspective, the Earth belonged in the center of the mural. "The globe is cradled by all of us," she said. "The first great ecologists were the farmers who had great respect for the Earth because their survival and livelihood depended upon it."

Gazing up at the Earth is a traditional scene of a little girl leaning against her Holstein cow. "Even though we become sophisticated grown-ups," Kleinschuster said, "inside us we draw from that person who lies back and dreams and looks at the stars. I believe that she relates naturally to the Earth and sea and water and the land."

"Perhaps I'm a dreamer," Kleinschuster said, "but I believe that all things are possible as long as your dream, your vision, stays simple and pure."

Kleinschuster was not always an artist. For 23 years, she was an editor for several state university publications. Through her work for these publications, Kleinschuster feels she brought a practical understanding of agricultural education to her art.

The mural was the brainchild of National FFA Advisor Larry Case. After seeing a similar painting on display in the hallway of the United States Department of Agriculture building, Case thought that FFA could benefit from a mural that symbolized the organization. He researched the original mural, found Kleinschuster, and commissioned her to create one for FFA.

"The final mural stirs deep emotion for me," Case said. "The more you study this mural, the more you discover its many themes. Everyone who sees this painting will interpret it differently. That is what makes this work of art so personal and, therefore, so exciting."

...



Bill Stagg Photo

Working out of her Lawrenceville, New Jersey basement, artist Karen Kleinschuster spent over three months painting the mural.

Disaster Day

FFA members play key role in local emergency safety drill.

A freak spring snow storm blew into Green Bay, Wisconsin, on May 10, making road conditions slippery. Traffic was snarled throughout the city. Around 9:00 a.m. a train carrying hazardous materials approached a railroad crossing near a mobile home court, retail outlets, banks and stores.

According to eyewitness reports, an automobile speeding down Bellevue Street attempted to pass a school bus loaded with Preble High School FFA members going on a class field trip. The car veered sideways, striking the bus. The bus swung out of control and struck the oncoming train and other nearby cars.



Doctors and Emergency Medical Technicians check the most serious and determine who goes to the hospitals first.

The train engineer radioed the train terminal that an accident had happened and that chlorine was leaking from a ruptured tank car. Calls went out on 911 alerting police, fire and rescue squads, including HAZ-MAT, a specially-trained team in handling hazardous materials. Students were rushed by ambulance to two local hospitals for treatment.

What sounds like a horrible accident was fortunately only a practice drill for emergency rescue services, including the new HAZ-MAT team, in Green Bay. The Preble FFA Chapter had volunteered to participate in the mock accident as part of their community involvement program.

For hours, the 75 FFA members were treated like accident victims as they were diagnosed, rushed to a hospital, and treated. Each member carried a card that detailed their specific condition. Worried parents were even brought to the hospitals to make the exercise more realistic.

Although the disaster drill had been well-planned, the snow storm caught emergency officials off-guard. They considered canceling the drill, but decided to continue the exercise.

After a cold, wet day of acting, the FFA members trudged back to finish their afternoon classes. ...



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Americans At Their Best.

Nature's Friend

Tyrone Calfee keeps his local forests growing.

By Sue Mantey

With the advent of Earth Day, people have become more aware of our fragile environment. But a member of the Bradley, Tennessee FFA Chapter has been quietly improving the land on his own for a long time.

Tyrone Calfee, 19, of Charleston, Tennessee, has planted over 12,500 pine seedlings during the past four years. His motives weren't dictated by current fad or the temptation of quick and easy money. Calfee simply enjoys working with nature.

His dedication to replanting trees, or reforestation, earned him the honor as the southern region proficiency award winner in forest management.

A self-proclaimed "outdoors kind-of-person," Calfee started reforesting land when his advisor, Richard Ledford, needed to clear-cut a 12 acre plot. Most of his trees were infested with pine-bark beetles, one of the most destructive of forest pests. Clear-cutting, Calfee said, is a method of harvesting every tree in a section of a forest.

Working in cooperation with the Tennessee Division of Forestry, Calfee and other chapter members chopped the trees down and built firebreaks. Forest fighters then carefully burned the area to remove any remaining debris.

Calfee planted 8,000 shortleaf pines, 4,000 loblolly pines and 500 white pines to rebuild the forest. Pine trees are used widely in the production of paper. One of the nation's largest pulp-mills, Bowater Paper Company, is a major employer in the area.

Because of the 1988 drought, 48 percent of the seedlings Calfee planted in 1987 died. "Having to replant did not discourage me," Calfee said. "I just kept at it."

Although Ledford plans to cut down the trees for profit when they reach maturity (in about 20 years), Calfee has managed his own 10 acres for non-profit



Bradley FFA member Tyrone Calfee planted pine seedlings to improve land values and timber quality.

"Having to replant did not discourage me. I just kept at it."

—Tyrone Calfee

motives. His forest was also infected with the same beetle as his advisor's. Instead of clear-cutting, Calfee and his younger brother Chris removed only dead trees and sold them for firewood. "It was mainly for safety reasons," Calfee said. "Whenever there was a heavy wind, the trees fell

over. We planted new trees in the place of the ones we cut down." He plans to let these trees grow for shade.

Reforestation is only one of Calfee's many interests. He has also landscaped for the public library, local parks, and Bradley Central High School.

After a tornado cut through Cleveland, Tennessee in 1987, his chapter helped rebuild farms that were destroyed.

Calfee was inspired by the Tennessee State Forestry Camp he attended in 1988. During the one-week camp, he learned tree identification, diseases, and fire protection practices. Calfee said that every night he studied his notes from class. His

dedication did not go unrewarded. In addition to being named Camper of the Year, Calfee placed first in the tree identification contest.

Calfee personifies the ideal FFA member, says his advisor. "Tyrone definitely knows how to roll his sleeves up and go to work," said Ledford. This work ethic has carried over to his dedication to finance college. He is working as a full-time painter at a local chemical plant. "I believe I'll try harder in school if I pay for my own education," said Calfee. He attends Cleveland Community College and plans to transfer to University of Tennessee at Knoxville. "As I get farther into school, I might go into veterinary medicine or forest entomology."

Calfee said he hasn't paid much attention to the Earth Day craze. He just continues to care for his corner of the world at his own steady pace. In twenty years, Earth Day could be a fading memory, but the trees he planted will still be there. ♦♦♦

The National FFA Forest Management Proficiency award is sponsored by Stone Container Corporation and Buck Knives as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

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CHAPTER SCOOP

FFA members in **Cherryvale, Kansas**, built a marquee for outside the National Guard Armory welcoming juniors and seniors to the after prom party held by parents and teachers.



Calico Rock, Arkansas, FFA recently began printing a monthly newsletter, *FFA Challenges*, for their members. It is completely run, written, published and distributed by their chapter.

During the parent teacher club fund raiser fair, **North Marion, Oregon**, FFA operated a straw scramble for the little ones.

Martin Yoder was Creed speaker at the **Northwestern, Ohio**, Chapter's Green-hand ceremony.

FFA in **East Beranard, Texas**, tackled the repair project for the town's flag poles which were bent and blown over during a tornado in April. Members cut out a bent section of the main pole used for the U.S. flag, then had it welded and reinforced before putting it back in place.

Members in **Elmore, Ohio**, planted trees on reclaimed quarry ground as part of an on-going conservation project.

Elder citizens at the Brethern's Home in **Greenville, Ohio**, got to pet small animals on one warm spring day because FFA members **David Bowman** and **Clyde Smith** worked hard to take the animals in and help the seniors enjoy the day.

Prospective members are invited to the annual booster bar-be-cue of the **Gilroy, California**, Chapter.

For the **Shawano, Wisconsin**, 50th FFA banquet, the chapter secretary researched the names of the original charter members. They were all invited and each was recognized.

An Outstanding Service award is given by the **Douglas, Oregon**, FFA each year to a group in the community who supported the chapter throughout the year. FFA honored the Wildlife Safari Rangers who were also tough contenders in the donkey basketball game.

The earnings and savings committee of the **Genoa, Ohio**, FFA called around to camera shops to get the best price on a replacement camera for the chapter.

Sharon Scott was awarded the \$1,000 E. L. Collins Scholarship given annual by First State Bank to **Idabel, Oklahoma** FFA.

Outgoing president **Ken Wienke** gave his retiring officer address at the **Eagle Valley, Colorado**, banquet and used the George Strait hit song "This is Where the Cowboy Rides Away" as part of his presentation.

Goliad, Texas, members put in 900 hours working all sorts of projects to improve things in their town - built a portable backstop, remodeled the community center and Boy Scout hut, built an oxygen-tank trailer for the fire department, repainted Little League bleachers and landscaped at the school.

West Branch, Ohio, FFA took 240 fourth graders on an Food for America field trip with stops at the butcher shop, hog farm, farm market, beef farm, dairy farm and livestock auction.

To introduce agriculture to the elementary students the **Ola, Arkansas** FFA held a "Create a Farm" contest. The students were to use any materials available to them and put them on white paper.

At the **Culver, Oregon**, chapter banquet, they invited Jennifer Lantz from the Redmond Chapter to provide vocal entertainment after the meal.

Hundred, West Virginia, FFA team won first in the national soil judging competition.

Officer candidates in **Glide, Oregon**, go through a nominating committee of senior members. Then they were given time to write a speech and asked to give it to the chapter.

When **Mississinawa Valley, Ohio**, FFA held its petting zoo, they gave coloring sheets to the grade schoolers. Prize for the winner in each grade level was a free meal at a fast food restaurant. Top winner, **Brad Turner**, got an additional \$5.00.

When **Tecumseh, Ohio**, FFA ran the annual blood drive they added a cholesterol check for any who wished to get it.



Hope they didn't mean it literally when **Monache, California**, FFA Chapter reported they held a teacher bar-be-cue during FFA Week. Actually they invited all the school staff to a free meal.

Mason, Michigan, Chapter planted sweet corn to give to local retirement home on the headlands of the FFA corn field.

Congratulations to all the DeKalb winners in every chapter this time of year. We received many notes and letters about chapter recipients.

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Creative

Some of FFA's top chapters talk about raising money, spending it, and keeping track of it all.



The Dewitt, Iowa, chapter sells variety test plots, says Brian Feldpausch. "Last year we planted eight acres and made over \$500."



Gayleen Babcock and Mindy Loughry, of Norton, Kansas, say their chapter is trying to organize a

rodeo where the cowboys pay entry fees and admission is charged at the gate.



"We distribute Iowa FFA Foundation toy trucks," says Dale Rowley of Knoxville, Iowa. "These trucks are collector items that are personalized. Students keep track of orders, addresses and shipping details."



"We raffle off a side of beef during homecoming week," says Valentin Celaya, of Gooding, Idaho. "If the freshmen sell at least 60 tickets, they get their FFA jackets free."



und raising is a vital part of running any FFA chapter. Awards cost money. Trips and other special activities cost money. Big ideas come with big price tags. When a chapter raises more money, more members are able to participate in more activities, often times above the chapter level.

The annual chapter fund-raising campaign also gives members a chance to interact with the community, an important element in the overall operation of the chapter. When the time comes to "ask for the sale," interpersonal communication and sales skills are sharpened by the experience.

FFA *New Horizons* polled some of the top FFA chapters in the country to see what they did to raise money, what incentives were offered for member involvement, what the money was used for during the year, and how computer technology has made an impact on keeping track of fund-raising activities.

May I Take Your Order?

By far, the most popular method of raising money for FFA chapters is through the sales of products and services. Susan Opperman, Kingwood FFA chapter reporter, says "our first big fund raiser of each year is a fruit and sausage sale just before Thanksgiving and Christmas. Fruit selections include oranges, grapefruit and apples. We also sell sausage, bacon and smoked turkeys. Each member is required to sell at least 20 boxes of fruit or meat, and each officer must sell 40 boxes. During the 1989 sales season we made about \$4,500. These items sell well as gifts and are great for people expecting guests for the holiday season."

She adds, "Our ag boosters club hosts our largest money-maker, a raffle in January. Each member of the boosters club is responsible for selling about four tickets at \$100 each for a total of 200 tickets. Local businesses are very helpful in buying many of these raffle tickets. With the \$20,000 raised, \$10,000 goes towards the grand prize, a new truck from a local truck dealer. Other prizes are donated by local businesses in the way of gift certificates and other smaller prizes, or by people who take the time to produce their own handmade items. This project profited our chapter about \$6,900."

"We also held a Greenhand cake auction. Each Greenhand member made his or her own cake which they showed while it was being auctioned. A chapter cake with the FFA emblem and logo was shown by our president and a sweetheart cake also brought high bids. In total, the cake auction raised about \$3,200 for our chapter."

Cash

The Westmoreland, Kansas, FFA chapter uses a number of unusual activities to raise money. They clean Bramlage Coliseum at Kansas State University after a Big 8 game, clean their hometown business district sidewalk and vaccinate and move young hens for a local poultry farm. They also are involved in more conventional projects. The chapter operates a concession stand at football and volleyball games and FFA activities. They sell holiday fruit and food baskets, hold a barbecue and serve the Alumni banquet.

For more than 25 years, the Clinton Central, Indiana, FFA Chapter has had a work-day auction. Each member is sold for an 8-hour workday and the money is donated to the chapter. The auction brings in a fair amount of money, but advisor Phil Carter says that there are two other main benefits to the event. "Members have the opportunity to work on many different farms in the community and make contacts that eventually lead to summer and part-time jobs and almost all members participate in the auction," he said.

What's in it for Me?

Not everyone is a natural salesperson, so a little prompting, or incentive, is usually in order to motivate a chapter's sales force. Unlike some chapter activities, everyone can be involved in raising money and anyone can be the top salesperson. It is often a chance to involve members who haven't been active. Greenhands can make a name for themselves early through impressive sales, too.

Chapters use all kinds of incentives to get students involved in raising money. Several incentives are used by Clinton Central FFA. A point system is applied to all money-making projects.

Members receive one point for each dollar they bring in. The point system is used to determine who will attend the national FFA convention and a summer awards trip. The more members sell, the more points they receive, increasing their chances to travel.

In citrus and sausage sales, Clinton Central awards cash prizes to the top (\$50), second (\$30) and third (\$20) high salespersons. Also, for every \$10 that each member sells, their name is placed in a drawing. Ten names are drawn with each member receiving \$10.

Incentives for members in Mt. Ayr, Iowa, include having their hotel bills paid at state and national conventions and paid registration fees at other conferences. Also all members receive a seven percent commission from the amount of fruit and cheese they sell.

(Continued on page 39)



"We had an FFA dance last year, where we charged \$1 per person or \$1.50 per couple," says Erin Freel of Ocala, Florida. "People also brought canned food to give to the needy."



At \$2.50 a gallon, Todd Sim's Edison FFA Chapter in Milan, Ohio made over \$200 selling cider. The chapter makes all the cider they sell.

Paul Selberg's Worthington, Minnesota, FFA Chapter uses the money they raise from a work day auction to take trips to different parts of the country. One stop was Chicago, where they toured the Merchandise Exchange and the Chicago Board of Trade.



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Cheese Whiz

Former FFA proficiency winner pursued his project into a career.

When Tim Novak was growing up in Denmark, Wisconsin, he represented a dairy supply company. "He went around calling on people — most of his job was sales. I thought, 'You couldn't pay me to have his job.'"

Tim laughs at that memory today. As owner and sole employee of Novak Cheese in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Tim spends much of his day calling on FFA chapters, bands, language clubs,

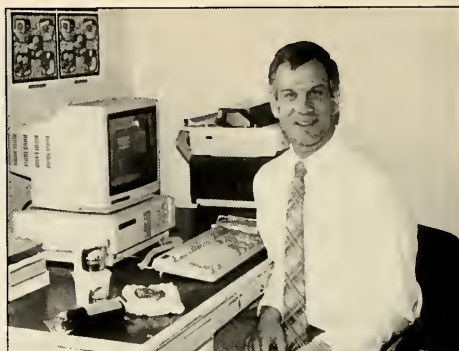
Kiwanis and other non-profit organizations that are looking for new ideas for raising funds. Since 1976, Tim's company has been providing such groups with Wisconsin cheeses, cheese spreads and sausages as alternative fund raising items.

Cheese has always been a big part of Tim's life. He, his parents, two brothers and four sisters were actively involved in the family's cheese business. "The cheese factory was attached to the house, so I had an interest in cheesemaking from the time I was very young," he notes.

Tim spent a lot of time observing the expertise of his father, William, and learning from him. During high school, he logged over 4,300 hours training in the cheese factory. By the time he was 18, Tim had become one of the youngest licensed cheesemakers in Wisconsin, and then became an American Cheese Grader. This meant that he was qualified in all aspects of the business, from the farm pick-up of the milk, to making cheese, to the packaging and delivery of cheese.

His dedication was rewarded in another way: in 1975, Tim won the national FFA proficiency award in Agricultural Processing.

He says that building his business from scratch wasn't easy; "you can't just punch in, punch out and go home." Tim started with two products, a mild and a sharp cheddar from his dad's factory, and then added other items. Some were popular,



Novak won the national Agricultural Processing proficiency award in 1975.

but "I had a lot of items that most people didn't care for. I went through and streamlined to the big demand ones."

At the same time, Tim was working for his dad at the cheese factory. "There were days when I would work from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Dad, then work on my fund raising business from 3 p.m. to 2 a.m., and then start all over again," Tim remembers. But as his business skills were growing, so were his cheesemaking skills. He produced a piece of cheddar that placed third out of 233 worldwide entries in the 1980 World Championship Cheese Contest. That same year, Tim's father sold his cheesemaking business, and Tim devoted his full attention to Novak Cheese.

Since 1980, the company has grown steadily. He now works with FFA chapters and other fund raisers in nine states from Massachusetts to Montana, and is currently concentrating on building a customer base on the west coast.

During spring and summer, Tim does what he once thought he could never do — he makes sales calls to potential customers, and follows up with groups he has worked with.

Tim offers the following advice to future FFA entrepreneurs: "Do something you enjoy doing. Money shouldn't be your main objective, or the thrill will be short-lived. People will read right through you. And no matter what you do, put your whole heart into it. You will be a success."

The Glasgow, Kentucky, FFA uses a system where each member receives \$5 for each 10 crates of citrus he or she sells. The top salesperson receives an expense paid trip to the national FFA convention or \$100.00 in cash. The second place through sixth place sellers get cash from \$75 to \$20. Top salespersons receive jackets.

In One Door, Out the Other

Spending money is always easier than raising it. There so many important places for it to go. A key selling point to potential customers is that all the money raised by FFA members is invested in developing students, the school and the community.

Brad Arens, reporter in Dunning, Nebraska, says, "Our chapter uses the money raised to send members to officer training and young member camps, state and national convention, and to purchase awards for the members.

According to Emily Kaeding, reporter for the Mississinawa Valley, Ohio, FFA Chapter, "We spend money on many different trips and chapter activities. We usually send at least one person to the Washington Conference Program every year which costs the chapter around \$350. National convention will cost us about \$1,000 the years that we go." Their parent-member banquet costs the chapter around \$1,000. Other chapter activities include an officer retreat, state camp, a canoe trip, a swimming party and chapter meeting recreation. Together, these activities cost the chapter an average of \$550 a year.

Computer Link

Computers have made the recordkeeping task of fund-raising activities easier and more accurate. Sales records can be stored in a reliable, central location. There is a lesser chance of an accounting error. Information can be retrieved quickly which can improve customer service.

Angela McGhee, reporter for Couch FFA in Myrtle, Missouri, says, "the disk we recommend for fund raisers is the "Sale Manager" by Hobar. It has really helped in making things easier."

The Mississinawa, Ohio, FFA uses the AppleWorks database and Visicacle spreadsheet software programs. Records are kept on file from year to year detailing the amount of money individuals donate to the FFA for the ads in the fall fair bulletin.

Clinton-Central, Indiana, sent examples of how they used the computer to keep financial records. "We use the AppleWorks spreadsheet to keep our budget, our member records and our monthly record of receipts and disbursements. We have developed the basic structure of each of these sheets from the FFA treasurer's book. Our chapter treasurers are responsible for entering the information on various forms.

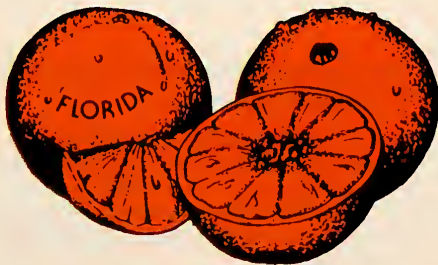
The most successful chapters at fund-raising are those who get every member involved, who try something new once in awhile for variety and who are providing a community service as part of their effort. There are no shortcuts in the fund-raising business. Success is usually the result of hard work and organization.

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Fund Raisers IN ACTION

Virginia Penny Ante

The Clarke County, Virginia, FFA in Berryville is highly active in landscaping their school. This is a fund-raising event that brings in \$300 - \$400 every year plus promotes school and class pride.

They set up four large jugs in the cafeteria during lunch. They ask all students to donate their extra pennies to the "pennies for pines" jugs, and explain that it is for the school landscaping projects the FFA has set up.

Students of the class (freshmen, sophomore, junior, senior) which has the most points (one point per penny) at the end of the two-week time period get to keep all the money they have in their jug for their class funds.

However, if a person puts silver coins or dollar bills in a jug, this counts against a class in terms of negative numbers.

The money is taken to a local bank

every afternoon to be counted. Announcements on class standings are made at the end of the day or at the beginning of the day.

Usually, the students get very generous towards their giving when announcements pit a particular class against another. Also, towards the end of the week it is not uncommon to see students bring in jars full of pennies to donate to their class, or dollar bills popping up in the leading class' jug. (Randy Buckley, President)

Kentucky Fairly Good Fund Raiser

The Breckinridge County Chapter of Harned, Kentucky, reports on a somewhat unusual and very successful fundraiser.

The chapter coordinates the activities of one night during county fair. The activities they manage are the Miss Breckinridge County Beauty Pageant, the Little Mr. and Mrs. Contest and the Baby Contest.

For managing these activities, the chapter receives a percentage of the gate receipts. They also secure sponsors to help pay the prize money, for the judges dinner and other expenses. From this activity the chapter netted approximately \$2,500. (Samantha Haycraft, Reporter)

Kansas They Cleaned Up



It took six hours but 39 Jackson Heights, Kansas, members netted \$1,150 for the chapter for helping the clean up crew at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City. (From National Chapter Award application)

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Nebraska

Hired Hand For a Day

The Norris, Nebraska, Chapter felt it was a challenge to get every member involved in the money making activities of its organization. The Earnings and Savings Committee provided enough activities so that all 70 members were actively involved in planning, advertising and promoting popcorn sales, fruit sales, hired hand for a day auction and the produce booth at the Nebraska State Fair.

It is a primary goal of the committee that every member have the opportunity to attend all leadership workshops, conferences, state and national conventions, and other events at no expense to the participating members. Thus, no member is prevented from attending an activity because of money.

The chapter's major sources of income included fruit sales, \$7,150; popcorn sale, \$4,300; test plot sales, \$900; and hired hand for a day sale, \$2,680.

As incentives to sell fruit and popcorn, the chapter provided 50 cents per sale to the members. The chapter sent thank-you's to all businesses, organizations and individuals who made donations and contributions to the chapter. (From National Chapter Award application)



This year the shop and ag room became warehouses as hundreds of boxes were purchased from the Battle Creek FFA Chapter and then sold to area chapters and community members.

Nebraska

Three Winners

The Waverly, Nebraska, FFA Chapter has three main fund raisers throughout the year's activities. They use these money makers each year to support about a \$14,000 budget year round.

The biggest one of the three is magazine sales which the chapter conducts during the fall. Then the money is used for chapter operations during the entire year. The top magazine salesman in the fresh-

(Continued on Page 42)

August-September, 1990

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Fund Raisers IN ACTION

(Continued from Page 41)

man class gets a free trip to national convention in Kansas City. The second place freshman receives a free FFA jacket. The top magazine salesmen overall are given cash prizes and during the sale every five days a music gift certificate is given to each member who sells a given amount of magazines.

Our second largest money maker each year is candy sales netting us about \$5,000. The money made from these sales are used for chapter retreats during the summer. Some of the past chapter retreats have been to Worlds of Fun, or Harlan County Reservoir in south-central Nebraska. The rest of the money is put into the general treasury for later use when the need arises. (Scott L. Kettle, President)

Collective Victory

Wix Corporation recently awarded \$250 bonuses to Dawsonville, Georgia; Utica, Nebraska; Brockway, Pennsylvania; and Gillette, Wyoming. Chapters for collecting the most boxtops per capita per region during the 1989 Wix/FFA fundraising promotion.

The chapters redeemed up to \$3,100 in Wix Filter boxtops to win recognition for their outstanding fundraising achievement.

During this year's fundraising promotion, Wix will donate 25 cents to the local FFA chapter for any Wix filter boxtop redeemed. Wix will award \$4,000 in additional bonuses for 1990 outstanding chapter redemption.

Arkansas

Cold Cash

Members of the Waldo FFA in Arkansas built a cold frame. The members then planted and raised tomatoes. The tomatoes were sold as a chapter fund raiser.

Ohio

Fruit Finances

The Oak Harbor, Ohio, Chapter sponsored a sales incentive award trip to give members a recreational outing in recognition for outstanding sales of cider or fruit. To be eligible a member must have sold 20 cases of fruit, or 75 gallons of cider. Another was a trip to a Globetrotters game. (Margie Ray, Reporter)



The chapter's plot works well as a learning opportunity but also earns money for the FFA.

Iowa

Money Plot

The Buffalo Center Bisson FFA Chapter demonstration plot is in an eye catching location and visited frequently by farmers in Buffalo Center, Iowa. The plot is used extensively by crop classes as well and turned the chapter a profit of nearly \$1,200 last year.

The chapter rents the 12.6 acre demonstration plot from the school. This year 26

corn varieties from 15 seed companies were compared for standability and yield. A plot sign invites all interested to visit the plot at any time and a special evening tour open house was held prior to the harvest. All seed corn representatives were invited to show their corn to the interested farmers. The plot is only three blocks from the school and serves as a teaching site for many ag classes. (From National Chapter Award application.)

Nebraska

Across State Lines



Fruit laden semi-trucks like the one pictured above delivered apples, grapefruit and oranges to chapters in Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado who were members of the FFA Fruit Co-op operated by the Blue Hills, Nebraska, FFA Chapter. Members in chapters pre-sell the fruit and send in their orders. The chapter in turn compiles orders and arranges for delivery and billing. (From National Chapter Award application)

Oklahoma

Teacher Market

The construction of the 30' x 48' greenhouse in the fall of 1985 has been a tremendous asset to the Chickasha, Oklahoma, FFA program. It has not only skyrocketed enrollment but has also given the chapter another source of income.

Five major crops were raised in the greenhouse this year: poinsettias, Easter lilies, tulips, caladiums and mums. All plants raised were sold to teachers in the Chickasha school system or ag students. (From National Chapter Award application)

Colorado

Teacher Feed

The Cortez, Colorado, chapter held a barbecue for the regional ag teachers association who visited the area. Members prepared and served the meal as a fund raiser for the chapter. (Lori Ahrens, Reporter)

Nevada

Fund-Raising Philosophy

The Churchill County FFA Chapter of Fallon, Nevada, has a tremendous program that uses its own farming equipment to train members during the summer harvesting period as well as enriching the treasury.

During the winter, the ag mechanics classes recondition the equipment. This allows the members to not only learn to operate the equipment, but to also maintain it. This totally integrated program was made possible by purchasing used equipment, up-grading it, and then using it to enhance the financial standing of the chapter.

In addition, the Churchill County Chapter works with the Nevada Cattlemen's Association to put on the Fallon All Breeds Bull Sale. Chapter members sell hay and straw they have harvested during the summer to the bull consignors. Members also sell raffle tickets on a heifer at the sale that generates between \$800 to \$1,000 for the chapter.

Due to the chapter's sound financial standing, members are able to attend overnight judging contests, leadership camps and conventions and only pay for their meals. Funds are utilized for a \$300

senior scholarship, airfare to national convention for members on state winning teams, registration fees for state convention, leadership camp, and two chapter officers to attend WCP and motel rooms for all the overnight activities. The chapter also serves a sit-down catered dinner at the annual awards banquet at no cost to those attending. Chapter members and advisors have developed the philosophy that fund raising activities undertaken by the chapter should be agriculturally related, educational and generate enough funds to be worth the time commitment. (Chad Lee Rigney, Reporter)

Oklahoma

Labor Day Dollars

A tremendous slave sale netted the Thomas, Oklahoma, FFA Chapter over \$13,000. The all-time high sale average was \$335 and the high bid on one worker was \$1,000. (Brian Vowell, Reporter)

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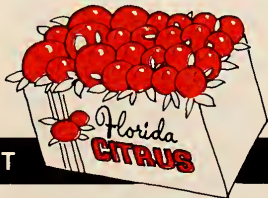


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Naturally Exciting

Environmental resource classes attract a wide variety of students.

Inner-city students helped clean up a river in Wisconsin, while rural kids harvested timber, learned trapping skills and produced maple syrup in New Hampshire. Michigan students constructed public nature trails, as Missouri teens taught hundreds of young children about the woods, hunter safety and wildlife habitat.

When it comes to agriculture courses under the broad heading of "natural resources," the list of locations and activities goes on and on. This growing body of high school ag classes is attracting students from cities, suburbs, town and country, sending ag enrollments upward in some places.

Students who enroll learn vital information about the world they live in—how to protect trees, plants, soils, air and animals. But exactly what they do in class depends very much on where they live.

Educating the Public

Students of Kathleen Germain in Petoskey, Michigan, began work last year on a 20-acre wildlife-management demonstration area at a nearby children's camp. They built 40 bluebird houses and tow kestrel boxes (for small hawks) and planted trees. The goal, she said, was "to do as many different things for an open-land wildlife area as possible."

Another goal of her course, Natural Resource Management, "is making the outdoors accessible to the public," Germain said. So students have built nature trails on public lands, complete with bridges, stairways and self-guiding brochures they designed themselves. Since a nature trail is laid out to educate people about specific natural phenomena, the students first had to learn what was going on in the particular environment.

No class in natural resources could ignore the forests, lakes and rivers sur-

rounding Petoskey, so students studied forest and water management as well. Specifically, they learned tree identification and measurement, chain saw safety and water testing.

"All kinds of kids are interested in the environment," she said. "The class draws a mixed crowd." In fact, agriculture classes are increasingly creating interest at her school, with enrollment jumping from 27 students to 130 in four years.

John Holloway, state FFA officer and recent graduate, took Germain's class last year. He most enjoyed designing and building the nature trails. "With hands-on activities, you really get to know what the problems are," he said.

But classroom work that came first prepared him for the outdoor laboratory he noted. "It's such a fragile system. If you don't know what you're doing, you could mess up a whole chain by ignoring one link."

World of Water

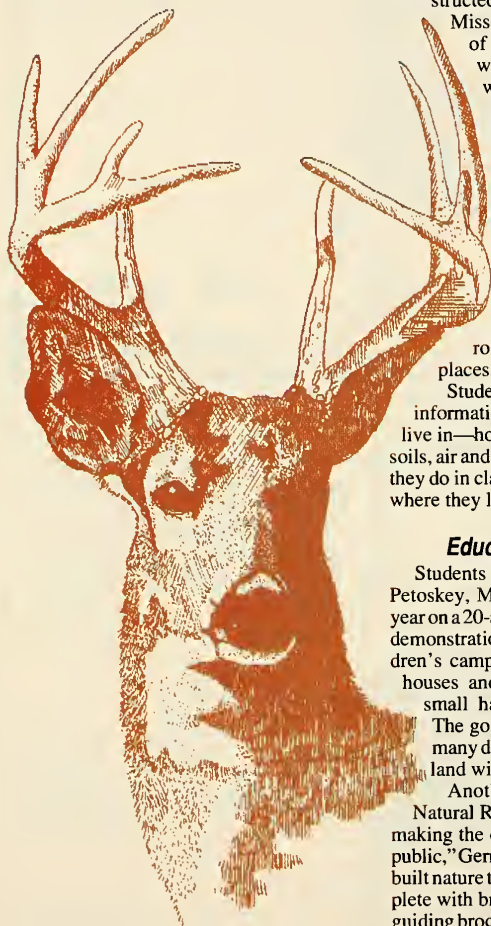
One state west, but worlds away from Petoskey, senior Milenda Vowell studied Water Science last year at Milwaukee's Harold S. Vincent High School. Classes there drew 200 urban students to a magnet program in Agribusiness and Natural Resources.

Vowell, FFA chapter vice president, found Water Science fun. Students worked on the Milwaukee River estuary project for a couple of years, helping with river rejuvenation and cleanup," she explained. They learned how to take samples of water, soil and plankton and toured sewage treatment facilities in the area, she added.

In the course, instructor Don Shebesta introduces these non-traditional ag students to physical and chemical properties of water, hydrologic cycle, acid rain, groundwater, runoff and effects of concrete and asphalt on the environment. To grasp these weighty topics, students work in the school lab and even head out to a research vessel on Lake Michigan to practice water-sampling techniques.

Though Vincent High School has offered classes in natural resources for 12 years, Shebesta noticed a lot more student awareness of the environment this past year.

In a program at Green Bay Southwest



By Michelle Domangue

High School, teacher Frank Kugel, too, has observed more environmental awareness among students.

"Enrollment in ag is having a tough time," he said. "These courses keep our enrollments up and flowing." He teaches Wildlife Management and Conservation, as well as Forestry and Soils, two classes offered alongside more traditional agriculture courses.

About 1,000 students in his city, grades seven to 12, enrolled in agriscience classes last year. Only about 5 percent came from traditional farming backgrounds, he estimated.

Students are drawn because of a "recreational tie-in," he said. "Many are involved in hiking and fishing, so it fits in well to teach courses like this."

One of the most popular units in the wildlife class, says Kugel, is a hands-on taxidermy lesson. First he teaches students to skin fish; then the group holds a fish fry. Next comes a lesson in the art of preserving and stuffing the fish they caught — to keep permanently.

Forestry Skills

Students at White Mountains Regional High School in Whitefield, New Hampshire, enrolled in Forestry/Natural Resources stay busy outdoors all year — and even earn money for their program through timber harvests and a maple-sugaring operation.

The two-period class open to juniors and seniors covers competitive forestry, wildlife management, chainsaw operation and maintenance, timber harvesting and maple syrup production, reported teacher Dixon Leslie.

Though the focus on natural resources is new in some parts of the country, White Mountains' program has been in place since 1972. But it's growing popularity has Leslie concerned about how to fit in everyone who wants to sign up. "My program is overflowing!" he said.

Perhaps one reason for the popularity is the setting in which skills are taught. "The high school sits on 400 acres—320 is woodlands," explained Leslie. "I have a large classroom."

At school, students manage the forest



Kenmore High students use science to learn environmental management.

Environment with a Twist

Students use high technology to discover nature.

Most students enrolling in Environmental Management at Kenmore High School in Akron, Ohio, aren't planning to go to college, says teacher Tony Casalini. With GPA's averaging from 2.0 to 2.5, these students usually haven't excelled in science. But after finishing the class, "80 percent go on for further training," he noted. "This year, 50 percent had some type of scholarship."

In a high-tech program that's "hot and heavy in science," Casalini teaches topics like limnology (the study of fresh water), toxicology and experimental design. Students go out to record real information about the environment, then analyze data "with high-class computer statistics," the teacher said. "This brings it to real life, like real medicine and animal science research."

Environmental Management is one of several specialized areas of study, along with Forestry and Natural Resources, that attracted about 500 Ohio students to agriscience classes last year. That number represents only a small percentage of the nearly 17,000 in agriscience overall. But such courses often

draw into the program students who normally wouldn't think of agriculture—or of joining the FFA.

At Kenmore, 100 percent of agriscience students do join the FFA chapter. In fact, the top three agriscience students in the state came from Casalini's class, as did the FFA Agriscience Student of the Year.

In teaching Environmental Management, "I assume the kids are going to work in the area," Casalini said. Though they'll need more training after high school, he's preparing them for real-world careers like lab technologist, toxicologist, water analyst or oil analyst. "When you make it as real as you possibly can, I guess the kids really get into it," he said.

And how.

Six Kenmore students brought back a long list of honors from science competitions at Ohio universities last year, contests pitting these "vocational" kids against top science students from traditional academic programs. One Kenmore competitor even advanced to the International Science and Engineering Fair in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Most importantly, the students' success spills over into other areas, adds Casalini, Ohio's Agriscience Teacher of the Year for 1990. He's seen them gain the confidence and interest to explore more traditional agricultural subjects and other areas of science. With that success, "they feel they can go out and conquer the world!" he says.

By Michelle Domangue

(Continued on Page 46)

Naturally Exciting

(Continued from Page 45)

for timber and wildlife, which thrives among the trees and four or five natural ponds.

His class also tapped 1,000 maple trees and collected sap. "This unit is the highlight of the year," Leslie said. Students went through the entire process of syrup production, down to canning and selling more than 100,000 gallons last year. They hosted some 500 visitors who toured the orchard and sugar house. "We're trying to educate a broad spectrum of people," Leslie said. Besides, students get a little experience with tourism, a major industry in the area.

Though filled with learning and fun, the course isn't an easy one to teach. Leslie must present information in a balanced way while teaching sensitive subjects—the need for conservation of wildlife vs. sportsman's interests in trapping and hunting, for instance. Conflict can also arise between those who make their living from the forest by cutting down trees and those who seek to preserve wildlife, trees and the natural beauty that brings tourists.

Senior Stephen Kenison Jr. came away from the course with an appreciation for responsible behavior in the forest. "The forest is a replenishable resource," he said. "If you take care of it, you'll always have it."



Fourth-graders joined Petoskey FFA to plant several hundred seedlings.

Hunting Safety

The Natural Resources class at Westran High School in Huntsville, Missouri has only been offered for three years but, "It's one of the more popular courses in the school," says teacher Chris Stockhorst. In fact, one-sixth of the high school's entire enrollment of 150 students signed up for the upper-level class.

Though students enroll for all sorts of reasons, an interest in hunting brings some, Stockhorst admits. "There's a big interest in outdoor skills. So we teach good hunting etiquette and hunting laws, as well as trap shooting, hunting and fishing skills and safety."

The class includes much more, of course. But the appeal of hunting "is a way to get them in the door, motivate them a little bit. We give them some hands-on activities, and they're willing to work with the rest of it."

The "rest of it" includes projects at the school's land lab, a 65-acre tract once strip mined for coal, then deeded to the FFA chapter in the 1920s. Back then, chapter members planted black locust trees, but no one made further improvements until recently.

"In the last three years, we have done timber-stand improvement, planting oak, walnut and other more marketable trees," the teacher said. "We've also planted

food plots for animals."

To halt erosion, students planted crown vetch, a creeping vine, and other types of ground cover. Altogether, students have begun some eight or nine improvement projects.

Growing Interest

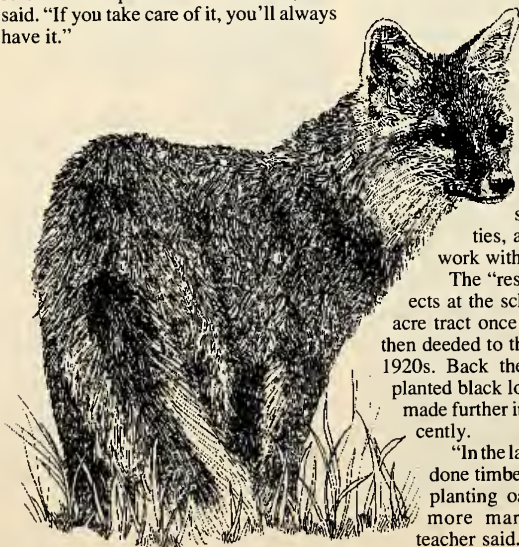
From Washington state to Texas and Montana to Ohio, instruction about natural resources is continuing, beginning or changing.

Some brand-new courses focus on one aspect, like wildlife or water quality. In Texas, a 2-year-old class in Wildlife and Recreation Management has proven "extremely popular." At Van Vleck High School, instructor Walter Oncken said his department has filled up three sections each year—in a school of only 243 students.

In other places, there is a new emphasis on natural resources within existing courses.

That diversity can create a rich classroom experience, says Jeff Celia at Alvirn High School in Hudson, New Hampshire. "In general, maybe five years ago, the majority of ag students were vocational students, headed for work, a two-year school or technical school. There's more interest from collegebound kids now."

Once in the classroom, students with varying interests and career ambitions, all armed with things they've read or heard, generate some lively discussion. "That makes it more like the real world," Celia says. "It makes for an interesting situation when one wants to be a lawyer, one wants to be a logger."





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FFA IN ACTION

Ohio

National Officer Action Update

National FFA President Donnell Brown got the full treatment as a guest in Ohio for the week of January 9-14. Donnell is from Texas and was sent to Ohio for a week of training experiences during the early weeks of his FFA officer year.

Mostly the experiences centered around meeting and working with chapter leaders and state officers at school, at FFA events, in the homes and in the local community.

When Donnell visited Amanda Clearcreek Chapter he played a game of "paintball." The chapter introduced the state officers and Donnell to a war game using paint guns. The two team captains, Adam Sharp, chapter president, and Rich Lamp, treasurer, organized and drilled Donnell and the state officers.

A game usually consists of two teams of fifteen. The object is to eliminate players on the other team using your gun. When a hit breaks the paint, that symbolizes the elimination of that player.

Throughout the day six games were played. The team headed by Donnell and Rich won four out of six, but the team headed by Dena Wyler, state president, and Adam Sharp made a good showing.

Amanda-Clearcreek FFA has been playing paintball for three years, but only got into team play last year. Since then they have received calls from neighboring chapters interested in playing.

Donnell, center facing camera and "out of official dress," gets his last briefing before his first paintgun battle from Rich Lamp, left, and Ted Hollbrook, right.



At the football Hall of Fame, Donnell stopped to see the exhibit honoring Bob Lilly who hails from the same hometown of Throckmorton, Texas.



Donnell got some unique hands-on experiences at Montgomery County JVS in the animal care lab.

New Hampshire

For the Birds

Coe-Brown, New Hampshire, chapter members have found a project which combines ecological awareness for Earth Day with a service project for the state IOU-NH competition. They struck upon the idea of producing bird feeder kits which would be assembled by third and fourth graders in a local elementary school.

Like all good projects, this one grew and changed a lot from its original conception. What had been planned for one elementary school was expanded to four; Northwood, Strafford, Nottingham and Epsom. FFA members all wanted their younger siblings to be included.

It soon became obvious that they were looking at slightly over 200 bird feeders, seven field trips to elementary schools, 11 classrooms of third or fourth graders, and every available FFA member they could grab. FFA members were involved in parts production, solicitation of materials, production of the coloring book and field trips to the elementary schools. Many of the students participated in all aspects of the project.

Early organization included finding a simple bird feeder pattern, estimating the materials needed, writing and calling local businesses for donations, and establishing contact with the elementary schools.

The officers split up the duties and made sign-up sheets, typed acknowledgment sheets for the kits, wrote thank you letters, called to confirm dates and classroom numbers, and helped the advisors encourage members to go on the trips.

Several students helped rewrite adult materials about birds and feeders to third grade level, found good drawings of local small birds to develop and printed a 10 page coloring book for each child. Other chapter members researched why it is ecologically important to feed the small birds. They also prepared a short introduction for the elementary children explaining why they had chosen this as their Earth Day/IOU-NH contribution. The teens stressed that they needed the help of the elementary students to be sure the feeders were put to use.

For simplicity, and the safety of the third and fourth graders, the feeder was designed to require only a hammer and a

(Continued on Page 50)

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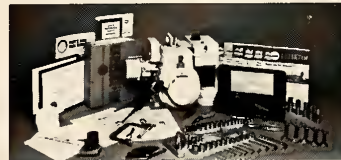
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FFA IN ACTION

(Continued from Page 48)

Phillips screw-driver. The construction and woodworking classes designed and built jigs so that they could mass produce all the individual pieces of the feeders. Another class designed additional jigs for predrilling all the pieces so small hands could drive nails and set screws easily.

Once all the pieces were cut (400 ends, 400 roof pieces, 800 rim pieces) FFA members developed a way to wrap each kit with the meat wrapper for easy transport and presentation. They also included a thank you sheet to advertise the businesses who donated materials and a piece of sandpaper in each kit.

On each field trip advisors took 10 - 14 chapter members who had attended an after school training session on the correct assembly method and what to expect from third graders' skills levels.

Six area businesses were the donors of over \$450.00 worth of materials to make this project possible.

Texas

Better Busses

Several members at Bernard, Texas, have been getting into engines at their school lately.

FFA members Doug Fucik and Wayne Miculka completely overhauled an International bus engine that has a V-8 in it with 392 cubic inches. Now it is running in school bus #40. These students also replaced pistons, rod and main bearings, oil pump, timing chain and sprockets, and the camshaft. According to transportation supervisor, Dan Vacek, the engine is running like a new one. It has 10,000 miles on it and does not use any oil between oil changes.

Students Ricky Day and Jody Fucik also overhauled a Chevrolet bus engine that is presently in storage in the bus barn. As soon as a bus engine needs to be replaced, this one can be installed for a trial run. A third engine was overhauled by Michael Patitucci and Wayne Miculka.

Approximately \$1,250 per engine was saved by the school district by allowing the students to learn by doing the work. The jobs were supervised by agriculture teacher Robert Hlavinka and Vacek. (Wes Brandes)

Iowa

Groundup News

The Elkader, Iowa, FFA Chapter participated in Earth Week 1990 by shredding newspaper. The shredded paper was then given away to members who were interested in using it as bedding for livestock and as plant mulch. (Mary Plagman, Reporter)

Idaho

Arc Welding

The first and second winners of the 1990 Lincoln Arc Welding Award are members of the Burley, Idaho, FFA. Both are seniors and received their state FFA degrees at the Idaho State Leadership Conference at the end of March in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Jeff Jarolimek, the national winner, built a "dammer diker." He farms with his family west of Burley, near Burley Butte. Due to the slope of the land, runoff and erosion have been critical problems while irrigating row crops. Jeff, who raises sugar beets as part of his SAE, experienced significant crop damage due to heavy rains and excessive sprinkler irrigation.

It was decided that the dammer diker could be built at school that would reduce, if not eliminate, the problem. The dammer diker paddles are pulled along behind



Jeff Jarolimek built a twelve row replica of a Dammer-Diker.

and as the paddles strike the soil a series of divots (or indentations) are left in the soil. These indentations act as small reservoirs that increase the amount of water available to the roots. The rough surface of the soil also eliminates run off. Jeff saved nearly \$16,000 by building this implement over purchasing it. He also modified it to work on sugar beets as opposed to potatoes for which the implement was designed.



Brian Bean built a 12 foot three axis rear tractor mounted scrapper blade.

Brian Bean, the second place winner, built a three-axis hydraulic operated, rear mounted, scraper blade. He farms with his family south of Burley where he raises sugar beets and potatoes as part of his SAE. Brian's scraper blade is 12 feet wide and is used for a variety of jobs to clean potato cellars, scrape gravel roads, move snow and level ground. Brian saved about \$2,500 by building this piece of equipment. (Gaylen Smyer, Advisor)

Missouri

Bringing Home the Bacon

The Memphis, Missouri, FFA Chapter brought home top honors in the Missouri Pork Producers quiz bowl.

The quiz bowl was part of the annual Missouri Pork Conference and Trade Show held in Columbia. Competition is fast paced and based on one's knowledge of pork. Ten teams of four members vied for the \$300 first place prize with the Memphis FFA Chapter winning for the third consecutive time.

Halfway, Missouri agriculture instructor, Gerald Whistance, was honored with a Service in Vocational Agriculture Award by the Pork Producers Association at the Conference and Trade Show.

Illinois

Recycling Day

The successful Elmwood, Illinois, FFA Recycling Day was held in conjunction with the extension office's county recycling day.

Turnout for all area centers was greater than expected and the Elmwood FFA center alone had more than 110 people come to turn in items. Over 50 percent of all items turned in were paper. (Tim Gilaspie, Reporter)

MY TURN

Casey Isom



Casey Isom

It was a warm, sunny morning; the kind of morning that makes you want to go herd cattle on a motorcycle.

As I cruised across the pasture on my sleek 1973 Suzuki Beast-O-Bike, I spotted her. She was big, ugly and foaming at the mouth. No, it was not my neighbor, but a particularly uncooperative cow and her calf. They had been separated from the herd and it was my responsibility to retrieve them.

The Suzuki was not quite as agile as my horse, Nuisance, but it was the only thing available. Just as I had them where I wanted them, they suddenly made a run for it. As I opened the throttle trying to block their escape, she cut to the right. I did the same, only to find myself sprawled on the ground with an incredible pain in my knee. The cow ran away laughing.

I sat there unable to walk, which explains why I sat there, and witnessed a truly horrible event. Gasoline from the tank of my fallen motorcycle was draining to the ground. The fact that I was losing \$3.78 of gas was not the problem. I was destroying the environment and there was not a thing I could do about it. I sat waiting for groups of radical environmentalists to come and chain themselves to my motorcycle, protesting my blatant destruction of a patch of grass.

Of course no one came, but I wondered why we had let technology progress to the point of destroying our environment. Would we not be better off eliminating fossil fuel burning, outlawing chemicals, riding horses, and reverting to primitive life? I doubt it.

Four weeks later, my knee has been repaired but our Earth has not. The answer to the problem is not found in criticizing the past and cursing those who have al-

lowed parts of our world to deteriorate. The damage has been done but it can be stopped, even reversed, if we act now.

The huge environmental push in our midst has been a very positive thing, but I am concerned about it becoming a fashion trend. Trends come and go and the concern for our Earth should not come and go like polyester bell-bottoms, disco and Tiffany. Also, too many people are joining environmental movements with no clue as to the purpose of the movement. We are very willing to protest others, sometimes destroying certain economies, while maintaining our own environmentally hazardous practices—in essence, not practicing what we preach. Look at the tons of trash left by those celebrating Earth Day 1990 in major city parks across the nation.

We all must do our part if the problem is to be solved.

Basic conservation efforts are perhaps the best thing you can do right now. Turning off lights, walking more often, carpooling, conserving fuel and energy, carefully following instructions for applying and disposing of chemicals for farm and home landscape, and not littering are but a few simple efforts that can have a tremendous impact if taken seriously.

Our quality of life depends upon our actions taken here and now. It is our choice to decide what our future will be like and what type of environment we will have. Industrial and technological advances may have destroyed parts of our world, but technology, namely agricultural technology, will be the ultimate safeguard for our environment in the future. It is up to us to develop that technology which will save our environment. The task is huge but it is ours to take. ...

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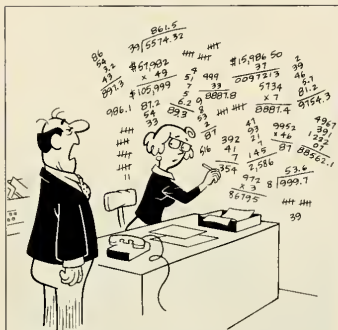
J O K E P A G E

One Sunday, shortly after receiving my learner's permit, I drove my parents to church. After a long, rough ride, we reached our destination. I stopped at the front doors to drop my mother off, and when she got out of the car, she said, "Thank you."

"Anytime!" I replied.

As my mother slammed the door shut heard her call out, "I wasn't speaking to you. I was talking to God."

Mary Anderson
Miles City, Montana



"When did the repair shop say your computer would be fixed, Miss Tuttle?"

Q: What is "mean temperature?"

A: Ten degrees below zero when you're not wearing long johns.

Robbie Simpson
Greensburg, Kentucky

The teacher asked the class, "If you have 12 apples and you want to divide them evenly among 13 people, how do you do it?"

The class then answered, "Make applesauce!"

Carlos Lopez
Selma, California

Patient: My hair is falling out, what can you give me to keep it in?

Doctor: A paper bag.

Elaine Gill
Clearwater, Minnesota

Two boys that were walking in a field heard a buzzing sound near their feet. "Get away from there," warned the local lad. "It's a rattlesnake! If you go near it, it'll strike!"

"No kidding," said his visitor from the city. "They have unions, too?"

Leslie Lang
Conehatta, Mississippi

One player's mother was trying to cheer up the Little League coach after his team's disastrous season.

"At least you've taught the boys sportsmanship," she comforted. "They're certainly good losers."

"Good?" howled the miserable coach. "Lady, they're perfect!"

Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

We had spent most of Thanksgiving Day watching football games on TV. As we sat down Friday night to a dinner of leftover turkey, yams and cold stuffing, our teen-aged son asked, "What's this, the instant replay?"

Oliver E. Frazier
Rock Hall, Maryland

Q: What can you do with a greenhand?

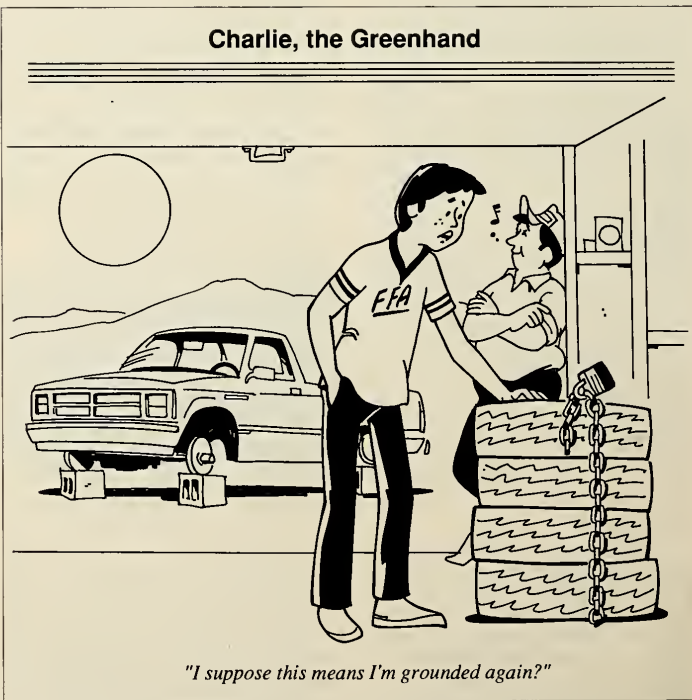
A: Two things. 1) wave it on St. Patrick's Day or 2) put it in a paper bag and it'll ripen in about three days.

Crystal Breeding
Oak Hill, Ohio

Q: How do you make antifreeze?

A: Put ice cubes in her sleeping bag.
Jason Faleide
Heimdal, North Dakota

Charlie, the Greenhand



"I suppose this means I'm grounded again?"

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