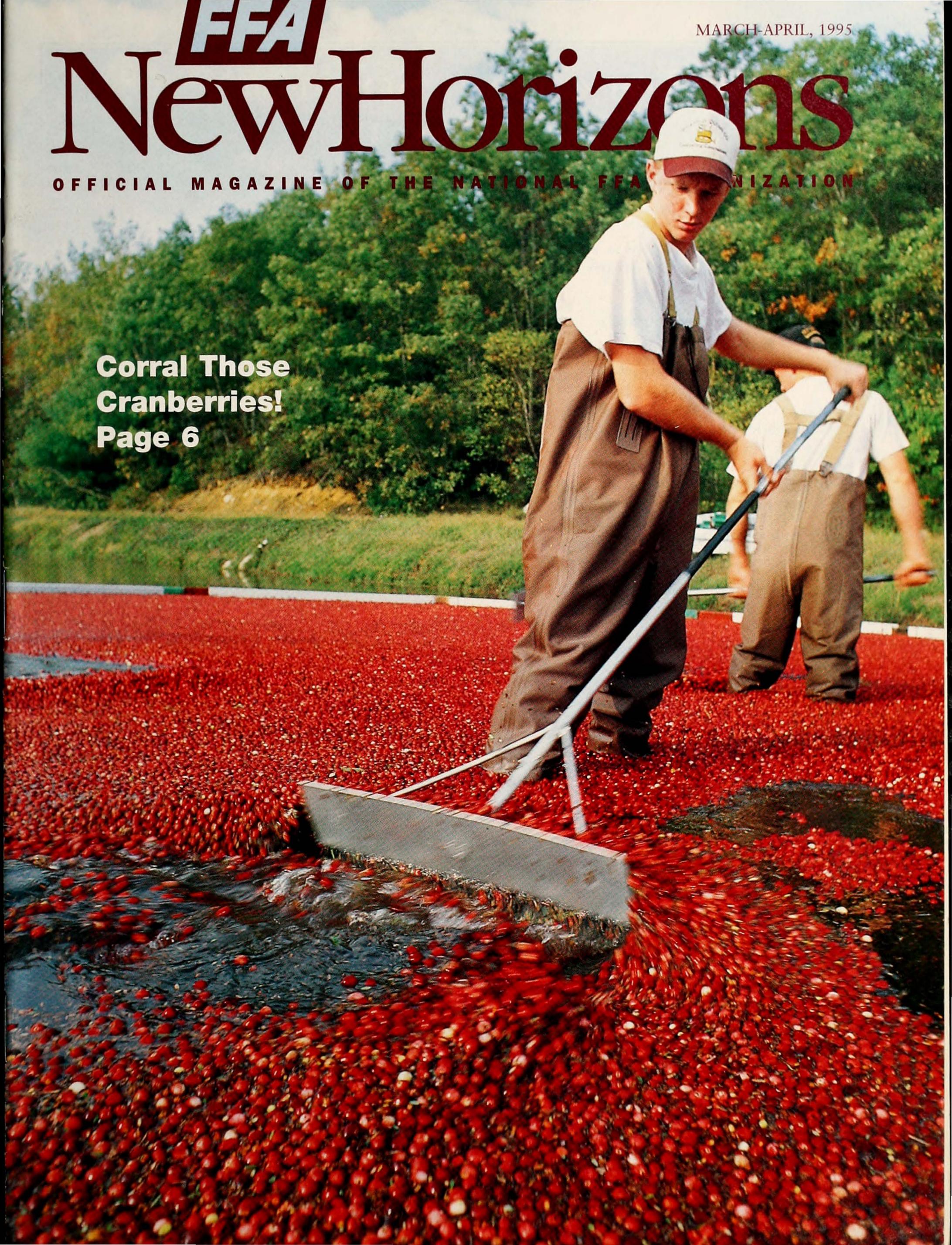


MARCH-APRIL, 1995

FFA New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

**Corral Those
Cranberries!
Page 6**



THE TOUGHEST, SOFTEST BOOT YOU CAN BUY.



To the world, a drop
dead pair of tough
Double-H Boots. To your
feet, a castle, heaven-on-
earth, home sweet home.
They're a combination
of old-fashioned, bullet-
proof bootmanship and
high-tech innovation.



*The unique
dual density orthotic
footbed. Just a part
of the Aeroglide 7
comfort system.*

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stuffed with natural oils and
waxes. But when you get
down to the soles, there's
Aeroglide 7. A stacked
comfort system that gives
you the kind of comfort
that matters at the end of
an eighteen-hour workday.
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without giving one back.

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attach it the old way.
The American Way.
By welting and
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Which is
like



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Norwalk, CA
Winchester
Western Wear
San Jose, CA
H & R Supply
Alamosa, CO
Hill Bros. Boots
Denver, CO

Horseman's
Headquarters
Ft. Collins, CO
Grand Junction
Western Wear
Grand Junction, CO
Big R of Greeley
Greeley, CO
Big R of LaJunta
LaJunta, CO
Big R of Lamar
Lamar, CO
Mesa
Ranch Supply
Pueblo, CO
Big R of Pueblo
Pueblo, CO
Bunny Junction
New Castle, DE
B.C. Corral
Lakeland, FL
Beach's
Leesburg, FL
Shoe Biz
(Lake Square Mall)
Leesburg, FL
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Ocala, FL

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Orlando, FL
Olde Sarges
Pensacola, FL
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Country
Tallahassee, FL
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Bainbridge, GA
C & T
Western Wear
& Shoe Shop
Nashville, GA
Omega Hardware
Omega, GA
Bate's Economy
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Shoe Flair
Thomasville, GA
Stan's Shoes
& Clothing
Doon, IA
Rust's Western Shed
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Vanderbilts
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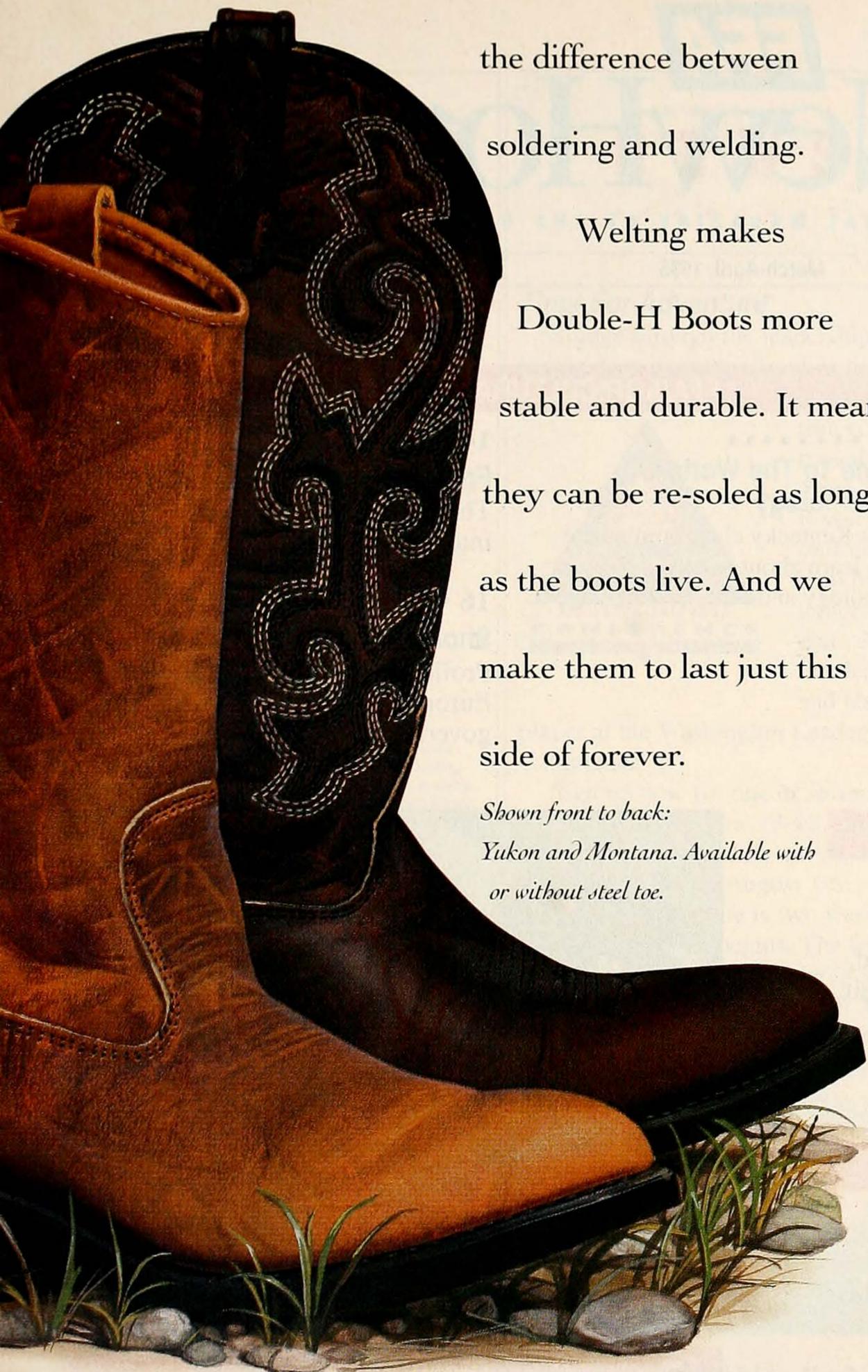
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Shoes, Inc.
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Chucks Boots
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Chucks Boots
Grandview, MO
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Western Store
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Vanderbilts
Independence, MO
Vanderbilts
Joplin, MO
Chucks Boots
Kansas City, MO
Buchheits
Perryville, MO
Coleman's Shoes
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*B/ From toe to heel is a
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where your forefoot takes the
brunt of the impact.*

*D/ We added Poron® #4800
to the sole cavity. (Your feet
ain't gonna complain.)*

*E/ A flexible 16 iron
oil resistant outsole
makes sure what can get
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Just go to one of the stores

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Brand Shoes
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Shoe Shop
Mooreville, NC | Phillips
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Cedar Hill, TX | Dollar
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FFA New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

March-April, 1995

Volume 43 Number 4



FFA/AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

12 •••••

Welcome To The World Of Agri-technology

Tour this Kentucky classroom where students learn about robots, biotechnology and other cutting-edge subjects.

14 •••••

From Pennsylvania To Poland

This FFA chapter makes international connections.

16 •••••

Shock Treatment

Proficiency winners see how East European farmers cope with their government shake up.

COVER STORY

6 •••••

Corral Those Cranberries

See how brothers Tristan, pictured, and Josh Sybertz, are working their way into full-time agriculture.

Photo by Lawinna McGary

CAREERS

8 •••••

Get Inside Your Boss's Brain

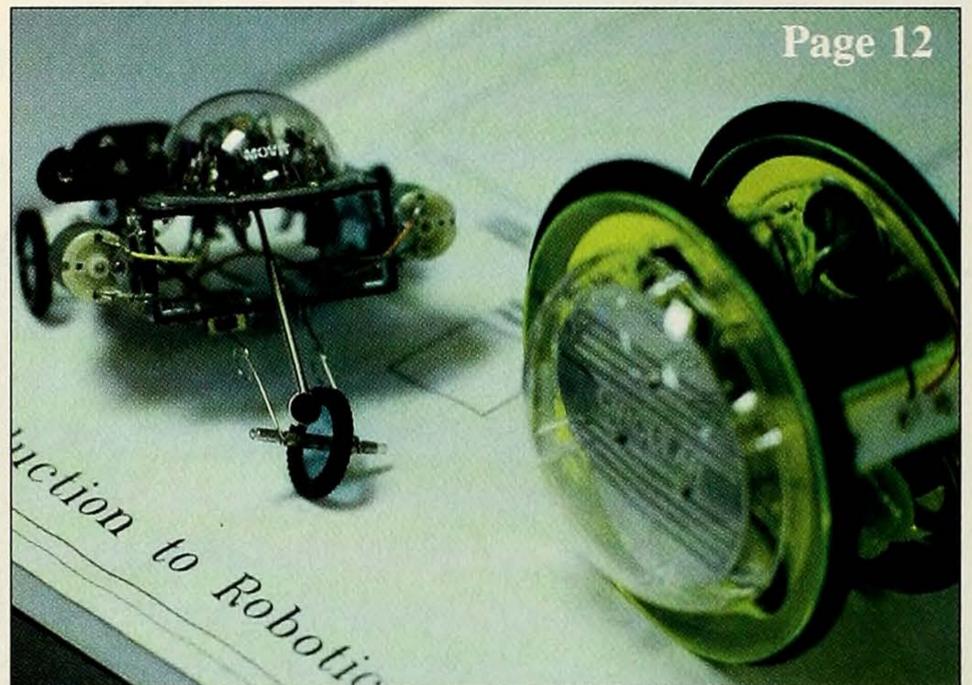
What do employers want? Take this quiz to find out.

10 •••••

Shake Those Public Speaking Fears

Learn how to make dynamic presentations.

Page 12



DEPARTMENTS

5 News In Brief

28 FFA In Action

23 Mailbag

34 Joke Page

The FFA Mission

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



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Registration deadline is two weeks before the session begins. The fee for students who pay in advance is \$450.

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Pack your bags for a world tour with FFA international programs.

Go half-way around the globe on the Australia Homestay trip, or be an FFA Explorer and travel from country to country for six weeks, three months or six months.

For a more scholarly approach, attend seminars where you learn about horticulture in Holland and Belgium, agricultural marketing in Japan or agriculture in Europe.

Applications for these events are due at FFA by April 1, 1995.

For more details, contact Bruce Kane at 703-360-3600, extension 319.

The Ultimate Guide To Pampering Your Horse

What have you done for your horse lately? The editor of Horse Hollow Press, Inc., wants to know for a book on pampering equine.

All ideas and photos published will receive credit in the book as well as a free copy.

Send information to: My Horse is Pampered, Horse Hollow Press, 125 Willow Ave., Hoboken, NJ 07030. Fax: 201-222-8053.



Your Horse Ought To Be In Pictures

Just About Horses magazine, is holding a "Why my favorite horse would love to be a Breyer model" essay contest. Horse and pony lovers of all ages are eligible to submit a photograph and essay about their favorite horse and explain why it is so special to them.

Breyer will honor the winning horse by redecorating an existing model mold in its image for the 1996 catalog line. The runner-up will receive a selection of Breyer models. The top two essays will be published in the January-February 1996 issue of *Just About Horses*.

Send an essay of 250 words or less, neatly written or typed, and a color photograph of your horse to JAH Essay Contest, 14 Industrial Rd., Pequannock, N.J. 07440 and must be postmarked by July 1, 1995. Only entries with self-addressed, stamped envelopes will be returned.

The contest is open to students who own horses of all types and abilities. Essays will be judged on the character of the horse and the expression of the writer.



Many growers use a vacuum pump that runs off the tractor's power take off to suck the berries through a tube into the truck. Here, Josh, right, and Tristan, rake berries toward the vacuum pump, and a conveyor belt lifts the the red fruit into the truck. The white structure bordering the berries is called the corral.

FFA members work their way into full-time agriculture

By Lawinna McGary

Corral Those Cranberries!

Commuters from Middleboro, Massachusetts, pass the bright red cranberry bogs on their way to and from Boston, 28 miles away. Sometimes they stop and watch workers corral the berries and convey them onto trucks.

In peak harvest season, you can bet Josh and Tristan Sybertz, brothers and FFA members, are waist-deep in a bog. They live right next to commuters, but their lifestyles are worlds apart.

Instead of worrying about city traffic, much of the brothers' time away from the bogs is spent on what they call their hobby farm taking care of and showing Saanen dairy goats and a Jersey and Holstein cow.

"They've always liked the outdoors, so it's very natural. I wouldn't expect them to be any different," says their mom Ginny.

Besides, agriculture really is in the boys' blood. Ginny met her husband

Paul at a 4-H goat show.

Josh and Tristan have "always had animals here and a lot of chores and responsibility at home," says Ginny. "They get up and take care of animals before they go to school. They come home and do chores before they go to work."

The two usually log a couple of hours in the bogs each weekday during the school year, and put in six to eight hours each Saturday and Sunday. During harvest season, they take a few days off from school to work. Summertime is their steady season, they put in six to eight hours of labor each day.

Although the holidays are the time of year most people think of cranberries, they need maintenance all year long.

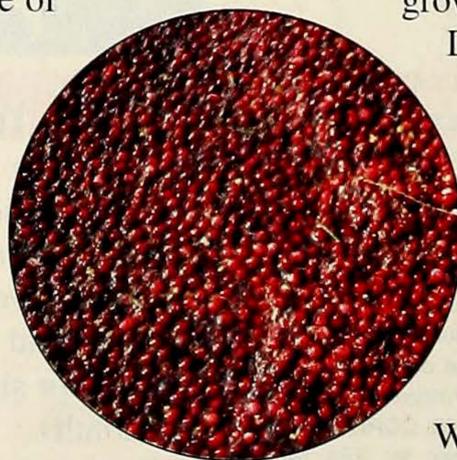
"A lot of people like cranberries and

ask questions about them. They think the vine grows underneath water," says Josh. Although, "most of the time it's dry underneath the vines," he says,

growers do flood bogs from late December through mid-March to protect the vines from winter damage. Every few years they apply a layer of sand to stimulate vine growth, to improve drainage and to control weeds and insects.

When the weather gets warmer, usually in March, growers remove the winter flood. The vines slowly come out of dormancy and the growing season begins.

Sometimes bogs are flooded again in April and mid-May to manage insects, weeds and disease. "Weeding is probably the worst job," says Tristan. In the summer, "you have to pull each



weed out by hand. We use some chemicals, but not a lot."

Pollination is an essential part of cranberry growing. Growers use one or two beehives per acre of bog during early June through mid-July.

Sprinkler systems protect cranberry buds in the spring and fruit in the fall from frost, as well as providing moisture during growing season.

Growers typically fertilize by hand, helicopter or through a sprinkler system from mid-May to late August.

Then, just in time for the holidays, from mid-September through early November, berries are ripe and ready to harvest.

Bringing in the fruit is Josh's favorite job. "I like wet-picking. I like corralling the berries, getting them all in one bunch. I like feeding the machines. I like raking the berries. It's fun. Just being in the water, but not getting wet...I think it's cool."

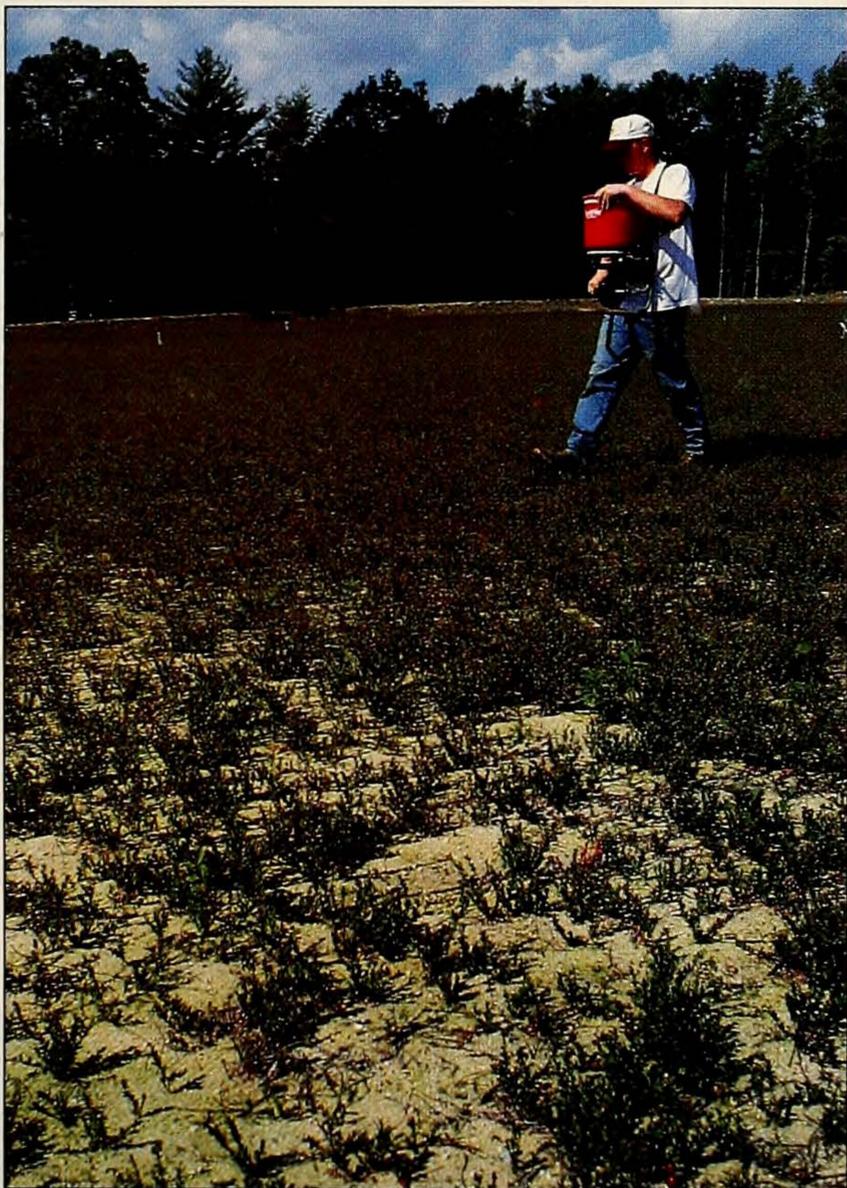
His main goal after college is to own a dairy farm, while tending a few bogs on the side.

Cranberries come first with Tristan. "When I get older, I'd rather have more cranberry bogs than animals, but I'll always have a few animals as a hobby."

He plans to take business and computer programming courses at a community college. "There's a lot of business and bookkeeping in farming. I figured that would help me. And financing, fertilizing and insect control, I'd like to learn more about that before I start on my own."

"Here they are, 15-16 year old guys, who know what they want to do. Most of the teenagers that I've hired over the years, they're interested in cars or girls or sports or something like that, but these guys know what they want to do, they want to be farmers," says Tristan's boss Emil Maksy. "To me it's phenomenal." ...

*Article resource: *Neighbor To Neighbor, An Information Guide on Living Near a Cranberry Bog*, Cooperative Extension, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association.



Photos by Author

Tristan spends much of his non-harvest time fertilizing, sanding, weeding and repairing irrigation equipment and other machinery.

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Get Inside Your Boss's Brain

Unless you're:

- A. wealthy;
 - B. lucky enough to win the lottery;
 - C. counting on a rich relative to take care of you (NOT likely);
- then work is in your future.

But what do employers want?

Take this quiz to find out.

By Lawinna McGary

T rue or False
1. You must have a 3.7 to 4.0 grade point average (GPA) to even be considered for most jobs.

1. Answer: False

Nothing against a good grade, but as Dave Gocken, Pfizer Inc. Animal Health, Lees Summit, Missouri, says, "By no means is it the only thing." Although he prefers job candidates to have a 3.0 GPA, Gocken also wants students who have been active in leadership groups and community service. "It means the person is generally outgoing. They want to make a difference. FFA is a great example. We have a number of people who have been involved in FFA."

"One of the things I always look for is people who have had leadership roles in some sort of community, leadership or professional organization," agrees Judy Winkelpleck, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., Des Moines, Iowa.

Don't bother padding your resumé with groups you joined, but didn't really contribute to. "I'd like to know the level of involvement," says Gocken.

"What did they get out of it? What were the good points and what were the difficult parts? How did they feel about the different types of responsibilities they had within the organizations?"

Have no fear if you have to work and don't have time to volunteer. People who carry a heavy academic load and still pay their own way through college are impressive, says Gocken. "That kind of determination is a type of leadership in itself."

Give yourself credit. Promote your self-motivation and hands-on job experience. Know and be able to enthusiastically explain the skills you developed on the job and off. After all, you must know how to organize and set priorities if you juggled hectic work and class schedules.

2. Paid internships look great to a potential employer, while unpaid internships are a negative.

2. Answer: False

It doesn't matter if you're making big bucks or are providing free labor, the experience you gain through





Illustration by Bill Fricke

internships is what counts. Working for no moolah will impress your interviewer. Think about it. You only work for free if you really want to do the work. It proves you're interested in and committed to your career goals.

Check with your counselor or agricultural instructor to see if your school has a job-shadowing program.

If not, figure out what kind of work experience you want and find a job that relates. Ask friends, teachers and local chamber-of-commerce staff for leads on who might offer internships. Phone businesses you're interested in working for and offer your services.

3. Even if you haven't had work experience, you need to know your interests, skills and career goals before you go for an interview.

3. Answer: True

"A lot of times if people can't tell you what they want to do, they don't do well in the rest of the interview," says Bob Broeckelman, Farm Credit Bank of Wichita, Kansas.

To help you focus and decide what you like and want to do, keep samples of your school projects. Write down all of your activities as you go. Then list the skills you learned with each project and activity.

Ask yourself:

- Can I name work and recreation activities I do well and enjoy?
- Can I explain what I've gained from my education and work that relates to the job I'm applying for?
- Can I list at least five of my marketable skills?
- Can I list technical and leadership skills I have gained in FFA and in agricultural classes and explain why these skills are benefits for the employer?

For more details on what you should know, check out *What Color Is Your Parachute?* by Richard N. Bolles. You can find the book at public libraries and book stores.

4. If I can just make it through high school, my learning will be over.

4. Answer: False

"America is into high technology," says Tom Kline, Pfizer, Inc., Brooklyn,

New York, so plunge into the information highway and get comfortable with all kinds of computer software.

You don't have to be an expert with every high-tech gizmo on the market. "What's required most is their (employees) willingness to work and their willingness to learn," says Kline.

5. Knowing other languages is a plus, but you shouldn't worry about that now. Companies will be glad to train you.

5. Answer: False

Don't count on it. The person who doesn't have to be trained—who can jump into an international job instantly—will have the edge every time.

"We have manufacturing factories in 63 countries. There are definitely international opportunities, without a doubt. The person who has fluency in a foreign language is going to be a preferred candidate," says Gocken.

"The importance of being able to communicate on a global basis is growing tremendously," says Gerard Meeron, Biggs/Gilmore Communications, Kalamazoo, Michigan. "I have a client that, in the last 30 days, was bought by a Mexican firm. It's not a unique situation anymore."

6. Being able to work with others is just as important as having basic skills such as reading and writing.

6. Answer: True

"One of the key components of being successful in a job is learning how to relate and work with people. It doesn't matter how good you are, if you can't get along with people, they will figure out how to get rid of you," says Broeckelman.

What a relief. You don't have to be a genius to get that job. You won't even need that rich relative if you're willing to get job experience, learn about leadership and new technology, cooperate with your co-workers and clients and get involved in school and community activities. ●●●

Questions Answered Here
You Asked!

Public Speaking Tips

Q. “I’ve been in FFA for two years and I’ve spoken in front of people many times, but I always have some stage fright before I do. ... My friends and family have given me lots of advice and it doesn’t seem to help. How can I speak in front of people without forgetting what I’m supposed to say?”

Amanda Casey, Neelyville, FFA Chapter, Naylor, Missouri

Editor’s note: This letter is typical of the ones we receive from members across the country. We’ve asked a variety of speakers, from local chapter officers to professionals, to comment.

A. Nervousness and public speaking go together like biscuits and gravy, like California and natural disasters, like peas and carrots. But as one professional speaking trainer once said: “You don’t want the butterflies in your stomach to go away. You want to teach them to fly in formation.”

Even the most experienced speakers still deal with nerves. “My knees still shake every time I go on,” says Catharine Smith, Louisiana state FFA secretary, who won last year’s state speaking contest and belongs to six public speaking organizations. “The nerves tend to bubble up and I have to find things to do to calm down.”

Public speaking experts say if you’re not feeling nervous or anxious before

public speaking, that’s when you should be worried because you probably have become overconfident, opening up a whole new can of worms.

“It’s not about eliminating nervousness, it’s about controlling it,” says Mark Sanborn, a professional public speaker who was national FFA president in 1978-79. “If it controls you, that’s when it becomes a problem.”

The two most effective ways to control the nerves are to know the material inside and out, and to practice it until the cows come home.

“The number one reason people fail is lack of preparation,” Sanborn says. “You need to be as prepared as possible so you can focus your attention on your delivery and your audience.”

Learn the material so well that you are able to concentrate on the gestures and voice inflection that help make a speech interesting and persuasive.

Practice can mean working on a particular speech, but it can also mean seeking out public speaking opportunities. Most high schools have a speech class or something similar where public speaking is the focus. Check out debating clubs, or competitions sponsored by other organizations.

What do other people see when you’re speaking? Find out by practicing your speech while looking into a mirror. Don’t worry about looking silly. Mirrors are usually pretty good at

keeping secrets.

“You have to go over your speech a lot,” says Mindy Baumann, a sophomore at Eureka High School, in Eureka, Illinois, who recently took a speech class and has done much public speaking in the past year. She was even named third alternate in a state contest for original poetry readings. “Sometimes, I sit in my room and talk to the wall for an hour at a time.”

Just before she speaks Baumann takes deep breaths to help her relax as much as possible.

Keep in mind that the audience is not the enemy. They want very much for you to succeed.

“One of the most painful things for an audience member is to see a speaker fail,” says Sanborn. “People don’t expect you to be perfect or to be a polished professional. People are pulling for you. Think of speaking as a team sport.”

Another effective practicing method is videotaping your speech if you can. This gives you a better idea of how you might look to the audience and allows you to notice your strengths as well as any bad habits you’ve developed but didn’t realize.

“People are pulling for you. Think of speaking as a team sport.”

“My best advice is never to quit,” says sophomore Casie Daniel, Shelbyville, Missouri. “It takes a while to get used to it. But it’s a great feeling after you’ve given a good speech.” ...

NEW COLUMN National Officers On Tour '95

In the last issue we introduced the new national officers (see page 17). But you're probably wondering what they do all year.

Since elected they've toured Washington, D.C., polished their public speaking and workshop skills and presented motivational programs at a greenhand conference in Missouri. They've been interviewed by newspaper, radio and television reporters and even sneaked off to snow ski in New York and spent a few days at home during Christmas.

What's next? Check out this "National Officers On Tour" page—in each issue—to find out.



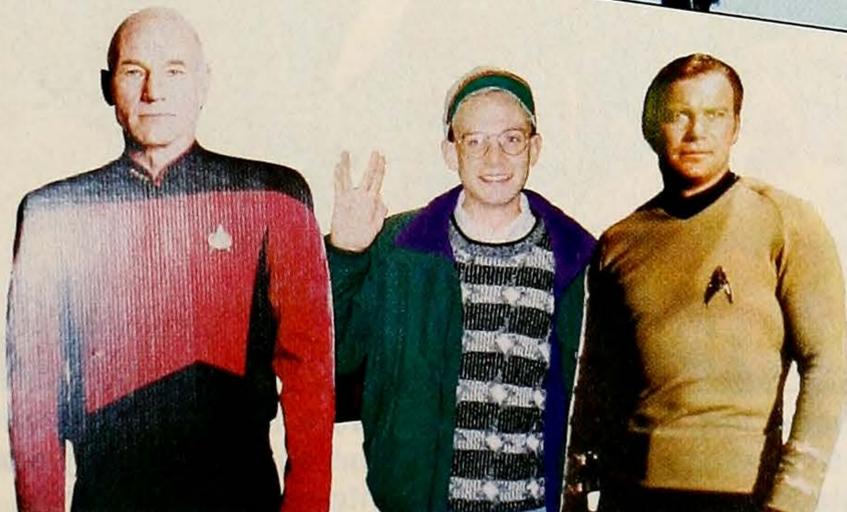
The rings are in! One of the team members' first duties is being measured for their national officer rings.

before she hit the slopes on a New York team-building tour. Central Region Vice President Jennafer Neufeld is no stranger to the snow. She first skied as a third-grader.

"So this is what snow looks like!" Southern Region Vice President Trisha Bailey had never seen snow



Eastern Region Vice President Lee Schroeder communicates in "Star-Trek" language.



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Welcome To A World of Agri-Technology

By Lawinna McGary

What do you get when you mix the following supplies from around the house with a dash of science lab materials and a healthy helping of teamwork?

*1/4 yellow onion
.375 g non-iodized salt
2.5 mL of liquid dishwasher detergent
22.5 mL of distilled water
1 g meat tenderizer*
12.5 mL distilled water
ice cold ethanol
test tubes
pipettes or glass rods
blender
funnel
coffee filter or cheese cloth*

**you can use fresh pineapple juice instead of meat tenderizer*

Could this be a recipe for a home economics class cooking project? How about a chemistry experiment? Nope. It's a biotechnology assignment in Pineville, Kentucky. If you followed the rest of the directions in the class notebook, you would soon be staring at cloudy masses of DNA.

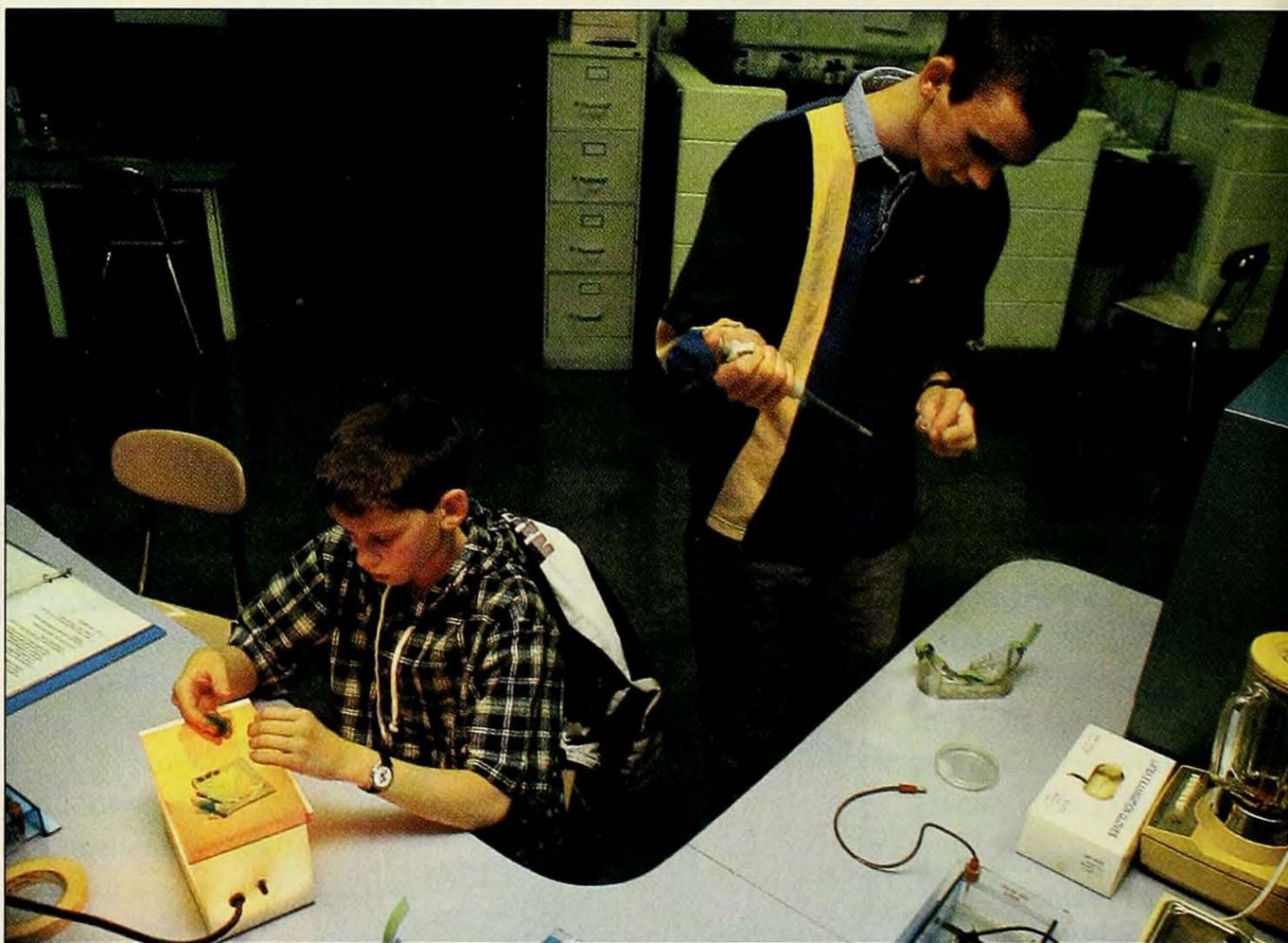
While biotechnology students are tracing the origins of onions, other students in the same class are busy with robotics, technical landscaping, environmental technology and other cutting-edge subjects.

The high schoolers work in teams

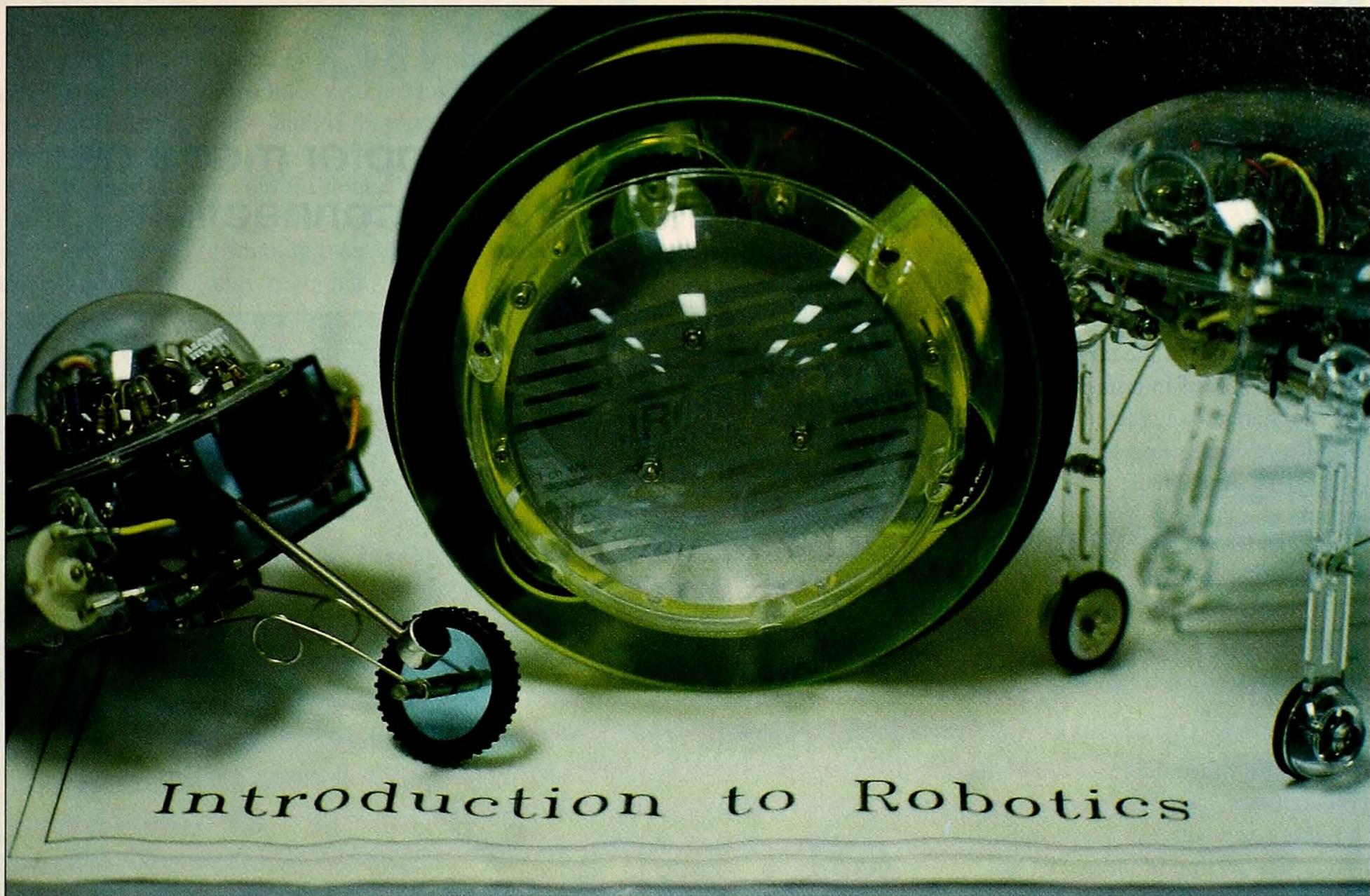
and conduct experiments that apply math, science, history, agriculture and English (oral and written) skills to everyday life.

This year, for example, class members were testing DNA from a pair of twins' blood at the same time scientists working on the O.J. Simpson trial were splitting the DNA of crime-scene blood.

Impressive. But why teach agri-technology in this very un-agricultural, mountainous region where coal is more plentiful than crops?



Keith Owens, left, and Nick Garland work at a station where they transformed bacteria to be resistant to ampicillin (an antibiotic). They alternately chilled and then heated the bacteria to shock it into releasing its DNA.



Photos by Author

“We learn how to program the robot to do different things in a row,” says Chip Carroll, “to pick up something and move it somewhere, then pick up something and move it back. We started out with little robots (above). Then we learned how to program one through the computer.” This experience will be helpful for horticultural students since some greenhouses use robots to pot plants.

Agriculture Anyone?

“Used to, students would graduate from high school, go right to the coal industry, and be making more than I was,” says agricultural teacher Sylvester Dunn.

Then, ten years ago, the coal industry shut down. “Now a lot of people have lost their homes, cars, vehicles ... and most of them are just either disabled or don’t work. They went from making \$16 to \$17 an hour to nothing,” says Dunn.

“So we’re using this (agri-technology courses) as an incentive for other industries to move here ... to give us jobs for our people.”

It’s working. Companies are inquiring about relocating in the area. And students are already finding after-school jobs and summer internships because of their new skills.

“I’ve done some work for a furniture

company ... some brochures with renderings and isometric drawings,” says senior John Cugin. He learned how to render objects on landscape design computer programs called Acad and Landcadd.

Sophomore Nick Garland may apprentice with an Oak Ridge, Tennessee, business person who invented the touch-screen computer.

Take That Class!

Word gets around. Even with intimidating terms like centrifuge and electrophoresis chamber to learn, more than 350 students signed up for the classes. Dunn only had room for about half that number.

“I thought the class was going to be hard,” says Keith Owens, “but it wasn’t once you got into it.”

“It’s an adjustment because before you just had your load and you just had

to worry about yourself,” says senior Tammy Cobb, who’s taken just about all of Dunn’s courses. She found working with other students was not so bad. “We had some laughs, you know, mess ups and stuff. ... It was nothing major though. We had fun. You don’t have to just sit there and be quiet. You get to talk and joke with them.”

Students also work without a teacher watching their every move. “It helps a lot because in the real world somebody is not going to be looking over your shoulder all of the time helping you,” says Cobb. “You are going to have to do it by yourself and learn by your mistakes. It’s helped me in getting by in life.”

From Pennsylvania to Poland

How one chapter made an international connection

By Bob Bruce

If you ever get the chance to do some sort of international exchange," says Brent England of the Williamsburg FFA chapter, "go for it. It's an invaluable experience."

Brent should know. He's one of six Pennsylvania FFA members who recently went on a six-month agricultural exchange program to Poland.

"Before I left," he says, "I was thinking along the lines of studying agriculture at college and then staying on my family's farm. Now I realize that there's so much more to the world than just the place you grew up."

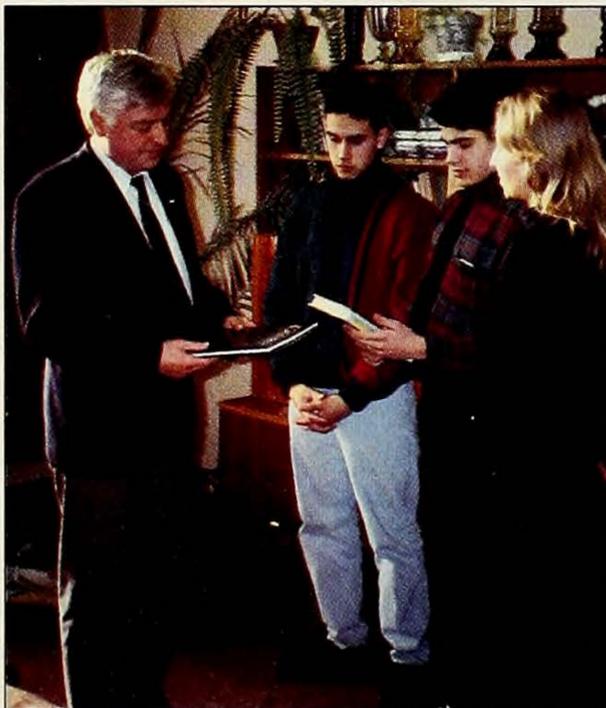
While Brent still intends to make agriculture an important part of his future, he is thinking about combining his agricultural background with a career in political science or international law. "In fact," he says, "I was just accepted into college as a political science major with a psychology minor."

"Probably the most important thing we have to recognize," says William Harshman, Tyrone Area FFA Advisor and Poland Exchange Program Coordinator, "is that we're in a global economy. Once we understand that, then it is important that we find opportunities for our students to get out of the habit of thinking only locally."

To begin his international education, exchange student Allen Behrer attended his host's agricultural technical school courses.



Allen Behrer, foreground, along with other FFA members, spoke to Polish senators in Warsaw.



Brent England, Williamsburg, and Travis Frye, Central Cove, taught school officials in Lowicz, Poland, about FFA.

"They had classes in animal production, plant production—everything they learned had something to do with agriculture," he says. "For example, they'd have a math class, and they'd always find a way to incorporate what they were learning in math into agriculture."

Not only that, says Brent, but some of the classes they take are a whole lot tougher than what American students have to deal with. "The lessons were a lot more difficult. Their highest math course in high school was the same as sophomore-level college math in the U.S."

"There were also a lot of differences between the farms themselves," say the two Americans. "The family I was with had nine cows, and our farm back home has like 450. So it's a bit of a change," says Brent.

"The farm I stayed on had about 50 acres total. We have 800 here. They had two cows, and that was just enough to give them milk for the family," says Allen. They also raised a lot of chickens ... which they'd sell to people in the village market."

Both Allen and Brent were struck by how labor-intensive farming was in Poland. "Here we have all this technology, and I guess I always just took things for granted. Over there they have to do it by hand all the time. They had some tractors for plowing, but that was about all they used them for. All of the other work, like manure removal and stacking hay

was done by hand.”

They also made their own concrete blocks, says Allen, and many families still depend on horse-drawn carts to get goods to and from town. Farms in Poland are just big enough to provide the family food—and, if they’re lucky, a little left over to sell at market.

Some other of their “old fashioned” ways seemed to make a lot of sense, says Alan. “They have a real family emphasis over there. Instead of sending their old folks out to rest homes for example, they keep them with the family in the house and they take care of them.”

One of the reasons Mr. Harshman put the exchange trip together, he says, was to promote an exchange of ideas between the two cultures. For the American students, this meant introducing their Polish hosts to the concept and benefits of FFA.

Although the six American students didn’t have a lot of time away from their

host families’ farms, they did hold a number of FFA chapter meetings at various high schools to show the Polish students a little about how FFA works.

“We did the opening ceremonies,” says Allen, “a little bit of old business, some new business, and we got a little bit of judging in. We told them all about the FFA and what it’s done for us and why we like it. We told them about how many students are involved in it over here. And we had a big, thick FFA handbook that we gave to them so they could read more about it. At each of the three schools we visited we signed up kids who said they were going to start their own FFA chapter.”

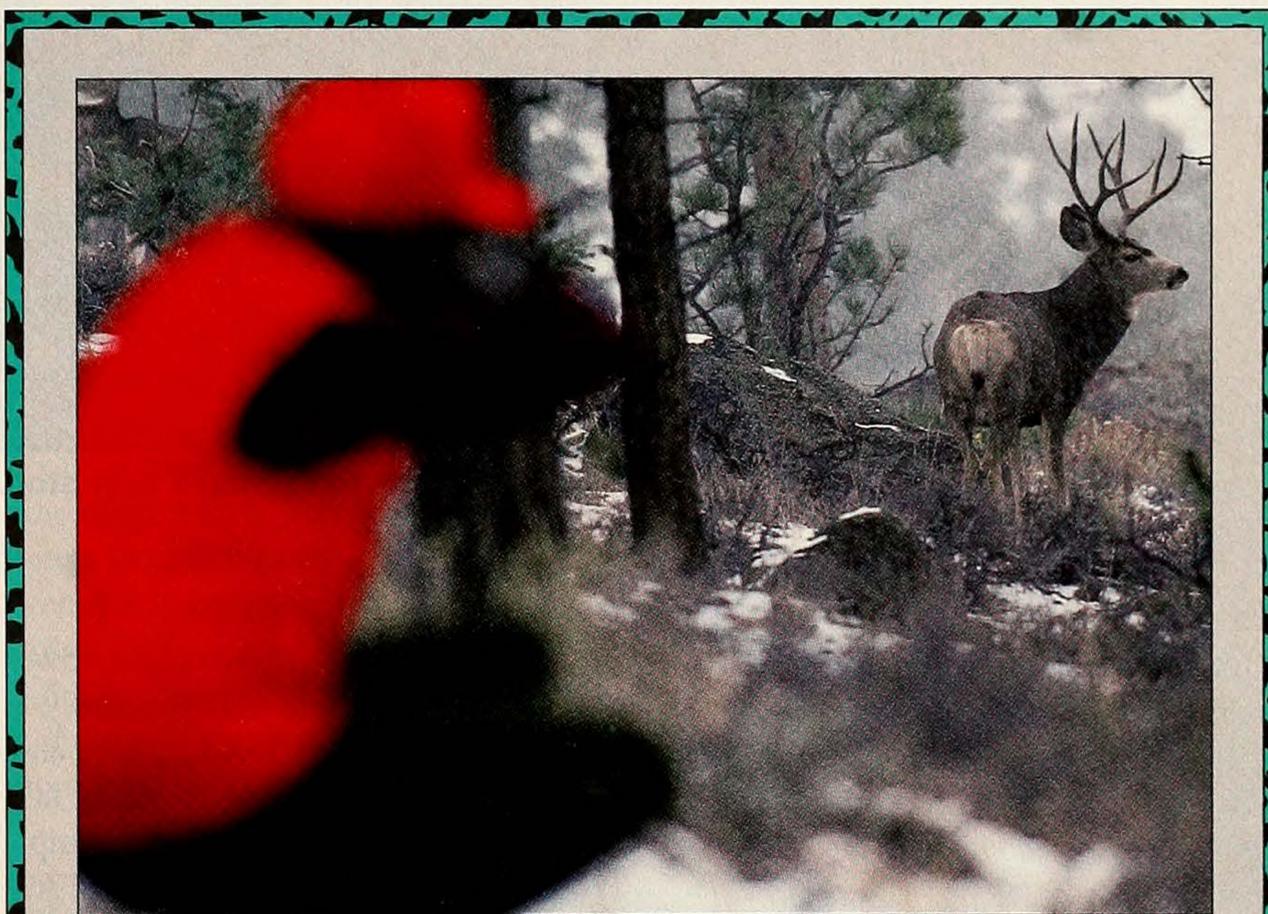


World Travel— Your Way

For other FFA chapter members who might want to do something similar, Harshman recommends doing a lot of networking with local businesses and involving as many other people as possible.

One great source of information is Bruce Kane of the student services team at the national FFA center. His phone number is 703-360-3600, extension 319. Or feel free to write him at P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

“I think the international aspect tends to energize people,” says Harshman. “High school students don’t typically have the opportunity to get this kind of hands-on experience, and people recognize that by letting their kids go beyond their local borders and get involved in programs like this, it really makes for an up-to-date agricultural education.”



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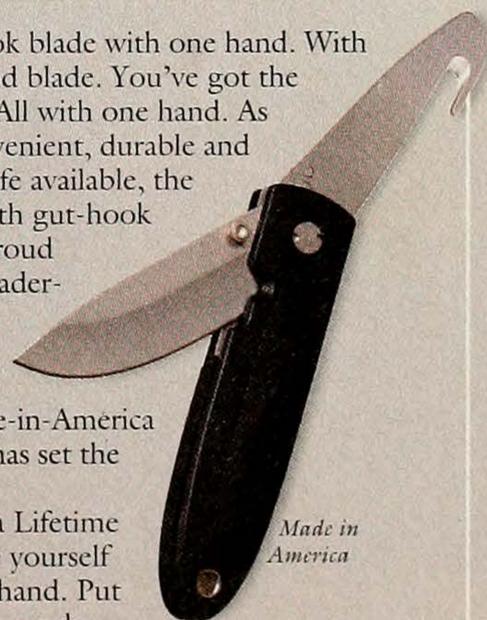
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Shock Treatment

Proficiency winners see how East European farmers cope with their government's shake up

By Lawinna McGary



Berlin was the group's first stop. Remnants of the Berlin wall are in the background.

Ah, the good life. Babies have it made. Forget cleaning your room, fixing your own meals and getting up on time to meet the school bus. Your life as a baby was stress free.

In exchange for food, diapers and a place to sleep, all you did was graciously fill the diapers, eat when and where you wanted and sleep—if you felt like it.

As you grew, you were taught how to eat, dress and think independently.

You gained a little freedom here and there. Maybe you stayed overnight at a friend's house, went to summer camp, got an after-school job or joined FFA.

Across the ocean in Eastern Europe,

people under socialist control never expected to gain freedom. Government officials made decisions for them. And then, BAM!, no more safety net. The government crumbled in 1989.

Citizens of Poland, the Czech and Slovak Republics and Eastern Germany suddenly had no job security. Prices of products they bought weren't kept artificially low. The transition to a free-market economy and free-thinking society wasn't always easy.

This summer 27 FFA proficiency winners toured Eastern Europe and saw how agricultural workers are adapting to their new way of life.

"The people seemed to be really excited about the political move," says Stephanie Gompf, diversified crop production winner, Cardington, Ohio, "but they're really concerned about economics. My host sister's friends who

"Compared to where I come from in Indiana, it's really hilly and beautiful," says Rottler. "You look out across the field and see all of the red roofs in the villages... I think it's really pretty. It's kind of neat to look over the fields and see wheat instead of corn."



are in the 10th grade are 50/50 for and against communism because before they were given a job when they graduated. Gosh, I can understand that. I can't imagine going through school and expect to be given a job and then find out we have to compete.

"It's the same situation for the older people without a job. They don't know what to do. They're just hanging around. The older people seem to feel the government hasn't given them any direction. They just woke up one morning and heard on the radio the wall that used to separate East Germany from West Germany was down."

The shock of suddenly having to compete in markets that used to be guaranteed has forced some former state farms out of business.

Not everyone has given up though. Managers at a dairy outside of Berlin, Germany, increased efficiency by buying updated equipment with city tax money and by cutting three-fourths of their labor force.

Overall German farmers are faring better than Polish and Czech Republic farmers. Germany is a member of the European Economic Community (EEC), which opens many trade options. Poland and the Czech Republic are not yet allowed into the EEC.

Even with all of the challenges, poultry production winner David Moline believes the farmers will survive. "I think they're on their way. I'd love to come back here in five years to see how they're doing."

Whether they get to return to Europe or not, several of the winners said the trip was eye opening. "It's important that we realize what's going on around us and that we understand that there's more than just our little world," says



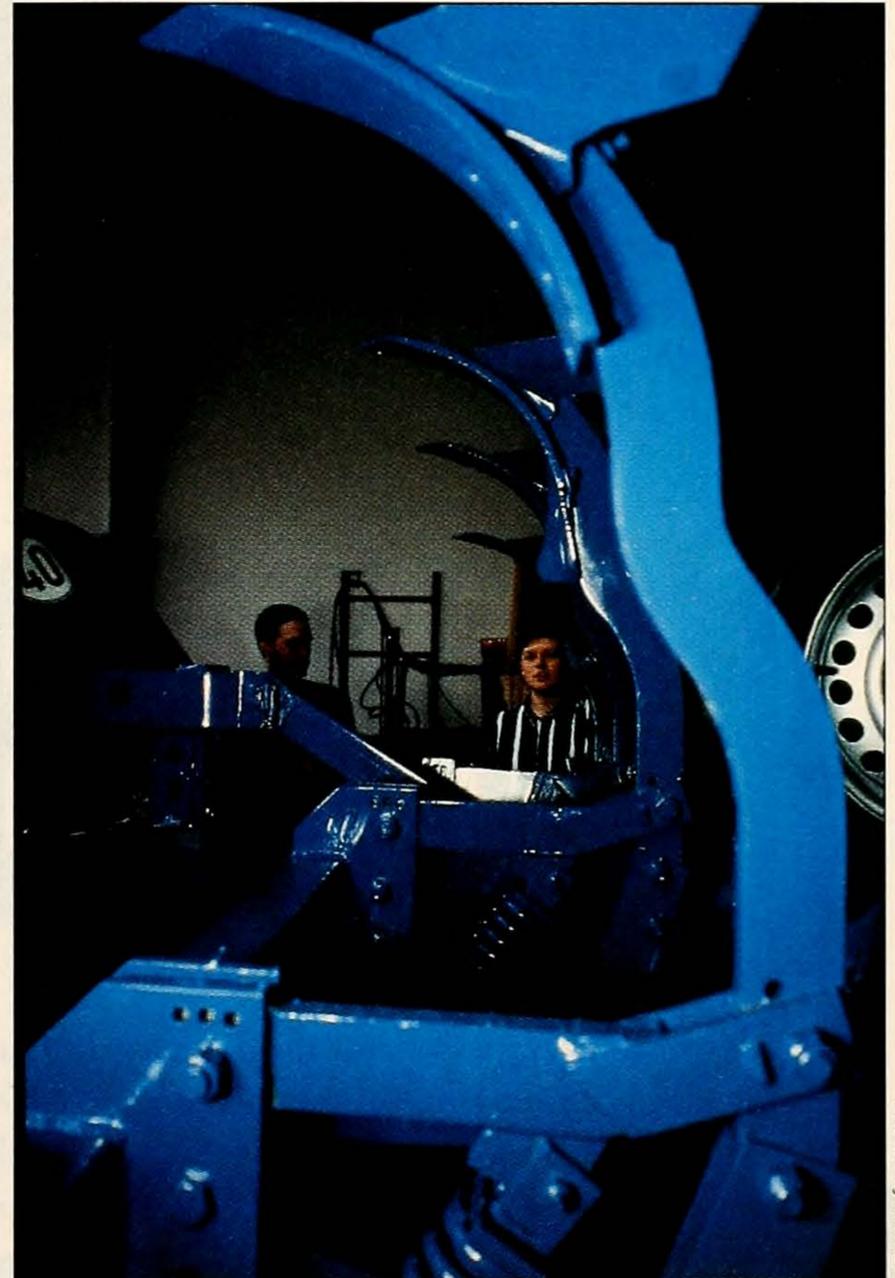
In many areas of Poland and the Czech Republic, even modern farmers still use quite a bit of manual labor. Polish horse farmers Elzbieta and Lygmunt Mularczayk still raise turkeys and chickens and milk cows to feed their family.

Ryan Sites, swine production winner, checks out equipment at a German cooperative where a 145-horse power 512C Fendt tractor costs 150,000 Deutsch Mark or \$93,750. In contrast, "A 145-horse power John Deere in the U.S. would probably cost \$65,000 to \$70,000," says diversified livestock production winner Barry Benson, Newman Grove, Nebraska. "They had front wheel assist and we don't have that, which added another \$6,000 to \$8,000."

Jennifer Lohrey Gillum, floriculture winner, Camden, Ohio.

"It's been a great trip," agrees Ben Isaac, specialty animal production winner, Payson, Utah. "I think it's important to see how other people do things in agriculture even if we don't totally agree. You can take bits and pieces from everybody to make yours more successful." ...

The European Travel Seminar was made possible by proficiency award sponsors as a special project of the National FFA Foundation Sponsors.



Photos by Author

How To Tour The World

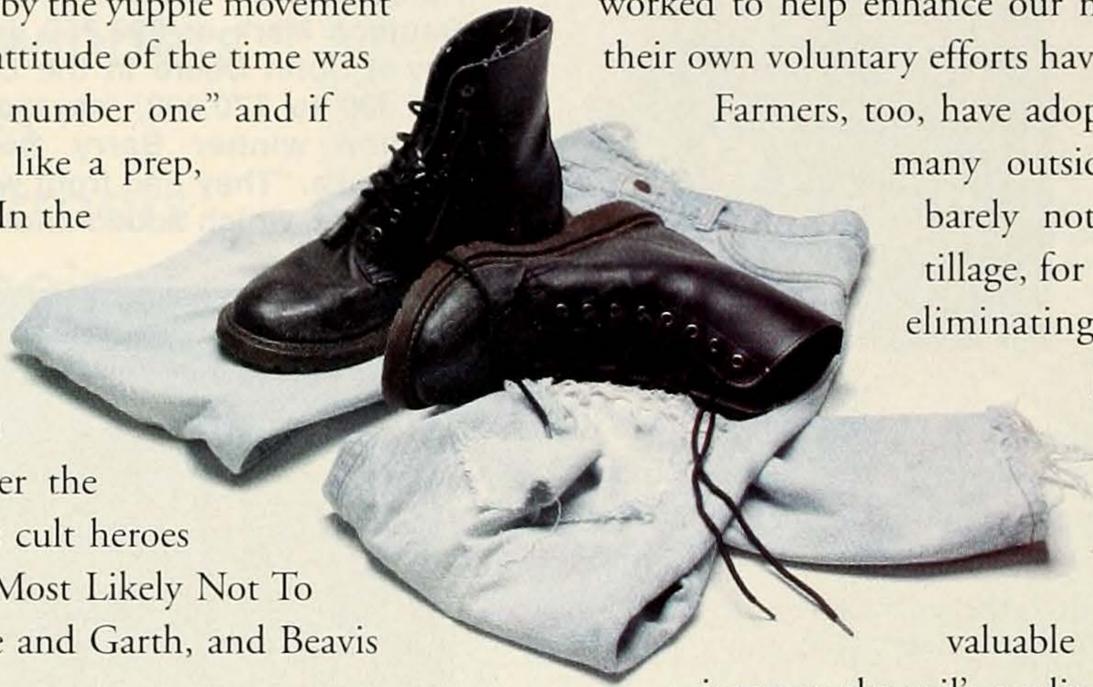
One way to get Europe is to win a national proficiency award. Ask your advisor about how to enter.

But, winning an award is not the only way to travel. You can be: an FFA Explorer and tour a variety of countries for six weeks, three months or six months. Or stay a little longer in one country, from three to six months, with the World Experience in Agriculture (WEA) program. If group seminars are more your style, sign up for a horticulture tour of Holland and Belgium, an agricultural marketing expedition through Japan or an agricultural production trip through Europe.

For more details, contact Bruce Kane at 703-360-3600, ext. 319.



It seems like every few years, new trends and fads sweep across society and become the “in” things to say, do and believe. The early and mid 1980s were dominated by the yuppie movement — the popular attitude of the time was to “look out for number one” and if you didn’t dress like a prep, you weren’t in. In the ’90s, the plaid shirts and work boots of the farmer somehow became known as “grunge” and took over the fashion world. Today’s cult heroes include those on the “Most Likely Not To Succeed” list — Wayne and Garth, and Beavis and Butthead.



groups has helped focus society’s short attention span on conservation and protection. However, to many agricultural and specialty pesticide companies who have long worked to help enhance our nation’s natural resources, their own voluntary efforts have largely gone unnoticed.

Farmers, too, have adopted new practices which many outside of agriculture might barely notice. Take conservation tillage, for example. By reducing or eliminating the long-honored practice of plowing under a field’s uppermost layer, farmers have made great strides in slowing erosion of valuable topsoil and in helping improve the soil’s quality in the process. Though

A FAD THAT SHOULD

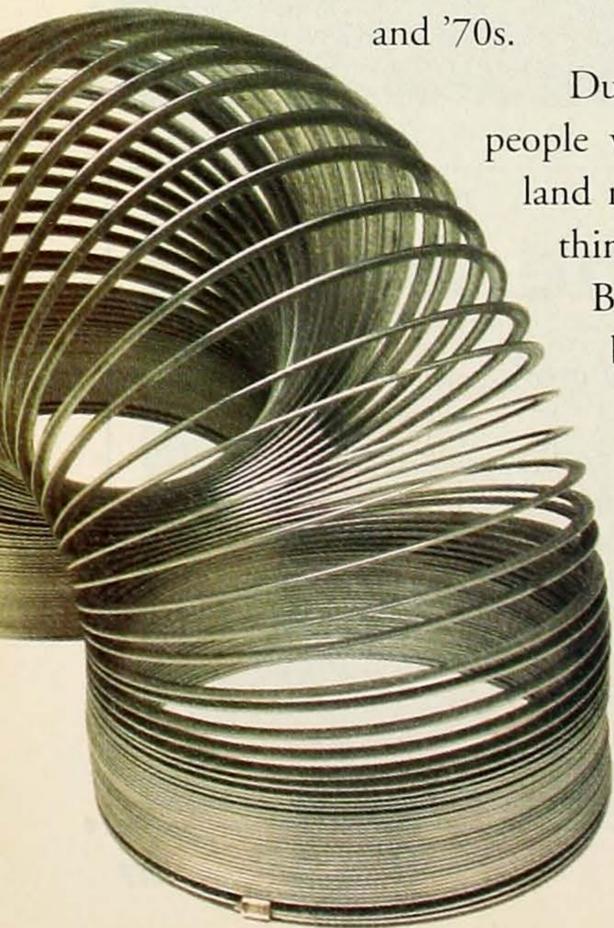
Popular causes and issues of the day seem to change just as quickly. Just compare America’s support of the Gulf War with the anti-war protests of the ’60s and ’70s.

During the age of the yuppie, people who didn’t work with the land rarely looked at it as something that needed protecting. But, as the “me first” decade began to fade, society saw a new fad, an unprecedented explosion in the number and size of environmental groups — all with their own agendas: spotted owls, wetlands, the ozone layer, wildlife, rain forests. The increasingly visible presence of such

a revolutionary idea just a short time ago, conservation tillage has grown rapidly in popularity due to the environmental benefits it offers, as well as the savings in time and labor. (Break dancing wished it had this kind of future.)

Society’s embrace of environmentalism is obviously a good trend — saving the planet really is a cool thing to do! But like most fads (remember the pet rock), society’s shared commitment may be short-term. It is important to keep stressing the importance of environmental issues. Caring for our world benefits us all.

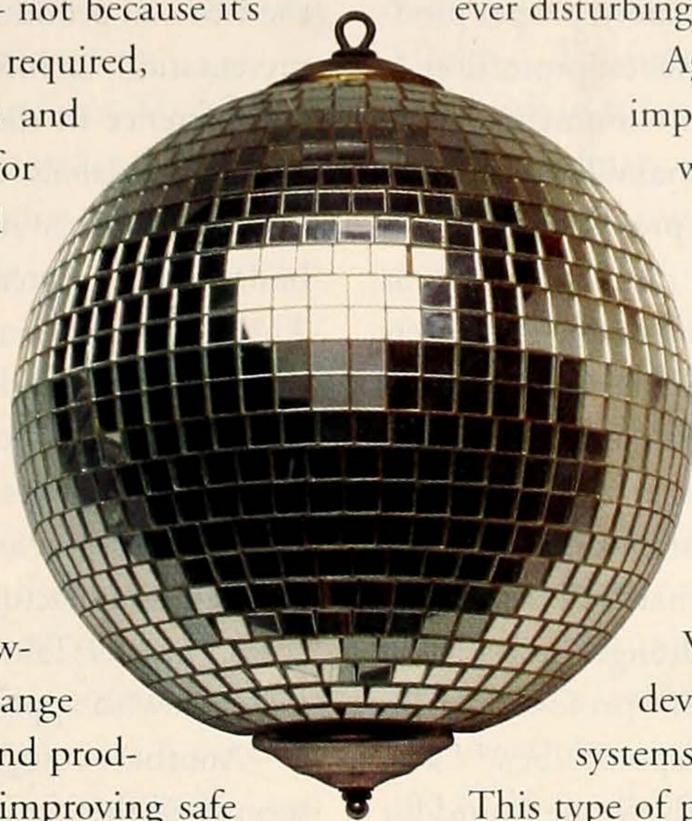
Environmental stewardship is an important component of today’s progressive agriculture





and pesticide industry operations — not because it's the "in" thing to do or because it's required, but because manufacturers, dealers and applicators of pesticides — both for farm and nonfarm use — understand the value of stewardship and realize they are in a unique position to advance that value.

Likewise, as an FFA member, you are in a unique position to influence those around you by telling people about agriculture's efforts to foster environmental stewardship and safety. Those efforts range from increasing dealer stewardship and product safety to raising awareness and improving safe handling of products by farmers.



ever disturbing the actual land area.

Agrichemical leaders like AgrEvo have improved the handling of their products with the development of small volume returnable containers. These compact, stainless steel, 15-gallon containers with tamper-evident seals make each unit a closed system for minimal user exposure. Griffin has developed dry flowable formulations of their product to reduce dust and provide less user exposure. Water-soluble packages, like those developed by Ciba, can be used in closed systems with absolutely no user exposure.

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NEVER FADE

CROP PROTECTION COMPANIES WERE HELPING PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT LONG BEFORE BEING ENVIRONMENTAL WAS "COOL."

DEALER STEWARDSHIP AND PRODUCT SAFETY

The movement of crop protection companies to focus on the environment in developing their products has lasted a lot longer than the music career of Milli Vanilli. Several major improvements and advancements have taken place over the last decade to dramatically increase the environmental benefits of pesticides.

Through stewardship of water quality, companies like DowElanco hope to avoid unnecessary and excessive regulation that stifles farm productivity. They have developed sophisticated computer models (with a longer shelf life than the Atari) for scientifically predicting the effects of pesticides on water quality. All "field test" work can now be done before



"It's not an extra, but an intrinsic part of doing business," says Larry Dull, Ciba packaging development manager. "Our ability to stay ahead of environmental requirements, and help our customers meet and exceed them, is something we can take pride in. We all know it's the right thing to do."

But, as attractive as these innovations are, they are only one aspect of environmental protection and safety. The next step is to help farmers expand on the environmental benefits of these products.

FARM EDUCATION AND SAFETY AWARENESS

What good are environmental benefits if they aren't used to their full potential? Crop protection companies have long understood the need to work



closely with farmers to ensure safety, proper product handling and environmental protection.

An example of this environmental stewardship is American Cyanamid's AgriCenter dealer network which provides both business and technical training programs directly to agrichemical dealers. Growers rely on the advice and recommendations from agrichemical retailers in their local communities. To support dealers in this important role, Cyanamid has established ongoing programs to support its national dealer network, stressing a three-pronged initiative of comprehensive services, professionalism and environmental responsibility. The focal point of this initiative is the Award for Professional Excellence (APEX) which recognizes AgriCenter dealers who make improvements in their business and provide environmentally oriented services.

Similarly, FMC Corporation has developed the Environmental Honor Roll for its employees and associates who show special care for environmental issues. One example of such care was evident when the Dole company selected FMC's insecticide/nematicide product Rugby in Costa Rica. FMC offered material safety data sheets, a dust-free formulation, improved application equipment, safety audits and a number of communication and training programs that concentrated on reducing environmental and worker exposure risks. An FMC Agricultural Chemical Group representative lived on the Dole banana farm during application cycles to conduct training sessions, assist with proper equipment procedures, teach safety techniques and even accompany workers during application.

When Command herbicide was introduced by FMC into the cotton market in February 1993, weather problems and a condensed planting season contributed to incidents of off-target movement of Command in the U.S. Cotton Belt, movement that is impossible to ignore since it turns off-target vegetation temporarily white. To minimize any problem or concern in the 1994 season, the people at FMC worked around

the clock to produce training materials, including a slide presentation, an interactive quiz, a pocket guide for farmers' reference in the field, a product-use brochure, state and federal labels, a brochure on how to explain Command to nonfarm neighbors and a drift retardant product bulletin. All materials displayed a toll-free answer line. Then, during a three-month period in early 1994, the company's sales and technical service staff held more than 300 meetings to qualify more than 15,000 distributors, dealers and growers on the proper use of the herbicide.

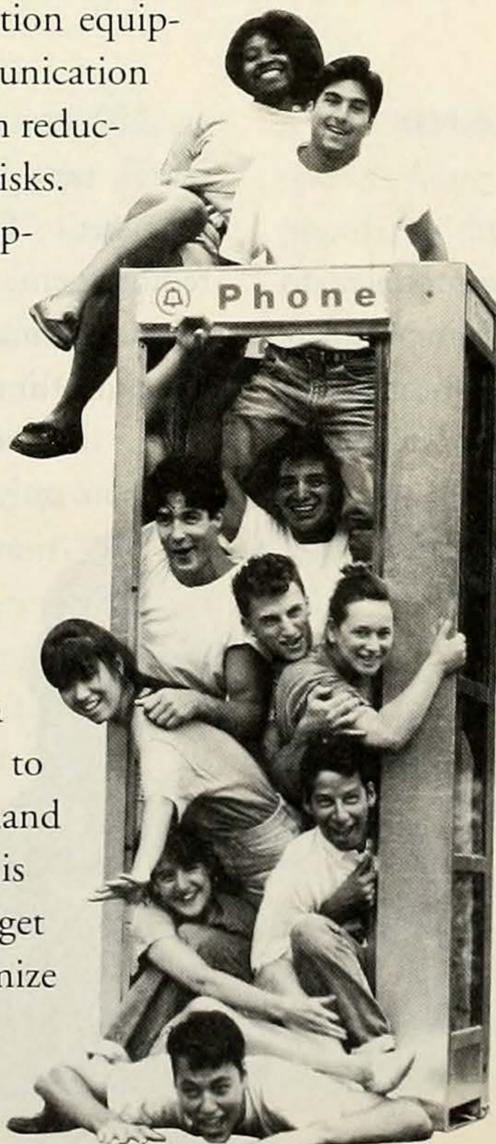
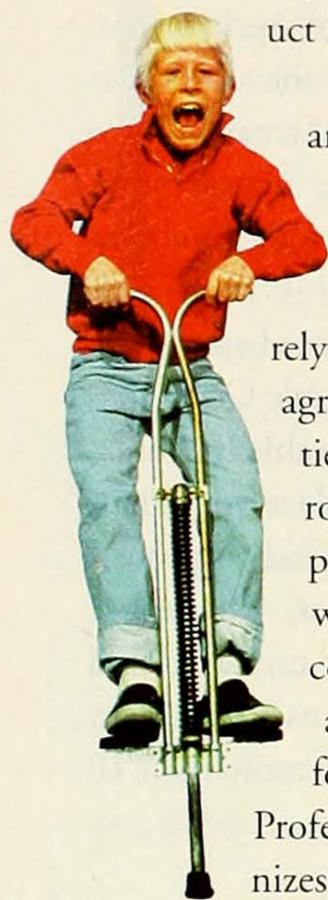
"Safe use of any pesticide requires a mutual trust between manufacturers and growers," says Ripley, Tenn., cotton grower Talmage Cihfield Jr. "We trust them to tell us how to apply it and they trust us to do it right."

Another company, ISK Biosciences Corporation, sponsored the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association Groundwater Instructional Material Program and the National Council for Agricultural Education Program on "Applied Environmental Science." ISK was also a charter member, and is an active participant, in the Agricultural Container Research Council which was formed to effectively collect and recycle empty agricultural chemical containers. This program now recovers and recycles over 5 million pounds of plastic annually from these containers.

MEDIA AND CONSUMER-BASED OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Once the crop protection industry's commitment to environmental conservation and protection has been shared with farmers and farm distributors, it's time to tell the media and consumers about the benefits of environmentally safe pesticides. (Too often, all of us in agriculture forget to toot our horns.)

Several groups, like the Agricultural Retailers Association, hold conventions, trade shows and educational programs to keep people up-to-date on the latest industry advances. One such program from ARA, called "Food For Thought", is a community outreach program designed to help crop protection professionals spread a positive message about their role





in agriculture, especially when it comes to fostering better health and protecting our environment.

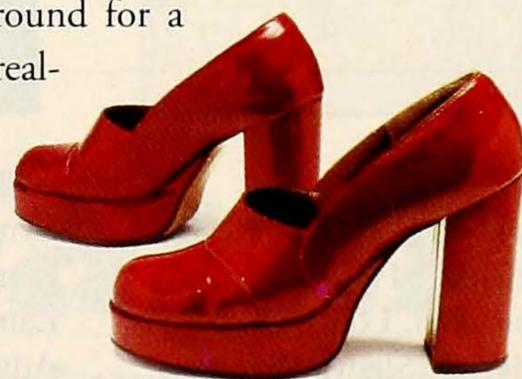
RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) is the national group representing the specialty side of the pesticide industry — that segment of mostly nonfarm applications. This group is co-sponsoring a program called “IPM In Schools” to help education administrators select an appropriate pest abatement plan for their facilities. It’s

designed to inform personnel, teachers, parents, students and school board members of the many important considerations that need to be addressed in selecting an integrated pest management program. IPM is a system of controlling pests (weeds, diseases, insects) by considering all possible control options. Such options — which include biological, chemical, cultural, manual and mechanical methods — are used to prevent or remedy unacceptable pest activity or damage. The chosen option is based on its effectiveness, site characteristics and environmental impact. The goal is

wallet-size brochure entitled “Happiness is Good Health.” The brochure details the importance of eating a diet rich in fruits and vegetables while also emphasizing the extraordinary safeguards built into pesticide testing, registration and use. For example, the brochure points out that a person could eat 396,000 pounds of bananas every day and still not exceed the level of a pesticide’s residue that has been proven to have no effect on laboratory animals. (Eating that many bananas will never become a fad.)

With all the concern today about the environment, it’s important to remind the public that farmers and agricultural companies aren’t rookies when it comes to conservation and environmental protection. Long before the popularity of wearing baseball hats backwards or spending \$50 for a flannel shirt (you gotta love grunge), environmentally conscious farming was commonplace.

You can start a trend of your own by letting people in on a well kept secret: environmental stewardship in agriculture has been around for a lot longer than most realize, and will be around long after your parents have forgotten about those old bell-bottoms. ●



to balance the benefits of control with the costs, public health and environmental impact.

Crop protection companies have been teaching people about the environmental safety of pesticides for some time.

The Edith Angel Environmental Research Center in Iowa was developed with a grant from Cyanamid in 1987. Researchers at the center have undertaken pioneering studies of the effect of farm management on wildlife. Studies there confirm that Counter insecticide/nematicide can be used without any harm to birds and other wildlife. Global Releaf, a project of American Forests and also co-funded by Cyanamid, helps spread the word about various reforestation efforts.

The industry’s national organization, the American Crop Protection Association, has sponsored several outreach programs including the recent distribution of a

THIS MESSAGE IS PRESENTED COURTESY OF:



Winners Write Now

Top 1995 "Up with Agriculture" Essays

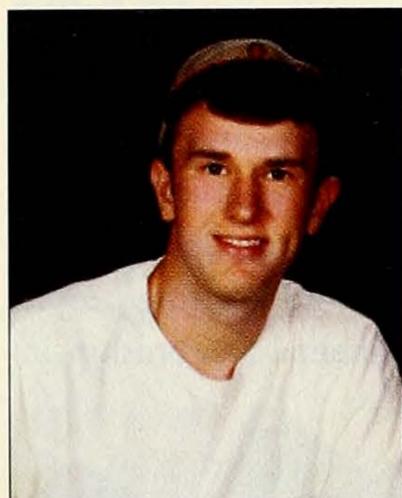
"Why do I have to learn this subject? I'll never need it!" Does this complaint sound familiar?

Ever wondered how figuring a cubed root in math helps you become a veterinarian, or what that poem you just memorized in English class has to do with your part-time job in a grocery store?

Nearly 1,500 high school students from all over the nation expressed how the skills and qualities developed through FFA directly apply to today's job market. They wrote essays, of 100 words or less, about how FFA and

agricultural education activities help make them more valuable employees or business owners/operators.

National first-place winner Chad Hammerschmidt of DeRidder, Louisiana, received \$1,000 for his essay. Lyndy Paske, Lamesa, Texas, placed second, winning \$500. Katie Rein, Big Mountain, Montana, was awarded third place and \$300, and fourth-place national winner Nathaniel Allen of Ontario, Oregon, won \$200 for his efforts. Forty-five state winners won \$50.



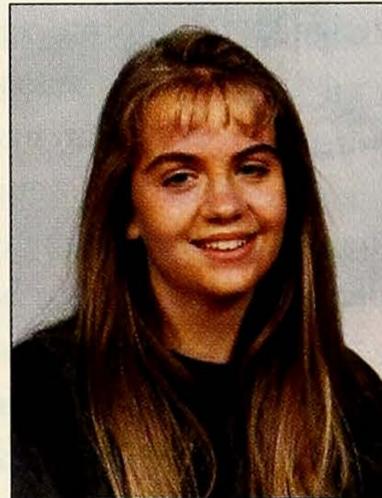
First Place

Chad Hammerschmidt, 18
DeRidder FFA
DeRidder, Louisiana
Advisor: Shawn Wascom



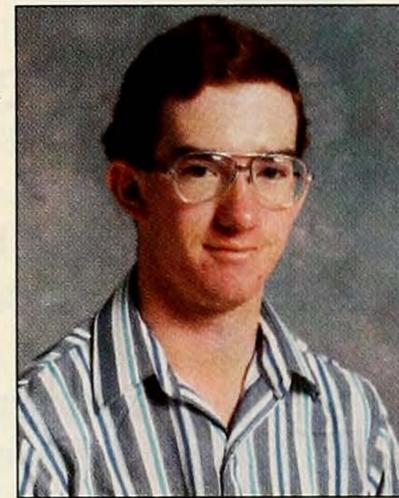
Second Place

Lyndy Paske, 16
Lamesa FFA
Lamesa, Texas
Advisor: Danny Beck



Third Place

Katie Rein, 15
Big Timber FFA
Big Timber, Montana
Advisors: Lynn Godfrey and
Dave Moore



Fourth Place

Nathaniel Allen, 18
Ontario FFA
Ontario, Oregon
Advisor: Jay Hummel

Aldo Leopold describes the importance of a "land ethic" in his book *A Sand County Almanac*. FFA has been instrumental in my understanding of land stewardship and helped mold my decision to pursue a career in forestry. I have successfully competed in forestry contests that sharpened my proficiency in this area. Leadership workshops have equipped me with the ability to work effectively with people, to lead and be led. My success with livestock management has planted in me an understanding of cash flow, risk management, marketing and sportsmanship. These tools combine to give me an edge for the future.

FFA/agricultural education will help me become a valuable employee or business owner because it provides opportunities to develop both independence and interdependence. Surveys repeatedly show that employees who exhibit initiative and can work independently, without constant supervision, are highly valued. Successful business owners also must be self-motivated. Agricultural projects develop this ability to carry out responsibilities independently.

Employers and business owners also value the interdependent, interpersonal skills of teamwork, leadership and communication developed in FFA. As I compete on leadership and judging teams, I learn that we can accomplish great things by working together toward a common goal.

A valuable employee or business operator must possess leadership and responsibility. They must manage time constructively, set goals, and work hard as a team member. FFA has given me the opportunity to obtain these qualities. Workshops at the state convention taught me how to set goals and be a strong leader. Contests have shown me the rewards of teamwork, goal setting, and using limited time wisely. Taking care of my livestock has taught me responsibility. Chapter activities and committees help exercise these skills. FFA gives me what it takes to be a productive part of the work force.

Individual responsibility, initiative, and self-confidence are all qualities I have enhanced through my FFA projects, in addition to the practical experience gained in production agriculture and record keeping. These qualities are absolutely essential in today's business world. As FFA members, we are responsible for all our debts and business decisions. The leadership opportunities afforded in both the chapter and contests give an FFA member invaluable experience working with people. Through the responsibilities of an FFA project, a person gains experience, maturity and leadership skills, and develops a good work ethic, all of which are invaluable in the work place.

This contest is sponsored by ICI Seeds, Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Watch for details on next year's contest. The next national winner could be YOU!

M A I L B A G



Good job!

Readers in 15 western states and Puerto Rico were treated to an article written in Spanish (page 33, September-October 1994). Here is one FFA member's response.

It gave me great pleasure to read your article in Spanish. I hope you continue to write articles like this since there are a large number of Spanish people in the United States.

Les oloy las gracias por el buen trobojo

Me dio mucho gusto leer su articulo en Espanol, ojala' que sigan escribiendolos, ya que los Estados Unidos se esta' poblando de mucha gente Hispana. Estoy seguro que habia' atos al igual que yo, que les guste leer algo de tanto valor en Espanol de vez en cuando.

*Dagoberto Pena
Gilmer, Texas*

Official Dress

I'm a proud member of FFA and really enjoy everything about it. There is just one drawback though—skirts as part of our official dress. I realize that our neatness is a must, but they are so uncomfortable to be stuck in for hours on end at meetings. Why can't we wear a nice set of slacks or women's dress pants?

I would like to know of a way to overturn this old tradition without causing a big controversy. I would also like to know if I'm the only one who feels this way or if others share the same feelings.

*Brandy Cloud
Kinta, Oklahoma*

What about it FFA members, do you think females should have to wear skirts as part of official dress? Let us know. Write to FFA New Horizons "Mailbag," P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.—Ed.

Say no to gambling

After reading your article about fund-raising ideas (page 40, November-December 1994), I felt compelled to write to you about your advice. We operated a Cow Patty Bingo for two years at our county fair. This past August we learned: in Pennsylvania you need a \$100 license to operate a small-games-of-chance activity and it's illegal for minors to participate in gambling activities. We will not continue our game in the future.

We did not, nor will we obtain a small-games-of-chance license. Secondly, most of our participants were young dairy showmen. My feeling is that

FFA should not promote gambling or participate in illegal activities.

Encourage the FFA membership to give some serious thought as to the moral and legal implications of fund-raising activities. If not, chapters may have to start "bail-raising" activities. Think about it.

*Gerald W. Reichard, FFA advisor
Waynesboro, Pennsylvania*

Give This Man A Hand!

Neil Schneider, agricultural teacher from Gilbert, Arizona, came up with the 1994 FFA theme "FFA—The Leadership Advantage." The theme was previously thought to have come from the Snyder, Texas, FFA chapter.

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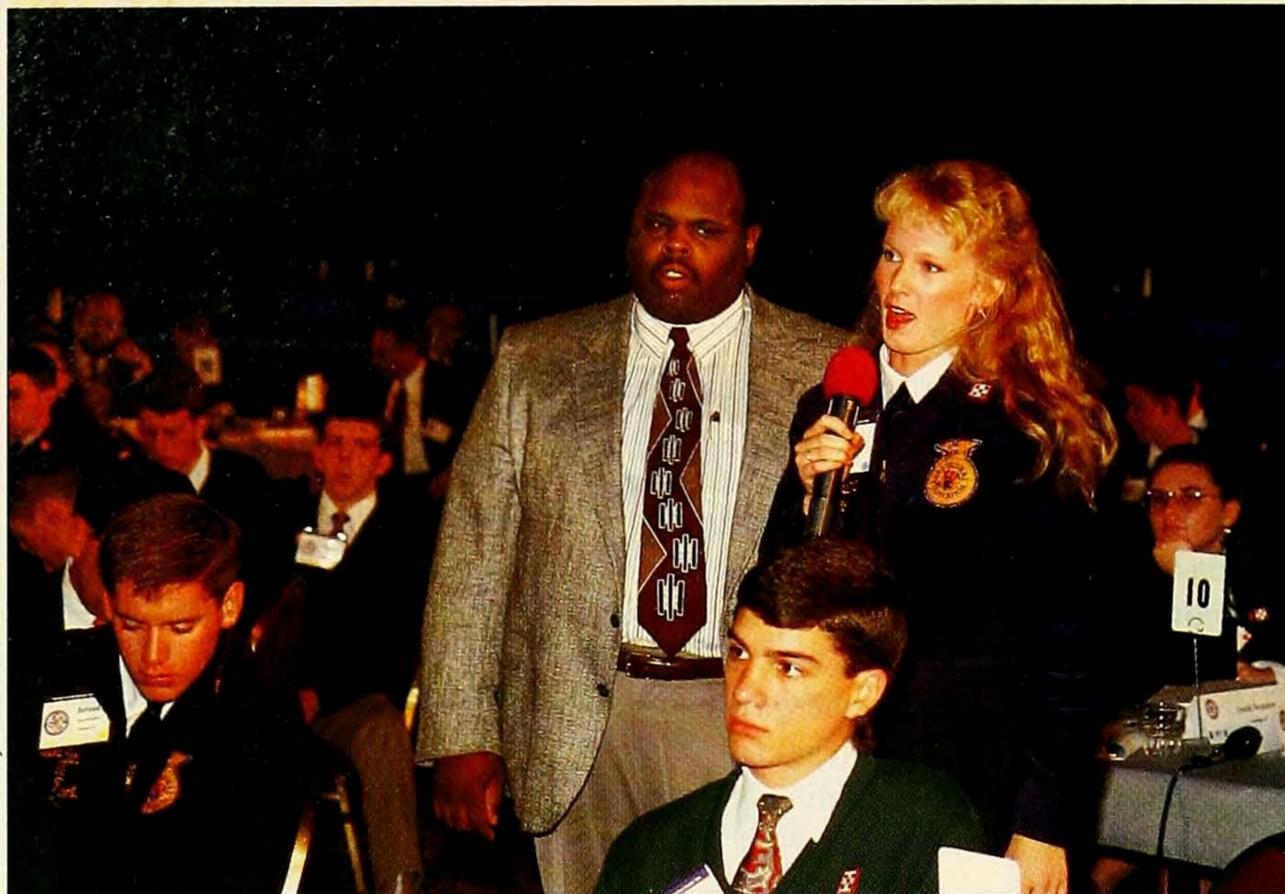
Raise fish in the classroom or at home with the unique Fish Farm™ by Aquatic Eco-Systems. Constructed entirely of professional quality long-life components, the Fish Farm™ will reliably produce crop after crop of healthy saltwater or freshwater fish. Any novice can succeed in bringing 50 pounds of fish to market size with a minimum of effort. Join the hundreds of

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Just the facts please. Sarah Hardy, standing, of Frankfort, Kentucky, was one of 53 FFA members at the American Agribusiness Summit, sponsored by Purina Mills, who learned to analyze issues logically instead of just relying on emotion. Dr. Enrique Rigsby, standing, Texas A & M University professor, spoke at the summit.

Get Critical!

Figure the facts out for yourself

By Bob Bruce

If someone says “Agricultural pesticides should be banned since they contaminate our ground water,” should you automatically believe them and agree? Or, should you automatically disagree with them because you are involved in agriculture and you know pesticides create better, more marketable produce?

Fifty-three FFA members, along with 4-H members, dealt with these tough issues at the first ever American Agribusiness Summit, sponsored by Purina Mills.

“Question everything” could have been the motto for one of the summit’s seminars about critical thinking. Experts taught students how to examine what they believe and what they are told to believe, and then to figure out for themselves what makes sense.

Much of the summit dealt with consumer food issues, says Allyn Buhrow, West Brooklyn, Illinois, and since everybody there was from an agricultural background—if one of the speakers would say something negative about food safety (on purpose, of course)—he says the students would get defensive.

Sounds sensible. But Allyn says he learned you shouldn’t believe any information without question, even if it is comfortable and reassuring. “Just because I trust one source of information doesn’t mean I should totally abandon a competing source. A lot of times there are things you can learn from both sides.”

“The biggest thing I learned,” says John Moffatt, Sacramento, California, “was to first, listen with an open mind.

Don’t be so quick to just shoot out an answer. Then second, if you’re going to speak, speak intelligently. You’ve got to know what you’re talking about. Don’t just throw out an answer that you’re going to regret later.

“At the seminar,” says John, “we discussed that rather than work against others with a ‘my facts versus your facts’ kind of argument, it’s more effective to find a common ground and

“If you’re going to speak, speak intelligently. you’ve got to know what you’re talking about. Don’t just throw out an answer that you’re going to regret later.”

then work together. Show them that while maybe some of the things that we did in the past weren’t the best environmentally, just look at all the good things we’re doing now.”

For Terri Temple, Trafalgar, Indiana, the lessons learned from the decision skills seminar can be applied to just about everything. “You have to look at your source and see where it’s coming from,” she says. “You don’t follow anything your friend says just because they think it’s the right thing. In making your own decision, you have to weigh the situation and look at both the positives and the negatives.

“Some decisions are very tough,” she adds. “Making career choices and college choices, and boyfriend-girlfriend choices, those may be some of the hardest decisions that we make in our life. But if you make the decision for the right reason, and it is for yourself, then it’s going to be the right decision and it’s all going to work out.”

Break The Mold

Shop Projects Can Be Fun and Creative

By Chris Feaver

It's not easy to come up with a fun and affordable shop project that meets class requirements. Projects so often are either too simple to cut muster (like a bird house or a tool box) or they are too ambitious for one person to tackle (like renovating a building).

But, there are tons of projects you can do that teach basic shop skills as you develop your Supervised Agricultural Experience Program (SAE). The following example was selected for its low cost, relative simplicity and usefulness:

Weld Tester

For those who are looking for a not-so-run-of-the-mill metal shop project that is bound to impress the shop teacher, a weld tester may be just the ticket.

The weld tester helps determine the structural integrity of a welding job. If a weld is sound, it will withstand the pressure of a 30-degree bend at the weld seam. If not, the weld will break.

It's not an Einstein project by any means," says Neil Schierling, who built a weld tester as a teacher's assistant at Inman High School in Inman, Kansas, last year. "Someone with some basic training in welding could build this."

"They are great for beginning welding students who can compare against each other and have contests," says Schierling. "It's also helpful in learning proper welding techniques."

Dimensions: 14 inches tall, 14 inches wide at the bottom, six inches wide at the top.

Materials: Eight- to 10-ton hydraulic jack. Two sets double-rolled, double-sealed ball bearings. Scrap angle iron and four feet of one-inch metal rod.

Cost: \$100 for two sets of bearings.

Tools: MIG welder

Construction: Make the two ends first. Use one six-inch piece of angle iron as the top and attach two 14-inch pieces at 110 degrees as the sides. Place one bearing assembly over each of two 14-inch lengths of metal bar so the bars act as the axles and the bearings spin freely. Weld the ends of the bar into the top corner of each end piece you made. When viewed from overhead the tester will now look like a rectangle with two six-inch ends and two 14-inch sides. Attach the four legs of the tester to a base of one-quarter inch flat steel measuring 14 inches square. The jack now can sit on the base and press upward between the bearings to bend each weld.

Construction takes about five to 10 hours.



Weld Tester

Shop Talk

What are you building these days? We want to publish your ideas of useful projects that cost \$100 or less.

Please send your photos, name, home phone number (including area code), teacher name, school phone number and explanation of project to Managing Editor, *FFA New Horizons*, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160. ...

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Trade-Off

See how United States' agriculture compares to England's



Photo by Bob Bruce

Dawn produces about 1,000 tons of grass silage each year. She also raises 500 ewes, 31 cows and about 20 steers. Mark Soleta, upper left, stayed with Dawn during his England Direct program through FFA.

By Bob Bruce

The first thing I noticed when I went to England," says Mark Soleta of Heron Lake, Minnesota, "was the size of their farms. A big field over there is 50 acres. A big tractor is 120 horsepower, and a huge farm is 600 acres. Over here, we try to keep our fields to around 160 acres. A good-sized tractor for us is up around 350 horsepower, and a huge farm where I come from would be at least a couple of thousand acres."

Of course, it all depends on your point of view. Just ask Dawn Morgan of Lydney, Gloucestershire, England. "We're more intensive here," she says. "We run one cow per acre here, while in South Dakota, for example, they might run 10 acres per cow."

Because English farms are smaller, farm owners can't justify a lot of big, expensive farm equipment. As a result, says Mark, "They're still pretty labor intensive over there."

But they have some clever methods to reap the advantages of modern farming technology.

"They have what they call a machinery ring," he explains. "In one place I visited, there were over 100 farmers involved in it."

A machinery ring includes some farmers with bigger operations who can afford to buy big equipment, and other farmers who have very little machinery of their own.

Some farmers may actually be machinery-heavy, owning equipment that cannot really be justified by the size and needs of their own farm.

The manager who runs the ring matches farmer "A," who needs a particular piece of equipment, with farmer "B," who has that type of equipment.

Although it goes against the traditional American notion of being self-sufficient and owning all your own equipment, Mark says it's an idea that makes a lot of sense. "The trend over here has always been bigger and bigger," he says, "and of course the big boys can justify owning all that expensive equipment. But the little guys

are beginning to realize that it just doesn't pencil out to have all that money invested in equipment when they hire it done for a fraction of the cost."

Although Dawn is not a member of a machinery ring, she does work for neighbors making silage, harvesting sugar beets and potatoes, and planting with her 100-horsepower John Deere. She also hires herself out to do milking.

"If someone's sick or going away on holiday," she says, "they just ring me up and I go over and do their milking for a day or two days or whatever."

Dawn is fortunate her farm can remain self-sustaining with only a little bit of extra financial input from the outside. It is something fewer and fewer small farmers in the United States are able to claim, says Mark.

"Anymore, either you're 2,000 acres with some livestock, or you're 500 acres with little or no livestock and an outside job. The times are changing. It used to be that you had 500 acres and you made a decent living. ..."

Even in England, says Dawn, if a young farmer starting out didn't already own his or her own land and have some stock and equipment in the family, it would be nearly impossible to get started in agriculture.

Dawn and Mark both say they learned how closely each country's economy is tied to each other's and to the rest of the world.

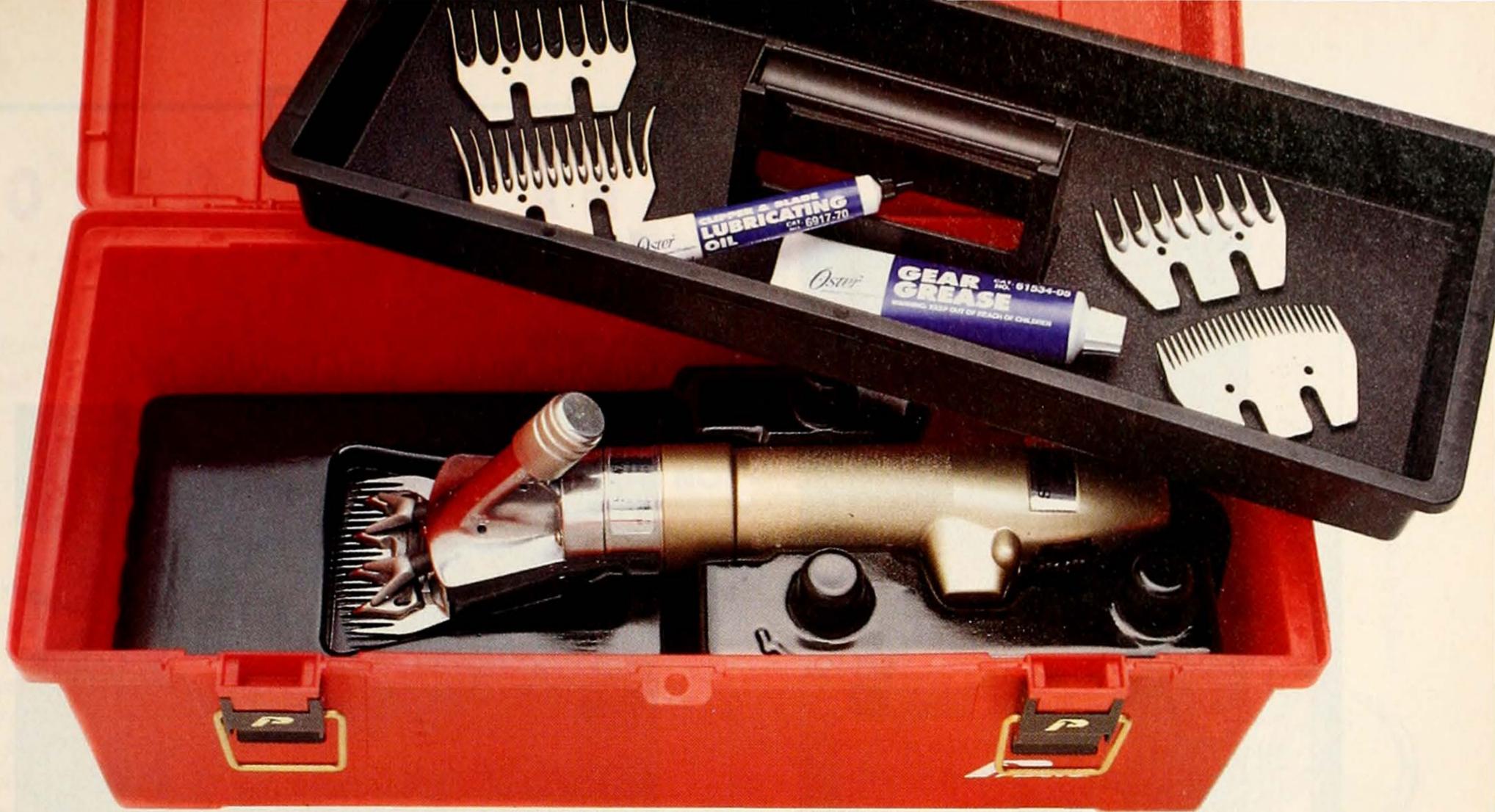
"If you've got any sort of a shortage in corn or soybeans in the states, for example," says Dawn, "it makes a tremendous difference to us and our trade prices."



Out Of This World! Well ... almost.

You won't get to the moon, but you can travel to 25 countries through FFA's international programs. For more information about short- and long-term tours, phone Bruce Kane today at 703-360-3600, extension 319 or write to him at the National FFA Organization, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.





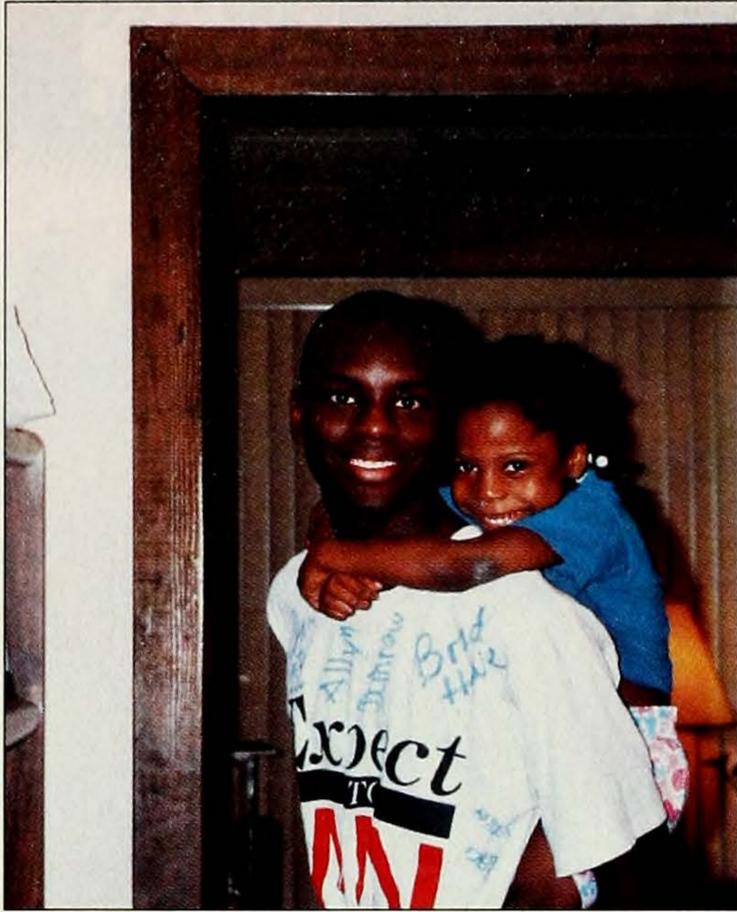
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Corey Flournoy, National FFA President with his little sister.

No fear. That's my little sister, Barbara. She is the most energetic, life-loving, five-year-old girl I have ever seen in my life. Her intelligence and willingness to try anything often get her into trouble.

She never hesitates to try something new and to take risks.

Many children love to test and stretch themselves. From birth they hit life with determination to learn how to crawl, walk and talk.

Falling is not a problem. They just get back up and go at it again.

What happens? We soon become preoccupied with being safe. We learn being different and taking risks are bad. Blending in is good.

Most people act like puppets, mimicking the latest trends and fashions, repeating popular opinions and sayings.

The few people who do think originally and have the courage to act on their inspiration have the potential to be hailed as geniuses, trendsetters, history makers and saints. You could be one of them.

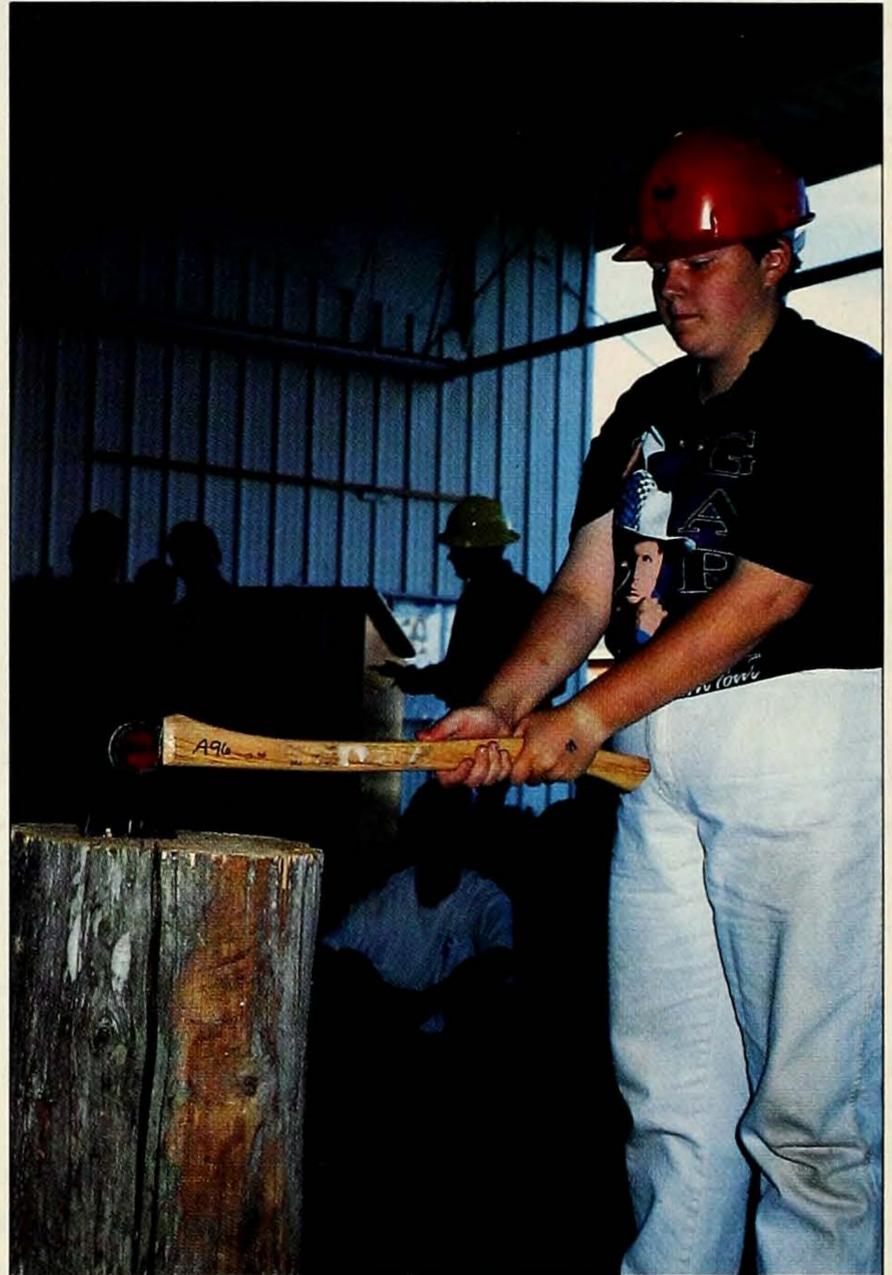
We have the power to change our lives. Just as a child is adventurous, we should not be afraid to experience new things.

Life is short. Our time in FFA is much shorter. Don't let a moment pass you by.

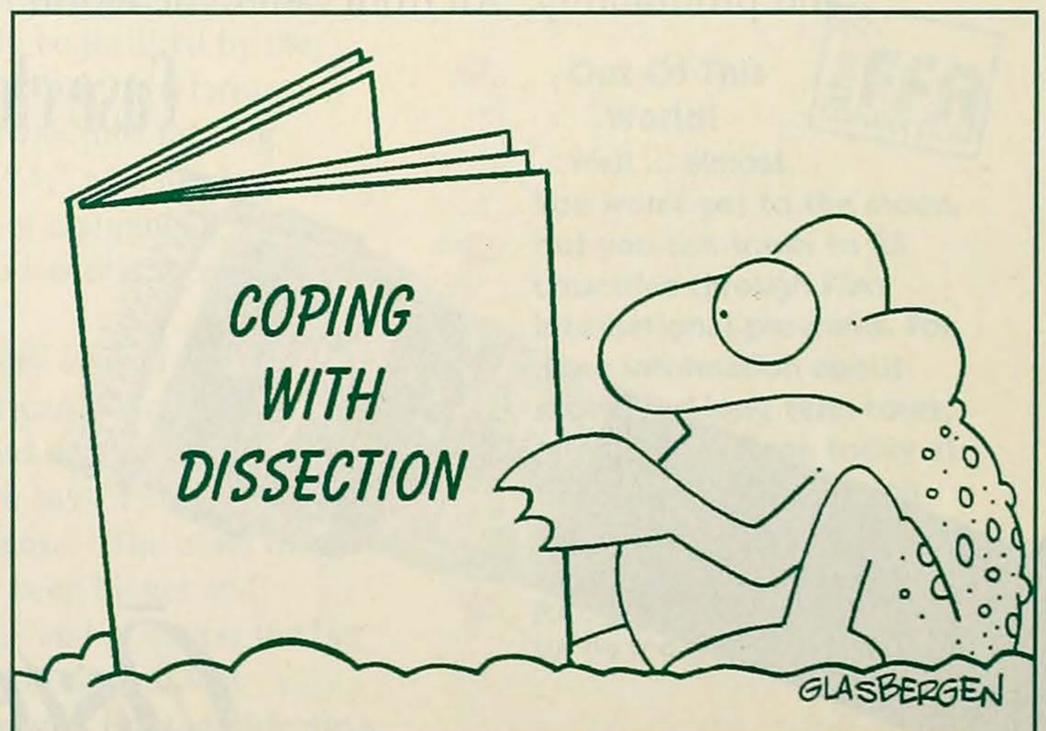
Corey E. Flournoy

FFA IN ACTION

Washington
Logging Rodeo at the Puyallup Fair

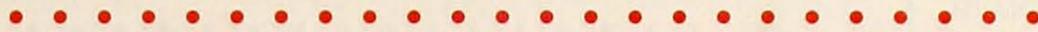


The FFA Logging Rodeo featuring log burling, chopping, tossing and more took place at the annual Puyallup Fair.



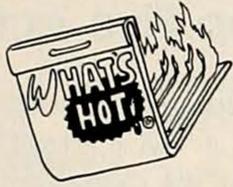


FFA IN ACTION



California

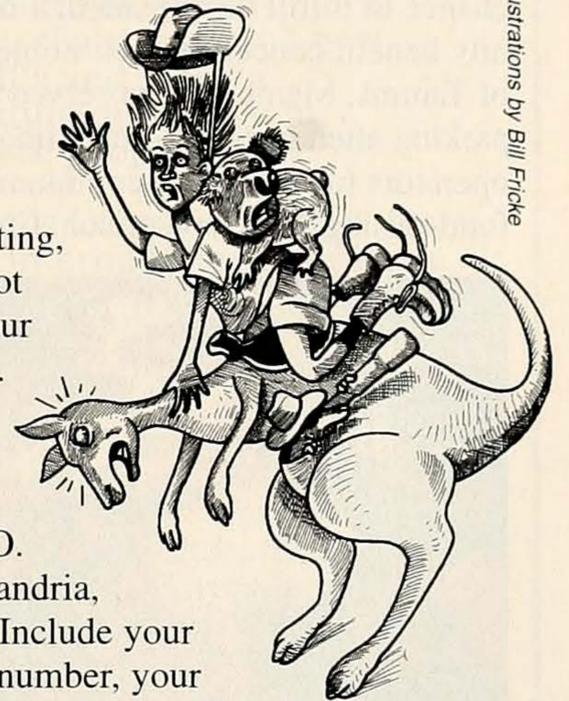
What's Hot and What's Not at Corning



WHAT'S NOT

Movie	"8 Seconds"	"Robin Hood, Men in Tights"
Actor	Mel Gibson	"Beavis and Butthead"
Actress	Meg Ryan	Roseanne
Singer	Clay Walker	Billy Ray Cyrus
Album	"The Chase" (Garth Brooks)	"This Won't Be the Last" (B.R. Cyrus)
FFA Activity	Leadership conference	Fund-raisers (selling jerky)
Place to go	Camping	Mall
Thing to do	Ride horses	Wash dishes
Book	"When the Legends Die"	"The Grapes of Wrath"
Magazine	"Western Horseman"	"Thrasher"
Sport	Football	Golf
Social cause	Pro-logging industry	Save the Spotted Owl
FFA event	Donkey basketball	Project competition
Clothes	Wrangler jeans	Baggy pants
TV shows	"Home Improvement"	"Pee Wee's Playhouse"
Music video	"God Bless Texas"	"Indian Outlaw"
FFA fund-raising	Calendar sales	Jerky sales
Career choice	Game Warden/Veterinarian	Substitute Teacher

Corning, California, FFA members thought it would be cool to participate in an international exchange program to work on a ranch. Several members said Australia would be first choice. At your next chapter meeting, find out what's hot (and not) with your chapter members. Send your answers to FFA New Horizons, "What's Hot," P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160. Include your name and phone number, your chapter, town, state, school and advisor's name. And if you're really ambitious, send color photographs of your chapter demonstrating what's hot and what's not. ...



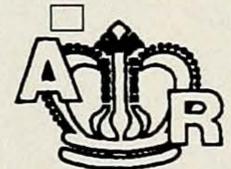
Action Illustrations by Bill Fricke



American Royal

AMERICAN ROYAL 1995

STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



American Royal

Applications will soon be accepted for one of the American Royal's most exciting programs! Every applicant invited to participate in Kansas City in November, 1995 receives scholarship money.

First place winners will receive \$5,000 scholarships plus a 10 week summer internship with Farmland Industries and the American Royal. Each intern's salary and living arrangements will exceed \$4,800 for the summer.

APPLICANTS WELCOME

For information—contact your State FFA Advisor or write John L. Wempe, 5506 W. 82nd Place, Prairie Village, KS 66208-4984.

FFA IN ACTION

Illinois

Wanted: Stage Crew for Shenandoah

Have you ever dreamed about working as a “roadie” for a country music band? Egyptian FFA members had their chance to fulfill this dream at a community benefit concert in their hometown of Tamms. Members also served as parking attendants and ticket booth operators to assist their community in fund-raising for a new prison. Chapter

president Beckie Ford, vice president Frank Blakemore, Travis Sutton, Dale Schultz and advisor Dan McCrite worked side-by-side with Shenandoah’s road crew setting up and taking down the band’s equipment. “We never realized how much hard work goes into setting up for a concert,” says Beckie Ford. *(Tiffany McCain, Reporter)* ...

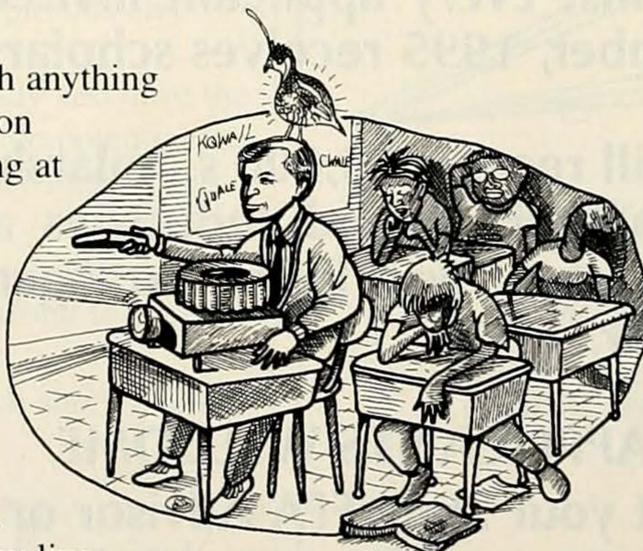


Egyptian FFA members Beckie Ford and Frank Blakemore take a break after setting up Shenandoah’s sound equipment for a benefit concert.

Texas

The Bobwhite Brigade

Ask Childress FFA member Jeff Rash anything about quail—anatomy, habitat, population dynamics, tracking, taxidermy—anything at all. After participating in the five-day “Bobwhite Brigade” camp this summer at the Krooked River Lodge located in Haskell County, Texas, he’s an expert on the subject. “I think this is one of the best camps I’ve ever attended,” says Jeff. During the camp Jeff constructed several visuals of quail, the plant life they eat, and the places they live. He’ll be using these in presentations about the Bobwhite quail in local elementary schools. ...



ATTENTION ALL REPORTERS!

Top Five Action Tips

Ever wondered what it takes to get published in “FFA in Action”? These tips should improve your chances of getting the word out about chapter activities.

5. Info Info Info

Include your name, your home telephone number (including area code), your chapter’s name, state, school name, school telephone number, advisor’s name and any other information to help us follow up on your leads. The more information the better!

4. A Hook

What sets your chapter activities apart from others? Make your titles exciting and choose original, unusual, or meaningful activities to send us. Think about the news you like reading about in action, and send us those types of things—in your own words.

3. Details, So Many Details

Although most of the action items you see are short (20 to 200 words or so), the ones selected all include plenty of details. These reporters say a lot in a couple of paragraphs. If you’re unsure, write more and we can always shorten your information to fit.

2. Quote ‘Em

What is important about your activity? How did members respond to it? How did you organize it? What did you accomplish? What do your members have to say? Specific comments about the activity are wonderful! Interview your fellow members and find out what they think.

1. Color Action Photos

A picture is worth a thousand words! We love color, in-focus photos that feature members in action. Take plenty of pictures and then send us the best. And don’t forget to include captions for your photos. We want to know who is doing what and why in your pictures. (For more tips on writing good captions for good photographs, see page 7 of the January-February, 1995 issue.)

Mail your action items to: FFA New Horizons, “FFA in Action,” P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160. Who knows? Your chapter could be featured in the next issue.

FFA IN ACTION

Wisconsin
Emergency!



Green Bay Preble FFA "victims" pose with their fake injuries after participating in a mock airport disaster. A staged emergency is required by the federal government every three years to make sure all rescue teams are prepared.

What do you get when you take 45 FFA members, cover them in fake blood, and put them on an airport landing field? If you add a fake plane crash and emergency rescue teams, you get an important and informative community service project.

Green Bay's Preble FFA headed for the Austin Straubel International Airport early one morning last fall to participate in a mock disaster that assists local rescue teams in remaining prepared for even the most devastating of emergencies.

Each member was given a card that

detailed his or her fake injuries, and members of the army accident make-up team transformed members into plane-crash victims. The students role-played their injuries while rescue teams hurried to assist. Fake injuries ranged from minor cuts and burns to internal injuries and lost limbs.

After the mock disaster, FFA members attended a review of the day's events, which helped them to understand the difficulties facing rescue teams in an emergency of this size. *(Jenny Benz, Reporter)* ...

Ohio
Christmas Cheer

Oak Harbor FFA chapter members truly make Christmas a time of giving. This year they gave Riverview Nursing Home residents 10 boxes of fresh fruit and held a poinsettia sale to benefit the Children's Hospital. The following students, Sarah Niefer, Matt Gardiner, Denton Goodin, Abe Vidal, Jake Ferguson, Marty Starkey, Josh Goetz and Brian Sarnes even assisted the Holiday Bureau in picking up and delivering food boxes to needy families. *(Jim Berlin and Rod Delphous, Reporters)* ...

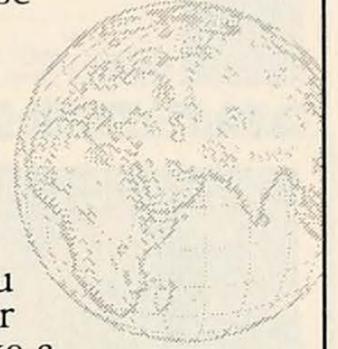
South Carolina
Positive Publicity

Florence Career Center FFA members launched an exciting exhibit at the Eastern Carolina State Fair that included hydroponics, a simulation of a space shuttle tomato seed experiment, a Ford tractor, a Carolina Power & Light display and a road-side produce stand where they sold candy bars.

Chapter President Robby Centey and Vice President Jason Coker, along with other FFA members, explained their school's agricultural program to visitors. ...

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FFA IN ACTION

Connecticut

Award-Winning Landscape



Woodbury FFA placed first in the New England Landscape Exhibit at the Eastern States Exposition. Proud architects are (from left to right) president Rick Hunyadi, reporter Dave Haversat, Mike Berecz, project chairman Helan Mezger and advisor George Lyman. *(Dave Haversat, Reporter)*

Idaho

FFA's "Captain Cody"

Cody Tews, better known at "Captain Cody" to his radio fans, is the youngest radio deejay in Idaho. He works summers at station TNT-1480 AM Dynamite Country in Gooding, Idaho, and earned his FCC license in Radio

Broadcasting as a freshman. Now a junior, Tews is president of the Shoshone FFA chapter and finds amateur radio a "great hobby" that could also become a great career for him. *(LeLand Buckway, Reporter)* ...



Texas

Got the Chapter Meeting Blahs?

Klein Oak FFA has just the cure. Their October meeting includes a costume contest and a pumpkin carving contest. If your meetings suffer from the blahs, try a seasonal contest or game to make them fun...and to increase meeting attendance ...



Kentucky

Farm Safety Class Offered at MSU

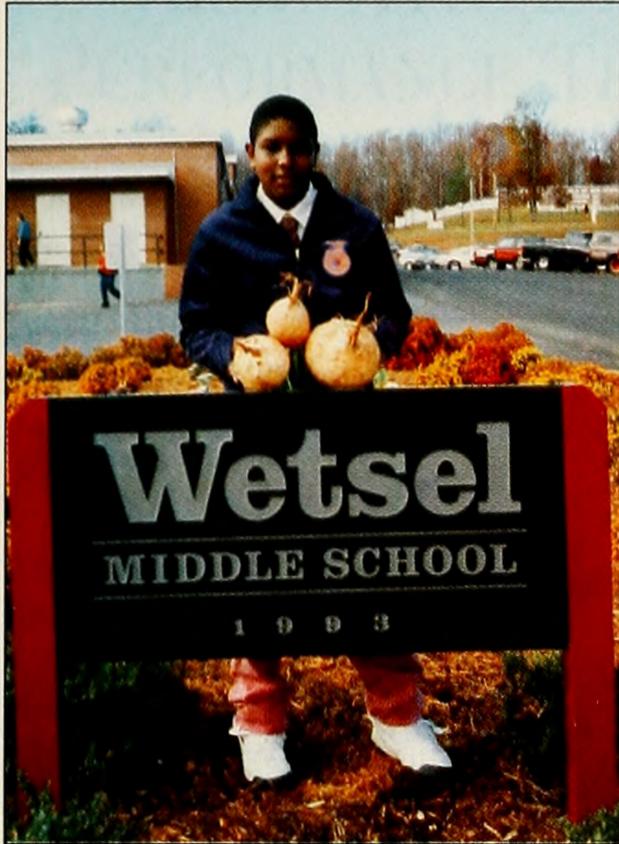
"Don't be a statistic!" was the theme of Murray State University's Farm Safety Week display, which focused on tractor-vehicle accidents. MSU now offers the elective course Agricultural Safety. Many of the 23 students in this class are members of the Murray State Collegiate FFA.

"One of our goals for this semester is to conduct a survey of the university and farm and ag-related programs to identify areas of concern," says Dr. Dwayne Driskill, associate professor and course instructor. "This will include hazards involved with the use of shop materials and equipment, welding, woodworking, tractors, combines, augers, and any farm implement." FFA members plan to survey local farms, analyze current safety regulations and present farm safety activities for area youth. *(Laura Winstead, Reporter)* ...



Murray State FFA's Farm Safety Week Display

Virginia
Monster Turnips from...Virginia?



Wetsel Middle School FFA member Kareem Turman shows off the turnips he grew this fall. The largest turnip weighed almost seven pounds and was 22 inches around.

Indiana
Machinery Auction: A 22-Year Tradition at Benton Central

Every April, FFA members at Benton Central FFA cut short their spring vacations to take part in Indiana's largest benefit consignment machinery auction. Trucks, tractors, augers, tillage equipment, grain dryers, and wagon and cattle trailers, among other items, will fill the Benton Central High School parking lots this year on Saturday, April 1, at 9:30 a.m. Last year's auction of 1,400 items attracted more than 800 bidders and countless spectators—from as far away as Colorado, Michigan and Wisconsin.

Alumni FFA members, along with FFA friends, parents and current members, volunteer their time and talents for the auction, which raises money for local FFA activities and scholarships. The Alumni chapter receives a certain percentage of the money that each piece of machinery brings in: from 15 percent on items between \$5 and \$100 to four percent on items above \$1,500. Last year FFA members earned \$14,000.

For more information about this year's auction, call Benton Central FFA at (317) 884-1600, extension 31.
(Travis Scherer, Reporter)

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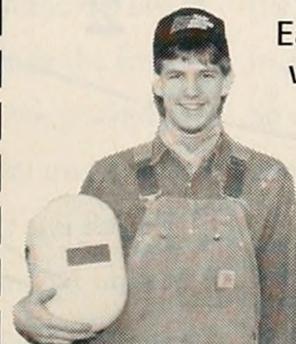
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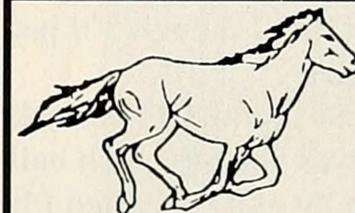
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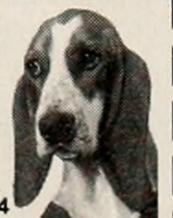
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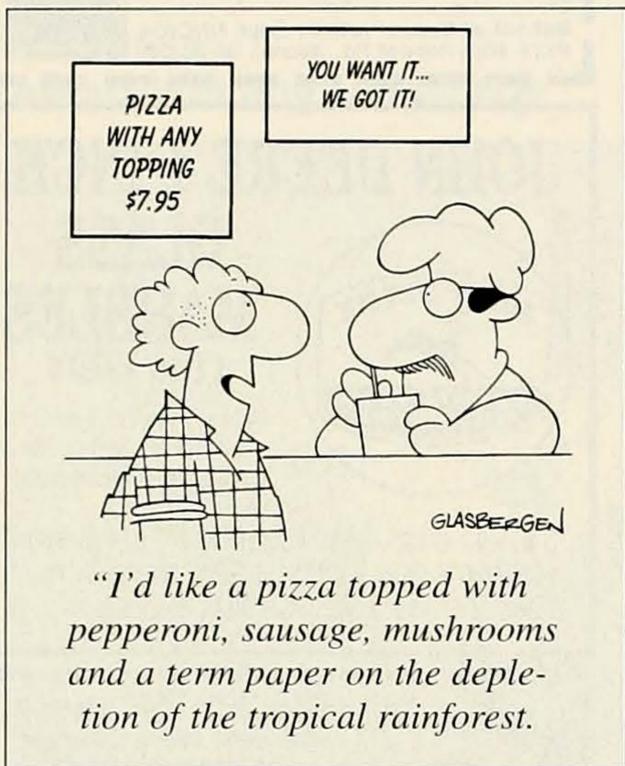
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J O K E P A G E



I went to my advisor the other day trying to decide which area of agriculture held the most promise for my future. He suggested I become a pivot irrigation expert, but I thought I'd just be going in circles.

He suggested I become a livestock buyer, but that was just too much bull.

He thought a bit and suggested I be a seed dealer, but that went against the grain. He then said how about running a nursery/greenhouse, but I just knew I'd have to branch out!

As a last resort, he said I could become a truck gardener. I liked that, but so far I've only been able to raise pickups.

*Steven Keller
Glen Ullin, North Dakota*

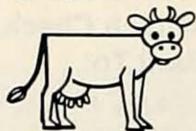
Q: What do you get when you cross poison ivy and a four-leaf clover?
A: A rash of good luck.

*Stacie Elmore
Mineola, Texas*

Q: What would you get if you crossed an electric eel with a sponge?
A: Shock absorbers.

*Kimberly Barrett
Weaverville, California*

Q: What do you call a cow with no legs?
A: Ground beef.



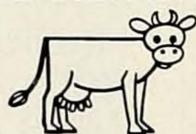
*Nathan Moser,
Medina, North Dakota*

Q: What do you call a cow with two legs?

A: Lean beef.

*Susan L. Sipe,
Tuttle, Oklahoma*

Q: Where do you find prehistoric cows?
A: In a moouseum.



*Laurie Denzer,
St. Charles, Minnesota*

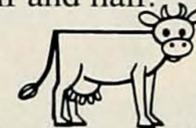
Q: Where does a cow go on Friday night?

A: To the mooovies.

Dean Wallace II, Monticello, Arkansas

Q: What do you get from a cow with a split personality?

A: Half and half.



*Mike Welch,
Traipsburg, New York*

Q: What do you call a cow who has just had a calf?

A: Decaffeinated.

*Mariah Campbell,
Bonduel, Wisconsin*

Q: What do you call a cow in the cornfield?

A: Cream of the crop.

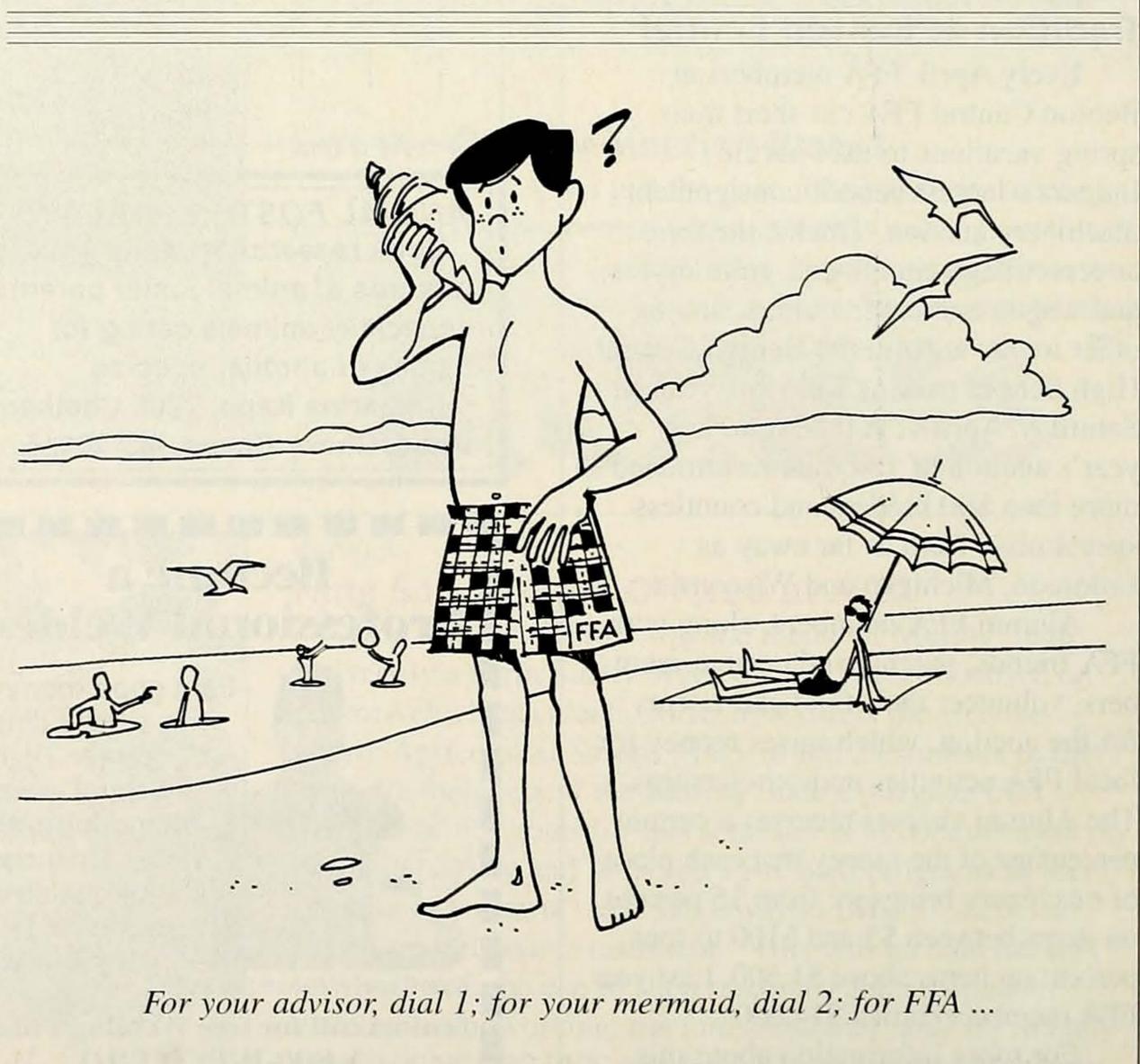
*Mike Batchelor,
Andalusia, Alabama*

Q: What musical key do cows sing in?

A: Beef-flat.

*Michael Southerland,
Morristown, Tennessee*

Charlie and Friends



For your advisor, dial 1; for your mermaid, dial 2; for FFA ...

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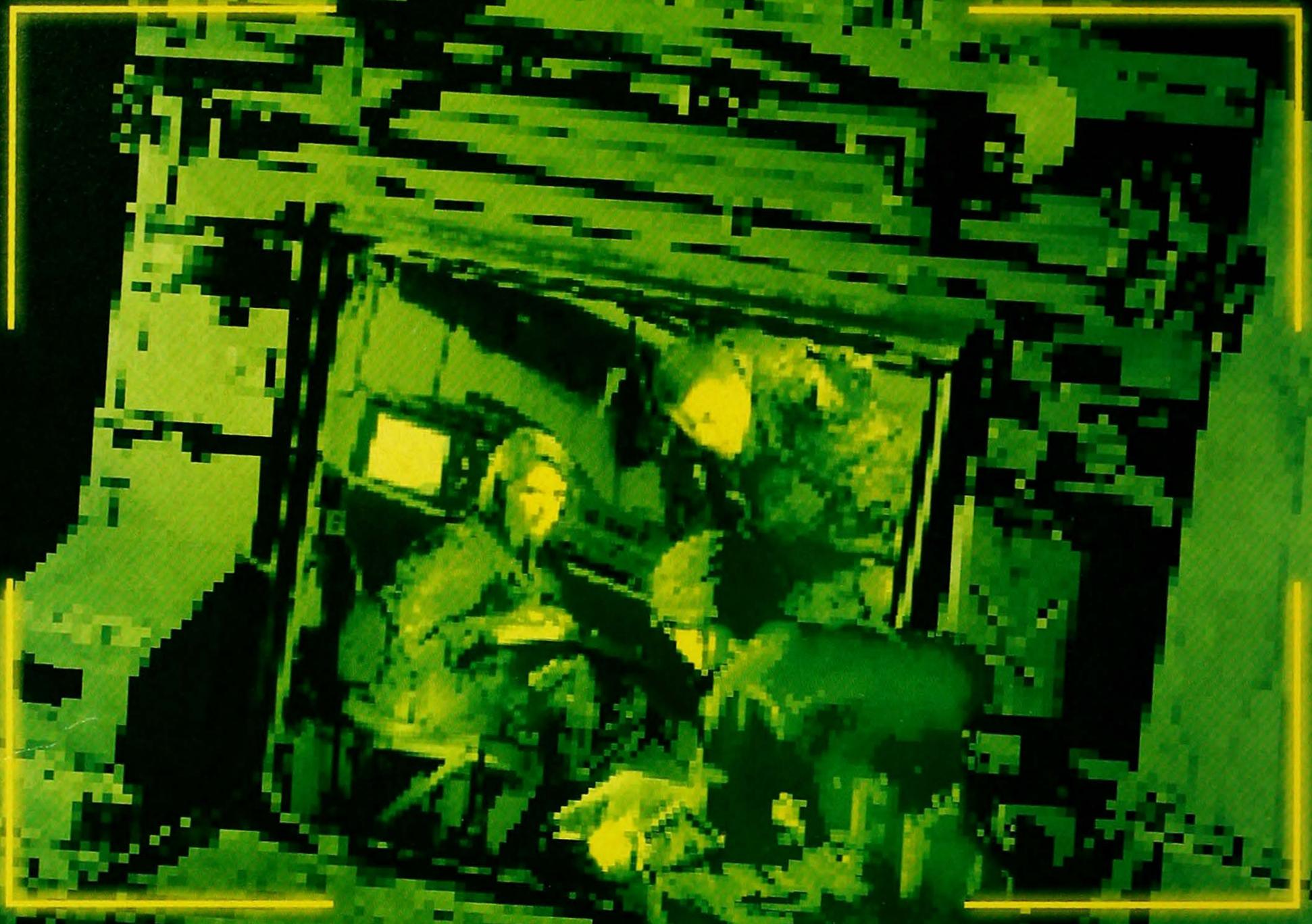
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