

The 66th National FFA Convention

PROCEEDINGS

November 11-13, 1993



Minnesota members Kimberly Peterson of Mountain Lake and Carl Aarke of Hawley spent a brief moment as two of the 461 delegates who voted on issues affecting the National FFA Organization.



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Letter From the Editor—

Translating the energy, the smiles, the excitement of the biggest convention in history into these 72 pages was a challenging task, but one that we approached with enthusiasm. You see, everyone who worked on this report holds FFA close to their hearts. Each person listed below is either a former member, part of the national FFA staff, or a professional who clears his or her schedule to be in Kansas City every year for the big event. We know how special the convention experience is to both newly initiated freshmen and seven-year veterans earning their American FFA Degrees, because many of us have been there ourselves.

In these pages you will find the official record of the 66th National FFA Convention. We hope you recognize some faces, and that the photos bring back memories of some special days in your FFA career. Maybe one of the retiring addresses motivated you to set new goals, or perhaps you were inspired by the stories of the proficiency winners and decided someday you want to share the spotlight on stage. More than any other event, the national convention highlighted FFA's commitment to developing premier leadership, personal growth and career success in young people.

If you were one of the 32,111 people who joined in the annual celebration, we hope you took the experience home and shared it with others. If you've not yet made the journey to Kansas City, we hope these pages give you a sense of the intense activity that can happen only at convention, and that you can be part of it in years to come.

Enjoy,
Lynn Hamilton

PROCEEDINGS

Volume LXVI

November 11-13, 1993

The 66th National FFA Convention *PROCEEDINGS* is published by the National FFA Organization as a record of its annual convention held in Kansas City, Mo., November 11-13, 1993.

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Prepared and published by the National FFA Organization in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies.

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



A Brief Moment in Time



The team from the Springdale, Arkansas, FFA Chapter shows its thrill at being announced as the winner in the National FFA Poultry Contest. Springdale member, Brian Lloyd, (second from right) was ranked as the highest individual.

With palms moist with perspiration and a high supply of nervous energy, 18-year old Amy LaSalle of Merced, Calif., stepped forward to recite her six- to eight-minute speech entitled, *El Cielo Esta Cayendo*. For a brief moment, the anxiety seemed unbearable. Apprehension soon gave way to excitement when her name was called as the winner of the National Prepared Public Speaking Contest.

Like LaSalle, it was time for each member to show the world what it meant to be a part of the FFA. Some came to compete, some to entertain and others simply to enjoy the sights and sounds of the

66th National FFA Convention. The eyes of Kansas City were on every member of the sea of blue corduroy that descended upon it in early November. Kansas City's spotlight focused on FFA's wave of young people, who overflowed into the city streets with energy and enthusiasm.

For a brief moment, time seemed to stand still as agricultural education and the FFA showcased their brightest and best.

Under Bright Lights in the Big City

For some FFA members, the scenes outside the

(Continued on page 5)



This FFA member paid the price with long hours of disciplined study and practice to compete in the National Nursery/Landscape Contest. Although on her own here, she was part of a team representing her chapter and state.



By the look on their faces, riding a school bus isn't so bad, and it might even be kind of fun. Bound for Kansas City, these Greenville, Texas, FFA members had plenty of time to plan their convention activities. They could map out which workshops to attend and choose which speakers to hear. The ride home left plenty of time to compare and learn from each other's experiences.

These Delaware FFA members share a peaceful moment outside the Kansas City airport before meeting head-on with the hustle and bustle of 32,111 convention attendees.



Carlos Gancedo of Boys Ranch, Texas, met comedian and cowboy poet Baxter Black up close and personal. Black entertained everyone in the Municipal Auditorium during the Friday afternoon session, and told of his adventures as reporter of the Las Cruces, N.M., FFA Chapter.

(Continued from page 3)

Municipal Auditorium were as memorable as those within. The traffic, sirens, skyscrapers and urban life styles were rare sights for some members making their first voyage outside their home town. It was somewhat of a cultural shock for native Kansas Citians, too, who relinquished their city to the all-American sea of blue.

Members found themselves making their own decisions and being responsible for their own actions—deciding what to eat, which activities to attend and how to get from here to there. They made great deposits in their banks of knowledge, independence and experience.

All of this was a preview for the hot lights and big sounds of country music star Lee Greenwood, who was sponsored by Commerce Bank of Kansas City. Members were equally dazzled by the warm greetings of the Gibson/Miller Band.

Making It to the Big Time

FFA members knew they were in the big time the moment they stepped off the bus in Kansas City with bulging suitcases in hand. Many worked hard to get

(Continued on page 6)



Friendships grow beyond your own FFA chapter. Patrice Carter of the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, Ill., and Amy Ericson, Sycamore High School, Ill., take a moment to share a laugh and a smile during the busy convention.



From the kickoff of convention with Reflections Wednesday evening, Kevin White, national FFA secretary, and the rest of the officer team encouraged members to think about themselves, as well as their place in the FFA, the United States and the world. Each day of the convention highlighted one of these topics, and each was emphasized by neon signs such as the "USA" pictured above.

While this member got a special treat being on stage with Lee Greenwood, FFA members inside and out of the auditorium were inspired by the singer's patriotic performance, including his hit "God Bless the U.S.A." at the close of Reflections Wednesday night.

(Continued from page 5)

there; some spent countless hours preparing for competition. Long days and sleepless nights were the norm as many band, chorus and talent members labored for musical excellence. Many even paid their own way. But, it was worth it.

The Municipal Auditorium was bursting at the seams. True to its chosen theme, the convention celebrated "Leadership for America." From Reflections on Wednesday evening to the fall of the gavel on Saturday afternoon, members were

challenged to build the character needed to serve their family, community and nation in whatever capacity they were called. They were encouraged by guest speaker Emory Austin, co-sponsored by United Telephone—Midwest, to let the FFA mold their talents and abilities.

Surrounded by the constant buzz of delegates, national officers, advisors and chaperones, members couldn't help but join in the flurry of activities and grow from the experience. Though surrounded by



The backs of FFA jackets confirmed that every part of the United States was represented at the national FFA convention, and that members are truly a part of something larger than themselves.



thousands of strangers, members found a feeling of warmth, comfort and a sense of belonging with others who shared their commitment to agriculture and leadership.

Sharing FFA's Big Adventure

Agricultural professionals rewarded that commitment by raising over \$5 million for the FFA and agricultural education in 1993. A bigger-than-ever career show, which included 230 exhibitors, highlighted the many diverse careers available to young people willing to take on the challenges of a progressive industry.

FFA chalked up a 15,888-member increase in 1993, so it was no surprise that the convention grew, too. Attendance hit an all-time high of 32,111, and there were plenty of activities for the crowd to enjoy.

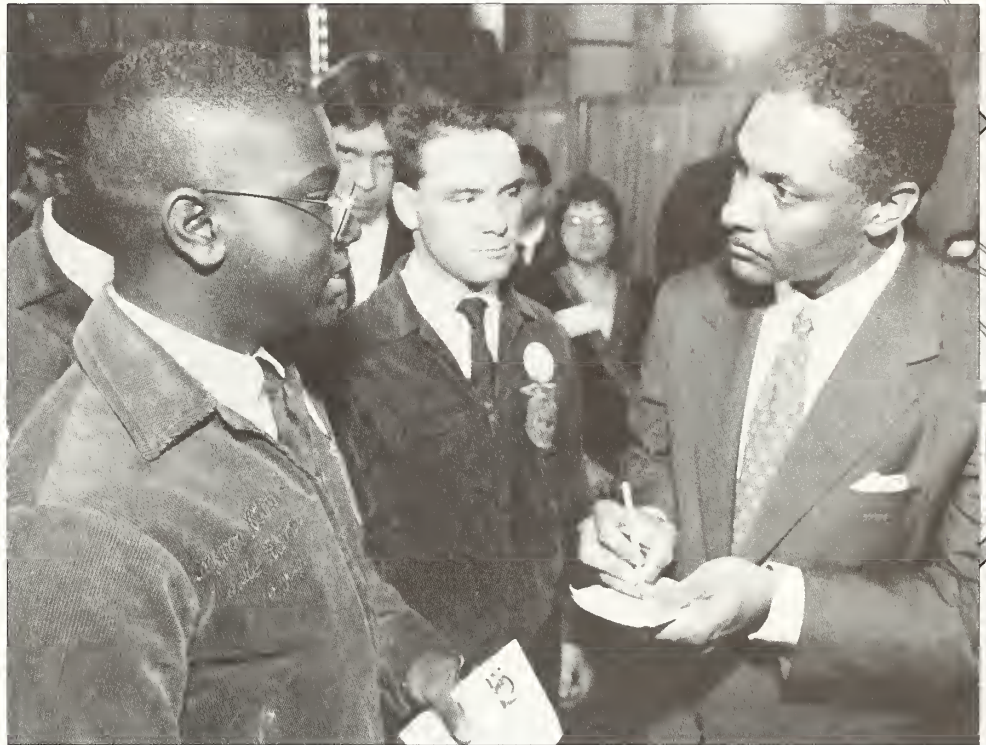
Speakers recounted stories about how the FFA had helped them, from the personal strength of Coby Shorter to the wit of Baxter Black. Shorter was sponsored by Western Retail Implement and Hardware Association, while the travel for Black was provided by Passport Travel. Other speakers included Miss America Kimberly Clarice Aiken, sponsored by CHEVY TRUCKS; actress and comedienne Geri Jewell; American School Counselor Association President Dr. Jackie Allen; U.S. Department of Education Assistant Secretary Dr. Augusta Kappner; and John Thompson, sponsored by Cargill.

To make the most of their time, members raced to participate in as many of the leadership workshops, general sessions, retiring addresses, dances, the American Royal and educational tours as possible.

Since no one could possibly see and do it all, some chapters developed a military-style plan of action to divide and conquer all of the convention experiences. They returned from their missions to compare adventures and share their findings.

A View of the Big Picture

FFA members expanded their world view through visits with international exchange students,



U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy told FFA members, "Everywhere you look you can see some phase of agriculture. Everyone is affected by agriculture." With discussions and debate about trade in full swing, Espy went on to tell FFA members that as trade barriers are lowered, "World trade will offer a multitude of career opportunities. You will have more opportunity than any student anywhere in the world."

guest speakers and FFA members who spoke of global concerns.

Agricultural issues are similar the world over, said one international guest. One that seems particularly evident is the lack of agricultural literacy. "The average German doesn't know what a farmer does," said Bernhard Kleyboldt, a German who has been working on a farm in Kansas through an interna-

(Continued on page 8)



Bernhard Kleyboldt of Germany shows off a hat worn by farmers and others in Bavaria, the southern region of Germany. Kleyboldt works on a farm in Kansas and will spend another eight months in the United States during his one-year international program through the FFA. Kleyboldt came to the U.S. to see what he could apply from American agriculture to the farms he manages in Germany. His proudest accomplishment so far is driving a combine, since most farmers don't own combines in Germany. "My next goal is to drive a semi-truck," he said. "I only see them in the movies. It was a culture shock when I got here and saw them."

(Continued from page 7)

tional FFA program.

Current world issues took center stage as a prize-winning speech addressed the impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada; and Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy relayed the importance of breaking down trade barriers between nations. CNN reporter John Holliman reminded the group of how world events affect the United States and agriculture. Members realized that agriculture remains the common, deeply anchored root of all nations.

Leaving with a Big Impression

Everyone was shaped by their experiences. Everyone took the risk to leave the familiarity of home, to learn something new, to make a new

friend and to celebrate a belief in agriculture. Under the blue corduroy, they left for home with chests filled with pride and dreams. And for a brief moment dreamed of how one day they could race across the stage as the FFA National Horse Proficiency award winner or the new national FFA president.

Teachers returned to their classrooms brimming with new ideas. FFA members returned home with the vision that they belonged to something larger than themselves. For weeks and months to come, the stories of that magical week in Kansas City would be retold to members at home. This new inspiration would be a source of strength for all to make the difficult decisions to grow personally and to improve their chapters, communities and world.

□

Agriscience Teacher of the Year

**Sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund
and PCS Sales**

National Winner:

Christy Mecey-Smith
Glendale, Ariz.

National Finalists:

ARIZONA: Christy Mecey-Smith, Glendale

GEORGIA: R. Blane Marable, Bishop

ILLINOIS: John R. Rentfrow, Shelbyville

WEST VIRGINIA: Larry W. Watson, Mannington

Offering exciting learning experiences for her students has earned Christy Mecey-Smith the national Agriscience Teacher of the Year award.

Mecey-Smith has incorporated an agriscience biotechnology program into her school's agribusiness and veterinary science curriculum. The new program not only concentrates on plant tissue culture, but also biotechnology applications, genetics, animal physiology and embryo transfer.

"I believe a teacher must provide positive experiences to back up those challenges," said Mecey-Smith, "so that students will want to continue challenging themselves." Her students conduct research projects, visit biotechnology corporations and work in agriscience internships.

Mecey-Smith was honored on stage Thursday afternoon, and was presented with \$1,500 and a plaque. □



Christy Mecey-Smith (right), a fifth-year agriculture instructor, accepts the Agriscience Teacher of the Year award from national officer Todd Hingson. Mecey-Smith teaches in Glendale, Ariz.

Agriscience Student Recognition Program

**Sponsored by The Agricultural Group of
Monsanto Company**

When Julie Berry read an article in her Adams, N.Y., newspaper that claimed lightning triggers plant growth, she wondered about the other positive effects lightning might have on soil and plants.

"When I read the newspaper article, it really created a spark," reflected Berry, now a student at Cornell University. Her spark, known as "The Electric Greenhouse," earned the South Jefferson FFA Chapter member an \$8,500 scholarship for her selection as the national winner in the Agriscience Student Recognition Program.

Berry's study examined whether or not passing air through a high-voltage current, created by graphite electrodes to simulate lightning and a fan and sprinkler system to simulate wind and rain, would increase nitrate levels in the soil.

Jill McCrea of the King City FFA Chapter in Maysville, Mo., was named the national runner-up and received \$6,500 in scholarship awards. Her project consisted of using lichens to determine the sources of airborne pollution and if they could be used in detecting lead pollution. □

National Winner:

Julie R. Berry
Adams, New York

Runner-Up:

Jill S. McCrea
Maysville, Mo.

National Finalists:

CALIFORNIA: Sharon Stephenson, Glennville

IOWA: Andrea B. Clark, Algona

MAINE: Jody R. Smith, Caribou

MISSOURI: Jill S. McCrea, Maysville

NEW YORK: Julie R. Berry, Adams

TEXAS: Carrie Carmen, Prosper

VIRGINIA: Christie Hyre, Winchester

WASHINGTON: Mindy McCoy, Sumner □

Stars Over America

Film sponsored by Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and Universal Dairy Equipment, Inc. Cash awards funded by executive sponsors of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

The Stars Over America Pageant Thursday evening spotlighted the careers of eight outstanding members who have reached the pinnacle of FFA achievement. Their stories of success were shared with the convention audience with the aid of a film that profiled the eight stars.

Family members and advisors then joined the stars on stage for the announcement of the results.

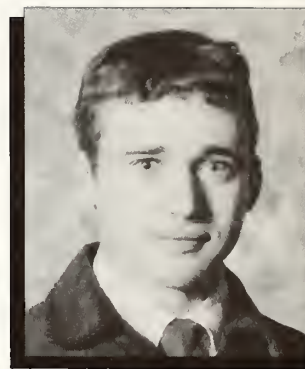
The American Star Farmer and the American Star in Agribusiness each received \$2,000, and the national finalists were presented with \$1,000.

All eight stars received plaques and an invitation to participate in a 10-day tour of European agriculture.



*Jeff Cole, 20
Asbury, Mo.
Liberal FFA Chapter
American Star in Agribusiness*

Cole owns and operates a lawn care business and has expanded his services to include landscaping and snow removal. He employs three people full-time and plans to build a greenhouse to better serve his customers.



*Daniel Keck, 22
St. Lawrence, S.D.
Miller FFA Chapter
American Star Farmer*

Keck's operation is diversified, with 86 dairy cows and 130 beef cows. To feed his expanding livestock herds, he raises hay, corn and oats on his 1,380-acre farm. Accounting and dairy management computer programs help him make informed financial decisions.



Talk about proud parents! Gloria and Dennis Keck of St. Lawrence, S.D., couldn't be more pleased with their son, Dan, who was named American Star Farmer.

Star in Agribusiness Finalists



*Randy Arestad, 23
Ferndale, Wash.
Ferndale FFA Chapter*

Arestad owns North Star Sand and Gravel, a business he started as a high school freshman. He provides hauling services with his two dump trucks, as well as excavation work with his bulldozer and backhoe.



*Scott Bruce, 20
Red Oak, Iowa
Red Oak FFA Chapter*

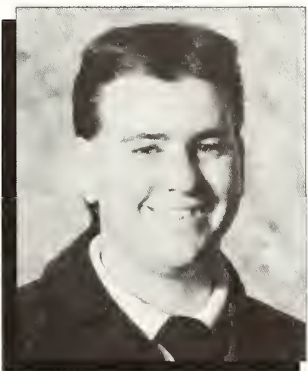
Bruce has worked in his family's construction business since he was nine years old and is now a partner. He has experience in every aspect of the business, from concrete work to managing the company's records.



*Greg Ramsey, 20
Jones, Okla.
Jones FFA Chapter*

Ramsey is a part owner of his family's company, Blue & Gold Sausage. He helps manage the company which makes and sells sausage for fundraisers to more than 500 FFA chapters and other non-profit groups.

Star Farmer Finalists



*Kermit Ketterling, 21
Wishek, N.D.
Wishek FFA Chapter*

Ketterling raises 2,700 acres of hard red spring wheat with his father. He uses minimum and no-till management practices to conserve the soil, and his crops consistently yield higher than local averages.



*Floyd Nelson, 21
Ashburn, Ga.
Turner County FFA Chapter*

Nelson is a seventh-generation farmer, and raises 300 acres of crops including peanuts, rye, oats, soybeans and water-melons. He owns a herd of 38 Limousin brood cows and plans to start managing his father's operation in a few years.



*Brian Tiedeman, 21
Hickman, Neb.
Norris FFA Chapter*

Tiedeman farms in partnership with his parents, and markets 1,500 hogs each year. He grows 650 acres of crops and attends seminars to stay current on markets and new management techniques.

National Extemporaneous Speaking Contest

Sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Federation

After just 30 minutes to prepare their talks, extemporaneous speaking contestants presented speeches to a panel of judges. Though preparation time was short, these FFA members showed as much composure and style as if they had practiced their speeches for days.

Each drew from a list of topics and spent their half hour readying the information they had researched. After the speakers' four- to six-minute presentations, judges asked them questions about the topics. From the pool of 43 contestants who started the competition, four finalists were chosen to vie for the national award Thursday afternoon.

Neely Young of the Katy FFA Chapter in Texas emerged the winner with her speech, "The Role of Secondary Agriculture Programs in Developing an Awareness of International Agriculture Relations." Young earned a \$300 prize; the second-place winner took home \$275; third place, \$250; and fourth place, \$225.

National Winning Speech:

The Role of Secondary Agriculture Programs in Developing an Awareness of International Agriculture Relations

As we embrace the hands of time, we come to the realization that time itself stands still for no one. We all know too well that as so goes the ticking of the clock so must come the element of change. Even though we sometimes use the old expression, "some things never change," we realize that change is inevitable for us as individuals and most certainly our nation.

As we recall time in the United States, we see times when change was our general focus and when vision accounted for everything. Throughout the course of history, the voices of America have cried for change mainly due to the economic conditions in which they lived. As we look at the winds of change, the same winds that blow across the face of our nation, these winds can best be described as winds of change.

Certainly, when we look on agricultural trade and its importance in global interdependence, we see that we have had a shift in wind direction. We realize that change has directly affected agriculture and its issues. Certainly, when dealing with the promotion of agricultural trade and its importance in global interdependence, we realize that we have to promote this trade to the general public. And who better to start with than the youth of today who will be

the leaders of tomorrow. That is where I believe the role of secondary agricultural programs comes in in terms of developing awareness of agricultural programs and the importance in global interdependence.

There are three main reasons, I think, that secondary agriculture will play a central role in promoting. First of all, I think we need to increase the awareness of agricultural trade. We need to help the general public and that certainly includes the students; we need to re-educate them and help them rediscover agriculture in its natural basis. We need to tell them the facts and the issues so that they're aware of what is actually occurring around them and the world economy. And we need to stress the importance of agricultural trade.

As William Kost said, an economic specialist, "the agriculture in the United States plays a central role in global interdependence and it is in our best interest as a world power to continue that role and pursue more open agricultural markets." And after we've made the general public and the students aware of agricultural trade, we need to educate them on the issues. And through the agricultural classroom, we can teach them the issues on a one-to-one basis. We can allow them the opportunity to ask questions and receive answers in ways in which they can comprehend and understand. We can teach them about trade and exports.

Allow them to become more current on the issues such as NAFTA and GATT so they will understand what is occurring in the media. We need to make them aware of the importance of exports. Let them know that agricultural production on the farm is increasing in productivity 2 percent per year and consumer demand is only increasing at about 1 percent.

So in order to deal with the farmer's production, agricultural exports play a central role in marketing its products. And if we do not have exports he will have to reduce his acreage. And once they understand trade and the importance of exports, then who better to promote the future of agriculture than individuals who will be the leaders in the work force. The individuals who are getting in on the increase and the new technology. We can allow them the opportunity to promote our programs through general discussion with one another. We can allow them the opportunity to become more aware of the job opportunities in technological advances that will be available through opportunities that we have through export programs. And we can also help them understand the reason that we need to have opportunities to expand for global markets in the future, and after they understand, they will be able to promote. And when they can promote, agriculture will progress.

Secondary agriculture programs are

National Winner:

Neely Young
Katy, Texas

Second Place:

Kevin Barenberg
Morrow, Ark.

Third Place:

Tracy Lynne Stone
Ashland, Ohio

Fourth Place:

Ryan Soukup
Grand Island, Neb.

the key to our future. These individuals are in these classrooms on a daily basis and day to day they become more current on the issues. As we who stand here today, approaching the end of youth and the threshold of adulthood, doors will open and doors will close for each of us. Certainly, times have

changed and we in agriculture know that in order to stay in pace we must change along with it. Through change and ideas, new issues and new concerns evolve and certainly we have seen that occur in terms of international trade and its global interdependence.

We, as agriculturists, must stay

informed and in tune on the current issues that affect agriculture and we need to teach the students, the future of tomorrow, to brace themselves for the upcoming weather reports of winds of change.



National Prepared Public Speaking Contest

Sponsored by FMC Foundation

Amy LaSalle's heart was pounding as she stepped toward the microphone at center stage. She'd waited all year for this moment. It had been a long year, involving regional and state contests and hours of practice. All of the patience and rehearsal paid off when Amy emerged the national winner of the prepared public speaking contest, with her composition, "El Cielo Esta Cayendo."

Preliminary rounds eliminated all but four of the 45 speakers who started out in the national competition. The finalists presented their six- to eight- minute speeches to judges and responded to five minutes of questions.

Amy took home \$300 for her efforts; second place won \$275; third, \$250 and fourth, \$225.

National Winner

Amy LaSalle
Merced, Calif.
"El Cielo Esta Cayendo"

Second Place:

William Collins
Pamplin, Va.
Water: Cooperation, Regulation or Devastation?
(Which of the Three?)

Third Place:

Robert Stevenson
Hobson, Mont.
"American Agriculture and the Third World"

Fourth Place:

Selena Simpson
Hartville, Mo.
"The Sign of the Times"



Amy LaSalle relishes the moment as Todd Hingson recognizes her for winning the National Prepared Public Speaking contest. LaSalle, a California native, spoke about the North American Free Trade Agreement.

National Winning Speech: *El Cielo Esta Cayendo*

"El cielo esta cayendo," or the English translation, "The sky is falling!" exclaimed Chicken Little in the children's story by the same title. He added, "I must go tell the queen!" and was sure the world was ending, all because a falling acorn struck the top of his head. He panicked and felt compelled to tell

his queen of this calamity. Chicken Little's hysteria was infectious, and before the story was over, several other animals believed this misinformation. Adults realize this is just a silly child's story and has no parallel to reality—or does it?

In August of 1992, Mexico, Canada

(Continued on page 14)

Prepared Public Speaking

(Continued from page 13)

and the United States reached a preliminary accord on the terms of the North American Free Trade Agreement or NAFTA. Immediately, like Chicken Little, Mexican and U.S. producers were alarmed and thought the sky was falling. Hysteria has permeated both agricultural industries. Many agriculturists on both sides of the Mexican-United States border are filled with anxiety over the possible effects of this trade agreement. Is the sky falling for these farmers? As FFA members, will we have a market for our agricultural products here or abroad?

To answer those questions, let's take a closer look at what the North American Free Trade Agreement means to those involved. Ratification of NAFTA will create the largest free trade zone in the world. This North American joint venture is said to have the potential market of 360 million people and six trillion dollars in annual production. NAFTA, over a period of time, will lift all trade restrictions between Canada, Mexico and the United States. This means all goods traded between these partners will not be subject to tariffs or quotas. The repercussions of this agreement will influence many industries; however, I am going to focus my comments on the effects it will have on agriculture.

Agricultural trade issues between Canada and the United States have been fully addressed in the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement, and the market between Canada and Mexico is limited. Therefore, the immediate concern centers on the agricultural trading situation between the United States and Mexico. Implementing NAFTA will offer new opportunities and untapped agricultural markets for Mexico and the U.S., but with tariff-free commodities, each faces new competition.

Many people may envision the stereotypical Mexican farmer with his serape and sombrero. How can he compete with the sophisticated, high-tech American farmer? American agriculture cannot afford to be so smug. Actually, these days, chances are good that the lettuce and tomatoes piled high on your good old American BLT are


from Mexico or somewhere else. The U.S. consumer eats a large quantity of imported fruits and produce. Winter here means the lower hemisphere is in a warm growing season. Mexico provides one out of every four salads, made from imported fruits and vegetables, eaten by the U.S. consumer. Therefore, Mexico is quickly becoming the "North American Salad Bowl." This market share is expected to rise with the signing of NAFTA. At the end of NAFTA's 15-year transition period, all import taxes on seasonal fruits and vegetables will be abolished. Produce coming from the south will be less expensive for the American public, but costly to U.S. row crop producers. The future means they must compete against cheaper labor from their southern neighbors. Agriculturists in California, Florida and Texas are particularly concerned with this scenario, due to the quantity of sensitive seasonal fruits and vegetables grown in these areas. It looks as though the United States agricultural producers are going to have plenty to worry about—or will they?

Ironically, because of the North American Free Trade Agreement, many Mexican agriculturists are nervous also. Their country is hardly the food-producing powerhouse that some NAFTA opponents make it out to be. There are a few updated farming operations in Mexico with irrigation and mechanization. However, the majority of the Mexican farms are still tilled by mules and oxen, without a means to irrigate. These Mexican growers are afraid NAFTA will make their country even less efficient than it is now. Mexican farmers are concerned because they only provide 65 percent of all the food needed to feed their population of 87 million people. Mexican agriculturists fear they will lose even more of their market share to U.S. commodities like beef, pork, corn, wheat, beans and milk. American pork and grain can be sold cheaper than Mexican-raised products in their country. This should mean windfall sales for the U.S. corn and grain belt states, abundant providers of these foodstuffs. Mexico will want to address these concerns before final ratification is

made with its partners.

Transportation plays a vital role in the marketing and processing of agricultural products. When a head of lettuce is picked in the field then it must be transported quickly to market before it loses quality. Moving food from the field to the consumer requires good equipment and roadways. Improving the country's infrastructure has not been part of Mexico's modernization efforts. This hampers its ability to be competitive as a food supplier.

The gradual unification of North American agriculture seems inevitable. However, along with the problems will be increased opportunities for Mexican and American farmers alike. Simply put, there is tremendous Mexican demand for many overproduced U.S. agriculture goods. The highly resourceful U.S. agriculturist can put these market phenomena to work to our country's best interests.

Foxy Woxy, the villain in the Chicken Little story, prevented Little from ever telling the queen about the falling sky. This caused everyone to live in an information void. FFA members if we are to live in a global community then we must be informed and be prepared to meet the marketing challenges of tomorrow. 

National FFA Contests

The many hours of study and practice paid off for participants in the National FFA skills and judging contests. These members had already experienced the satisfaction of winning their state contests, and were ready to pit themselves against the best in the nation. From identifying flower species to troubleshooting engines, the contest teams were ready for the challenge.

The contests were held throughout the Kansas City area Thursday and Friday. Results were announced at a banquet provided by each contest's sponsors, and the top teams were recognized during Saturday morning's convention session.

All winning teams and individuals received plaques, and some of the contest sponsors provided scholarships to the first place teams and high individuals. Those contests were: agricultural mechanics, agricultural sales, dairy judging, farm business management, floriculture, forestry, livestock, marketing plan project, meats technology and evaluation, nursery/landscape, parliamentary procedure and poultry.

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS

Sponsored by Firestone Ag Tire Division and Bridgestone/Firestone Trust Fund
First Place Team: Manor FFA Chapter, Manor, Texas
High Individual: Brad Dieringer, Manor, Texas

AGRICULTURAL SALES

Sponsored by Asgrow Seed Company
First Place Team: Wells FFA Chapter, Wells, Nev.
High Individual: Jennifer Griswold, Wells, Nev.

DAIRY

Sponsored by Associated Milk Producers, Incorporated and Babson Bros. Co./SURGE
First Place Team: Clover Leaf FFA Chapter, Lodi, Ohio
High Individual: Lyle Ruprecht, Lodi, Ohio

DAIRY FOODS

Sponsored by Patz Sales, Inc.; National Dairy Promotion and Research Board; and Mid-America Dairymen, Inc.
First Place Team: Skyline FFA Chapter, Urbana, Mo.
High Individual: Jason Driskill, Urbana, Mo.

FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by John Deere
First Place Team: LeRoy-Ostrander FFA Chapter, LeRoy, Minn.
High Individual: James Sutherland, LeRoy, Minn.

FLORICULTURE

Sponsored by Geo. J. Ball, Inc.; Grace Sierra; Sun Company; and American Floral Endowment
First Place Team: Heron Lake-Okabena-Lakefield FFA Chapter, Lakefield, Minn.
High Individual: Anne Hartman, Lakefield, Minn.

FORESTRY

Sponsored by Champion International Corporation and STIHL Inc.
First Place Team: Mt. Holly FFA Chapter, Mt. Holly, Ark.
High Individual: Gary Bowers, Elizabethton, Tenn.

LIVESTOCK

Sponsored by Purina Mills, Inc.
First Place Team: Council Grove FFA Chapter, Council Grove, Kan.
High Individual: Spencer Schrader, Council Grove, Kan.

MARKETING PLAN PROJECT

Sponsored by Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company
First Place Team: Walla Walla FFA Chapter, Walla Walla, Wash.

MEATS TECHNOLOGY AND EVALUATION

Sponsored by Hormel Foods Company; Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation; and Excel Corporation
First Place Team: Hanford and Clovis FFA Chapters, Hanford and Clovis, Calif.
High Individual: Lino Mendes, Hanford, Calif.

NURSERY/LANDSCAPE

Sponsored by American Association of Nurserymen; Wholesale Nursery Growers of America, Incorporated; Kubota Tractor Corporation; and The CHIPCO®/Specialty Products Group of Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company
First Place Team: Chatham Central FFA Chapter, Bear Creek, N.C.
High Individual: Eugene Kidd, Bear Creek, N.C.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Sponsored by Ciba and the United Soybean Board
First Place Team: Troy FFA Chapter, Troy, Mo.
Runner-up Team: Ritzville FFA Chapter, Ritzville, Wash.

POULTRY

Sponsored by Tyson Foods, Inc.; Sanofi Animal Health, Inc.; and American Proteins, Inc.
First Place Team: Springdale FFA Chapter, Springdale, Ark.
High Individual: Brian Lloyd, Springdale, Ark.



An FFA member combines both elbow grease and precision as he participates in the Agricultural Mechanics skills contest. The competition took place in the shop at Fort Osage Vo-Tech School.

Proficiency Awards

The 1993 National Proficiency Awards Pageant was notable for several reasons. Keeping with tradition, members were recognized for outstanding agricultural experience programs in 29 specific areas. However, for the first year, the four finalists in each area were selected "at large" from state winners, instead of being chosen on a regional basis. The awards presentations were split between the Friday morning and Friday evening sessions, another change from previous years.

What didn't change was the anxiety present in the air as the finalists waited for the results of their Thursday afternoon interviews. Those who heard their names announced as national winners received \$500, a plaque, a cash convention travel award and an invitation to participate in the 1994 European Travel Seminar. Other finalists took home \$250, a plaque and a cash convention travel award. The National FFA Foundation sponsors in each area provided funds for the awards.

National winners' names appear in **boldfaced** type.

AGRICULTURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Sponsored by the National Food and Energy Council, Incorporated and the National FFA Foundation General Fund

FLORIDA: J.J. Neel, Grand Ridge

GEORGIA: Jason Howard, Newborn

NORTH CAROLINA: Brian A. Baucom, Marshville

VIRGINIA: Mark A. Coleman, South Hill

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS

Sponsored by Case IH

INDIANA: Charles W. Hartle, Bremen

IOWA: Jeremy Clark, Red Oak

MINNESOTA: Kyle Merkel, Spring Valley

MONTANA: Travis McCool, Clyde Park

AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING

Sponsored by Archer Daniels Midland Company; Ag Processing Inc.; and Supersweet Feed (AGP, L.P.)

ALABAMA: Phillip Crowe, Valley Head

OHIO: Jon Myers, Carey

PENNSYLVANIA: Mark Kornman, Linesville

WISCONSIN: Jason E. Nilssen, Clear Lake

AGRICULTURAL SALES AND/OR SERVICE

Sponsored by CHEVY TRUCKS; Vigortone Ag Products, Inc.; Northrup King Company; and ZENECA Ag Products Group

CALIFORNIA: Randy Milligan, Lake Isabella

FLORIDA: Dwayne McQuillen, Lake Placid

VIRGINIA: William Farrar, South Hill

WISCONSIN: Craig Daniels, Montello



David S. Moline of Manson, Iowa, enjoys the exhilaration of victory on the main convention stage. Moline was the National Poultry Proficiency Award winner.

BEEF PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Nasco Division/Nasco International, Incorporated and Pitman-Moore, Inc.

MISSOURI: Joe Patrick, Sarcoxie

TENNESSEE: Robert L. Pearman, Arthur

WASHINGTON: Reed R. Wiswall, Pasco

WISCONSIN: Shea Geffert, Reedsburg

CEREAL GRAIN PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Kellogg Company and Unocal 76

INDIANA: Justin Day, Middletown

KANSAS: Jeff Bathurst, Abilene

NEBRASKA: Mike Koenig, Spencer

OHIO: John Schudel, Metamora

DAIRY PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Alfa Laval Agri Inc.; American Breeders Service; and Calf Manna® and Suckle® mfg. by Manna Pro Corporation

CALIFORNIA: Adrian Silva, Turlock

ILLINOIS: Lucas Clanton, Mulberry Grove

IOWA: Craig Harbaugh, Guttenberg

MINNESOTA: Dennis Fronning, Battle Lake

DIVERSIFIED CROP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Cargill

INDIANA: Robert Churchill, Lake Village

KENTUCKY: Ryan White, Sturgis

OHIO: Stephanie Gompf, Cardington

WYOMING: Richard Russell, Basin

DIVERSIFIED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

*Sponsored by Wayne Feed Division/
Continental Grain Company and
Livestock Marketing Association*

IDAHO: Brandi Bott, Rupert

INDIANA: Benji Ortman, Greensburg

KENTUCKY: Craig Berry, Olmstead

NEBRASKA: Barry Benson, Newman Grove

FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION

*Sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred
International, Inc.*

INDIANA: Glenn R. Noll, Wolcottville

OHIO: Jon Sharp, Martinsville

TEXAS: James Pelzel, Pilot Point

WISCONSIN: Matt Kuelz, Milton

FIBER CROP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Sandoz Agro, Inc.

NORTH CAROLINA: Cale Lee, Dunn

TENNESSEE: Henry Jones, Finley

TEXAS: John D. McFerrin, Hale Center

FLORICULTURE

*Sponsored by The Paul Ecke Poinsetta
Ranch; American Floral Endowment;
and Professional Plant Growers
Association*

FLORIDA: Louis Trivett, DeLand

NORTH CAROLINA: Lee C. Bowen, Newport

OHIO: Jennifer Lohrey, Camden

TENNESSEE: Donald S. Hutson, Church Hill

FORAGE PRODUCTION

*Sponsored by Gehl Company and
Northrup King Company*

INDIANA: Brad A. Hieber, New Haven

LOUISIANA: Jeffery T. O'Neal, Oak Grove

MISSISSIPPI: Jason Lea, Sontag

WISCONSIN: Joe Speich, Reedsburg

FOREST MANAGEMENT

*Sponsored by Stone Container
Corporation; Homelite Division of
Textron Inc.; and the National FFA
Foundation General Fund*

ALABAMA: Wesley McCollum, Lineville

FLORIDA: John C. Davis, Cantonment

NORTH CAROLINA: Charles E. Keck,
Gibsonville

OREGON: Melvin J. Lardy, Buxton

FRUIT AND/OR VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

*Sponsored by Briggs & Stratton
Corporation Foundation, Incorporated*

MINNESOTA: Joshua Erickson, Montevideo

NEW JERSEY: Daniel Dilks, Bridgeton

OKLAHOMA: James Esbenshade, Colbert

WISCONSIN: Paul McDowell, Montello



Amy H. Major, Hickman, Ky., could hardly believe it when she was named the national winner in Outdoor Recreation.

HOME AND/OR FARMSTEAD IMPROVEMENT

*Sponsored by the National FFA
Foundation General Fund*

ALABAMA: Kent Gipson, Collinsville

ILLINOIS: Robert E. Brown, LeRoy

MONTANA: Russell L. Evertz, Joliet

WISCONSIN: Ryan K. Engel, Reedsburg

HORSE PROFICIENCY

*Sponsored by Equicare Division of
Zoecon Corporation and Justin Boot
Company*

INDIANA: Chris Rottler, Loogootee

IOWA: Ryan Strand, Toddville

KANSAS: Tyson Buchman, Alta Vista

MINNESOTA: Matt Fahey, Belle Plaine

NURSERY OPERATIONS

*Sponsored by Merck AgVet Division and
Chrysler Corporation—Dodge Trucks*

INDIANA: Cherise Vance, Waynetown

LOUISIANA: Gehron P. Treme, DeRidder

MISSISSIPPI: Philip Carter, Pascagoula

MISSOURI: Jason Mossotti, Troy

OIL CROP PRODUCTION

*Sponsored by the Chicago Board of
Trade and FMC Foundation*

FLORIDA: William C. McDaniel, Grand Ridge

INDIANA: Eric L. Miller, Burlington

IOWA: Cory DeJong, Montezuma

VIRGINIA: Victor W. Simmons Jr., South Hill

OUTDOOR RECREATION

*Sponsored by CHEVY TRUCKS;
Schrade Cutlery; and O.F. Mossberg
and Sons, Inc.*

KENTUCKY: Amy H. Major, Hickman

MINNESOTA: Glenn Bundy, Spicer

MONTANA: Phillip Bowers, Livingston

NORTH CAROLINA: Patrick S. Wallace, Troy

PLACEMENT IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

*Sponsored by DEKALB Genetics
Corporation and Pitman-Moore, Inc.*

IOWA: Kasey G. Kash, Charlotte

MICHIGAN: Chad Benjamin, Webberville

NORTH CAROLINA: Arno D. Peterson,
Roseboro

SOUTH DAKOTA: Daniel Davis, Parker

POULTRY PRODUCTION

*Sponsored by Red Brand fence/Made
by Keystone Steel & Wire Company;
Schering-Plough Animal Health; and
Chore-Time Equipment of CTB
Incorporated and Hudson Foods, Inc.*

IOWA: David S. Moline, Manson

MINNESOTA: Carol Kruse, Wabasso

NORTH CAROLINA: Jonathan B. Crumpler,
Salemberg

TENNESSEE: Jay Rymer, Old Fort

SHEEP PRODUCTION

*Sponsored by the American Sheep
Industry Association; Kent Feeds, Inc.;
and Evergreen Mills*

KANSAS: Aaron D. Abeldt, Hope

MARYLAND: Robert O. Dinsmore, Jefferson

MISSOURI: Wesley P. Carter, Norborne

MONTANA: Mathew R. Eckstein, Absarokee

(Continued on page 18)

Proficiency Awards

(Continued from page 17)

SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT

*Sponsored by American Cyanamid
Company, Agricultural Division*

ALABAMA: Dwayne Phillips, Delta
KENTUCKY: Scott Turpin, Richmond
MISSOURI: Michael Allen, Carthage
VIRGINIA: Wayne Garber, Mt. Sidney

SPECIALTY ANIMAL PRODUCTION

*Sponsored by Purina Mills, Inc.;
American Dairy Goat Association and
Country General Stores*

GEORGIA: Israel Melton, Ambrose
MISSOURI: Melanie L. Nelson, Macon
TENNESSEE: Anthony Carver, Rogersville
UTAH: Ben Isaac, Payson

SPECIALTY CROP PRODUCTION

*Sponsored by Kubota Tractor
Corporation; CENEX FOUNDATION
and Wilbur-Ellis Company*

NORTH CAROLINA: Terry Williams, Autryville
OHIO: James Ogden, Hillsboro
TENNESSEE: Jason A. Wright, Petersburg
VIRGINIA: Mark B. Warren, South Hill

SWINE PRODUCTION

*Sponsored by Pfizer Inc. North
American Animal Health Division*

IOWA: Cory D. Fehr, West Bend
MISSOURI: Hoss D. Matthews, Norborne
OKLAHOMA: Ryan D. Sites, Mountain View
WISCONSIN: Kevin Lindow, Chili

TURF AND LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

*Sponsored by The O.M. Scott & Sons
Company*

INDIANA: Chad Thixton, Salem
MINNESOTA: Darl Korthals, Pipestone
TENNESSEE: Joe E. Hobbs, Bartlett
WISCONSIN: Darren Mindham, Boscobel

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

*Sponsored by Buck Knives and Bass
Pro Shops, Inc.*

FLORIDA: Bradley E. Etheridge, Williston
MINNESOTA: Jon Finnegan, Litchfield
OKLAHOMA: Scott D. King, Morrison
VIRGINIA: Stephen M. Smith, Lacrosse

Computers in Agriculture

Sponsored by the National FFA Foundation General Fund

National Winner:

Lee Merrick
Bruneau, Idaho

Runner-up:

Shiloh Jennings
Strawberry Point, Iowa

National Finalists:

FLORIDA: Kevin Mims, Bushnell
IDAHO: Lee Merrick, Bruneau
IOWA: Shiloh Jennings, Strawberry Point
NORTH DAKOTA: Ross Laframboise, Towner
OHIO: Kelly Newlon, New Lexington
OKLAHOMA: Kristy Ford, Springer
VIRGINIA: Adam Shiflett, Grottoes
WISCONSIN: Maria Lynn Lulich, Mason



Lee Merrick (left) accepts the national Computers in Agriculture award from national officer Travis Park. The Bruneau, Idaho, FFA member merited a plaque and \$750.

Computers are as necessary for today's agriculture as tractors and trade agreements, and the Computers in Agriculture Award Program recognizes members who have incorporated this important advancement in technology.

Lee Merrick was named national winner of the program based on the innovative application of computers in his agricultural business. He uses spreadsheets to manage his greenhouse operation by recording expenditures and income, planting dates and growing information. His records provide useful information for planning future business decisions.

National runner-up Shiloh Jennings developed a user-friendly program to help dairy farmers balance feed rations. He promotes the use of computers as a useful tool on today's family dairy farms.

The eight Computers in Agriculture finalists were judged based on their knowledge and use of computers, and the benefits of their projects to FFA and agriculture. Each finalist received a \$250 cash award, with an additional \$500 for the winner and \$250 for runner-up.

American FFA Degrees

Recognition program sponsored by American Cyanamid Company, Agricultural Division; Farm Credit System; Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.; Case IH; and Na-Churs Plant Food Company

It was a proud moment for the 1,276 American FFA Degree recipients as they each crossed the stage Friday afternoon to receive their keys and certificates. Proud parents and advisors cheered as their students received the organization's highest degree.

Earlier in the day, the recipients were treated to a luncheon, courtesy of National FFA Foundation sponsors.

ALABAMA: Scott L. Butler, Cullman; Michael S. Carroll, Ider; Mark Chandler, Fyffe; John M. Clement, Athens; David J. Gardner, Fruitdale; Jason Gist, Russellville; Matt Haney, Athens; Jonathan B. Hester, Spruce Pine; Rhonda M. Hood Strickland, Chancellor; Wayne C. Lyles, Fyffe; Brad Malone, Athens; Mark A. McClemore, Danville; Jeremy K. McCormick, Danville; Jason Motley, Chancellor; Elizabeth M. Rush, Lineville; Todd Seeley, Russellville; Kimberly D. Sorrells, Hartford; Chris D. Speck, Russellville; Kevin Stone, Russellville; Jonathan Vandiver, Tusculumbia; Brent Waters, Enterprise; Scott Woodall, Scottsboro

ARIZONA: Aaron E. Ball, Tucson; Robert A. Chiarini Jr., Peoria; Brandon Eichelberger, Peoria; Gary Hill, Eagar; Jeremy Kerr, Buckeye; John Larance, Glendale; Kevin Mathis, Peoria; Robert Orona, Springerville; Valerie Osborn, Tacna; Jon Pasquinelli, Yuma; Doug Pitsch Jr.,

Tacna; Terra M. Rush, Wellton; Eric Sawyer, Arlington; Micah J. Turner, Buckeye; Leroy Walker, Eagar; Bob K. Wood, Buckeye; Rosalie V. Zimmerman, Kingman; Augusta M. Zimmerman, Kingman

ARKANSAS: Larry A. Brewer, Fayetteville; Jarrod G. Daniels, Paragould; David A. Dickey, Calico Rock; Matt Flynt, Lonoke; Terry W. Griffin, Paragould; Charles H. Lee, Delight; Randy Lingenfelter, Jonesboro; Steven D. Mitchell, Pineville; Whitney Ratchford, Leslie; Jennifer L. Rhodes, Delight; Kevin Scarborough, Jonesboro; Jimmy L. Stanford, Rogers; Andy Treat, Marshall

CALIFORNIA: Matthew Actis, Tollhouse; Colleen M. Aguiar, Livingston; Andrew Argentieri, Santa Maria; Bryan Ashurst, Westmorland; Noah Barnes, Esparto; Che J. Barnes, Esparto; Richard Bell, Gustine; Michael P. Bennett, Santa Rosa; Taree M. Bode, Sanger;

Barbara A. Borklund, Rowland Heights; Christopher M. Cable, Julian; Shane Calabro, Gonzales; Ed Da Rocha, Le Grand; Lori Davis, Lemoore; Ted Dexheimer, Alpine; Larry Dinis, Madera; Wendy Y. Dobbs, Lancaster; Corinna L. Durling, Fallbrook; Catherine L. East, Fallbrook; Angela Edwards, Nipomo; Dayna L. English, Nipomo; Joshua Fernandes, Tulare; Jeffrey M. Flores, Gustine; Erica Freire, Arroyo Grande; Steven George, Calipatria; Briana George, Calipatria; Kellie Gomes, Tulare; Angela Gomes, Madera; John W. Gordon, Lemoore; Lorinda S. Graham, Apple Valley; John K. Greber Jr., Elk Grove; Alex Gutierrez, Kingsburg; John Hack, Turlock; Travis D. Hagen, Chico; Trisha L. Hall, Agua Dulce; Susie Hansen, Chowchilla; Cory L. Heckermann, Hemet; Dawn Howe, Janesville; Mathew Hunt, Visalia; Courtney Hunt, Fullerton; Richard Hurtgen, Oakdale; Cindy Hutchison, Bodfish; Bridgette John, Shandon; Jaime K. Johnson, Chowchilla; Brandon Jones, Lemoore; Christina Kloster, Fresno; Michael Kroes, Tipton; Lori Laning, Corona; Wendy L. Lantsberger, Kernville; Enrique Lares, Fullerton; Scott D. Layne, Turlock; Aaron Leff, Fullerton; Eric Limas, Tipton; Michael J. Limas, Tipton; Carlos A. Lopez, Selma; Christina Lopez, Fullerton; Rachel Lopez, Fullerton; Joe Machado, Tulare; Kimberly M. Marcario, Colton; Rose Marecek, Fullerton; Kevin McKinzie, Holtville; Debra D. Mead, Chino; Bryan J. Mello, Hanford; Ramiro Mercado, Chowchilla; Anthony Merten, Holtville; Susan J. Michl, Santa Paula; Randy Milligan, Lake Isabella; Harry Nelson Jr., Holtville; Larry C. Nichols Jr., Eureka; Devin G. Nunes, Pixley; William D. Nunes Jr., Gustine; Tyler J. Payne, Wildomar; John Perez Jr., Holtville; Ryan D. Petersen, Geyserville; Lilly J. Pimentel, Hanford; William T. Ponto, Vista; Lynn Porter, Petaluma; Kevin Potter, Paso Robles; Ray S. Prock Jr., Denair; Alfredo Quintero, Fullerton; Eric J. Rawls, Los Banos; Stephen N. Ray, Lemoore; Kaelene Reid, Hemet; Jonathan D. Rickert, Fall River Mills; Tim Righetti, Santa Maria; Darren Ross, Imperial; Leonar Salcedo, Fullerton;



Greg Snyder and Jeremy Sterzinger, both of Sycamore, Ill., received their American FFA Degrees in Friday's ceremony. Sterzinger earned the degree with his placement in production at DeKalb Genetics and a local hog farm. Snyders' SAE involved swine production and agricultural mechanics.

(Continued on page 20)

American FFA Degrees

(Continued from page 19)

Jennita L. Schharnow, Riverside; Jennifer W. Schmauderer, Woodland; Roberta A. Seifert, Acampo; Joshua J. Sheppard, Biggs; Adrian Silva, Tullock; Stacy Stanwood, Chino; Dee Dee Talbot, Woodland; Matthew Terra, Newman; Mark Thurman, Le Grand; Danny M. Tristao, Tipton; Gilbert Vallejo, Merced; Debi Walls, Fullerton; Chris Williams, Riverside; Stephanie Wilmeth, Kingsburg; Brice Young, Visalia

COLORADO: Aaron J. Brown, Lindon; Kenneth J. Champion, Pritchett; Jeff Cathcart, Holly; Travis L. Crites, Kirk; Dennis A. Everhart, Woodrow; Joaquin Gallegos, La Jara; Justin K. Hardwick, Vernon; Allen Hutt, Sterling; Stason Ikenouye, Kersey; Billy Johnson, Eaton; Peggy L. Lofquist, Montrose; Justin L. McDaniel, Haxtun; Carl S. McGuire III, Woodrow; Billy J. Mekelburg, Eckley; Ryan W. Noble, Yuma; Jason Page, Akron; Wade Patterson, Sterling; Jesson Samber, Stoneham; Jerome Seuffer, Holly; Todd Swedlund, Sterling; Troy E. Tagtmeyer, Vona; Daryl W. Unrein, Sterling;

Roslyn M. Walter (Hayman), Molina; Paul W. Webber, Platteville; Karl D. Wright, Lindon
CONNECTICUT: Kristin Digiulio, Coventry; Kari A. Hunyadi, Sandy Hook; Jennifer L. Michaud, New Milford; William W. Rundall, Kent; Matthew A. Syme, South Windsor

DELAWARE: Jay Davis, Clayton; Sharon L. Dawson, Camden; Samuel E. Walters III, Viola
FLORIDA: Jeff D. Albritton, Alturus; Joseph A. Alday, Sneads; Jason Barrentine, Grand Ridge; Shawn Bradberry, Walnut Hill; Heather M. Charlton, Lutz; B. Shawn Crocker, Haines City; Joseph W. Darby, Century; Matt Elliott, Lake Placid; Erin J. Freel, Gainesville; James E. Green, Moore Haven; Steven D. Hayden, Lakeland; Travis Howell, Sneads; Jeremy S. Lowery, Century; Clay Martin, Newberry; Larry J. Nettles, Lake City; Corey Parks, Sarasota; Stephanie E. Peloquin, Deland; Dori Peters, Ocala; Rodney G. Reis, Lakeland; Landria D. Revels, Webster; Patrick D. Richie, Tallahassee; Valerie L. Rocchi, Ocala; Eugene T. Skillin Jr., Sarasota; Amanda Smith, Center Hill; Andrea L. Stevenson, Christmas; Toby N. Taylor, Edgewater; Derick Thomas, Lake Butler; Timothy W. Thompson, Lakeland; Jeffery D. Via, Deland; Ralph B. Yoder, Altha

GEORGIA: Chesley R. Davis, Canton; Dennis C. Gunby Jr., Harlem; Tammy Mullis, Nicholls; James F. Nelson Jr., Ashburn; Michael R. Poss, Harlem; Jason Roberts, Ellabell; Cherry C. Rouse, Waycross; Tonya F. Royster, Auburn; Jon T. Simmons, Doerun; Tonia Strawder, Ray City; Jeffrey L. Tucker, Ball Ground; Christopher S. Wall, Winder; Nancy L. Wheeler, Alma
IDAHO: Gary M. Beck, Burley; Travis Cantrell, Rupert; Roberta L. Crill, Homedale; Kathy



Bowie FFA Chapter member Marsha Moss, left, joined fellow Texans Melissa Rosenbusch, Florence, and Heather Retzloff, Pleasanton, in celebration of attaining the American FFA Degree.

Cvancara, Genesee; Cyndi Garrard, Burley; Chad L. Gasser, Hamer; Jared M. Hyatt, Fruitland; Jared P. Jensen, Malad; Allison J. Lindholm, Jerome; Cody W. Reynolds, Kuna; Kelly Scott, Malad; Tom Scott, Malad; William D. Stinimates, Bliss; Steven W. Stroschein, Aberdeen; Tracy Tewalt, Meridian; Jason W. Tindall, Bruneau; Todd Wells, Buhl; Brian D. Wolf, Meridian

ILLINOIS: Danny Alward, Shipman; Brian R. Barto, Raymond; Jeffrey A. Behme, Carlinville; Tracy L. Boe, Ottawa; Timothy S. Boulds, Eldorado; Steve J. Dietz, Clare; James W. Donley, Liberty; Christopher L. Drake, Sycamore; Dale Eddings, Iuka; Jason Edelman, Onarga; Keith P. Eschmann, Columbia; Debbie Hanson, Clifton; Amy L. Kolweier, Waterloo; Jason Kuester, Onarga; Jason S. Kuhlemeier, Freeport; Leaan J. Mader, Mt. Carroll; Tricia D. Matzenbacher, Red Bud; Jody A. McCormick, Ava; Kristie L. McDaniel, Eldorado; Rachel M. Perkowski, Maple Park; Chad Ruppert, Witt; Ron Sheppard, Pittsfield; Greg Snyder, Maple Park; Jeremy D. Sterzinger, Kingston; Dan Tester, Nokomis; Terry D. Truckenbrod, West Brooklyn; Michael D. Williams, Chicago; Robert J. Winans, LaFayette; Daniel L. Woessner, Mt. Carroll; Brian Yung, North Henderson

INDIANA: Benjamin L. Wallace, Rossville; Chad A. Berger, Plymouth; George K. Biddle, Kinklin; Tracy Bolinger, New Haven; Ty Brown, Mulberry; Scott L. Caldwell, Connersville; Christian C. Carmin, Logansport; John A. Demerly, Wolcott; Phillip L. Geise, Arlington; Greg A. Gentry, Camby; Rod Gish, Camden; Jeremy R. Gregory, Mooresville; Corey D. Kline, Bremen; Shawn Krull, Milford; Thomas E. Lang, Mt. Vernon;

Brent D. Lopossa, Martinsville; Brandon Lovett, West Lafayette; Colette Markovich, Fair Oaks; Ryan C. Martin, New Paris; Bradley D. Martin, Bryant; Brian P. Murphy, Rensselaer; Phillip O. Ness, Columbia City; Glenn R. Noll, Wolcottville; Jason Otte, Seymour; Aaron F. Park, Franklin; Brian Pilotte, Remington; Michael L. Pollard, Bremen; Chad Ripberger, Tipton; Don Schuh, Remington; Richard A. Scott, Vevay; Mathew D. Spurgeon, Trafalgar; John A. Stagge, Fountaintown; Brady D. Stockwell, Quincy; Jake Tusing, Leesburg; Robert V. Weaver, Crawfordsville; Mark Weaver, Crawfordsville; Mark D. Wiesehan, Seymour; Julie A. Wiesehan, Seymour; Wade P. Wiley, Westport; Gerald W. Wilson, Denver

IOWA: Aaron Balderston, Central City; David E. Baumler, Anamosa; Mark R. Bischoff, Calmar; Dan R. Brownlee, Orient; Scott Bruce, Red Oak; Jennifer R. Carrico, Redfield; Tracy L. Coffland, Blainstown; Richard L. Elsbernd, Ossian; Adam J. Gibson, Nashua; Trevor D. Gress, Denison; Tyson J. Haas, Harlan; Eric S. Hall, Monticello; Bradley D. Hanson, Inwood; Craig R. Harbaugh, Guttenberg; Michael A. Hatcher, Grinnell; David R. Hill, Dysart; Michael S. Jaeger, Charles City; Kent M. James, Martelle; Chad Kelchen, Cascade; Eric R. Lang, Donnellson; Mark P. Lee, Inwood; Kevin Maas, Casey; Brad Meyer, Rock Rapids; Charles W. Obrecht, Harlan; Chad D. Petersen, Goose Lake; Mark L. Pleis, Fairbank; Jerry L. Rens, Larchwood; Justin Sayers, Marengo; Alan D. Spencer, Villisca; Charles A. Staudt, Charles City; Travis Steenhard, Mason City; Ryan Strand, Toddville; Ryan Warner, Larchwood; Jason C. Wegener, DeWitt; Jake Wookey, Red Oak

KANSAS: Jason Baker, Harper; LaRae L. Brown, Girard; Paul W. Friedrichs, Bremen; Kevin J. Goering, Newton; Audra Higbie, Williamsburg; Jerod B. Kinsey, Formoso; Marcus Moreland, South Haven; Teresa M. Patry, Wilson; Dwight J. Rokey, Sabetha; Angela J. Stump, Blue Rapids; Matt L. Theurer, South Haven; Jason L. Wagner, Mankato; Brent M. Wiedeman, Ranasom

KENTUCKY: Gayle Aubrey, Hudson; Cheryl Davette Baker, Harrodsburg; Jamie H. Baker, Marion; Timothy S. Chamberlain, Paris; Ethan E. Clark, Cave City; Stephen E. Cox, Fredonia; Greg Craddock, Glasgow; Jessica G. Gentry, New Haven; Ronald R. Green, Smith Grove; Chad Halsey, Midway; Walter D. Hawkins, Sharpsburg; Jeremy W. Hinton, Sonora; William G. Hood, Glasgow; Gary G. Hooks, Princeton; Trent Howard, Mt. Olive; Brent Howell, Hardinsburg; Gary W. Jenkins, Allensville; John A. King Jr., Lancaster; Benjamin Q. Lee, Calhoun; Andrea S. Lynch, Fulton; Amy H. Major, Hickman; Patrick McIntosh, Elkton; William G. Myatt, Mt. Hermon; Sarah R. O'Banion, Bowling Green; Chad Porter, Beaver Dam; David A. Potts, Kirksey; Russell A. Rice, Augusta; Eric Sweazy, Taylorsville; Kevin L. Thomas, Elizabethtown; Douglas West, Lancaster; Laura S. Winstead, Dixon; Chan Wood, Elkton; James W. Wray, Kevil

LOUISIANA: Shawn Corley, Oak Grove; Garrett P. Sonnier, Thibodaux; Cody J. Stelly, Abbeville

MARYLAND: Ray L. Martin III, Rocky Ridge; J. Howard Meredith Jr., Wye Mills; Ernest S. Page, Dickerson; Eric L. Troxell, Thurmont

MASSACHUSETTS: Bernard W. Hawkins Jr., Danvers

MICHIGAN: Sarah A. Anderson, Mt. Pleasant; Jennifer A. Anderson, Wallace; Marty Arends, Bailey; Adam T. Atherton, Gaines; Peter T. Barnum, Durand; Jeffery M. Barta, Chesaning; Chad Bellville, Whittemore; Stacy E. Beute, Belding; Holli G. Bowman, Alto; Chad Braden, Byron; Andrew Brown, Laingsburg; Stacy W. Brown, Dowagiac; Jason T. Haag, Sebewaing; Brent A. Leininger, Pittsford; Renee T. Nugent, Lowell; Daniel B. Pennington, Charlotte; Michael J. Prelesnik, Mason; Curt D. Ratajczak, Standish; Daniel R. Schulz, Unionville; John H. Schut, Hopkins; Melinda Schwab, Standish; Matthew T. Shane, Caledonia; Amy M. Stroven, Fremont; Sue A. Stuever, Lynn; Tamara J. Wagester, Remus; David F. Wheeler, Webberville; Rebecca S. Wilson, Portland; Kristin Zagata, Sebewaing

MINNESOTA: Tim Andree, Brownsdale; Robert Barbur, Bird Island; Jonathan R. Boerboom, Walnut Grove; Robert T. Davis, Sherburn; Jennifer Dertinger Minten, Perham; Craig R. Dittbenner, Sleepy Eye; Michael G. Edwards, Tracy; Mark Ellinsberg, Kenyon; Charles D. Fenger, Springfield; Daniel J. Folkerts, Jasper; Edric C. Funk, Sebeka; Alan E. Groene,

Worthington; Martin A. Hegland, Peterson; Sheila Henning, Okebena; Kirsten Hill, Worthington; Jim Hoen, Cologne; Sarah Iverson, Hayward; Nicholas Kilen, Greenbush; Robert M. Kramer, Herman; Brandon Kuznia, Greenbush; Darren Lochner, Sleepy Eye; Benjamin R. Ludeman, Tracy; Val D. Luhman, Goodhue; Lance Malenke, Brewster; Ronnie L. Montgomery, Good Thunder; Jeremy Paulsrud, Halstad; Brian T. Pederson, Fergus Falls; David L. Ross, Loveland; Jason C. Rouse, Olivia; Daniel Rynda, Montgomery; Joseph D. Schuch, Brownston; Kurt A. Stehr, Zumbrota; Michael A. Thofson, Clarks Grove; Ronald Trager, Appleton; David Traver, Cologne; Nathan Ulrich, Good Thunder; Tricia L. Weis, Pine Island; Brent C. Young, Faribault

MISSISSIPPI: Keith M. Cain, Vaiden; Kimberly C. King, Mt. Olive; Scott Mason, Hickory Flat; Micah Rutland, Jayess; Bobby E. Smith, Union; Rhonda Whitmire, Weir

MISSOURI: Gloria M. Frankenbach, Palmyra; Brian D. Miles, Marshall; Shad D. Walker, Brighton; Jeff Abplanalp, Martinsville; Craig M. Allee, California; Rusty E. Anders, Downing; Matthew C. Bimson, Taylor; John D. Bishop, Campbell; Richard E. Blake, Southwest City; Shane Bollinger, Fredericktown; Kent Boss, Salisbury; Jason Bowen, Hamilton; Matthew Bowers, Thayer; Justin Brandow, Huntsville; Mark C. Brandt, Linn; David R. Broeker, Morrison; Steven C. Brosi, Savannah; Chuck Brown, Bolivar; Russell F. Burns, Braymer; Angela I. Butterfield, Pierce City; Michael D. Byram, Sheldon;

Mark D. Case, Lecom; Kevin M. Chunn, Savannah; Christopher M. Cloud, Carthage; Kevin F. Cobb, New Florence; Jeffrey L. Cole, Ashbury; Eric Cornelius, Hamilton; Karen S. Cox, Gower; Bradley R. Craven, Hannibal; James D. Crocker, Salem; Brad Diven, Hamilton; Kimberly Donaldson, Mexico; Annette L. Eads, Lowry City; Carrie Eads, Lowry City; Kristy A. Eggleston, Arbela; Scott Englert, Hamilton; Nancy D. Fox, Brunswick; Brandi M. Fugate, Billings; Jimmy D. Gullivan, Halfway; Steve Gullivan, Halfway; Kasie Gautz, Carthage; Jeffrey M. Gebhardt, Salisbury; Laith Gilkeson, Harrisonville; Mark A. Gillen, Greenfield; Sam Gross, Preston; Jason M. Hall, Paynesville; Tim Harris, California; Heather A. Hedrick, Galena; Kelley Herron, Hamburg; Gary Hirsch, Thayer; Jason M. Hoke, Smithville; James Holder, Sturgeon; Jason House, Caulfield; Russell

Johnson, Marshfield; Brent Jones, Grovespring; Carla R. Kemp, Billings; Bart Kernodle, Doniphan; Keith A. Kimbrough, Eagleville; Tiffany Klein, Farmington; Danny R. Kliethermes, Olean; Jonathan N. Knight, Brunswick; Callie K. Knipmeyer, Sweet Springs; John L. Kussman, Dalton; Brock Legan, Halfway; Micah Lehenbauer, Monroe City; Scott A. Little, Eldon; Darren M. Littleton, Dalton; Forrest Long, Clarksburg; Joseph A. Martin, Olean; Darin J. Marek, Salisbury; Brad McGhee, Couch; Scottie L. McKenzie, Keytesville; Michael T. McKiddy, Jamesport; Andrea R. Meissen, Salisbury; Galen Miller, Versailles; Carrie Miller, Syracuse; Susan J. Mires, Maryville; Mitchell J. Monnig, Glasgow; Jason L. Mott, Rockville; Owen D. Mudd, Warrensburg; Wade Mumma, Rich Hill; Mandy Murray, Lowry City; Darren M. Ottinger, Agency; Jennifer E. Plaster, Chillicothe; Scott E. Raza, Higginsville; Debra L. Ratcliff Smith, Barnett; Kelly J. Reardon, Saint Joseph; Stacy J. Rice,



Teresa Patry, Wilson, Kan., and Dwight Rokey, Sabetha, Kan., were two of 1,276 members who received the American FFA Degree.

Huntsville; Daniel J. Ridgley, High Hill; Troy Robertson, Grovespring; Rodney Robertson, Grovespring; Vicki M. Rogers, Princeton; Daryl Ruehling, Perryville; Amy Rugen, Syracuse; Scott A. Rutledge, Monticello; Tyler D. Salmons, Middletown; Greg W. Schmidt, Union; Craig E. Schuessler, Uniontown; Scott A. Shannon, Keytesville; Scott W. Shults, Salem; John R. Sidden, Chillicothe; Charles D. Simpson III, Louisburg; Charles S. Sloan, Plattsburg; Janelle R. Smith, Jamesport; Douglas D. Smith, Licking; Janine Staiger, Billings; Fred O. Stemme, Hermann; Valerie J. Stephenson, Grant City; Gerrad Steuck, Rich Hill; Corey B. Stott, Memphis; Jeanne Stuchlik, Polo; Jared M. Summers, Palmyra; Jennifer Swoboda, Leslie; Dennis L. Toedebusch, Wright City; Bradley G. Toedebusch, Wright City; Curt D. Triplett, Rutledge; Wesley E. Tucker, Tunas; Jeff Voris,

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American FFA Degrees

(Continued from page 21)

Halfway; Weston D. Walker, Brighton; Bradley J. Wallace, Licking; Gene Walther, Boonville; William E. Webb, Gower; Andrew Welch, Sheridan; Jarrod N. West, Springfield; Leasa D. Wilkerson, Paris; Chris Williams, Tipton; Mark A. Wilson, Shelbyville; Brian R. Wilson, Billings; Mark Wilson, Reeds; Greg Wittman, Bunceton; Cynthia D. Youngblood, Carthage; Neil H. Yung, Brunswick

MONTANA: Camri Isbell, Wilsall; Shawn M. Lannen, Clyde Park; Meta A. Loftsgaarden, Missoula; Kenna Melton, Denton; Justin C. Roe, Denton; Natalie Roe, Denton; Jason Smith, Livingston; Sierra D. Stoneberg, Hinsdale

NEBRASKA: Dean Acheson, Kimball; Joni Allen, Nebraska City; Brian Andreasen, St. Edward; Frank C. Beel, Johnstown; Henry J. Beel, Johnstown; Skip Burrell, Hampton; Kristi K. Child, Gordon; Steven Coulter, Ravenna; Brian D. Cumming, St. Edward; Angelia J. Davis, Chadron; Scott Elliott, Craig; Craig J. Flathman, Shickley; Kevin Friesen, Henderson; Russell D. Gerlach, Hallam; Mark Grotelueschen, Richland; Jay Hanson, Mead; David D. Hervet, Ravenna; Darren R. Jensen, Hardy; Scott L. Keetle, Waverly; Matt Lane, Arcadia; Brett Larson, Ravenna; Deanna K. Lienemann, Blue Hill; Michael V. Lindauer, Genoa; Lance W. Lovitt, Ansley; Gregory Malina, Prague; Leann L. May, Bassett; Daniel J. Miller, Carleton; Jeremiah J. Neville, Chapman; Michael B. Newton, Ravenna; Crystal Nunnenkamp, Saronville; Shannon M. O'Neil, Wauneta; Christopher L. Paasch, Scribner; Jonathan W.

Panning, Hooper; Terry J. Parde, Filley; John M. Quiring, Hampton; Keith Quiring, Hampton; Deborah L. Roeber, Ashland; Carey Ruf, Wilsonville; Scott D. Schlegel, Shickley; Brad J. Schmall, Bayard; Eric Schmer, Sutton; Ted Schreiter, Dunbar; Rex Schrunck, Stuart; Laura Sherbeck, Ansley; James L. Siebert, Grafton; Judson T. Skavdahl, Harrison; Bryan L. Smith, St. Edward; Jeffrey A. Sousek, Prague; Lana J. Steinhausen, Lincoln; Carrie R. Stollar, Lincoln; Eric N. Stuthman, Platte Center; Brian L. Tiedeman, Hickman; Jason J. Vesely, Verdigre; Karrie A. Weber, Schuyler; Sara L. West, Lincoln; Michelle Wimer, Scribner; James W. Wissenburg III, Crete

NEVADA: Brandon Harder, Zephyr Cove; Celina Johnson, Fallon; Kyle R. Prior, Owyhee; Chad L. Rigney, Fallon; Daniel Sanches, Fallon; Wendy Weishaupt, Fallon

NEW JERSEY: Allison Cottrell, Cream Ridge; Lisa K. McLean, Irvington

NEW MEXICO: Donita L. Massey, Portales; Paula D. Massey, Las Cruces; Wade R. Mulcock, Artesia; Richard F. Roberts, Clovis; Shelly Vaughn, Las Cruces; Charmyn C. Wiley, Grenville

NEW YORK: Michael R. Beckerdink, North Clymer; Liam Brody, Greenville; Craig Countryman, Sloansville; Edward L. Demenezes Jr., Munnsville; Peggy S. Egan, Oriskany Falls; Craig Fleming, Vernon Center; Kevin Frost, Munnsville; Dan Greene, Munnsville; Elise M. Handler, Whitestone; Patrick R. McCormick, Java Center; Jason D. Nagel, North Clymer;

Joann Smith, Munnsville

NORTH CAROLINA: Virginia D. Blanton, Rutherfordton; Jamie Boaz, Yanceyville; Jeffrey K. Bradley, Rutherfordton; Timothy P. Dollyhite, Mount Airy; Carmen A. Johnson, Hiddenite; Bradley T. Johnson, Hiddenite; Christopher S. Jolly, Maysville; Nathan A. Jones, Thomasville; Albert D. Jones Jr., Chinquapin; Michael C. McCurdy, Statesville; Tyler D. Mitchell, Taylorsville; Bobby Moretz, Boone; Shannon W. Naylor, Clinton; Andy Nelson, Mooresville; David M. Overcash, Kannapolis; Jason G. Payne, Taylorsville; David Sherrill, Statesville; William G. Simmons, Seven Springs; Joseph H. Slade, Blanch; Eddie Starnes, Mooresville; Christy M. Walker, Reidsville; David W. Wike, Moravian Falls; Clint D. Williams, Autryville; William B. York, West

NORTH DAKOTA: Chris Altman, Enderline; Tony J. Boehm, Mandan; David J. Boehm, Mandan; Dean Braasch, Minot; Kyle Debertin, Berthold; Brian Fried, Mandan; Todd Gerber, Wishek; Gary Halvorson, Maddock; Kermit Ketterling, Wishek; Carl Kopp, Minot; Emily Lambourn, Amidon; Daryl J. Lies, Douglas; Dustin D. Mumm, Wahpeton; Scott Nelson, Milnor; Bridgette Rath, Fargo; Julie A. Schaff, St. Anthony; Jon Skiftun, Harvey; Tyler J. Stover, Larimore; Brent Svangstu, Noonan; Pete Thompson, Lisbon; Colin Vachal, White Earth; Greg Walton, Englevale; Brian Walz, Fargo; Kevin Wanner, Oakes; Sheila Wanner-Vannett, Jamestown; Kari Warner, Baldwin

OHIO: Tom Algire, Fredericktown; Jill Allen, Albany; Thomas Bailey, Sardinia; Kelcey A. Bartoe, West Jefferson; Andy Battrell, Albany; Jennifer Baughman, Newark; Jay J. Bergman, Rossburg; Dan Blumenschein, Marysville; Brian Bower, Jenera; Daniel R. Boyle, Weston; Joe Brandel, Marysville; Scott Brown, Pioneer; John Burbaugh, Morral; Erin Burdsall, Cardington; Richard N. Bywater, Marysville; Monica Callender, Wauseon; Ty B. Callicoat, South Vienna; Michael L. Conrad, Rushville; Matthew E. Culler, Lucas; Jason D. Deeds, Findlay; Trenton H. Dennis, Lore City; Brad Forry, Morral; Emily Fryer, Mt. Sterling; Rob George, Camden; Duane Gerwin, Gibsonburg; Stephanie Gompf, Cardington; Daniel W. Groweg, Gibsonburg; Stephen Gruenbaum, Plain City; Howard Hale, Galena; Dawn Handrosh, Litchfield; Dennis W. Headings, Plain City; D. Jason Hopkins, Waldo; Jeff Johnston, Delta; Earnie Kearns, Kenton; Jon P. Kennedy, Seaman; Matt Kessler, Cary; Chris Kurt, Kenton; Robert T. Lamp, Lancaster; Bryan M. Liskai, Helena; Scott Lorentz, Lakeville; William J. Mareches, Bloomdale; Brian Mast, London; Emily Masters, Marysville; Brian McFadden, London; Matthew Meyer, Arcadia;



Meredith Medley of Speedwell, Tenn., practiced her smile as she waited for the American FFA Degree photo session during Wednesday night's rehearsal.

Keith Michaels, Clyde; Heather S. Middleton, Cable; Robert A. Miller, Convoy; Greg Miller, Vickery; Raymond B. Moone, South Vienna; Megan Murphy, Wilmington; Jacob Nafziger, Archbold; Amy L. Nicol, Marysville; Heather D. Owens, Ashland; Doug Phelps, Milford Center; Donavon J. Reichert, Wooster; Chad Richer, Wauseon; Scott E. Riley, Gettysburg; Nathan L. Risch, Wakeman; Sean S. Rittinger, Amanda; John Schudel, Metamora; Judi Seibert, Lindsey; Matt Shane, Upper Sandusky; Jon Sharp, Martinsville; Darryl D. Snyder, New Carlisle; Allison M. Spiess, Wauseon; Michelle R. Suhr, Celina; Jane A. Taft, Lakeville; Neil Tedrow, Delta; Christine Thatcher, Wilmington; Frank Thayer, Berlin Heights; Sarah A. Turner, Bellevue; Andy Wagner, Celina; James D. Weber, Pioneer; Cheryl Wilson, Valley View; Scott D. Winland, Newark; Sam Woodruff, Oxford; Alan R. Wuebker, Versailles

OKLAHOMA: Chad Adams, Ringold; Shawn L. Anderson, Prague; Chris Arnold, Adair; Jay Baker, Arapaho; Jennifer L. Berkenbile, Morrison; Walt Berry, Texhoma; Lee Berry, Texhoma; Jeremy Bockelman, Laverne; Clint Broome, Atoka; Angie Buck, Carmen; James R. Burgess, Eufaula; John E. Cagle Jr., Mill Creek; Paul S. Case, Quapaw; Brent L. Casey, Kiowa; Edward S. Chapman, Madill; Melissa L. Crawford, Calera; Dustan W. Crelly, Isebella; Kristal D. Cyphers, Guthrie; Darin Dean, Yale; Devin DeLozier, Adair; James D. Dorrell, Cache; Jason K. Eldred, Idabel; John D. Fast, Guymon; Lee Ford, Bunch; Jason Fuser, Afton; Monica D. Gillespie, Hastings; Rhonda Gleason, Putnam; Justin Graham, Temple; Dason Gwartney, Jenks; Benjamin Hada, Alva; Jon P. Henderson, Ft. Gibson; Kenny Herd, Coweta; David W. Holland, Fort Gibson; John B. Honeywell, Billings; Terry B. Imke, Shattuck; Tammy K. Jackson, Milfay; Greg R. Jeter, Copan; Angela K. Johnson, Wetumka; Eric W. Johnson, Afton; Fred Jordan, Bartlesville; Rhett Laubach, Laverne; Miranda V. Londagin, Fay; Christopher J. Longshore, Stilwell; Jason Lott, Alva; Shawn Luckie, Rosston; Mark H. Mann, Checotah; Greg McKinney, Fairview; Eric D. Miller, Wellston; Mark Mitchell, Pawnee; Joseph D. Morris, Ninnekah; Tara A. Mueggenborg, Kingfisher; Braden D. Naylor, Balko; Davy D. Owens Jr., Wister; Travis Pembroke, Fairview; Kristy Perkins, Locust Grove; Becky Pfenning, Hobart; Shaunya C. Poteet, Sulphur; Brian Pritchard, Mountain View; Donald L. Pullen, Big Cabin; Gregory L. Ramsey, Jones; Jeremy Rich, Prague; R. J. Robbins, Bunch; Jason T. Rogers, Keota; Katherine A. Schulte, Okarche; Justin D. Sebo, Spiro; Amy Shobert, Purcell; Melissa Smith, Blanco; Dace Stenger, Carnegie; Heather Swift, Spiro; Jack S. Tarrance, Tahlequah; Tracy L. Tarver, Cushing; Brian Troska, Ada; Barry A. Williams, Cushing; Brandon Yost, Kingfisher; Bridget Yost, Kingfisher

OREGON: Brian Clowers, Creswell; John W. Cruickshank Jr., Sheridan; Steven C. Davison, McMinnville; Michael Fery, Scio; Michelle L. Gilmore, Canby; Jenny Hartzell, Redmond; Brian R. Marick, Mt. Hood/Parkdale; Toby M. McKay, Condon; Brenda D. McPheeters, Culver; Mark Otter, Molalla; Ginger M. Price, Weston; Douglas M. Van Dyke, Forest Grove

PENNSYLVANIA: Dustyn L. Adams, McClure; Nelson R. Beaver, Waynesboro; Chris Blatt, Robesonia; James L. Boyer, East Berlin; Jody P. Brown, Littlestown; Scott A. Clites, Berlin; Lance D. Crouse, Aspers; Glenn A. Gardner III, Beavertown; Thomas Greenleaf, Martinsburg; Gregory L. Harnish, Manheim; Wayne J. Hassinger II, Middleburg; Bradley G. Herrold, South Mountain; Mandy J. Hilbert, Littlestown; Jeffrey R. Hollinger, Strasburg; Gregory B. Huber, East Earl; Lynn Klingler, Selinsgrove; Brian L. Kunkle, Dover; Eric P. Marshall, Reading; Gregory A. Naylor, Biglerville; Douglas D. Pettit, Holbrook; Jason S. Pontius, Millerstown; Robert R. Singo III, Rockwood; Seth N. Small, New Oxford; Brian W. Sump, Greenville; Brian Weldy, Willow Street; Mary E. Werner, New Castle; Kristine M. Wilkinson (Miller), Christiana; Scott A. Youse, Oley; Matthew L. Zerby, Beavertown

PUERTO RICO: Francois G. Francccechini, Utuado

RHODE ISLAND: Brian E. Allsworth, North Scituate; Jonathan M. Bechard, Pawtucket

SOUTH CAROLINA: Samuel L. Barrett, West Columbia; Neal F. Gore III, Loris; Gregory S. Harrelson, Loris; Warren Larrimore, Gresham; Kimberly Reason, Gresham; William J. Yonce, Aiken

SOUTH DAKOTA: Kevin Auch, Menno; Bradley S. Boesel, Harrisburg; Fredrick J. Butzke, Salem; Craig Converse, Arlington; Michael D. Fast Horse, Presho; Chris Fergen, Menno; Justin Fuller, Vienna; Andrew Hejna, Tabor; Scott A. Huls, Salem; Clifford Huot, Centerville; Paul A. Jaeger, Tyndall; Daniel Keck, St. Lawrence; Craig Kroll, Andover; Anthony D. Larson, Lemmon; Mark Lauck, Salem; David Mehlhaf, Menno; William A. Newberg, Harrisburg; John Olinger, Woonsocket; Brian Roduner, Miller; Jason A. Rumpza, Waubay; Mark Saylor, Menno; Cory Schrag, Marion; Shawn M. Stoley, Harrisburg; Ryan Wagner, Wessington Springs; Jody Weiss, Hetland

TENNESSEE: Johnathan G. Anderson, Sparta; John Baird, Hendersonville; Amy Balding, Telford; Michael E. Barry, Cottontown; Mitchel L. Bohannon, Athens; Jay Buck, Clarksville; James D. Cherry, Mt. Juliet; Jason Crabtree, South Fulton; Toby L. Crain, Jonesborough; Scott N. Cunningham, Troy; Rusty Dalton, Morristown; Cheraton E. Donner, Dyersburg; Richard Flynn, Kodak; John R. Frommel Jr., Clarksville; Danny Haynes, Holladay; Daren L. Helton, Sevierville; Keenan Holbert, Parsons; Jonathan Holt,



Maysville, N.C., native Scott Jolly reviewed his list of American Degree candidates as he anticipated his own moment on the arena stage.

Morrison; Richard S. Hutchison, Hickman; Jerry Jones, White House; Ronald S. Luna, Culleoka; James W. Martin, Mason; Michael McCammon, Walland; Lee A. McGill, Finley; Meredith Medley, Speedwell; Roy F. Scarbrough, Maryville; Keith E. Sims, Morrison; Donald N. Steed, Lebanon; Joseph A. Taylor, Parsons; Micky L. Thompson, Spring Hill; Stephen A. Tompkins Jr., Morristown; Virginia A. Turner, Covington; James T. Vaughn, Eagleville; Larry Waddell, Greeneville; Timothy K. Williams, Lebanon

TEXAS: John D. Ainsworth, Dell City; Jennifer Albert, McCoy; Tracey Anderson, Pleasanton; Marquite K. Babcock, Livingston; Justin Beavers, Quinlan; Joe F. Bennett III, Coolidge; Cindy L. Buckner, Chico; Curtis C. Childers, Nemo; Tina Clay, Quitague; Shea M. Connelly, Coleman; Will Dean, Pleasanton; Heather Dollins, Katy; Toby Dyer, Huntsville; Justin Espey, San Antonio; Jason Evans, Happy; Lee Ferguson, Pleasanton; Chad Flach, Comfort; Kirk Flowers, Happy; Travis Floyd, Booker; Christy L. Fuchs, Brenham; Jana Gardner, Lufkin; Christopher R. Hargrove, Temple; Loren P. Helton, Bryan; Scot Herrmann, Robstown; Jody L. Hooper, Joaquin; Kyle E. Hughes, Booker; Harry A. Hughes II, Beeville; Jon Ivy, Hale Center; Jana D. Jaure, Beeville; Wesley Jensen, Nacogdoches; Tony Jensen, Lueders; Andrea S. Johnson, Sulphur Springs; Gea R. Jones, College Station; Lynsia B. Jordan, Follett; Leaette Kolodziej, Floresville; Allen Lott, Dayton; Paul Maass, Somerville; James M. Maybin, Channelview; Randolph McGee, Allen; Scott Miller, Pleasanton; Jason Miller, Palacios; Erin

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American FFA Degrees

(Continued from page 23)

Mitchell, Booker; Shelly Moczygemba, Poth; Marsha Moss, Bellevue; Dixie Nixon, Alvarado; Surcy L. Peoples III, Conroe; Morris Porter, Pleasanton; Sally L. Putman, Baytown; William H. Rasor, Allen; Heather Retzlöff, Pleasanton; Keith Riley, Pleasanton; James Riley, Pleasanton; Melissa K. Rosenbusch, Florence; Clif Royal, Pleasanton; Leslie A. Sales, Huffman; Michael J. Schertz, Krum; Ty B. Schmidt, Amarillo; Roger Schoppe, Snook; Rebecca Shaw, Abernathy; Steven Smith, Kirbyville; Jason S. Smith, Teague; Brandon Smith, Pleasanton; Jennifer Soules, Aledo; Wes Stephenson, Cleburne; Stephanie S. Stricklin, Angleton; Jess Swaim, Jourdanton; Anthony Tanton, Sulphur Springs; Larry R. Teague, Mabank; Tina Touchet, Katy; Kellye Vicars, Wichita Falls; Shelley R. Watson, Sulphur Springs; Kenneth B. Webb, Cleburne; Lee L. Willcox, Wallisville; Wendy R. Williams, Katy; Brandye K. Williford, Anton

UTAH: Jesse Campbell, Manila; Benjamin S. Cluff, Farmington; Kody Clyde, Heber; Wayne Cowley, Venice; Brett B. Fitzgerald, Heber City; LoraLea King, Santaquin; Ben W. Mangelson, Payson; Hollie D. Moore, Coalville; Jason H. Mott, Kaysville; James R. Seamons, Benson; Darrell B. Staley, Coalville; Shawn K. Stephens, Heber City; Royce Stevens, Holden; Dusty D. Wright, Elberta

VIRGINIA: David L. Baisey, South Hill; Mary A. Cassell, Wytheville; Becky Cook, Woodstock; Ellis L. Durrer II, Ruckersville; Wayne Garber, Mount Sidney; Mark G. Grove, Fishersville; Christopher A. Grove, Mount Crawford; Bruce G. Jones, Appomattox; Nichole C. May, Bridgewater; Jason G. McCall, Abingdon; DeWayne A. Mitchell, Harrisonburg; Tommy L. Orfield, Abingdon; Michael Peake, Weyers Cave; Monica F. Rhodes, Dayton; Jennifer S. Rodgers, Verona; Adam Shiflett, Grottoes; Burke Simmons, Staunton; Timothy F. Smith, Ruther Glen; Dwayne Stilwell, Dugspur; Michael L. Talbert Jr., Radford; Jason E. Taylor, Tappahannock; William F. Wickham, Ashland; Albert A. Woodyard, Radford; William C. Worrell, Hillsville

WASHINGTON: Randy Arestad, Ferndale; Shawn D. Atwood, Ferndale; John R. Ball, Tacoma; Rodney E. Breckner Jr., Deer Park; George C. Busch, Colton; Weston Claassen, LaCross; John D. Dixon, Pomeroy; Karl A. Enyeart, Goldendale; Bryan J. Fix, Winlock; S. Matthew Gines, Granger; Kelly J. Gordon, Colville; Kenneth R. Gray, Deer Park; Nikki L. Hanson, Tacoma; Gary Hicks, Tacoma; Danny Holt, Connell; Andrea E. Howell, Prosser; Laura D. Junevitch, Maple Valley; Michelle Krizanac, Elk; Linda E. Mastin, Puyallup; Scott A. Moore, Spanaway; Andrea Paterson, Olympia; James E.

Pulsipher, Olympia; Boyd P. Renz, Kennewick; Bob Ricci, Snohomish; Kristina M. Rightmire, Ferndale; Ryan Sams, Othello; Travis K. Sweeney, Chelan; Thad Taylor, Othello; Adam R. Thomason, Brewster; Tom Toth, Blaine; Nicholas C. Vinje, Tacoma; Dean L. Wilson, Pomeroy; Daniel G. Zimmerer, Clayton
WEST VIRGINIA: Christine K. Baxter, Marlinton; James C. Eskins, Alderson; Jason Fisher, Perkins; Tracy D. Fitzsimmons, Cameron; Clark A. Hunt, Clendenin; Tony L. Knopp, Liverpool; Janet D. Mihihbach, Ravenswood; Michael A. Queen, Buckhannon; Mendi Radcliff, New Milton; James D. Shade, Shepherdstown; Amy M. Stephens, Cottageville; Brian W. Wickline, Union

WISCONSIN: Greg Abendroth, Fort Atkinson; Raquel Allen, Reedsburg; Dennis J. Anthony, Cuba City; Brent M. Bailey, Tomah; Jerry E. Bates, Barron; Jennifer L. Berg, Salem; Beth Berglund, Amery; Brett B. Birnschein, Sturgeon Bay; Mike Boon, Neillsville; Jeffrey J. Brandt, Cuba City; Daniel Brattlie, Cambridge; Tom Brown, Appleton; Andrew Buttles, Waterford;

Mound; Jerrald A. Figi, Browntown; Scott A. Firlus, Wonewoc; Lonnie Fry, Helenville; Brock Gile, Lake Geneva; Laura Gross, Sullivan; Bruce Gumz, Dorchester; Travis L. Hagen, So. Wayne; Michelle L. Hagen, Milton; Jeff Hicken, Fond du Lac; Jamie J. Hildebrandt, Spencer; Erik A. Huschitt, Browntown; Kevin D. Jarek, Pulaski; Scot J. Johnsrud, Hollandale; Kevin J. Kammes, Gratiot; Brad Kaster, Browntown; Maria Klinkner, Norwalk; Jeremy J. Kox, Green Bay; John R. Kraus, Malone; David K. Kruse, Loganville; Jamie J. Larse, Gratiot; Alexander J. Leonard, Waunakee; Jason P. Lietha, Cochrane; Stacie Magnuson Heck, Neillsville; Cheryl Martineau, Shawano; Jonathon D. Mast, Dalton; Bert Mawhinney, Avalon; Jeff A. Meske, South Wayne; David C. Meyer, Loyal; Brian F. Miesen, Potosi; Jolene Moeller, Kaukauna; Jolynne M. Nagel, Deerbrook; Shari Nemitz, Van Dyne; Michael A. North, Mukwonago; Shane Nottestad, Westby; John Offer, Auburndale; Monte Olszewski, Johnson Creek; Ginger M. Paszkiewicz, Oneida; Alan R. Patterson, Glen Haven; Daniel D. Paul,

Randolph; Matthew J. Peplinski, Amherst Junction; Randy Pieschek, Green Bay; Dave Pionke, Weyauwega; Jacob Polyock, Zenda; Charles Rabitz, Mishicot; Paula A. Roecker, Burnett; Lori A. Rowe, Granton; Daniel Rowley, Loyal; Todd Rueth, Loyal; Christopher W. Ruger, Marshfield; Jason Rupnow, Browntown; Joe Sattler, Malone; Brent J. Schuh, Kaukauna; Stacey A. Schultz, Warren; Tracie J. Schwenk, Malone; Richard A. Sievert, Bonduel; Brent M. Sinkula, Two Rivers; David Sipiorski, Green Bay; Dean M. Skaletski, Denmark; Tammy D. Smith, Shell Lake; Timothy R. Stauffacher, Cuba City; William M. Sullivan, Monroe; Michael J. Trapp, Columbus; Jim Turpin, Scales Mound; Matt Van Oss, Denmark; Lee Van Wychen, Kaukauna; David A. Wallerman, Norwalk; Rebecca J. Walter, Darlington; Henry Watzka, Denmark; John A. Wendler, Randolph; Christopher D. Wilson, Black River Falls; Paul C. Wolfe, Marshall
WYOMING: Jeffrey M. Boardman, Clearmont; Ronda Carter, Powell; Miranda R. Daniels, Shoshone; Ron Frank, Shoshone; Jeff Grant, Gillette; Bill W. Hoblit, Recluse; Lisa McKee, Dixon; Tami Micheli, Ft. Bridger; Griff Sprout, Lander

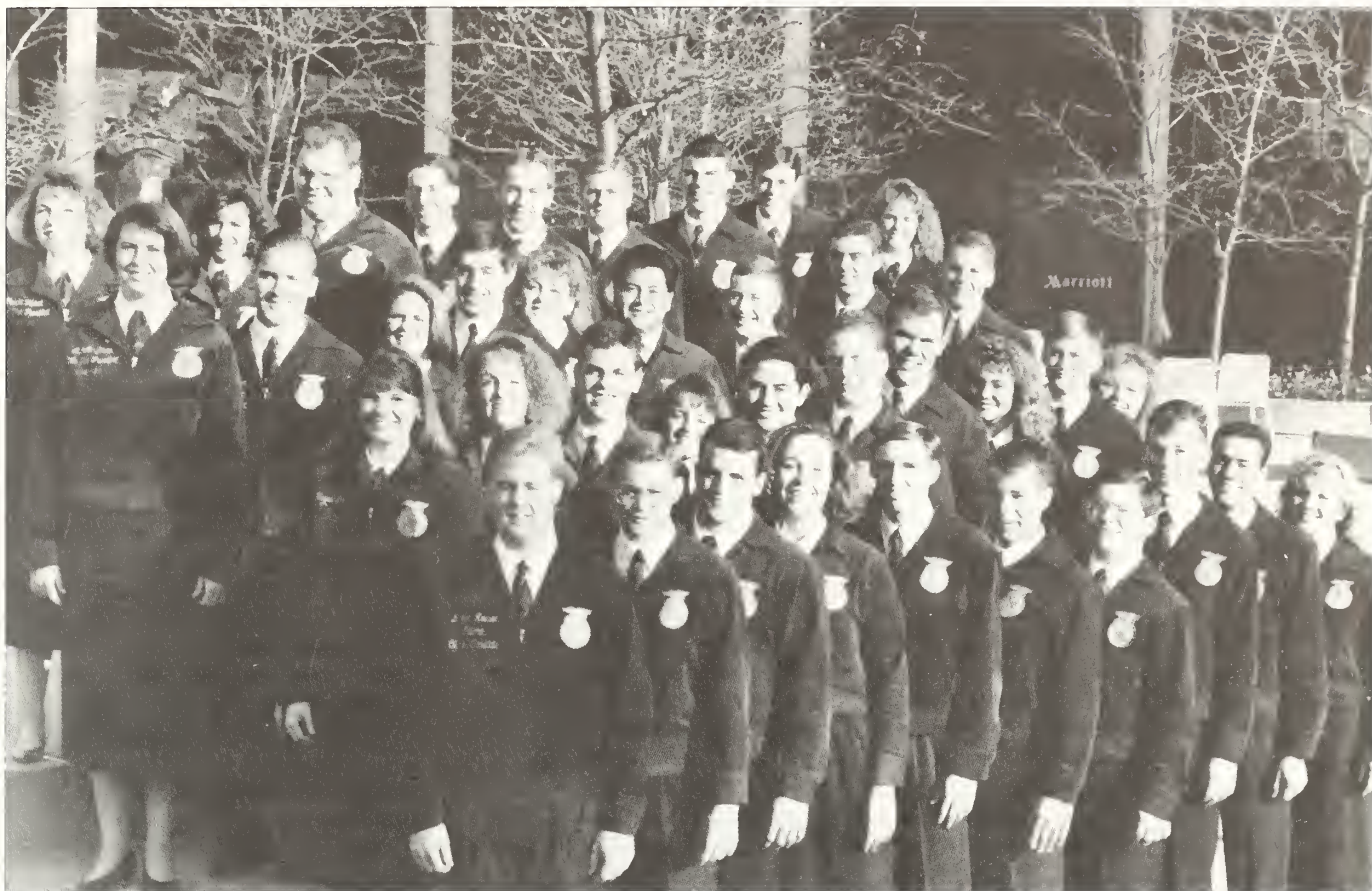


Johnathan Anderson's years of hard work have paid off. Anderson, of White County, Tenn., earned his American FFA Degree at the 66th National FFA Convention.

Tricia Ciolkosz, Bloomer; Robert D. Clason Jr., Mazomanie; Daniel P. Coulthard, Cuba City; Cynthia J. Dobbe, Waupaca; Scott A. Doyle, Amherst; Eric Duch, New London; Darren Duckart, Denmark; David C. Dummer, Elk

National Officer Candidates

National Officer Candidates reception and dinner sponsored
by Miles Inc., Agriculture Division



Thirty-eight smiling but anxious FFA leaders were placed under the spotlight during convention week as they competed for six national officer positions.

Thirty-eight of FFA's best came to Kansas City to pursue their dreams of becoming a national officer. The national nominating committee had a formidable task of finding six individuals among this outstanding group who were best suited to the duties of national president, secretary and vice president.

From Monday to Friday, the candidates were polished, professional and ready with a smile, even though they were in the middle of the most nerve-racking week of their lives.

The nominating committee presented its report Saturday afternoon, as the last item of business brought before the convention. The list of newly elected officers is found on page 71.

ALABAMA: Michael A. Reeser, Calera
ARIZONA: Tyler James Grandil, Mesa
ARKANSAS: Steven D. Mitchell, Pineville
CALIFORNIA: Robin Perez, Clovis
COLORADO: William J. Johnson, Eaton
CONNECTICUT: Matthew A. Syme, South Windsor
DELAWARE: Jay Davis, Clayton
FLORIDA: B. Shawn Crocker, Gainesville
IDAHO: Kathy Cvancara, Genesee
ILLINOIS: Raquel Lacey, Nokomis
INDIANA: Colette Markovich, Fair Oaks
IOWA: Eric R. Lang, Donnellson
KANSAS: Paul W. Friedrichs, Bremen
KENTUCKY: Andrea Sue Lynch, Fulton
LOUISIANA: Garrett P. Sonnier, Thibodaux
MASSACHUSETTS: Bernard W. Hawkins Jr., Danvers
MICHIGAN: John H. Schut, Hopkins
MINNESOTA: Sheila K. Henning, Okabena
MISSISSIPPI: Rhonda Whitmire, Weir
MISSOURI: Andrew McCrea, Maysville

NEBRASKA: Candice D. Berndt, Lakeside
NEVADA: Kyle R. Prior, Owyhee
NEW HAMPSHIRE: Bruce Scamman, Stratham
NEW MEXICO: Donita Laine Massey, Portales
NEW YORK: Liam Brody, Greenville
NORTH CAROLINA: Michelle Bowen, Newport
NORTH DAKOTA: David Boehm, Mandan
OHIO: Mark Allen Ruff, Circleville
OKLAHOMA: Rhett Dean Laubach, Laverne
OREGON: Christa Vibbert, Madras
PENNSYLVANIA: Mandy Jane Hilbert, Littlestown
RHODE ISLAND: Todd R. Perkins, North Scituate
SOUTH CAROLINA: Lee Mayfield, Wellford
TENNESSEE: Jimmy Allen Barbour, Friendship
TEXAS: Curtis C. Childers, Nemo
VIRGINIA: Brian Kiser, Warrenton
WASHINGTON: Dean L. Wilson, Pomeroy
WISCONSIN: Jolynne Marie Nagel, Deerbrook

Building Our American Communities

Sponsored by RJR Nabisco Foundation Inc.



National Officer Dennis Degner congratulated a member of the Creston, Iowa, FFA Chapter upon being named national BOAC winner.

The Creston, Iowa, FFA Chapter was named national winner in the Building Our American Communities competition. The top four chapters in the nation were honored during the Friday morning session, along with those ranked gold, silver and bronze.

"Project Earth Alert" was Creston's award-winning program, a multi-faceted project to promote the care and conservation of the earth's natural resources. The chapter won grant monies and earned funds through a TV raffle and a school dance to buy 118 trees to plant on the school grounds. Members solicited donations from businesses and used FFA chapter earnings to purchase and distribute 8,000 pine and spruce seedlings to community residents.

Besides greening up the community, members made an effort to clean it up as well. The chapter picked up litter and debris from town streets, parking lots and a downtown park, and adopted a three-mile stretch of highway in an on-going clean-up effort. More than a ton of paper was collected in a recycling drive. To add color to the town streets, the chapter set out flowers in planters along the sidewalks.

The chapter involved elementary students in their efforts as well. Members presented a short program to kindergarten and third grade students on the importance of trees and the environment, and provided each with a tree to take home to be planted.

National Winner:

Creston, Iowa

Second Place:

Cathlamet, Wash.

Third Place:

Ravenna, Neb.

Fourth Place:

Franklin Grove, Ill.

GOLD

ALABAMA: Etowah, Isabella, Wilcox Central

ARKANSAS: Delaplaine

CALIFORNIA: Fullerton

COLORADO: Kremmling

FLORIDA: Sebring Senior

GEORGIA: Morgan County High, Perry

IDAHO: Declo

ILLINOIS: Clinton, Franklin Center, Georgetown Ridge Farm, Mt. Carroll, Seneca, Somonauk-Leland

INDIANA: Carroll Flora, Carroll Fort Wayne, Clinton Central, Prairie Heights, Shenandoah

IOWA: Akron-Westfield, Alburnett, Algona, Bison, Creston, Humboldt, Manson-NW Webster, Nashua Plainfield, Northeast-Goose Lake, Prairie Valley, Sibley-Ocheyedan, West Bend Hawkeye

KANSAS: Hanover, Marysville

KENTUCKY: Oldham County, Spencer County

LOUISIANA: Raceland Junior High

MICHIGAN: Branch Area Careers Center, Bronson

MONTANA: Judith Gap

NEBRASKA: Ravenna, St. Edward

OHIO: Bowling Green, West Muskingum

OKLAHOMA: Chickasha, Laverne, Sayre

OREGON: Union

PENNSYLVANIA: Cedar Crest, Lenape

TENNESSEE: Bartlett

TEXAS: Columbus, Mansfield, Ysleta

UTAH: Grantsville

VERMONT: Vergennes

WASHINGTON: Cathlamet, Elma, Mabton, Onalaska, Yelm

WISCONSIN: Bloomer, Denmark, Reedsburg

WYOMING: Bearlodge-Sundance



Achievement In Volunteerism

National Winner:

Scott Boucher, Mapleton, Maine

Second Place:

Rhonda Campbell, Ravenna, Neb.

Third Place:

Katina Hagedorn, Hanover, Kan.

Fourth Place:

Jennifer Gerzema, Buffalo Center, Iowa

Scott Boucher of Mapleton, Maine, was concerned about the increasing numbers of young students using drugs and alcohol in his community. Instead of watching the problem get worse, he decided to do something about it, and in the process earned the National Achievement in Volunteerism Award.

Boucher got involved in the Aroostook Teen Leadership Camp, where he helped set up a tutoring program and drug- and alcohol-free activities for young people. He also worked to educate the community about agriculture, presenting programs to elementary school students about the potato industry and giving tours of the school farm. He and several members traveled to Boston to help teach city children about agriculture.

"The most important thing I learned is that you can always do something to improve your community," Boucher says. He and the other winners were presented with plaques during the awards ceremony Friday morning.

National Chapter Safety Awards

Sponsored by the Equipment Manufacturers Institute and Ford New Holland, Incorporated

Chapters were honored Thursday afternoon for their commitment to safer communities. Winning chapters were ranked gold, silver and bronze, based on a written application. Though the chapters had been notified of their ranking in advance, the thrill in the members' faces was evident as they strode across the stage to receive their certificates.

Projects submitted by these chapters showed many hours of work and dedication to improve safety in their home communities, and included such activities as safety awareness workshops, home and equipment inspections, and school presentations.

One chapter received a gold rating for their year-long program, "Play It Safe All Your Life." The Wauzeka, Wis., chapter

stressed the importance of safety in the home and at work to all age groups. The members developed various farm safety programs for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Adults benefited from the home safety checklists that the chapter published in the local newspaper. The chapter reinforced its efforts by administering a safety survey to students and adults who participated in the program.

GOLD

FLORIDA: Lake Placid Senior

ILLINOIS: Cissna Park, Clinton, Franklin Center, Seneca, Somonauk-Leland, Stark County, Sycamore, Warsaw

INDIANA: Carroll Fort Wayne, North Newton

IOWA: Cascade, Creston, Estherville, G & G, Horn O'Plenty, Manson Northwest Webster, West Bend Hawkeye, West Dubuque

KANSAS: Clay Center, Marysville, Plainville Ag.

KENTUCKY: Spencer County

LOUISIANA: Elton, Lacassine

MINNESOTA: Willmar

NEBRASKA: Schuyler Central High

OHIO: Amanda-Clearcreek, Bowling Green, East Clinton

PENNSYLVANIA: Spud Growers

SOUTH DAKOTA: Harrisburg

TEXAS: Ysleta

VIRGINIA: Park View Senior

WASHINGTON: Bethel, Cathlamet, Elma, Mabton, Winlock, Yelm

WISCONSIN: Denmark, Loyal, Wauzeka

WYOMING: Southeast Goshen



National Chapter Awards

Sponsored by National FFA Foundation General Fund

Cheers went up from different areas in the auditorium as National Chapter Award winners crossed the stage to receive their certificates. The brief moment in the spotlight was reward enough for these members who had worked hard all year so that their chapters could be named among the best in the nation.

FFA chapters are ranked gold, silver or bronze, based upon a written application with 12 categories. Excellence in all areas of the chapter's program of work was required to receive a gold rating.

One of the chapters receiving an award was Chickasha, Okla. The chapter has 127 members who keep busy with activities ranging from community service to working with alumni members. The chapter showed it had the well-rounded program necessary to earn a gold rating.

- Members renovated a community park, putting a fresh coat of paint on benches, picnic tables and a walking bridge.

- The chapter held a city-wide rabies clinic in the agriculture shop after the city

council passed an ordinance requiring all pets in Chickasha to be vaccinated.

- Plants sold out in two afternoons during the annual horticulture sale, raising almost \$1,500.

GOLD

ALABAMA: Ider

ARIZONA: Antelope, Peoria

CALIFORNIA: Chowchilla, Fullerton, Mt. Whitney

COLORADO: Flagler, Fort Morgan, McClave, Valley, Yuma

GEORGIA: Perry, Putnam County

ILLINOIS: Chicago Ag. Science, Cissna Park, DeKalb, Leroy, Rochelle, Seneca, Sparland, Sycamore, Warsaw

INDIANA: Carroll Flora, Shenandoah, Tri-County, Woodlan

IOWA: Bison, Creston, Harlan, Linn-Mar, Marengo, Montezuma, North Polk

KANSAS: Chapman, Clay Center, Marysville

KENTUCKY: Apollo, Central Hardin, Scott County, Spencer County

LOUISIANA: Elton, Oak Grove

MAINE: Presque Isle

MARYLAND: Catocin, Frederick

MICHIGAN: Branch Area Careers Center, Unionville-Sebewaing

MINNESOTA: Belle Plaine, Willmar

MISSOURI: Carthage, Chillicothe, El Dorado Springs, Eldon, Hartville, Stockton, Union

NEBRASKA: Blue Hill, St. Edward

NEVADA: Ruby Mountain-Elko

NEW JERSEY: Allentown

NEW YORK: Hamilton

NORTH CAROLINA: South Rowan

OHIO: Amanda-Clearcreek, Anna, New Bremen

OKLAHOMA: Alva, Burlington, Chickasha, Copan, Elgin, Indianola, Laverne, Ripley, Tipton, Wetumka

OREGON: Perrydale

PENNSYLVANIA: Grassland

RHODE ISLAND: Ponaganset

SOUTH DAKOTA: Bowdle, Elkton, West Central

TENNESSEE: Bartlett, Bradley Central, McMinn County, Riverside

TEXAS: Alvin, Booker, Clear Creek, Cleburne, Columbus, Klein Forest, Pleasanton, Ysleta

UTAH: Grantsville, Manila

VIRGINIA: James Wood, Park View Middle, Park View Senior

WASHINGTON: Cathlamet, Elma, Winlock

WISCONSIN: Denmark, New Auburn



National FFA Chorus

Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company

"I am but a small voice ..."

The sound of 125 voices singing in perfect harmony burst out above the din on the convention floor, snapping the audience's attention toward the blue shell on the left side of the stage.

Whether rousing the crowd during Wednesday's Reflections program or performing in concert with the band, the National FFA Chorus brought members to their feet whenever they appeared.

Throughout their 13 performances, the chorus maintained the convention's light-hearted atmosphere by belting out upbeat tunes, including the Garth Brooks hit, "We Shall Be Free."

Comprised of members from 37 states, the chorus was led by Roger Kelley in his first year as conductor. Head accompanist was Dr. Lori Wiest. Honey Wilson, Keoki McCarthy and Kelsey Hilderbrand provided music on the keyboard, bass and drums, respectively. Mark Bickelhaupt assisted the chorus as a chaperone.

ALABAMA: Benjamin Sisco, Geraldine
ARIZONA: Marlen Wilkins, Willcox
CALIFORNIA: Jillian Vannucci, Woodland
COLORADO: Ryan Hudson, Fruita
CONNECTICUT: Linda Grayson, W. Willington
FLORIDA: Tammy Hudson, Fort White
IDAHO: Allison Lindholm, Jerome; Seth VanWassnhoove, Melba
ILLINOIS: Jared Johraus, St. Peter; Glen Neukomm, Buckley; Karen Riden, La Harpe; Benjamin Tuttle, Marengo
INDIANA: Heather Clodfelter, Crawfordsville; Meredith Study, Madison
IOWA: Clint Christians, Belmond; Jason Corder, Knoxville; Blake Franzeen, Scranton; Brian Jones, Greenfield; Andrew McDowell, Sheldon; Mark Stene, Lake Mills; Travis Taylor, Villisca; Amber Wade, Grinnell; Adam Wagner, Muscatine
KANSAS: Andy Armbruster, Kiowa; Rebecca Braden, Neodesha; Lindsey Vogel, Kiowa
KENTUCKY: Stephanie Henson, Hickman
LOUISIANA: Robert Milczarek, Pearl River
MARYLAND: Roni Cline, Frederick

MICHIGAN: Jennifer Boling, Mt. Pleasant; Tricia Sturgis, Lowell
MINNESOTA: Paul McCarvel, Brewster; Mindy Wulf, Morris
MISSISSIPPI: Mary Black, McCool
MISSOURI: Tricia Emmerich, Salisbury; Amber Mayberry, Hermann; Mark Rohrbach, California; Jason Smith, Plattsburg; Sara Veatch, Trenton; Kenton Whitt, Spickard
MONTANA: David Beddow, Harlowton; Lawrence Carr, Bainville; Brad Williams, Joliet
NEBRASKA: Ben Hansen, Superior; Alisha Jensen, Holdrege; Alan Nietfeldt, Grand Island; Carrie Ortegen, Wilcox; Tyler Orvis, Cambridge; Scott Rieker, Wilcox; P.J. Wilber, Chappell; Angela Wimer, Scribner; Todd Zimmerman, Plymouth
NEVADA: Andrea Bradfield, Panaca; Jennifer Klomp, Panaca; Christopher Miller, Fernley
NEW HAMPSHIRE: Alisha Bohrer, Hudson
NEW MEXICO: Melissa Williams, Laguna; Cyd Wyley, Nara Visa
NEW YORK: Michelle Zumbach, Henderson
NORTH DAKOTA: Peter Foss, Maddock; Miriam Wolfgram, Niagara
OHIO: Carolyn Drake, Creston; Dwayne Yoder, Millersburg
OKLAHOMA: Jack Baker, Tishomingo; Kara Bayless, Arnett; Gretchen Collins, Bristow; Dancia Davis, Arnett; Lisa Dills, Maysville; Jared Gibbs, Duncan; Randy Irwin, Hartshorne; Michael Jackson, Burlington; Carla C. Knopf, Covington; Jamie Landers, Altus; Julie Moore, Ringling; Rhett Murdaugh, McAlester; Mendy Parker, Stillwater; Adam Reese, Gotebo; Nathan Stewart, Amorita; Joseph Taylor, Stillwell; Jason Waldrige, Savanna; Jason Wetzel, Alva; Sheila Youngblood, Comanche
OREGON: Courtney Hagen, Powell Butte
SOUTH CAROLINA: Jamie Lewis, Aiken
SOUTH DAKOTA: Carrie Solum, Florence
TENNESSEE: Melanie Blasingim, Bath Springs; Angela Hernandez, Parsons
TEXAS: Shelly Englert, Snyder; Heather Nesmith, Frankston; Amy Olstad, Kirbyville; Troy Steakley, Odessa; Autumn Watson, Greenville
UTAH: Cori Caras, Spanish Fork
WASHINGTON: Gregory Dennis, Arlington; Devon Devries, Burlington; Allyshia Leach, Granger; Chanda Miller, Colfax; Michele Simplot, Deming
WEST VIRGINIA: Calvin Stump III, Maysville; Marika Ware, Kearneysville
WISCONSIN: Aaron Behnke, Lena; Julie Lernke, Madison
WYOMING: Colin Lynn, Gillette



Clad in shades to reflect the relaxed atmosphere of the presentation, first-year National FFA Chorus Director Roger Kelley of Pullman, Wash., leads the group in a rendition of "Farmer Tan."

National FFA Band

Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company and Landmark Genetics Inc.

National FFA convention sessions were music to everyone's ears, thanks to music provided expertly by the National FFA Band.

With all the pomp and circumstance of a royal procession, the band made its grand entry Thursday night before a capacity crowd in the main arena. The talents of 100 FFA members representing 35 states were showcased.

Under the careful direction of second-year bandleader Gene Englerth of Webberville, Mich., the band had a diverse repertoire, with numbers ranging from the Queen classic "Bohemian Rhapsody," to a selection of John Philip Sousa marches, to the theme from "Blazing Saddles."



Baritone saxophonist Adam Spicer of Enders, Neb., pondered the notes of "Classic Rock and Roll" prior to one of several performances that enlivened the convention hall.

ARIZONA: Darcy Johnson, Camp Verde; Cody Walker, Pocahontas

CALIFORNIA: Chris Homen, Paso Robles; Katie Pyle, Arbutle

COLORADO: Daniel Gillham, Peetz

DELAWARE: Jamie Picard, Marydel

GEORGIA: Stacey Kilburn, Perry

IDAHO: Aaron Cook, Declo; Matthew Quesnell, Twin Falls

ILLINOIS: Casey Aden, Newman; David Ancelet, Warsaw; Tony Hicks, Bingham; Bret Hitchings, Raymond; Karla Niehaus, Hillsboro; Christy Peterson, Tampico; Rye Randolph, Canton

INDIANA: Christy Couch, Owensville; Jonathon Koontz, Bremen

IOWA: Robert Cash, Clear Lake; Melissa Dittmer, Lacona; Wynette Heeren, Akron; Michelle Janssen, Osage; Stacey McNabb, Drakesville; Jaime Merrill, Anamosa; John Myers, Hardy; Andrea Steffens, Clermont

KANSAS: Adrien Hertel, Bird City; Aaron Peck, Salina; Erica Schmidt, Canton; Mike Schmidt, Newton; Kevin Stamm, Washington

KENTUCKY: Chris Herndon, Franklin

MARYLAND: Mark Michael, Clear Spring

MICHIGAN: Troy Elsenheimer, Owosso; Tony Haupt, Mt. Pleasant; Nicole Hoenes, Portage

MINNESOTA: Jason Beech, Utica; Denise Borth, Fairfax; LaNae Pagel, Winthrop; Marsha Smith, Audubon; Miles Wurster, Dawson

MISSISSIPPI: Ramey Akerman, Laurel; Jennifer Settle, Rienzi

MISSOURI: Misty Bricker, Norborne; Kenneth Gossard, Willow Springs; Jody Hubner, Mountain Grove; Debra Lager, Pattonsburg; Jason Nickell, Stanberry; Lisa Rice, Clifton Hill; Cori Shelton, Orrick; Jeremy Stanek, Qulin; Jeff Stokes, Hartsville; Travis Stott, Memphis; Sarah Summers, Smithville; John Welter, Cosby

MONTANA: Wendy Owens, Lewistown

NEBRASKA: Doyle Leefer, Unadilla; Chad Meyer, Superior; Carrie Olsen, Eureka; Adam Spicer, Enders

NEVADA: Amy Priest, Wells

NEW JERSEY: Loretta Caltabiano, Woodstown; Kelly Eachus, Elmer

NEW MEXICO: Angela Baca, Los Lunas; Connie Merrell, Fairacres

NEW YORK: Jessica Robinson, Gainesville

NORTH CAROLINA: Michael Capps, Princeton

NORTH DAKOTA: Chris Beehler, Stanley; Zane Johnson, Watford City

OHIO: Dan Kennel, Oxford; Kimberly Tessanne, Carrollton; Amanda Tumblin, Conesville; Robert Underwood, Gibsonburg; Michael Zieber, Bellevue

OKLAHOMA: Stanton Ingram, Ochelata; Sherri Lohmann, Alva; Jania Moore, Elgin; Nicholas Noble, Kiatook; Kim Sasser, Lawton; Katie Sibley, Claremore; Jaymee Snow, Fairview; Ann Wilson, Altus

OREGON: Megan Helgersen, Scappoose

PENNSYLVANIA: Daniel Janicsko, Vintondale; Melissa Vought, Garrett

SOUTH DAKOTA: Anthony Reit, Harrisburg; Susan Stoterau, Harrisburg

TENNESSEE: Phillip Hinton, Clarksville

TEXAS: Jim Beasley, Snyder; Jeff Brown, Helotes; Bryan Burrell, Panhandle; Bryanna Coulter, Lindale; Ginny Fuchs, Crosby; Amy Howell, Wortham; Stacy Leep, Crosby; Rhett Moore, Malakoff; Larry Peacock, Seymour; Cap Roder, Crosby; Diane Shackelford, Prosper

WASHINGTON: Jennifer Arnott, Yelm; Renee Martin, Walla Walla; Chris Nemnich, Arlington; Maren Robinson, Snohomish

WISCONSIN: Amy Ammon, Monroe; Heidi Borgwardt, Fountain City; Amy Chase, Platteville; Michael Dettman, Johnson Creek; Holly Pope, Waupaca

WYOMING: Candy Fraker, Buffalo

National Talent

Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company



Jennel Helmer of Wyo. performed double duty on the national convention stage as she entertained the crowd and serenaded her boyfriend, Tim Tysdal. Helmer sang "Kansas City."

There were dancers, singers, fiddlers and even yodeling accordion players. No, it wasn't a street carnival. It was all part of the act during the National FFA Talent program.

The program was comprised of 84 members selected from a wealth of applicants, representing 26 states. To participate, members submitted an application and audio or videotape to be reviewed by the judges.

Their acts entertained convention crowds with more than 130 appearances, including Thursday's National FFA Talent Revue on the main stage. Only about half of the acts were chosen to perform in the revue.

Director Gary Maricle of Kansas City, Mo., is in his eighth year of making sure the talent program runs smoothly. "I look forward to it every year," he said.

Maricle was assisted by Rob Enbody of Toledo, Wash., and Bill Williams of Liberty, Mo.

ALABAMA: Philip Adcock, Elba; Brian Balch, Lexington; W. Cal Barber, Tallassee; Glenn Blakenship, Cullman; Torgy Boyd, Red Bay; Harlan Campbell, Logan; Tracy Causey, Tallassee; Tad Cole, Lexington; Randy Duke, Logan; Rachael Hall, Red Bay; Lakia Hammond, Elba; DeAnna Harper, Cullman; Jennifer Jackson, Golden, Miss.; Kenyetta Jackson, Pine Hill; Joe Jacobs, Elba; LaShaye Johnson, Vina; Sarah Johnson, Russellville; Torrgy Lewey, Red Bay; Jarod Lewis, Cullman; Brad Lowe, Tallassee; Jarod Massey, Vina; Kristi McCain, Lexington; Kevin McCarthy, Red Bay; Josh Mewbourn, Lexington; Jason Netherton, Cullman; Scott Nix, Lexington; Rodney Pruitt, Red Bay; Wayne Trammell, Cullman; Janelle Siler, Elba; Mathew Wiggins, Tallassee; Lisa Winchester, Red Bay; Chris Wright, Red Bay

ARKANSAS: Jennifer Glover, Guy

CALIFORNIA: Sheila Louise Walker, Fall River Mills

DELAWARE: Derrick Layfield, Millsboro

FLORIDA: Cari Crider, Zolfo Springs

IDAHO: Nathan Price, Gooding

ILLINOIS: Carol Brint, Sycamore; Ben Killey, Roseville; Jerry Prater, Thebes; Beth Ruppert, Witt; Brent Sims, Olive Branch; Scott Sowinski, Chicago

INDIANA: Joe Cales, Fairland; Beth Fisher, Fairland; Tiffany Howard, Fairland; Cody Hutson, Fairland; Robbie Jenkins, Boggsstown; Trista Morgan, New Palestine; Mary Rife, Shelbyville; Michele Squire, Fairland; Josh Steele, Indianapolis

KENTUCKY: Emmily Gail Hutchinson, Hickman

MARYLAND: Tracy Clagette, New Windsor

MICHIGAN: Jodi Bartholomew, Riverdale

MISSOURI: Margie Davis, Carrollton; Candy Greeg, Gilman City; James Holder, Sturgeon; Donna Sue Seneker, Mt. Vernon

MONTANA: Mathew Eckstein, Absarokee

NEBRASKA: Reggie Shaw, Lexington

NEVADA: Evey Eskandon, Eureka; Enoch Dahl, Deeth; Adrian Labarry, Eureka

NEW YORK: Keith Edwards, Neversink

NORTH CAROLINA: Raymond Starling, Autryville

NORTH DAKOTA: Cary Kehr, New England

OHIO: Fred Matson, Racine; Stephanie Sayre, Racine; Holly Walker, Mt. Gilead

OKLAHOMA: Lake Carpenter, Butler; Jolinda Chastain, Wetumka; Karmen Hall, Wagoner; Susan McMahon, Wagoner; Skye Varner, Bristow; Jennifer Watkins, Stillwater

OREGON: Jennifer Lantz, Culver

TEXAS: Wesley White, Stowell

UTAH: Aliza Brown, Coalville

WASHINGTON: Valerie Wells, Colfax

WISCONSIN: Louis Eslinger, Stanley; Theodore Eslinger, Stanley; Monique Lawrence, Brodhead

WYOMING: Jennel Helmer, Sundance

Courtesy Corps

When 32,000 people show up for a convention, it takes all hands on deck and then some to make sure things go smoothly. Instrumental in that effort were the members of 180 chapters that volunteered for the Courtesy Corps. Whether it was checking registration badges at the front doors or making sure the guest speakers had glasses of water on the podium, these dedicated FFA members with the gold armbands did the job and did it well. You might not have seen them, but they were there, and everyone working with the convention appreciated them.



FFA members who served in the Courtesy Corps contributed lots of elbow grease to make sure the convention rolled along smoothly.

ALABAMA: Billingsley, Calera, Centreville, McAdory, West Blocton, West End
ALASKA: Delta Junction
ARIZONA: Buckeye, Highland, Peoria, Arizona State Officers
ARKANSAS: Berryville, Riverside, Springdale
DELAWARE: Middletown
FLORIDA: Branford, Bronson, Hawthorne, Lake Weir, Madison County, New Smyrna Beach, North Marion Senior, Santa Fe, Sarasota Vo Ag
ILLINOIS: Chicago Ag Science, Hampshire, Sycamore
INDIANA: Barr-Reeve, Central Noble, Clinton Central, DeKalb, Indian Creek, Liberty, North Harrison, North Newton, Prairie Heights, Tri-County, Woodlan
IOWA: Belmont, Holland, Manning, Reno Smith, St. Ansgar
KANSAS: Atchinson County, Highland, Hillsboro, Marais des Cygnes, Marion/Florence, Moundridge-Hesston, Ulysses, Washington
KENTUCKY: Central Hardin, Christian County, Fulton County, Heath, Hickman County, Spencer County
LOUISIANA: Rayne
MARYLAND: South Carroll
MASSACHUSETTS: Essex
MICHIGAN: Alpena, Cassopolis, Chippewa Hills, Lakers, Milan, Michigan State Officers, Webberville
MINNESOTA: 212 BOLD, Farmington, Kimball, Luverne, Menahga, Murray County Central, Stillwater, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown

MISSOURI: Carl Junction, Couch, Hartville, Koshkonong, Mansfield, Mount Vernon, Northwestern, Savannah, Schuyler R-1, Union, Westminster
NEBRASKA: Chappell, Kimball, Leigh, Loup City, Prague, Scribner-Snyder, Wauneta
NEW HAMPSHIRE: Manchester
NEW MEXICO: Socorro
NORTH CAROLINA: East Carteret, Jordan Matthews, North Stanly, Northern Durham, Western Harnett
NORTH DAKOTA: Hillsboro, Mandan, Minot
OHIO: Fairbanks, Kalida, Leipsic, Northridge, West Muskingum
OKLAHOMA: Alex, Altus, Alva, Bethel, Billings, Broken Arrow, Cashion, Chattanooga, Coyle, Davidson, Elk City, Fort Gibson, Freedom, Grandfield, Guthrie, Harrah, Moore, Morrison, Oaks, Okeene, Owasso, Pawnee, Sapulpa, Stillwater, Tecumseh, Thomas, Weleetka
OREGON: Perrydale
PENNSYLVANIA: Greenwood, Pennsylvania State Officers
RHODE ISLAND: Ponagansett
SOUTH CAROLINA: Britton's Neck
SOUTH DAKOTA: Arlington, Bowdle, Bridgewater, Dell Rapids, De Smet, Gettysburg, Groton, Harrisburg, West Central
TEXAS: Banquete, Cayuga, Channelview, Deweyville, Florence, Floresville, Floydada, Frankston, Frisco, Glen Rose, Groesbeck, John Marshall, Keller, Latexo, McGregor, McKinney, Mexia, Plano East Senior, Riesel, Rio Hondo, Sealy, Snyder, Troy, Tuloso-Midway, Valley, Wortham, Ysleta

VIRGINIA: Fauquier, Park View Senior, Wilbur-Pence
WISCONSIN: Baraboo, Belmont, Bloomer, Glenwood City, Lincoln, New Auburn, Plymouth, Sparta, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, Wauzeka, Weyauwega-Fremont

Retiring Addresses



Get Out Of Bed

*Travis Park
National FFA President
Franklin, Indiana*

Good morning, FFA members! My goodness, you're looking "fantabulous." How are y'all? Wow, such bright and shining faces on such a wonderful day. Oh, it feels good to start the day. When that ol' rooster crows, you just want to jump out of bed and smile.

A new day. A day full of questions. What successes will be mine? What obstacles will I overcome? What failures will I learn from? Where will I end up? Who will I meet today? Hey, hey, HEY! Enough questions. Today is mine, and it will be the best day of my life. Today, I will care for those around me. Today, I can do anything I set out to do. Today, I will make a positive difference in the world. Today, I will get out of bed.

Goodbye, soft pillow. Goodbye, warm blankets. Goodbye, dear old bed. Get out of my way, I won't need you for a while. I'll see you later tonight.

Friends, when I wake up in the morning, the first thing that I do is get mentally prepared for the day. I tell myself that I will care for those around me. I say to myself that I can do anything that I plan. And then, if all else fails, I tell myself to just do it.

After I mentally prepare myself, then the physical preparation takes place. One of the first things that I do in the morning is take a shower, brush my teeth, and comb my hair. I care about other people, therefore, I don't want to offend anyone with my presence, so I shower. Then just to make things even better, I usually brush my teeth and apply the other needed toiletries to enhance my appearance. Finally, I comb my hair for that professional image. I realized just how much this makes a difference to other people this year when you care enough to take pride in yourself. I'm not the most beautiful person in the world, this I realize, but if you do the most with what you have, you can make a difference.

If you care enough, you can get out of bed and make your dreams come true. You can do nearly anything that you set out to do. And if you genuinely care, it won't matter if you come home with first prize or not, because the journey is part of the success. Also, when you care enough to just do it, and you care for the right reasons, you can make miracles happen.

Occasionally, I have a bad hair day, or my eyes appear bloodshot from too many late nights visiting with FFA members. I try to do the most with the little that I have. During one of the state conventions this year, I found that people appreciate how much I care when I cover up my appearance for others' sake. At this particular state convention, I appeared on stage wearing a red baseball cap and a pair of dark sunglasses. The talk was successful in exciting the audience, and I thought all was a success. Now, I didn't cover up my face for any cosmetic reason, but the effect was clear after talking with one young lady after the meeting. This particular young lady came up to me with a smile on her face, and said, "Travis, you looked pretty good up there on stage in your shades and hat." I

blushed a little and replied, "Well, thank you so much." Without missing a beat, she replied, "Yeah, those sunglasses and hat covered up about half of your face!"

Folks, I care for people, and sometimes that care and concern manifests itself in odd ways. I never realized how much putting on a hat and a pair of sunglasses can make that care apparent. Sure, I say that I care, and I do. But at that same state convention in Tennessee, I met a young lady who really exemplified care and concern.

Last April, Kevin and I traveled to Tennessee's state convention. We presented several workshops and spoke to the convention delegation on a couple of occasions. Also, as is the case at all FFA events, we visited with many wonderful FFA members. Many came up to us and introduced themselves, several asked questions and visited for a while, and some even, believe it or not, asked for us to make pictures with them. We took everything in stride and enjoyed the convention, but one of the most memorable events of this year took place after the convention. Kevin and I stayed in Gatlinburg overnight, and that afternoon, we walked around the town looking at all the shops. As evening approached, we started searching for a place to eat. We searched, we ran into an advisor whose chapter was also remaining in town an extra evening, and he offered to take us to supper with his group. Not wanting to miss a meal, Kevin and I gladly accepted his offer. Ten of the young men from the chapter went out to eat with us, and we talked about life in Tennessee, women and the FFA. After the meal we walked back to their hotel to visit with the rest of the chapter. The Portland, Tenn., FFA chapter brought eight young women and 10 young men to the convention, and we all gathered in one hotel room to visit. As discussion circled the room, they asked Kevin and me about our FFA backgrounds, our aspirations and about our lives in general.

We also talked about the FFA members' ambitions. Talk came around to careers, and it became evident that within the minds of these FFA members a lot of big dreams and goals floated. Kevin and I told the group that we wanted to be a lobbyist and an agriculture teacher, but that we also wanted to make money and have successful careers. We indicated that we were going places, there were no small dreams for us. Others aspired to be lawyers, millionaires, politicians and doctors. Several wanted to be farmers as well. But the biggest and most meaningful dream came from a young woman in the corner of the room.

As we had entered, I didn't recognize this young lady. She looked a little different than the last time I'd seen her as she asked for a picture with Kevin and me during the convention. She still wore a smile and shared an enthusiastic word, but she also looked drained. The convention and all of the excitement and enthusiasm had taken its toll on Tangie. She was feeling a little ill and tired. One other thing was apparent; Tangie also had little hair in her head. During the convention she had worn a wig, and this was the reason we hadn't recognized her at first. Tangie has cancer and undergoes treatment which causes hair loss. However, in a body ravaged by such a disease, there lies a heart of gold and an enthusiasm for life that no cancer could ever take away. As Tangie told us what her lifelong goals and dreams were, tears filled her eyes. She said, "All I want to do is live to become a nurse and help other kids with cancer. I want to ease their suffering and fears, and take away their pains." Here was a young lady who, although struggling with life battles of her own, still cared enough to devote her dreams to helping others.

Friends, it's a wonder how much we have, yet how little we care about those less fortunate than ourselves. I say that I care a lot about others, but I also work hard to see that I succeed for myself. In the Bible the passage says, "Love your neighbor as

yourself." We should care for others as much as we care for ourselves. Everyday, wake and say to yourself, "I care enough to do my personal best to help others and care for them."

So, the first thing I do in the morning is clean myself up for the day and tell myself, "I will care for others ahead of myself." Then, the next step is fitting into my clothes. One of a national officer's greatest struggles is to keep from gaining weight. We eat a lot and don't get much exercise, so we tend to gain a little weight. There's nothing wrong with gaining weight, I've done it all of my life. I say, "there's no use in carrying around a spare tire unless you keep it full." But, one of my goals for the year was not to gain any weight. To some extent, I've been successful, but some of my clothing just won't cooperate with me, and I must "suck" into jeans and the occasional T-shirt. Every morning, I tell myself, I CAN get into my clothing, and I CAN even make it match and color-coordinate somewhat. This is a struggle for me. Once I get my pants buttoned, then I have to stuff my shirt-tail into them. Do you realize how hard that can be? And, I see absolutely no reason that polka-dots don't match stripes, but folks who know say they don't. Still, through all of this struggle, I tell myself that I can do it. I can.

I can. There have been a number of times in my life when the "I can" attitude has helped me immensely. As a senior in high school, I showed livestock at the county fair. One of my goals had always been to win the Master Showmanship contest at the county fair. I finally won the sheep species and earned a spot in the competition for overall master showman. As the day of the competition drew near, I prepared myself by learning how to show horses, cattle, hogs, dairy goats and dairy cattle. The night before the competition, I studied late into the night. As I sat on my bed studying the parts of the dairy goat, I thought, is this all worth it? What if I study and get pumped up to win, and then in the end, am not named Master Showman? I almost stopped studying, but then the "I can" attitude entered my mind, and I continued to study. The next day I woke up excited, and said to myself, "Travis, today you can. You can do your best in this competition." During all of the areas of the competition, I kept thinking, "I can." Ladies and gentlemen, I could and did win the Master Showmanship competition.

The reason that I won was not due to anything other than me deciding that I could, and would, do my best. I woke up and the only thing that entered my mind was "I can." I didn't know for sure if my name would be called as the master showman, but I did know that I could, and would, perform at my best potential. I can do my best. If all we ever do is our best, then we will always win, and we will always find true success. Winners never say they can't, for they know that they can. FFA members, when you wake in the morning, tell yourself that you can, that you will do your best, that you will succeed.

Finally, the third thing that I do every morning is put on my shoes. I've got tennis shoes, wingtips, workshoes, loafers and Justin ropers. But, the shoes don't matter as much as does sticking my feet into them and walking the walk. I can wake every morning and tell myself, "I will care enough to put the concerns of others ahead of myself, and I can do anything that I set my mind to today." But, without the action—the walking—I might as well stay in bed. Sometimes, we'll peel out in our tennis shoes. Other times, we may climb mountains in our hikers. And, there will be those times when we'll walk proudly in our ropers. However, if we don't put our feet into those shoes, you're better off leaving them in the closet. We must put the action behind the words. Action is "Just Do It!"

Just do it. This is one message that hasn't changed through-

out the year, and I see no reason for it to change now. From a Nike advertisement in *Sports Illustrated*, I've derived a lot of courage and reason to just do it.

It says:

*Too often we are scared.
Scared of what we might not be able to do.
Scared of what others might think if we tried.
We let our fears stand in the way of our hopes.
We say "no" when we want to say "yes."
We sit quietly when we want to scream.
And shout with others when we should keep our mouths shut.
After all, we do only go around once.
There's really no time to be afraid.
So stop.
Try something you've never tried.
Risk it.*

*Enter a triathlon,
Write a letter to the editor,
Demand a raise,
Call winners at the toughest court,
Throw away your TV,
Bicycle across the U.S.,
Try bobsledding,
Try anything.
Speak out against the designated hitter,
Travel to a country where you don't speak the language,
Patent something,
Call her.
You have nothing to lose,
And everything, everything, everything to gain.
Just Do It!*

Just do it! All you have to do is get out of bed, prepare yourself and make it happen. If you care enough and tell yourself that you can, it doesn't matter what you do as long as you make a positive difference. Make a difference in your life and in the lives of those people around you. Sometimes there are fears that we have to overcome, but we can overcome them by just doing it.

Earlier this year, I was out in Nebraska attending a chapter banquet and visiting a community. I stayed for several nights with one of the chapter officers, and he showed me around the community. We enjoyed the time together, but one morning, Mike asked if I'd ever been rappelling. Rappelling is when you hang by a rope and a prayer over the side of a rock cliff. Well, in the area of Nebraska that we were in, there were few large rock cliffs. But one of Mike's hobbies was rappelling, only he rappelled off of road overpasses and bridges. One part of my mind said, "Don't do it, Travis. This guy is nuts. The bridge is perfectly safe; there is no reason to hang by a rope from the side of it. Besides, your insurance won't cover this even if you survive. Travis, this guy is 17 years old, are you sure you trust him? He's far from a professional. Maybe he even needs professional help." The other part of my mind said, "Travis, this sounds like a lot of fun. It is a challenge. If you fall, it'll only hurt for a little while. He looks sane enough, and he hasn't hurt himself seriously yet. Hey, Trav, just do it." As I lay in bed at 6 a.m. the morning that we were going rappelling, the chicken part of my mind started to win over the macho part. But then, I decided, you only live once. If you are going to live, then really live. Travis, get out of bed. I sprang out of bed, jumped into my clothes, and walked out to find Mike and go rappelling.

In the crisp morning air, we loaded the ropes and gloves into Mike's old yellow car and headed for the nearest bridge. As we walked through dewy grass, fear rose up in my mind

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and heart. That bridge was at least 30 feet in the air, and we were going to scale down the side of it. I could hardly believe it, but here I was, trusting a fellow who I'd just met a couple of days ago with my life. On top of all of this, we made our own harness. If I fell, there would be no one to blame but myself. *Gentlemen's Quarterly* wouldn't have been impressed with the design of the harness either.

Mike tied off the ropes, and showed me the proper way to scale down the side of the bridge support. He made it look so easy. My turn was next. I hooked the rope into my harness and leaned out over the open air. When I say "leaned out," I mean I was perpendicular with the wall of the bridge. There was nothing between me and the ground except 30 feet of open air. The first time, I didn't quite achieve "perpendicularity," and I scrambled back to the safety of the bridge. However, I wouldn't be defeated. "Just do it, you fool!" rang in my feeble brain, and I tried again. This time I leaned out until I was perpendicular to the bridge. I looked down, and sure enough, the ground awaited 30 feet below. My mind raced. All I could see was me flying toward the ground in a white-knuckled, arms-flailing, blood-curdling screaming fall. There is something about conquering your fears in the crisp morning. Just to look down was a major accomplishment, then I started slowly down the side of the bridge. About half-way down, my home-made harness began to constrict parts of my body that just shouldn't be constricted, so I let the rope slide and zinged to the bottom, landing in a graceful splat on the ground. Graceful or not, painful or not, I made it to the bottom of that bridge successfully and alive.

Why did I do it? Why did I rapell down that 30-foot bridge? I don't really know, except that life is too short to let any opportunity pass by. I knew that if I went on with the day and told folks that I'd almost rapelled, I'd be extremely disappointed. In order to live, you've got to *live*. I could—and did—conquer my fear of heights and that bridge in Nebraska. I was physically able, the only thing holding me back was a little fear. A little fear can be easily overcome, and must be overcome in order to succeed in life. You are able, you are ready, just do it!

Just do it, FFA members! As you leave this convention, make a commitment to get out of your bed. Get out of the bed of laziness. Work hard to make your dreams come true. Get out of the bed of apathy. Care for yourself, others and the world around you. Get out of the bed of being normal. Be yourself. Get out of bed. Tell yourself that you care. Tell yourself that you can do anything you set your mind to. Tell yourself to "just do it." The time to act is now, you are burning daylight and seconds of your life. Get out of bed. □



Out of the Darkness

Kevin White
National FFA Secretary
Redding, California

As a small child I always had a love for animals. The times I treasure most are the afternoons I spent playing with my puppy on our front lawn. As most small boys, I brought home

my share of pet lizards, snakes, mice and even a pet spider. But there is one time I remember most of all. I was running around the school playground with some friends when I saw a baby robin, fallen from its nest. It was thrashing around in the tall grass. I approached it and, as I grabbed it, the bird tried to fly away. This kept happening until, finally, I squirmed under a parked car and caught it. I ran with it to my mom's classroom where she was teaching and asked if we could take it home and nurse it back to health. She said we could, and so I placed it in a box in her classroom until school was over. We took it home that day and for the next three weeks it was our family project to nurse this baby bird back to health. Each day my brother and I went outside to catch worms and bring them home to my mom so that she could feed the robin. We converted an old wooden box into a nest by putting dry grass and twigs together in a bowl formation in one corner of the box, and placed some branches upon which it could perch. After several weeks, the small bird gained enough strength to fly around the house—many times doing its duty on my mom's new drapes. We took it outside each day to reacquaint it with the outdoors in preparation for setting it free. I had it outside one day when it decided to fly off into some oak trees behind the house. Because I had grown quite attached to that bird and did not want to let it go, I chased it into the trees. As I climbed each branch to catch it, the bird hopped onto another, until finally I could not climb any higher and had to come down from the tree. I walked back into the house full of sadness that my bird had flown away. For the better part of that day, I sulked over the loss of my friend.

Then, as my mom was preparing dinner, I heard a strange noise from the kitchen. I thought it was my mom opening some container which made a squeaking sound, but when I walked into the kitchen I found my bird sitting in its box on the counter. My mom smiled and said that shortly after I came inside, the bird had flown back into the tree. The next morning, with a smile on my face and a short goodbye, I set the bird free.

This simple deed of caring by my family and me made a difference to a small robin. This bird would have died if we had not taken the time to help it. One child made a difference in a small robin's life. If a small child can make an impact, then anyone can. It doesn't matter who you are, you can make a difference.

Traveling this year I met many wonderful people doing remarkable things—people with enthusiasm and faith. These people are making a difference. They are perfect examples of how one person can make a difference. I would like to introduce you to these special people today.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is Rebecca Fisher from our Silverton FFA Chapter in Oregon. For Rebecca, the difference began while she attended the Washington Conference Program a few years ago. She had the opportunity to meet with her congressman and invite him to their chapter FFA banquet. Congressmen Kopetski gladly accepted. After he spoke at their chapter banquet, Congressmen Kopetski called Rebecca to request assistance in writing legislation for FFA recognition. She helped author what became a proclamation signed by President Clinton. Rebecca was invited, along with her family, to attend the first official signing ceremony of President Clinton as he approved a proclamation for the FFA during National FFA Week. Rebecca met the president and authored a proclamation for the FFA all because she took the initiative to go to her congressman's office. One person can make a difference and Rebecca has done so for all of us in the FFA.

This is Alisha Bohrer, whom I met last year at the convention. After we met, we began to correspond. Her letters made being away from my church and family so much easier. Alisha exemplified this passage from the Bible in Luke Chapter 22:32, "But I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." Within her letters she said she was praying for me and gave me Christian advice which served as a constant motivator and reminder, and gave me strength to continue my travels.

Alisha, thank you so much for everything you have done for me this year as you have done more than you will ever realize.

And finally, this is Jack Havens. He is an agriculture teacher from Gonzales, Calif. Mr. Havens spoke with me last May at the California FFA convention following my speech. In that speech, I spoke of a personal struggle and the day when I considered taking my own life. Mr. Havens told me about one of his students who was going through a tough time in his life. This student of his was only moments away from pulling the trigger on his own life when he decided to call his ag teacher. Mr. Havens made a pact with this student: if he ever considered to commit suicide, he had to promise to first call Mr. Havens. If Mr. Havens could not convince him that his life was worth living, the student could go through with it. The student promised to give Mr. Havens the chance to convince him to live. Nowhere in a teacher's job description does it say he had to do this; there is no law requiring him to be on call 24 hours a day, but because of love and concern he did. It has been about a year since he made a difference in that student's life.

Each of these individuals on stage exemplifies that it's what you do in your life, not who you are that makes the difference. Throughout this year there have been many people who have made a difference in my life as I served as a national officer for the FFA. It has been the greatest of all time! Friends and family have given me constant support and encouragement. They have listened to my problems and offered their advice.

This includes my parents—Shelley and Dennis Burts and my dad, Larry White; Tom Munter, Travis Hagen, Matt Terra, Amy Upson, Rachel Jackson, George Wold, Dave Nilsen, and Ted and Judy Gregg. Most of all, this year could not have been the success it was without the greatest of friends, the five most caring individuals with which I was blessed with the opportunity to serve. Todd, Dennis, Rick, John and Travis, thank you so much for your support, encouragement and most importantly, your friendship. May this not be an end, but rather a beginning of many memories to come.

Here on stage stands a group of people who have made the choice to make a difference, and there are many others who are doing the same.

In front of me are the convention delegates. They are here to speak of their vision for the FFA, and to make the decisions which will change and direct our organization. They are not the only ones who can and are helping and changing America.

Every one of you is doing something in your own way to better the world. All of us can do our part to make a difference and to prosper.

When I first walked out onto this stage, I spoke of a childhood memory. And there was one light focused directly upon me. But as time went on you met other people and heard what they are doing to make a difference whether by writing a congressman, keeping in touch with a friend, or helping someone in trouble. And as you heard their stories, the light grew until the entire stage was lit. Then others were mentioned, such as the delegates and the light grew stronger. Now look around this room. No longer am I the only one with the light. We now see everyone

around us. If each of us does just one thing to try and help this world, to help one person, or stand up to make something better we will stand together, we will make a difference. One can make a difference and each time one does, it makes the world that much brighter. Thank you all for the opportunity this year to learn so much and to serve all of you. Thank you and God bless you! □



Heck of a Deal

Dennis Degner
National Vice President—Western Region
Malone, Texas

It was during the year and I was spending one of my whole three or four days at home for the month when I began to clean up some of the papers that were starting to pile up in my room. As these papers were beginning to hit the round file, I ran across several things that have meant a lot to me over this year and my life. One of these things was a set of pictures. I began to flip through the pictures one by one and the greatest feeling in the world struck me. You see, two of the pictures brought back some wonderful memories of when I was younger. In only a matter of seconds the pictures seemed to bring back some of the things that a fast and furious life had caused me to neglect. The first picture was from my childhood.

One look at the picture and quickly I was drawn back to a day when I didn't have a care in the world.

As I closed my eyes I could envision just exactly what was in the picture, and if you could see the picture this is what you'd see...the young Dennis Degner sitting on an old-fashioned ice cream maker. When I was just a little tike, one of the best things to do during the summer was to make homemade ice cream. And eating homemade ice cream was better than pajamas with feet in them. But you see, eating the ice cream was only half the fun. Dad would always pull out the old ice cream bucket and Mom would stir up the ingredients to make what would be fantastic. Even though Mom mixed everything up and Dad had to turn the crank on the side by hand, I had the toughest and most important job of all. The backdoor rug would be folded and placed over the top of the bucket and ice so that I could do my job, and that was to sit right on the top. Now at first you might think, "Well that isn't so tough," but it could get mighty cold on my bottom at times. No matter how cold it was though, I was always important. It just took me taking a good look at the picture to remind me just how important that really was to me.

The second picture that I found was taken at a much later time in my life. I was in high school, standing beside my advisor, wearing my first FFA jacket.

What a heck of a deal! One look brought back the feeling that I had when I put on my first FFA jacket and zipped it to the top. I can remember feeling odd about wearing a jacket made of corduroy. Well, it's not like corduroy was the most popular thing to wear, but I thought maybe I could make a fashion statement. And it seemed that whenever our chapter would go on a trip somewhere I would always ask the big question, "Mr. Woody, do I have to wear official dress?" And I always knew what the answer would be yes. I was going

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A Time To Shine

*A time
to reflect
and
recognize
achievements*



A record 32,111 FFA members and guests filled the Municipal Auditorium during the 66th National FFA Convention. The new record was set during Friday afternoon's American FFA Degree ceremony.

It was hard to find an FFA member without a smile during the convention, which provided dozens of exciting and fun opportunities for students from across the country.



Bags packed and ready to rock, FFA members enjoy a light-hearted moment on a Kansas City sidewalk. This trio is from Delaware.



A Minnesota FFA member plays pilot on a flight simulator at the National Agricultural Career Show. The aviation simulator was one of many hands-on exhibits at the show.



The traditional ribbon-cutting opened the National Agricultural Career Show in Bartle Hall. FFA members had plenty to see and learn at the 492 booths that featured agribusiness, association and university exhibits.

through the typical phase in high school where I was worried about what everyone else thought about me. Then one day, one of my close friends was giving me a hard time at school as we took some pictures in official dress. And wouldn't you know it, one of the things that came right out of his mouth was, "I can't believe that you'd wear that weird jacket." This guy was a part of DECA so I looked at him and said, "Look who's talking. You wear a jacket made of polyester!" After the dust had settled I realized that I was very proud of my FFA jacket and what it held in opportunities for me. No matter if I had to judge dairy cows in the heat of the day or if I was walking through a shopping mall in Washington, D.C., I am proud of my FFA jacket and especially of my first one. Be proud of what your jacket holds in for you, because no one can take that from you, not ever.

Then as I began to ramble through most of the things I've collected over a lifetime, I ran across an item that will be taking up most of my time once I go back home. I found my flag of Texas A&M.

The instant that I put that flag in my hand I felt the feeling that I felt when I went to my first college football game, the same feeling when I stepped onto the campus of the college, and the same feeling I felt when I became a student at the one and only university for me....Texas A&M. When I was at college I went to a function which would have several Aggies that are admired and respected speak to everyone about what we were about to be a part of. One of the individuals stepped to a podium where the spotlight was shining down on the stage. He adjusted the microphone and began to tell everyone just what Texas A&M was all about. What a heck of a deal! I found myself getting excited as he told us of the opportunities, the challenges and the fun that we would experience. And the last thing that he said before he walked off of the stage was, "Just remember, you're not just an Aggie for the next four to five years, you're an Aggie forever." Right then and there I knew that there was no other place for me. You see I didn't want to be a part of just a college, I wanted to be a part of something more. And I feel deep down in my heart that I have found that something more, just like I did when I was a freshman and I joined the FFA.

The next two things that I ran across in my room I hold very dear to my heart. These two things were a crumpled piece of paper and a cap from Purdue University. The piece of paper, just like the other things, took me back to the time when I got it. It was about the first of the month of February and we were on our national officer trip to Japan. Now that was a trip that I will never forget. I had more unusual things happen to me than I ever had in my entire life. I went from trying every kind of Japanese food under the sun to having my host brother ask me if I wanted his mother to give me a bath. I quickly let them know that I could give myself a bath quite well without any help. But anyway the piece of paper brought back a very special memory for this FFA officer. The officer team had traveled through much of Tokyo to get to a high school where we would meet with several of the FFJ members in the area. We arrived and we were treated with lots of smiles, laughter, and the warmth that only a Japanese culture could provide. After the group had taken us on a tour of the school and its beautiful surroundings, we were taken to a wonderful reception that would be filled with food, fun and excitement. As the day came to an end, the officer team began to walk to the bus stop where we would catch our ride back to the hotel. Well, as we got on the bus several of the FFJ members that were from the school got on with us. As we took off I noticed that two of

the members had sat in front of me. For the next 30 minutes I carried on a conversation with the two of them, one more than the other. I have never been asked so many questions in my life. I was asked if I had cowboy boots and a cowboy hat, what is Texas like, what is the FFA like, and on and on and on. It was a struggle at times for us to understand each other, but we had a great time anyway. Then the bus came to a stop and I saw a certain look in their eyes. It was time for them to get off. They grabbed their things and began to say good-bye. And as that one individual began to stand up she handed me a crumpled piece of paper that had a scribbled address on it. She looked at me and said in the best English I had heard her use, "Please don't forget me." They both turned and walked off the bus. Right then and there I was very thankful for the opportunity to wear this jacket, to travel the world, to attend the largest annual youth convention, to be able to do all of the things that I have and will do in this life. Those folks over there were awesome. Be thankful for the opportunities that you have because they'd swap places with you in a minute. They're striving for attention that you and I sometimes take for granted. Be thankful and be proud of the opportunities you've got.

The other thing that I found was a cap that is from the one and only Purdue University. I'll never forget it. It was during the month of June and I had to travel to the state of Indiana to put on my first National Leadership Conference for State Officers. I flew into Indianapolis where Travis picked me up to take me to his house. After a day of some quality time with Travis and his family, he took me to visit the Indiana state officers. Well, Travis and I drove over to see them. We played basketball for hours, laughed, joked, and at the end of the day we all jumped in the nearby lake for some water football. Needless to say it was quite the experience, one that I would never forget. As we walked to the officers' house, one noticed that I had a Texas A&M hat with me. The officers looked at me and quickly informed me that I needed to wear a good cap...one from Purdue. At this point in the year I had been to several states and I had been told the same thing, but it was always for the school of the state. I looked at them and said, "Everyone tells me that and they say that they're gonna get me one, but they're all talk because they never do." The officers looked at me with an odd gleam in their eyes. One week later, after the conference had ended and it was almost time for me to go, something wonderful happened. The officers huddled around and pulled out this cap and said, "We wanted to be the ones to give you that cap, and to make it even more memorable we all signed our names to the inside of the brim." And they were right. I looked under the brim and there were the names of the Indiana state officer team. They really made a difference in my life, and all they had to do was give me a cap and be my friend.

Now all of you are probably sitting there asking yourselves what on earth do all of these stories have to do with my retiring address. Well, it's simple. When I started this year I saw the road awaiting me. I knew that there was something there for me that I would never be able to explain with words. The year has been fast and furious and it wasn't until I was looking toward the last part of my term that I began to realize some of the things that have made me who I am and what I am. I began realizing that not only did the FFA impact my life, but so many other things along the way. The ice cream bucket, my first FFA jacket, a flag of Texas A&M, the address of a person in Japan, and the cap from Purdue University are only a few things that make up who Dennis Degner really is. There are so many other

things that each of you haven't seen. The things on the screen in the beginning are all things that make up who I am, what I like, and reason behind why I am the way I am. And you know the best part about all of this is that I am proud of all of it. I am from the country and I am proud of it! I have wonderful parents and I am proud of it! I have all of the things on the screen and on the stage that have impacted my life, and you know something, I'm proud of that too.

Sept. 24, the most special person in my life took me to see someone in concert. On a Saturday night in Texas Stadium, Garth Brooks performed in front of 65,000 screaming fans. After the performance I walked away understanding what I was trying to share with you today. I realized one of the reasons why everyone enjoyed the concert so much. After he sang several songs the crowd was pumped! He could have sang "I'm a Little Tea Pot," and everyone would have yelled. The thing is, he sings about what he knows, he sings about his experiences, he sings about the world he lives in. And the reason it's so great is because he's proud of these things and he's proud of his music. You can't help but leave feeling great!

Each one of you have those special things that make up who you are. Each of you have the ice cream buckets, the unique caps, the special loved ones, and the people that have supported you through thick and thin.

Take a minute to think about the things that make up who you are and after you've decided, feel proud of every single one of them. Be proud of that friend who's helped you along the way, be proud of that special gift, and be proud of that girlfriend who has meant everything to you. There may be people or things that can take our money, our possessions, and everything we own, but one thing is for sure...no one can ever take away the things that have made each of you who you are. Now that's a heck of a deal! ☐



The Ride of Your Life

*Todd Hingson
National Vice President—Southern Region
Live Oak, Florida*

How many of you have ever seen a highway patrolman's flashing lights in your rearview mirror? I tell you what, I've seen them way too many times. And coming from a family where my step-father is a retired Florida highway patrolman, you can imagine the mood around my house when I show up with another speeding ticket.

I don't know what it is but there's something about sitting behind the wheel of a vehicle that gives me this feeling of extra power that I can do whatever I want. When I'm on the highway, all I focus on is where I'm going. I don't pay attention to the scenery, and sometimes I forget the speed limit. I guess that's why I have so many of these yellow tickets to account for. But hey, on a positive note, I nearly have my Ph.D. from defensive driving school!

Similar to my behavior on the highway is my attitude on the road of life. It's a road to enjoy and explore. And much like my encounters on the highway, life has been filled with its share of challenges and rewards. Both make our trip exciting and that's why this journey is called life.

As we travel along the road of life, it is natural to

encounter hardships.

There are all sorts of barriers, detours and bumps that we have to face and overcome. But rather than accept the fact that we are going to have challenges in our lives and just try to deal with them the best we can, many times I think we feel sorry for ourselves or wonder why these things happen in our lives. I know I often do. We need to just keep our life's destination in mind and not let challenges encountered along the way alter our course.

A pair of identical twins who were separated at a young age because of the unfortunate death of their parents is a perfect example of a positive and negative way to deal with life's challenges. Both were raised in fine homes, but turned out very differently. The one son was popular in high school, was very active and later graduated with honors from both high school and college. He became well established in his career and had a stable family life. The other twin was exactly the opposite. He always caused trouble, dropped out of school and ultimately became an alcoholic. He showed no sign of turning his life around. Harvard University was so shocked by the extreme differences in these two identical twins that they conducted a study. The university did an extensive study that included a series of questions. One was what event in their life had made the biggest impact on making them the persons they were today. Interviewers were amazed when both had the same answer. The biggest impact on both of their lives had been the death of their parents at a young age. You see, one event impacted on both lives, but one of them was able to overcome his hardship and get back on life's course, while the other let this one tragic event alter his path and ultimately lead him to a dead end.

We all have, or will, encounter challenges along our way, and as much as we would like it we can't take an alternate route in order to avoid them. In reality we must face them. I remember learning this as a youngster, as I'm sure most of you do. However, one time stands out in particular. You see, my brother Mike and I had been begging for a swimming pool for a while, and finally upon agreement to help out with taking care of the pool, Mom and Dad agreed to put one in. Well, as you can imagine once the pool was in, maintenance was not our favorite pastime. One afternoon we had the tedious task of sweeping up all of the leaves from around the pool and bagging them up, but because we had other things to do we came up with an ingenious plan. Instead of picking up the leaves and putting them in the bags, we swept them under the furniture and thought no one would ever notice. Well, Dad made it home later that day, and let me tell you, he did notice!

Since that time I've encountered many other challenges and most of them have been much more complicated. But, the lesson I learned on that fall afternoon has stuck with me. We must face our challenges head on. The difference between those of us who are successful and those of us who are not, is not the number of challenges we must face, but how we deal with those that are put in front of us. Whether it is as simple as family chores, or much more serious such as dealing with a death like the twins, or maybe a more common occurrence such as striving to fit in and be accepted, overcoming a defeat for something you really wanted, or just trying to cope with a difficult situation at home or school; whatever the challenge, we must face it.

We've all met challenges along our way, and so, also, has the FFA and agriculture. But, with the determination to succeed and the strength to withstand pressures and negativ-

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ity, they, too, have prospered. The FFA is an organization that has been around for 66 years. Throughout these years, it has faced its share of potholes and rough pavement.

Only a few years ago, many would have sworn that an organization like this would not be around in 1993. For several years we did see decreasing numbers in our membership and what seemed to be less interest in our organization, but today we are on the rise. We are not only growing, but we are growing by leaps and bounds! In the past two years we have had over 30,000 new members, and today we have over 417,000 members nationwide. The national FFA organization has much to be proud of, and all of you have made it happen!

The industry of agriculture is one that has had some tough times in recent years, also. The past 10 to 15 years may not have been the easiest time to be in agriculture. But, we are definitely not a dying industry. Today, agriculture remains our nation's largest industry representing a whopping 17 percent of our nation's gross national product, employing some 21 million people, and is clearly still serving as the "breadbasket" of the world. Agriculture remains our nation's best and most vital industry, and its future is secure in your hands.

Yes, the road of life can be hard at times. We must remember, we can make it through these challenges. After all, the only difference between adversity and opportunity is our attitude. With a winning attitude, simply living can be the *Ride of Your Life!*

Being one that has always enjoyed excitement on and off the highway, I tend to live from day to day in this manner. But, unlike the highway, where we can be encouraged to slow down, in life we set our own pace, and I don't know about you, but mine is usually a pretty fast pace. I've always got my mind on the big picture, and I sometimes forget those small, but most valuable components. When looking down the road of life, I, like many of us, too often envision a long, winding road that ends at a particular destination, when in reality it's a road made up of a thousand pit stops which represent those simple things that make up our lives.

As a national officer, one spends a lot of time away from home. So this year has been one that has opened my eyes to many of the simple things that mean the most in my life, whether it be spending time with my close friends and family at home, Saturday afternoon Gator football games, a great year of service with my state and national officer teams, Sundays in church, riding horses, or maybe a special family gathering each Thanksgiving at Nanny and Papa's. Many of these happenings or events may seem very simple and could easily be taken for granted, but each holds a special place in my heart. Looking at these simple events that mean the most in my life, there is something that stands out about each of them. They all involve people, either my friends or family.

As we look back down the road of life, I think one of the easiest things to overlook is the special people that have traveled life's highway by our sides. What would life be like with just you and the radio? Although we do occasionally have a backseat driver, the passengers who ride life's highway with us are pretty special people. Today we live in a society where true friends and people who care seem pretty hard to find. But I know they are out there, because this past year I have seen thousands as I traveled from state to state and chapter to chapter visiting. From a warm welcome early in the year in Michigan to a crazy time in North Dakota and all the way back home to the open arms of my family and friends in Florida, this year has been made complete by each of you. Yes, there are many who care and are willing to reach out with a hand of

friendship if we would only take the time out of our busy schedules to stop and extend our hands. Tonight some 12,000 people fill this auditorium. Those are 12,000 opportunities for you to meet new people and make many new friends. I'll bet that within only a few feet from you, either to your right or left or in front or behind you, sits someone whom you have never met. Let's all take the opportunity right now to stop and reach out a hand and make a new friend. Most of the time it is something as simple as that, a smile and a friendly gesture, that can make a difference in someone's day, and you may be surprised that the biggest day impacted is your own.

In your journey through life, I wish you the joy and excitement that everyone deserves. I hope you take risks, live with enthusiasm, drive hard sometimes along life's way, but don't forget to slow down for an occasional Sunday afternoon drive with the sunroof back. After all, the simple things are what life is all about. What is most important in your life? Is it the clothes on your back, the money in your wallet, being cool? I doubt it. Be honest with yourself, and never put the most important things in your life at the mercy of those things which matter least. Life isn't a status symbol or even a final destination to reach, it's a journey, a ride. Enjoy the *Ride of Your Life!*

FFA members, somewhere ahead of you lies one way that God has designed especially for you. It is a road that encompasses all of your dreams and ambitions, it is exciting, challenging, rewarding and enjoyable, and it is up to you to find it. Each of us must have the vision to see our ambitions and ultimately, the perseverance to turn them into reality. President Kennedy once said, "Those who look only to the past or to the present are certain to miss the future." FFA members, your future is not one to miss, do not sit alongside the road of life and let it pass you by.

As I close this evening, I would like to say that it has been a distinct pleasure serving you this year. It is without a doubt this jacket and my involvement with this organization that has brought me to this crossroad in my life—knowing who I am and where I want to go. This year has been unbelievable. Thanks to all of you for making it that way!

As a final challenge, just remember none of us has been promised a smooth ride. Life will be filled with a fair share of both challenges and rewards. But, with the courage to face life's obstacles and a slower pace to reap life's rewards, we can truly discover what life's journey is all about. When it comes down to it, you are the only person who has control over you and where you want to go, but do it right the first time, because even though you have the power to change at any time, you can never go back!

So take it easy, don't get in too big of a hurry, and maybe next time, when you look up in your rearview mirror, you won't see those flashing lights. FFA members, best of luck on your journey. I hope it's the *Ride of Your Life!* □



Seeds

John Kleiboeker
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All my life I've had a deep interest in history; learning about how things were done and how new technology was developed. Of course, the developments in agricultural knowledge

and technology are most fascinating to me.

Preparing the soil and planting the new crop has been the base of agriculture ever since the hunting and gathering peoples domesticated plants many centuries ago and thus became the first farmers. Planting methods have continually improved over the years due to the contributions of many intelligent people who have studied equipment design, plants, seeds and soil types. The agriculture industry here in the United States has benefited and prospered because of the developments made in this area. Today our country is known as the most productive food producing nation in the world.

I've been especially intrigued by how the soil type can make such a big difference in the productivity of plants. Whether planting a crop in a field of many acres with varying soil conditions or experimenting in a greenhouse, we can see that some plants do extremely well while others suffer. The same is true with people.

Kathy Mattea was right when she said we're all just seeds scattered over the earth. When you think about it, we are like seeds. We were each planted in a different place with different environments in which we grew up. The fantastic difference between us and plants is that we can determine which soil is better for us and move ourselves in order to reap the benefits of the new location. Many people have chosen to relocate here in America—the land of freedom.

All you have to do these days is pick up a newspaper and read about many different types of people who have decided that the United States is a more fertile place for them than the country from which they came.

This has been true ever since our country formed in 1776. I'd like to share the history of one such person with you.

In 1866 a young German farmer and carpenter decided the United States was the place to be. Trying to escape the famine Germany was experiencing at the time, he took a ship from Germany to New Orleans and then came up the Mississippi River to St. Louis. There he found a job building caskets for people who were dying from the cholera plague. What a situation to walk into! This was supposed to be the country of promise! He worked hard and eventually settled in Lawrence County, Mo., where he raised his family and continued farming.

That man was my great-great grandfather, Johann Kleiboeker. I've always admired him for his pioneering spirit and the commitment he had to improving his own life and the life of others.

I am certainly glad he came to the United States, but I also think it would be hard to make that move. Leaving your home country for a new country seems like one of the greatest risks a person can take. Risks, though, are a part of everyday life.

In FFA we've all attended goal-setting workshops where we've been instructed to accept the risk and just go for it. There are millions of poems, quotes and stories that illustrate the need to sometimes take risks. Consider all the people throughout history who took risks in order to achieve their dreams. Abraham Lincoln risked his reputation and life for others' freedom. Walt Disney was told to give up drawing when he was young, but he took the risks, continued drawing, and became famous along with Mickey Mouse. Helen Keller was deaf and blind, but she graduated from Radcliffe College with honors. Harriet Tubman was an older woman and a wanted ex-slave who risked her own life for the lives of others. What about Charles Lindbergh's commitment to cross the Atlantic in a single-engine plane? The examples could go on and on. People immigrating to new countries is one more example.

What is it that drives people to take risks? From what I've seen, successful people have faith that what they are doing is going to be successful. That faith is what enables them to take the risk.

But what is faith? The Webster's Dictionary definition is almost half a page so I'll give you my abbreviated definition: Faith is believing or trusting in something important to you.

Why is faith so important? Take a look at your own life. What has seemingly pushed or sometimes pulled you toward the achievement of your goals? I'd bet that most of the time it has been that feeling of faith and belief that you would accomplish whatever goal it was that you were working toward. Last spring I witnessed an example of faith and risk taking that has inspired me.

I was spending a fantastic week visiting friends in Missouri when Mom called with some upsetting news. My grandpa was sick and had gone to the hospital. The doctors determined it was his heart and that open heart surgery was the only alternative. He'd already had open heart surgery several years ago, so this would be the second time. They said his chance of survival was slim, and that he could risk surgery or go home and plan his funeral. The next morning, after receiving the news about Grandpa, I left for Manhattan, Kan., and the Kansas FFA convention. I called Grandpa right away after I got there so I could let him know I'd be thinking about him and praying for him. On the other end of the phone was the most enthusiastic person in the world! I was shocked by his attitude. Grandpa told me not to worry about him at all. "Just have a good time at the convention," he said. "We can't do anything now but trust God." He was content to place his life in the hands of God and the doctors. He felt like he could rest easy and since he could, I could too. I believe Grandpa's show of faith is the greatest I have ever experienced. Today he is doing pretty well, and he does exercises to re-develop his strength. I attribute his surgical success to his faith that all would turn out okay. He had enough faith to take the risk, and he reached his goal of a longer life!

Faith can do all kinds of good for us. It not only inspires us as we pursue our dreams and goals, but it can also relieve our worries and anxieties. Faith is truly amazing. But how can it become established in us and how does it grow? Like a seed, faith can be planted in a person's heart.

We can plant our own faith or someone else can inspire it in us. We all know a farmer will only choose fields with the desirable soil type for raising a crop, likewise we only place faith in that which we really trust.

As a plant grows and matures it has to be cared for: watered, fertilized and the weeds removed. Faith has to be tended to also. We help it grow in a variety of ways. By constantly telling ourselves we will accomplish our goals, our confidence and faith in ourselves and our abilities will grow. By always looking for the good in others and recognizing their strengths and good traits, our faith in other people will continue to grow and mature.

The weeds that enter our lives and try to choke out our faith have to be removed also. Travis Park has always talked about the importance of having "no doubts and no fears." Doubts and fears are examples of the weeds that try to choke our faith in ourselves and the goals we set. Criticism, too much pride, and the temptation to always put ourselves first are the types of weeds that choke out our faith in others.

If we take good care of our faith, it will grow and mature just like these corn plants. When it's time to harvest this corn,

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the ear will be full of new kernels, each of which are ready to be planted again. Once we feel our faith is strong and mature we too can harvest and plant new seeds. The seeds may be used to keep our faith strong, but more than likely we will share our faith with others and help them establish their own faith and make it prosper and grow.

Another great thing is that we can have faith in whatever we choose. As I've visited with FFA members from all over the United States, I've found that their faith is placed in many things such as God, family, friends, dreams, goals, opportunities, the future and themselves. We are truly blessed here in the United States in that we are free to express our faith in these things. Many immigrants say this is one of the greatest freedoms our country offers. I would have to agree.

We enjoy that freedom as FFA members. Consider the FFA Creed that most of us have memorized at some point during our FFA careers. It is the most powerful statement of faith in agriculture that has ever been written. As we recite the creed, we say the words "I believe" six times. Just by joining the FFA we are testifying to others that we believe that no matter who you are, what your background is, who your friends are or where you live, you can develop a future for yourself in agriculture. We believe in the power of leadership, hard work, increasing knowledge, fair trade and our ability to positively influence our home and community. But where do these beliefs stem from? They are a faith born not of words but of deeds. It's one thing for us to say "I believe," it's another to demonstrate it through our actions and dedication to the cause.

My great-great grandfather didn't just say he was going to the United States, he took the risk and went. Walt Disney didn't just think about becoming an artist, he became one. Helen Keller didn't just say she believed in herself, she proved it. Harriet Tubman didn't just talk about freedom, she led others to it!

Fellow FFA members, now is the time for us not to just tell others we believe in the future of agriculture, but to lead them to it. We all know the opportunities are greater than we can enjoy ourselves. We need to help others develop their faith in this great industry. It will be a challenge, but if we really have faith, we will be able to accept the risks and meet the challenges!

Many people ask me how I've accomplished so much in my life and I tell them the simple answer, "I believed it could be done so I did it." The same is true for many of you. You believed it could be done and you did it!

You know, it's just like a farmer who has planted a crop. There is no guarantee that the crop will prosper, but as the seeds were planted so was the farmer's faith that the crop would survive. My ancestors had no guarantees when they came to America, but they had faith in the opportunities this great country provides. Immigrants today accept the same risk when moving to a new land, yet they have the same faith that the new opportunities are worth that risk.

We shouldn't fear the risks of making new friends, standing up for our family or beliefs, setting adventurous goals or leading others to agriculture, but rather have faith that it will all work out for everyone's good.

Once we've planted that seed of faith and allowed it to grow, we need to share it with others and help them sow their seeds of faith.

My advisor, friends and family have always had faith in me, and that has strengthened my faith in myself. I can't thank them enough for that. I believe in them, God, agriculture and you, FFA members. Now is the time to sow your seeds of faith

if you haven't, and it's time to help others sow their seeds of faith as well. Just remember: Everybody has a seed to sow and the time is NOW! Thank you for letting me serve and believe in each of you this year.

God bless you all as you sow your seeds of faith!



The Domino Effect

Rick Perkins

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As a youngster, many of you may remember receiving a set of dominoes as a gift.

I do recall receiving my own set of dominoes.

In fact, I never learned to play the game; I wanted the dominoes for another reason. I wanted them so that I could place them on end, one after another, in a long line. Then, by knocking the first domino over, I would watch the line of dominoes tumble over in a chain reaction.

I was always amazed that by knocking over just one domino, I could cause so many to fall with it. I refer to this as "the domino effect." I have come to realize that this reaction occurs not just when playing with dominoes, but in our lives as well.

Since the beginning of time, people have made positive and negative impacts on others by the decisions they have or have not made. The Bible illustrates the positive effect that one can have on another. Many of you may recall the parable in which Jesus instructed the apostles and disciples to feed the crowd who gathered to hear his sermon. They told Jesus that they had collected only two fish and five loaves of bread to feed the 5,000 assembled. The miracle was not in feeding the crowd with such a small amount of food, but that He taught us to share with one another. On the other hand, history has taught us that people can affect others in a negative manner. Adolph Hitler was a leader who was able to convince thousands of people to follow and implement his master plan to annihilate the Jews and many others. Both illustrate the impact of the domino effect.

Everyday we face the domino effect when we are forced to make decisions. Many of us have a difficult time making decisions. We do not always know the outcome of our choices and how they will affect others until they have been decided. Some decisions that we face daily could be as simple as what to eat for breakfast, or what to wear. Others may not be so easy, like the time I had to decide if I was going to ask this girl out who had already said no three times the day before. There are three types of decisions that are very important in our lives that we need to address, and they involve personal, educational and career choices.

Personal decisions make up our foundation. Just as the dominoes here on stage have a solid foundation on which to stand, so many of us have a similar foundation. My personal foundation is planted in my family, my faith and society. Imagine a building being erected starting with the foundation. The mortar is representative of my parents who have instilled in me a deep faith, and morals and values that I will need to succeed throughout life. Mom and Dad, you have given me life, but more importantly, you have given me guidance and

stood behind me in the decisions I have made. Thank you for your unending love and constant support. This past year I had to rely on my strong spiritual belief when I found myself lonely, confused and away from my family. The core of my personal foundation is the Bible and its teachings. Many times when I would stumble and fall, I would reach to the Bible as my source of strength.

My brothers are another key element in the foundation that I have always relied upon. I have respect and admiration for them because they have provided me with advice when I have had difficult decisions to make in my life. Over the past five years, I have been acquainted with an individual who has helped me to stay on solid ground. A very special friend of mine, Jami, I thank you for always believing in me and helping me believe in myself.

Another aspect of personal decisions deals with one's social life. These decisions usually revolve around such things as morals and values. For example, teenage pregnancy has been a serious concern over the past 10 years. In 1992 alone, one-fourth of all babies were born to unwed mothers of which two-thirds were teenagers. Nearly a quarter of these infants were born into poverty. Our high school dropout rate is 12 percent, and violence is at an all-time high. Right now there are 1.1 million people in prison, and 75 percent of those incarcerated are high school dropouts. The social decision to take part in underage drinking, premarital sex, and the use of illegal drugs can result in negative consequences. These statistics are explicit examples of the domino's chain reaction. We must address these problems, find workable solutions and stop this domino effect. As Americans we are always trying to do things right, but we have to start looking at doing the right things. We must base our decisions on a strong foundation of beliefs and values such as those still upheld by the FFA.

A second type of decision deals with those centered around education and the FFA. Dr. Richard Sisson, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost of The Ohio State University is an example of someone making a positive difference in his life and the lives of the people he touches.

Dr. Sisson is a former FFA member from southeastern Ohio who served as a state FFA officer. After his service to the FFA, he undertook a rigorous college course of study and became an outstanding scholar in education. Dr. Sisson took advantage of the educational opportunity that the FFA gave him, and because of his belief in agriculture and education, he is continuing to serve others. FFA members, you and I need to continue to strive toward excellence in education and in our supervised agricultural experience programs.

Seated in front of me are more than 1,200 individuals who have chosen to take advantage of their opportunities in this organization. Because of their perseverance and willingness to dare, they have reached beyond their comfort zones and are making an impact on American agriculture. Later today, we will bestow upon each of them the American FFA Degree. I challenge the recipients to continue their learning process by enrolling in either a two- or four-year college program. For those of you who are already in the work force, I challenge you to continue to enhance your skills through industry-based training programs. FFA members and guests, it is your responsibility to make an informed decision on the educational opportunities that lie ahead in your life.

I have reflected upon one decision that I had to make prior to my freshman year in high school. I had no idea that the choice I was making would have such a tremendous domino effect on my life. It revolved around whether or not to enroll in

agricultural education. I chose not to enroll because I was informed that agricultural education and the FFA could not help me in the career path I had chosen—that of becoming a lawyer. In August of my freshman year, my agricultural education teacher, Mr. Tom Gerschutz, called my home and spoke with my mother and asked why I had not signed up for his class. After a short conversation he asked if he could visit my home and talk with me about the program. One week later, Mr. Gerschutz visited with me and my parents and showed me how agricultural education and the FFA could benefit me in becoming a lawyer. He showed us how I could take both college preparatory and vocational classes at the same time. The hitch was, I would not have a study hall like the rest of my classmates. When the first day of school arrived, I visited my guidance counselor and informed him that I wanted to enroll in the agriculture program. Little did I know the impact of such a decision.

At that point in my life, I never thought I would be where I am today, representing over 417,000 students enrolled in agricultural education and the FFA. To my two FFA advisors, Mr. Roland Zimmerman and Mr. Tom Gerschutz, thank you for encouraging and believing in me. With your confidence I have been able to succeed in the FFA. I want to personally thank the Sentinel Vocational Center School District for their support of me, agricultural education, and the FFA. Thank you. Mr. Jim Scott, Ohio executive secretary, thank you for guiding me through my years of state office. I would not be standing up here today if it were not for you. Thank you for being a true friend.

A year ago, five other individuals and I made a decision to serve this organization and its members. The opportunities you have allowed me to experience this past year will always be memorable. To Travis, Kevin, John, Todd and Dennis, I have grown to love you as brothers and respect each of you for the talents you possess. To Mr. Stagg and the national staff, thank you for your guidance this past year. I appreciate your efforts to make a positive difference in our organization.

Just as the decision I made was significant, so, too, will be the ones you will make about agricultural education and the FFA. FFA members, this organization holds for you opportunities such as public speaking, proficiency awards, degrees, conferences and offices. I encourage you to make the decision to become active in your chapter. To the parents, I encourage you to give continued support to your child by supporting them through their supervised agricultural experience programs and permitting them to get involved in FFA activities. Your decision to be a partner or to get involved will have a domino effect, but the question is what effect will you have made?

A third type of decision each of you will be faced with will be in the area of career choice. Our FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. The industry of agriculture has over 200 career opportunities for each of us. Whether it be in marketing, production or communications, the future awaits you and me. In order to take advantage of these opportunities, you and I must develop quality supervised agricultural experience programs in entrepreneurship and placement which are beneficial to the agricultural industry and the public. Developing new and innovative uses for traditional agricultural commodities is both interesting and challenging. FFA members, you must decide what impact you wish to have

(Continued on page 70)



Honorary American FFA Degrees

Throughout the convention, the spotlight was usually on the members. On Friday morning, though, it was time to pay tribute to those adults who had given extraordinary amounts of time, energy and talent to the FFA.

The recipients of the Honorary American FFA Degree hailed from a variety of professions—teaching, business, government, and a host of other areas. All shared a common interest in young people and the organization, and had given generously of themselves.

The national FFA officers congratulated the recipients on stage, and presented each with an honorary key and certificate.

ALABAMA: Michael S. Tidwell, Montgomery

ARKANSAS: Richard E. Bell, Stuttgart; Eva Fletcher, Hot Springs

CALIFORNIA: Rusty Areias, Sacramento; Bill D. Burrows, Redding; Glen Casey, San Luis Obispo; Allen Christensen, Pomona; Bill Jones, Sacramento; Evon Lewis, Madera; Howard Lewis, Madera

COLORADO: David C. Whaley, Fort Collins

FLORIDA: Mark Williams, Oviedo

GEORGIA: Earl Cheek, Perry; J. A. Johnson, Winder; Ronald E. Jones Sr., Tifton; Martha Maloch, Atlanta; Joe E. Roberson Jr., Atlanta

IDAHO: Joe Hopper, Fruitland

ILLINOIS: Errol Baxter, Chicago; Susan Croce Kelly, Des Plaines; Bonnie Culp, Chicago; Beth Hill, Chicago; Jeffrey Hoch, Willowbrook; Richard Jelinek, Chicago; William Kokontis, Chicago; James Laudenslager, East Peoria; John W. Maitland Jr., Springfield; Tim Martin, East Peoria; Glenn Nichols, Jacksonville; Robert M. VanPatten, Fairview Heights

KANSAS: Albert W. Adams, Manhattan; Robert E. Heifner, Topeka

MARYLAND: John L. Thompson, Frederick

MICHIGAN: John Hilt, North Muskegon; Carroll H. Wamhoff, East Lansing

MINNESOTA: Mark E. Anderson, Bloomington; Byron E. Harrison, Waseca; Gordon G. Jindra, North Mankato; R. L. Johnson, Willmar; James W. Kelm, Red Wing; DelRay D. Lecy, Staples; Bert O. Lund, St. Paul; Steven Pooch, St. Paul; Kenneth R. Stenzel, Glencoe; James J. Tiedke, St. Paul

MISSISSIPPI: Jacquelyn P. Deeds, Mississippi State; Robert M. Houston, Jackson; Edward Tonore Jr., Jackson

MISSOURI: Jim D. Bellis, Aurora; Terry A. Blanks, Kansas City; Henry D. Bobe, Kansas City; Steve A. Brown, Jefferson City; Robert L. Harness, St. Louis; R. Crosby Kemper, Kansas City; Bob Nash, Kansas City; Dayle J. Reynolds, Kansas City; Dennis Stewart, Kansas City; Jim L. Welker, Cape Girardeau

NEBRASKA: Bonnie Muller, Lincoln

NEVADA: Robert G. Dyer, Eureka; Tim Gallagher, Fallon

NEW JERSEY: William A. Caldwell, Seabrook

NORTH DAKOTA: H. Roald Lund, Fargo;

Robert N. Spolum, Fargo

OHIO: Brenda Correll, Columbus

OKLAHOMA: Ralph Dean, Owasso; Kenneth Kirby, Granite; Barbara Kirby, Granite; Jim Meek, Stillwater

OREGON: John McCulley, Salem; Sherm Olsrud, Medford

RHODE ISLAND: Richard I. Millar, Kingston

SOUTH DAKOTA: Edward J. Mueller, Pierre; William A. Poppen, DeSmet

VIRGINIA: Glenn A. Anderson, Richmond; Mark D. Cavell, Alexandria; Carol Duval Herl, Alexandria; Joan Rutherford, Woodbridge; David Rutherford, Woodbridge

WEST VIRGINIA: Arthur W. Selders, Morgantown

WISCONSIN: Robert Bosold, Altoona; Barbara J. Havens, Madison; John Johansen, Racine; John L. Keller, Madison; Judith Klusman, Madison; Glenn B. Sims, Madison

Agriculture Teachers

CALIFORNIA: Cindy Brown, Porterville; Karen Falconer, Williams; William L. Fales, Ferndale; Jacquelyn Jaenicke, Lompoc; Gary Lesh, Mira Loma; Wayne Pitzler, Chino Hills; Karl Sullivan, Paso Robles

GEORGIA: Larry Moore, Harlem

IDAHO: Terry L. Crawford, Culesac

ILLINOIS: Donald Bumphrey, Warsaw; Joe Coldwell, Pleasant Hill

INDIANA: Bryan D. Gause, Liberty; Ron Kammeyer, Bremen; Steve Keown, Flora; Steven Stauffer, Poneto

IOWA: Brian E. Harper, West Union; Milt Luckstead Jr., Cascade; Gene Mohling, Alburnett

MARYLAND: R. Douglas Hering, Frederick

MICHIGAN: Willard C. Fowler, Jonesville

MINNESOTA: Dennis Bjorklund, Chaska; Kevin Hansen, Montevideo

MISSOURI: Everett E. Balman, Hardin; John Haselhorst, Westphalia; John Hobbs, Anderson; Ken Lockridge, Gallatin; James A. MacLean, Columbia; Charles Parkes, Westphalia; James N. Proffitt, Richmond; Eldon R. Schakenberg, Neosho; Bruce Trussell, Tina; Steve Yates, Monroe City

MONTANA: James B. Rose, Clyde Park

NEBRASKA: Ray Collins, Prague; Francis Jorgensen, Cambridge

NEW JERSEY: Thomas C. Passmore, Seabrook

NEW MEXICO: Fabian Chavez, Santa Fe

NORTH CAROLINA: Emanuel A. May, Raleigh

NORTH DAKOTA: Steven D. Zimmerman, Towner

OHIO: Paul D. Barnaby Sr., Metamora; R. Brad Moffitt, Morrall; Roger R. Smith, Newark; Bruce Thayer, Collins

OKLAHOMA: Wayne Chambers, Vici; Dale Jenkins Jr., Dustin; Tom Lamle, Beaver; Phillip Pamplin, Ringwood; Gerald W. Parks, Calera; Bruce Ragsdale, Allen; Lyle Rounds, Leedey; Monte C. Womack, Weleetka; Robert E. Wright, Idabel

OREGON: Arthur R. Gilmore, Woodburn

TEXAS: John E. Dawley, Groesbeck; Gary A. Vos, Katy; Scotty E. Windham, Abernathy

WEST VIRGINIA: Connie Jean McClung, Dewhurst, Ripley

WISCONSIN: Mary K. Jenkins, Madison; David R. Laatsch, Beaver Dam; Charles Rasmussen, Lancaster; R. Tim Wyss, Clear Lake

Honorary American FFA Degrees

Some recipients of the Honorary American FFA Degree were chosen by virtue of the special effort it takes to fill their given roles in the FFA. Three such groups of people are the parents of retiring national officers, the parents of the stars, and retiring members of the National FFA Board of Directors, Trustees and Consultants.

Any parent of an FFA member, especially of a very active one, knows firsthand the contributions of time and support involved. The degrees bestowed on the parents of these two high-achieving groups of FFA members signify not only the organization's appreciation of their sacrifices, but also those of FFA parents around the nation.

Educators and business professionals who served as members and consultants of the National Board of Directors and Trustees of the National FFA Foundation were recognized for their terms of service. These individuals were honored for their commitment to the future of the organization.

Parents of Stars in Agribusiness and Star Farmers

GEORGIA: Betty Y. Nelson, Ashburn, James F. Nelson Sr., Ashburn

IOWA: Carol Bruce, Red Oak; Kenneth Bruce, Red Oak

MISSOURI: Thelma Cawyer, Ashbury; Wiley Cawyer, Ashbury

NEBRASKA: Agnetta Tiedeman, Hickman; Loyd Tiedeman, Hickman

NORTH DAKOTA: Alice Ketterling, Wishek; Art Ketterling, Wishek

OKLAHOMA: Willadean Ramsey, Jones; Donald E. Ramsey, Jones

SOUTH DAKOTA: Gloria Keck, Lawrence; Dennis Keck, Lawrence

WASHINGTON: Arlynn Arestad, Ferndale; Jerry Arestad, Ferndale

Parents of National Officers

CALIFORNIA: Shelley Burts, Redding; Dennis Burts, Redding; Larry White, Redding

FLORIDA: Dorothy Long, Live Oak; Larry Long, Live Oak; Duane Hingson, McAlpin

INDIANA: Elizabeth Park, Franklin; Joseph Park, Franklin

MISSOURI: Carole Kleiboeker, Stotts City; Donald A. Kleiboeker, Stotts City

OHIO: Sarah Perkins, Bloomville; William Perkins, Bloomville

TEXAS: Irene Degner, Malone; Morris Degner, Malone

National FFA Board of Directors, Trustees and Consultants

ALABAMA: Frank Trione, Daphne

ILLINOIS: Dale Miller, Des Plaines

MISSOURI: Leon Schumacher, Columbia

OHIO: Jamie Cano, Columbus

WISCONSIN: Merle Richter, Bloomer



Monte Womack, an agriculture instructor from Weleetka, Okla., received the Honorary American FFA Degree Friday in recognition of his 10 years of service to the FFA. To help him celebrate his achievement, Womack (left) was accompanied at convention registration by his wife, Reina, and their sons Brent (front left), six; Brian, seven; Bradley, two; and Brandon, six, as well as Weleetka High School Principal James Lyons. As a sign of his dedication to the FFA, all four of Womack's sons are already lifetime FFA Alumni members.

National FFA Foundation

For the 27th consecutive year, the National FFA Foundation set a record level of support for FFA and agricultural education programs. At Thursday evening's session, Dale A. Miller, 1993 FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board chairman, announced that a total of \$5,075,000 was raised in 1993 to support projects and programs for FFA and agricultural education, a 7-percent increase from 1992.

Miller, president and chief executive officer of Sandoz Agro, Inc., saw the contributions of more than 1,000 Foundation sponsors as an investment in the future. "American agriculture counts on the FFA to provide the leaders of tomorrow," he said. "For that reason alone, those of us who work in this industry can make no wiser expenditure than to support this fine organization."

Ron Davis, president and CEO of Biggs/Gilmore Communications, was introduced as the 1994 Foundation Sponsors' Board chairman. The 1994 Foundation theme, "FFA—Leaders for the 21st Century," was also revealed at the national convention.

Since 1944, the National FFA Foundation has provided more than \$46 million to FFA members for awards, scholarships and achievement programs.



National FFA Secretary Kevin White accepted on behalf of the National FFA Organization a donation of \$25,000 from Kenny Warren, management representative of Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., a Four-Star National FFA Foundation sponsor.

50-Year Sponsor

John Deere
Moline, Ill.

35-Year Sponsors

A.O. Smith Harvestore Products, Inc.
DeKalb, Ill.

IMC Fertilizer Group, Inc.
Mundelein, Ill.

Pitman-Moore, Inc.
Mundelein, Ill.

25-Year Sponsors

Blue Seal Feeds, Inc.
Lawrence, Mass.

The Procter & Gamble Fund
Cincinnati, Ohio

The Upjohn Company/Agricultural Division
Kalamazoo, Mich.

Georgia Power Company
Atlanta, Ga.

Hallmark Corporate Foundation
Kansas City, Mo.

15-Year Sponsors

American Sheep Industry Association
Englewood, Colo.

Na-Churs Plant Food Company
Marion, Ohio

The Oklahoma Publishing Company
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Don Dye Company, Incorporated
Kingman, Kan.

Patz Sales, Inc.
Pound, Wis.

Sponsors' Board Executive Council

1993 Chairman

Dale A. Miller, President and Chief Executive Officer, Sandoz Agro, Inc.

1994 Chairman-Elect

Ron Davis, President and Chief Executive Officer, Biggs/Gilmore Communications

1995 Chairman-Elect

H.D. Cleberg, President and Chief Executive Officer, Farmland Industries, Inc.

1996 Chairman-Elect

Richard O. Shuler, Vice President and General Manager, Syntex Animal Health, North America

Past Chairman (1992)

Neil O. Christenson, Vice President, Agricultural Marketing, United States & Canada, Deere & Company

National FFA Foundation

New and Continuing Sponsors' Board

Donna J. Banks, Vice President, Research, Kellogg Company

Wayne L. Beck, Supply Management, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

Donald O. Borgman, Senior Vice President, Boatmen's First National Bank of Kansas City

Norman A. Braksick, President, Asgrow Seed Company

Jon R. Carlson, Vice President, Retail Operations, North America, Case Corporation

William P. DeMeno, Senior Vice President—Business Operations, Nationwide Insurance Companies

William J. Doyle, President, PCS Sales

Paul F. Engler, Chief Executive Officer, Cactus Feeders, Inc.

Walter A. Gardiner, President and Chief Operating Officer, Imperial Schrade Corporation

Marcia E. Glenn, Director, Dairy Economics and Dairy Ingredient Management, Kraft General Foods

Walter P. Hobgood, Jr., Vice President, Animal Sciences Division, The Agricultural Group of Monsanto Company

Allan R. Johnson, President, ABC Publishing Agricultural Group

Steve A. Kirchner, Director of Sales and Marketing, The Valvoline Company

Lee O. Lochmann, President and Chief Operating Officer, ConAgra Meat Products Company

Earl Morgan, Vice President and Group Manager, Agricultural Chemicals Group, FMC Corporation

Gary A. Myers, Executive Vice President, Morgan&Myers

Richard M. Pelton, Executive Vice President, O. F. Mossberg and Sons, Inc.

Monte Reese, Chief Executive Officer, Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board

Joe Scarlett, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Tractor Supply Co.

Tadd C. Seitz, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, The O.M. Scott & Sons Company

W. Jay Spencer, National Truck Sales Development Manager, Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

Robert D. Van Schoick, Director of Marketing, Production Animal Products, Merck AgVet Division

Boyd D. Wainscott, President and Chief Executive Officer, Transnational, Inc.

Catherine A. Westphal, Assistant Vice President, Public Relations, Santa Fe Pacific Corporation, Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway

Mark Williams, President, National FFA Alumni Association

Robert A. Woods, President, ZENECA Ag Products Group, ZENECA, Inc.

Distinguished Service Citations

The Distinguished Service Citation is FFA's way of saying "thank you" to companies that have generously supported the organization, through financial contributions as well as many hours of time volunteered by employees. DowElanco, Kubota Tractor Corporation and Miles Inc., Agriculture Division were commended for their efforts at the Thursday afternoon session.



Distinguished Service Citations were granted to companies who show notable support to FFA. Ted McKinney (left), DowElanco Community Affairs & Contribution Manager; Mabry Anderson, Miles Inc., Agriculture Division Sales Control Manager; and Mike Broeker, Kubota Director/Division Manager, enjoyed their honors at Thursday's ceremony.

DowElanco of Indianapolis, Ind., has been a sponsor of agricultural education and the FFA for 36 years. They have recently become special project sponsors of the National FFA Foundation for the new Agricultural Issues Program and video. The company also sponsors an interactive exhibit at the National Agricultural Career Show during the FFA convention.

Miles Inc., Agriculture Division of Kansas City, Mo., has contributed more than \$350,000 during its 27 years of service to the National FFA Foundation. As a Three Star Sponsor, the company currently supports the FFA Food For America program, a national officer candidate event, and an exhibit at the National Agricultural Career Show during the FFA convention.

Kubota Tractor Corporation of Torrance, Calif., has supported FFA and its programs for 11 years. Kubota has been a co-sponsor of the FFA Nursery/Landscape Contest and the FFA Specialty Crop Proficiency Award. Their support for agricultural education through the National FFA Foundation has provided many opportunities for FFA members.

Retiring Sponsors' Board

Henry D. Bobe, President and Chief Executive Officer, Fermenta Animal Health Company

C. L. William Haw, Chief Executive Officer, National Farms, Inc.

John M. Johansen, Director, Sales Programming and Pricing, North American Ag Sales, Case Corporation

Jonathan Kemper, President and Chief Executive Officer, Commerce Bank of Kansas City

Tom O. Luehder, Vice President, AGRIGENETICS

Virgil O. Martinson, Past President, National FFA Alumni Association

E. Frank Santos, President and Chief Executive Officer, Valent U.S.A. Corporation

Gary Duncan, President and Chief Executive Officer, NC+ Hybrid, Inc.

National FFA Alumni

The gavel rose, and enthusiastic delegates responded to the call for action in their organization. No, these were not FFA delegates, but rather the people who have been a source of support to many FFA chapters for over 20 years—Alumni.

Whether the gavel sounded at regional meetings where members discussed policy, or rapped to announce the sale of a brand-new pickup truck to the parent of a national officer, the National FFA Alumni Association's annual convention Wednesday called attention to an organization of people dedicated to agricultural education and FFA.

Awards

After regional meetings, alumni members gathered in Bartle Hall to salute affiliates for excellence in membership growth. The Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association was recognized for having both the most life members in a state (over 3000) and the most life affiliates in a state (62). Arizona was distinguished for its 79% membership growth, the largest this year. New Lexington, Ohio and Denmark, Wisc., shared honors for the most life members in an affiliate, each with over 300.

Six state FFA alumni associations were honored for increasing membership by 100 people during the past year. Those states joining the ranks of the 1993 Blue Blazer Club were: Ariz., Fla., Ill., Miss., Okla., Texas and Va.

Outstanding FFA Alumni Affiliate awards were presented to 33 affiliates, earning gold, silver and bronze rankings. For the third consecutive year, Milton, Wisc., boasting 331 members, was recognized as the Outstanding FFA Alumni Affiliate, while for the second consecutive year, 402-member Denmark, Wisc., was runner-up.

Gold

Branford, Fla.	Black Hawk, South
Gilmer County,	Wayne, Wisc.
Ellijay, Ga.	Bonduel, Wisc.
Bushnell-Prairie City,	Denmark, Wisc.
Bushnell, Ill.	Freedom, Wisc.
Hill City, Kan.	Granton, Wisc.
Washington, Kan.	Mauston, Wisc.
Norfolk, Neb.	Milton, Wisc.
Schuyler, Neb.	

Also at the awards luncheon, Donald Burmeister, DeWitt, Iowa; John Croft, Normal, Ill.; and Roger Fanning, of Milton, Wisc., were selected to receive the 1993 FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award, which recognizes alumni members for their exceptional leadership and service to agricultural education and the agricultural industry. The award is the highest honor presented by the organization and is presented to not more than three individuals annually.



During Friday afternoon's tribute to the National FFA Alumni Association, a member of the Milton, Wisc., FFA Chapter presented a giant gold key to Bob Johnson of the Milton FFA Alumni, which was named Outstanding Alumni Affiliate.

Business

At Wednesday's business session, former national officer Sam Brownback delivered a keynote address emphasizing the importance of educating people outside the industry about agriculture. Following Legion of Merit presentations, 135 delegates elected a new Member-at-Large, Jim Guilingier, of Sycamore, Ill. Retiring President Mark Williams relinquished the gavel to newly elected president June Dean, Owasso, Okla. Central Region Representative Ken Natzke, Bonduel, Wisc., will assume the duties as alumni council vice president during 1993-94.

Auction

The business end of the convention finished, alumni and other FFA convention participants gathered to bid on nearly 300 items at the eighth annual FFA Alumni Auction, conducted by Ken Natzke and the National FFA Alumni Council. Through the cajoling of the auctioneers, Wisconsin's Yoap family, donors and bidders set an all-time record, raising over \$44,000 in scholarship funds.

In what was probably the most sentimental purchase of the evening, a four-wheel drive, full-size pickup courtesy of CHEVY TRUCKS sold for \$20,000 to Joe Park of Franklin, Ind., who bought the truck for his son, National FFA President Travis Park. Among the other items on the auction block was a tool chest with roll cabinet from Snap-on Tools Corp., purchased by Dr. James Heier, Denmark, Wisc., for \$1,000. The Amery, Wisc., FFA chapter paid \$1,200 for

a performance by hypnotist Dr. Jim Wand, and 500 gallons of liquid plant fertilizer furnished by Na-Churs Plant Food Company sold to Terry Pope, Carthage, Ill. for \$1,725.

From gavel to gavel, alumni members proved they were serious about accomplishing the organization's goals by installing new council members, recognizing outstanding affiliates and raising money for scholarships through their ever-popular auction. □

FFA Achievers



Wilson Carnes (left), Joe Hampton Jr., U.S. Senator Larry Craig, Edward McMillan and U.S. Representative Bill Sarpalius (represented here by Kirk Edney) have accomplished much in the agricultural industry. The former members were honored as FFA Achievers at the convention.

Every three years, FFA has the difficult, yet rewarding task of choosing from among the hundreds of distinguished former members to find those whose careers and service to the organization have elevated them to “achiever” status. Five such individuals were honored for their contributions in the areas of agricultural education, agricultural production, leadership, agribusiness and general agriculture.

At the Friday afternoon session, the FFA Achievers were introduced to the convention audience and honored with a commemorative plaque. The FFA Achiever’s program has a display housed in the FFA National Hall of Achievement at the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Va., where the honorees will be pictured. The display is sponsored by the Ford Motor Company Fund.

Wilson Carnes of Alexandria, Va., was honored in the area of agricultural education. For more than 36 years, Carnes served as associate editor and later editor of the FFA magazine, *FFA New Horizons* (formerly *The National Future Farmer*). In 1982, he was appointed administrative director of the organization until his retirement in 1991.

Joe Hampton Jr. of Windsor, Ill., was honored in the area of agricultural production. He currently serves as the chairman of the board for the U.S. Meat Export Federation. Hampton, who operates a 2000-acre grain and livestock farm, has provided producer input for the state of Illinois regarding agricultural export protocol with Russia.

U.S. Senator Larry Craig of Midvale, Idaho, says his FFA experience paved the way to his current position in Congress and to his recognition as the agricultural leadership inductee. Craig served as national FFA vice president in 1965-66. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 10 years before his election to the U.S. Senate in 1990.

Edward McMillan of St. Louis, Mo., was honored for his contributions to agribusiness during his career. As president and chief executive officer of Purina Mills, Inc., McMillan has become a leading figure in the animal nutrition industry. Presently, he serves as the chairman of the American Feed Industry Association.

U.S. Representative Bill Sarpalius of Texas was honored for his contributions to agriculture, rural development and small businesses in the general agriculture category. Before serving in the Texas State Senate for eight years, he was an agriculture teacher at Farley’s Boys Ranch, his home FFA chapter. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1988. □

VIP Citations



VIP Citations were bestowed upon Thomas J. Hennesy (left), Roger Lawrence, Herman D. Brown and Thomas A. Hoerner. The four have been instrumental in the success of the National FFA Organization.

Four individuals who have made great contributions to the National FFA Organization and young people were honored Friday morning during the VIP Citation ceremony. The recipients were introduced before the convention audience and presented commemorative plaques.

Thomas J. Hennesy of Nashville, Tenn., served as chairman of the National FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board in 1990. Under his leadership, the Foundation raised a record total of \$4,214,261. During his six years on the sponsors' board he also raised \$300,000 for the Foundation General Fund. Hennesy has endowed a scholarship in his wife's name and makes a visit to the selected recipient each year.

Roger Lawrence of Middletown, Conn., served as Connecticut's vocational agricultural consultant for 18 years. In addition, he coordinated the Farmarama Building at the Eastern States Exposition in Massachusetts during his tenure as consultant. His work helped many members in the eastern states gain opportunities for leadership in FFA and in agriculture.

Herman D. Brown of Tioga, Texas, helped modernize the agricultural education program in his state. The result was 23 semester courses that now serve as the agricultural science curriculum used by every teacher in the state. Brown was a 26-year member of the agricultural education staff at Texas A&M, and served as a consultant to the National FFA Board of Directors.

Thomas A. Hoerner of Ames, Iowa, played a key role in the initiation, development and operation of the National FFA Agricultural Mechanics Contest. He has been taught agricultural education at Iowa State University since 1974, and is now professor emeritus. □

National Agricultural Career Show

The 28th Annual FFA National Agricultural Career Show had something for everyone. Members could find information on every type of agricultural career imaginable at the 492 booths, and had the chance to meet with university and technical school representatives from across the country.

The agricultural industry was represented by associations and agribusiness firms interested in helping members discover new careers. Chapter leaders found new fundraising ideas in a special section of the show where members could sample products.

Exhibitors

Ace Bolt & Nut Company
Acme Boot Company
Ag Ed Network
Agricultural Communications
Alabama A&M University
AlfaLaval Agri Inc.
Allflex USA
Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity
American Angus Association
American Association for Vocational Instructional Materials
American Bison Association
American Blonde d'Aquitaine Association
American Breeders Service
American Cyanamid
American Eco Systems
American Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmer & Rancher Activities
American Gelbvieh Association
American Hereford Association
American Horticultural Therapy Association
American International Charolais Association
American Maine-Anjou Association
American Morgan Horse Institute
American Paint Horse Association
American Pinzgauer Association
American Polled Hereford Association
American Quarter Horse Association
American Salers Association
American Sheep Industry Association, Inc.
American Shorthorn Association
American Simmental Association
American Small Farm Magazine
American Tarentaise
American Veterinary Medical Association
Army & Air National Guard
Auburn University
Babson Bros. Co./SURGE
Balebind Degradable Plastic Twine, Inc.
Ball Publishing
Bel-Rea Institute
Birchwood Genetics, Inc.
Breaking New Ground Resource Center
Briggs & Stratton Corporation
Broadcast Partners
Buck Knives, Inc.
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of the Census
CARQUEST Auto Parts
Case IH
CAST—Council for Agricultural Science and Technology
CENEX/Land O'Lakes
Chevrolet Motor Division—Truck

Merchandising
Chicago Board of Trade
Chicago Mercantile Exchange
Clemson University
Colby Community College
Colorado State University
Community Calendars
Creative Educational Video, Inc.
Crosby Donkey Ball, Inc.
Buckeye Donkey Ball Inc.
Delaware Valley College
Delmar Publishers, Inc.
Dodge Trucks—Chrysler Corporation
DowElanco
Data Transmission Network
Equipment Manufacturers Institute
Farm-On
Farmhouse International Fraternity
Farmland Industries
Fastpro International Corporation
Federal Aviation Administration, Central Region
Fermenta Animal Health Company
Firestone Agricultural Tire Company
Florida Department of Citrus
Food & Drug Administration
Center for Veterinary Medicine
Ford Division—Ford Motor Company
Fort Scott Community College
Free Enterprise Fund Raising
Genesis School Inc.
Genetic Horizons/Cattle Breeders, Inc.
GMI Industries
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
Gossym-Comax
Humane Society of the U.S.
Hydroponic Society of America
Industrial Safety Equipment Association
Instructional Materials Lab—University of Missouri
Instructional Materials Service—Texas A&M University
International Boar Semen
International Brangus Breeders Association
Iowa State University
Iowa Western Livestock Judging Contest
Jeffers Vet Supply
John Deere
Johnson & Wales University
Junior Beefmaster Breeders Association
Kansas State University
Kloubec Fish Farms
Kropf Fruit Company/Christian Kropf

Gift Fruits
Langdon Barber Groves, Inc.
LC Produce Fundraisers
Learn & Earn System
Lincoln University
Louisiana State University
Makita U.S.A. Inc.
Michigan State University
Mid-America Dairymen, Inc.
Mid-America Vocational Curriculum Consortium
Mid-America Nazarene College
Middle Tennessee State University
Miles Inc., Agricultural Division
Mississippi State University
Missouri Chapter—American Fisheries Society
Missouri Department of Conservation-Forestry
Missouri Valley College
Modesto Junior College
Monsanto Agricultural Company
Moorman Manufacturing Co.
Nashville Auto-Diesel College
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Agriscience Institute and Outreach Program
National Cattlemen's Association and American National Cattlewomen
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National FFA Alumni Association
National Futures Association
National Grain & Feed Association
National High School Rodeo Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization
National Rifle Association of America
National Vocational Agricultural Teachers' Association, Inc.
National Weather Service
National Young Farmer Educational Association
New Mexico State University
North American Elk Breeders Association
North American Limousin Foundation
North Carolina State University
Northwest Missouri State University
Northwestern College
Ohio Agricultural Education Curriculum Materials Service
Ohio State University
Oklahoma Curriculum & Instructional Materials Center
Oklahoma State University
Orchard Hills Fund Raising
Oregon State University
Oregon the Bountiful
Peace Corps
Pecan Valley Nut Company, Inc.
Pfizer-North American Animal Health Division
Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
Pitman-Moore, Inc.
Purdue University
Regents/Prentice Hall
Remington Arms Company, Inc.
Rhône-Poulenc Ag Co.
San-Pahgre
Sandoz Agro, Inc.

Santa Fe Railway
Schrade Cutlery
Seald-Sweet Growers, Inc.
Seward County Community College
Sheffield Barbed Wire Show
Silver State International Rodeo, Inc.
Society for Range Management
Society of American Florists
Society of American Foresters
Southeast Community College—Beatrice
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Southern Minnesota Technical Colleges
Stone Manufacturing & Supply Company
Stuppy Greenhouse Manufacturing Company
Summit Fabrication, Inc.
Sunkist Growers, Inc.
Swine Genetics International, Ltd.
Tech Pubs
Texas A&M University
Texas Agricultural Extension Service
Texas Tech University
The Ertl Co., Inc.
The Upjohn Company
Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.
Tri-State Breeders
Tulsa Welding School
USDA Forest Service
U.S. EPA Kansas
U.S. EPA, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds
United Agricon
United States Marine Corps
Universal Technical Institute
University of Arkansas
University of Florida
University of Illinois
University of Maryland, Institute of Applied Agriculture
University of Minnesota—St. Paul
University of Minnesota—Crookston
University of Missouri—Columbia
University of Nebraska—Lincoln
University of Puerto Rico—Mayaguez Campus
University of Wisconsin—Madison
University of Wisconsin—Platteville
University of Wisconsin—River Falls
US Air Force Recruiting Service
US Army Recruiting Command
US Coast Guard Recruiting
US Custom Harvesters, Inc.
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge
US Navy Recruiting Command
USDA Agricultural Cooperative Service
USDA - ASCS
USDA Farmers Home Administration
USDA Federal Crop Insurance Corporation
V-Tecs/Curriculum Publications
Clearinghouse
Virginia Tech College of Agriculture & Agricultural Education
Vocational Marketing Services
Winchester Ammunition
Olin/Winchester
Wix Filter Corporation
Woman's Christian Temperance Union
Wyoming Technical Institute
Zeneca Ag Products

Business



While most FFA members were still sitting in classrooms early in the week, select students were in Kansas City working to make their mark in FFA history. These 461 members met prior to the 66th National FFA Convention to deliberate over proposals affecting the entire organization. As official voting delegates, they formed 10 committees and discussed recommendations. Their reports will be submitted to the National FFA Board of Directors for consideration.

Realignment of regions has been debated at the national convention for three years, and has yet to be resolved. A plan to adjust the number of states in each of the four national regions was recommended by the board of directors in July. After a great deal of discussion and attempts to postpone the issue, the delegates voted not to accept the proposal.

Delegates did not, however, suggest an alternative plan for realignment. With the advent of pool judging for choosing national contest and proficiency finalists, only national officer, nominating committee and board selections are chosen on a regional basis.

A proposed constitutional change regarding the American FFA Degree did not pass either. The board of directors had recommended that members be allowed to use post-secondary agricultural education hours to meet the degree requirements. Currently, candidates must complete 540 hours of high school agricultural education to qualify for the degree. The proposed change would have given members the opportunity to earn their degree by combining high school instruction with post-secondary education.

Official dress was another topic of discussion. One committee suggested that skirts worn for official dress should be knee length or longer. Delegates proposed that jackets for females feature




Alabama State Reporter Norman Atkins Jr. referred to the Official FFA Manual to illustrate his point during a debate. This was the second convention appearance as an official delegate for Atkins, a member of the Eutaw FFA Chapter.

darts for a better fit.

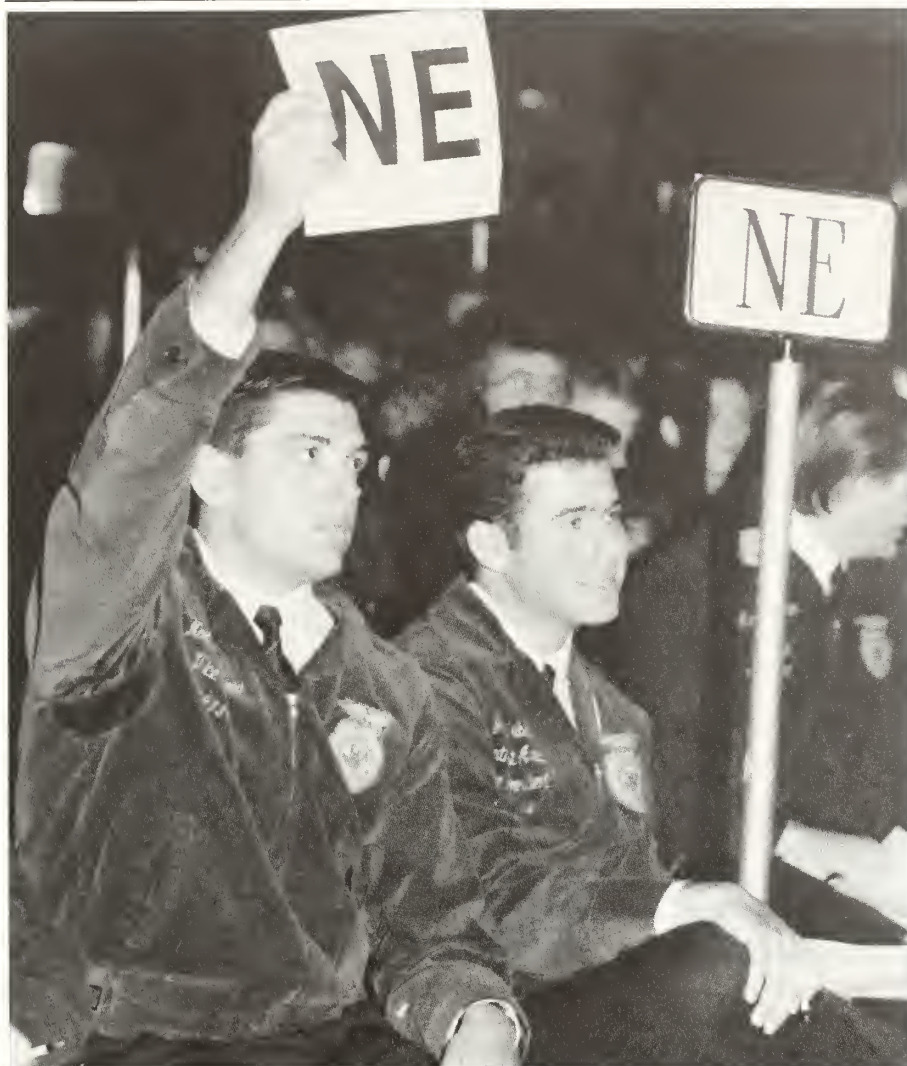
The national Contest and Awards Implementation Task Force is taking action to establish a new agricultural communications contest. Two committees recommended the idea, and the delegation approved it. The Contest Committee also proposed national creed, debate and greenhand quiz bowl contests.

Following a board recommendation, delegates voted to withdraw the charter from the District of Columbia FFA Association for its failure to pay national dues and file an annual report—two requirements needed for a state association to be in good standing with the national organization. Prior to this decision, the District of Columbia had the same privileges of membership as any state association, including voting rights. Upon meeting the requirements

for good standing, a state association may be reinstated by action of the National FFA Board of Directors.

Complete committee reports are printed beginning on page 56. 

Official Delegates



FFA members had the chance to voice their opinions during the convention. Seth Derner awaits his turn on the delegate floor during Wednesday's business session, while fellow Nebraska delegate Jason Kubik listens to discussion.

ALABAMA: Norman Atkins Jr., Eutaw; Jamie Brothers, Albertville; Brent Conway, Maplesville; Elizabeth Ellis, Brewton; Eric Freeman, Maplesville; Adam Green, Gallant; Clara-Leigh Horn, Ashville; Heath Hughes, Ozark; Charlie Jones, Billingsley; Luther McRae, East Brewton; Amber Miller, Louisville; Carla Moore, Prattville; Darren Parker, Cedar Bluff; Charles Patterson, Opp; April Quinley, Fairhope; Jeremy Simpson, West Blocton; Kenny Smith, McCalla; Jeremy Smith, Brundidge; Holly Stinson, Elba; Jason Stone, Grant; Nicole Tucker, Rogersville; April Wise, Geraldine

ALASKA: Richard Bertz, North Pole

ARIZONA: Pat Chacon, Tucson; Hope Kamler, Peoria; Denton Ross, Gilbert; Scott Shields, Safford; Shelly Stewart, Gilbert

ARKANSAS: Buck Boger, Fayetteville; Brent

Brewer, Pineville; Todd Clark, Gurdon; Mark Cook, Lonoke; Nicki Dyer, Horatio; Joseph Ham, Jonesboro; Melanie Hicks, Magnolia; Clint Johnson, Quitman; Sarah Mitchell, Pineville; Tammy Sentell, Austin; Kristy Yarbrough, Summers

✧ **CALIFORNIA:** Katie Africa, Sonoma; Maisie Bertagna, Chico; Devry Boughner, Sacramento; Erin Davis, Visalia; Betty Gomez, Kingsburg; Travis Hagen, San Luis Obispo; Tanya Hartley, Riverside; Susan Leahy, San Jacinto; Robin Lee, Doyle; Tammy MacDonald, Elk Grove; Congetta Maita, Elk Grove; Dorena Martinelli, Sonoma; Jacques Million, Sacramento; Amanda Muro, Perris; Jed Murray, Lindsay; Jody Nicewonger, Modesto; Todd Nicewonger, Sacramento; Kahleen Nowak, Petaluma; Scott Orme, Biggs; Marianne Patino, Visalia; Jennifer

Payne, San Jacinto; Allen Pettey, Bloomington; Kevin Potter, Sacramento; Dianna Ramsey, Nuevo; Tiffany Rausser, Sacramento; Sabrina Reichenberg, Ramona; Alma Roa, Meridian; Candi Roberts, Lompoc; Kelby Sheppard, Biggs; Matthew Terra, Sacramento; Lisa Thurston, Ramona; Amy Upson, San Jacinto; Stephanie Wilmeth, Sacramento; Jeff Wilson, Colusa; Wes Woolery, Orland; Jennifer Young, Sacramento; Christina Zanoline, Healdsburg

✧ **COLORADO:** Angie Bledsoe, Flagler; Jess Donaldson, Evans; Kara Gill, McClave; Kelly Longacre, Ft. Lupton; Elaine McCallum, Holyoke

CONNECTICUT: Keith Brodersen, Coventry; Reese Piper, Harwinton; Monty Volovski, Plymouth

DELAWARE: Mark Aron Breeding, Harrington; Fawn Hollenbeak, Newark; Stacey Warner, Milford

FLORIDA: Sarah Dasher, McAlpin; John Eubanks, Micanopy; Angie Foister, Lake Butler; Molly Freel, Summerfield; Erin Leigh Johnson, Plant City; Marc Jones, Newberry; Heather Markham, Moore Haven; Eric Minger, Westville; Mandy Moss, Groveland; Scott Osteen, Trenton; Tommy Parker, Minneola; Rebekah Rich, Bonifay; Susan Shiver, Graceville

GEORGIA: Ashley Edwards, Jefferson; Joe Ezzard, Eatonton; Kevin Gay, Ochlocknee; Corey Henderson, Waycross; Joshua Hitt, Waleska; Leigh Isbell, Lavonia; Wayne Kent, Harlem; Jill Kirkland, Hazlehurst; Steven Meeks, Ty Ty; Reagan Stodghill, Alapaha; Ralenda Thornton, Hoboken

GUAM: Jonathan A. Bernardo; David Mantonona

HAWAII: Tina Alcain, Kealahou, Janean Serrao, Paho

IDAHO: Jared Brackett, Rogerson; Amy Burrie, Melba; Amanda Crump, Grace; Dwayne Fisher, Parma; Tracy Tewalt, Meridian

✧ **ILLINOIS:** Brent Boren, Tamms; Allyn Buhrow, West Brooklyn; Chris Clemons, Ashland; Steve Dietz, Clare; Jason Dunseth, Sciota; Mandy Hester, Witt; David Mouser, Normal; Nate Rice, Princeville; Ryan Ruhl, Galva; Paula Spivey, Cave-In-Rock; Rana Stripe, Galesburg; Ryan Tate, Good Hope; Eric Wackerlin, Waterman

INDIANA: Dennis Joe Caffee, Trafalgar; Kristy Greives, Trafalgar; Brent Kirby, Tipton; Brad Kohlhausen, Trafalgar; Aaron Neblett, Trafalgar; Glenn Noll, Trafalgar; Elizabeth Simon, Trafalgar; Ryan Watson, Campbellsburg; Amy Weddle, Trafalgar

IOWA: Kamila Deke, Marion; Dana Dietz, Nashua; Brian Feldpausch, DeWitt; Kevin Hardy, Lohrville; Scot Harold, Red Oak; Wendy Jo

(Continued on page 54)

The ✧ symbol designates 100% states. In these states, all agriculture students are members of FFA.

Official Delegates

(Continued from page 53)



Norman Atkins Jr. (left) and Jeremy Simpson listen intently as Elizabeth Ellis clarifies her point. The Alabama delegates participated in Wednesday's business session.

Hegtvædt, Charles City; James Romer, Algona; Angela D. Rowson, Low Moor; Laura Vokes, Redfield; Erin Wilson, Creston

KANSAS: Jennifer Burkdoll, Melvern; Carrie Edelman, Sabetha; Emily Harsch, Wamego; Darrin Holle, Bremen; Jennafer Neufeld, Inman; Brad Parker, Plainville; Jerrod Westfahl, Haven

KENTUCKY: John Abner, Beattyville; Audrey Clark, Clinton; Alan Godbey, Bethelridge; Julie Hicks, Sacramento; Jon Loveless, Denniston; Samantha Moseley, Alvaton; Chris Robey, Adairville; Jennifer Stephenson, Union; Lee Thomas, Tollesboro; Lonnie Turner, Butler; Shane Wiseman, Winchester; Earl Wright, Harned

LOUISIANA: Jimmy Barr, Winnfield; Stephanie Bartlett, Winnfield; Shelly Bryant, Goldonna; Jodi Hayes, Kinder; Skip Lemoine, Loranger; Jeff McBride, Jonesboro; Lane Simmons, Mt. Hermon; Monique Thompson, Ville Platte; Leah Veuleman, Many; Paul Watts, Dubach; Clint Yates, Oak Grove

MAINE: Darrell McCrum, Mars Hill; Wade McCrum, Mars Hill

MARYLAND: Stephanie Maines, Darlington;

Trish Marple, Oakland; Joy Titus, Frederick

MASSACHUSETTS: Keith Faris, Fall River; Kimberly Goncalves, Rochester; Joseph Santapaola, Gloucester

MICHIGAN: Randall Grieser, Clarksville; David Hildenbrand, Lowell; Jeanette Humphrey, Laingsburg; Matt March, Mt. Pleasant; Jason Martin, Ithaca; Daniel Schulz, Unionville; Charla Smith, Sumner

MINNESOTA: Carl Aakre, Hawley; Shannon Busch, St. James; Gretchen Finke, Albert Lea; Martha Hill, Worthington; Denise May, New Prague; Kris Peper, Willmar; Kimberly Peterson, Mountain Lake; Ken Schentzel, Alpha; Fred Schliep, Clarks Grove; Michael Stegemann, Lakefield

MISSISSIPPI: Ben Coker, Laurel; Jason Fellows, Laurel; Danny Johnson, Carthage; Damon Ladner, Carthage; Brett Marlair, Corinth;

Jennifer Orman, Hickory Flat; Stephanie Sullivan, Mize; Jamie Thompson, Morton

MISSOURI: Janet Adkison, Houston; Suzanne Biglieni, Republic; Tiffany D. Cowger, Savannah; Emily Heath, East Prairie; James Holder, Sturgeon; Philip Kleiboeker, Stotts City; Raymond McLanahan, Archie; Craig Rehmert, Hermann; Vicki Rogers, Princeton; Marty Rush, Eldon; Selena Simpson, Hartville; Terry Slayton, Fairdealing; Fred O. Stemme, Hermann; Kerry L. Terhune, Jamesport; Leah Wommack, Troy

MONTANA: Jeremy Fritz, Kalispell; Ty Jones, Miles City; Kenny Lee, Judith Gap; Chad W. Massar, Sheridan

NEBRASKA: Stacey Barger, Culbertson; Seth Derner, Bartlett; Sherry Frey, Albion; Denise Heftie, Wisner; Jason Kubik, Prague; Janna Quaring, Ravenna; Ryan Soukup, Grand Island

NEVADA: Sarah Abel, Lamoille; James Mathews, Panaca; Don Whipple, Logandale

Official Delegates

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Ali Moore, Nottingham; Douglas Ring, Langdon; Sarah Ykema, West Nottingham

NEW JERSEY: Theresa Cooper, Lambertville; Cherie Nutto, Hackettstown; Tiffany Roberson, Columbus

NEW MEXICO: Tara Dellinger, Clayton; Jesus Trujillo, Loco Hills; Zane Vaughn, Las Cruces; Tami Sue Wells, Estancia; Lane Widner, Estancia

NEW YORK: Keith Baker, Knoxboro; Carol Kingston, Madrid; Barbara Smigel, Medusa; Steven E. Smith, Cobleskill; Jennifer P. Ward, Greenwich

NORTH CAROLINA: Chris Cooper, Salisbury; Matt Harris, Mooresville; Gracie Hartley, Princeton; Brian Honeycutt, Angier; Brooke Johnson, Winston Salem; Kevin Jones, Elk Park; Wesley Jones, Thomasville; Scott King, Princeton; Brian Hilton McLamb, Dunn; Darrell Mitchell, Hiddenite; Jeremy Moore, Newport; Joshua Starling, Princeton; Bailey Turner, Harmony

✧ **NORTH DAKOTA:** Jason Bachmeier, Granville; Jared Hagert, Emerado; David A. Jacobson, Crosby; Sam Ongstad, Harvey; Troy Uglem, Northwood

✧ **OHIO:** Bobbi Bennett, Nevada; Amy Eyler, Eaton; John Juhasz, Edon; Melanie Knapp, Castalia; Vince Lyons, Cardington; Kim Nichols, Malta; Jason Phillips, Hamler; Brian Roberts, Morral; Lee Schroeder, Leipsic; Jennifer Swartz, Richwood; Chris Truster, Hamilton; Lisa Ward, New Riegel; Laura Wesley, Utica

✧ **OKLAHOMA:** Brandon Ashpaugh, Laverne; Travis Beams, Kingfisher; Shelly Brown, Elgin; Chad Charmasson, Woodward; Amy Chastain, Wetumka; Sarah Fogleman, Rose; Randi Grider, Duncan; Bart Harper, Calera; Chris Jones, Calera; Denver McCullough, Grandfield; Tyson

Ochsner, Chattanooga; Matt Ralls, Idabel; Shane Robinson, Hollis; Sam Smith, Weleetka; David Smith, Sentinel; Kandi Stinson, Allen; Jon Syverson, Jennings; C.C. Vernon III, Morrison; Brian Walbridge, Oilton; Ken Waugh, Tipton
OREGON: Willie Bovard, Newberg; Aram Donigian, Elgin; Rebecca Fisher, Sublimity; Tristan Hook, Ashwood; Jennifer Lantz, Culver; Amy Poole, Hood River

PENNSYLVANIA: Grant Campbell, Lykens; Mike Cornman, Carlisle; Linda Hall, State College; Elizabeth Hess, Manheim; Andrea Noll, Millerstown; Amanda Peak, Carlisle; Patrick Redding, Gettysburg; Jason Reifsnyder, Terre Hill; Scott Stone, Williamsburg

PUERTO RICO: Josue Casillas, Carolina; Brenda Lee Dorta, Hatillo; Manuel Gonzalez, Cataner; Mabel Jimenez, Orocovis

RHODE ISLAND: Michael Foster, Bradford; Heather Larkin, Chepachet

SOUTH CAROLINA: Joey Gunter, Gilbert; Christopher Hicks, McBee; Rachelle Jackson, Salley; Warren K. Larrimore, Gresham; Faith V. Lawrimore, Johnsonville; David Nixon, Abbeville

SOUTH DAKOTA: Scott Cammack, Union Center; Joel DeRouchey, Pukwana; Jason Knutson, Centerville; Jenifer Rumpza, Watertown; Chad Wosje, Volga

TENNESSEE: John Anderson, White House; Mitch Hockett, Beech Grove; Mandy King, Bartlett; Eric Maupin, Newbern; Thomas McCall, Breenback; Benny Joe McDonald, Mt. Juliet; Anthony Mills, Greenville; Randy Page, Hendersonville; Shannan Robinson, Knoxville; Ann Turner, Covington; Chris Wilson, Hornsby

TEXAS: Letisha Allen, Gladewater; Matt Allen, Ovalo; Kara Askew, New Home; Kari Bennett, Dayton; Jenny Bethel, Gordon; Edward Bredemeyer Jr., Winters; Amy Callender, Bedias; Jesse Carver, Conroe; Chan Chambers,

Hillsboro; Sarah Childers, Nemo; David Chumbley, Howe; Jimbo Cross, College Station; Hart Derington, Gruver; Dan Diezi, Brookshire; Michelle Gage, Bowie; Carlos Gancedo, Boys Ranch; Javier Garza, Rio Hondo; Shannon Grote, Mason; Kori Haug, Sinton; Kurt Hinkle, Burkburnett; Lynette Janek, Floresville; Jason Shane Johnson, Cookville; Kami Kesey, Anton; Mark Kirk, Leander; Shelia Lamb, Hull; Jason Leggett, Frost; Cody Loving, Colorado City; Kevin Lutz, Caldwell; Laurie Masterson, Stillwater Okla.; Andy McCall, Houston; Sean Miller, Midlothian; Steve Mosley, Madisonville; Kellie Neal, Victoria; Holly Nichols, Lubbock; Kelly Oliver, Livingston; Autum Packer, Cedar Hill; Janeen Parker, McLeod; Scot Pollok, Falls City; Shana Prochaska, Ganado; Jeremy Roark, Amarillo; Rebecca Schuette, McAllen; Pam Scott, Idalou; Misty Shipley, Fairfield; Jennifer Stapleton, Stephenville; Tyler Stephens, Marion; Jessica Stewart, Midland; Lesley Tibbels, Mansfield; David Tucker, Corpus Christi; Dennis R. Van Vleet, Hawkins; Bart Weston, Farmersville; Jeremiah Williams, Sterling City; Jodie Word, College Station; Neely Young, College Station

UTAH: Kelly Bennett, West Point; Chet Fitzgerald, Perry; Howard Houston, Roosevelt; Ben Isaac, Payson; Wade Rasmussen, Trenton

VERMONT: Katina Barr, South Woodstock; Amy Stone, Thetford Center

VIRGINIA: David L. Baisey, South Hill; Amy C. Ball, Abingdon; John Bowman, Harrisonburg; Michael Carter, Laneview; Rebecca Case, Fredericksburg; Wayne Garber, Fort Defiance; Christopher Grove, Bridgewater; Chase Lowe, Floyd; Mary J. Parker, Woodford; Jennifer Rodgers, Verona; Whitney Terrell, Waynesboro

WASHINGTON: Lissa Davis, Maple Valley; Rusty Finch, Palouse; Jill Harryman, Snohomish; Rachel Kjack, Walla Walla; Ryan Mansfield, Odessa; Jeannette Murr, Mossyrock; Phillip Schmitt, Cheney; Reid Templin, Ritzville; Dean L. Wilson, Pomeroy

✧ **WEST VIRGINIA:** Albert Delong, Murraysville; Roy Funkhouser, Baker; Jacob Wayne Griffith, Ellenboro; Brian Hendrickson, Belmont; Patrick Ryan, Pickaway; Jason Shriver, Fairview

WISCONSIN: Kimberly Badtke, Rosendale; Wendy Baier, Elmwood; Kari Eissentraut, Waupaca; Amanda Fuhr, Monticello; Peter Haakenson, Evansville; David Hubbard, Norwalk; Carl Huschitt, Browntown; David Meyer, Loyal; John Milroy, Watertown; Mike North, Mukwonago; Natalie Parmentier, Green Bay; Jim Piechowski, Waupaca; Kristi Pribbernow, Owen; Matt Sattler, Malone; Todd Schumacher, Norwalk; Chris Viau, Clear Lake

WYOMING: Tim Tysdal, New Castle; Greg Vetter, Carpenter; Mystie Yeik, Yoder



Alna Roa (left) and Dianna Ramsey discuss ways to improve the convention as part of their delegate duties. The California pair served on the National Convention Committee.

Awards & Degrees

The Awards and Degrees Committee makes the following recommendations:

Proficiency Awards

1. Continue or implement the following proficiency award areas: Home and/or Farmstead Improvement, Agricultural Mechanics, Agricultural Electrical Technology, Equine Science, Aquaculture, Small Animal Care and Management, Agricultural Relations or Agricultural Communications, Environmental Science and Hydroponics.
2. Include pulpwood in the fiber crop proficiency area.
3. Move dry edible beans from the Fruit and/or Vegetable Production proficiency area to the Specialty Crop Production proficiency area.
4. Require all photos for proficiency applications be submitted to national FFA on plain white paper, and the complete application be submitted in the FFA award folder.
5. In reference to the Contest and Awards Committee Task Force Report, we recommend the following:
 - a. Oppose dividing the proficiency areas into entrepreneurship and placement areas.
 - b. Oppose eliminating travel funding for national finalists to attend the national convention.
 - c. Oppose increasing the number of proficiency applications submitted per state based on membership.
 - d. Support the dividing of Turf and Landscape Management into two proficiency areas.

Chapter Awards at National Level

In reference to the Contest and Awards Implementation Task Force Report:

1. Replace "Community Development" in section three of the proposed National Chapter Award Program with the new title, "Community Improvement and Development."
2. Increase the number of goals per topic from one to three on the National Chapter Award application.
3. With these additions, the committee supports the Contest and Awards Implementation Task Force Report.

American FFA Degree

1. Recommend the terminology of "greenhand" remain the same.
2. Incorporate a point system that places an equal emphasis

on leadership activities and SAE.

3. Develop an application that contains only necessary information to meet the minimum qualifications for the degree, with additional pages for those applicants pursuing the star award.
4. Add an international component to the application at either the chapter, state or national level.

New Ideas

1. Develop an SAE summary sheet for award purposes to demonstrate skills and knowledge learned.
2. Develop an Agricultural Organization Cooperation Award to recognize cooperation between FFA chapters and other agricultural organizations.
3. Develop an award to recognize outstanding host families participating in FFA international exchanges.
4. Develop a Star Educational Supporter award to recognize outstanding partners of local FFA chapters.
5. Provide gold, silver and bronze medals to local chapters for proficiency awards.
6. Create an award for senior high members who successfully participate in chapter recruitment efforts.

Respectfully submitted:

Brian Feldpausch, IA (Chair)
Susan Leahy, CA (Vice Chair)
Steven Meeks, GA
Samantha Moseley, KY
Pam Scott, TX
Ann Turner, TN
Lissa Davis, WA
Kristy Greives, IN
Jeanette Humphrey, MI
Jason Knutson, SD
Cindy Palmer, VA
Kristy Yarbrough, AR
Keith Baker, NY
Bobbi Bennett, OH
Carrie Edelman, KS
Heather Larkin, RI
Amber Miller, AL
Eric Wackerlin, IL
Chris Clemons, IL
Rebecca Fisher, OR
Denice Heftie, NE
Sam Ongstad, ND
Fred Stemme, MO
Joe Ezzard, GA

Wesley Jones, NC
Laurie Masterson, TX
Eric Minger, FL
Denton Ross, AZ
Michael Stegemann, MN
Wendy Baier, WI
Michelle Gage, TX
Chet Fitzgerald, UT
Danny Johnson, MS
Denver McCollough, OK
Dennis R. Van Vleet, TX
Trish Marple, MD
Stephanie Bartlett, LA
Sarah Childers, TX
Shelia Lamb, TX
Raymond McLanahan, MO
Chris Robey, KY
Theresa Cooper, NJ
Mike Cornman, PA
Sarah Fogleman, OK
Brian Hendrickson, WV
Jeremy Simpson, AL
Jodie Word, TX

Auditing

The Auditing Committee met to review the 1993 report presented by the auditing firm of Stoy, Malone and Company. Through careful evaluation, the committee accepted the report based on the explanations of the national FFA treasurer and the representative of Stoy, Malone and Company. The Auditing Committee makes the following recommendation:

1. Annual national FFA dues remain at \$3.50.

Respectfully submitted:

Tommy Parker, FL (Chair)
Susan Leahy, CA (Vice Chair)
Lee Schroeder, OH
Shelly Bryant, LA
Joe Coffee, IN
Mandy King, TN
Neely Young, TX

Communications & Public Relations



Relations between the FFA and Kansas City-area media were vital to nationwide public awareness of the convention's activities. Here, Gary Wergin of KFEQ in St. Joseph interviews North Platte, Mo. FFA Chapter Vice President Ginger Hass.

The Communications and Public Relations Committee makes the following recommendations:

Public Service

1. Pursue national media coverage at the national FFA convention, such as *Good Morning America*, the *Today Show*, TNN, CMT and MTV.
2. Encourage state associations to discuss moral issues with members, such as alcohol, drug abuse and sexually responsible behavior, through role models, leadership activities and conferences.
3. Support business and industry tours on the state and local levels, emphasizing non-traditional agricultural businesses.
4. Emphasize contacts with national, state and local government officials through visits, correspondence and *FFA New Horizons*.
5. Work more closely with agricultural organizations such as Farm Bureau and the USDA to improve images of agriculture using mass media and joint advertising.

Diversity

1. Implement a diversity recruitment program based on the format of the National FFA Agricultural Career Recruitment Program. The program could include a promotional video, advisor and member training materials and a presentation outline. The program would also allow for teacher inservice workshops in each state.
2. Incorporate diversity awareness into portions of the Made For Excellence program, Washington Conference Program and the National Leadership Conference for State Officers.

3. Include articles focusing on minority FFA alumni in *FFA New Horizons*.
4. Develop public service announcements for radio, television and print which emphasize former FFA members of diverse backgrounds as role models.

Organizational Communications

1. Continue to research computer software programs for SAE and record books, and add software programs for proficiency awards, public relations and chapter awards.
2. Provide pamphlets or write articles in *FFA New Horizons* to inform members and advisors of the activities, functions and structure of the National FFA Organization.
3. Plan a traveling FFA program for advisors similar to Made For Excellence that will inform and encourage agriculture teachers to promote and believe in FFA activities.
4. Insert a pocket card listing the FFA Code of Ethics into every jacket sent out.
5. Send internship information to graduating high school seniors.
6. Include a space on the national FFA scholarship application to request internship information.
7. Develop internships with various businesses or companies for FFA members.
8. Provide information about internships at a career show booth.

Recruitment and Retention

1. Provide recruitment workshops for all chapter advisors and administrative staff at state, area or district meetings.
2. Sponsor TV and/or radio commercials to promote recruitment.
3. Prepare and mail monthly press releases on various topics to all chapters for local publication.
4. Provide information to schools without agricultural education programs to promote the benefits of leadership and cooperation gained through agricultural education and the FFA.

Respectfully submitted:

David Meyer, WI (Chair)
 Chad Charmasson, OK
 Melanie Hicks, AR
 Jeannette Murr, WA
 Janeen Parker, TX
 Jeremy Smith, AL
 Mystie Yeik, WY
 Allen Pettey, CA
 Elizabeth Ellis, AL
 Manuel Gonzalez, PR
 James Mathews, NV
 Kelby Sheppard, CA
 Joy Titus, MD
 Brandon Ashpaugh, OK
 Sherry Frey, NE
 Kevin Lutz, TX
 Joshua Starling, NC
 Christina Zanolini, CA
 Christopher Hicks, SC
 Katina L. Barr, VT
 Sean Miller, TX
 Scott Osteen, FL
 Scott Shields, AZ
 Paula Spivey, IL

Lee Schroeder, OH
 Earl Wright, KY
 Darrell Mitchell, NC
 Aaron Neblett, IN
 Shana Prochaska, TX
 Jesus Trujillo, NM
 Tiffany Roberson, NJ
 Jason Dunseth, IL
 Javier Garza, TX
 Philip Kleiboeker, MO
 Thomas McCall, TN
 Whitney Terrell, VA
 Lonnie Turner, KY
 Norman Atkins, Jr., AL
 Erin Leigh Johnson, FL
 Lane Simmons, LA
 Monty Volovski, CT
 Wendy Jo Hegtvædt, IA
 Kevin Gay, GA
 Kami Kesey, TX
 Jeremy Moore, NC
 Kimberly Peterson, MN
 Steven E. Smith, NY
 Jason Stone, AL

Contests

The National FFA Contest Committee makes the following recommendations:

New Contests

1. Develop an agricultural journalism contest, based on well-written essays. Such a contest would encourage the development of public relations and communication skills needed to promote a positive and progressive image of agriculture.
2. Implement a national debate team contest, in which each team will debate the pros and cons of agricultural issues. The purpose of this contest will be to increase awareness of agricultural issues and allow members to communicate as a team.
3. Create a national creed contest to increase participation among first-year FFA members. The contest would include creed recitation, a personal interpretation, and a questioning period. Candidates will be judged on a pool basis.
4. Create a national greenhand team quiz bowl contest to increase FFA interest and knowledge, and improve interaction among first-year members.



Skill, practice, determination and a little luck were the keys to success in the national FFA judging and skills contests, where members tested their talents against the best in the country.

5. Develop a national agriscience contest to include categories such as: computer science, agricultural chemistry and math, biotechnology, research, waste management and aquaculture.

Individual, Team and Chapter Opportunities

1. Produce a promotional video about all national contests containing information on individual opportunities and interests as well as contest content. The video should be produced so that all FFA members can enjoy and understand the information presented. Actual footage of members participating in various contests should be included.
2. Include three individuals who have participated in a national contest within the past three years to serve on each contest advisory committee.

Promotion and Improvement

1. New contests will have a team activity where all members work together on a problem project.
2. Publish a newsletter twice a year containing information about national contests and a small description of each, along with an address where questions or concerns could be answered.
3. Delete the 26-state rule, regarding the number of states necessary before an activity can become a national contest.

Evaluation

1. Expand contests to include new classes that will prepare students for future employment.
2. Design an evaluation form with specific questions that only require "yes" or "no" answers, as well as an additional section in which comments may be hand-written to allow for elaboration.
3. Encourage state associations to follow the guidelines of the national contests as closely as possible.

Respectfully submitted:

Jimmy Barr, LA (Chair)
Kenny Lee, MT (Vice Chair)
Steve Dietz, IL
Tina Alcain, HI
Tim Tysdal, WY
Tara Dellinger, NM
Angie Blesdsoe, CO
Wade McCrum, MA
David Nixon, SC
Amy Stone, VT
Letisha Allen, TX
John Anderson, TN
Amanda Muro, CA
Kelly Bennett, UT
Maisie Bertagna, CA
Devry Boughner, CA
Willie Bovard, OR
Rebecca Case, VA
Josue Casillas, PR
Pat Chacon, AZ
Don Cox, AK
Jimbo Cross, TX
Erin Davis, CA
Seth Derner, NE
Brent Conway, AL

Amy Eyler, OH
Rusty Finch, WA
Randi Grider, OK
Kori Haug, TX
Corey Hinderson, GA
Elizabeth Hess, PA
James Holder, MO
David Hubbard, WI
Charlie Jones, AL
Marc Jones, FL
Scott King, NC
Jason Leggett, TX
Ben Lisenby, WA
Stephanie Maines, MD
Sarah Mitchell, AR
Amanda Muro, CA
Mike North, WI
Marty Rush, MO
Ken Schentzel, MN
Sam Smith, OK
Tracy Tewalt, ID
Amy Weddle, IN
April Wise, AL
Shane Wiseman, KY
Rebecca Schuette, TX

International Development

The International Development Committee makes the following recommendations:

Programs

1. Provide international information to be included in existing agricultural education curricula.
2. Develop an international awareness week program or devote one day of National FFA Week to international programs.
3. Incorporate global agriculture as the next topic for the *FFA New Horizons* writing contest.

Contests and Incentives

1. Implement an exchange program between states and/or between urban and rural students.
2. Develop a contest using a global education activity handbook through the use of other academic subjects.
3. Work with the board of directors to develop international internships.
4. Develop contests such as international scrapbook and bulletin board.
5. Develop a recognition certificate for sponsors.
6. Recognize international program participants.

Promotion and Funding

1. The National FFA Foundation appoint/direct an individual to concentrate solely on funding for international development.
2. Develop a traveling display promoting international programs.
3. Direct promotion more toward first and second year members.
4. Encourage the foundation to recruit at least three new foreign corporations as sponsors, fostering greater involvement from members.
5. Local chapters and state associations communicate/interact individually with national and international companies and/or educational establishments, using such methods as chapter-to-chapter video exchanges or pen pal projects.
6. Utilize exchange students more effectively in promoting international development and leadership.

Education, Information and Marketing

1. Implement more international activities such as speakers, food, films and workshops at state and national conventions.
2. Implement international programs at all FFA workshops including MFE, WCP, SPC, NLC SO, NVATA and all Vocational Student Organization meetings.
3. Include a summary of all international programs in the student and state officer handbooks and the *Official FFA Manual*.
4. Develop an advisors' guide to international development which would include information for counselors and the community.

Respectfully submitted:

Jess Donaldson, CO (Chair)
 Lane Widner, NM (Vice Chair)
 John Abner, KY
 Jason Bachmeier, ND
 Jamie Brothers, AL
 Allyn Buhrow, IL
 Michael Carter, VA
 Jesse Carver, TX
 Amy Chastain, OK
 Joel DeRouchey, SD
 Gretchen Finke, MN
 Roy Funkhouser, WV
 Betty Gomez, CA
 Peter Haakenson, WI
 Travis, Hagen, CA
 Linda Hall, PA
 Kurt Hinkle, TX
 Clint Johnson, AR
 Brad Kohlhausen, IN
 Dorena Martinelli, CA
 Jeff McBride, LA
 Kellie Neal, TX
 Wade Rasmussen, UT

Brian Roberts, OH
 Vicki Rogers, MO
 Angela Rowson, IA
 Joseph Santapaola, MA
 Philipp Schmitt, WA
 Janean Serrao, HI
 Misty Shipley, TX
 Salene Simpson, MO
 David Smith, OK
 Reagan Stodghill, GA
 Bailey Turner, NC
 Greg Vetter, WY
 Jennifer Ward, NY
 Paul Watts, LA
 Jerrod Westfahl, KS
 Tanya Hartley, CA
 Brian Honeycutt, NC
 Jason Shane Johnson, TX
 Damon Ladner, MS
 Eric Maupin, TN
 Steve Mosley, TX
 Kristi Pribbernow, WI



CNN Reporter John Holliman tore up his notes during his speech to demonstrate the effect of the Baghdad hotel bombing which happened during his coverage of Operation Desert Storm. The correspondent spoke to FFA members during Saturday's morning session, illustrating how Americans are affected by world events.

Leadership and Personal Development

The Leadership and Personal Development Committee makes the following recommendations:

Personal Growth

1. Develop a premier leadership award based on a national system, using points, charts and/or portfolios. Various levels of achievement would be recognized through points earned through involvement in such areas as: teamwork, scholarship, community service and participation in non-FFA activities. Awards, such as a portfolio certificate and medal, would be given on various levels. Those attaining the highest level would be eligible to compete for one of 12 national leadership awards.
2. Develop a video series based on goal-setting, self-motivation, leadership, self-image, communication, teamwork, attitude and role models. These should be accompanied by a facilitators' guide. They should include upbeat, popular varieties of music and feature role models and/or celebrities. Members should be involved in the development of the tapes.
3. Develop personal/motivational leadership items such as posters and daily reflective items, for example, a daily planner/flip calendar that includes FFA history, motivational items and goal setting, such as the Franklin Planning System.

Leadership for the Future

1. Create a stepping stone between MFE and WCP in the form of a regional conference which would develop group leadership by participating in activities such as public speaking, debate on agricultural issues, and discussing agricultural careers.
2. Improve current national convention workshops by presenting exciting seminars more than once, expanding workshops by adding topics on self-esteem, "hot topics," agricultural careers, goal setting, public speaking and personal development, and offering the same workshop on various levels of personal development.
3. Develop workshop packets aimed at potential officers and officer development. These should be distributed to each state association.
4. National officer selection should remain on a regional basis.

Reviewing and Improving Conferences

1. Better promotion of WCP through *FFA New Horizons* and through a new video that includes testimonials of attaining sponsorships.
2. Adjust leadership conference schedules to accommodate summer weather and the importance of wearing official dress.
3. Develop a WCP planning guide for chapters to be mailed out by March 1. This should include a detailed explanation of obtaining sponsorship and a fact sheet for potential sponsors.
4. Create an NLCSO workshop that focuses on moral and crisis issues affecting members, as well as stress and time management issues affecting state officers.
5. Incorporate a variety of learning styles and group interaction into MFE.

Group Cooperation

1. Target all students, businesses, school administrators, alumni members, parents, public officials, service clubs and the general public to learn more about FFA leadership through the means of billboards, videos, Channel One, literacy games,

general fact sheets and ambassador programs.

2. Integrate a patriotism unit with the existing *Food For America* program.
3. Encourage on various levels, general education, cooperation, communication and leadership development through joint activities among various youth organizations such as 4-H and VSOs.

Respectfully submitted:

Keith Brodersen, CT (Chair)
 Aram Donigian, OR (Vice Chair)
 Todd Clark, AR
 John Milroy, WI
 David Tucker, TX
 Laura Wesley, OH
 Carol Kingston, NY
 Chris Cooper, NC
 Ben Isaac, UT
 Rachel Kjack, WA
 Glenn Noll, IN
 Tammy Sentell, AR
 Brent Boren, IL
 Angie Foister, FL
 Jennafer Neufeld, KS
 Jennifer Orman, MS
 James Romer, IA
 Stacey Barger, NE
 Carl Aakre, MN
 Chan Chambers, TX
 Tammy MacDonald, CA
 Jenifer Rumpza, SD
 Jennifer Swartz, OH

Katie Africa, CA
 Suzanne Biglieni, MD
 Ty Jones, MT
 Shannan Robinson, TN
 Leah Veuleman, LA
 Audrey Clark, KY
 Jared Brackett, ID
 Dan Diezi, TX
 Mark Kirk, TX
 Robin Lee, CA
 Shane Robinson, OK
 Holly Stinson, AL
 Grant Campbell, PA
 Cody Loving, TX
 Tyson Ochsner, OK
 Jennifer Payne, CA
 Bart Weston, TX
 Chase Lowe, VA
 Matt Allen, TX
 Jill Kirkland, GA
 Natalie Parmaentier, WI
 Susan Shiver, FL
 Randall Grieser, MI



The 1992-93 National FFA Officers, selected for their exemplary leadership qualities, kicked off the first convention session with a bang.

Marketing & Merchandising



FFA members examine a tractor at the 1993 National Agricultural Career Show. The toy was among many items available at the exhibition.

The Marketing and Merchandising Committee makes the following recommendations:

Marketing and Advertising

1. Publish a two-page spread in *FFA New Horizons* promoting seasonal items in the official *FFA Supply Catalog*.
2. To increase exposure of the catalog, send posters to local chapters highlighting popular clothing items, modeled by national officers.
3. Develop a business reply drop card to put in *FFA New Horizons* for students to receive student catalogs free.
4. During state advisor meetings, request advisors to promote the catalog by incorporating an ad into the state newsletter.
5. Inform state associations of the opportunities of consignment booths at state events.
6. Develop a sale page in the existing catalog.

Product Line

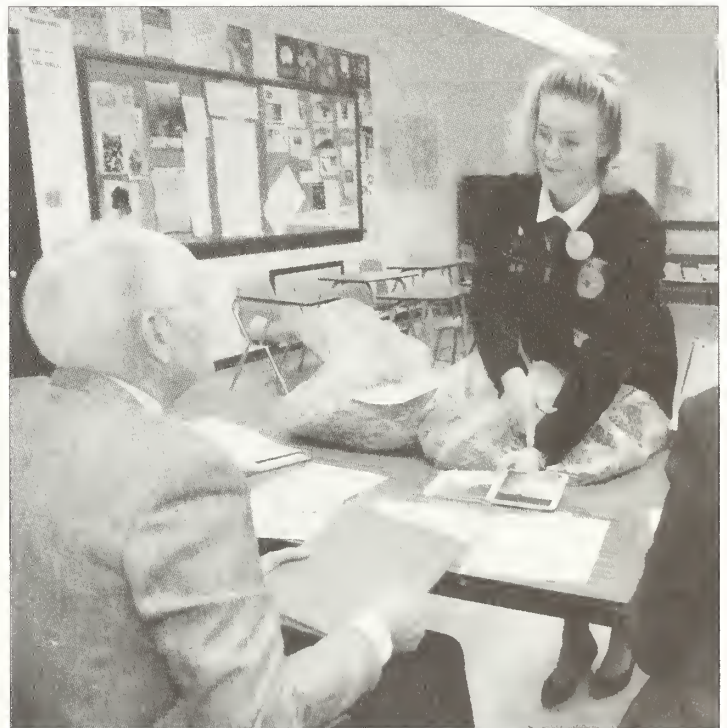
1. Discontinue all outdated items. Give the date certain items will be discontinued in the catalog.
2. Color-coordinate the item style with background color.
3. Develop new colors and logos for items.
4. Redesign, update and give broader selection in jewelry.
5. Remove national and state awards that can't be obtained through the chapters.
6. Redesign proficiency charms into pins.
7. Recommendations for new products:* *
 - Dominoes
 - Stuffed FFA farm animals
 - More postcards
 - Horse-hair items
 - More mural items
 - Jewelry
 - Official dress paraphernalia
 - Charms for bracelet
 - Upgrade suspenders
 - Uniform color scarves/ties

* *Detailed list of suggestions provided to the Ventures and Distribution Teams.

Quality Control

1. Improve quality of heavily used items to avoid breakage and color fading, for example, key chains.
2. Make degree charms that are easier to attach to chains.
3. Examine the official jacket for better quality, especially the side clasps, fraying emblems and the color, which sometimes has a purple tint.
4. Make a better-fitting official jacket for female members that includes darts.
5. Improve the quality of all pins, with emphasis on the backing and gold coating.
6. Design proficiency and star pins with clasps, making them adaptable to go on chains.
7. Evaluate the quality of luggage and briefcases, including material, stitching and overall durability.
8. Include an evaluation form in the catalogs for members and advisors to send to Ventures and Distribution teams.

(Continued on page 62)



Darla Stevens attempts to sell hay to judges in a mock sales presentation. Her Washington team placed second in the Agricultural Sales Contest, and she was named fourth place individual.

Committee Reports

(Continued from page 61)

9. Put one person in charge of complaint calls, who will then evaluate concerns.
10. Add a statement to the catalog indicating the Ventures team's concern for quality.

Catalog

1. Show action shots of products in use.
2. Use ethnically diverse models.
3. Create appealing advertising by using pull-out posters in catalog.
4. Send catalog to chapter advisors and to chapter officer teams.
5. Use FFA members as models and identify members by name, state and chapter.
6. Make sale items more obvious.
7. Use incentives to market products in magazine.
8. Increase quality of the photographs.

Respectfully submitted:

Dwayne Fisher, ID (Chair)
Mandy King, TN (Vice Chair)
Congetta Maita, CA

Jennifer Rodgers, VA
David Mantonona, Guam
Fawn Hollenbeak, DE

Ryan Ruhl, IL
Jason Fellows, MS
Ken Waugh, OK
Kara Askew, TX
Jennifer Lantz, OR
Jacques Million, CA
Darrin Holle, KS
Brian Walbridge, OK
Jeremy Roark, TX
David Hildenbrand, MI
Jed Murray, CA
Alan Godbey, KY
Vince Lions, OH
Jenny Bethal, TX
Jason Shriver, WV
Ryan Soukup, NE
Adam Green, AL
Wayne Kent, GA
Janet Adkison, MO
Dwayne Yoder, OH
Kari Eisentraut, WI

Laura Vokes, IA
Jared Hagert, ND
Brent Brewer, AR
David Chumbley, TX
Shannon Grote, TX
Brent Kirby, IN
Matt Harris, NC
Rachelle Jackson, SC
Reid Templin, WA
Barbara Smigel, NY
Heather Markham, FL
Nick Kilen, MN
Amanda Peak, PA
Amy Callender, TX
Kimberly Badtke, WI
Ricky Bertz, AK
Todd Nicewonger, CA
Monique Thompson, LA
Chad Massar, MT
Holly Nichols, TX



Following a brief appearance on stage at the national convention, Miss America Kimberly Clarice Aiken penned autographs for members at the Career Show exhibit of her sponsor, CHEVY TRUCKS.

Membership Development

The Membership Development Committee makes the following recommendations:

Involvement

1. Students and Advisors
 - A. Suggest that national FFA provide more information to states on junior high membership.
 - B. Improve the handbook provided to state officers at NLCSSO meetings and provide more ideas on speech topics and activities to involve members.
 - C. Develop TV and radio public service announcements for use at the local level.
 - D. Sponsor a recruitment week in the fall semester of the school year to promote members already enrolled in agricultural education.
2. Administrators
 - A. Continue to implement the 1992-93 feedback report, which is showing great progress.
3. Alumni and Community
 - A. Implement a program to recognize state associations with 10 percent growth in members at the national FFA convention.
 - B. Develop a program for alumni similar to the "You Make It Happen" program, with emphasis on states without alumni affiliates.

Image

1. Develop a standard pamphlet that each chapter can use and be able to copy without copyright infringement. In the pamphlet, emphasize today's agriculture and inform the public of the many steps of production, marketing and technology involved in creating an agricultural product.
2. Stress to advisors the importance of leading by example, and of the impression they create with their students by dressing professionally and instilling pride in official dress in their students. Include this information in the advisors' handbook under the official dress section.
3. Promote the idea of progressive agriculture, such as landscaping, biotechnology, floriculture, chemical engineering, environmental research, horticulture, agricultural communications, etc. This would be implemented through information packets for advisors and state officers.
4. Resubmit the 1992 FFA image and recruitment material recommendation which states: "Create a video tape expressing pride and respect in the FFA and the FFA jacket," which is currently under review.

Recruitment

1. Hold a National FFA Rally Day during National FFA Week. FFA members will be asked to bring a non-member to this event. Ideas for this event would come from the state, district, area, county or chapter level.
2. Suggest that recruitment materials be updated. Catchy, flashy posters should be produced displaying FFA members, events and reachable goals. It would be useful to use themes of songs, for example *FFA Right Here, Right Now*; *FFA AWhole New World of Opportunities*, etc.

3. Develop a national 24-Hour Challenge packet to be sent to all associations. This program involves recruitment in urban areas and in agricultural education programs without FFA chapters.
4. Publish two top 10 lists of recruitment ideas in *FFA New Horizons* magazine. These lists should be sent from the members or chapters, and should include the most common and most unusual ideas for recruitment.
5. Write articles about FFA members and activities for other publications, i.e. *Farm Journal*, *Parents*.

(Continued on page 64)



With sunlight reflecting off of the sleek steel and glass of the Commerce Bank behind them, members gather for an impromptu meeting with their advisor on the steps of the Barney Allis Plaza.

Committee Reports

(Continued from page 63)

Retention

1. Implement a Big Brother/Big Sister type of program in which an acting junior or senior teams up with a new member to act as a role model to help guide them to achieve their goals.
2. Develop a personal plan of activities as an advanced suggestion for FFA members to help them achieve their potential.
3. Continue with the recognition of advisors under the Project Growth program for 100 percent or 110 percent membership. Recognize these advisors at the state level and give them useful awards.
4. Suggest that the National FFA Board of Directors review the constitution regarding opening nominations from the floor for national office after the nominating committee report has been read.

Respectfully submitted:

Jill Harryman, WA (Chair)
Joe Caffee, IN (Vice Chair)
Carla Moore, AL
Ralenda Thornton, GA
Matthew Sattler, WI
Kevin Potter, CA
Chris Truster, OH
Benny Joe McDonald, TN
Scott Ome, CA
Brad Parker, KS
Doug Ring, NH
Martha Hill, MN
Kahleen M. Nowak, CA
Faith Lawrimore, SC
Mark Cook, AR
Jeremy Fritz, MT
Daniel R. Schulz, MI
Amy Ball, VA
Jonathan Bernardo, Guam
Kara Gill, CO
Jim Piechowski, WI
Marianne Fatino, CA

Mark A. Breeding, DE
Keith M. Faris, MA
Amy Burrie, ID
Edward Bredemeyer, TX
Craig Rehmer, MO
Chris Grove, VA
Kevin Jones, NC
Nicole Tucker, AL
Jamie Thompson, MS
Jon Syverson, OK
Lynette Janek, TX
Carolos Gancedo, TX
Rana L. Stripe, IL
Gwen Spratling, NV
Lesley Tibbels, TX
Kevin J. Hardy, IA
Tami Sue Wells, NM
Andrea Noll, PA
Kelly Oliver, TX
Melanie Knapp, OH
Tiffany Cowger, MO
John Eubanks, FL



National convention attendees helped out a fellow member by adorning him with his convention badge. The convention's message of service included helping FFA members as well as working for a better world.

National FFA Convention



Attendees at the 66th National FFA Convention felt the spirit of "Leadership for America," the convention's theme.

The National FFA Convention Committee makes the following recommendations:

Space Utilitization

1. Group together the postsecondary education booths, but not apart from the rest of the Career Show.
2. Set up an agricultural demonstration section in the Career Show to promote agriculture diversity, biotechnology, high tech and virtual reality.
3. Place large-scale stationary directory maps at convenient locations throughout the convention areas and Career Show.
4. Reconvene representatives from this subcommittee to work out details of their convention plan with the national FFA staff.
5. Reinstate the Hall of States under more national direction.
6. Use the 19 new conference rooms for any national contests possible.
7. Set a conference room aside for the Courtesy Corps headquarters.
8. Include a one-hour photo lab in the Career Show.
9. Keep the FFA Supply Service the same for future conventions.
10. Hold the dance in a larger space.

Promotion

1. Help advisors overcome obstacles that hinder chapters from attending the national FFA convention with a packet of ideas developed by the national FFA staff.
2. Provide a detailed map of local businesses within walking distance of the Municipal Auditorium to members, advisors and guests upon registration.
3. Highlight the main session convention schedule in the program so that it can be found easier.
4. Promote the use of the convention newsroom by distributing an information flyer to advisors upon registration.

5. Place an educational commercial about the national convention on Channel 1 student broadcast.
6. Make posters advertising workshops available for FFA members.
7. Reconvene representatives from this subcommittee to work out details of their plan with the national FFA staff.

Evaluation

1. Develop a system for individual members to evaluate the convention.
2. Categorize the national FFA staff feedback report by delegate committees as opposed to staff report.
3. Provide refreshments to delegates during committee meetings.
4. Install an electronic device for delegate voting to speed up the process of business sessions.
5. Analyze dance ticket prices and designate a specific dance area.
6. Differentiate delegates and members with different color registration buttons.
7. Add structured activities to Saturday, Sunday and Monday for early arrivals.
8. Improve advertising of exact shuttle pick-up areas and drop-off places.
9. Hold a delegate dance.
10. Read and discuss delegate committee reports in chronological order or how they appear in the packet.
11. Encourage the Courtesy Corps to adhere to official dress guidelines when fulfilling convention duties.

Sessions

1. Place keynote speakers toward the end of each session to increase and ensure membership attendance throughout the entire session.
2. Increase overall attendance at the national FFA convention with more high profile role model speakers/entertainers.
3. Combine similar workshops to allow for a more diverse selection.
4. Play pre-recorded motivational background music during dead-air time between program and stage changes.

Respectfully submitted:

Scot Pollok, TX (Chair)
 Shelly Bryant, LA (Vice Chair)
 Shelly Stewart, AZ
 Dianna Ramsey, CA
 Sabrina Reichenberg, CA
 Kelly Longacre, CO
 Molly Freel, FL
 Ashley Edwards, GA
 David Mouser, IL
 Dana Dietz, IA
 Jennifer Stephenson, KY
 Fred Schliep, MN
 Kerry L. Terhune, MO
 Don Whipple, NV
 John Juhasz, OH
 Shelly Brown, OK
 Kandi Stinson, OK
 Warren K. Larrimore, SC
 Scot Pollok, TX
 Wayne Gaber, VA
 Burke Simmons, VA
 Albert Delong, WV
 Todd Schumacher, WI

Eric Freeman, AL
 Luther McRae, AL
 Buck Boger, AR
 Tiffany Rausser, CA
 Alma Roa, CA
 Reese Piper, CN
 Rebekah Rich, FL
 Amanda Crump, ID
 Ryan Watson, IN
 Jennifer Burkdoll, KS
 Matt March, MI
 Stephanie Sullivan, MS
 Jason Kubik, NE
 Brian Hilton McLamb, NC
 Kim Nichols, OH
 Bart Harpter, OK
 Jason Reifsnyder, PA
 Chris Wilson, TN
 Jessica Stewart, TX
 Mary J. Parker, VA
 Ryan Mansfield, WA
 Amanda Fuhr, WI

Nominating

We, the Nominating Committee, have given careful and deliberate consideration to all applicants running for national office. The committee nominates the following slate of candidates to the delegates of the 66th National Convention to serve as national officers for the year 1993-94.

President-**Curtis Childers**, Texas

Secretary-**Andrew McCrea**, Missouri

Vice President
Central Region-**Raquel Lacey**, Illinois

Vice President
Eastern Region-**Liam Brody**, New York

Vice President
Southern Region-**Steven Mitchell**, Arkansas

Vice President
Western Region-**Tyler Grandil**, Arizona

National Treasurer-**Charles L. Keels**, North Carolina

National Executive Secretary-**C. Coleman Harris**, Washington, D.C.

National Advisor-**Larry D. Case**, Washington, D.C.

Respectfully submitted:

Greg Jeter, OK (Chair)
Melissa Carpenter, OH (Vice Chair)
Robin Britt, MO
Karen Salyers, AZ
Ty Burns, DE
Brad Etheridge, FL
Joshua Evans, UT
Jodie P'Pool, KY
Robert Crawley, AR (Consultant)
Douglas P. Daley, AZ (Consultant)
Jerry L. Peters, IN (Consultant)



John Thompson, a former FFA member from Hurdsfield, N.D., shares his story of survival at the national FFA convention. Thompson's arms were torn off by a power take-off shaft in January 1991, and were successfully reattached. He stressed the importance of farm safety to the young people attending the convention.

Partner Development

The National FFA Convention Partner Development Committee makes the following recommendations:

Business/Industry

1. Ask state associations to recommend a maximum of three businesses to the Career Show which currently are not exhibitors.
2. Allow and encourage business and industry sponsors to utilize the National FFA Organization insignia, theme and photos in an approved manner in their media communications.
3. Add a sub-section in the *Promoting Programs by Building Partners* in the partners section on business and industry.

Public Officials

1. We recommend that the partner development team create a video aimed to develop positive partnerships with public officials. The video should focus on leadership and the positive relationship between the FFA and public officials.

School Administration

1. Develop a state forum for school administrators similar to the national forum to be presented at state conventions. This could be presented by past state or national officers, school administrators, etc.
2. Discuss the forum concept at NLCsOs in order to familiarize state officers with the information.
3. Develop an award to recognize supportive school administrators on the local, state and national levels.
4. Develop a scholarship packet that has a complete list of state and national FFA scholarships. Each chapter should receive two packets: one for the advisor's use and one to be personally delivered to the counselor.

Community and Parents

1. Send the notebook *Promoting Programs by Building Partners* to chapters.
2. Use PSAs for TV, radio and newspaper to promote the FFA to the community and parents.

Whole Committee

1. Develop a notebook used for reference with ideas for chapters about partner development.

Respectfully submitted:

Emily Harsch, KS (Chair)
 Neely Young, TX (Vice Chair)
 Nicki Dyer, AR
 Ben Coker, MS
 Emily Heath, MO
 Clint Yates, LA
 Leigh Isbell, GA
 Mandy Moss, FL
 Lisa Thurston, CA
 Randy Page, TN
 Chad Wosje, SD
 Joey Gunter, SC
 Patrick Redding, PA
 Amy Poole, OR
 David Jacobson, ND
 Ali Moore, NH
 Gracie Hartley, NC
 Zane Vaughn, NM
 Kimberly Goncalves, MA
 Scot Harold, IA
 Jody Nicewonger, CA
 Jennifer Young, CA

Heath Hughes, AL
 Jacob Wayne Griffith, WV
 Brenda Lee Dorta, PR
 Candi Roberts, CA
 Andy McCall, TX
 Tristan Hook, OR
 Cherie Nutto, NJ
 Janna Quaring, NE
 Charla Smith, MI
 Erin Wilson, IA
 Nate Rice, IL
 April Quinley, AL
 Travis Beams, OK
 Shannon Busch, MN
 Carl Huschitt, WI
 John Bowman, VA
 Jason Phillips, OH
 Lee Thomas, KY
 Sarah Dasher, FL
 Elaine McCallum, CO
 Matthew Terra, CA
 Darren Parker, AL



FFA member Kevin Nabors finds a safe spot away from the convention uproar to phone home and keep track of his young friend John Dawley, the advisor's son.

Program of Activities

The Program of Activities Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. In order to assist the National FFA Board of Directors and staff in devoting resources to recommendations brought forth by delegate committees, the chairs prioritized recommendations from their committees.
2. The committee highlighted an overall group of delegate recommendations which they considered to be of highest priority.
3. Move the Program of Activities Committee meeting to Thursday.

Respectfully submitted:

Emily Harsch, KS (Chair)
Scot Pollock, TX (Vice Chair)
Jimmy Barr, LA
Keith Brodersen, CT
Clara-Leigh Horn, AL
Brett Marlar, MS

Jill Harryman, WA
Dwayne Fisher, ID
Jess Donaldson, CO
Brian Feldpausch, IA
David Meyer, WI



Francie McCuiston, of Paducah, Ky., proudly displayed her T-shirt souvenir from the concert of Grammy-winning artist Lee Greenwood.



Following registration in Bartle Hall, convention participants received a coin emblazoned with the convention year, a memoir of their good times in Kansas City.

Student Publications

The Student Publications Committee makes the following recommendations:

Content of *FFA New Horizons*

1. Include a permanent, current agricultural events column that will be non-political and non-biased.
2. At the end of the current article include an update on the previous issue.
3. Preview more of the national convention events.
4. Continue to have contests in the magazine and also consider the following contest ideas: writing, cover page design, photography, and helpful hints and new ideas.
5. If space and funds permit, print helpful hotline numbers, such as alcohol and suicide prevention.
6. Include an agricultural education activity that enlightens members on agricultural careers, such as crosswords and word searches.
7. Publish articles with an emphasis on speaking and leadership skills.
8. Focus on popular and unique SAE programs.

Membership involvement in *FFA New Horizons*

1. Focus a special issue of *FFA New Horizons* on each of the four regions of the organization through collective involvement of the states within the region, in order to encourage state involvement and to educate all members about the organization's diversity.
2. Present a different topic in each issue of the magazine and request that members submit articles related to that topic for publication in the next issue. The objective is to increase member involvement in specific FFA and agricultural issues.
3. Award scholarships to FFA activities such as WCP and MFE as prizes in future magazine contests.
4. Publish a one- or two-page collage of member-submitted photographs.
5. Print article titles and contests on the cover of the magazine.
6. Run an advice column in the magazine for members to ask questions and receive advice on FFA issues.
7. Devise a contest in which members submit pictures with humorous captions to the magazine.

Advertising

1. Discount rates:
 - A. When a new company advertises in *FFA New Horizons*, give them a 10% discount on advertisement costs for the first issue.
 - B. When a company advertises in the magazine three times within the year, give them the fourth advertisement free.
2. Business area in Kansas City:
 - A. Reserve a section in the magazine issue prior to the national convention for Kansas City area businesses to advertise.
3. Competitors of current advertisers:
 - A. Continue consulting the competitors of current advertisers.

- B. Seek out new markets such as smaller businesses and youth markets.
4. Relate advertisements to articles in magazine:
 - A. Try to find advertisements that relate to upcoming articles.
 - B. Try to relate ads to the seasons.
 5. Appreciation to advertisers:
 - A. In the last issue of the year, reserve one page in which advertisers are thanked for their support. They will be ranked on the page by their amount of support.

Student Handbook, Manual and other publications

1. Add a section to the student handbook on the proper treatment of the American flag.
2. Add an index in the back of the manual.
3. Require that black skirts be "knee length" and include in the official dress code in the manual.
4. Include optional parts of parliamentarian, chaplain and historian in the installation ceremonies.
5. Form a committee consisting of board and FFA members to study current pamphlets and determine whether they are necessary and/or current, and to evaluate the process by which these pamphlets are distributed.
6. Continue to advertise the student handbook in the catalog and include advertisements of the handbook in *FFA New Horizons* and the official *FFA Chapter Catalog*.

Respectfully submitted:

Brett Marlar, MS (Chair)
 Tommy Parker, FL (Vice Chair)
 Amy Upson, CA
 Jeff Wilson, CA
 Stacey Warner, DE
 Joshua Hitt, GA
 Ryan Tate, IL
 Kamila Deke, IA
 Jodi Hayes, LA
 Jason Martin, MI
 Leah Wommack, MO
 Brooke Johnson, NC
 Lisa Ward, OH
 Matt Ralls, OK
 Scott Stone, PA
 Scott Cammack, SD
 Hart Derington, TX
 Tyler Stephens, TX
 Howard Houston, UT
 Patrick Ryan, WV

Clara-Leigh Horn, AL
 Joseph Ham, AR
 Stephanie Wilmeth, CA
 Wes Woolery, CA
 Terry Slayton, MO
 Mandy Hester, IL
 Liz Simon, IN
 Jon Loveless, KY
 Skip Lemoine, LA
 Denise May, MN
 Sarah Ykema, NH
 Troy Uglem, ND
 Chris Jones, OK
 C.C. Vernon III, OK
 Mabel Jimenez, PR
 Kari Bennett, TX
 Autumn Packer, TX
 Jeremiah Williams, TX
 Tammy Guill, VA
 Chris Viau, WI

Behind the Scenes

The Domino Effect (Continued from page 43)

on our industry.

I have shared three types of decisions that each of us must make in our lives. It is our choice to make either positive or negative decisions. They will have a domino effect on us and others. How then do we make the positive decisions? I offer a simple four-question approach to this. To apply it, let's imagine we are faced with the decision of whether or not to purchase a brand new car. I would want to buy a hot, red, dual exhaust 1994 Stealth.

Here are the questions:

- Do I have adequate knowledge to make this decision?
- What impact will the decision have on me and others?
- Have I consulted others who can assist me in my decision?
- Am I willing to accept the consequences of this decision?

After we analyze the answer to each question and are ready to make a decision, we must identify the pros and cons and then make an informed, objective decision.

FFA members, you and I will encounter many decisions in our lives. The personal, educational and career choices that you and I make affect not only ourselves, but many others who we may not even know. My final challenge to you is take the four-step approach to positive decision-making and put it to use in your life. You can affect whomever you come in contact with everyday. Remember, your decisions will have a domino effect on yourself and others. Make it a good one. Thank you for a wonderful year, and may God bless you!



The wet weather couldn't dampen the spirits of these FFA members, who were dashing to their next convention activity.



Some lucky members got to meet Lee Greenwood up close and personal, as he signed autographs for FFA fans before his performance at Wednesday night's Reflections session.

LEADERSHIP

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1993-94 National FFA Officers



Curtis Childers—President
Nemo, Texas
Age: 20
Chapter: Glen Rose FFA Chapter
Enterprise: market and show hogs
FFA State Office: Texas Association President
FFA Awards: national extemporaneous public speaking winner, state creed and parliamentary procedure contests
College/Major: Texas A&M, sophomore, agricultural development
Career Goal: international agricultural relations



Andrew McCrea—Secretary
Maysville, Missouri
Age: 21
Chapter: King City FFA Chapter
Enterprise: diversified crop and livestock
FFA State Office: Missouri Association President
FFA Awards: state public speaking winner, state proficiency winner
College/Major: University of Missouri-Columbia, junior, general agriculture
Career Goal: agricultural legislation and farming



Liam Brody—Eastern Region Vice President
Greenville, New York
Age: 19
Chapter: Greenville FFA Chapter
Enterprise: agriculture placement
FFA State Office: New York Association Vice President
FFA Awards: national livestock judging, public speaking and parliamentary procedure contests
College/Major: State University of New York, sophomore, agricultural business
Career Goal: agriculture teacher



Tyler Grandil—Western Region Vice President
Mesa, Arizona
Age: 20
Chapter: Mesa FFA Chapter
Enterprise: diversified livestock
FFA State Office: Arizona Association Treasurer
FFA Awards: state sheep and agriculture mechanics proficiency, state agriculture mechanics contest
College/Major: Arizona State University, sophomore, agricultural business management and liberal arts and sciences
Career Goal: agricultural communications



Raquel Lacey—Central Region Vice President
Nokomis, Illinois
Age: 20
Chapter: Nokomis FFA Chapter
Enterprise: diversified livestock
FFA State Office: Illinois Association Vice President
FFA Awards: state prepared public speaking contest, state proficiency competition
College/Major: University of Illinois, sophomore, animal science
Career Goal: veterinarian



Steven Mitchell—Southern Region Vice President
Pineville, Arkansas
Age: 19
Chapter: Calico Rock FFA Chapter
Enterprise: diversified livestock
FFA State Office: Arkansas Association Secretary
FFA Awards: state extemporaneous speaking contest, farm business management team, commodity marketing challenge
College/Major: Arkansas State University, sophomore, agricultural education
Career Goal: agriculture teacher

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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