

APRIL 2005

ffa *new horizons*

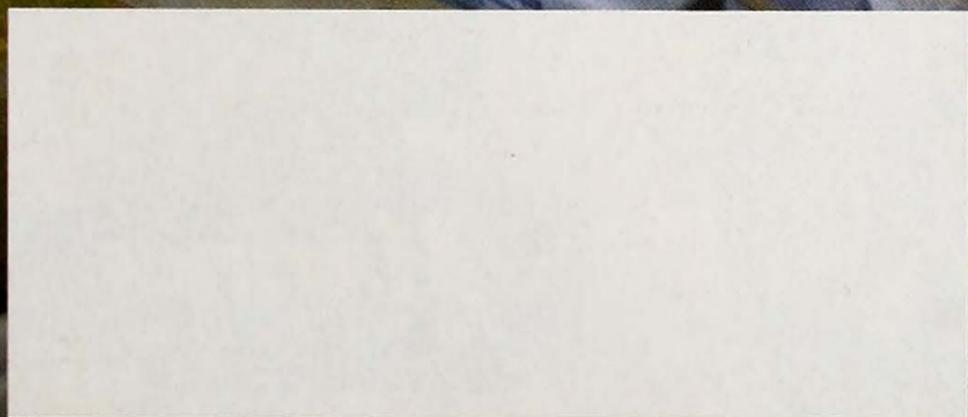


THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION



Open for business

An innovative Illinois FFA chapter launches its own store, which gives students hands-on experience and gives community members a nearby place to shop for animal feed and supplies



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4 FFA Talk

Your letters and replies to our “big” question. Plus, Idaho’s Declo FFA Chapter members share some photos of the signs they posted in front of their ag shop and out on the Highway 77.

6 National Officer Q&A

National FFA Secretary Emily Horton shares her five secrets of success. She also talks about public speaking jitters, her recent trip to Japan, setting goals and her supervised agricultural experience (SAE).

8 FFA Faces

Meet the Tennessee High School Rodeo Queen and five other FFA members and an FFA advisor who make a difference in their FFA chapters and their communities.

10 Open for Business

An innovative Illinois FFA chapter launches its own store, which gives students hands-on experience and gives community members a nearby place to shop for animal feed and supplies.

12 An Amazing Place

FFA members get a chance to work inside an FFA emblem made of—what else?—corn. It’s really a five-acre corn maze in the form of a huge FFA emblem.

14 Sports Turf Management Careers

Find out what you need about pursuing a career in sports turf management. And get a first-hand look at the job, as we talk to Clay Wood, the head groundskeeper for the Oakland A’s and Raiders.

18 Amanda’s Agenda

This Vermont FFA vice president has received her American FFA Degree and has made a lasting impact on her FFA chapter and community. The root of her success can be traced back to a trip to the national FFA convention

22 What’s Hot

FFA members cast votes for their favorite career development events (CDEs), agricultural careers, books, movies and more.

24 Your Money

It’s tax time. You might not be required to file tax returns, but the IRS reports that more than 70 percent of those who submit tax returns receive a refund. We’ll tell you what you need to know about filing.

26 Community Development

Read five stories about FFA chapters serving their communities. They’re paying tribute to firefighters, helping low-income families, recycling 23,000 pounds of rubber, honoring a battalion deployed to Iraq and promoting farm safety.

28 Last Laff

More of your jokes, such as this one by Whitney Kemp, of Wellsville, Mo.: Why do hummingbirds hum? Because they don’t know the words.

30 FFA Across the Nation

See what’s happening in FFA chapters across the nation. Who knows? Maybe you’ll get new ideas you can use in your own chapter.

COVER

Kurt Nakaerts (left) and John Wyss, members of the Central High FFA in Clifton, Ill., while working at the school’s feed store.



FFA Talk

What's on your mind?

YOUR LETTERS

I love to read the FFA magazines. They talk about all the ups and downs associated with hard work, perseverance and success. Sure, sometimes it's stressful, but when you think of how it feels when you help with a calf birth or simply playing with pigs, you get lost in the feelings of how great farming is. This magazine gives everyone the chance to explore "our" world and see what our values are.

*Vicki Menring
Walkersville, Md.*



Show us your sign

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



Declo FFA Chapter reporter Stephanie Hull of Declo, Idaho, writes: "Here are a couple of signs recognizing Declo FFA. One is in front of the ag shop. The other is located on Highway 77, the road leading out of town. With a population of 338, this small town does not even show up on most maps. But agriculture is the most important industry around here."

The *BIG* question:

Here is your chance to respond to an FFA- or agriculture-related question. Here are some of your responses to the questions we posed in recent issues:

What is your favorite career development event (CDE)?

My favorite CDE is fruit and vegetable judging. It's always fun, interesting and the people are always really nice. I hope that this encourages other schools to give it a try.

*Cassandra Brimmer
Toulon, Illinois*

What is your dream job?

My dream job is to become a race-horse trainer and train a horse that would win the Triple Crown. It's about time that another horse won this!

*Emily Wilkins
Stephens City, Va.*

It all started in seventh grade when I went to my first ag class. After the first day, I wanted so badly to show a pig that I sat down with my daddy and had a very long talk with him and to this day am still showing pigs. As the years passed, I have

competed on conducting, horse evaluation and wildlife CDE teams. All of these achievements have stood behind my dream of becoming the one thing that I want to be, an agricultural teacher and FFA advisor. I want to be just like my ag teacher, Mr. Baize.

*Sarah Frederick
Hamilton, Texas*

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Blue & Gold

News from the National FFA Center

The 2004-05 National FFA Officers took a weeklong agricultural tour of California in December. Sponsored by Altria, the tour expanded the officers' knowledge of agricultural practices and issues. California's agricultural diversity made it the perfect place for such a tour, which included visits to orange, artichoke and strawberry operations, a feedlot and a Kraft Foods plant.

"Land value is skyrocketing in California, making it tougher for farms to get larger," said Western Region Vice President Brian Hogue. "Since farmers can't make their money on quantity, they make it on quality. They do this by producing specialty crops."

Southern Region Vice President Rachael McCall took special note of water issues. "Even though we are on different sides of the country we do have some of the same problems

On tour

The national FFA officers travel to California for a week of learning and training



Dave Costa, a former FFA member, explains to the officers how value-added lettuce products have enabled his family's vegetable farm to compete in the market.

facing our state."

The officers also visited the Tulare and East Clovis FFA Chapters. "It was great to see a large number of students getting involved in agriculture education because they saw the potential for a career in the industry" said Eastern Region Vice President Jay Kelley.

Central Region Vice President Justine Sterling said the experience helped her see the big picture of agriculture and FFA: "Agriculture continues to be the core of our organization, just as it has been since the FFA was founded."

National FFA President Jackie Mundt summed up the trip: "Agriculture education is planting seeds and the students are reaping the benefits." ●

Read more about the officers in our interview with National FFA Secretary Emily Horton on page 6.



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National Officer Q&A

Meet National FFA Secretary Emily Horton



A native of Riverton, Wyoming, 21-year-old Emily is a member of the Shoshoni FFA Chapter and a junior at the University of Wyoming.

Emily's 5 secrets of success

- 1. Part of success is the ability to have faith in the big picture or the far-reaching goal.**
- 2. In order to be truly successful you must be true to a values system that will enable others to believe in you.**
- 3. Your success is determined by the amount of time you invest and your effort.**
- 4. Parents, your FFA advisor and mentors can help you succeed by helping you set attainable goals and holding you accountable.**
- 5. Success is measured by your goals.**

Describe how career development events (CDEs) helped you grow as a person.

They helped me gain faith in my abilities when I realized I had the skills

it took to be successful. I learned how to be coached, which really helped me grow. I will always value the lessons that my advisor Mr. Eric Schilt taught me at every practice and competition. Looking back, I have realized the value of hard work and perseverance.

How did your supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program help you define your career goals and see the larger world of agriculture?

I realized that my true passion is production agriculture. As my SAE progressed, I learned that the United States is not the only contributor to the world's food supply. I started to study other countries and cultures and realized that we have a very real problem with hunger and agriculture in many countries. My SAE helped me realize that I want to contribute to a viable global agricultural economy.

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Why should FFA members get involved in community service?

If we serve others, we can find what it means to be part of something larger than ourselves. That is what FFA is all about. It helps all of us to be leaders in agriculture, which feeds and clothes the world. Each day as FFA members we learn what we can do to help the world around us.

Did setting goals help you on your path to becoming the Wyoming FFA Star Farmer?

Absolutely. I set that goal as a high school freshman. In order for it to become a reality, I broke it down into a series of short-term goals. Each year, the goals in my proficiency application would change as I learned more skills and invested in more cattle. As time went by, my knowledge level increased, and I became a better manager of my cattle and finances.

How did you overcome stage fright in FFA public speaking events?

Each time I speak, even as a national FFA officer, I am slightly nervous. But I honestly think that helps me. The "little" nerves, as I call them, help me practice and think through what I will say. It took me about five speech competitions to feel comfortable in front of an audience.

As a national FFA officer, you meet many business and industry people. Why is that important to FFA?

Last year, businesses, organizations and individuals contributed more than \$9 million to the National FFA Organization. Those supporters fund our scholarships, leadership conferences, national CDEs, national proficiency awards and countless other programs that directly benefit FFA members. They keep FFA strong, and we're very thankful for that.

timeline

- 14 ● received Greenhand FFA Degree
- 15 ● lost district FFA creed speaking
● elected FFA chapter secretary
- 16 ● earned FFA chapter degree
● lost state FFA prepared speaking
● elected FFA chapter reporter
- 17 ● lost district FFA prepared speaking
● lost bid for FFA chapter president
● elected FFA chapter secretary
- 18 ● received state FFA degree
● selected Wyoming FFA Star Farmer
● third in state FFA prepared speaking
● elected state FFA treasurer
- 19 ● earned American FFA Degree
- 20 ● appointed to Wyoming Board of Agriculture
● elected national FFA secretary

You recently returned from the officers' Japan trip. What was your impression of the Future Farmers of Japan (FFJ)?

FFJ, which is modeled after FFA, is working to build agriculture in Japan. I was impressed with their program and their hospitality. ●



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FFA Faces

Members making a difference

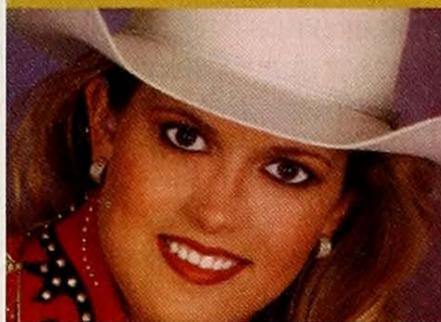
Win a Chevrolet backpack!

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

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



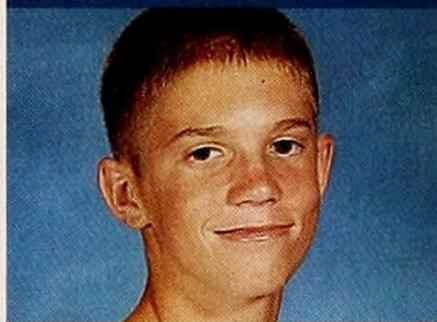
Tennessee



SYDNI ARNOLD

This Tennessee High School Rodeo Queen is a Munford FFA Chapter member who works as an equine technician at an animal hospital for her SAE program. She has competed at the state level in such CDEs as opening and closing ceremonies, job interview and horse evaluation. She also runs barrels and poles professionally, plans events for high school rodeos and is a member of numerous equine organizations.

California



WILLIE WRIGHT

A member of the Fresno-Central FFA Chapter, Willie has served as Greenhand secretary and competes on the small engine and opening and closing ceremonies teams. He shows hogs and a heifer and is proud to have won reserve grand champion and a first place in showmanship at the Big Fresno Fair. "FFA is very fun and has helped me get rid of my shyness," Willie says. His career goal—to become a veterinarian.

Virginia



MELANIE BALL

The one thing Melanie has gained from two years in FFA is confidence. When she joined the Elkton Middle FFA Chapter in seventh grade, she had little confidence in expressing her ideas. "I was afraid of what other people might think," she says. With the guidance of Mr. Mitchell, her FFA advisor, she spoke up, was elected chapter secretary and became involved in dairy and poultry CDEs.

Oklahoma



BRANDON CLAYBORN

A second-year member of the Thomas-Fay-Custer FFA Chapter, Brandon has already emerged as a leader. Named the chapter's Star Greenhand last year, he has started a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program in poultry production and he serves as FFA chapter sentinel. Brandon has also been involved in parliamentary procedure and public speaking CDEs.

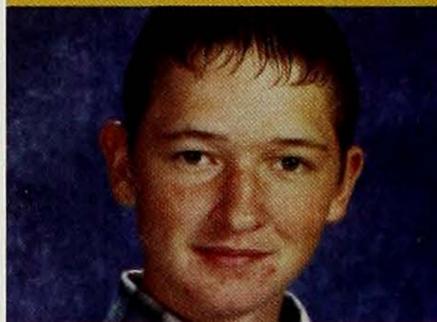
Texas



COURTNEY CORFIELD

With a special talent for working with animals, Courtney has made the most of her FFA experience by developing an SAE program involving market fryers, rabbits and an abandoned market swine. Courtney is involved in many FFA programs, including chapter fundraisers. She serves as FFA chapter historian and is considering a career working with livestock or as a veterinarian.

New Mexico



JACOB HERRON

With an SAE that includes beef cattle, hogs and a flock of lambs, it's easy to see why Jacob, a member of the Roy High School FFA Chapter, has been a member of the district-winning meats and wildlife CDE teams for the past two years. He's been showing sheep since he was four years old. In that time, he has shown many county grand and reserve champions.

Florida



MR. DOUG SMITH

As agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at Seabreeze High School, Mr. Doug Smith has been a positive influence on his students in and out of the classroom. He leads his FFA chapter's annual beach cleanup and, as a baseball coach, brings his expertise in the sport to help the FFA chapter field a softball team for an annual FFA field day at the local fairgrounds.

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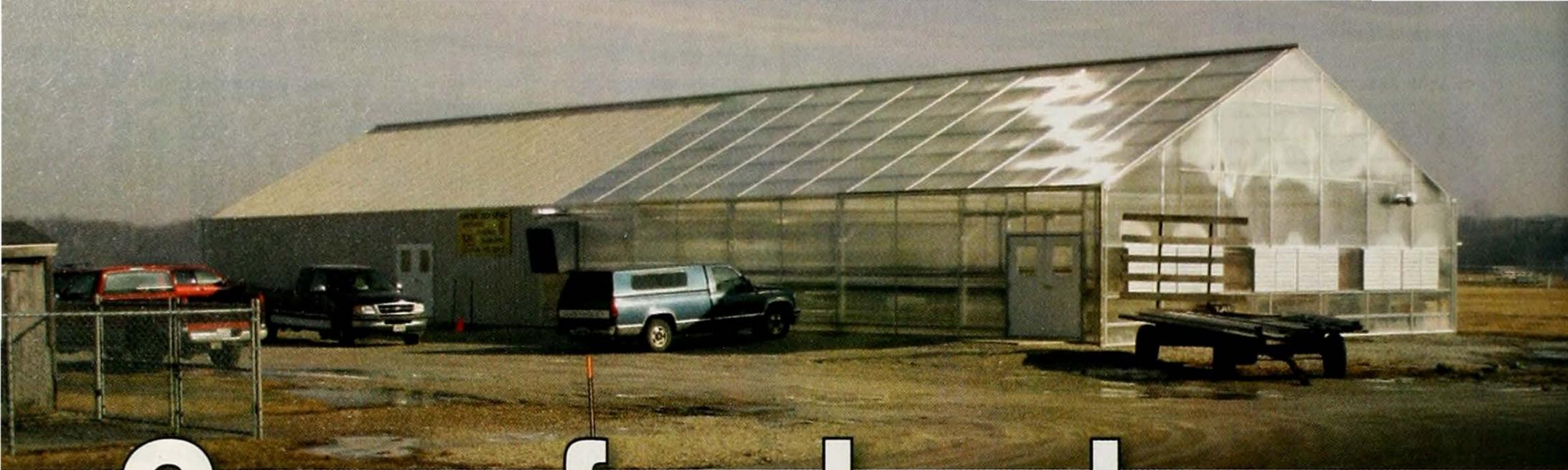
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Open for business

An innovative Illinois FFA chapter launches its own store, which gives students hands-on experience and gives community members a nearby place to shop for animal feed and supplies

By Stephen Regenold

In Clifton, Ill., FFA is serious business. The Central FFA Chapter owns and runs a fully-operational affiliate branch of Kent Feeds Store, selling animal supplies and feed to the local community and managing all aspects of the business—from advertising to inventory to accounting.

In 2004, the FFA members at Clifton's Central High School sold more than 100 tons of feed. The students get class credit and also earn a percentage off of the feed they sell. "This is truly their store," says Luke Allen, one of Central's two agriculture teachers and FFA advisors. "They do it all, and they take it very seriously."

Allen is not exaggerating. The 25 students in the Ag Business Operations and Ag Business Management classes, who are all FFA members, divide responsibilities and handle every aspect of the small business, which is called Central Feed For All. During 2002, students involved with the project worked with community leaders and brainstormed ways to best start the business.

In 2003, the students wrote a 12-page prospectus and lured investors into the expanding project. Last year, the store pulled in about \$70,000 in gross sales.



It's early Saturday morning and Central FFA members are already helping customers.

INNOVATIVE BEGINNINGS

The Central Feed For All story begins in 2001. Teacher Doug Hanson, who now runs the program with Luke Allen, was hired by Clifton Central High School to revive a declining agriculture program. He was looking for innovative ways to teach his students. Most of the agriculture classes at Central High included some hands-on work to demonstrate what the subjects are like in the real world. But the Ag Business Management Class was a traditional lectures-and-notes seminar format.

Hanson decided that the best way to get kids real-world experience in agricultural business was to start a

small company of some sort. At that same time, there was a need in the community for a feed store, and Hanson jumped at the chance.

Together, Hanson and his students researched feed suppliers in the area. They eventually chose Kent Feeds of Muscatine, Iowa, as their supply partner. The company met the classes' business needs and was also a family-owned business, a fact that was important to the project, Allen says.

According to the store's prospectus, Central Feed For All was created to be an educational tool while also meeting the needs of local communities. Hanson saw the store as a means to develop business skills and encourage entrepreneurship in young people. "Big business," the Central Feed For All prospectus reads, "is eliminating small business in rural America. This has caused community members to drive in excess of 20 miles to do business and it is economically devastating to rural America."

For the first year, the class sold feed out of the shop area in the agriculture department. The local community supported the store in a big way and things began to take off so much that Hanson and Allen decided they needed a new building dedicated to the Central Feed For All store.

The Central FFA store and greenhouse was built using proceeds from the sale of \$107,000 in stock.

“We thought about doing a raffle to raise money for the new store, but the building costs were going to be about \$100,000,” Allen says. “That’s when we decided to seek out community investors.”

GOING PUBLIC

Discussions with Clifton community leaders resulted in the idea of turning Central Feed For All into a co-op, holding an initial public offering (IPO) and selling stock in the store to raise the money. Using the situation as a learning opportunity for the Ag Business Management students, the teachers had FFA members research and write a detailed prospectus and financial analysis on Central Feed For All to show that it was a viable business local investors should con-

sider.

They left copies of the prospectus in popular stores and community centers and promoted the IPO with a website, flyers and radio and newspaper advertisements. In November 2003, the class held the IPO meeting and sold \$42,000 worth of stock in one day. By January 2004, when the sale of the stock had ended, the effort had raised \$107,000 for the Central Feed For All building project.

The new building was constructed behind the high school last summer, and the store is now fully functional and under the management of the students. It is open Tuesday and Saturday each week and makes more than \$1,000 on good days. FFA members work the sales floor, stock shelves, run the cash register, count the money and deposit it after closing up.

In addition to the feed store, part of the money raised by the IPO was used to build a 40 x 60-foot greenhouse attached to the new building. Central High School uses the greenhouse to teach its horticulture class, and future plans include creating a flower growing program and selling to the local market.

From a financial standpoint, the Central Feed For All co-op will start paying dividends to investors beginning this year and eventually hopes to buy back all stock from shareholders.

WORKING PERSPECTIVE

Larry Haigh, a senior at Central High School and president of the Clifton-Central FFA chapter, says his experience working with Central Feed For All has shown him what it would take if he someday wants to start his own

Kurt Nakaerts (left) and John Wyss work at the store and are students in the agriculture business operations class.



A new greenhouse (above) was incorporated into the construction of the store. Below, FFA members help customers load bags of feed into their truck.



business. Haigh’s duties at the store include accounting and bookkeeping. He oversees the income earned each day, files the receipts and makes a print-out of the day’s transactions for the store’s records.

Jessica White is in charge of paying the bills to Kent Feeds. Another student, Charlotte Hanson, keeps track of inventory.

“I’ve had fun getting to see how a store is run,” Jessica says. But, she warns, “It’s not as easy as it looks.” ●

For more information on the Central Feed For All project, visit their website (centralffa.tripod.com/)



An amazing place

FFA members get a chance to work inside an FFA emblem made of—what else?—corn

When he's not busy as an agriscience teacher and FFA advisor at Paulding County High School, Chad Carlton likes to help out at Carlton Farms

in Rockmart, Ga., a family-owned business that has been creating different corn mazes every summer for the last for four years. The maze and other farm attractions draw school

children, church groups and other visitors to the farm. Last year, guests learned about FFA as they traversed the five-acre corn maze, which the Carltons created to look like a huge FFA emblem.

"By the time people start visiting in the fall most of the work is done," farm owner Bobby Carlton explained. The corn is planted in late summer and the design process starts shortly after and takes six weeks to complete.

"We try to do a design each year that is pertinent in the community and that people will be able to relate to," farm manager Brad Carlton said. "It was important for us to do the FFA emblem this year because we believe in the mission of that organization. Since Chad has started teaching agriscience, we have seen first-hand the type of leadership that FFA develops in the young people that are involved. We believe that living and working on a farm has been a huge influence in our life. We enjoy seeing FFA members get to learn those same values



An aerial view of the five-acre FFA emblem and corn maze carved into a Georgia cornfield.

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Members of Georgia's Paulding County FFA Chapter rest on an Allis Chalmers D-14 tractor after a day of cleaning trails in the corn maze. From left, Casey Maxwell, (president), Jessica Whittaker, Bobby Barnes, Shane Presley, Caleb Hewett and Chris Hewett (vice president).

and principles.”

Inside the maze, the Carltons created 10 checkpoints, where maze visitors could pick one of several topics, including FFA trivia, each with 10 questions. Correct answers yielded clues for finding the next checkpoint and, ultimately, the exit.

Chad Carlton recruited FFA members to work at the maze, and the students who took him up on the offer weren't disappointed. "Working in the corn maze is so fun. It was a chance to spend time with fellow FFA members and inform people about our chapter," said Casey Maxwell, president of the Paulding FFA Chapter.

Allen Shumpert serves as FFA chapter sentinel. "As an FFA member," he explained, "working in the corn maze gives me a sense of pride in what the organization has to offer and stands for."

The job also allowed FFA members to have some fun at Halloween time, as the maze season drew to a close. The members placed Halloween props throughout the maze and used a variety of tactics to scare visitors.

FFA chapter treasurer Frannie Fallon spooked some visitors and had this to say about the experience: "Working in the haunted corn maze was a great experience. I got to spend time with friends that I don't usually see outside of school, plus it allowed me to work as a team with a new group of people." ●

FFA

You are taught leadership
 There are many fun trips
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 you don't wear a vest.
 There's a jacket with an emblem
 The emblem has five symbols
 They each have a meaning
 which are meant for you and me.
 You should join in
 and make a new friend
 Then you can say a little phrase,
 "Hey, Hey, What do ya say? FFA!"

*Kimberly Shockley
 Southwest FFA Chapter reporter
 Washburn, Missouri*

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Sports turf

management

A career guide for FFA members

By Stephen Regenold

As a child growing up in Boulder, Colo., Clay Wood was the catcher for his little league baseball team. Wood, who's now 34 years old and the head groundskeeper at McAfee Coliseum in Oakland, Calif., was required at these childhood games to rake the dirt around home plate. In high school, Wood got the job of maintaining the pitcher's mound and tamping down the batter's box dirt to keep it firm. He then covered the mound and home plate area with a tarp after the game ended to protect them from wind and rain.

Little did Wood know these first episodes getting his hands dirty on the baseball field were a sign of what was to become his dream job. For the last 10 years, Wood has worked with the Oakland Athletics professional baseball team, keeping the field turf green and even, the baselines chalked and the infield dirt raked and immaculate. His office is just behind the center field fence at McAfee Coliseum, and he rubs shoulders almost daily with some of the biggest names in Major League Baseball.

"It's a heck of a lot of fun," Wood says. "I feel really fortunate to have this job; being a major league groundskeeper is the pinnacle of my career."

MORE THAN MOWING

Wood's career area, which deals with all aspects of managing the field for the Athletics and the Oakland Raiders, is often referred to as sports turf

Clay Wood, the head groundskeeper at McAfee Park in Oakland, Calif., cares for the playing field used by the Oakland A's and Raiders.

management. People in this career work at athletics fields, sod-production companies, research facilities and other venues where the management of turf grass must be distilled into a science.

The maintenance of a field like the one at McAfee Coliseum cannot be handled with a few bags of grass seed and a lawnmower. Knowing how, when, why and where to plant a certain type of specialty turf is a skill that requires years of study and practice and often a college degree. The grass underneath the professional athletes' feet is the medium on which the sport is played. It must be tough, resilient, good-looking and perfectly even.

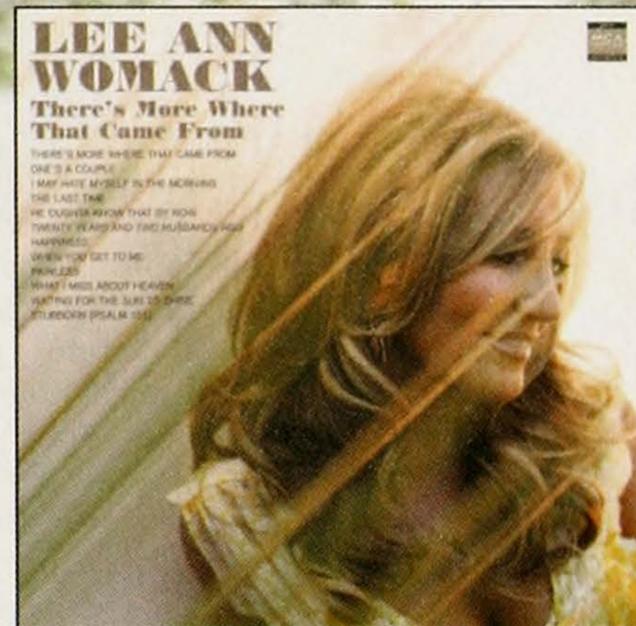
"There's a huge responsibility in keeping the field turf even," Wood says. "You don't want to see a bad hop of the ball potentially injure an athlete who has a multi-million-dollar contract."

CAREER CHOICES

Dozens of colleges and universities in every part of the United States offer degrees in sports turf management and related fields. The names of the degrees differ from school to school, and coursework varies, but all of these programs can deal with the growth and management of specialty turf grass either as the central focus or as a student specialization of the major.

Pennsylvania State University, for example, has a Turfgrass Science major that includes courses in basic and applied sciences as well as business management. All students must also participate in an internship in the field, and graduates earn a Bachelor of Sciences degree after completing 128 credits or coursework.

At the University of California-



LEE ANN WOMACK

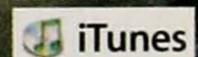
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Continued from page 15

Davis, students interested in turf-related careers can pursue an Environmental Horticulture and Urban Forestry degree. The focus of this major, according to school literature, "is on the biological and physical concepts and horticultural principles of plant production, management of plants and plant ecosystems in landscape settings and sociological aspects of plant/people interactions in the urban environment." Areas of specialization within the Environmental Horticulture and Urban Forestry degree include Landscape Management/Turf, Urban Forestry, Floriculture/Nursery and Plant Biodiversity/Restoration.

Beyond college and university

"Start with the hands-on work, get a degree and keep making connections."

degrees, the Sports Turf Managers Association, a not-for-profit industry group formed in 1981, offers a Certified Sports Field Managers program that tests and certifies individuals as qualified to manage sports turf and athletics venues. The exam tests on the subjects of agronomics, pest management, administration and sports-specific field management. A college degree is not required for the test, though it is valued. Experience working in the field is a must. While the Certified Sports Field Managers program is not a requirement when working in a sports turf management position, it is a plus, and it's one more thing to have on a resume to boost your credentials.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

When the Oakland Athletics are in town on a long stretch of home games, Clay Wood is a very busy man. He oversees a crew of seven grounds workers, and on game days they all arrive to get the field ready about five hours before the ballplayers are scheduled to show up. They break out the shovels, rakes,

mowers and other equipment and start working to get McAfee Coliseum up to world-class athletics standards.

The work continues through batting practice. Once the game begins, Wood and his crew sit back to watch the game and wait. They stay on call in case anything needs attention during the nine innings of play. After the game is over, it's another big job to clean up and prepare everything for the next day.

By the time Wood gets home on these days, he's often worked a 15-hour day. And this may continue for up to 13 days straight when the team has a long stretch of home games.

"The days are long, but there's a fair amount of downtime when the game is on," Wood says. "And after all these years it's still a thrill for me to be around the professional athletes and see what these guys can do."

After a long stretch of home games, Wood and his crew will take three or four days off to recuperate. During the off-season they work on the field for miscellaneous athletic events, and during football season the work load is less, as there is at most one game a week.

Once a year, after the football season ends, Wood and his crew re-sod the entire field. They use a tough base grass called Tif-II hybrid Bermuda and then seed in a perennial rye grass to add the nice dark-green color to the field. They take soil samples throughout the year to determine when to fertilize, which is usually every 12 to 15 days.

For kids interested in sports turf management, Wood recommends getting involved early, working internships, getting on board with local minor league teams and working your way up the ladder. He got his foot in the door for his current job while going to college in Arizona and working part-time on field crew where the Oakland Athletics held spring training.

"Start with the hands-on work, get a degree and keep making connections," he says.

For more information on sports turf management, including links to colleges that offer degrees in the field, go to the Sports Turf Managers Association's website (www.sportsturf-manager.com)

Puzzler

by Matt Gaffney

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8
9				10				
11				12				
13			14					
15					16	17	18	19
			20	21				
22	23	24				25		
26						27		
28						29		

ACROSS

- 1 Funny actor ___ Carrey
- 4 You may have to file them with the IRS
- 9 Six minus five
- 10 Last letter in the Greek alphabet
- 11 Central Feed For ___ (Illinois feed store started by FFA members in high school)
- 12 Army officer, for short
- 13 Elizabeth ___ (FFA member from Iowa who attended September's Freshmen Fire-Up Camp)
- 15 Red traffic sign
- 16 "It's no big ___"
- 20 Color that's also a fruit
- 22 "___ the Torch, Pass the Flame" (theme of Oklahoma's COLT conference)
- 25 River-blocking structure
- 26 Sharp, as a pain
- 27 Stock sale held by the FFA members who started 11-across: abbr.

DOWN

- 1 Actress Cusack and singer Baez
- 2 Arm of the sea
- 3 ___ Yello (soft drink brand)
- 4 "It'll mean so much ___ many people!"
- 5 Vermont FFA vice president Mattison
- 6 Gen-___ (person around 35 years old)
- 7 It may get scrambled in the morning
- 8 Kind of job 5-down had at Kmart: abbr.
- 14 ___ turf management
- 17 "What a way to ___!" (baseball announcer's phrase)
- 18 With one's mouth open in wonder
- 19 Fruit that also means "lousy car"
- 21 Some breads
- 22 What a baseball player wears on his head
- 23 Horizontal: abbr.
- 24 Wish you hadn't

Some clues are based on articles in this magazine.

March / April 2005

The **IMPACT**

The Indiana FFA

Student Spotlight *Page E*

**From the FFA to the
Nation's Capitol** *Page F*

**New Indiana FFA Sponsors
Stand Proud** *Page I*

Inside This Issue

Stationed by the Plow

Stationed by the Ear of Corn

Student Spotlight

From the FFA to the Nation's Capitol

College... When Pocket Change Really Counts

FFA Member Starts Small, but Dreams Big

New Indiana FFA Sponsors Stand Proud

Indiana Soybean Board Forms Alliances with the FFA

A Passion for Youth Brought Advisor Back to Agriculture Education

Friendly Faces at North Harrison

With District Conventions Around the Corner; It's Show Time!

Do, Re, Mi...

Parliamentary Procedure: All Those In Favor Say "Aye!"

Strain Your Brain

Calendar of Events

March

3 *State Degree and Proficiency Scoring Workshop, Indiana FFA Leadership Center

15 *Section Chapter Meeting CDE

April

4 *State Proficiency Applications Due Postmarked

*State FFA Officer Applications Phase I Due Postmarked

*State FFA Honorary Degree, Distinguished Service, and VIP Applications Due Postmarked

5 *State Welding CDE

16 *State Officer Candidate Open & Guest Open House

*State FFA Executive Committee

Indiana FFA Staff

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Robert Juncker State Advisor

Stephanie Warner Program Specialist

Brian Buchanan Development Director

Samantha Lucy Magazine Editor

Shawn Mulligan Magazine Designer

2004-2005 State Officer Team

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Jill Steiner Secretary

Eric Barnard N.R. Vice President

Todd Ault S.R. Vice President

Jennifer Shepard Treasurer

Sara Egan Reporter

Joey Dunn Sentinel

Stationed by the Plow

Eric Barnard, 2004-05 Northern Region Vice President

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT ERIC...

"In my 21 years at Carroll, Eric is the best all around student and person that I have the privilege of working with."

Steve Keown, Eric's FFA Advisor

"Eric has been a wonderful source of pride for us. He has accomplished a great deal in his young life and has been very newsworthy the past year."

Lori Barnard, Eric's Mother

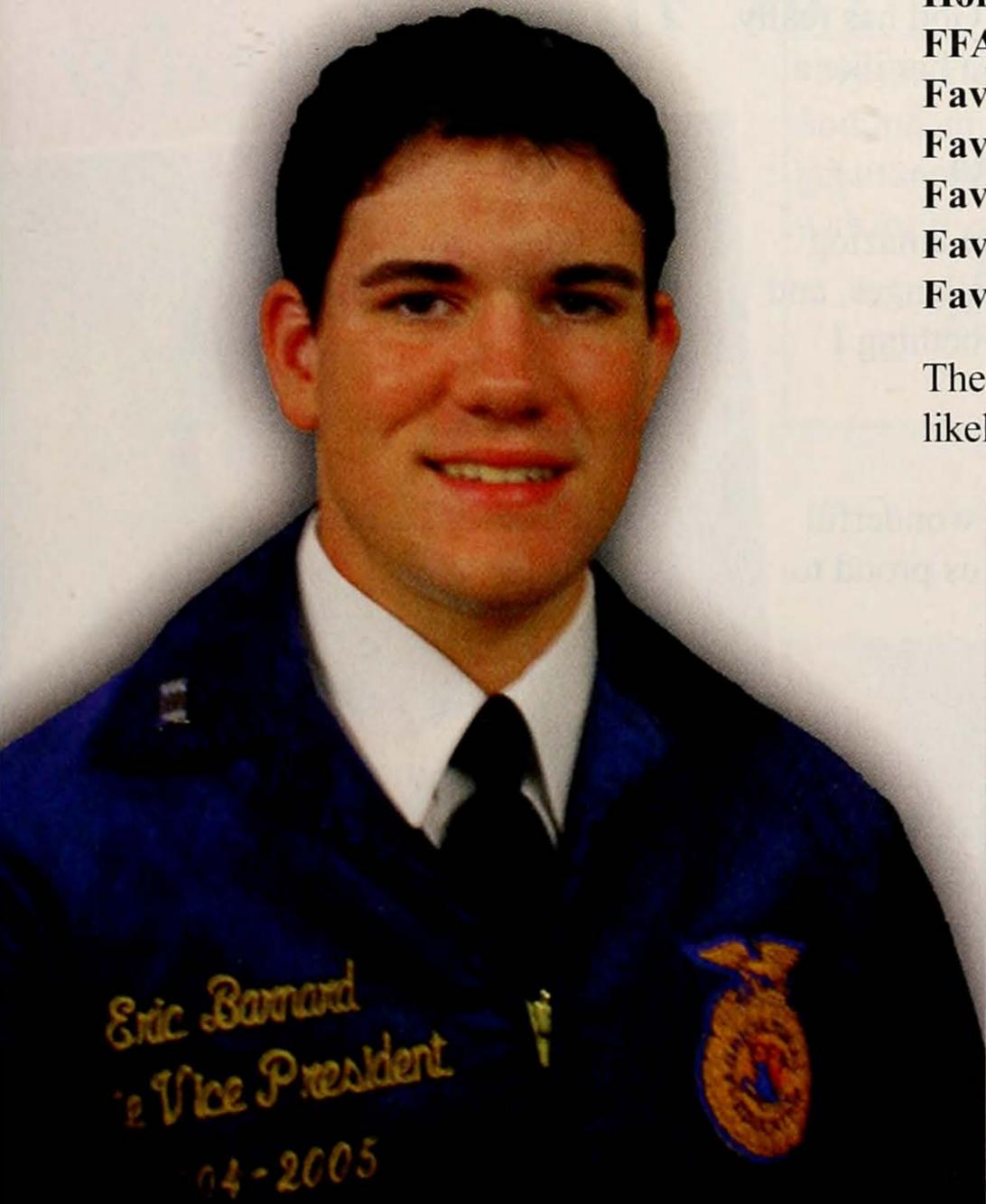
"Eric is constantly striving to improve anything he can. He is a great person all around and will always impress you."

Hannah Peters, Chapter Officer with Eric

"Eric was more than just an officer and member of our FFA chapter. He always knew how to take charge and get things done, but he also knew how to have fun."

Kelly Moffitt, District V Reporter

Eric plans to attend Purdue, live in Farmhouse Fraternity, and major in mechanical engineering. He would like to work in the agriculture machinery industry.



FFA Timeline

- 12 Joined FFA
- 14 Participated in first CDE, Livestock Evaluation
- 15 Received Greenhand Degree
- 16 Received Chapter Degree
Elected District V Reporter
- 17 Elected District V President
Failed to receive bid to State Soils after being there twice before
- 18 Elected 2004-2005 Indiana FFA Northern Region Vice President

FAST FACTS ABOUT ERIC...

Parents: Mike and Lori Barnard

Siblings: Nick and Blake

Hometown: Flora

FFA Chapter: Carroll@ Flora

Favorite Food: Anything edible

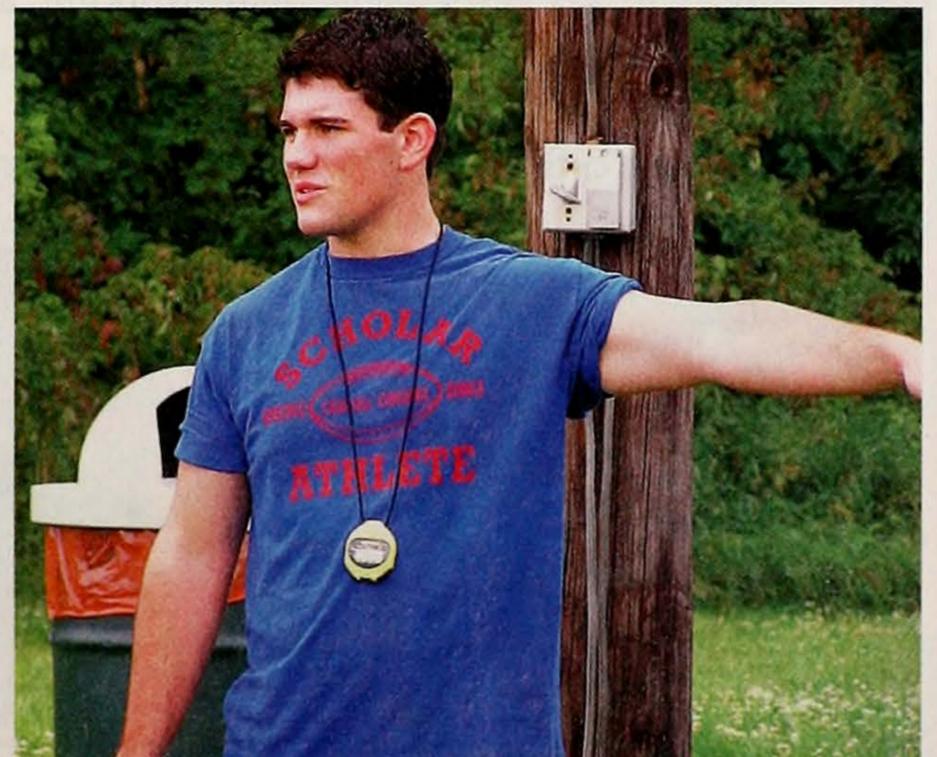
Favorite Song: Thunderstruck, ACDC

Favorite Sport: Football

Favorite Movie: Forrest Gump

Favorite FFA Activity: FFA Week

The 2004-2005 State Officer Team voted Eric most likely to become an English Butler...so classy.



Jill Steiner... Stationed by the Ear of Corn

2004-2005 Indiana FFA State Secretary

FAST FACTS

Parents: Kent and Shirley Steiner

Sibling: Jaime

Hometown: Berne, Indiana

FFA Chapter: Adams Central FFA

Favorite Sport: Snow Skiing

Favorite Food: Macaroni and Cheese

Favorite Movie: A Walk to Remember

Favorite FFA Activity: Camps/Conferences

Favorite Quote: "Opportunities are never lost, just taken by someone else."

The State Officer Team voted Jill the Most Likely to ACCIDENTALLY destroy the world!

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT JILL...

"Jill and I met at an FFA Leadership Camp and have been good friends ever since. I know I can count on her for anything."

Christina Harp, past District IV President

"Jill is a great leader and an extremely hard worker. God has really blessed me with a friend like Jill, and I'll always love her like a sister!"

Haley Stepler, Adams Central classmate

"Jill was someone I could always count on. She is an amazing hard worker that was never afraid to take on new challenges, and her willingness to get out and try new things was something I greatly appreciated."

Mr. Mike Jones, Jill's Advisor

"Jill has been a very responsible, hard-working, and wonderful daughter. She has been a great friend and has made us proud to be her parents."

Kent and Shirley Steiner, Jill's Parents



FFA Timeline

- 11** Joined FFA and then quit
- 14** Rejoined FFA
Placed Last in County Soils CDE
- 15** Placed 1st in State Quiz Bowl
Placed 3rd in State Freshman Public Speaking
Elected Chapter Reporter
- 16** Lost Chapter Officer Elections
Elected District Reporter
- 17** Received Hoosier Degree
Elected District President
Elected Chapter President
Served as a Delegate to the 76th National FFA Convention
- 18** Lost Female Ambassador CDE
Elected as State Secretary





“My favorite activity is our chapter meetings because I get to hang out with my friends and learn about what’s coming up in the FFA.”

Erin Dudley, Sophomore, Liberty FFA

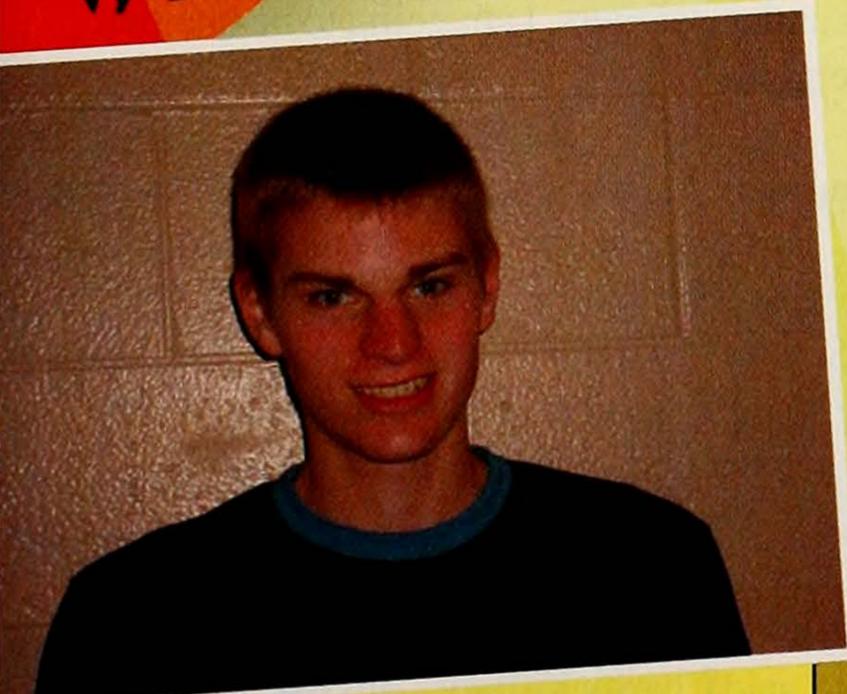


“My favorite chapter activity is our Chapter Banquet because it is a time when we can honor our parents and the community for their amazing support. It’s also great to pull together and celebrate everything we’ve done in the past year.”

Mindy Kessie, Senior, Whitko FFA

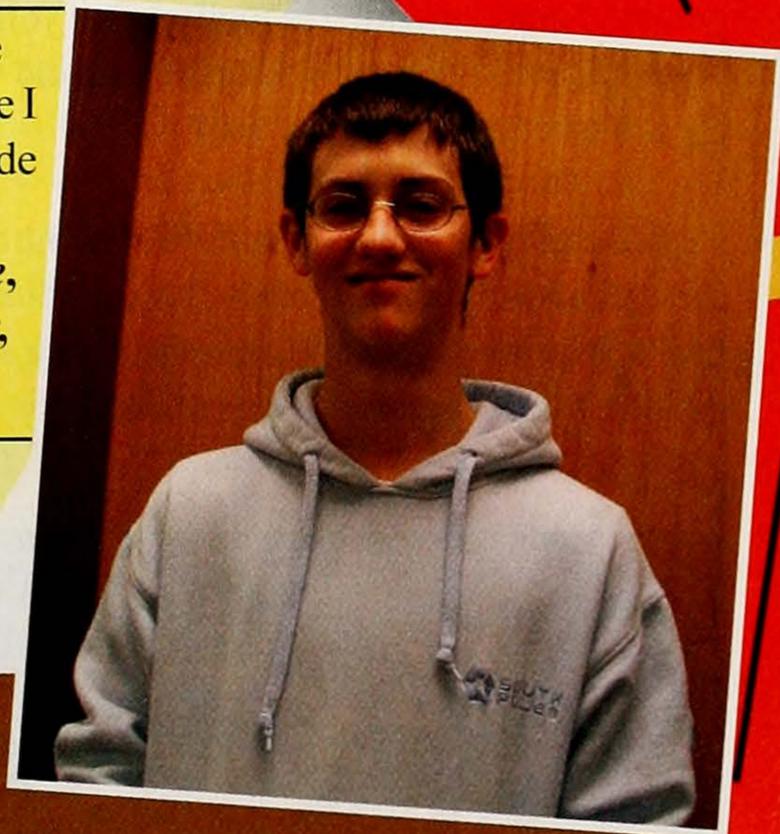
Student Spotlight!

What is your favorite chapter activity?



“My favorite activity is the Soil Judging CDE because I get to spend the day outside with my friends.”

*Vincent Reese,
Eighth Grader,
Attica FFA*



“My favorite chapter activity is the Entomology CDE. I’ve participated in it for many years now and I have always been successful and have thoroughly enjoyed it.”

*Eric Gettelfinger,
Junior, North Harrison FFA*

Next issue’s spotlight question:

What do you look forward to most about spring?

E-mail your answer to inffaspotlight@yahoo.com

FFA Member Starts Small, but Dreams Big

By Sara Egan

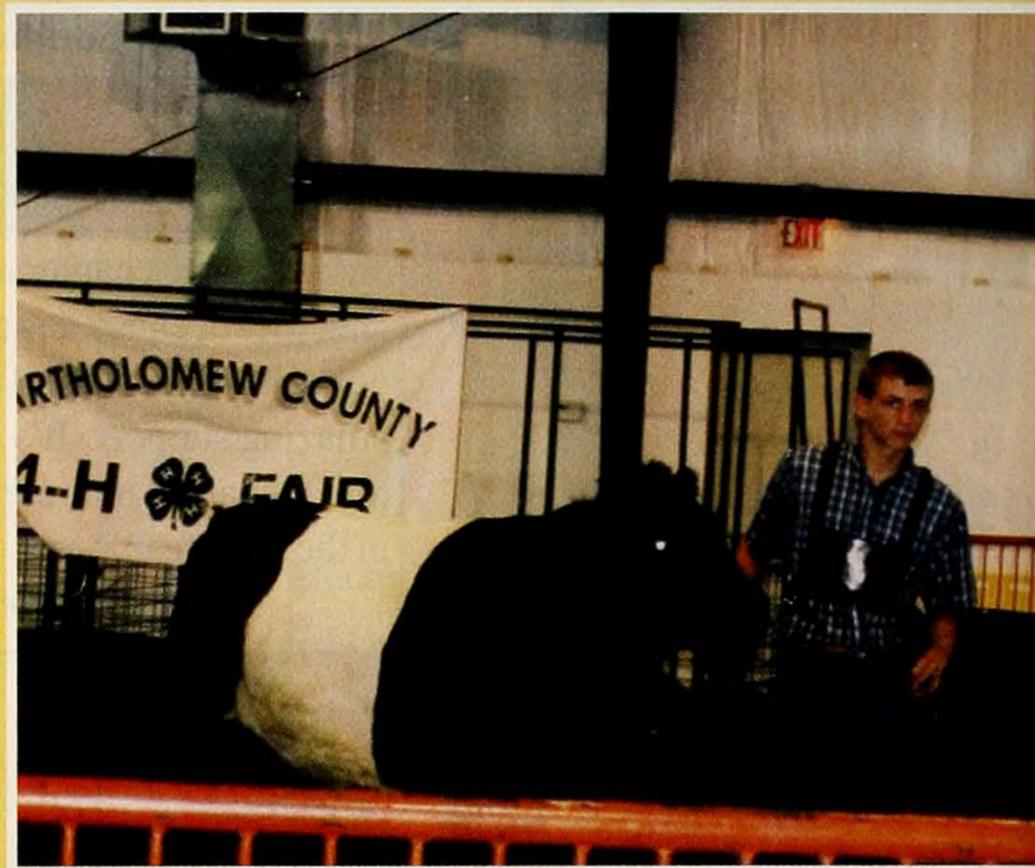
John Romine, a senior at Columbus East, has been around agriculture since as long as he can remember. This FFA member can often be found on the farm working with his Belted Galloway cattle or out in fields.

“I got my start in agriculture when my grandpa offered me the opportunity to farm his ground without paying the rent,” said John. “My grandpa saw that I had interest and wanted to give me the chance to look into it further.”

John’s SAE revolves around the work he does on his family farm. He and his father farm approximately 80 acres of ground splitting it fifty-fifty. His growth and achievement earned him the top spot in the 2004 District XI Grain Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency. In addition to his farming operation, John also works on the Romine Tree Farm, including a Christmas tree farm and petting zoo.

“John always seems to be on track,” said Jon Nolting, a fellow FFA member. “He has strong morals and he’s great to hang out with. He really helps you think about yourself, evaluate your strengths and your weaknesses. He is a true leader.”

Because of his involvement in FFA, John says that he can more easily relate to those around him and friendships seem to come more naturally. And his speaking skills have improved immensely.



“When I look at what the FFA has done for me, I realize how much I have opened up,” said John. “I look toward the future and realize that whether I’m in college talking with professors, or out in the business world dealing with co-workers and consumers, I am going to be one step ahead of the game.”

The speaking skills have seemed to go along way outside of just FFA. This past year he was selected as the youth representative for Bartholomew County REMC. On February 25, John leaves for San Diego where his duties will include being a runner for each of the state’s cooperatives as well as bearing the Indiana flag.

“John is one of our hardest workers. He knows what his strengths are and applies them, but he also knows his weaknesses,” said Charity Keffaber, advisor at Columbus East. “He is a great student, member, and asset to our chapter. I have truly enjoyed working with him, and getting the opportunity to know him.”

College...When Pocket Change Really Counts

By Sara Egan

College. The time of your life. Excitement awaits you around every corner. As a high school student, you cannot wait to get out and experience the real world and college is that first step. But wait...college...that means that you really do have to step into the real world and the real world means real money.

College can be one of the biggest investments you will make in your lifetime. As the number of students pursuing further education increases, so does the price of further education. And that large amount of money can be a burden on the shoulders of a high school graduate. So what can you do to relieve the burden? There are three main options.

Loans are an amount of money given to a student through a bank or other financial institute. All loans are lent with an interest rate attached to them. This means that aside from paying back capital, you must also pay back an additional percentage on the capital. However, most banks have lower interest rates on student loans than regular loans. These loans can be extremely useful to cover the extra expenses of college that are not already covered.

Scholarships are a form of financial assistance for college students. Scholarships are financial assistance that do not require repayment. The majority of scholarships come from organizations and companies that want to lend a hand in furthering the education of today's youth. The National FFA Organization offers over \$2 million in scholarships. These scholarships are offered to those members that have the right combination of achievement.

"Scholarships, grants and loans are crucial today when attending college. They can make a huge difference in the cost of upper level education," stated C.J. Fleenor, former Orleans FFA member and current sophomore at Purdue University. "Through organizations such as FFA and the Lilly Endowment, I have been able to offset expenses, and devote more time to my studies. Loans and Grants can also be very helpful, and all of them will allow a student to learn in a friendlier environment."

Grades are important, but the FFA and most other organizations often look at the total package – grades, extracurricular activities, financial need, and many other factors. When applying for an FFA scholarship, also take into consideration your FFA involvement and your Supervised Agriculture Experience. To learn more about some of the scholarships available, log on to www.fastweb.com. The website has a database of scholarships that apply to your specific career goals and helpful hints to filling out scholarship application. To apply for the National FFA Scholarships log on to www.ffa.org/programs/scholarships.

"Scholarships help students by giving them the means to pursue further education," said Ben DeWees, a former Rensselaer FFA member and current junior at Purdue University. "I would advise FFA members to explore the extensive selection of scholarship options available. They can be extremely beneficial. "

Grants are very similar to scholarships; however, they require a much longer written application that defines the need for the financial assistance and what the money will be used for. Most grants are given to students that have a financial need, or are furthering their studies in a specific area, such as graduate programs or medical school. Grants are also more often provided through governmental agencies rather than organizations or companies. One of the most well-known grant applications is the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form. You can retrieve this form from www.fafsa.ed.gov. One key factor of grants is that, like scholarships, they do not require a form any form of repayment.

For more information about loans, scholarships and grants, talk to your guidance counselor or visit any of the sites below:

- www.fastweb.com
- www.ffa.org/programs/scholarships
- www.fafsa.ed.gov

From the FFA to the Nation's Capitol

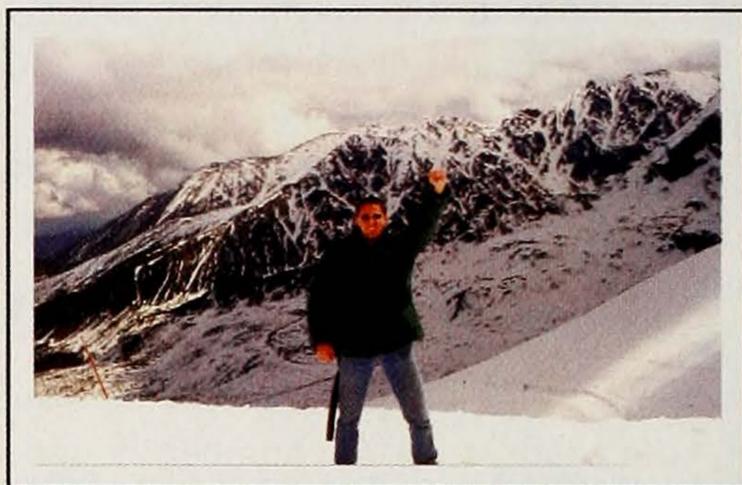
By Jill Steiner

As many careers in agriculture are specific, Eric Steiner has a career which is all encompassing. For the former FFA member, hailing from the South Adams FFA Chapter, Steiner has been serving as a Professional Staff Member in the United States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry for *the past year*.

While working as a staff member on the committee, he is serving under Agriculture Committee Chairman, Thad Cochran, a senator from Mississippi. He has responsibilities with international trade, international food aid, and domestic child nutrition issues as well as the oversight of USDA and FDA programs. Steiner is able to hear from constituents, lobbyists, advocates, and staff of other Senators to assist him with crafting legislation. Also with the committee he is able to represent the Chairman at meetings, conferences, and events. Discussing agriculture issues with foreign officials is another responsibility that Steiner performs.

“I enjoy the chance to apply myself in service to our country,” says Steiner. “I feel like I’m living my version of the American Dream.” He feels fortunate to have been able to live on a small rural farm in Indiana and yet have the opportunity to work with agriculture in the US Senate.

Steiner received his Bachelors of Science in Agriculture Education at Purdue University. During his college career he was able to study abroad in Poland,



Honduras, and South Africa. He also served as an intern with the American Farm Bureau Federation. During his internship, he was able to find his passion for our nation’s capital and politics and wanted to be a part of service.

Upon graduation from Purdue University in 2002, he was employed at *the Congressional Hunger Center in Washington D.C.* for one year to intensively learn about our nation’s response to food insecurity. During his year, he also analyzed the availability of cropland and freshwater for all countries given population projects to 2050. It was then that he was able to obtain his position as a staff member on the Agriculture Committee.

Steiner gives much credit to the FFA for his success. Through his many experiences in the organization, he was about to gain a foundation of skills that he built upon. “Often I am reminded of my FFA experiences while I am combining multiple skills that I developed from different contests,” Steiner explained. “My job today often demands the highest quality of work at a very fast pace.”

As Steiner has experienced many opportunities in the FFA, at Purdue University, and now in the United States Senate, he knows what it takes to be a successful person.

“Make it a priority to develop your communication skills while you are in the FFA,” said Steiner. “If you can communicate well and demonstrate a strong work ethic, you will be able to maximize your opportunities to work and serve in any capacity you could ever want.”



New Indiana FFA Sponsors Stand Proud

By Joey Dunn

Annually, the Indiana FFA depends on contributions from private companies and individuals for over half of its general operating budget. We have been very fortunate this year to acquire many new sponsors for this great organization. Companies are very eager to join the FFA team as they learn more about our organization and the impact it has on over 9,200 students across Indiana.

If you know anyone involved with these generous companies, please take the time to thank these new sponsors for their support this year of the Indiana FFA Association.

University Inn



USRUBBER



The Indiana FFA is proud to welcome these new sponsors:

- Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association, Indianapolis, IN
- US Rubber, Vicksburg, MS
- Bane Equipment, Inc., Wingate, IN
- State Farm Insurance, West Lafayette, IN
- Wilson Trailer Company, Lebanon, IN
- University Inn, West Lafayette, IN
- Lilly Endowment, Inc., Indianapolis, IN
- Bank One, Indianapolis, IN
- Holiday Inn Select, West Lafayette, IN



“We are proud to having these new sponsors on board with the FFA. With new sponsors like these, we are going to have an excellent year.”

Brian Buchanan,
Indiana FFA Foundation Development Director.



BANK ONE



**Wilson
Trailer
Sales**

Indiana Soybean Board Forms Alliances with the FFA

By Jill Steiner

Without gracious sponsors like the Indiana Soybean Board, members of the Indiana FFA would not have the opportunity to develop their true potential in premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. The Indiana Soybean Board sponsors the Agriculture Issues and the Soils Evaluation Career Development Events, as well as the Awards Luncheon at the Indiana FFA State Convention each year.

During a recent conversation, Jim Schriver, president of the Indiana Soybean Board, shared his thoughts about why he and his organization chose to partner with the Indiana FFA.

Full Name of Organization: Indiana Soybean Board

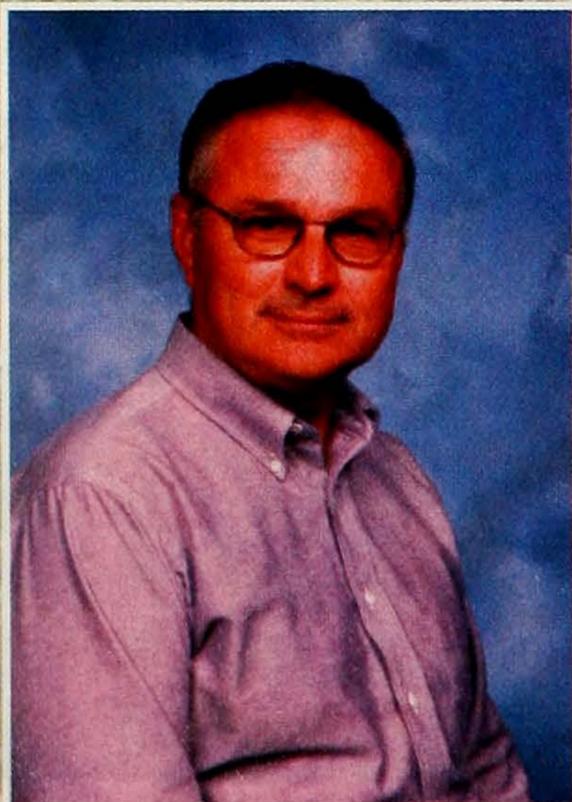
Location of Headquarters: Indianapolis, Indiana

Number of Employees: 6 full-time, 2 part-time, and 38 board members

Years in Operation: 13

History of Company: Congress mandated an involuntary check off program that funds the Indiana Soybean Board. When soybean farmers sell their crop, half of one percent is deducted of their total check. Half of the money earned in Indiana

*Jim Schriver, President of the
Indiana Soybean Board*



stays with Indiana while the other half goes to the United Soybean Board.

What exactly does the Indiana Soybean Board do?

The organization endorses the soybean industry in any way possible. For the 2005 year, \$3.5 million dollars is budgeted for promotion in the soybean industry, including international market research, consumer information, soy nutrition, soy science education, new uses, producer services, and administration.

Partnering with universities and several other industries allows the Indiana Soybean Board to explore new uses for soy products.

Are there any internship opportunities available through the Indiana Soybean Board?

The executive director of the Indiana Soybean Board should be contacted to learn about the opportunities. The organization is open to internships if someone would have the passion and desire assist the soybean industry in any way.

How would you describe your relationship with the Indiana FFA to a peer organization?

The board has formed some alliances to help the FFA and the soy industry. In the Indiana Soybean Board's mission statement, it states that they want to be able to make the soybean producer more profitable. By educating FFA members, they are accomplishing their mission. Since members are aware of agriculture, they are able to make them more informed about soy products and the industry as a whole.

How did the partnership between the Indiana Soybean Board and the Indiana FFA arise?

Since the Indiana Soybean Board and the Indiana FFA have several mutual objectives and interest, it seemed like a great fit. Also many of the directors of the organization were past members of the FFA.

Indiana Soybean Board is a great supporter of Indiana FFA Members. Their dollars are going to educate FFA members on the value of agricultural literacy."

Brian Buchanan,
Foundation Development Director

Passion for Youth Brings Advisor Back to His Roots

By Jill Steiner

By looking at Mr. Tom Wallace's classroom and FFA chapter, you would think he was a veteran teacher and advisor; however, he has only been teaching at Owen Valley for just three years. While he has only been in the classroom teaching for a short time, Mr. Wallace has already earned several awards and acknowledgements in those years for his outstanding dedication to his students and agriculture education.

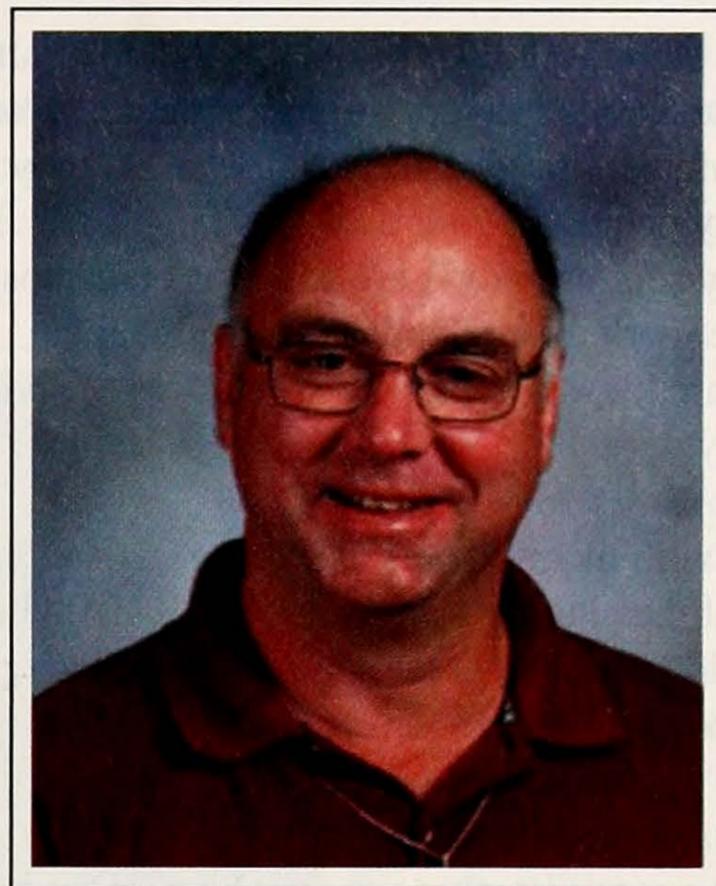
"Mr. Wallace is like more than just a teacher, he's a friend," said Aaron Smith, a junior at Owen Valley. "He will always find a way to make you feel good about yourself and bring your confidence up."

Growing up in Owen county, Mr. Wallace was never involved in the FFA or ever enrolled in an agriculture education course in high school. Through his participation in 4-H for 10 years, he found a love for agriculture education through his 4-H leader, Jack Zimmerman, who was also the agriculture instructor in his high school.

"Back when I was in school, kids who were college bound were not allowed to be in agriculture classes," said Mr. Wallace. "I am very happy that is not the case anymore."

After earning a double major at Purdue University in Agriculture Education and Animal Science, he attended Indiana University where he obtained a master's degree in Secondary Education. Immediately after graduation, he taught at Brownstown Central for four years. He then went on to work as a swine, cattle, and retail specialist for Purina Mills for the next 18 years.

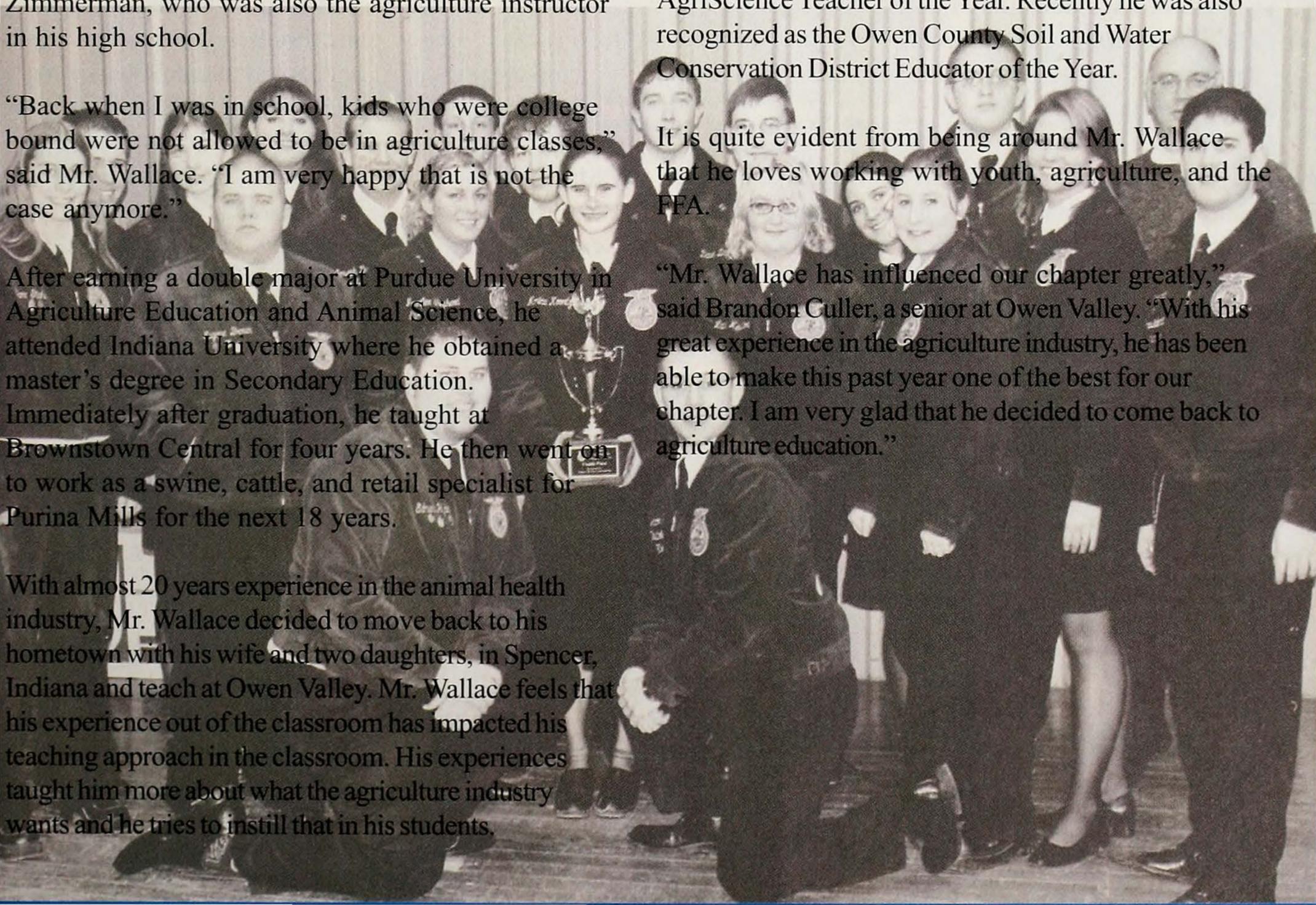
With almost 20 years experience in the animal health industry, Mr. Wallace decided to move back to his hometown with his wife and two daughters, in Spencer, Indiana and teach at Owen Valley. Mr. Wallace feels that his experience out of the classroom has impacted his teaching approach in the classroom. His experiences taught him more about what the agriculture industry wants and he tries to instill that in his students.



Mr. Wallace has earned several awards while being an agriculture instructor. In 2003, he was named the Indiana AgriScience Teacher of the Year. Recently he was also recognized as the Owen County Soil and Water Conservation District Educator of the Year.

It is quite evident from being around Mr. Wallace that he loves working with youth, agriculture, and the FFA.

"Mr. Wallace has influenced our chapter greatly," said Brandon Culler, a senior at Owen Valley. "With his great experience in the agriculture industry, he has been able to make this past year one of the best for our chapter. I am very glad that he decided to come back to agriculture education."



Friendly Faces at North Harrison

By Todd Ault

The North Harrison FFA is a chapter that many have seen at state convention, or at district contests, or participating in various CDEs. But what do they do best? Many people in their area think that their community service efforts are some of their most impressive work. The friendly faces of chapter members are known and appreciated by the whole community.

“Working with the members at North Harrison is fun,” said one of the chapter’s advisors, Mr. Sauerheber. “We do a lot of different activities and expose students to as many different opportunities as possible.”

Community service makes up a big part of North Harrison’s year. In early March, they go to a retirement community and participate in a Nutrition Day. They spend the entire day with retirees doing a variety of things, including making homemade ice cream. Not only do the students get a lot out of their visits they also give a friendship to many lonely elderly people.

They also do a nursing home visit. They take animals in and spend time talking to the members of the nursing home and learning about farming back in their childhoods. This helps the students get a well rounded view of agriculture through the years. All of these activities really help get the chapter involved in the community and helps put smiles on others’ faces.

“The experiences of the chapter have a



great impact on my FFA career,” said Kari Flock, chapter president. “From being a member to being an officer, it has been a success.”

The chapter really does work hard to help students get the most out of their FFA experiences. They host their own chapter kickoff at the beginning of every year. They do this for all the chapter members and their families to have the chance to get acquainted with each other, as well as with the officer team and the advisors, Mr. Sauerheber and Mr. Miller. They have root beer floats, a hay bale toss, balloon toss, scavenger hunt, bonfire, and even a meeting. This is a large feat since North Harrison has around 75 members with 15 junior high members.



The next time you see the friendly faces from North Harrison at all the contests and camps, you will know just a little bit more about them.

With District Conventions Around the Corner, It's Show Time!

By Jennifer Shepherd

Sign up sheets are being posted, speeches written, and demonstrations planned - all for one important night for FFA members across the state. It is the time that classroom instruction comes to life as students demonstrate their skills in competitive settings, all looking for that first place plaque and a trip to the Indiana FFA State Convention. What is all of this commotion about? All of this activity across the state is leading up to Leadership Career Development Events, which begin in February.

There are 42 Leadership CDEs available to FFA members that test the abilities of individuals and teams in areas ranging from mechanics demonstrations to scrap-booking. Junior high FFA members are able to compete in the Discovery Degree CDEs including agricultural issues, prepared public speaking, and demonstrations.

There are resources available to FFA members as they begin to their Career Development Event. Agricultural text books and the internet contain lots of great information. A few sites you might want to take a look at include www.public-speaking.org and www.sciencemag.org.

Participating in any of the Leadership CDEs takes a lot of time and effort, and you might wonder why someone would want to spend countless hours perfecting a speech or demonstration. But the benefits far outweigh the initial costs of time and effort.

“District Convention was very exciting and nerve wracking,” said Kristen Osbon, a member of the Caston FFA chapter. “Overall district convention was great!”

All of these events are preparing students for their future careers in today's high-speed, competitive work force. Businesses also recognize the life skills FFA members are

learning through these various events and appreciate seeing your achievements on a resume. Scholarship money is also given away to those who participate in events such as the leadership ambassador, small engines repair, and the creed speaking event, just to name a few.

“District convention is a great learning experience,” said Haley Steinbarger the District VIII vice-president. “It's always a fun time!”



DO, RE, MI...

By Joey Dunn

How many of you have been to Indiana FFA State Convention or the National FFA Convention and heard the amazing voices of the chorus and wondered how you could get involved? Many of FFA members have many talents to share and the State FFA Chorus is one outlet that not a lot of members know much about.

The State FFA Chorus is open to anyone who is a member in the FFA, from freshmen in high school to freshmen in college. The chorus performs at various times throughout Indiana FFA State Convention, including general convention sessions and awards receptions.

“Not only do you get the honor of representing your chapter and your state at convention, you also get the opportunity to meet people from all over the state with whom you share common interests,” said Jill Brinker, a graduate from the Hope FFA. “In the Indiana FFA State Chorus, we combine musical talent, hard work, and a whole lot of fun.”

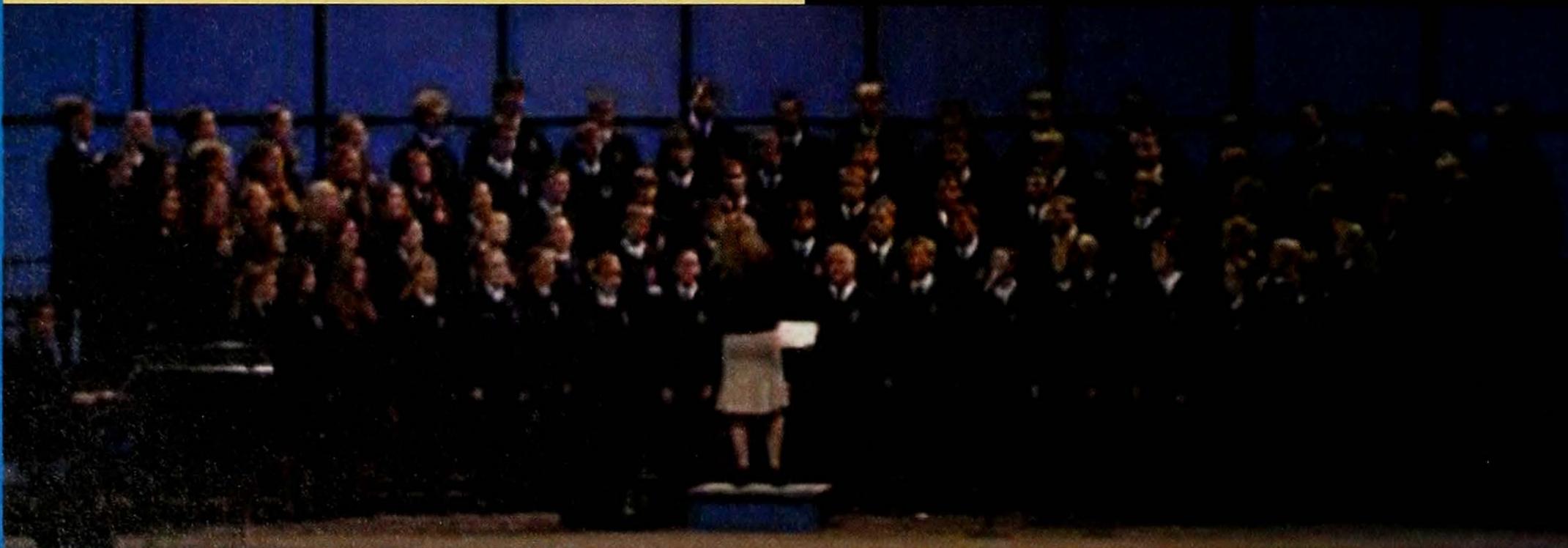
For anyone interested in joining the state chorus, applications are available online at www.indianaffa.org. The deadline for applying is May 18, 2005.

To prepare for their performances, chorus members arrive the week before state convention to learn the music and practice. It may sound like a lot of work, but to be as good as they are you must practice.

Now that you know more about the Indiana FFA State Chorus, maybe you should think about joining! For those of you who enjoy singing, and even for those of you who play a musical instrument, there are also opportunities to get involved on the national level, too. Applications for the National FFA Chorus and the National FFA Band are available on the National FFA website at www.ffa.org.

To learn more about the Indiana FFA State Chorus, contact one of the members of the 2004-2005 State Chorus Officer Team.

Troy Walker, President, Clinton Central
Randi Fitts, Secretary, Woodlan
Natalie Harmeyer, Vice President, Rushville
Rachel Pickering, Treasurer, Rushville
Cody White, Reporter, Forest Park
Brittney Knuckles, Librarian, New Washington



Parliamentary Procedure: All Those In Favor, Say "Aye!"

By Matthew J. Metzger

At first glance the Chapter Meeting CDE might not seem like the coolest event available to FFA members. Why would you want to go to a contest where you act out what you do at every chapter meeting you attend? FFA members go through this every month, so what's so exciting about doing it just for fun? But if you stick around and watch a team compete in the Chapter Meeting CDE, you'll see a lot more than just the average monthly meeting in the Ag room.

The Chapter Meeting CDE is held early in the season of Leadership CDEs. With most district and section events scheduled for late February and early March - which is right around the corner - the results are usually available in time for District Conventions.

Of all the Leadership Career Develop Events offered by the National FFA, few others challenge members to study, practice, and think on their feet as much as the Chapter Meeting CDE. Once the team members are in the room, they are at the mercy of the judges coordinating the event. If the judges want to throw in a new motion, they can do so. If they want to move to suspend the rules, they can do so. It is up to the presiding officer and the rest of the team to handle the motions correctly.

Success is reached not in how fast you fly through the meeting, or in what motions pass or fail, but in how accurately you manage the motions that are brought to the floor. This goal challenges the students to constantly think critically and clearly so that they do not fall behind the business at hand. On top of all the attention that is already required, and because discussion is such a large part of any meeting, members must be thinking of intelligent debate to present before the members and judges.

What do all of these requirements add up too? "Poise and quick thinking under pressure, communication and meeting skills, camaraderie and



career." Each member of the team has to be completely confident in the abilities of their teammates, and be willing to rely on them at any given moment. This level of responsibility is found in few other events offered by the FFA.

"Sure it's nerve-wrecking," says Amber Miller, a senior at Brownstown Central FFA. "But it's also a really good learning experience because it prepares us for our own chapter meeting."

Does all of this sound like hard work? You bet! But is it worth it? Of course! The atmosphere the Chapter Meeting CDE presents gives students the opportunity to develop skills needed in both their high school and professional careers. This CDE lives out the true meaning of the FFA mission by developing FFA members' potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.

"Parliamentary procedure is used in community volunteer organizations and agri-business everyday," says Chris Fenner of Indiana Farm Bureau Inc, "It improves the effectiveness of time spent by keeping an orderly flow to the meeting."



STRAIN YOUR BRAIN

The FFA Vision was created to give the National Organization a direction of purpose, or outlook for the future. Specific goals of the National FFA Vision include:

- * to focus on the success of the agriculture educator
- * to stress the continual effectiveness of vocational and hands-on education
 - * to convey the importance of community service
- * to develop stronger programs and support for state leaders
- * to offer programs for students of all ages, background, and career interests

The National FFA Vision is the underlying message that leaders in the FFA keep in mind when working with and training other members. It reminds all of us that, when it all comes down, it isn't the CDEs, SAEs, plaques, awards, or even the blue and gold jacket that matter, it's the person inside the jacket that we care about the most. And that is why FFA has been the PREMIER youth leadership organization for 75 years!

Do you know the National FFA Vision? Solve this encryption to find out!

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Amanda's Agenda

She is a Vermont FFA vice president, she has competed in a national career development event, she has received her American FFA Degree and has made a lasting impact in her community and her FFA chapter. The root of her success, she says, can be traced back to a trip to the national FFA convention

By Chris Hayhurst

In every person's life, there arrives a time when the big picture finally becomes clear. For Amanda Mattison, it happened in October 2000.

It was national FFA convention time in Louisville, Ky., and a sea of blue had washed across the city. Amanda and three of her classmates, officers from the Bennington FFA Chapter of Mount Anthony Union High School in Bennington, Vt., had joined their advisor, Dick Lutz, on a mission. They were there to see FFA in action, on a national scale, at its greatest annual gathering. "We had read all the books and done all the paperwork we had to do to know about FFA, but we didn't really have a grasp on what it was all about," Amanda recalls. "When we went to national convention, we finally fig-



ured it out."

Amanda, a junior at the time, was amazed by the scene: thousands of people from all corners of the nation, competitions, workshops, speeches, demonstrations. "It was really motivating," Amanda says. "Just listening to the national officers speak, and meeting people that I didn't know from across the country. It was so inspirational."

Amanda and her friends were so inspired, in fact, that soon after the convention ended, as they zipped down the highway on the way back to Vermont, they got right to work. "We sat there and planned basically everything we were going to do for the rest of the year," she says.

BACK IN VERMONT

Looking back on her high school

Amanda Mattison's strong interest in floriculture led her to the national CDE finals. For her SAE program, she worked in the floral department at Kmart.

years, Amanda is modest. She's not one to brag, and it's tough to get her to talk about her accomplishments. Nineteen years old and a sophomore at Southern Vermont College, Amanda seems more content to let her work speak for itself.

And it does. When she and her classmates returned home from that first national convention, they immediately set their plans into action. Horticultural enthusiasts, they went to local elementary schools and made terrariums for the kids. They built a garden for Alzheimer's patients at a veterans' home. They organized a ▶

GRAB LIFE BY THE HORNS



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Above: Amanda and her classmates work on a horticulture assignment in the lab at school. Top right: Some heavy lifting as Amanda works on fitting stones together for a wall. Right: Amanda, wearing a hat, at an inspiring trip the national FFA convention.



potluck as part of an effort to reach out to the community. By the time Amanda graduated, after three years in FFA, the Bennington chapter had nearly doubled its membership.

All the while, throughout high school, Amanda managed to keep her personal affairs in order as well. A four-year varsity cheerleader, she still found time to work in the garden shop at Kmart. The job was a natural fit for her supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program in agricultural sales, as she learned everything from how to care for plants to how to handle customers and run a cash register.

During her senior year, as chapter president, Amanda and her team competed in the horticulture career development event (CDE) at the national convention, placing well in a highly competitive field. That year she also found something that surprised her: She had matured into a completely different person. "Before I joined FFA I never would have gotten up to give

with changing that attitude. "If they could do it," Amanda says, "there was no reason I couldn't do it."

COLLEGE LIFE

While she is a solid student, a pre-law and business major with an eye toward possibly running her own horticulture business someday, Amanda sees school as just one aspect of her busy life.

Today she serves as vice president of the Vermont FFA, a position that lets her travel statewide, attending conferences, visiting chapters and planning FFA events. She even finds time for regular visits to the Bennington FFA, where she'll occasionally lend a helping hand with the chapter's community service projects. "I like meeting and inspiring chapter members," Amanda says. "They're awesome. Everybody has a story, and I want to know it."

Amanda has also continued cheerleading, which requires practice three times a week and plenty of traveling to games. And yes, she still has a job;

a speech," Amanda says. "I would rather have taken a zero before I stood up to give a presentation."

She credits her trip to the national convention, where she saw officers address hundreds of people,

but now it's at Tractor Supply Company, where she works part-time as a cashier.

Time management, she says, is the key to her balancing act. "Every week I just sit down and plan what I have to do, and then I make sure I do it," she explains.

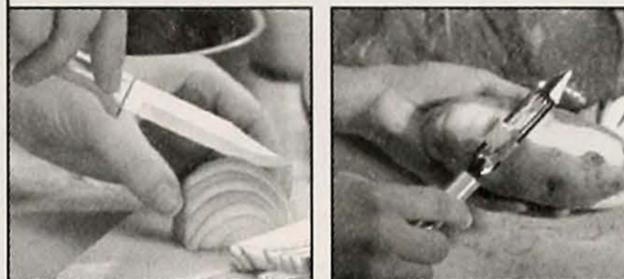
THE NEXT STEP

There's another chapter to this story. In October of 2004, just four years after her first trip to national convention, Amanda was there again, but this time as a recipient of the American FFA Degree. Even though she knew she had earned it, Amanda was still surprised to get it. "I was shocked. I always knew it was there, but I never really thought I could do it. But I did it. And now I think differently. Maybe I can do other things I didn't think I could do."

One of those things—the one that tops her list, anyway—is to run for national FFA office this fall. If she is installed as one of the six national officers this fall, one man will not be surprised. Dick Lutz, Amanda's advisor from high school, has seen it coming for years. "She's keeps climbing these hills, the hills keep getting bigger, and she just keeps going," he says. "There's an FFA award somewhere that reads: 'For an extraordinary person with extraordinary determination.' That would be Amanda." ●

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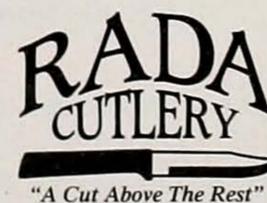
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WHAT'S HOT

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

TOP 5 AGRICULTURAL CAREERS

farmer/rancher
veterinarian
agriculture teacher
welder
landscape designer

TOP 5 FFA CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

livestock evaluation
horse evaluation
parliamentary procedure
public speaking
agricultural mechanics

TOP 5 FFA CHAPTER EVENTS

rodeo
creed speaking
chapter meetings
fruit sales
donkey basketball

TOP 5 TV SHOWS

the simpsons
that '70s show
friends
csi
everybody loves raymond

TOP 5 MOVIES

8 seconds
remember the titans
the lord of the rings
finding nemo
the fast and the furious

TOP 5 FOODS

pizza
pasta
steak
burger
chicken

TOP 5 STORES

wal-mart
american eagle
old navy
abercrombie & fitch
target

TOP 5 COUNTRY MUSIC ACTS

tim mcgraw
kenny chesney
toby keith
george strait
shania twain

TOP 5 ROCK MUSIC ACTS

nelly
usher
metallica
linkin park
nickelback

TOP 5 BOOKS

harry potter
a child called "it"
to kill a mockingbird
friday night lights
a walk to remember

What's Hot Survey Pick your favorite . . .

FFA supervised agricultural experience (SAE) _____

Career in agriculture _____

Movie _____

TV show _____

FFA career development event (CDE) _____

FFA chapter activity _____

Food _____

Store _____

Country band/performer _____

Rock band/performer _____

Community service project _____

Book _____

Mail the completed survey to:

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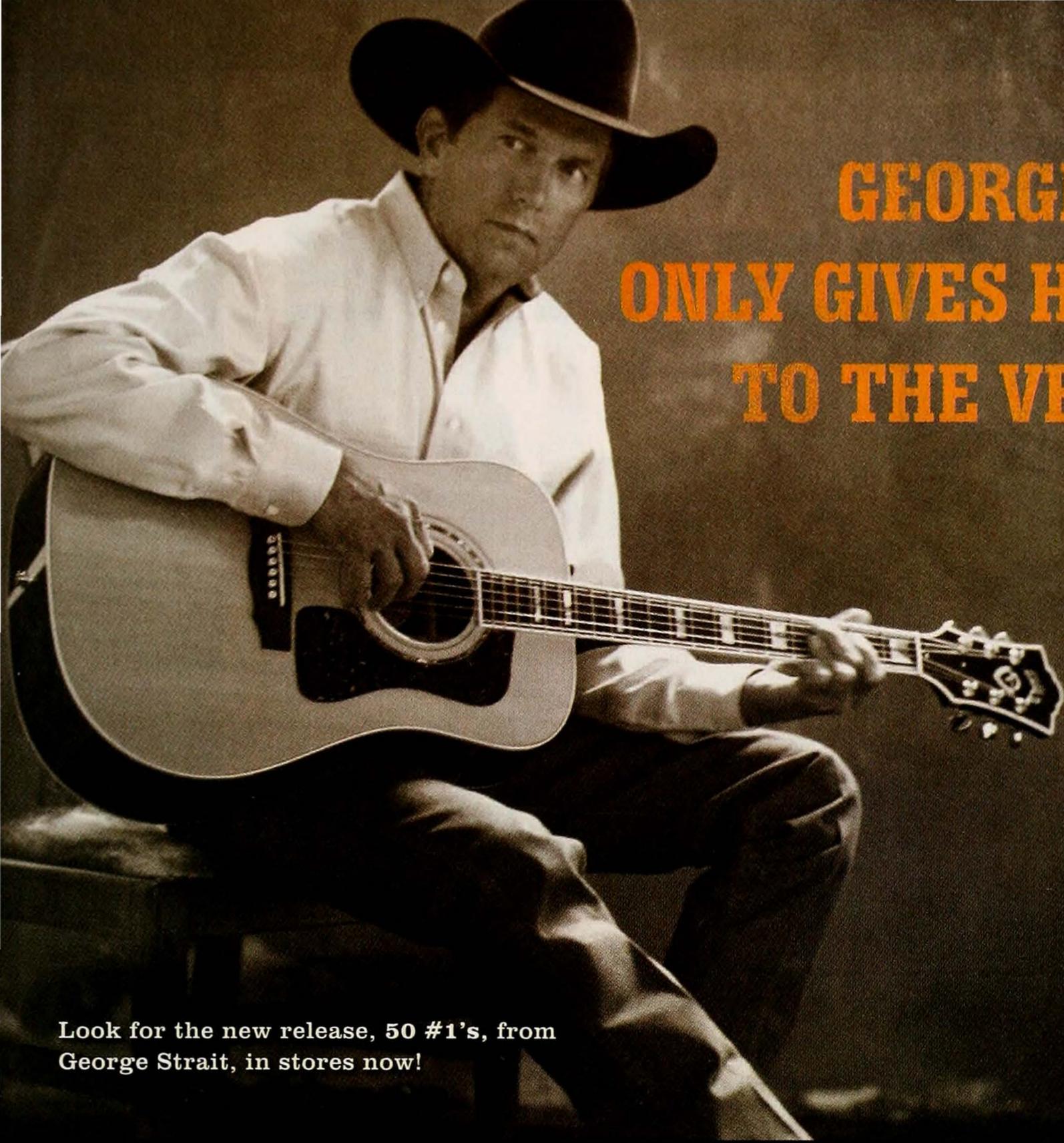
Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960 OR e-mail to: newhorizons@ffa.org

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

BEYER H.S. FFA, California
BRAMAN FFA, Oklahoma
ESCALON FFA, California
FULTON COUNTY FFA, Kentucky
GIRARD FFA, Kansas
HIGHLAND FFA, Arizona
HOEHNE FFA, Colorado
PAOLA FFA, Kansas
PAYSON FFA, Utah
PITKIN FFA, Louisiana
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RIGHETTE FFA, California
SUNNY HILLS FFA, California

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Your Money

Tips for building your financial standing

IT'S TAX TIME

What you need to know before the tax-filing deadline

By Chris Hayhurst

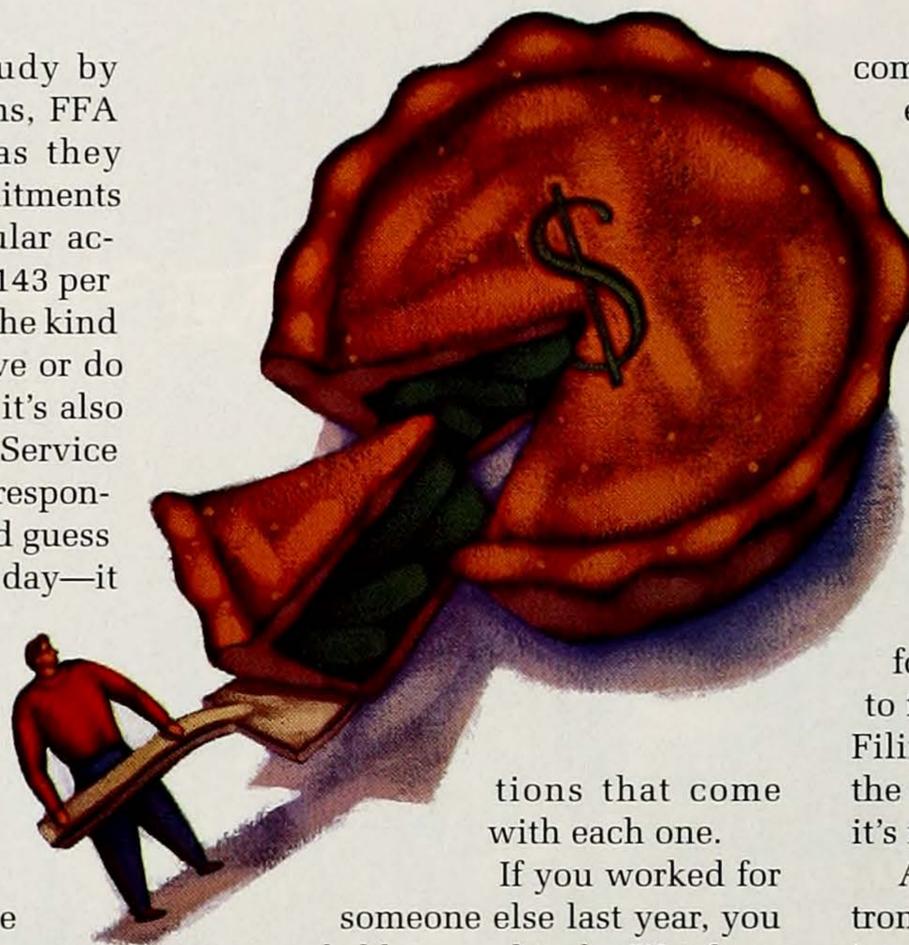
According to a study by FFA New Horizons, FFA members, even as they juggle other commitments like school and extracurricular activities, make an average of \$143 per week. That's real money. It's the kind of money you can spend, save or do whatever you like with. But it's also real to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the government agency responsible for collecting taxes. And guess what? Come April 15th—tax day—it may be entitled to a piece of the pie.

April 15, 2005 is the nationwide deadline for submitting 2004 income tax returns. But not everyone has to file. The law breaks earners into two groups: those who are employed by someone else and those who are self-employed. If you were self-employed in 2004, you must file if you earned more than \$400. If someone else had you on their payroll, the number's a lot higher: \$7,950.

Although you don't have to file if you earned less than \$7,950, you should. And not because you're a good Samaritan. The IRS reports that more than 70 percent of those who submit tax returns receive a refund. If your employer withheld too much tax from your paychecks, you'll get that money back.

A MATTER OF FORM

You'll find all the necessary tax forms at your local post office or online at www.irs.gov. The three basic forms are 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ. Every filer must submit one of these forms. Which form will work for you depends on a number of factors, but can easily be determined by reading the direc-



tions that come with each one.

If you worked for someone else last year, you probably completed a W-4 form your first day on the job. This is the form your employer used to determine how much money—including income, Social Security and Medicare taxes—to take from each paycheck. By now, you should have already received a W-2 form in the mail which summarizes these taxes. You'll need the W-2 to fill out your return.

If, on the other hand, you're self-employed with your own business, you won't have a W-2. Instead, you'll need the records you kept throughout the year. Your records should include details on how much money you made, as well as a list of business expenses.

In addition to Form 1040, you'll have to submit Schedule 1040SE (a form for the self-employed). Depending on the nature of your business, you may be required to file other forms as well. Just start with Form 1040 and follow the directions.

Most states also collect state in-

come taxes. Employees have state taxes deducted from each paycheck along with all the other taxes. The self-employed do not, and therefore may owe the state money. For information on all state forms and requirements, do a Internet search for your state's revenue department. Or just pick up state forms at the post office.

FILING

Once you've determined which forms you'll need, the next step is to fill everything out and send it in. Filing by paper, through the mail, is the traditional way to do things, but it's not necessarily the easiest.

A better option may be to file electronically, using the Internet. According to the IRS, more than 61 million Americans "e-filed" last year, and even more are expected to do so this year. E-filers typically receive refunds in half the time of paper-filers.

If you need help filing your return, the IRS offers free help online, over the phone (800/829-1040), or in person at local IRS offices. Other options include the use of tax-preparation software, such as TurboTax, or a professional accountant. ●

WEB LINKS

For more information and links relating to personal finance, including saving money, preparing tax forms, learning about savings bonds and more, visit FirstGov for Kids (www.kids.gov/k_money.htm), a website provided by the Federal Citizen Information Center, an agency of the U.S. government.



Once you learn the discipline, you never forget.

As part of our commitment to promoting financial literacy, GMAC has created *YourPathwaytoVehicleFinancing.com*. This self-teaching web site can help you stay on your toes.

YOUR PATHWAY
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Community Development

FFA chapters serving their communities



For the firefighters

■ Members of the Zillah FFA Chapter in Zillah, Wash., have designed a wristband to honor firefighters. The red silicone wristbands are embossed with the words "Honor" and "Sacrifice" and the fireman's badge of honor, the Maltese Cross. Chapter members came up with the idea to show support of all firefighters, especially those who have died in the line of duty. FFA members are selling the bands for \$2 with all proceeds going to the Fallen Firefighters Memorial project, which the chapter started in 2001. "We hope that people all over the country will want to wear the wristbands to show support of their local firefighters," said Matt Ozuna, Zillah FFA President. To purchase wristbands, contact Ron Nash, Zillah FFA advisor, at 1602 Second Ave., Zillah, Wa. 98953 or at nash_r@zsd.wednet.edu.

Extended family

■ There's a new FFA chapter in Porterville, Calif., and FFA members there recently made the holiday season better for two families. FFA member Victor Almanza informed chapter members of the families who didn't have much for the holidays. The officer team came together at a weekly lunch meeting and decided to donate gifts, including their FFA chapter sweatshirts, and a

Christmas tree. On December 17, the FFA officer team and their advisor delivered the gifts. "We felt good. We were very happy to make a difference in a people's lives," said FFA member Samantha San Miguel.

Profitable recycling

■ Gathering and loading 23,000 pounds of rubber tire tubes into a truck left members of the Spencerville FFA Chapter in Ohio exhausted, but their efforts are helping the environment. In addition to easing the load on the local landfill, their efforts will help preserve natural resources because these tubes will be recycled. After collecting the mountain of old tubes in a barn, the FFA members used two skid steer loaders and all the muscle they could muster to get the tubes into a tractor-trailer. The chapter then sold the truckload to U.S. Rubber Reclaiming, Inc. for \$2,000.



A flag for the occasion

■ Ben DeTar, president of the Cherryvale FFA Chapter and Mrs. Amy Allen, agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, presented an official FFA flag, signed by local chapter



members, to the 891st Battalion for display during their deployment ceremony. The chapter members decided to honor the battalion because they felt that the troops typify the FFA motto in their commitment to serving the country. Many members of the 891st are former FFA members, FFA Alumni and current FFA members' parents. The troops were recognized during halftime of a Cherryvale football game.



Safety day

■ Ohio's Wauseon FFA Chapter held its biennial safety day last October. This event is intended to demonstrate the importance of safety to all students at the school. Participants could visit six of 12 stations, each of them staffed by local community members. Topics included safety demonstrations in farm and lawn equipment, hunting, ATVs, tree maintenance and electricity. The Wauseon FFA reports that the event was a valuable learning experience for both students and teachers. ●

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LAST LAFF

Q: How do you know when it's raining money?

A: When there's change in the weather.

Sarah Weaver
Ephrate, Pennsylvania

Q: Why did the orange go to the doctor?

A: He ran out of juice.

Kegan Hunter
Hot Springs, North Carolina

Q: What did the bee say to the flower?

A: What time do you open?

Jennifer Farias
Cudahy, California

Q: What kind of flower grows between your nose and your chin?

A: Tulips (two lips).

Kari Heer
Doland, South Dakota

Q: What coat has no buttons and is put on wet?

A: A coat of paint.

Jane Drahem
Nacogdoches, Texas

Q: Which one runs faster, hot or cold?

A: Hot. Everyone can catch a cold.

Michelle Aultman
Rochelle, Georgia

Q: What did the fish say when he failed his bubble test?

A: I blew it.

Amber Marley
Siloam Springs, Arkansas

Q: Which country is good to eat?

A: Turkey.

Howie-Jamie Hughes
Wyandotte, Oklahoma

Q: Why did the police arrest the turkey?

A: They suspected fowl play.

Steve Masters
Mt. Holly, New Jersey

Q: What kind of shoes do chickens wear?

A: Re-bawk (Reebok).

Katie Crosby
Fremont, Iowa

Q: Did the skunk have a good vacation?

A: No, it stunk.

Beth Cantrell
Blaine, Kentucky

Q: What do you think lions do when they're tired?

A: They're just lion (lying) around.

DeAngelo Gray
Rayville, Louisiana

Q: What did one penny say to the other?

A: Let's get together and make some cents.

Melinda Sinkler
Green Bay, Wisconsin

Q: Why was the mathematician depressed?

A: Because he knew his days were numbered.

Jacob Tyler
Wildwood, Florida

Q: Why did the government ban round hay bales?

A: Because the cows have not had a square meal in years.

Matt Sidoti
Pine Island, New York

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The Agrinuts

By Jim Bradshaw and Michael Bettendorf



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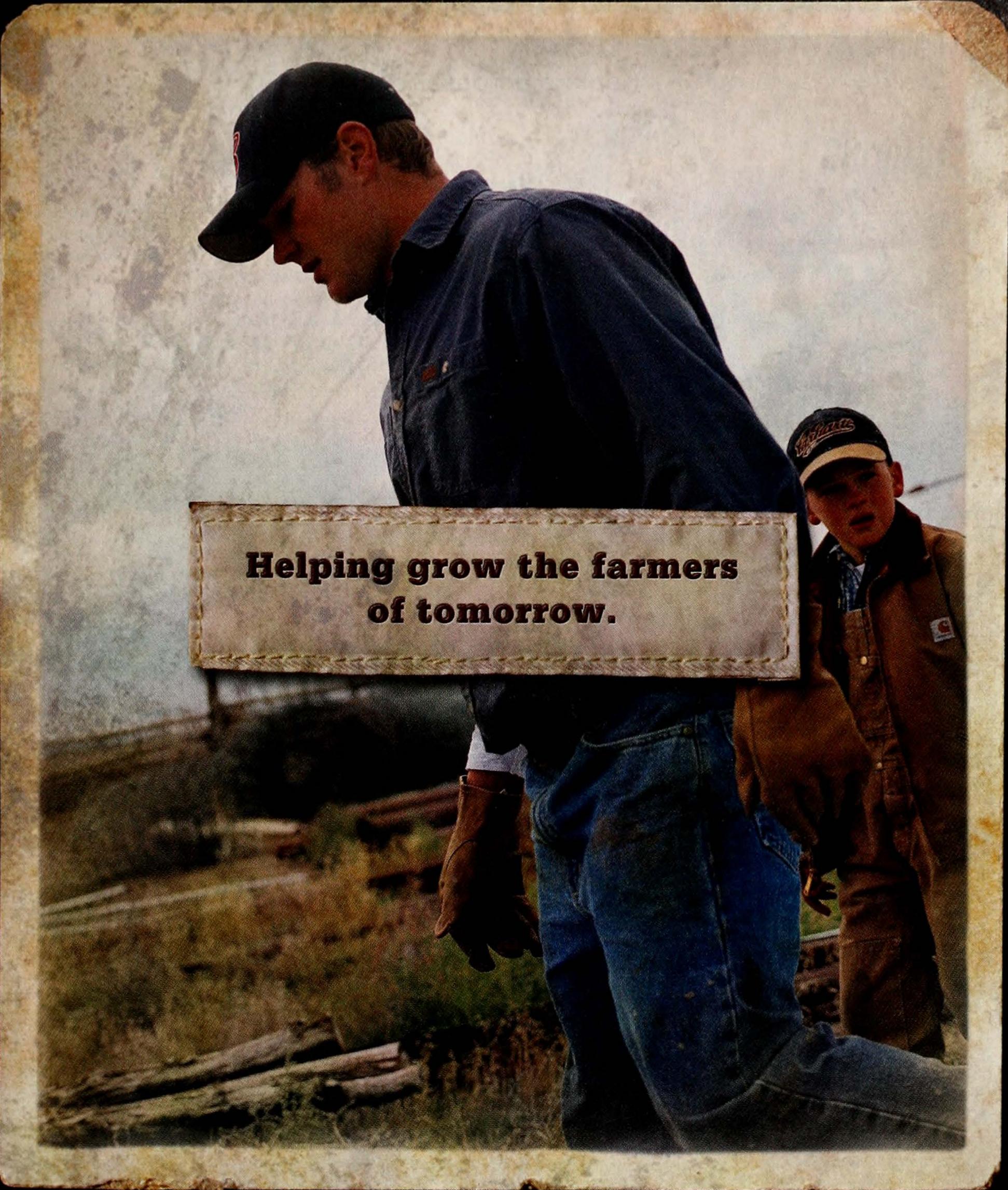
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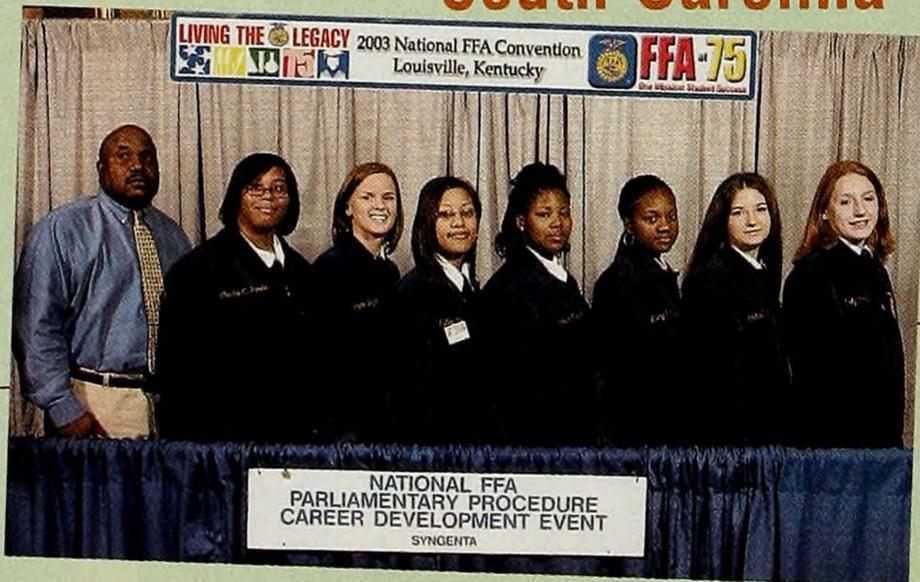
California



Greenhands with green hands

The East Nicolaus FFA Chapter held its annual Greenhand initiation luncheon in December. The freshmen students ate Subway sandwiches and answered questions about FFA before they could begin the initiation. Out at the barn, students put their green-paint handprints on white T-shirts, and then dipped their hands in green dye. As part of the fun, the freshmen kept their hands green for an entire week. When they received their Greenhand certificates and pins, these East Nicolaus FFA members knew what it meant to be a Greenhand.
Reporting by Richard Darrach, East Nicolaus FFA Chapter Reporter

South Carolina



Tribute to a great FFA advisor

For more than 20 years, Mr. Michael Haynes has been an agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at Manning High School. According to his students, Haynes believes FFA is an opportunity that can change students' lives, if they choose to invest in it. The Manning FFA Chapter was recently named the state's outstanding student development program. Haynes also serves on the South Carolina FFA Foundation Board of Directors.

Iowa

Freshman get fired-up

Six freshmen members of the Southeast Polk FFA Chapter attended the annual Freshmen Fire-Up Camp in September at neighboring Indianola High School. Members participated in leadership, teamwork and personal goal-setting workshops. "Freshmen Fire-Up helped me get more motivated about being involved in FFA activities," said Jason Scholbock. "Through review games," he added, "the South-Central district officers showed us how to use teamwork and leadership skills through group activities." Other Southeast Polk members in attendance included Kevin Anderson, Elizabeth Nelson, Cody Daniels, Jessica Reeves and Andrew Herbold.

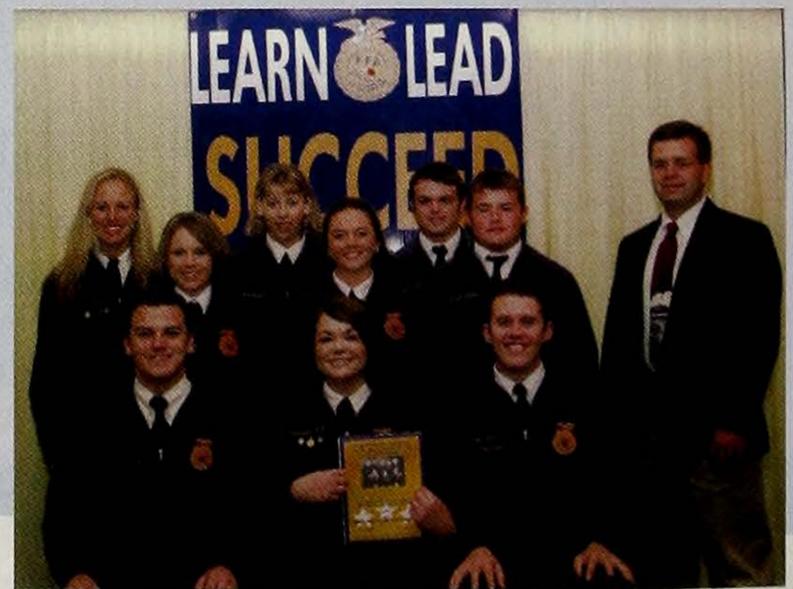
Reporting by Maggie Scholbrock, Southeast Polk FFA Chapter Reporter



Oklahoma

Chapter officers train at COLT conference

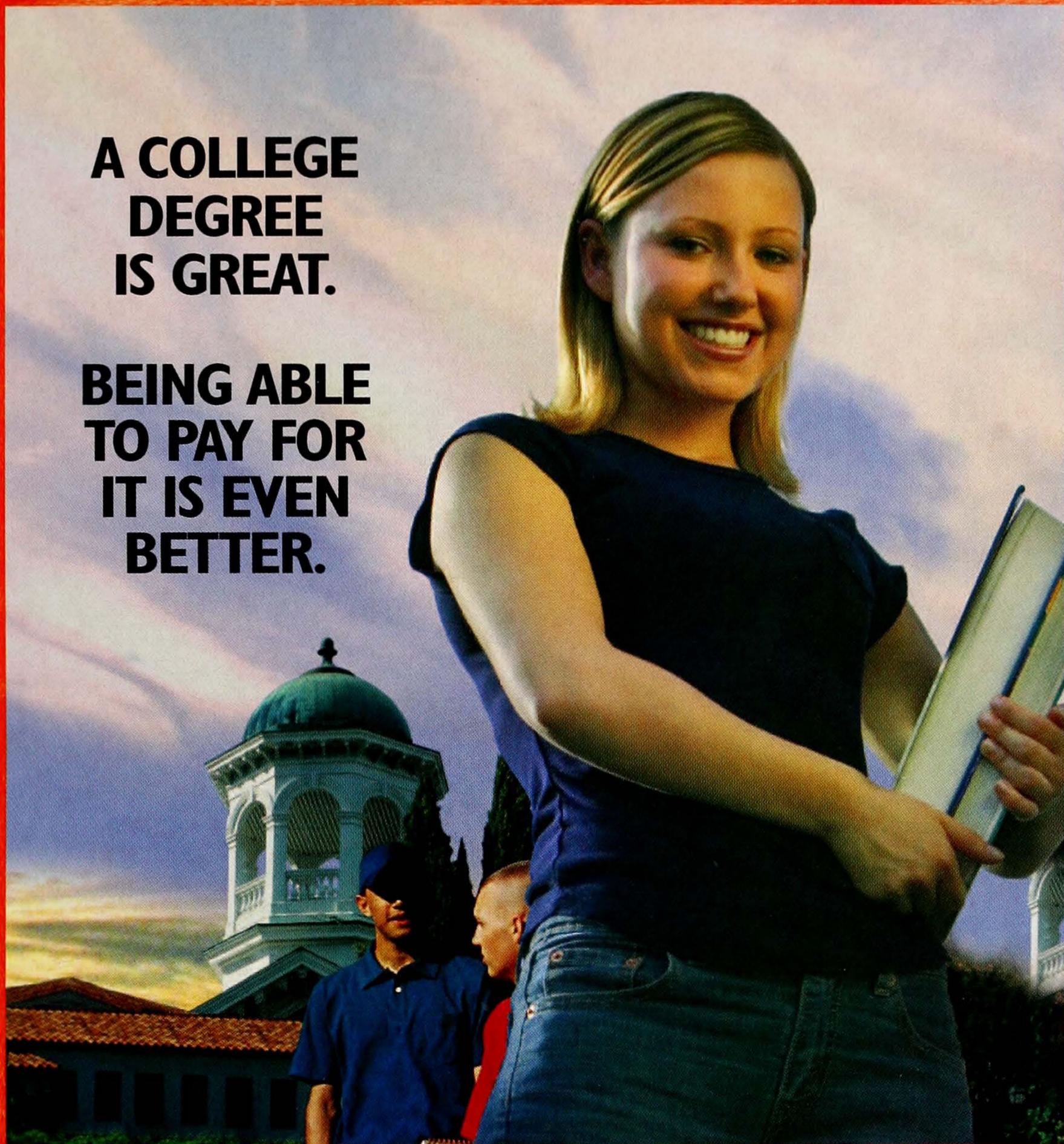
The eight state FFA officers planned and conducted a COLT (chapter officer leadership training) conference, themed, "Carry the Torch, Pass the Flame." Among the attendees: Waynoka FFA Chapter officers Savannah Hill, Shawn Walker, Ashley Clapper, Kourtney Childers, Katie Fuqua, Jordan Gaskill, Russell Zook and advisor Mr. Chris Kelln. Along with officers from several high school FFA chapters in northwest Oklahoma, the Waynoka group gained a new understanding of what's involved in assuming leadership roles in FFA.
Reporting by Kourtney Childers, Waynoka FFA Chapter Reporter



What's happening in your chapter?
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