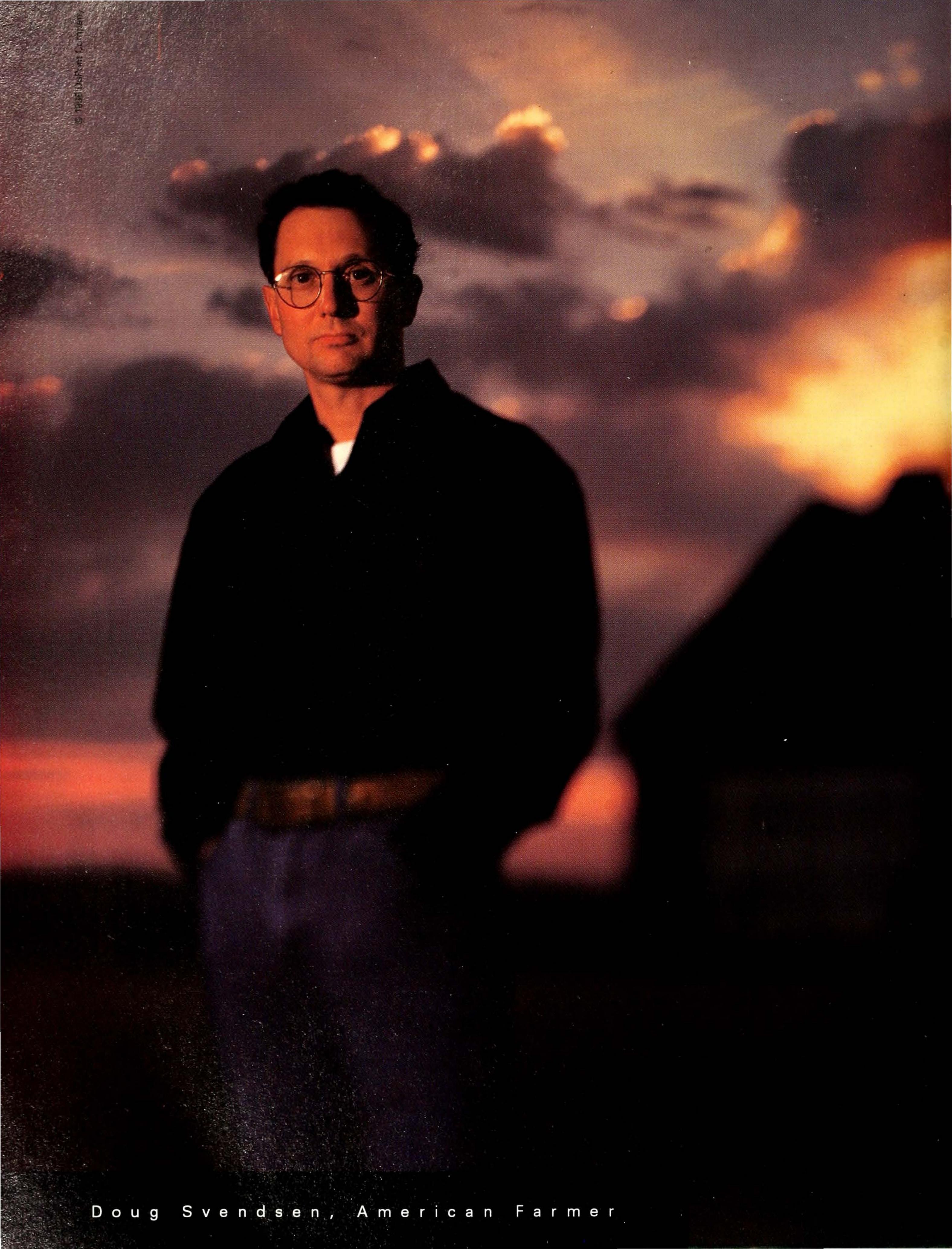
## The magazine of the National FFA Organization March/April 1997 The magazine of the National FFA Organization March/April 1997

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I want to make a difference in the lives of FFA students and join the National FFA Alumni Association for the low annual membership fee of \$7.00.

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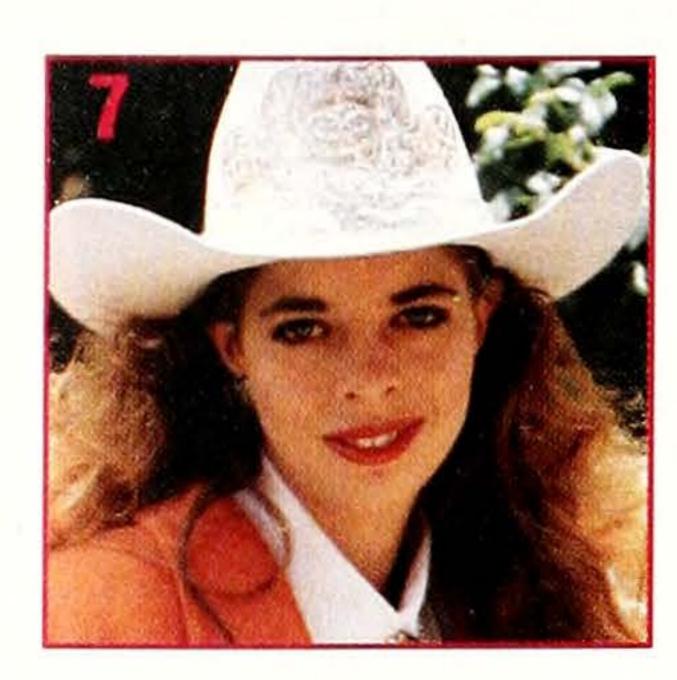
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Ty England, RCA Recording Artist and National Spokesperson for the National FFA Alumni Association





#### **features**

#### **8** Seeing Green

See what happens when one Texas FFA member mixes equal parts of horticulture know-how and business savvy.

#### 15 Sharp Knives, Sharp Minds

Whether they're cutting into a side of beef or making calculations for a new fat-free bologna formula, these Ohio FFA members are preparing themselves to be the food producers of tomorrow.

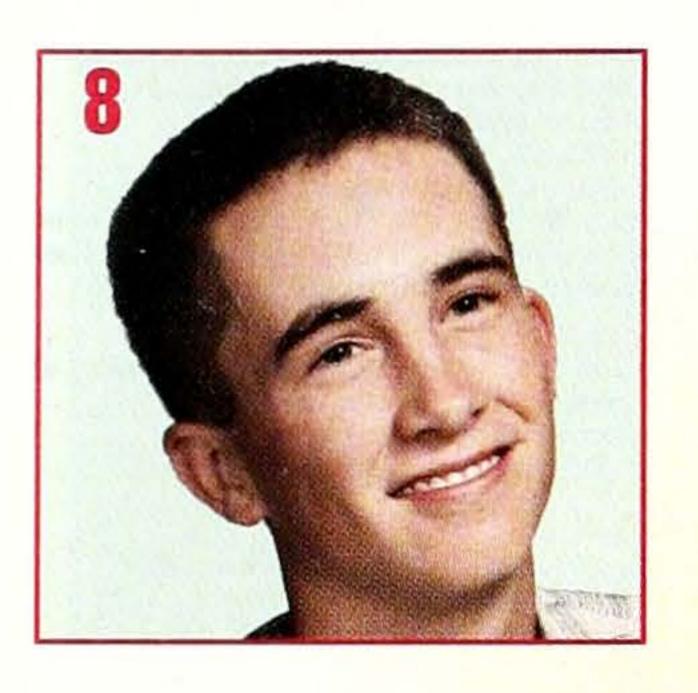
#### **18** Globe Trotters

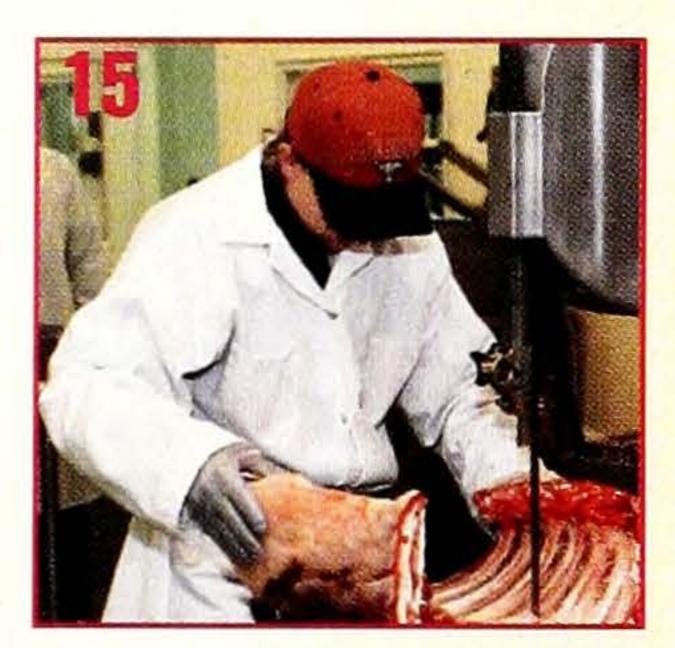
Find out how a former FFA member brings international culture to his South Carolina farm. Also read about a current FFA member traveling the globe as part of his FFA international experience.

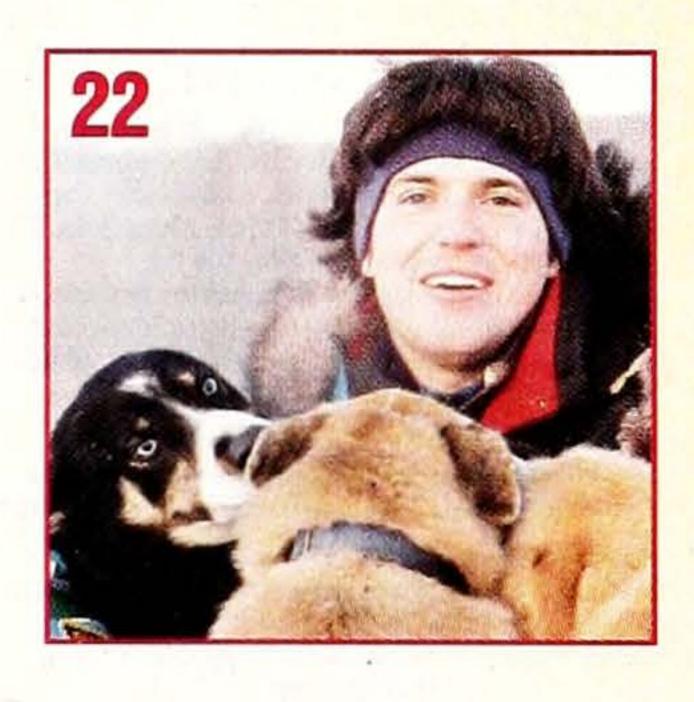


#### 10 Crazy About Cattle









#### **FFA Mission Statement**

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

Agricultural Education Mission

The mission of agricultural education is to prepare and support individuals for careers, build awareness and develop leadership for the food, fiber and natural resources systems.

new 1012015

Official Magazine of the National FFA Organization

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#### one on one with

### Holly Bentley

Holly took a few minutes to talk to FFA New Horizons during her national officer training at the National FFA Center.

#### What is the goal of the 1996-97 national FFA officer team?

Our team theme is "Experience Excellence." Personally, I want to encourage members to get involved in something that our organization has to offer. We can all achieve a form of excellence if we choose an activity and put our heart into it.

What is the best way for members to get the most out of their time in FFA? Try everything, even if it makes you nervous—especially if it makes you nervous. I missed out on many exciting things such as Made for Excellence and Washington Leadership Conference because I was afraid to go out of my comfort zone.

#### vitalsigns

National secretary: Holly

Bentley

Hometown: Sabina, Ohio

Age: 19

Chapter: East Clinton Advisor: Kenneth Fliehman SAE: Swine, corn, soybeans, fruit and vegetable production

Education: Sophomore at The Ohio Grate University

Major: A significant education Favorite I. "Mr. Holland's

Opus" and "Gun" Favorite book. The Places

You'll Go, by 1

What has been the most rewarding part of FFA for you?

Being able to find something to excel in and being able to take that interest as far as you want. And along the way, having the opportunity to meet lots of people and make many great friends.

How has your extensive public speaking experience helped you?

Public speaking forced me to deal with my fear of standing in front of a group, thinking on my feet, and most importantly, it helped me build my confidence level. It not only gave me skills to help me be an officer—it gave me the confidence to run for chapter, state and national offices.\*

Timeline

Age 15

creed (state winner)

Junior Fair **Board president** 

class officer

chapter secretary

participant

National Honor Society

state prepared

chapter president

state job interview contest (2nd place)

silver at national extemporaneous speaking competition



FFA camp participant

16

Ohio State Fair swine showmanship winner

state livestock judging

state soils contest

public speaking (3rd place)

state vice president



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The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer.



## SIL Walls





#### Pennsylvania

#### Rolling to a stop

With a \$2,500 grant courtesy of the state of Pennsylvania, the Garden Spot FFA Chapter in Lancaster staged a tractor roll last fall at a local fair. Designed to inform the community about roll over protection structures (ROPS), the roll featured a real tractor and the assistance of the local fire department. The chapter also showed safety videos and handed out ROPS literature.

Above: Lancaster, Pennsylvania, firefighters demonstrate rescue procedures at the Garden Spot FFA Chapter's tractor roll last fall.

#### Washington

#### Going for the gold

When the Washington state officers brainstormed about state convention speakers, an Olympic athlete seemed the perfect choice. When they learned



Washington state officers (left to right) Mon Schilter, Kari Beebower and Miki Akre meet with gold medalis an O'Brien.

decathlete Dan O Bien was in training on the campus of Washington State University, the site of the their convention,

they were able to set up a meeting with O'Brien, who was preparing himself for the summer games in Atlanta. Unable to attend the convention because of his tight training schedule, O'Brien agreed to

participate in a videotaped interview which was then played at the convention. In the interview, convention attendees heard O'Brien speak of the obstacles he overcame to get where he is today. He credited most of his success to setting goals for himself.

He closed the interview by encouraging the Washington FFA members to "go for your gold." In case you didn't see it, O'Brien went on to take the decathlon gold medal at the Atlanta summer Olympic games.\*

## FFAnaction

#### Michigan

#### Once in a lifetime

Six lucky members of the Vicksburg FFA Chapter had a chance to visit with President Bill Clinton during a campaign stop last fall. The group stood behind the president as he spoke about environmental issues to a crowd of around 10,000 people. Each shook hands with the president, who told them he once worked with FFA members from his home state of Arkansas.\*



During a campaign stop last fall, President Bill Clinton is flanked by Vicksburg FFA members (from left to right) Sean McCarthy, Brent Murphy, Beau Braymer, Jackie Swihart, Sarah Peters and Katie Coffey.

Submitted by Jackie Swihart, chapter reporter.

#### Texas

#### A special "thanks"

As a way of saying "thanks" to a community that has supported them in their endeavors, the McGregor FFA Chapter responded this year with a children's petting zoo. The children got to see and touch it all, from steers to kittens.

The zoo's success this year means it will be back again next year.\*

McGregor FFA Chapter member Amy Lawrence helps a child get a handle on a kitten at the chapter's petting zoo.

Submitted by Mellisa Carmony, chapter reporter.





ARIZONA

#### **Betsy Rice**

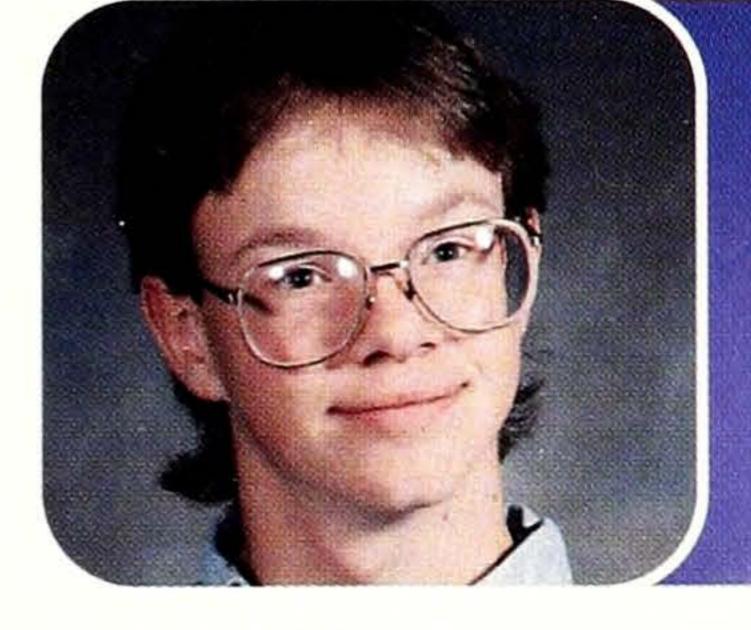
In her first semester as an FFA member, Betsy not only helped the Payson FFA Chapter's forestry team to a fourth place finish in the state, but she also competed at the state level in public speaking and parliamentary procedure. Somehow, she also found enough time to become Payson Pro Rodeo Queen and vice president of SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving).\*\*

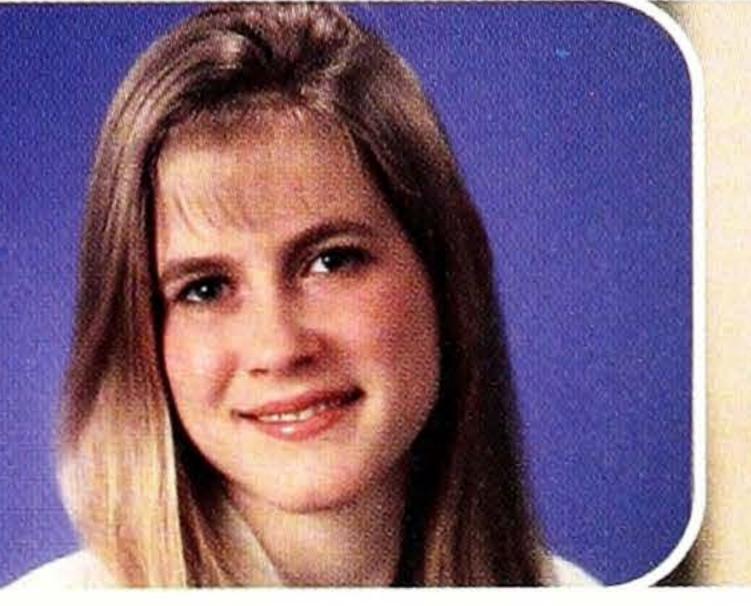
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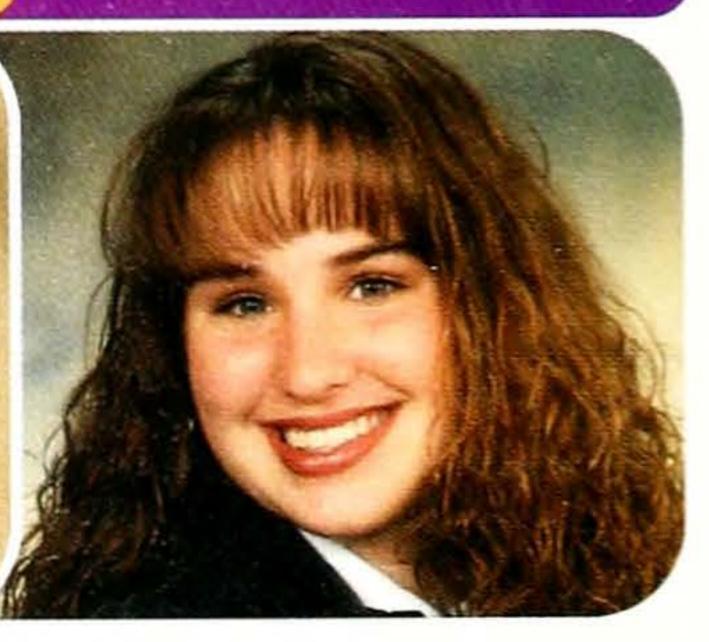
OHIO

TEXAS









#### James Pride

As a Star Greenhand member of the Altus FFA Chapter, James is making the most of his time. When he's not busy at work on his swine supervised agricultural experience program, he's putting his skills to work competing on the meat judging team. He also serves as president of the Red River 4-H riding club.\*

#### Jamie Luetschwager

As president of the Athens FFA Chapter, Jamie displays her leadership by example. She maintains a 3.9 grade point average and has qualified for state meets three times each in cross country and track. When she's out of high school, Jamie plans to attend college and major in landscape architecture.\*

#### **Leon Tyree**

Following in the footsteps of his grandfathers, uncles and cousins, Leon's goal is to train and drive horses. To ensure that he can continue the family tradition, this FFA member is getting valuable experience as a student at Fayette County's Oak Creek Farm, a vocational high school program for equine science and management. Leon's love of horses and hard work make him a true FFA star!\*

#### Laura Beth Robertson

She's vice president of the Willis FFA Chapter, but the responsibilities don't end there. This sophomore also finds time for other roles as junior varsity cheerleader, class secretary, 4-H president, 4-H county council publicity chairman and Texas Club Calf Association member. Laura Beth also shows steers and pigs and tries her best to keep up her 4.0 grade point average.\*

## Combining his business sense and horticulture skills, Jerred Hurst is

Hurst, a senior in Texas' Idalou FFA Chapter, a future career is in sight. Though he's been on his chapter's poultry and cotton judging teams and has participated in stock shows throughout Texas, Jerred found his calling in horticulture.

The winner of the 1996
Nursery Operations
Agricultural Proficiency
Award Program, Jerred
has big plans. He hopes to
someday own and operate
his own chain of smalltown nurseries.

Working in the Hurst Nursery, he's already developed

some

of the essential business and technical skills it takes to run a successful nursery.

But first he wants to finish his education. After graduation from high school, where he's also active in student council and National Honor Society, he hopes to enroll at Texas Tech University where he can roll up his sleeves and earn degrees in horticulture and business management.

#### Thefamilytree

Jerred's passion for horticulture isn't hard to trace. His mother, Christy Hurst, owns and operates the

Hurst Nursery.

Coming aboard at

the nursery as a

part-time summer worker, Jerred took an immediate interest in the work and started picking up on the relationship between hard work and sales. "As I began to develop an

interest in the

daily operations,

my mother increased

the respon-

sibilities I had at the nursery," Jerred explains.

With larger nursery retailers in nearby Lubbock competing for the same customers, Jerred saw that his efforts could help the Hurst Nursery maintain and expand its market niche. This meant Jerred had to learn everything he could about the products and the customers.

#### Peopleandplants

With his three years of experience at the nursery, Jerred is now quite familiar with his products and their needs. He has kept the nursery's stock healthy by learning how to recognize common plant diseases, deficiencies and infestations and applying the right treatment. This has prevented, according to Jarred, a ten percent loss in inventory.

By learning and applying basic pruning and shaping skills, Jerred stimulates growth in the nursery's shrubs and makes them more attractive to the customer.

This, and his other accomplishments, eventually lead to better business through increased sales and reduced costs.

"I helped develop and install a drip water irrigation system. This procedure reduced labor and allowed the trees to be watered more efficiently,"

Jerred says.

He has also learned how to purchase products that are marketable in the area and properly merchandise products to increase sales.

#### **The** Customer

Using a computer, Jerred has developed a customer profiling system, allowing him to track individual customers and their buying patterns. This gives him a leg up on the competition when it comes to purchasing and inventory forecasting. Jerred says it is "extremely important to be able to keep accurate inventory records. Orders must be placed at the proper time in order to keep fast moving items in stock."

As a nice added touch, Jerred is even able to send customers on the database timely horticulture tips throughout the year. The result? Customer loyalty—one of the keys to small business success. \*\*

The Nursery Operations Agricultural Proficiency Award Program is sponsored by the Chrysler Corporation Fund, Dodge Trucks and Merck AgVet Division as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.



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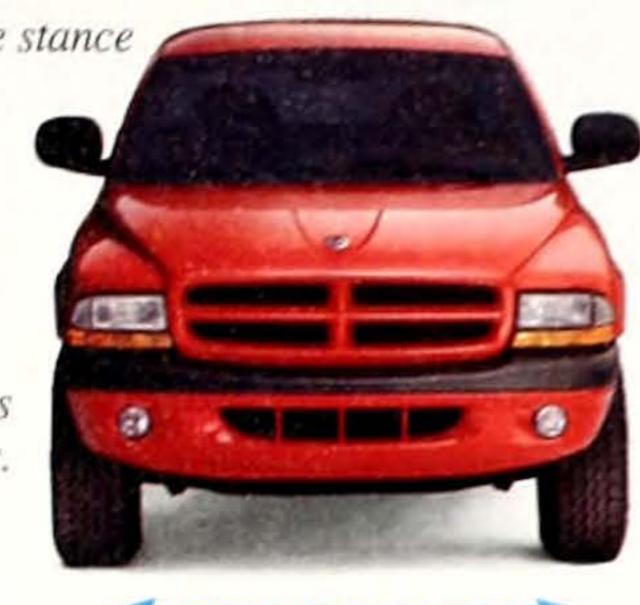
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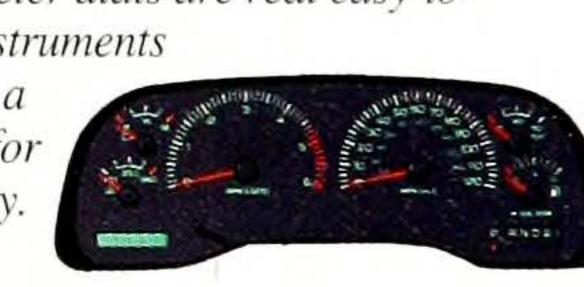


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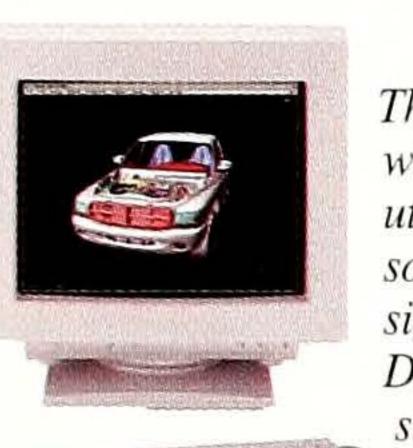
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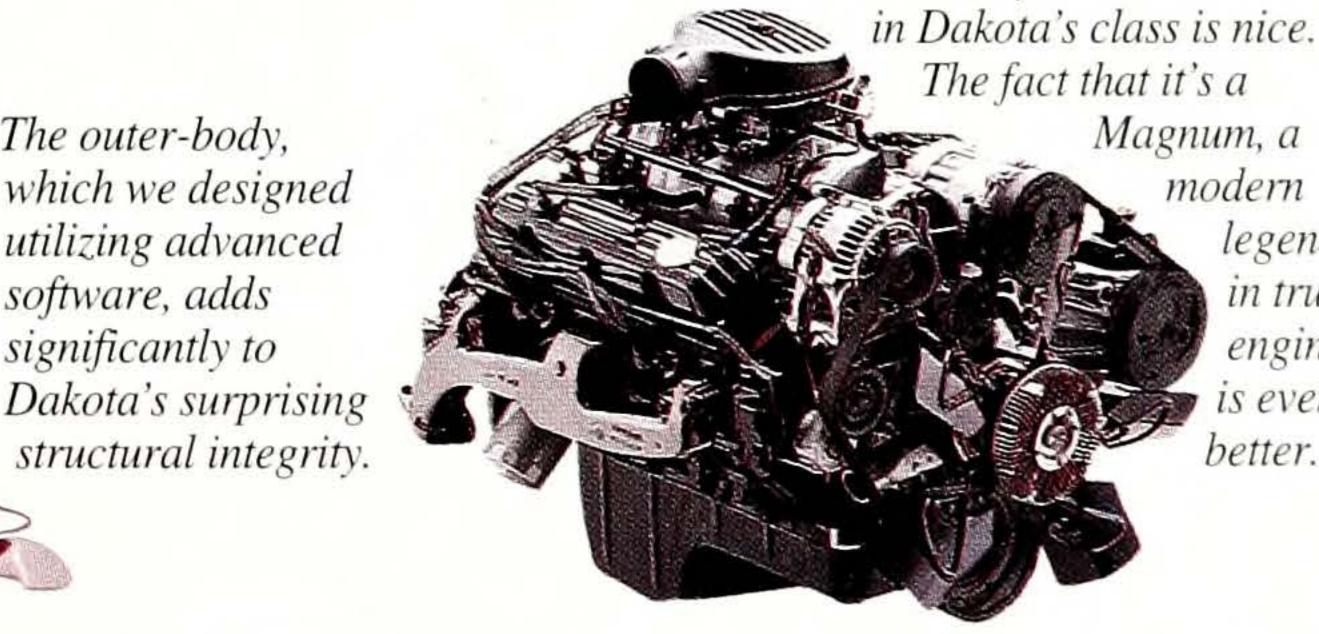


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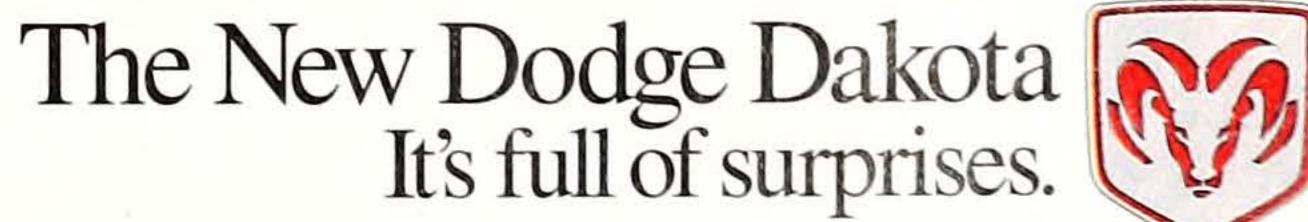
*The outer-body,* which we designed utilizing advanced software, adds significantly to



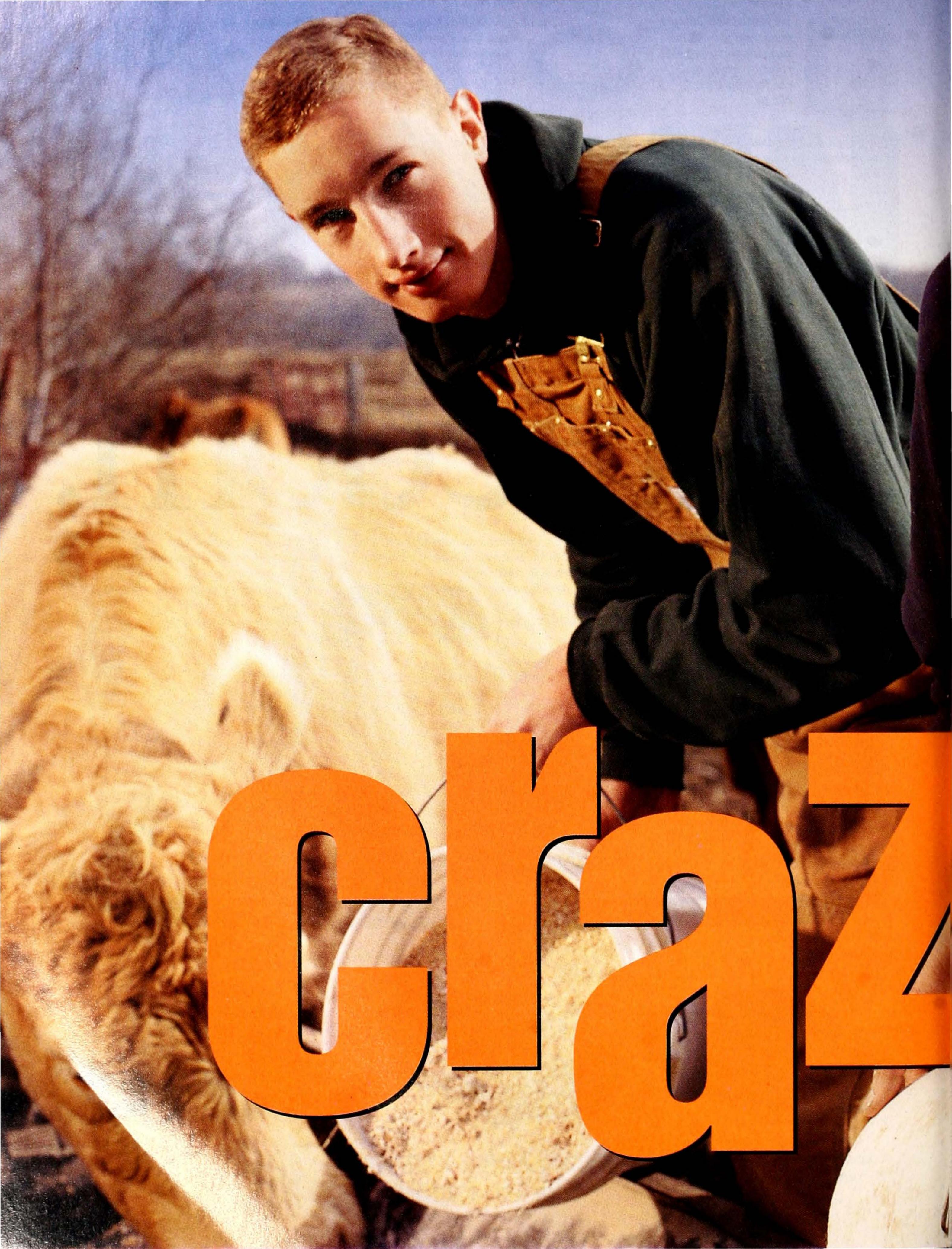


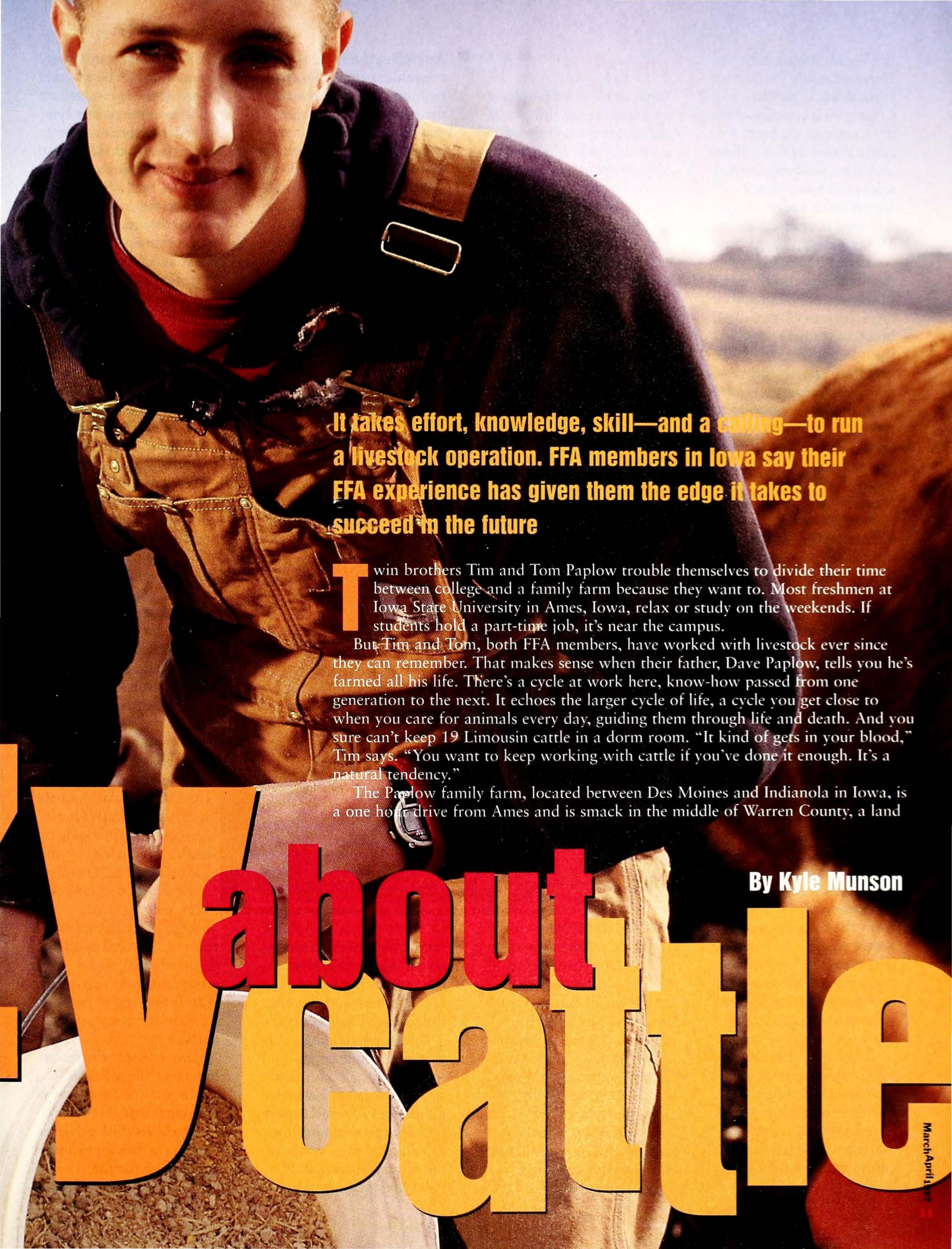












thick with Angus and Hereford cattle enthusiasts. The Warren County Fair consistently draws one of the largest cattle shows in Iowa. Tim and Tom, studying animal science at Iowa State, return home every weekend to manage their 19 Limousins, a herd they continue to expand through careful planning.

Chores of running a farm are part of the brothers' routine which they do without a grumble. They breathe, they raise cattle.

"I love being around cattle," Tom says. "I don't know why. I just like every aspect of it." One sunny, brisk Saturday Morning last December found the two 19-yearolds grinding feed for their cattle. (Grow at least enough crops to feed your own livestock, the brothers advise, because it's cheaper and you're sure of the quality; the extra labor pays off in the long run.) Their first college finals not far off, the two tall, angular students/farmers simply focused on the work at hand.

With the same selfassured language as the Paplow brothers, Simon Henry of Algona, Iowa, talks about raising livestock. "I've enjoyed working with livestock from the time I was pretty small," he says. "It made me the kind of person I am." You may nor get rich, he adds, but you a peace of mind that's measingly hard to find today. Simon, a 1995 high school graduate and former FFA member, works on his parents' farm and manages 30 head of cattle purchased from his father.

#### TheFFAedge

What more can FFA teach its members schooled on the family farm from an early age? They have already spent their lives working with livestock and learning to love the job that is more of a lifestyle.

"It added a lot of leadership skills," Ryan Schmidt of Alta, Iowa, says. Another 1995 high school graduate, Ryan has marketed 340 head of feeding cattle each year

Attending the state convention throughout high school gave Schmidt the chance to exchange new livestock management ideas with fellow FFA members. You take a little bit of knowledge from here and there, he says, keeping what works for your particular situation.

FFA helped Simon Henry "make sense" of livestock, he says, teaching him what he didn't have time to stop and learn while he and his

about 10 cents." the ups and downs of the commodities market, too. "Things change so rapidly it's kind of aggravating," he says. "You sell and a week or two later it's \$3 or \$4 more." Or, as in Simon's case, prices are lower. "You've gotta have a strong stomach," Ryan says. The Paplow brothers agree that FFA has helped them organize and enhance what

level. And showing cattle three show calves for the

"I've learned how to keep records a lot better," Tom says, "and you need records to know if you're going to be successful from year to year. If you're not making a profit, it's not worth doing."

James Horn teaches at Indianola High School and is advisor for the FFA program there. He was the Paplows' FFA advisor. FFA "provides a practical application for the

for me because [after that] the market went down by Ryan has learned about

market animals and other

helped when he wanted to

sell a few extra steers last

on the rise, and Henry had

fall. Market prices were

to decide when to sell.

general idea of the

"Just by having a

commodity markets," he

says, "I thought that was

about as high as cattle

[prices] would get, so I

sold. It turned out good

commodities, which

they've learned on the farm. Both have earned the Iowa FFA degree, and Tom won a bronze medal for beef production at the state is just plain fun. (They are currently prepping Iowa State Fair this year.)

agriculture skills students



Justin Besch and Debbie Hurlbert got involved in livestock production after starting high school.

for the last two years. He has replaced his retired father, Willard, on the family farm, and makes independent farming decisions. Ryan and his 42-year-old brother, Rick, share equipment and help each other, and Willard still helps, too.

Ryan was the Iowa beef proficiency winner at the state convention last April in Des Moines.

father were busy working on the farm. "FFA went over some things so I could understand them a little more," Simon says.

Livestock judging guidelines, anatomy lessons, troubleshooting strategy—Simon learned all this in FFA, and it gave him a larger vision of how to run his daily livestock operation. For instance, Henry studied how to

learn in the classroom,"
Horn says. You start with
the basics for the first two
years of high school, then
move into more specific
management and business
strategy during the junior
and senior years.
(Indianola is currently
revising its agriculture
curriculum; Horn hopes
to add livestock facilities
near the school and
remodel and expand the
greenhouse.)

Experience in the field has made a difference in the classroom for Tim. "It makes it a lot easier to understand," he says. Even in college, Tim can better visualize what he learns because of his farming and FFA experience, he says, something that is more difficult for most of the "city kids" in class. But, Tom adds, some students raised on a farm don't study enough, because they think they can fall back on experience alone.

Young livestock managers raised in the farming tradition find that FFA complements what they've learned working from day to day. But what about the "city kids," or the high school students that may or may not live on a family farm and simply haven't grown up planning for the day they would farm themselves?

#### Breakingthe ice

Basically, how can FFA help Debbie Hurlburt, a 17-year-old junior living in the town of Algona, Iowa?

"I remember I used to be scared of my animals and scared to show them," she says. "Now that I know more about cattle I don't feel as shy. Now I know what I talk about when I talk to the judge."

Even though Debbie stays busy with school, 4-

H, cheerleading and a job at K-Mart, she is also an FFA member with eight heifers and nine horses kept at three different locations outside of town. Debbie has also raised sheep and swine in years past.

"My dad had an interest in cattle, and I've been showing cattle in 4-H since I was nine years old," she says. Two years ago she took out a loan, bought two heifers and bred them, which was the start of her current herd. She enters both 4-H and FFA cattle shows at local fairs.

#### Thinking for the future

"I actually think I first started [managing livestock] because I wanted to make my dad happy," she admits. "But I'm glad I did."

Justin Besch, a senior at Algona, is also glad he began working with livestock. But he only got serious about it the past year and joined FFA. "I've always kind of liked being around animals," he says. "I have some friends that live on farms, and I'd go out there and help them. I thought I'd take some agriculture classes and see what it's like."

Justin's classes led to an after-school job at Grand Prix Pork, a hog confinement lot located north of Algona, where he power washes farrowing rooms and helps artificially inseminate and castrate the swine. Justin's experience proves that the final year of high school isn't too late to join FFA or start thinking about a livestock management career. If it makes you happy, there isn't a deadline.

"It's something I think I could do the rest of my

life," he says. "I find the job interesting." The smell used to bother Justin, but not any more. Instead he sees his possible future in the swine industry, and Justin plans to work full-time at Grand Prix Pork after graduation. It will give him time to decide about going to college and make other plans.

"I wouldn't have the job if it wasn't for FFA," Justin says.

#### Striking a balance

The FFA in Iowa is supporting "traditional," farm-based livestock management and generating newer, diverse interests simultaneously.

Kinney Grimm, a junior at Algona High School, has lived on a farm all his life, but he's discovered a new talent through the FFA. It doesn't have to do with the 5200 swine he and his family raise every four months through Murphy of Iowa. It's about the fruit, cheese and sausage sale his Algona chapter sponsors annually to raise money. Kinney was the top seller in both 1995 and 1996, with 105 and 166 items sold, respectively. "Everybody at school says I'm going to be a millionaire because I'm a great sales-man," Kinney says.

In reality, it can take a successful sales career to make livestock profitable. In terms of finances, starting a livestock operation can be more difficult than ever for would-be managers.

"If you don't have anybody to help you these days, you might as well get out," is Dave Paplow's standard advice. "It's gotten into the big hands."

That's why Luke Brown of West Bend,

Iowa, who won the national FFA diversified livestock proficiency award last year, enrolled in a one-year welding course at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon. He wants to strike a balance among swine, cattle, crops and welding on his future farm. Merging the public relations savvy he learned through FFA with his welding skill—raising both 100 head of cattle and 150 head of sows—Luke is formulating a solid plan for a profitable livestock operation.

Tom Paplow is thinking of the same strategy. "I want a job as a herdsman somewhere, either in the Midwest or up in the Dakotas or Montana or down south in Texas or Oklahoma," he says.

Ryan Schmidt adds that consistency is key. "You just gotta stay with it year in and year out," he says. "You'll probably do all right over time."

You also need to consider quality vs. cost, the Paplows say. The more you know about your operation, the more you can find innovative ways to meet your goals. "You can't buy a \$100,000 bull, but you can buy his semen for \$30 a unit," Tim says.

Once you have the best genetics, you have to maintain that quality potential. "You can have some pretty good animals and make them look bad if you don't give them the right nutrition and feed them right," Tom says.

If an interest in livestock and a love of the lifestyle that accompanies them are the "genetics," the FFA can supply the "nutrition" that jump starts a young manager's career.\*



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ntroducing the Ariat Workhorse<sup>™</sup>, a workboot that gives new meaning to the term "job stability". The Workhorse employs Ariat sexclusive ATS<sup>™</sup> technology to give you unparalleled comfort and support on the job.

Innovations such as hock-absorbing gel cushioning, a carbon fiber forked shank and unique heel cradle help stabilize your foot,



THE NEW BREED OF BOOT which reduces fatigue in the lower back and legs.

Ariat's specially formulated carbonrubber Duratread™ outsole is reinforced with a Goodyear storm welt, providing 4x longer wear than traditional rubber soles. Waterproof oiled nubuck uppers on the outside offer extra

Try the Ariat Workhorse. For on the job performance, it's one boot that never quits.

protection from occupational hazards.

formula, these FFA members in Ohio are preparing themselves to be the food producers of tomorrow

The school attracts students from all over the diverse county, which stretches north, close to Cleveland, and south to a large Amish and Mennonite community.

The school has 30 areas of study and boasts three FFA chapters. Dennis Finley, a finalist for the 1996 National Agriscience Teacher of the Year, is advisor for the Meat-Bakery & Food Science Program and FFA Chapter, which over the last two years has produced four of the nine state finalists for the Ohio agriscience student of the year.

n the edge of

Smithville, Ohio,

stands the Wayne

County Schools

Career Center.

Students in his program, using the agriscience knowledge they've gained in the classroom, are working together to develop the skills involved in meat and bakery production. Some students also pursue individual projects that have yielded new forms of such food products as beef jerky, beef sticks and bologna.

#### The students' facility

ne corner of the Uprogram's building, located next to the main school, is a working store and deli, where the students' products are sold. Customers include students from the rest of the school, people from the Smithville community, and local clubs and organizations. With a sixfoot display freezer, a 16-foot refrigerated display case, a 6-foot bakery display case, electronic scales, deli slicers and cash registers, the store is equipped with all the modern amenities.



SHOZI

Back in the meat lab, students work on the same equipment used in the workplace, from the smokehouse to the band saws to the meat grinder. And like any beef processing facility, this place is government-inspected on a regular basis because of the constant threat of bacteria. There's

probably try that pretty soon."

On a typical day some of the students will work in the bakery lab while others will work in the meat lab. On a fall day last November, the students in the meat lab processed a customer's side of beef; in the bakery lab another student churned out dozens

where if you slow down, it's not a problem because we'll get it taken care of."

After cutting a side of beef into its component parts, teams of students begin the task of trimming away the fatty parts of the meat. From there, the students cut and package steaks, roasts and short ribs; others make ground beef at the meat grinder. In some cases, some of the meat will be set aside for use in making bologna.

currently at 3% fat.

"What's unique about the project is he might not completely and totally succeed in what he's trying to do," says Finley, "but at the same time, he's still accomplishing something."

1.7%. Rich's bologna is

Rich is actually treading new ground in the state of Ohio. Finley says there is no manufacturer in the state that currently makes a fat-

free lunch meat, so the federal and state offices in Ohio don't have much experience in approving such a product. "He's probably going to have to work with someone at the federal level and actually submit a formulation and processing

procedure and see what happens," explains Finley.

Finley would love to see Rich's bologna approved and on the market without a hitch. Another part of him, though, seems to be excited about the hardlearned education Rich will receive when he tries to get his product through the government's rigorous approval system. "The student is learning by dealing with hurdles out there," says Finley.



Top left: Rob Garver

guides a rib section

saw. Above (left to

though the lab's band-

right): Dennis Steffen

and David Pelfrey use

small kinves for the

more delicate task of

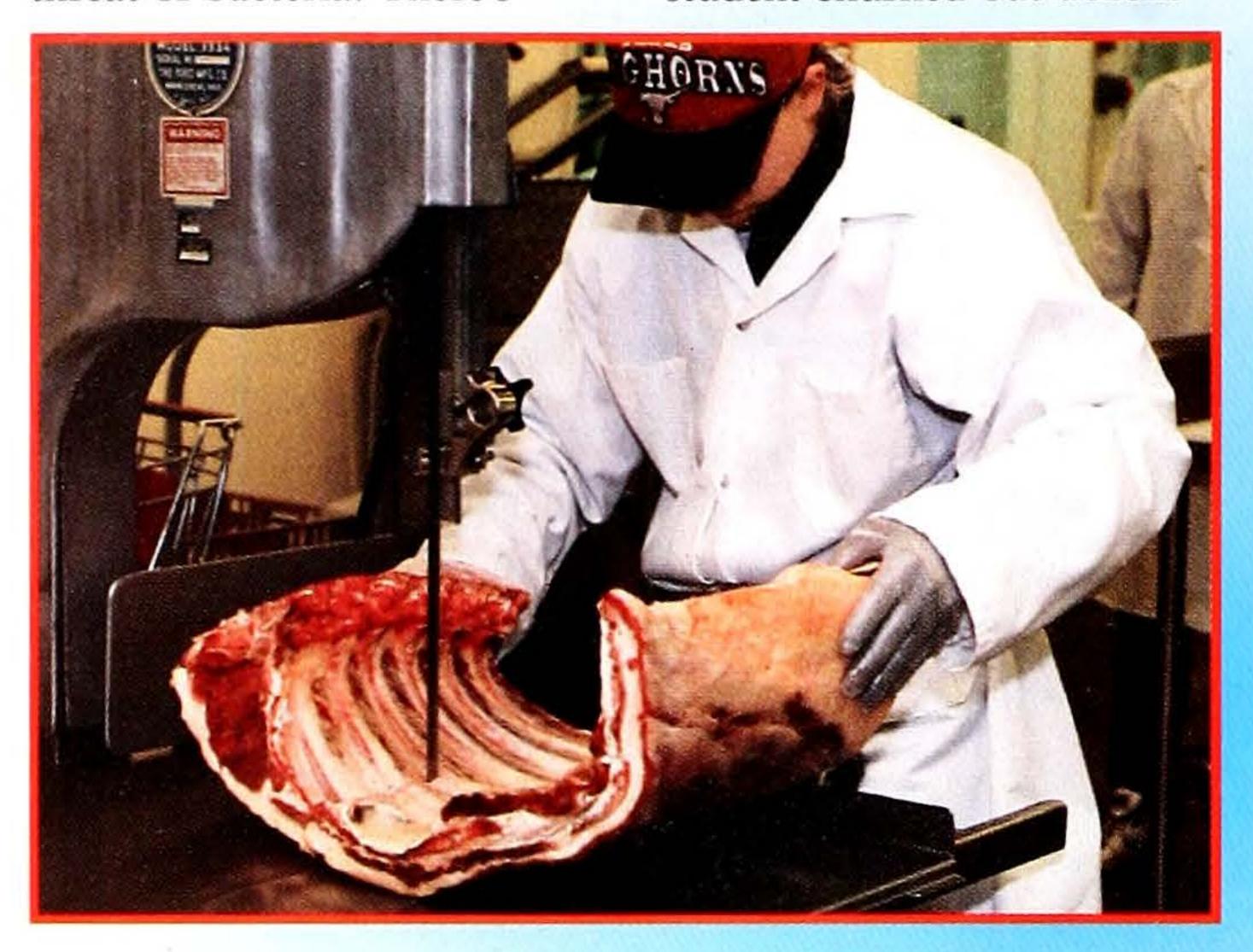
from the meat. Left:

some donuts in the

bakery lab.

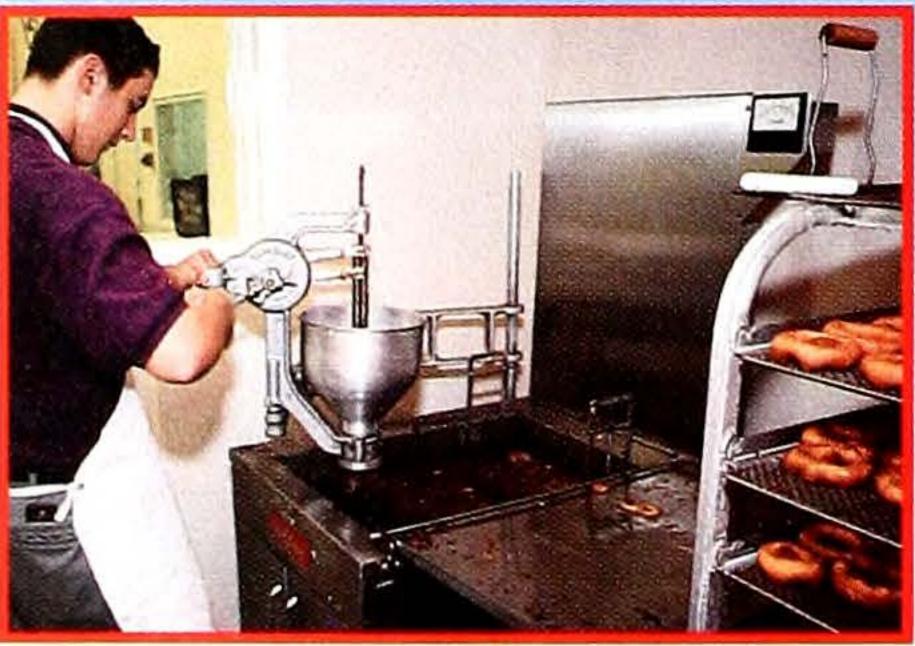
removing fat and bone

**Aaron Croft cranks out** 



no cutting corners when it comes to cleaning and preparing the lab for meat processing. The students clean the room thoroughly before heading over to their regular high school classes which meet in the afternoon. They finish the procedure with a thorough hosing-down of the entire meat lab.

Over in the bakery lab, enormous mixers, a deck oven, a donut fryer and fabrication tables fill the space. This is where the cakes, pastries and donuts are produced. "We even try to make new recipes for cupcakes and brownies," says student Rich Fraser, who is also developing a fat-free bologna as an agriscience project. "If some ody comes up with an idea, we'll try it. I even care up with an idea for fudge. We haven't tried it yet because we have so much meat to do-but we'll



of chocolate donuts; two students worked at the counter in the store, where customers dropped in for snacks between classes.

#### Big job

Processing a side of beef or deer is a big job, so when an order comes in, it's a team effort. "If one person slips," says student Bill Feikert, "someone will jump in and help them so we can get back up. Like right now, we're processing a deer, and someone got behind in their part and someone else just jumped right in and helped them. In here, it's an atmosphere

"Treading new ground"

nich's bologna project, while still in progress, has earned him a scholarship. What he's shooting for is a fat-free bologna. "We tried to put one together in a month, but it fell through," Rich explains. "After about two or three months we got one that's 97% fatfree." Rich's bologna uses a unique formulation using modified potato starch and a milk protein. To be recognized as "fatfree" by the federal government, the product's fat content must be below

#### In the classroom

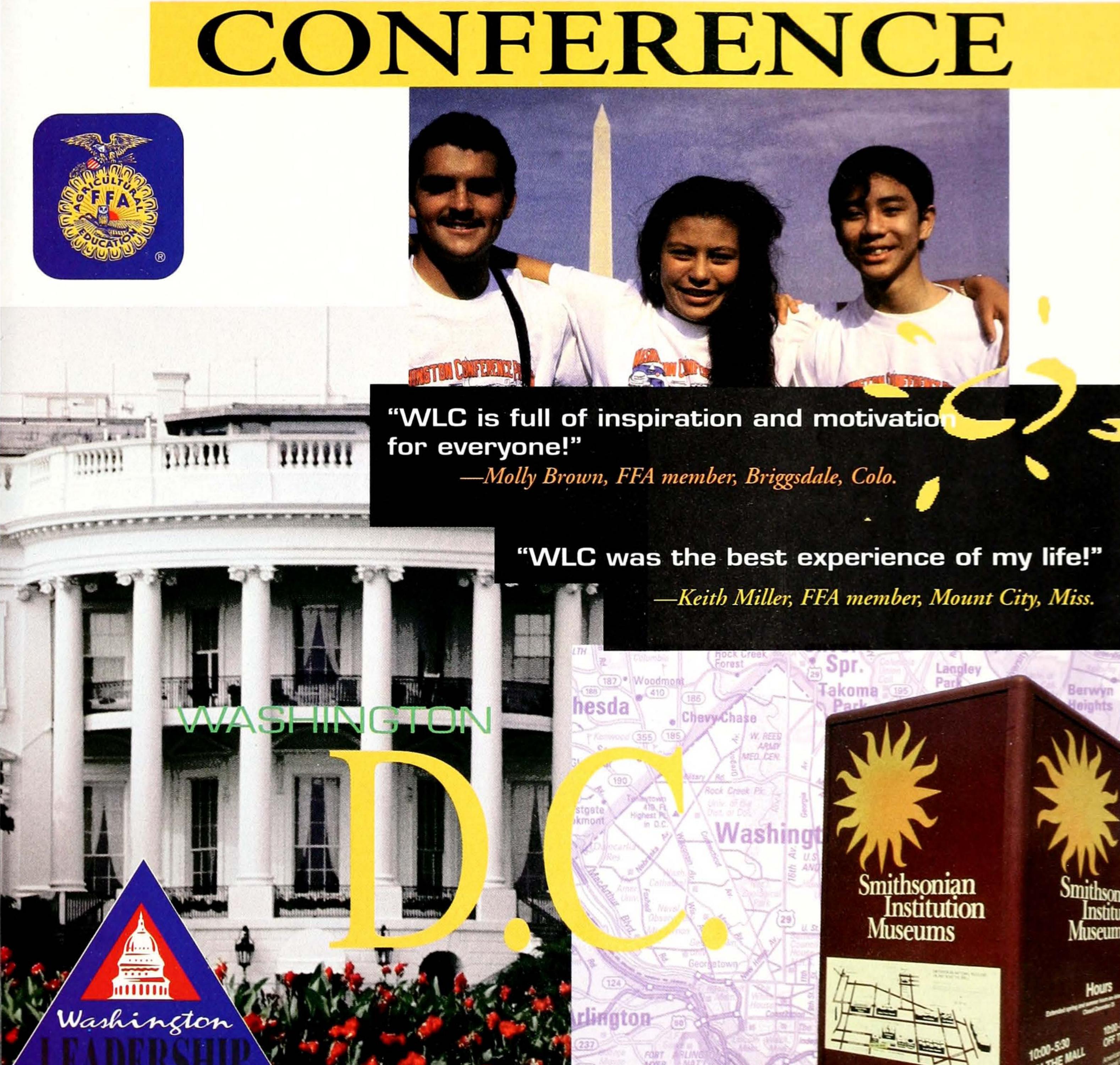
classroom work is based on things they do in the lab. "Right now," Finley explains, "we're dealing with facilities." Through this coursework, the students are learning what's involved in getting a new meat processing plant approved by the federal government. Even continued on page 17

## 

CONFERENCE

## 19997

## WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



### STUDENT PROGRAM

#### Adventures in Premier Leadership

Are you ready to embark on an adventure that can impact your life? Then the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) is for you!

This is no ordinary leadership experience. Sure, you will gain valuable skills in personal development, motivation, leadership, teamwork, citizenship and goal-setting—but there's even more! You will spend a week putting these skills into practice by making new friends from across the United States, touring our nation's capital, visiting with members of Congress, meeting national FFA staff and touring the home and farm of George Washington. This action-packed week will help you gain self-confidence and leadership skills to take back to your FFA chapter and share with other members!

Enthusiastic and experienced WLC staff members will accompany you on your adventures in premier leadership. These individuals, all former FFA members, will share their experiences and help you unlock your potential and personal growth. With their guidance, you'll learn to take risks you never thought possible!

You will participate in high intensity, interactive sessions and experience leadership in a fun setting. Plus, you will learn valuable tips to help you motivate other members in your chapter. With your improved leadership skills, you will be able to help your chapter reach a new level of excellence.

Now are you ready for adventure? Invest in what it takes to be a premier chapter leader at the summer's hottest leadership conference. Make a positive difference in your life. Make plans today to attend WLC!

#### ADVISOR PROGRAM

Making an Impact

The Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) experience isn't just for students—it's an adventure for advisors, too! The WLC advisor program is motivating, exciting and a great time to "recharge" for the school year. It's also an incredible opportunity to interact and share valuable ideas with other FFA advisors from across the United States.

You will attend exciting sessions on topics from leadership training for you and your members, to the latest in technology for the classroom, to legislative issues and hot topics in agriculture. Plus, you will receive the latest news from the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers' Association (NVATA) and the FFA. These sessions will spark new ideas to help you reach your goals as an educator and make your job more rewarding. In addition, you will receive free resources including videos, training materials and classroom materials.

Of course, there is plenty of time to relax. You will explore the sites of Washington, D.C., meet our nation's lawmakers and enjoy the time to get to know other advisors in an informal setting.

In many cases, the MLC advisor program is accepted as credit for inservice training and recertification. Check with your local and state administration. Plus, WLC is a NASSP-Approved Activity\*.

Take part in your own adventure this summer. Sign up now for the WLC advisor program. You and your chapter are worth the investment!

\*NASSP-Approved Activity: The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on the NASSP National Advisor List of Contests and Activities for 1996-97.



## YOURWEEKIN WASHINGTON

#### RON NASH, STUDENT DIRECTOR

Agriculture Instructor; 6 years Zillah, Washington

#### TUDENT PROGRAM

#### Adventures in Premier Leadership

#### TUESDAY—ADVENTURES IN OPPORTUNITY

Conference Registration 1-5 p.m.

Photo Session 5 p.m. Dinner 6 p.m.

"The Week's Opportunities" 7 p.m.

Reflections 8:30 p.m.

Congressional Visit Information Meeting 9:30 p.m.

Late Registration

Lights Out 11 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY—ADVENTURES IN PRIDE

7:45 a.m. Breakfast

"Pride in Citizenship and Public Image" 8:30 a.m. 10 a.m. Visit to Arlington National Cemetery

Lunch at Union Station Noon

Photo at the Supreme Court Steps/Congressional 1:15 p.m.

Speaker

Congressional Visits 1:45-4 p.m.

Guided Sightseeing Tour-U.S. Capitol, Library of

Congress, Supreme Court, Botanical Gardens

6 p.m. Dinner

Night Tour of Washington, D.C.—Jefferson, Lincoln 8 p.m.

and Iwo Jima Memorials; Vietnam Wall; White

House; Awakenings and Einstein statues

11 p.m. Lights Out

#### THURSDAY—ADVENTURES IN TEAMWORK

7:45 a.m. Breakfast

"Personal Development...Show Your True Colors" 8:30 a.m. "Personal Development...Appreciating the Team" 10:15 a.m.

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1:45 p.m. "Qualities of a Team" 3:15 p.m. Banquet Elections

6 p.m. Dinner

"FFA Leaders—Unlocking Your Potential" 7:30 p.m.

—Career and Goal Planning

11 p.m. Lights Out

#### FRIDAY—ADVENTURES IN COMMUNICATIONS

7:45 a.m. Breakfast

Visit to National FFA Center 9 a.m.

10:45 a.m. Visit to Mount Vernon—Home of George Washington

12:30 p.m. Lunch

"Citizenship...Interactive" 2:30 p.m.

4:30 p.m. "Making a Difference as a Leader"

6 p.m. Dinner

Leadership and Student Talent Revue 7:30 p.m.

11 p.m. Lights Out

#### SATURDAY—ADVENTURES IN TOMORROW

8:15 a.m. Breakfast

Sightseeing in Washington, D.C.—Smithsonian 9:15 a.m.

Institution, Air and Space Museum, Holocaust Museum, Ford's Theatre, Washington Monument,

etc.

11:30 a.m. Lunch at the Post Office Pavilion 12:30 p.m. Sightseeing in Washington, D.C.

2:30-3:30 p.m. Metro to Hotel 5:30 p.m. Conference Banquet

"Reflecting on the Week...Aiming for the Future" 10:45 p.m.

Lights Out 11:30 p.m.

Saturday night's lodging provided with conference purchase. Schedule and workshop content subject to change.

#### ADVISOR DIRECTOR TO BE ANNOUNCED

#### ADVISOR PROGRAM

#### Making an Impact

Conference Registration 1-5 p.m. Photo Session with Students 5 p.m. 5:30 p.m. Dinner and Round-Table Discussion 7:30 p.m. "The Week's Opportunities"

—Conference Welcome

8:30 p.m. Reflections with Student Program

9:30 p.m. Late Registration

WEDNESDAY—IMPACT...PREMIER LEADERSHIP

7:45 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. "Issues—Making a Difference"

—Agriculture Legislative Issues —Communicating with Legislators

10 a.m. Visit to Arlington National Cemetery

Lunch at Union Station Noon

1:15 p.m. Photo at Supreme Court Steps/Congressional Speaker

1:45-4 p.m. Congressional Visits

Sightseeing Tour-U.S. Capitol, Library of Congress,

Supreme Court, Botanical Gardens

6 p.m. Dinner

"Local Program Success" 6:45 p.m.

—Preparing Students for Life

—Bringing Learning to Life

Night Tour of Washington, D.C.—Jefferson, Lincoln 8 p.m.

and Iwo Jima Memorials; Vietnam Wall; White House;

Awakenings and Einstein statues

#### THURSDAY—IMPACT...PERSONAL GROWTH

7:45 a.m. Breakfast

"Local Program Success" 8:30 a.m.

—SAE: Building Connections

—Professional Growth and Revitalization

Spirit of Washington Potomac Riverboat Cruise 11:15 a.m. Free Time—Georgetown and Old Town Alexandria

2 p.m. Dinner 6 p.m.

"Local Program Success" 7 p.m. -Marketing Your Program

#### FRIDAY —IMPACT...PARTNERSHIPS

Breakfast 7:45 a.m.

Visit to National FFA Center 9 a.m. —NVATA and Educational Issues

—1996 Topics in FFA

—Developing Partnerships

Lunch and Idea Sharing with National FFA Staff 12:30 p.m.

"Computer Technology" 2 p.m. —Using the Internet

-Information Available for Your Classes

Visit to Mount Vernon-Home of George Washington 3 p.m.

Dinner 6 p.m.

SATURDAY—IMPACT...VISIONS

Breakfast 8:15 a.m.

Sightseeing in Washington, D.C.—Smithsonian 9:15 a.m. Institution, Air and Space Museum, Holocaust

Museum, Ford's Theatre, Washington Monument, etc.

Lunch at the Post Office Pavilion 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.

Sightseeing in Washington, D.C. Metro to Hotel 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Conference Banquet 5:30 p.m.

> Sign up now for the advisor program. You and your chapter are worth the investment!

#### REGISTRATION AND TRAVEL

#### INFORMATION

#### 1997 CONFERENCE DATES

Seven, one-week premier leadership conferences are offered June through August. Just choose the week that fits your summer schedule. After your registration arrives at FFA, you will receive a confirmation card and additional information. Conferences can fill up fast! Guarantee your week by registering today. It's simple—just fax or mail the registration form on the next page. And pass the extra one along to a friend!

June 10-15 • June 17-22 • June 24-29 • July 8-13 • July 15-20 • July 22-27 • July 29-Aug. 3

#### STUDENT SUPERVISION AND CONFERENCE SIZE

WLC participants' care and safety is FFA's top priority. WLC staff reside in the same hotel with the members and accompany all participants during all workshops and tours throughout the week. The conference hotels also employ in-house, 24-hour security personnel. Most conference sessions have an average enrollment of 150 students, which allows for maximum student participation and personal contact by the five WLC staff members.

Choose from the following registration packages:

Choose horr are following region and repackages.		
Registration Information	Prepaid Per Person	Late Fee*
Student Package (quad occupancy)	\$450	\$45
Includes hotel Tuesday through Sunday morning, meals, supplies, student		
3-ring notebook, tours, in-town transportation and secondary accident insurance.		
Advisor Package (double occupancy)	\$505	\$45
Advisor Package (single occupancy)	\$680	\$45
Advisor/Guest Package	\$855	\$45
		. 1

All advisor packages include lodging, meals, supplies, advisor/student notebook, tours, in-town transportation and secondary accident insurance. Guest package includes all meals, river boat cruise, and tours of Washington, D.C., and Mount Vernon.

\*Registration fees must be paid two weeks in advance to avoid the \$45 late fee.

#### MULTIPLE STUDENT DISCOUNT

Save money on advisor registration when you bring more students to WLC!

Number of WLC participants	Savings *
10-19	\$125
20-29	\$250
30-39	\$375
40 or more	\$505

\*Savings for advisor expenses based on advisor rate, double occupancy.

#### HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

For the 5th year

registration

increased!

costs have not

Each week's conference begins with registration on Tuesday from 1-5 p.m. Hotel accommodations include Saturday night lodging. You will be assigned a room at one of two hotels. For chapters with four or more students attending, half the group may be registered at each hotel to ensure students receive the maximum benefits of a national experience, unless otherwise requested by the advisor.

Rosslyn Westpark Hotel 1900 N. Fort Myer Drive Arlington, VA 22209 (703) 527-4814

Holiday Inn—Eisenhower Avenue 2460 Eisenhower Avenue Alexandria, VA 22314 (703) 960-3400

#### GUARANTEED LOWEST AIRFARE—FIVE TO 10 PERCENT SAVINGS!

The conference hotels are conveniently located near D.C. National Airport (Dulles International Airport is located 30 miles away from the conference). WLC staff will be stationed at National Airport to direct you to taxi or subway transportation to the hotel. Omega World Travel is offering special airfare discounts to FFA members and advisors. Call now for these savings.

- 1. Call Omega World . vel at (540) 786-8371, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time.
- Tell the agent you are WLC participant with the FFA. If you fly with American Airlines or USAIR, you will be eligible for a 5-10 percent savings.
- 3. Omega Travel will handle your travel arrangements or you may call American Airlines or USAIR directly. For USAIR, call 1-800-334-8644 and refer to GF70680111. Tell the agent you are an FFA WLC participant. For American Airlines, call 1-800-433-1790 and for June reservations refer to Star File Number S5667AC. For July reservations refer to Star File Number S1877AC. Tell the agent you are an FFA WLC participant. Please give a contact phone number between 9am and 5pm eastern standard time.



Na Sal

## 19997

## WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE BEOLOGICA

## REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form for registration. Duplicate as needed for number of students attending. Mail or fax this completed form to the National FFA Organization, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 1516O, Alexandria, VA 22309-016O. Fax: (703) 360-5524.

CONFERENCE DATES  Please indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices. June 10-15July 15-20 June 17-22July 22-27 June 24-29July 29-Aug. 3 July 8-13	PACKAGE (CHECK ONE):  OStudent Package (quad occupancy) OAdvisor Package (single occupancy) OAdvisor Package (double occupancy) OAdvisor/Guest Package *Registration fee must be paid at least two weeks in advance in	Prepaid* \$450 \$680 \$505 \$855 to avoid a \$45 late fee.	O Visa O Mastercard Account #: Expiration Date: Cardholder's Name: OCHECK ENCLOSED—Payable to:
O Male O Female			National FFA Organization.
Name:			O SCHOOL PURCHASE ORDER—
Chapter Number:			fax or mail copy with registration form
Address:			Scholarship Amount \$
City:	State:Zip:		O National FFA Foundation, Inc.
FFA Chapter:			National FFA Alumni Association     Other (coorie)
Advisor Name:			Other (specify)
School Phone: Home Ph	one:School Fax:		O MULTIPLE STUDENT DISCOUNT TAKEN (see page 4)
Is an advisor/chaperone attending with you?	O Yes O No		For additional information, contact Donelle Johnson or Kim Bailey,
Advisor/Chaperone Name:			(703) 360-3600, ext. 252 or 309.
		SISTRA	TION FORM
그 얼마나 어느님이 그렇게 하면 나를 하게 되는 일이 없다면 하면 이렇게 되었다면 하면 그렇게 하는 것이 어느를 되어 있다. 그런 아이를 되어 없다고 하게 되었다면 되었다.	olicate as needed for number of students attending lighway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 223094		CI SCHOOL OF WAR I MANUFER TO 1 MA
CONFERENCE DATES  Please indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices. June 10-15July 15-20 June 17-22July 22-27 June 24-29July 29-Aug. 3 July 8-13	PACKAGE (CHECK ONE):  O Student Package (quad occupancy) O Advisor Package (single occupancy) O Advisor Package (double occupancy) O Advisor/Guest Package *Registration fee must be paid at least two weeks in advance to	Prepaid* \$450 \$680 \$505 \$855 to avoid a \$45 late fee.	O Visa O Mastercard Account #: Expiration Date: Cardholder's Name: OCHECK ENCLOSED—Payable to:
O Male O Female			National FFA Organization.
Name:			O SCHOOL PURCHASE ORDER—
Chapter Number:			fax or mail copy with registration form
Address:			O Scholarship Amount \$
City:	State: Zip:		O National FFA Foundation, Inc.
FFA Chapter:			VINALIUNAI FFA FUUNUALIUN, IIIC.
			O National FFA Alumni Association
Advisor Name:			O National FFA Alumni Association Other (specify)
Advisor Name:	one:School Fax:		O National FFA Alumni Association
Advisor Name:	O Yes O No	1	O National FFA Alumni Association O Other (specify) O MULTIPLE STUDENT

For chapters with four or more students attending, half the group may be registered at each hotel to ensure students receive the maximum benefits of a national experience, unless otherwise requested by the advisor.

CANCELLATION POLICY: There will be a \$50 fee for cancellations received within 30 days of conference date. There will be a \$225 cancellation fee for registered participants who do not attend.

## ADVENTURES IN LEADERSHIP STUDENT PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

#### The Week's Opportunities:

- Develop ideas to energize your FFA chapter.
- Identify strategies for meeting people.
- Demonstrate assertive communications.
- Develop teambuilding skills.

#### PRIDE IN CITIZENSHIP AND PUBLIC IMAGE

- Display proper FFA image and official dress.
- Identify various symbols of the United States: flag, national anthem, Pledge of Allegiance.
- Identify three programs (FFA, community and nation) in which each student will participate and make a contribution to governmental leadership.
- Understand voting is both a privilege and a responsibility of United States citizenship.
- Develop a sense of national pride and patriotism.

#### PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT...SHOW YOUR TRUE COLORS

- Identify the responsibilities of a valuable group member.
- Determine what types of leaders are needed on teams.
- Examine how individuals from various backgrounds contribute to chapter-related situations.
- · Identify characteristics of four effective leader types.
- Determine personal leadership style and characteristics that contribute to teamwork.

#### PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT...APPRECIATING THE TEAM

- · Identify special characteristics and abilities in self and others.
- · Respect, accept and work with all individuals on a team.
- · Identify the importance of listening.
- Give and receive feedback on common ground and in building teamwork.
- · Exhibit open-mindedness.
- Identify characteristics of a successful leader.

#### QUALITIES OF A TEAM

- Identify methods of involving each member of a team.
- Identify behaviors that help establish working relationships.
- · Contribute to the efficiency and success of a group.
- Cooperate and compromise through teamwork and group participation.
- Identify situations where compromise is necessary.
- Demonstrate initiative to facilitate cooperation.

#### FFA LEADERS—UNLOCKING YOUR POTENTIAL

- Determine life-long motivation and goals.
- Determine ways to motivate yourself and others.
- Build self-esteem and pride in students.
- Identify the characteristics employers are seeking.
- · Identify three career choices.
- Identify three FFA activities and three networking mentors that will assist you in selecting a career.
- Evaluate the contribution the chosen career has on a student's life and community.
- · Understand the importance of making positive choices in life.
- Understand the value of believing in yourself, your values and in others.

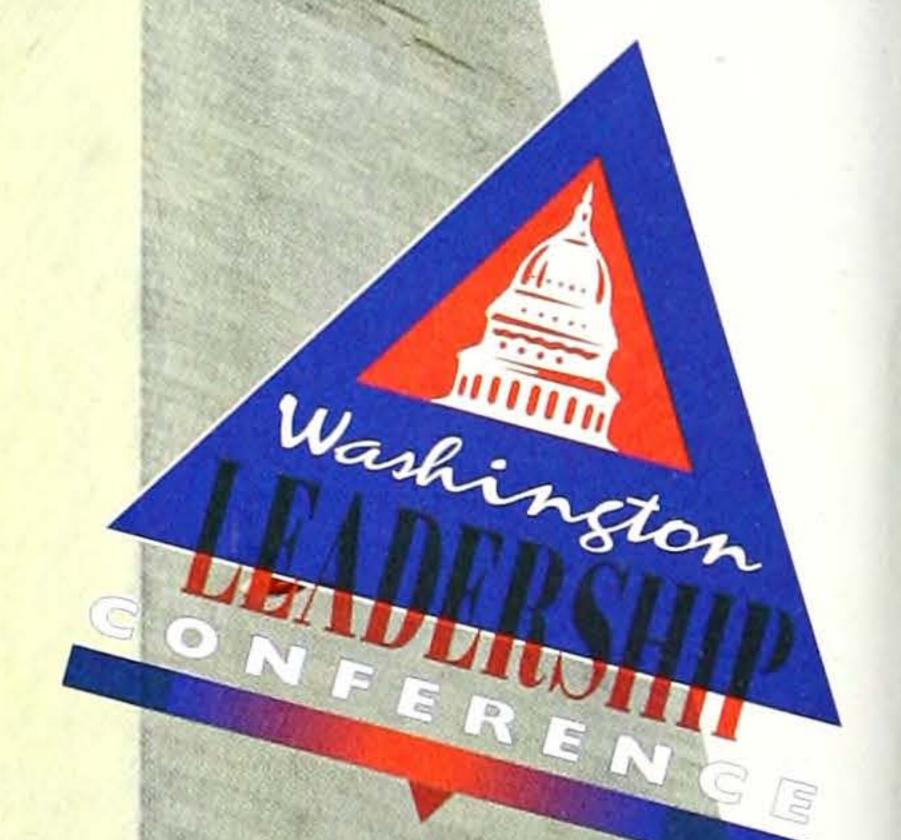
#### CITIZENSHIP INTERACTIVE

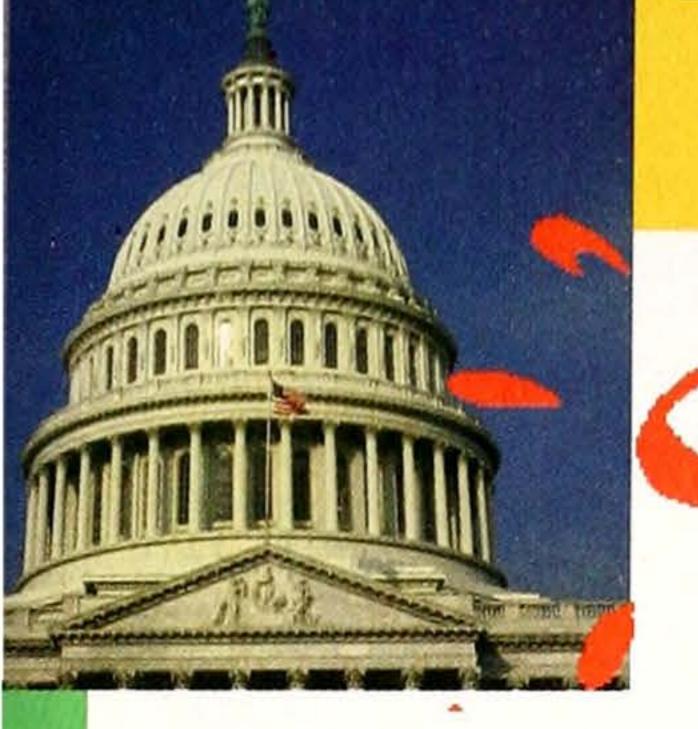
- Understand that our nation's citizens have very diverse backgrounds which contribute to our strength.
- · Identify major political systems.
- Distinguish positive and negative characteristics of various types of government.
- Identify the basic rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

#### MAKING A DIFFERENCE AS A LEADER, TRAIN THE TRAINER WORKSHOP

- Develop a strategy for facilitating training programs for your FFA chapter.
- · Identify opportunities to train and motivate FFA members.
- Demonstrate the proper way to conduct FFA meetings and banquets.

The Washington
Leadership
Conference fulfills
21 of the
employability skills
identified in the
SCANS report
developed by the
United States
Department of
Labor.





## Washington Leadership Conference

Hometown: FFA Office:

Las Cruces, New Mexico State FFA President

1992-93

Honors:

American FFA Degree, National Dean's List

Organizations:

National Agri-Marketing Association, NMSU College of Agriculture Ambassador,

Alpha Zeta

Education:

New Mexico State University, majoring in agricultural economics



Shelly Vaughn Conference Leader

Hometown:

FFA Office: Honors:

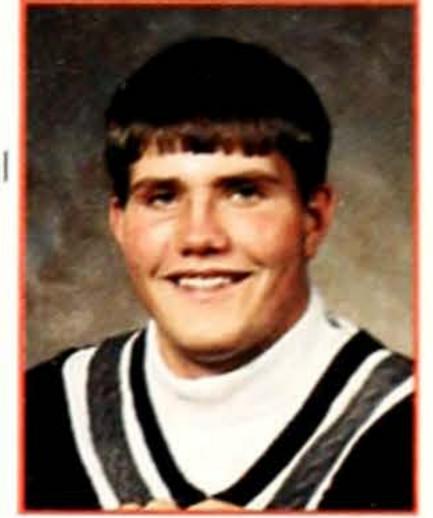
Alcester, South Dakota State FFA Treasurer, 1995-96 American FFA Degree,

Top Dairy Cattle Judge, National Wrestling Champion

Organizations: 4-H, Block and Bridle,

SDSU Collegiate Dairy Judging Team, Ag

Education Club South Dakota State University, majoring in agricultural education



Craig Winquist Conference Leader

Hometown: FFA Office:

Cameron, Missouri State FFA Secretary

1994-95

Honors: American FFA Degree,

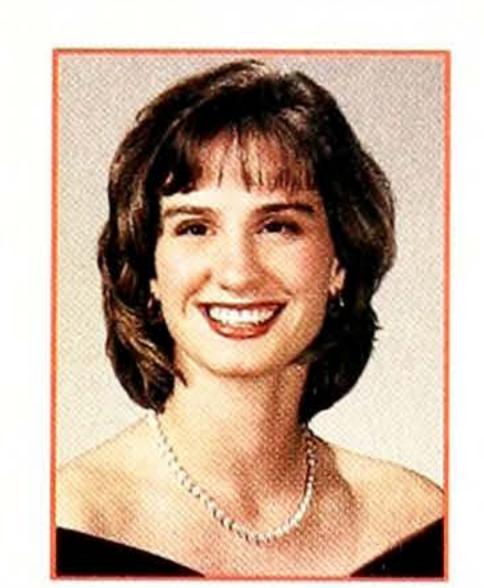
> National FFA/Farmland Promotional Advertisements

Organizations:

College of Agriculture Student Relations Board, Sigma Kappa Sorority, Panhellenic Council President

University of Missouri—

Columbia, majoring in general agriculture



Kellie Bray

Hometown: FFA Office:

Education:

Lubbock, Texas State FFA Vice President.

1993-94

Honors:

Organizations:

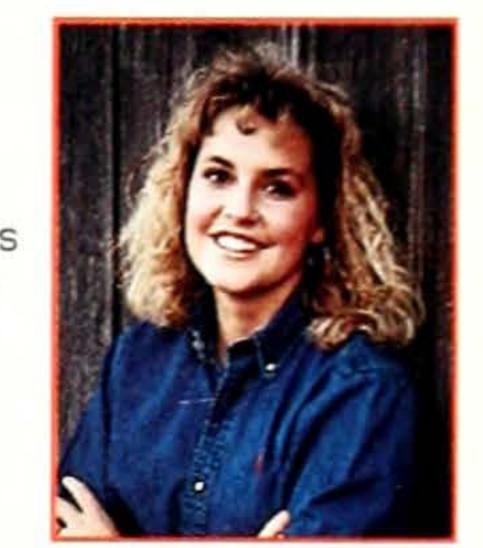
American FFA Degree, National Junior Shorthorn Association Board of Directors

OSU Agriculture Ambassador, Block and Bridle Association,

Alpha Zeta, Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow Texas Tech University,

majoring in agricultural

economics



Laurie Masterson

Hometown: FFA Office:

Organizations:

Education:

Jefferson, Georgia State FFA Vice President

1993-94

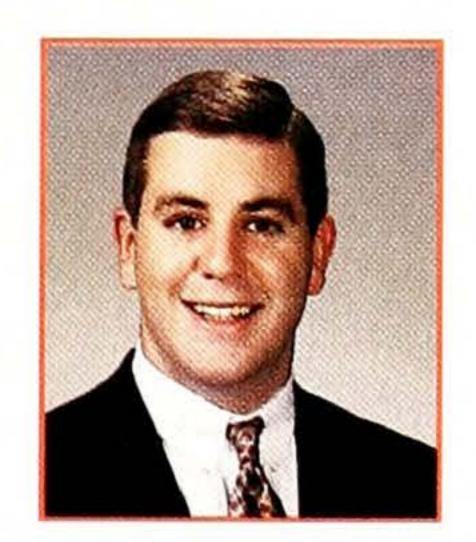
Honors: American FFA Degree, KSU Varsity Cheer Squad

American Junior Chianina Association, Alpha Gamma

Rho Fraternity

Education: Kansas State University, majoring in agricultural

education



Ashley Edwards

Hometown: FFA Office: Honors:

Education:

Wauseon, Ohio District 1 President, 1994-95

American FFA Degree, National FFA Scholarship

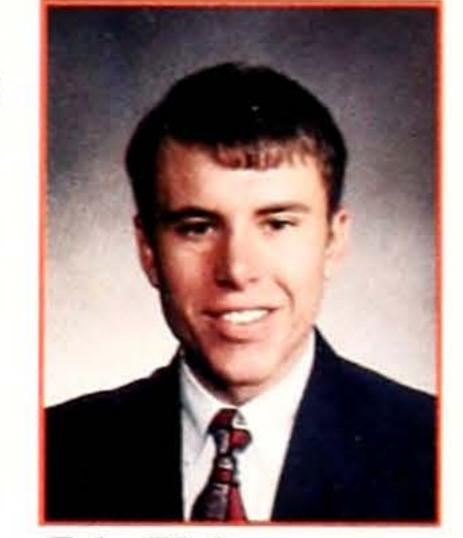
Recipient

Alpha Tau Zeta Fraternity, Organizations:

Agricultural Education Society, Pre-Veterinary Club

The Ohio State University, majoring in agricultural

education



Eric Richer

Hometown: FFA Office:

Joseph, Oregon State FFA Reporter,

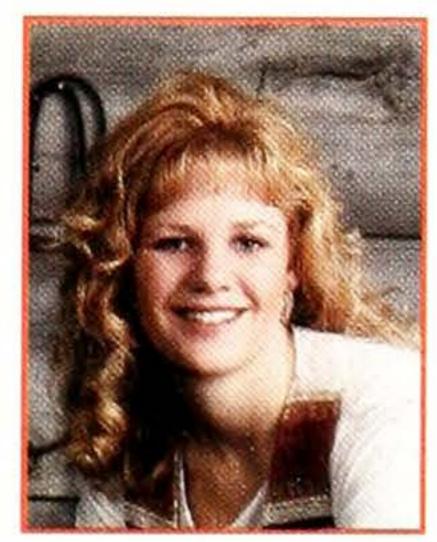
1994-95

Honors: American FFA Degree, National FFA Scholarship

Recipient

Organizations: Agricultural Education Club, University of Idaho Rodeo Team

Education: University of Idaho, majoring in agricultural communications



ShanRae Hook

Hometown: FFA Office: Honors:

Education:

Mamou, Louisiana State FFA Secretary, 1994-95 LSU Honors Scholarship, LSU Outstanding Animal Science Student, National Prepared Speaking Contest

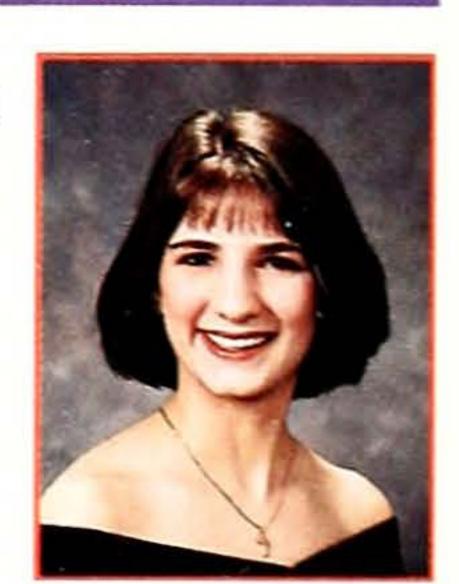
Organizations: Member, Les Voyageurs recruiting for College of Agriculture; Research

project working with NASA Louisiana State University, majoring in animal science,

pre-medicine

Scholar

education



Catherine Smith

Hometown: FFA Office:

Honors:

Education:

Gladstone, Virginia State FFA Vice President,

1992-93

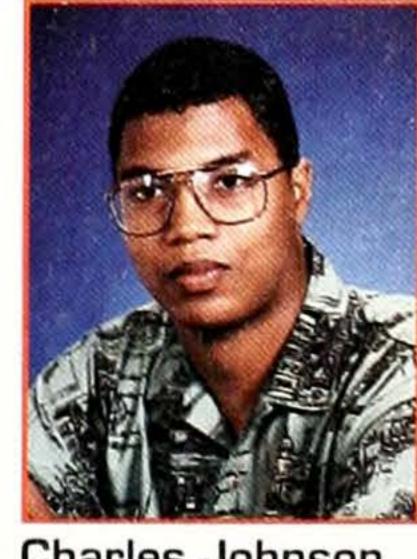
American FFA Degree,

Virginia FFA Alumni President Organizations: National Agri-Marketing Association, Agricultural Education Society, Intramural

Sports

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, majoring in agricultural and applied

economics



Charles Johnson

Hometown: FFA Office: Honors:

Education:

Newcastle, Oklahoma Chapter FFA President, 1993-95 State FFA Degree, National Scholarship Recipient, OSU President's Distinguished

Organizations:

Education:

National Honor Society, Freshman Representative Council, Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, Interfraternity Council Oklahoma State University, majoring in agricultural

Jackson Thomas "J.T." Walker

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### IDEAS



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- Approach local businesses, friends and local FFA supporters for funding. And don't forget to ask your parents for help.
- Sell, sell, sell. Citrus, candy, magazines, plants or craft sales can earn you quick cash. You could even hold a bingo or raffle event.
- Try providing a service. Wash cars, baby-sit for neighbors, or provide pet care. Any odd job can offer financial rewards.
- Be creative and start something new. Collect one million pennies, have a Polaroid picture sale or sponsor a Win, Lose or Draw tournament.
- Does your chapter provide a scholarship? Check with your FFA advisor.
- Develop your supervised agricultural experience program (SAE) to earn your way to WLC.

Scholarships are also given through the National FFA Foundation, Inc. Contact your state FFA advisor or executive secretary for an application. Foundation scholarships include:

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before ground can be broken for such an undertaking, the government scrutinizes the plans, looking at such potential problem areas as environmental impact, safety and sanitation. "Right now the students are working on things like water quality and the terminology involved," Finley says.

#### The convenience factor

Though the program's beef jerky and beef sticks are great sellers in the store, they were not really developed for that purpose. "When we started with the beef jerky," Finley explains, "a student worked for an area employer who was in the process of developing jerky at the time. So the student, working with his employer, developed products for work here at school."

The story is much the same for beef sticks, which are considered "shelf-stable," meaning they don't have to refrigerated. The sticks came about "because a student was working with an area employer," says Finley, "and the employer was looking to manufacture shelf-stable beef sticks. So, the student developed one for work and one for school."

Before the beef jerky and beef sticks were developed, the best-selling items in the chapter's store were mainly bakery products such as donuts. Steaks and ground beef were also available in the store, but because the store is open only in the morning when class meets, the best customers—the students didn't have many choices. "They couldn't take a roast home with them at night—they couldn't leave

it in their locker. They couldn't take a steak home at night because they couldn't leave it in their locker," says Finley. "But the beef sticks—as long as they're vacuum-sealed—can keep out of refrigeration for a couple weeks."

By adapting to the needs of the customer, almost by accident, the students found a successful market niche—convenience foods. At the same time, they started developing skills that will help them find jobs in the community after finishing school or help them with their work on the family farm.

"What I've learned from this class," says Bill, "is going to help me pursue what my family has been doing for generations."

Because most of the students will go on to

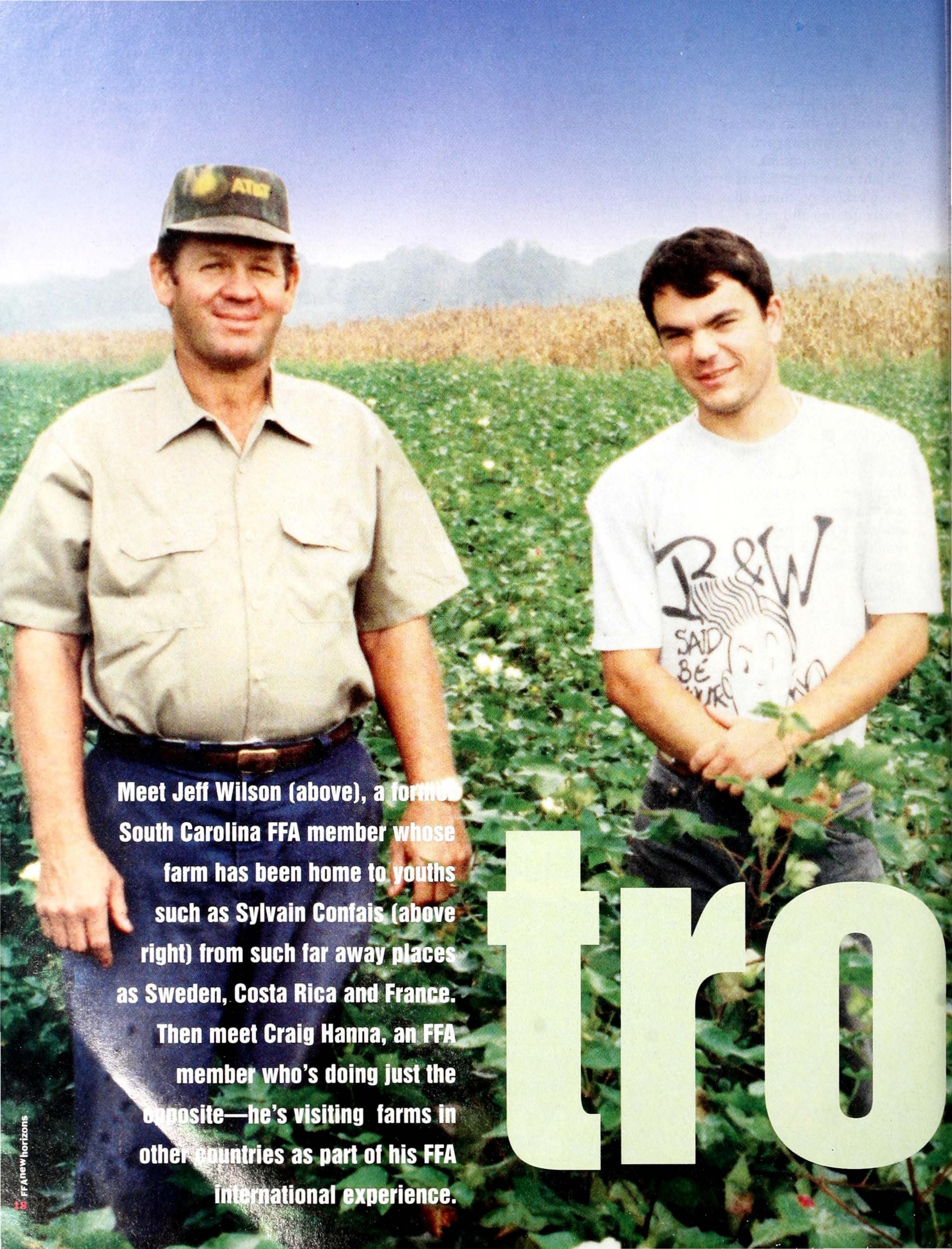
work in an area related to their program at school, Finley encourages and facilitates interaction between students and employers. Bill, for example, works for a meat-packer.

Throughout the year, students can interact with other business and industry representatives by hosting an open houses, working part-time jobs, attending food shows and attending technical seminars.

#### The finished product

We produce a product here," explains Finley. "The finished product that we send out the door is not beef sticks, it's not beef jerky, it's not the steaks—it's the graduates that leave our program. My job is to try to have them as prepared to enter into the world of work as possible."\*





hen Jeff Wilson, a former FFA member, now an established South Carolina cotton farmer, read in a farm magazine about foreign students coming over to work on American farms, he said to himself, "If it works for them, I'd like to try it."

Not long after calling Communicating Through Agriculture, the sponsor of the program he had read about, based in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, the process was underway. Hans Duvae, a 19-year-old agriculture student from Sweden prepared to leave his Scandinavian homeland for Wilson's 900-acre Cotton Hills Farms in Chester County, South Carolina.

"These people are not just workers," explains Wilson, who has one other full-time employee at the farm. "You have to expect something different from them than you'd expect when you just go out and hire someone.

"I think it takes a special personality to come somewhere like this," adds Wilson. "They operate machinery mainly, but they're willing to do anything. They're real good about that. They come with a good attitude."

#### Learning through differences

Since hosting Hans, Wilson, his wife Carol and their family have hosted Juan Alfaro, a 27year-old from Costa Rica, and their most recent guest, Sylvain Confais, a 23-year-old from France. All three were brought up on farms.

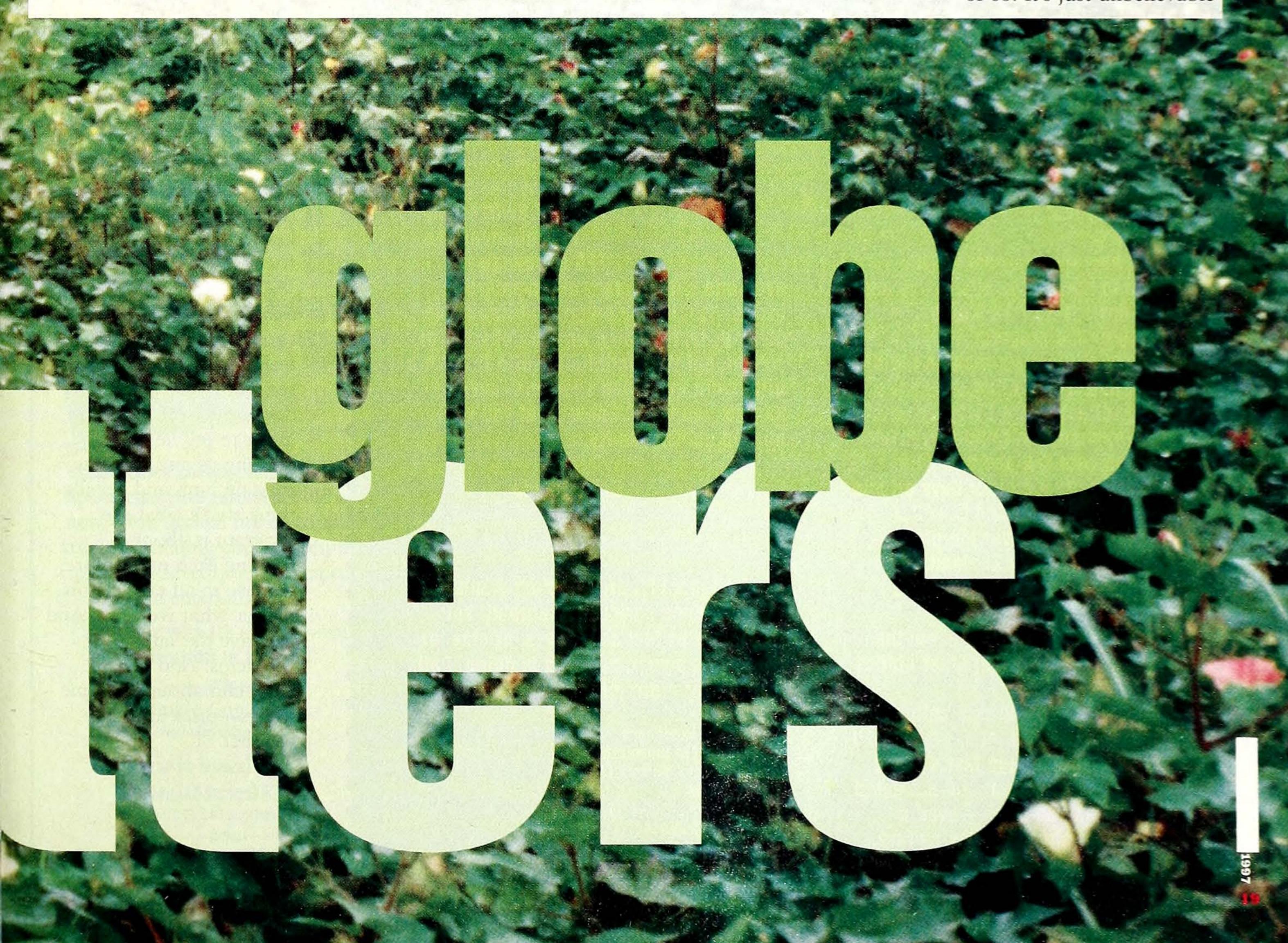
Not this farm, however. "The one from Sweden," laughs Wilson, "said we work a lot harder than he thought we did here in America. The one from Costa Rica—he was impressed by the high technology. We have larger equipment here than they do in Costa Rica. The one from France, he said he always thought all farms in America were real large farms."

Part of the learning experience for these youths is getting it wrong and learning from their mistakes. "Mix-ups," as Wilson refers to them, occur from time to time,

but he doesn't seem to worry. "I watch them real close. I try to supervise them, especially at first. I give them a little more room as time goes on."

Another aspect of the learning process is the language barrier. In the case of Hans, who spoke perfect English, no problem. Juan and Sylvain, however, had very limited English-speaking skills when they arrived. "The first month it was pretty hard to communicate," Wilson says.

Near the end of his stay on the farm, Sylvain had made definite progress. "He's pretty good," admits Wilson. "He's really improved his English in the last month or so. It's just unbelievable



A letter to FFA members from Craig Hanna of Indiana, a participant in the FFA World Experience in Agriculture program.

Swiss Alps, Australian Outback, the exotic cultures of the Orient—nice places to visit, only a dream to most. But you, as an FFA member, have a golden opportunity to not only visit different countries like these, but also live and work there.

For the past three months and the next nine months I am on an FFA exchange program to Switzerland.

Sweden, Japan and Australia.

The worst part of the whole thing is the low number of members who take advantage of-or even know aboutthis opportunity. That's why I'm writing this letter. I found out about the program at a national FFA convention workshop. I left the workshop a skeptical dreamer, so I went back home and stewed for a month before applying. I'm now glad I went to that

workshop. Here's how the program works. You go to the host family to live and work for three, six or 12 months, depending on the program. (I recommend at least six months.) While I was in Switzerland I had weekends free to travel anywhere I wanted with the other exchangees I met there. Two friends, one with FFA and one with another program, took four days off and visited Paris. I've met and travelled with people from all over the globe-Norway, Hungary, New Zealand, the Netherlands and Costa Rica, just to name a few.

So although I learn a lot about the country, I also learn about other places as well!

An exchange in a foreign culture often means making a lot of taboos and learning a new language fast. I found most families are pattent and delighted to see you make an effort—even a feeble one—at absorbing the culture.

Switzerland was special for the large amount of tradition still alive

today. I saw many yodel clubs perform; different traditional Swiss sports played; and farm houses up to five and six hundred years old. My house was over 200 years old!

But the agriculture was very different as well. I have many ideas here that are

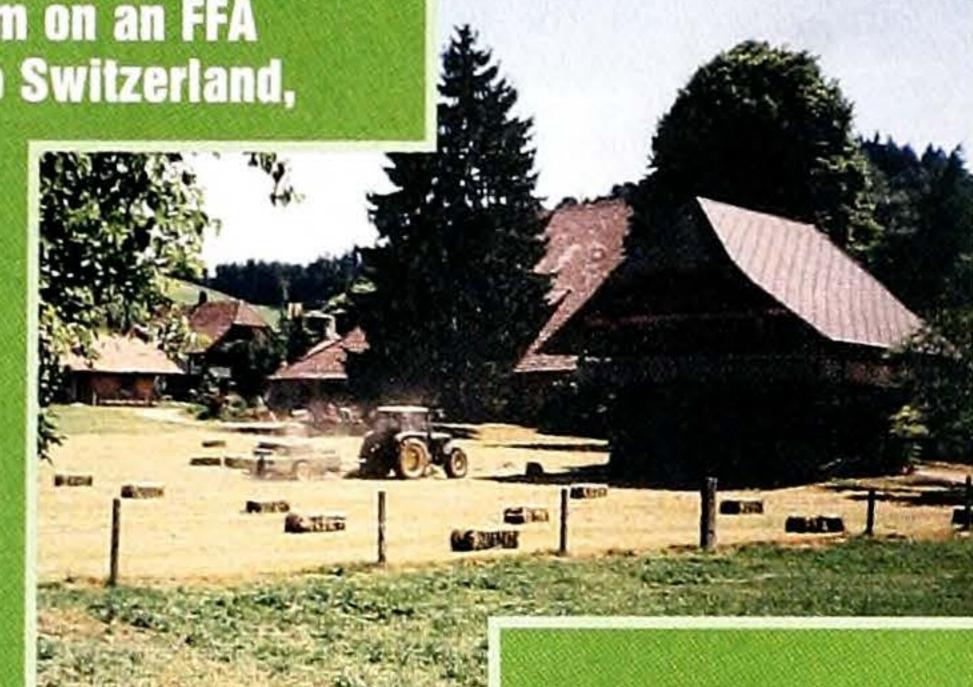
not yet used—and some that will never be used—back home. Land in such a small country is so scarce that they can't waste any more land on pasture than they have to because the cows trample the grass. Instead, they cut the grass and bring it to the cows in the barn. And the manure is made into a perfect cube with top sides to save room. Our milk from the cows, of course, went to making **Emmental Swiss** cheese (since I lived in the heart of the Emmental region). Many say this is the heart of Switzerland. I recommend the

FFA exchange to everyone with a spark of adventure inside. Yes, it may mean shuffling some plans or taking some time off of work or school, but it is definitely worth it. With a little work in getting sponsors, anyone can go. You won't know what you've missed unless you try.

**Craig Hanna** 

The National FFA Organization wants you to experience agriculture abroad. You can go for as few as 10 days, or stay for as long as a year, as Craig is doing. Call or write for more information:

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Alexandria, VA 22309-0160
phone: (703) 360-3600
website: http://www.ffa.org





Photos from Craig's scrapbook show European customs.

how they can improve."

#### Learning is a two-way street

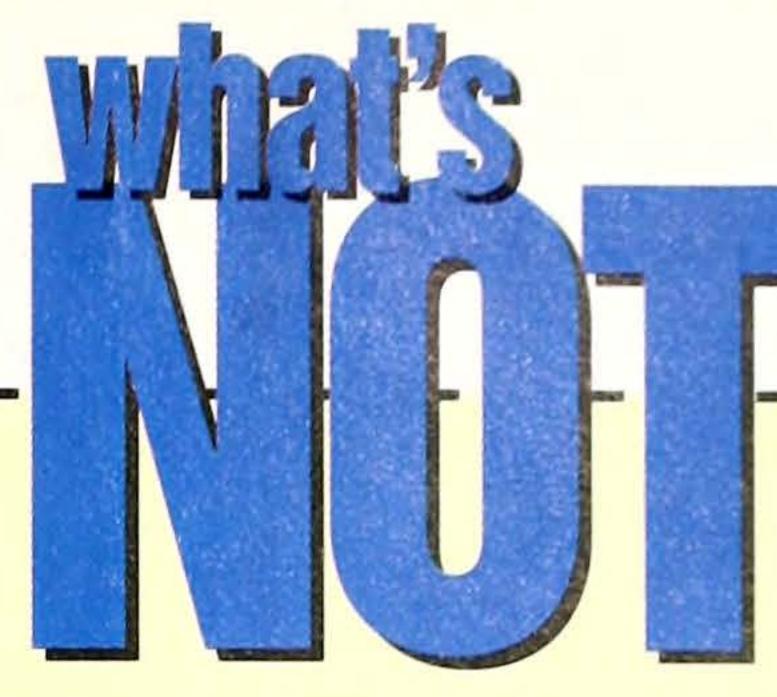
Wilson's 21-year-old daughter, a student at Erskine College in South Carolina, spent last semester as a foreign exchange student in Madrid, Spain.

Wilson says having Hans, Juan and Sylvain around encouraged his daughter to go abroad when she had the opportunity. She had realized how much they gained from it.

"Getting to know them," says Wilson, "is so educational for me, my wife, my children—because you read about other countries and you think about them, but you don't really know them until you talk to somebody that lives there."

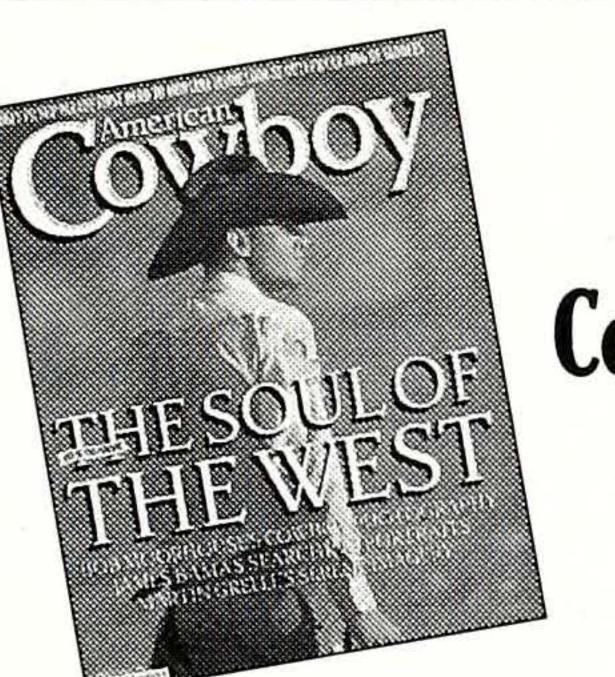
After spending months with these youths—Hans stayed for three months, Juan for 12; and Sylvain for six—the Wilson family gained more from the relationships than knowledge. They gained friendships.

"Sylvain," Wilson explains, "at first was real careful about letting his feelings be known. Just seeing the friendship develop has meant a lot. You can tell he starts trusting us and we start trusting him, and I really think that's what the program is about trusting each other more, that we're all farmers no matter what we farm. And we have the same problems. And we all complain about the same things—price and weather."\*



## survey

Actress	Actress	Name
Movie	Movie	City/Town
Actor	Actor	State
Actress	Actress	Zip
Athlete	Athlete	Phone
Musician or band	Musician or band	Chapter
CD	CD	
Book	Book	
Magazine	Magazine	
Website on Internet	Website on Internet	
Place to go	Place to go	Send your picks to:
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Sport	Sport	What's Hot 5632 Mt. Vernon
FFA event	FFA event	Memorial Highway
Clothes	Clothes	P.O. Box 15160
TV show	TV show	Alexandria, VA
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Career	Career	



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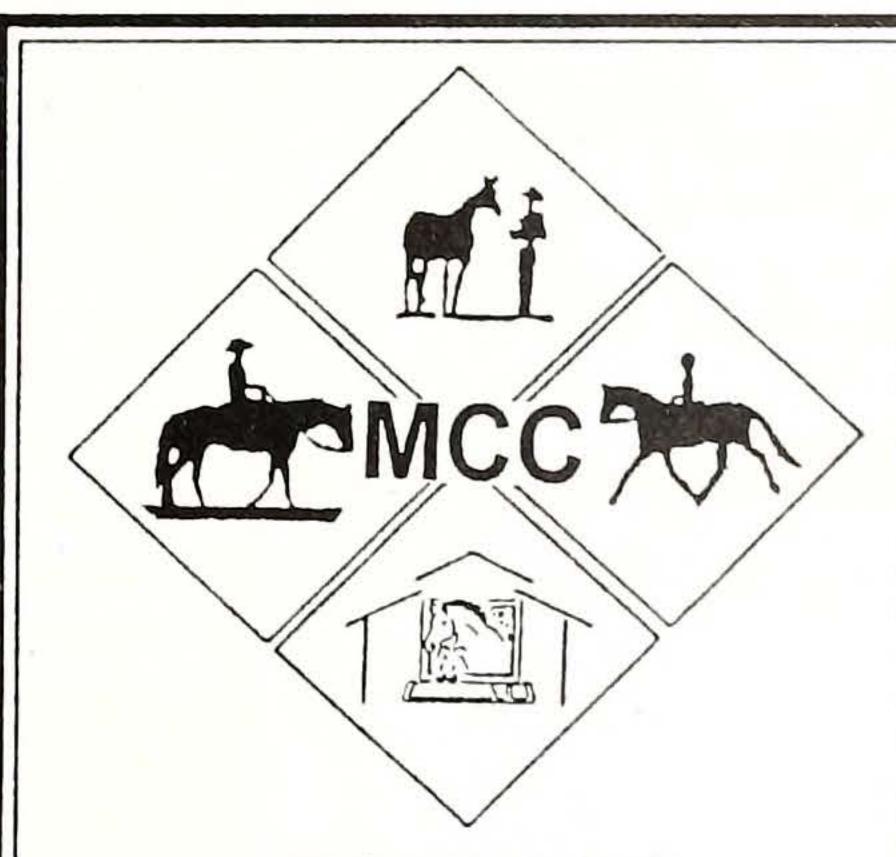
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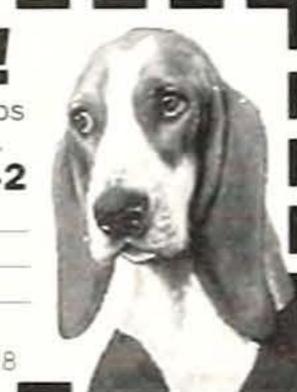
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## Ramy Brooks

#### He's got a dream, a lot of sled dogs—and something to say to young people

As a third-generation Alaskan of Athatbaskan and Eskimo descent, Ramy Brooks didn't just pick up sled dog racing as a hobby one winter. His family has done it for generations—it's in his blood.

As a three-time competitor in the worldfamous Iditarod, an 1100mile race from Anchorage to Nome, this 27-year-old is a top-flight musher (another name for a sled dog racer).

The Iditarod is known for the physical demands it makes on the driver and the dogs. How do you prepare yourself and your team of dogs?

In late August when the temperatures start to cool down, we start training our dogs. We might start out at a couple miles a

run and we slowly build it up. Then, by mid-October, we're up to about 12 miles a run. Then I start going on camping trips where I'll go for a couple hours and then rest the dogs for a couple hours, just to start getting them into camping out on the trails so they know the routine and they know how to rest when they're not at home. We'll take a couple days of rest after a camping trip, and then we'll set out on longertimed runs. I slowly build this up throughout the season. So, by the time the Iditarod comes around, they'll be ready to run for eight to 10 hours.

In the 1996 Iditarod, you started the race with 16 dogs. By the time you finished, nine of the dogs had

to be sent home due to injury. What did you learn from that experience?

It kind of was a big learning process for me because I learned how important rest is. You can work dogs, but the rest is just as important. We went on a mid-distance race before Iditarod and I think some of the dogs that I had on that race suffered minor injuries that you couldn't really see at the time. Even though they had 10 days off before Iditarod, I don't think it was quite long enough because it didn't give those tiny injuries time to heal completely. So when we got to the Iditarod I think the team had little injuries that I didn't know about until I got a couple hundred miles into the race.

> What has been your greatest accomplishment as a dog sled racer?

This last year I went to the Kuskokwin 300 race and I came in fourth, but I also won a humanitarian award for best dog care in the race. The first year [1994] I ran the Iditarod, I came in 17th and won the rookie of the year award.

**How important is** setting goals for you?

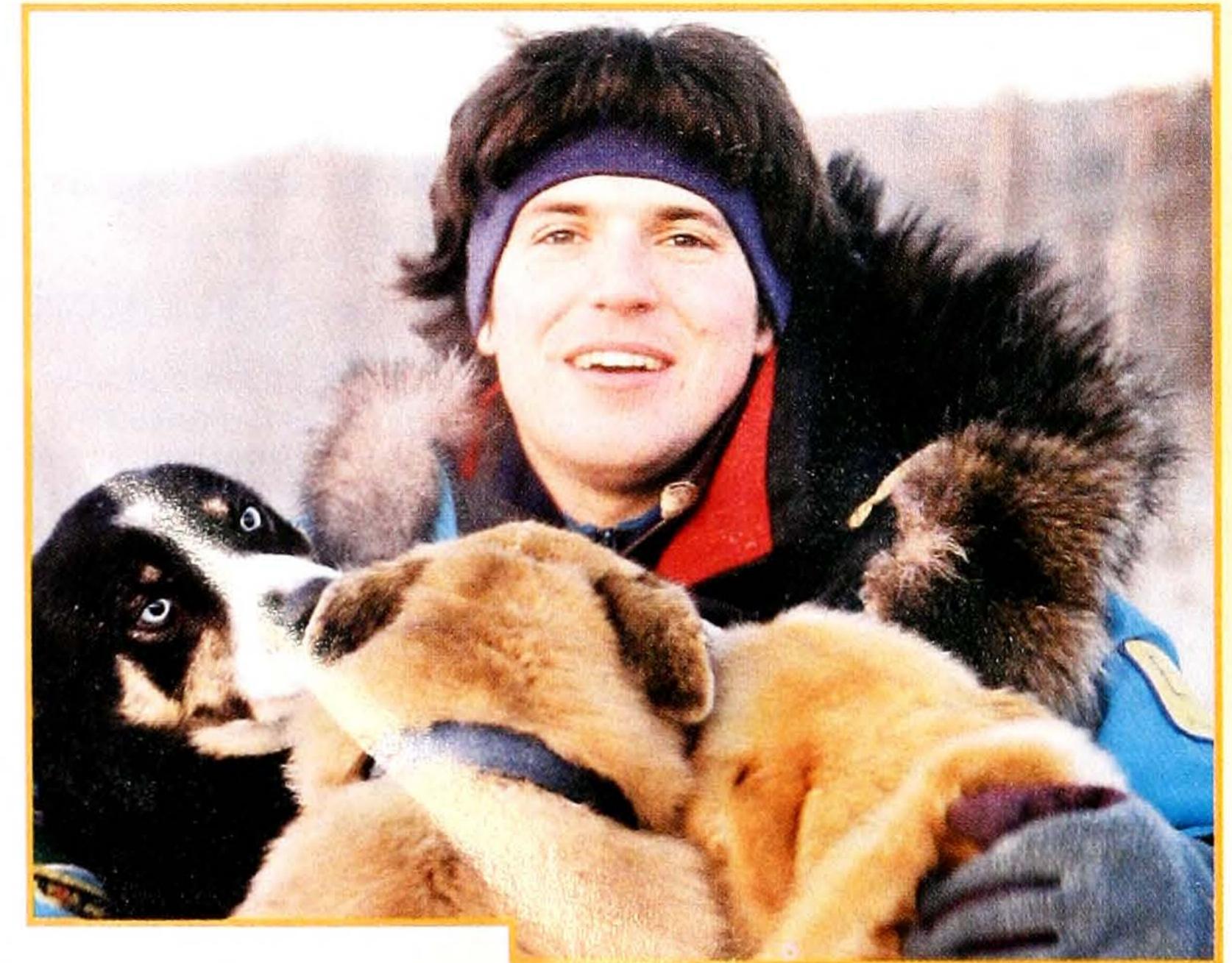
I am a really motivated person. I've got a dream of what I want to do, and in order to attain that dream, I feel that I really need to set goals. I think that you have your dream and you use your goals as stepping blocks to where you can reach up and grab that dream. It's a methodical, step-by-step way of making things actually happen.

What is your dream?

To win the Iditarod. Since I came home from the Navy that's all I've worked toward—to get to where I can win the race someday. I don't know how long it will take me, but I'm determined that I'm going to make it happen eventually.

You've been active as a role model for young people in Alaska. Why is it important for you to make connection with young people?

You hear about a lot of bad things happening all over, with gangs and stuff like that. If you can positively impact somebody and give them hope, they can fulfill that dream they might have—whether it's being an Iditarod champion, or a teacher, or going to college and graduating to become an engineer or doctor—or whatever they want to be. I want to teach them how to hold onto that dream and have hope for a brighter future. \*



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#### FREE offer for FFA families.



Q: What kind of shoes does a frog wear in the summer?

A: Open toad sandals.

#### TraciErickson

Fallbrook, California

Q: How do you cut the sea?

A: With a sea-saw.

#### MickeyRandolph

Alpha, Kentucky

**Q:** How is an eye doctor like a teacher?

A: They both test pupils.

B.J. Dudley

Monticello, Georgia

Q: What did the mother buffalo say to her son when he went off to school?

A: Bye-son.

#### Daniel<sub>Creager</sub>

Rossburg, Ohio

**Q:** What's a kangaroo's favorite year?

A: Leap year.

#### RhondaLillywhite

Webberville, Michigan

Q: How many bears can you put in an empty cage?
A: One. After that, the cage isn't empty.

Julie

Glencoe, Oklahoma

Q: What do you call a cow who just had a baby?
A: De-calf-inated.

#### **Angie** Bell

Ozark, Alabama

Q: Why is grass dangerous?

A: Because it's full of blades.

#### AlexMartinez

Sacramento, California

Q: Where do gangster chickens live?

A: Chickago.

#### **Cheyenne**<sub>Shaffer</sub>

Princeton, Missouri

Have you heard about the cat who ate a ball of yarn and had mittens?

PatJunemann

Clements, Minnesota

Q: What kind of water should you drink when you are sick?

A: Well water.

#### Jenea Rollins

Hedgesville, West Virginia

Q: What do you call a fly without wings?

A: A walk.

#### SarahBird

Abingdon, Maryland

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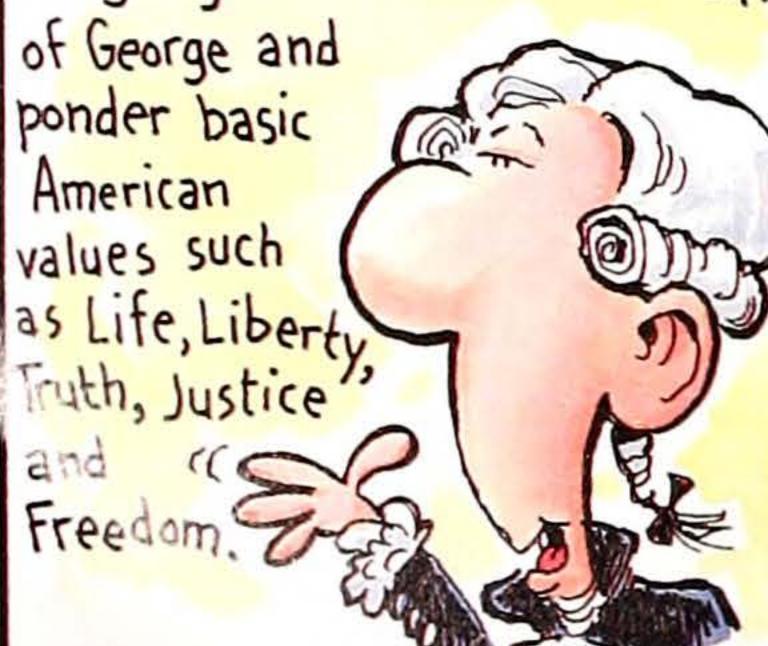
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#### Agrinuts by Jim Bradshaw



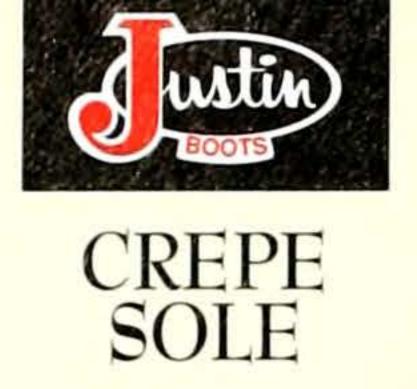
Well, in honor of the upcoming Washington Leadership Conference, I'm going to walk in the footsteps of George and ponder basic













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