

FFA

DECEMBER-JANUARY, 1996-97

New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION



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FFA New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

December-January, 1990-91

Volume 39 Number 2



FFA

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Photo by Andrew Markwart.

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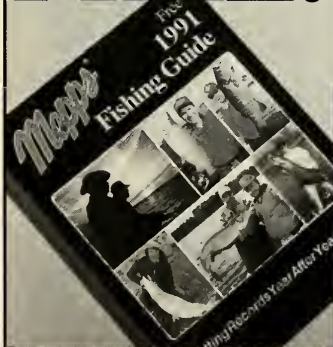
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FFA

THE BOTTOM LINE

No one who has been to the national FFA convention questions the vitality of the FFA organization. While membership in FFA has decreased in recent years, attendance at the convention has not. Neither has the number of programs and activities offered in which FFA members can participate.

Unknown to much of the general public is the requirement that a school must offer instruction in agricultural education in order to have FFA. Local chapters can be chartered only in those schools where recognized systematic instruction in agricultural education is offered under the provisions of federal vocational education legislation. The reason for this is quite simple. The contest and awards program in FFA, for example, is an outgrowth of classroom instruction in related subjects. Without the instructional program as a basis, contests and awards lose much of their meaning. Of course, FFA is much more than contests and awards. The organization also promotes the development of agricultural leadership, cooperation and citizenship, all supported by a wide range of programs and activities for members.

Now that we are home from the convention, the work has just begun. We must find a way to keep agriculture departments in schools where they now exist and a way to place ag departments in schools that do not have them. But we do have help. The Alumni, business and industry through the FFA Foundation, The Council On Agricultural Education, Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association, Young Farmers Educational Association, American Vocational Association, Teacher Educators, Supervisors—and others are a part of the team.

The bottom line is that if FFA is to continue, agricultural education must continue. The rewards will be challenging careers in agriculture and related fields for those students who have the opportunity to study in a school that has an agricultural education/FFA program.

FFA New Horizons Photo Wins Feature Award

The picture below was awarded first place in the "Feature" class at the annual meeting of the American Agricultural Editors Association. The photographer was Managing Editor Andy Markwart. The picture shows the reaction of National Officer Brad Lewis at the 1989 national convention when he learned that he would be the southern region vice president. The photo first appeared in the December-January, 1989-90 issue of *FFA New Horizons*. The contest is sponsored by the AAEA Professional Improvement Foundation through a grant from Du Pont Agricultural Products and the judges for the contest were four of photojournalism's most noted professionals.



Wilson Carnes

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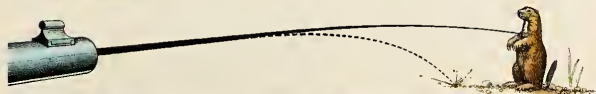
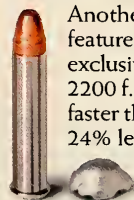
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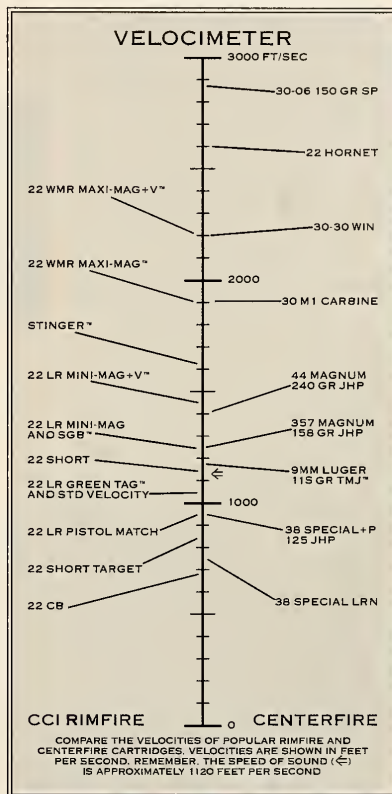


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NEWS IN BRIEF

A Welcome Sign

Visitors to the National FFA Center are now greeted by a beautiful new entrance. Near the road, a sign identifying the site as the National FFA Center is a



welcome addition for travelers looking for the Center for the first time. The FFA Center, surrounded by trees and located a good distance from the road, is often missed by visitors.

After passing through a rounded brick gateway, guests encounter a sign stating, "Welcome to the National Headquarters for Agricultural Education Organizations" followed by five logos of the National FFA Organization, National Young Farmers Education Organization, National FFA Alumni Association, The National Council for Agricultural Education and the National Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association.

One Video, Many Films

A videotape featuring ten of the most current FFA films and videos is being sent to all FFA chapters. The 2-hour, VHS videocassette will contain *Leaders Make the Difference*, the new FFA convention film; *Agriculture's New Professionals*, career awareness; *The Case of the Sneaky Snack*, a fun Food For America film; *A World Journey*, FFA international programs; promotional films for Made For Excellence and the Washington Conference Program; three 30-second public service announcements; *Forecast for Agriculture*, a brief, futuristic look at agriculture; and *The Teacher Difference*, a film highlighting the role of the teacher in a successful agriculture program.

The compilation videotape has been made possible through by the sponsors of the various videos through the National FFA Foundation.

Seeds for Panama

The Future Farmers of Panama (PANAJURU) will once again be distributing vegetable and crop seeds to communities, schools and families throughout Panama thanks to the Asgrow Seed Company, a division of Upjohn. The seeds will be used for schools and community test plots.

In the 1989-90 planting year 753 schools, 277 families and 194 communities received seeds. About 200,000 poor, rural Panamanians benefitted from the project this past year. Several schools reported that during the military conflict in Panama last year, the seed project was responsible for feeding many hungry people. Asgrow donates the seeds as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

WCP Directors Named for '91

Terri Lynn Hames and Jaye Hamby have been named directors of the 1991 Washington Conference Program. Hames is a former national officer from Oklahoma and Hamby is a former national officer from Tennessee. Both served as WCP counselors in 1990.

WIX Awards Fundraisers

WIX Corporation has awarded \$1,000 bonuses to four FFA chapters as part of the company's annual WIX Filter/FFA fundraising and promotional campaign.

During the campaign, WIX contributes 25 cents to local FFA chapters for each WIX filter boxtop the members collect. The company also awards a \$1,000 bonus to the chapter from each of four regions nationally which collects the most boxtops per member. WIX contributed more than \$7,000 to the four winners for their boxtop-collecting efforts, including bonuses.

This year's four winning regional FFA chapters were: Parkwood High School, Monroe, North Carolina; Wright Junior-Senior High School, Wright, Wyoming; Reggie Stowers High School, Dawsonville, Georgia and Santanta Junior-Senior High School, Santanta, Kansas. Of the four winners, Wright Junior-Senior High FFA earned the largest contribution from WIX at \$2,424.25, and had the highest redemption-to-member ratio at \$40.69.

MAILBAG

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Brown Speaks

I recently attended the Tennessee State FFA Convention in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. I really learned a lot about the FFA while I was there.

I had the privilege of hearing Donnell Brown, the national president, speak and what a privilege that was. He is one talented person who made me stop and think. I now know that my future will be in agriculture, and that's why I want to thank you for this magazine.

*Jennifer Bradley
Sparta, Tennessee*

Exchange Students

Last year I was an exchange student in Shashoni, Wyoming, and became an active member of the FFA. I would just like to say you are a magnificent organization.

During my time in FFA I participated in public speaking, learned farm management and how to weld among other things.

Over time, I saw my FFA peers develop not only special skills, but develop within themselves.

Thank you for this opportunity.

*Matthew Patton
Gisborne Victoria, Australia*

I'm now back to Switzerland and would like to thank all of you for your exchange program.

I realize how important it was for me to discover the U.S. throughout my stay.

I'm still thinking that that is the best way to approach a country—to participate in the real way of life.

*Yves-Alain Fatton
La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland*

Enjoys Magazine

I am a member of the Canadian FFA Chapter. I recently received your edition of *FFA New Horizons*. Some of my members and I were interested in the article "Know Your Animals Rights,"

(June-July, 1990 pg 28). We found out a lot of helpful information.

*Matt Neill
Canadian, Oklahoma*

I Believe

I believe in the changes being made in the FFA. We need to open the eyes of people all over the world to the many opportunities in agriculture. I see these changes as a necessity for the survival of our organization.

Even though the words are changed the tradition will always remain the same. As these changes take place let us not forget the backbone of this great industry, the farmer.

*Marla Goostree
Cross Plains, Tennessee*

Send letters or notes with name, address and chapter to MAILBAG, FFA New Horizons, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. All letters are subject to editing.

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LOOKING AHEAD

Wasp Farms

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and Ciba-Geigy Corp. are working together to find ways of raising huge populations of two parasitic wasps that are natural controls of many major insect pests.

Under a research agreement with USDA's Agricultural Research Service,



USDA Photo

This parasitic wasp about the diameter of a human hair is a natural enemy of many major insect pests. Scientists want to develop a cheap mass rearing method.

Ciba-Geigy, of Greensboro, N.C., will provide the agency \$242,703 over three years to develop an artificial diet and rearing system for *Trichogramma minutum* and *Trichogramma pretiosum* wasps.

The wasps, about the diameter of a human hair, lay their eggs inside the eggs of over 200 insects, including the codling moth, European corn borer, corn earworm, spruce budworm and Angoumois grain moth.

The wasp eggs develop into larvae that suck up the fluids of the host eggs before they hatch. A wasp usually deposits 2 to 20 eggs, depending on the size of the host eggs. *Trichogramma* wasps do not sting people or animals.

"We are getting into this strictly as a research project to see, first of all, if we can learn the ARS technique of rearing this thing artificially," said Don Allemann, an entomologist with Ciba-Geigy. "If that can happen, the next step is to carry it into some practical market situation."

Is PST Mmm, Mmm Good?

Iowa State University research shows an experimental protein can make pigs grow faster and leaner without detracting from pork flavor.

That is what ISU food and nutrition researcher Ken Prusa found when he asked nearly 3,000 consumers to taste pork produced with porcine somatotropin (PST) during the past two years. Those results indicate consumer acceptance should not hinder the use of PST in commercial pork production. Although the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has only approved the use of PST for research, experts predict approval for general pork production soon.

PST is a naturally occurring protein produced in the pituitary gland of pigs. Research shows that supplementary PST, manufactured through biotechnology processes, improves lean meat production by 17 percent, reduces trimmable fat by 45 percent and reduces intramuscular fat by up to 60 percent. Although consumers are demanding leaner meat, Prusa said researchers were concerned that removal of so much fat from pork products might detract from flavor and juiciness.

His research is showing that those concerns were unfounded.

Prusa's first consumer taste test was at the 1989 Pork Congress in Des Moines. Nearly 1,200 consumers tasted unmarked samples of summer sausage. Results showed 62 percent preferred the sausage made from PST-produced pork. At the 1990 Pork Congress, the researchers found similar results with bite-sized samples of broiled loin chops.

Replacing Oil with Farm Products

Agricultural leaders in government and industry are working to promote the use of renewable agricultural commodities instead of imported petroleum to supply the basic raw materials for hundreds of packaging products, fuels and consumer products.

The New Uses Council, an organization dedicated to promoting the commercialization of industrial uses for agricultural commodities, was launched in September.

"New non-food uses are the growth area for agriculture," says Alan T. Tracy, the new organization's executive committee chair and secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. "The potential market is tremendous. I fully expect new industrial uses to be as important a market for agricultural and forestry products in a decade or so, as exports are now. If U.S. farmers can produce crops that are currently being imported or provide commodities that substitute for imported, non-agricultural materials, \$15-20 billion could be added to farm income."

In the corn industry alone, the industrial use market has doubled in 10 years and now uses an estimated 1.3 billion bushels. Ethanol fuel accounts for most of those uses, but biodegradable packaging use is growing.

Use of soy oil inks in newspaper printing is a fast growing substitute for petroleum-based inks, and is soon expected to use 100 million bushels of soybeans annually.

Consumers Prefer Farm-Raised Salmon

Farm-raised salmon beat out wild Atlantic and Pacific salmon in consumer taste tests conducted at Penn State.

"Our findings surprised us," says Dr. Joseph H. MacNeil, professor of food science at Penn State's College of Agriculture. "In sensory evaluation tests, our consumer panelists selected Atlantic land-based salmon as the best tasting of four varieties of salmon. These findings lend support to the growing aquaculture industry, which raises fish on land," he said.

Wild ocean salmon were compared with salmon raised on land in concrete tanks (aquaculture method) and salmon raised in sea cages in ocean inlets (mariculture method). Currently, aquaculture- and mariculture-raised fish account for 20 percent of total fish production.

Atlantic land-based salmon rated the highest in overall acceptability, texture and flavor; Pacific wild type was second, Atlantic pen-reared was third and Atlantic wild type was last.

What can be the role of agriculture in preserving the environment?

Your answer could be worth \$500.

That's right. First prize in the *FFA New Horizons* Up With Agriculture Writing contest is \$500 and any FFA member can enter.

We know FFA members are concerned about the environment and about the future of agriculture in America. That's why we've decided to reward FFA's best thinkers with cash prizes and a chance to be published in this magazine.

The national winner gets \$500 cash. Second, third and fourth places get \$250 cash. State winners will be chosen from entries submitted — \$100 for state winners from the 10 states with the most entries; \$50 for those in the other states.

Here's how to enter: In 100 words or less, explain **What can be the role of agriculture in preserving the environment?**

Read the fine print below. Hurry and send your answer to us.

In addition to the cash prizes, all winners will be recognized at their state FFA convention.

All FFA members may enter. Entries must be typed on plain white paper and include entrant's name, age, home address and telephone number, FFA chapter and FFA advisor's name. Winners will be selected on the basis of originality, creativity, grammar, spelling and how well the entry addresses the topic.

Entries will become the property of *FFA New Horizons*. A list of the winners will appear in the magazine along with the winning entry.

Send entries to: *FFA New Horizons*, Up With Agriculture Writing Contest, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.



The contest is a special project of the FFA Foundation sponsored by Garst Seed Company.

**Entries must be
postmarked by December 31, 1990.**



The Road to

The trip to and from national FFA convention can be as special as the convention itself, so FFA New Horizons sent a role of film to a chapter in each state so they could document their travels. Here are the best photographs, taken by FFA members, as they ventured down their "road to convention."

Matt Maturi, Allentown FFA, New Jersey

Andrea Gosney, Fairview FFA, Oklahoma

Joel McMillan, Colquitt County FFA, Georgia

Tim Brewington, Freth FFA, Idaho

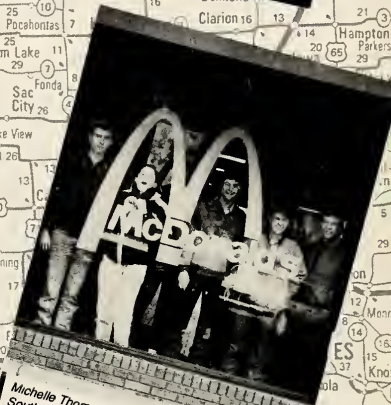
Shayna Steffler, Freth FFA, Idaho

Matt Maturi, Allentown FFA, New Jersey

Tim Brewington and Shayna Steffler, Freth FFA, Idaho

Carolyn Jean Fox, Ford Central FFA, Illinois

Convention





The road to convention ended in Kansas City, Missouri, where a record 24,162 FFA members, advisors and guests gathered for four days of exciting events.

tional convention beginning next year.

More importantly, the delegate action kept the National FFA Organization together. Earlier in the week, Jay Eudy, Texas FFA advisor, had presented serious concerns to the National FFA Board of Directors regarding the current delegate structure. This was the first year that each state was represented by two delegates plus an additional delegate for every 2,000 members in the state.

He told the board that either the delegate numbers had to change in order to more fairly represent the Texas association, or he would not collect national dues and in effect, not participate in the National FFA Organization. With nearly 53,000 FFA members, the loss of Texas dues and Supply Service orders would have a drastic effect on the national organization's financial status. The board agreed to allow an amendment to a "Fixed 400" plan, constructed by the national officer team, increasing the number to 475.

An issue that had been debated for decades and most heatedly in the last three conventions, had now come to a crossroads. It was up to the delegates to choose whether to pass the newly-proposed, not-very-popular Fixed 475 amendment and keep Texas in the national organization, or turn it down and cope with the consequences.

After question and answer sessions, private meetings and hours of informal discussion, a secret ballot vote was taken. The final tally was 187 delegates in favor and 81 opposed to the motion, a close margin considering that a 2/3 majority or 179 votes were needed to pass the measure.

This year's reformed delegate process with more people and new committees made decisions and recommendations on other important matters too. A new creed, proposed by the National FFA Board of Directors, was voted down by the delegates. Revisions were made to the current creed originally written by E.M. Tiffany. The word "farming" will be replaced by "agriculture" in the first line. In the second paragraph, the word "pursuit" will become "pursuits" and in the last paragraph, the phrase "rural America" will be changed to "American agriculture." It is only the second time the FFA Creed has been revised since it was written in 1930.

Top Awards

After months of competition or often years of hard work, top FFA members were honored for their achievements at national convention, held November 7-10. Todd Lotter, Monroe, Indiana, was named Star Farmer and Chad Luthro, Moorland, Iowa, was named Star Agribusinessman of America. While still on stage, minutes after the Star's names were announced, Lotter asked Jode Beer,

(Continued on Page 14)

A whopping 401 state-winning contest teams competed in 12 National FFA Contests, including the poultry contest.



All Together Now

After 63 national FFA conventions, there may finally be a delegate system acceptable to everyone. Delegates also say "no" to new FFA Creed.

By Andrew Markwart

Everyone is breathing a little easier after the 63rd National FFA Convention.

There were heart-stopping moments when national award winners were announced and the names of the six new national officers were read.

But the biggest sigh of relief came when a proposed change to the FFA constitution, called "Fixed 475," was passed by the convention delegate body during their business session Friday afternoon. Passage of the amendment will nearly double the number of delegates at na-



The National FFA Career Show drew thousands of FFA members and 207 exhibitors, the largest ever.



Top left, delegates representing the Oregon FFA Association listen closely to debate over the Fixed 475 delegate plan.

Above, congratulations were in order for Star Farmer of America Todd Lotter of Monroe, Indiana, (left) and Star Agribusinessman of America Chad Luthro of Moorland, Iowa.

Left, the FFA Plaque Attack... National Computers in Agriculture winner Karla Williams of Joliet, Montana, receives a few pounds of appreciation from national officers Donnell Brown, left, and Brad Lewis.

Photos by Sam Harrel, Orlin Wagner, Cameron Craig, Mike Wilson and Andrew Markwart



American soldiers stationed in Saudi Arabia were remembered by convention goers many times during convention, including the singing of the National Anthem.



Rich DeVos, top left, president of the Amway Corp., is serenaded by the National FFA Chorus after his speech.

Fred McClure, left, Assistant to President Bush for Legislative Affairs and a former national officer, returned to the convention stage for a lively address. FFA convention favorite **Zig Ziglar, left center**, dazzled the audience with his ability to make people laugh, cry and consider the direction of their lives. **Miss America Marjorie Vincent, bottom**, is the center of attention during a press conference after her appearance in the Municipal Auditorium.

(Continued from Page 13)



also of Monroe, to marry him. They are planning an August wedding.

Vickie Smith, Buffalo, Missouri, won the Prepared Public Speaking contest with a speech on farm safety entitled, "The Life You Save May Be Your Own." Winning the Extemporaneous Public Speaking contest was Mark Jones, White House, Tennessee, who spoke about, "The Impact of Exports on the Marketing of Agricultural Products."

Tracie Daniels, O'Brien, Florida, captured first place in the Agriscience Student Recognition program. The Agriscience Teacher of the Year award was presented to Mark Lalum, Kalispell, Montana.

The Raton, New Mexico FFA Chapter was named top chapter in the Building Our American Communities program. See related story on page 16.

Because of a change in the American FFA Degree program, 1,056 received FFA's highest degree this year, compared to 698 last year.

Powerful Speeches

On the Municipal Auditorium stage, a spirited line-up of convention speakers challenged FFA members to go beyond the ordinary and be "individuals of consequence" according to speaker Fred McClure, an advisor to President Bush and a former national FFA officer.

Other speakers included Joe Clark, the animated high school principal who was the subject of the film, "Lean on Me"; Clayton Yeutter, U.S. secretary of agriculture; Zig Ziglar, motivational speaker; Rich DeVos, president, Amway Corporation; Miss America Marjorie Vincent; W Mitchell, motivational speaker and Chubby Checker, entertainer.

Convention Highlights

The National FFA Foundation raised a record \$4.1 million in 1990 to support FFA and agricultural education programs.

Over \$1 million, the largest single grant ever made to the FFA Foundation was presented at convention by Dr. Norman Brown, president of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The money will fund a new student mentoring program.

The Strategic Plan for Agricultural Education was unveiled to the FFA masses at national convention. The plan is intended to help people and organizations associated with agricultural education focus on common goals. FFA members and guests were handed cards with the plan's mission and goals. See related story on page 34.

Roxann Sommers, London, Ohio, was named president of the National FFA Alumni Association during the Alumni Convention held on Wednesday, November 7. At the close of their convention, the Alumni held their annual fund-raising auction. The final tally from the auction was a record \$39,516. Of that total, \$19,000 came from Wallace and Faye Schilberg of Milton, Wisconsin, who bought a 1991 Silverado half-ton, four-wheel drive pick-up donated by the Chevrolet Motor Division.

For more news about the 63rd National FFA Convention, see a copy of the *Convention Proceedings* and a set of *FFA Times* newspapers that were mailed to each chapter at the end of the convention.



The 1990-91 National FFA Officers are, left to right, Danny Grellner, secretary; Matt Lohr, eastern region vice president; Julie Classen, central region vice president; Ben Nessmith, southern region vice president; Lesa Ann King, western region vice president and Mark Timm, president.

Photo by Branch Carter



New National Officers Elected!

Thirty-two national officer candidates arrived in Kansas City with hopes of being part of the 1990-91 national officer team. During the final convention session, six were named. During their year of service, the officers will each travel more than 200,000 miles making hundreds of appearances on behalf of the FFA. The national officers represent members to officials in government, education, business and agriculture. As they travel during the year, they meet with members on the chapter, state and national levels.

Mark Timm, 19, Fillmore, Indiana, is the **national FFA president** for 1990-91. In Indiana, Timm served as state FFA president in 1989-90. He was the state winner in the job interview, leadership and sales demonstration contests, and was a national FFA scholarship recipient.

Timm's Supervised Agricultural Experience Program (SAE) includes a custom crop planting and cultivating business, and work placement for Pioneer Seed Corn and Nichols and Hoffman Farms.

He attends Purdue University where he is a freshman studying agricultural sales and marketing. Like the rest of his team, Timm will take a one-year leave of absence from college to fulfill his national officer duties. Timm plans to continue his education after graduation to pursue a master's degree in business administration and then work for an agricultural company.

Danny Grellner, 20, Kingfisher, Oklahoma, is **national FFA secretary**. Grellner served as state president and state secretary of the Oklahoma FFA Association.

He won the national prepared public speaking contest in 1988 and was the state winner in the Computers in Agriculture award program.

Grellner's SAE includes raising stocker steers and commercial cows, as well as farm work placement. Grellner attends Oklahoma State University, where he is a junior majoring in agricultural economics. He plans to attend law school and work in international trade and law.

Julie Classen, 20, Ayr, Nebraska, is the **central region vice president**. She is a member of the Blue Hill FFA Chapter. Before being named national vice president, Classen served as state president of the Nebraska FFA Association. She has participated in various public speaking and skills contests during her FFA career.

For her SAE, Classen raises corn and alfalfa, and runs a feeder pig operation. She also owns two quarter horses and plans to continue raising colts to train and sell. Classen attends the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she is enrolled in the agricultural honors and agribusiness program, and plans to work in agricultural public relations.

Matthew Lohr, 19, Broadway, Virginia, is the **eastern region vice president**. Lohr served as state president of the Virginia FFA Association and participated in speaking contests, skills contests and traveled to Germany on the FFA Work Experience Abroad program.

Lohr's SAE includes a large beef cattle operation and a poultry operation which annually produces two million broilers. He also raises corn, wheat, alfalfa and rye.

A freshman at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Lohr is studying agricultural education and poultry science, and plans to return to the family farm.

Ben Nessmith, 19, Statesboro, Georgia, is **southern region vice president**. In Georgia, Nessmith served as state vice president and participated in the public speaking and livestock judging contests. He was elected president of his chapter three consecutive years.

Nessmith's SAE includes a purebred swine operation and farm placement. He has won many awards for his top-quality swine herd. He is a sophomore at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College majoring in animal science and agricultural education, and plans to teach agricultural education at the high school level.

Lesla Ann King, 20, of Howe, Texas, is **western region vice president**. King served as state first vice president and area vice president. She also participated in parliamentary procedure and prepared public speaking contests, and traveled to Europe as part of FFA's Work Experience Abroad program.

King's SAE included registered Charolais beef cattle, swine, oats, corn and forage crops. She recently incorporated embryo transplant technology into her beef cattle enterprise. King attends Texas A & M University where she is majoring in agricultural economics and communications. She plans to obtain a master's degree in international agricultural marketing and pursue a career in agricultural policy and international livestock marketing.

...

The four national BOAC finalists promote environmental programs.



Think Globally, Act Locally

By Branch Carter

It might be the celebration of Earth Day, news of rain forests being leveled or concerns over pesticides. Whatever the reason, FFA members are taking notice of the environment and doing something about it.

Through the Building Our American Communities (BOAC) program, environmentally focused projects are surfacing in FFA chapters. All four of this year's national BOAC finalists focus on environmental themes.

Establishing environmental projects was emphasized at the national FFA conference on community development held in Washington, D.C. in October. There, students and advisors from the state winning BOAC programs learned from other chapters and took part in sessions designed

to foster better community development programs.

Operation Wilderness is the name of the multi-year project run by the Raton, New Mexico, FFA Chapter. The chapter completed its BOAC project by reclaiming and fencing abandoned mine sites.

In the early part of the century, the Raton area was heavily mined and worthless coal deposits were left on the sites. Until recently, these deposits were slowly moving down the hill, eroding the land and polluting stream water. The chapter was contracted by the state to perform custom mine reclamation. They controlled the problem by planting trees and grass on the hills. The 38 chapter members hired to do the job completed it faster and cheaper than past reclamations.

The chapter also relocated a fence around an abandoned mine at a local state park. Though the mine entrances are capped off, a continuous fire is burning inside, which constantly expands the boundaries, making it dangerous for people to walk nearby. In order to keep the area safe for tourists and residents, the FFA members fenced in the new areas of the mine.

"Keeping the community informed about the projects, and enlisting their help for materials and advice is essential to the project," said David Phillips, Raton BOAC chairman.

"The best thing about the community is that the people are willing to listen and offer assistance," says Phillips. "We don't

(Continued on Page 18)

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(Continued from Page 16)

have to ask the community to get involved, they are always there.”

Hurricane Relief

Aiding a South Carolina community hit by Hurricane Hugo while helping the environment is what the Citrus Senior FFA Chapter of Inverness, Florida, did during their *Think Shade* project.

Working with their community, the chapter potted and began growing over 6,000 tree seedlings. FFA members cared for the seedlings throughout the trees' growing period. After the trees reached four feet in height, 1,800 were sold at cost to the community, while another 500 were planted in the city park and along highway right-of-ways.

Following the devastation left by Hurricane Hugo last year, the Citrus Senior chapter donated over 600 trees to the town of Great Falls, South Carolina. The trees donated by the chapter helped to replace those that were uprooted by the fierce storm.

Tree Bank

The Bowdle, South Dakota, FFA Chapter built an enclosed community building and picnic shelter at the city park and constructed a new greenhouse for the high school agriculture department. The building construction was only part of a bigger plan to improve their local com-

munity that included a large dose of conservation.

After consulting with a local soil conservation officer, the chapter selected a variety of trees to be planted in a local tree bank. They cleared the site of rocks, weeds, and debris and planted over 150 trees. The first group of trees were recently transplanted in the city park, nursing home and school.

The chapter also cleaned up four miles of ditches around the town, hosted events that promoted conservation and management of grassland ranges, and received a government grant to purchase a portable water analysis laboratory for the community.

Water Quality

The Grassland FFA Chapter of New Holland, Pennsylvania, is concerned with water quality locally and many miles downstream in the Chesapeake Bay. In agriculture classes, the students performed pH tests and measured the oxygen levels of the water in a local stream.

The stream was diagnosed as having problems with soil not settling out and with not having enough dissolved oxygen in the water to support aquatic life. The chapter spent 1,700 hours placing over 200 tons of smooth stones in the stream bed. This allows the water to flow over the rocks, rather than eroding the unprotected

stream bed stirring up sediment. The chapter also increased the stream's oxygen level after digging a new stream channel and installing a dam. These improvements force the stream to flow faster, making the water cooler, which increases the oxygen content.

They also decreased stream bank erosion by planting trees and grass along the bank and by installing a crossing for farm equipment and cattle which decreased erosion even further.

Shelly Ogline chaired the BOAC committee from the Grassland chapter. She said that the chapter was proud of their environmental accomplishments. “The achievements we made showed ourselves and the community that we could do a project like this,” she said.

Even though different state agencies and organizations have to be contacted before many environmental projects can be started, FFA members can be a force for impacting the environment.

Many associated with the FFA see environmental awareness and action as a topic that will not likely go away. “The environment is an issue that we deal with in agriculture more and more,” says Ray Cholewski, former advisor to the Raton FFA Chapter.

Environmental Protection Agency official Richard Laska, a presenter at the BOAC conference, said that students should find out what is going on environmentally in their community. “Take an initiative within your community to find out what is happening. Students do have the power to address a problem,” he said.

Laska pointed out that the environment is no longer just a subject of beautifying a community, but that it has a great economic impact on people's lives.

He reminded the group that the environment is in the hands of today's generation and that helping the environment can be as close as individual action. He said, “It is up to us. If we don't adapt quickly to the world's changing needs, we will be passed by.”

If the environmental programs that many FFA chapters are establishing today are any indication of future efforts, the world's needs won't pass them by, but will be met head-on. ***

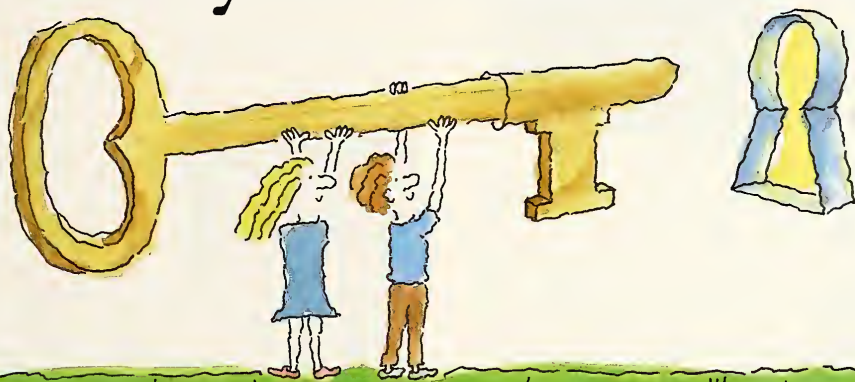
“It is up to us. If we don't adapt quickly to the world's changing needs, we will be passed by.”

—Richard Laska

The Building Our American Communities program is sponsored by the RJR Nabisco Foundation Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



FFA Scholarships: A Key to Your Future



They can open the door to college

The dream of many FFA members is to go to college. All too often, that dream falls short of becoming reality because the money just isn't available to go. Or is it that the students just don't know where to look for the money?

The National FFA Scholarship program, designed specifically for FFA members, has exploded in the past seven years. This coming year, over \$715,600 in the form of 583 separate scholarships will be available to dues-paying FFA members graduating from high school. There are some scholarships available to students already in college.

Some of the scholarships have special conditions tied to them, like being used for a particular major, but the vast majority of the scholarships are available to any student, studying any field of agriculture/agribusiness at any school of agriculture.

The money for the scholarships comes from 115 National FFA Foundation sponsors such as TSC Stores; Cargill; Chevy Truck; ConAgra; Santa Fe Pacific; Toyota and Wal-Mart. These companies know that the scholarships are an investment in the future of the agricultural industry — that today's college students are tomorrow's better educated, more productive workforce.

FFA scholarships are different from most. Academic scholarships eliminate students based on their grade point average.

Athletic scholarships are based on statistics that rely on physical performance. FFA scholarships take a look at the complete person. Judges look at grades, FFA leadership involvement, community activities and agricultural experience projects. In some cases, family financial need is considered.

To get an idea of the kinds of FFA members who received scholarships last year, here are some facts: Of the 286 scholarships handed out last year, 59 percent went to males, 41 percent went to females. The overall grade point average of all scholarship winners in 1990 was 3.7, or about an A-minus. Remember, that is an average of all winners. Some students had B-minus or C-plus averages while many others were "straight-A" students.

For many of the FFA scholarship winners, the money has meant the difference between attending the college of their choice and one they could afford. It meant taking the financial burden off of their parents, who many times were already helping a brother or sister in school.

On the next two pages, meet six FFA members who started college this fall with the help of FFA scholarships. Opening the center section of this special insert reveals how to receive a scholarship application. The

back page tells why majoring in agriculture makes more sense than ever before.



Money in the Bank

Scholarships help six FFA members start college

Brian Young is proof that you don't have to live in the country to excel in FFA. Brian went to high school in Fullerton, California, part of the sprawling urban area around Los Angeles.

He found the FFA to be a place where he could sharpen his natural leadership skills. Brian graduated from high school in 1989, but delayed starting his college education for one year so he could serve as the California FFA Association reporter last year.



Brian Young

Brian's excellence in the classroom matched his performance as an FFA member. He graduated fourth in his senior class of 306 students.

Because Brian is one-half Japanese, he was eligible for and received a \$10,000 FFA Minority scholarship. Last year, the National FFA Foundation created and funded six new FFA Minority scholarships.

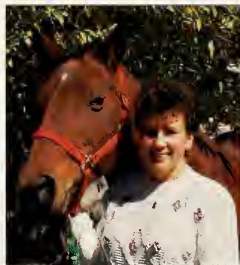
After finishing his degree in international agricultural development at the University of California, Davis, Brian says he wants to work in the Department of Agriculture or with a private company to help third-world countries develop their ability to produce food to meet the population boom they will soon experience.

Connie Jeanquart is a young woman who knows what she wants — she always has. "Since I was little, I have dreamed about 'what I want to be when I grow up.' I've always wanted to work with animals, especially horses, as a career. Another dream has been to go to Colorado and see the mountains." Those dreams became reality when Connie was accepted to

the Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology in Denver, Colorado.

While going through a book that profiled colleges in the United States, she discovered Bel-Rea. "It sounded like a bunch of animal lovers all in one school, and that's what I am," she admits. "It sounded like a lot of fun."

"It's a small school, even though it's in a big city" says Connie, who is from Algoma, Wisconsin. "I think you get more personal attention here than at a lot of other big schools. You call your teachers by their first names and they know yours."



Connie Jeanquart

Her first quarter is the only one that will be spent entirely in the classroom. "Right now, I have chemistry, medical terminology, technical writing and humanities," explains Connie. Starting next quarter, each student starts working with animals. She

will be trained in small, large and exotic animal care.

A 3.7 grade point average helped Connie land a scholarship through Bel-Rea that pays half of her tuition her first year. She also received a \$500 FFA scholarship sponsored by Alfa-Laval. She wants to start her career by becoming a veterinary assistant and then if she wants, go on to study to be a veterinarian.

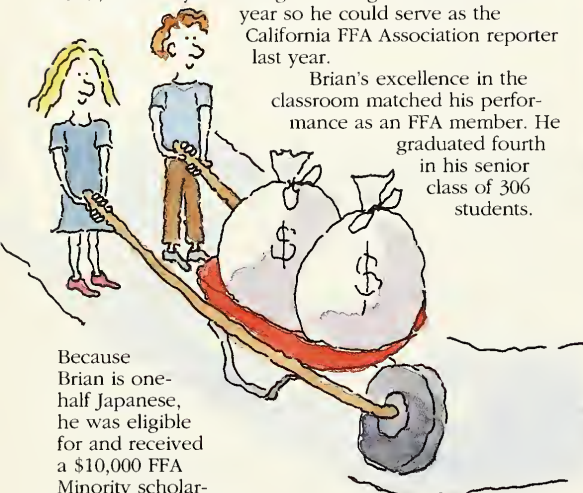
A lot of high school students think that if they aren't an "A" student, they can't get scholarships. They're wrong. The FFA scholarship program isn't like a lot of scholarship programs.

According to Coleman Harris, national FFA executive secretary and manager of the scholarship program, "if a student has relatively good grades, a strong agricultural experience project and proven leadership skills, that student has a good chance of getting an FFA scholarship."

Case and point: Travis Thomas of Charles City, Iowa, didn't graduate in the top 10 percent of his graduating class—or the top 20 percent, or 30 percent. In fact, out of 154 classmates, he graduated 58th with a 2.7 grade point or B-minus average.



Travis Thomas



But Travis worked hard to improve and increase the size of his swine and beef supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program. He did so without the help of his father, who was tragically killed in a farm-related accident when Travis was only 10 months old.

Travis traveled to the Washington Conference Program in 1989 to sharpen his leadership skills. He served as chapter president and district vice-president the same year. He continues his leadership training as a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity at Iowa State University. It was this all-around performance as a student, FFA leader and hard worker that enabled Travis to receive a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by the Chicago and NorthWestern Transportation Company.

Travis says that if time is money, the scholarship program is a good deal. "It only took 3-4 hours to fill out the application. When I heard I had gotten a \$1,000 scholarship I

couldn't believe it. That's a pretty good return for a few hours work."

Jeff Peterson of Burdick, Kansas, got a boost toward financing his education at Kansas State University when he received the B.R.I.D.G.E. Endowment Fund scholarship in 1990.

A total of six B.R.I.D.G.E. scholarships are offered to physically disabled/handicapped FFA members. "It's been a tremendous help," says Jeff of the scholarship. "It has pretty well covered tuition and books plus a little bit of housing."

During his freshman year in high school, Jeff survived a life-threatening car accident that left him a paraplegic. It hardly slowed him down. He was elected class president his sophomore, junior and senior years in high school.

Being physically limited did mean modifying a few things on his family's swine farm. "We put five-foot gaps in between the farrowing crates so I could get to each litter. I use a four-wheeler to get around the farm and then slide into my 'hogg house chair' to work in the barn." His hard work and dedication to his swine operation earned him the state FFA swine proficiency award in 1989.

On the Kansas State University campus, Jeff is getting involved with a number of activities, including student government, the agriculture council and the Block and Bridle club.

He says that after school he may work in

research or in an agribusiness, but that farming is his goal. "I may want to have another job besides, but I would be very happy raising hogs for a living."



Terri Moore

Moore, now a freshman at West Texas State University. "I talked about the different freedoms we have in America, but the most important was the freedom to further our education."

One of the benefits of going to school with a small class size is that a broad range of leadership opportunities are available. Terri served as chapter FFA treasurer in 1987 and then president for two years. During her four years at Elida, Terri also served as president of her class, the National Honor Society, the student council and her 4-H club. She was also an officer in Students Against Drunk Driving and played varsity volleyball and basketball.

Moore also proved that coming from a small town doesn't hinder your chances of getting an FFA scholarship. She received a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by the Santa Fe Pacific Foundation. "When I applied, I thought, 'There's no way I'll ever get this national FFA scholarship,' but I did," says Terri.

In 1983, Lance Knight and his family were on their annual 4-day cattle drive that starts in the White Mountains and ends at their ranch near Springerville, Arizona. While they were gone, lightning struck their house, completely burning it and the family's possessions inside. "It was a definite hardship on the family," recalls Lance.

At about the same time, cattle prices fell, putting more financial stress on the family. Even with a 4.0 grade point average in high school, when it came time for Lance to enroll in college last winter, it looked like his options were limited. Some family medical bills had built up and his parents were already helping his brother, Daric, pay tuition at Arizona State University, where Lance wanted to attend.

Then Lance applied for, and received a \$5,000 FFA scholarship sponsored by Toyota.

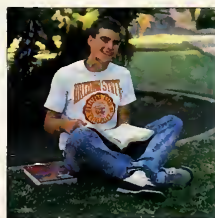
Although Lance would have gone to Arizona State his first year without the scholarship, the 1989 Star Farmer of Arizona says, "it increased the possibilities of me staying here a lot better. I would have had to take on a job and worked a lot, and that would have eventually shown up in my grades."

The high school graduation ceremony in Elida, New Mexico, doesn't take long, especially if the speeches are short. Last year, only seven seniors walked across the stage for their diplomas.

One of the speeches given last June was delivered by valedictorian Terri



Jeff Peterson



Lance Knight



Money in the Bank

Scholarships help six FFA members start college

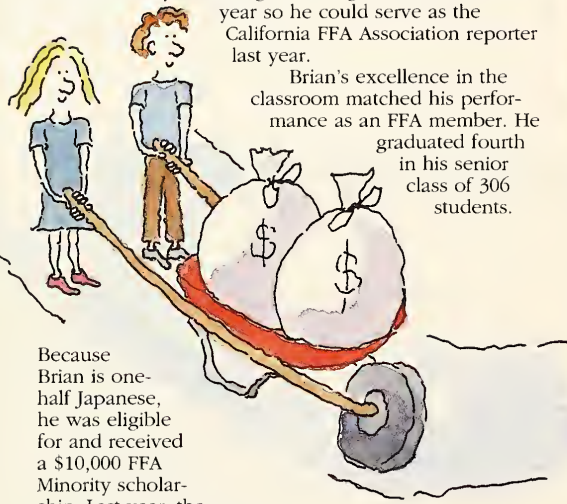
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Travis Thomas

Who says there's no such thing as a money tree?



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National Suffolk Sheep Association
NC+ Hybrids
Norfolk Southern Foundation
Northrup King Company
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Professional Plant Growers
Association

Professional Products, Inc.
Purina Mills, Inc.
Quaker Oats Foundation
Rhône-Poulenc Animal Nutrition
Ritchie Industries, Inc.
Sandoz Crop Protection Corporation
Santa Fe Pacific Foundation
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WNC Corporation
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Well, money may not grow on trees, but the National FFA Scholarship program is growing every year. This year there are 583 scholarships ranging from \$500 - \$10,000 available. If you are an FFA member and a senior in high school, you qualify.

When you were born, it cost about \$8,000 for a 4-year college degree. Today, that same degree costs about \$25,000. It's a worthy investment, but the fact is that a college education can be beyond the reach of many parents and students.

That is why some of the top agribusinesses in the country are dedicated to making sure that FFA members have some seed money to get started in college by sponsoring scholarships through the National FFA Foundation.

The scholarships are available for most agriculture/agribusiness majors, for two or four year institutions. You can even pick the scholarships for which you would like to be considered.

And you don't need to be a state/national "leader" or award winner to apply. There is no limit to the number of applications per FFA chapter. Selection will be based on your experience, program, FFA and community leadership activities, academic record and in some cases, financial need.

So if you are a 1991 graduating high school senior who is an FFA member interested in a career in agriculture or agribusiness, why not get a helpful hand... with an FFA scholarship?

There are even some scholarships for FFA members who are already in college.

Don't let the fruits of your work in FFA go unnoticed.

Complete and mail the scholarship application coupon below -OR- pick up a scholarship application form from your chapter FFA advisor or guidance counselor beginning December 1, 1990.

To receive your Scholarship Application, complete and mail to:

Scholarship Committee
National FFA Organization
P.O. Box 15160
Alexandria, VA 22309

Your Full Name (Please Print)		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Applications may be duplicated.		
Completed applications are due by March 1, 1991.		

FFA scholarships are sponsored as special projects of the National FFA Foundation. Several of these companies also sponsor other FFA areas

Reversing the Brain Drain

Ag colleges and technical schools aren't producing enough graduates to meet the demand. Here's what's being done to turn the situation around.

By Dennis McClintic

New agricultural college graduates and trained technicians are entering the hottest job market in more than 20 years. Career opportunities are abundant and starting salaries are rising rapidly.

The agricultural recession of the 1980s led to the current shortage of ag professionals. Many employers quit hiring or reduced their work forces. With career opportunities shrinking, enrollment in ag colleges and technical schools plummeted. Now the economic pendulum is swinging in the other direction. So fast, in fact that ag schools simply can't produce enough people to meet the needs of industry.

"It's a fantastic job market," says Dave Downey, a Purdue University agricultural economist who frequently consults with agribusinesses. "I'm not saying every ag student will get five job offers. But the better candidates are getting good, solid job offers early without a lot of effort. Several years ago, students had to work their tails off to get just one offer. Over the next five years, USDA predicts a 20 percent shortfall in ag graduates trained to go into agribusiness."

During the '80s, ag student enrollment at most colleges declined by one-third to one-half. "It was a bad period, and agriculture really got a poor image," says Dave Dahl, a University of Minnesota agricultural economist. "Now the ag crisis is reversing. Farmers are financially healthier, and they're buying more products. So suppliers need more people to manufacture, market, and service their goods."

According to Purdue's Downey, many agribusinesses are aggressively coming back into the job market to hire for the first time in years.

"We're seeing very active recruiting efforts at our campus as the demand for people continues to grow," says Dana Brown, placement director at the University of Missouri. "In 1988, 70 ag companies recruited here. Last year, 110 companies came to interview our 150 graduates. And each firm wasn't looking to hire just one person either. Better students have no problem getting at least three job offers. About half of the jobs are from various sales positions, and food science is an especially strong area."

Most students now graduating from land-grant universities are commanding starting salaries of \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year.

"Many colleges are starting to replenish the numbers they had at their peak around 1978," Downey reports. "The problem is that the

pipeline isn't full yet. Freshman enrollments are going up, but the size of graduating classes is still down because of the four-year lag time to graduation."

As a result, Downey says starting salaries have taken a substantial jump. "I know of several major firms that are now offering signing bonuses as high as \$5,000 to get the right people. Now that's solid evidence a people shortage exists."

Companies are starting to work with ag colleges to improve the balance of courses that students take.

Some employers feel that current college degree programs don't adequately prepare people to go to work without extra training.

According to Dave Downey, it's hard to find a university that's not seriously involved in some kind of curriculum revision.

"Our whole focus the last 50 years in agriculture has been to produce people to go back to the farm,"

Downey says. "Universities are organized around that

premise. But there may no longer be the justification for having departments of agronomy, plant science, animal science, and so on. I think the time has come for universities to reorganize their structures in order to produce the kind of people product that the ag community wants."

A number of schools already have made this kind of change. The University of Minnesota, for instance, has moved away from the traditional production orientation of agricultural programs to give its ag curriculum a much stronger emphasis on communication and agribusiness skills.

"With these newly designed programs, we think our students will leave the university better prepared for the real world," Minnesota's Dahl says. "They'll still have the needed technical orientation, but they'll be able to communicate better. That's what agribusiness firms told us they wanted."

Downey says, "Agriculture has gotten so high-tech. We have to keep attracting the brains that will be good researchers and good technicians. We need creative talent to cope with the technical problems that we face."

"Parents telling their sons and daughters to stay out of agriculture shows that a strong negative image still exists," Downey adds. "But economics will turn that around. Remember, economics got us into this situation, and economics will get us out."



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The Financial Aid Game

Don't wait until the closing seconds of high school to get started.

By Paris Permenter and John Bigley

As college expenses increase, more and more students turn to financial aid as a way to meet tuition costs. You'll soon find that the search for financial aid means deadlines, application forms, standard test scores and even personal interviews. But instead of thinking of your search as a maze filled with red tape, think of it as a competitive game.

"Make sure you know how the game is played — know all the rules and all the boundaries," advised Dr. Joe Townsend, Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A & M.

Like most games, the hunt for college money is competitive.

Pregame Preparations

It's never too early to begin looking for financial aid. "Start your freshman year of high school," encourages Townsend. "Talk to your agriculture teacher, county agents, and your high school counselor." As an early-bird, look to see what the scholarship sponsors seek. Do they look for community involvement, grades, test scores, leadership, organization activities?

As a freshman or sophomore, you can also concentrate on getting good grades and high scores and compare them to other students' scores. "Kids need to prepare to do well on the tests," says Townsend. "If you have high scores, scholarships will come to you."

As a junior, select the college you want to attend and apply for admission. Many kinds of college money are distributed through the college itself, and much of it is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

If you're a senior, get busy! Many deadlines fall in the late spring and early summer, so you still have time to get out there and apply for money. If at all possible, go to the college financial aid office in person. "A 'one-on-one' gets a lot more attention than a telephone call," advises Don Engelage, director of Scholarships and Financial Aid at Texas A & M. Look your best and make a good impression during these visits, and you'll be remembered when it comes time to select money recipients.

Many kinds of financial aid are based

on "need," which is the difference between the amount of money your parents can contribute and the cost of a year at your selected college. You'll make up this difference through financial aid.

You'll prove this need by completing one of the two standard financial statements — the "Financial Aid Form" or the "Family Financial Statement." Don't wait till the last minute to fill out these forms; they're long and you will need your parents' last tax form. Ask the financial aid office at your college which form they require.

When it comes down to game time, you'll find that all aid, whether it comes from public or private sources, falls into five categories, each with its own rules: scholarships, grants, work-study programs, loans and military programs.

Scholarships

When the topic of "financial aid" arises, most people think of scholarships — awards of money given for academics, talent or particular high school achieve-

ments. You don't have to repay scholarship money, but you may find some strings attached, such as maintaining a particular grade point average.

Many scholarships are obtained only after a personal interview. Look at this part of the application just as you would a test: something to study and prepare for. "Talk to people who have won the scholarship before," suggests Joe Townsend from Texas A & M. "Talk to people who have done the interview and find out what types of questions will be asked, what type of records you can bring along, and how you should dress."

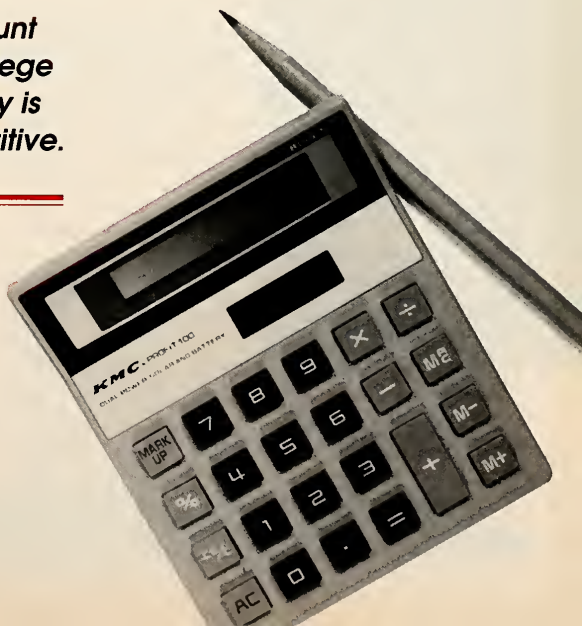
Grants

Grants are another popular type of financial aid. Like scholarships, they are usually not repaid. Grants, however, are often awarded on the basis of need, and sometimes academics.

Many students apply for federal Pell Grants, which in 1990 included amounts up to \$2,300 per school year. Because of their popularity, you need to apply as

(Continued on Page 33)

**The hunt
for college
money is
competitive.**



Snapshots from Around the World

FFA International exchange programs offer students a chance to see how the rest of the world lives. Meet six students who decided to step outside the U.S. and call another country home...for awhile.

In September, Thomas Dismukes was far from the warm, familiar confines of his home in South Carolina. He was struck with a severe cold in the cool, damp climates of Sweden while on the World AgriScience Studies (WASS) program. Even though he admits he had "never felt so much pain and felt so sick in my entire life," he insists that, "I don't regret a single second I've been here. I'm still having the best time of my life. It is an honor for me to be a part of the FFA and represent such an outstanding organization."

He says the experience has both challenges and rewards. "My brain hurts from trying to learn Swedish, but I'm learning and doing things that I've never done before and probably would never do in the United States." He says that sometimes he's even the talk of the town. "Many people have invited me to their

homes and churches to introduce me to their family and friends, because they have never seen an American before. That was cool!"

WASS was developed for students who want to experience attending school in another country. Students on this program attend an agricultural high school in their host country. The program operates mainly in Europe with heavy participation in Germany, Sweden and Finland. Students must be ages 15-19 as of July 1 of the program year. Participants can be sophomores, juniors or seniors.

These international scholars depart in August for Europe and return in June or July the following year. Applications are mailed to advisors in January and are also available from the National FFA Center. Deadline for applications is March 1. Cost for the WASS program is about \$2,500 for the year, including round-trip airfare and insurance.

Thomas Dismukes

Location: Kristianstad, Sweden
Program: World AgriScience Studies

Hometown: Spartanburg, South Carolina



Photo By Mally Wilson

Stacy Jones

Location: Melchanaau, Switzerland

Program: Work Experience Abroad

Hometown: Odin, Illinois

Like most international exchange students, Stacy Jones had a few concerns about leaving home. Before she left for Switzerland, Stacy wrote, "Meeting my host family is kind of scary to me. I wonder if they will like me. Will they be a family like ours? Will my work please them? I guess only time will tell."

It wasn't long before her worries vanished. By October, Stacy had helped her host family harvest crops, traveled throughout Europe, attended lots of festivals and was going with her newfound friends to sporting events. She enjoyed the experience so much, she extended her stay from three to six months. She has even joined a brass band that her host family plays in.

The Work Experience Abroad (WEA) program is for FFA members ages 18-24. Students work on farms ranging from small family farms to large, Central European cooperatives to sheep stations in Australia. Over 20 countries welcome FFA members in the WEA program, especially Europe, Australia and Japan.

Students spend three months to one year working side-by-side with a host farmer. Departures to Australia and Japan are in January and July. Those traveling to Europe leave in either June or September. Other countries have flexible departures. Cost ranges from \$2,300 to \$3,000 for three-to-six-month programs. Application deadline is March 1 for June/July departures and October 1 for January departures. Scholarships are available.

(Continued on Page 28)



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Americans At Their Best.



Eric Lang
Location: Hilden, Germany
Program: Congress/Bundestag
Hometown: Donnellson, Iowa

Eric Lang has been living on a farm and going to school in Hilden, Germany since June. He has been witness to the historic reunification of East and West Germany and is soaking in as much of the culture as possible. In fact, he is now writing his monthly reports back to the National FFA Center (which is required of all international participants) in German.

"The family is excellent!" he writes. "I call Mr. and Mrs. Breloh, 'Pa and Ma.' Horst, the youngest boy, always speaks so that I can easily understand and learn from him. Now and then we go on a trip to another farm. It is always fun to talk with the other farmers, either at the table for coffee or in the barn. The work can sometimes be hard, but nevertheless, I'm happy."

The Congress/Bundestag program is a special part of World AgriScience Studies. It is a full-scholarship program funded by the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag. Students must be ages 15-19 and have a high school grade point average of at least 2.0. They then must go through a two-stage screening process before being selected.

Students attend a two-month language course in southern Germany before spending ten months studying agriculture and working on German farms. Applications are due November 30. All FFA chapter advisors receive Congress-Bundestag mailings each year in September.



Keith Weinheimer
Location: Kumamoto-shi, Japan
Program: Japan Summer Program
Hometown: Moore, Montana

In July, Keith Weinheimer left central Montana to visit Kumamoto-shi, located on Kyushu, the southern most island of Japan. He found Japan to have a style and charm all its own, but with so many people living on a small area of land, he treasures the wide open spaces of home. "It made me appreciate the landscape of Montana and the people that live there," explained Keith.

For the two weeks in July that he was in Japan, it was a time filled with surprises. He helped his host family harvest burdock, a plant considered a weed in the U.S., but its root is renowned as a vegetable delicacy in Japan. He sampled some Japanese foods, including raw fish and horse meat, but his wise host mother made sure there was enough pizza and other familiar foods that their American visitor didn't go hungry.

Even though Keith didn't understand Japanese when he left the U.S., he was able to communicate through his FFA program coordinator, Walter Fernandez, and by using hand gestures and a Japanese/English dictionary during the host family stay.

Keith's mother packed a photo album filled with pictures of the family's farm, his hometown and his school when he left for the Orient. "My host family looked at it every day. They were always showing it to people," said Keith.

The Japan Summer Program enables FFA members to travel to Japan during July for two weeks or one month. Students tour various Japanese sights and visit different agricultural facilities. Students are hosted by agricultural families for ten days. FFA members in good standing, ages 16-21, are eligible to participate. Application deadline is April 1 and departure is in July. The program costs about \$2,200.



Clay Cogburn
Location: York, England
Program: YFC (Young Farmers' Clubs) Exchange
Hometown: Happy, Texas

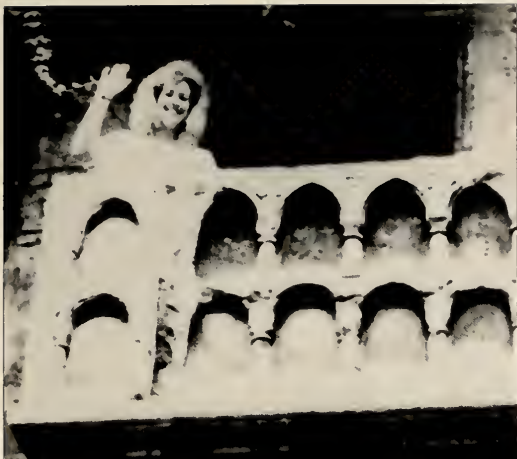
One of the main reasons FFA has developed international exchange programs is to help students discover themselves by going outside of the comfortable surroundings of home. Ask Clay Cogburn, who traveled to Scotland, Wales and England this past summer. "I found myself much more 'adjustable' than I thought I would be," he admits. "Now I realize that is what it will take to survive in this ever-changing world."

By spending time in another country, students come to appreciate that country and their own. "The trip made me realize all that the U.S. has to offer," explains Clay. "I hope to return to England and hopefully Europe someday, but I will travel in the U.S. a few years before I go."

Along with making many presentations to interested groups about FFA and American agriculture, Clay got his hands dirty by shearing sheep in Scotland and milking cows in England. He was able to attend both the Royal Highland Livestock Show and the Yorkshire Livestock Show. During his trip, Clay was able to trace his family roots in Scotland.

The Young Farmers' Clubs (YFC) exchange is a special Work Experience Abroad program to the United Kingdom (England, Scotland and Wales). Participants are selected for their public speaking ability and leadership qualities since they will be traveling through the United Kingdom giving presentations on FFA and American agriculture. Students change families every two to three weeks.

An important difference between YFC and the usual WEA program is that YFC students are not paid to work on farms. YFC accepts students ages 18-24. Cost of the YFC program is \$2,400. Application deadline is March 1 with a June departure.



Susan Watkins
Location: Mantova, Italy
Program: England/Italy Direct
Hometown: York, Alabama

In July, former Mississippi FFA president Susan Watkins traveled to Italy for a short one-month stay. "In Mantova, I lived with the Battisti family. They live on a 22-acre farm raising cotton, soybeans, fruits, vegetables and some livestock."

She says that a family-to-family exchange makes the world seem a little smaller. "After staying in Italy for one month, my host brother returned with me to live in Mississippi for a month. Each of us feel that the exchange was exciting, challenging and rewarding. A true 'family friendship' was made and will be continued. I wish I had done it sooner!"

The England/Italy Direct program is a special summer program for FFA members ages 16-24. Staff at the National FFA Center match FFA students with counterparts from Italy or England.

FFA members spend three to four weeks in either England or Italy before returning with their counterpart who spends the same amount of time in the United States. Departure times are flexible. Cost for the program varies according to destination. Application deadline is May 1.

How can I afford an international exchange? See page 39.

Want to know more?

The International staff at the National FFA Center is standing by to help members who are interested in traveling abroad. Write to: International Department, National FFA Center, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160. If an application deadline is near, call the International staff at 703/360-3600 and tell the receptionist what program or country you would like to know more about.

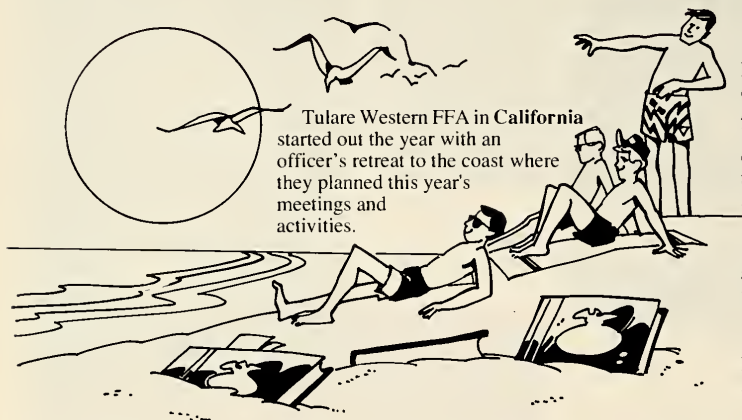
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CHAPTER SCOOP

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Tulare Western FFA in California started out the year with an officer's retreat to the coast where they planned this year's meetings and activities.

Bartlett Yancey FFA in Yanceyville, North Carolina, has a weekly radio show on local AM station WYNC. John Blackwell, Jennifer Webster and Patrick Vernon, hosts of the show, are in charge of everything from collecting weekly news to interviewing guests and providing the show's theme music.

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Jones, Oklahoma, FFA is raffling half-a-hog butchered and wrapped for the individual winners.

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Christina Lopez sells fresh eggs from her poultry project every Tuesday after school. She always sells out.

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Members of Jasper, Missouri, FFA will convert the empty lot across from their school into a community park.

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Trick-or-treat on Halloween but asking for canned food instead of candy was the goal of Ceres, California, Chapter.

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Sutton, Nebraska, FFA worked with the Young Farmer Chapter to serve a pork barbecue during Old Trusty Days. FFA uses the money to go to national convention.

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Gilbert, Arizona FFA celebrated its 60th year and paid tribute to the charter members from 1930 in the chapter's newsletter. Collinsville, Texas, is celebrating its 50th year.

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Bryce Shummway, Nathan Mackay and Jesse Wileman restored a tree planter machine for their Edgerton, Wisconsin, FFA. The chapter will use it to provide tree planting services as a fundraiser activity.

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When any member of the Pierce County, Georgia, FFA sells over \$100 of fruit, the members gets half of the profit from all he or she sells, according to Matt Waller, president.

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Each year the Greenville, Ohio, FFA stages a "tractor-cade" to commemorate National Farm Safety Week. Nine members drove tractors to school during this week of safety awareness.

Arlington, Ohio, FFA sold 610 barbecue meals before a school football game.

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Lots of news items coming in about attending Made For Excellence conferences in their states like Denham Springs, Louisiana.

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Ford Central FFA in Piper City, Illinois, joined the county Farm Bureau in cleaning debris in fields and along highways after a tornado struck near Plainfield.

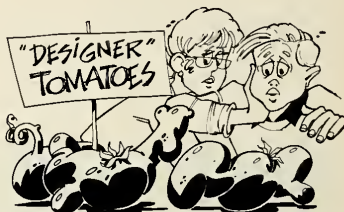
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Anderson, California, Chapter plans to sell catfish in their community after they get their production rolling. They have set up aquaculture tanks in the greenhouse.

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Mansfield, Texas, encourages its members to place orders for FFA clothes and personal items on a combined chapter order from the FFA Supply Service early in the school year for its members. This ensures members will be wearing the new clothes soon after school begins.



Bronson, Florida, FFA is selling the irregular shaped tomatoes from Mike Schenk's greenhouse. The crop is grown hydroponically.

.....

The school opener hosted by Alva, Oklahoma, FFA was an ice cream social. They had 120 guest including members, all teachers, school board members and parents for homemade ice cream and cake.

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Hatch, New Mexico, FFA worked Labor Day weekend parking cars, setting up chairs and getting wet in their dunking booth at the annual Hatch Chile Festival.

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Grade school kids get to enter the Toledo, Washington, FFA petting corral if they bring along a can of food. FFA contributes the canned good to a local food

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Lots of readers sent in news items for Scoop about successful county or state fair activities. We usually don't use fair items since most every chapter and many members are involved one way or another at a fair. Thanks for keeping us informed. Send us some other news now.



Shane Barnby, Mercury
recording artist and professional
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guitar, and other tools of the
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pink, black, and grey and Slay
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Common Ground

The sustainable agriculture movement matures.

When LISA first arrived on the scene, she was warmly embraced by some, but given the cold shoulder by others.

LISA (Low-Input Sustainable Agriculture) is a term coined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that many thought was a system of farming that attempted to lower farm inputs such as pesticides and fertilizer. Many feared it would be a throwback to the "old days" of more hand labor and lower yields.

It seemed that while farmers and industry experts were arguing over the merits of low-input, they were missing the most important part — the objective of achieving a more sustainable agriculture.

Joe Neville of Case International, is one of many ag industry experts who has taken a broader view of the sustainable agriculture movement. They recently gathered at an international forum on sustainable agriculture organized by the National Association of Conservation Districts. "A sustainable agriculture is a goal nearly everyone can agree on," said Neville. "Our definition of sustainability requires efficient and prudent use of purchased inputs and natural resources, continued profitability for the farmer and protection of the environment."

Neville points out that farmers are not going to adopt practices that won't make them money. "Any system of agriculture that sacrifices yields will not be successful in today's global economy."

Paul O'Connell, deputy administrator for the USDA Cooperative State Research Service, and a government leader in the sustainable agriculture movement, agrees.

"If it's not profitable, it's not sustainable. Many people have misunderstood the LISA program. It's a research and education program providing choices to farmers. They're the ones who make the decisions. If it's not profitable, they're not going to select any of the end results of the research. We're not going to shift to this type of agriculture unless it makes sense to farmers and unless the markets are there. This will not happen overnight."

The whole tone of the sustainable agriculture issue has moved from confrontational to cooperative involvement. Even the fertilizer industry, which stands to lose sales if farmers adopt more sustainable practices, is warming up to the idea. "We have come through the debate on low-input

and our energies are turning toward discussing, researching and implementing an agriculture that is truly sustainable," said Gary Myers, president of The Fertilizer Institute. "The sustainable ag system of the future will rely as much on information as on products."

For example, as farmers better understand how nutrients are cycled and recycled through the soil, they will be better able to manage their inputs so no extra nutrients are applied. This includes seeing manure not as a waste but as a fertilizer, and measuring the effectiveness of crop

residues as fertilizer. More accurate soil tests can also provide the producer with better information to decrease fertilizer levels.

According to Neville, some farmers are slowly starting to work these methods into their farm management plans. "There is a hardy band of innovators who are willing to accept the risks of new farming methods. They're looking at the big picture of rising chemical and fertilizer costs and the future of the environment. These are the people we're keeping our eyes on. Their distinguishing trait is outstanding management skill. They soil test and scout their crops to pinpoint fertility needs and pest problems. They're not abandoning the use of purchased inputs, but they are moving toward targeted applications."

The sustainable agriculture movement grew out of a growing public concern over the amount of pesticides and fertilizers being used in agriculture. That environmental concern continues to threaten tighter government regulation on the farming practices.

James Moseley of the USDA Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service, says that there is a political angle to sustainability. "I believe you and I as farmers and ranchers have always thought of ourselves as conservationists and good stewards of the land," he said. "It shocks us to be painted as the 'enemy.' What we want to accomplish is to produce food and fiber for the world's population in a manner that enhances our natural resource

base, rather than detract from it, while allowing farmers and ranchers to make a living."

"The agriculture community has to make a decision. Either we participate in the process, focus our attention on finding desirable solu-

tions to these environmental issues, or stand back, complain about it, and let others do it for us."

USDA's O'Connell says that if you can't fight the environmentalists, talk with them. "We can't draw lines between agriculture and people concerned about the environment. We must build bridges. In this issue, we have more in common than we have at odds. There are a whole lot more consumers and urban people out there than there are involved in agriculture and we have to find a way to work with them." ■■■

"The sustainable ag system of the future will rely as much on information as on products."

Financial Aid

(Continued from Page 25)

early as possible. The final deadline for the 1991-92 school year is May 1, 1991.

Another federal grant is the SEOG, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant. Although this is a federal program, it is administered by the individual colleges, so you will apply through your college's financial aid office. These grants are awarded up to \$4,000 per year.

For information on federal grant and loan programs, write for the free book, *The Student Guide—Five Federal Programs*, Dept. DEA-84, Pueblo, Colorado 81009. For answers to your questions on federal programs, call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-333-INFO from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Work-Study Programs

The third category of financial aid is work-study programs, administered by your university. Based on your financial need, you will be allotted a number of work hours per semester and assigned to a campus job. The pay is federal mini-

mum wage, and the jobs usually keep the same holiday schedule as your school.

Loans

Loans are often a student's last choice of financial aid options because a college loan will have to be repaid with interest.

There are several federal loan programs to help you meet college expenses. The Perkins Loan, up to \$4,500 during your first two years in college or vocational school, is administered by your school's financial aid office. With a low 5 percent interest rate, the payments begin nine months after you graduate or drop below half-time status. You'll have up to 10 years to repay the loan. Similarly, the Stafford loan awards up to \$2,625 a year during your first two years of college. Interest rates are higher, usually 8 percent during the first four years of repayment and 10 percent after that.

PLUS loans and SLS loans are made by financial institutions and backed by the federal government. PLUS loans are for parents who want to finance their children's education. SLS, or Supplemental Loans for Students, are made to students. Both loans are for up to \$4,000

a year, and the interest rate is currently 12 percent.

Military Assistance

The military is looking for a few good men and women, and is willing to pay a large part of their college expenses.

For example, the Army's Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program offers a 4-year scholarship that pays most tuition and educational expenses, provides a flat rate for books, supplies and equipment, plus an allowance of up to \$1,000 for each year of the award. In return, a student takes Military Science courses right along with his regular college curriculum and agrees to accept an 8-year military service obligation. This obligation may be fulfilled by serving 2 to 4 years on active duty and the rest in the National Guard or Army Reserve, or by serving 8 years in the Guard or Reserve with a short active duty period.

All branches of the armed services have similar college assistance programs.

Start early and systematically work your way through the paperwork ahead and you will be ahead of the game of financing your education. ***

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Strategy for Success

Nation introduced to Strategic Plan during "Together We Can" teleconference.

By Andrew Markwart

The faces of a dozen agriculture teachers and their bosses were glued to the flickering glow of three television sets at the Ramada Inn in Woodstock, Virginia. The people on the screen were talking about a revolution.

They, like thousands of other agriculture teachers and school administrators around the country, were being introduced to the Strategic Plan for Agricultural Education through a satellite videoconference held on the evening of September 24.

The Strategic Plan is the result of a national summit on agricultural education organizations held in February and May, 1989. The National FFA Organization is one in a family of nearly a dozen agricultural education organizations. In the past, each group had their own agenda and there was little coordination between groups.

Like a large corporation calling its many divisions together for future planning, the Strategic Plan for Agricultural Education attempts to make the "agricultural education corporation" run more effectively and with more enthusiasm by focusing on common goals. The National Council for Agricultural Education, an umbrella organization for the different ag education groups, is responsible for coordinating the plan.

At the heart of the plan are seven goals. Some of the goals affirm what is currently being done. Others offer a challenge. For example, Goal 1 states: To update instruction in agriculture and expand programs about agriculture. Its explanation says, "We seek to provide both: A comprehensive contemporary program of education for the career-bound agriculture student; and a basic program about agriculture for all students in the nation."

According to Larry Case, national FFA advisor, "The plan is meant to be a focus. It's a lot like young people setting goals for themselves. The process of goal-setting is to assess your values and then base your goals on those values. Then, the goals really are important to you — you are working from the inside out."

He says that goals, whether personal or organizational, help people see more

clearly and feel better about what they are doing. "Once you decide your goals," says Case, "you start seeing the world in light of 'how can I use *this* resource to accomplish *that* goal' versus not having any idea of where you're going and everything looks good to you. The plan is about aligning resources to pursue and capture your goal."

He says that an important part of the plan is that it encourages people to plot their own course

and make their own decisions instead of looking to others for direction.

"It is not a cookbook. It does not tell you step by step how you are going to accomplish your goals. It's more of a lighthouse. You set your course, and by coming together with other people, you accomplish your goals."

Case often quotes President Kennedy's "we choose to go to the moon" speech as an example of what a stated goal or mission can do. "Kennedy had no idea how we would get to the moon, but he knew we could. It just took a lot of creative people focusing on one goal."

The FFA has worked on its specific, or tactical plan, that aligns its goals with the Strategic Plan's goals. Many states have done the same.

An introduction to the Strategic Plan states, "Change is rampant in agriculture, and agricultural education must keep pace or become an obsolete remnant of the past. If the agricultural education community is to meet the challenge of change, we must answer two questions: 'Who are we?' and 'What is our purpose?'"

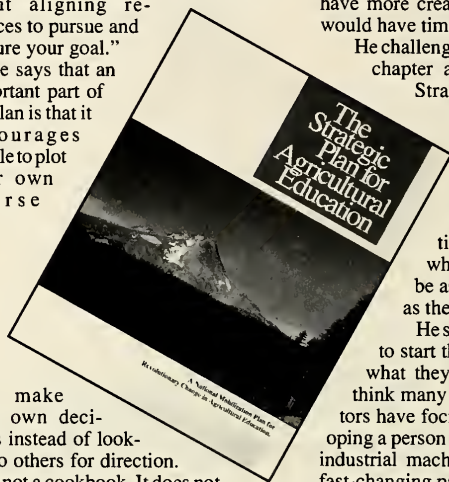
How does this all apply to FFA members? "I think it is important for students to understand education and ag education issues as they impact on their community, state and nation," says Case. "I would bet that once they catch the vision and understand the Strategic Plan, that they will have more creative ideas than anybody would have time or money to get done."

He challenges FFA members to focus chapter activities to achieve the Strategic Plan's goals. For example, one of the goals is to "develop the whole person." Case asks, "how do the members focus the chapter's program of activities on developing the whole person?" There will be as many different answers as there are FFA chapters.

He says that teachers will have to start thinking differently about what they teach their students. "I think many times, vocational educators have focused too much on developing a person to fill a specific slot in an industrial machine era. In the modern, fast-changing pace, we need to be developing individuals that are adaptable to fill any kind of role and provide the necessary thinking and leadership to move our economy and society along."

Case expects the plan to "foster the kind of bold thinking and creativity that is required to address the changing environment. The issue is now *how fast* we change instead of *if* we change. That's the issue."

Rallying around the phrase, "Together We Can," the groups in ag education are joining forces to effect positive change. The plan sums up that spirit saying, "there is no question that agricultural education will achieve together what none of its components could achieve alone." ...



For a free copy of the *Strategic Plan for Agricultural Education*, send a 9x12 self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The Council, P.O. Box 15035, Alexandria, VA, 22309-0035.

FFA IN ACTION

National FFA Officer Action Update



On Hand To Help Rhode Island

When National FFA Secretary Scott Crouch, right, visited Rhode Island for the State FFA Convention in April, duties of a national officer took on a whole new meaning. He stayed at the home of Liz and Seth Johnson, state president and vice president respectively. While he was there a ewe developed lambing problems. Scott came to the rescue to help deliver two healthy ram lambs and kept his live lamb percentage intact. (Seth Johnson)

California

Two Time Zones Away

During May, Cathy Tharp, Joe Miller, Stephanie Cooke and Candace Gilbert from the Imperial, California, FFA took a six-day trip to Indiana to visit the South Putnam FFA in Cloverdale.

Two years earlier, six members of the South Putnam FFA came to California for their senior trip. The six Indiana seniors travelled to the Imperial Valley, which is on the Mexican border, to learn about California agriculture and lifestyles. Each member stayed with a different volunteer Imperial FFA host family.

Currently four of the host families still have FFA members in school. The South Putnam FFA chapter invited four students, and a chaperone, to trek to Indiana for a return visit.

After driving about 150 miles to the

airport, the Californians departed from Ontario in a Boeing 737 late Thursday morning, May 10. Our hosts met us in Indianapolis at the end of the afternoon which was shortened by our crossing the two time zones.

Friday, we toured Premier Angus, a super-modern cattle breeding operation. That afternoon was a tour of a confinement hog feeding operation. The many trees dotting the beautiful green countryside made the trip back to our new "homes" a pleasant one. Personal friendships developed as we visited with our host families in the evenings.

Saturday we went to Indianapolis, hoping to watch the Indy 500 time trials, but the rain changed that plan. Monday we did get to see them thanks to clear weather and the generous efforts of Mr. Dan Walton, a host father to one of our



Dedication To Duty Texas

President Donnell Brown visited his home state on August 30th to help with the dedication of the new 10,000-square-foot Ysleta FFA and FHA facility in El Paso. Donnell reviewed chapter scrapbooks with advisor Forsythe at the event that also featured tours, a country and western dance and a chili feed.

members. We were all awed by the size and complexity of the 500, seeing it on TV just isn't the same. Talking with some of the drivers was an added thrill. And learning that one of the autographs we got belonged to the winner, Arie Luyendyk, was great news. (Candace Gilbert)

Ohio

Greenhand Big Brother

The Oak Harbor, Ohio, FFA appointed an FFA Big Brother or Big Sister for each of the 1990-91 Greenhands. The first year members got to suggest a first choice. The purpose of the program is to link a first year member with an experienced member for access to FFA activities, and help with other FFA duties during the year. (Marge Ray, Reporter)

(Continued on Page 36)

FFA IN ACTION

(Continued from Page 35)

New York

Doing a Figure Eight

Members of Fort Plain, New York, FFA participated in a tractor driving contest at the Fonda Fair

The testing ground consisted of an alley and a figure-eight course. Each participant had to drive the tractor out of the alley, and then make a figure-eight around the posts on the course. They then had to drive back into the alley. When they stopped, they were to be centered in the alley, and one inch away from the back post in the alley.

The participants were rated in three areas: driving skills, safety and time. The score in each category was added to those in the other categories. Gerald Douglas came in first with a score of 277. (Annette Jones, Reporter)

Kentucky

Throw Aways



Officers on the Spencer County, Kentucky, FFA float in the homecoming parade tossed candy to parade viewers. The Louisville Cardinals mascot was on board the float too.

Illinois

Nursery Challenges

Elmwood, Illinois, Chapter spent an afternoon improving the playground at a local nursery. FFA trimmed hedges, pulled weeds, fixed picnic tables and laid down wood chips. (Kevin Jones, Reporter)

Nebraska

Commercial Stars

The Lakeview FFA Chapter, in Columbus, Nebraska, was filmed for a 60-second television commercial for McDonald's.

The McDonald Corporation staged a typical hometown parade in Grand Island to pass in front of the county courthouse.

Producers wanted an FFA float for the parade section of the commercial. The Lakeview FFA Chapter's float was chosen

since it was built and ready for a real parade on Columbus Day. Members from Lakeview, Grand Island Northwest and Centura FFA Chapters in Nebraska all were invited to be on the float.

The production lasted a full day. After filming, Lakeview members adjourned to a local McDonald's to relax and eat. The film crew saw them there and decided to continued filming. The commercial has been aired recently in the midwest.

The parade passed by the pretend crowd five times during the filming session. Each time the members pushed the float backwards a block to restart.



Film crews shot the pretend parade of bands, floats and clowns. Then later "caught" the members eating fries and the usual foods at McDonald's.



Dance For the Fun Of It

The John Marshall FFA Chapter in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, recently held their annual dance for handicap students at their local barn. The chapter invites The Oklahoma Foundation For The Disabled to their barn every summer and provides recreation to them and their staff.

The chapter provides a live band, refreshments and livestock for them to see and pet. The handicapped look forward to this event every year and so do the FFA members that get involved. The joy and excitement in their eyes makes us work harder and harder every year to make it better! (Jennie Smart, President)

Pennsylvania

Beagle Chain

The Derry, Pennsylvania, FFA Alumni developed a Beagle chain that is generating interest among members and proving to be a very successful way to provide SAE experiences. (It is run just like a gilt or heifer chain.)

Doug Byers is the first FFA member to receive a registered Beagle puppy (Dixie Prince) and has raised two litters

Doug's experiences with his Beagle lead him to start working with a local kennel owner and is presently starting his own kennel. The Alumni affiliate has two other puppies being raised by FFA members.

The Beagle chain is serving as a great opportunity for FFA members and is bringing in new FFA Alumni members and support. This project is providing opportunities for those students not living on farms.

Oklahoma

FFA Camp Ground

For three warm sunny days, members, parents and supporters of the Calera, Oklahoma, FFA gathered for the annual chapter camping trip at beautiful Hugo Lake.

Members got to enjoy many summer-time activities like the all-around favorite water skiing. Even though the old timers didn't join in on the fast paced action of skiing, there was still something for everyone — horseshoes, foosball, volleyball or just plain relaxing.

With the scenic lake at their disposal, many parents brought their boats for the convenience of the chapter. This meant lots of fishing.

On the second night of the camp out, the Young Farmers Chapter prepared a feast of fresh fish with all the trimmings. (Lee Huddle, Reporter)

(Continued on Page 38)

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FFA IN ACTION



Chicago FFA members were given hands-on experiences in the University's agriculture department.

Illinois

Minority Students Spend a Month on College Campus

Twenty minority students from the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences were hosted at Illinois State Uni-

versity for four weeks of agriculture-related classes and other activities this summer.

The STAR (Science and Technology for Agriculture Readiness) program is sponsored by the ISU Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is directed by Associate Professor Jeff Wood. U.S. Senator Paul Simon was instrumental in getting the program started, and visited the group during the month-long residential program.

In addition to classwork with agriculture and home economics faculty, the



They also visited the University farm to get a look at traditional agriculture.

high school students (who range from freshmen through seniors) took about a dozen field trips related to agriculture and agribusiness. In addition to learning about life on the farm, students learned about campus life while living in Atkin-Colby residence halls.

The purpose of the STAR program is to expose African-American and Hispanic youth to science and technology in agriculture and to improve their pre-college preparation; to reduce barriers to college entrance for minorities; to develop a scientifically trained labor pool to meet the human resource needs of the future in agriculture; and to increase the minority representation of ISU in the agriculture department and the College of Applied Science and Technology.

Wisconsin

Two-way Traveler

Shouts of recognition and greetings rang out at the LaCrosse, Wisconsin, air-

port on Tuesday, June 19, as ten members of the Angleton, Texas, FFA Chapter, their advisor and his wife, arrived for the second half of the Texas-Wisconsin FFA exchange.

In June of 1989, six members of the Cochrane-Fountain City, Wisconsin, Chapter spent five days enjoying Texas hospitality, exploring Texas agriculture, and soaking up some Texas sun.

Chris Jumbleck, advisor from Wisconsin, and her six students were treated to a tour of NASA, an Astro baseball game, a tour of Dow Chemical Company, Barzoz harbor, Retrieve Unit of the Texas Department of Corrections, a Longhorn Ranch tour, a visit to a working rice farm and a certified seed rice production facility.

The northern friends were given good Texas cuisine, including bar-b-cue brisket, fried cat fish and lots of Tex-Mex foods. During their stay in Texas they stayed with Angleton members.

In June, the ten Texas FFA members arrived in LaCrosse. After settling in with their counter parts, the groups met on Wednesday morning for their first look at Wisconsin agriculture. Fountain City is basically a dairy, poultry and forage production area. Highlights of the exchange included a visit to an automated dairy that milks 236 cows three times per day; a broiler operation with 30,000 birds fed in one barn; a broiler processing plants that does 60,000 in a 8-hour shift; a cheese factory; a milk drying plant; and a bus tour of the Amish country.



MY TURN

Brad Lewis



Brad Lewis

The first year of the last decade of the 20th century is almost history. There are only nine more years until the Buck Roger's era will begin in the 21st century. Buck Rogers? Wasn't he the guy who was a universal space warrior who flew around in rockets and hung out with robots? That's exactly right.

As a junior high student not so long ago, I can remember watching Buck Rogers on TV. It seemed that space travel was almost impossible and the 21st century was so far away. Well, Buck Rogers has now been replaced by Uncle Buck, but the 21st century is just around the corner.

The greatest lesson that I learned growing up in the 1980's is that *everything* changes very quickly and that to insure that I would have a bright future, I must plan and look way ahead to the challenges of my future. In the FFA and Agricultural Education, we must do the same in order to insure that our organization will have a future.

Many people have said that the National FFA Organization has made too many changes or has changed too quickly. I feel that many needed changes have not been made yet and that change is occurring too slowly. We must become a group that is proactive and not reactive. The FFA must look ahead with vision and progressive thought which will bring about change and improvement to our programs. We can not afford to wait around to see what happens and then decide whether or not change is needed.

The 1989-90 national officer team has tried to have some vision concerning the future of our organization and we made some recommendations accordingly. One of these recommendations was the proposed FFA Creed written by Shirley Sokolovsky. It failed to see the light of day

at the national convention.

Why was this proposal looked on so unfavorably? I've heard many different answers which include: it's too long, it's too difficult to learn, and it's not the Tiffany Creed. Many people feel that all current and future Greenhands should learn the same creed because of tradition.

When I was a Greenhand, I learned the same creed, the American Farmer Degree could be earned by investing \$1,000, and ag marketing was something I never heard of in the classroom. It's amazing how much changed in just eight short years.

As FFA members, we can not limit current and future FFA members because of tradition or the things we did in the past as members. My hope is that 15 years from now, the American FFA Degree can be earned only after investing \$15,000, that we will have an Ag Marketing proficiency award and that *all* of our members, whether they are from Chicago or Wyoming, can be represented by one creed.

The FFA and Agricultural Education must continue to work as quickly as possible to meet the needs and expectations of the ag industry and our nation. We must up-date curriculum, contests, programs, and our overall image to prepare for the future. The future of this organization is now in your hands.

Remember, the events and traditions of the past are a part of our history and we can never turn back time, regardless of what Cher may say. In order to have the kind of future we dream of, we must plan and prepare with vision. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your organization. I've had "My Turn," now it's your turn to make it happen. ...

Snapshots

(Continued from Page 29)

How to afford international travel

The price tags attached to international programs may seem high, but with the help of your FFA chapter and local businesses, a trip to overseas may be closer than you think.

Many international exchange students have held special fund raising projects with the help of their local chapter. It could add a new twist to the yearly citrus sales or other chapter fundraiser. But don't expect the FFA chapter to pay the full amount.

The publicity that an international traveler generates is good for the chapter and the community. Use that to your advantage. People are eager to support a worthy cause. Work on a fund-raising plan of action with your advisor.

In approaching sponsors, tie into their area of interest or geographical area. For example, if you have a large livestock operation, go to a feed company. Also, try a bank in your school district. Remember, every little bit helps.

People give money to people. Don't write request letters. Make an appointment and go see the contact in person. Have your agriculture teacher go with you. Ask for a reasonable amount. A \$100 or \$200 donation is large for one bank or company.

Build a solid public relations plan. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper thanking your sponsors. Also, a short article sent while you are overseas, ending with a note of appreciation to your sponsors gives them community recognition. Most hometown newspapers are eager to get "international" stories, especially from someone locally.

Invite your sponsors to your FFA banquet and be sure they are introduced as special guests. Keep records on every donation, large or small.

Write an initial thank-you to your sponsors, then updates while overseas. Scenic postcards make great thank-you notes. Make a personal visit to your sponsor when you return. Ask your parents and FFA advisor to write thank-you letters.

The key is to take matters into your own hands and make the fundraising happen. Ask for donations and then publicly thank those who helped you achieve your goal.

Some financial aid for international programs is available through the FFA. All program costs for the Congress-Bundestag program are covered by the U.S. and German governments. The FFA occasionally receives grant money for some of the programs. The National FFA Foundation offers scholarships to students participating in the year-long programs.

J O K E P A G E

A coach put an athlete on the scale. "What was the most you ever weighed?" the coach asked. "About 165 lbs.," the joke answered.

"And the least you ever weighed?"
"9lbs 4 oz."

Marguerite Reasner
Indianapolis, Indiana



"Realizing his days were numbered and seeking revenge, Tom Turkey gorges himself on a diet loaded with cholesterol and saturated fats."

After a preacher died and went to heaven, he noted that a New Orleans cabdriver had been given a higher place than he had.

"I don't understand," he complained to St. Peter. "I devoted my entire life to my congregation."

"Our policy is to reward results," explained St. Peter. "Now what happened, Reverend, whenever you gave a sermon?"

The minister admitted that some in the congregation fell asleep.

"Exactly," said St. Peter. "And when people rode in this man's taxi, they not only stayed awake, they prayed!"

Jonathon Ruple
Homer, Louisiana

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

Doctor: A paper bag.

Chad Roberts
Ranburne, Alabama

Q: How do you make antifreeze?

A: Put ice cubes in her bed.

Chad Roberts
Ranburne, Alabama

A man and his wife were about to go on a trip to the woods to camp for a week.

"Well, we're *repairing* to go to the woods," he told his fellow factory workers the day before his vacation.

"You mean *preparing*. The pairing means to fix something," a man replied.

"That's right, we're *fixin* to go on the trip," was his reply.

Brian Proffitt
Tuckerman, Arkansas

Q: Why did the chicken cross the playground?

A: To get to the other slide.

Harold Estep
Anco, Kentucky

A man was standing by a bull and another man came by and said, "Does your bull charge?"

The first man said, "No, sir, my bull does not charge."

So the second man walked by the bull and the bull charged him. He said, "I thought you said that your bull does not charge."

And the man said, "Sir, this is not my bull."

Amanda Griffin
Zolfo Springs, Florida

In the employee parking lot, two weather bureau forecasters were about to drive home.

"Say," said one to the other, "did you remember to close the office windows? Never know when it might rain."

Arben Mathies
Yuma, Colorado

Charlie, the Greenhand



"If you can't understand my handwriting, it's because I did the entire test with my fingers crossed."

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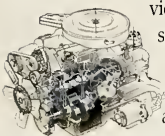
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