

**FFA**

DECEMBER-JANUARY, 1989-90

# New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION



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# What's in a Name?

**F**or 37 years, *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine was read and enjoyed by millions of FFA members, their families and countless FFA supporters. When the magazine began, it helped connect a nation of young men studying vocational agriculture and preparing for a future in farming.

But today the young men and women in FFA are pursuing careers throughout the agricultural industry. Those careers include sales, marketing, research and many others as well as farming. With the broader interests of our readers, we've broadened the name of our magazine and are proudly launching *FFA New Horizons* starting with this issue.

The name *FFA New Horizons* was chosen by a committee of FFA members, agriculture teachers, state FFA leaders, university professors, magazine staff and others. The group felt that the name *FFA New Horizons* positions the magazine as forward looking and the name ties in with the rising sun in the FFA emblem, representing "a new era in agriculture."

Selection of the name was helped greatly by suggested words, names and comments from hundreds of surveys completed by FFA members, advisors and state leaders.

## Focus on You

The main focus of *FFA New Horizons* will continue to be on you, the member. Every two months we will continue to deliver the most exciting stories in FFA today—with an eye on tomorrow. FFA is about achievement; young people challenging themselves to accomplish more than they ever thought they could. It is these "profiles of achievement" that will continue to be at the heart of your national magazine.

We will also keep you informed about the cutting-edge trends and important topics in agriculture—biotechnology, environmental issues, international trade—areas that are sure to affect everyone, especially those pursuing a career in agriculture in the 1990s.

And as it says on the cover, this is the "Official Magazine of the National FFA Organization," which means we are committed to gathering FFA news from all over the country and covering the "national" stories, such as our special on National FFA Convention in this issue.

Of course, to keep on top of all the news in FFA, we need to hear from you and your chapter. It's the letters, reports and press releases from FFA chapters that make our departments like FFA in Action, Chapter Scoop, Mailbag, and the Joke Page current and interesting.

## A New Look

The new name is the most obvious change, but you will notice some other changes that help give the magazine a fresh look. Turn the page and you will see a newly designed contents page. The department headings, such as "Joke Page" and "FFA in Action" also sport a new design.

This is a historic change for your FFA magazine. Since 1952, the name and even the cover logo has remained essentially the same. We're proud of our new look but most importantly, we want to know what you think about your *FFA New Horizons* magazine. Please send your comments to: Mailbag, *FFA New Horizons*, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA, 22309-0160.

We're looking forward to hearing from you.

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## Advertising Offices

### FFA New Horizons

P.O. Box 15160  
Alexandria, VA 22309 703-360-3600

### The Brassett Company

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Los Angeles, CA 90036 213-934-8502

### Midwestern States

Karaban / Labiner Associates, Inc.  
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# THE BOTTOM LINE

Several years ago I heard a speaker who made an interesting point. He said that so many times when we drive through the countryside we see school buildings and churches that are abandoned and falling down. He said too often we view these as failures and think what a pity that time has passed them by. What we really need to do, he said, is view them as a great success. View them as something that served its purpose and is no longer needed. It is a success story, not a failure.

And so it is with the name of this magazine, *The National FUTURE FARMER*. For 37 years that logo has graced the front cover as this magazine served FFA members and its secondary audience of parents and other supporters of FFA. We see it as a great success story. It is a name that withstood the test of time, did its job well and is now ready to retire with honors.

In order to survive, a magazine must be constantly changing. Some people say a magazine takes on a personality, has a lifespan and eventually dies unless it is constantly updated and stays in tune with the readers. The name change is an effort to do just that.

Some people relate the concept of a new horizon to the rising sun in the FFA emblem. As you will note in the section about the emblem in the FFA manual, "The rising sun signifies progress and the new day that will dawn when all farmers are educated and have learned to cooperate."

We believe the new name signifies progress and makes a statement about the new day that is dawning for FFA members. Certainly our farmers and other workers in the food and fiber industry will need to be educated to survive in a world of international markets and the environment challenges that lie ahead. We believe the FFA magazine has a role to play in the task of helping FFA members prepare for that future and the new name should help define that goal more clearly.

As a staff we are encouraged by the support for the FFA magazine which was expressed as we went through the difficult task of coming up with a new name. Even the strongest advocates of the name change did not feel the editorial content was out of step with FFA and agricultural education today. Under the name of *FFA New Horizons* this magazine will continue to carry stories for FFA members and stories about FFA members. It was the FFA magazine. It still is the FFA magazine. The goal is for the magazine to lead FFA members on to "new horizons" in their career and personal life, just the way *The National FUTURE FARMER* did for your parents and in some cases for your grandparents. We hope you like the new name. We also hope we can continue to count you among our readers as we pick up momentum moving toward the 21st century.

*Wilson Carnes*



# FFA New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

December - January, 1989-90

Volume 38 Number 2

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### Unlocking the Secrets of Plant Breeding

On the cover, Illinois Agriscience winner Mark McCully records the growth rates of the hybrid seed corn he is researching near Varna, Illinois. Photo by Wilson Communications

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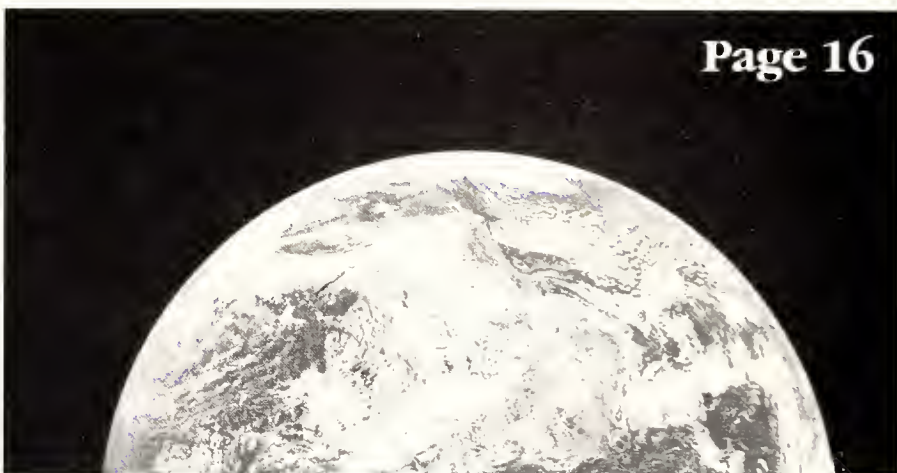
A full report on the news and events of the 62nd gathering of FFA members in Kansas City, Missouri.

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FFA members Ken and Koy Holland raise elk and buffalo in Montana's "Big Sky Country."

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FFA New Horizons (ISSN 0027-9315), formerly *The National FUTURE FARMER*, is published bimonthly by the National FFA Organization, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, Virginia 22309-0160.



# MAILBAG

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## College Catalogs Wanted

The Peach County FFA needs your help. We are trying to start a college library of all Agricultural Colleges in the nation.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could help us by writing to the colleges in your state and having them send a copy of their catalog to Peach County FFA c/o Peach County High School, 900 Campus Drive, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030.

*Courtney Terhune  
Ft. Valley, Georgia*

## Name Change

I find it hard to believe you're going to change the name of this magazine. All of these new changes are demoralizing. I say, "If it isn't broke, don't fix it." It's lasted a long time so why change?

*Zeke West  
Beaumont, Texas*

## New Not Always Better

We noted with great interest your article entitled "The Bottom Line" in the October-November issue.

Many times the older concepts remain the best. The newer substitutions just do not fill the gap. New does not always mean better as your article plainly illustrates. We think they are omitting the most important and meaningful part.

*Carl and Pauline Coiner  
Woodstock, Virginia*

## More Than Hearsay

I am writing to encourage other people to join FFA.

Before I joined, everyone said that it was only about pigs and cows but I let curiosity overwhelm me. I have learned many things in FFA and enjoy every minute of it.

*Gidget Malone  
Preston, Mississippi*

## Young Farmer Contact

We are local farm youth who would like to contact some of your young farmers (for example in education).

We would like to correspond with young farmers about crops, culture, animals, etc. First we would like some names that we can write to.

*Hanne Rossen  
Fredensgade 3  
6300 Grästen  
Denmark*

## Pen Pals

I would like to suggest that you put pen pal articles in the magazine to give some of the FFA members a chance to get to know one another through letters.

*Beverly Metcalf  
Jasper, Missouri*

*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

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Looking like a cross between a dwarf hippopotamus and a Sharpei dog, the Chinese Meishan pigs are resistant to disease and produce large litters.

## Chinese Pigs Welcome

The People's Republic of China recently sent 140 pigs of exotic breeds to the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The shipment of Meishan, Ming and Fengjing pigs were obtained through a contract between USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the Chinese National Animal Breeding Stock Import and Export Corporation. ARS, the University of Illinois and Iowa State University shared equally in the cost of importation and will receive equal shares of the imported animals for study.

The pigs are attractive to their U.S. hosts because of their ability to reproduce. Their twice-yearly litters average 16-20 piglets, with a record of 33. Most U.S. breeds average 10-12 piglets. The pigs are also hardier and more resistant to some diseases than U.S. breeds. Researchers will determine if these characteristics can help improve U.S. swine production.

The overall objective of the research is to cross the Chinese breeds with U.S. breeds to increase litter size while maintaining the lean yield and quality of U.S. pork.

## More Difficult to be a Teen Today?

According to the California Department of Education, the top seven discipline problems in schools in 1940 included: 1) Talking; 2) Chewing gum; 3) Making noise; 4) Running in the halls; 5) Getting out of turn in line; 6) Wearing improper clothing; 7) Not putting paper in the trash can.

The same question was recently asked by the same organization. The results were quite different. According to the poll, the top seven problems in today's schools include: 1) Drug abuse - Nearly 50 percent of all seniors have tried drugs. 2) Alcohol - Nearly 90 percent have used alcohol, some on a daily basis. 3) Teen Pregnancy - Every 31 seconds a teenager becomes pregnant. 4) Suicide - Every 78 seconds a teenager attempts suicide and every 90 seconds one succeeds. 5) Rape - There are 100,000 cases of incest per year. Rape has increased 700 percent in the last 40 years. 6) Robbery - Thirty percent of American seniors have shoplifted in the last year. 7) Assault.

This does not mean that teenagers today are worse people, but that they are living

with peer pressures vastly different from what their parents experienced 40 years ago. Also, some of the problems listed may appear because there is more openness in discussing these topics today than there was in 1949.

(Based on a report in *The Thirteen Towns* newspaper, Fosston, Minnesota.)

## Pork Bellies to Poland

Between 15-22 million pounds of U.S. pork bellies will be donated to Poland during the coming winter months as part of President Bush's food aid package to that country's new noncommunist government.

The Pork bellies will be donated under the Food for Progress Program which is used to support countries that make commitments to introduce or expand free enterprise elements in their economies. The value of the pork bellies to be included in the shipment is estimated at about \$10 million.

The aid package came about through discussions between top Bush administration officials and representatives of the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) and the American Meat Institute (AMI).

## Soymark to Appear

Food shoppers will soon be seeing a new "SoyMark" symbol on many of their food products at the grocery. The trademark was developed to help health conscious consumers quickly identify products made with soybean oil, which is low in saturated fat, without having to read long and confusing ingredient labels.



SOYOIL

The SoyMark was developed by the American Soybean Association (ASA), a 30,000-plus member farmer-run commodity organization to indicate a high level of soybean oil in food products.

The trademark depicts the opening leaves of a soybean plant in yellow against a round-cornered green square. The words "SoyOil" appear along the bottom of the design. Food manufacturers will display the SoyMark on the labels of products made with acceptable levels of soybean oil.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## New FFA Emblems Ready

The new FFA emblems for the official jacket are now available from the National FFA Supply Service. The new emblems include the words "Agricultural Education" instead of "Vocational Agriculture."

The first new emblems to appear on the jackets were presented to the 1989-90 national officers at National Convention in Kansas City. All jacket orders received after convention will bear the new emblems.

Old emblems on jackets may be replaced with new emblems after the convention by sending jackets to the FFA Supply

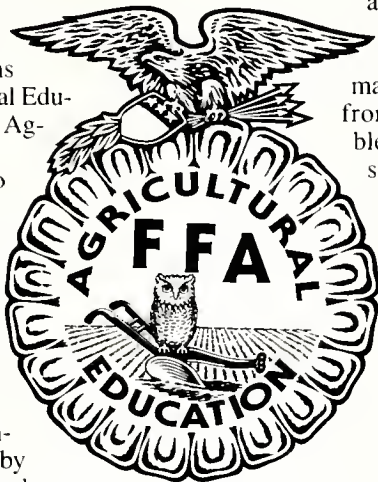
Service. The old emblems will be removed and replaced with new versions at

a cost of \$7.95 plus

\$2.00 shipping.

FFA members may also remove the front and back emblems at home and send them to the

Supply Service in exchange for new emblems at a cost of \$3.95 (price includes shipping). For more information, call 703/360-3600, ext. 281.



## New Career Film

"Agriculture's New Professionals" is a new film produced by the FFA that highlights exciting careers in the agricultural industry.

Shot on location around the United States and Europe, the film visits seven professionals, most of whom are former FFA members, who work in engineering, government policy, international marketing, farming, research, environmental management and agribusiness sales and service.

The fast-paced, 14-minute film was premiered at national convention and will soon be available through the FFA Supply Service and on free loan from Venard Films on 16mm film and VHS tape.

Production of the film was sponsored by John Deere as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

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## FFA Today Premiers, Then Put on Hold

The first FFA Today television show premiered on 36 stations across the nation on September 23.

The first show focused on agriscience and featured Gary Todd, national winner in the Agriscience Student Recognition Program, a tour through Monsanto's biotechnology research facilities and a discussion of the pros and cons of biotechnology.

The show was hosted from the Land Pavilion at EPCOT Center, part of Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

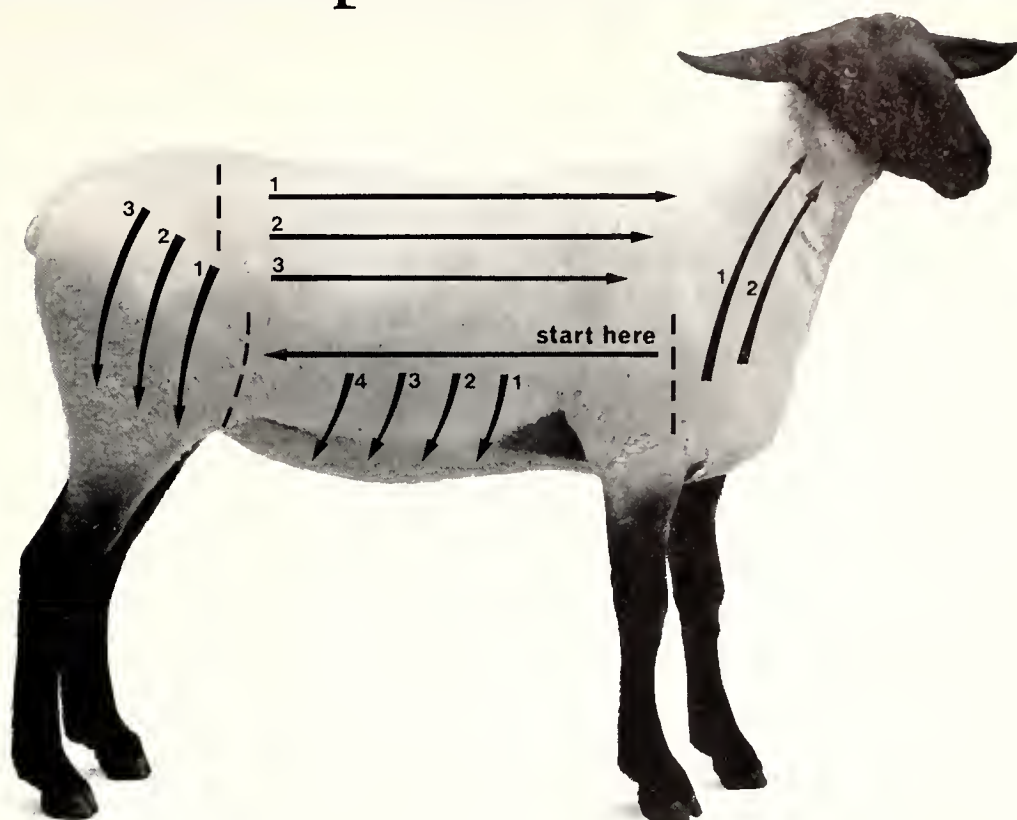
Future FFA Today programs have been postponed until sufficient advertisers and sponsors can be obtained to finance future shows.

## Helmeid, McCall Named WCP Directors

Cheryl Helmeid and Mickey McCall have been named directors of the 1990 Washington Conference Program.

Helmeid is a former Wisconsin state FFA officer and is returning for her fourth year with WCP, her second as a director. McCall is a former national officer from North Carolina and was a WCP counselor in 1989.

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# FFA Members Honored for Community Service

## Top individual and chapter named at national Building Our American Communities conference

By Jody E. Pollok

Jenny Pratt was named the 1989 National Achievement in Volunteerism winner at the Seventh National Conference on Community Development held September 30 - October 4. Judges named Pratt national winner because of her dedication to Marion County, West Virginia's Building Our American Communities (BOAC) project "Help Save the High Gate Mansion."

Pratt worked with her FFA chapter in saving the High Gate Mansion, a historical local estate, which was going to be purchased by a fast food restaurant. "The historical value of High Gate Mansion would have been lost if it were torn down," said Pratt. "A part of our (community's) history would be gone." Community leaders agreed with Pratt and her fellow FFA members, so they rallied to raise money to purchase the property.

Pratt promoted the project on both television and radio, met with governmental agencies and leaders and helped in submitting grant applications.

The first runner-up for the 1989 Achievement in Volunteerism award is Robert Wilfahrt of the Kimball, Minnesota FFA Chapter. The second-runner up is Traci Higgins of the Bartlett, Tennessee FFA Chapter.

### Top Chapter Honors

The Flagler, Colorado FFA Chapter is the 1989 National BOAC chapter award winner. The chapter created four separate living snowfences two of which are along Interstate 70, one of Colorado's most important highways, to increase the safety of the road. The snowfences, which consist of young Red Cedar and Russian Olive trees, were built primarily to serve as protective barriers against drifting snow. They also offer wildlife habitat, conserve moisture and topsoil.

According to Mitch Klann, Flagler FFA representative, every member in the chapter, 19 in all, were involved with the project. Maintenance of the living snow fences is essential, especially in the summer months when watering and weed control are vital to plant growth and survival.

The other regional chapter winners are

the Marion County, West Virginia FFA Chapter, which won the eastern region title for the fifth time; the Bowdle, South Dakota FFA Chapter, central region winner; and the Taylor-Senior FFA Chapter from Florida, southern region winner.

### National Conference

Each year every state winning BOAC chapter sends the FFA member who is chairperson of the BOAC project on to the national level to compete for the Achievement in Volunteerism (AIV) award. That individual also comes to Washington D.C. to take part in the National Conference on Community Development.

Forty-eight state BOAC project winners and their advisors attended the conference. Participants attended workshop sessions and toured the nation's capital.

The highlight of the conference was the Tuesday afternoon awards ceremony held on Capitol Hill. Participants spent the morning meeting with their congressional representatives. Many congressmen accompanied the BOAC winners to the luncheon where the results of the BOAC and AIV competitions were announced.

At the conference, FFA members and advisors heard from a number of agricultural leaders, including the Honorable E. "Kika" de la Garza, chairman of the House

Committee on Agriculture; Senator Patrick Leahy, chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, nutrition and forestry; Roger Semerad, senior vice president of RJR Nabisco and president of the RJR Nabisco Foundation; Bill Hollis, past national FFA vice president and Dana Soukup, national FFA president. •••

The BOAC program is sponsored by RJR Nabisco Foundation, Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



Advisor Larry Watson helps 1989 AIV winner Jenny Pratt with her new jacket as Dana Soukup and the Honorable Kika de la Garza watch.



Odie Dowse, left, and Daren Jones roto-till around the young trees that the Flagler, Colorado, FFA Chapter planted as a "living snowfence."

## Agriculture's New Professionals

# Commodity Marketing

By Andrew Markwart

**I**t's the darn middleman who's making all the money in agriculture today!" Farmers huddled together in coffee shops around the country have muttered those words for as long as anyone can remember.

When corn producers hear the statistics about how "only two cents worth of corn go into a box of cornflakes," it's natural for them to get a little ruffled – the farmer has done most of the work, right?

But what if there were no cornflakes? And what would happen if there wasn't a futures market that kept corn from taking wild price swings?

Steve Kahler is a middleman. He has studied the trade diligently in college and has begun his journey into a career area filled with possibilities.

Kahler, 22, is a senior at the University of Minnesota majoring in agribusiness administration. While most college students don't bother with the business world until after graduation, Kahler just couldn't wait.

In February 1988, Kahler began trading grain on the Minnesota Grain Exchange through a broker. In June he leased a membership with the Exchange, which enables him to make transactions in the trading pits. The advantage, he says, is that when it's time to buy or sell a futures contract, "you make a split-second decision and the only delay is in your arms and hands."

His dealings with commodity futures trading began when he was a sophomore at Sherburn High School. Kahler was introduced to the system by his agriculture teacher, Robert Roesler, who taught futures markets and hedging in class.

That same year he decided to raise 18 head of cattle for his Supervised Occupational Experience Program. By the time he was a senior in 1984, he owned 65 head of heifers and was watching the markets. "I went to our local commodities broker and learned a little bit about hedging – how it worked, how you sold a futures contract and how this protected you," recalls Kahler.

About a month later he felt the futures prices had peaked and sold a contract in the feeder cattle market. This meant he



Photo by Author

**Steve Kahler trades futures contracts on the Minnesota Grain Exchange.**

guaranteed that he would deliver a specific number of cattle at a specific place on a specific day in return for a specific amount of money. A few weeks after he sold the future's contract, the market started taking a nose-dive.

According to Kahler, "August futures on feeder cattle were trading right up around \$72 a pound and they dropped all the way down to a low of \$51. For every dollar that market dropped, I gained \$440."

He played out his "hedge" by buying his contract back, at a much lower price, which released him from any obligation to actually deliver the cattle. The same day he sold the cattle at the local stockyards. By doing this, the former FFA member made \$8,000 more profit than if he had sold the cattle at the cash market value only. He was 17 at the time.

Kahler admits there was a bit of beginners luck involved with his first trade. "I was lucky that the market did what I expected it to do," he cautions. "People need to understand that there is real risk involved here."

Trading contracts on the Grain Exchange floor is a big jump from selling

one feeder cattle contract, but it didn't happen overnight. Kahler literally got his foot in the door at the Grain Exchange when he worked for a year giving tours and seminars to visitors. During that time, he gave tours to over 7,000 guests ranging from 7- to 80-years-old. He was also writing a market report called "MGE Trading Trends" that was sent to farmers,

elevators, brokers and foreign trade ambassadors that gave an overview of what the market had been doing. These jobs enabled Kahler to "learn a lot about futures markets before I got into trading."

As a "speculator," which is someone who buys and sells futures contracts in order to make a profit, Kahler has traded nearly a million bushels of grain since he began, averaging about 30,000 bushel per week. In Minneapolis, he trades hard red spring wheat futures contracts on the floor. He also trades corn and soybean contracts through a broker at the Chicago Board of Trade.

Kahler says that although speculators make a profit from price fluctuations in the markets, they also play an important role in accepting a large amount of risk, a major element in the futures markets. ●●

---

***You make a split-second decision and the only delay is in your arms and hands.***

---

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# Unlocking the Secrets of Plant Breeding

Mark McCully combines an interest in science and agriculture to find new solutions to problems in the seed corn industry

**M**ost farmers look at a stalk of corn and see little more than livestock feed or grain to sell for cash.

When Mark McCully looks at a corn plant, he sees new challenges to conquer. Soon enough, this 18-year-old FFA member from Varna, Illinois, will begin to ponder: how can we increase yields? How can we better insure pollination? How can we build a better corn plant?

Such are the visions of an up-and-coming plant breeder, agronomist, and scientist — all areas where McCully excels, and areas where he hopes to someday work. His interest in science has already paid off for seed corn growers. His pollination delay science project could help seedsmen solve a problem that has puzzled them each spring when dealing with seed corn production.

Left to Mother Nature, the male corn plant in some hybrids will shed pollen about five days before the female inbred plant can accept it. Traditionally, seedsmen will plant the male seed inbreds five days later than the female inbreds, then hope the two plants achieve pollination.

This strategy works well enough, explains McCully, but it still involves risk. "If heavy rains or some other weather condition would delay planting of the male seed by more than six or seven days, a severe reduction in pollination could occur," he says. That's because the male pollen release would come too late.

"In a severe situation, the end result could be the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars," he says. That would translate to higher costs for seed, higher costs to farmers, and potentially higher food costs for U.S. consumers.

After two years of much research, McCully discovered a way to delay pollination among corn plants so that seedsmen would face less risk in production of seed. He found that the growth regulator ethephon, which goes by the brand

name Cerone, would delay growth of the male plant if applied in the right proportion about five days before tassel emergence — the critical point when pollination occurs.

McCully's project is still in the experimental stage. He's working on how to isolate the spray from the female plants and avoid stunted plant growth. But the

experiment itself was a success by any standard.

"The less money it takes the companies to raise the seed, the cheaper it will be available to the farmer," explains McCully. "As a farmer, you wouldn't have to face the possibility of a jack in prices, because this will help make the seed industry more stable in producing seed."

McCully's ideas stirred the interest of Lynn Griffith, president of Griffith Seed Co., McNabb, Illinois. He was so impressed he allowed the student to conduct his experiments on plots featuring two of the company's inbred lines. "The project Mark is pursuing could provide some very beneficial information to the hybrid seed corn industry," says Griffith.

## Corn is King

Both farmers and agribusinessmen like Griffith, depend on enterprising young people like McCully to improve crop profitability. Even with government set-aside programs, last spring U.S. farmers planted 72 million acres of corn, making it by far the country's most abundant crop.

Not surprisingly, McCully was reared on a farm smack in the middle of the nation's cornbelt. He began his agricultural experience program with five head of Polled Hereford cattle, 10 acres of corn and 5 acres of oats, expanding the next year with another 10 acres of hay. By his senior year he was raising 16 head of cattle, 16 acres of corn and 24 acres of hay.

Throughout that time he has worked on science projects that relate to agriculture.

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***"The project Mark is pursuing could provide some very beneficial information to the hybrid seed corn industry." — Griffith***

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"I've been doing science projects since I was in the seventh grade, and they've all dealt with corn," says McCully, a member of the Mid-County FFA Chapter at Mid-County High School. "I think when I started out I was more interested in the farm angle. They were a lot more practical, things like solar grain drying."

McCully wasn't looking for awards when he began the pollination delay experiment. All he wanted was to learn — a point made clear by the fact that he even attempted this particular experiment. When Mark first discussed his idea with University of Illinois agronomist Dr. Fred Below, he was told it was doubtful he would find an agent that would delay pollination. Dr. Below recommended a more "safe," guaranteed experiment.

By then, though, McCully was convinced of the experiment's value. The rest, as they say, is history. This summer he was named Star Farmer of Illinois and competed nationally in the FFA's Agriscience Student Recognition program. He earned top honors at the Illinois Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, then won first place in the Botany category at the National Junior Science & Humanities Symposium. That award earned him a trip to London for the International Youth Science Fortnight.

"Almost all my judges have commented on the fact that they liked this project because it showed a problem, I researched it, came up with the solution, and now it can be applied to solve that problem," he says.

His project was also featured at last month's National Agricultural Career Show held in conjunction with the 1989 National FFA Convention in Kansas City.

### **FFA Means Agriculture — and Science**

McCully says he likes the FFA's new emphasis on science as it relates to agriculture. "I think science and agriculture is a good mix," he says.

That mixture may be the key to FFA's survival. McCully thinks high school agriculture enrollments are decreasing because stricter college requirements, some emphasizing the sciences, are tying up all the classtime of college bound agriculture students — making agriculture one of the first classes they drop.

"Vocational agriculture is a good class to take but if there's no room in your schedule it's the first thing to go," says McCully, who plans to transfer to the

University of Illinois after two years of junior college. "And I think a lot of counselors think that way."

McCully speaks from experience. He chose to drop a math class as a junior because he did not want to drop agriculture class. "So I ended up with only three years of math, which I may regret," he says.

"Schools would have to alter curriculum slightly, but having ag classes count

for science credit would be one way to boost enrollments," he says.

"In agriculture we cover science as far as soils, chemicals, plant science, but we also do mechanics and surveying. To make that a science credit it would have to be centered around soils and chemicals, a little genetics, and possibly some horticulture," he concludes. ...



**Mark McCully used a growth regulating spray on the male corn plants so they would be ready for pollination at the same time as the female plants.**

# A View From Atlantis

**Shuttle Astronaut Mark Lee says agriculturalists need to consider what is happening to Earth's environment**

*By Michelle Domangue*

**W**hen Mark Lee orbited the Earth last May, his observations were perhaps a little different from those of other astronauts. His connection to agriculture made him sensitive, in a special way, to what he saw — clear evidence of countries burning off their forests, causing land erosion, depletion of the ozone layer and atmospheric changes.

Lee, a 37-year-old astronaut and U.S. Air Force major, made his first trip into space aboard the shuttle Atlantis. On that mission, he was assigned to launch the spacecraft probe Magellan. The satellite will eventually orbit the planet Venus and, through radar technology, collect detailed information about our

neighboring planet.

Originally from Viroqua, Wisconsin, Lee grew up on a milk ranch surrounded by dairy farms. After graduating from high school, he earned a couple of engineering degrees, trained as an Air Force pilot and took military assignments around the globe. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) selected him as an astronaut candidate in 1984 and assigned him as a mission specialist the next year.

His activities now focus mainly on the U.S. space program but Lee's other interests include raising cattle and farming. He and his wife, Deirdre, recently bought land in his home state where they are starting an Angus herd. The logo for their operation, Astro Angus Farms, features an Angus bull riding into space—atop a shuttle.

One of Lee's tasks last May was to deploy the spacecraft Magellan, designed to radar-map the surface of Venus. Magellan's mission is "to tell whether or not there are rivers, volcanoes, valleys, hills, like we have here," he explains. "Venus is almost the same size as Earth, but the atmosphere is 90 times our atmospheric pressure, and it's 900 degrees Fahrenheit. So we're trying to understand why the Earth is so perfect, and why Venus is so much different."

He wonders if Venus' forbidding conditions hold any predictions for us. "We're trying to just see if Venus is similar, or not," he continues. "They talk about Venus having a runaway greenhouse effect."

No one's saying Earth will end up with exactly the same conditions as Venus has, Lee adds. "But if we don't take care of our planet — if we burn up all the forests, and if we don't take care of the rivers — we'll have a hard time supporting the population we have, from an agricultural standpoint."

Lee's concerns stem from a deep love for the land, especially the beautiful, rolling hills where he grew up. "I'm not an environmentalist," he claims. "I think of the environment more from the standpoint of how beautiful the land is back in my home town...and how



much I enjoy working on the land."

He also thinks about "the fact that we could have climate changes, such as droughts or increase in the temperature of the Earth, from all these other things that are going on," he adds. He's concerned that these changes "could destroy that ecosystem that has seemed to work very well over the years."

From aboard the shuttle, when "you look down and you see what's happening to countries, from the standpoint of space, you get concerned about the survival of the planet in the long term," he says. "But in the short term, there's certain things that we can do around the country, and encourage...(others to do), so that we don't destroy our environment."

Like planting trees, for instance. "Over the last couple of years, I've planted 20,000 trees on my land," he says. "And I intend on planting some more." Scientists say that large scale clearing of forests poses a serious threat, since plants and trees take in carbon dioxide and turn it back into oxygen.

Another positive step for those involved in agriculture is to take the time to understand the effects of pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals they use, he says. He gives the example of DDT, which many producers used in the past. It did its job, Lee points out, but the now-banned pesticide also damaged the environment and threatened human health. "I think we need to understand a little bit more about what's

happening" when we fertilize or treat for weeds or insects, he adds.

Though Lee grew up in an agricultural area, he wasn't involved firsthand as a youngster. So now, "I'm basically learning the ropes," he says. "Since I wasn't in FFA, I'm learning it as an adult." His involvement is part-time at the moment, but he dreams of making it his main occu-



**Lee was the youngest member of the Atlantis crew last May, earning him the "Maggot" nickname.**

pation after he retires from the military.

It's hard to imagine two more different interests than space exploration and agriculture. But ranching was obviously on Lee's mind while he circled the globe last spring.

On the mission, each astronaut can take a few personal items on board; among those Lee chose was an *Angus Journal* cover. While the astronauts were giving a tour of the cabin, via television, to the folks back home, "I showed a picture of that cow and I said, 'Now let me say hello to all the farmers. One of your own is up here.'"

Since then, he's been getting more and more requests to speak to agricultural groups, like the National Junior Angus Show in Louisville, Kentucky, last July, to whom he presented mementoes of the flight. Some of the winners in competition there even received association patches that flew with Lee into space.

Though he's not as involved in agriculture as he hopes to become, he seems to feel a real kinship with farmers. "I think farmers naturally have an affinity for the land, and I certainly do," he says. That's probably the one area that we have a little bit in common; a desire to maintain the land properly."

## Space Program Spinoffs For Agriculture

Could research from the U.S. space program benefit agriculture?

It already has, through "spinoffs" of technology, or secondary use of know-how developed for space exploration. The space program has led to improvements in public safety, health and medicine, industry and even agriculture.

Take agricultural spraying, for instance. The Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, a NASA field center, studied agricultural aviation for 10 years to help solve the problem of chemical drift.

When a crop duster sprays a field with fertilizer, insecticide or other material, this chemical can "drift" beyond the target area. Such drift has caused concern for two major reasons: environmental effect of chemical going where it wasn't meant to go (like over people or wildlife habitat), and cost of wasting expensive chemicals.

As in so many NASA spinoffs, help came in the form of computer information. According to *Spinoff*, A NASA publication, "Langley's investigations involved studies of aircraft wake and how the wake affects chemical dispersal patterns." The goal was to show how a plane or its spray equipment could be redesigned to get the chemical where it was meant to go — and only there.

But that's just one example of how information gained in the space program has led to benefits here on Earth.

New designs for poultry houses, using solar heating, came out of research at the University of Georgia's Agricultural Engineering Department. That research, in turn, relied upon a computer model originally developed for aerospace design.

The idea is to mathematically analyze a design — before it's built. Computers have been used in this way to analyze the best design for agribusiness structures: for containers that provide the optimum growing environment for nursery plants; and even for ways to best store harvested vegetables.



**Astronaut Mark Lee is a mission specialist in the space shuttle program.**

# Making the Trade

FFA members and chapters are trading commodities in a new marketing contest



High school agriculture instructor Dion Harste helps Tate Doom of Marshall, Minnesota, plot points on a chart that tracks price changes in the soybean futures market.

Photo by Author

By Andrew Markwart

Somewhere around the noon hour, if you turn on most AM radio stations in America, you will hear a familiar chatter that millions of people listen to, but few understand.

"December corn is up one-half at two-forty-one a bushel," chants The Voice of the Farm Market Report, "November beans a penny higher at five-sixty-seven and one half..." During this daily ritual of the airwaves, the vast majority of listeners concentrate more on making lunch than the mumbo-jumbo coming over the speaker.

But there is smaller, more dedicated group of listeners, who sit at the kitchen table and scribble down those numbers as though they were the combination to a bank vault. In a way, that's exactly what those numbers are.

This is the world of commodity trading, where a heavy rain in Brazil or a trade agreement with Japan has as much impact on a farmer's profit as the amount of nitrogen he just applied to his corn crop.

Those numbers being rattled off represent change in the commodity futures markets. This year, FFA members from Illinois, Oklahoma and Minnesota are using those numbers to help them make trading decisions in a new contest called

"The Simulated Commodity Marketing Activity."

The activity is designed to help FFA members and agriculture students understand that risk is a natural ingredient in the business of agricultural production that can be managed through commodity marketing. By taking part in the contests, they learn how to manage risk and maximize profits.

There are two levels of competition in the activity. The first level uses the Chicago Board of Trade's "The Commodity Challenge." It is designed for both farm and non-farm students who know nothing or very little about commodity marketing.

Competition is based on individual projects. Students pick one commodity traded on the Chicago Board of Trade and follow it for a specific amount of time. The student then submits a report that explains why the prices moved as they did based on weather, international and national news, supply and demand and any other information that affected the commodity.

Each state-winning student will receive

a \$50 savings bond. A national winner and his or her advisor will receive an all-expense paid trip to Chicago to attend the Chicago Board of Trade's National Award Winners' Conference in July.

## A Deeper Understanding

The second level involves the simulated marketing of farm products—corn, soybeans, wheat, fed hogs and fed cattle. Teams of students will actually call a commodity broker, the Stewart-Peterson Advisory Group, to place "mock" orders and trades. They will base their decision on real-world information and current commodity prices.

This contest is aimed at students from farms who want to learn how to use commodity markets and non-farm students interested in marketing careers. Teams consist of 3-6 students and each school may have up to three teams.

The final score for the trading competition is based on how much profit a team made trading their commodities between October 30 and December 15 and a written test, given in January, to measure what the students learned about commodity marketing during the activity.

Each state winning team will receive a \$300 scholarship. There will be no national awards.

Both contests are being tested right now in Illinois, Oklahoma and for a second year in Minnesota. Next year, the activity sponsors and the National FFA Organization hope to roll out the activity to 10 more states.

As the contest catches on, agriculture teachers who have not paid much attention to commodity marketing in the past are having to take a crash-course in futures trading to keep ahead of the class. According to Dion Harste, an agriculture instructor who conducted the contest in Marshall, Minnesota last year, "Some of the teachers were learning a day ahead of the students."

Harste is a firm believer that teaching commodity marketing is a must in today's economy. "Commodity marketing affects everyone, whether they know it or not," he explains. "For the farmer it's the difference in how much profit he makes; for the consumer, it's reflected in the price of their food. Name me something that's more important and I'll teach it."

The activity is being co-sponsored by the Stewart-Peterson Advisory Group, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Chicago Board of Trade as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.





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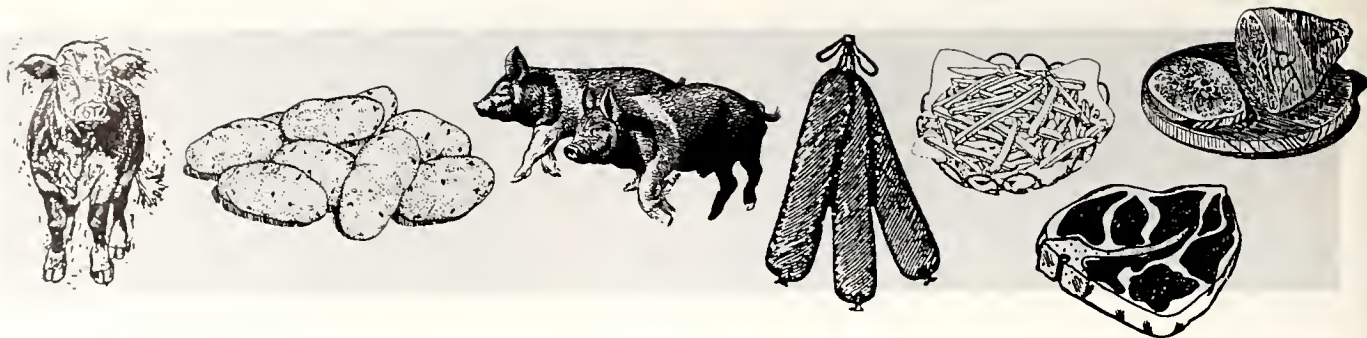
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# Everybody Wins with Value-Added Farm Products

**There's money to be made by taking that raw commodity just one more step**

**S**uppose you owned a bushel of corn and you wanted to sell it. You could probably get about two dollars for that corn — if you're lucky.

Now, suppose you take that bushel of corn and process it into corn chips, or corn sweeteners for soft drinks. Suddenly, your bushel of corn is worth four, five, or six times that much.

That's the basic idea behind the term, "value-added" farm products. It's a concept that is gaining in popularity all across the country — particularly among farmers and agribusiness entrepreneurs who come up with a good idea and find a way to cash-in on that idea.

U.S. farmers have achieved considerable success producing (and selling overseas) bulk, low value farm commodities. These traditional farm products include wheat, corn, and soybeans.

Yet, when those raw commodities are "processed," they attain extra value and provide a positive chain reaction for everyone involved.

Some examples of "value-added" have been around a long time. When corn is fed to livestock such as beef or pork, the grain gains in value because it is being processed through another farm commodity. Value-added meat products benefit not only livestock producers but also grain producers, feed manufacturers, and the thousands of men and women who are employed in packing and transporting meat and livestock.

Other examples are more trendy. Some farmers are growing grain and instead of selling it to the elevator, they are processing it into crackers, corn chips, or other

delicacies, then selling them. The products are worth more and the income stays in the local economy, instead of being passed along to some large corporate "middleman."

Branded beef is another example. Today, some small, independent livestock producers have discovered special needs and desires among consumers. They began producing beef for those markets, and labeling and marketing the products independently. Some are producing meat grown a special way — without growth promotants, or chemicals, for example — and selling it under a special label to this particular group of consumers.

## ***Finding a "Niche"***

That group of consumers is called a "niche" market. In this case, it may be people who are young and health-conscious, who can afford to pay a little more for this special type of food.

Figuring out who makes up a "niche" market is vitally important to the success of the value-added concept. "The market is a very important thing to have upfront," says Richard Hahn, director of the Kansas Value Added Center in Kansas. "You need to make sure that your product has a market and will meet the needs of the marketplace," he says.

That can be determined, for example, by surveying people to see what kinds of products they would be interested in buying.

But if recent history is any clue, starting and maintaining your own branded beef business can be difficult for small-time entrepreneurs. Dr. Russell Cross, a

professor of Animal Science at Texas A & M, says six or seven years ago there were 50 or more labeled beef products on the market. Only a handful of those have remained in business. "They were underfinanced and inexperienced at developing brand recognition," he points out.

"Branded beef is a good way to transmit value to the marketplace. Unfortunately we haven't had very many success stories," he adds.

What will it take for an entrepreneur to succeed in the branded beef arena? "More money, more marketing expertise, more consistent product flow. We've got to get competitive in price," Cross says.

## ***Communities Benefit***

Many positive things can happen when an entrepreneur finds success with a new, value-added product, says Richard Hahn.

"Many communities have economic development programs that try to encourage and support these efforts in rural areas," says Hahn, a 35-year veteran from the grain processing industry.

"To me, value-added is defined as anything you do to an agricultural commodity or raw material that increases its value, either to a producer, to a consumer, or to a middleman processor," says Hahn.

"This whole movement of entrepreneurship and small business is growing in the U.S. Now it is just beginning to move over into agriculture as a mechanism for improving the overall status and profitability of agriculture."

Hahn says there are no typical ex-

*(Continued on Page 33)*

# Mixed Emotions

**The 62nd National FFA Convention was a roller-coaster ride of excitement and frustration**

*By Andrew Markwart*

**S**miles, laughter, crying, staring. You get a sense of how important an event is by reading people's faces. Shock, jubilation, satisfaction—they are all communicated through one frozen moment that says, "This is intense, this is special, this is something to remember."

The true picture of the 62nd National FFA Convention was painted on the faces of thousands of FFA members during the unpredictable days of November 9-11 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Most of the 23,873 faces at convention featured a pair of wide eyes as Kansas City once again turned blue and gold.

There were, however, 113 faces that looked tired and worn. They had worked hard during the day and had been up until the wee hours of the morning lobbying and debating; trying to preserve a unified National FFA Organization. These were the convention delegates.

By Saturday morning their eyes were bloodshot and watery from the late-night meetings. It had taken three days of heated debate to pass an amendment that will change the number of convention delegates for future conventions and how those delegates will go about their business. What might sound like dry politics was actually an emotional wrestling match for these state representatives.

## *The Great Debate*

Debate began Wednesday during the delegate business session. The original amendment to the FFA constitution would have provided for two convention delegate representatives for each state plus an additional delegate for every 1,000 additional members in that state. That would bring the total number of convention delegates to 474, based on 1989 state memberships.

The "one per 1,000" amendment was amended to "one per 2,000," defeated, reconsidered and debated for hours. States with large numbers of members claimed they were currently not being represented fairly when it came time to make decisions affecting the national organization. States with small numbers of members said they would get lost in the shuffle with so many delegates from the bigger states.

Mental fatigue set in. No final decision had been made. In a move to study the amendment further, delegates decided to take the issue up again on Friday night.

By Friday night, little had changed. Again, the delegates were engulfed in heated debate. Shortly after 1:00 a.m. Saturday morning, a vote was taken on the "one per 1,000" version of the amendment. It was defeated. At that point, the Texas delegation left the special delegate meeting, followed by a large crowd of Texas supporters.

According to Jeff Rash, Texas state president, the decision to leave the session was not an easy one. After the vote, "it just

Photos by Author except where noted



Debbye Turner, Miss America 1990, cut the ceremonial ribbon opening the National Agricultural Career Show with the help of, left to right, national officers Brad Chambliss, Jeff Johnson, Dana Soukup and Warren Boerger.

Convention delegates Brenda Potts, North Dakota, and Timothy Keller, Ohio, show signs of fatigue and frustration during Wednesday's debate on delegate reapportionment. Many hours were yet to be spent on the issue.



hurt," he said. "We debated among ourselves whether it was going to look juvenile or not. We needed to show (the delegates) that this was serious. We wanted it to hit home." To some, this indicated that Texas was leaving the National FFA Organization.

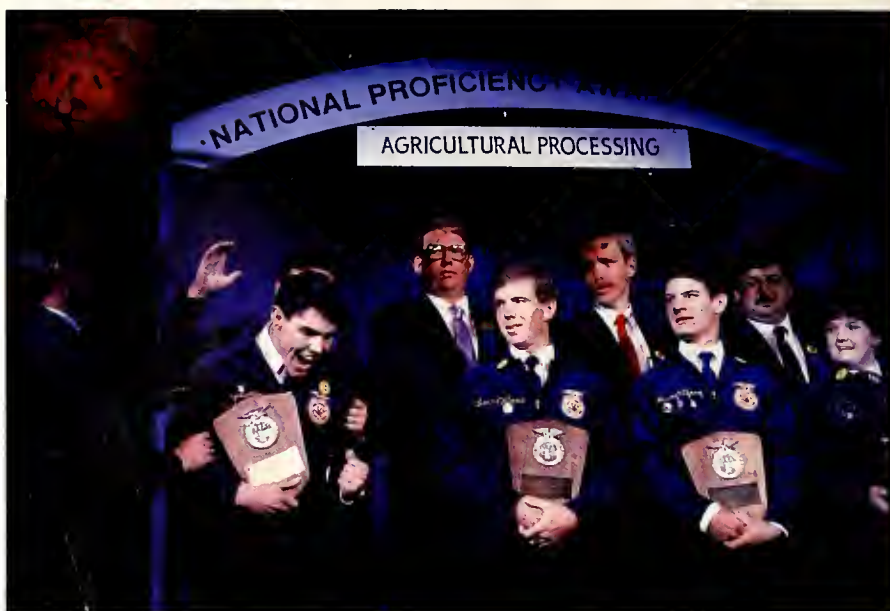
After the session was adjourned, the delegates met informally well into the early hours of Saturday morning, refusing to accept their current, strained situation.

Just after the conclusion of the Saturday morning convention session, the amendment was again brought up on the delegate floor for a final time. This time there were no long debates. The amendment was reconsidered, amended to "one delegate per 2,000 members" and passed, all by secret ballot, and with virtually no discussion.

Beginning with the 1990 national convention, approximately 272 delegates will represent their respective states based on the number of members in each state.

Even with the amendment passing at the "one per 2,000" level, Rash says the delegates from his state were locked into voting "yes" on the "one per 1,000" amendment, and "no" on any other compromises. That was decided by 1,500 delegates at his state convention last summer. "We serve as representatives (of our state) and we do what they tell us to do," said Rash. "They told us not to compromise. We couldn't go back on our word."

**Star Farmer of America Jay Overton of Pond Creek, Oklahoma, left, and Star Agribusinessman of America David Tometich of Muscatine, Iowa, will join the six regional stars for a tour of Europe in the spring of 1990.**



**Jason Coddington of Kinsburg, California, hears his name called as the national Agricultural Processing proficiency award winner. Looking on are, left to right, regional winners Tim Williams, Johnny Nifong, Judy Brendle and their advisors.**

After the events of Friday night, the Texas delegation did not vote on the amendment Saturday morning.

When asked what his state plans to do now, Rash replied, "We're going to go back and present to all 10 areas in the state of Texas what has happened here."

Adding to the complexity to the situation, Donnell Brown, former Texas state

president, was named national FFA president on Saturday afternoon.

Personally, Rash said, "I have mixed emotions. I don't know whether to be scared or afraid or stand strong for what I believe...or be upset or mad or hurt. I don't know which to feel."

And after all the heated debate, Rash says the delegates hold no grudges. "I ate a hundred pizzas this week with other people who were completely against me. I love them all. I've made some of the best friends I'll ever have in this room today, even though they disagreed with me on something that means so much to me."

One of the most vocal opponents of the amendment was Jon Brekke, president of the Minnesota FFA Association.

He didn't like the way the final amendment was presented. "Today we compromised with a threat and I don't know if that is good for our organization."

Brekke said his initial concern about the amendment "was that we were going from one extreme to another extreme in one step." He said he felt that the new system did not offer nearly as many benefits to the smaller states compared to the number of delegates the larger states would receive.

He says that he was concerned that "if this amendment passes there is no turning back. You can review it all you want in two years down the road, but the people who will have control over whether or not to get rid of this system will have the most delegates."

Brekke said that ultimately, he and other FFA leaders will work toward making the new system a success. "I don't



**Hall of Fame quarterback Terry Bradshaw energized the convention audience with his fiery brand of humor.**

agree with it, but we're going to live with it and we're going to move on," he said.

Another amendment to the FFA Constitution that passed pertains to the American FFA Degree. The amendment will do away the present quota system that limits the number of degrees each state can receive. It will also increase the requirements for the degree, but members will not be affected by the number of other qualified members in their state.

Through passage of a final amendment, FFA membership will be extended to members traveling on FFA international programs. It is the same waiver extended to those members serving in the armed services.

The delegates also approved revised wording of Official FFA Ceremonies, that replaced outdated words and phrases.

### **Top Winners**

Each year, the top award winners in FFA are announced at convention. Jay Overton, Pond Creek, Oklahoma was named Star Farmer of America and David Tometich, Muscatine, Iowa, is Star Agribusinessman of America.

Krista Fritz, Poland, Indiana, captured the Prepared Public Speaking contest with her speech, "Farm Animals or Food Machines?" The Extemporaneous Speaking contest was won by Jenny Thomas, Bodfish, California. Her speech was entitled, "Science and Technology: Creating A New Era in Agriculture."

Winner of the Agriscience Student Recognition Program is Linda Mastin, Puyallup, Washington. She discovered that a local yeast plant by-product could be used as a feed additive. The 1989 Agriscience Teacher of the Year is Elizabeth Wilson, Durham, North Carolina.

Mark Pleis, Fairbank, Iowa, is the national winner of the Computers in Agriculture award. He operates his own



**The National FFA Chorus gave talented members a chance to step into the spotlight and seize their "one moment in time."**

software company as well as applying his computer skills to the family dairy farm.

A total of 698 American FFA Degrees were presented to a elite group of members who have excelled in their FFA projects and activities.

### **Speakers**

An exciting lineup of speakers addressed this year's convention. Terry Bradshaw, NFL Hall of Fame quarterback, entertained the crowd with his accounts of how he made it in pro football through dedication. William Bennett, director of the Office of National Drug Policy, spoke about the destructive effect drugs are having on the United States.

Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter emphasized the importance of developing a demand for American agri-

**National FFA Contests, such as the Agricultural Mechanics Contest, were held throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area on Thursday.**



**In his first year as national band director, William Moffit charged the musicians and the audience with spirited personality.**

cultural products overseas. Robert Swan, an explorer who has traveled to both the North Pole and South Pole, asked FFA members to think about the impact human beings are having on the environment.

Motivational speakers Ty Boyd, Mamie McCullough and Charles Duke, a former Apollo astronaut, spoke about the advantages of a positive attitude and how that leads to achievement.

### Convention News

Nicholas Babson, 1989 FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board chairman, announced that the National FFA Foundation had raised a record \$3.72 million in 1989 for FFA activities and programs. The announcement was made Thursday night of the convention, an evening that featured a dazzling laser show sponsored by ICI Americas.

Another fundraising event, the FFA Alumni Auction, raised over \$33,000 to support the FFA. The largest item, a 1990 Silverado four-wheel-drive pickup truck donated by Chevrolet Motor Division, was purchased by Don and Dean Ramsey, Jones, Oklahoma, for \$17,000.

The auction was held at the end of the Alumni Convention where Josiah Phelps, Fort Valley, Georgia, was elected national Alumni president. The Alumni sponsored popular leadership workshops featuring past national officers.

The national FFA magazine's new name, *FFA New Horizons*, was officially revealed during the convention's opening session, just after the national officers received the first FFA jackets with the new emblems featuring the words, "Agricultural Education."

For more news about the 62nd National FFA Convention, see a copy of the *Convention Proceedings* and set of *FFA Times* newspapers that were mailed to each chapter at the end of the convention.

**Shane A. Belohrad, Leigh, Nebraska, left, and Bonnie Kay Haws, Portage, Ohio, are the first American Royal Ambassadors. The new program emphasizes academics and leadership skills.**



# 72 Hours



Photo by Jason DeMoe, Perrydale, Oregon



Photo by Jason DeMoe, Perrydale, Oregon



Photo by Alan Waters, Daleville, Alabama



Photo by Corey Flournoy, Chicago Ag Sciences, Illinois

# in Kansas City



Photo by Daniel Pederson, Whitehall, Wisconsin

In an attempt to capture what goes on with FFA members "behind the scenes" during national FFA convention, *FFA New Horizons* distributed rolls of black and white film to 50 unsuspecting, camera-toting FFA members.

Their challenge was to photograph convention and life in Kansas City for three days, or 72 hours, just the way they saw it. The results were spectacular. The winning photos seen here were judged by the *FFA New Horizons* editorial and design staff.

Along with having their photograph printed here, the contest winners will receive a print of their winning photo, signed by the editors of *FFA New Horizons*.

Congratulations to all the winners and all the members who "gave it a shot!"



Photo by Roger Dunn, Fulton County, Kentucky



Photo by Sharla Reed, Couch, Missouri



Photo by Chad Cummings, Worthington, Minnesota



Photo by Basil Wallace, Lakeland, Indiana



Photographer unknown

# National Officers Elected

**D**uring the closing moments of the 62nd National FFA Convention, a lighted torch of leadership was passed from Dana Soukup to Donnell Brown of Throckmorton, Texas. The torch represents the transition of leadership and responsibility to a new generation of officers.

## **Donnell Brown President**

Donnell Brown, 20, of Throckmorton, Texas, served as state, area and chapter president. He has participated in many leadership conferences, extemporaneous speaking and judging contests.

Brown's Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) program uses the latest technological advances, such as embryo transfer, in raising registered beef cattle. He also has a large quarter horse operation.

Brown is a sophomore majoring in animal business at Texas Tech University. Like his fellow officers, Brown will take a one-year leave of absence from college to travel more than 200,000 miles making hundreds of appearances representing the FFA. Brown plans to join the family's farming operation after college.

## **Scott Crouch Secretary**

Scott Crouch, 20, of Cicero, Indiana, has served as state secretary, district secretary and president, and treasurer and president of the Tipton FFA Chapter. He participated in public speaking, agricultural judging, and community service.

Crouch's SAE includes swine production and horse management. He also worked as a program assistant for the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service and as a broadcaster for WEWZ

radio. Crouch attends Purdue University where he is carrying a dual major in agricultural education and community development. He hopes to attend graduate school to become an administrator for a school system or government agency.

## **Bill Henricksen Central Region Vice President**

Bill Henricksen, 21, of DeWitt, Iowa, served as state vice president and has held offices on the chapter and district levels. He has participated in numerous leadership workshops, agricultural sales and job interview leadership contests, as well as judging contests and proficiency award competitions.

For his SAE, Henricksen operates the 368-acre family farm. With a minimum of hired help, he runs the entire operation from planting and harvesting to purchasing all inputs for the entire farming operation. Henricksen is a junior majoring in agricultural business at Iowa State University. He plans a career in agribusiness.

## **Dan Schroer Eastern Region Vice President**

Dan Schroer, 20, of New Bremen, Ohio, served as state president and sectional vice president. He has participated in prepared and extemporaneous public speaking contests, skills contests and leadership workshops.

Schroer's SAE includes work experience at ABN Radio & Television, Ohio State Fair, Ohio Department of Education, Agricultural Education Service and placement on several area farms. He also had a fruit and vegetable production enterprise. Schroer is a sophomore majoring in agricultural education and agricultural



**The 1989-90 National Officers are, above, left to right; Brad Lewis, Dan Schroer, Bill Henricksen, and Casey Isom, and below, Scott Crouch, and Donnell Brown.**

economics at The Ohio State University. He plans to become a high school agricultural instructor.

## **Brad Lewis Southern Region Vice President**

Brad Lewis, 21, of Elkmont, Alabama, served as state president, district president and district reporter. He has also held the offices of chapter reporter and student advisor and been a participant in leadership workshops, public speaking contests and dairy contests.

Lewis' SAE included agricultural construction and maintenance and agricultural electrification. During high school, he worked for a construction company that specialized in the building of farm homes, barns stables and machine shops. Lewis is a junior in agricultural education at Auburn University. He plans to attend law school and pursue a career in teaching or agribusiness.

## **Casey Isom Western Region Vice President**

Casey Isom, 19, of Fruitland, Idaho, served as state president, federation president, and chapter vice president and secretary. He has also participated in leadership workshops, speaking contests and judging contests.

His SAE includes management of a cattle operation with pasture and alfalfa hay acreage. Isom is majoring in international relations at Brigham Young University. He plans to pursue a career in government foreign service. Casey is the brother of Jeff Isom, 1988-89 western region vice president. They are the first family members to hold national FFA office in successive years. ...



**Brad Lewis, Elkmont, Alabama, hears his name called as the southern region FFA vice president.**

# The Circuit.





On the circuit, 96% of the professional cowboys wear Wrangler® Cowboy Cut® jeans. And this year, more cowboys than ever are wearing our weather-resistant, stonewashed Brushpopper® shirts. Maybe they like all the new Wrangler colors and finishes. Or maybe



they just like the fact that Wrangler is the real thing, the authentic western brand endorsed by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and anyone else who won't stand still for imitations.



# Where the Deer & the Buffalo Pay

## The Holland brothers raise elk and bison in Big Sky country

By Eric Williams

**N**ot many FFA members can say Hank Williams Jr. has paid a personal visit to their supervised agricultural experience program. And it's a safe bet that Koy Holland is the only one who can claim the country-western singer asked if he could shoot part of his herd. But then, not many FFA members raise buffalo and elk, as do Koy and his older brother, Ken Holland.

Hank Jr. spends much of his time in Montana's Big Hole River Basin, near the large Holland Ranch which sits about 25 miles southwest of Dillon. He recently heard Koy planned to have three buffalo butchered and sold for meat, and Hank Jr. asked if he and two friends could use their pre-1900 rifles to down the bulls. Koy obliged.

Ken has never had a celebrity ask to thin his elk herd, but he's had some unusual transactions in an unusual business.

When the antlers on the majestic bulls are just about out of the velvet stage, Ken saws the racks off and sells them for aphrodisiacs, primarily to Korea and Japan. As a supposed sexual stimulant, the antlers bring upwards of \$50 a pound in the Orient and a big bull yields up to 30 pounds. When left to harden before coming off naturally in the fall, the antlers aren't worth as much, and sell for things like belt buckles.

Ken, a state officer in the Montana Association, once sold a mature bull elk and five heifers to a ranch in Canada. Semen from that bull is now being collected and shipped to New Zealand. Ken said Canadians want to buy more, but quarantine and other restrictions make sales northward difficult. Another bull elk was sold to a zoo-like farm for \$6,000, but unfortunately the others in the herd attacked and killed him because he was a newcomer.

Ken's practice of cutting antlers off his males serves a dual purpose; with the herd kept in small pastures, the bulls are less likely to do harm without their weapons. Ken knows his elk well enough that he can stand nearby and "agitate" the bulls and catch the cows' ears by mimicking the male bugle.

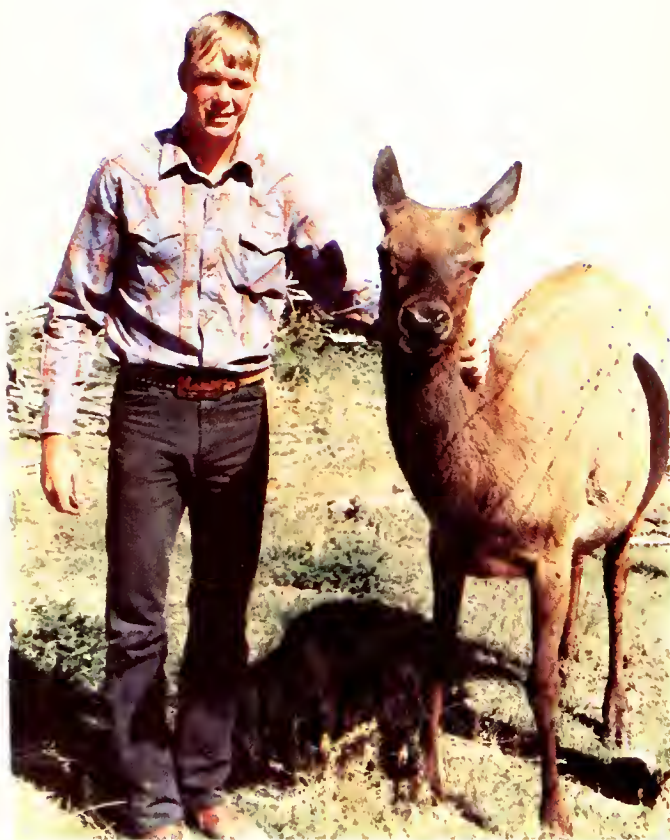
"Sometimes, I like to just come out here and study them," said Ken, who is a freshman at Western Montana College this fall. After getting his requirements out of the way, he plans to transfer and obtain a degree in wildlife management or biology. "My grandparents had elk mostly as a hobby," he added, but Ken may contemplate expanding the business later.

Ken and Koy use cattle as a reference point when explaining their projects to others. The elk are fed hay, particularly in winter, though they do graze their pastures. Buffalo get hay during winter also.

Koy said "buffalo aren't as hard on the range as cattle are, and they don't eat quite as much." He and Ken know something about range management. They were members of the 1987 championship team from the National Pasture and Range Judging Contest in Oklahoma.

Koy, a senior at Beaverhead County High School, is establishing a rest-rotation system specifically for bison, though it's been difficult to implement during a multi-year drought. Still,

*(Continued on Page 32)*



Ken Holland with Chadine, a cow elk he fed from a bottle when it was young. He plans to study wildlife management.

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Ken Holland, left, and his brother Koy, with two trophy animals.

"It's kind of fun to set up, once you know what you're doing," says Koy.

The Holland family has helped deliver a buffalo calf or two, though it's not common, and elk calve themselves. Health problems must be addressed through feed or salt medication for the elk, and salt and shots for buffalo.

"It can be a real experience" deadpanned Koy when talking about the an-

nual vaccination day. Though they receive attention, the 50 buffalo and the 20 elk aren't docile, except Chadine, a cow elk raised on a bottle. The family has raised bull elk and buffalo on bottles too, but they're no longer the type to stand and enjoy a good neckscratching like an FFA steer.

Says Verna Holland, the brothers' mother, the buffalo "will seem just fine,

then all the sudden they'll get really mad and you don't know what they'll do." The three bulls Hank Jr. and company shot were selected because they'd lost all respect for gates, and with most mature males easily exceeding a ton, that can be a problem.

"When they're between five and 10 (years), we say they're teenagers," says Chad Holland, the brothers' father, a partner in ownership. "They'll do whatever they want. But after they reach 10, they seem to settle down."

The elk, meanwhile, aren't pets either. They require eight-foot-high, woven-wire fences, but Ken said they've managed to get out a time or two and were not difficult to round up.

The Hollands gave up trying to keep one animal where he belongs, however. Chad explained how one of Koy's buffalo bulls - raised by a Hereford cow as a calf - demands to roam with the bovine herd and won't stay with the buffalo.

But his presence hasn't led to any beefalo calves for Ken and Koy's younger brother, Koby, to have another unusual project as he reaches high school.

"Not yet, anyway" said Chad. ...

# A Cowboy Is His Abilenese



amples of value-added farm products. Branded beef items are common, but he has also helped entrepreneurs develop snacks made from wheat or corn, and grape producers who convert the grapes into jams and jellies before packaging and selling them.

"Value-added means farmers growing something, converting it to something else, and selling it," he says.

FFA members have gotten involved in marketing value-added products. Scott Lee, 1989 Star Farmer of Iowa, and his family are marketing roasted, seasoned, soybeans as snack food. Their family-owned business in Inwood, Iowa is capitalizing on the health benefits of soybeans. They are low in fat and calories and contain no cholesterol.

Former eastern region Star Farmer Jeffery Simmons, Penn Yan, New York, found a market for old grape vines from

his family's vineyard; he sold up to 44 tons each year to a flower company that makes decorative wreaths. The Genoa, Ohio FFA Chapter processes 24 hogs into sausage each year. The result is 1,895 pounds of bulk and link sausage that is sold to raise funds for the chapter.

Local Control

Value-added success often has a positive impact on rural economies. As Richard Hahn points out, when businesses are owned and operated locally, decisions remain in the hands of local managers for whom the welfare of the total community, and not simply the firm's balance sheet, is likely to be important.

Meeting particular needs with specialized products lets local communities avoid reliance on minimum wage labor and escape the disadvantage of high costs of transporting goods and services to

market, he adds.

Unfortunately, some rural value-added projects won't succeed if they are located too far from the bigger, urban markets. It just depends on the products and the people who are behind them.

"An entrepreneur is a person with a vision. He has an idea for a product, for a niche market, and then proceeds to put the two together," says Hahn.

Many of the people who become value-added entrepreneurs are the farmers and ranchers who actually produce the raw farm products. But there is no set pattern.

"They are lawyers, construction workers, they come from every place," Hahn says.

"The one thing they have in common is that they are the people with the idea and the drive that makes it happen." ...

Never Without



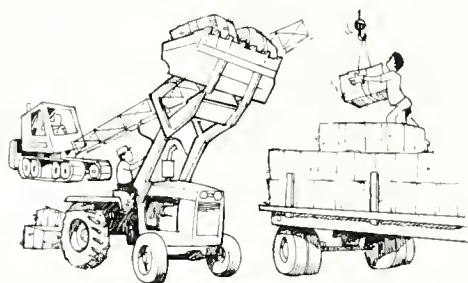
FINE  
WESTERN  
BOOTS



# CHAPTER SCOOP

Washington, Missouri, FFA is operating Deutsch Country Days again this fall as a fun-raiser. The festival will have 45 craftsmen demonstrating life skills.

Lee High FFA in Ben Hur, Virginia, was just chartered this year at state convention after the consolidation of Dryden, Pennington, Keokee, Flatwoods and Jonesville.



An Evergreen, Ohio, FFA team took second place in the annual Junior Fair Day straw loading contest.

When Melvin Jones of New Caney, Texas won first place lamb at the county fair auction, Kroger bought it for \$700. Then they donated it back to Melvin, who sold it to his parents at market price. They gave the lamb to a wildlife ranch. Melvin used the money to buy a new disc sander/grinder for the ag department.

Jon Eggleston from the Adrean, Missouri, FFA says he got the attention of his sleepy canoe partner when it overturned in the middle of the water.

First story we have received after Hurricane Hugo has come from the South Rowan, North Carolina. Chapter who spent many hours cleaning up the community and school campus after it came through their town September 22.

Foley, Alabama, members sold programs at football games to make money to send their representatives to the national convention. Highland, Arkansas, cut firewood to finance sending their delegates.

The semi-annual trail ride of the Bingham Chapter in South Jordan, Utah, is a 3-day event featuring a long ride with plenty of recreation time.

At the district fair, Kelly-Benton, Missouri, FFA won big in the field crop division with best of show for soybeans, sorghum, small grains, sunflowers, corn and best crop display. They brought home \$900 altogether.

As usual the milk and ice cream were popular stops at the Stevens Point, Wisconsin, Food For America event.

The Ephrata, Washington, FFA tried a night meeting for October and it seemed to be a good way to go. The chapter is having a combined Greenhand initiation ceremony with Quincy.

Agriculture barns of the Weatherford, Oklahoma, FFA are filled with more animals than any other year in history.

Canby, Oregon, FFA had exhibitors in dairy, beef, swine and sheep at the state fair.



The senior agriculture class from Upper Sandusky FFA traveled to London, Ohio, for the 1989 Farm Science Review. While there, each student was required to write a two-paragraph article about one of the exhibits.

An ice cream social attracted a larger than usual number of members for the summer FFA meeting of Mulhall-Orlando, Oklahoma, Chapter.

School principal Christine Hoffman attended the parent-project-potluck night of Buena Park, California, FFA.

Members of Highland FFA in Bakerville, California, will build the new land lab being funded by the state.

At their chapter banquet, Antelope, Arizona, FFA names an outstanding agribusiness firm from the community that has provided outstanding support to the chapter.



In conjunction with their landscape instructional units, the horticulture department at Fauquier High School (Fauquier FFA Chapter) was involved in Junior Patio Competition at the Virginia State Fair.

In the September issue of "The Elkhart FFA Observer," Kansas, they introduced backgrounds of the chapter officers and reported on all the summer show results of the chapter.

Ringwood, Oklahoma, FFA ran the concession stand at the threshing bee in Fairview.

Royal, Washington, Chapter's tractor driving team won at all the local fairs this summer.

The Bon Homme, South Dakota, FFA decided to sponsor a trapshoot before pheasant hunting season.

There was only 70 percent of the members present for the September meeting of the Northmor, Ohio, FFA Chapter. The officers have a goal of 90 percent which they were able to achieve last year.

Glen Rose, Texas, Chapter teams took top honors in the new state agriscience contests.

Chapter communicators should not let up on their efforts to dig up hot new ideas. Send them in any time. Send word about any great new, unusual or successful idea your chapter is using.

# Islands of Change

## Hawaii's agriculture evolves as tourism's impact is felt

**T**o Hawaiians, the word "aloha" means both hello and goodbye. Ironically, as more tourists are greeted with "aloha" as they flock to the islands, more agriculturalists are bidding "aloha" to their traditional crops and farming methods.

Tourism has become such an important industry for Hawaii that the state's agriculture is changing on many levels to adapt to the needs of the marketplace. As a result, the class offerings in the agriculture departments of many high schools are also changing.

These were the findings of Larry Case, national FFA advisor, during a tour of the Hawaiian Islands September 17-24. Case visited five high school agriculture departments after meeting with the governors of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana where he briefed them on current activities of the FFA and agricultural education on the mainland United States. Ron Buckhalt, aquaculture project coordinator, National Council for Agricultural Education, accompanied Case on the tour.

The face of Hawaiian agriculture is changing. Sugarcane has been the most

abundant and most important crop grown in Hawaii since the early 1800s. It is still the most important agricultural commodity grown in Hawaii, but because it is not as profitable as it once was, some producers are diversifying into other crops such as macadamian nuts, pineapples, coffee and grapes.

The tourists and native Hawaiian's taste for fish and seafood has driven a movement to fish and shrimp farming. Although it has had its ups and downs, the aquaculture industry in Hawaii has boomed from a \$500,000 industry in 1977 to over \$10 million today.

The demand for exotic flowers is luring some producers from fields into greenhouses. Orchids and anthuriums, "Hawaii's Heart Flower," are in demand all over the world. The small, fragrant flowers used to make Hawaii's trademark leis



**Chris Hara, FFA state secretary and Bert Tubana, state treasurer, examine anthuriums being grown in a greenhouse at Waiakea High School in Hilo, located on "The Big Island," Hawaii.**

also turn a healthy profit.

Keeping in step with these changes, high school agriculture students are seeing more ornamental horticulture, landscape and aquaculture classes being offered in place of more traditional courses.

High on the mountainsides of the island of Maui, agriculture students from Lahainaluna High School Agriculture Learning Center are raising prawns (large shrimp) and talapia (a fast-growing fish) in ponds. Profits from the sale of the talapia and prawns go back into the school's agriculture program. Plans are underway to raise trout and salmon at the school's aquaculture laboratories using the cool, fresh water from the mountains.

At Konawena High School, the agriculture students are building a one-hole golf course. According to instructor Maverick Kawamota, he is teaching the students how to build and maintain the course because, "the knowledge and experience will help graduates find positions with local resorts."

The resorts have a major impact on agriculture because many students who formerly would have worked on farms are now finding higher paying jobs at restaurants, hotels and other attractions at the resorts.

By aligning the high school agriculture courses with the demands of the tourism trade, more and more students will be saying "aloha" (hello, not good-bye) to agriculturally related jobs in Hawaii's largest growth industry.

...



**Ted Kawamura has taught for 28 years at the Lahainaluna High School Agriculture Learning Center on the island of Maui. The papaya in his hand was grown by students at the school.**

# FFA IN ACTION

.....



Locust Grove team members (left to right) are Joe Cunningham, coach; Liz Gann; Jennifer Gregory; Todd Pittman; Clay Saffell; Chris Gill, 1988-89 AJQHA president; and Jim Barton, AQHA second vice president.

Oklahoma

## No Horsing Around

Top youth horse judging teams from throughout the nation competed at the annual American Junior Quarter Horse Association World Championship Show and Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Forty teams competed in three divisions, including 19 AQHA teams, seven 4-H teams and 14 FFA teams.

Each team, comprised of four members, evaluated four halter and four performance classes. In addition, each team member provided oral reasons for his or her placings in four classes. The competition helps participants learn to evaluate horses, work under the pressure of a time limit and present impromptu speeches.

In the FFA division, the Locust Grove, Oklahoma team won first place in the halter and reasons categories to capture first place overall. Liz Gann, Jennifer Gregory, Clay Saffell and Todd Pittman earned 1,664 points under the coaching of Joe Cunningham. Saffell earned 559 points and the high-point individual award.

The Grady, New Mexico FFA team finished in second place with 1,648 points and also won first place in the performance division. Rounding out the top five overall FFA teams were Atascadero, California, with 1,637 points; Portales, New Mexico, with 1,621 points; and John Marshall, Texas, with 1,607 points.

Ohio

## The Plots Thicken

The Oak Harbor, Ohio, FFA members along with Advisor Damschroder participated in a special field day offered by Mr. Ron Pfeiffer on September 27, 1989.

While on the Pfeiffer Farm, Mr. Pfeiffer talked to the students about soil compaction, soil conditioners, soil organism activators, plant growth structures, growth inhibitors for plants, fertilizer application, foliar application of nutrients for

proper plant types and fertilizer inhibitors. Mr. Pfeiffer also explained about classification of hybrids, differences of root structures, and soil water contamination and water percolation in our heavy clay soils of northwestern Ohio.

While on the farm, the students viewed many replicated plots with different products involved. The students also saw different foliar applications and herbicide

tests. In all over 170 different plots are to be harvested for data for Ohio State University and Purdue University from the Pfeiffer Field Data fields. (Margie Ray, Reporter)

Texas

## Fan Club

The 43 members and guests from Mansfield, Texas, FFA were among 29,743 fans who enjoyed the American League game between the Boston Red Sox and the Texas Rangers on July 17.

The chapter's recreation committee planned the activity.

The fans were treated to a 12 to 6 Ranger win. The game featured 24 hits including a first inning grand slam home run by Pete Incaviglia.

This was the second year that the chapter has taken advantage of half-price group nights at Arlington Stadium. (From *Mansfield FFA News*)

Oklahoma

## Ranch Style Rodeo

The Silo FFA in Durant, Oklahoma, held the first annual junior ranch rodeo ever held in Oklahoma on June 17th. FFA members from across the state came to compete in five events—branding, mugging, team penning, steer riding and team roping.

The sport of ranch rodeo started back when the working cowboys on the different ranches would see who could brand the fastest or who could rope a steer and doctor him the quickest. Then around fifteen years ago an association was formed of the "working cowboys." The sport of ranch rodeo has grown from here in Oklahoma to seven states around the U.S.

The sport of ranch rodeoing has grown where we feel that the aspects of rodeo have reached the high school level. It is a team sport. Each team has four members and everyone works together.

Since the Silo FFA decided to try the sport in the high school level, four rodeos have been held in the state since ours in June. The idea is to try and get more high schoolers involved in FFA and to learn to work together.

Teams from Texas and Oklahoma

(Continued on Page 38)

# \$300,000 FREE FOR THE LEARNING

**To you, it's a \$500 to \$25,000 college scholarship.  
To us, it's meeting tomorrow's agricultural challenges  
with today's brightest young minds.**

No one is as dedicated to the future of the American agricultural industry as the National FFA Foundation and its FFA college scholarship sponsors.

In fact, our main purpose is to help today's young men and women discover, develop and use more of their talents in pursuit of more rewarding careers in agriculture.

These days the cost of an agricultural-related college education can easily exceed \$25,000. Of course, it's a worthy

**Expected scholarships for 1990 are listed below, by the total amount of contributions given to the FFA Scholarship program through the National FFA Foundation:**

## **\$10,000 to \$30,000\***

Chevrolet Trucks, General Motors Corporation  
ConAgra, Inc.  
Dodge Trucks, Chrysler Motors Corporation  
Dr. Scholl Foundation  
FARMAID  
Firestone Trust Fund  
Jacques Seed Company  
Metropolitan Life Foundation  
Purina Mills, Incorporated  
Santa Fe Pacific Corporation  
Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A.  
TSC Industries, Inc.  
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

## **\$5,000 to \$9,999\***

Associated Milk Producers, Inc.  
Babson Bros. Co./SURGE  
Business Men's Assurance Company of America  
Creswell, Munsell, Fultz & Zirbel Advertising Agency  
Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company of Iowa  
IBP Foundation, Inc.  
The Quaker Oats Foundation  
William R. Biggs/Gilmore Associates

## **Up to \$4,999\***

21st Century Genetics  
Ag Radio Network, Inc.  
Allflex/Vet Brand, Inc.  
Alpha Gamma Rho Educ. Foundation  
American Dairy Goat Association  
American Floral Endowment  
American Maize Products Co.  
The American Morgan Horse Institute, Inc.

American Seed Trade Association Kikkoman Foods, Inc.  
Award Design Medals  
Balfour  
Bartlett and Company  
Blue Seal Feeds, Inc.  
B.R.I.D.G.E. Endowment  
Bunge Corporation  
Capital Agricultural Property Services, Inc.  
Carhartt, Inc.  
CARQUEST Corporation  
Casey's General Stores, Inc.  
Chevron U.S.A.  
Chicago Mercantile Exchange  
Chicago & North Western Transportation Company  
Chief Industries, Inc.  
Coopers Animal Health Inc.  
Cornhusker Farms  
Data Transmission Network  
Harold David Memorial  
Louis Dreyfus Corporation  
Earl May Seed & Nursery L. P.  
Eastern Agriculture Society of North America  
Farmers Hybrid Companies Inc.  
Federal Cartridge Company  
Federated Genetics  
First Interstate Bank of California  
First Mississippi Corporation Foundation  
Fleishman-Hillard, Inc.  
Ford New Holland, Inc.  
Golden Harvest Seed, Inc.  
Hawkeye Steel Products, Inc.  
Helena Chemical Company  
Hussman Corporation  
Indiana Farmers Mutual Insurance Group  
International Boar Semen  
Kansas City Southern Industries

Livestock Marketing Association  
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Mid States Wool Growers Cooperative Association  
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National Pork Producers Council  
National Suffolk Sheep Association  
NC + Hybrids  
Ken & Ellen Nielsen Cooperative Memorial  
Norfolk Southern Foundation  
Kenneth & Hazel Olsen Scholarship Fund  
Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council  
Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.  
Professional Plant Growers Assn.  
Professional Products & Services, Inc.  
Rhône-Poulenc Animal Nutrition  
Ritchie Industries, Inc.  
Rocky Rococo Corporation  
Sandoz Crop Production Corp.  
Seaboard Farms  
State Farm Companies Foundation  
Tri-State Breeders  
Valmont Industries, Inc.  
Veratec Animal Care Group  
Wells Fargo Bank  
Western Dairyman/John Elway Endowment  
Western Seedsmen's Association  
Who's Who Among American High School Students  
Wolf's Head Oil Company  
Wyandot, Inc.

investment, but the fact is that a college education can be beyond the reach of many parents and students.

Fortunately, there's something you can do to get your college education off the ground...with an FFA college scholarship. You're qualified if you are an FFA member and a senior in high school.

The scholarships are available for most agriculture/agribusiness majors, for two or four year institutions.

And you don't need to be a state/national "leader" or award winner to apply. The scholarships are available regardless of creed, gender, or country of origin.

There is no limit to the number of applications per FFA chapter. Selection will be based on your experience program, leadership activities and academic record.

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Complete and mail the scholarship application request form below -OR- pick up a scholarship application form from your chapter FFA Advisor beginning January 15, 1990.

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NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS NEEDED:

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**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY MARCH 1, 1990.**

# FFA IN ACTION

(Continued from Page 36)

competed. People from Arkansas and Louisiana came to watch the rodeo to see exactly what a junior ranch rodeo was. Championship buckles and prize money were given to the winning team.

The winning team of the Silo FFA chapter's first annual rodeo was from Quinton, Oklahoma. Silo's team members on the Rocking S are: Robert Lummus, Eric Northcott, Casey Carr, Michael Lyday, and Shawn Lyday. Silo's Lazy S team is: Shannon Weaver, Steven Kellam, Brent Lyday, Jason Hendricks and Quinton McLarry. (Jennifer Shapen, Reporter)

Ohio

## Blue Ribbon Victory



Matt Ellis, president of the East Clinton FFA in Lees Creek, Ohio, won blue ribbons at the county fair this past summer for first place stalks of corn, shelled corn, soybeans, and alfalfa hay. Matt also won the over all sweepstakes crop award by having the most blue ribbons. He also entered alfalfa hay at the state fair where he won that division also. Matt's SAEP includes field corn, pop corn, wheat, hay, soybeans, steers and hogs.

South Dakota

## Barn Within a Barn

The South Dakota FFA animal nursery at the state fair is always a popular spot. Now they have a permanent home.

When state executive secretary Bob Bell suggested the idea of a barn within a barn, former member and 1988 agriculture education and engineering graduate, Don Masat, Redfield, took up the idea and made it happen.

The barn is in one portion of the beef complex on the fairgrounds and is a 56x56 foot barn with 15 pens. It also has an FFA office for the fair season. The siding is 1x10 rough cut lumber and the gabled roof is cedar shingles.

Financial assistance or materials for the project came from the state fair commission and United Building Center. Both were represented at the ribbon cutting ceremony in August.

Construction labor for the barn was contributed by Alumni members from around the state.

Ohio

## Hometown Ham Time

During half-time of the homecoming football game, the winning tickets for the Midview, Ohio, FFA pork promotion were chosen. The first place winner of a whole hog, cut and wrapped, was Jim Muth. The second place winner of a ten pound ham from Sparkle's was Jason Surdock. The third place winner of another ham was Roberta Balogh.

The agriculture one class sold 127 tickets; ag class two sold 221 tickets; the agbusiness class sold 212; and alumni sold 20.

The Beriswell Insurance Company donated the hog and Lauerhah's Butchering cut and wrapped it. Sparkle's donated the two hams. (Becky Cifton, Reporter)

Oregon

## Pick Your Own

The McKay, Oregon, Chapter delivered 600 pounds of sweet corn on Friday, September 22 to the Marion/Polk Food Share program. The chapter raised the corn on the school land lab along with many other vegetables.

This is the first year that the chapter has donated some of the crop for use to feed needy persons. The chapter has had a small garden at the school they have planted but increased the area this year to enable the community to get the benefit of fresh produce.

Neighbors of McKay High School were invited to come and pick the produce for their use and many of the "school neighbors" were able to come over and pick fresh produce for their use all summer.

The chapter is planning to increase the area of the garden crops for next season and to plant a wider variety of crops. (C. R. Boge, Reporter)

Virginia

## Plant Promotion

Students at Fauquier FFA in Warrenton, Virginia, have been involved in landscape competition at the state fair as one of seven schools invited to participate in the Horticulture Pavillion's new Patio Garden Competition. Seven students, along with their teachers Edie Coleman and Pauline Mullins, traveled to Richmond by school bus along with all plant materials, bricks and related supplies and equipment.

Leading Creek Nursery in Gainesville was the sponsoring nursery. They cooperated with the school to loan all plant materials from Red Maples to fancy Junipers. Their fall mums added a splash of color to the design. They also loaned a fountain for the center of the display.

Glen Gery Brick in Manassas generously donated a skid of their paving brick to create a patio and walkways. Rankin's Tru-Value Hardware loaned lighting equipment and a grill for added effect.

California

## Triple Crown

Fullerton Union, California, FFA captured "the triple crown" at the Orange County Fair by exhibiting the supreme grand champion steer owned by Karen Johnson; the supreme grand champion lamb shown by Kim Ford; and the supreme grand champion hog exhibited by Don Napravnik.

In the showmanship divisions, Fuller-

(Continued on Page 40)

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# FFA IN ACTION

(Continued from Page 38)

ton swept the show by winning the grand champion showmanship titles. Winners were Kim McCormick for sheep, Don Napravnik for swine and Tasha Florentz for novice swine. In the master showman- ships, Kim McCormick and Tasha Florentz walked out of the showing with first place honors. A total of 51 Fullerton ani- mals were exhibited which grossed over \$40,000.

Missouri

## On the Ball

The Keytesville, Missouri, FFA Chap- ter had a very big summer including some fun ball games.

We started off the summer by partici- pating in a softball tournament at North- western. Keytesville took second place

while Northwestern won first and Brookfield placed third. It was a very enjoyable day.

After FFA camp it was time to go to the Kansas City Royals baseball game against the Red Sox. The Royals made a late rally to beat the Sox, and everyone had a great time.

The next thing on our agenda was playing Salisbury in a game of softball. We had a great time, afterwards they invited us to a swimming party. About 40 members of the two chapters participated.

The last thing we did during the sum- mer was take a trip to the state fair. Our chapter was first in field crops and also our swine judging team won first in the state in judging hogs. They will go to Minnesota in September and judge at the National Barrow Show. (Chris Calvert, Reporter)

Ohio

## The Pork Challenge

Last February, 40 members of the National Trail FFA Chapter in New Paris, Ohio, took a day out of school to explore the wide world of the pork industry at the Ohio Pork Congress held at the conven- tion center in Dayton.

The members left at 7 a.m. via bus funded by the chapter.

Upon arrival at the center, the mem- bers were asked to participate in the Ohio Swine Youth Challenge. It included ses- sions covering such areas as boar semen, the sow's reproductive tract, toxins in feed, swine diseases and parasites, toxic gases, and the latest advances in the mar- keting of pork.

After the members completed their participation in the Swine Challenge, each was presented a certificate. Then they were free to move about the Congress displays and see the many new advances in the area of pork production. (Fred Stover, Reporter)

Florida

## At Home On the Range

The Indian River FFA in Vero Beach, Florida, provided a thorough Hunter Safety Program for the chapter members. Stu- dent's practiced gun safety and gun hand- ling; developed skills in archery; and learned about survival first aid; wildlife management and identification.

After two weeks in the classroom, members took a trip to the St. Luice County Sheriff.

After the examination, members ob- served a special presentation by the county SWAT team who showed what they do.

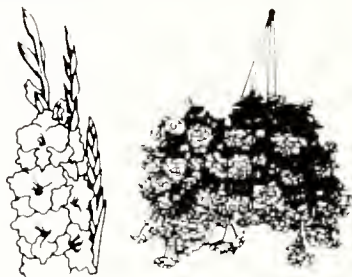
They took the FFA members to the track that is used for physical fitness. After the SWAT team ran the course, five of our members ran the course. Kevin Wilson, Ronnie Coppersmith, Troy Gay, Bobby Thomas and Larry Elliott made the course in two minutes and the SWAT team in one minute and 30 seconds. After a day of fun, it was nice to sit down to a good meal sponsored by the sheriff's department. The chapter now has 52 stu- dents who are certified safe hunters by Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.



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# MY TURN

Jaye Hamby



A recent advertisement by an investment firm in USA TODAY featured a new twist on an old adage, "The pessimist says the glass is half-empty; the optimist says it is half-full. But we say, what if the glass should break?"

In the last few years, the National FFA Organization has faced challenges and changes that have caused concern for many members and leaders. This honest concern, along with open debate, are good for an organization and should be encouraged. If members and leaders reject that avenue, and instead pursue one of division and separation, then the advertisement's question, "What if the glass should break?" would be ours to answer.

In a little shop in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, the resident artist is a glassblower by trade. He creates intricately detailed pieces, so he must sense exactly when to accelerate or relax the air pressure...or the glass may break and explode into thousands of tiny fragments.

As he progresses, the glassblower is apt to make changes he believes will enhance and improve the final work, just as delegates at recent National FFA Conventions have voted in amendments which they believe - as representatives of the entire membership - will improve our organization as a whole. Even with the changes resulting from these amendments, the National FFA Organization is still rooted in the same basic principles which have endured through the years.

When 55 of our forefathers drafted the Constitution of the United States in Philadelphia in 1787, they created an historically unprecedented document which provided for a "land of opportunity." The Constitution as ratified was only seven Articles long, one of which was used to outline its own amendment procedure. It now has 26 amendments.

These amendments have allowed our

country to change with the times, yet the underlying concern for the future of our country felt by the 55 originators is echoed in the tone of each amendment.

These men created a masterpiece, to form that "more perfect Union," which has been sorely tried and tested, but which has never given way nor broken under pressure.

Just as the Constitution continues to secure the "blessings of liberty" for the citizens of the United States, we must - as present members of the FFA - do everything in our power to guarantee a strong future for our organization.

In February, our officer team visited Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China. In May, the unrest which one could almost sense back in February, erupted into open chaotic rebellion.

In the June-July issue of this magazine, members of our team talked of our concerns about the problems in China. The article was written in March, well before the confrontations in Tiananmen Square. As we saw the situation, the problems in China arose from inadequate responsiveness by the country's leadership to the needs of the people they govern. The glass that is China was broken!

At a time when FFA members must be responsive to each other's needs, so must the leadership be responsive to the needs of the membership, in order to preserve the organization for future generations.

In January, we begin a new decade. Now is the time not only to reflect on old challenges and changes but to look forward to new and exciting prospects. It is an honor for me to be the first "My Turn" contributor to an old tradition with a new name, *FFA New Horizons*.

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# J O K E P A G E

Q: What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back?

A: A stick.

Roy Glassburn  
Vinton, Ohio

Q: What did the balloon say to the pin?

A: How ya' doing buster?

Eric Lockett  
Delray Beach, Florida

Q: What is the difference between a parent and a centipede.

A: A walky talky!

Mark Rasbury  
Wedowee, Alabama

Q: What is the difference between a hill and a pill?

A: One is hard to get up and the other is hard to get down!

Shelly Sumpter  
Mulberry, Arkansas

Policeman: "Hey, you! You're crossing the street when the light says, 'Don't Walk.'"

Pedestrian: "Sorry, Officer, I thought that was an ad for the bus company."

Bobbie Mae Cooley  
Bowen, Illinois

A boy was in a river drowning when a policeman dove in, rescued him and brought him to shore.

As he was drying him off, he asked the boy, "How did you come to be in the river?"

The boy replied, "I didn't come to be in the river. I came to fish!"

Laura Versteeg  
Lynden, Washington

Q: How do you fix a broken ape?

A: With a monkey wrench.

Robbie Simpson  
Greensburg, Kentucky

Driver: "Officer, I want to report that I struck a cow accidentally."

Officer: "Was it a Jersey cow?"

Driver: "I didn't see her license plates."

Chris Castillo  
Karnes City, Texas



"An ox cart. What'll they think of next?"

Joe and Mo went ice fishing. Joe started to drill a hole. All of a sudden a voice said, "You cannot drill here."

So they moved and started to drill a hole in the ice again. All of a sudden the voice came again, "You cannot drill here."

Mo said, "God is that you?" and the booming voice on the loudspeaker said, "No, this is the ice skating manager."

Lynette Matter  
Postville, Iowa

After the tails of the flock of lambs were cropped one of the men remarked, "These animals can only be sold wholesale."

"Wholesale?" exclaimed the owner who was counting on the income from the sale. "Why do you say that?"

"Because they cannot be re-tailed."

M.E. Reasner  
Indianapolis, Indiana



"Claims he met a Mermaid in the pond you didn't drain last year."

## NOTICE:

FFA Newsletters will pay \$5.00 for each joke selected for this page. Jokes must be addressed to FFA New Horizons, P.O. Box 15100, Alexandria, VA 22309, or via Stargram on the A-1 Network to F1100X. In case of duplication, payment will be for the first one received. Contributions cannot be acknowledged or returned.



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