



FFA Alumni Association

NEWSLETTER

"SPECIAL FOCUS ON LOCAL ACTIVITIES ISSUE"

FIVE TO WASHINGTON

Five FFA members have been selected to receive the first Leadership Scholarships presented by the FFA Alumni Association to attend the National Leadership Conferences in Washington D.C.

The first Leadership Scholarships were presented to Noble Sokolosky of Owasso, Oklahoma; Pat Stermer of Green Bay, Wisconsin; Mark Hodel of Roanoke, Illinois; Jim Heidenreich of Monmouth, Illinois; and Cheryl Watson of Marysville, Ohio.

Each recipient has an outstanding record of participation and achievement in FFA and community activities. They were selected from the applicants within their state by the State FFA Alumni Association.

The Washington Leadership Conferences are conducted to develop leadership confidence and skills, provide new ideas for FFA Chapter action, and develop citizenship and an appreciation of our nation's heritage.

The Leadership Scholarship covers the full registration and enrollment fee to attend a Conference. The number of Leadership Scholarships going to a state is based on active FFA Alumni membership on June 1. Your FFA Alumni membership helps make them possible.

CAST YOUR VOTE!

The National FFA Alumni Council member-at-large will be elected this year by mail ballot of the membership. A three-year term of office will begin at the Annual Meeting.

Ballots will be submitted to the membership for vote in July. Return ballots must be post-marked on or before September 15, 1975. Each state may nominate a candidate for consideration of the Nominating Committee. The results will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

FOCUS ON LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Actions speak louder than words. This Newsletter focuses on the actions of local FFA Alumni Affiliates. Its aim is to "carry new ideas" to you and your community.

FFA Alumni Affiliates are the heart of the FFA Alumni Association. They bring together agricultural people in a community who probably would never meet in any other way. They are the "connecting link" to the community for the FFA Chapter and classroom. Their activities are the key to their success.

This Newsletter contains brief information about FFA Alumni Affiliate activities from around the country. It has IDEA POWER! Use them to select activities to fit the needs of your area.

What a difference a year makes! The response to our request for local FFA Alumni activities was beyond expectation both in quantity and quality. It is impossible to list all activities and each do more than mentioned, but the following were selected to provide you with a wide variety of ideas.

A special thanks is extended to the FFA Advisors who provided information and to those who provided information that could not be used. (Please keep this FFA Alumni Newsletter for future reference -- it has Idea Power! A big plus in your FFA Alumni membership.)

In Barren County, Kentucky, the FFA Alumni Affiliate sponsored a County FFA Field Day with competitive contests and agricultural demonstrations for over 150 FFA members. Forty FFA Alumni members were involved in providing the facilities, livestock, equipment, and conducting contests in Dairy Judging; Livestock Judging; Tractor Driving (with new tractors and machinery provided); Tobacco Grading, Tobacco Auctioneering and Soil Judging. Demonstrations were given of skills in Production Agriculture, Agricultural Natural Resources, Agricultural Mechanics, and Diversified Agricultural Occupation areas. The event was covered by an area radio station.

At Wichita Falls-Rider, Texas, the FFA Alumni Affiliate underwrites the Citrus Fruit Sale for the FFA Chapter. They also helped increase the local Junior Livestock Show premiums over 500% this past year. Members of the FFA Alumni succeeded in soliciting donations of \$50,000 to build a new vocational-agriculture building and encouraged the donation of 80 acres of land for a Project Center. The FFA Alumni are now donating pipe, etc., for pens at this facility.

At Northwestern Clark, Ohio, the FFA Alumni hosted a Children's Farm Day for 600 5, 6, and 7 year olds. They also hosted a lunch for 1,500 FFA members attending the FFA Invitational Judging Contest.

In Springville, Utah, the FFA Alumni Affiliate formed a Sales Booster Committee which collected over \$1,500 for support of FFA members at the local Junior Livestock Show. It was prorated among the exhibits to increase the prices received for their animals. They also recommend the names of seven community leaders to serve as an Advisory Committee to formulate a revised vocational agriculture curriculum.

At Evansville, Wisconsin, the FFA Alumni Affiliate served as chaperones to take 43 FFA members to the International Livestock Show in Chicago. They also hold a banquet to increase membership and present a "Top Dog" Award to the outstanding Alumni member in lending support to FFA activities throughout the year.

At Western Kentucky University, Kentucky, the FFA Alumni Affiliate holds monthly luncheon meetings to keep University personnel and Ag-Ed graduates in contact with FFA activities. It works closely with the Ag-Ed Club on campus in much the same manner as other Affiliates work with local FFA Chapters.

At Snowy Range, Wyoming, the FFA Alumni Affiliate organized with 137 members. They sold seed potatoes to the community and are sponsoring a community auction of machinery, equipment, etc.

At Roanoke-Benson, Illinois, the FFA Alumni Affiliate sponsored a community Agriculture Supply and Service Day designed to provide information to area farmers and to tell urban residents more about agriculture. It was attended by over 500 people and had a live noon farm radio broadcast. They also sponsor a Labor Day Tractor Pulling Contest with trophies and \$850 prize money. A special event is the evening Chapter Awards selection. FFA Alumni members review all FFA record books and interview the FFA members providing advice where improvements can be made.

At Greater Wausau Area, Wisconsin, the FFA Alumni Affiliate conducted activities to promote Agriculture Day, March 23. The highlight was a TV feature, "Milking Time on a Dairy Farm." They also held a two-day "Workathon" to rewire and remodel the State FFA Camp. Two 8-1/2' x 20' billboards on each side of town are also being constructed for FFA use.

At Clyde A. Erwin, North Carolina, the FFA Alumni Affiliate sponsors camp scholarships for FFA members and pays the expenses for FFA members attending the National FFA Convention. They present FFA Alumni lapel pins to all new FFA Alumni members at the Annual FFA Banquet and hold a Summer FFA Alumni Picnic.

In Canal Winchester, Ohio, the FFA Alumni provided animals for a Central Ohio Dairy Judging Contest.

In Lowville, New York, the FFA Alumni was instrumental in reinstating the vocational agriculture program after it had been discontinued for three years. They also helped set up the first Lowville Youth Fair which had over 200 entries of livestock and crops.

At Cibola, New Mexico, the FFA Alumni Affiliate is planning to start an all Life Member Affiliate. They sponsor the FFA Chapter President to the Washington D.C. Leadership Conference and provide a scholarship for an FFA member to attend New Mexico State University.

In Buffalo Center, Iowa, FFA Alumni members provide agricultural career orientation experience by taking FFA members with them for half a day to acquaint the youth with the Alumni members' agricultural occupations.

In Marietta, Ohio, the FFA Alumni Affiliate conducted special corn test plots to acquire information on the corn disease M.D.M. when no local data was available. Two widely attended field days were held and information acquired on 27 seed corn varieties.

In Williston, North Dakota, the FFA Alumni provides a \$25 Savings Bond to the FFA Agribusiness winners each year.

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In Malta, Illinois, the FFA Alumni Affili- ate assists in obtaining jobs for FFA members and provides facilities for non-farm FFA members to keep production projects.

In Sheridan, Montana, the FFA Alumni Affili- ate sponsors a Livestock Judging Field Day and Barbeque for all FFA Chapters in the State and County 4-H participants.

In Washington, Kansas, the FFA Alumni be- gins its year by attending the FFA Sweetheart Dance which provides much fellowship and an en- joyable beginning.

In Granton, Wisconsin, each FFA Alumni mem- ber contributed a sack of oats to send a crip- pled little boy to camp.

At Richmond County, Virginia, the FFA Alumni Affiliate holds a banquet at the end of school to honor the achievements of FFA members. A printed "Letter of Merit" is presented to the FFA members. During the summer a Picnic is held where a FFA vs FFA Alumni softball game is played.

In Stratford, Oklahoma, the FFA Alumni Af- filiate was organized by the local Young Farmers Chapter and is the largest FFA Alumni Affiliate in the state.

At Davies Vo-Tech, Rhode Island, the FFA Alumni Affiliate operated a Sales Room for the School Greenhouse during a community "County Fair and Trade Show."

At Eau Claire, Wisconsin, the FFA Alumni Affiliate works with the school administration on a summer new student visitation program to promote the importance of the FFA program and increase student enrollment. They also held a card party to raise funds for local activities.

At Laramie Peak, Wyoming, the FFA Alumni Affiliate held a Chili Supper and Dance. A Spring picnic is conducted with all FFA members and future eighth graders and their parents to explain the agricultural program.

In Murray County, Georgia, the FFA Alumni Affiliate sponsored a Turkey, Cheese, and Bologna Shoot to raise funds for local activi-

At Elmwood, Illinois, the FFA Alumni Affili- ate is involved in conducting spring and fall farm tours for fifth graders from Peoria, Ill. FFA Alumni members help conduct a local steer show and sale and furnish machinery and labor for test plots.

In Twin Falls, Idaho, the FFA Alumni spon- sored tours at the State FFA Convention for FFA members. They also serve on committees to select FFA Chapter award winners.

At Achille, Oklahoma, the FFA Alumni Affili- ate had a combined camping and fishing trip with the FFA members. A pig was donated by the FFA Alumni to be barbecued for the event.

In Encampment, Wyoming, the FFA Alumni Af- filiate sponsored a Spring Steer Show for 4-H and FFA members in a two-state area.

At Door County, Wisconsin, the FFA Alumni Affiliate set up an educational meat cut dis- play at the County Fair and Northwestern Live- stock Show. They also took part in a Career Fair for 7th and 8th graders by presenting the agricultural careers section.

In Hooper, Nebraska, the FFA Alumni is com- piling a past history of the local FFA Chapter. Also, a special local FFA Alumni Reunion is be- ing held for all past FFA members of the local FFA Chapter.

At Knox County, Kentucky, the FFA Alumni Affiliate holds a Picnic at a local State Park.

At Bloom-Carroll, Ohio, the FFA Alumni Af- filiate members sponsor animals for the FFA livestock chains. They are preparing to con- struct a greenhouse for the vocational agricul- ture department.

At Stanfield, Oregon, the FFA Alumni Affili- ate has assigned members to work with specific FFA Chapter Activities for the entire year to increase FFA member participation.

At Amarillo, Texas, the FFA Alumni Affili- ate assisted in locating a new school farm. They also assist with raising funds for the County Stock Show.

At Ruby Mountain, Nevada, the FFA Alumni Affiliate holds a Project Competition with FFA Alumni teams visiting all student projects, evaluating record books, and presenting all projects a gold, silver, or bronze certificate. A Potluck Supper is then held and a trophy presented the high individual in each class. They also present trophies to the top three FFA members recruiting the most FFA Alumni members during their membership campaign and hold a joint Water Skiing Party with the FFA.

In Golden, Colorado, the FFA Alumni Affiliate helped sponsor the State FFA Alumni Convention and sponsors FFA Chapter Proficiency Plaques.

At Warren, Illinois, FFA Alumni members serve on the FFA Chapter BOAC (Building Our American Communities) Committee which established a new Rural Fire Protection District. They also serve on Advisory Committees and the Chapter FFA Foundation Committee which collected more than \$1,000 for the State FFA Foundation.

At Talawanda, Ohio, the FFA Alumni attends Farmer's Night Festivities at a Cincinnati Reds baseball game. Also, a Beef Management Day was held where FFA members learned to freeze, brand, tattoo, and treat for parasites.

At E. Broussard, Louisiana, the FFA Alumni members substitute teach for the vocational agriculture classes when the instructor attends FFA activities. In addition to helping the teacher, it keeps the FFA Alumni members up to date with the vocational agriculture program.

In Trenton, Missouri, the FFA Alumni Affiliate has provided transportation for FFA members to over 15 activities they could have not otherwise attended and traveled over 6,000 miles in doing so. They also furnished the facilities for a traveling barnyard during FFA Week to all the kindergarten schools in the area.

At C. T. Smith, Virginia, the FFA Alumni hosted a reception before the joint FFA-FFA Alumni Banquet attended by three National FFA Officers, the National FFA Advisor, and over 250 other guests. An Alumnus of the Year Award was presented.

In Hill City, Kansas, the FFA Alumni Affiliate is involved in conducting a two-day Chapter Officer Leadership Conference. They sponsor two Record Book Plaques for the Outstanding Greenhand and Chapter Farmer Record Books and provide transportation and sponsors for FFA members to the State FFA Convention.

In Forsyth, Montana, the FFA Alumni promoted a Bond Issue for a new agriculture complex which passed. They also sponsor an area judging contest.

In Avon, Illinois, the FFA Alumni Affiliate holds an Annual Alumni Banquet with a good agricultural speaker to kick off the year's activities, collect dues, and build membership. FFA Alumni members host Judging Contests and furnish lumber for shop classes.

At Southern Wayne, North Carolina, the FFA Alumni Affiliate hosted the District FFA Rally.

At Grady, New Mexico, the FFA Alumni Affiliate sent the FFA Meats Judging Team to the National Contest. They have also set up a gilt chain for the FFA Chapter by purchasing two gilts.

At Conrad, Montana, the FFA Alumni Affiliate held and judged the District FFA Judging Contests. They also serve as the Agriculture Advisory Council.

In Frazee, Minnesota, the FFA Alumni members provide guidance to the school board regarding the vocational-agriculture department which recently led to the addition of another full-time instructor.

At Castleford, Idaho, the FFA Alumni Affiliate acted as the sifting committee for Chapter Awards. They also set up an information booth at the State FFA Convention and provided FFA Alumni packets for all vocational agricultural instructors.

In Walkersville, Maryland, the FFA Alumni Affiliate publishes an FFA Alumni Newsletter to keep everyone abreast of their activities and achievements.

In Brillion, Wisconsin, the FFA Alumni Affiliate sponsored a welcome and get acquainted dinner for the new vocational agriculture instructor and his wife.

At Eastern Laramie County, Wyoming, the FFA Alumni Affiliate provides agriculture mechanics projects for students in shop. They are involved in developing and constructing a school farm and meat processing laboratory for the vocational agriculture department.

In Blakely, Georgia, FFA Alumni sponsored a Chapter Record Book Contest and provided three cash awards of \$50 and a plaque to the best project record book. A Senior Scholarship Award and plaque is presented to the FFA member with the highest scholastic grade average.

At Plainsville, Kansas, the FFA Alumni members substitute teach for the vocational agriculture classes when the instructor is gone. They also conduct a judging contest for the local FFA Chapter.

Q -- A number of questions are asked about how FFA Alumni Affiliates raise funds to support FFA activities. Do they add local dues, etc.? There is no one answer for all communities. The following activities have been selected to show how some communities have handled this question.

At Greensboro, Florida, the FFA Alumni Affiliate purchased an FFA member's steer at the county Fat Steer Show and Sale. Half the steer was donated to the FFA Chapter for a barbecue at the FFA Banquet. They sold chances and raffled off the other half to pay for the steer and add funds to the treasury. The drawing was held at the FFA Banquet. FFA Alumni members also donated a barrow to the barbecue.

At East Pike, Illinois, the FFA Alumni provides work projects for welding and carpentry classes. They also provide two 5-acre test plots for the FFA Chapter. A Slave Auction was sponsored which netted \$1,740 for 41 FFA members (one day's work).

At Perry, Michigan, the FFA Alumni Affiliate held a citrus sale which netted over \$400. They donated a 35mm camera to the FFA Chapter. FFA Alumni members serve as an Agricultural Advisory Council and liaison group to the board of education. A request for more storage space recently resulted in the construction of a 50' x 150' pole shed.

In Delavan Darien, Wisconsin, the FFA Alumni Affiliate is involved in sponsoring a Pork Barbecue to promote pork to their urban neighbors and to raise funds by serving over 1,000 people. They also held a joint field trip with the FFA Chapter to an artificial breeding bull stud.

At Falkner, Mississippi, the FFA Alumni Affiliate sponsored a Turkey Shoot and Donkey Basketball Game to raise funds. They also sponsored a Fish Fry to increase membership. Cash awards are presented to the outstanding students in each of the vocational-agriculture classes. A trip to the National Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. is presented to an FFA member. Another is presented to the FFA member who recruits the most FFA Alumni members during their membership campaign.

At Oxbow, Vermont, the FFA Alumni Affiliate holds a calf raffle to earn funds to present an award at the school commencement to the Outstanding Agriculture student.

In Denmark, Wisconsin, the FFA Alumni Affiliate rented 40 acres of land and intends to convert the wooded portion into a nature trail to be used for educational and recreational purposes. The crop portion is being farmed to raise funds to support FFA activities.

At Starmount, North Carolina, the FFA Alumni Affiliate helped the FFA Chapter raise funds with an Auction Sale and Hamburger Supper which raised nearly \$2,100 for FFA activities.

At Addison County, Vermont, the FFA Alumni Affiliate sponsors a Chicken Pie Supper and Dance. The proceeds go to the expenses of FFA members to attend the State and National FFA Convention.

In Mansfield, Arkansas the FFA Alumni Affiliate printed special local membership cards and sold them to raise funds. It also presented a Life Membership to the retiring FFA Advisor and set up a permanent Agricultural Scholarship in his name to be presented annually to a graduating senior majoring in an agriculture pursuit.

In Groveland, Florida, the FFA Alumni Affiliate held a Barbecue before a football game and sold over \$600 of tickets. The meal was prepared in the high school lunchroom and served in the park. The proceeds went to the FFA Alumni treasury to provide two \$200 Scholarships for FFA members going on to college.

At Mabel, Minnesota, the FFA Alumni Affiliate raffled off a quarter of beef at a local Steam Engine Day. The proceeds were used to start a gilt ring and a sheep ring for the FFA members.

At Sun Valley, North Carolina, the FFA Alumni Affiliate holds an Ice-Cream Supper and Tractor Pulling Contest to raise money to sponsor FFA activities.

At Reedsburg, Wisconsin, the FFA Alumni Affiliate sponsored a Cheese Booth at the Reedsburg Butter Festival and gave samples and sold cheese to raise funds.

At Kimball, Nebraska, the FFA Alumni Affiliate sponsors a Pancake Supper and FFA Slave Auction to raise money to send FFA members to the National Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. They also are helping build an FFA Chapter farm and work to promote a better understanding between the farm and business community.

In Brandon, Florida, the FFA Alumni Affiliate sponsored a Rummage Sale to help send an FFA member on the summer Work Experience Abroad program. They also sponsored a float in a special FFA Week Parade.

At Central Laramie County, Wyoming, the FFA Alumni Affiliate served as judges for the FFA Chapter Public Speaking and FFA Creed contests. They provide transportation for the FFA Chapter's pig project buying trip to Oklahoma. FFA Alumni members moved a 40' x 24' fort building from the school grounds to a new school farm and land laboratory. They have also sponsored a Taco and Pizza Supper, Barbecue and Street Dance, and Machinery Auction to help send two Chapter Officers to the National FFA Leadership Conference in Washington D.C.

At National FFA Center, Virginia, the FFA Alumni Affiliate sponsored a "Farm on the Lawn." Farm animals, farm machinery, crop displays, and agricultural demonstrations were displayed to over 2,000 area elementary school children from the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. The two-day program was conducted in cooperation with six area FFA Chapters. The purpose of "Farm on the Lawn" was to help the young students (and their teachers) to understand how food is produced.

THANK YOU

The aim of the FFA Alumni Newsletter is to exchange ideas. We solicit news of your events, activities, and other interesting items. What may be common knowledge in your area may be a new idea somewhere else.

The FFA Alumni Newsletter is published on a quarterly basis (and sent at the change of each season of the year). We invite your comments and suggestions at all times. If you have any questions about the FFA Alumni Association, or have a change of address, please write to: FFA Alumni Association, P.O. Box 15058, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

WELCOME — NEW LIFE MEMBERS!

A hearty welcome to the newest Life Members who have added their names to the prestigious roster of lifetime supporters. Life Members receive a lifetime subscription to The National FUTURE FARMER magazine along with all the other benefits. Why not make this the year your name joins this growing list of loyal supporters?

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