

AUGUST 2005

ffa *new horizons*



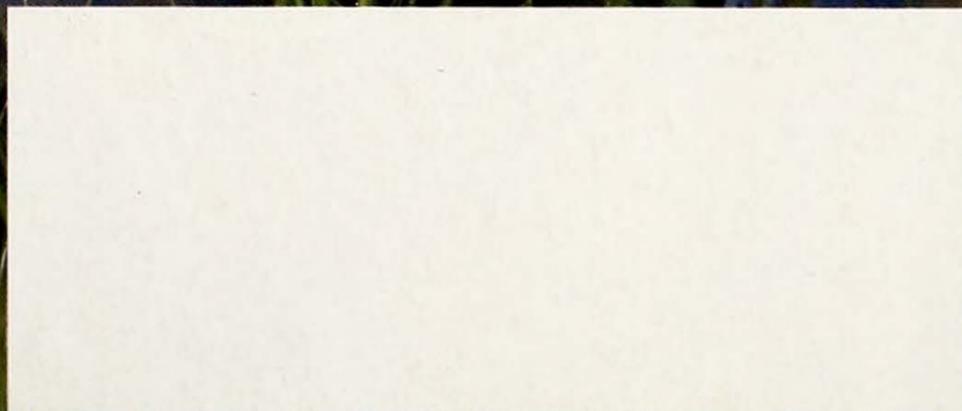
THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

Home on the range

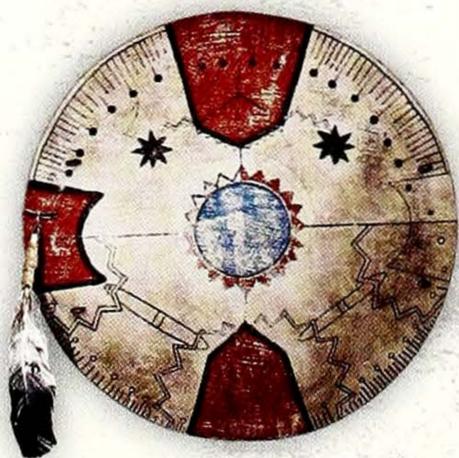
Krista Brag, a 2004 FFA national proficiency award finalist, found career inspiration at a grassland preserve near her North Dakota home

FFA College Extra

A special section with information on how to apply to and pay for college, plus news on events for college students at the 2005 National FFA Convention.



circa 750



circa 1207



circa 1990



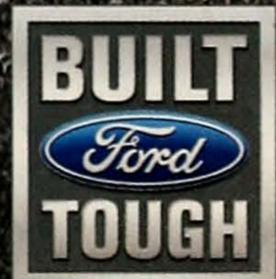
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On the cover: Krista Brag at the Albert Akre Grassland Preserve, where she worked for her SAE program. Photo by John Borge.

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Blue & Gold

News from the National FFA Center

Check out "FFA-Live" on RFD-TV!

Did you know FFA has a regular television show? Tune in to RFD-TV on the following dates for "FFA LIVE!" On each two-hour live broadcast, you'll get to meet your 2004-2005 National FFA Officers, FFA members, advisors and special FFA-related guests from across the nation. You'll also have opportunities to call in and ask questions or to simply share your FFA experience. Learn more about the exciting activities and opportunities in FFA and what you can do to become more involved. Got a question or comment regarding the show? Send us an e-mail at ffalive@ffa.org, and we might read it on the air!



RFD-TV can be found on Dish Network channel 9409 and Direct TV channel 379.

Upcoming Shows:

August 29, 7 p.m. EDT*. Meet Jay Kelley, national FFA eastern region vice president, and Emily Horton, national FFA secretary. They will summarize their experi-



Jay Kelley



Emily Horton

ences with FFA summer conferences and leadership camps.

September 26, 7 p.m. EDT*.

Join Jackie Mundt, national FFA president, and Justine Sterling, national FFA central region vice president, as they prepare for the 78th National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.



Jackie Mundt



Justine Sterling

Don't forget, RFD-TV will also air LIVE gavel-to-gavel coverage of the 78th National FFA Convention, October 26-30, 2005. ●

** Dates and times are subject to change. Check your Direct TV / Dish Network listing or www.rfdtv.com for more information.*

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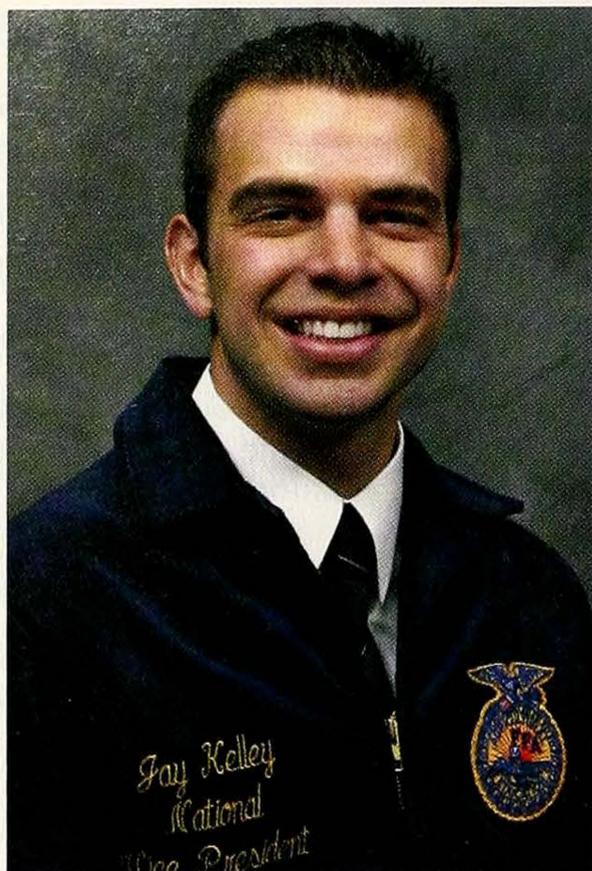
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National Officer Q&A

Meet National FFA Eastern Region Vice President Jay Kelley



Jay's 5 secrets of success

1. Have a game plan and an idea where you want to go so you know when you get there.
2. Deal with change. Change is inevitable, success is optional. View change as creating new possibilities!
3. Play to win. Work hard in every situation, no matter how big or small the task. Do not be satisfied by doing just enough to get by.
4. Fear failure. Create a mindset in which you set yourself up for success every time.
5. Want more. Stay humble, yet stay hungry. Accept success and push yourself for more.

industry visits. As we represent FFA and agricultural education, we also learn more about the state of the industry. In discussion with various agriculture companies, we're consistently hearing the same message—that opportunities in agriculture are expanding.

Does FFA experience, when listed on a college application or résumé, give FFA members an advantage?

As employers look at potential candidates for a job, there is no doubt that FFA experience stands out in a positive way. An employee who already has skills such as teamwork, communication and leadership will have a tremendous advantage.

Why should FFA members take full advantage of FFA leadership opportunities?

Even though we may want to believe differently, leaders are not

A native of Chillicothe, Illinois, 21-year-old Jay is a member of the Princeville FFA and a sophomore at The University of Illinois.

What's the outlook for careers in the agricultural industry?

Some of the great experiences as a national officer are business and



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made overnight. Through trials and tribulations, the process of leadership occurs. The more experiences we have with leadership opportunities, the more knowledge we will have as leaders in FFA, our communities and our world. The first time Tiger Woods swung a golf club, he was not the best in the world. But through his experiences, he gained the skills needed to make him one of the best.

What are some team-building techniques your national officer team have used this year?

From the start, the team focused on individual strengths and how we can use them to maximize the year. Rather than find our weaknesses and focusing on them, we identify which strengths would be best fitted to the situation. It has been a unique approach that has brought out the potential in our team.

What are some new things you've learned during your visits to local FFA chapters?

I am constantly reminded of the opportunities we have through agricultural education. In California, students were running the same type of experiments we saw a month later at Monsanto. In Massachusetts, students created a wildlife museum to teach others about the habitants of the local land. Who would have ever thought FFA members had amazing opportunities like these at the chapter level?

What's the theme for the upcoming 2005 National FFA Convention in Louisville?

The theme for the convention is Living to Serve. It reflects the ideals of teamwork and leadership that we develop through our careers in FFA. As members, we serve our schools, our communities and the world.

timeline

- 15
 - joined Princeville FFA Chapter
 - named FFA star chapter Greenhand
 - lost FFA national meats evaluation CDE
- 16
 - won FFA section parliamentary procedure CDE
 - received FFA chapter degree
 - lost bid for FFA section vice president
- 17
 - elected FFA chapter president
 - lost in FFA section parliamentary procedure CDE
 - received state FFA degree
 - elected FFA section president
- 18
 - re-elected FFA chapter president
 - lost state FFA diversified production proficiency award
 - elected FFA state president
- 19
 - graduated from high school
 - received FFA state degree
 - elected FFA state president
- 20
 - enrolled at University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign
- 21
 - elected FFA national eastern region vice president

Define student success.

Success occurs when students begin to develop and push their potential. We all have the potential for that success. As we grow through our experiences, we achieve student success and find that potential. ●



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FFA Faces

Members making a difference

Win a special gift from Chevrolet!

Chevrolet, sponsor of FFA Faces, will award each FFA member and advisor featured on this page a special gift. Nominate yourself, a friend or advisor by sending us a letter with the following details about your nominee: name, grade, address, phone number, e-mail address, FFA and academic achievements and extracurricular activities. All submissions MUST include a color photo of the nominee. Due to the large quantity of entries, we can't use every entry we receive, nor can we return or acknowledge submissions.

Wisconsin



JENNY BREUER

Her career dreams involve equine and beef management. To that end, this Slinger FFA Chapter president shows horses and beef cattle and has received numerous FFA degrees and awards. Jenny leads the chapter's horse evaluation team and received a bronze medal for her supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program in the state FFA proficiency awards program.

Louisiana



COREY WELCH

An eighth-grade member of the Fifth Ward Junior High FFA Chapter, Corey has already established himself as an FFA leader. At the year-end FFA chapter banquet, he received the FFA Discovery degree and several outstanding achievement awards for his involvement in forestry and poultry career development events (CDEs). For his SAE program, Corey has raised Boer goats, horses and miniature donkeys.

Texas



JESSICA WHITE

This Sheldon FFA Chapter member's FFA experience has her aspiring to become an agriculture teacher. As both chapter vice president and area first vice president, Jessica is active in FFA dairy judging, radio, public speaking and job interview competitions. During her freshman year, she served as FFA Greenhand president and received her chapter's H.O. Sargent diversity award.

New Jersey



DALE CRUZAN III

As New Jersey FFA President, Dale can look back and see how FFA played a key role in his development as a leader, a student and a person. He began high school as a shy student without real career aspirations. Through his FFA involvement in SAEs and CDEs, Dale developed confidence, leadership skills and a passion for landscape architecture, which will soon be his college major.

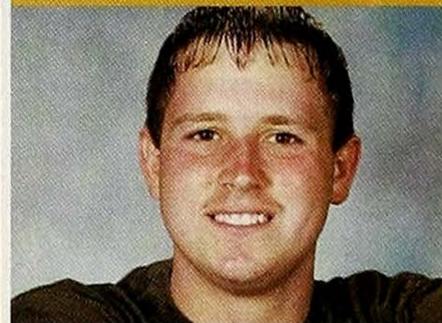
California



ADAM QUINTEROS

With a FFA Star Greenhand award under his belt, Adam is off to a strong FFA start. Entering his second year, he already has solid achievements on which to build: he placed third in the sectional FFA Creed competition; he played drums in the state FFA band; and he has started a market hog and rabbit SAE program. He also loves a challenge and is passionate about agriculture.

Colorado



BRAD HERTNEKY

For his SAE, Brad keeps busy working on the family dry land and irrigated farm on the Kansas border. But he'll be extra busy this school year as he assumes his new responsibilities as FFA High Plains District Executive Committee Officer and Burlington FFA President. Brad has attended three national FFA conventions, competes in soils and crops CDEs and recently earned his state FFA degree.

Arkansas



AMELIA MCCAFFERTY

As a freshman member of the Waldron FFA Chapter, Amelia is already making great strides. Her livestock evaluation CDE team recently took eighth place in the state, and she was among the top 10 individuals. She says this event helped her in two ways: it sparked her career interest and also helped her learn to express herself. For her SAE program, she raises swine and sheep.

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By Erich Gaukel

A few years ago, as a high school junior and Kindred FFA Chapter member, Krista Brag's environmental science class took a field trip to the Albert Ekre Grassland Preserve, a North Dakota State University (NDSU) research and education facility about five miles from her home.

"We were learning about some of the local plants and how they manage the range," Krista says. During the visit, one of the preserve's employees told the students about summer employment opportunities. That statement piqued Krista's curiosity. "I thought that would be pretty cool and I like the outdoors," she says. So she went home and wrote a letter, expressing her interest in a job.

"I kept trying to contact these people and they never got back to me," she explains. Just when she'd already made plans to break horses all summer, they returned her call.

THE START OF AN SAE

That's how Krista got the job and that's how she started her supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program in environmental science and natural resources management. Looking back, she appreciates the significance of the situation: "I was really persistent and pursued it because it was outdoors and it was with NDSU and that was the college I was looking at going to."

Today, she's still bearing the fruits of the labor invested in this SAE. With it, she won the state FFA proficiency award and, in 2004, placed in the top four nationally. Her experience helped her establish relationships with staff and students at NDSU, where she'll be a junior this fall. It also helped open the door to the summer internship she's just finishing up at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, where she's a soil science trainee.

During that first summer on the job at the Ekre preserve, Krista assisted graduate students with their projects. With clipboard, pencil and paper in hand, she collected data on just about everything growing and going on inside the preserve's 1,600 acres.

One of the big areas of study there

was—and continues to be—leafy spurge, an invasive plant that spreads quickly through seeds and roots and which, if ignored, can quickly make productive pasture land unusable.

"A fair amount of North Dakota has this problem," Krista explains. "Some of the pasture management techniques we're doing are with sheep and cattle, to see if we can reduce the amount without using a lot of herbicides and stuff like that." So she worked on a rotational grazing experiment. She says cattle have trouble ingesting the noxious plant, but sheep don't seem to mind it. So they sent the sheep out first to eat the spurge before the cattle would graze the area.

STATEWIDE RESEARCH

Krista helped identify grass species, took and processed samples and, during her third summer on the job, travelled the state, identifying birds and tracking small mammals.

She says it's hard to make sweeping conclusions from research she's helped assemble. But she has noticed one thing: "Pasture management is

Home on the range

Krista Brag found career inspiration at a grassland preserve near her North Dakota home

Photos: John Borge



really key. You're going to be able to run more cattle out there if you manage your pastures properly."

Krista's soil science work this summer is closely related to what she did at the preserve, but it's different enough that it's broadening her range of expertise. "This is my first summer away from home. I figured I needed to take a step more into my soil science major, so that's why I got this internship."

It's that ability to take chances and set goals that has Krista's career dreams moving ahead at full speed. "When I first got into FFA," she reflects, "my goal was to have one of my proficiencies just go to nationals. That was just my goal—to win state."

Achieving that goal brought her a scholarship and recognition. But it did something more profound—it helped her find a career she likes. And that's pretty important, when you consider she could be still be doing this a half century from now. ●

Visit ffa.org for Krista's advice on filling out FFA proficiency award applications.

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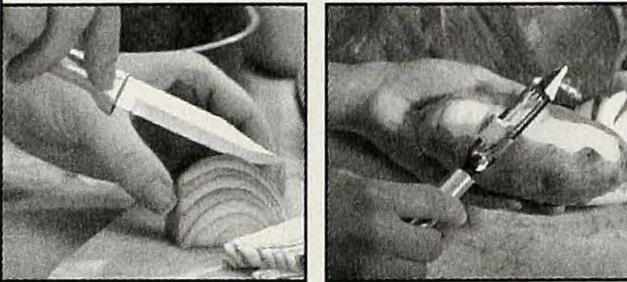


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FFA Talk

What's on your mind?

Show us your sign

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



Our high school in Rochelle, Georgia, has only about 400 students, but we are very fortunate to have more than 100 members in the Wilcox County FFA Chapter. Our ag teacher, Mr. John David McCall, is one of the reasons we have such a strong chapter. Wilcox's biggest industry is agriculture, and we have two FFA national officers hailing from our town: Joel McKie, 2002-2003 southern region vice president and Rachael McCall, 2004-2005 southern region vice president.

Submitted by Beth Parks, Wilcox County FFA Chapter reporter

The **BIG** question:

Here is your chance to respond to an FFA- or agriculture-related question. Here are your responses to our current question:

What's the most rewarding part of being an FFA member?

It teaches you that everyone is a winner, not a loser. It makes you a stronger person, more self-motivated to help others. It helps you to have a positive outlook on life, and you can go out into the world and grab life by the horns.

Jessica J. Higgins Petroleum, West Virginia

Being able to go to FFA events, meeting new people, competing and just having fun with my friends.

Jordon Brown Branch, Arkansas

YOUR LETTERS

My name is Julie Kerr and I am the Greenhand president for the Buckeye FFA Chapter in Arizona. I have lived in Buckeye my entire life and have always been involved in agriculture. My entire family is in the dairy business and I love it. I wrote the following poem to express how I feel about the FFA:

STRIVE TO DO YOUR BEST

Especially in official dress
Good is the enemy of excellence
A saying that makes a lot of sense
Have pride in what you do
There's something about that gold and blue
Positive thinking is a good tool
Believe in yourself and don't be a fool
This hometown is the best
Sun up to sun down these farmers don't rest
A place where you can turn the dirt
This organization is proud to work
As we enter our ag department
It's proven dedication is our requirement
Our beautiful emblem is something to preserve
Cherish what you have and learn to serve
Be a leader and believe
Put your heart to it, you will achieve
The FFA says so much
So help spread our successful touch
Lift your head this hard work will show
There's nothing like watching these crops grow
Get involved and do your job
Thank the farmer for your corn on the cob
Some people think ag's dull
Don't complain about the farmer with your mouth full
Ag is something to protect
Without it our economy would be a wreck
Appreciate the sweat and tears
From all the hard work of former years
The most important concept you see
Is to continue our agricultural legacy. ●

Editor's note: Due to a software typographical error in the production of the June 2005 issue of this magazine, there were two instances of missing text. On page 5, the heading below "Blue & Gold" should have read, "News from the National FFA Center." On page 24, the heading below "Your Money" should have read, "Tips for building your financial standing." We apologize for any confusion this may have caused our readers.

You get to meet new people, have fun, gain confidence and speaking skills and, most of all, gain experience, leadership skills, personal growth and career success.

Whitney Tolzin Lake Preston, South Dakota

Going to judging contests and being involved in other activities.

Tina Walker Portales, New Mexico

We'll print more of your answers in the next issue.

Address all correspondence to:
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WHAT'S HOT

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

TOP 5 SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE (SAE) PROGRAMS
dairy production
swine production
crop production
home/community development
landscape management

TOP 5 AGRICULTURAL CAREERS
veterinarian
farmer/rancher
agriculture teacher
welder
mechanic

TOP 5 FFA CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS (CDES)
livestock evaluation
horse evaluation
public speaking
agricultural mechanics
job interview

TOP 5 FFA CHAPTER EVENTS
bowling night
movie night
volleyball
rodeo
donkey basketball

TOP 5 TV SHOWS
the simpsons
csi
the oc
sportscenter
the family guy

TOP 5 MOVIES
remember the titans
eight seconds
2 fast 2 furious
the notebook
friday night lights

TOP 5 FOODS
pizza
steak
chicken
mexican
pasta

TOP 5 STORES
wal-mart
american eagle
target
abercrombie & fitch
hot topic

TOP 5 COUNTRY MUSIC ACTS
tim mcgraw
george strait
kenny chesney
shania twain
toby keith

TOP 5 ROCK MUSIC ACTS
linkin park
usher
ac/dc
nelly
3 doors down

TOP 5 BOOKS
harry potter books
the bible
friday night lights
the notebook
to kill a mockingbird

What's Hot Survey *Pick your favorite . . .*

FFA supervised agricultural experience (SAE) _____
Career in agriculture _____
Movie _____
TV show _____
FFA career development event (CDE) _____
FFA chapter activity _____
Food _____
Store _____
Country band/performer _____
Rock band/performer _____
Community service project _____
Book _____

Mail the completed survey to the address listed below:

What's Hot

FFA New Horizons
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960 OR e-mail to: newhorizons@ffa.org

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

Bracken County FFA Kentucky
Briggsdale FFA Colorado
Gray's Creek FFA North Carolina
Hilmar FFA California
Hobpton FFA North Carolina
Mitchell-Baker FFA Georgia
Turlock FFA California

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- Even when you're riding on two busted ankles.
- Even when 8.3 seconds feels like an eternity.
- Even when you're competing in three events a day.
- Even when you win back-to-back World All-Around Champion titles.
- Even when you realize tomorrow's practice just got twice as hard.



TWENTY
XX
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Civic pride

Members of Oklahoma's Kingfisher FFA Chapter pitch in to improve their community

By Stephen Regenold



If a single person can make a difference in a community, imagine the impact an entire FFA chapter can make. Through hundreds of hours of volunteer work each year, members of Oklahoma's Kingfisher FFA Chapter have made a difference in their rural community of 4,300 people. For their efforts, the chapter was named a Model of Innovation finalist in the community development division of the 2004 FFA National Chapter Awards.

Kingfisher FFA Advisor Ryan Burns has led his chapter in volunteer efforts for several years. Activities range from highway cleanup projects to holiday lights displays in a downtown park. He says most Kingfisher FFA members participate in several community projects each year, and Burns has set up a unique program to reward participation and service.

In the ag room at Kingfisher High School, a large chart on the wall lists the chapter members' names. On the other axis of this grid is a list of the year's various community development projects and volunteer opportunities. Each time an FFA member participates in an activity,

the member simply puts an X on the chart next to his or her name. At the end of the year, the X marks are tallied and the students with the most points are deemed the winners.

"It becomes kind of a friendly competition to see who can get the most points," Burns says. The top 20 to 30 members each year get to go to the state FFA convention, and a handful of them go to the national FFA convention as well.

UNIQUE WORK

To further keep members interested in community development, Burns organizes several unique projects throughout the year. Each winter, for example, students in an ag mechanics class build metal sculptors to drape with lights and display outdoors during the holidays. The annual "Kingfisher in Lights" project is a yearly tradition in town, and motorists offer donations to drive through the elaborate display set up in a city park. Other FFA members work at the event, collecting donations and watching over the light displays. All donations are directed back into the community.

The chapter's Greenhouse PALS program pairs high school FFA students with children at the Kingfisher elementary school to work on plant projects. Students in the high school's two horticulture classes go over to the elementary school once every other week to help plant, grow and harvest geraniums and other plants that the el-

ementary students later take home to give to their parents.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Katie Gruntmeir, the chapter reporter, will be a junior next year. She has participated in numerous volunteer activities over the last couple years and is among the chapter's top point leaders on the chart in the ag room. She says the chapter's unique activities have prompted her to volunteer, but the chart adds another level of motivation.

"I would have done the projects anyway, but I might not have been as enthusiastic," she says. Katie recommends motivating FFA members to volunteer by showing them the difference they can make in others' lives. Providing examples of where people need help in a community can push people to get involved, she says.

Her favorite activity has been the greenhouse PALS project with the elementary school students. Katie says she can see immediate boosts in self-esteem and interpersonal skills with the seven- and eight-year-olds. "We show them how to work with plants, but we also show them so much more," she says. "At a very young age, we show these kids what volunteering and FFA is all about." ●



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Conservation and natural resources

By Stephen Regenold

The life and times of Tom Bedell have seen the many faces of conservation and natural resources. The 73-year-old Philomath, Ore., resident grew up on a poultry farm south of San Francisco and served as president of his FFA chapter in the late 1940s. Degrees in animal husbandry and range management in the 1950s led to a career in academic extension services, some private conservation consulting and eventually a seat on Oregon's Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Bedell has worked with land own-



ers to restore native plant species, taught kids about water pollution, worked with the Oregon Department of Agriculture on endangered species initiatives and researched the eating habits of local cow and sheep herds.

Bedell's varied career reflects the field of conservation and natural resources as a whole, as there are literally dozens of job types that fall under this designation.

WIDE FIELD

The College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University, for example, offers Bachelor of Science degrees in Natural Resource Recreation and Tourism; Natural Resource Management; Rangeland and Forest Management and several related areas. The school's recent graduates have jobs in geology, forestry, tourism, science and niche fields like range ecology and watershed research. Conservation officers, sometimes referred to as game wardens, also are lumped into this varied field.

Bedell says he chose to pursue a Master's Degree in range management on a whim after coming home from serving in the armed forces during the mid 1950s. But the job was

The right career for you?

A few things you can do now if you're interested in a career in conservation and natural resources

- ✓ Get involved in FFA career development events (CDEs)
- ✓ Continue to take agriculture classes
- ✓ Start a supervised agricultural experience program (SAE)
- ✓ Talk to professionals in your area
- ✓ Start researching colleges that offer related programs
- ✓ Talk to your FFA advisor

a good fit, and Bedell had a successful career working at several universities in the western United States. He topped off the career serving a stint as President of the Society for Range Management.

"My work was always interesting," Bedell says, "and I liked being outdoors in the field and working with people on land issues."

A GOOD FIT

Bedell advises students interested in conservation and natural resources to start with a broad education and then narrow in on areas of interest. Decide to focus on either the plant or the animal side of the career, he says, and then focus on a major.

"I recommend internships not only for the educational benefits, but also for the experience of working in a specific area to see if it's a good fit for you and what you want to do in a career," he says.

Because of the diverse nature of this field, Bedell also recommends students take college courses in technical writing, speech, interpersonal communication and business.

"During my career, I worked with people from all walks of life on hundreds of different issues," he says. "The more I knew about these people, their jobs and their lives, the easier it was to accomplish our conservation goals." ●

Indiana FFA

July / August 2005

Read about the Indiana FFA Exhibit at the State Fair
Page J

Learn More about the Small Engines Show
Page D

Check out the many other great articles in this issue!

Inside This Issue...

- C Student Spotlight
- D Start Your Engines for the Small Engines CDE
- E Sprinting Toward Success
- F The Indiana State Fair - Older and Wiser
- G Leaders in Training
- H Strain Your Brain

Calendar of Events

July

- 6 National Proficiencies and National Chapter Award Forms Due to the State Office
- 14 State Sales and Food Science CDEs, Heritage High School
- 15 State Fair Entries Due

August

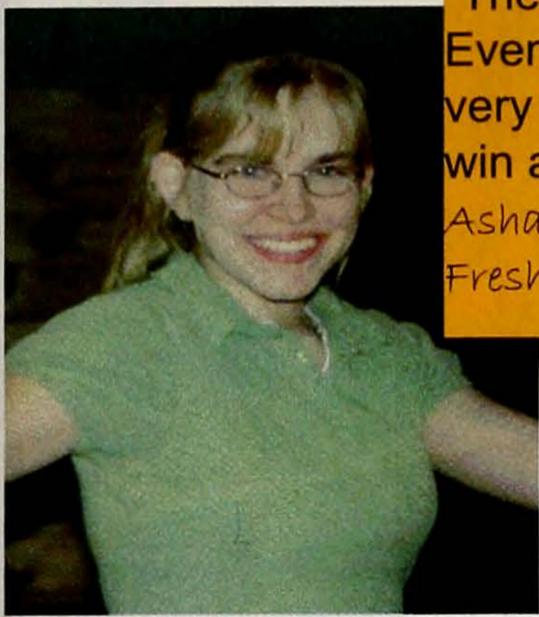
- 1-21 District Workdays at the Indiana FFA Pavillion at the State Fair (see website for more details)
- 20 FFA Day at the Indiana State Fair

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"The Career Development Events. Because they are very competitive and you win a lot."

Ashann Paxton
Freshman, Southmont FFA

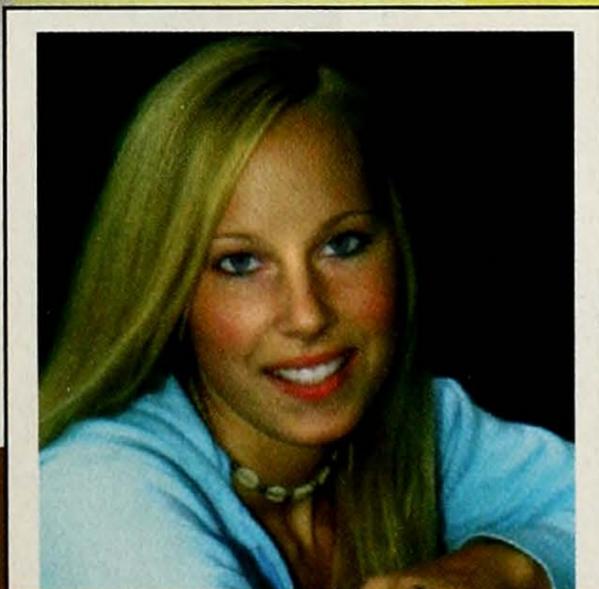


"My favorite part is seeing the students evolve from freshman to senior, the camps, and seeing what we have done in the past four years."

Aaron Smith
Junior, Owen Valley FFA

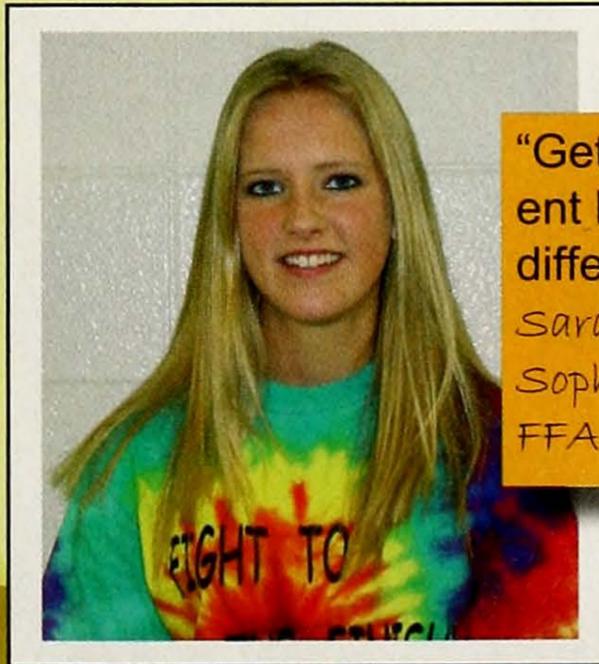
Student Spotlight!

What is your favorite part of



"Meeting people. I have met most of my best friends through FFA."

Diana Berning
Senior, Heritage FFA



"Getting to meet all different kinds of people from different schools."

Sarah Hartman
Sophomore, South Ripley FFA

Next Issue's Spotlight Question

What are you looking forward to most about going back to school?

E-mail your answer to inffaspotlight@yahoo.com

Start Your Engines!

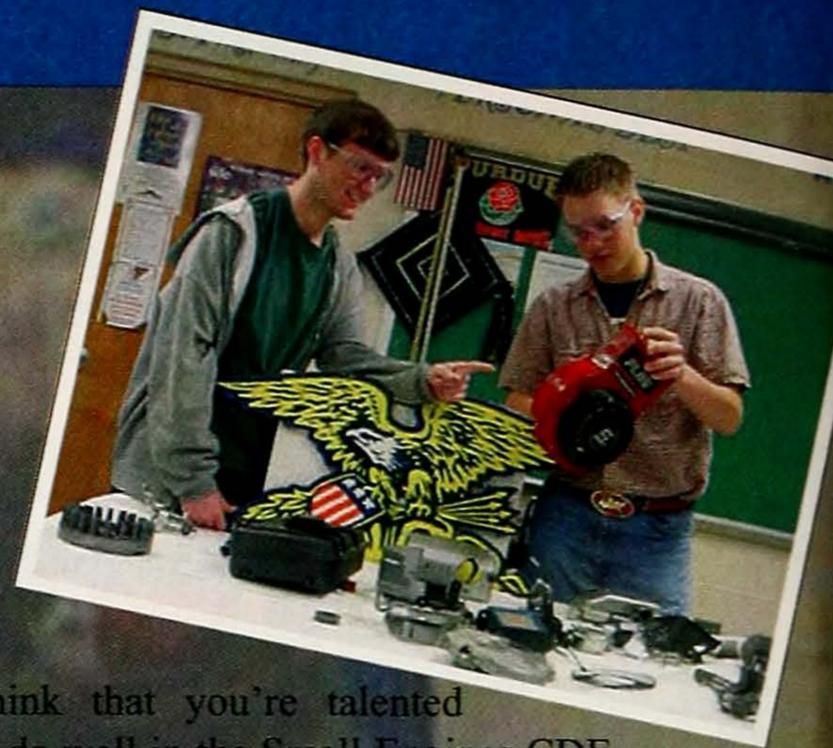
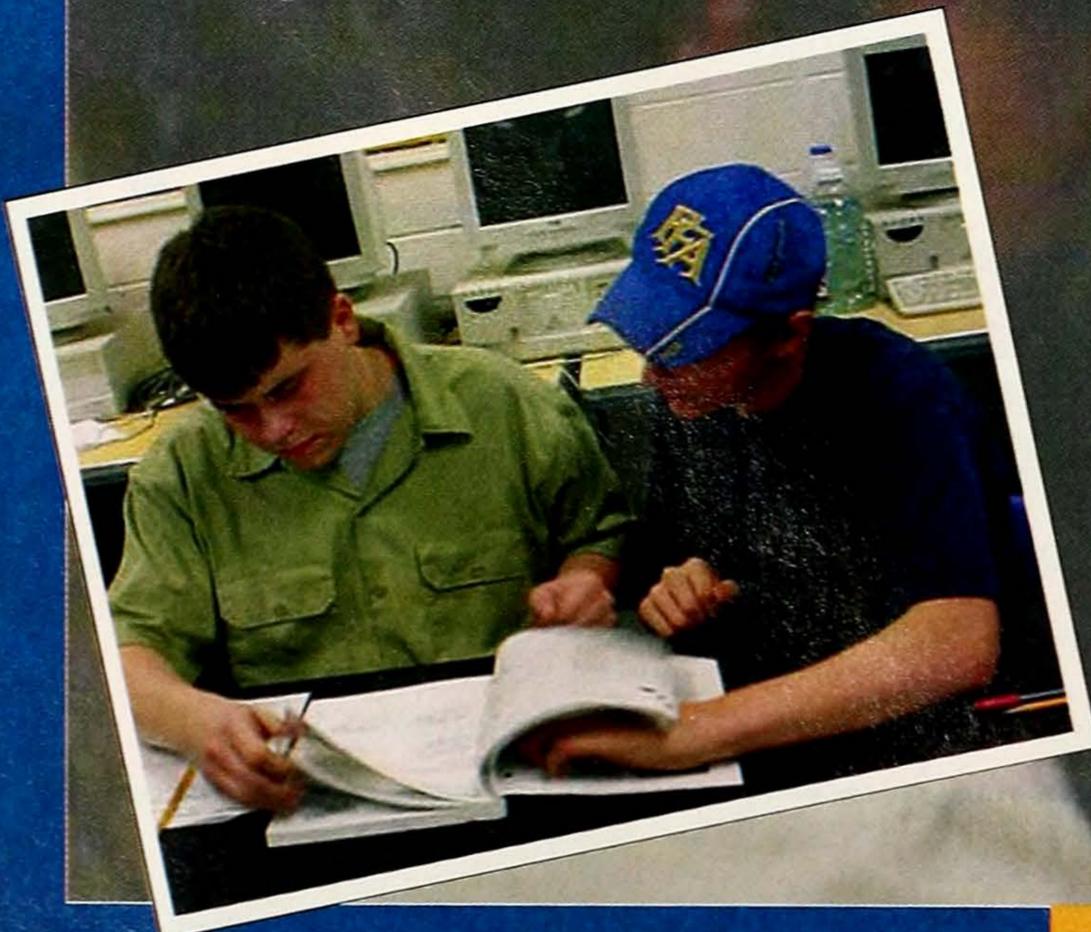
By Eric Barnard

Many people can't wait for the spring and summer. With all the great food at picnics, the thrill of the crowds at baseball games, and the roar of engines during race season who isn't excited? Some FFA Members are especially excited about the sound of all those engines and you can find them competing around the state in the Small Engines CDE.

The Small Engines CDE was developed to prepare high school student for careers in the mechanical service field. Members learn how to not only assemble a small engine, but they also learn valuable skills such as serving customers, working in a team, and solving problems.

"I enjoy the hands on experience of the contest," says Chris Lang of the Lakeland FFA Chapter. "I plan on studying small engine repair at a tech school after high school and the small engine contest has given me an opportunity to learn more about small engines."

The event consists of several different components, including a tool and parts identification test, a skills test, and a service and repair manual test. Of course, one of the most exciting and important parts of the CDE is the Assembly of the small engine. Members have 75 minutes to put together a completely disassembled, five-horsepower engine. Once they have the engine assembled the teams must add fluids and then prove the engine will run for 2 minutes straight.



If you think that you're talented enough to do well in the Small Engines CDE set your goal to compete in the state-level contest. Every year during the State Fair, the State Small Engines CDE takes place in the courtyard of the FFA Pavilion. FFA members have a chance to show off their talents not only in front of other teams, but also the crowds that make their way through the fair. In order to get to the state-level you first must make it in the top three in your district. After doing that you will get to compete at the Section level with the top three moving on to state.

"I participate in the small engine competition because I am interested in a career in the auto field and it will give me a good background in basic engines," says Chad Helgeson of the Dekalb FFA Chapter. "I enjoy being around other people with the same interest as me."

Beside the great learning experiences, one of the other benefits of competing in this CDE is the scholarships available. The top teams in the state each receive scholarships from Universal Technical Institute. The scholarships are awarded, along with plaques, at state convention in June at Purdue University.

"The small engine CDE provides a fun challenge to many participants and also provides the top five teams in the state with scholarship money to attend UTI technical school," says Mr. David Gurtner, Dekalb FFA Chapter Advisor and director of the state Small Engines CDE. "I have had several students get jobs as a small engine mechanics because of their experience and success in the small engines contest."

Sprinting to Success

By Jill Steiner

Blinking is not an option when it comes to watching this FFA member...or you might miss him. Whether he's sprinting toward the finish line in track, rushing the football for a touchdown, or just hurrying to his next activity, Daniel Stauffer, a senior at Southern Wells High School, has a way of finding success.

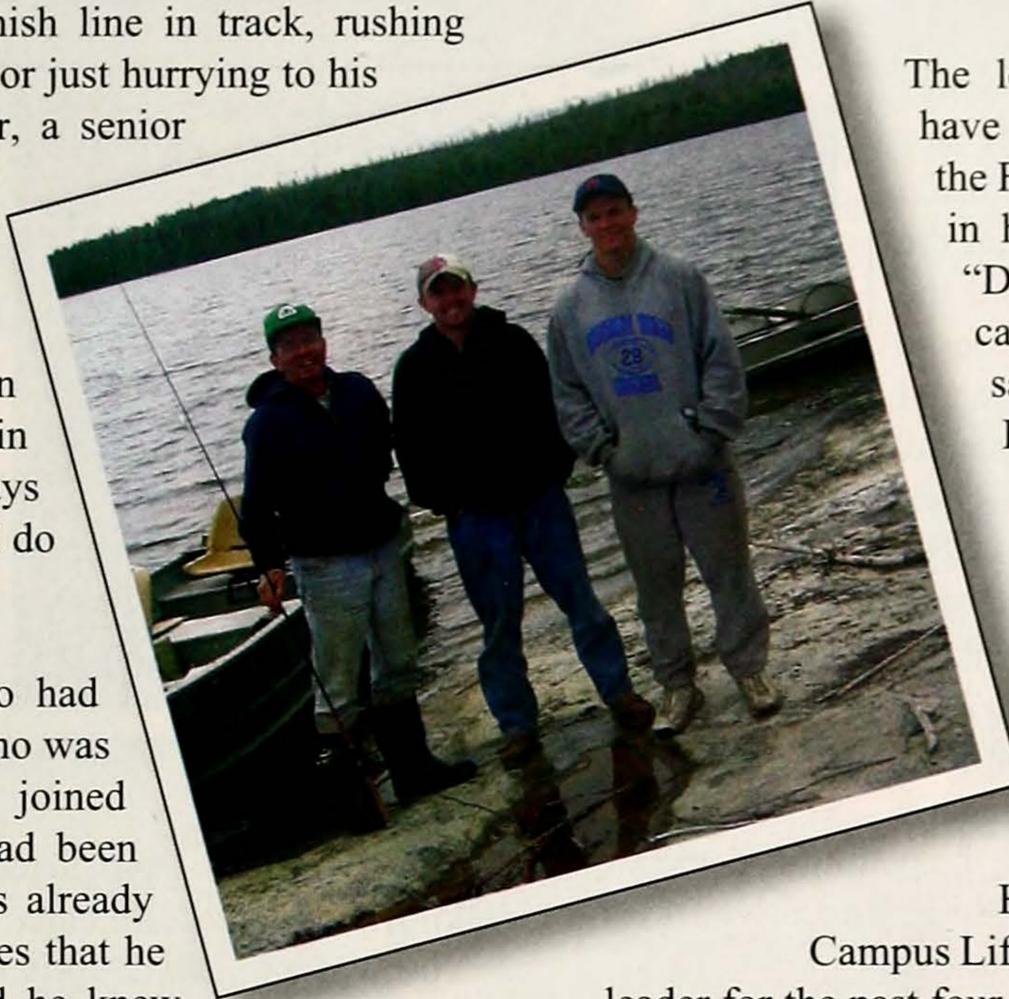
"I'm a very competitive person and strive to do my best in everything that I do," says Daniel. "I take pride in what I do and I want to succeed."

With two older siblings who had been members and a father who was the chapter advisor, Daniel joined as a freshman because he had been around it all his life. He was already well aware of the fun activities that he could get involved with, and he knew first hand from his family's involvement the positive impact the FFA could have on his life.

Daniel has definitely succeeded in the FFA, serving as Chapter President and District VI Treasurer. He competed in several different Career Development Events throughout high school. In 2003 he competed on the National Championship Soils Evaluation Team. He also chaired his chapter's silver ranking National Parliamentary Procedure Team in 2004. In 2004 and 2005, he was on the state winning Dairy Foods Judging Team.

On top of all those achievements in the FFA, he still manages to find time to have a successful Supervised Agriculture Experience program and was named District VI Star Farmer in 2005. He has his own asparagus farm and sells his product

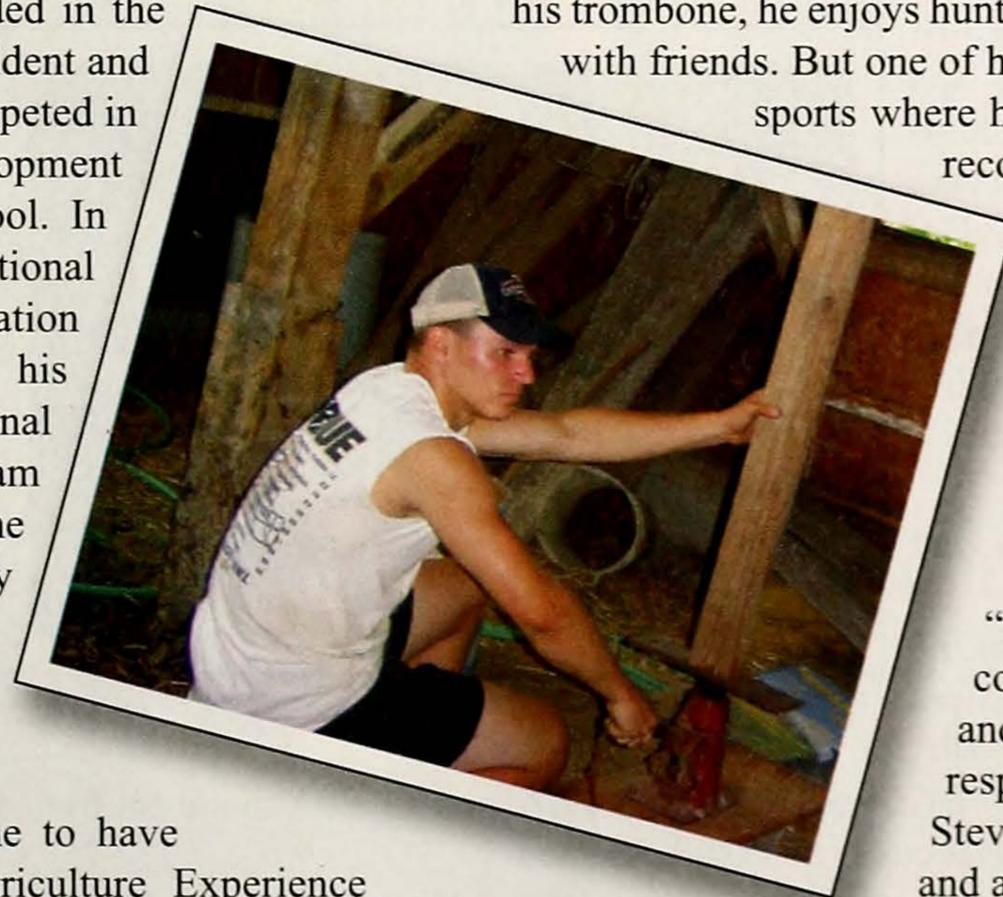
locally. Year round he raises Holstein steers for beef to sell to people in his community.



The leadership skills he gained have been put to use not only in the FFA, but in many other ways in his school and community. "Daniel has great leadership capabilities in all aspects," said Kyle Johnson, senior FFA member at Southern Wells. "He is a great leader no matter where he is at. I believe that is because of the FFA." Daniel served as his class president for the past four years and this year served as student body president.

He also has been active in Campus Life and has served as a student leader for the past four years. This year Daniel was captain of the football, basketball, and track teams.

Whenever Daniel isn't busy studying for school or playing his trombone, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and hanging out with friends. But one of his bigger passions is playing sports where he has broken several school records in track and football.



Next year he will continue with sports at DePauw University in Greencastle where he is playing football and studying Biological Economics.

"Daniel's dedication and commitment of time, work and excellence has earned the respect of his peers," said Mr. Steve Stauffer, Daniel's father and advisor, "Being the teacher's and advisor's son may have a few definitely no breaks in achieving

benefits, but success."

The Indiana State Fair - Older and Wiser

By Matthew Metzger

Deep-fried Twinkies...90 degree days...indoor putt-putt...midway rides and 4-H exhibits...it must be State Fair season in Indiana again!

Each year the State Fair serves as an excellent opportunity for Indiana FFA members to educate citizens all across the state on the importance of agriculture and the FFA. Over 300,000 visitors come by to take in the sights, sounds, and especially the tastes that the fair has to offer. And one stop that nobody can pass up is our very own FFA Pavilion. "If you had to take one piece of the Fair and say 'this is what it's about,' it would be FFA ... bright, talented youth who help fairgoers learn about Indiana's agriculture through agri-golf, the petting zoo and County Market," comments Cynthia Hoye, Executive Director of the Indiana State Fair Commission.

The Far Side of the Track

Over the years the FFA Pavilion has taken on a shape and style of its own. Originally a mere tent on the far side of the track, the Pavilion, a FBI Building construction, now sits as an anchor on the north side of the grounds, inviting many to take the trolley to the other side. But even with all the beauty that the building itself provides, the real magic of our Pavilion lies within.

Kids at Heart

Though the displays and agriculture education topics vary from year to year, the heart of the matter stays the same - agriculture is for everyone! From the FFA Foundation golf course, to Freddy the Fish, the FFA Pavilion continues to refine its focus to be as kid-oriented as possible. This interactive initiative proves time and again that the way to attract the youngest fair-goers is to entertain them while teaching them!

People Gotta Eat

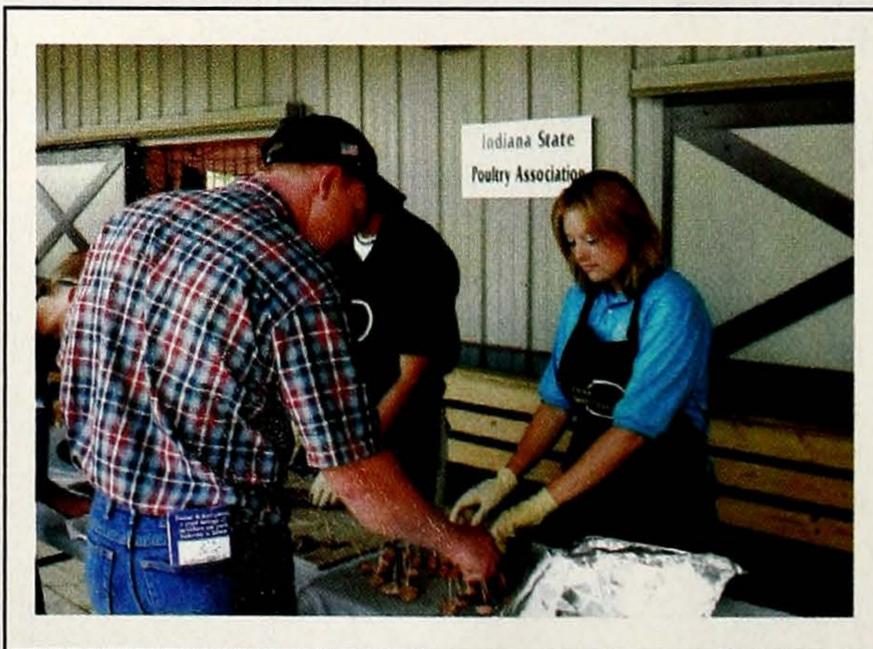
One extremely popular aspect of our Pavilion is our quite unique County Market, where fair-goers can purchase Indiana Value Added products. Items are collected from producers across the state and displayed with pride alongside FFA apparel. Not only does the market provide visibility for Indiana Value Added Products, but it also is a hot spot for cold drinks and great snacks on a hot summer day! "The Country Market is a great opportunity for FFA members to meet



agriculturalists from across the state and spread their knowledge about Indiana agriculture," says Sara Clark, 2005 Country Market Manager.

Its all You

FFA members from across the state sacrifice their summer days before State Fair ever begins to help construct the displays and get the pavilion ready for visitors. Then, once the fair begins, chapters again come in to help man stations, and assist passers-by with their questions about what they see. Joel Fulkerson of the Tri-County FFA Chapter adds, "Even though you're working in the hot summer sun, it's a lot of fun to be around so many people and hang out with other FFA members from across the state."



Visit the Indiana FFA website at www.indianaffa.org to find the set-up and workdays for districts around the state. Please get hold of your friends and advisors to organize a trip to come on in!

Leaders In-Training!

By Todd Ault

Have you just been elected to serve the Indiana FFA as a district officer for the 2005-2006 school year? If so, you are in luck. While many are dreading the return to school, homework, and chemistry labs, you have something to look forward to.

As a district officer you are placed in a position to lead at least eight chapters and hundreds of FFA members at different events throughout the year. To prepare yourself for this task there is a camp for you to attend. Premier Leadership Training, or PLT, is held every year at the Indiana FFA Leadership Center in Trafalgar, Ind. This year it will be held September 10-11, 2005.

Last year there were many fun activities for those members to participate in. This weekend is a great time for the officer teams to lay the foundation for many activities that district officers are responsible for throughout the year. Last year there were sessions ranging from how to demonstrate your professionalism to how to interact with people with different personalities. The workshop is organized by the Indiana FFA National Officer Candidate. The whole fun weekend is wrapped up by a banquet style lunch with recognitions.

The entire learning experience aside, this weekend is just a great chance to meet other district officers from all around the state. You finally will be able to put a name with some of the faces that you see at convention. You will make some friendships that will last for years. Plus the main advantage to coming to this camp is that you will finally be able to know what all you will have to do throughout the year.

So while everyone is dreading putting their noses back into those school books, you will finally have something to look forward to. Just remember that the second weekend in September will come faster than you will expect. Come prepared to have a whole lot of fun and get a lot accomplished!

STRAIN YOUR BRAIN



A note of thanks...

Take a moment to complete this puzzle and discover the final message from the 2004-2005 Indiana FFA State Officer Team!

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Profile



Shane Osborne: Conservation Officer

By Stephen Regenold

Following in his grandfather's footsteps, Shane Osborne, a native of Pelican Rapids, Minn., made up his mind at a young age to one day become a conservation officer with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Now, at age 27, he has obtained that title, working at what he describes as his dream job.

But getting the position as a conservation officer was no walk in the park, so to speak. Osborne worked hard throughout high school and college, winning FFA wildlife identification competitions, volunteering at conservation-related jobs, doing grunt work during summer breaks to gain relevant experience and serving as president of the Natural Resources Club in college. He also obtained a degree in Natural Resources Manage-

ment and took ancillary law enforcement courses at a technical college.

The day-to-day duties of a conservation officer (also known as game warden) involve monitoring people in such land-use activities as hunting, fishing, camping and snowmobiling. Conservation officers in Minnesota are certified peace officers, meaning they have much of the same power and responsibility as regular police and state patrol officers. Osborne, for example, has arrested drunken snowmobilers and tracked down poachers. "There have been some exciting moments on the job," he says.

In Minnesota, conservation officers must work a minimum of 40 hours a week, and many of these hours are worked at night and on weekends when parks and other recreational lands are more busy. Osborne says he's pretty much on call all the time. People even visit Osborne at his home during the day to talk about conservation issues. "You really are the face of the DNR with this job," he says.

Students aspiring to work as conservation officers should seek college degrees in natural resources or criminal justice, Osborne says. There are also law-enforcement courses and certifications that differ from state to state. For a start, he says work hard

and get good grades.

Osborne believes experience is the best preparation. During his first years in college he worked as a state watercraft inspector. He volunteered with environmental education-related activities on campus and at local parks. Osborne was so involved during college that he won the Student Conservationist of the Year award from the state chapter of The Wildlife Society.

The job of a conservation officer is unique in that it combines natural resources and law enforcement. People in this career area are required to memorize a litany of laws and regulations. They also need to be experts on local plant and animal species. There is also extensive interaction with the public, from simply checking for valid fishing licenses to pursuing potentially dangerous criminals in remote wilderness settings.

"One thing I've learned in this job," Osborne says, "is that you need to know the laws to a tee, and you need to be able to think fast and on your feet." ●

Insider

A closer look at the profession

SALARIES: Pay rates vary widely. The North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association reports a salary range from the upper \$20,000s to lower \$60,000s. For Minnesota DNR officers, salaries range from \$19.61 to \$26.27 hourly (or \$40,946 to \$54,852 annually) depending on experience. Conservation officers also are eligible for seasonal overtime earnings.

OUTLOOK: The outlook for prospective conservation appears to be good for a couple of reasons. First, as urban areas expand and new outdoor recreational areas are developed, there will be a strong demand for additional officers. In addition, there will likely be a demand for many new recruits as current officers from the baby boomer generation reach retirement.

WEB LINKS

Visit the U.S.

Fish & Wildlife Service website (<http://offices.fws.gov/statelinks.html>) for a directory of links to state fish and wildlife department websites. Many of these sites provide excellent career information.



Bright Prospects

Rabobank is proud to support FFA

Rabobank is committed to financing the success of American farmers and ranchers. We are proud to sponsor the FFA's New Century Farmer program and to invest our financial resources and agricultural expertise in the future of U.S. farming.

We congratulate the 40 students selected as "New Century Farmers" for the 2005 program:

Delaware

Phillip Sylvester

Illinois

**Tim Anderson
Leeson Gord
David Gramenz
Mark Roth
Brandon Smith
Bryan Waier**

Indiana

**Adam Lehman
Gregory Miller**

Kansas

**Caleb Alexander
Jarrod Bowser
Tyler Goetz
Lindsey Voet**

Kentucky

Jarad Spinks

Michigan

**Ryan Kramer
Thomas Ross
Joseph Tarkowski**

Minnesota

Britt Wegner

Missouri

Scott Cupps

Nebraska

**Jeff Heinrich
John Krohn
Joe Pongratz**

Ohio

**Peter Dinius
Nathan Guilford
Tyler Hake
Gregory Hartschuh
Nicholas Seger**

Oklahoma

**Devin Brakhage
Nathan Johnson
Derek Shepard**

South Carolina

Joshua Waters

South Dakota

**Zachary Anderson
Jason Frerichs
Jesse Geib
Megan Sneesby**

Texas

**Matthew Britten
Brandi Kneupper**

Washington

**Eric Dobbins
Shane Vander Veen**

Wisconsin

Jeff Elmhorst



Apply yourself

When it comes to applying to college, there's more to it than you might expect. Here are 4 things you can do to improve your chances

By Chris Hayhurst

1. Start Early

Assembling a top-notch college application takes time and effort. Each school has different requirements. Some ask for essays, recommendations and personal interviews, while others just want transcripts and standardized test scores. All have deadlines that must be met. By starting the college application process early, you'll have plenty of time to put together the perfect package.

2. Give Them What They Want

According to Jimmy Moore, director of admissions at Utah State University, admissions people first and foremost look for proof that an applicant can succeed at the next level. "The bottom line," says Moore, "is your cumulative GPA and your standardized test scores." A strong high school transcript—including good grades in tough classes—shows you

can handle the rigors of college. For many colleges, your transcript also proves that you've taken the core classes required for acceptance. Your SAT or ACT scores indicate how you stack up against applicants from other high schools.

Some schools require applicants to submit one or more essays. A clear, well-written essay—one that picks up where the rest of the application leaves off—is your chance to stand out. While Utah State does not require an essay, says Moore, it's fine to include one anyway, especially if you'll be attending their College of Agriculture or hope to land a scholarship. "It may enhance your application to include an essay outlining your involvement in the FFA and your interest in agriculture," says Moore. "We'll certainly take a look at it and use it in our decision." The same can be said at most schools. To be sure, however, check with each school's admissions department before you submit anything extra.

The last two common components of an application are recommendations and the personal interview. Recommendations should come from teachers, advisors or guidance counselors that know you well. The interview allows admissions people to meet you in person and may be your best chance to leave a good and lasting impression. For a nice finish, follow up with a thank you note.

3. Highlight Your Experience

The rest of your application—the space allotted for your personal history, activities, and leadership experience—is also important. "You kind of want to sell yourself," says Elaine Marchello, undergraduate program coordinator at the University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "Emphasize your agriculture background, your involvement in the FFA, all the things you've done,



and point out how it can help you in your chosen career path. That's really going to strengthen your application." If you served as a chapter, state or national officer, say so. Highlight conferences attended, speeches given, awards received and committees led. If you're an athlete, a musician or an artist, let them know.

4. Avoid Common Mistakes

According to admissions people, the easiest way to sink an otherwise great application is to make mistakes. Include everything that is asked for and check your spelling and grammar. Have at least one adult with a keen eye for perfection read through your application before you submit it. Above all, meet your deadlines. ●

College Application Checklist

• Freshman-Senior Years: Take challenging classes, participate in extracurricular activities

• Sophomores: Review admissions requirements at schools that interest you

• Juniors: Research and visit schools, register for and take standardized exams, inform potential references you'll be asking them for letters next fall

• Seniors: Solidify list of schools, retake standardized exams if necessary, apply to schools in writing or online (see individual college websites), apply for financial aid (see <http://studentaid.ed.gov/>) after January 1

Cost control

College is expensive, there's no getting around it. But that doesn't necessarily mean you can't afford it. Here are your options

By Chris Hayhurst

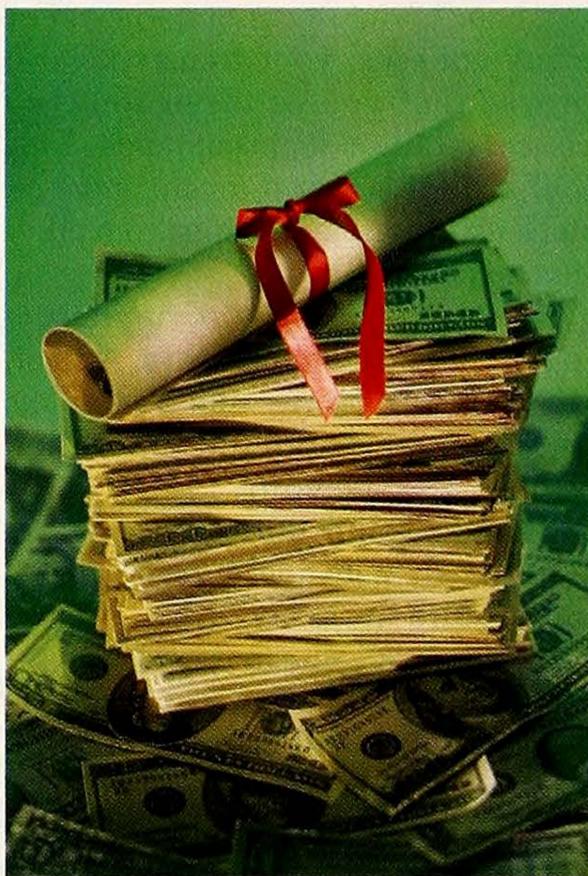
The first thing to do is fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA (see <http://studentaid.ed.gov> or call 1-800-4-FED-AID). "The federal government is the single biggest player in financial aid nationwide," says Jeffrey Wallen, assistant director of financial aid at the University of Vermont. "They're the place to go for grants and low-interest loans." The U.S. Department of Education, which runs the federal aid program, provides more than \$60 billion each year to students in the form of grants, loans and work-study opportunities.

Once your application is reviewed, you'll receive a personal Student Aid Report, or SAR. A copy of this report is also sent to the individual schools you listed on your FAFSA and is used to determine your aid package. Ideally, the aid you receive—including loans, grants (for need), scholarships (for merit) and work-study (flexible campus-based job opportunities)—will bridge the gap between the cost of attendance and your FAFSA-determined Expected Family Contribution, or EFC. Loans must be repaid after graduation. Grants and scholarships are free.

STATE AND INSTITUTIONAL AID

Students who find their federal aid package inadequate can turn to their state government. Each maintains its own aid program with a unique set of requirements for applicants. One potential hang-up: State aid often must be used in the state that awarded it.

If you plan to attend an out-of-state school, this can be a problem. "It never hurts to apply for state aid," Wallen says. "But read the fine print. If they give you aid, where can you take it?"



Your guidance counselor can direct you to your state's aid program.

Colleges and universities also offer aid. At some, everyone who applies for admission is automatically considered for merit-based scholarships. Other schools require separate applications for each scholarship. Either way, it pays to check in with each institution's financial aid office to see what is available. The University of Vermont's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, for example, offers a \$1,000 scholarship each year to a freshman who expresses an interest in farming. Returning students are eligible for several other scholarships in the \$2,000-\$3,000 range.

PRIVATE SOURCES OF AID

There's one other major source of financial aid: private organizations. "There are many types of outside groups that offer scholarships," Wallen says. "Your local Kiwanis Club, a

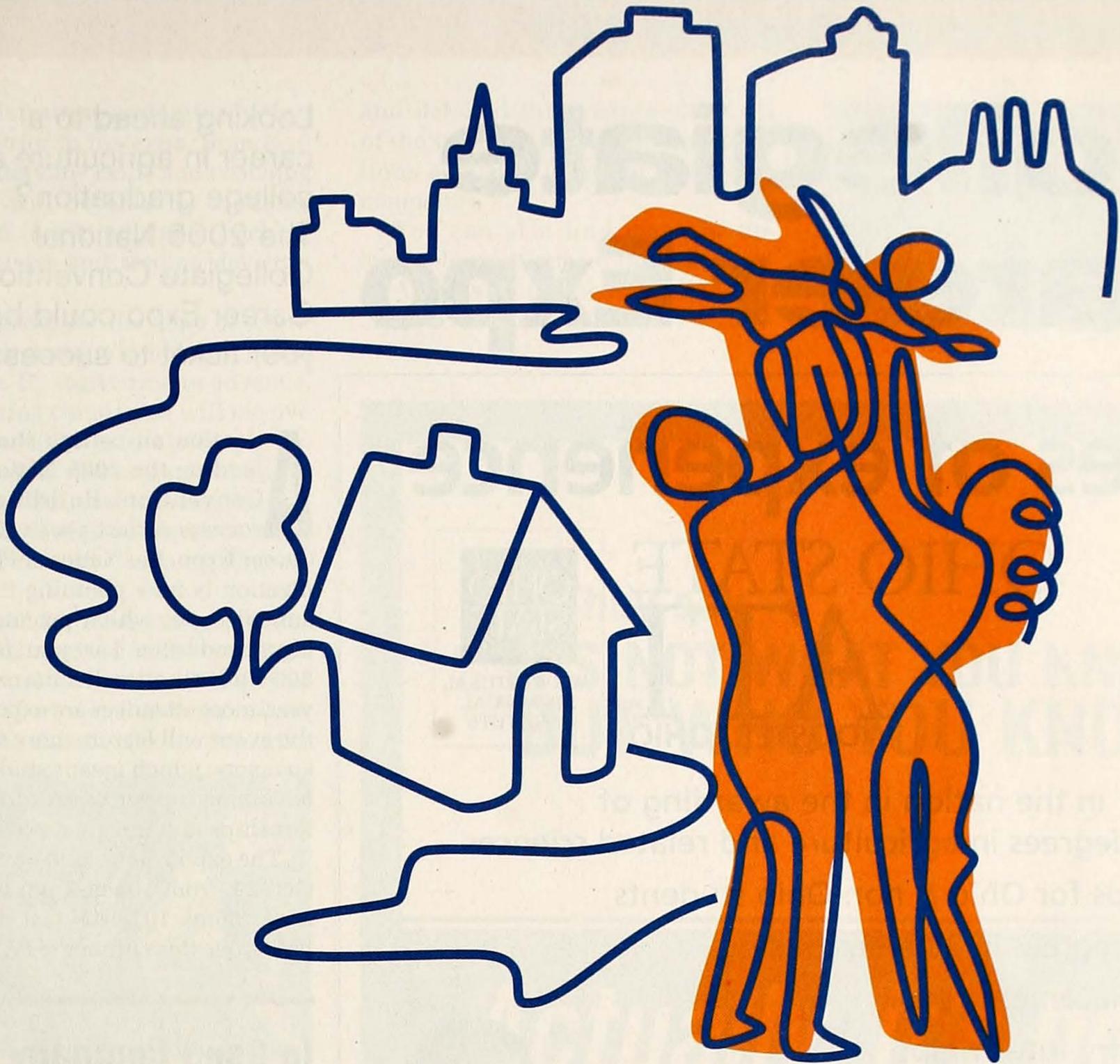
local employer, a sports association, your high school, the list goes on."

FFA members have access to a huge scholarship fund through the National FFA Organization. According to Carrie Powers, who handles scholarships for FFA, each year nearly \$2 million is available to college-bound FFA members. Some scholarships are based on financial need, while others are based on academic performance, leadership experience or supervised agricultural experience (SAE) programs. Still others require the student be from a certain state or study a specific major. Awards range from \$300 to \$10,000. Powers says about one of every four students who apply receives a scholarship. Applications are available in November at ffa.org or from FFA advisors and guidance counselors. State FFA scholarships also are available, so check with your state FFA office.

Private loans—from banks, mortgage lenders or other financial institutions—are yet another option. The problem with private loans—they typically come with higher interest rates and less-flexible repayment plans than federal student loans.

FINAL WORDS OF ADVICE

One thing many students and parents fail to realize is that a school with a higher "sticker price" may actually be more affordable than a "cheaper" school if it offers better financial assistance. "It pays to shop around and compare the total amount of debt you're being asked to take on," Wallen says. "Then you can decide whether the investment you would make in each institution is worth it to you. That's a question only you can answer." ●



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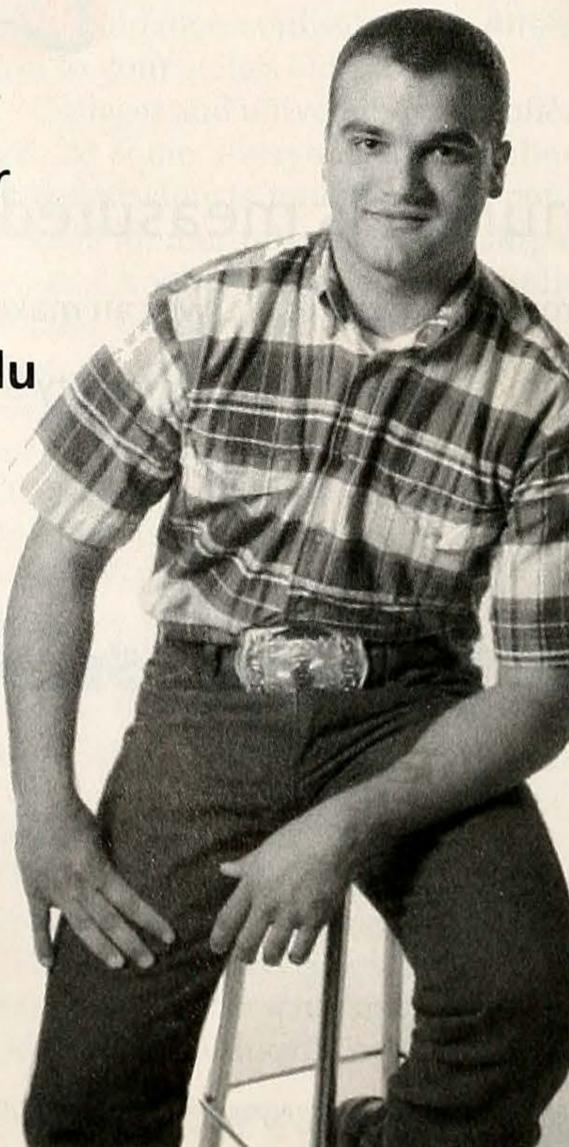
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Looking ahead to a career in agriculture after college graduation? The 2005 National Collegiate Convention's Career Expo could be your ticket to success

Attention all college students attending the 2005 National FFA Convention: Building on the success of last year's Collegiate Career Expo, the National FFA Organization is now planning its second annual expo, which promises to be bigger and better. Last year, more than 500 students attended the expo. This year, more attendees are expected and the event will feature more corporate sponsors, which means students will have more opportunities to seek internships and full-time positions.

The expo will be held on Saturday, Oct. 29, from 10 am-2 pm in conference rooms 101-102, just down the hall from the national FFA conven-

In Good Company

Some of the organizations and companies you'll find at the Collegiate Career Expo

Agrilience
Archer Daniels Midland
Bayer
Carhartt
Chevrolet
Dow AgroScience
Dupont
Fastline Publications
John Deere
Kraft
Monsanto
Pioneer
Stihl
Toyota
Tractor Supply Company
Tyson
USDA NRCS
USDA FSA

2005 National Collegiate Convention

tion registration and information centers. Prior to the expo, from 8-10 am, an interview skills and coaching program will be held for students interested in getting some coaching on interviews and résumé development.

Pre-register for the expo at www.ffa.org/convention/html/conv_collegiate.htm. By registering in advance, participating companies will receive your information before the expo and can request a meeting with you on Saturday. This year, the registration website will also allow you to attach your résumé to the registration form.

The first 500 students to register online will receive a leather portfolio and 20 business cards. When you arrive at the expo registration desk you will be able to pick up your gifts



Be Prepared

What you need to do before the Collegiate Career Expo

- Starting Sept. 1, register online for enhanced benefits and special gifts
- Arrive early to meet with companies of your choice
- Wear professional or FFA official dress
- If you are under 18 years old, bring your college ID
- Bring 20 copies of your résumé
- Pick up a registration packet on-site
- Identify key companies of interest

and detailed information about all of the internship and full-time positions available from the exhibiting companies.

You can also find many of the available positions on the Collegiate FFA website (www.ffa/collegiate.cfm). ●



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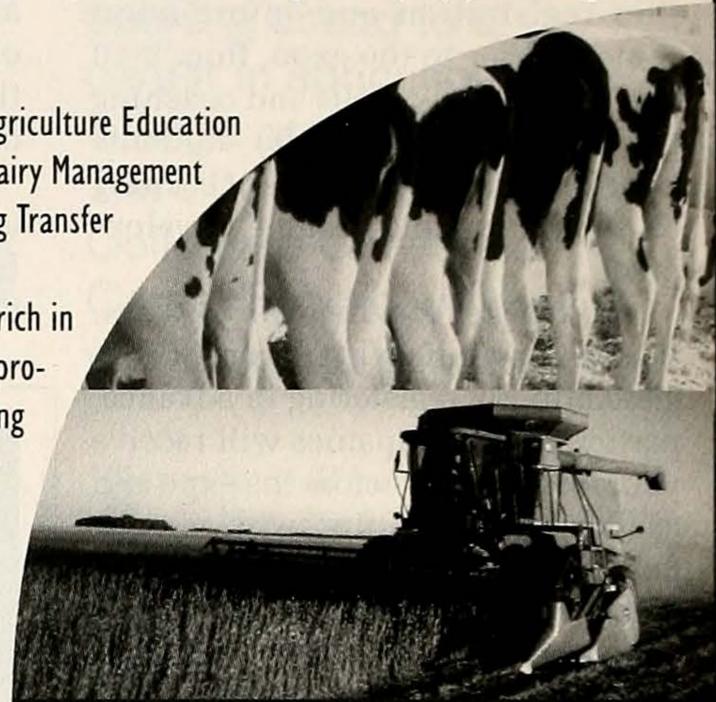
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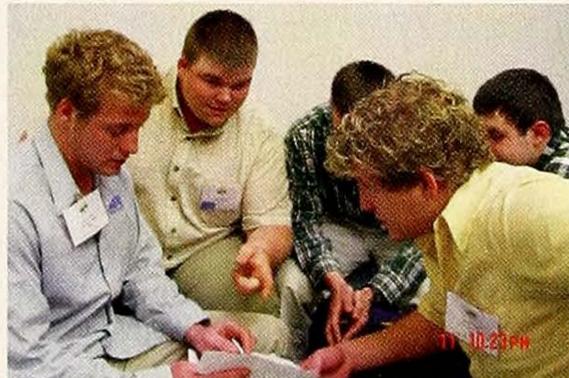
In addition to the career expo and all of the other great events at the national FFA convention, here are several other programs, events and benefits designed just for postsecondary students

INTRODUCTION TO COLLEGIATE LIFE KNOWLEDGE

This informational program will be presented twice. College students, FFA advisors and faculty will learn more about and be trained to share components of the FFA Collegiate Life Knowledge program with their organization or campus groups. The 120 lessons provided in the Collegiate Life Knowledge CD will be available on-site or at the Core booth in the FFA Shopping Mall.

COLLEGIATE CONVENTION WORKSHOPS

Students can attend six information-packed workshops, covering topics ranging from interviewing tips, recruitment, communication, career development opportunities, among many others. The lessons are drawn directly from the Collegiate Life Knowledge program. Last year, more than 400 students took part. The workshops are open to all collegiate students.



COLLEGIATE HOUSE PARTY

This event is on Friday night of convention and more than 260 students took advantage of the opportunity last

year. The event is held at a dance club in downtown Louisville. Students take buses from the convention to the club at no cost. It's an opportunity for students to network in a fun and positive environment.

PAS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS) is offering a personal growth opportunity for its members at the convention in the form of an all-day leadership and development conference. The first 200 PAS members to register for the conference will receive multiple lessons from the Collegiate Life Knowledge program and participate in a luncheon with keynote speaker Stedman Graham.

COLLEGIATE CONVENTION GUIDE AND INSERT

You can get your hands on detailed information on all collegiate convention activity in two ways. The first option is the Collegiate Convention Guide, which will be mailed to 1,000 collegiate campuses and organizations. The second option is the insert inside the FFA Convention Planning Guide. ●

Join in the fun

7 organizations for college ag students

COLLEGIATE FFA

Collegiate FFA is a form of FFA membership and has been around since 1931. It has continued to be an influential part of agriculture education on the postsecondary and secondary level of education. Since college is considered higher education, our hope is that Collegiate FFA provides a higher level of opportunity for our collegiate membership. (www.ffa.org/collegiate.cfm)



NATIONAL POSTSECONDARY AGRICULTURAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION (PAS)

PAS is associated with agriculture/agribusiness and natural resources offerings in approved postsecondary institutions offering associate degrees or vocational diplomas and/or certificates. PAS provides opportunities for individual growth, leadership and career preparation. PAS aspires to be the premier leadership and career development organization serving college agriculture students. (www.nationalpas.org)



AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATORS OF TOMORROW (ACT)

ACT develops and strengthens agricultural communication students through professional growth opportunities and educational programs. The mission is to build relationships among professionals, students and faculty, to provide professional and academic development and to promote agriculture through communications efforts. (<http://nact.okstate.edu>)



AGRICULTURE FUTURE OF AMERICA (AFA)

The mission of AFA is to identify, encourage, and support outstanding college men and women preparing for careers in the agriculture and food industry. AFA is a catalyst in the preparation of the next generation of agriculture leaders. Members benefit from training, networking, mentoring and industry exposure. (www.agfuture.org)



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Making better men, and through them a broader and better agriculture. Promoting a wider acquaintance and a broader outlook through fellowship in an organization that stands for the best social, mental and moral development. (www.agrs.org/)



ALPHA ZETA - LEADERS FOR THE WORLD OF AGRICULTURE

Alpha Zeta is the oldest national agriculture professional society recognizing the top forty percent of students for scholarship, leadership and character at 65 universities across the nation. (www.alphazeta.org)



FARMHOUSE INTERNATIONAL FRATERNITY

FarmHouse strives to build the whole man—intellectually, spiritually, socially/morally and physically. For a century, FarmHouse has stood out among the crowd of Greek-letter general fraternities. (www.farmhouse.org)



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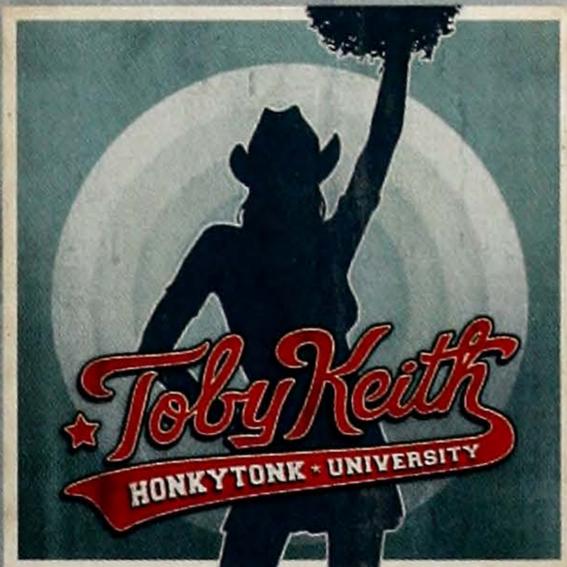
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おかえりなさい Welcome to Japan

A continuation of national FFA officers' journal entries from their recent Japan trip

Part 2 of 2

1/30

We returned to the hotel for lunch and then departed for the Edo-Tokyo Museum. We learned that Tokyo was once called Edo before it became the capital. We spent an hour and a half in the museum learning more about Japan, Japanese culture and the city of Tokyo. After the museum tour, we departed for the Tokyo Metropolitan Government building. We tried to get to the building before sunset so that we could watch the sun go down over Tokyo from the 45th floor of the building. We arrived there just in time. You could see all of the city from atop this building; it was a breath-taking view.
- Rachel McCall

1/31

We started the day off by leaving Tokyo on a super express train en route to Nagoya. After catching a local train, we made our way to the Meinan Food Industrial Complex, located in one of the largest bays in Japan. Many commercial imports are brought into this bay to be distributed to the rest of the country. Our first stop was at Chitafuto, a grain distributor located directly on the port. On the



The officers got to meet with Mr. Masayoshi Sato, chief operating officer of Mitsui & Co., Ltd. - Foods Group. The company sponsored the officers' trip.

day that we visited, they were unloading a vessel full of corn from New Orleans. Our next stop was at Oji Cornstarch, where we learned about the process to make cornstarch. The production rate for the company was 700 tons of starch per day. We also found out that they use corn from the United States.
- Jay Kelley

2/1

We got on the bullet train and headed to our next stop, a tour of a Yanmar Agricultural Machinery facility. Our group was very excited to see tractors making their way through the assembly line. A highlight for us was seeing some green tractors and taking pictures on one of the finished rice planters. After our adventures at the factory and a temple, we journeyed back to our hotel for a tea ceremony, where we learned to properly accept and drink the tea. Then we tried our hand at making it. It was a great chance to experience a meaningful cultural tradition. - Jackie Mundt

2/2

Our first stop was Kinkakuji, or "The Golden Pavilion," a Zen temple which was under six inches of snow. It houses sacred relics of Buddha and is covered in gold leaf. That night, we checked into a traditional Japanese inn. We ate a great meal where we all sat on the floor and we wore kimonos. To finish off a great experience we slept on futon mattresses laid on the tatami mat floors and it didn't even seem like sleeping on the floor.
- Emily Horton



Among the business and industry visits the officers made in Japan was a visit to Toyota. The officers saw the latest models and visited with company officials about the Toyota's FFA sponsorship.

2/3

We spent the morning sightseeing on Miyajima Island, where we came upon Mount Misen. We decided that we would hike to the top of the snowy mountain. We all made it to the top of the mountain as a team, taking some breaks along the way. The view from the mountain's observatory made the climb worthwhile. The rest of our afternoon was designated for Hiroshima. We visited the Peace Memorial Park and Museum. This was a very enlightening, reflective visit. We were surprised by the magnitude of the atomic bomb and the effects that continue to this day. It was a very somber, sad reminder of the destruction of war. - Rachel McCall

2/4

Today we awoke at the crack of dawn to catch the bus to the airport to embark on our long flight home. It was hard saying good-bye to Japan and to our wonderful tour guide, Hiro. During the flight home, we had time to absorb the trip. We grew a lot as a team. While we were glad to be back home, we wouldn't take back a moment of our trip. - Justine Sterling ●

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Commercial success

FFA members get a shot at prize money for creating messages about agriculture

The Garst Seed Company is sponsoring its second annual commercial competition for FFA members. With \$7,500 in prize

money, the competition is a unique opportunity for you to learn about agricultural communications and possibly earn cash for your chapter.



The Jackson County Central FFA Chapter from Minnesota claimed one of last year's \$1,000 prizes in the Garst commercial competition.

Here's how it works. Your FFA chapter will create an advertisement (print, radio or TV) based on the theme, "Raising Leaders Through FFA—Cultivating Agriculture's Future." Your ad should accomplish two things: 1) Tell how FFA helps students become leaders and 2) Explain FFA members' role in keeping agriculture and related industries viable. There is a classroom component to this competition, so your FFA advisor will need to register by sending a general inquiry e-mail to askgarst@garstseedco.com. Entries will not be returned and must be post-marked by Oct. 3, 2005, to qualify for judging. The entry form, curriculum and additional rules can be downloaded at the website listed below.

Garst will announce a winner from each advertising category—print, radio and TV—in mid-October and will issue awards at the 2005 National FFA Convention. In each of the advertising categories, first place wins \$1,000; second place wins \$750 and third place wins \$500. An additional \$500 will be awarded to the overall best of show entry.

"I speak from experience when I say that FFA has had, and continues to have, a tremendous positive influence on students," says Garst communications manager Lori Thomas. "At Garst, we believe it is fitting to recognize the opportunities FFA offers today's youth and its accomplishments in preparing students to lead the agriculture, food and fiber industries." ●

For more information, send an e-mail to askgarst@garstseedco.com or visit the following website: www.garstseed.com/GarstClient/GarstNews/news.aspx?NewsItem=10058

ffa/newhorizons



BORN IN 1975



BORN IN 1985



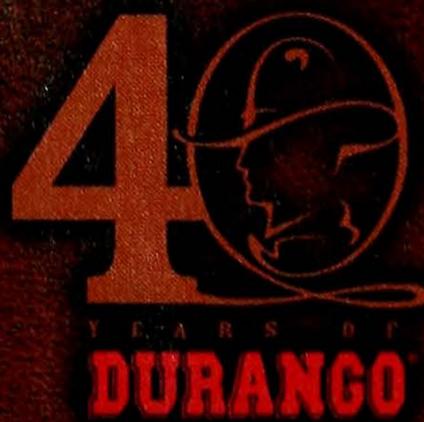
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LAST LAFF

Q: How can you tell if a bee is on the phone?

A: You get a buzzy signal.
Neal Bollinger
Houma, Louisiana

Q: What do you call an outlaw goat?

A: Billy the Kid.
Josh Steele
Ravenna, Nebraska

Q: What runs faster than you?

A: Water.
Frank Konieczny
Cleveland, Ohio

Q: What is a cow's favorite subject?

A: Mooosic.
Britany Boehm
New Salem, North Dakota

Q: Why did the mushroom get all the girls?

A: Because he was a fungi.
Corey Flowers
Dunn, North Carolina

Q: Why did George take a ladder to the game?

A: The Giants were playing.
Christine Hitchcox
Center Hill, Florida

The Agrinuts

By Jim Bradshaw and Michael Bettendorf



Q: What's the smallest soda in the world?

A: Minnesota.
Caleb Shaver
Muldrow, Oklahoma

Q: What kind of taste does a chicken have?

A: Im-peck-able.
Lauren Bishop
Bainbridge, Georgia

Snake 1: Are we poisonous?

Snake 2: I don't know. Why?

Snake 1: Because I just bit my lip.
Sara Biri
Sainte Genevieve, Missouri

Q: What is white, has a horn and gives milk?

A: A milk truck.
Paige Fountain
Wellsville, New York

Q: What is brown and sticky?

A: A stick.
Ashley Prete
Edgewood, Maryland

Q: Why did the one-handed gorilla cross the road?

A: To get to the second-hand shop.
Brandi Dill
Hawley, Texas

Q: What did the calendar-maker name his daughters?

A: April, May and June.
Julie Anna Shuey
Lakeview, Oregon

Q: What did the horse say when she finished eating?

A: That's the last straw.
Marion James
Romance, Arkansas

Q: What do you get when you cross a rooster and a duck?

A: A bird that gets up at the quack of dawn.
Colleen Fogerty
Hartland, Connecticut

We pay \$5 for each printed joke. Because we receive so many jokes, we can't acknowledge receipt of submissions. E-mail jokes to newhorizons@ffa.org or mail to FFA New Horizons, P.O. Box 69860, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Entries that do not include the following will not be considered: name, street address or rural route (no P.O. Box addresses) and your FFA chapter.

Puzzler by Matt Gaffney

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

ACROSS

- 1 ___ Osborne (former FFA member who now works for the Minnesota DNR)
- 6 FFA eastern region vice president from Illinois ___ Kelley
- 9 Not yesterday or tomorrow
- 10 "Now I understand!"
- 11 Country singer Earle
- 12 Average score on a golf hole
- 13 It's surrounded by water
- 15 Garage ___ (how some kids may raise money)
- 18 Finishes
- 19 ___ Brag (noted FFA member from North Dakota)
- 21 Goal
- 22 State where "Napoleon Dynamite" takes place
- 26 Peg used on a golf course
- 27 Allow to enter: 2 wds.
- 28 Suffix for steward
- 29 Use one end of a pencil

DOWN

- 1 They cross roads: abbr.
- 2 Not cold
- 3 Ending for lemon or orange
- 4 Countries send them to sea
- 5 Where contact lenses go
- 6 Country recently visited by FFA officers
- 7 Lend ___ (help out): 2 wds.
- 8 Football field measurements
- 14 Person with a vision
- 15 Hit the roller rink
- 16 Sign of the zodiac
- 17 Green fruits
- 20 Kitchen floor piece
- 23 "One ___ time, please!": 2 wds.
- 24 Not hers
- 25 Six minus five

For the solution, see page 26.

FFA Across the USA

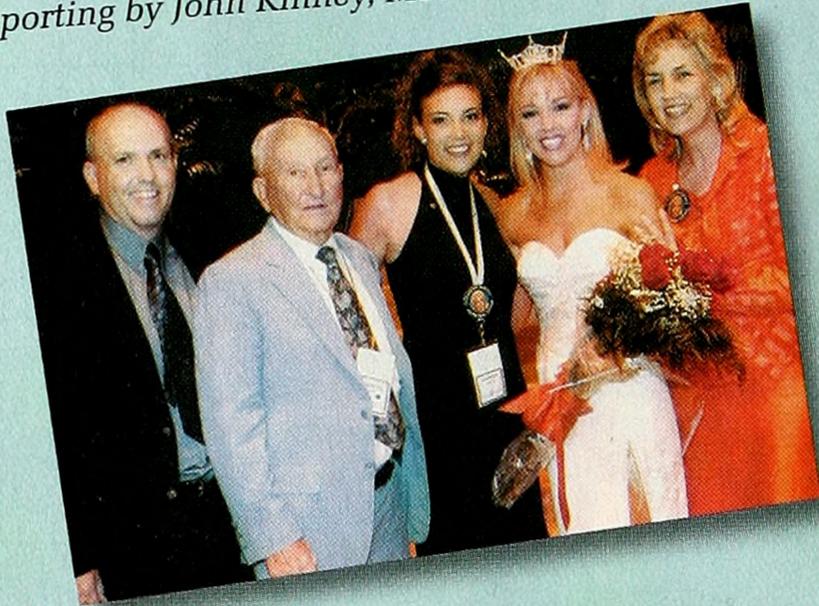
Dispatches from FFA chapters across the nation

Oklahoma

From FFA to Miss Oklahoma

The Mooreland FFA Chapter is proud of former member Elizabeth Kinney, who became Miss Oklahoma last summer and placed in the top ten in the Miss America Pageant. She says FFA helped her develop her public speaking skills. In this photo, she's wearing the crown and is with (from left) her father John, an agriculture teacher and former FFA member; her late grandfather Clifford, who was an FFA member and an agriculture teacher; her sister Jennica, a current FFA member; and her mother Melinda, who is an avid FFA supporter.

Reporting by John Kinney, Mooreland FFA Chapter advisor



Ohio

On the road again

The Monroeville FFA Chapter recently took part in the Adopt A Highway trash pick-up program by stuffing seven bags full. The seven members on the dirty detail that covered more than two miles of highway: Dawn Betchman, Cory Palmer, Kenny Dresser, Chelsea Niedermeier, Olivia Gates, Will Mack and Joe Scheid. This project is just one of the Monroeville FFA Chapter's community development projects and happens four times every year.

Reporting by Joe Scheid, Monroeville FFA Chapter reporter

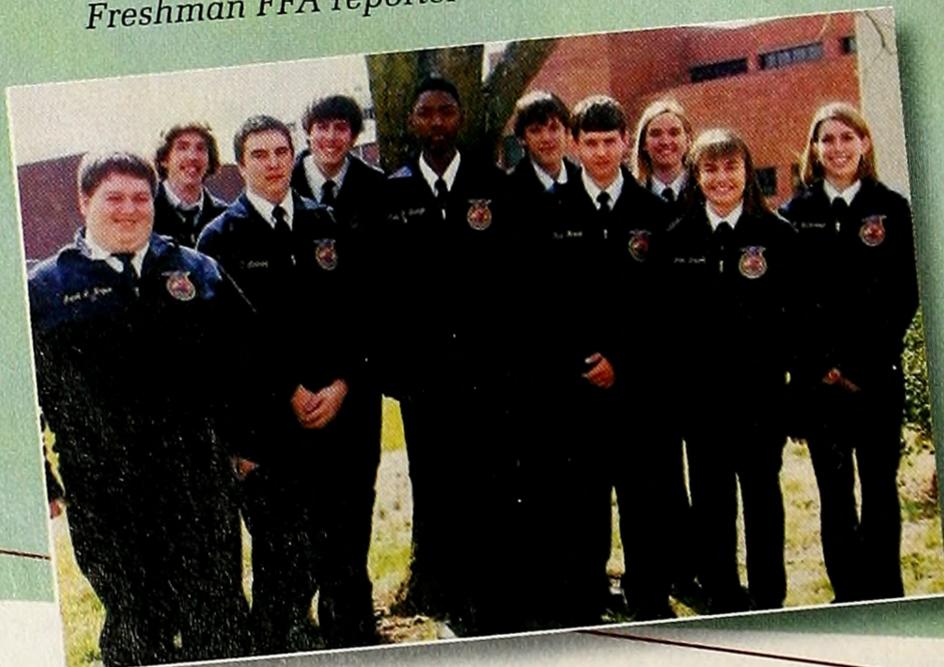


Kentucky

Freshman success

Ten freshman Hickman County FFA Chapter members competed and won the first ever junior parliamentary procedure career development event (CDE) in the Kentucky FFA Association's first region. The Hickman County team consisted of the freshman FFA officers and four additional members: Stephanie Weatherford, Jacob Roper, Megan Hancock, J.J. Lindsey, Sarah Humphreys, Matthew McIntire, Jamie Lacewell, Corey Savage, Matt Wells and Justin House.

Reporting by Sarah Humphreys, Hickman County Freshman FFA reporter



Ready to wear

Using some of the proceeds from their FFA fruit sale, Elkton Middle School FFA Chapter members bought specially designed T-shirts to wear to area FFA competitions. All FFA members received a shirt. They presented their FFA advisor, Art Mitchell, a personalized version of the shirt. The project showed the Elkton FFA members that teamwork leads to great things.

Reporting by Michelle Wood, Elkton Middle School FFA Chapter member.

Virginia



What's happening in your chapter?

Send your news, along with a high-resolution photo, to:
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