

JUNE 2005

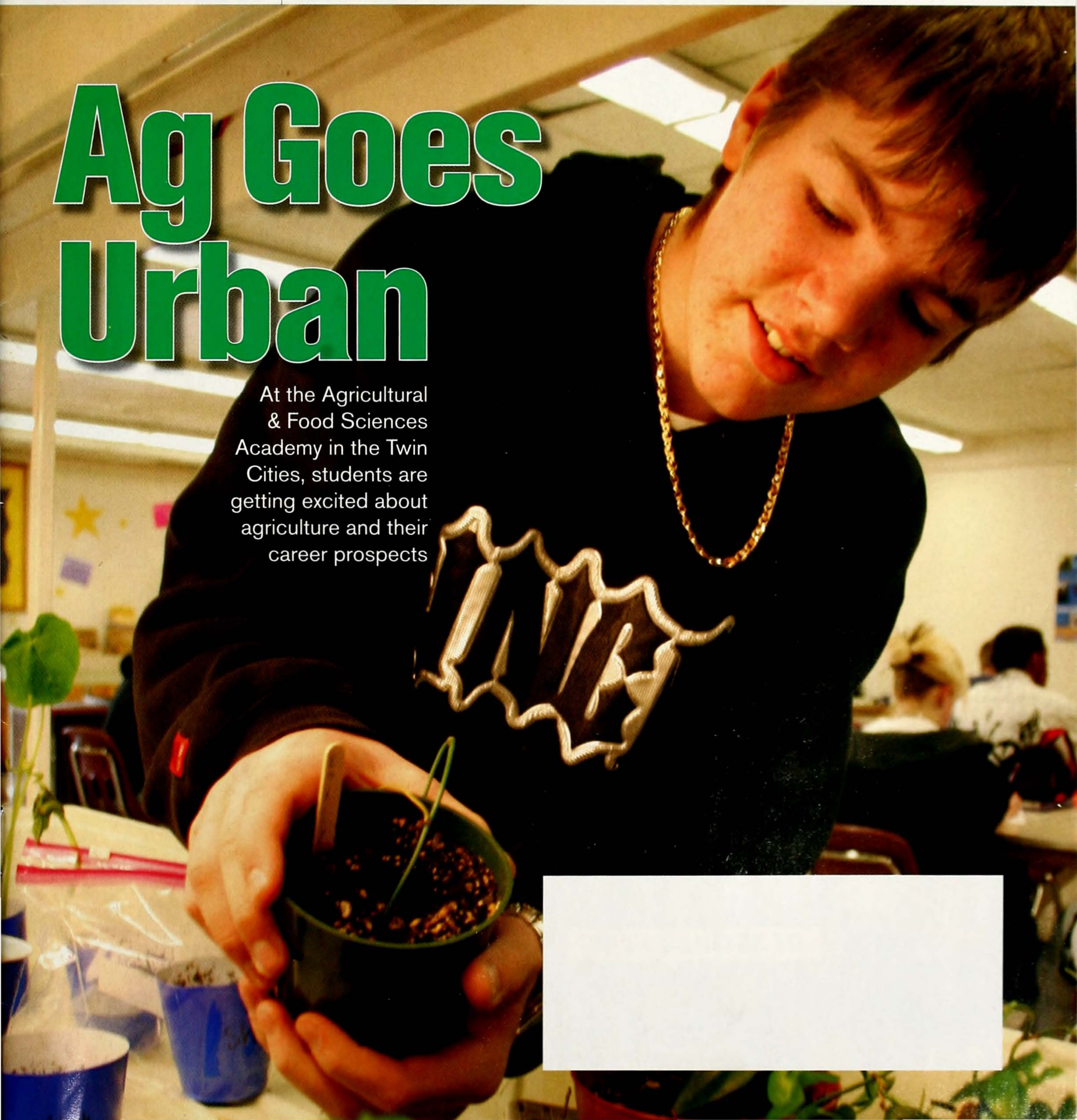
ffa *new horizons*



THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

Ag Goes Urban

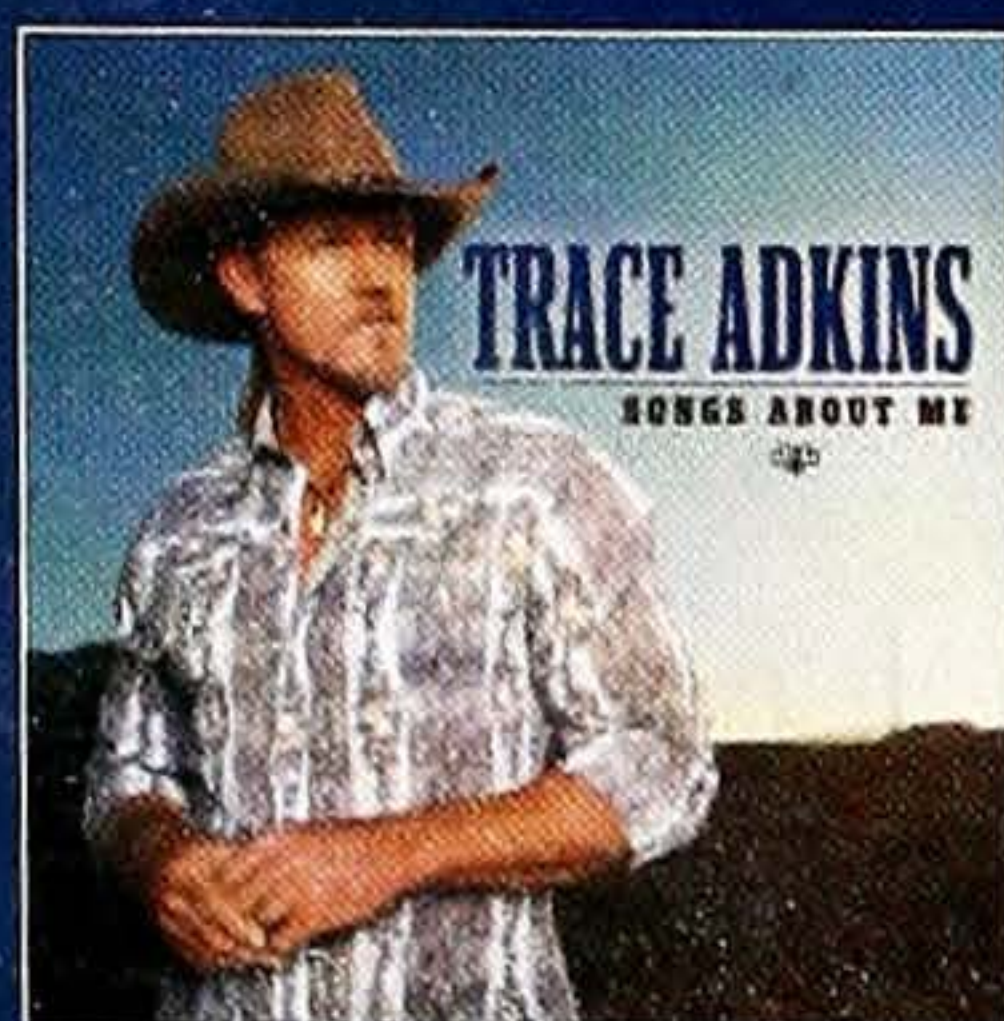
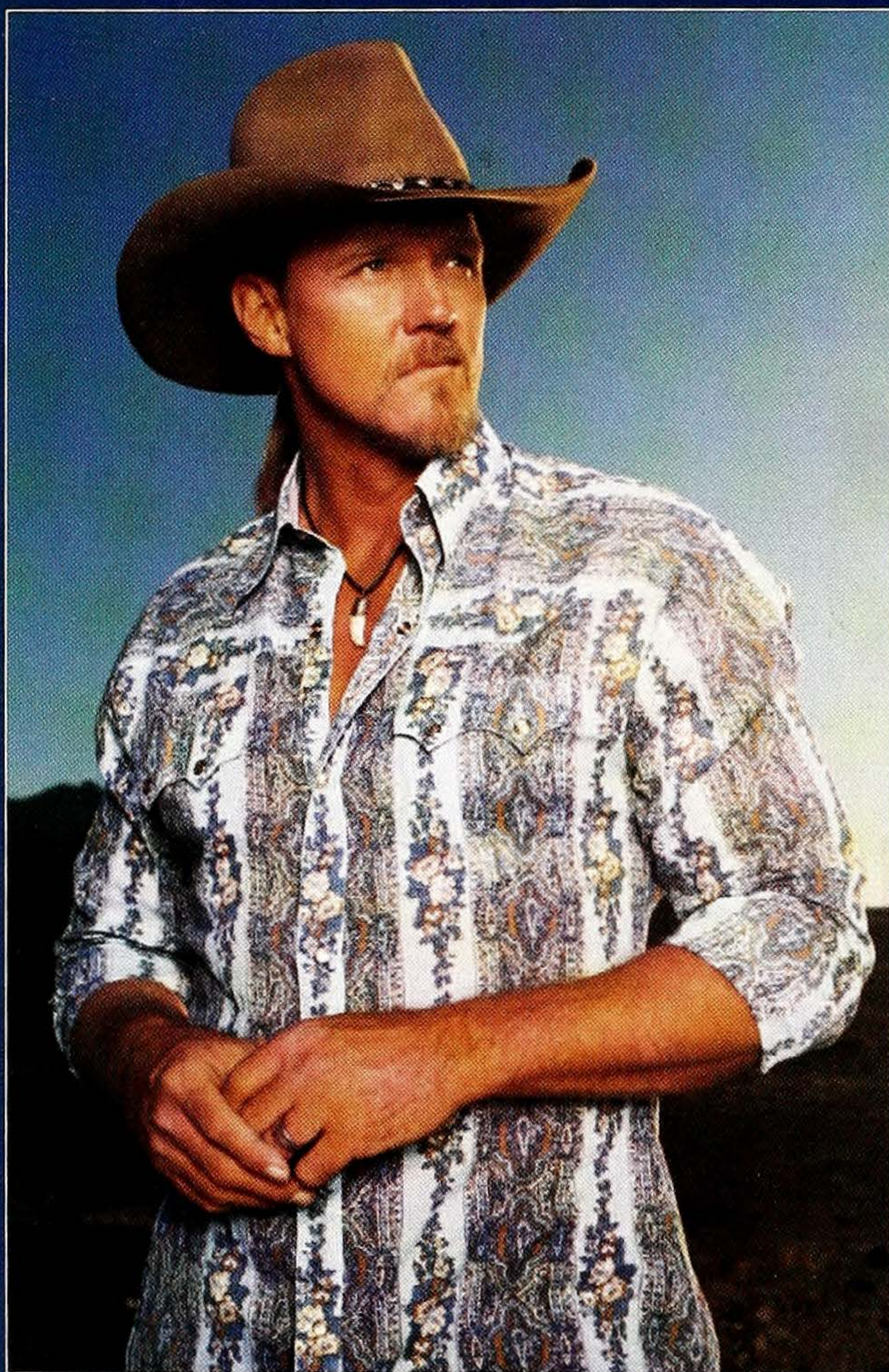
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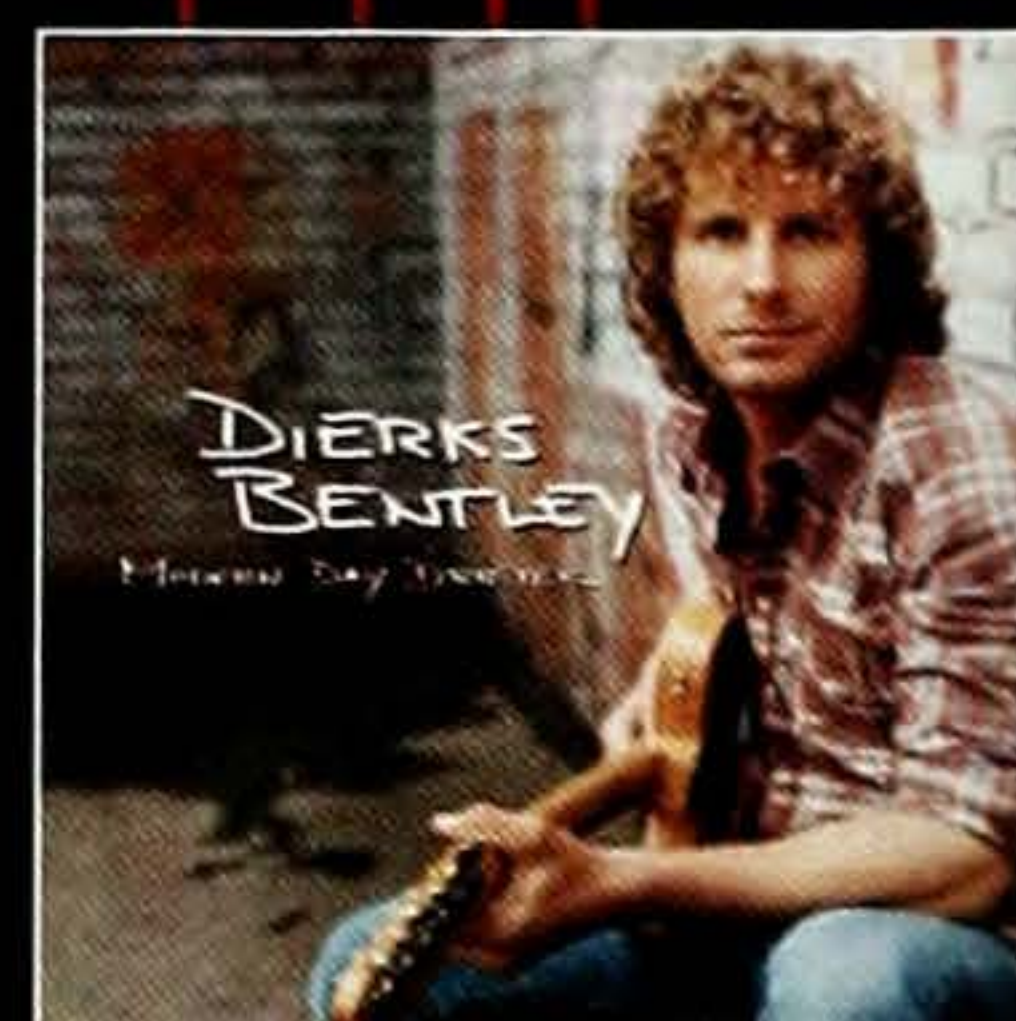
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FFA New Horizons (ISSN 1069-806X) is published bimonthly by Farm Progress Companies Inc. on behalf of The National FFA Organization, 6060 FFA Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960. Publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited manuscripts, art or any other unsolicited materials.

Subscription rates: Non-FFA member rate, \$7 for 6 issues in U.S. and possessions. FFA member rate, \$2 for 6 issues (paid with dues). Single copies, \$2/each, or \$1.25/each for 5 or more. Foreign addresses, \$8 for 6 issues.

To order a subscription to FFA New Horizons or to inquire on an existing subscription, please write to: FFA New Horizons Subscription Services, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960. Or, you can call 317-802-4266 or e-mail newhorizons@ffa.org.

Periodical postage rate is paid at Indianapolis, IN and additional mail offices.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to FFA New Horizons, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960.

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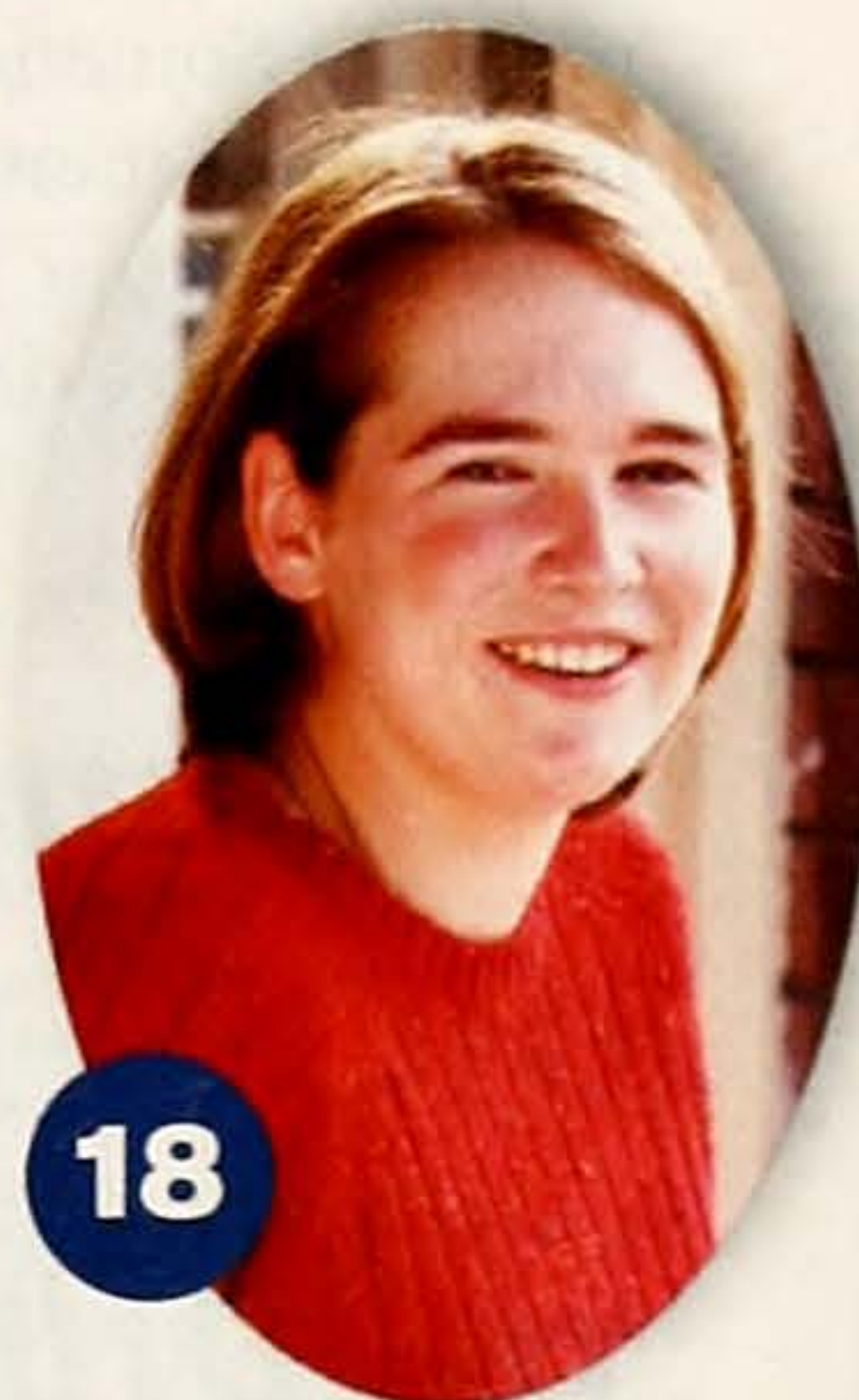
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FFA Across the Nation

See what's happening in FFA chapters across the nation. And find out how you can send us news from your chapter.

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An FFA member from the Agricultural & Food Sciences Academy in the Twin Cities works on a project for a horticulture class.



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FFA Talk

What's on your mind?

YOUR LETTERS

I am the reporter at the Sikeston FFA Chapter in Missouri. I really enjoy reading *FFA New Horizons*. The stories are great and they teach me a lot. Thank you for this inside look at FFA. Keep up the great work!

*Danielle Webb
Sikeston, Missouri*

I am an active member in the Middleton FFA Chapter. That's Middleton, Idaho! I just wanted to write and share with you how much I enjoy your magazine, *FFA New Horizons*. Not only is it inspirational, but it is entertaining. I think my favorite part is "What's Hot." I find it very interesting seeing what other members are interested in. I really enjoy hearing about others' successes also. It inspires me to want to do more in this program. Someday I hope to see one of my chapter members, or maybe even myself, in your magazine, talking of what we have done to succeed.

*Amanda Jones
Middleton, Idaho*

The *BIG* question:

Here is your chance to respond to an FFA- or agriculture-related question. The Bracken County FFA Chapter in Brooksville, Tenn., sent us these responses to our recent question:

How is technology changing agriculture where you live?

Agriculture in Bracken County is steadily changing and improving because of technology. Farmers are now looking to computers to store their records of rations. They also are storing information on vaccines given to livestock, health records, amount of crops harvested and much more.

Kayla Ulrich

More food, less farmers.

Nicholas Abercrombie

It's changing agriculture because things used to be hands-on and now you can use a machine to do things for you.

Rachel Michele White

Technology is making farming easier, but more complicated.

Travis Meyer

It's helping jobs get done faster.

Jeremy Vance

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, write a brief description and send it to us at the address at the bottom of this page. We'll feature one photo per issue.



More than 20 years ago, the Goliad FFA Chapter from Texas built four welcome signs. Five years ago, Southwestern Bell (now SBC) gave the city a grant for beautification projects. Using some of these funds, the Goliad FFA updated the signs to match the city's theme of "Historic Goliad." They constructed all of the letters and the new FFA emblem in the shop and gave credit to Southwestern Bell for their contribution.

Here's our BIG questions for the next issue:

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

Send your answers to the address below.

Address all correspondence to:
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e-mail: newhorizons@ffa.org
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Blue & Gold

News from the National FFA Cen-

Wear it

Check out the National FFA Online Store at ffaunlimited.org for special deals on FFA T-shirts, boots, FFA ties and other great items, plus you'll find information about the newly-redesigned FFA jackets. You can order items online or you call 888-332-2668.

See you in D.C.

Interested in participating in Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) this summer? If so, you need to act quickly because there are a limited number of openings available. Call 317-802-4312 or e-mail wlc@ffa.org today to check on dates and availability.

State officers in the house

The Illinois FFA state officers visited the National FFA Center to plan



for their state convention. While there, they toured the offices, the warehouse where thousands of FFA plaques and apparel are shipped out and met with FFA Chief Operating Officer Doug Loudenslager (above). They also participated in a luncheon in celebration of Black History Month.

FFA goes to college

If you're an FFA member in college, be sure to visit the Collegiate FFA website: ffa.org/collegiate.cfm. It's loaded with information about careers, internships and collegiate FFA chapters nationwide. If your college or university doesn't already have collegiate FFA, the website gives you all the information you'll need to start a new chapter.

It's a fact

Did you know that the agricultural industry constitutes the nation's largest employment sector, with more than 22 million people working in some phase of the industry. FFA prepares members for more than 300 careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. ●



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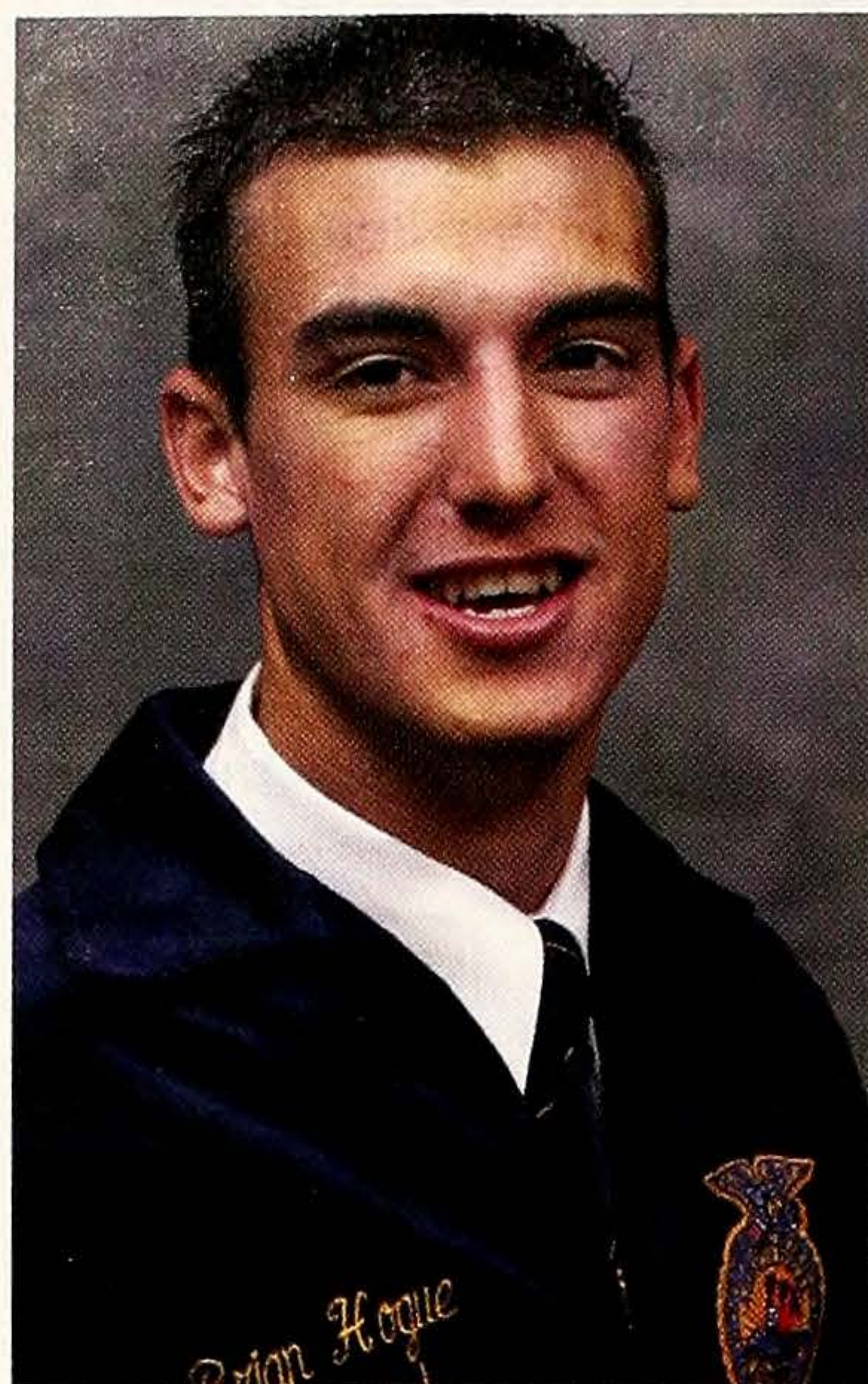
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National Officer Q&A

Meet National FFA Western region vice president Brian Harvey Hogue



A native of Willcox, Arizona, 21-year-old Brian is a member of the Willcox FFA Chapter and a junior at Arizona State University.

Brian's 5 secrets of success

- 1. Be kind.** Treating others with respect and kindness could be the greatest thing you do today.
- 2. Balance.** Find balance within your life. When we participate in a number of different things, we find our true interests while we become more rounded individuals.
- 3. Experience today.** How you experience today will define who you become tomorrow.
- 4. Good Friends.** We have to surround ourselves with people who expect and demand the best of us.
- 5. Service.** Find opportunities that you can give of yourself. Doing things for others will be the most rewarding part of our lives.

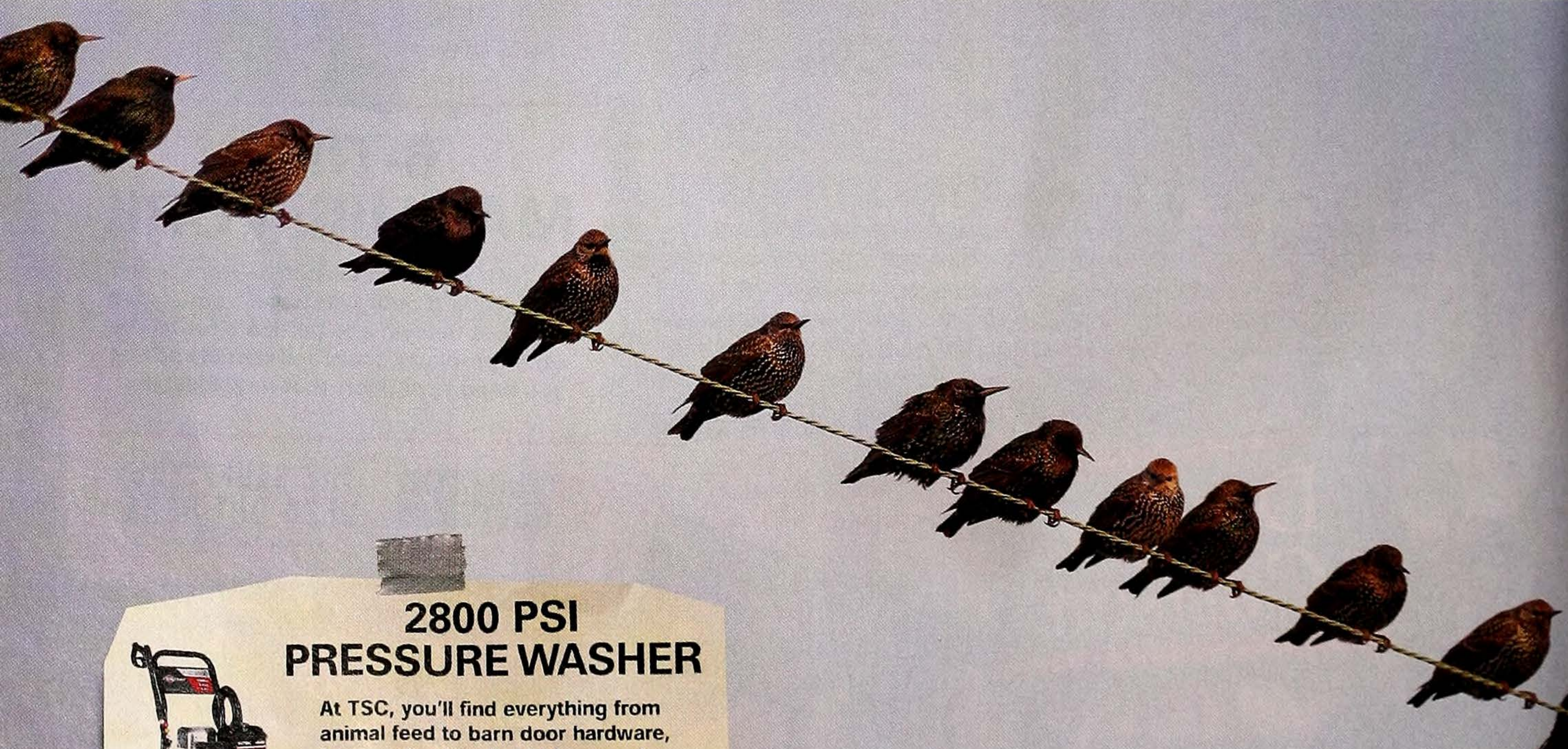
What inspired you to become an FFA member?

I can remember riding around the ranch with my dad in the pickup

when I was seven or eight, and he would tell me about his days as an FFA state officer. He also told me how he received his American FFA Degree. I had no idea what that was, but I thought it was amazing that my dad was one of seven people in the state to receive it. I decided then and there that I, too, would join.

What are some ways you see students benefiting from FFA?

I see it in every FFA chapter visit I make, whether it's the Leilullia FFA Chapter in Hawaii, where students producing enormous amounts of hydroponically grown lettuce and other plants; or in Nebraska, where members met with their senators to learn more about state government and how they can play a vital role in it. FFA is allowing students to experience things they would otherwise probably never get to experience as high school students.



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Describe your experience at the FFA New Century Farmer Program.

It's a weeklong program for college-age students who want to return to the farm or ranch after high school or college. The whole week was packed full of fun, valuable information and led by people who want to help young farmers and ranchers succeed. The most valuable thing about it: sitting down and talking to students who shared my career goals and desire.

Any advice for FFA members about career development events (CDEs)?

Try something new! I loved livestock judging, but that was the only CDE I was ever interested in because I was in my comfort zone. Looking back, I wish I would have been involved in public speaking or competed in ag sales or ag issues. The leadership CDEs, I've come to realize, are so valuable in life,

whether that be in college or a job. Don't be afraid to do something you might not have much experience in—it's those things that give us the greatest opportunity of growth.

This year's national FFA convention will be your seventh. What keeps you going back?

With so many things happening, it's impossible to experience them all in one year. FFA adds new and exciting experiences each year, whether it's the new collegiate career expo or the always-expanding career show. Attending the convention inspires me every time, knowing that there are thousands of young people who, like me, are interested and passionate about the future of agriculture.

What do you hear from industry people about careers in agriculture?

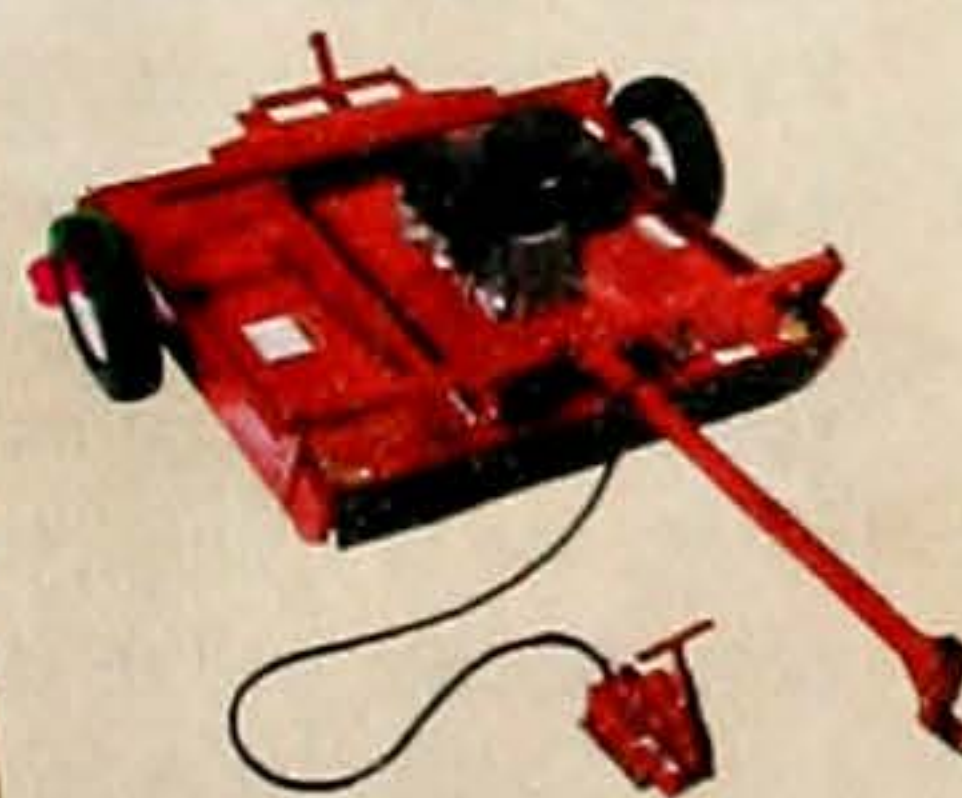
They all need and want new employees to be balanced. By that,

timeline

- 14 • joined Willcox FFA Chapter
- received Greenhand FFA degree
- lost district Greenhand information contest
- 15 • participated in church mission to Guatemala
- received FFA chapter degree
- 16 • elected FFA chapter president
- won state FFA livestock judging contest
- participated in second church mission to Guatemala
- 17 • re-elected FFA chapter president
- competed in FFA national livestock evaluation CDE
- 18 • graduated from high school
- received state FFA degree
- elected state FFA president
- 19 • participated in church mission to Mexico
- earned American FFA Degree
- lost bid for national FFA officer
- 20 • participated in FFA New Century Farmer Program
- elected FFA western region vice president

I mean they are looking for young people who are willing and able to be flexible and committed. Our generation is projected to stay in jobs, on average, less than three years. Companies need employees who will have determination and a willingness to work hard. ●

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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.

Virginia



KRISSY HUDGINS

In eighth grade, her first year of agriculture class and FFA, Krissy had her doubts. But that all changed when she ran for chapter officer the next year. Now, after five years of involvement, Krissy can't get enough. She serves as Central FFA Chapter student chapter advisor and competes in forestry, soils and crops CDEs. FFA, she says, helped her overcome a fear of public speaking.

Florida



MIKE MILEY

Raising and showing hogs for five years, Mike is now developing a swine production SAE program. This Dunnellon FFA Chapter member has held chapter officer positions since his involvement in middle school FFA and has earned the Discovery FFA Degree and Star Greenhand Award. For his dedication to FFA, Mike was selected to serve as a delegate to the 2004 National FFA Convention.

California



MARIA SAUCEDO

This Arroyo Grande FFA Chapter reporter operates a 33-rabbit breeding and showing SAE program. A firm believer in community service, Maria volunteers in the community regularly. For her 100-plus hours of service, she recently received The President's Volunteer Service Award (bronze level). She plans to earn the gold level award after her next 150 hours of service.

Puerto Rico



ALVIN ACEVEDO

A member of the FFA chapter at the vocational school in the city of San Sebastian, Alvin has earned the respect of his peers by participating and succeeding in many FFA activities. Inspired by his middle school FFA advisor, Ivan Acevedo, Alvin decided to try for a position on the FFA state officer team. He achieved that goal and is now serving as treasurer of the Puerto Rico FFA Association.

Nebraska



AMANDA PFLASTERER

For her speech about her horse with deafness, Amanda earned a third place award in the state prepared public speaking event. That award is just one in a long list of achievements for this Northwest FFA Chapter secretary who is credited with improving the perception of FFA in her school. Amanda traveled to Washington D.C. last summer to attend the FFA Washington Leadership Conference.

Texas



WILLIAM WOLF

A member of the Killeen FFA Chapter for the past three years, William raises hogs as part of his SAE program. When he's not showing hogs, competing for swine production proficiency awards or serving as FFA chapter officer, William spends the balance of his time helping family members and friends with their FFA projects and other agricultural endeavors.

Iowa



DANA WEEDA (FFA ADVISOR)

Five years ago, when Ms. Weeda became agriculture teacher at Glidden-Ralston High School, she had 25 students. Since then, FFA membership and enrollment in agriculture classes have tripled. "Each year, she keeps inspiring more students to get their Iowa FFA Degrees," says FFA member Kirsten Stidham. Weeda was the state's 2004 outstanding young agriculture teacher.

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By Stephen Regenold

Imagine a high school where every single student is an FFA member. Class sizes are small and the teachers stress hands-on learning over textbook memorization. The curriculum is designed to incorporate agricultural and food science issues as much as possible into everyday lessons, in classes ranging from agronomy and horticulture to social studies and language arts.

The Agricultural & Food Sciences Academy (AFSA) opened its doors to 42 high school students in 2001. Based in the St. Paul, Minn., suburb of Little Canada, this public charter school is one of about a dozen high schools around the country that cater to students interested in all things agriculture. This year, 160 students in grades nine through 12 are attending the school.

Because of its urban setting, most AFSA students had little background in agriculture prior to enrolling at the school. Kevin Thorp and Sara Wilke, both 16-year-old students

from neighboring suburbs, are perfect examples.

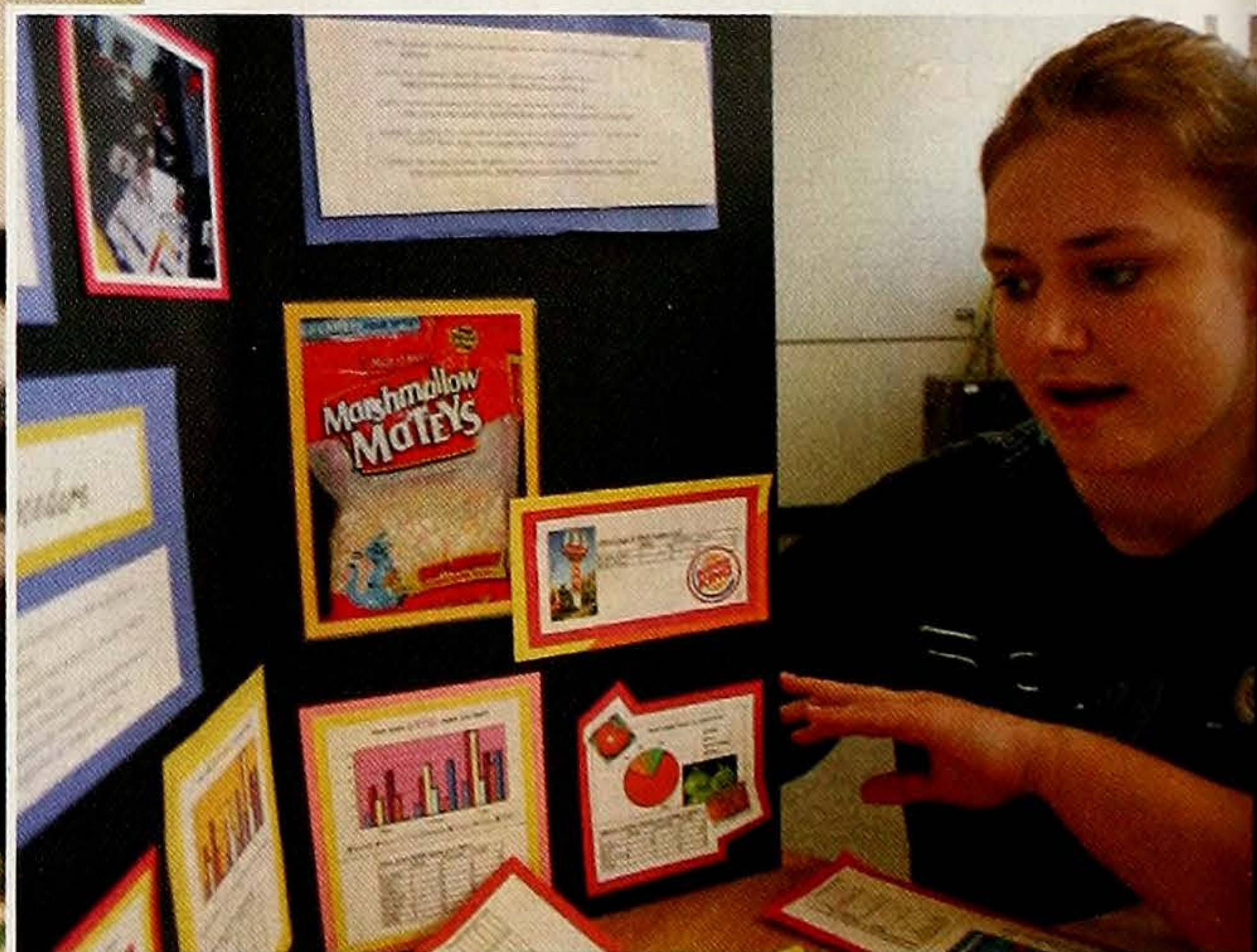
AGRICULTURE EXPOSURE

"Before I started at this school, I didn't even know what FFA was," Sara admits. She's enthusiastic about AFSA's many agriculture classes, as they are helping prepare her for a career in biotechnology.

Kevin is planning a career in landscape architecture. He says FFA and an ag-based high school education are the perfect introduction to the field. "I'm learning about plants, landforms and other environmental areas that will

Ag goes urban

At the Agricultural & Food Sciences Academy in the Twin Cities, students are getting excited about agriculture and their career prospects



Because academy students live in a highly urbanized metropolitan area, they work on projects with practical applications, such as landscape design, horticulture (left), biotechnology and food science (above).

be important for landscape work," he says.

Amy Fluegeman, an 18-year-old senior who has served as FFA chapter president, notes similar career advantages. She says the school's hands-on, project-based learning lets her focus on subjects most important to her development in an agricultural career path that she hopes will involve advertising, research and marketing.

For one of her recent school projects, Amy conducted a food science research project involving a blind taste test experiment with brand name and generic breakfast cereals. She had fellow students try familiar cereal brands like Lucky Charms against their generic knock-offs.

"When the kids could see the cereal boxes, they almost always said the brand-name product tasted better," she says. "But when I administered the test blindly, the majority of the testers actually liked the generic versions better."

Amy says the results of her study sharpened her interest even more toward the research side of the marketing industry.

LEARNING FROM THE EXPERTS

AFSA employs three full-time agriculture teachers, and each one brings a unique perspective to the classroom. Teacher Jeremy Daberkow worked in corn seed sales before coming to the school. Stephanie Wohlhuter grew up on a crop and hog farm in southern Minnesota. Carl Aakre, who grew up on a farm in the northwestern part of the state, taught high school for three years in a rural setting before coming to AFSA. Many of the school's other staff members also have strong roots in agriculture.

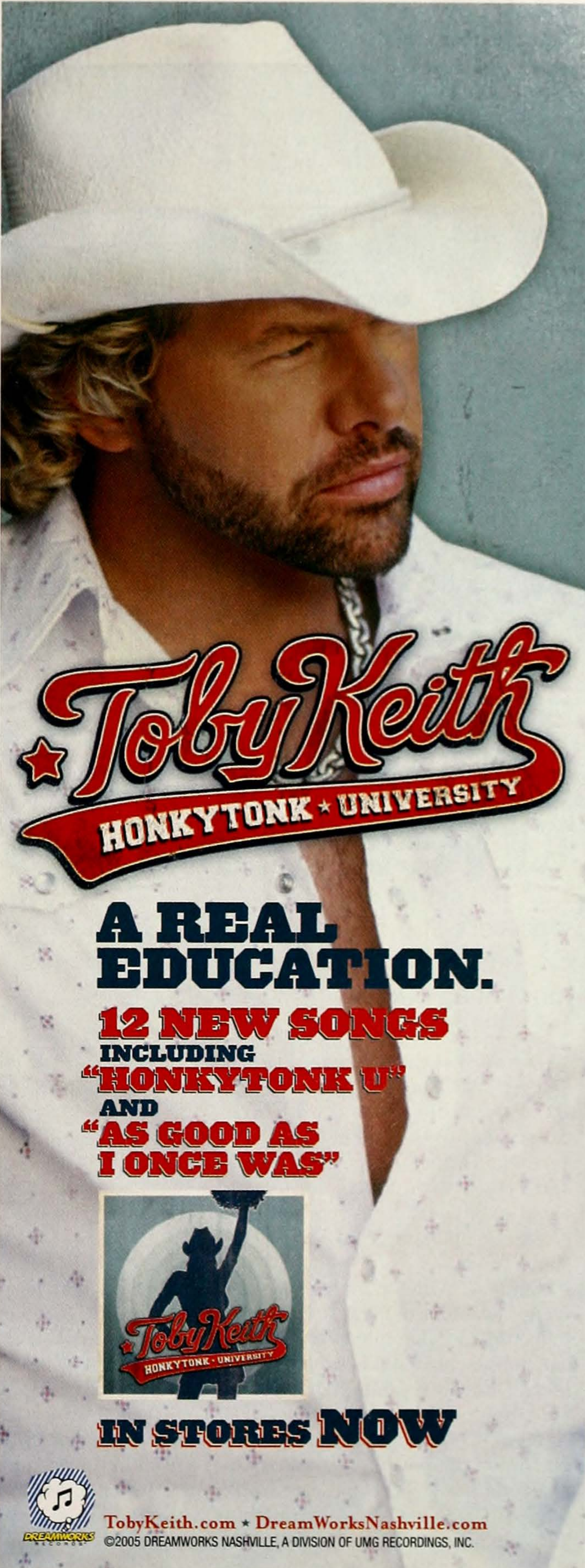
Becky Meyer, AFSA's director, has degrees in agricultural education and school administration. Prior to her position at the Academy, she was an education specialist at the National FFA Organization.

In addition to classes in agronomy, food processing, environmental studies and horticulture, AFSA teachers lead several off-campus educational trips each year. The University of Minnesota lets AFSA students utilize the university's labs and agriculture facilities. Local companies like General Mills also have partnered with AFSA to give students a glimpse into the inner workings of agribusinesses.

At least two times a year, AFSA has a weeklong "term" study period where students get out of the class and into the real world of agriculture. Past term studies have included trips to local farms, Minnesota's Boundary Waters canoe area and the national FFA convention.

The school moves into a new 44,000-square-foot facility this fall. If all goes as planned, the school will soon have more than 300 students walking the halls, working in labs, learning from local agribusiness and university professors—eventually making a big impact on the future of agriculture itself. ●


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By Erich Gaukel



To set up a baseball field that meets professional baseball standards, these FFA members rely on the knowledge and skills they learn in their sports turf management class.

ciation named the facility its Baseball Field of the Year in the High School/Parks and Recreation division.

The students take pride in their field and, like members of a professional grounds crew, they're all business on the field, where they break into groups and get to work. One group of students, equipped with a level, shovels, string and large nails heads to the pitching mound. Another group, armed with half-moon spades, string and nails, spreads out between first and second base. The rest of the students grab various tools and fan out across the infield to remove weeds.

As a member of the Sports Turf Association, Nance frequently attends and hosts sports turf conferences. He has become friends with professional sports turf managers all over the country. He learns from them and then passes the knowledge to his students.

This information pipeline, from professionals who work for such teams as the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Chicago Bears, is giving these students a privileged view of what's happening in the real world.

And the information doesn't always get to the students second-hand through their teacher. When Nance made plans to take students to the

The field of their dreams

Members of the Cape Fear FFA Chapter in North Carolina get inspired by real-world experiences in sports turf management

It's a rainy spring afternoon at Cape Fear High School, just outside of Fayetteville, North Carolina. A classroom full of students listens as Terry Nance, their agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, delivers a lecture about the types of mowers used by groundskeepers at golf courses and sports fields.

Students in this sports turf management class—one of the first of its kind to be incorporated into a high school agriculture curriculum—would rather be outside working on their baseball field, but the rain is still falling.

Nance takes advantage of the classroom time to get everyone up to speed on how tri-flex mowers work; why the Oakland Coliseum's outfield mowing patterns look different than

those at Turner Field in Atlanta; and the mowing heights used on local golf courses.

After a half-hour of discussion on the topic, the rain stops. Nance and his students grab their tools and head out to the baseball diamond.

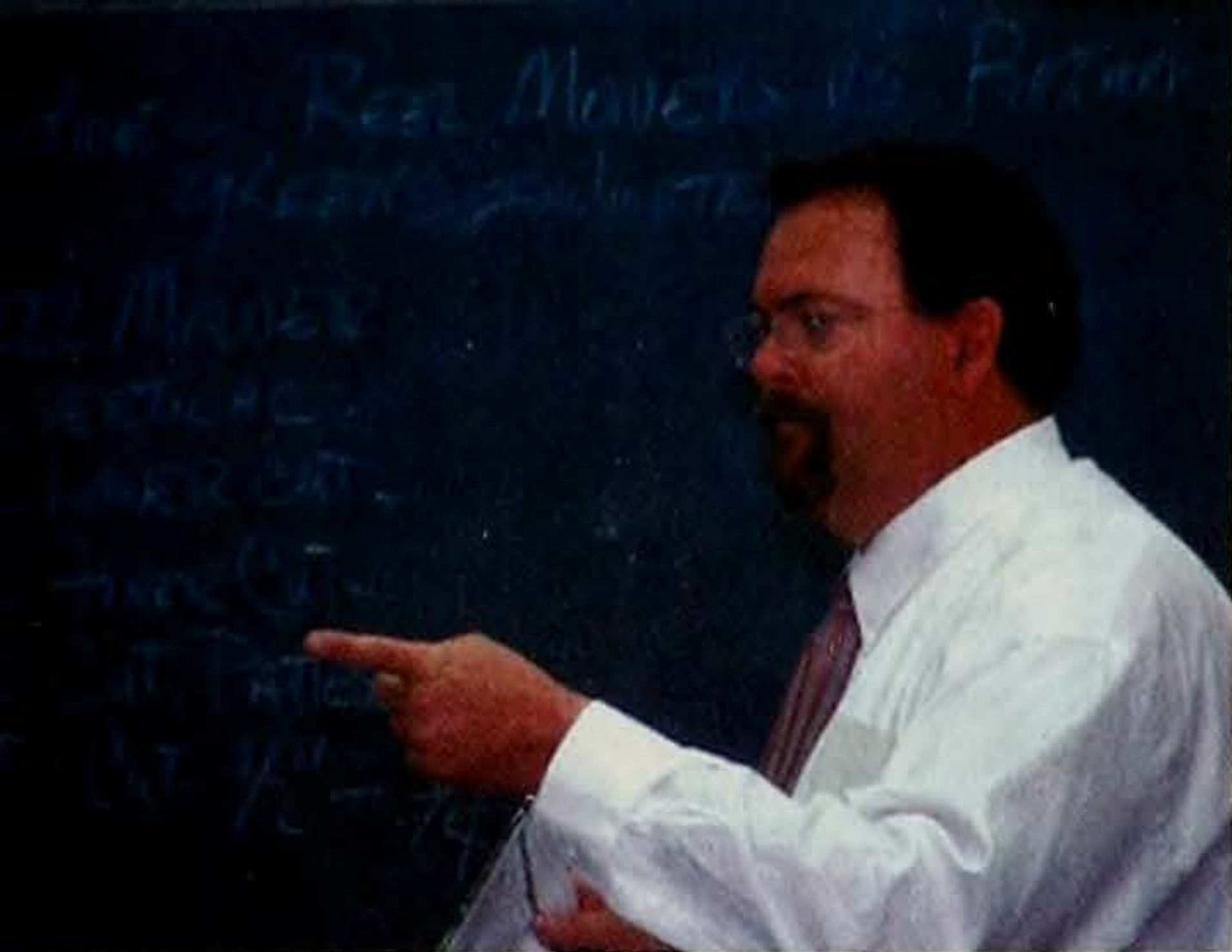
ON THE FIELD

The field, with its green grass, bleachers, press box, scoreboard and dug-outs, looks like a typical baseball diamond. But a closer look at the infield dirt, the pitching mound and the turf reveals a professional-grade playing surface that measures up to standards used in professional baseball.

In 2003, Mr. Nance and his students earned national recognition when the Sports Turf Managers Asso-



These Cape Fear FFA Chapter officers plan to attend college next year in hopes of pursuing careers related to horticulture, landscaping and sports turf management.



Agriculture teacher and FFA advisor Terry Nance teaches in the classroom and on the field.

national FFA convention last year in Louisville, Ky., he called up his friend Tom Nielson, the head groundskeeper at Slugger Field, home of the triple-A Louisville Bats baseball team. Nielson agreed to give the Cape Fear FFA members a private groundskeeping seminar.

CAREER INSPIRATION

The Cape Fear sports turf experience has inspired many FFA members to pursue careers involving sports turf management and related areas. And in North Carolina, that's not a such bad idea. The temperate climate here allows year-round outdoor activity, so the the job opportunities are there.

FFA chapter officer Natasha White knows such experience would be hard to come by without Nance's knowledge and insider status. "He pulls a lot of strings for us, to get us to get the right things, the knowledge and even to get the hands-on experience," she says.

With another field trip in the works—this one to the home of the Kinston Indians, a minor league affiliate of the Cleveland Indians—Natasha explains why she's looking forward to it: "We can actually see what they do. That gives you more experience if you see what it is instead of just hearing about it."

COLLEGE AND CAREER

Clark Jeffreys was among the students who made the trip to Louisville last year for the national FFA convention. He enjoyed the behind-the-scenes look at the groundskeeping at Slugger Field.

His family lives in a house situated along one of the many golf courses in the county. He says his FFA involvement has helped him decide on a career path. "It's made me want the be a

golf course superintendent," he said. "Hopefully I'll go to [North Carolina] State and major in agronomy."

As it turns out, many Cape Fear students enroll at North Carolina State University because the turf grass program there is a good fit for the Cape Fear students' background. That's not an accident. Nance drives his students to the campus regularly, just so they can meet professors, see former Cape

Fear students in the program and get a taste of college life. Nance also helps his former students find internships while they're in college.

Witneigh Davis also plans to attend North Carolina State this fall. "I know I want to be in horticulture," she says, "but I don't know exactly if I want to do turf grass or something else, but it's helping me make up my mind about what I want to do." ●

BORN IN 1975

BORN IN 1985

BORN IN 1995

BORN IN 2005

40 Years and Counting!

Durango Boot is celebrating 40 years of crafting quality western boots that offer style and durability. Check out www.durangoboot.com to view our full line of western boots or to find a dealer near you.



Agricultural engineering

A career guide for FFA members

By Stephen Regenold

In the most general sense, the career path of agricultural engineering can be defined as “the application of engineering principles to any process associated with producing agriculturally-based goods.”

This rather technical definition, quoted from a brochure produced by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE), touches on the broad nature of the industry. But when you get right down to it, individuals working in this field specialize in the essentials of modern life.

The food we eat, the clean tap water we drink, the air we breathe, the land we live on—all are administered, improved, regulated or overseen by people in agricultural engineering.

Some of the areas in which agricultural engineers work: natural resources, nursery and greenhouse, biological engineering, power systems and machinery design, food and bioprocess engineering and aquaculture.

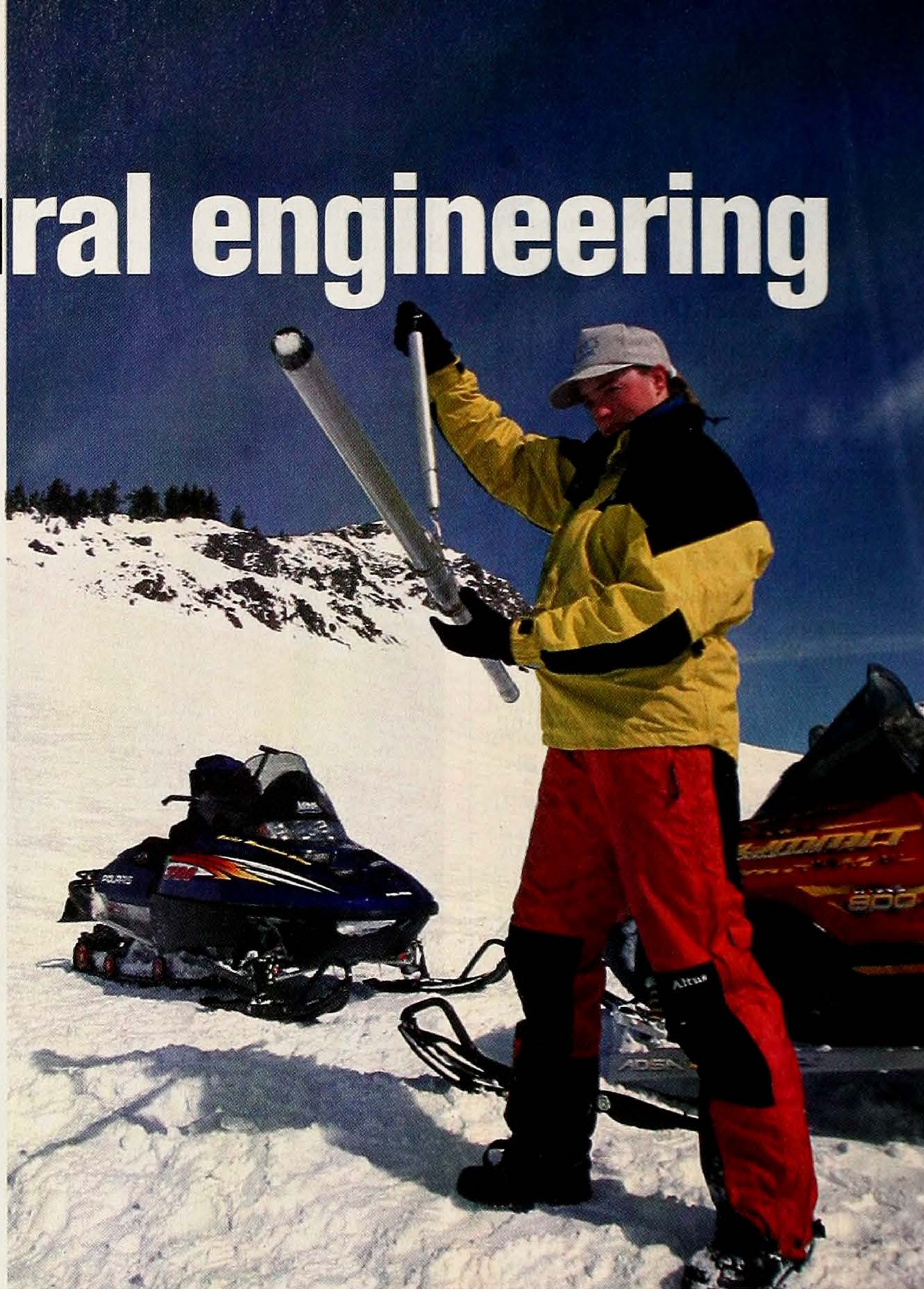
A day in the life of an agricultural engineer could be spent in a lab working with chemicals, at a computer developing complex products with a visual-design software program or standing before an audience educating people on the environment.

Employment opportunities are similarly diverse. Small businesses and large companies ranging from Dow Chemical to Kraft Foods employ people in this growing field.

EVOLVING CAREERS

A changing world has broadened the role of agricultural engineers. In addition to traditional roles in the development of items used in agricultural settings, they now work on solving problems related to new biomass fuel concepts, biodegradable packaging materials, water treatment systems and wetland preservation.

The ASAE reports that even the



NASA space agency employs agricultural engineers who design transportable extraterrestrial greenhouse modules that will someday be placed on Mars to support astronauts on potential future missions.

Travis Tsunemori, an engineer with ASAE, says the broad spectrum of the field and the new areas of focus may appeal to engineering-minded students who never would have considered a degree associated with agriculture.

“If someone was interested in environmental engineering, I might suggest they look at agricultural engineering instead, as the field is evolving that way,” Tsunemori says.

In recognizing this shift, ASAE’s membership has voted to change its name of the organization to the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, effective mid-

July of this year.

COLLEGE PATH

Many major universities offer degrees in agricultural engineering, though programs can go by such names as biological systems engineering, bio-resource engineering, environmental engineering, forest engineering and food and process engineering.

Coursework for the degree involves a variety of engineering disciplines, complimented by biology and agriculture classes. During senior year, or in graduate school, students often choose a specialization. Environmental systems, food production, biological resources, ecological systems, power and machinery systems—all are niche areas of the agricultural engineering field. ●

Visit the American Society of Agricultural Engineers online at asae.org

GRAB LIFE BY THE HORNS



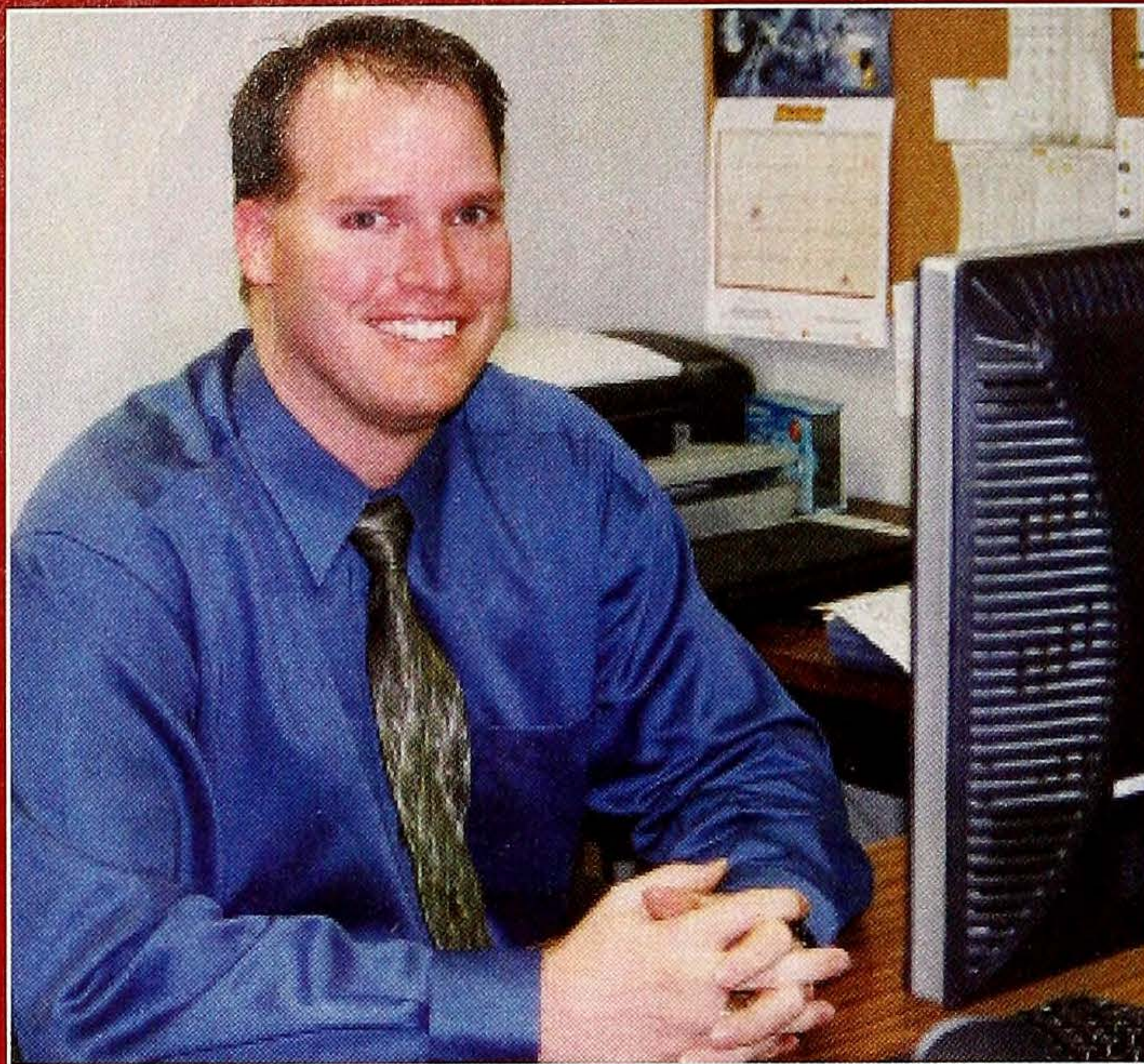
IT'S ALL ABOUT THE HORSES. ALL 345 OF THEM.

FARM BUREAU® MEMBERS GET AN EXTRA \$500 CASH ALLOWANCE ON RAM. With a 5.7-liter HEMI® engine, Dodge Ram Heavy Duty is the hardest-working truck around. That's why, if you've been a Farm Bureau member for at least 30 days, we're proud to offer an extra \$500 cash allowance when you buy a new Dodge.* Contact your state Farm Bureau for details. For more information, please visit dodge.com or call **877-ONTHEJOB**. *Offer applies to eligible 2004/2005 model-year Dodge vehicles through September 30, 2005. Farm Bureau is a federally registered collective membership and a registered service mark of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Chrysler Financial



Profile



Shea Pilgreen: Agricultural Engineer

By Stephen Regenold

The clean, digitized lines and curves of an engineering schematic are displayed on Shea Pilgreen's computer screen. Using a software program called Solid Edge 3D CAD, Pilgreen is virtually designing a product concept for one of his company accounts.

Pilgreen is an applications engineer for Oklahoma State University's Cooperative Extension Service. His job, which is an agricultural engineering position, has had him working on projects as diverse as a mobile animal feeder mechanism and a train gondola car. He works on university projects and also assists on projects for the Oklahoma Alliance for Manufacturing Excellence Inc., a non-profit organization that provides support for Oklahoma businesses.

E-mail, business meetings and customer tech support—all are a part of his day-to-day work life. But so is hands-on evaluation of projects on the manufacturing production floor. He intermittently takes customer calls during the day as well.

"In between all this," he says, "I design and work on projects on the computer."

As Pilgreen demonstrates, the job often requires workers to have their hands in many pots. Engineering projects are their number one job. But at most companies, solitary work is balanced by a good dose of daily interpersonal communication—in meetings, on the phone and during group presentations.

CAREER ROOTS

Pilgreen grew up on a farm in Waurika, Oklahoma. He was active in FFA throughout high school, and he says FFA activities helped push him toward his current career. His high school shop class sparked his love for engineering.

"I'm a big believer that kids interested in engineering need to get their hands dirty," he says, referring to his formative experiences in high school agriculture, electronics and shop classes.

In college, Pilgreen chose to pursue agricultural engineering over other engineering programs for the simple reason that, as he puts it, agriculture was in his blood. "With my interest in engineering, and my passion for agriculture, an agricultural engineering degree was the obvious choice," he says.

Specifically, Pilgreen graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in Bio Systems and Agricultural Engineering.

FIRST JOB

Before going back to work for his alma mater earlier this year as an applications engineer, Pilgreen worked at Kincaid Equipment Manufacturing, a Tulsa-based seed-research equipment manufacturer.

Taking the job right out of college, Pilgreen started with the title project engineer. His daily work involved designing combines, drills and planters for the seed-research industry.

He's especially fond of a combine model he designed from the ground up called the Split Plot New Holland. After the initial development of this combine, he managed the project and was in charge of all upgrades and new versions of the model.

After a couple years on the job, Pilgreen had seen two promotions; he eventually held the title of Chief Design Engineer.

"By the time I left the company, the Split Plot New Holland was considered one of the best products of its type in the industry," he says. "I'll admit that makes me feel a little bit proud." ●

Insider

A closer look at the profession

SALARIES: According to a 2003 salary survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, bachelor's degree candidates in agricultural engineering received starting offers averaging \$42,987 a year, and master's degree candidates, on average, were offered \$54,000.

OUTLOOK: The USDA estimates 13,000 annual openings for new college graduates in agriculture-related scientific and engineering jobs. They also estimate only 12,700 qualified individuals will enter the job market each year, leaving a slight shortfall. That's good news for job seekers.

Indiana FFA

May/June 2005

Hot Summer Jobs!

Page L



Learn More about
New Indiana
FFA Partners

Page F

Check out details for the 76th
Indiana FFA State Convention

Page J

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Calendar of Events

May

- 2 WLC Bus Trip Registration Due
- 7 State Horse & Pony CDE, Purdue
- 14 State Agricultural Mechanics CDE
State Forestry CDE
State Floriculture CDE
State Nursery/Landscape CDE
- 21 State Dairy CDE, Purdue
State Livestock CDE, Purdue
State Poultry CDE, Purdue

June

- 13 State FFA CDEs
- 14-16 76th State Convention, Purdue
- 22 National Band, Chorus, and Talent
Applications Due
- 27-29 Summer Challenge, Indiana FFA
Leadership Center
- 29-30 State FFA Executive Committee
Training and Meeting
- 27-7/2 WLC Bus Trip

Indiana FFA Staff

Craig Rebich, *Association Executive Director*
 Christian MacKinnon, *Founder Executive Director*
 Robert Juncker, *State Advisor*
 Stephanie Warner, *Program Specialist*
 Brian Buchanan, *Development Director*
 Samantha Lucy, *Magazine Editor/Designer*

2004-2005 State Officer Team

Matthew Metzger, *President*
 Jill Steiner, *Secretary*
 Eric Barnard, *N.R. Vice President*
 Todd Ault, *S.R. Vice President*
 Jennifer Shepard, *Treasurer*
 Sara Egan, *Reporter*
 Joey Dunn, *Sentinel*

Matthew Metzger...Stationed by the Rising Sun

2004-2005 Indiana FFA State President

Fast Facts about Matthew Metzger

Parents: David and Beth

Siblings: Cory, 22

Hometown: South Whitley

FFA Chapter: Whitko

Favorite Food: Blueberry Muffins

Favorite Song: Be My Escape, Relient K

Favorite Sport: Tennis

Favorite Movie: King Arthur

Favorite FFA Activity: Any and all Dairy, Meat, and Parli road-trips!!

The 2004-2005 State Officer Team voted Matthew most likely to sweet talk every company into donating money to the FFA...\$40 Grand or Bust!

A Few Thoughts about Matthew...

"Matthew is a strong willed, highly motivated young man. Who is a dedicated Christian filled with the Holy Spirit. It has been a joy and a challenge to keep up with all of Matthew's activities. I am very proud of Matthew's accomplishments and love him very much."

David Metzger, Matthew's Dad

"Matthew is a good representation of Indiana FFA. He is a good role model for younger members and I wish him the best in his endeavors."

Roger Carr, Matthew's Advisor



"When I think of a highly motivated and strong-willed individual, Matthew is one of the first people that comes to mind. He is a true leader."

*Chase Hand,
Matthew's Friend*

Matthew's FFA Timeline

- 14 Joined FFA
- 15 Participated in first CDE, Soils Evaluation and lost
Won State Creed Speaking CDE
- 16 Participated at the North American Livestock Exposition,
Dairy Judging
Elected District II Vice President
- 17 Elected District II President
Traveled to Brazil with FFA's YAE program
- 18 Didn't make top 3 in the Meats Evaluation CDE at National
FFA Convention
Elected State President



Although he still bleeds Purdue gold and black, Matthew is following a call to Bethel College in Mishawaka, Indiana, where he will pursue a life and career in Christian Ministry.



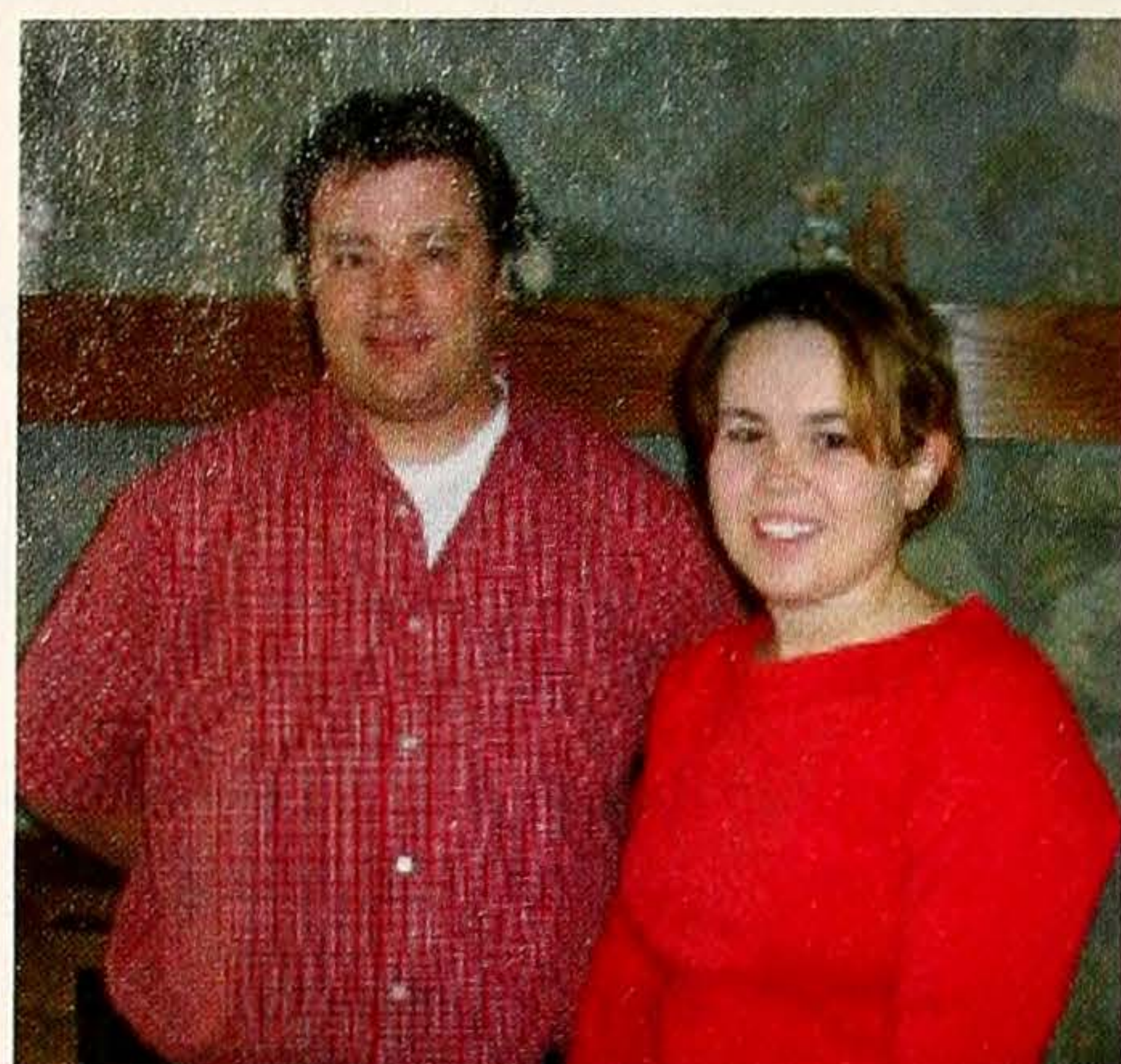
When Mr. Jones came to Adams Central my sophomore year, I wasn't sure that I wanted a different advisor, but he was coming anyways. Throughout the past four years, Mr. Jones was not only a great advisor, but also a great friend. Mr. Jones has taught me many life lessons, and I hope that he has had some good experiences learning from me whether it was always having patience with me or being able to deal with my stressful life last year! I am so happy to have had Mr. Jones for everything he has done for me. Thank you, Mr. Jones!

-Jill Steiner, State Secretary

Each of us can look back upon someone who made a great difference in our lives. As I look back upon my high school career this person was the advisor of the Carroll @ Fort Wayne FFA Chapter, Ms. Cindy Raker. Ms. Raker's motto has always been work hard and play hard, and this is evident in everything that we do. Whether she was attempting to keep the mini-bus between the white and yellow lines, stopping at every Dairy Queen, or staying at the school until 11:00PM the night before convention, her enthusiasm kept us laughing. Her words of advice and encouragement have truly shaped me into the person that I am today. Ms. Raker, there is no way to repay you for all of the great memories, friendships, and qualities that you have instilled in me.

-Jennifer Shepherd, State Treasurer

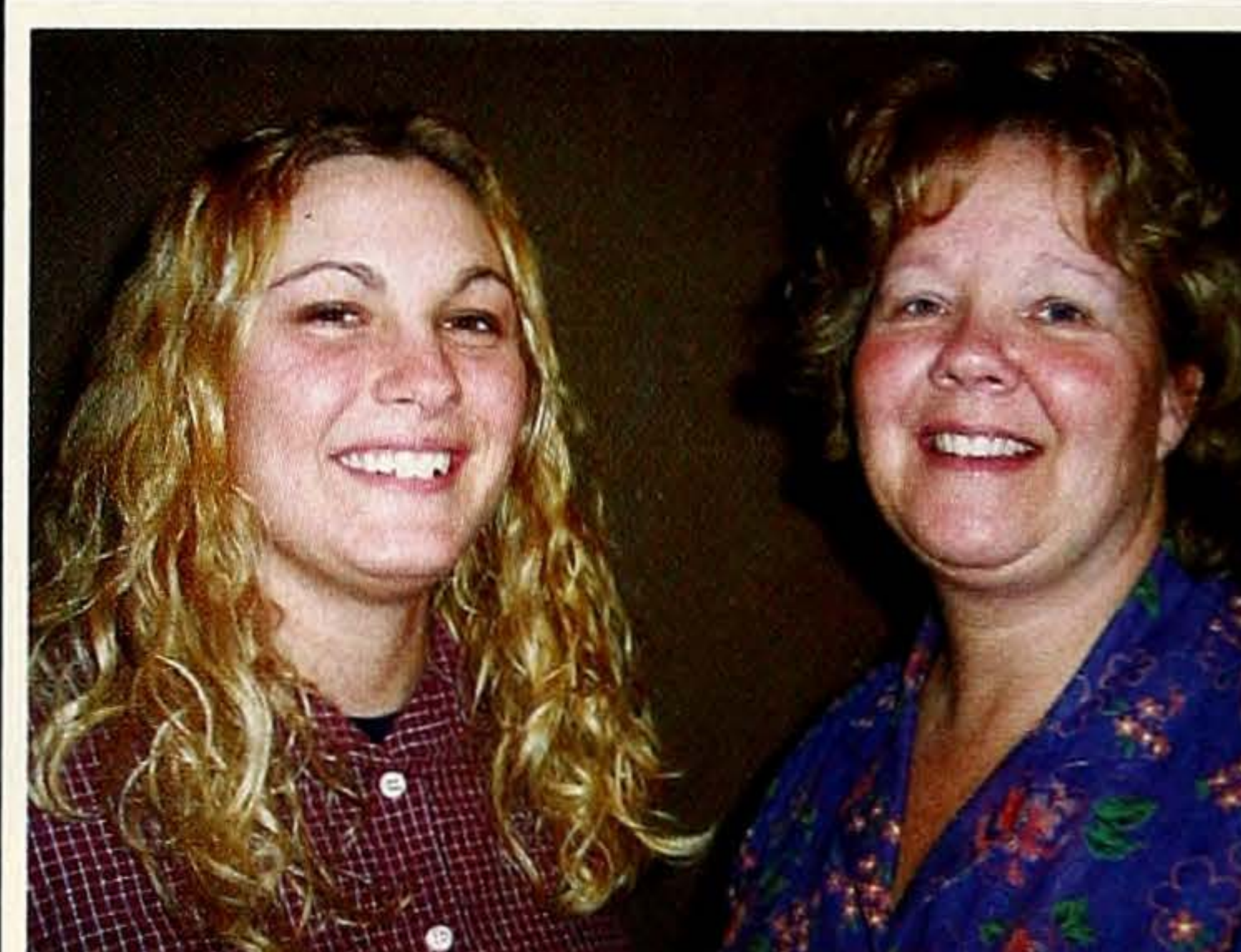
Big Owls Inn



Mr. Jones and Jill



Mr. Carr and Matthew



Jennifer and Mrs. Raker



Mr. Wamsley, Sara and Mrs. Okus

Whether in the ag office, on the rocket, listening to one of my super long and exasperating stories, prepping for an event, or just sitting around, Mrs. Okos and Mr. Wamsley have been two truly influential people in my life. Never have I met two people with such energy, enthusiasm, or passion. Mr. Wamsley thank you for everything you have done for me. You've been there from the very beginning and listened to every crazy story. I'm sure it made life interesting. Mrs. Okos, when am I ever going to get away from you? You have been a fighting force behind me since day one. From working by your side in the classroom to the corn wagon, I truly appreciated everything. You both are amazing people, advisors, and most importantly, friends.

-Sara Egan, State Reporter

re Big Dreams

Mr. Carr is the epitome of motivation. Quitting or slacking just isn't an option. With Mr. Carr, the job just got done. A great example of this came when I was really pushing a deadline. As the final days of the project approached, Mr. Carr called me and asked me if I was going to get the project in on time. I brushed him off saying, of course. Carr looked me square in the eye and said, "Metzger, if you don't get this turned in on time, you won't be signing your State Officer Application and you won't even have a chance at being an officer!" Talk about motivation! I love Mr. Carr and would say, with pride, that he has been one of the most influential people in my life. Thanks, Carr!

-Matthew Metzger, State President

Mr. Holland and I have a very personable friendship. Throughout my years as his student it was always a fun environment, even when I was doing push-

Mr. Holland is the type of teacher that really gets to know and become friends with his kids. I have even ventured out to his house on several occasions just to hang out and blow off steam. Not only did he show compassion towards me, but he also shared it with other students as well. He always said that if the other

teachers did not want them, send them his way. There was always a smile on his face, even when he was chewing someone's rear.

-Todd Ault, State Southern Region Vice-President



Holland and Todd

The day that high schools switched from vans to Mini-Buses, a sad sigh was heard from FFA members. I was no different, because no longer would I be able to sit "shotgun" and have a conversation with my advisor, Mr. Keown. My love for FFA was not only for how much fun I had at events, but in the great conversations that happened on the road trips. We not only brainstormed ideas for the FFA chapter, but because of Mr. Keown being my football coach, I often learned to become a better player! Looking back Mr. Keown was a very dominant figure in my life simply because throughout my six years in FFA we developed a relationship that went beyond an FFA advisor and coach. He truly was a mentor in my life.

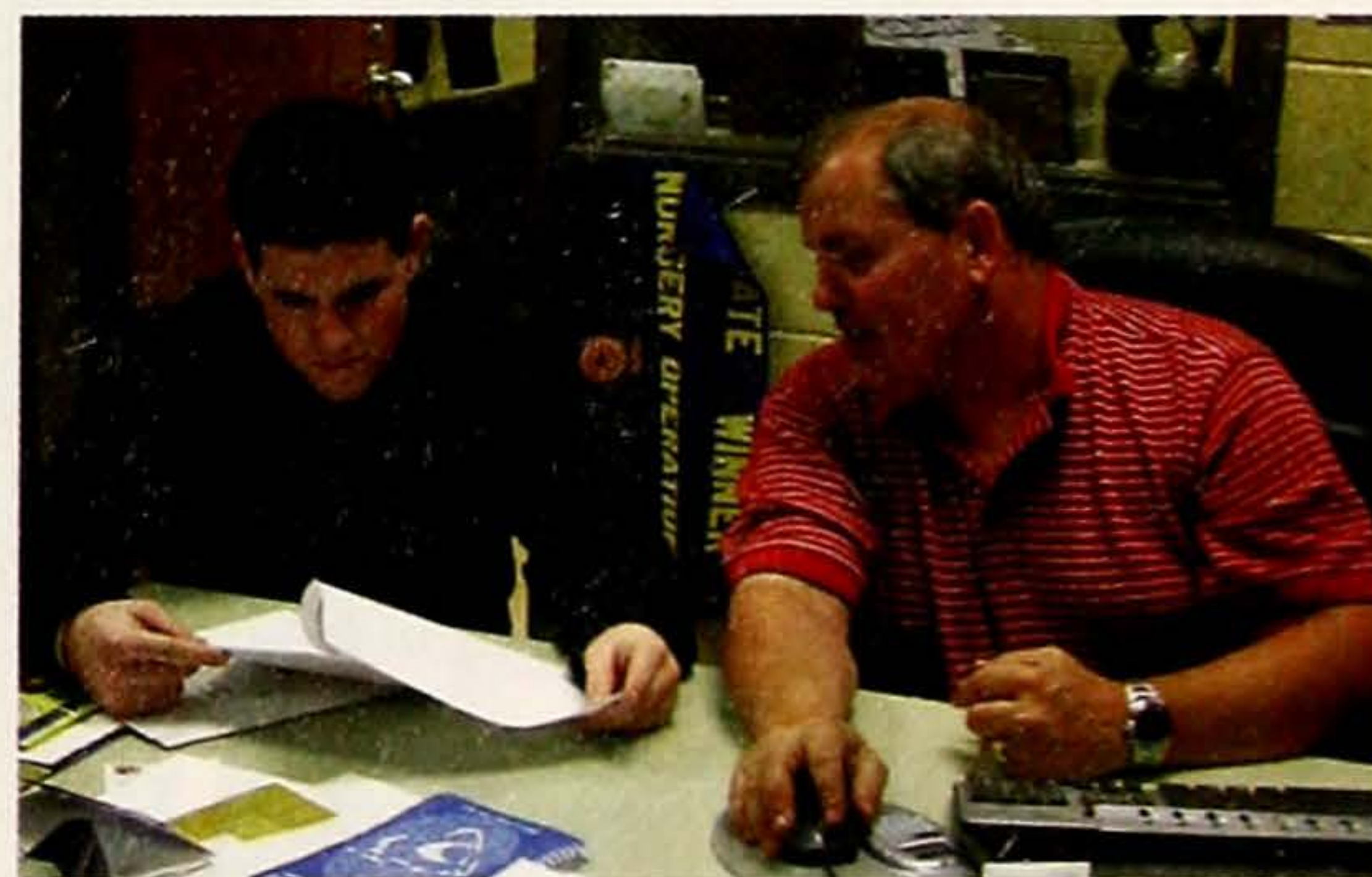
-Eric Barnard, State Northern Region Vice-President



Mrs. Schilling, Joey, and Mr. Rebich

Graduating in a class of only 40, Mr. Rebich came straight out of college and began to teach at Franklin Community High School, graduating classes of 300. He never had an FFA chapter in his school so he wasn't sure what to think of FFA. He hit the ground running as he rebuilt and FFA chapter that just four years ago began the school year with only four members. But he did not do it alone. Mrs. Natalie Schilling taught at Franklin for two years, in which she brought in new ideas on how to expand a chapter to a larger school to prove to them that it wasn't just for the farm kids. Mrs. Schilling helped organize many new events to promote FFA around the school. Without these two individuals, Franklin FFA would have been wandering aimlessly. They helped set a path for Franklin FFA to follow and the advisors to follow are being handed a chapter with potential.

-Joey Dunn, State Sentinel



Eric and Mr. Keown

Dixie Chopper Believes in the Future of FFA Members

By Matthew Metzger

The FFA is built on the principle of putting members first. The Indiana FFA is fortunate to have corporations in our state that feel the same way. As one of our newest sponsors, Dixie Chopper has expressed their respect for the value of FFA and the success of our members. Below, Mr. Rick Judy, manager of media and marketing for Dixie Chopper, shares why he and his company believe FFA enriches the lives of its members.

Full Name of Company: Dixie Chopper

Location of Headquarters: Coatesville, Indiana

Number of Employees: Approximately 150

Years in Business: 25

Company History: Established 25 years ago by Mr. Art Evans, Dixie Chopper is now the manufacturer of the fastest lawn mower in the world. By combining the three main goals of performance, productivity, and reliability, Evans and his family were able to find a place for their company in the competitive world of lawn care.

If a student was interested in a career with Dixie Chopper, what advice would you give them? Just like any other company, there are many divisions to Dixie Chopper. If a member desired to work on the floor or in the machine shop, a student would seek higher education in the mechanical trade. If a student wished to work in the sales or media office, he or she should strive for education in those areas.

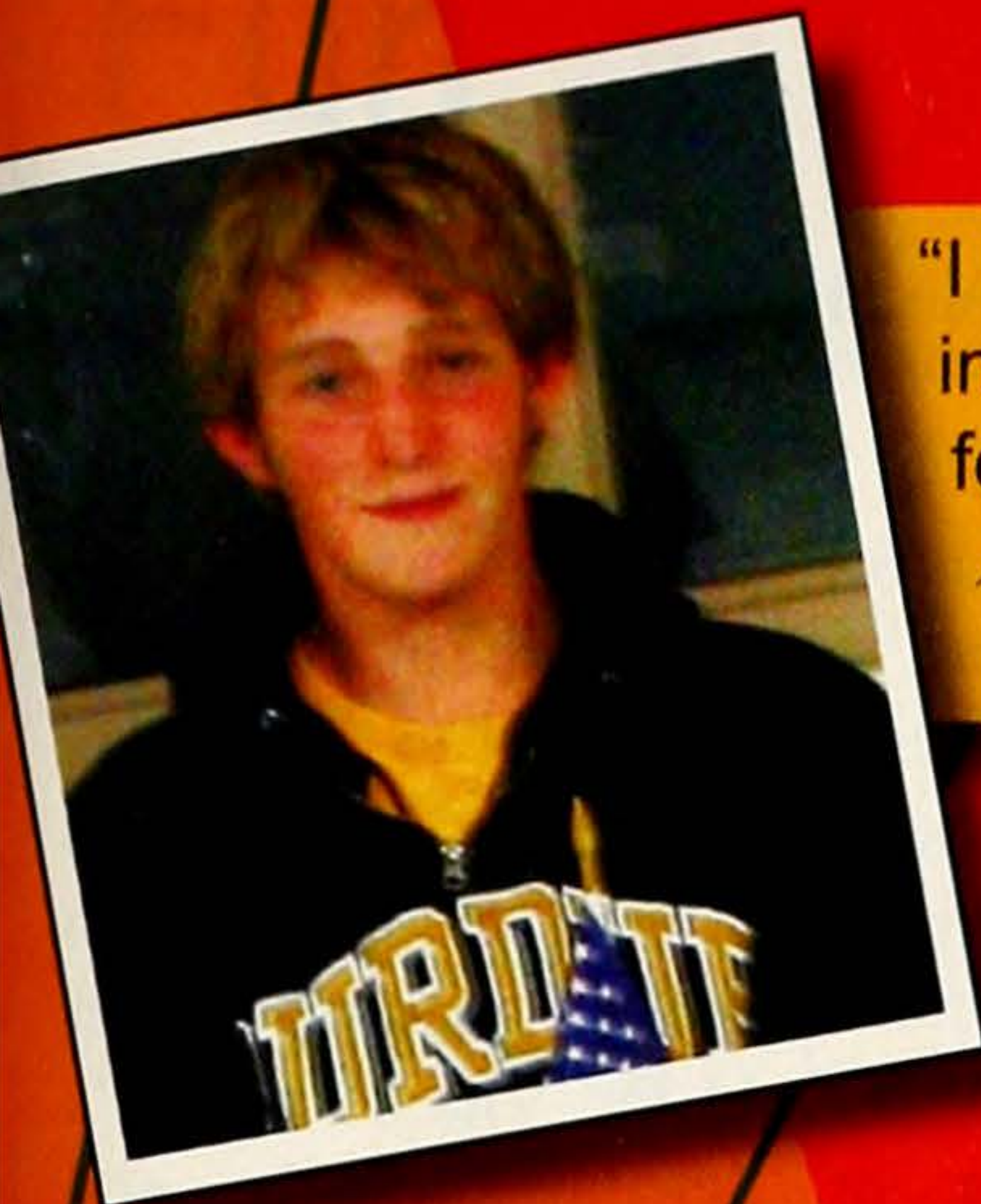
Are internship opportunities available through Dixie Chopper? Internships are available and common with Dixie Chopper. Each year many college students and high school seniors are brought in during the summer months to assist in anything from sales engineering, to mechanical aide, to media networking.

Were you an FFA member? Yes, I was a member of the Greencastle FFA Chapter back when it existed! I really enjoyed my experiences in FFA and my favorite part was livestock judging. FFA just gives so many great people-skills to students.

How did you get started with Dixie Chopper and what do you enjoy most about your current position? I actually didn't get hired directly into my position as Media Marketing Manager. I began at a much younger age on the floor and worked my way through the machine shop. I did enjoy myself there, but when the opportunity came for me to make the switch, I couldn't resist. My favorite part has just been working with all the different people. I get to help the community and when you're in that position, there's never a bad time!

"Dixie Chopper and Indiana FFA make a great team. Both are committed to making a positive difference in lives of young people across Indiana."

Mr. Brian Buchanan,
Indiana FFA Foundation
Development Director



"I look forward to planting crops in the spring for my SAE program."

*Adam Quear, Junior,
Hamilton Heights*



"I like to participate in the spring musicals."

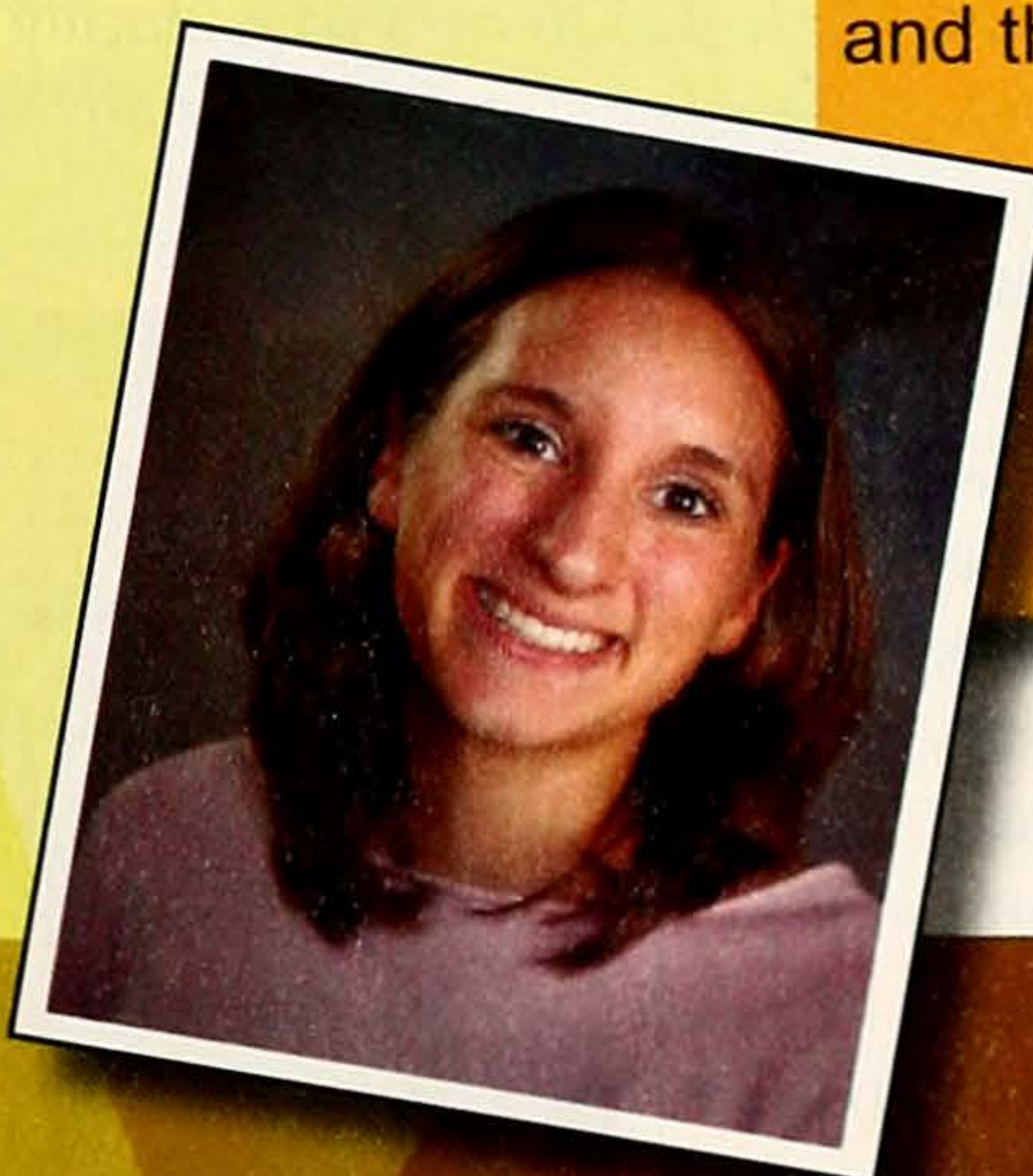
*Danielle Beiswanger,
Senior, Prairie Heights*

Student Spotlight!

What do you look forward to most about spring?

"I really look forward to having our Day on the Farm FFA activity that teaches elementary students about livestock."

*Clay Lawson, Freshman,
Western Boone*



"I enjoy the warm weather and the swine show circuit begins again."

*Lynsee Shaffer,
Sophomore,
Monroe Central*

Next Issue's Spotlight Question

What is your favorite part of being in FFA?

E-mail your answer to inffaspotlight@yahoo.com

From Liberty FFA to the Senate Floor

By Sara Egan

This junior at Union County High School has truly reached for the stars and put her best foot forward. Beth Ann Marker, a member of the Liberty FFA, saw what she wanted and reached out for it. She first joined FFA as a freshman to follow the family tradition. Her dad, uncle, and brother were all members. But then she saw how much the FFA has to offer.

"Beth Ann is a very determined leader. When she set her mind to it, it gets done," comments Lyndsay Robinson, District IX President and fellow Liberty member. "Since I have known her, I have seen her leadership capabilities grow. She is a very intelligent girl who has the will power to go far."

Beth Ann's SAE is in the Outdoor Recreation area and revolves around her family's amusement park, Marker's Wally World. Her main responsibilities include training new employees, managing employees, attending the go-carts, selling tickets, and working the cash register.

Throughout her FFA career she has jumped leaps and bounds through the programs offered. From extemporaneous speaking to small engines and from demonstrations to dairy cattle judging, her activities cover the board. She also served as the Greenhand Student Advisor and the Chapter Vice-President. One of her most exciting accomplishments was being one of the few females involved in Small Engines, and competing in the section contest.

"Beth Ann is an extraordinary leader and motivator," states Kari

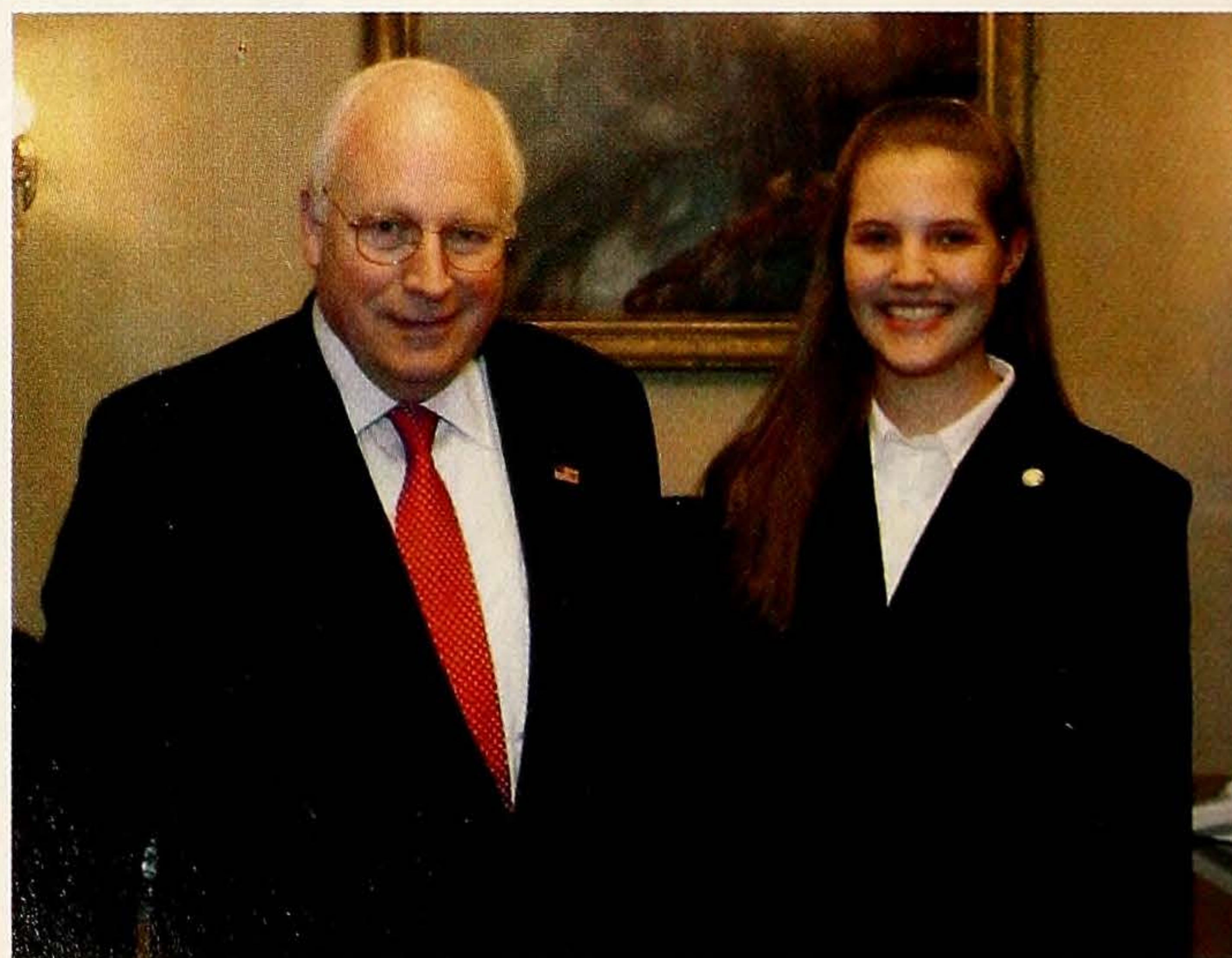
Beckner, Liberty FFA advisor. "She truly knows how to get the younger members excited and involved. Beth Ann herself is a very diverse member and has been a great asset to our team at Liberty."

Aside from just FFA, Beth Ann is very involved in her community, particularly in politics and government. In eighth grade, Beth Ann job shadowed Angie Roman, Military and Veteran Affairs Assistant for Senator Lugar. Through Ms. Roman she discovered a program for juniors in high school to be a page for the United States Senate. She continued to research the program and got her foot a little further through the door when she attended Washington Leadership Conference and met with Senator Lugar's Intern Coordinator, who helped Beth Ann through the application process. In June of 2004, Beth Ann was informed that she was selected to be a page during the Fall Semester in Washington D.C., the

only junior from Indiana.

While in D.C. her days began with class at 6:15 am until approximately 9:45 am. After class she and the other 26 pages would report to the Senate Chamber and prepare for session to begin. Her duties required her to run errands for the Senators, deliver messages from the Vice-President's officer or Senators offices, and prepare the lecterns before Senators spoke. But D.C. was not always work, there was time for play. On the weekend, the pages would tour the city and surrounding sites and just have a good time.

When asked what advice she would give fellow members she was quick with a response. Pursue all of your goals and dreams. Reach for the stars. Do not be afraid of competitors. You'll regret it, if you do not go after it. You'll never know what it could have been if you do not at least try.



Vice President Cheney and Beth Ann

Fun with Fundraising

By Jill Steiner

Each year chapters across the state are always looking for ways to make extra money for activities throughout the year. Last year National FFA started new fundraising opportunities for local chapters with major FFA contributors such as John Deere and Chevy Trucks. Whether students enjoy golf or working on their trucks they are sure to find a way to be involved in the two exciting fundraisers, including Birdies for Charities for the FFA and the Chevy Truck Scholarship Fundraiser.

Last year, through the Chevy fundraising program, chapters across Indiana raised more than \$75,000 collectively with one chapter raising \$4,000 for their own budget!

Birdies for Charities is an organization whose primary goal is to raise funds for local organizations and charities in coordination with the John Deere Classic. From the time FFA chapters sign up online with Birdies for Charities for the FFA, they are able to collect donations which start at a penny per birdie (one less than par in a golf game). The birdies will be totaled at the John Deere Classic which takes place from July 4-10 in Iowa with professional golfers such as Tiger Woods. Once FFA members have found potential donors, then members ask them to pledge so much per birdie made during the John Deere Classic. Historically, there have been around 1,600-2,000 birdies made per year.

With this outstanding fundraiser sponsored by John Deere, FFA makes 100% of the profits. Chapters will

receive 80% of the profits, with the state receiving 15%, and 5% going to National FFA. The person guessing closest to the actual number of birdies nationwide will receive a John Deere L100 Series Lawn Tractor as the Grand Prize. Up to 500 other prizes will be given by John Deere randomly.

"We are really excited about this new opportunity," said Brian Buchanan, Indiana FFA Foundation Development Direction. For more information please check out the website at www.birdiesforcharity.com/FFA.

This year once again, Chevy is teaming up with the FFA to help raise money for scholarships for FFA members across the nation. When chapter members find potential donors for the raffle, they simply ask them to buy a ticket with a \$5 donation to the FFA. Each \$5 ticket is entered into a drawing to win a new Chevy and they also qualify to receive a free tee shirt at their local Chevy dealership.

Out of the \$5 raised through each ticket sold, chapters receive \$4.00, the state association receives \$0.75, and National FFA receives \$0.25. Last year chapters across Indiana raised more than \$75,000 collectively with one chapter raising \$4,000 for their own budget. The program starts July 15 and ends in late October with the drawing for a new Chevy truck. Chapters should begin registering now for the fundraiser if interested.

With these two fundraisers, your chapter will be able to make some extra money while participants help the FFA and at the same time qualify to win some great prizes. Any questions can be directed to Mr. Brian Buchanan with the Indiana FFA Foundation at (317) 878-4178.

The Indiana FFA Foundation is proud to welcome these new partners.

Wabash County Farm Bureau, Inc.
Jasper County Farm Bureau, Inc.
CF Industries, Inc.
Grant County Farm Bureau, Inc.
Allen County Farm Bureau, Inc.
Boone County Farm Bureau, Inc.
USDA - Farm Service Agency
BioCrossroads
H & C Insulation, Inc.
Dixie Chopper
Charlie Bertsch

Purdue University...Or Bust

By Jennifer Shepherd

Thoughts of spring finals, last minute school projects, graduations, summer vacations, county fairs, or work, may have some FFA members stressed out! Yet one cannot forget that also right around the corner is the 76th Indiana FFA State Convention. Hopefully members have not piled their plates too high, and are anticipating even more stress which comes from preparing the perfect state-winning Career Development Event, or the excitement which comes mini-bus road trips, from seeing old friends or making new ones, hearing exciting speakers, dancing the night away, or receiving awards.

From June 14th -16th, 2005, FFA members will flood to Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., for the 76th State Convention. After attending last year's landmark 75th Convention, one may wonder if it can be outdone. Yet have no fear, the 76th State Officer Team is here, to guarantee that members will enjoy a fun-filled, stress free, exciting convention, even if they are not competing in any events.

On Monday night, the night before Convention officially starts, Convention kicks off with the "Chapter Challenge." This event includes a meal, mechanical bull-riding, a rock climbing wall, and the presentation of the Discovery Degree Awards.

"I really liked riding the bull," said Amy Schaffer, a Monroe Central senior. "It's a lot of fun."

Throughout the week, FFA members will have many opportunities to get involved at Convention, including:

- Listen to amazing speakers such as Keith Hawkins, who will inspire all in the room with his amazing life story of triumphs and abilities to overcome obstacles.
- Attend learning sessions which improve abilities to fill out scholarships, improve their communities, and have a blast in an experiential learning session full of fun games and activities.
- Boogie down to new tunes while hanging out with friends at the FFA Dance.

Finally, we will honor FFA members who have excelled in their areas of agricultural interest. Awards ranging from State Stars to Star Chapters, and from proficiency winners to Hoosier Degrees, will be presented.

"I would like to go back and do it again," said Kyle Jacobs, a freshman at Eastern Hancock. "I am excited to attend this year's state convention!"

Start preparing for the 76th State Convention by reserving lodging, practicing your state winning Career Development Event, and by jumping on the mini-bus prepared for a wild road trip.

Sara Egan...Stationed by the Flag

2004-2005 Indiana FFA State Reporter

Fast Facts about Sara Egan

Parents: Judy and Brian Egan
 Siblings: Conner – 17, Jake – 14
 Hometown: Rensselaer
 FFA Chapter: Rensselaer
 Favorite Food: Dad's spaghetti, green beans
 Favorite Song: Brave, Jamie O'Neal
 Favorite Sport: Playing-Swimming;
 Watching-Anything my brother's play
 Favorite Movie: Dirty Dancing or Grease
 (It's a Tie!)
 Favorite FFA Activity: Chapter
 Meeting CDE

2004-2005
 State Officer
 1st votes Sara
 most likely to be
 and somewhere
 Italy reading
 books and sip-
 ping coffee!!



Sara's FFA Timeline

- 14- Joined FFA
- 15- Lost District Greenhand Prepared Public Speaking
Earned Top 12 Points in chapter
- 16- Elected Chapter Treasurer
Placed 3rd at Section Chapter Meeting (didn't advance to State)
- 17- Elected Chapter Vice-President
Won District Agricultural Sales Proficiency
- 18- Won State Female Leadership Ambassador
Elected State FFA Reporter

Sara's future plans are to attend Purdue University in the fall of 2005, majoring in Agriculture Economics and minoring in International Studies. She hopes to work as a financial analyst in the agriculture industry. Sara plans on raising a large family in a rural community, and keeping her faith, living happily with ones she love.

Few Thoughts about Sara...

As an oldest child and only daughter Sara has had some amazing responsibilities. She has never ceased to amaze us in her strong convictions to her commitments. She has grown into a beautiful young woman who fills us with pride."

Sara's Mom & Dad – Brian and Judy

I admire Sara's outgoing and independent personality. She is always interested in my life and is always there for me. She has become my role model and heightened my interests in FFA."

Sara's Brother – Jake

Sara has been amazing to work with over the past four years. She balances her creative and artistic ability with a wacky and zany personality that makes her a joy to work with."

Sara's Advisor – Mrs. Okos

Sara was born to be a leader. With her enthusiasm, energy, and passion for everything she does, Sara always strives to put her best self forward. She proves to be responsible, trustworthy, and most importantly, down to earth, making it easy to talk to her and learn from her. I am proud to call Sara my best friend."

Sara's Close Friend – Katie Hannon



Summer Break = Summer Job

By Joey Dunn

Finally, summer is here. No more classes, no more crowded halls, no more lockers getting jammed. Imagine just relaxing the summer away in a hammock sipping lemonade on the beach. Oh wait, your parents are bugging you about something? A summer job!! Who wants a summer job?! Well, whether you want it or not, summer jobs give you all kinds of opportunities you cannot get while in school. You may wonder what a summer job can do for you other than take up all of your time. In addition to learning new skills, they also allow you to explore different fields of interest, and of course make some money.

"I got a summer job because I enjoy working with animals," said Michelle Gohn, a senior at Rochester, "It has helped learn more about animals, which I am going to major in animal science."

Employers are looking for certain skills in their employees when they are hired. Sometimes we may know what they are looking for but aren't sure how to gain that skill. A summer job could help you. You would learn skills needed and you could put the skills you think you possess to the test. And of course you will learn how the real world works.

"Summer jobs will give you an entrance to the business community in an established company," said Charlene Lowry, the collection manager at Central Collection Bureau. "The biggest skills we are looking for as of right now are computer familiarity and communication skills. With those skills you can get a job anywhere."

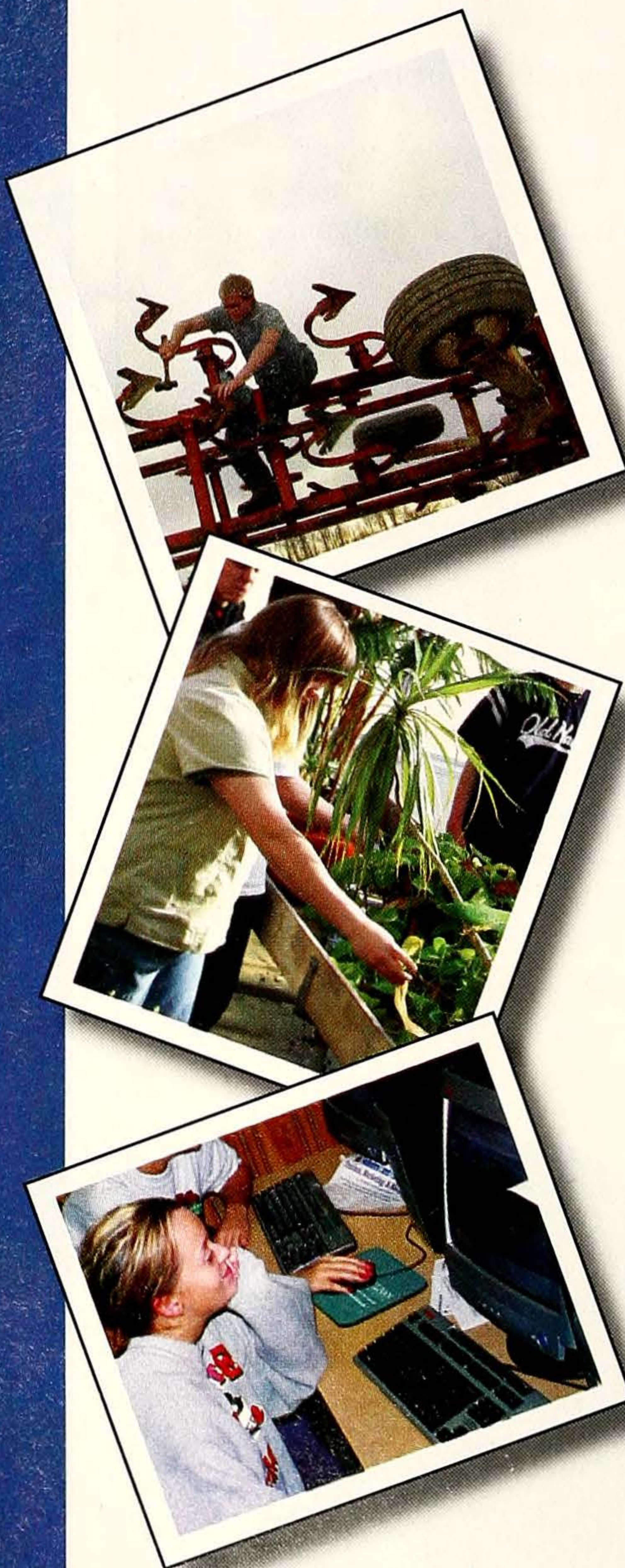
Many high school students haven't exactly narrowed their field of study for college down. Most people don't do that for a while. But it is good to at least know what you are interested in. With these summer jobs, you can choose a job that is in one of your possible fields of study. If you like the work, then keep that as a possibility. If you don't like the work, then you can eliminate that field of study. This will not get you to the point of narrowing it down to one, but it will help in the whole process.

In addition to helping you explore career opportunities and learn new skills, a summer job will also help you earn a little spending money – maybe even enough money to start a savings account. Your summer job may also earn you credit toward your SAE program or toward graduation.

With the help of your parents, advisors, and teachers, finding a summer job should be a snap. Be open to trying new things and be ready to jump and take advantage of the experience and you could be on the way toward your future career.

**Thinking about a
summer job?
Consider these options!**

Farmhand
Office assistant
Fast food worker
Mowing lawns
Sacking groceries
Construction
Working in a greenhouse



Don't Chicken Out!

By Todd Ault

Why did the chicken cross the road? So that FFA members on the other side could judge it, of course. You might not have known it, but FFA does have a poultry judging contest, held at Purdue University on May 21, 2005. That's right, you can judge not only chickens, but ducks, turkeys, and eggs.

Poultry judging is run like any other contest through FFA or 4-H. You have 10 classes at the state level, including regular placing and reason classes. In the first and second class you have your past production hens. In this class you must judge the hens by the amount of bleaching, beak, legs, and egg laying ability. This is the reason class for all the senior teams. In the next classes you will judge market poultry which ranges from broilers to turkeys.

In the final four classes the team members grade three classes of eggs. In this process they must determine if the eggs have defects and rate the eggs from best to worst in overall quality. To determine all of these classes the team members must have studied many hours to earn all the specifications of the eggs and the birds.

"I like this contest because it requires me to know a wide range of things (about meat, eggs, and birds), and be good at all of them," said Alyssa Aver, top individual in the state last year. "The advice that helped me the most was to stop second guessing myself and then I did so much better."

The top three teams in the state are recognized as well as the top five individuals. There are not that many schools involved in this contest compared to others, so if you want the experience of a state contest get involved and work hard at it. For further information you can request the poultry judging handbook, 4-H 651. This resource is available from your County Extension office.

So the next time that you get asked, "Why did the chicken cross the road?" you will be able to tell them the real reason. Talk to your advisor about the poultry judging contest and get your team ready!



Want to know more about where your chicken nuggets came from?
Try the Poultry CDE!

Changes Down the Road for the Hoosier Degree?

By Eric Barnard

The Hoosier FFA Degree is up for a facelift. An amendment to the Hoosier Degree will soon be coming up at this year's State FFA Convention. The amendment is meant to update what it takes to earn the degree. The requirements haven't been changed in a while, and so some of the changes will bring some of the older requirements into line with today's standards. The degree will also have some new additions to it.

As you learn about some of the proposed changes, you might think it is going to be harder to get your degree, but the majority of this year's recipients of the Hoosier degree would already meet these proposed changes. You might also wonder why the financial requirements being increased. Inflation is something that everybody has to fight. Just like we once could buy gas for a \$1.00/gallon, it now costs around \$2.00/gallon. The proposed amendments will bring the old requirements up to today's level, and then using a government figure called Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) it will tweak the degree standards every year according to inflation. The COLA figure is calculated to reflect inflation and will make sure that the standards will fluctuate with the economy.

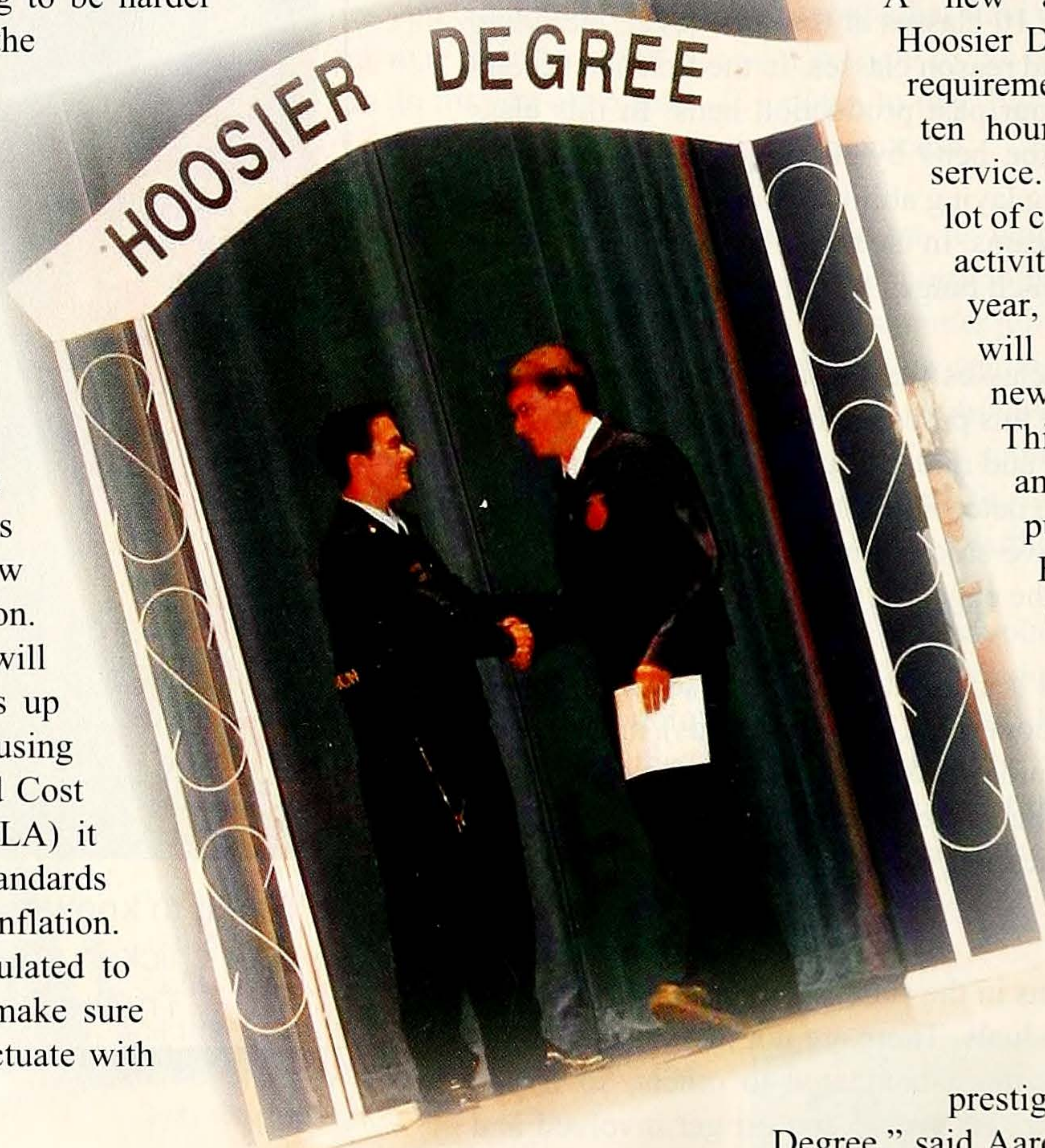
The first proposed change impacts how much money you must earn in order to receive your degree. Previously, everyone had to earn or invest the equivalent to at least \$1,000 in their SAE. The proposed amendment doubles that amount. For those using unpaid hours as part of their SAE, the proposed amendment increases the hourly rate for valuing these hours from \$3.33 to \$6.66.

Some of the other changes include requiring a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Right now it says a "C" average, but each school could possibly have a different grading scale that they use. This will make it the same for everyone trying to earn their state degree. Also it has been required that a recipient participate in at least five different FFA activities above the chapter level. The format of the degree will also be changed so that it is less confusing to fill out.

A new addition to the Hoosier Degree will be the requirement to complete ten hours of community service. Most chapters do a lot of community service activities throughout the year, so most members will easily meet this new requirement. This is one way the amendment would push to make sure FFA members that receive their Hoosier Degree are promoting FFA in their communities.

"I feel that these changes will return honor and prestige to the Hoosier Degree," said Aaron Allgeier of the East Central FFA. "I also feel that with these changes, I can see Indiana FFA members make themselves better at their SAE."

Remember that this amendment will be read at State Convention this summer and voted on by the Indiana FFA delegate body. If you have any thoughts or input about these proposed amendments, make sure you talk to your chapter's delegates to the convention.



FFA Members or Aspiring Entrepreneurs?

By Jennifer Shepherd

If you were to describe the 45 members of the Southwestern Shelby FFA Chapter, words like entrepreneur, friends, and community-oriented might come to mind.

"The camaraderie between our chapter members is what makes it great," said Haley Steinbarger, chapter member and District VIII secretary. "We have a lot of different age groups, but despite age differences we get along great!"

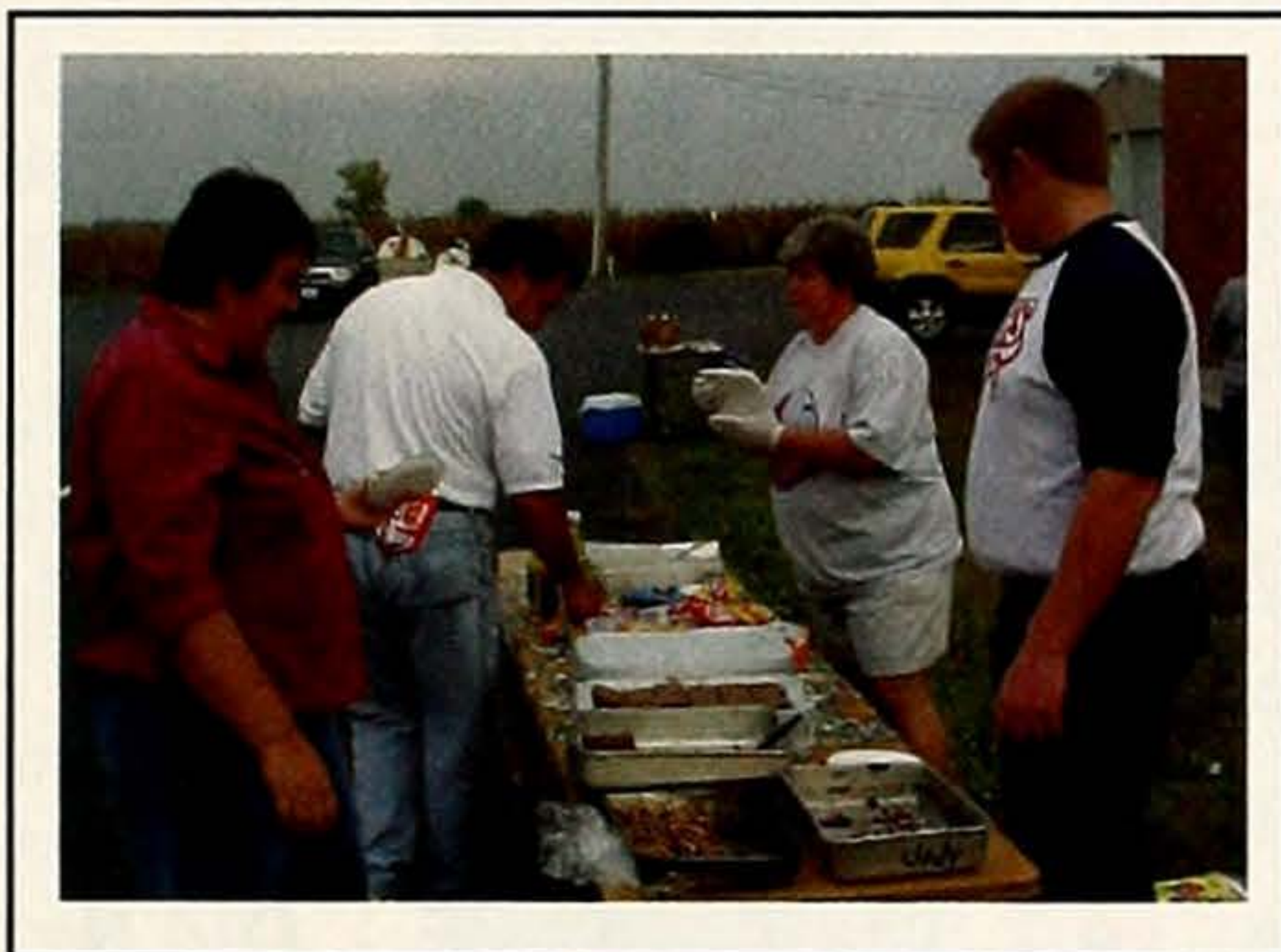


of making apple butter to younger students.

Even while planning these big events, members still find the time to participate in Career Development Events such as Dairy and Livestock Evaluation, Small Engines, Soils Judging, and Parliamentary Procedure.

Together members accomplish unique fundraising and community awareness projects. The chapter just wrapped up a conservation effort, where they were one of very few chapters across the state to participate in the recycling of used inner tubes, which are pouring in to our landfills.

They built a box to collect the inner tubes, contacted a local business, Gem City Goodyear, and were able to get nearly seven tons of inner tubes donated and recycled. The chapter was able to raise over \$1,400 for the project, which they plan to reinvest in their chapter by purchasing a milk machine.



"The inner tube project was a good program," said Ms. Pam Meyer, chapter advisor. "The inner tubes are a waste if you put them in the landfill."

The chapter also participates in a Fall Harvest Day and Pioneer Fair. These events give local elementary students a chance to learn about agriculture. Nearly 25 FFA members explain farm safety and animals, as well as offer hay rides and play fun, agricultural-related games with the 400 elementary students. FFA members also play a role in the Pioneer Fair by dressing up as colonial pioneers and demonstrating the techniques

"The best part of our chapter is our judging teams," said Jeremy Mitchell, a sophomore of the Southwestern FFA Chapter.

In order to accomplish all of their goals, the chapter has found communication to be key. One challenge their chapter faces is that members are involved in several other activities including sports. As the need arises, an "Update" is written by the chapter secretary and is passed out to all of the officers at lunch time. They also post key information on a bulletin board or on their chapter's website, www.SWshelby.k12.in.us.

Together the Southwestern Shelby FFA family works closely to ensure that they are leaving an impact upon their community, while also reinvesting leaders and funds into their chapter.

"I love the kids here," said Ms. Meyer. "They have a strong sense of rural values and responsibility."



STRAIN YOUR BRAIN

Don't want to sit around all summer? The FFA offers
lots of summertime activities to keep you busy!
Complete the crossword below by locating
summer FFA activities.

Remember the most important part when doing all of these things...have fun!

A	C	W	V	N	Y	C	Z	O	L	S	G	E	Y	E	G	R	I	V	E
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W	I	O	M	N	T	I	K	N	Z	J	G	I	T	Q	A	O	T	D	N
K	M	G	G	V	N	M	V	P	U	Z	L	V	I	W	M	R	A	M	V
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CHALLENGE
CONVENTION
FAIRS
FUTURE
PEOPLE
SLEEP
SUMMER

CAREERS
CONTESTS
EXPERIENCE
FRIENDS
JUDGING
SERVICE
STATE

Songs for Tsunami Relief

Former FFA member Willie Nelson plays music to help fund relief for tsunami victims

Over the course of his long and celebrated career, Willie Nelson has been known for two things—his music and his generosity. In an effort to help the victims of the December tsunami in Southeast Asia, Nelson held benefit concert in January, the CD and DVD of which are now available.

The project, known as “Willie Nelson - Songs for Tsunami Relief: From Austin to South Asia,” features Nelson and some of his friends—The Joe Ely Band, Spoon, Patti Griffin, Alejandro Escovedo, Jon Dee Graham, Bruce Robison, Kelly Willis and a special appearance by Natalie Maines of the Dixie Chicks.

Proceeds from the sale of the discs will be donated to the tsunami relief and rebuilding efforts of C.A.R.E. and UNICEF.

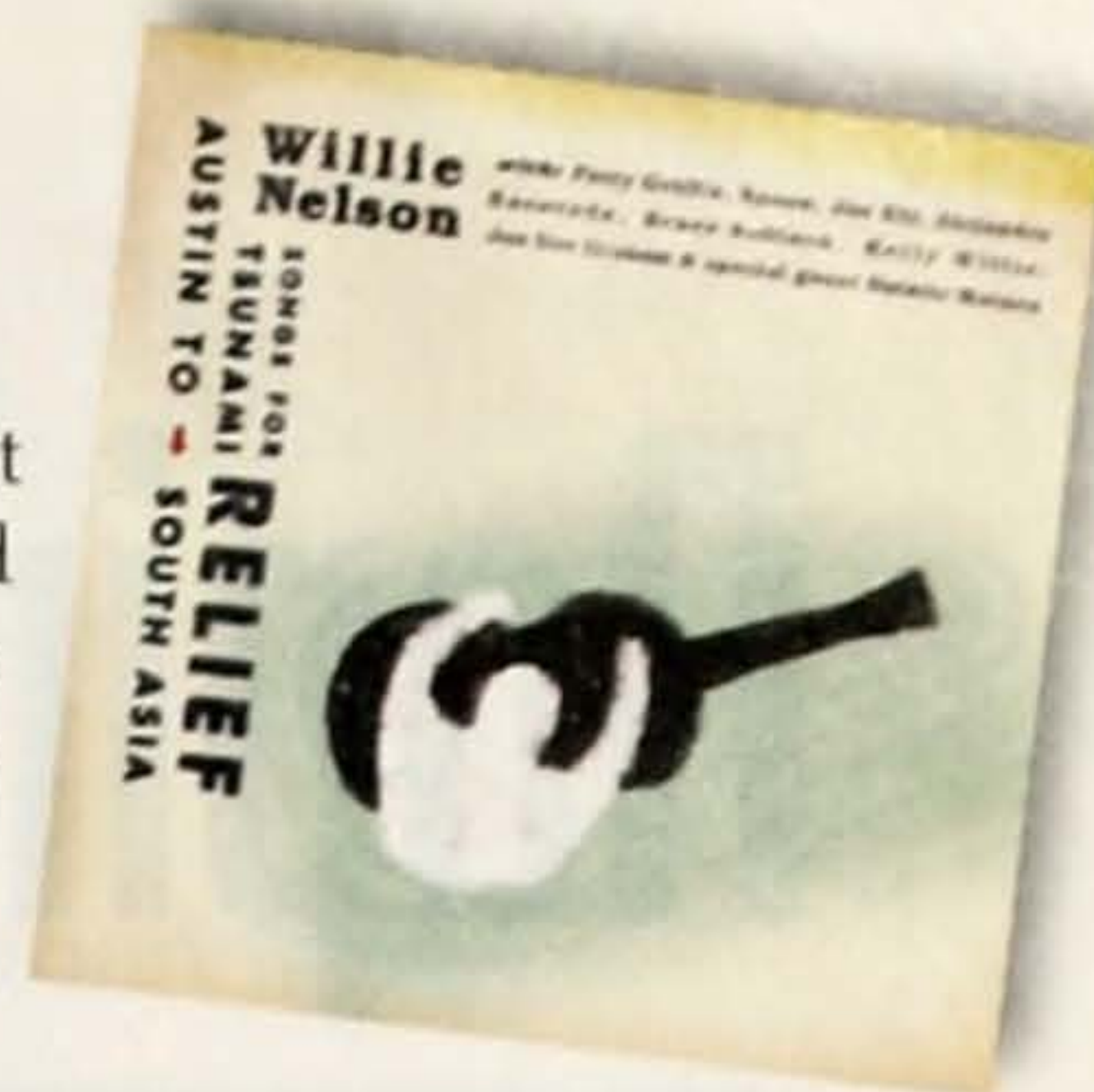
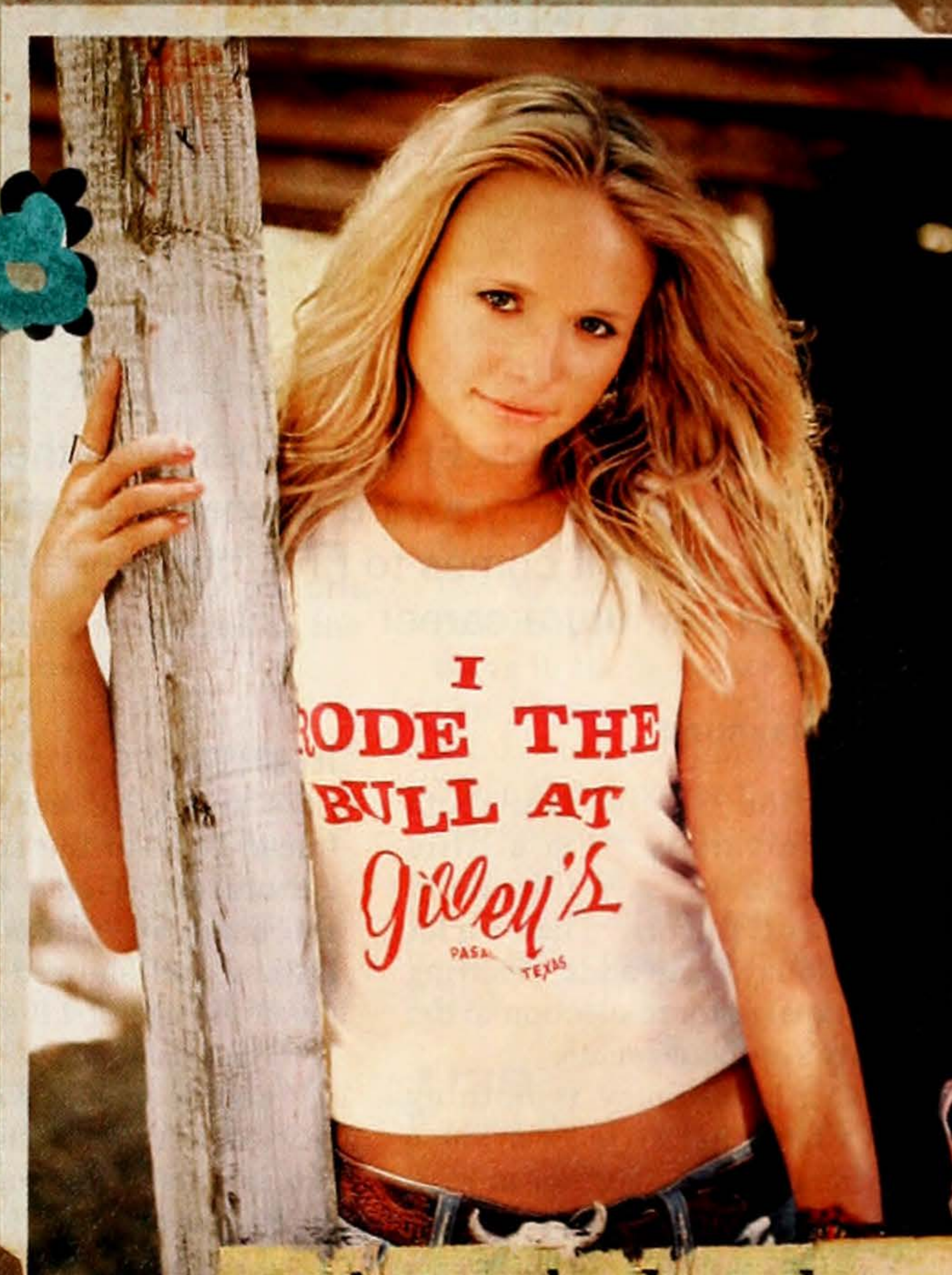
Nelson, a former FFA member, co-founded the Farm Aid music festival in 1985 with fellow performers Neil Young and John Mellencamp. Its purpose—to raise awareness about and funds for America’s family farmers. Nelson has co-headlined each Farm

Aid concert.

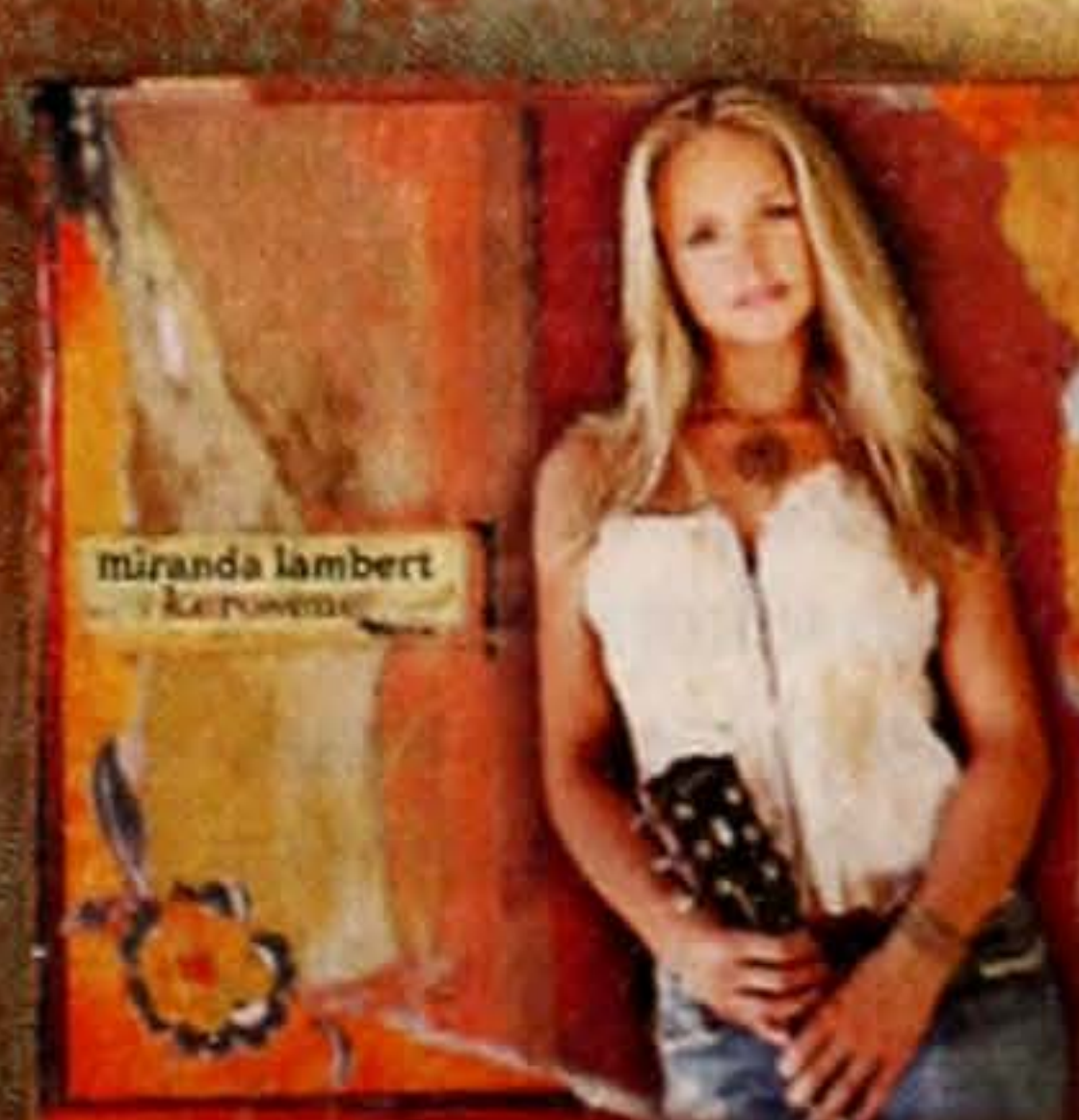
His interest in music dates back to his childhood. “I was raised and worked in the cotton fields around Abbott with a lot of African-Americans and a lot of Mexican-Americans, and we listened to their music all the time. I guess that’s why I was

influenced a lot by those around me—there was a lot of singing that went on in the cotton fields.”

His commitment to the well being of others, whether they’re on a family farm in Kansas or in the devastated coastal regions of Indonesia, speaks for itself. ●

miranda lambert
kerosene



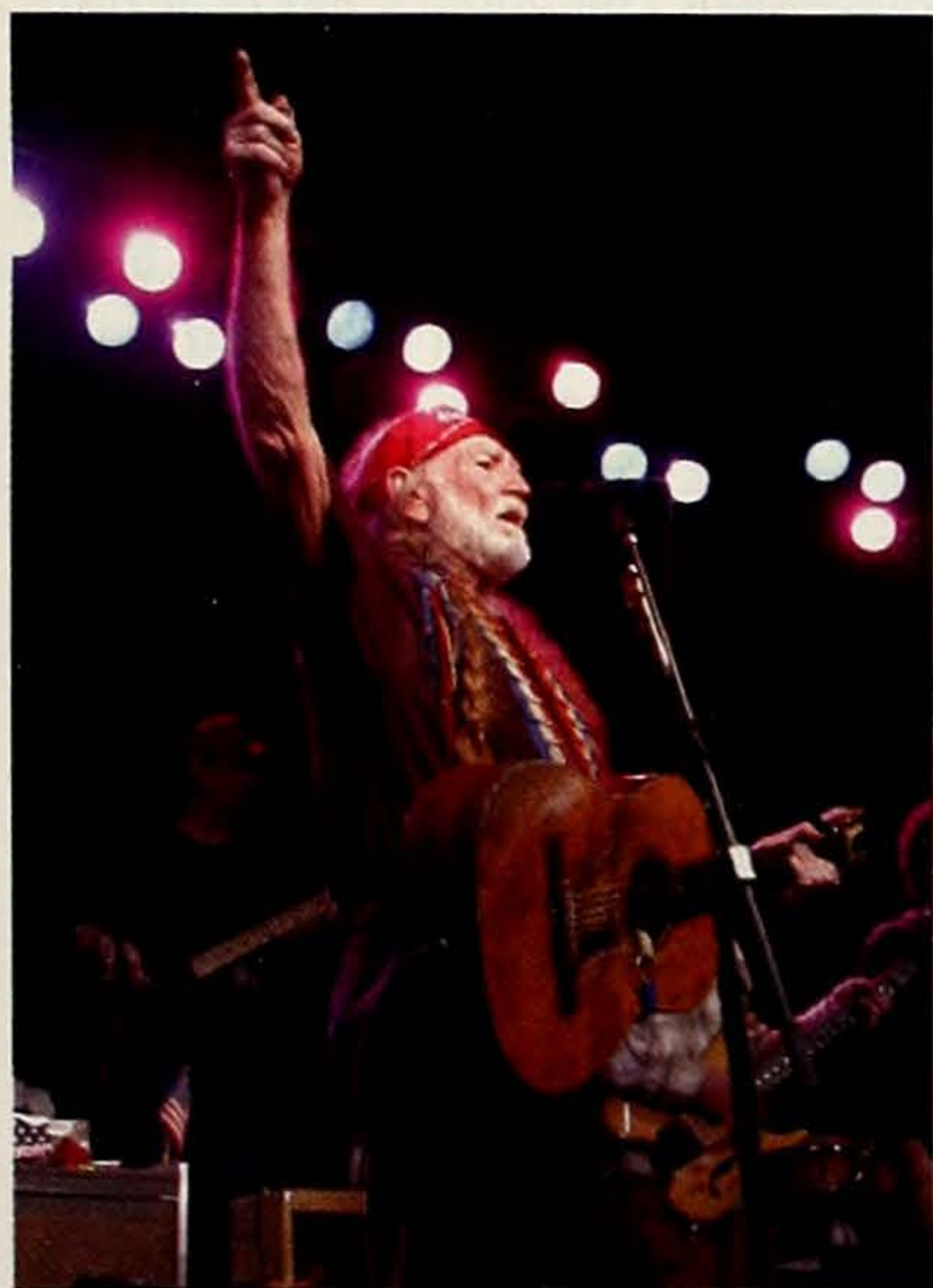
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Roping her future



CC DuBois, a Louisiana FFA member, won the 2004 national FFA proficiency award in equine science. She's all business when it comes to FFA, breakaway calf roping, college and her future career

By Chris Hayhurst

It's election time at Louisiana State University. "I'm a little busy right now," says 19-year-old sophomore CC Dubois. "There's a lot going on today," she adds, referring to her campaign for re-election to the university's student senate.

For CC, being busy is nothing new. It's been her style ever since she became an FFA member at Ponchatoula High School. The same has held true during two years in college, where she's balanced a double major in agriculture business management and political science with student government, volunteer work and a passion for horses.

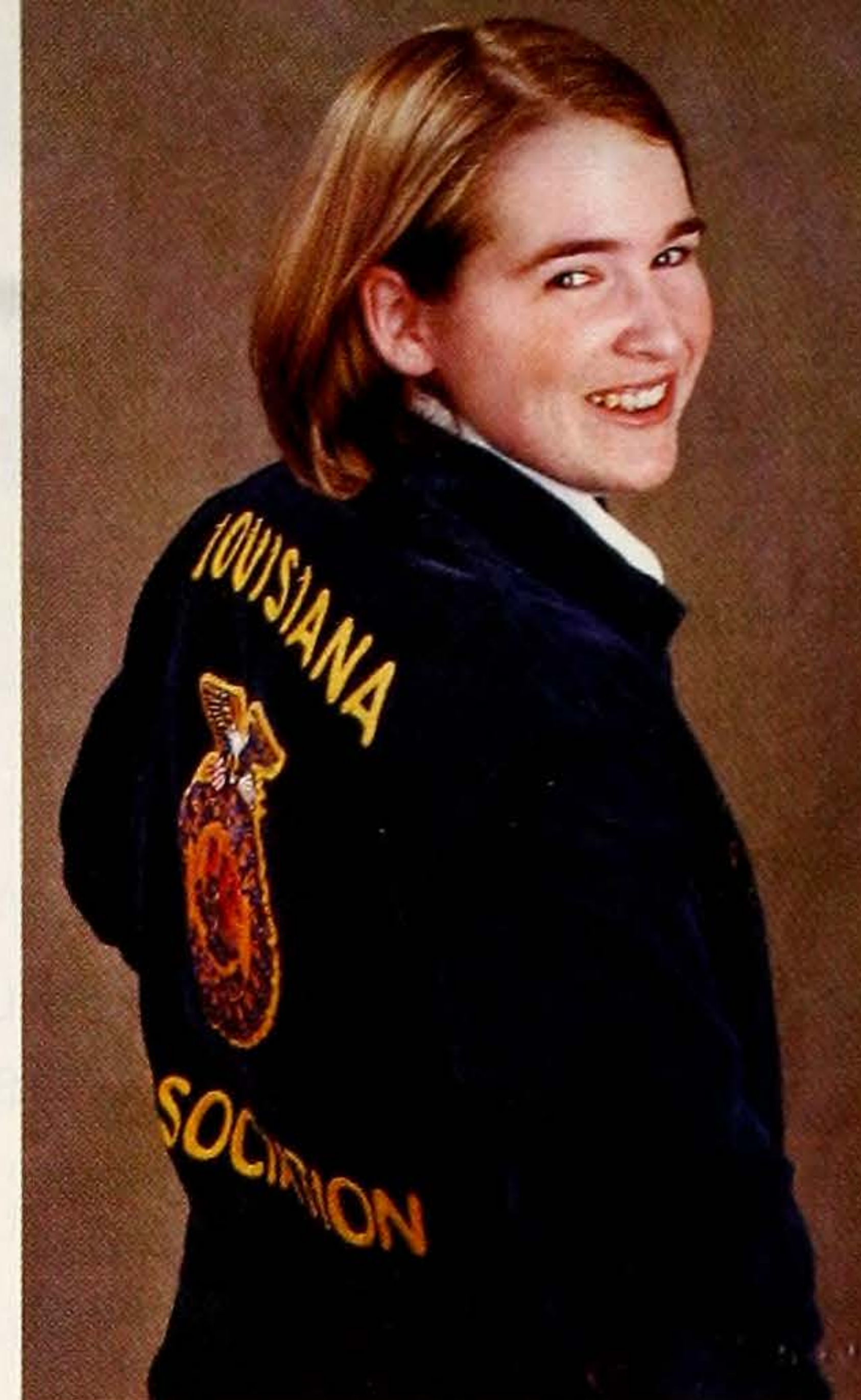
"A lot of times you're going all out, working hard, and you're not necessarily getting to do all the other things that the average student does," she says. "But in the end it's all worth it, because you get to see the fruits of your labor. You get to see that you really made a difference."

THE HORSES

CC's knack for hard work can be traced back to the supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program she began in high school. She had trained and showed quarter horses since the age of 11, so choosing her SAE was easy.

"Equine science was the first thing that came to me," she recalls. With her parents as mentors—her mother, Alice, was also her FFA advisor—she quickly turned her love for the ring into a great learning opportunity. "It taught me how to win, it taught me how to lose, it taught me things like time management and record keeping and public speaking and all the things that come with it."

Later, as a freshman at LSU, CC found she had less time for her SAE. Still, she kept at it when she could, teaching once a week at a therapeutic riding program for children with disabilities and winning a world championship in breakaway calf



roping. Finally, at last fall's national FFA convention, she won the equine science proficiency award.

"That meant a lot to me," says CC. "I don't do what I do to be recognized, but it's kind of nice whenever the recognition comes. When people see what it is you're doing and acknowledge the efforts you've made, that feels good."

GIVING BACK

Today, even as she makes great strides in school—she's been honored as LSU College of Agriculture's outstanding student two years in a row and is now working on her honors thesis in public diplomacy—CC finds time to give back to her community.

Her current project involves finding ways to rejuvenate an economically deprived neighborhood near LSU. CC says the effort to bring together citizens from the community, school officials and student volunteers has been a success. "People are now asking how they can not just build fences around this neighborhood, but how they can fix it."

After graduation in 2007 she hopes to go to law school. From there she would like to enter—or, that is, remain in—politics. For even as she wonders about her prospects as a second-term school senator, she also ponders a career in the service of others. "That's where all ships are headed right now," CC says.

"I've been blessed above and beyond whatever I can imagine. Now I just want to give back." ●

おかえりなさい Welcome to Japan

The national FFA officers share journal entries from their recent Japan trip

Part 1 of 2

1/25

With passports and cameras in hand, we departed early from the hotel to check in at Dulles International Airport for our flights to Narita, Japan. We were looking forward to a schedule filled with visits to businesses, agriculture education programs, agricultural facilities and historical sites. With a schedule like that, our group was sure to have an amazing chance to grow and learn. We are very thankful for Mitsui and Co., Inc., the sponsor of this trip for 27 years. Their support has allowed 156 officers before us to make the trip. – Jackie Mundt



When not visiting industry leaders and Future Farmers of Japan (FFJ) members, the national FFA officers had the opportunity to visit such cultural treasures as the Kiyomizu Temple (above).

1/26

We left Washington D.C. on the 25th, but arrived on the 26th due to the 14-hour plane ride. We were all very excited to be greeted at our first hotel by three Future Farmers of Japan (FFJ) members and their advisor Mr. Koichi Sugawara. It was a wonderfully warm welcome. After some training in Japanese culture we are excited—and a little nervous—about being submerged in a completely new environment. We all have different ideas and thoughts of what Japan will be like. – Emily Horton

1/27

Today we visited Narita Seiryō High School. As we pulled into the school

we saw students with a huge banner saying, “Welcome FFA.” To begin the tour, we visited the school’s decorative rock garden where they explained the significance and symbolism of gardens in the Japanese culture. After that we headed to the school farm, which was enormous. It included classrooms for flower arranging and fields for planting different types of vegetables. Next we visited Mr. and Mrs. Kinichi Higaki’s melon farm. Numerous teams before us visited this farm, and the Higakis were excited to host us. After learning about the top quality melons they raise, we indulged ourselves in



The national officers visited Narita Seiryō agricultural high school, where they received a warm welcome.

their product. Wow, it was tasty! – Brian Hogue

1/28

The morning started bright and early at the Tsukiji Fish Market. We had been looking forward to the fish market because none of us had ever been to anything like it before. As we walked the aisles of the market, we saw seafood of all types, ranging from eel to squid. We then headed across town to the U.S. Embassy, where we met with Embassy representatives and enjoyed discussing current trade policies and discovering the role the agricultural attachés play in furthering our industry. Our next meeting of the day was lunch with representatives from several U.S. agricultural trade groups to discuss the role American agriculture plays in the Japanese food supply. Our afternoon visit was at Mitsui & Co., Ltd., the sponsor of our trip. We had the opportunity to meet with company executives and see excellent presentations that ranged from the frozen and chilled foods department to the retail business divisions. – Jay Kelley

1/29

We took the subway and then a cab to Tokyo Noge High School, and what we saw there made the entire trip worthwhile. It was a Saturday morning, so they didn’t have school, but there were over twenty FFJ members forming a greeting line into the school. We first went outside to see the horticulture and landscaping facilities. Next was the food processing department, where the students taught us how to can foods. For the final part of the day, our hosts welcomed us to their school and country. Jackie then gave remarks on our experience and exchanged gifts with the national FFJ president. – Justine Sterling

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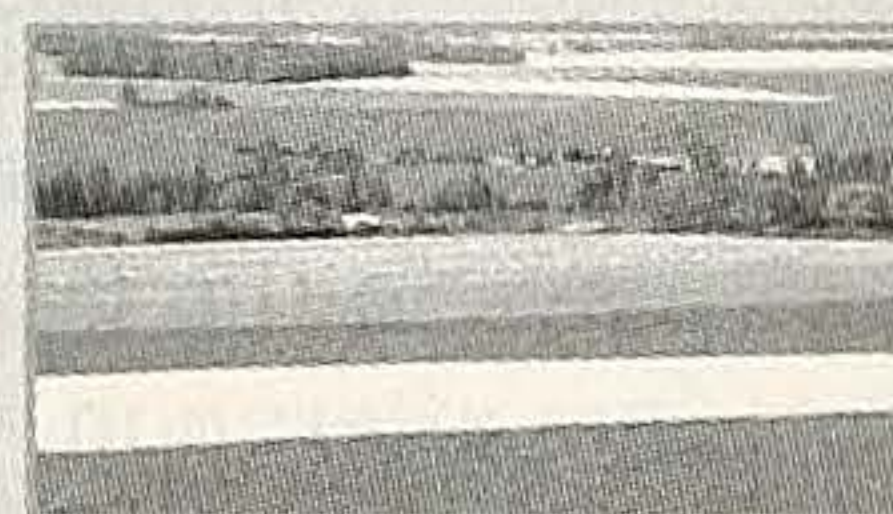
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1. Title of publication: New Horizons
2. Publication number: 1069-806X
3. Date of filing: October 19, 2004
4. Frequency of issue: 6 times year
5. Number of Issues published annually: 6
6. Annual subscription price: \$7.00 New FFA Member \$2.00 FFA Member
7. Complete mailing address of known office of publication: FFA New Horizons, The National FFA Organization, 6060 FFA Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960
8. Complete mailing address of the headquarters of general business offices of the publishers: same
9. Full names and complete mailing address of publisher, editor, and managing editor: Publisher, Anna Melodia, National FFA Organization, 6060 FFA Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960; Executive Editors: Erich Gaukel, 4718 Cody Drive, West Des Moines, IA 50265; Managing editor: none
10. Owner: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately there under the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a non-profit organization, its name and address must be stated.) The National FFA Organization, 6060 FFA Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46268
11. Known bondholders, mortgages, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: None
12. Not applicable.
13. New Horizons
14. September/October 2004
15. Extent and nature of circulation:

	Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months	Actual no. of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date
A. Total number of copies (net press run)	534,413	494,429
B. Paid and/or requested circulation		
1. Mail subscriptions (paid and/or requested)	464,534	432,227
3. Sales through other non-USPS paid distribution	63,830	58,972
C. Total paid and/or requested circulation [sum of 15B. (1), (2), (3), and (4)]	528,364	491,199
F. Total free distribution (sum of D and E)	737	737
G. Total distribution (sum of 15C and 15F)	529,101	491,936
H. Copies not distributed		
1. Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	5,312	2,493
2. Return from news agents	None	None
I. Total (sum of 15g. and h.)	534,413	494,429
J. Percent paid and/or requested circulation	99.9%	99.9%
16. This statement of ownership will be printed in the Nov/Dec 2004 issue of this publication.		
17. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.		

Sarah Hess, Farm Progress

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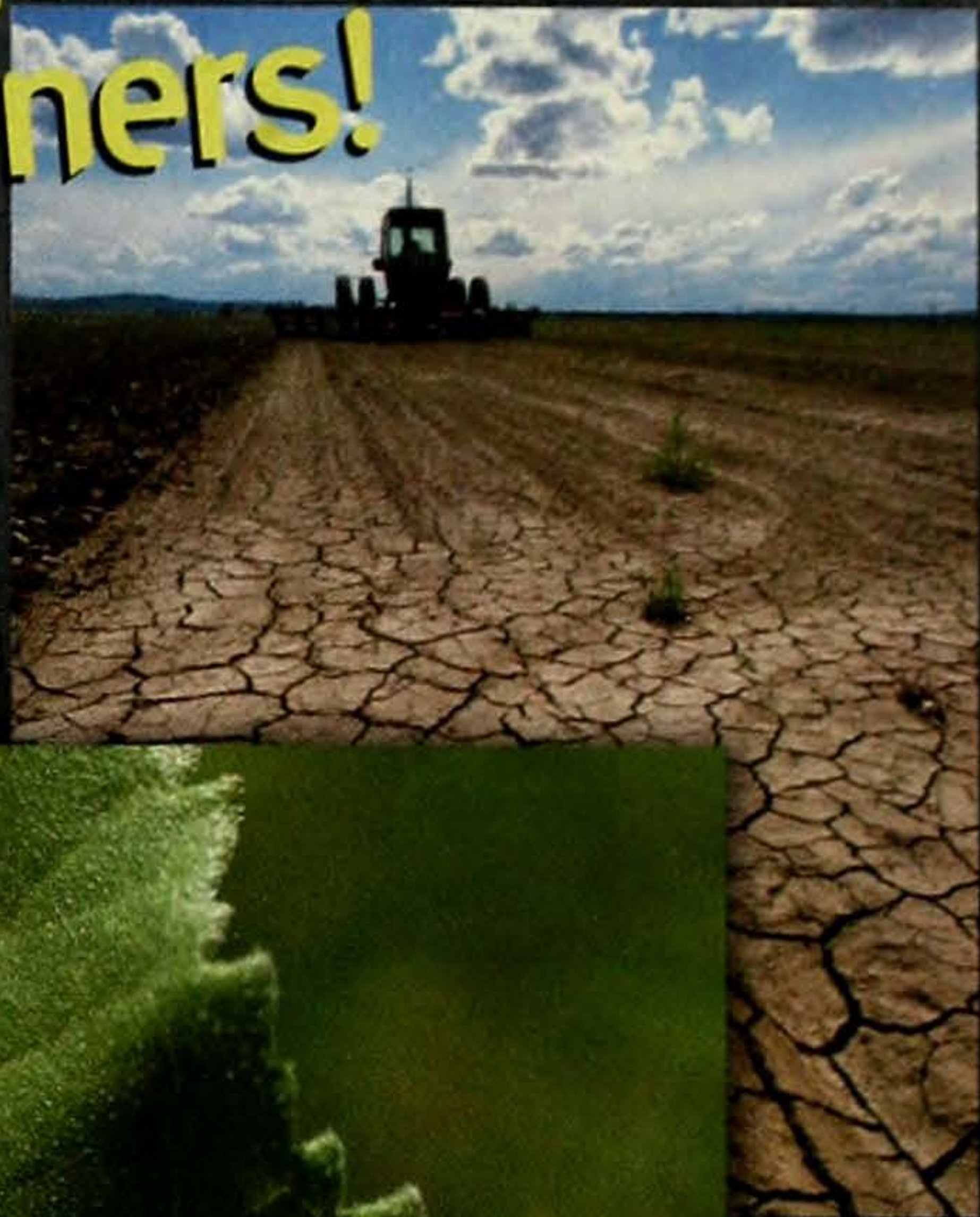
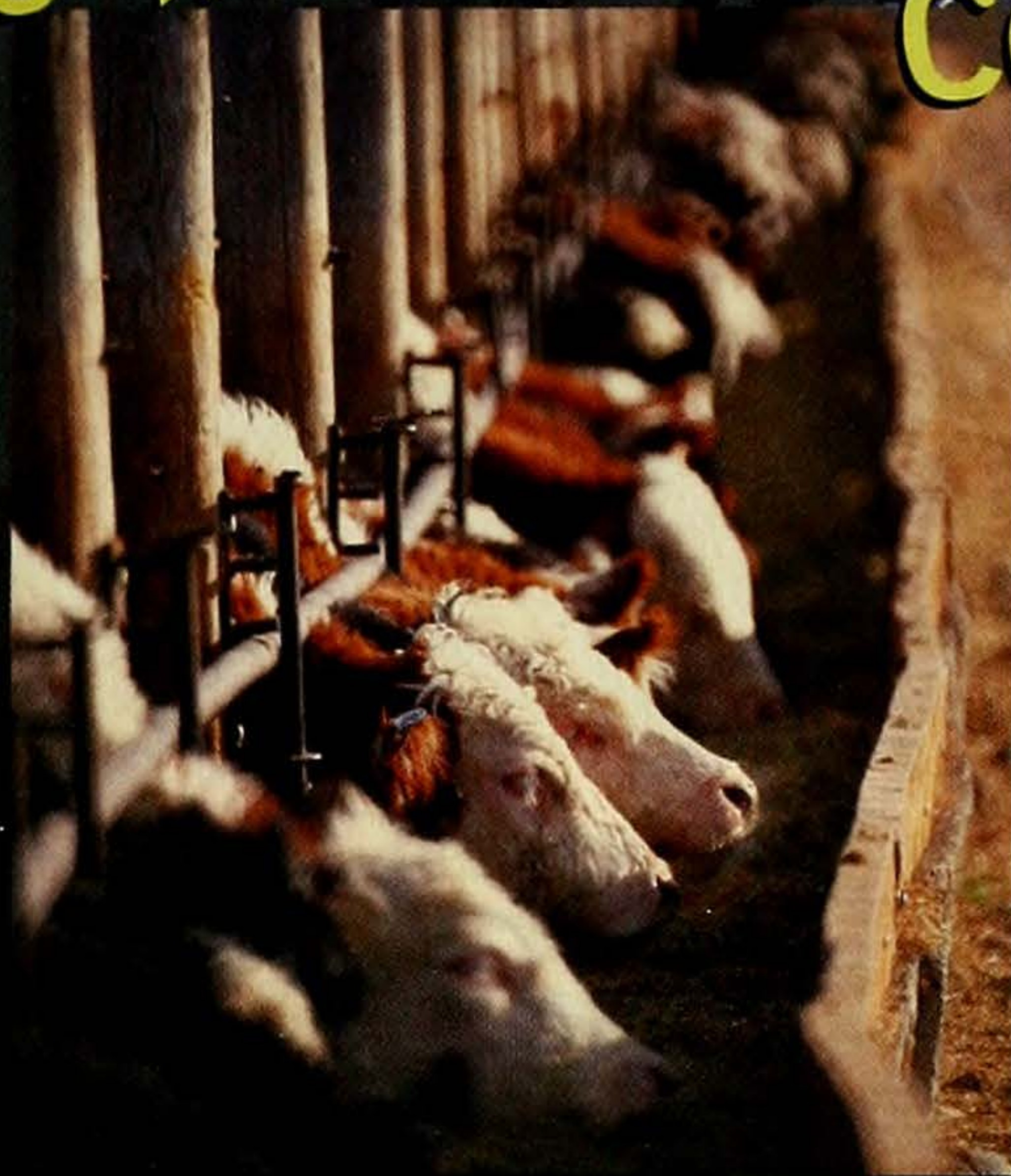
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Congratulations

to the 2005 Risk Management Essay Contest Winners!



RISK
management



TEN FFA MEMBERS were selected as winners of the National FFA Organization Risk Management Essay Contest. Each member, along with their advisor, traveled to Washington, D.C., May 11-15, where they met with USDA officials during a special recognition ceremony. Additionally, each met with their congressional representatives to discuss the growing importance of risk management strategies in American agriculture. This contest was held in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Risk Management Agency.

**TO READ THEIR ESSAYS OR LEARN HOW TO ENTER THE 2006 CONTEST,
PLEASE VISIT WWW.FFA.ORG/PROGRAMS/RISKMG.T.**



Joey Baker, Cyril FFA,
Anadarko, OK



Sierra Enlow, LaRue County
FFA, Hodgenville, KY



Jacob Furr, West Stanly
FFA, Albemarle, NC



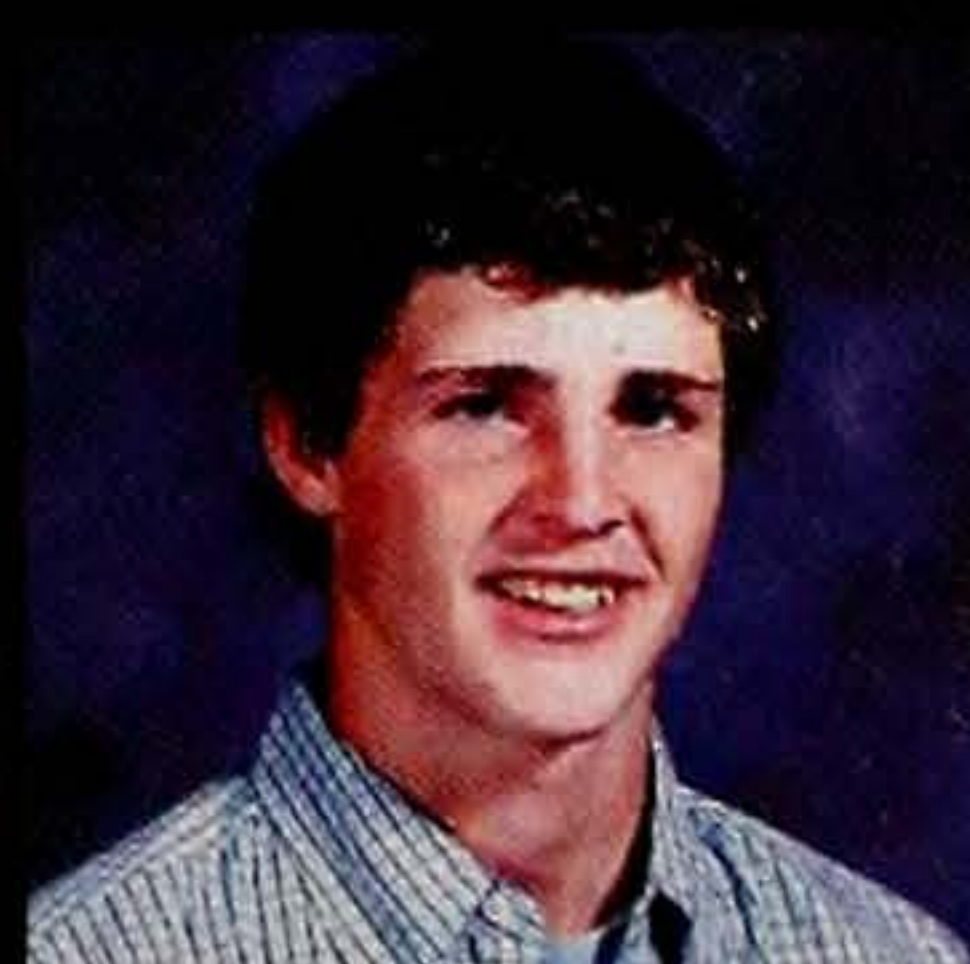
John Hoffner, South Rowan
FFA, Mooresville, NC



Maleah Huggins,
Gooding FFA, Gooding, ID



Cami Morris, Chickasha
FFA, Ninnekah, OK



Warner Phipps, Platte
Valley Academy FFA,
Kearney, NE



Jaime Spivey, Bronson
Sr. FFA, Bronson, FL



Anna Timmerman,
Coopersville FFA, Nunica, MI



Lauren Wilson, Safford
FFA, Safford, AZ



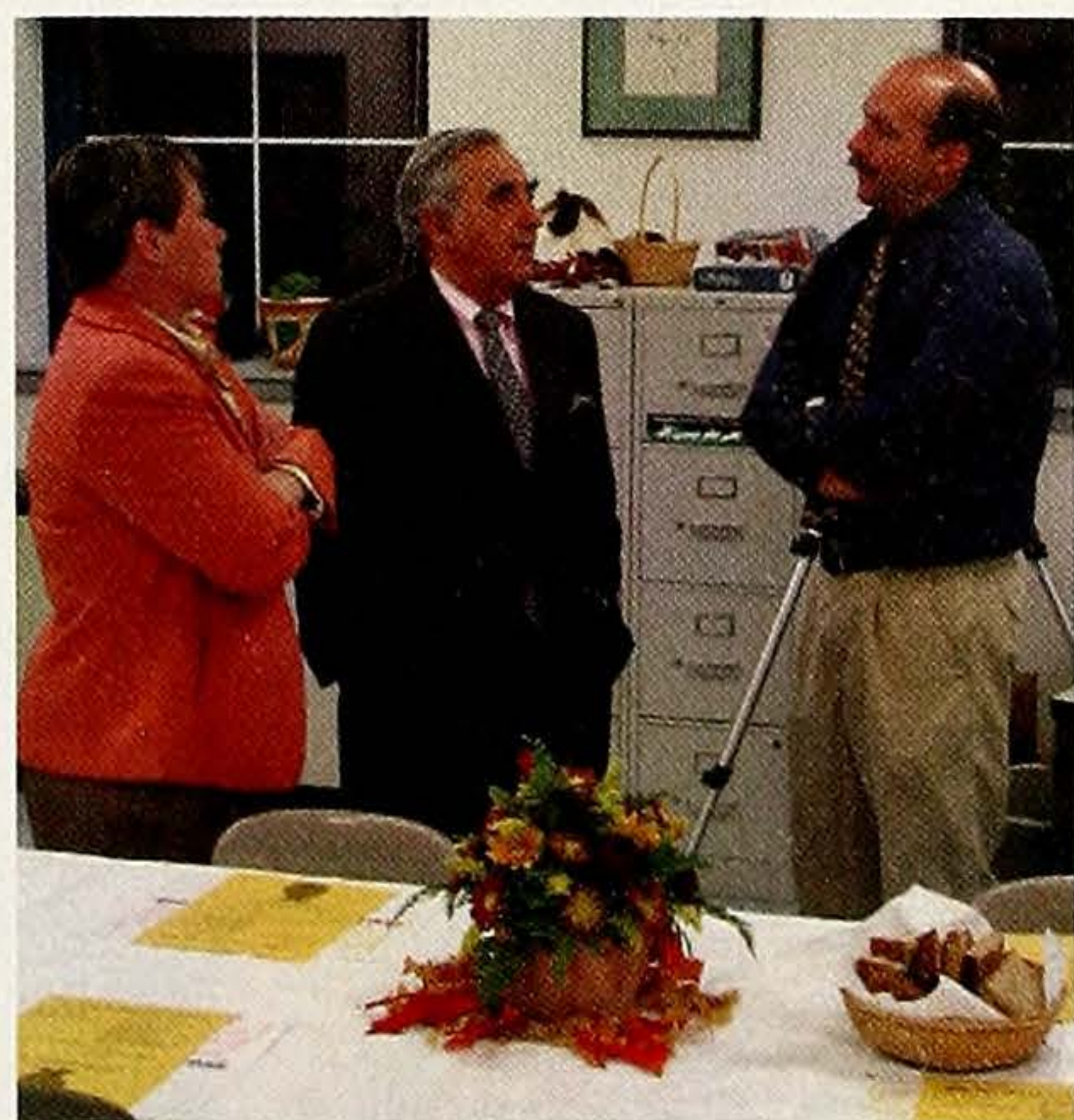
Dinner for 50

A Connecticut FFA chapter hosts a dinner for lawmakers

By Emily Gribben

Woodbury FFA Chapter reporter

In October, the Woodbury FFA Chapter held its annual legislative dinner to inform members of the legislature about the benefits of agricultural education and FFA. Fall is the time of elections and Woodbury FFA members felt it was a great op-



Woodbury FFA members and supporters hosted legislators to show their appreciation and to inform them about the positive impact FFA makes in students' lives.

portunity to get support for FFA and the agricultural science program.

In total, more than 50 people, including teachers, students, legislators, alumni, parents and people from local agricultural business, attended the event. The chapter president opened the dinner with a few words about her time in FFA. She talked about the importance of experiences in FFA, saying that each activity helps mold members into mature, well-spoken individuals.

Other speakers included state FFA president Mindy Crane, alumni, parents, teachers and State Senator Lou DeLuca. Pat Stewart of Yale University spoke of her encounters with FFA students. "Faces light up with enthusiasm when students tell about their experiences in agriculture programs and FFA," she said. "They truly love this experience."

Bonnie Burr, an agricultural lobbyist, believes that the best interns have vocational agriculture and FFA on their resumes: "FFA members are trained to observe, act and do." Ron Sudol, a parent of a freshman, said that his daughter wakes up before

5 a.m. each morning but doesn't mind because she loves the program. "When you really love something," he said, "you are outgoing, friendly and want to talk about it."

Ryan Chimielewski, a graduate of the program, also spoke: "I don't think I would be where I am today, working on the types of programs I do, if I hadn't been in the program."

Each speaker shared information about the importance of FFA and shared how FFA affected their lives. After the dinner and speeches FFA members gave legislators a tour of the ag building.

The speeches and tour helped better inform legislators of the benefits of FFA. The FFA chapter officers and the Parent and Alumni Support Group helped make the event a success. The Woodbury FFA will continue to hold this event annually because it is important to the future of the program and community.

Woodbury FFA members strongly believe that they can make a positive difference in America's government and hope their efforts will help increase support for FFA. ●

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The College Factor

What you can expect to earn with a college degree in an agriculture-related field

By Chris Hayhurst

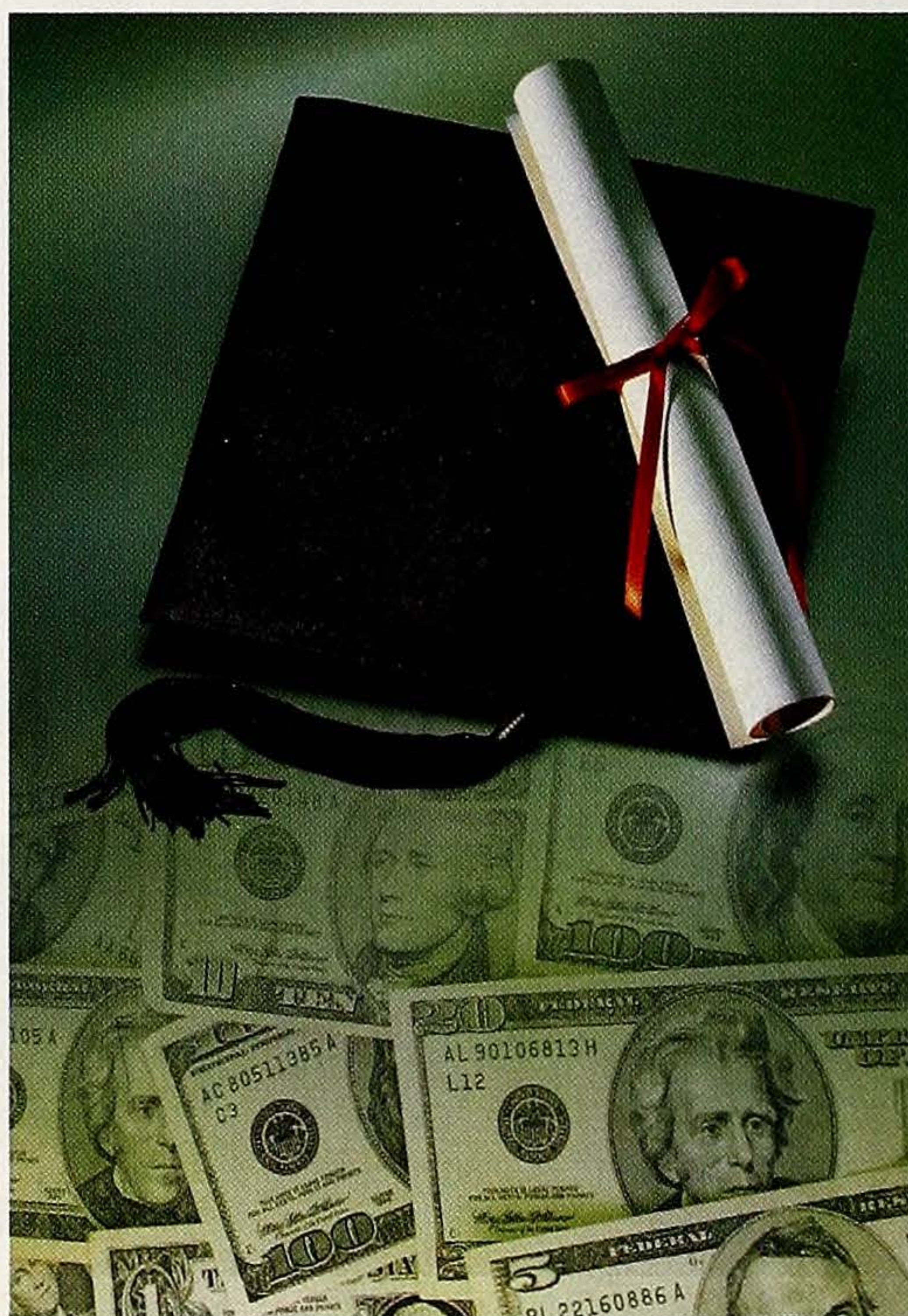
Over the next five years the USDA expects more than 52,000 annual job openings for new college graduates majoring in agriculture or agriculture-related fields. It also foresees a slight shortage of qualified graduates available to fill these positions. In other words, if you plan to earn an ag degree anytime in the near future, your job prospects are good. You'll probably land the job you want, and you may make good money in the process.

THE WORK

So where will the work be? According to Allen Goecker, associate director of academic programs in agriculture at Purdue University and the lead author of the USDA study on the subject, your best bet is in business.

"Business areas have been and still remain the focal point for entry-level jobs," Goecker says. The "business" category includes everything from management to sales to marketing. With agriculture experience and a related degree, you'll find profitable work in fields like fruit and vegetable marketing, market analysis and food brokering. You might secure a position as a sales representative at a major agribusiness company, for example, or as a supervisor or manager at a farm equipment company.

Jobs will also be plentiful in the various scientific and engineering specialties—areas like food safety and biosecurity, agricultural technologies and plant and animal genetics. "There are bound to be opportunities anywhere you're adding value to basic agricultural commodities," Goecker says.



Some graduates go on to get master's degrees or even doctorates, but most of those who seek jobs immediately after college find work right away. At Cal Poly's College of Agriculture in San Luis Obispo, Calif., for example, 60 percent of recent graduates had job offers in hand before they even left campus. Purdue has seen similar success. "We've had in excess of 90 percent of grads finding jobs within three to four months of graduation," Goecker says. "The jobs are out there. These people are in high demand."

THE MONEY

At Purdue University the average starting salary for all agriculture graduates was \$32,724 in 2004. The highest paid jobs were in agricultural and food engineering, where new graduates earned an average salary of

\$46,733. Graduates from agriculture programs at other schools around the country have also fared well. First-year workers with bachelors degrees from the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, for example, earned an average of \$36,515 in 2004.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the nationwide average starting salary for someone with a bachelor's degree in agricultural business or management was \$33,564 in 2004. A new graduate with a degree in agricultural engineering could expect a salary of \$42,987. Animal science majors were paid an average starting salary of \$30,026; plant science majors, \$28,203; and other agricultural science disciplines, \$29,971.

KEY FACTORS

How much you earn depends on a number of factors. If you take a job in government or in public service, for example, you can expect to earn less than you would at a private business. Likewise, your first year out of school you'll be near the bottom rung of the salary ladder for your field. As you gain experience, though, you'll make more. You may need a graduate degree just to get started in fields like nanotechnology, precision agriculture and genetic engineering, where the highly skilled positions are very competitive but pay extremely well.

Finally, there's the economy. No matter what the field, it always has some influence. Still, if the economy takes a dive and you're looking for a job in agriculture, don't worry too much. Thanks to the nature of the business—the fact that everyone in the world needs to eat—you're probably safe. After all, Goecker says, "Food is a necessity." ●



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GMAC

WHAT'S HOT

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

TOP 5 AGRICULTURAL CAREERS

veterinarian
farmer/rancher
agriculture teacher
landscaper
welder

TOP 5 FFA CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

livestock evaluation
horse evaluation
parliamentary procedure
public speaking
land/soil evaluation

TOP 5 FFA CHAPTER EVENTS

greenhand initiation
donkey basketball
ffa conventions
pancake breakfast
skiing

TOP 5 TV SHOWS

that '70s show
the simpsons
csi
the oc
one tree hill

TOP 5 MOVIES

scary movie 2
friday night lights
shrek
finding nemo
gone in sixty seconds

TOP 5 FOODS

pizza
mexican
pasta
chicken
chinese

TOP 5 STORES

wal-mart
american eagle
the buckle
pacific sunwear
abercrombie & fitch

TOP 5 COUNTRY MUSIC ACTS

toby keith
tim mcgraw
kenny chesney
shania twain
rascal flatts

TOP 5 ROCK MUSIC ACTS

usher
nelly
eminem
ac/dc
linkin park

TOP 5 BOOKS

harry potter
where the red fern grows
a child called "it"
the lord of the rings
to kill a mockingbird

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:

Agra FFA Oklahoma
Argyle FFA New York
Columbus FFA Texas
Corydon Central FFA Indiana
Crane FFA Oregon
Dinuba FFA California
Fortuna FFA California
Granite Hills FFA California
Hilmar FFA California
Homer FFA Michigan
Lander FFA Wyoming
Lodi FFA California
Madera FFA California
McFarland FFA California
Mitchell-Baker FFA Georgia
Oakdale FFA California
PHS FFA California
Prague FFA Oklahoma
Selma FFA California
Superior FFA Nebraska
Weld Central FFA Colorado

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

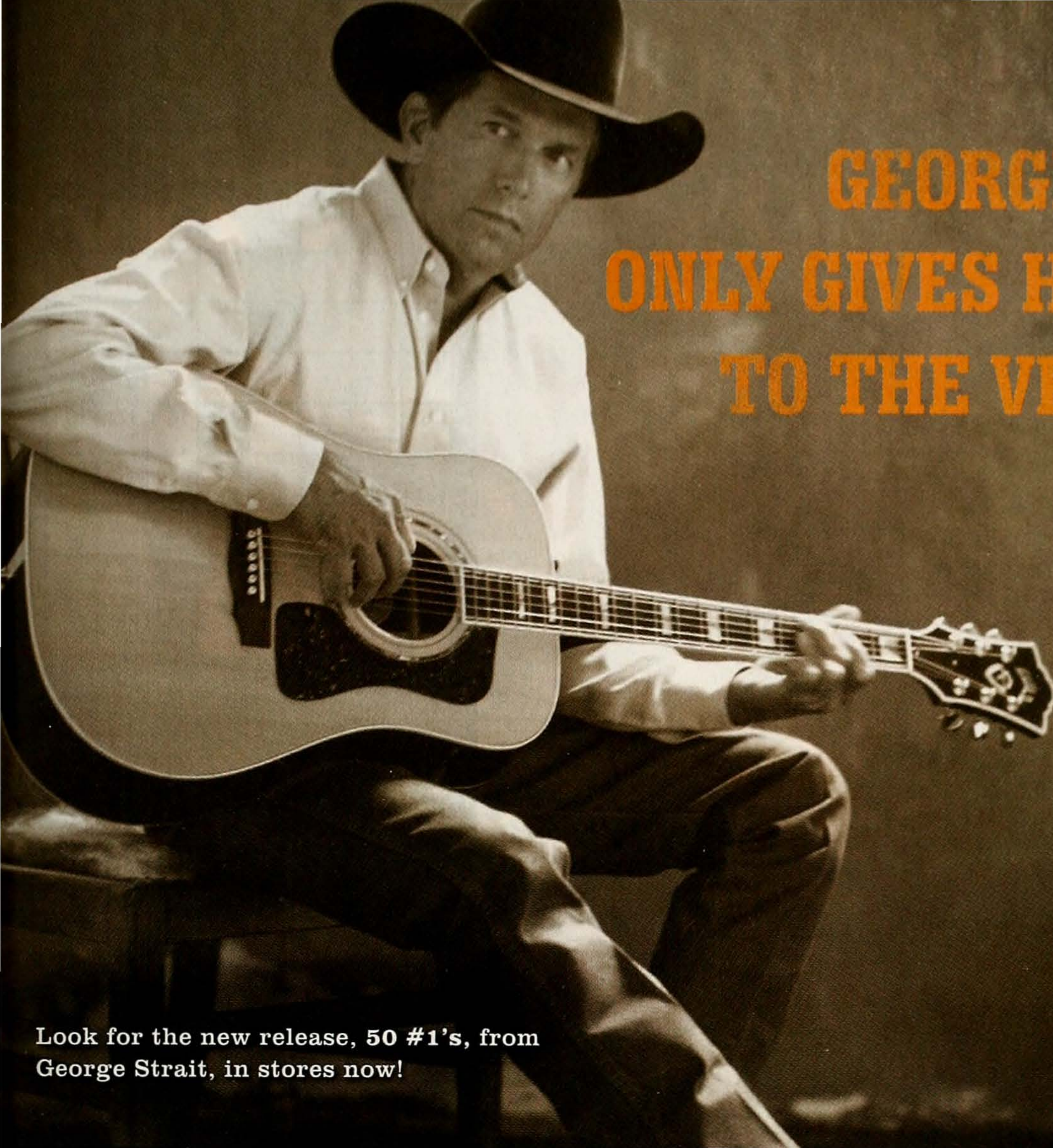
FFA New Horizons

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Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960 OR e-mail to: newhorizons@ffa.org

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LAST LAFF

Q: Why did the woman wash her clothes in Tide?

A: It was too cold out-tide.
Melinda Kessie
South Whitley, Indiana

Q: What kind of room has a roof but no walls?

A: A mushroom.
Kelly Normandin
Ellensburg Center, New York

Q: Why was the chicken not allowed to use e-mail?

A: He was using fowl language.
Kyle McGee
Yates Center, Kansas

Q: How do you say "check" in Australian?

A: Check, mate.
Kristy Schauptert
Clay Center, Ohio

Q: What did the witch master in school?

A: Spelling.
Clayton Caldwell
Frank Ford, Missouri

The Agrinuts

By Jim Bradshaw and Michael Bettendorf



Q: When was beef the highest?

A: When the cow jumped over the moon.

Jane Drahem
Nacogdoches, Texas

Q: What's the best year for kangaroos?

A: Leap year.
Kacey Smiley
McDaniels, Kentucky

Q: Which side of a turkey has more feathers?

A: The outside.
Dane Tiedman
Adams, Nebraska

Q: What kinds of pigs do witches raise?

A: Wart hogs.
Brooke Leroy
Martin, Georgia

Q: What is a tree trunk?

A: It's where a tree puts its clothes when it goes on vacation.
Kassandra Bryant
Viroqua, Wisconsin

Q: What happened when two geese had a head-on collision?

A: They got goose bumps.
Nichole Langford
Webster, Florida

Q: What building has the most stories?

A: The library.
Katie Crosby
Fremont, Iowa

Q: How are a grape and an elephant alike?

A: They're both purple, except for the elephant.
Brooke Vander Veen
Everson, Washington

Q: Why did they let the turkey join the band?

A: Because he had the drumsticks.
Michelle Platt
Mansfield, New Jersey

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	19
			20	21				
22	23	24				25		
26						27		
28						29		

ACROSS

- 1 Funny actor ___ Carrey
- 4 You may have to file them with the IRS
- 9 Six minus five
- 10 Last letter in the Greek alphabet
- 11 Central Feed For ___ (Illinois feed store started by FFA members in high school)
- 12 Army officer, for short
- 13 Elizabeth ___ (FFA member from Iowa who attended September's Freshmen Fire-Up Camp)
- 15 Red traffic sign
- 16 "It's no big ___"
- 20 Color that's also a fruit
- 22 "___ the Torch, Pass the Flame" (theme of Oklahoma's COLT conference)
- 25 River-blocking structure
- 26 Sharp, as a pain
- 27 Stock sale held by the FFA members who started 11-across: abbr.
- 28 Hit a button
- 29 Lowest two-digit number

DOWN

- 1 Actress Cusack and singer Baez
- 2 Arm of the sea
- 3 ___ Yello (soft drink brand)
- 4 "It'll mean so much ___ many people!"
- 5 Vermont FFA vice president Mattison
- 6 Gen-___ (person around 35 years old)
- 7 It may get scrambled in the morning
- 8 Kind of job 5-down had at Kmart: abbr.
- 14 ___ turf management
- 17 "What a way to ___!" (baseball announcer's phrase)
- 18 With one's mouth open in wonder
- 19 Fruit that also means "lousy car"
- 21 Some breads
- 22 What a baseball player wears on his head
- 23 Horizontal: abbr.
- 24 Wish you hadn't

The Puzzler solution is on page 20.

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Our 2005
Conference Dates

June 7-12
June 14-19
June 21-26
June 28-July 3
July 12-17
July 19-24

FFA Across the USA

Dispatches from FFA chapters across the nation

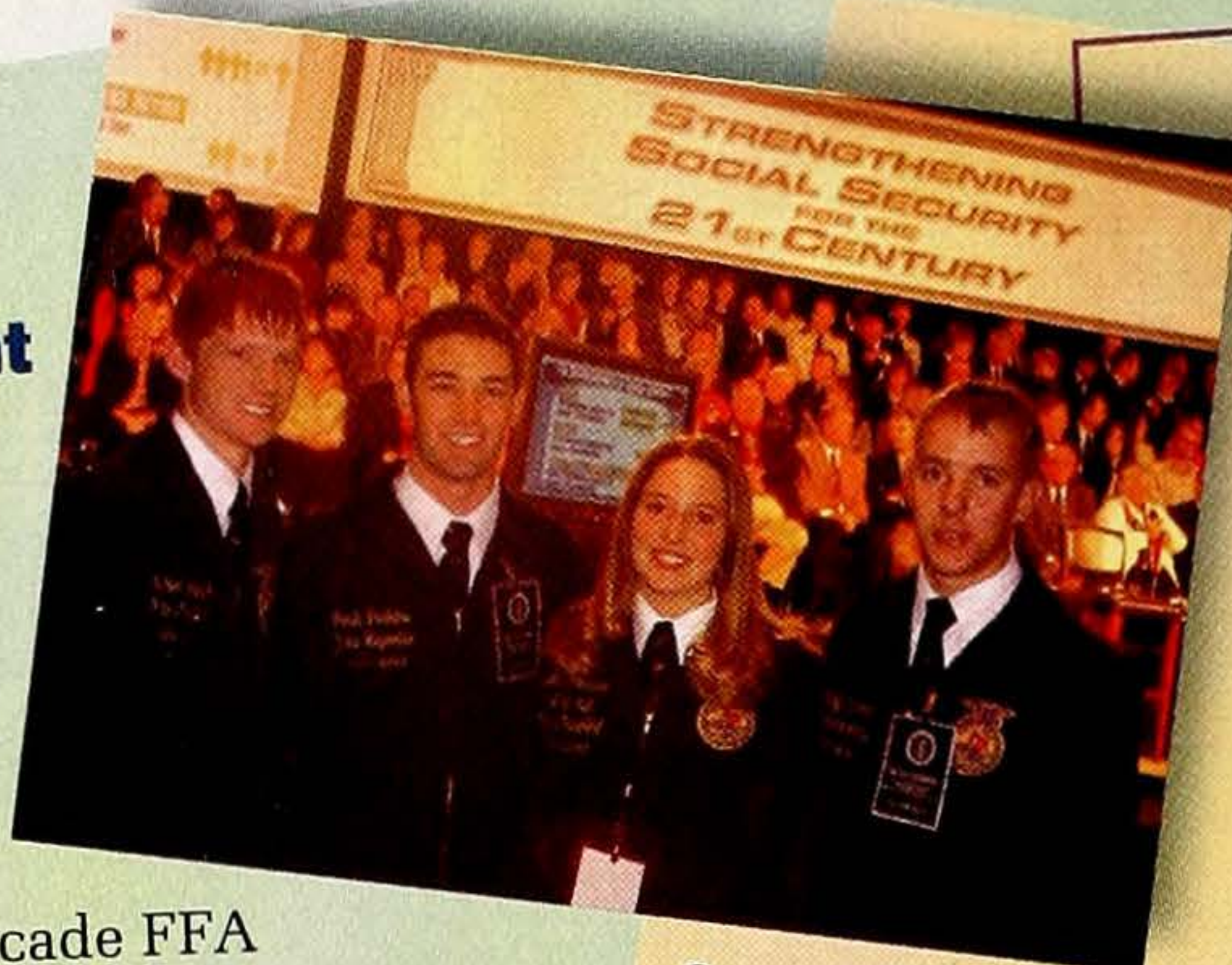
Montana

Hosting the President

Members of two Montana FFA chapters and two FFA state officers got an up-close view of President Bush's visit to the state, where he discussed his new Social Security plan.

Fifteen members of the Cascade FFA and eight from the Conrad FFA attended the event. One of the event organizers, recognizing the FFA official dress and the positive message it sends, invited most of the members to sit onstage as the President spoke. Two of the members served as proctors, holding microphones for the audience members who had questions, while another five members served as ushers, checking tickets and helping people find seats. These FFA members helped remind the President and the public that FFA is a true leadership organization that teaches high school-age kids to be respectful, quality leaders in action.

Reporting by Alena Ogg, Cascade FFA Chapter reporter

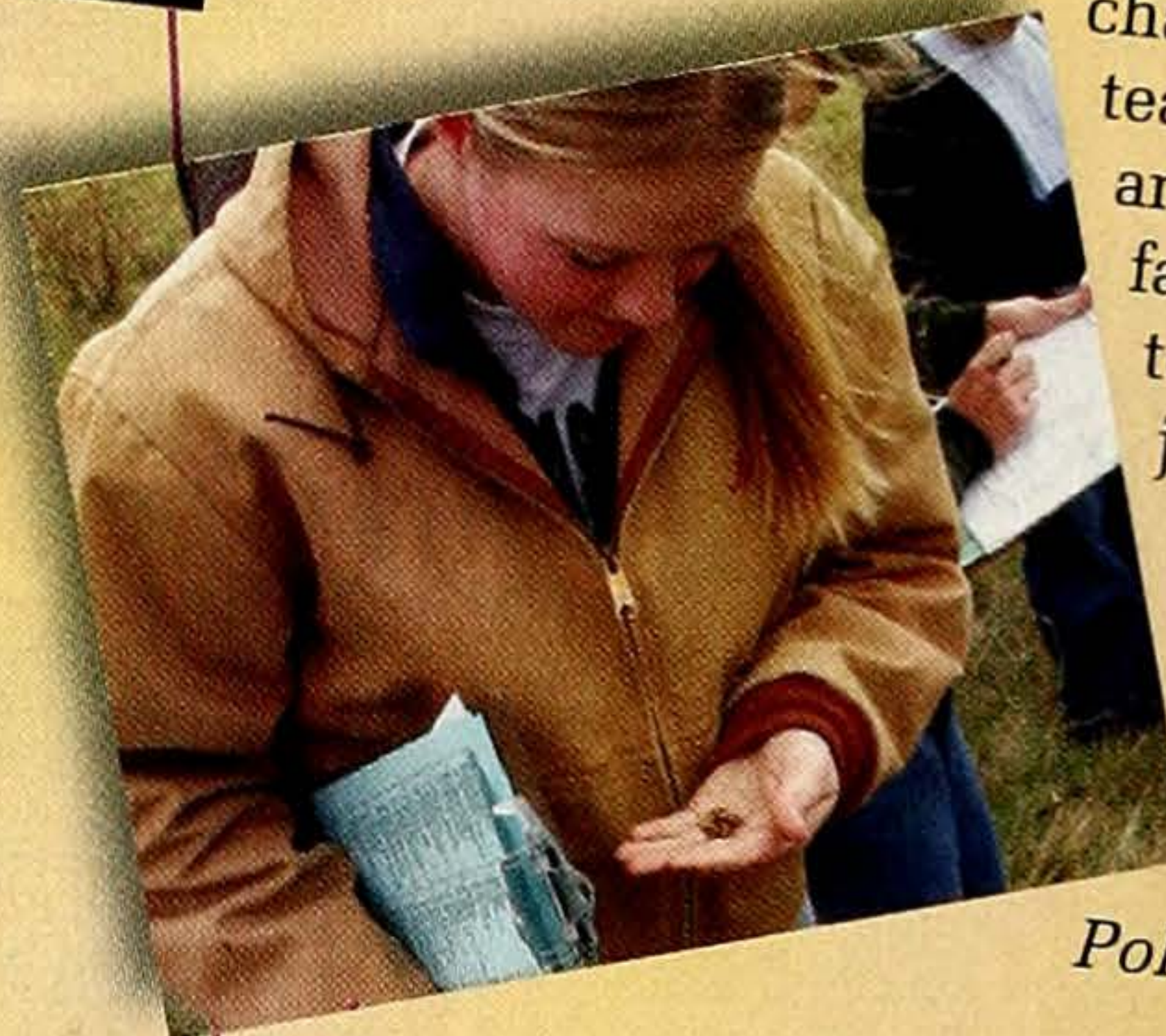


Iowa

Across the State Line

Twenty-eight members of the Southeast Polk FFA Chapter traveled to Northwest Missouri State University to participate in horse judging, livestock judging, soil judging and farm business management competitions. "It was good practice for the first year members who have never participated in a contests like this before," said chapter member Amber McConnell, who was the top individual scorer among the chapter's three horse evaluation teams, which placed 12th, 16th and 29th. The Southeast Polk farm business management team placed ninth, the soil judging team placed 20th and the three livestock judging teams placed 49th, 58th and 61st.

Reporting by Maggie Scholbrock, Southeast Polk FFA Chapter reporter



Kentucky



Freshman Power

Ten members of the Hickman County Freshman FFA Chapter, all of them freshmen, won the first ever FFA junior parliamentary procedure contest in the Kentucky FFA Association's first region. The Hickman County team consisted of the current freshman FFA officers and four other members, among them: Stephanie Weatherford (president), Jacob Roper (vice president), Megan Hancock (secretary), J.J. Lindsey (treasurer), Sarah Humphreys (reporter), Matthew McIntire (sentinel), Jamie Lacewell, Corey Savage, Matt Wells and Justin House.

Reporting by Sarah Humphreys, Hickman County Freshman FFA Chapter reporter

Breakfast for Teachers

California

The Foothill FFA Chapter members have found a way to show their teachers that they appreciate everything they do. So, for the last six years during National FFA Week, they have organized an event called Ranch Breakfast. To serve up hot, cheesy omelets for their teachers, the Foothill FFA members wake up at 5 a.m. so they can prepare, cook, serve and greet their teachers. This event gives FFA members a chance to give back to their teachers, meet them on a more personal basis and share with them the great things they do in FFA.

Reporting by Samantha Balzer, Foothill FFA Chapter reporter



What's happening in your chapter?

Send your news, along with a high-resolution photo, to:
FFA New Horizons P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268
e-mail: newhorizons@ffa.org

Chevrolet salutes the FFA



Photo: Marvin Young

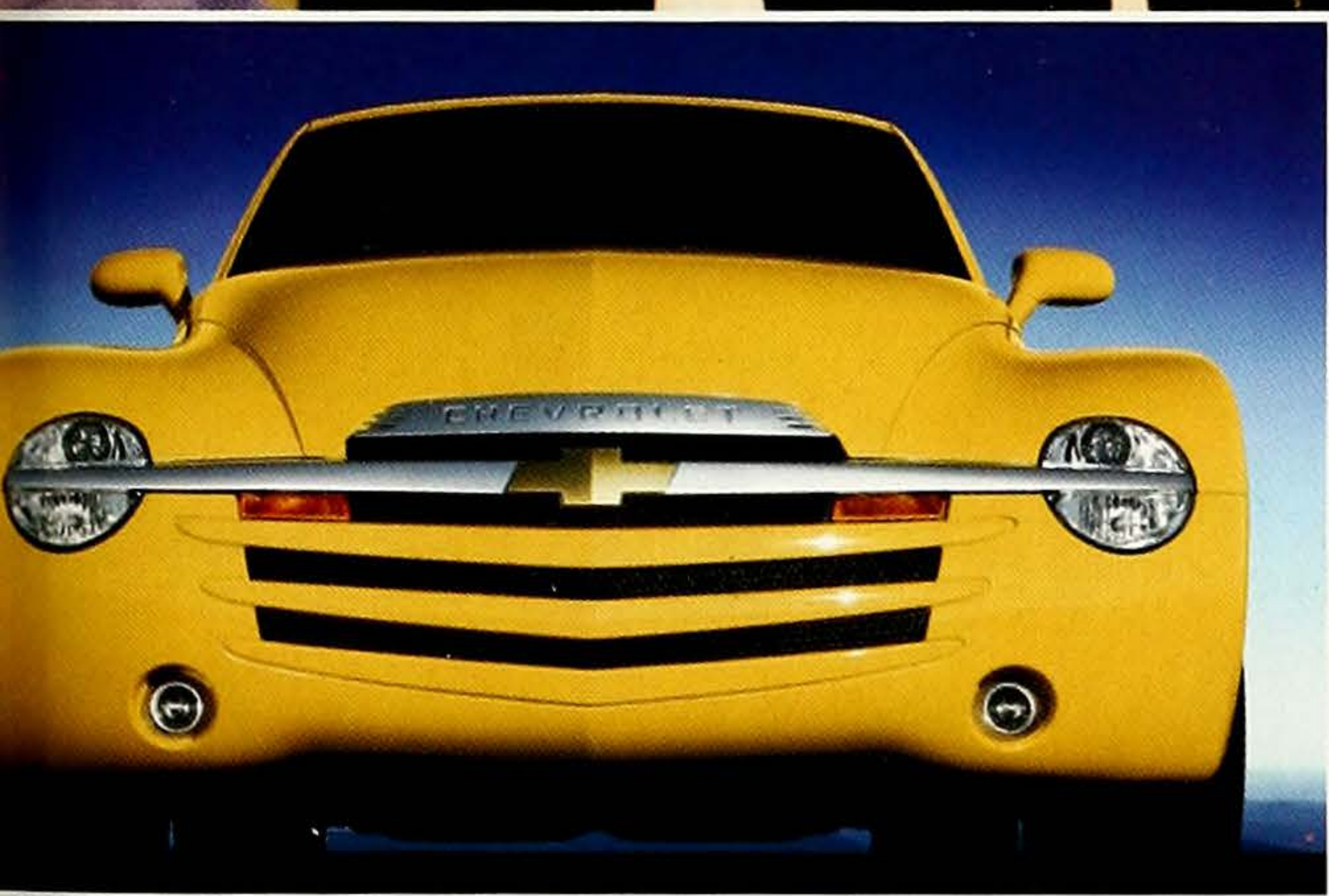
Dianne Harper of Chevrolet presents the 2003-2004 National FFA Officer Team with a portion of Chevrolet's annual support to FFA.

"FFA recognizes the important role that sponsors play in helping FFA ensure student success and make a positive difference in the lives of student members, communities and the agriculture industry. On behalf of over 476,000 FFA members, the 2003-2004 National Officer Team would like to extend a big THANK YOU to Chevrolet for reaching 60 years of support during 2005. We look forward to our continuing partnership!"

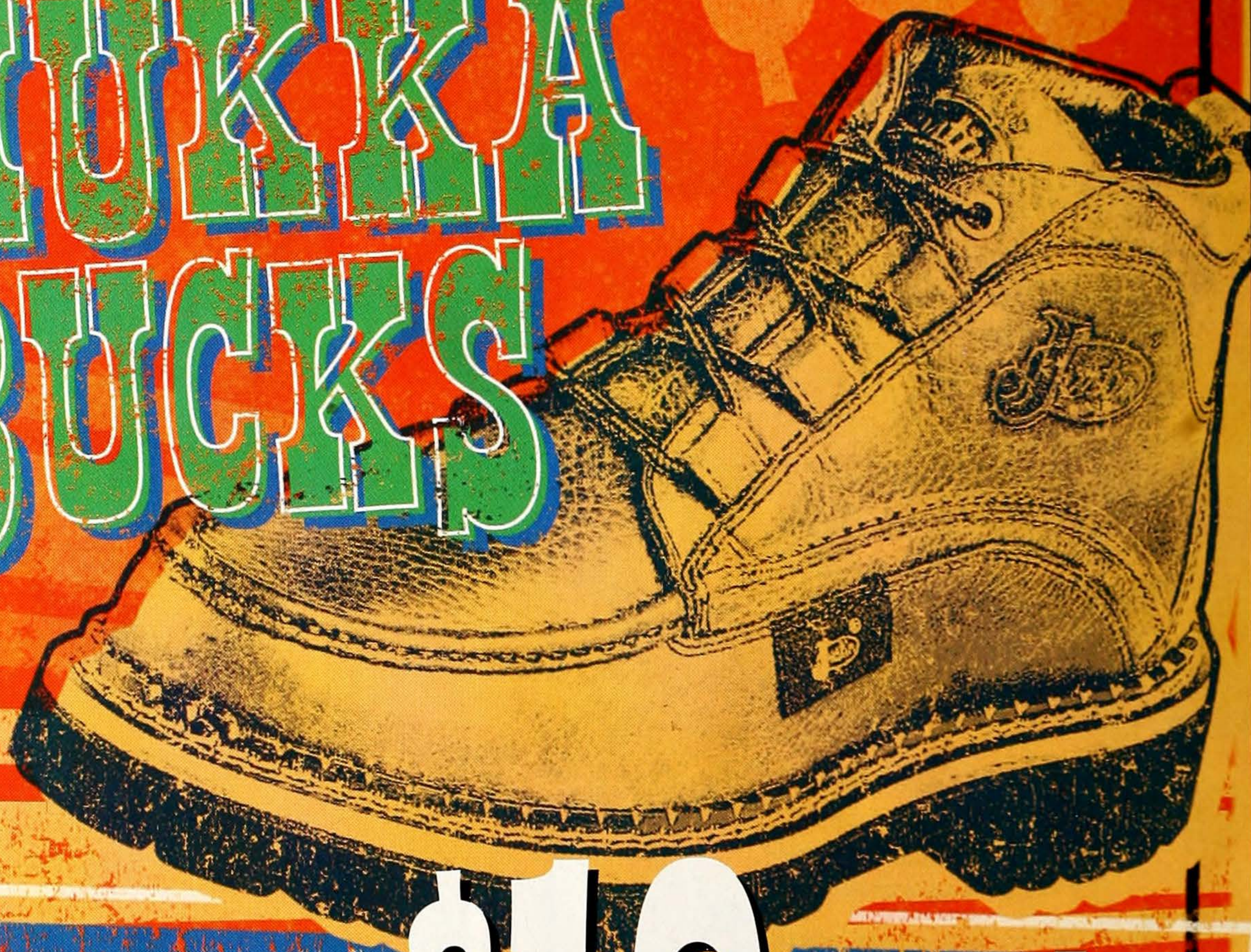
2003-2004 National FFA Officer Team

"The FFA provides a strong foundation for the youth of America. Their slogan, "Learn. Lead. Succeed." demonstrates the drive and commitment all FFA members possess. For the past 60 years, Chevrolet has been honored to be a part of such a wonderful organization and we look forward to celebrating more successes in the future."

Dianne Harper, Chevrolet Promotions Manager



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