

FFA new horizons

The magazine of the National FFA Organization

November/December 1997

family affair

production agriculture — tradition teams up with technology

jean-etic research

why jeans just won't fade away

equestrian

saddling up for a horse training career

college confusion finding the right school for you



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coverstory



10 Equestrian quest

You've got to have guts to move across the country on your own—especially if you're on your own and still in the middle of high school. That's exactly what Amy Nash did. Meet this motivated FFA member from Texas who moved to Wisconsin to be an apprentice quarter horse trainer.

features



18 Jean-etic research

People have been wearing jeans for over a hundred years, and they're still cool. While brands, styles and colors may come and go, jeans are here to stay. Get the low down on this century-long trend from industry experts, and hear from FFA members who are convinced that all jeans are *not* created equal.



22 A family affair

Catch a rare glimpse of Mason Dixon Farms, the highly successful dairy operation run by the Waybright family, which boasts among its ranks seven American FFA Degree recipients and two former national FFA officers. Find out how FFA helped shape them and their internationally renowned business. See why they say there's never been a better time to pursue a career in production agriculture.



26 Choosing the right school

Does the thought of committing to a college have you pulling out your hair? We talked to FFA members now in college about how such factors as school size, location, academics and the social scene made a difference in their school choices.

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FFA Mission Statement
FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Agricultural Education Mission
The mission of agricultural education is to prepare and support individuals for careers, build awareness and develop leadership for the food, fiber and natural resources systems.



n & a

National officer

q & a

one on one with

Rachel Fehringer

What's your greatest accomplishment as a national FFA officer? To provide positive role models for young people, maintain our down-to-earth image and positive attitude, and most importantly, keep the members' needs in mind when making important decisions that affect them.

How has the past year changed your perspective on agriculture?

With our trip to Japan and our conferences with the USDA, I have learned a lot about how agriculture operates on global level. This will have a tremendous impact on the local producer and agribusiness as we know it today. I'm preparing myself for the global marketplace by taking Spanish in college next semester.

How do you go about reaching your goals?

In my day planner, I have my short term and long term goals listed. Every morning, when I plan my day, I ask myself, "What can I do to get closer to my goals?" By forcing myself to write a task down on my "to do" list and then check it off once completed, I take little steps in making my dreams a reality. ✨

VITALS

Hometown: Peetz, Colorado
 Age: 21
 Chapter: Peetz
 Advisor: Larry Geu
 SAE: Horse production and agricultural placement
 Education: Junior, Colorado State University
 Major: Agricultural economics
 Favorite movie: *Sleepless in Seattle*
 Favorite book: "The Client" by John Grisham
 Favorite singer: George Strait
 Number of states visited this year: 37



National western region vice president: Rachel Fehringer

timeline

Age

- 15 • attended first state FFA convention
- won local, district creed contest; got 4th at state
- named Chapter Star Greenhand
- finished dead last in district extemporaneous speaking contest
- 16 • lost district extemporaneous speaking contest
- 17 • got second place at state public speaking
- named all-conference volleyball team for third year
- 18 • graduated first in senior class of six students
- attended Colorado State University
- 19 • elected Colorado FFA President
- 21 • elected national FFA officer

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FFA New Horizons (ISSN 1069-806X) is prepared and published bimonthly by Farm Progress Companies Inc. on behalf of the National FFA Organization, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies. Periodical postage rate is paid at Alexandria, VA and additional mail offices.

POSTMASTER: Address all correspondence to: FFA New Horizons, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

SUBSCRIPTION: \$5.00 per year in U.S. and possessions (FFA members \$1.75 paid with dues). Single copy \$1.50; five or more 75 cents each. Foreign subscriptions, \$8.00. Copyright © 1997 by the National FFA Organization.

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In the news and on your mind

BUZZ

Landscaping challenge

As FFA members, you have the unique opportunity to enter a contest to help plan the landscaping at the new National FFA Center in Indianapolis, which is scheduled to open late next spring. Here's the deal: There are six plots on the center's grounds for the competition, which will be broken down into two divisions, one for high school FFA members, and one for former FFA members enrolled at the postsecondary level and/or Postsecondary Agricultural Education (PAS) members. Submissions will be accepted from individuals or teams of up to three members. All submissions must represent the efforts of the individual or team only, and all submissions

become the property of the National FFA Organization. Check with your advisor for more information, including

rules and an entry form. Postmark your submissions no later than April 15, 1998.

FFJ members visit U.S.

As a group of FFJ (Future Farmers of Japan) members shopped for the latest FFA merchandise at the National FFA Center store in August, they were just finishing up a bi-coastal trip to the United States, which took them from Washington state to Washington D.C. While at the FFA center, the 40 students also visited with national FFA staff and ate an authentic Japanese meal prepared by FFA staff



member Asae Smith, a native of Japan.

Japanese FFJ members check out FFA boxer shorts while visiting the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia.

erich'ssay

When I talked to country singer Trace Adkins for next issue's "Interview" department, I could hear in his voice how much FFA meant to him as a teenager. It's the same sound I heard when I traveled to Pennsylvania to meet the Waybright family featured in "A family affair" on page 22. All seven of these men earned their American FFA Degrees, and two served as national FFA officers. The impression FFA made on that family is enormous, especially for Dick Waybright, who served as a national FFA officer 46 years ago. He said he still remembers the meeting when his national FFA officer team proposed the idea of a national FFA magazine. He told me, "There was a feeling in those days that we needed to communicate between chapters a lot better." So, by 1952, FFA delegates had approved the idea and the first issue of *The National Future Farmer* rolled off the press. Today, the magazine is known as *FFA New Horizons*. We're still helping chapters communicate, and a whole lot more.

erich gaukel, editor

e-mail: erich@inforel.com

ffamailbag

Dear FFA New Horizons,

I currently live in Eustis, Neb., where my dad, the ag instructor, just started a new chapter two years ago. Ever since then he has made sure we get the magazine, which helped show us that even though its not easy starting something new in a small

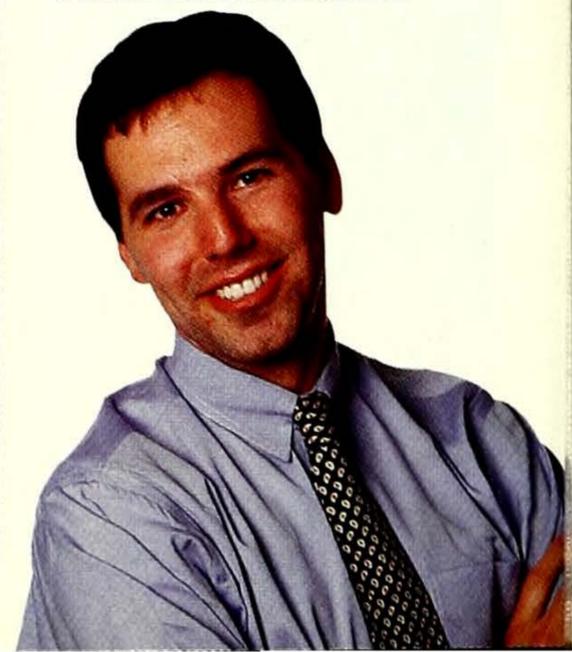
community that is set in its ways, it's very rewarding to see what determination can do. So, while we are moving to a new school in Iowa, I am sure that I can still find good advice in your magazine.

Jenelle Marts
Eustis, Nebraska

Dear FFA New Horizons,

I like *FFA New Horizons* very much. It is full of information and up-to-date articles.

Sincerely,
Crystallyn Cate
Novice, Texas





One brick at a time

Support for the new National FFA Center continues to grow

As the new Indianapolis National FFA Center takes shape (you can see photos of the construction at www.ffa.org), the National FFA Foundation, Inc. continues its successful capital campaign, "I Believe in the Future," which will help cover the costs of the FFA's new home.

So far, over 400 FFA chapters, teams, individuals and ag-organizations have each invested \$150 in the campaign. They will each have an engraved brick at the new building. Also, five national FFA officer teams have invested \$1,000, and 21 state FFA associations have invested either \$1,000 or ten cents per member, in the campaign.

And, with the generous support of the following corporate and foundation gifts, FFA will truly be equipped for the next millennium.

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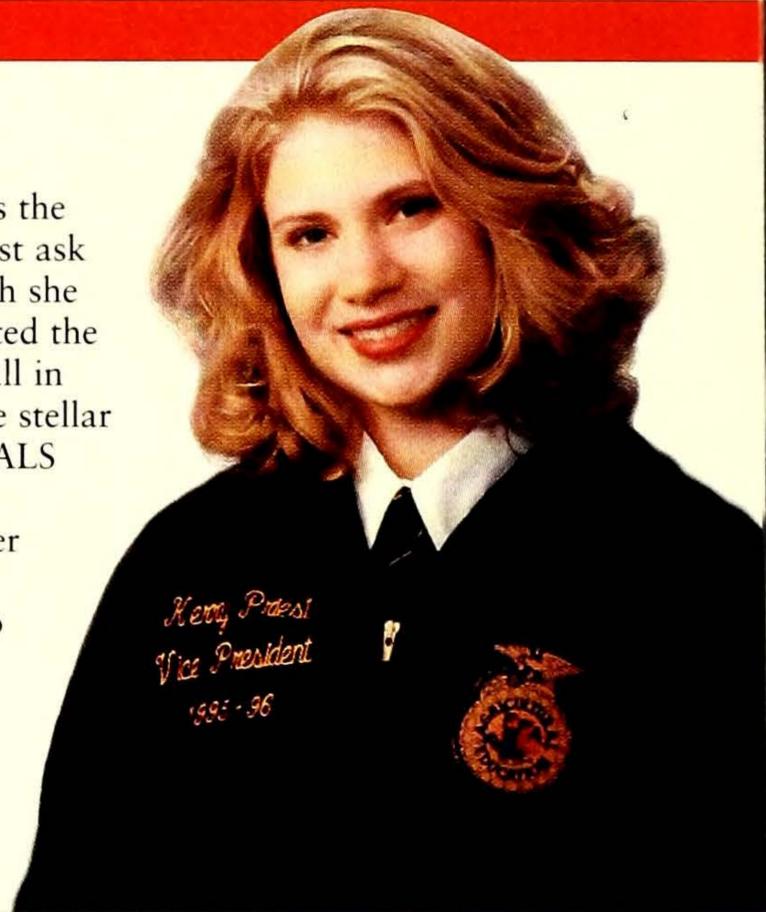
stars

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KANSAS**Kerry Priest**

Now a Kansas state FFA officer, Kerry represents the best of Kansas. She takes academics seriously. Just ask any of her teachers at the high school from which she just graduated as the class valedictorian. She edited the Sabetha FFA Chapter's newsletter and gave her all in varsity volleyball and basketball. On top of these stellar achievements, Kerry, 17, helped launch a local PALS program and played a key role in the Barnyard Olympics at the Nemaha County Fair. She left her mark on her FFA chapter with her excellence in public speaking, livestock judging and leadership activities. ★

**ALABAMA****WISCONSIN****SOUTH CAROLINA****OKLAHOMA****Christopher Koszniaj**

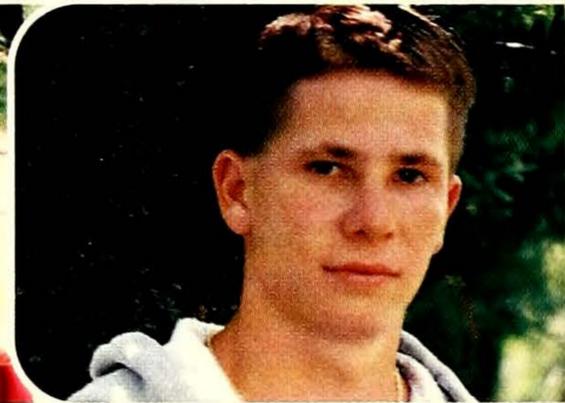
Once he got a taste of a county FFA competition and then the state FFA convention, Christopher was hooked on FFA. At the age of 14, he's already a leader in the Jacksonville FFA Chapter, where he is parliamentarian and a member of the soil judging team. He's a computer guru who uses his skills to edit "The Rising Sun," the chapter's sharp-looking newsletter. Together with a fellow chapter member, he created the chapter's website (<http://www.anniston.net/wc/jf50197.html>). ★

**Kate Zeitler**

This Gillett FFA Chapter member is in the Netherlands right now, as a participant in an FFA International experience. With a 3.89 grade point average, Kate, 17, is a National Honor Society member and is ranked eighth in her class. She's a Star Greenhand and FFA chapter degree winner who milks cows at night to earn extra money. Still, she has time to help out on the family farm, compete on the volleyball court and wrestling mat and help out in the community. ★

**Ashlea Hall**

This 17-year-old Abbeville FFA Chapter secretary hit a grand slam for her community and chapter. Softball's her sport, but there's so much more. Last year she represented her state in the National FFA Band. This year, as a member of the Interact club, she helped host 20 German students for two weeks. She represented her county at the 1997 Farm Bureau Youth Leadership Conference and recently travelled to the state capitol to thank legislators for all they do for agricultural education and FFA. ★

**J.T. Busby**

This two-time Caddo FFA Chapter president wrote the book on FFA achievement. He's a Star Greenhand winner, received his state FFA degree, won the state oilcrop production competition and raises his own show animals. He's also an athlete, excelling in no less than three varsity sports. J.T. is a member of the Southeastern Oklahoma Lamb Association and earns nothing but A's and B's at Murray State College. Next on his list of lofty goals? The American FFA Degree. ★

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ILLINOIS

Tribute to Lucas

Lucas Panici, a member of the Dongola FFA Chapter, was tragically killed in an automobile accident. As a special tribute to their lost friend, Dongola chapter members and alumni worked together to raise money to purchase a monument. At their annual spring FFA/Alumni barbecue and softball game, they unveiled the monument placed in front of the school. The Dongola horticulture class keeps Lucas's memory alive by maintaining the monument's landscaping. *Submitted by Mariah Dale, chapter president, and Marshall Ramage, chapter reporter.* ★



Dongola FFA Chapter members and alumni gather around their memorial to Lucas Panici, who was killed in an automobile accident.

CALIFORNIA

More than fireworks

The Sonora La Habra FFA Chapter helped promote agriculture and, at the same time, helped the city of Brae celebrate Independence Day during its July 4th festival. Chapter members Phil Pacia, Neil Love, Amanda Mullion, Chris Hale and advisor Gary Hunt all took time off from their summer breaks to load up the truck and bring sheep, pigs and a steer to the festival for viewing. *Submitted by Amanda Mullion, chapter reporter.* ★

TEXAS

Twister relief

After the farming community of Jarrell was leveled by a tornado this spring, members of the Elkins FFA Chapter in Missouri City, along with chapter sponsors, alumni and booster club, teamed up with the local Wal-Mart to host a benefit car wash. After the last car was towed off and additional donations were collected, the group had pulled in over a thousand dollars to help Jarrell residents rebuild their town. *Submitted by Stefanie Conn, chapter reporter.* ★



Elkins FFA Chapter members and friends gather to host a car wash to help tornado victims.

OHIO

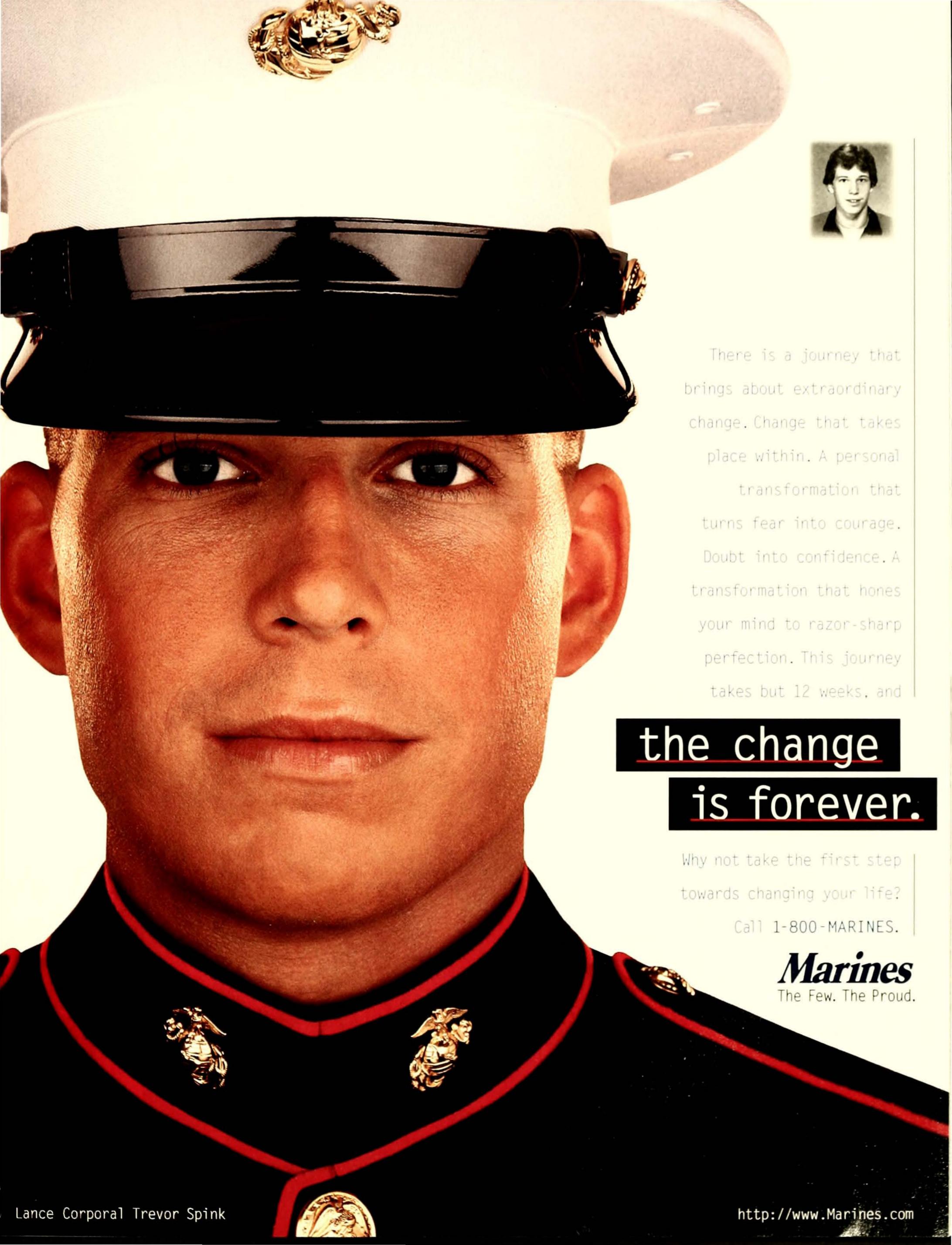
The wild side

For five days, Buckeye Valley FFA Chapter members Amanda Etgen, Betsy Kuba, Holly Kuba, Mark Mosely, Zach Taylor, John VanGundy, Kelly Whitaker and advisor Jennifer Kessler lived in the wilderness for a great leadership and teamwork experience. Aptly called the "Wet and Wild Adventure," the trip took them to West Virginia, where they challenged themselves with whitewater rafting, rock climbing, rappelling, horseback riding and hiking. Along the way, the Buckeye Valley members developed new friendships, learned to trust each other, and enjoyed life on the wild side.

Submitted by Amanda Etgen, chapter reporter. ★



Buckeye Valley FFA Chapter member Amanda Etgen prepares to descend from Ram's Head in West Virginia.



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While still in high school, Amy Nash left home for a chance to get ahead in the quarter horse training business

Seventeen-year-old Amy Nash is a Texan. From the tiny northeastern town of Tolar, she was raised on three things—family, farming, and, most of all, horses.

“She’s always been good with horses,” recalls her older brother Cody, a 1996-97 Texas FFA Vice President. “When she was four or five she had a little pony named Aubry. She’d bathe Aubry every day . . . put ribbons on her tail, bows in her bangs.”

equestrian

by **Chris Hayhurst**



an

Apprenticeships are a great way to gain practical work experience. Here are a few tips to get you started.

Target Your Interests

You don't necessarily have to leave home. The experience you need may be just around the corner.

Talk it up

Ask friends, family and your FFA advisor if they have suggestions. Let potential apprenticeship hosts know what experience you do and don't have, and tell them you'll do whatever it takes to help out.

On your way

Apprenticeships often lead to jobs, so promote yourself at the same time. Get your name out there by introducing yourself to as many industry people as you can and by handing out your own business cards.

Discovery process

Don't be discouraged if you find you're in the wrong field. Rather, be happy you know now instead of ten years from now.

But while Amy's equestrian adoration may be rooted in the Lone Star State, she's not four years old anymore, and she no longer holds the same fascination for ribbons and bows. In fact, those were the very things she left behind when, in August of 1996, after years of showing horses at judged competitions, she decided to become a professional horse trainer.

"I didn't want to keep showing," she explains. "I wanted to expand my horizons." With that conviction, and the knowledge that only hard work could get her there, she took her SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) in equine science on the road and moved north.

Way north

In fact, she's just south of

Green Bay in West De Pere, Wisconsin, where snowfalls can top four feet and cheese reigns supreme. Amy has made a new, albeit temporary, home as an apprentice to a quarter horse trainer. Leaving Tolar for the apprenticeship and for the new school, friends, FFA chapter, and host family was not easy.

In fact, with the success she experienced in Texas, in both school and in FFA, you might be wondering why Amy even considered the move. Not only was she first vice president of Tolar's Lake Whitney District FFA Chapter, but she fared extremely well in several horse judging competitions at local, state, and national levels. Most notable were wins at the American Paint Horse World Show, Fort Worth Stock Show and Quarter Horse Congress in Ohio. She was also a member of the Tolar High School student council and track team.

But Amy's ambition bred a desire for something more, something she wasn't getting in her hometown. Near the end of her sophomore summer, with another promising year at Tolar just ahead, she took a leap of faith. She looked up family friend and respected quarter horse trainer Gigi Bailey and her husband Pat. "I proposed that I come live with them, work with them, and learn from them."

The leap

A few weeks later Amy dropped her bags in her new home at Bailey Quarter Horses in Wisconsin. Now, over a year into her

continued on page 30

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what's HOT what's NOT

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Pamela Anderson Lee

Actor

Tom Cruise

Jim Carrey

Musician

George Strait

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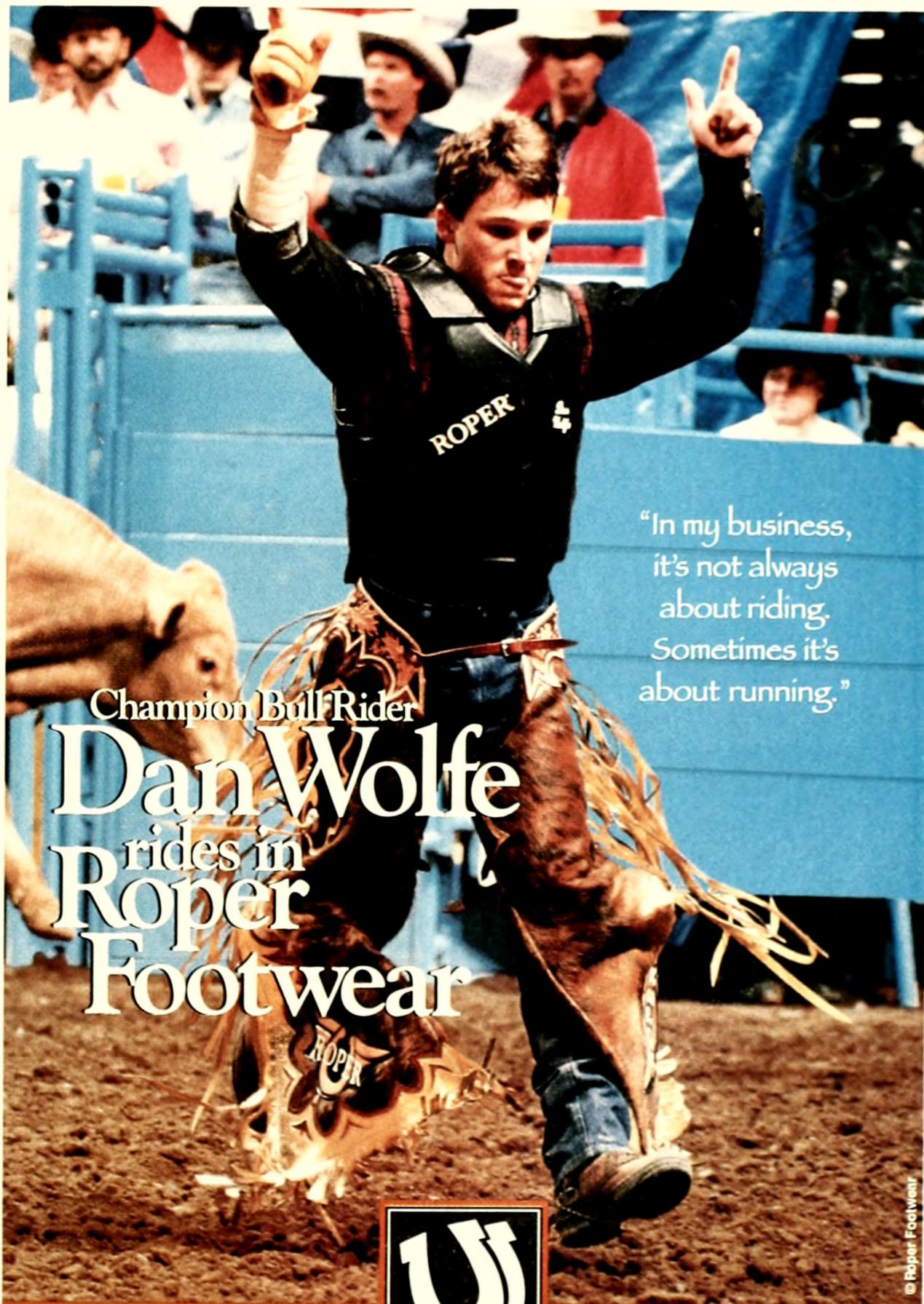
what's HOT

Class/subject in school _____
Person in history _____
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Road trip destination _____
School policy _____
After school activity _____
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Career outside agriculture _____
Novel _____
Weekend adventure _____
Sport to watch _____
Sport to play _____
College football team _____
Beverage _____
Type of music _____

what's NOT

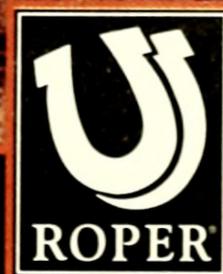
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Jean

RE

When something's hot, as in hip, it's usually not hot for long. Especially in fashion, where designers must come up with new trends so people have a reason to throw away their old clothes and buy new ones.

Even if you could fit into your parents' clothes, you wouldn't want to wear them, right? Welcome to the world of fashion.

FFA *New Horizons*' "What's Hot/What's Not" survey results have uncovered one exception to the fashion rule: denim jeans. Some styles come, go and then briefly return, but jeans have remained the popular pants for years. How can a product more than a century old still top the "What's Hot" list compiled from the opinions of the nation's FFA members?

A sign of freedom

According to Carmella Cavallaro, a marketing specialist for Levi Strauss & Co. in San Francisco, it's because jeans represent freedom and individuality, two qualities that any generation of young Americans can identify with.

"Levi's personify the heritage of America," Cavallaro continued. "We have a history with pioneering the West, with the gold rush era." Of course she's biased toward her company's brand of jeans, but Levi's are apparently popular among FFA members. In fact, various Levi's and Wrangler styles are what a vast majority of FFA members prefer, based on the results of the "What's Hot/What's Not" surveys.

Levi's did arrive on the scene first. With help from tailor Jacob Davis' riveting process, San Francisco businessman Levi Strauss debuted his "waist overalls" in 1873. That was the birth of the 501 jeans, the oldest and still the best-selling product of the Levi's company. Today, 501s are manufactured in 108 different sizes, with each pair using about 1.75 yards of denim and 213 yards of thread.

You've heard the Levi's hype, the "Keep Your Fly Buttoned" campaign and other ads, but what's the real attraction for FFA members?

As jeans continue to be the pants of choice for FFA members, a strong case is being made that the jeans-wearing trait in humans is hereditary

Genetic Search

by Kyle
Munson

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Friday, November 14

6 PM Diamond Rio
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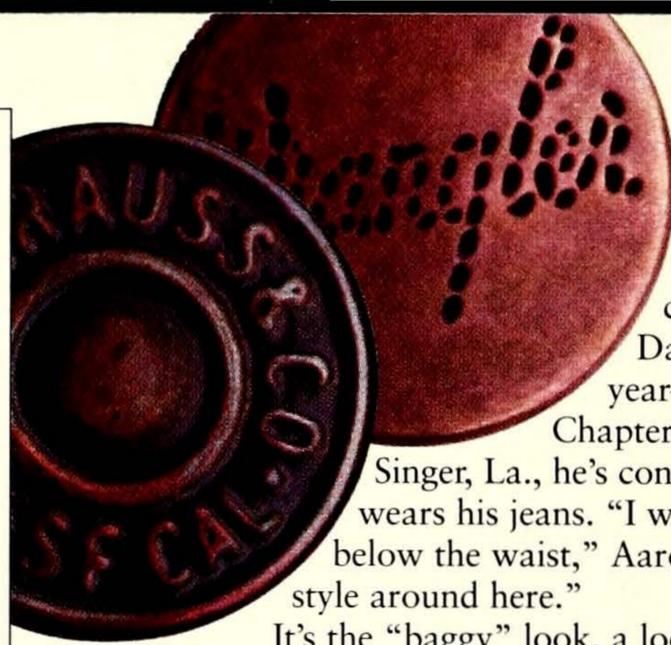
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**Wearing them
proudly**

"Levi's are comfortable," Aaron Danielson said. A 15-year-old Singer FFA Chapter member from Singer, La., he's conscious about how he wears his jeans. "I wear them a little bit below the waist," Aaron said. "That's the style around here."

It's the "baggy" look, a loose fit that's found increasing popularity throughout the '90s. Cavallaro said that Levi's began to develop more baggy and "relaxed" jeans at the start of the decade, catering to different body types and a whole range of custom fits.

All of Dan Yockey's jeans are Levi's, but this 15-year-old Aurora FFA Chapter member from Aurora, Neb., doesn't go for the baggy look.

"I don't like it when they have 'em down to their knees," Dan said. "It looks like a fat man's jeans on a little kid."

Dan's school doesn't encourage the baggy look, either. "If they can see your underwear, they're too big," he said. And the school doesn't send you home to change clothes. "They give you a different pair to put on."

Christopher Richardson, a 16-year-old Eaton FFA Chapter member from Eaton, Ohio, has no room in his bag for baggy jeans.

"I like the tight Wrangler look. Most of the girls like guys who wear tight jeans. It shows off more."

The "Western" look

In the early 1940s, the Wrangler company hired Philadelphia tailor Rodeo Ben to design slim-fitting jeans specifically for cowboys. Ben, with advice from rodeo champions, eventually created the 13MWZ—the 13th variation of the Men's Western Zipper style—in 1947.

"It's the perfect pair of jeans if you're working on a ranch or riding in a rodeo," said Susan Downer, a marketing and communications representative for Wrangler. "It meets those needs, they last for years and they fit." She calls Wrangler an "icon of the West."

"It's the only thing that I've always worn," said Venus Blake, a 16-year-old Righetti FFA Chapter member from Santa Maria, Calif. "When I was a little girl that's what I was put in." Venus, an avid horse rider, prefers regular women's Wrangler jeans for nearly any occasion.

"If you're into farming, you wear Wranglers," she said.

Universal apparel

Downer said that Wrangler doesn't exclusively try to market their 13MWZs and other jeans to teenagers, but that the jeans' durability and Western image invariably attract wearers of all ages.

There are, of course, many other brands of jeans available. Kelly Herbst, a 17-year-old Elk River FFA Chapter member from Elk River, Minn., prefers Lee jeans, the brand that fits her style.

"I work at a camp, in a corral with horses," Kelly said. "It's rough and tumble stuff." Because jeans are tough and useful, they're popular, she said.

It's a style more than a century tough. ★



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The Waybright family

From left to right: Joel, Alan, Horace, Dick, Doyle, Bert and Jeffrey.



FFA Family affa

**Tradition, technology and FFA
a winning combination for these
Pennsylvania farmers**

Way back in the 1760s, two English astronomers—Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon—were deployed to survey the southern boundary of Pennsylvania to settle a land dispute (the fruits of their labor later became popularly known as the Mason-Dixon Line, dividing the free and slave states during the Civil War). Around twenty years after Mason and Dixon clawed their way through the



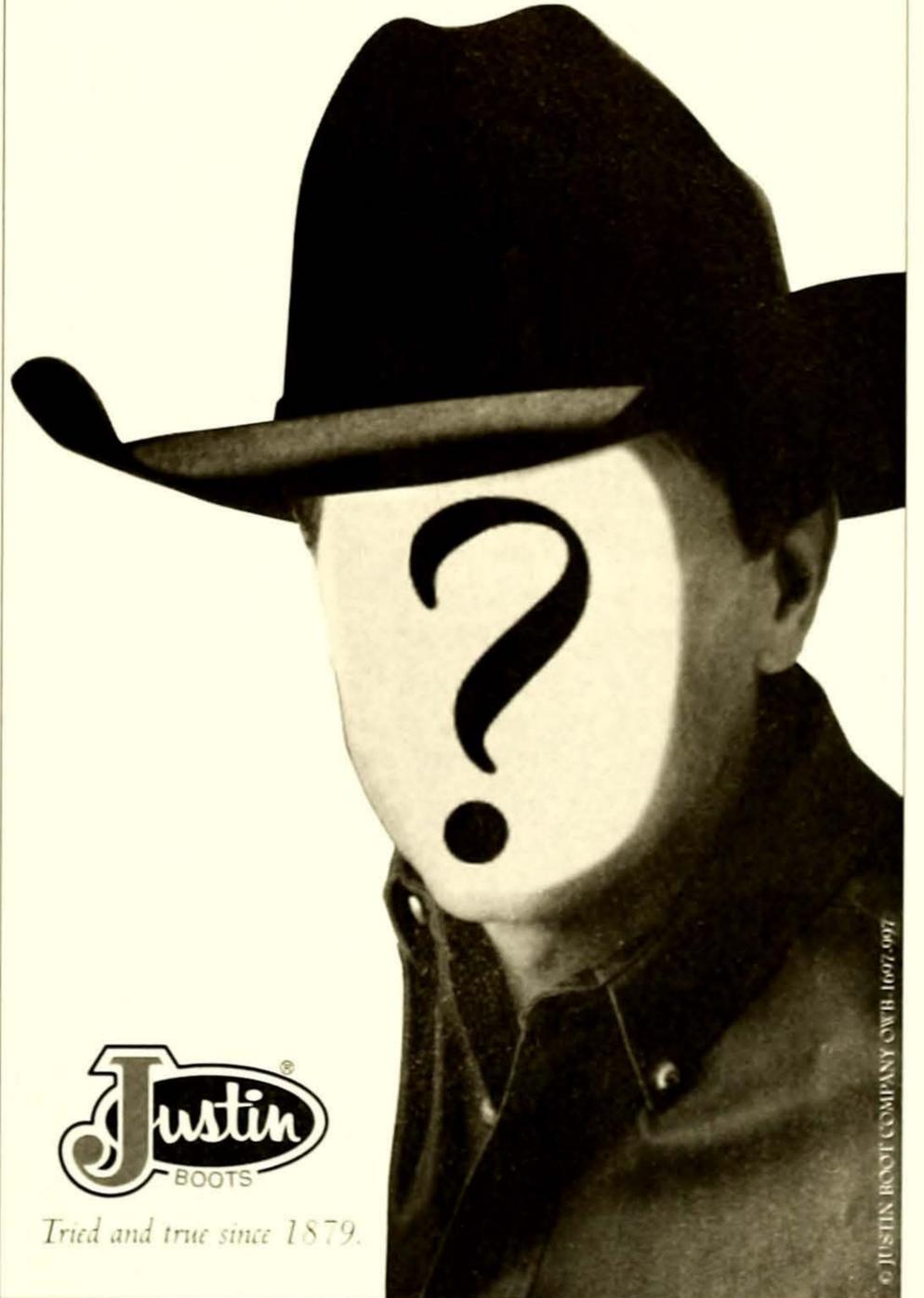
by
**Erich
Gaukel**

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Who is the Man From J.U.S.T.I.N.?

During the National FFA Convention, the Man From J.U.S.T.I.N. will be roaming the crowd! And if he spots you, you can win great prizes. But you've got to wear a pair of Justin Boots or Justin Original Workboots during the convention to win.

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Pennsylvania wilderness, a German farmer, hoping to make a better life in the New World, settled a small tract of land on the Pennsylvania side of the line, just south of Gettysburg. Here he built a one-room house and started farming the land.

Today, that farmer's stone house still stands, though it's now a small part of a larger brick house that's been built around it.

The German farmer's descendants, over 200 years later, are still there working the land. Things have changed quite a bit since then. What remains unchanged, however, are an inherent love of the land, a passion for hard work, and a belief that production agriculture holds a world of opportunity for those who choose to pursue it.

The family now operates a highly successful dairy operation called Mason Dixon Farms. It is known throughout the world for its technology, efficiency, production output, profitability, and, most importantly, the people who make it all happen—the Waybright family.

Eye opener

Considering the Waybright family history, you could safely say that farming runs in this family's blood.

But there's something else that runs in the Waybright family—FFA.

Dick Waybright, who now runs the business with his brother, four sons and nephew, served as a 1950-51 national FFA officer. Doyle, his first son, served as a 1972-73 national FFA officer. Dick

and Doyle, and the rest of the family—Horace, Bert, Alan, Joel and Jeffrey—were all American FFA Degree recipients.

By opening the eyes of these young men to the outside world, FFA became yet another bond that helped solidify the family and the business. "You can get tunnel vision on your own little farm," says Bert, the third son, "but if you can get out and see what else is going on in the world, that changes your outlook."

The choice was clear for Doyle too. He came straight back to the farm after his year as national FFA officer.

Even though he saw much of the country and saw its opportunities, the thought of doing anything else didn't appeal to him.

"They chose to come back to the farm," Dick

admits. "With five sons, I was expecting to get maybe one or two of them back, but I got four."

Plus, Dick says, "There is an allure to work out in the open. Young people enjoy that. It's away from the stress of the city. I've been down here since 5 o'clock this morning. I come out because I enjoy it."

Tradition meets technology

With just the right balance of good old-fashioned hard work and cutting-edge technology, the Waybrights are turning a profit in a dairy industry that has seen a rapid downturn in the number of producers nationwide.

For those who are embracing technology, Dick says, "the dairy industry is more profitable now than any time in my lifetime.

Yet most dairy farmers are going down the tubes."

"Agriculture," he adds, "is going through a tremendous industrial revolution. Three percent of the farmers are producing 35 to 40 percent of the foodstuffs in this country. Those three percent are going to produce 70 to 80 percent in a couple more years. It's going to be done on highly efficient farms and it's going to take less land to feed the world."

Efficiency, therefore, is the key word at Mason Dixon farms.

Dick says four things control dairy farming: weather, cost of inputs, milk prices and production efficiency.

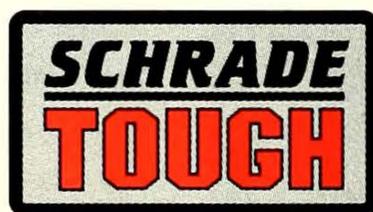
Of these four things, only production efficiency can be controlled. So, he, his family and their

continued on page 30

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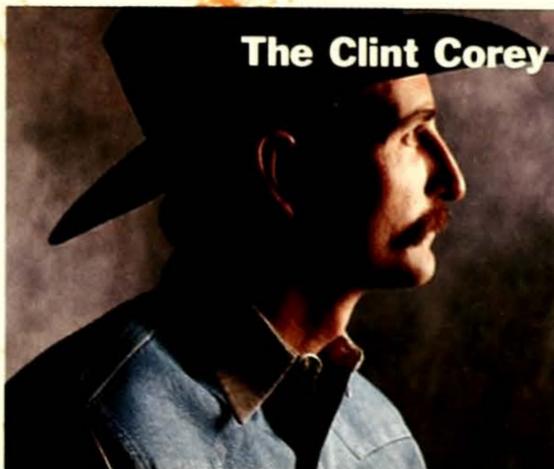
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Here's some advice on finding the right college for you

Snow piled on the campus of Chadron State College in Chadron, Neb., the day high school senior Jolene Quaring toured the school to see if this might be the school for her. This Ravenna FFA Chapter member was 300 miles from home and had to spend the night at a nearby cousin's house because of terrible road conditions.

When she made it home the next day, her answering machine was blinking. Someone from Chadron State College called to make sure she made it back safely.

Jolene liked the idea that someone at the school, which has just 3,000 students, cared enough to call.

Choosing the Right School

by MargaretAnn Cross

At the time, Jolene also was considering a large university. But she guessed that because of its size, no one would have thought to check up on her. So she picked Chadron, where she's now a junior majoring in agribusiness.

"At Chadron, you get to know everyone," she says. "Teachers see you on the street and say, 'Hi, Jolene.' But they also know when you skip their classes."

High school students consider a lot of things when deciding where to go to college, including a school's size. Other factors are whether to enroll in a two- or four-year program; how much a school costs; what degree programs and scholarships are offered; and such things as location and reputation.

Picking the right school is a challenge, so we asked FFA members in college and FFA advisors to offer their advice.

What are your interests?

Basing your career goals on your interests is important, so think about what you like and how you can turn that into a career, says James Millar, chairman of the agriculture department and vocational coordinator at Red Bluff Union High School in Red Bluff, Calif. Talk to counselors and your advisor and find out about different fields and what kind of college training they require.

When you pick an area you want to pursue—even if it's general—it will make college selection easier and open the door to scholarship

opportunities from university departments and professional organizations, students and advisors say.

Terrance Campbell, a sophomore at Iowa State University, knew he wanted to study food science in college. So when he landed an internship at Iowa State the summer after his junior year in high school and saw the school's research facilities, he knew he wanted to go there. Iowa State "has a big food science department, a good reputation and everything in terms of resources," he says.

Consider options

Once you define your goals a bit, you can also begin exploring your many options.

You might choose to stay close to home like John, who wanted to remain within easy driving distance so he could help his parents with their land on weekends. Terrance, who's from Chicago, wanted to move out of state to "see something different."

Another consideration is whether to attend a two- or four-year school.

Douglas Geisler recently graduated with an associate's degree in diversified agriculture from Southeast Community College in Beatrice, Neb. After two years at school, where he also got his commercial applicator sprayer's license, he returned home to run his family farm with his dad.

Douglas wanted to go to a small college and get out quickly, he says. He also liked the fact that a community college gave

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him the option to transfer to a four-year program, even though he didn't plan on it.

With a goal of getting a degree from a state university, Allison Tassej first went to Merced Community College in Merced, Calif.

By the time she transferred to California Polytechnic State University, she had picked a major and knew she could afford to go to the larger school. She's now a graduate student in agriculture education.

"Going to a community college first was the best decision I could have made," she says.

Community colleges are generally less expensive and smaller than universities. So, if you're looking for vocational instruction, it's

a great buy. If you're working your way toward a four-year degree, it's an inexpensive way to get started.

Other helpful hints

Sarah knew she wanted to go to the University of Florida because she had visited the campus often while in high school, mostly for FFA events.

It's also a good idea to visit colleges on weekdays when school is in session, so you can get a good feel for the everyday atmosphere.

Sitting in on classes will help you know what to expect, too, says Sarah, who visited general education classes before deciding to go to the University of Florida, just to make sure she could adjust to the large class sizes.

Most of all, college

students say to follow your heart.

Jolene Quaring did. She bucked a family tradition by not picking the University of Nebraska. Her parents and her brother and sister went there, but it didn't feel right for her, she says.

"Do what you want, not what others may want," she says. "Ask yourself if you're really going to be happy with your choice." ✨

Consider these factors for each school you like

- Degree programs offered
- Reputation and percentage of graduates who get jobs
- Number of students
- Location
- Cost
- Scholarship opportunities
- Social opportunities

Tips for choosing a college

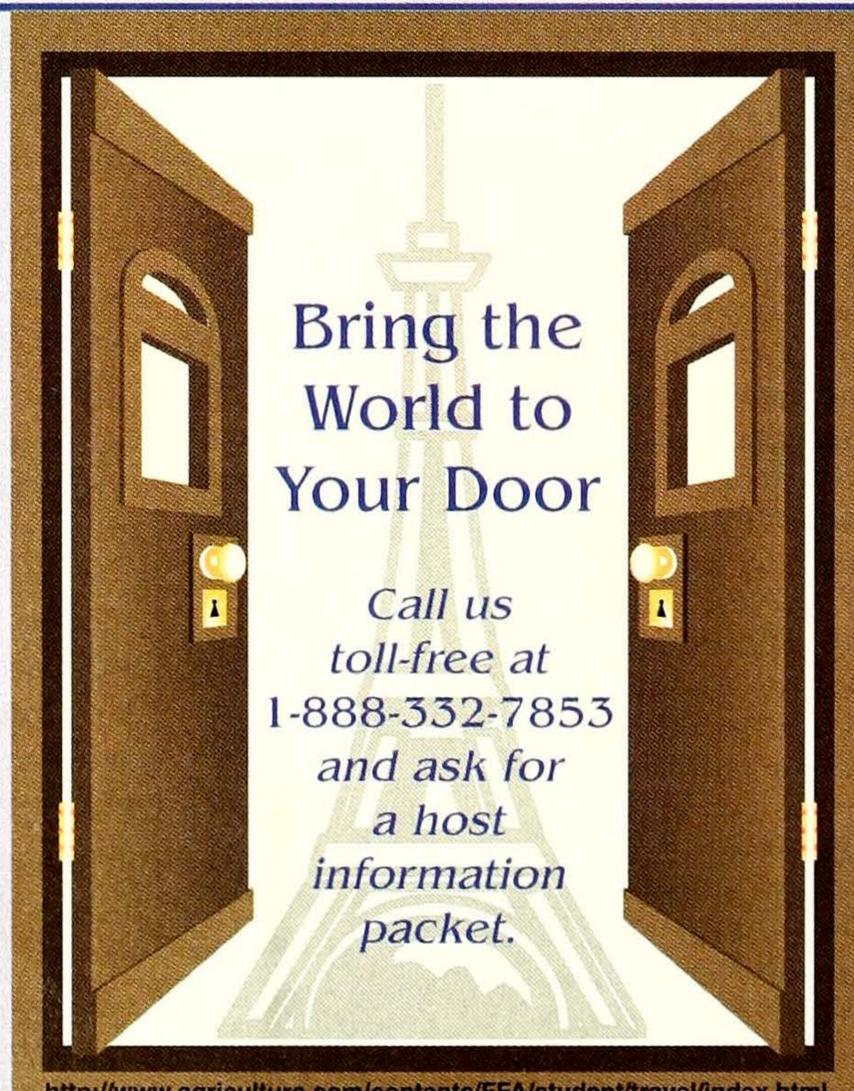
- Define your interests and think about what type of work appeals to you
- Research the educational requirements in fields that interest you
- Gather information on colleges
- Go to "College Night" at your high school.
- Look for college guides, catalogs and brochures at libraries. Also try computer software products or CD-ROMs designed to help you learn about schools across the country
- Talk to friends, family and your high school counselor
- Make a contact at colleges you like and ask a lot of questions
- Visit campuses and sit in on classes
- Apply for scholarships
- Be honest with yourself about your likes, dislikes and motivations

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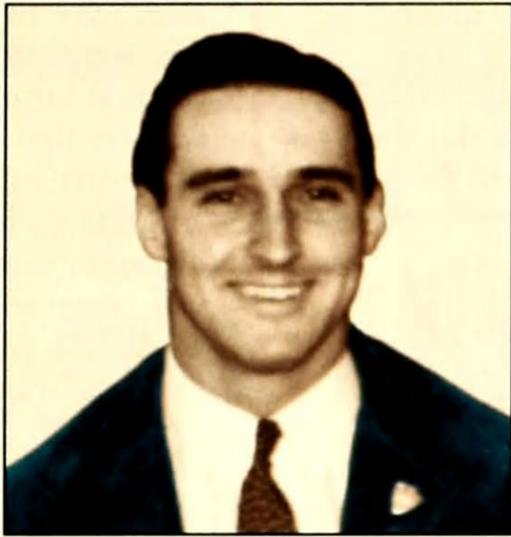
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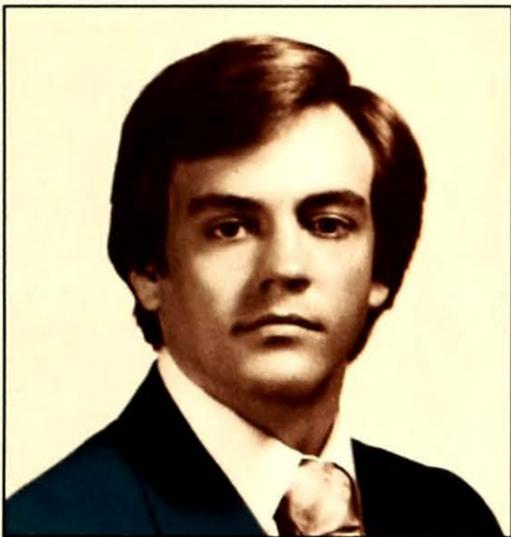
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continued from page 12

apprenticeship, she hopes this hands-in-the-dirt experience will one day translate into a career. "I like challenges," she says, "and that's part of the reason I came up here. I knew that to make it as a quarter horse trainer I was going to have to work for it."

Gigi agrees: Becoming a quarter horse trainer is no stroll around the ring. "It's very much a dues-paying situation," she says, "and you're going to pay your dues no matter who you are, no matter how old you are when you start."

Amy's paying her entrance fee early. Her duties at Bailey Quarter Horses include exercising and feeding the horses, training horses for young riders who come for lessons, and maintaining the barn. But she's also

learning about management and the ins and outs of the horse training business. She schedules feeding times and orders new feed when necessary, learns which feed supplements help keep the horses in show-time shape, and learns the important art of client relations.

Amy admits her workload is not easy. "There's been times," she says, "when it's been difficult to manage being a teenager versus having the adult responsibilities." Still, it seems she's found a balance between her youthful energy and her adult-like professionalism.

She's been elected president of the West De Pere FFA Chapter and is the leader of its state-champion judging team headed to the 1997 National FFA Convention and the Quarter Horse Congress.

Clear as a bell

It's clear that becoming a horse trainer is her primary goal. With college only a year away, Amy has her sights set on a degree in communications, possibly from Texas A&M University.

Her reasoning is clear: "If I can further develop my communication skills, I'll make that much better of a trainer because I'll be able to work with my clients better."

Whether those clients come from Texas or Wisconsin or somewhere else is hardly the issue. While Tolar and West De Pere are two very different places, Amy sees them in a similar light, as steps on her ascent to a career as a professional quarter horse trainer.

And with her passion for the trade, her insatiable

desire to learn, and her belief that hard work paves the route to success, Amy Nash is saddled up for the gallop to the top. ★

FFamily affair

continued from page 24

employees focus their efforts on farm management and the efficient production of high quality milk.

Bert, who spends most of his time inventing, fixing and maintaining equipment in the farm's shop, plays a key role in designing and implementing much of the technology on the farm.

Cow train

Perhaps the most impressive project is the "Cow Train," a milking parlor system they've been developing for the last three years.

Here, cows are placed on a specially designed railroad car, which is set on tracks that run the length of the parlor at a slight incline. As the car is set in motion, the cow-loaded cars move across the parlor, past a series of sprayers and washers. When it reaches the end of the line, the milking begins.

When the milking is finished, the car rolls back to its original position. On the way back down, the energy generated by the falling weight of the car is captured and stored, providing nearly enough energy to get the car back up for the next milking.

This saves labor and money. And there's more of that to be found around the farm.

Former President Jimmy Carter even called

Dick once to commend him for running one of the first farms in the country that provided all of its own energy needs.

In fact, the farm's digester generator system, which converts animal waste into energy, produces more wattage for the farm than it can use, so they just sell the rest to the local power company.

"We're lazy," jokes Bert. "If you can mechanize it or electrify it, and it saves labor, then we're interested in it if it makes financial sense."

Hot Career option

At Mason Dixon Farms, efficiency cuts the cost of labor, but it doesn't, by any stretch, eliminate the need for a workforce. What it does do is create positions requiring highly skilled employees. This translates into better-paying jobs.

Dick and his sons are making good money, and so are the 45 full-time employees.

"We're one of the better employers in the county," Dick says. "A kid out of high school starts the first month at \$8 an hour, and our pay scale goes up to \$21 an hour. We have a five-day work week plus all the benefits anybody else in this county is offering."

"Those individuals who are willing to make careers in production agriculture will have an opportunity unlike those of previous generations," Doyle explains, "because there are getting to be fewer and fewer of those who have chosen to show interest and chosen to make that a career. So, I think there is going to be all the opportunity in the world." ★

Animal lovers!

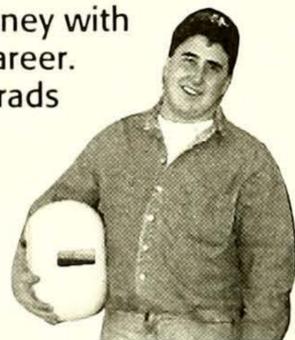
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Last Laff

Q. What has four wheels and flies without leaving the ground?

A. A garbage truck.

Amber Riley
Flippin, Arkansas

Q. Why do male deer wear braces?

A. They all have buck teeth.

Eddie Davis
Priddy, Texas

Q. Why did the farmer call his pig "Ink"?

A. Because it kept running out of his pen.

Wilma Polson
Danville, Kentucky

Q. Why did the radish date the mushroom?

A. Because he was a fungi (fun guy).

Kim Rosford
Morgan Hill, California

Q. What did Tennessee?

A. The same thing Arkansas.

April Cross
Elsie, Michigan

Q. What did Winnie the Pooh say to his agent?

A. Show me the honey!

Phillip DeSchepper
Spicer, Minnesota

Q. What is the smartest of all the United States?

A. Alabama, because it has four A's and one B.

Roderick Jenkins
Ft. Deposit, Alabama

Q. Why is a dog like a baseball player?

A. He chases fowls, catches flies, and runs for home when he sees the catcher.

Jessica Stiers
Cumberland, Ohio

Q. What did the robot say when he ran out of electricity?

A. AC come, AC go.

Jeremy Mitchell
Pilot Point, Texas

Q. Why do fish swim in salt water?

A. Because they're allergic to pepper.

Ruth Clark
Hanover, Connecticut

Q. What does a worm do in a cornfield?

A. It goes in one ear and out the other.

Amanda Brown
Emmett, Idaho

Q. Why do bees have sticky hair?

A. They use honeycombs.

Carleen Vorisek
Linesville, Pennsylvania

Q. Why did the lion eat the tightrope walker?

A. He wanted a well-balanced meal.

Kim Schaff
St. Anthony, North Dakota

FFA New Horizons will pay \$5.00 for each joke selected for Last Laff. In case of duplication, payment will be for the first one received.

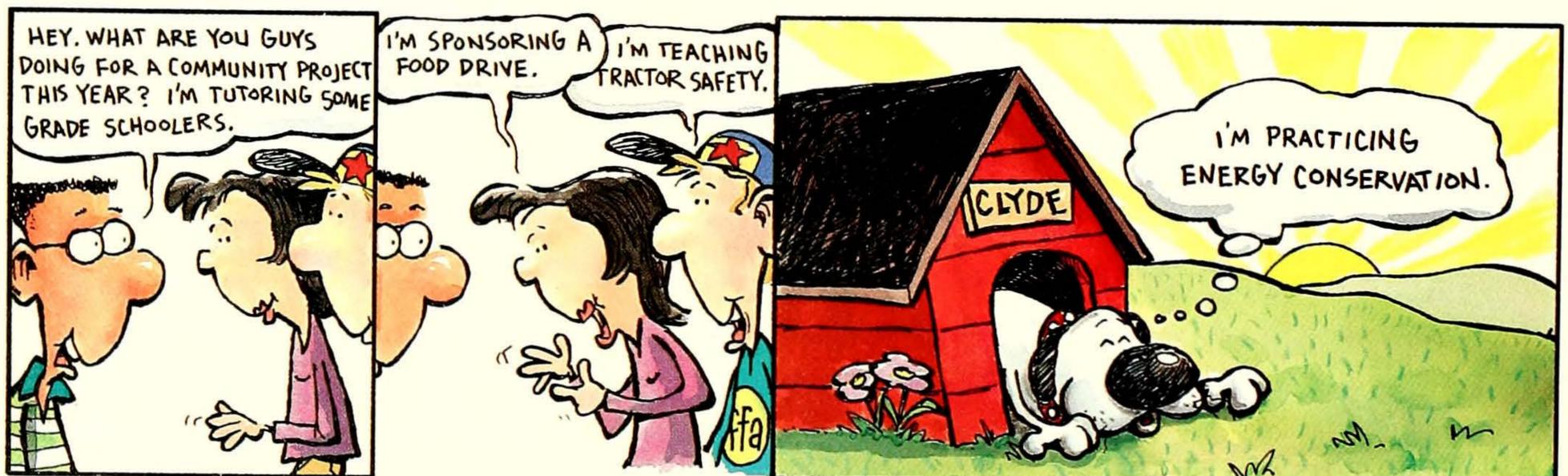
To submit a nomination for "FFA Stars," tell us why you think you or your nominee is an "FFA Star." You must also include the following: color photo, name, address, phone number, chapter and age of nominee, as well as your name and phone number (if different).

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Agrinuts by Jim Bradshaw and Michael Bettendorf





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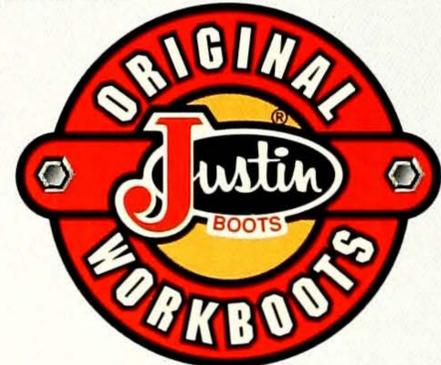
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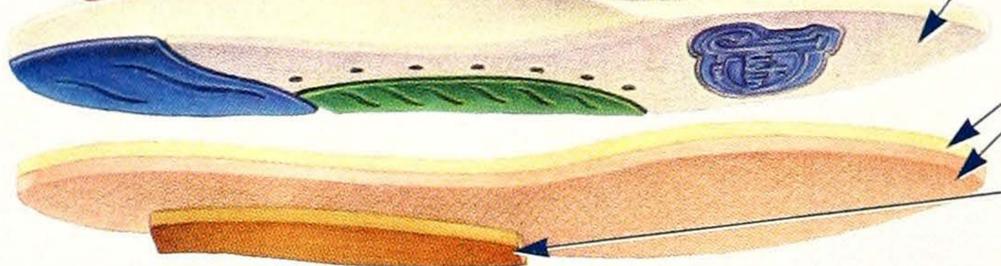
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PREMIUM QUALITY,
OIL TANNED,
FULL GRAIN LEATHER



1. THE BODY CUSHION® INSOLE INSERT PROVIDES MAXIMUM SHOCK ABSORPTION AND SUBSTANTIAL ARCH SUPPORT. THE TRIPLE DENSITY URETHANE IS SOFT ENOUGH TO CRADLE THE FOOT AND STRONG ENOUGH TO "REMEMBER" ITS ORIGINAL SHAPE UNDER HEAVY, EXTENDED PRESSURE.

2. THE ORTHOTIC TEXON®/PORON® INSOLE - A BIO-MECHANICALLY COMFORT-CORRECT INSOLE DELIVERING RESILIENCY THROUGH EACH STAGE OF WALKING.

FIBERGLASS SHANK

OPEN-CELL FOAM PAD

HIGH-TECH MIDSOLE

ROCKER MOTION TOE SPRING

THE SOLE - RUGGED OIL-RESISTING POLYURETHANE AND AUTHENTIC GOODYEAR WELT CONSTRUCTION FOR LASTING DURABILITY



RADIAL CUT LUGS PROMOTE SELF-RELEASE OF MUD AND DEBRIS

STABILIZING CAVITIES IN THE 90° HEEL



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