



# FFA Alumni Association

## *NEWSLETTER*

SPRING - 1977

### PLANS FOR SIXTH FFA ALUMNI NATIONAL MEETING

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the National FFA Alumni Association will be held in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary Convention of the FFA. This important celebration for all FFA Alumni and active FFA members will be November 8 - 12. The FFA Alumni Annual Meeting will be held Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Many special events are being planned for the FFA's Golden Anniversary Convention.

All states are encouraged to bring large Alumni delegations. Room reservations should be made immediately through the Kansas City Convention Bureau, Kansas City, Missouri. In writing for reservations, please note you are an FFA Alumni Member.

### NATIONAL FFA LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

The FFA Alumni will sponsor and conduct four National Leadership Workshops during the 50th FFA Anniversary Convention. The one-hour leadership workshops will be open to all FFA members and advisors and will be presented on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. The workshops will be conducted by some of our nation's most outstanding agricultural leaders. All Alumni members are asked to assist with advance publicity of this new FFA Alumni activity at FFA Chapters and State Meetings.

### CHARTER FFA MEMBERS WILL BE HONORED AT 50TH FFA CONVENTION

Charter members of the FFA who joined between 1928 and 1930 and who are presently active FFA Alumni members will be recognized at the 50th Anniversary FFA Convention. At the present time, we have received the names of several persons qualifying for this special 50th year recognition. If you know of persons that meet the qualifications for recognition, please send their names and addresses to the National FFA Alumni Office. A special convention invitation and other information on the special recognition will be mailed to these individuals in July.

### STATE HISTORICAL EXHIBITS

The Hall of States at the Golden Anniversary FFA Convention will provide each State FFA Association the opportunity to portray the development of the FFA as a vital part of the state's program of Vocational Agriculture/Agribusiness Education. These exhibits which may be developed by a Chapter, the State Alumni, or another group designated by the State FFA will portray key historical events and records or a major state FFA activity. Thousands of FFA members, advisors, alumni, parents, educators, and business leaders will be in Kansas City this November. FFA Alumni members are encouraged to assist with the development of their state exhibit. Additional information is available from the State FFA Advisor or the National FFA Alumni Office.

## HARRY BIRDWELL WELCOMED AS COUNCIL MEMBER

Mr. Harry Birdwell of Oklahoma, representing the Western Region, has been appointed to fill the remaining term of Mr. Jerry D. Goolsby. Mr. Birdwell is the Executive Vice President of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce and one of the former National FFA Presidents.

## OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AFFILIATE CONTEST

Every FFA Alumni Affiliate should be making plans to enter the 1977 Outstanding FFA Alumni Affiliate Contest. All states must have an elimination contest and submit their outstanding affiliate for National competition on or before October 1. All state winners will be recognized and rated at the FFA Alumni Annual Meeting in Kansas City. The National Winner will receive a beautiful recognition plaque. Rules and entry forms have been mailed to State FFA Alumni Chairmen and State FFA Advisors. Additional forms are available from the National Office.

## AGRICULTURE TEACHERS SHORTAGE

A severe shortage of vocational agriculture teachers is currently plaguing agricultural education programs across the nation. Virtually every state has felt the affects of this critical lack of trained teachers. Because of this shortage many positions will be vacant this fall.

With students being deprived the opportunity of enrolling in vocational agriculture and being FFA members, the National FFA Alumni Association has listed this as one of the items for its 1977 Program of Action. The basic problem is there needs to be an increased number of persons that are qualified to teach. Thus, more students must enroll in agricultural education at our universities. The FFA Alumni plans to publicize the shortage and work with others in coordinating activities to secure scholarships or student loan programs which provide special incentives for students to become vocational agricultural instructors. You are urged to spread the word and be alert to the situation. You can play an important part in encouraging current students towards a teaching career.

## WASHINGTON STATE ALUMNI ARE ON THE MOVE

A traveling display sponsored by the Washington State FFA Alumni is being completed for us at county fairs, schools, and agricultural events. A 40-foot trailer and truck have been donated by Carroll B. Adams Tractor Company. The FFA Alumni have received assistance with the design from Washington State University. The display will depict the story of vocational agriculture and the FFA. The Washington FFA Alumni are to be congratulated on their "Support of Vocational Agriculture" with this outstanding public relations project.

## A WORD FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, DAVID C. THOMAS

As your National FFA Alumni Chairman, I am pleased with the many outstanding accomplishments and programs in support of vocational agriculture that are being accomplished by Alumni in almost every state. We must continue to emphasize the need for more support which will be accomplished by unified involvement and increased membership.



As outlined in my last letter to you which was included in the Winter Newsletter, we have two realistic and important goals for 1977. First, to increase active membership by fifty percent as the FFA celebrates its 50th Anniversary. This will be reached if each of you sign up one new Alumni member. Second, to have 1,000 Alumni members in attendance at the 1977 Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the FFA's 50th Anniversary Convention and will feature many special presentations of its rich heritage.

Supporting Vocational Agriculture is our purpose and the 1977 theme. We are the voice that can be unified into viable supportive testimony for vocational agriculture and the FFA. We must continue to have a stronger and more unified voice to insure a quality vocational agriculture educational program with the FFA as an integral part of instruction in our public schools.

We are looking forward to working with you as we grow in membership and develop our quality supportive programs.

## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The purpose of the Outstanding Achievement Award is to identify and recognize FFA Alumni members for their leadership and outstanding service to agriculture which reflects prestige on vocational agriculture and FFA programs. The award may be presented at the local, state, and national levels. The award should be presented at the Annual Meeting on each respective level. All nominations for the National Award must be submitted in writing to the National Office no later than July 1. Nominations for the National level recognition must be made by completing an official application form which can be obtained from the State Alumni Chairman or the National Office. Plaques are available from the FFA Supply Service for use in recognizing your outstanding achievement winners.

FOOD FOR AMERICA--The Food for America program began in 1975 to give FFA Chapters the necessary materials to tell the story of food production to elementary school children. Since the program was introduced it has been one of the FFA's most popular activities even though there are no awards for participation. Foundation sponsored materials currently available to FFA Chapters include a lesson plan and a Farm Art Book. A new five-minute film on the production of a cheeseburger from the farm to the consumer was made available to chapters in 1976 and has been viewed by nearly half a million people. An activity page was also developed in 1976 as a supplement to the new film and the Farm Art Book.

FFA CONTESTS--In eight National FFA Contests participants use knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to successfully compete in selecting and judging livestock, dairy cattle, poultry, horticultural products and practices, dairy and meat products, practice farm business management skills, and in demonstrating mechanical skills. The National contests are the culmination of competitive activities that begin at the chapter level and proceed through contests at the district and state levels. This procedure encourages member involvement in contests, even though only the top team from each state may qualify for National competition.

FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE--The First World Conference in Agricultural Education for Youth and Adult Leaders held in November, 1976, attracted 231 delegates from 28 countries. As the first international conference organized by the FFA, youth and adults participated together in conference sessions and discussion groups, and the youth delegates entered the first International Agricultural Olympics - designed to demonstrate agricultural skills so necessary in today's world.

Conference sessions, panel discussions, and audio-visual presentations were centered on topics such as "The World Food Situation and Prospects for Beginning Farmers", "National Rural Youth Organizations--Serving the Membership", and "Systems of Agricultural Education."

The First World Conference and International Agricultural Olympics was sponsored as a special project of the National FFA Foundation by Massey-Ferguson, Inc. Delegates elected a Planning Committee and recommended that advance planning begin for a second conference to be held in three or four years' time.

FFA FILMS--More than 6,000 FFA Chapters used FFA Films distributed by Venard Films of Peoria in 1976. The viewing audience for the six films currently in circulation is estimated at over 615,000. In addition, over four million television viewers saw FFA Films last year. FFA Films currently in distribution include five Ciba Geigy sponsored Stars Over America films spanning five years and a Lilly Endowment Fund sponsored film entitled The Game Plan which explains the Building Our American Communities Program. The most recent FFA Film to be released was the 1976 Stars Over America film which premiered at the 1976 National FFA Convention. In 1976 work began on a 50th Anniversary history film sponsored by the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio. It will be shown for the first time at the 1977 National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Work also began on a new general information film about the FFA sponsored by the FFA Foundation General Fund.

ESTABLISHMENT IN AGRICULTURE AWARDS--The National FFA Constitution provides for four degrees of active membership. Each degree is awarded for achievement in agriculture and leadership in activities of the FFA.

The first year student of vocational agribusiness is a "Greenhand" upon becoming a member of the FFA. After a year, if the member's work has been satisfactory, the local chapter may award him/her the degree of "Chapter Farmer." Each of the 8,072 Chapters may select a "Star Greenhand" from among its first year members and a "Star Chapter Farmer" as the top chapter member. During 1976, 6,135 FFA members were recognized as "Star Greenhands" and another 6,432 as "Star Chapter Farmers." The next degree, that of "State Farmer", is granted only by State FFA Associations to members whose achievements in vocational agriculture/agribusiness are truly exceptional. Four thousand five hundred thirty-two FFA Chapters nominated candidates for this honor in 1976. Each state may select from this group a "Star State Farmer" and "Star State Agribusinessman." Each is eligible to receive a \$200 cash award from the Foundation.

The "American Farmer" degree, the highest degree, is awarded to those Future Farmers whose achievements in agriculture and leadership are truly outstanding. This year 1,029 FFA Chapters nominated candidates for this degree. About one member per thousand receive this degree each year. From this group the "Star Farmer of America" and the "Star Agribusinessman" are selected.

## ANNUAL DUES

If you have not renewed your membership for 1977, now is the time. Your membership is playing a vital role in supporting vocational agriculture and the FFA.

The National FFA Alumni dues are \$4 per year and life membership dues are only \$100. For less than 1 1/2 cents per day, you are joining the team that is supporting one of our nation's greatest student organizations.

Several states have dues and are listed below:

CA \$1	IN \$1	MI \$2	NJ \$2	OH \$1	VA \$2
DE 1	KS 1	MS 1	NM 2	OK 4	WA 2
FL 3	KY 1	MO 1	NY 1	SD 2	WV 1
GA 1	MD 1	MT 2	NC 2	TN 2	WI 1
ID 1	MA 1	NE 2	ND 1	TX 1	WY 1
IL 1					

## WISCONSIN BREAKS MEMBERSHIP RECORD

Wisconsin has broken the membership records for having the most active members for a state. With 2,300 active members recorded on May 1, 1977 Wisconsin has surpassed the record of 2,100 they set in 1976. Congratulations and best of luck during the remaining eight months of 1977 in your membership thrust.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

The life memberships now total 955. It is the FFA Alumni Association's goal to have 1000 or \$100,000 in FFA Scholarship money before July 1, 1977. The life membership plan not only offers you a life support, but it can provide \$100 in scholarship money to the FFA. Use the form below to send in a life membership. If you are already a life member, why not ask a friend to become a life supporter.

## PRORATED LIFE MEMBERSHIP

A person may become a life member with five yearly \$25 payments totaling \$125. The person will receive all the life membership benefits starting with the first payment, except the \$100 Memorial Scholarship will not be available and the state dues reimbursement of up to \$2 on the prorated plan members will not be paid until the fifth payment is received. The prorated life member will receive a free subscription to the National Future Farmer Magazine with his first \$25 payment.

## LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS

The FFA Alumni Scholarships will be presented to the following states: Wisconsin (five scholarships), Illinois (three), Ohio (two), Oklahoma (two), Georgia (one), Minnesota (one), Virginia (one), and Wyoming (one). For every 500 active FFA Alumni members in your state on May 1, one FFA Leadership Scholarship is provided. This covers full registration and enrollment fees for a FFA member to attend the summer Washington FFA Conference Program. Leadership scholarships valued at \$2,240 are being sponsored this year. Why not assist with increasing your state's membership for 1978 which will allow us to provide more scholarships.

## LEGION OF MERIT

As part of our membership program campaign, we will again award the "Legion of Merit" award. This award, presented to persons securing 10 new Alumni members, will be presented in a special Bicentennial ceremony at the National Alumni Convention. Keep the Spirit and receive the "Legion of Merit Citation" this year. If you would like more information or an application form, please contact your local FFA Advisor, state Alumni Chairman, or National FFA Alumni Office.

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES FOR 1977, PLEASE USE THE FORM BELOW TO SHOW YOUR CONTINUED INTEREST AND SUPPORT.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Type of Membership

1 year \$ 4 plus state dues  
 3 years \$ 12 plus state dues  
 5 years \$ 20 plus state dues  
 Life \$100  
 Prorated Life Membership  
 5 years @ \$25

Subscription to The  
 National FUTURE FARMER  
 magazine @ \$1 per year

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
                     First                    Middle                    Last  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 MEMBERSHIP NUMBER (IF KNOWN) \_\_\_\_\_  
 LOCAL AFFILIATE \_\_\_\_\_



FFA members and chapters are preparing to celebrate their 50th Anniversary Convention this year. The FFA is providing more incentive awards and special services than at any time in its history. Over \$800,000 in awards and special programs are being sponsored by the FFA Foundation. In an effort to help FFA Alumni members know and understand a few of the current FFA programs and activities, we have prepared the following list and brief description.

PUBLIC SPEAKING--Development of speaking ability has long been a trademark of FFA membership. Much of the training and experience FFA members receive in public speaking is gained by participating in FFA sponsored Public Speaking Contests. During 1976, 4,416 FFA Chapters provided FFA members the opportunity to develop their speaking abilities by holding local Public Speaking Contests. Competitive experience was also provided in Creed speaking by 2,711 FFA Chapters.

NATIONAL CHAPTER AWARD PROGRAM--The chapter program emphasizes group activities and cooperative undertakings, as an outgrowth of an organized FFA Chapter program of activities. In 1976, 3,171 local chapters were awarded a Superior Chapter rating in State competition.

NATIONAL FFA SAFETY AWARD PROGRAM--The objective of the Safety Award Program is to encourage FFA Chapters to take an active role in providing safety training for their membership. This program is a special project of the National FFA Foundation, co-sponsored by Dow Chemical U.S.A. and Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute. In 1976, 548 FFA Chapters participated in the Safety Award Program at the State level of competition.

BUILDING OUR AMERICAN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM (BOAC)--The Building Our American Communities Program combines classroom study with practical action to help FFA members become knowledgeable of the community development process. Through this unique community action program 1,063 FFA Chapters received recognition for helping make their communities better places in which to live and work in 1976. The Building Our American Communities Program is sponsored as a special project of the National FFA Foundation by Lilly Endowment, Inc. The Farmers Home Administration plays a major role in providing technical assistance to local chapters.

AGRICULTURAL PROFICIENCY AWARD PROGRAM--The Agricultural Proficiency Award Program complements the instructional program by encouraging students to explore an agricultural occupation as a career. Members are recognized for their exceptional accomplishments at the Chapter, State, Regional, and National levels of competition. Chapter winners are recognized with an appropriate medal, whereas the State, Regional, and National winners receive plaques and cash awards. In the nineteen Proficiency Program areas over 230,000 members participated.

The areas of competition and their sponsors are: Ag. Electrification, Food and Energy Council; Ag. Mechanics, International Harvester; Ag. Processing, Carnation Co.; Ag. Sales and/or Service, Allis-Chalmers Corp.; Beef Production, Nasco and Sperry New Holland; Crop Production, Producers of Funk's G-Hybrids; Dairy Production, AVCO New Idea Farm Equipment and De Laval Separator Co.; Livestock Production, Keystone Steel & Wire and A. O. Smith Harvestors; Fish and Wildlife Management, General Fund; Forest Management, Weyerhaeuser Co.; Home and Farmstead Improvement, Agricultural Divisions of The Upjohn Co.; Horse Proficiency, The American Morgan Horse Foundation; Horticulture, General Fund; Outdoor Recreation, White Farm Equipment Co.; Placement in Ag. Production, Hesston Corp. and Shell Chemical Co.; Poultry Production, Allied Mills, Inc.; Sheep Production, General Fund; Soil and Water Management, Ford Motor Co.; and Swine Production, Pfizer, Inc./Agricultural Division.

STATE PRESIDENTS' WASHINGTON CONFERENCE--The State Presidents' Conference funded by General Motors as a National FFA Foundation Special Project brings together in the Nation's Capitol the 51 State FFA Presidents and the National FFA Officers. The week long Conference held each July is designed to bring the top student leaders of the FFA in contact with national leaders of business, industry, government, and agriculture.

STUDENT HANDBOOK--A new four-color illustrated Student Handbook is designed to guide students of Vocational Agricultural/Agribusiness through the activities offered by the organization. Every beginning student will need this publication in order to understand the degrees, awards, and leadership development opportunities ahead in the FFA.

The development of the Handbook and the distribution of the first 10,000 copies is being funded by the Production Credit Association of the United States.

## WELCOME NEW LIFE MEMBERS

The life membership roster continues to grow. This select group has over 955 members. One can become a member of this group of loyal supporters of the FFA by sending the one-time tax deductible lifetime membership fee of \$100. Life members receive a special gold life membership card, life membership certificate, and a lifetime subscription to The National FUTURE FARMER magazine. Upon the death of the applicant, the \$100 may be returned as a Memorial Scholarship to an FFA member. Our goal is to have 1,000 life members before July 1, 1977. If your name is not on this list, there will be no better time than now to send your \$100 to the National FFA Alumni.

We welcome and are honored to announce the following new Life Members:

Bruce J. Krabseth	Williston, North Dakota
John Schmitz	Williston, North Dakota
John B. Rash	Statesville, North Carolina
William J. Femister	Union Grove, North Carolina
Quentin E. Christman	Rugby, North Dakota
Jerome Migler	Rugby, North Dakota
Marvin Howery	Darlington, Wisconsin
Mrs. Gene Pressnall	Madison, Wisconsin
Harold J. Petrick	Kewaunee, Wisconsin
Bill Deininger	Monroe, Wisconsin
Harold Tech	Seymour, Wisconsin
Howard I. Wilson	Deland, Florida
Joseph C. Taylor	Knoxville, Tennessee
Howard Montague	Versailles, Kentucky
Lewis Gottfried, Jr.	Upper Sandusky, Ohio
David Lyle	Thornville, Ohio
Harold Miller	Carroll, Ohio
William Dawson	Kinston, North Carolina
Danny Hruza	Ericson, Nebraska
O. S. Gilbertson	Lincoln, Nebraska
Bruce Maloch	Emerson, Arkansas
Adin A. Hester	Stockton, California
Dan W. Heilig	Tacoma, Washington

Howard L. Williams  
 Marshall Williams  
 Jerry J. Knapp  
 Robert Keen  
 Henry Prien  
 Ron Schwartzlow  
 Eugene Updike  
 Loraine Wolfe  
 Robert Wolfe  
 James Marcks  
 Barry E. Hatch  
 Ivan W. Bartling  
 Donald Austin  
 J. F. Wyse  
 Joe Nettles  
 Guy Green  
 Joe Hofbauer  
 Richard Crawford  
 Larry Berner  
 David Wiley  
 Vernon Hale  
 Richard Cretinon  
 Dean Helgenberger  
 B. E. Gingery  
 Kenneth W. Kramer  
 Gerald C. Campbell  
 J. W. Douglas  
 John D. Loyd  
 John R. Loyd  
 Robert Robertson  
 Donald N. McDowell  
 D. R. Baringer  
 Dr. Russ E. John  
 Kermit Alspaugh  
 Gayle K. Grimes  
 Charles Schultz  
 Terry Rawn  
 Gene Nehls  
 Darold Nevin  
 Tom Ronk  
 William Hancock, Jr.  
 Theodore Swingle  
 Alan R. Williams

Greensboro, North Carolina  
 Olin, North Carolina  
 Prairie City, Illinois  
 Brodhead, Wisconsin  
 Avon, Illinois  
 St. Louis, Missouri  
 Asheville, North Carolina  
 Columbia, South Carolina  
 Parris, California  
 Marysville, Ohio  
 Plain City, Ohio  
 Marysville, Ohio  
 Springfield, Ohio  
 Richwood, Ohio  
 Lebanon, Tennessee  
 Kinston, Massachusetts  
 Scribner, Nebraska  
 Lincoln, Nebraska  
 Belleville, Wisconsin  
 Union Grove, North Carolina  
 Statesville, North Carolina  
 Madison, Wisconsin  
 Red Wing, Minnesota  
 Prairie Village, Kansas  
 Canal Winchester, Ohio  
 Canal Winchester, Ohio  
 Canal Winchester, Ohio  
 Canal Winchester, Ohio  
 Juneau, Wisconsin  
 Cumberland, Wisconsin  
 Denmark, Wisconsin  
 Leesburg, Florida  
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 Olin, North Carolina



## FFA Alumni Association

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# Newsletter

PLEASE FORWARD