

Proceedings



One Mission: Student Success

75th National FFA Convention

October 30 - November 2, 2002



FFA members from across the country converged in Louisville to celebrate 75 years of student success through FFA and agricultural education.



One Mission: Student Success
75th National FFA Convention

Proceedings



PHOTO BY WALES HUNTER

The FFA at 75 festivities could be seen throughout convention sessions, the career show and even meal functions.



The 75th National FFA Convention *Proceedings* is published by the National FFA Organization as a record of its annual convention held in Louisville, Ky., October 30-November 2, 2002.

Editor

Nicole Bishop, Indiana

Associate Editors

Lisa Nelson, Nebraska
Leslie Shuler, Wisconsin

Photo Editor

Nicole Bishop, Indiana

Art Director

Cindy Kelley, Indiana

Photo Processors

Kellie King, Oregon
Kelley Yates, Kentucky

Photographers

Sam Harrel, Alaska
Wales Hunter, Kentucky
Kelly Rogers, Minnesota
Ed Zurga, Kansas

Cover photo by Kelly Rogers

Contents

2002-2003 National Officers	80
Agri-Entrepreneurship Awards	10
Agriscience Fair	15
Agriscience Student Recognition Program	14
Agriscience Teacher of the Year	15
Alumni Convention	59
American FFA Degrees	28-37
Band	21
Business	63
Career Development Events	18-19
Career Show & Hall of States	62-63
Chorus	22
Committee Reports	68-79
Program of Activities	77
Convention Overview.....	1-5
Convention Speakers	40-41
Courtesy Corps	64
Creed Speaking CDE	12
Distinguished Service Citations	60
Extemporaneous Public Speaking CDE	13
Foundation Sponsors.....	60-61
Honorary American FFA Degrees	56-57
H.O. Sargent Awards	16-17
Membership Recognition.....	54
National Chapter Awards	52-53
National Officer Candidates	20
Official Delegates	66-67
Outreach Efforts	58
Power of One.....	17
Prepared Public Speaking CDE	11-12
Proficiency Awards	24-27
Retiring Addresses	
Dane White	38-39
Robin Niehaus	42-43
Amber Haugland	44-45
Elio Chiarelli Jr.	46-47
Barrett Keene	48-49
Abbie Kammerzell	50-51
Stars Over America	6-9
Talent	23
VIP Citations	55

One Mission: Student Success

Anticipation and excitement were dancing in the air in Louisville the week of October 30 – November 2. In pursuit of discovering student success, FFA members from all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands stormed the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center for the 75th National FFA Convention.

The diamond anniversary of an organization that continues to develop premier leadership, personal growth and career success in students' lives marks a pivotal point for those in attendance. It was a chance to celebrate 75 years of national blue and corn gold, 75 years of tradition and 75 years of agricultural education through an organization that transforms the youth of yesterday, today and tomorrow into respectable citizens.

No time was wasted in getting convention started, with the official delegates and 41 national officer candidates arriving early in the week to take on their respective roles. Delegates established their own piece of FFA history as a new delegate process was introduced that closely follows that of the U.S. Congress.

Convention's official kick-off, a reflections program by the national offi-



PHOTO BY KELLY ROGERS

FFA members “build upon” the knowledge and experiences of friends to achieve success and have fun along the way.



PHOTO BY KELLY ROGERS

Could a chapter really drive from Hawaii to Louisville? This chapter had fun decorating their rental van for convention.

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PHOTO BY WALES HUNTER

Roller coasters, music, food and friends awaited members who took advantage of the FFA at Six Flags event.



The national officers opened the FFA at 50 "A Golden Past. A Brighter Future." time capsule during Reflections.

cers, encouraged members to set a standard of excellence. The opening of the time capsule, which had been locked since the FFA at 50 celebration, revealed historical artifacts from each state and gave members a glimpse of FFA history. The excitement heightened with a surprise appearance by legendary sports figure Muhammad Ali. "It was so exciting – I got goose bumps," said Jenny Stegemoller, a Danville, Ind., FFA member.

The national officers urged members to take on service as a key principle in their lives. The many FFA members that participated in the PALS (Partners in Active Learning Support) conference during convention did just that. Pairing up with nearly 400 elementary students for a day of fun and learning, FFA members shared their knowledge of the agricultural industry with the kids. Eight-six FFA members serving as

One Mission: Student Success

agricultural ambassadors also traveled to nine Louisville elementary schools to teach students about agriculture and its role in their every day lives. Combining the spirit of FFA and a love for agriculture, these members met the challenge of living to serve.

No one knows how to have fun like FFA members. Throughout the week, members could be seen enjoying dances and concerts or the street dance and FFA at Six Flags night.

In addition to enjoying these festivities, FFA members were given their own time to shine. Some participated in the National FFA Talent Revue, while others performed during sessions and at the shopping mall.

In honor of the 75th anniversary, alumni members joined the National FFA Band and Chorus. The enjoyable pieces performed by these groups brought class and charm to convention before, during and after sessions.

With convention in full swing, members had the chance to attend motivational workshops, where they could learn anything from table manners to developing a personal mission statement.

The career show was a hot spot to be, with hundreds of colleges, corporations and organizations available to answer questions and share information.

75 years of tradition were eloquently displayed in the FFA museum at the career show. Photos, FFA jackets and other memorabilia lining the walls of the display brought a touch of the past to the present. "It was really interesting to see all this history, especially the things like the Chapter



Members got into the spirit of Halloween at a costume party.



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PHOTO BY SAM HARREL

Louisville offers many exciting attractions to tour during convention. These FFA members visited the famous Louisville Slugger Museum.



PHOTO BY SAM HARREL

National FFA President Dane White was speechless after having Rulon Gardner's Olympic gold medal placed around his neck.

Sweetheart jackets that we don't have," said Kaci Dallignon of the Hill City, Kan., FFA Chapter.

Another chance to see FFA history was in a commemorative FFA art display at the Kentucky Center for the Arts. The display was open for viewing during national convention. The thirty-three oil paintings commissioned for the FFA calendar series trace the growth of the organization from 1951-84.

Sessions were action-packed with motivational and entertaining speakers including Rick Pitino, Dr. Rick Rigsby, Mamie McCullough and Baxter Black. Olympic gold medalist Rulon Gardner, a former FFA member from the Star Valley FFA Chapter in Afton, Wyo., sent a wave of excitement through the arena as he placed

his gold medal around National FFA President Dane White's neck. National officer retiring addresses marked a chance for members to grasp some final, moving remarks from the six amazing individuals that led the organization through the past year.

Competition made its way into convention with members participating in 23 career development events and one activity that allowed them to execute all the hard work that had gone into their respective event. Also, winners in 49 proficiency areas were recognized for exceptional supervised agricultural experience programs (SAE).

National Chapter Awards honored one, two and three star chapters and the three Models of Innovation chapters were recog-



One Mission: Student Success

nized for excellence in student, chapter and community development.

The finest FFA members were recognized in the Stars Over America Pageant, and the 75th National FFA Convention made its own mark in history as Karlene Lindow of the Marshfield FFA Chapter, Chilli, Wis., was named the first female American Star Farmer.

In the midst of student success, FFA supporters were recognized for their part in 75 years of partnership with members. The support, encouragement and role models FFA members have in the honorary members, alumni and foundation affiliates is a blessing for which to be thankful. The largest supporters of student success are FFA advisors. These individuals have dedicated their lives to providing guidance to members. Baxter Black said it best: “If we ever amounted to anything, you had a hand in it. Yep, you. There by the owl.”

In the beginning, 33 farm boys gathered at the Baltimore Hotel in Kansas City, Mo. For the diamond anniversary, nearly half a million FFA members celebrated the same principles, values and pride that started in 1928. From the wide-eyed freshman to the 10-year pro, national convention was a week full of promise, excitement and life. After 75 years, one thing remains—the fact that the heart of the organization is still at the local level and lies within each member. The week of the 2002 National FFA Convention not only commemorated 75 years of student success, but also challenged members to embark on the mission of setting the standard for the next anniversary convention.



PHOTO BY WALES HUNTER

All work and no play? Never! These FFA members enjoyed an experiential training session sponsored by Cargill as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



PHOTO BY SAM HARREL

These students are a great reflection of one of the most important parts of FFA – its members.



Stars Over America



It's the 'Sweet 16' of the National FFA Organization. To many it's better known as the Stars Over America Pageant. The presentation features the top supervised agricultural experience programs (SAEs) in the nation in the areas of Star Farmer, Star in Agribusiness, Star in Agricultural Placement and Star in Agriscience.

Star Farmer

As the highest recognition in the nation for an aspiring young production agriculturalist, the Star Farmer award recognizes achievement in both career and leadership development.

Karlene Lidow of Chili, Wis., made FFA history as the first-ever female Star Farmer.



Karlene Lidow
Marshfield FFA
Chili, Wisconsin

Lidow strives to raise top quality breeding stock and show barrows through her SAE. She also knows that farming is hard work and full of risks. Three years ago, she decided to take a risk of her own and raise Spotted Poland China swine. This minor breed was having a hard time in the industry, but she wanted to make a difference. Her hard work paid off, and now Lidow is breeding and selecting the type of herd she wants to raise.



Jason Masters
Shenandoah FFA
Shirley, Indiana

Masters' earliest agribusiness ventures began at age 9 when he acquired his own checkbook and six acres of ground. Beginning his SAE in 1995, Masters was able to learn management skills, increase his acreage and develop equipment inventory. He now has more than 618 acres in production and has become familiar with every piece of equipment on the farm.



Anthony Heigert
Wabaunsee FFA
Paxico, Kansas

Heigert currently farms 1,825 acres, which is an increase from the 400 acres he started with in 1996. He plants corn, soybeans, wheat, milo and sudan grass. Over the last two years, he convinced his landlords that no-till was the way to farm. The grain he produces is now stored in bins to feed his cows and calves. Heigert has developed his own successful cow/calf operation and purchased his own land to produce feed.



Rachel Bobbitt
Deer Creek-Lamont FFA
Lamont, Oklahoma

Bobbitt is farming 150 acres of cropland, rotating wheat and milo along with seven acres of hay. She also raised 34 registered Red Angus cows and bulls and 13 head of sheep. With her profits, she expanded her SAEs and used the money earned to pay for college. Through the skills that agricultural education and FFA has given her, Bobbitt is confident she can be successful and meet the challenges of the agricultural field.

Stars Over America

Star in Agribusiness

Members receiving their American FFA Degree may be eligible to compete for the American Star in Agribusiness award. The award winner should possess a successful agribusiness career and outstanding leadership skills.

Douglas Jung of Randolph, Wis., was recognized as this year's American Star in Agribusiness.



Douglas Jung
Randolph-Cambria-Friesland FFA
Randolph, Wisconsin

Jung started his supervised SAE by renting land from his father and purchasing two feeder calves. Since then his business has grown and diversified to include 1,002 acres of corn, 108 acres of soybeans and 14 acres of snap beans. His beef herd has grown to 18 cows and one bull. In addition, Jung owns and operates CJF Trucking that hauls local produce to markets. The trucking business runs five loads of flour six days a week based on a contract with Didion Milling.



Clay Johnson
Emanuel County Institute FFA
Twin City, Georgia

Johnson's grandfather, a certified welder, taught him the basics at an early age. Johnson began manufacturing utility trailers in 1995. A year later he took over 25 percent of the business. He now is the full owner of Clay's Trailers and Welding. Johnson said he realized early in his FFA career that if he planned carefully, his interest in welding could become a business.



Craig Dobbins
Wilton FFA
Wilton, Iowa

With a genuine interest in antique farm equipment, Dobbins decided to start his own business, Craig's Restoration and Repair Service. The business offers services such as welding, machine work, pattern work, iron castings, as well as complete restoration and repairs on all types of older farm machinery, including tractors, steam engines, water wagons, threshing machines and horse-drawn implements.



Fran Meister
West Liberty-Salem FFA
West Liberty, Ohio

Meister's interest was in lawn care and expanded from mowing to fertilizing, aerating and landscaping. Meister's business now has 96 customers and offers a full lawn care and landscaping service. He has gained a reputation as customers are now calling him, and he has the freedom to choose the jobs. Meister is now in his second year studying turf grass management at Clark State Community College.



Stars Over America



Star in Agricultural Placement

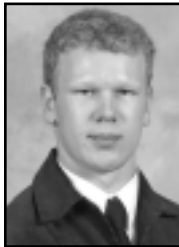
The Star in Agricultural Placement award recognizes a student who has an outstanding SAE in placement in the agricultural industry and is active in FFA.

This year's Star in Agricultural Placement winner is Kyle Cott of Clay Center, Kan.



Kyle Cott
Clay Center FFA
Clay Center, Kansas

Cott began working his family's diversified crop and livestock farm, gaining knowledge and resources to start and manage his own personal farming operation. His objective was to own his own farm by the end of his high school career. By his sophomore year, he was able to make that a reality, purchasing 160 acres. By his freshman year in college, he had rented another 80 acres.



Tyrele Schaff
Stillwater Valley FFA
Fishtail, Montana

As a high school sophomore, Schaff helped manage a neighboring 200-acre farm during the summer months. The first summer was spent irrigating crops, but responsibilities grew from there. Now the landowner depends on Schaff to take care of the crops and his financial decisions. Schaff said this has been a great opportunity and one that will help him pursue his career goals.



Scott Peterson
McCook Central FFA
Montrose, South Dakota

Peterson's SAE consisted of swine and crop production. Along with taking care of the swine, Peterson began working at a mixed animal vet clinic. His love for medicine has resulted in his desire to go into the medical field. The skills Peterson gained through his SAE will help him in his future pursuits in practicing veterinary medicine in eastern South Dakota.



Kurt Groholski
Amherst FFA
Amherst, Wisconsin

Groholski's interest can be seen in his current dedication at a local dairy farm he has been working at since his freshman year in high school. His SAE consisted of looking for ways to improve the farm and keeping up with new technology. Groholski's family does not have a farm. He said he has learned a lot from hands-on experience and from his agriculture classes.

Stars Over America

Star in Agriscience

An outstanding agriscience-based SAE, relating to natural resources, research/experimentation or science-based directed labs, is essential for the Star in Agriscience award winner. The recipient should also have an active FFA career.

This year's Star in Agriscience award went to Adam Franklin Newby of Smithville, Tenn.

Adam Newby was thrilled to be named the 2002 Star in Agriscience.



PHOTO BY ED ZURGA



Adam Franklin Newby
Warren County FFA
Smithville, Tennessee

Since 1993, Newby has grown nursery stock. Through his high school years his nursery continued to flourish. Wanting a challenge, Newby has been able to research plant diseases that effect nursery stock. His SAE also enabled him to gain knowledge on how the nursery industry works, how plants are produced and marketed and how research is conducted. As an entrepreneur in the nursery business, Newby said he has learned the importance of growing quality nursery stock and the necessity of possessing good business skills.



Joe Alves, Jr.
Los Banos FFA
Los Banos, California

The grasslands in the Central San Joaquin Valley, are home to more than 500,000 wintering waterfowl. As a result Alves has been able to increase his knowledge of the waterfowl. As part of his SAE, Alves has been able to increase the amount of data acquired on the fowl raised in the area, band more than 1,300 birds in 2000 and learn habitat management and restoration. His SAE has given him a lot of experience in the area of environmental science.



Gregory Delaney
Perham FFA
Perham, Minnesota

As a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources employee, Delaney has improved his knowledge of pheasants and deer habitat while learning about the wildlife that Minnesota residents are able to seek and hunt in the state. Delaney's objective for his SAE was to improve the habitat for pheasants, grouse and deer in Minnesota in an effort to increase their numbers. He also has been able to promote wildlife education and habitat preservation.



Valeree Holzwarth
Gettysburg FFA
Gettysburg, South Dakota

Holzwarth knows the importance of identifying pests for local farmers and has been able to learn correct bug trap management. Holzwarth's objective for her SAE was to have proper identification, project expansion and increased knowledge. As an agronomy major at South Dakota State University, she can distinctly identify European Corn Borer moths and other insects. Holzwarth's SAE has given her a head start on her future career plans.

Agri-entrepreneurship Awards



Sponsored by and in partnership with the Kauffman Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



PHOTO BY WALES HUNTER

Seth Braker was one of 10 FFA members recognized for their entrepreneurial spirit.

Ten FFA members were recognized with the 2002 Agri-Entrepreneurship Award in honor of their successful business ventures. This program recognizes members who have started or are planning to start businesses. Demonstrating strong organization, self-motivation and personal drive, these individuals are the models of innovation for today's agri-business world and are a true picture of student success. Entrepreneurial skills are a vital part of today's business world and the future of the agricultural industry. These 10 members represent a wide array of interests, ranging from a Christmas tree farm to pickled asparagus sales to landscape design, showing anyone can be a successful entrepreneur if they have the dedication and determination to reach their dreams. Each individual received \$1,000 and was recognized on stage at the Friday afternoon session. Each individual's chapter also received \$500 to promote entrepreneurship.

Wesley Belcher of Madison, Ga., owns and operates Belcher's Christmas Tree Farm. Belcher has expanded his business, which started with about 800 Virginia pines, to include the sale of Leyland cypress, eastern red cedar and Carolina sapphire trees. He also sells fresh wreaths. Belcher's customers are the top priority of his business. He shows this by cutting the selected tree, removing dead needles, baling the tree if desired and informing the customer of proper tree care.

Seth Braker of Randolph, Wis., owns and operates Braker Acres Custom Forage Services. Braker raises and markets his own hay as well as offering custom forage services such as crop scouting and forage testing. He also cuts, bales, stacks and hauls hay. He started the business to generate more cash flow and to pay off the debt on his equipment. Braker plans to use the profits from his business as a down payment for land when he graduates from college.

Karl Crave of Waterloo, Wis., owns and operates Crave Painting & Repair, LLC. The business offers painting, pressure washing and repair services for barns, metal buildings and other structures in south-central Wisconsin. With a loan from Farm Credit Services, Crave was able to acquire the financing needed to start his business. Not only does the business serve as a source of income, but Crave has gained valuable skills such as proficiency in bidding jobs, managing employees, handling accounts receivable and sorting through tax issues.

Neal Ely of Grafton, Neb., owns and operates Ely Farms, LLC along with his parents. Starting with a one-quarter acre planted with asparagus roots in 1999, Ely now sells his fresh product to local patrons. Working with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Food Processing Center, along with the input of his mom's expertise, Ely developed a pickled asparagus product he also sells. He constructed a commercial kitchen in which this product is processed.

Trevor Gottschalk of Kimball, Minn., owns and operates T 'n T Restorations in partnership with his brother, Travis. Together, the brothers restore antique tractors. Both have exceptional tractor mechanical and restoration skills that have allowed them to be successful in their partnership. Gottschalk restored his first tractor at the age of 12 and, realizing he had a knack for the trade, eventually made an initial investment of \$1,000 into the business. In addition to the original jobs of short-term 'fixer up' tractors, the brothers now take on more long-term projects.

Kelly Lynn Howard of Halzelhurst, Ga., owns and operates Kelly's Korner Flower Arrangements. This small business offers unique floral arrangements, wreaths and other decorative items. When planning her business, Howard started with the purchase of three large flower coolers and help from her family on a business plan

and a budget. Howard started the business with the goal of providing the community with inexpensive, quality floral arrangements. It has ended up being profitable enough to help pay for her college tuition.

Ben Polzin of Cadott, Wis., owns and operates Monkey Business Outdoor Services, a landscape design, installation and maintenance operation. The company maintains a greenhouse and its own stock of landscaping materials. In the winter, the company offers holiday decoration and removal services along with snow removal. About 60 percent of Polzin's business is residential, with the other 40 percent being commercial. Attending the International Lawn, Garden and Power Equipment Expo helped Polzin stay current with industry information.

Heather Savelle of Watkinsonville, Ga., owns and operates Heather's Heifers. She raises replacement dairy heifers for area farmers under a contract arrangement on a fee-per-head basis. Savelle also purchases weaned Holstein heifers to raise and feed. Her interest in the dairy industry began on an outing with her dad in the fourth grade. Savelle went on to be a successful businesswoman as she worked on a \$5,000 youth loan from the USDA Farm Service Agency to fund the initial costs of her company.

Matthew Schmitmeyer of Versailles, Ohio, owns and operates Schmitmeyer Hoof Trimming, a dairy hoofcare business. Attending the Dairyland Hoofcare Institute in Wisconsin gave Schmitmeyer the background and essential information to launch his business venture. He owns a portable chute that he takes to the dairy farms at which he works. In addition to complete hoofcare maintenance, he also offers advice, protective hoof pads and wraps when necessary. Schmitmeyer has found a need for this type of service in his area. This demand has allowed his business to flourish.

Travis Vine of Granton, Wis., owns and operates TCR Power Products, a small engine sales shop and repair service. Vine's interest in this business was sparked by his uncle's work as a mechanic. Starting his business as a high school freshman working out of his family's garage, Vine now sells Brigg & Stratton, Kohler, Tecumseh, Honda, Kawasaki and Parts Unlimited. He also provides repair work on ATVs, lawn mowers, chainsaws, snowmobiles, small engines and small farm equipment.

Prepared Public Speaking

Sponsored by FMC Corporation, Agricultural Products Group as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Composure and poise may be what you see at the prepared public speaking contest, but that is far from all that is involved in this CDE. When members start preparing their six to eight minute speeches, they spend numerous hours researching agriculture topics and tweaking speech copies, all the while making sure to meet exact standards set by the National FFA Organization. From there, enhancement of voice fluctuation, hand gestures and overall presentation style is a top priority.

Contestants are judged on the content and composition of the written manuscript, as well as delivery of the speech and response to questions asked by the panel of judges. This CDE is a stepping-stone in any FFA member's life, as it establishes a strong understanding of agricultural issues, experience in oral communication and a sense of citizenship and leadership. The national finalists have gone through tough competition at local, district and regional competitions. Through this experience, each has developed into a captivating presenter.



Rachael Klamer was named the national prepared public speaking winner on stage during the seventh general session.

Rachael Klamer Munford FFA Chapter Tennessee

Agroterrorism... How Real is the Threat?

Rachael Klamer won the 2002 National FFA Prepared Public Speaking CDE. Klamer competed against four finalists for the title. Her speech, "Agroterrorism... How Real is the Threat?" describes the problems America might face if an agroterrorist attack occurred on U.S. soil. It also suggests solutions to the problems and prevention tips. Below is an excerpt of her speech.

"With the events of September 11, these possibilities have suddenly been thrust into the minds of many Americans. So what now? How are we going to prevent another attack? President Bush has realized the threat and appointed the Secretary of Agriculture to the Homeland Security council Principles Committee. Within the Department of Agriculture,

the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, also known as APHIS, has the primary responsibility for preventing the introduction of foreign animal disease through important regulations. The Plant Protection and Quarantine service within APHIS is responsible for inspecting ships and planes and their cargo, passengers and luggage arriving from foreign countries. Veterinary services administer laws and regulations pertaining to the importation of animals, poultry, pet birds, semen, embryos, hatching eggs and other animal products (USHAA, 1998). But what can the farmer do?"

"Farmers also have a responsibility for their own security. By knowing everyone who comes onto their property, making sure that all perimeters are secure



and keeping all chemicals and storage containers non-accessible, each farmer is taking the first step to ensuring that they do not become victims of agroterrorism. With more periodic evaluations of livestock herds and crops, farmers have a greater chance of detecting problems before they become outbreaks. Agriculturists must be aware and accountable for their own well being and not be caught looking the other way. With cooperation of government agencies, farmers and producers, and consumers knowledgeable about the world around them, American agriculture will survive this threat

and persevere all it has done for hundreds of years. "I believe in the future of agriculture" (Tiffany, 1930) and no terrorist can take that away! I agree with President Bush when he says, we will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail (Bus, 2001)!"

A full copy of Klamer's speech will be available through the Agricultural Education Resources Catalog after February 1, 2003.

Creed Speaking



PHOTO BY S.M. HARBEL

Allie Brooks won the National FFA Creed Speaking CDE for her presentation and knowledge of the FFA Creed.

Sponsored by Papa John's International, Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The creed speaking career development event was developed to introduce new members to and engage them in FFA. Students, in grades seven through nine, recite the FFA creed from memory. Following their presentation, members answer questions about the meaning of the creed and its relationship to FFA. The event offers young members the opportunity to gain experience in public speaking, while boosting confidence and earning recognition.

This year's National FFA Creed Speaking CDE winner is Allie Brooks of Dora, N.M. She competed against 47 fellow members to the top prize in the event.

"I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words, but of deeds ..."

Extemporaneous Public Speaking

Sponsored by American Farm Bureau Federation as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Through FFA, students have the opportunity to strengthen their communication skills and present themselves in a professional manner. FFA provides a variety of career development events (CDEs) that offer members this experience.

In the extemporaneous public speaking CDE, members select a speech topic from three randomly picked topics. These topics are selected from 12 possible issues in the areas of agriscience and technology; agrimarketing and international agricultural relations; food and fiber systems; and urban agriculture. Members are then given 30 minutes to prepare their speech.

Through this speaking event, students are challenged to demonstrate their knowledge on a given topic with little preparation or practice. Members show their ability to persuasively, efficiently and effectively present their message.



PHOTO BY SAM HARREL

Stacia Berry's knowledge of the agricultural industry and her presentation skills earned her the title of national extemporaneous public speaking winner

Stacia Berry Frontier FFA Chapter Wyoming

Stacia Berry won the 2002 National FFA Extemporaneous Speaking CDE. Berry was one of four finalists who competed for the honor. Her speech stressed the role of public agricultural research in increasing production efficiency.

"The agricultural spectrum, much like a kaleidoscope in the sense that no matter who looks into this kaleidoscope each person has their own idea, opinion and view point.... We realize that America is an industry. We have been built upon business; the buying, selling and trading of goods have been important from the very beginning," she said. "That's why there are (three) key components to understanding the role of pub-

lic agricultural research in today's business world."

"It's simply this: the more you know, the more you can become.... We realize that we don't live in small communities anymore, rather we're part of a global community—one that has to be used efficiently," she said. "The American business people must capitalize on what they see in the American agricultural industry, understanding what the producer does to get the most efficient product possible, what the American consumer needs and the marketing techniques necessary to make them the buy-and-try happy nation we are today. Once this balance has been met, it's surely an equation for success."



Agriscience Student Recognition Program



PHOTO BY SAMI HARREL

A smile lit up Lindsey Fimple's face when she was named the 2002 Agriscience Student of the Year.

Sponsored by Monsanto as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Lindsey Fimple of the Vinita FFA Chapter in Oklahoma was named the 2002 Agriscience Student of the Year. This award honors students who have exceptional research projects involving agriscience skills and the use and application of concepts learned in their high school agriculture class.

Fimple was recognized for her study involving the prevention of algae blooms from poultry litter runoff. She started her research with the goal of finding an environmentally friendly way

to solve the problem of runoff damage. This research is important because poultry litter runoff could potentially affect drinking water. Because of her success at the Oklahoma Junior Academy of Science (OJAS), Fimple's paper was selected to be presented at the national meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Boston. Fimple's application of classroom knowledge to a real-world problem earned her the title of Agriscience Student of the Year.

National Winner

Lindsey Fimple

Vinita FFA Chapter
Oklahoma
Advisor: Jared Bottoms

Runner-up

Erin Joy Lewis

Delavan FFA Chapter
Illinois
Advisor: Richard Lessen

National Finalists

Bethany Frew

Carrollton FFA Chapter
Ohio
Advisor: Dan Kirk

Sara Morrissey

Norris FFA Chapter
Nebraska
Advisors: Doug Malone &
Kristyn Harms

Christopher J. Nelson

West Central FFA Chapter
Iowa
Advisors: Daniel Wilson &
Teresa Vandellune

Kyle Taylor

Abilene FFA Chapter
Kansas
Advisor: Mike Womochil

Johanna Wielfaert

Lenawee Vo. Tech. Center FFA
Chapter
Michigan
Advisors: Kenneth A. Bollinger
& Don Fowler

Alison Wohlgemuth

Kingsburg FFA Chapter
California
Advisors: Jill Heuvel &
Michael Mederos

Agriscience Teacher of the Year

Sponsored by Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Harvey Burniston Jr. of Butler, Tenn. was named the 2002 Agriscience Teacher of the Year. This award honors an agriculture instructor who brings excellence in curriculum and presentation skills to an agriscience classroom and FFA activities. At Johnson County Vocational School, Burniston uses hands-on activities to encourage his students to apply scientific knowledge. One way he works on retention of information is by making his students guide tours visitors take of the school's facilities. Burniston works hard at integrating concepts the students learn in biology, chemistry and math into his agriculture program. Also, laboratory exercises are a daily part of the students' classroom routine. Several field trips to EPCOT Center at Walt Disney World gave Burniston's students enough information to rouse interest in adding hydroponics to the school's greenhouse. Making this a part of his curriculum, Burniston was able to illustrate scientific concepts like pH levels, electrical conductivity, chemical elements and the periodic table to his students all in one learning environment. Burniston's dedication and commitment to his students are what earned him the title of agriscience teacher of the year.

National Winner

Harvey Burniston Jr.
Johnson Co. High School
Mountain Cty, Tennessee

National Finalists

MeeCee Baker
Greenwood High School
Millerstown, Pennsylvania

Jenifer J. Erb
Waupaca High School
Waupaca, Wisconsin

Jason Larison
Holton High School
Holton, Kansas



The commitment, dedication and excellence Harvey Burniston Jr. displayed while teaching in an agriscience classroom earned him recognition as the 2002 Agriscience Teacher of the Year.

Agriscience Fair

Sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund.

Scholarships sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

FFA members showing keen interest and dedication to the application and study of agricultural science were recognized at the agriscience fair. This program allows students to use the scientific process on their own experiment and to apply scientific principles and skills learned in the classroom and laboratory. It also provides a way for students to showcase their experiments and achieve recognition for their work. Students in 7th-12th grades can participate at the local, state and national levels. Competition is divided into five areas: botany, engineering, environmental sciences, zoology and biochemistry/food science/microbiology. At the national level, students in each of the five areas were recognized on stage with a ribbon rosette and plaque honoring their achievement as an emerging agri-scientist. Students also received scholarship awards.

Category: Biochemistry/Microbiology/Food Science

Division 1: Josephine Lam; JF Kennedy Middle School, FL
Division 2: Nikki Schneider; West Central HS-FFA, IA
Division 3: Elizabeth Argo and Laura Meyer; Agricultural & Food Sciences Academy, MN
Division 4: Tanner Koenig and Josh Russell; Canby Union HS FFA, OR

Category: Botany

Division 1: Paul Ruddie; Lowndes HS-FFA, GA
Division 2: Brandon Fimple; Vinita HS-FFA, OK
Division 3: Bill Horton and Blaine Ellis; Canby Union HS FFA, OR
Division 4: Charlie Tucker and James McHugh; Eagles Landing HS FFA, GA

Category: Engineering

Division 1: Jessica Caswell; Cotton Center HS-FFA, TX
Division 2: Steven Flory; Pettisville HS-FFA, OH
Division 3: Hannah von der Hoff and Amy Fluegeman; Agricultural & Food Sciences Academy, MN
Division 4: Mark Davis and Steven Tennis; Judson HS-FFA, TX

Category: Environmental Science

Division 1: Drew Sanning; Eldon HS FFA, MO
Division 2: Lindsey Fimple; Vinita HS-FFA, OK
Division 3: Sam Strecker and Brent Hermanski; Garber HS-FFA, OK
Division 4: Erin Lewis and Bryan Tomm; Delavan HS-FFA, IL

Category: Zoology

Division 1: Heather Daniel; Glidden-Ralston HS FFA, IA
Division 2: Chris Nelson; West Central HS-FFA, IA
Division 3: Wade Hardin and Lonnie Sessions; Childress HS-FFA, TX
Division 4: Rachel Gattuso and Leslie Hunnewell; Smith Valley HS-FFA, NV



H.O. Sargent Awards



Sponsored by Monsanto as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization established the H.O. Sargent Award in honor of the New Farmers of America (NFA) in 1995. The award was also created to recognize and remember the organization's place in history with the FFA. As the former organization for African-American agricultural students, the NFA began in 1928 in Virginia under the guidance of Dr. H.O. Sargent. In 1965 the NFA merged with the



Holly Deal's service to others and commitment to diversity were recognized when she was named 2002 H.O. Sargent Award winner.

FFA, adding 50,000 members to the agricultural education organization.

The H.O. Sargent Award is given to FFA members and non-members who are active in supporting and recognizing cultural diversity in agricultural education and within their communities.

This year's member award went to Holly Deal of the South Rowan FFA Chapter in China Grove, N.C. Deal has devoted considerable time to the service of others. Her work in promoting diversity began when she volunteered and later coordinated the English for Students of Other Languages (ESOL) program. Through TEACH program, Deal works with special-needs students, providing tutoring and presenting agricultural instruction to TEACH classes.

Drefus Williams of South Carolina and Carla Bluhm of Indiana were recognized as recipients of the non-member H.O. Sargent Awards.

Williams has been involved with agricultural education for more than 50 years. In 1953, he began his career as an agriculture teacher and NFA advisor. After the NFA merged with the National FFA Organization, Williams and his students made adjustments to the chapter operations, ceremonies, and national and state activities. No matter what their race, creed or ethnic background, Williams treated all his students equally.

When Adams Central Community Schools in Monroe, Ind., lost its FFA advisor in 2001, Bluhm took the initiative and stepped up to serve as interim advisor. Her home became the temporary FFA meeting location. Under her guidance, 15 FFA members competed in state leadership competitions.



Drefus Williams was one of two adults recognized with the H.O. Sargent award for their active support and recognition of cultural diversity within their communities and agricultural education.

H.O. Sargent Member Winner

Holly Deal

South Rowan FFA Chapter
North Carolina

National Finalists

Rudy Espinoza

Miami Senior FFA Chapter
Florida

Cathie Reidenbach

Adams Central FFA Chapter
Indiana

Yarimar Lebron Lopez

S.U. Manuel Mendia Moret FFA
Chapter
Puerto Rico

Non-Member National Recipients

Carla Bluhm

Indiana

Drefus Williams

South Carolina

Power of One



PHOTO BY WALES HUNTER

Boxing legend and humanitarian Muhammad Ali made a surprise appearance at Reflections. He was moved by the response of convention guests.

One of the most recognizable people on earth, Muhammad Ali is a pillar of hope and strength. Although great, his accomplishments in the ring are certainly not his only credentials. At times a controversial figure, Ali has expanded his horizons and dedicated his life to bringing inspiration to people around the world. FFA members were touched by Ali's surprise appearance at the 75th National FFA Convention.

Racism, violence, respect, peace and hope. These poignant words were demonstrated in a moving video presented during reflections by the Muhammad Ali Center for Advancement of Humanity as a part of Ali's special appearance. This presentation at national convention was the video's debut, and it served its purpose as members and guests reflected on the message behind such a compelling video. As the national officers reflected on the power of one, Ali's presence in the arena allowed attendees to feel the power of a man whose heart has a passion for peace and a love for mankind.

Six individuals had the honor of meeting this acclaimed hero. Ali attended the H.O. Sargent finalists' reception, sharing his encouragement with members and non-members who are truly devoted to



PHOTO BY ED ZURGA

During the H.O. Sargent reception, finalists made brief presentations to Muhammad Ali about their efforts to promote diversity within their communities and agricultural education. Here, Cathie Reidenbach enjoys a moment with the most recognizable person on earth.

making a difference in the lives of others. On behalf of Ali, Mike Fox of the Ali Center said, "As Ali would put it, the service we do here on earth is simply rent for a room in heaven." Ali's presence was a truly memorable experience for those at the reception and was a prime example of the man's sincere dedication to youth. "It was so surreal," said Cathie Reidenbach, a member of the Adams Central FFA Chapter in Monroe, Ind., and a finalist for the H.O. Sargent member award. "When he told us 'You are the greatest,' I knew it was something that would really stick with me for a long time."

Soon, Ali's legacy will be accessible for thousands to see as construction is planned for the official Muhammad Ali Center. In light of his fan's requests for a museum commemorating his athletic achievements, Ali resolved to build a center that was more than just a display of his life as a boxer. Instead, the center will draw on Ali's core principles of peace, social responsibility, respect and

personal growth. It is Ali's hope that visitors of the center will leave with a renewed vision for the future and a sense of personal drive that will inspire them to be the best they can be. Headquartered in Louisville, where Ali grew up, the center is expected to open its doors in the fall of 2004.

Ali made a deep connection with FFA. His display of heartfelt dedication to making a difference lends perfectly into the FFA mission and personal growth. Service above one's self is an admirable and achievable task, as one can see through the legend of Ali.



Muhammad Ali blew kisses and waved to the crowd to a resounding standing ovation. Flashes lit up Freedom Hall as FFA members tried to capture a moment they would never forget.



Career Development Events



Agricultural Communications

Sponsored by Successful Farming

Winning Team: Hudson, Iowa—Jon Theisen, Jenny Lichty, Peter Schneider and Christina Dietz

High Individual: Jill Sharp of Mooreland, Oklahoma

Agricultural Issues Forum

Sponsored by Elanco Animal Health, A Division of Eli Lilly & Co.

Winning Team: Walla Walla, Washington—Danielle Gray, Melissa Bughi, Kristin Collins, Bonnie Williams, Kelsay Pease, Mitch Frazier and Kyle Williams

Agricultural Mechanics

Sponsored by Firestone Agricultural Tire Company/ Bridgestone Firestone Trust Fund

Winning Team: Fairbury, Illinois—Douglas Kahle, Jonathan Roth, Jeremy Leman and Kyle Knapp

High Individual: Jonathan Roth of Fairbury, Illinois

Agricultural Sales

Sponsored by Monsanto Company

Winning Team: Yoder, Wyoming—Jessica Marlatt, Melissa House, Ashley Wolski and Amanda Coxbill

High Individual: Heather Brake of Eldon, Missouri



PHOTO BY KELLY ROGERS

The parliamentary procedure CDE equips members with the skills needed to efficiently run a meeting. The finals stage was sponsored by Farm Credit Services of Mid America as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Agronomy

Sponsored by Bayer CropScience

Winning Team: Stockton, Missouri—Ben Pulsipher, Alvin Meeks, David Vinyard and Carrie Phillips

High Individual: David Vinyard of Stockton, Missouri

Creed Speaking

Sponsored by Papa John's International, Inc.

National Winner: Allie Brooks of Dora, New Mexico

Dairy Cattle Evaluation

*Sponsored by Associated Milk Producers Inc. & Westfalia*Surge Inc.*

Winning Team: Fort Defiance, Virginia—Ashley Shiflett, Aaron Shiflett, Adam Hostetler and Adam Shank

High Individual: Brian Edger of Warner Robins, Georgia

Dairy Foods

Sponsored by National FFA Foundation

Winning Team: La Vernia, Texas—Jennifer Joiner, Krista Pruski, Kelli Swygard and Michelle Turner

High Individual: Michelle Turner of La Vernia, Texas

Environmental/Natural Resources

Sponsored by Ford Division, Michelin Ag Tires and Mississippi Chemical Corporation

Winning Team: Yanceyville, North Carolina—Anna Cobb, Landon Chandler, George Blackard and Rebecca Boswell

High Individual: Scott Register of Eatonton, Georgia

Extemporaneous Public Speaking

Sponsored by American Farm Bureau Federation

National Winner: Stacia Berry of Cheyenne, Wyoming

Farm Business Management

Sponsored by John Deere

Winning Team: Jackson, Minnesota—Jason Resch, Adam Stegemann and Nathan Holt

High Individual: Nathan Holt of Jackson, Minnesota

Floriculture

Sponsored by American Floral Endowment, Ball Horticultural Company, Uniroyal Chemical Company, National FFA Foundation

Winning Team: Perry, Georgia—Ashley Seamon, Ashley Whiddon and Kate Wilson

High Individual: Kate Wilson of Perry, Georgia

Food Science And Technology

Sponsored by ConAgra Foods, Inc., Dairy Farmers of America, The Coca-Cola Company and Ventura Foods, LLC

Winning Team: Converse, Texas—Amanda Greathouse, Josh Neumeyer, Nicole Page and Gabrielle Torres

High Individual: Mandy Hoge of Firth, Nebraska

Forestry

Sponsored by BASF and Husqvarna Forest and Garden Company

Winning Team: Columbia, Missouri—Chris Hughes, Jennifer Smith, Stephen Howard and Ed Erdel

High Individual: Jeffrey Parker of Hermitage, Arkansas

Horse Evaluation

Sponsored by DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund and Dodge Trucks, Evergreen Mills, Inc., KENT Feeds, Inc., and Roper Apparel and Footwear

Winning Team: Arroyo Grande, California—Mary Wilson, Katy Teixeira, Jenae Avila and Rebecca Osumi

National Winner: Katy Teixeira of Arroyo Grande, California

Job Interview

Sponsored by Tractor Supply Company

National Winner: Kristy Crow of Newman, California

Livestock Evaluation

Sponsored by Akey, Inc. and Merial, Ltd.

Winning Team: Central Point, Oregon—Nichole Dorr, Zach Rambo, Jami Bittle and Nick Warntjes

High Individual: Brigham Stewart of Washington, Kansas

Marketing Plan

Sponsored by National FFA Foundation

Winning Team: San Antonio, Texas—Sarah Solomon, Matt Hughes and Christie Martin

Meats Evaluation And Technology

Sponsored by Excel Corporation, Hormel Foods Corporation, Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation, Premium Standard Farms, Tyson Foods, Inc.

Winning Team: San Antonio, Texas—Ashley Shaw, Cody Shaw, Charles Mock and Matthew Luensmann

High Individual: Chad Souza of Hanford, California



PHOTO BY SAM HARBEL

Classroom teaching comes alive as students demonstrate their skills in a broad range of agricultural industries, including floriculture.

Nursery And Landscape

Sponsored by American Nursery & Landscape Association, Arvesta Corporation, Bayer Environmental Science, Kubota Tractor Corporation

Winning Team: Bear Creek, North Carolina—Stephen Cockman, Mitchell Dowdy, Beth Hart and Justin Shaw

High Individual: Mitchell Dowdy of Bear Creek, North Carolina

Parliamentary Procedure

Sponsored by Syngenta Crop Protection

Winning Team: Grass Valley, California—Jennifer Arnall, Robert Harris, Kevin Bell, David Tritel, Carl Payne and Dustin Spence

Poultry Evaluation

Sponsored by Adisseo and Tyson Foods, Inc.

Winning Team: Lake Butler, Florida—Stefanie Lynch, Brittney Parrish, Kerri Gnann and Megan Giebeig

High Individual: Brandon Kopp of Percy, Arkansas

Prepared Public Speaking

Sponsored by FMC Corporation, Agricultural Products Group

National Winner: Rachael Lynn Klammer of Munford, Tennessee

National Officer Candidates



National Officer Candidates reception sponsored by Agri Business Group, Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



PHOTO BY WALES HUNTER

The talents of 41 national officer candidates shone through during intense interviews, small group situations and a written exam. Only six would be elected to the 2002-2003 team, but each displayed the making of a true leader.

Forty-one national officer candidates arrived in Louisville on Sunday and anxiously began the selection process. These individuals completed a written exam, writing ability evaluation and six interviews. A group of nine official FFA delegates, known as the nominating committee, evaluated the candidates.

The excitement grew during Saturday's tenth general session as the 41 candidates were narrowed down to the final six national FFA officers. Two individuals were selected to serve as president and secretary, while four members were selected to represent each region as vice presidents.

During their yearlong term, each national officer will take a leave of absence from university studies to represent FFA and agricultural education. The officers will spend more than 300 days traveling over 100,000 miles around the nation and abroad, meeting with business and industry professionals, speaking at state conventions and conducting leadership conferences. The team will also serve on the National FFA Board of Directors.

- Alabama:** Thomas Hall, Isabella
- Arizona:** Melinda Peterson, Willcox
- Arkansas:** Renee Durham, Prairie Grove
- California:** Tim Hammerich, Santa Rosa-Elsie Allen
- Colorado:** Megan Baker, SoRoCo
- Connecticut:** Heidi Stearns, Storrs Regional
- Florida:** Amanda Thomas, Lake Butler Senior
- Georgia:** Joel McKie, Wilcox County
- Hawaii:** Melvin Jadulang, Kealakehe
- Idaho:** Clint Stevenson, Meridian
- Illinois:** Sarah Swenson, Newark
- Indiana:** Tanya Hadley, Woodlan
- Kansas:** J.J. Jones, Atwood
- Kentucky:** Brandon Davis, Green County
- Maine:** Michael Ireland II, Easton
- Maryland:** Laura Kramer, Harford Tech
- Michigan:** Kendra Butters, Homer
- Minnesota:** Mark Jewell, Long Prairie
- Mississippi:** Patrick Black, Weir
- Missouri:** Crystal Mathews, Carthage
- Montana:** Dane Dugan, Stevensville
- Nebraska:** Andrew Osten, Lakeview
- Nevada:** Andrea Paris, Ruby Mountain
- New Mexico:** Codi Montes, Capitan
- New Jersey:** Greg Babbitt, Newton
- New York:** David Bader, Greenville
- North Dakota:** Jason Suydam, Garrison
- Ohio:** Julie Tyson, Hillsdale
- Oklahoma:** James Roller, Clinton
- Oregon:** Darcy Vial, Newberg
- Pennsylvania:** Sherisa Brammer, Cumberland Valley
- Puerto Rico:** Javier Moreno, S.U. Antonia Serrano
- South Carolina:** Franklin Davis, Britton's Neck
- South Dakota:** Brian Cooper, Garretson
- Tennessee:** Kimberly Newsom, Dyersburg
- Texas:** Dustin Clark, Waxahachie
- Utah:** Terry Diston, North Summit
- Virginia:** Todd Sadler, Caroline
- Washington:** Justin Leighton, Franklin Pierce
- Wisconsin:** Rebekah Marshall, Kickapoo
- Wyoming:** Seth Heinert, Devils Tower

National FFA Band

Sponsored by the National FFA Foundation.

Arizona: Grant Smith, Chino Valley

California: Jaci Luxon, Livingston

Colorado: Nathan Phelps, Peetz; Brandie Steward, Walsh

Connecticut: Elyse Ludwig, Woodbury

Iowa: Lee Beck, La Porte-Dysart; Ashley Berkler, Rockwell City-Lyttton; Angelita Escher, Murray; Kortney Granzow, Eldora New Providence; Christopher Grey, Lakeside; Erena Jensen, St. Ansgar; Mindy Koch, Benton Community; Carina Meecker, Central City; Kaylin Schuetz, Sheldon

Illinois: Christina Barrows, Minooka; Savannah Boren, Paris; Aaron Bush, Unity; Natalie Coers, Hartsburg-Emden; Sarah Hills, Tri-Point; David Meier, Orion; Jeffrey Potthoff, Williamsville; Suzanne Wear, Unity/Mendon; Karla Wilkinson, Stark County

Kentucky: Lisa Alder, Christian County; Stephanie Fraley, Montgomery

Louisiana: Keagon Darby, North West High

Maryland: Jamie Shifflett, Frederick

Maine: Christopher Pesut, Washburn

Michigan: Daniel Fleetwood, Benzie Central; Cristen Ondersma, Capac

Minnesota: Tonya Eichner, Westbrook-Walnut Grove; Amber Hazel, Lanesboro; Jenna Portner, GFW Pioneer Express; Kelli Pulford, Perham; Timothy Rehborg, Owatonna

Missouri: Heather Barry, Eldon; Landon Callahan, Westran; Lindsay Grotjan, Keytesville; James Hawkins, Schuyler; Jacob Kallash, Bowling Green; Scott Ray, Paris; Sterling Sutton, Smithville; Lynelle Brimmer, Broadus; Cassie Keogh, Stillwater Valley; Tyson Reiter, Huntley Project

North Dakota: Jill Peterson, Berthold

Nebraska: Bradley Cheney, Palmyra; Sarah Hoffman, Bayard; Sara Hottovy, Freeman; Lacey Hovey, Seward; Troy Lund, Hemingford; Timothy Nieveen, Freeman; Micki Paris, Hemingford; Matthew Schulze, Norfolk

New Hampshire: Elizabeth Howard, Dover

Ohio: Dustin Bower, Canal Winchester; Kelly Litzenberg, Kenton; Krista McCormick, Liberty Union; Jared Moon, Miami Trace; Justin Nau, Caldwell; Sarah Paullin, Hillsdale; Sarah Schroeder, Leipsic; Kelly Trimmer, Liberty Union

Oklahoma: Nathan Helvey, Lexington; Sara Smallwood, Clayton; Coty Smith, Lexington

Oregon: Sarah Roth, Scio

South Dakota: Katie McGuire, Colman-Egan

Texas: Ashley Boehnke, Hempstead; Lauren Gillespie, Liberty Hill; Lance Hausenluck, Bryant; Jacob McClintock, Coronado; Kathryn Mueller, Calallen; Janis Peacock, Seymour

Washington: Linda Bailey, Elma; Justin Garrison, Cathlamet; Julie Zirkle, Eatonville

Wisconsin: Nicholas Allen, Prairie Farm; Karen Brasda, Osseo-Fairchild; Aaron Burkhalter, Evansville; Melissa Dorner, Luxemburg-Cosco; Melissa Hahn, DeForest; Christina Huth, Johnson Creek; Angela Kringle, Barron; Brian Preder, Weyauwega-Fremont; Adam Stiemke, DeForest; Dana Tackes, Stratford; Eliza Ulness, Valders; Karen Wolf, Slinger

Wyoming: Hanson Jordan, Devils Tower; Marcus Neiman, Devils Tower

For years the National FFA Band has filled the convention hall with a wealth of music. At this year's convention 92 members representing 25 states gathered in Louisville several days prior to the opening session to begin practicing. Their impressive talents were featured on Friday's National FFA Band and Chorus Concert, as well as during sessions and the career show opening. Songs included a science fiction tune featuring excerpts from Star Trek and Star Wars.

In order to be a candidate for the national band, members must submit an application and audition tape, as well as receive approval from their state FFA supervisor. If a state has an FFA band, the state band director will select the top 10 to 15 musicians as candidates for consideration.



PHOTO BY WALES HUNTER

The precision of the drum line was remarkable considering members gathered just days before the start of convention to practice.



The National FFA Band energized members and guests during convention sessions, lunch functions and various events in and around KFEC.

PHOTO BY WALES HUNTER

National FFA Chorus



Sponsored by the National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Chorus shared their talents with all convention attendees. Arriving Saturday, 98 talented FFA members from 23 states came together to begin rehearsals. After numerous practices, the chorus showcased its talents at the National FFA Band and Chorus Concert, as well as at various sessions and meal functions. Songs performed ranged from “We are the World” to “Eye of the Tiger.”

In order to be a candidate for the National FFA Chorus, members must submit an application and audition tape, as well as receive an approval from their state FFA supervisor. Selection is based on voice quality, correct ratio of males/females and a balanced numbers of soprano, alto, tenor and bass voices.



PHOTO BY SAM HARREL

The National FFA Chorus performed an old favorite, “I’m in Love with a Boy of the FFA,” to the delight of convention attendees.



Arizona: Alan Kartchner, St. David

California: Carlos Adame, Firebaugh; Alejandro Gomez, Yucaipa Jr; California Alyssa Thornton, Golden West; Shane Tinker, Kelseyville; Colorado: Loretta Meier, Peetz

Connecticut: Jennifer Planz, Woodbury; Karina Whitaker, Ledyard Regional

Delaware: Timothy Osgood, Polytech

Iowa: Mark Boender, Sheldon Golden Corn; Chazse Goddard, DeWitt Central; Heidi Parsons, Fairfield; Christopher Ulferts, Anamosa; Joshua Waller, Manson Northwest Webster

Illinois: Timothy Basham, Central Clifton; Jessica Eickhoff, Nokomis; Danielle Harvey, Blue Ridge; Audrey Shoemaker, Tuscola; Charles Snyder, Barry; Timothy Spoor, Blue Ridge; Diana Trantham, Camp Point Central

Indiana: Rachel Rea, Scottsburg; William Vidal, Adams Central

Kansas: Melissa Bell, Sedan; Jared Fish, Hillsboro; Kurt Krupp, Ellsworth; Dawn McAmoil, Hill City

Michigan: Kristi Mynhier, Bronson; Kristine Boen, Pelican Rapids; Stephanie Schmidt, Montgomery-Lonsdale; Andrew Walker, Princeton

Missouri: Katrina Calhoon, Gallatin; Mariah Gibson, Gallatin; David Hutchison, Vienna; Jessica King, Gallatin; Zachariah King, Worth County; Whitney Mudd, Monroe City; Rachel Peery, Gallatin; Meagan Perry, Bowling Green; Kristian Richison, Gainesville; William Sundwall, Skyline; Katie Voelker, Perryville

Montana: Darin Stanley, Conrad; Wyn Walker, Richey; Heather Whitmer, Richey

North Dakota: Elizabeth Redding, Velva

Nebraska: Amber Koch, Hartington; Drew Marty, Lakeview; Rebecca Miller, Bayard; Sapphire Munford, Falls City; Shane Potter, Raymond Central; Ashlee Poulas, Logan

View; Megan Schultz, Wisner-Pilger; Tanya Tvrdy, Waverly

Ohio: Joshua Davidson, Lynchburg-Clay; Lindsay Dennis, Preble Shawnee; Darren Wagner, Colonel Crawford; Lindsay Walton, Mohawk

Oklahoma: Marcy Hill, Elgin; Scott Lewis, Cushing; Myles Simpson, Thomas-Fay-Custer; Joshua Trent, Elk City

Oregon: Javan Inget, Eagle Point; Marcy Smaha, Glide

South Dakota: Nicole Goodrich, Centerville

Texas: Amanda Blisard, Elgin; Rachel Bonner, Sinton; Kashlee Boutwell, Clint; Allison Buchanan, Mineral Wells; Christopher Casey, Hallsville; Fancy Dillard, Hallsville; Rebecca Elliott, Grapeland; John Galanis, West; Brittany Glazner, Grapeland; Christina Jacks, Kirbyville; Hugh Leland, Lovelady; Megan Montelongo, Clear Brook; Jacob Muller, Bryan; Lacey Nixon, Uvalde; Kimberly Pachall, Kirbyville; Elizabeth Parsley, Snyder; Randi Roanhaus, Henrietta; Ida Winsauer, Dayton

Washington: Darren Larsen, North Kitsap; Katie Munro, Waterville

Wisconsin: Jonathan Edington, Johnson Creek; Jason Gillett, Barron; Haylee Hall, Shell Lake; Amber Harker, Shullsburg; Dusty Lochner, Lodi; Tracy Mueller, Cochrane-Fountain City; LeeAnn Nolte, Winneconne; Courtney Pease, Pittsville; Elizabeth Porior, Oconto Falls; Heidi Schlapbach, Albany; Ryan Stanek, Gilman

Wyoming: Jacob Gantz, Devils Tower

National FFA Talent



Talented FFA members from across the country strutted their stuff at the talent show on Thursday night. Performances included everything from vocal solos to intricate dances and anything in between!

Sponsored by the National FFA Foundation.

Who knew there were stars in the making at the 75th National FFA Convention? Members who participated in the talent show on Thursday night proved this was certainly true. Amazing vocals, vibrant dance routines, and good, down-home country music got the audience tapping their feet and clapping their hands. The talents on display were as diverse as the FFA membership. From the percussion performance by Montana and Minnesota members to a Blues Brothers rendition and a touching song about friends, it was evident that in the midst of the excitement about national convention, these members truly earned their chance to shine. As much as the audience enjoyed listening to and watching these gifted FFA members, the performers had just as much, if not more, fun. "It was so exciting, just unexplainable in words," said Douglas McCormick of the McBee FFA Chapter in South Carolina as he spoke of his opportunity to perform a song he had written about FFA. Needless to say, talents abounded at convention and everyone attending appreciated the performances. FFA talent could also be seen during sessions, in the shopping mall and at various events around convention.



Alabama: Deann Bass, Enterprise; Deana Berry, Red Bay; Lee Berry, Red Bay; J.B. Buck, Enterprise; Derek Cole, Red Bay; Jerome Cunningham, Tallassee; Jared Dailey, Montevallo; Hillary Davis, Enterprise; Devin Dotson, Red Bay; Josh Elliott, Enterprise; Robert Foy, Enterprise; Tyler Hall, Montevallo; Brent Hudgens, Enterprise; Maria Humphries, Red Bay; Katie James, Red Bay; William James, Red Bay; Alesha Jerrel, Enterprise; Stephen Johnston, Montevallo; Henry Kent, Tallassee; Jonathon Mangino, Red Bay; Patrick McCollum, Red Bay; Tyler Mills, Enterprise; Gretchen Nagel, Enterprise; Robert Peppers, Tallassee; Daniel Taylor, Enterprise; Nicholas Warren, Tallassee; Barry Wiginton, Tallassee; Sam Yaronczyk, Enterprise;

Arkansas: Heather Replogle, Prairie Grove

California: David Pilcher, Caruthers Union

Colorado: Misty Cecil, Arickaree

Idaho: Cory Edwards, Kuna; Destinie Roberts, Kendrick; Thoren Spearow, Kuna

Iowa: Amanda Achenbach, Rockford; Elizabeth Campbell, Rockford; Tarah Engelhardt, Rockford; Jennifer Paulus, Rockford; Maggie Rooney, Rockford; Nicole Shook, Rockford; Ashley Smith, Rockford; Stephanie Staudt, Rockford; Brittney Wenzel, Rockford

Illinois: Lindsay Morrissey, Princeville; Nicole Owens, Southwestern; Erin Pigg, Bushnell-PC

Indiana: Katherine Beste, Mount Vernon

Michigan: Jennifer Quinn, Springport; Scott Thompson, Blissfield; Kylee Zdunic, Corunna

Minnesota: Rose Brady, Cedar Mountain; Andrew Larsen, Cedar Mountain; Wesley Maurer, Cedar Mountain; Ben Rieke, Cedar Mountain; Ben Sandman, Cedar Mountain; Joseph Tews, Cedar Mountain; Darren Tighe, Cedar Mountain

Mississippi: Neeley Bryant, South Panola; Cassidy Jumper, Pine Grove; John Kennedy, Pine Grove; Heath Pannell, Pine Grove; Johnathan Turner, Pine Grove;

Missouri: Danielle Albertson, Eldon; Jason Comer, Eldon; Mary Pendergrass, Bakersfield

Montana: Danette Deichmann, Hobson

Nebraska: Gretchen Bergquist, Platte Valley Academy; Michaela Hoffman, Bayard; Kyle Perry, Kimball

New Mexico: Carrie Rucker, Texico

North Carolina: Joshua Davenport, Plymouth

Ohio: Amanda Hamilton, Ridgedale; Jeremy Hupman, Greenville

Oklahoma: Micah Huey, Elgin; Jennica Kinney, Mooreland; Brandi Morris, Taloga; Micah Perry, Elk City; Anna Trissell, Elk City

Pennsylvania: Tristyn Cook, Chambersburg

Puerto Rico: Denilsa Arroya, S.U. Manuel Mendia Moret; Betzaida Brito, S.U. Manuel Mendia Moret; Kareni Collazo, S.U. Manuel Mendia Moret; Idalys Hernandez, S.U. Manuel Mendia Moret; Neidy Pagan, S.U. Manuel Mendia Moret; Maria Rivera, S.U. Manuel Mendia Moret

South Carolina: Steve McCormick, McBee; Rachel McLeod, McBee

Utah: Shayla Osborn, Dixie

Washington: Dusty Bolyard, Almira/Coulee-Hartline/Odessa; Adam Libsack, Almira/Coulee-Hartline/Odessa; Clayton Vicker, Almira/Coulee-Hartline/Odessa

Wisconsin: Kodey Feiner, Sun Prairie; Lukas Hallmark, Sun Prairie; Thomas Kazmerzak, Sun Prairie; Sheena Krebs, Black Hawk; Jim Kvalheim, Sun Prairie; Mike Kvalheim, Sun Prairie; Paul St. Louis, Sun Prairie; Harley Tessman, Randolph Cambris-Friesland

Wyoming: Tommy Jahn, Clear Creek

Proficiency Awards

The agricultural education program has three integral components: classroom instruction, FFA and supervised agricultural experience program (SAE). SAEs allow students to apply knowledge gained in the classroom and through FFA to real world experiences.

Students have the opportunity to be recognized for effort and involvement in their respective SAEs through proficiency awards. Members may apply as placement or entrepreneur for any one of the 49 award areas.

A total of 1,373 applications were received this year from the 52 associations, representing all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. During Friday's sixth general session the final four in each area was narrowed down to the national winner amid applause and cheering friends and family.

AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS

Sponsored by Farm Progress Companies, Inc.; R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company; Trone Advertising

Colorado: Jill Ulrich
Missouri: James E. McNary
Nebraska: Wrex William Phipps
Wisconsin: Gary Phillip Holler

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS DESIGN AND FABRICATION

Sponsored by Hobart Welders; DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund

Arizona: Weston Michael
Missouri: Samuel Bounds
Oklahoma: Ian Welge
Wisconsin: Bradley John Kaderly



AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS ENERGY SYSTEMS

Sponsored by New Holland North America

Georgia: Kristopher Wallace Pope
Illinois: Bernard Joseph May
Kansas: Derrick Fagg
Virginia: Wesley Joe Brown

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

Sponsored by CARQUEST Corporation, CARQUEST Filters/CARQUEST Gaskets

Kentucky: Chad Benham
Minnesota: Rick Kuntz
Ohio: Adam Donald Balthaser
Wisconsin: Travis G. Vine

AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING

Sponsored by Archer Daniels Midland Company; Torbitt & Castleman Company; Fielder's Choice; CHS Cooperatives

Georgia: Westley David Williams
North Carolina: Daniel S. Westbrook
Texas: Andrew Derington
Wisconsin: Jerimiah Johnson

AGRICULTURAL SALES - ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by Chevy Trucks; GMAC

Georgia: Wesley Belcher
Illinois: Scott Dryer
Oklahoma: Trent Christensen
South Dakota: Adam Prunty

AGRICULTURAL SALES - PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Tractor Supply Company; Vigortone Ag Products; The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company

California: Kallie Donnelly
North Carolina: Ben Watts
Tennessee: Tracey Stark
Wisconsin: Michelle L. Backhaus

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

Sponsored by Chevy Trucks; New Holland North America; GMAC

California: Tyler S. Blagg
Colorado: Brad Cook
Indiana: Mark Haseley
Washington: Remie R. Murray

BEEF PRODUCTION - ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by Nasco Division/Nasco International, Inc.; Schering-Plough Animal Health

Indiana: Renee Deatsman
Minnesota: Miles Justin Kuschel
South Dakota: Michael Gottlob
Texas: Kade Risinger

BEEF PRODUCTION - PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Fort Dodge Animal Health; ContiBeef LLC; Pharmacia Animal Health; Texas Cattle Feeders Association

Kentucky: Bradley M. Warren
Montana: Mark Patterson
Oklahoma: Michael Didier
Wisconsin: Michael P. Boettcher

DAIRY PRODUCTION - ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by DeLaval Inc.; Pharmacia Animal Health

Idaho: Greg Johnson
Minnesota: Trent A. Olson
Missouri: Cindy Wilson
South Dakota: Aaron Beisch

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Proficiency Awards

DAIRY PRODUCTION - PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Monsanto, Animal Agricultural Group

Iowa: Jonna Worden

Missouri: Crystal Renee Hays

Ohio: Nathan Rausch

South Dakota: Kristin Kuhl

DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Sponsored by PotashCorp

California: Garrett Pedretti

Florida: Tavis Lamar Douglass

Oklahoma: Rachel K. Bobbitt

Wisconsin: Garrett A.

Holewinski

DIVERSIFIED CROP PRODUCTION - ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by CHS Cooperatives

Iowa: Kipp A. Fehr

Minnesota: Corey B. Olson

Tennessee: Matt Underwood

Wisconsin: Seth Randall Braker

DIVERSIFIED CROP PRODUCTION - PLACEMENT

Sponsored by National Crop Insurance Services; Rain and Hail LLC; American Farm Bureau Insurance Services, Inc.

Florida: Tommy Taylor

Kansas: Brett Ray Reiss

Minnesota: Britt R. Wegner

Missouri: Chad Harrison Jellum

DIVERSIFIED HORTICULTURE - ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by Farmland Insurance Nationwide Agribusiness; Nationwide Foundation

Kansas: Matt Novak

Maine: Jesse D. Theriault

North Carolina: Tim White

Tennessee: Melissa Burniston

DIVERSIFIED HORTICULTURE - PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Bayer Environmental Science; Arvesta Corporation; American Floral Endowment

California: Kevin Pharis

Kentucky: Nathan Whelan

South Dakota: Josh Hehn

Wisconsin: Ben Polzin

DIVERSIFIED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION - ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by ContiBeef LLC; Intervet, Inc.; Tractor Supply Company

Colorado: Kendal W. Bauman

Georgia: Ryan C. House

Illinois: Brittany Marcoot

Kansas: Chase Bontrager

DIVERSIFIED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION - PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Premium Standard Farms; Agri Beef Company; Zareba Systems

Missouri: Ronda Reed

Oklahoma: Daniel Mosburg

Utah: Anna Marie McMillan

Wisconsin: Susan Carlene Orth

EMERGING AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

Sponsored by Caterpillar, Inc.

California: Lauren Corkins

Indiana: David Ryan McGown

Kansas: Megan M. Rolf

Minnesota: Shanlee Gronli

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Sponsored by IMC Global, Inc.; Carolina Biological Supply Company

Montana: Zachary Sarrazin

New Mexico: Gabriel Varelas

Oklahoma: Chance Simpson

Wisconsin: Eric X. Tarman-

Ramcheck



EQUINE SCIENCE - ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by Purina Mills Inc; Red Brand Non-Climb House Fence/Made by Keystone Steel and Wire Company; American Paint Horse Association

California: Heather Fultz

Montana: Travis Young

North Carolina: Paula Broome

Wisconsin: Damon Stichert

EQUINE SCIENCE - PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Tractor Supply Company

Missouri: Scott Hill

South Dakota: Katie Tornberg

Texas: Cliff Beights

Utah: Robert Asay

FIBER AND OIL CROP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Syngenta Seeds, Inc.; United Soybean Board

Georgia: Joel McKie

Kansas: Jesse Joseph Koch

Minnesota: Joseph Timothy

Schieffert

Wisconsin: James Pagel

FLORICULTURE

Sponsored by Home Depot, Inc.

Nebraska: DeeDee M. Yosten

Tennessee: Joseph Couch

Texas: Cassie Callaway

Utah: Tanya Selman

FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Sponsored by H.J. Heinz Company; Seneca Foods Corporation; CHS Cooperatives

Georgia: John C. Hickman III

Kentucky: Nathan Wise

Oregon: Rachel Brown

Wisconsin: Joshua Heiman

FORAGE PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Gehl Company; Syngenta Seeds, Inc.

Kansas: Bryan Wilson

Kentucky: Adam Probst

Nebraska: Gerad Brichacek

South Dakota: Chris Plamp

FOREST MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTS

Sponsored by DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund; Timberjack, a John Deere Company; Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation

Georgia: Brian Jay Hulsey

Kansas: Aaron Strunk

Ohio: Justin Armintrout

Oklahoma: Levi Estes

FRUIT PRODUCTION

Sponsored by DuPont Company

California: Pedro Trinidad

Indiana: Tristand Tucker

Missouri: Alesa Ann Raasch

Utah: Dave McMullin

Proficiency Awards



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GRAIN PRODUCTION - ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

- Montana:** Cooper Martin
- Nebraska:** Nate Johnson
- Ohio:** Nicholas A. Arnold
- Oklahoma:** Ruth I. Bobbitt

GRAIN PRODUCTION - PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

- California:** Jordan Parsons
- Nebraska:** Christopher Marsh
- Oklahoma:** Trey Christensen
- Washington:** Adam Berglund

HOME AND/OR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Sponsored by Carhartt, Inc.

- Colorado:** Trevor Kalous
- Indiana:** Melvin Gideon
- North Carolina:** Joshua Miller
- Utah:** Wade Briggs

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by Bayer Corporation, Environmental Science

- Connecticut:** Theodore Holly
- Minnesota:** Matthew Crowe
- Tennessee:** Justin Keith Lovelace
- Virginia:** Brad Litton

NURSERY OPERATIONS

Sponsored by DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund; John Deere

- Arizona:** Kristen Leigh Foster
- California:** Lauren Derry
- Georgia:** William Crane Ross II
- Indiana:** Matt C. Voshell

OUTDOOR RECREATIONS

Sponsored by Chevy Trucks; Cabela's, Inc.; National FFA Foundation

- California:** Richard William Francis
- Florida:** T. Tyler Stoutamire
- Minnesota:** Nathan L. Mayer
- Utah:** Tiffany Clegg

POULTRY PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Wayne Farms LLC; United Soybean Board; Chore-Time Equipment Division of CTB Incorporated

- Florida:** Amanda Elizabeth Thomas
- Georgia:** Garren Hall
- Kentucky:** Christina M. Hager
- Wisconsin:** Lee Pronschinske

SHEEP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by LA-CO All Weather Paintstik Markers; National FFA Foundation

- Illinois:** Adrienne Ostrom
- Montana:** Guthrie Oiestad
- Nebraska:** Farris C. Williams
- Nevada:** Aimee Hoskin

SMALL ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND CARE - ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by Novartis Animal Health US, Inc.

- Iowa:** Justin Wilkinson
- Kansas:** Micca Sullivan
- Michigan:** Todd Eugene Wolff
- Missouri:** Kevin Rugen

SMALL ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND CARE - PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Iams

- New Mexico:** Micah Lea Purcella
- Ohio:** Jennifer Lambros
- Oklahoma:** Terra D. Miller
- Wisconsin:** Gina Krogwold

SPECIALTY ANIMAL PRODUCTION - ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by National FFA Foundation

- Iowa:** Joshua Lester Merrill
- South Dakota:** Jennifer Tiggelaar
- Utah:** Jenna Keyes
- Wisconsin:** Mark Jakubek

Proficiency Awards

SPECIALTY ANIMAL PRODUCTION - PLACEMENT

Sponsored by National FFA Foundation

California: Josh Blair
Florida: Jorge Michael Guevara
Oklahoma: Kelli Herbel
Wisconsin: Marc Wiersma

SPECIALTY CROP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by BASF; Cerexagri

Idaho: Reid David Bowen
Missouri: Jamie Matthew Bennett
Nebraska: Katie Lee Schmidt
Wisconsin: Mike Boss

SWINE PRODUCTION - ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health

Colorado: Brad Samber
Iowa: Drew Sponheim
Kansas: Cody Schwartz
Oklahoma: Jacob Farquhar

SWINE PRODUCTION - PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Phibro Animal Health; Akey, Inc.

Indiana: Adam Joseph Raper
Oklahoma: Jarrod Burton
Texas: Juan Andres Gonzales
Wisconsin: Candy Eiberger

TURF GRASS MANAGEMENT - ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by The Scotts Company

Indiana: Dustin Hufty
Kentucky: Bill T. Clark
Missouri: Seth Seedorf
North Carolina: Dan Curtis Honeycutt Jr.

TURF GRASS MANAGEMENT - PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Bayer Corporation, Environmental Science

Indiana: Robert Davis
Kansas: Joey McNaul
Kentucky: Lance Filiatreau
Ohio: Bruce Fricke



VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation, Inc.

Colorado: Benton J. Hendrix
Minnesota: Joseph Dimler
Ohio: Lori Sayre
Wisconsin: Daniel C. Vredeveld

WILDLIFE PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT - ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by Bass Pro Shops, Inc.; National FFA Foundation

Georgia: Justin S. Brown
Oklahoma: Jason K. Nielsen
Tennessee: Ryan Edward Moore
Wisconsin: Brent J. Hohmann

WILDLIFE PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT - PLACEMENT

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California: Joe Luis Alves Jr.
Kentucky: Perry Richardson
North Carolina: Matthew Williams
Oklahoma: Cody Gillham



American FFA Degree

Sponsored by BASF Corporation Case IH; Farm Credit System Foundation; and Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

This year 2,556 members from across the nation received their American FFA Degree. This is the highest award that a member can achieve through FFA. Each year, less than one-half of one percent of members earn the prestigious degree. Prior to receiving it, members must earn the greenhand, chapter and state degrees.

To achieve this great honor, members must also meet certain requirements within their FFA career. Members will have graduated at least one year prior to receiving the degree and possess a C average. Students should have developed an outstanding supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program, meeting specific program guidelines. In addition, students should have completed an equivalent of three years of agricultural education and display outstanding leadership abilities.

For many, this recognition marks the final chapter of FFA involvement, leaving them with many valuable experiences and fond memories.

Alabama: Gavin J. Adams, Douglas; Lee Hollis Blanton, Fort Payne; Abby Dewberry, Lineville; Justin Duane Godwin, Rehobeth; Thomas Hall, Isabella; Edd Willingham, Beulah

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Arizona: Amy Badger, Mingus Union; Philip Bashaw, Safford; Stephanie Cheek, Mingus Union; Kelli England, Safford; Jason Erickson, Peoria; Brian Fitterer, Chino Valley; Bryan Geiger, Peoria; John Gibson, Mayer; Joshua Gless, Red Mountain; Holly Goodman, Gilbert; Katy Joan Groseta, Mingus Union; Jessica Jones, Red Mountain; Colton Kempton, Safford; Ashley Kirchner, Kofa; Chemin Nichole Labarda, Mingus Union; Amanda Marie Leister, Buckeye; Joanna Dawn Liem, Gilbert; Dusti LeeAnn Morris, Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center - South Mountain; Kevin Morgan Norris, Peoria; Brent Salazar, Peoria; Roy Siegfried, Chino Valley; Skyler Stewart, Gilbert; Glenn Chase Waldron, Payson; Christine Lynn Webster, Tolleson; Melanie Young, Chino Valley; Sara Young, Gilbert

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American FFA Degree

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Virginia: Chad Brooks, Stuarts Draft; Neal Frank Buchanan, Riverheads; Alex Preston Byrd, Grayson County; Amanda Coyner, Buffalo Gap; Julia Ruth Gardner, Turner Ashby; Bryan Glass, Fort Defiance; Andrew N. Glenn, Riverheads; Carrie Leigh Heizer, Riverheads; Robbie Hinkle, Fort Defiance; Colby Winters Irvine, Riverheads; Hock Jones, Buffalo Gap; John Rahn Kegley, III, Fort Defiance; Amanda Lambert, Turner Ashby; Bryan Lawhorne, Buffalo Gap; Steven Ernest Lowe, Jr., Christiansburg; Colt Lyle, Buffalo Gap; Jennifer Lynn Lyons, Pulaski County; Amanda Marie Mann, Louisa County; Jason Eugene McIlwee, Riverheads; Megan Catherine McIlwee, Riverheads; Rebecca L. Mellott, Grayson County; Justin C. Mines, Turner Ashby; Byron Harper Phillips, Fort Defiance; James W. Ramsey, II, Buffalo Gap; Vincent Miller Rhodes, Turner Ashby; Jaclyn Marie Roller, Strasburg; Michael Todd Sadler, Caroline; Bradley McVene Shifflett, Turner Ashby; Clayborne Preston Shifflett, II, Turner Ashby; Brandon L. Shively, Laurel Park; Bridget Mariah Sine, Central; Donald Lee Smith, Fort Defiance; Martha Ann Smith, Rockbridge County; Aaron Spaid, James Wood; Matthew Spears, Carroll County; Christopher Robert Threewitts, Spotswood; Carly Marie Tilson, Dinwiddie; Justin I. Via, Fort Defiance; Adam Clay Wampler, Broadway; Kimberly Renea Watson, Grayson County; Daniel Guy Will, Turner Ashby

Washington: Dusty Earl Appleford, Asotin; Eric Arps, Ferndale; Rachael JoAnn Backes, Ferndale; Andrea Barten, Snohomish; Randi Boeckman, Asotin; Megan Browne, Asotin; Renee' Chaplin, Mary M. Knight; Rebecca Jolyn Crowley, Ferndale; Dustin Elben, Asotin; Shaun Elliott, Wenatchee; Brent Frisbee, Sedro-Woolley; Travis C. Hagenah, Asotin; Ron Hahner, Liberty; SharlaRae Higginbotham, Almira-Coulee-Hartline; Morgan Irwin, Enumclaw; Shawn Jackson, Asotin; Nichole Marie Johnson, Ferndale; Justin D. Leighton, Franklin Pierce; Kristin Nicole Morrow, Asotin; Jesse Neace, Asotin; Heidi Newman, Zillah; Tawna Paine, Cashmere; Nicholas David Parkert, White River; Mona Lisa Pettersson, Snohomish; Tim Sharp, Winlock; Laura Jean Shaw, Asotin; Shawn D. Siebold, Yelm; Evan Startin, La Crosse; Ryan M. Uptmor, Asotin; Rebecca D. Wallace, Yelm; David Wyatt, Elma

West Virginia: Chadwick Alt, Pendleton County; Jennifer Fisher, Ripley; Brittany Glenn, Ripley; Joni Godfrey, Ripley; Benjamin Hays, Roane County; Andrea Stihl Hunt, Roane County; Sarah Louise McVay, Ripley; Andrew Brendan Negie, Tyler; Jeremy Oldaker, Ripley; Ross Paden, Tyler; T. J. Radabaugh, Barbour County; Scott Seymour, Pendleton County; Philip Shamblin, Roane County; Whitney N. Simmons, Pendleton County; Alicia Smolder, Ripley; Fredrick Wayne Vandevander, Pendleton County; Thomas Wince, Tyler; Jon Wright, Barbour County; Jacklyn Rose Yokum, Pendleton County

Wisconsin: Jeron J. Abegglen, Spencer; Alison A. Accola, Sauk Prairie; Nicholas S. Akins, Black Hawk; Jackie Aprill, Oconto Falls; Lisa Bach, Medford; Jed B. Bauer, Spencer; Ryder Beckard, Fort Atkinson; Jacob Becker, Juda; Lisa M. Biadasz, Amherst; Ross Blotz, Dodgeville; Aaron L. Burkhalter, Evansville; Joel Burmania, Randolph-Cambria-Friesland; Luke D. Buttles, Seymour; Chris Richard Cable, Unity; Jonathan Casey, Randolph-Cambria-Friesland; Matt Casper, Lincoln-ACHM; Keith A. Christen, Monticello; Gregory Joseph Clark, Mayville; Sally Rose Clement, Cambridge; Matthew C. Cuper, Clear Lake; Daniel Charles Davis, Pardeeville; Mari Lindsay Dean, Mineral Point; Quinn DeBruin, Lake Mills; Rachel Dietsche, Bloomer; Daniel Dogs, Mayville; Brenda Kay Dowiasch, Augusta; Jonathan Edington, Johnson Creek; Eric A. Ehlen, New London; April Eisentraut, Waupaca; Martin Feucht, Hartford; Keith Alan Flasch, Lomira; Emily Geiger, Cambridge; Kelly Geraghty, New Richmond; Melissa Rae Gerner, Fort Atkinson; Rikki Golding, Waupaca; Travis W. Gorsuch, Randolph-Cambria-Friesland; Garrett Graber, Rio; Bethany R. Gries, Loyal; Kurt Groholski, Amherst; Hannah M. Gunderson, Waterford; T.J. Haelfrisch, Brillion; Haylee Hall, Shell Lake; Missy Harelstad, New Auburn; Michelle Hau, Plymouth; Sarah Anne Heany, Oconto Falls; Greg Hedrich, Chilton; Pam Hedstrom-Birkholz, Plymouth; Matthew William Heins, Mineral Point; Tara Herbst, Black Hawk; Daniel Herricks, Cashton; Heather Holland, Pardeeville; Gary P. Holler, Lodi; Jeremy Holthaus, Fennimore; Helen Amanda Hopke, Spooner; Amber Lynn Horn, Brillion;

Chase Ivey, Mineral Point; Jessica Sue Ivey, Mineral Point; Mark D. Jakubek, Amherst; Jason James, Mineral Point; Casey Jentz, Fennimore; Douglas L. Jung, Randolph-Cambria-Friesland; Patricia Jane Kapinos, Sun Prairie; Christopher Klapoetke, Westfield; Lance Klessig, Amherst; Brooke A. Koenig, Kiel; Andrea Konitzer, Oconto Falls; Katie Lynn Kramer, Oshkosh West; Elizabeth Marie Krause, Fort Atkinson; Michael Kenneth Krull, Cambridge; Lindi Langer, Evansville; Drew Alexander Lawson, Fort Atkinson; Christopher Lee, Delavan-Darien; Melissa Jo Leonard, Pecatonica; Christine Lepple, Beaver Dam; Jonathan Levendoski, Westby; Jordan Liethen, Wittenberg-Biramwood; Karlene Lindow, Marshfield; Marion J. Majeske, Unity; Beth M. Malcore, Luxemburg-Casco; Brian Maliszewski, Independence; Ryan Marquardt, Westfield; Michael J. Maternoski, Denmark; Tara Lynn Maus, New London; Jamie Meagher, Waupun; Hope Metcalf, Montello; Jonathan A. Meyer, Randolph-Cambria-Friesland; Andrew D. Miller, Black Hawk; Tyler Jon Missall, Randolph-Cambria-Friesland; Matthew L. Mueller, Iowa-Grant; Aaron Naatz, Johnson Creek; Ryan R. Nehmer, Randolph-Cambria-Friesland; Tracy L. Nanning, Kiel; Brett R. Neumann, Osceola; Lee Newsome, Waupaca; Dustin J. Nieman, Randolph-Cambria-Friesland; Kristan A. Noeldner, Loyal; Amanda J. Norberg, Prairie Farm; Jason Raymond Oft, Randolph-Cambria-Friesland; Joseph E. Oft, Randolph-Cambria-Friesland; Candice Olson, Fort Atkinson; Seth Olson, Unity; Sheilee M. O'Malley, Gilman; Doug Ott, Brillion; Kristin Pagel, Oconto Falls; Nathan Papendorf, Marion; Hope Parsons, Antigo; Ed Patek, Kewaunee; Matt Patoka, Amherst; Janel Pauli, Lake Mills; Jaclyn Pettis, Augusta; Prescott Phillips, Green Bay East; Elizabeth Porior, Oconto Falls; Kristin Jean Proschinske, Arcadia; Ian Prust, Marshall; Robert J. Quintana, Randolph-Cambria-Friesland; Jennifer Reese, Johnson Creek; Katrina Riederer, Reedsville; Chris A. Ritscher, Cochrane-Fountain City; Stefanie M. Roepcke, Kiel; Eric Daryl Russell, Shullsburg; Adam M. Schmitz, Sparta; Terry Schott, Denmark; Eric Schraufnagel, Mayville; Ben Schreier, Cashton; Russell Schuette, Plymouth; Noah Christof Schultz, Johnson Creek; Ryan C.

Selbrede, Sparta; Tony J. Selner, Kewaunee; Lisa Simonson, Plymouth; Jeffrey John Smit, Randolph-Cambria-Friesland; Adam J. Spierings, Weyauwega-Fremont; Kyle K. Steinke, Brillion; Cory Dale Stenjem, Cambridge; Dustin Lee Stuczynski, Amherst; Lance Dale Syring, Stratford; Melissa Ann Traiser, Osceola; Nichole Trapp, Antigo; Kyle A. Trebe, Amherst; Crystal D. Tymus, Waterford; Melissa VanDeBrake, Unity; Jeff Vollrath, Unity; Craig Wakeman, Rio; Sara Weiner, Sparta; Chad Wethal, Stoughton; Steve Wiedemann, Cashton; Daniel Wiese, Brillion; Erica Lynn Wilson, Johnson Creek; Lucas Wirtz, Plymouth; Mark Wolf, Bangor; Kattie Wollin, Marshall; Jason A. Wood, Clear Lake; Rachel Leigh Zenter, Oshkosh West; Jeffrey J. Zweifel, Juda

Wyoming: Brandi Jo Allen, Casper; Teecee Barrett, Powell; John D. Barton, Whitcomb-Moorcroft; J. Trevor Bekken, Lander; Deena Kay Borgialli, Wright; John Wesley Brown, Southeast; Lynn Marie Bundy, Gillette; Kelcey W. Christensen, Wright; Angela Crabtree, Cheyenne; Jennifer DeFreece, Casper; Trent



PHOTO BY SAM HARBEL

DeWitt, Lyman; Jake Fenner, Moorcroft Whitcomb; Jared Hamilton, Lander; Terry Nicholas Hayes, Shoshoni; Kristy Marie Hetzel, Powell-Shoshone; Jody A. Hooton, Lyman; Jeremy K. Kising, Lander; Audrey Micheli, Jim Bridger; Ammie Murray, Douglas; Tyrel James Powell, Lander; Jake Rinker, Gillette; Denise Rene Schmer, Southeast; Shay Shimic, Southeast Goshen; Sara Skalsky, Powell/Shoshone; Danelle Jo Woehl, Douglas; Pat Wood, Buffalo Bill; Jacque E'laine Wright, Pine Bluffs; Dustin Yeik, Southeast

Retiring Address



“It’s MY turn!” “No, it’s my turn!” “Oh no, it’s definitely MY turn!” “I don’t think so...it’s my turn!”

You’ve got to love it—two brothers deciding who gets to ride up front in the family vehicles. Ladies and gentlemen, I don’t know if you have ever done this, but to my brother Derek and I, deciding whose turn it is, is a pretty big deal.

Dane White, President Tenth Convention Session It’s Your Turn

We both always want to ride up front because, think about it—if you’re riding shotgun and it’s your turn, you have it made! You are the one who can create change. You can change the temperature by simply reaching up and turning a dial. Or you can push a button and change the radio station. And even better, you could use your precious moments up front to change your mom’s mind about raising your allowance. See, when it is your turn, you are golden.

See, in the old days, we would argue about it and used to just try and beat each other to the car. We’d race outside and the first person to climb inside without being tripped, shoved or slammed in the door would be declared the winner.

Well, things changed for the better when my dad sold his old pickup truck and bought a new one. I remember the day he pulled in our driveway—Derek and I went rushing out to see it, and as we climbed inside it, our world was thrown completely off its axis because, yes, it had a bench seat! That meant three people could ride up front—Dad, Derek and myself. (Mom could ride in back; we could definitely take her.) So, if I chose for it to be, every day it would be my turn!!

Well, guess what—your lives

are exactly the same way. If you simply choose for it to be, then it’s your turn! It doesn’t take a magic age, title or process—only a conscious choice! Every day of your life, you have the power to create change.

So now that you know, what will you change first? I say, aim to change nothing less than the world and start with yourself. Strive for personal excellence and be the best person you can be. As others follow your example, the world will change—even if it is one person at a time!

Now, you may be asking yourself, “How will I ever do that?” To strive for personal excellence, you must do two things: Challenge yourself to continually grow, and always choose to do what is right rather than what is easy.

I’ll never forget the first time I experienced the power of growth and discovered how that creates permanent change. It was February during my freshman year in high school when my family headed up to Mt. Ashland, Oregon, for our annual ski weekend.

Having skied since I was five, at this point in my career, I tended to ski alone. I spent the whole morning in my familiar place, and I had a pretty standard routine that I would always follow: Get on the chair lift, strike up a conversation with the person sitting next to me and then impress everyone within view as I glided easily off the chair and came to a halt at the head of the run. Then I would take just a few breaths—admiring my kingdom and looking at my quaint subjects meander down the slope—before I would quite dramatically push off and speed down



the hill. I’d fly by people and laugh as I threw snow on the skis of those who went too slow. Eventually I would reach the bottom, bask in my glory for a few moments and then get back on the chairlift and repeat the process. I had it made!

After a morning of good skiing, I met back up with my brother Derek for lunch, and all he did was talk, talk, talk. It was all about his daring adventures, his crazy jumps and the fact that he was all over the mountain. After he was finally done blabbing, I think my competitive streak came out and I asked him, “Yeah, well, how many times have you fallen today?” “Oh, about 20 times. Maybe a little bit more.” Then, with a smug grin on my face, I said, “Well...I haven’t even crashed once, and in fact, I was passing people all day long! Leaving them in my snow dust!” Well, at that, my brother rolled his eyes and said to me, “Oh, you haven’t fallen, Dane? You’ve been passing people left and right? Well, that is sure amazing—since you haven’t even left the BUNNY SLOPE! The people you are passing are either 7 or 70 years old! Woo hoo! Gold star!! Why don’t you try something new for once?”

Though I hated the fact that my little brother had a point, I simply sat and ate my sandwich in a humbled silence.

After lunch was over and I headed back out of the lodge, I put on my skis and made a choice. Was it back to the familiar route? To the good old ski hill that I was used to? Or would I listen to my brother and head to places unknown? Would I expand my abilities by trying something new? You'd better believe it! I realized then that now...now was my turn! It was my turn to have the daring adventures! It was my turn to perform great feats! It was my turn to experience excellence by growing, learning and changing.

And since that day, there's been no stopping it! I love to constantly learn and increase my abilities on and off the ski slopes. No more predictable routes for me. That day I realized permanent change occurs when you take chances and challenge yourself to grow.

Sure, I realize that we all don't have the chance to snow ski regularly—but I also know that no matter where you live or who you are, you have the chance to grow. Right now, you must commit to constant improvement and growth. Are you a public speaker that has used the same speech multiple times? Or maybe you show livestock and you've never improved your placing at the fair. Well, no matter what it is, the next time you are faced with the choice—do I do what I am used to or do I try something new?—choose to take the new road! It is your turn to experience excellence and change the world—and first, you must challenge yourself to grow.

As you are mastering that art of growth, I say, along with that, make sure you are doing what is right.

Achieving personal excellence and choosing to do what is right begins with very simple things: Do your homework every night. Always be truthful. Own up to the things you do wrong. Say "please," "thank you" and "you're welcome." But it also means doing things that may require more effort and strength. It means not substituting physical relationships for love. Being sober on the weekends and seeing how much more fun it is. Building others' confidence instead of bringing them

down. Doing what is right means showing compassion, reaching out and helping those who need you more.

There was a girl that went to my high school named Elizabeth. Elizabeth had a syndrome that slightly stunted her growth from birth and she was the kind of person who was always pretty shy, a little awkward, didn't have many friends. However, Elizabeth desired to be no different than any other kid our age. She carried her own books, went to regular classes, shopped at the mall and even walked home from school. Every day, I would see her as I left for lunch and passed through a hallway. It was a day in spring when, as usual, I rounded the corner and saw Elizabeth. I watched as she trudged through the masses of people hurrying to get to their vehicles outside and I also saw a group of girls walk by Elizabeth and accidentally knock the books out of her hands.

I sat in amazement as those girls, instead of helping her pick

that was the end of it. It was a small deed, but it enabled me to see the incredible power of compassion. To help a fellow human being who needs it, to reach out a hand to someone, to show compassion—that is doing what is right.

Think about it. Do you give to those who truly need it, or do you simply hope that someone else will? Do you help people pick up their books that are scattered in the hallway, or do you look away and walk past? Do you befriend those who may be lonely, or do you leave that to others?

FFA members, it's your turn to do what is right. This world can be changed if each of us makes solid choices based on compassion and truth. Turn away from the easy route—instead, challenge yourself to grow by always doing the right thing.

Earlier, I told you how my brother and I would argue and fight for it to be our turn. Well, you don't have to even go there—the battle's already won if you



FFA members, you are in the front seat of life at this very moment. Your hands are on the dials and you have the power to create change.

the books up, just giggled, shrugged their shoulders and walked off. It would have been easy to pass this by. I mean, she was eventually going to get them all picked up, but I realized then that to do what was right, I had to charge into the middle of the hallway, fall to my knees and help Elizabeth pick up her books. I was slightly melodramatic about it all and there were all kinds of people that saw me fly to the ground in a jammed hallway, but what mattered more—the momentary opinions of some or the lasting change that kindness and compassion can make on someone who doesn't receive it often? Elizabeth quietly thanked me for helping her and

choose to let it be. You've GOT to realize that right now, it is your turn. It's your chance to excel! Remember that striving for personal excellence takes two things: Challenging yourself to continually grow, and always doing what is right.

FFA members, you are in the front seat of life at this very moment. Your hands are on the dials and you have the power to create change. This world will be a better place because of you. Change can be created one person at a time. Strive to excel, take chances and show compassion. The time is now! You can change the world because IT IS YOUR TURN!

Convention Speakers



Rick Pitino

Rick Pitino, University of Louisville men's basketball head coach, delivered a message about reaching success through setting demanding goals and believing in yourself. Pitino's appearance was sponsored by the Greater Louisville Convention and Visitors Bureau, Kentucky State Fair Board and University of Louisville as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



PHOTO BY SAM HARREL

Rulon Gardner

U.S. Olympic gold medalist Rulon Gardner shared his message of perseverance and leadership during the opening session. Gardner's appearance was sponsored by Westfalia*Surge Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



PHOTO BY SAM HARREL

Convention Speakers

Mamie McCullough

Motivational speaker Mamie McCullough, a former colleague of Zig Ziglar, inspired members with life-changing principles on reaching their personal best.



PHOTO BY SAMI HARREL



PHOTO BY KELLY ROGERS

Baxter Black

Cowboy poet and former chapter FFA president Baxter Black shared his gift of poetry with convention attendees. He had members laughing with his rhyming stories.

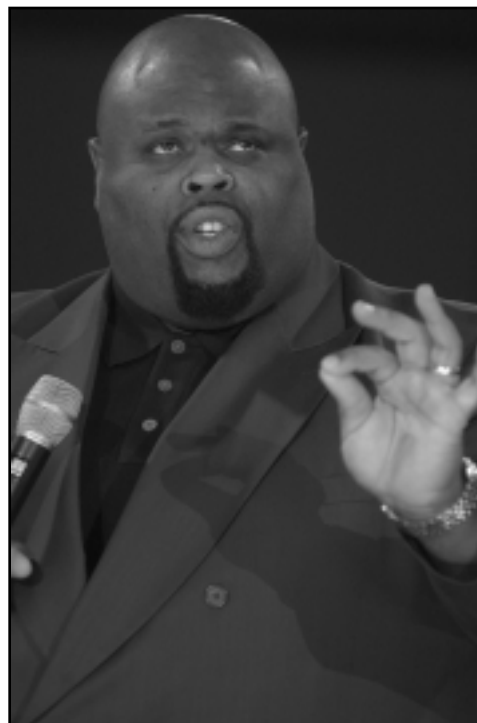


PHOTO BY ED ZURGA

Dr. Rick Rigsby

Dr. Rick Rigsby, character development coach for the Texas A&M Aggies football team, minister and motivational speaker, encouraged FFA members to live a life of integrity. He had the audience laughing and crying during his powerful message.

Retiring Address



*I'm in a hurry to get things done,
Oh I rush and rush until life's no fun.
All I really gotta do is live and die,
But I'm in a hurry and don't know
why.*

Robin Niehaus, Secretary Third Convention Session A Time to Give

I just love to sing. My friends and teammates would tell you that I burst into random song at any given moment, but there was a time when that wasn't true. Earlier this year, my best friend told me that she missed hearing those random songs. Boy, that stopped me in my tracks! I couldn't remember the last time I had just sung for fun. I had let myself get in such a hurry that it was no longer a part of my daily life.

There have been times this year when I wondered how I would finish those thank-you letters, prepare my next speech, write my convention scripts by the deadline and keep up with the great FFA members I met throughout the year. In fact, there were times I let my busy schedule prevent me from calling my best friends, reading the Bible, journaling or even telling my family I love them.

You know, we all fill our lives with responsibilities and activities that keep us busy. We keep one eye on the clock and the other on the next task on our to-do list. A day in the life of an FFA member might look like this: get up early to feed the livestock, go to school, attend football or cross-country practice, shower in the locker room, practice with the FFA chapter's parliamentary procedure team, stop by choir rehearsal, head home to grab a quick bite to eat, finish up homework and go to bed. Or, *busy* could have a whole other meaning for some people. "The Simpsons" at 5:00, "Friends"

reruns at 6:00, dinner at 7:00, video games at 8:00, "ER" at 9:00 and then phone calls until it's time to hit the hay!

Even right now, as you're sitting at an electrifying convention, I bet you're thinking about the many other things you could be doing with your time. And no matter how we put it, it never seems that we have enough minutes in the day to get everything done!

So where does the solution lie? Is it in focusing on the problem? I'm not so sure. Focusing on the fact that we're so busy just leads to frustration and gives us permission to neglect others. If that's the case, we may be left to do a victory dance all by ourselves when we reach success! Imagine celebrating the greatest accomplishment of your life...by yourself. It's no fun! But you can make sure you never celebrate alone.

How, you ask? Well, I say it's time to stop the clock—get rid of the busy barrier. Then, we will turn the hands—learn to give for the right reasons.

So what do I mean when I say we need to stop the clock? Every one of us can make a difference. We don't always hear the call, though, because our focus is only on our own goals and needs. So when something unexpected comes along, we often use the excuse, I'm too busy. You know, I think we should just throw that word out of our vocabulary. Talking about how busy we are implies that we think we're busier than everyone around us. We all have a lot on our plates, and that busy barrier is simply an excuse to keep focusing on ourselves.

I've noticed that even if our words don't say we're too busy, our actions often do. Think about the



PHOTO BY ED ZUJIRGA

way we use our cell phones. We leave them on all the time, and we feel oh-so-popular whenever we get a call, even if it interrupts the time we are spending with our friends. Unless it is an emergency, phone conversations can usually wait, but the time we spend with people is irreplaceable. The most important people right now are the ones with you right now. Take time for them.

Many FFA members live that example. When I was in Alaska, I met an FFA member named Jessica. She served as the Palmer FFA Chapter President, and people respected her—not because she demanded their time, but because she gave of her own as she fixed the other girls' hair and listened compassionately to their ideas. Kyle is an FFA member from Spencer, Wisconsin, who leads his chapter in their PALS program. It seems that the more time he gives to the younger students, the more joy he finds for himself.

When I was in Maine, everyone made me feel like part of the family. In that state, the sun peeks over the horizon before any other state in the lower 48. I have always wanted to witness that beauty, and earlier this year, FFA members made that possible. I got up

around 2:30, and Jordan from the Mars Hill FFA Chapter called my cell phone to make sure I was awake. He continued to call everyone in the group that morning, and at 3:30 a.m., Deidre and Randi arrived at my hotel to pick me up. We drove to Mars Hill Mountain, where the guys met us for our drive to the top. Once we reached the summit, the view was incredible.

As the sun rose, I was amazed by its beauty, but more than anything, by the generosity of my new friends. They could have said they were too busy, but instead, they gave several hours of sleep before a full day of school, not to mention the time they had taken to arrange the trip! Just as the rising sun represents a new era in agriculture, Jordan and Deidre represent an era in which we don't care about what we get, but what we give.

We can play the busy game all we want to, but we'll find frustration as often as we find success. We must each break through the barriers that keep us from experiencing life to its fullest. We must each live without ever complaining of our busy schedules. We must each stop the clock to look at what fills our days. Take out all the stuff that doesn't really matter and make the most of your time.

Once we stop the clock, we must learn to turn the hands. It is then that we will find a limitless world of joy as we turn our focus away from ourselves.

Philippians 2:3 says, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in all things consider others better than yourselves." Giving means making a true sacrifice, with no expectation of repayment. We all have a precious commodity called time, and sharing our time with others can make a tremendous difference. Can you change a person's day by giving them one second? Absolutely! You could use that one second to share a smile or hug to reassure someone that they are cared for. What about a minute? That's all the time it takes for you to ask the cashier about her day or to thank your school janitor for doing such a great job. In minutes, you can write an e-mail or letter to a friend who had a bad day. In half an hour, you can tutor someone in math, or help a freshman with the FFA creed. When we give our time to others, the difference made is immeasurable.

Just three years ago, my life was changed in one simple minute. The year was 1999, and I was sitting on stage at the Illinois State FFA Convention, one step away from experiencing a dream I'd had since my freshman year of high

school. Many times I had wondered if I would ever be sitting on this stage, but that night I looked around to realize I was a state officer candidate, and if I was elected, I would only be the second state officer in the last 50 years who had not been a section president.

The election of the office I really wanted was next. I was running through my campaign speech in my head. *Pride is a personal commitment. It is an attitude that separates excellence from mediocrity. It is that ingredient which inspires us not to get ahead of others, but rather to get ahead of ourselves.* Gosh, I hope I can show the delegates how much I want to serve them as a state officer.

Suddenly, I heard one of the other candidates use my favorite quote in his one-minute speech. I listened intently to see where he was taking his message when I realized that he was talking about me in his speech. "I appreciate your support," he said, "but I am asking you not to vote for me, and to turn that support to Robin Niehaus for State Reporter."

Silence. A buzz started through the crowd. I remember thinking, *Did that really just happen? Why me? How could Adam believe in me so much that he would sacrifice his own dream so I could reach mine?* In my surprise, I could hardly stop the tears from streaming down my face, but when it was finally my turn at the microphone, I felt a new surge of confidence. This wasn't just for FFA members and myself. This was for Adam, too.

That night when my name was called as the new State FFA Reporter, Adam gave me a huge hug before I could run out on stage. The next hours were filled with tears and hugs from many friends, but the most joyful celebration I experienced was with Adam, even though he wasn't elected. I had achieved my dream that night, but the greatest victory was the example of selfless giving that Adam showed when he turned his focus away from himself for just one minute.

Adam's selfless attitude has sometimes made me wonder if the right person was really elected that night. I was there to serve, but I was also selfish in focusing on my dream to become a state officer. Adam, however, put aside his personal desires in order to do what he thought was right for the whole association. His selfless gift changed my life forever, and it is a constant motivation for me to serve others passionately.

Just as Adam Viall's one minute on stage made an instant difference in my life, we all have that same opportunity

to help others every day. In one second, you could take the keys away from a drunk driver to prevent an accident. You and your friends can spend hours having fun without drugs and alcohol. Or in just a few minutes you could show someone that they are valued and accepted without having to engage in premarital sex.

The reward for giving is a changed life. We may not hear a "thank you" or receive credit for what we do, but the true beauty of giving lies in the joy of seeing someone shine. Mary C. Crowley once said, "Give for the joy of giving—if you only 'give to get,' you are not giving, but only trading."

Let's think about the difference between giving to get and giving *selflessly*. When you give a compliment, are you satisfied if you don't receive one in return? Do you wait for a thank you before you'll share your time and talents with the same person twice? Are you running for an office for the title or because you sincerely desire to help your chapter?

Next time you offer a word of encouragement, be content with a sparkle in the eye. You may have changed someone's life, but they don't owe you anything to prove it. When someone hurts you, GIVE forgiveness instead of holding a grudge. Rejoice when your competition succeeds and when others get the glory. It doesn't matter who makes the difference, but that the difference is made.

None of us is too busy to help those around us. It breaks my heart to walk through the hallways of our schools and hear destructive remarks. Imagine how much different our world would be if we used the time we normally spent tearing others down to build them up instead. We must turn the hands on the clock from a time of self-focus to a time of selfless service. Turn your hands away from yourself and toward the world around you.

Earlier I shared with you how I had lost some of the joy in life by singing to my heart's content. We all realized that we get wrapped up in the busy things of life. Well, guess what. That doesn't have to happen anymore because, FFA members, it's time! It's time to stop the clock and turn the hands. It's time to break the busy barrier. Take time for what really matters in your life. It's time to look beyond our selfish desires. Remember the lasting impact you can make when you focus on helping others. It's your chance to make a difference! FFA members, it is time to give!

Retiring Address



As a little girl, I loved the spotlight! In the evenings, I would put on my blue and black gymnastics leotard, grab my purple mat and head out to our living room for another incredible performance. I just knew that my family loved my somersaults, cartwheels and other miraculous moves. I

Amber Haugland, Central Region Vice President Fifth Convention Session I Can!

would tumble around on our brown carpet and then throw my hands into the air (ta-da!), which signified that my routine was over and I was waiting for my family to applaud. Usually at this point, my brothers yelled and booed, and my parents gave me scattered applause. Regardless of their response, I would look over at my reflection in the living room window and think, “Wow, I’m a gymnast! And someday it’s going to be me winning that gold medal. “Someday!”

A year later, I received my very own red and yellow microphone machine! I had written several songs, using my plastic guitar and coffee cans for a drum set. Now I could put together full live performances. It would no longer just be me in my leotard—I’d have music this time!! I was ready to claim the spotlight with class. So when Christmas came around, I organized my world-famous recital. I designed programs, made refreshments and drew up seating arrangements. I took the front and sang my solo with gusto. Someday I would be on stage, singing to thousands, hearing everyone cheer my name. Someday.

I loved that spotlight. As an entertainer, I loved putting smiles on faces and seeing genuine happiness. I began to discover that I enjoyed the reactions of others better than actually performing. It became like an addiction. How

can I get more of this? My natural instinct, and of course my ego, told me to perform more—get an agent! But I started to ask myself the tough questions. Do I always have to be center stage to create that feeling? Is it always a performance that brings happiness and change to others? How could I turn the spotlight to those around me and impact their lives?

So, I answered those questions at age 6 and decided that my solution was to change the world. Call it what you like, I became a tornado, a whirlwind, a one-woman crusade. I just wanted to help people and make them happy. Over the years, my method has changed, but my mission remains the same: I just want to make a difference.

At age 7, I thought I could do this by winning the crown of Miss Teen North Dakota and putting on seminars. At age 11, I thought I could be a basketball superstar who served as a role model. But today, I know that the easiest way to make that difference is to simply be a light to others, using three basic elements: I can because of who I am, what I value, and what I do. Discovering those taught me not only how to shine my light on others, but how to help them find their own light as well—the kind that blazes within a heart and has the power to set our world on fire!

Yes, at 6 years old, I was an attention hog and total crusader. But as I grew older, I soon discovered the realities of our world. My distant goals were far too lofty; I felt so small and insignificant. Suddenly reality set in. No longer was I the hopeful-hearted gymnast and star performer. I had adopted a negative attitude that said, “I just can’t.”



PHOTO BY WALES HUNTER

During piano and violin lessons, I’d blow up when I hit the wrong notes. “This is a waste of my time! I just can’t do this! I CAN’T!!” I would use this phrase 20 times a day. When something got tough, I would just say, “I can’t!” It didn’t matter if it was music, school or sports; my response was, “I can’t!”

After hearing this for a few weeks, my mom retaliated and created my “I CAN.”

It was a soup can surrounded by construction paper with an eye on it. This was my “eye can”! Lame, yes, but trust me—it made an impact. You see, every time I said the words “I can’t,” I had to put a quarter into this can. After a week, I was going broke! The money was piling up, mom was getting rich, and I still had my “I can’t!” attitude. I had to do something...and the only thing to do was switch my thinking. I discovered that I did have talents that were of value. I could be good at music, sports and school if I worked hard and had a good attitude. I had something special. I began to value the person I am and learned to say, “Yeah, I CAN because of who I am!”

FFA members, do you need to switch your thinking? Do you find yourself occasionally saying, “Oh

well, I just can't"? Maybe it's memorizing that opening ceremonies part, finishing a project that's difficult, sinking your free throws or getting an A on the test. Don't let a good challenge hold you back! No matter how difficult the task, say, "I can because of who I am!"

Well, years went by and I began to realize that an "I can" attitude wasn't the only important thing. Life was now much more complex. As I entered high school, I felt pressure to fit in. I wanted to have the stylish outfits, the nicest car and the best image. I thought that STUFF was my ticket to happiness.

Well, imagine that you have come home to find that your house has burned to the ground and you have nothing left. No clothes, trophies or pictures. Nothing! All that stuff that seemed so important just yesterday gets put in its place pretty quickly.

My family had just completed an auction in Minot, North Dakota, on September 26, 1999. Before the two-hour drive home, my mom, sister and I had to do some shopping at Target. A neighbor approached us in the aisle and said, "Girls, I need to talk to you. Girls, your house burned down today." Immediately tears flowed down my face. I couldn't believe this was happening. We were in a state of shock.

My strong and poised mother said that we would need some clothes. We wouldn't have *anything* when we got home, so we needed to find jeans, shirts, socks, underwear—*everything*. That blasted underwear wall seemed to stretch to the ceiling. The clothing racks filled with shirts and pants seemed to go on for miles. It was all so overwhelming. Eventually we found it all, checked out and headed home. That was the longest trip of my entire life as we drove in disbelief, talking and praying together. As we drove closer, we could smell the smoke and see the lights of the fire trucks. The flames were still shooting into the night sky. Driving into the yard, it was worse than I could have imagined. There was nothing. I looked to find the pool table, only to see ashes. My bedroom was completely gone. No porcelain dolls, no family pictures, no violin, no Bible. What was once a home had now settled to a foot of ashes on the ground.

That day, I felt the worst feeling in my entire life. I had nothing. I felt so empty and alone. In the coming days, we sifted through the ashes to try to find anything we could salvage, like wedding rings and jewelry. We searched for a piece of home.

My sister and I spent time going

through the photo albums that grandma kept. We needed to see the pictures and remember. As we looked through the books, surrounded by family and friends, I suddenly realized that I wasn't empty and alone; I had all that I needed. I had found one item in my search, my symbol of hope—an unburned cross. I had my faith, knowing that God would provide. I looked around to see my family was healthy and taken care of. That day, I discovered that you could have it all, even though you may have nothing.

The next week, I went off to school wearing hand-me-down clothes from family friends and I didn't even care what my classmates would say. It no longer mattered. Not only did I discover the person that I truly am, but I also found what it is that I value, what's really important in my life.

What is it that you value? If you were to lose everything you owned, would you still have it all? Would you be lacking nothing?

You see, YOU CAN have the complete life—not because of how much you accumulate, but because of who you are and what you value.

Hmmm, I don't know about you, but every once in a while, I like to move from deep thinking to lighter thoughts that don't require much brainpower. But occasionally, my brain comes along something profound...like words! Do you ever sit and think of why some words are the way they are? Like how funny they sound? Take the word *pocket*. Pocket. Put this in your pocket. Which pocket? The back pocket? No, your front pocket. Oh, this pocket. No, the left pocket. The side pocket? Oh, just put it in your pocket! Hot pockets. Pocket, pocket, pocket. Who decided that the word *pocket* would mean what it does? Who decides the definition of words?

Don't worry, folks, there is a point here. You see, there's another word that I wonder about...s-u-c-c-e-s-s. That is how you spell success. Success! The word *success*. The definition of this word puzzles me. Is it how much I have or how much I give? I've come to believe that success isn't just about how much a person accumulates, but even more...it's about a feeling. The times that I feel most successful, most valuable, most honored, are when I'm giving to others straight from my heart, using who I am and what I value to make their lives better.

The first time I discovered that I could do just that was through a volunteer program at the nursing home, where I would sing and talk with the residents. One of the residents, Margaret, just

loved it when my mom and I would visit. I remember watching Margaret's eyes sparkle and her face soften as she heard me sing the words of an old gospel hymn. As a tear rolled down her cheek, I realized that this was no longer a way that I could simply volunteer and give back. No, this was a way that I could be a friend and a light to someone else. And suddenly, I felt the warmth from that light too. I wanted to make this success a habit. From that point on, I couldn't cover up my light. I now had an inborn responsibility to continue to let it shine.

A few years back, our local church started the Kids in the Park Bible Club to reach out and show God's love to children in our community. Many of these kids came from poor home lives and needed to see that someone loved them. I became a crusader for this cause! I knew that I could make a difference because of who I am and what I value, but now I found that I could make a difference because of what I do. So I accepted the humble position of Happy the Clown, which required me, a "cool" high school student, to act silly and goofy to reach out to these children. At first, I was extremely uncomfortable walking down the street with a big red smile painted from ear to ear.

But I will never forget the first time the kids saw Happy the Clown. Their faces lit up in surprise. They felt my compassion, and I felt the love behind their genuine hugs. I saw the impact that I could have as a friend and servant, and I quickly set my ego aside. I was going to shine my light into the hearts of these children, no matter what the cost.

Today, I have no problem making a fool of myself for what I believe in—because it's not about me. It's about what I can do for the greater cause. My greatest hope is that I can use the light that burns inside of me to be a faithful servant and friend, shining the way for others to follow.

FFA members, I have found that I can make a difference because of what I do in my everyday life...and so can you! Let your actions, words and deeds be guided by your values and by the person that you truly are.

From a little girl who dreamt of owning the spotlight to a young woman who understands the power of a beacon, I have come to discover two words that have changed my life forever: I Can! They have allowed me to figure out who I am, to discover what I value in life and, ultimately, to see how I can make a difference.

Retiring Address



Wow! Imagine what it would feel like to be fearless. No more fear of heights, no more fear of spiders and no more letting your imagination run wild thinking the aliens from the movie “Signs” have moved into your home and are just waiting to get you.

Elio Chiarelli Jr., Eastern Region Vice President Fourth Convention Session Fearless

When I think back to high school, I can remember some pretty scary moments. You know what I’m talking about trying to fit in, asking that special person out for the first time, trying to get the grades that you and your parents want you to. We can all think of times when we wish we were a little more fearless.

There was one place in high school, though, where I was as comfortable as can be. Oh yeah, biology class was my domain! It didn’t matter what creature we’d dissect—or which process we’d discuss—everyone wanted me in their group!

Finally, at the end of my sophomore year, I was so excited when our biology class took the trip of my dreams to a tropical rain forest in Belize.

When we got there, our guide told us about some things to watch out for, but since I could tell you the scientific name and habitat of each, I felt the conversation was rather frivolous. Nothing I couldn’t handle!

That first night, before we all headed off to our respective cabins, our guide told the girls that he didn’t want to hear any screams in the middle of the night unless someone was about to die. He did not say much to us guys, so we had to play up our true masculinity, just a bit...laughing as we said to the girls in an oh-so-patronizing tone, “Yeah, girls, you better watch out

for those insects that like to crawl into bed with you, and if you need anything, you know where to find us in the manly cabin!”

We all finally got into our bunks and began to fall asleep. Everything inside was silent, and outside you could hear the typical nightly sounds of the tropical rain forest. I began dozing off into what was going to be a peaceful night’s sleep in the wilderness.

Then all of a sudden, one of my friends whispered to the rest of us, “Guys...hey guys...there is something crawling on the wall. Get a flashlight!” Just then the kid below my bunk started shining his flashlight around the cabin until the beam finally focused on the ceiling right above my feet.

There it was—the biggest, meanest, ugliest, deadliest scorpion God and man has ever seen, and it was just above me! Oh, did I lose it! In the matter of a second, Elio, the courageous, adventure-seeking biologist, became Elio, the terrified sissy, as I shot through the screen door and screamed all the way back to the main cabin. When everyone came out to see what was going on, there I stood in front of the whole crew, scared out of my mind!

The rest of the trip, I let my fear get the best of me and missed out on some pretty awesome caving and hiking trips because I thought a man-eating, devil-dragon scorpion was waiting for me. Of course, I would never admit that it was fear. I would simply make up excuses such as, “Ah, I am too tired to go with you guys. You can go ahead without me.” Or “Oh, I already have some things planned this afternoon.”

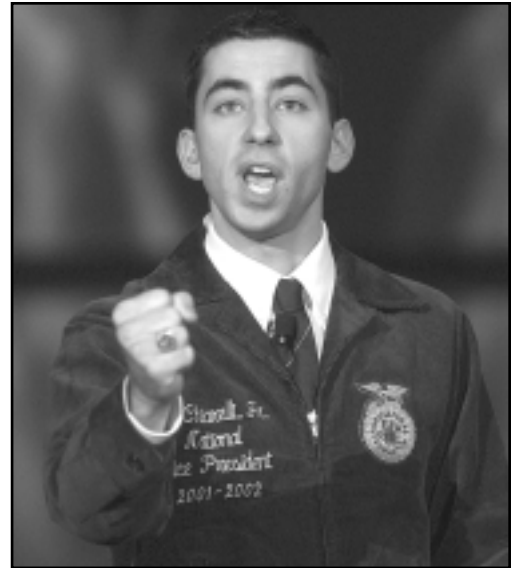


PHOTO BY ED ZURGA

That trip, I was anything but fearless!

So today, you and I are on a mission together, a mission to become fearless. This journey reminds me of that game where you tried to get someone to guess something by saying “You’re getting warmer” or “You’re getting colder.” The colder we get, the farther we are from being “fearless.” So all we have to do is stay warm. It’s as simple as child’s play, really. Yeah, right. You and I both know that living without fear is difficult.

So, let’s start recognizing how we become frozen. I had a friend in school that was in this exact situation. He had the world by the tail, so to speak. He was good at sports, very popular among his peers and great in class. But once he reached that point in his life, he just seemed to stop — there was no more growth. Actually, he started becoming arrogant to his peers and began to lose focus on what really mattered.

Let’s explore the feelings that had come along with his success, and many times our own. There was satisfaction, pride, accomplishment and honor! But soon there came worry. Worry that if he would grow or change, he would no longer be good enough;

worry that he would not live up to others' expectations; and worry that he might have a bad game. I'm sure to him, it just seemed easier to pretend he had it all together. He hid his fears. This is when the freezing process began.

Have you ever had some of these same feelings in your life? What if you actually told people your fears, asked for help in reaching success and then gave yourself permission to try – even if it meant you might fail? Sounds scary, huh?

What is even more scary is sometimes we become frozen before we even realize it, and then we begin to actually “live within the ice” itself. There was a time during elementary school that I was clearly “living within the ice.” Ah, it was second grade...you know, times of coloring books, recess and my personal favorite—afternoon snacks. Life was grand, at least for most second-graders. But me, I had a deep dark secret that I lived with every day as a child.

I never really wanted to reveal or admit it, but...I was not a normal kid. I had some of the weirdest white chicken legs anyone has ever seen! I can remember going shopping with my mother for back-to-school clothes that summer. I avoided the shorts racks like they were the black plague. When we got home, I was so relieved. Yes, I made it another year with no shorts and my mother did not even notice!

However, within the next few days, my mother, being the thoughtful person she is, decided to buy a few extra gifts for me before I went back to school—and yep, you got it, they were all shorts! I was devastated! I could not believe I had to go back to school the next day and wear those...those...shorts! And they were not even shorts; they were more like colored underwear or something.

The next day, I was thinking to myself, “What am I going to do?” I couldn't let my mother know I was embarrassed about my legs—that was childish. So, I did the best thing my little second-grade brain could come up with—I lied. “Uh, mom, I can't find those shorts...and besides, they don't fit anyway.” Well, that lasted a whole 10 seconds until my mom went into my room and saw that I had stuffed them all under my dresser. She was not pleased.

So, I bit the bullet, put on those shorts and went to school. I was so nervous walking down those halls. I just knew I was coming down with a fever...no chicken pox...yeah, they

would certainly send me home with the chicken pox! But when the nurse sent me back to class and no one made fun of my legs, I realized, to my surprise, that the whole world did not revolve around the fact that I had white chicken legs. Woo hoo!

I was a new man! I could wear shorts and feel good about it. And from that day on, I was the shorts king! The only thing I had to do was break my fear and get out of that ice!

When we are frozen in fear of being perceived as inadequate, we begin to do things we would not normally do. We begin to think in a different way, a way that almost justifies our actions in our own minds without regard for the consequences. Fortunately, in the example I gave above, no one was really hurt and the stakes were pretty small. But think about what happens as time goes on and our fears become bigger. The results can be far more costly.

Why do we stay within that ice? Maybe it is because we fear facing life alone. For fear of not fitting in, we take drugs. For fear of standing out, we drink alcohol. For fear of not being accepted, we buy and wear the “right” clothes. For fear of appearing small, we join in on the ridicule of others. For fear of not being loved, we will do almost anything to win others over.

The joys and miracles of life are not about the clothes we wear, the car we drive or how many CDs we own. Stand up for what you believe in and who you are. Don't accept mediocrity in your life. Only then can you begin to experience life—unfrozen.

What an amazing experience it is to be unfrozen and grow without fear. Breaking the ice started with me far before I ever realized that's what was happening—all because of a very special individual who changed my life. He helped me become who I am today. He saw a spark of potential inside me when I first entered his classroom, and he never gave up on me. He was my mentor, my ag teacher, and more importantly, my true friend.

He was often heard repeating the quote: “There is good, better and best. Never let them rest until the good is better, and the better is the best.” He always reminded us of the six P's in life: proper prior planning prevents a poor performance. He spent many late nights at his home helping me work on my assignments, coaching me for competition or simply chatting with me about life. I knew I could always turn to him after every success or failure, and

together we grew from each experience. I may not have always been his best student, but as I said, he never gave up on me.

Even after he had fought cancer for several months and retired my senior year, he always found the extra strength to give me the support I needed. With every passing visit, I could sense his physical strength declining and his spiritual strength reaching its crest.

I remember that very last time I saw him. He was lying in bed covered with several blankets. It was right before I headed down to convention to run for national office. Just before I left, he grabbed my hand, squeezed it as hard as he could and said, “The way you deal with challenges will show your true character. Live, Elio...live as if today was your only gift left on Earth. Never hide behind your fears because fear only brings hesitation, and hesitation...” That was it—he was too tired, and he never finished the sentence.

I left for convention the next day with my FFA advisor in my prayers and his words of wisdom running through my head. I began to realize that my fears of not getting elected were ridiculous. If my goal was to serve FFA members, then I needed to make sure I did that, regardless of whether or not I was a national officer. Changing the focus of my life to not hiding behind my fears and always choosing character over convenience was one of the greatest decisions of my life.

The very first speech I ever gave as a national FFA officer was the eulogy to the man that put me on this stage. I never will forget those words of wisdom he left with me, but I have always wondered how he would have finished that sentence. I think he would have ended his sentence by saying, “Hesitation will only leave you frozen.” What will hiding behind your fears and hesitation stop you from accomplishing?

FFA members, guests and advisors, take control of your fears!

Smile a little more often. Take a chance at something you were always afraid to do. Try out for that team. Run for that office. Take a stand for what you believe in. Love all people. It's up to you. Because every time you break your fears, you will feel a little more alive. The next time that feeling of fear stands in the way of your growth, turn up the fire and passion that rests deep within you and crush your fear!

It's the faith within your heart that will allow you to break through and become fearless!

Retiring Address



For the past five years of my life, I have been lifting weights, working out off and on. There have been times when an extremely busy schedule or an injury has slowed me down, but besides that,

**Barrett Keene, Southern Region Vice President
Seventh Convention Session**

The Greatest Workout of All

I have worked pretty hard. As you can tell, despite my constant efforts, I'm not exactly achieving the results I feel I should.

I have probably spent over a thousand hours in the gym with the hope of gaining strength. I have always envisioned it perfectly—I'd weigh 190 pounds and bench press 250. That just is not happening. Over the past eight years, I have gained a total of 10 pounds. As far as bench-pressing 250, most grandmothers would have a better chance of doing that than I ever will.

I have tried everything—push-ups, pull-downs, sit-ups, throw-downs, bench press, leg press, calf raises, curls, dips, upright rows and downright nasty power shakes—in search of the perfect workout that would swell me up like a busted lip. I have tried it all—all with the hope of gaining strength. And then one day it hit me...the greatest workout of all—standing!

We all have genetic limitations on what we can and cannot do physically, but each and every one of us has complete and total control of our potential to develop a strength that lasts forever when we do two simple things—stand solid and stand strong.

The first key to having true strength is finding a solid foundation to stand on. Our foundation should be something immovable, unchanging. Our foundation serves as our rock and our stronghold in a life filled with highs and lows.

The question could be asked, Why do I even need a foundation? Well, I don't know about you, but I am definitely not immovable. In fact, there are a lot of times when I get pretty well shaken up. There has been a time or 20 when I have been pretty lonely. There are times when I am burdened by regret, filled with self-doubt, scared by the fear of the unknown and sometimes I get downright sad.

Regardless of how large and beautiful a house may be, without a solid foundation, it can never stand even the smallest of storms. Our lives are the same way. We must first find a solid rock to be our foundation because we can be sure that the storms will come.

When I was a small child, I heard a story about a man whose life was torn apart, but he stood solid on his foundation and was able to overcome tremendous difficulty. His name was Job. Job was a remarkable man and he was blessed with everything a person could ever desire. He had a wife and seven loving children, along with more land, animals and possessions than a person could ever need. He was respected by everyone and loved by his countless number of friends. Job's personal foundation was his faith in God.

Everything in Job's life was beautiful, and then in one day, his seemingly perfect world came crashing down. In a matter of moments, Job learned that all of his 500 oxen, 3,000 camels and 7,000 sheep were either slaughtered or stolen. Not long after, Job discovered that all of his herdsmen and shepherds had been murdered as well. Moments later, another messenger informed Job that all seven of his children had died in a



PHOTO BY SAM HARREL

violent storm. The children Job had raised, cared for and loved were gone in an instant. The work of Job's life, all of his material goods and his family, were taken in a matter of moments.

On top of the horrible tragedy in his life, Job suffered from an excruciating disease that left him with severe blisters from the bottom of his feet to the top of his head. The people Job considered his friends deserted him, and the people in his town laughed and made fun of him. As Job's world came crashing down around him, when it seemed he had nowhere to go and no one to turn to, Job dropped to his knees in prayer. Even at the lowest time in his life, Job realized that he didn't need money, wealth, power or prestige. What Job truly needed was to stand solid on the very foundation of his life.

I cannot even begin to imagine the pain and suffering Job endured. I am amazed by the unbelievable strength and perseverance Job's own personal foundation gave him. Months later, Job spoke about this time in his life. He said when his material possessions were gone and the world seemed to abandon him, his foundation kept a light shining above his head in the darkest of hours. Job knew the

true importance of having a rock-solid foundation in a constantly shaky world.

Have you ever felt like Job? Have you ever felt as though your world was falling in around you? Has it ever seemed as though you were all alone with nowhere to turn? Friends, this year, being away from everything that was home, I learned the importance—no, the necessity—of having a firm foundation in my life.

In May of this year, I began allowing a busy schedule to keep me from spending time with God, which is my personal foundation. In the process, I attempted to rely on my strength alone. Small things that would have never bothered me before when I was standing solid on my foundation would get me all upset. I began to focus on the imperfections in other people instead of looking for the good in each person. Instead of having solid ground to stand on, it seemed as though every step I took bogged me down just a little more. I realized that when I chose to step off the rock of my foundation, the strength I had possessed faded within days.

The question we all need to ask ourselves is, What is my foundation? Is it your own personal faith? Is it your family? What is the source of stability in your life? Maybe it is more than one thing. Take a moment and ask yourself what rock you will stand on when storms are raging in your life. Whatever it is, stand solid on your foundation. Don't step off your rock because, regardless of how physically strong we are, the foundation we choose is the beginning point of our emotional and spiritual strength.

Once we have a foundation on which we can stand solid, the next step is to stand strong in the life we lead. One problem with lifting weights is that a person can lift weights for years and build up physical strength, but over time, without working out, that strength will fade.

Well, I have some good news. To have a strength that will last forever, we don't have to bench-press a small elephant. We don't even have to do a single push-up. All we have to do is work our most important muscle by making a decision in our heart to stand strong with character.

Character is not about doing good so others might see just how wonderful we are. Character is also not about doing something we know is wrong so others will see just how cool we are. The basic definition of character is doing what is right, regardless of the consequences—

not once a day, not twice a week, but every single time we are faced with a decision in life.

Character allows us to live a life of integrity where our thoughts and our words match up with our actions at all times. It allows us to be who we truly are and not who the world around us tells us we should be. When we live with character, we give love and compassion to all people, not just those we feel deserve it.

Earlier this year, I met an FFA member who helped me understand what character is all about. I met Heather in a workshop on character development. We developed a friendship, and Heather began to share her thoughts and feelings with me. She was an extremely sweet person, with a huge heart...but Heather had some turmoil in her life.

A few years earlier, Heather's friends began going to parties and drinking. Heather joined in and before too long, she found herself not only drinking but smoking marijuana as well.

While sitting in the workshop, Heather realized that the things she was doing were affecting every part of her life. Right then, Heather decided to stop smoking and get her life back together. She was so scared of what her friends would have to say. After we talked for a while, Heather realized that if they were her true friends, they would want the very best for her life, not just to feel justified in their own. Two and a half months later, Heather sent me this e-mail.

"I left the convention with the determination to quit smoking pot and to try and gain a testimony in the belief of God. I'll be perfectly honest with you, my determination and willpower faded after about two weeks, but I still knew I wanted to quit. Well, it's been a couple of months since then, but I finally did it. It took me about a month and a half to do it. I slowed gradually and then about three weeks ago, I just went cold turkey. I'm really proud of myself. It was a little harder for me because I am still hanging out with my friends who do it, but I also have quite a few friends that don't. All my friends are very supportive of me. I wish some of them would give up the habit because I really think we'd all be a lot happier."

Just like Heather, each and every one of us has made mistakes. Each of us, including me, regrets moments in our lives when we shrank with weakness and acted without character, but Heather's commitment to standing strong is a testament to the fact that it is not what is

behind that matters, it is what is ahead that counts.

Every person in this room has the potential to possess true character. It starts with the decision to stand strong in the face of everyday pressures. Whenever we stand strong with character, we stop worrying about the shape of our home, the shape of our car or the shape of our body, and we begin to focus on the shape of our life. Ask yourself this question: What area of my life needs to change? Maybe you have hatred in your heart for one person, or maybe a group of people. Maybe you have struggled in the past with peer pressure. Maybe you worry so much about the way you look in the eyes of others that you began to feel worse about the person you truly are. Well then, without a doubt, the solution is to have the courage to stand strong.

After five years of lifting weights in the pursuit the bulging biceps that have yet to appear, I have realized that my obsession towards physical prowess would be futile if I never chose to stand in the other much more critical parts of my life.

We as a society have worried for too long about the power of our exterior. We spend thousands of dollars on homes and cars when others simply need money for food. We spend hours and sometimes our entire lives worrying about the way we look when thousands of children in hospital beds across this country are wishing they had the perfectly healthy bodies that we complain about. When in truth, all that matters is the never-ending inner strength we can have if we will only choose to do two things: stand solid on our foundation and stand strong with character in our lives.

FFA members, if you are tired of knowing in your heart that your life just isn't right...if you are drained from not having any solid ground to stand on in a world that seems to knock you down every time you try to get up...if you are sick of being who society says you should be instead of being who you truly are...if you are fed up with not having the courage to do what is right...if you are ready to live a life that you can feel pride in, a life that will impact the lives of your family, your friends and our world...then stand where you are.

Stand and feel pride in your heart because you are committing to having a rock-solid foundation and unwavering character. Stand and feel the burdens of life lifting as you commit not just the next week, not just the next year, but your entire life to the greatest workout of all...standing!

Retiring Address



Hick-chick, cowgirl, country bumpkin, dork. At Colfax High School, the norm was Tommy Hilfiger, Nike, Calvin Klein and other name-brand clothes. So, being the one person in the whole school who wore “country” clothes, I heard those nicknames often and was teased about what I

Abbie Kammerzell, Western Region Vice President Ninth Convention Session Name-Brand

wore, although I never thought much of it. My closest friends were mainly city kids, so once in a while, even they would throw in one-liners about my Wranglers, boots and the fact that I would even bring a piggin’ string to school and practice tying my foot. But they never meant any harm.

Now, I honestly don’t attribute my lack of response to the comments I received to some inner strength. Nope, I chalk it up to just being naive. — I simply had no clue that I was really *that* different, that I was making some sort of huge fashion faux pas by not owning the latest, greatest brands.

After a while though, I did start to get a little uneasy about how my clothing was potentially affecting my social status. In a small high school with only 250 students, it feels as though you are constantly under the social microscope.

So, just before my junior year when I went school shopping, I took my little sister because she seemed to have the pulse on “cool” fashions. That day I traded in my 13MWZs and Justins for the name-brand clothing that happened to be at the mall that season.

For a while, it was a little weird not wearing my tried and true clothes, but I got such compliments from my friends on my “new” wardrobe that I wore my country clothes less and less.

Today, I hardly wear my Wranglers, Rockies, belt buckle or boots. Yet, every time I wear something “fashionable,” I second-guess myself wondering, Will people like what I’m wearing? Does this look okay? Is this too edgy?

The day I turned in my country clothes was the day I began to lose Abbie Kammerzell.

Now, truth be told about this whole retiring address business—it’s not that easy.

Basically, we have a few minutes to share one or two things we’ve learned that might help make your life easier. Well, I’ve learned a heck of a lot this year. To narrow it down to just one or two, I was seriously stressing out. Things proved more difficult than I had expected. Finally, after some time at home, trying to get back to myself I realized, this year and even for so long in high school, the one thing I’ve struggled with the most is knowing WHO I AM and being proud of that, sharing that person without holding back. If I could sum it all up to you in two points, what I’ve learned over the course of time—high school until now, this moment on stage—it would be: Don’t hide who you are, especially in the FFA where you can find a very special light that you offer the world. Don’t hide who you are, and let FFA magnify the light you possess.

My friends used to tell me that I intimidated people because it seemed like I knew exactly who I was and what I wanted. Truth is, I was simply playing a part, wearing a costume to be the person I thought so many people expected me to be. I didn’t want people to know I was less than perfect or less than they expected of me.

A pastor whose service I attended this year said in her ser-



PHOTO BY KELLY ROGERS

mon, “I see you seeing me; I see the me I think you see.” Each day when I put on those cool clothes, I forgot another piece of the person I really was—the girl who loved horseback riding every night after work and who loved to go driving on the dirt roads of the Palouse. Instead, I was consumed by living the life that my new name-brand clothes reflected. I thought I had to be something I really wasn’t in order to be “seen,” to be loved and accepted.

All too often we let the clothes we wear and the name-brands we own transcend into *who* we are. For some, it’s a way to avoid the comments and stares. For others, they aren’t sure who they really are and it’s easier to follow the crowd. Myself, I wanted to fit in.

While I had changed my clothing style, many of the activities I participated in were still the same, including the FFA, which we all know has a very specific piece of clothing that is worn. On my chapter’s annual trip to the Ag Expo in Spokane, while I was looking at an exhibitor’s booth, I noticed that in the back there were quotes written in calligraphy. Now, one of my favorite things to collect is quotes, as you may have noticed in my on-line journals, and as I was flipping through the

quotes, one in particular stopped me in my tracks.

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond all measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that frightens us.

“We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, talented and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be?”

“Your playing small doesn’t serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won’t feel insecure around you. We were born to manifest a glory that is within us.

“It is not just in some of us, it is in everyone.

“As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”*

Whoa. Brilliant, talented, fabulous. Who are you not to be these things? That question kept resounding in my head. Who am I not to be successful, even if I am wearing Wranglers? Who am I to not have certain friends, just because I don’t wear the latest fashions? It was as if this incredible leader had looked into my life and spoken directly to me. I was hiding my light behind the name-brand clothes I was wearing and the person I was trying to be in them. How many of you are hiding? Hiding in certain name-brand clothes, in sports, a job someone else thought you’d be good at, or even with a significant other that everyone else thinks you should be with? Those things, if they don’t come from your heart, they are hiding your light. You are brilliant, talented, fabulous and have a certain light that the world needs, so share it.

Well, it’s taken some time, but I think now I have a better understanding of myself and who I am. I’ve found that the clothing I wear, name-brand or not, doesn’t really matter. I need to be Abbie Kammerzell, no matter what. I have also discovered that certain name-brand clothes *do* enhance that light that the quote talked about.

Now, maybe you don’t succumb to peer pressure and think you don’t have any “branded” clothes, but I would disagree. Yes, I am very confident when I say that every student in here has a piece of name-brand clothing. Every person who has worn or is wearing an FFA jacket has name-brand clothing. The cool thing about this jacket and the clothes that go with it is that *it* doesn’t hide who you are. If anything, it magnifies the light within you because part of the

brand of an FFA jacket is *your name*.

Your name stitched in gold letters on the front for everyone to see—that is *your* brand.

This may not be the name-brand clothing that is popular in your school. I know I used to get a lot of teasing from my friends when I wore my blue corduroy...but if you need strength in numbers to find yourself, here in Freedom Hall there are 19,000 other people who are wearing the same, and yet unique, name-brand clothes, as well as more than 460,000 FFA members across the nation.

This jacket represents a unique organization that allows you to find out what you love, what you’re good at. Through FFA, you nurture and develop those things into what could potentially be a career. I’ve always heard I should “do what I love and what makes me happy.” But how are any of us supposed to do that if we hide inside clothes that prevent us from knowing who we are? The FFA helps you find and understand the amazing person that you are so that you can be confident in the light that you possess. Your jacket could be your first step.

When I think about times when I was most confident in the person I was, my mind is filled with memories of standing on a stage giving a speech wearing the blue and gold, working with and showing

Don’t hide who you are, especially in the FFA where you can find a very special light that you offer the world. Don’t hide who you are, and let FFA magnify the light you possess.

an animal for the fair, even talking to other FFA members—whether I knew them or not. Those moments of confidence, when I was truly sharing my light, are also many of my happiest memories. Isn’t it funny how happiness correlates so closely with feeling good and confident

about ourselves?

Look at your FFA jacket. Now think about your greenhand year. Do you remember giving the FFA creed while wearing your jacket? “I believe in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.” The fourth paragraph, words we all became so familiar with so that we could move upward to our chapter degree. Each member in here told the world that we could be happy, and I’m willing to bet that each of us has found happiness in the FFA; otherwise, you wouldn’t be here in Louisville, Kentucky.

So now, stop “shrinking.” Share your happiness, your light, with every person you meet because that’s what will help others do the same in their lives. Right now is your chance to tap into your happiness through the blue and gold.

About a month ago, Amber and I were watching the movie “Tin Cup” in our hotel room. It was a movie I’d seen before, but this time a certain line stuck out in my head. Kevin Costner’s character, Tin Cup, told his would-be girlfriend, “When a defining moment comes along, you have to define the moment or the moment defines you.” FFA members, right now could be your defining moment. Will you accept and embrace the person you are, wear the clothes you want to wear, not worrying about name-brands, and use your FFA jacket to help share your light with the world? Or will you simply hide in a costume with a certain label on the back pocket or name stitched on the tag?

As I struggled to find who I was, I realized my FFA jacket was an incredible foundation for me. Right now, while you’re wearing your blue corduroy, let it do the same for you. Let your golden light shine.

I may still worry sometimes about what others think of me, but I am slowly getting back to the person I know I am inside, to the passions I have, and finding ways to combine those with the person I have grown to become. The main thing I’ve learned, though, is that name-brand clothes are nowhere near as important as being happy and confident in the person you are. Don’t let the name on the tag count more than YOUR name.

You’ve gotta be happy and share your light with the world. You’ve gotta be proud of who you are. You’ve gotta be your own name-brand.

* This quote is often misattributed to Nelson Mandela. He did not share it during his inaugural speech.

National Chapter Awards

Sponsored by Cargill and Land O' Lakes Foundation as a special project of the National FFA Foundation

The National Chapter Award program recognizes FFA chapters who actively use a Program of Activities (POA) that emphasizes student, chapter and community development. These activities and projects provide citizenship, personal growth and leadership development opportunities to students, and minimum requirements for recognition have been developed in each area. Top chapters nationwide compete for three Models of Innovation awards and middle school chapters compete to be named Outstanding Middle School. Students from the winning chapters received plaques in an onstage ceremony.

Models of Innovation winners

NATIONAL WINNER STUDENT DEVELOPMENT Laurel-Concord FFA Chapter, Nebraska

Being from the Cornhusker state, the Laurel-Concord FFA Chapter took a practical approach to student development through a partnership with Syngenta hybrid corn. Students documented several hours of research with the hybrid corn seed. The company not only published the chapter's findings, but 75 percent of the material in the publication was a result of the chapter's research. Another chapter program included cooperative work with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in varying distance agricultural research experiences that resulted in two members acquiring summer jobs with Haskell Agricultural Laboratory. In



Representatives from the Comanche FFA Chapter in Oklahoma couldn't contain their excitement when their chapter was named the 2002 Models of Innovation winner in the chapter development category.

addition, the chapter hosts an annual "Kick Off" activity that gives members a chance to establish mentoring relationships with new members in hopes of improving membership retention.

NATIONAL WINNER CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT Comanche FFA Chapter Oklahoma

Patriotism flies high in the Comanche FFA Chapter as they show their national pride in a variety of ways. The chapter participated in the "Pennies for Bombing" program, raising money for the Oklahoma City Bombing Museum. They also raised money to help purchase new American flags for the local Lions Club, a task showing the true spirit of FFA. A little closer to home, chapter members set out to raise funds to build a new ag education laboratory building for their school. Not only did the chapter meet the amount needed to build the lab, but members also gained experience in marketing, clerking and advertising.

NATIONAL WINNER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT Perrydale FFA Chapter Oregon

Strong ties with the community are an essential part of a successful FFA chapter. The Perrydale FFA Chapter is a prime example of FFA members serving the community out of the goodness of their heart, displaying the dignity and honor of the blue and gold. Chapter members not only raised, processed and delivered pork to needy families through a program called Pork for People, but they also gathered food donations, monetary donations and contributed their own time to help a drought stricken area of Oregon through the Food for All program. To top things off, chapter members visit the Dallas Retirement Village at least three times a year to spend time with local senior citizens. These visits led to a strong bond between the retirement home residents and the FFA members that is a direct result of these chapter members striving to be contributing citizens of their community.

Three Star

Alabama: Enterprise, Fort Payne

Arizona: Peoria

Arkansas: Melbourne

California: Norco

Colorado: McClave, Valley

Connecticut: Lyman Hall

Georgia: Colquitt County, Jackson County, Jeff Davis Middle School,

Idaho: Cambridge, Kuna

Illinois: Mt. Vernon, Newark, Seneca, Somonauk-Leland

Indiana: Carroll Flora, Carroll Fort Wayne, Clinton Central, North Newton, Shenandoah, Southmont, Tri-County, Western Boone, Woodlan

Iowa: Benton Community, Creston, Harlan, Monticello, Tri-Star, Wapsie Valley

Kansas: Abilene, Arkansas City, Clay Center, Holton, Solomon

Kentucky: Apollo, Breckenridge County, Caldwell County, Meade County, Wolfe County

Louisiana: Lacassine, Louisiana School for Agrisciences, Ponchatoula

Michigan: Byron, Lowell, Springport

Minnesota: Perham, United South Central, Upsala

Missouri: Aurora, Carthage, Eldon, Troy, Union

Nebraska: Centennial, Franklin, Laurel-Concord, Ravenna, Sutton

New Jersey: Allentown

New Mexico: House

North Dakota: Finley-Sharon, Turtle Lake, Wahpeton

Ohio: Bowling Green, Delphos, East Clinton, Miami Trace, National Trail, River Valley, Versailles

Oklahoma: Comanche, Cushing, Waynoka

Oregon: Perrydale

South Dakota: Garretson

Tennessee: East Robertson, Munford, Portland, Riverside, White House

Texas: Columbus, Mansfield, Quanah, Snyder, Weimar

Utah: North Summit, Wasatch

Washington: Ritzville, Yelm

Wisconsin: Barron, Beaver Dam, Loyal, Marshfield, Oconto Falls, Spencer, Stevens Point, Stratford, Waupaca, Wauzeka, Weyauwega-Fremont

Two Star

Alabama: Eufaula, Geraldine, New Brockton

Arizona: Gilbert, Mountain View, Yuma

Arkansas: Mountain Home, Pleasant View, Prairie Grove, Searcy

California: Dinuba, Firebaugh, Fresno-Central, Norte Vista, Quartz Hill

Colorado: Flagler, Hotchkiss, Idalia, Merino, Platte Valley, Pueblo County, Weld Central

Connecticut: Housatonic Valley, Suffield Regional

Delaware: Smyrna, Sussex Central

Florida: Armwood, Baker County Senior, Fort White Middle, Fort White Senior, Kathleen Senior, Kennedy, Marianna, New Smyrna Beach Middle, North Marion Sr., Orlando Colonial Senior, Pine Ridge, Sarasota Vo-Ag, Suwannee Middle, West Orange Senior, Williston

Georgia: Bainbridge, Gilmer County, Hutto Middle School, Irwin, Miller County, Perry, West Laurens

Hawaii: Leilehua James Dole

Idaho: Meridian, Midvale

Illinois: Amboy, Barry, Bluford, Bushnell-Prairie City, Chicago Ag Science, Cissna Park, Eastland, Franklin Center, Greenville, Highland, Liberty, Marissa, Monticello, Mt. Carroll, Northwestern, Olney, Paxton-Buckley-Loda, Payson, Prairie Central, Rowva, Southeastern, Sullivan, Sycamore, Taylorville, Valmeyer, Warsaw

Indiana: Adams Central, Benton Central, Delphi, Heritage, Northeastern Wayne, Owen Valley, Switzerland County

Iowa: Agri-Power, Alburnett, Anamosa, Cascade, Charles City, Edgewood-Colesburg, Estherville, Gladbrook-Reinbeck, Glidden-Ralston, Indianola, Marengo, Mid-Prairie, Nashua-Plainfield, Osceola Big Chief, Rockwell-Sheffield, Sibley-Ocheyedan

Kansas: Atwood, Chapman, Hill City, Labette County, Linn, Marion/Florence, Marysville, Riverton, Southeast of Saline, Stockton, Winfield

Kentucky: Bourbon County, Central Hardin, East Carter, McLean County, Nelson County, Oldham County, Scott County, Spencer County, Taylor County

Louisiana: Bogalusa, Hathaway, Mt. Hermon, North Central, Oak Grove, Ruston, Springfield, Walker, Welsh

Maine: Presque Isle

Maryland: Caroline, Easton

Michigan: Allegan County Tech & Ed

Center, Breckenridge FFA, Corunna, Olivet, Perry-Morrice, Sanilac Career Center, USA

Minnesota: Battle Lake, Benson, Blue Earth Area, Brainerd Senior, Buffalo Lake-Hector, Chaska, Forest Lake, Litchfield, Montevideo, New Ulm, Randolph, Stillwater, Tracy, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, Winona, Zumbrota-Mazeppa

Mississippi: Biggersville, Carthage

Missouri: Ashland, Bowling Green, Carl Junction, Clopton, Dadeville, East Newton, El Dorado, Gallatin, Glasgow, Green City, Logan-Rogersville, Marionville, McDonald County, Milan, Monroe City R-1, Nevada, North Shelby, Salem, Salisbury, Sarcoxie, South Shelby, Strafford, Sweet Springs, Worth County

Montana: Bainville, Bridger-Clarks Fork, Flathead, Park, Shields Valley, Stevensville, Sweet Grass Co.-Big Timber

Nebraska: Freeman, Imperial, Norris, Northwest, Pender, Schuyler, Seward, Stuart

Nevada: Ruby Mountain, Silver Sage

New Jersey: Newton, Penns Grove

New Mexico: Mesa Vista, Moriarty

New York: Gouverneur, Medina

North Carolina: Bartlett Yancey, Eastern Randolph, Forest Hills, Hobbton, North Lenoir, Piedmont, Princeton, Purnell Swett, Randleman, South Rowan, Southern Guilford, Sun Valley, Union, West Carteret

North Dakota: Garrison, Lisbon, Rugby

Ohio: Amanda-Clearcreek, Ansonia, Blanchester, Cardington, Clyde, Elmwood, Greenville, Hardin Northern, Hillsboro, Indian Valley, Madison Plains, Margaretta, Miami East, New Bremen, Northeastern, Otsego, Pettisville, Preble Shawnee, River View, Talawanda, Twin Valley South, Wauseon, West Muckingham

Oklahoma: Adair, Arnett HS FFA Chapter, Atoka, Billings, Burlington, Calera, Canton, Canute, Cashion, Drummond, Durant, Elk City, Fairview, Fletcher, Freedom, Garber, Glencoe, Guthrie, Hooker, Indianola, Laverne, Marlow, Morris, Norman, Okemah, Oklahoma Union, Ripley, Sapulpa, Tecumseh, Thomas-Fay-Custer, Tuttle

Oregon: Dayton, Grant Union

Pennsylvania: Cedar Crest, Conococheague/James Buchanan, Manheim, Manor, Middleburg, Selingsgrove, Spud Growers, Twin Valley, West Snyder

South Carolina: Aiken, Central, Lexington Technology Center, Loris, Manning, McBee, Wagener-Salley

South Dakota: Bridgewater, Elkton,

McCook Central, Woonsocket

Tennessee: Bradley Central, Cherokee, Covington, Crockett County, Dyersburg, Gordonsville, Johnson County, Lexington, McMinn Central, McMinn County, Mt. Juliet, Powell Valley

Texas: A & M, Anderson, Arlington, Bowie-Austin, Brenham, Calallen, Caney Creek, Cedar Park, Childress, Clear Brook, Clear Creek, Crosby, Dayton, East Central, Garland, Grandview, Hallettsville, Hallsville, Hartley, Jacksboro, James Madison, Kingwood, Krum, Mission, Navasota, Normangee, Pilot Point, Rockdale, Sanger, Sheldon, The Woodlands, Tomball

Utah: Bear River, Uintah

Virginia: Buffalo Gap, Carroll County, Central, Culpeper County SR, Drewy Mason Middle, Essex, James Wood, King William, Louisa County Middle, Nelson Senior, Northumberland Sr., Randolph-Henry, Sherando, Signal Knob

Washington: Cathlamet, Colton, Evergreen, Grandview, Heritage, Liberty, Rochester, Wenatchee, White River, Winlock, Zillah

West Virginia: Doddridge County, Jefferson, Ripley, St. Marys, Tyler, Wirt County

Wisconsin: Arcadia, Cochrane-Fountain City, Colby, Denmark, East Troy, Fort Atkinson, Granton, Lodi, Marathon, Mishicot, New Holstein, Prairie Farm

Wyoming: Cody, Pine Bluffs, Shoshoni, Wheatland

One Star

Alabama: Brantley, West Blocton

California: Arroyo Grande, Del Norte, Imperial, La Puente Valley ROP, Lemoore

Florida: Sebring Senior

Iowa: Manson Northwest Webster

New Mexico: Goddard, Hagerman

North Carolina: Cape Fear, Charles D. Owen, West Craven

North Dakota: Divide County

Oklahoma: Kansas, Roland

Pennsylvania: Big Spring, Brothersvalley, Cumberland Valley, Grassland, Greenwood, Lancaster Mennonite

Tennessee: Loretto

Texas: Alvin, Axtell, Bandera, Brownsboro, Bryan, Burleson, Burnet, Cleburne, East Chambers, Fairfield, Hamshire-Fannett, Humble, Iola, Leander, Livingston, Mary Carroll, McGregor, Northwest, Orange Grove, Saltillo, Schulenburg, Sinton, Tidehaven, Tilden, Tom Bean, Troy, Waskom

Utah: Morgan, Sky View

Virginia: Atlee

Wisconsin: Bloomer, Randolph Cambria-Friesland, Sauk Prairie



PHOTO BY KELLY ROGERS

Members of the Yelm FFA Chapter in Washington were proud of their accomplishments as their chapter was recognized for its community development efforts.

Membership Recognition



PHOTO BY ED ZURIGA

A representative from Oklahoma was all smiles as he received recognition on behalf of his state for 100% membership.

The agricultural education model consists of three components: classroom, FFA and supervised agricultural experience program (SAE). These components make agricultural education stand out. In order to receive the maximum benefit, students should be involved in all aspects of agricultural education. Several states have met that objective by having 100 percent FFA membership for all students enrolled in agricultural education courses. States that have recorded 100 percent membership include California, Connecticut and Oklahoma. There are 24 states that are working toward this goal and have increased membership numbers.

100% Membership States

California
Connecticut
Oklahoma

Membership Growth States

Arkansas
California
Connecticut
Delaware
Florida
Georgia
Iowa
Kentucky
Massachusetts
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri

Montana
Nevada
New Hampshire
North Dakota
Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Vermont

VIP Citations

Bill Bartow of Ossineke, Mich., is truly an ambassador for agricultural education. This former FFA advisor oversaw the Alpeana agriculture and FFA programs for 36 years. The results of his work can be seen in the school's now three-teacher program and new facility known as the "G. William Bartow Agriscience Center." In 1987, he served on a task force to evaluate the status of agricultural education in Michigan. The result—the Agriscience Initiative—has guided curriculum development for the past decade.

Jane Coulter of Washington, D.C., has provided national leadership in the areas of nutrition, health, children, youth and family. The director of higher education programs at the USDA, her work with key leaders at agriculture schools has been instrumental in advancing agricultural education. Nationally, Coulter's responsibilities have included leading efforts to gain funding for state and local agricultural education programs.

Dr. Larry Erpelding has carried a passion for agricultural education throughout his career. The Associate Dean for the College of Agriculture at Kansas State University, Erpelding provides funding through the agriculture alumni association to support the state CDE awards and luncheon. He serves as the chief academic administrator over the agricultural education bachelor's degree program, ensuring the development of outstanding future agriculture teachers. A former Kansas FFA President, Erpelding continues to demonstrate a true dedication to supporting student success through quality agricultural education.

Enoch Gonzalez of San Juan, Puerto Rico, is the state advisor for all career and technical student organizations. His efforts have been pivotal in enhancing professional development programs for first and second year teachers. Gonzalez has made significant contributions in the leadership development of state and regional FFA officers, and plays a key role in a program designed to increase the quantity of American FFA Degree recipients from Puerto Rico. Gonzalez was appointed to his current position in recognition of his impressive work in student leadership development.

Larry Gundrum of Libertyville, Ill., has played a key role in expanding the support of agricultural education from non-traditional resources. The former Kraft Foods executive served as chairman of the National FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board in 2001. During his year of leader-

ship, the foundation raised a record \$8 million to serve FFA members. A valued spokesperson for FFA, Gundrum's efforts communicating the importance of agricultural education to the corporate arena have resulted in more members being able to pursue their dreams.

Joel Janke of Bismarck, N.D., has made many contributions to agricultural education. For 22 years, Janke has served as a dynamic representative for agricultural education in North Dakota. A founding member of the North Dakota Commission on the Future of Agriculture, Janke's honors include the Outstanding Member Award from the NASAE and the Distinguished Service Award from the National Farm and Ranch Business Management Association.

Dr. Layle D. Lawrence of Mt. Morris, Pa., has been recognized for outstanding research in agricultural and extension education. Dr. Lawrence serves as a chair of the West Virginia University's Agricultural and Environmental Education Department. A member of the department since the early 1970s, he has guided countless future agriculture teachers as an academic advisor. A dedicated educator, Lawrence continues to stress innovative teaching techniques, strong agricultural mechanic skills and challenging supervised agricultural experience programs.

William Schreck of Riverton, Ill., has dedicated his career to developing quality agricultural education programs. Serving as Illinois State Director of Agricultural Education since 1977, he chaired the development of a strategic plan designed to expand agricultural education from pre-kindergarten through adulthood. Schreck was recognized as an outstanding member of the National Supervisors of Agricultural Education and holds honorary life membership in the Illinois Association for Vocational Agriculture Teachers, among other accomplishments.

Kenneth Seering of Denmark, Wis., knows how to make a difference. During his tenure as an FFA advisor, he guided nearly 300 state degree recipients, more than 60 American FFA Degree recipients and mentored 25 chapters to receive

national award ratings. Seering's work has been recognized through numerous honors, including being selected as a recipient of the Kohl Fellowship Award as an outstanding educator in the state of Wisconsin.

Dr. Pete Spike of Columbus, Ohio, has provided guidance and leadership to the National FFA Dairy Cattle Evaluation CDE for 20 years. He played a pivotal role in the transition to Louisville, while adding to the quality of the event each year. He has dedicated his life to ensuring that FFA members from across the U.S.



PHOTO BY ED ZURGA

Joel Janke happily accepted a VIP Citation in recognition of his contributions to agricultural education.

are provided with outstanding agricultural education. Dr. Spike's work demonstrates a deep understanding that career excellence is created through integrated learning and practiced success.

United States Congressman **Wes Watkins** of Stillwater, Okla., is a vocal champion for the importance of agricultural education. A former Oklahoma FFA President, Congressman Watkins never failed to remember the impact being a member of FFA made on his career. Holding both a bachelor's and master's degree in agricultural education, he has worked to bring awareness to the issues of rural economic development, agriculture and career and technology education to the public arena.

Honary FFA Degree



FFA is proud to be one of the nation's elite youth organizations—known for guiding, inspiring and motivating youth to be in the forefront of today's agricultural industry. However, none of this would be possible without the support of agriculture teachers, individuals and parents. Each year, the National FFA Organization bestows the Honorary American Degree upon those individuals who have truly made a difference in the lives of students through their support of FFA and agricultural education.

The traditions of the blue and gold are much the same today as they were 75 years ago and are exemplified in the pride, dedication and true service of these recipients. FFA and its members appreciate the time, effort and enthusiasm Honorary American Degree holders bring to FFA. It is through the generosity of these persons that FFA members are shown what true heroes are. Each American Honorary Degree recipient is honored on stage with a plaque and pin.

Right: Lowell Mohler's commitment to FFA and agricultural education led him to be recognized with the Honorary American FFA Degree



PHOTO BY ED ZURGA

Alabama: Paul Winchester

Arkansas: Glenn D. Austin; Steve Franks; Wayne R. Nichols; Gene Vail

Arizona: Jerry Cullison; Kenneth A. Gregersen; Kenneth P. Johnson, Sr.

California: Jim Costa; Donald G. Gordon, Jr.

Delaware: Michael T. Scuse

Florida: Donald Bronson; Loretta B. Costin; Susan A. Kelly; Michael V. Martin

Georgia: Joseph P. Burke; Robert O. Chandler, Jr.; Newt Hudson; Franklin Staten; James Woodard

Iowa: Diane Stadlen

Idaho: Douglas Rutan

Illinois: Dan Pentony; Cheryl A. Salley

Indiana: Betsy Haig; Kelly Horton; Stan J. Howell

Kentucky: David Beck; Tony Brannon; Rick Caldwell; Orville Crigler; Wayne Esterle; Kelley Hughes; Cinnamon Jawor; Maria A. Martin; Walter H. Mathis; Eugene Peel; Billy Ray Smith;

Jennifer Turner

Louisiana: Gerald J. Theunissen

Maryland: Jane Carmack Smith

Michigan: Raymond Bollaert; Bill Butcher; Pauline Glassbrook; Tom Mays

Minnesota: Dennis Bergquist; Mary Buschette; Bruce Holmberg; Suzanne McCarty; Becky Meyer; Anthony Seykora; Don Wick

Missouri: Lowell Mohler

North Carolina: David Harris; Jeff Tennant; Nurham Warwick

North Dakota: Dan Rood Jr.; Bryan S. Strom

New Jersey: Brian Bass; Robert Bumpus; John Sebastiano

New Mexico: Jerry G. Schickedanz

New York: Daryle Foster

Oklahoma: Kurt Murray; Shelly Sitton; Jack Stuteville; Matt Wilson

Oregon: Don Sligar

Pennsylvania: Christopher M. Cashman; Renee Mae Frederick; Christian Robert Herr; Kerry

Hoffman Richards; DeElma Kline

South Carolina: Don Boice; John A. Cunningham; Grady Patterson

Tennessee: Steven W. Gass

Texas: Holly Blakey; Cathy Zavisch

Utah: Larry Olsen

Virginia: J. Carlton Courter, III; Eric Lee Fitzgerald; Cathy H. Hughes; Mark Leitman; Jim Loftis; Richard M. Shiflet

Washington: Roderick Duckworth

Wisconsin: Bryce Harelstad; Randy Tenpas; Mike Van Ess; Larry Zimmerman; Carol Zimmerman

West Virginia: Harry N. Boone Jr.; John Perdue; David Seymour; Kelly J. Burch

Agriculture Teacher

Alabama: Al Griffin, Beulah

Arizona: Ken Johnson, Gilbert

California: Michael Albiani, Elk Grove; Jim Drew, Grass Valley-Nevada Union FFA; Sherry Johns, Ripon; Sandy Lovfald, Eureka; Lynn Martindale, Lemoore; David Mendonca, Corcoran; Tony Miller, La Habra; Steve Paasch, Grass Valley-Bear River; Dick Piersma, Hilmar; Robert Vierra, Orland; Ken Watje, Salinas; Larry Wright, Rio Vista

Colorado: Ronald Paulick, LaVeta FFA

Florida: Ron Smoak, Lowndes High

Georgia: Tony Embrick, Jackson County

Idaho: William J. Dean, Emmett

Illinois: Carl Wayne Burkybile, Rantoul; Danny McCrite, Egyptian

Kansas: Vernon Schweer, Blue Valley

Louisiana: Track Kavanaugh, Ruston; James T. Thomas, Mt. Hermon

Michigan: Mark Forbush, Corunna; Burt Henry, Alma

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North Dakota: Al Liebersbach, Mandan; Gerald A. Wettlaufer, Bottineau

Nebraska: Dave Ference, Ord

New Jersey: Stephen V. Bouchard, Oakcrest

New Mexico: Rod Savage, Portales

Oklahoma: Carl R. Forrest, Quapaw

Pennsylvania: Cecil M. Lohr, Manheim

South Carolina: Pat Earle, McBee

Tennessee: Chuck Flowers, North Side FFA; Johnny Head, Northeast

Texas: Kenneth R. Beene, Abbott; Phillip A. McAnelly, Devine; Richard C. New, Devine; Leon Stewart, Mansfield; Russell Thomas, Gilmer

Virginia: Eugene A. McIlwee, Jr., Riverheads; G. Andrew Seibel, Fort Defiance

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Outreach Efforts



PALS/Ag Ambassadors

Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve. The actions and abilities of FFA members throughout the nation mirror the FFA motto. Members are continually living to serve through community outreach efforts, no matter where they may be. At the national FFA convention, members have extended their community-based projects to the greater Louisville area through the agricultural ambassador and Partners for Active Learning Support (PALS) programs.

Early in the week, 86 FFA members spent an afternoon with Louisville third-grade classrooms presenting interactive agricultural literacy programs. These presentations are designed to build a growing awareness of agricultural issues and careers, as well as the impact of the food, fiber and natural resources industries on everyday life. Prior to the classroom teaching experience, the ambassadors attended training and planning sessions.

PALS is a mentor program which matches high school FFA members with grade school students. This program helps students, both young and old, develop trust in others and a positive self-esteem. More than 400 elementary students participated one-on-one with high school FFA members in activities created to teach basic ideas of agricultural literacy. The convention PALS conference is the first step in helping chapters establish a PALS program in their home communities.



PHOTO BY SAM HARREL

The PALS conference brought local elementary students to the national FFA convention to participate in a variety of fun activities! Lifelong memories and bonds of friendship were formed.



PHOTO BY ED ZURGA

FFA members visited local elementary schools to teach young students the importance of agriculture in everyday life. It was an eye-opening experience for both members and grade school children.

National FFA Alumni Convention

The National FFA Organization isn't the only group celebrating an anniversary this year— the National FFA Alumni Association is celebrating its 30th year of service to FFA and its members. "Every year we try to give back a little more," said National FFA Alumni President Cindy Ettestad. The alumni association is an essential part of student success in the FFA. Ettestad says, "Our sole mission is to support students and agricultural education."

The alumni did just that at their 30th National FFA Alumni Convention, held in conjunction with the 75th National FFA Convention. Silent and live auctions were held during the week to raise funds for WLC (Washington Leadership Conference), collegiate and agriculture teacher scholarships. All the funds raised through these events come back to members and FFA in one form or another.

Thousands of FFA alumni members portray a united effort to volunteer on behalf of FFA. Their expertise, loyalty and service go above and beyond the call of duty, and there is much reason to celebrate their 30 years of superior dedication to FFA and agricultural education.



Joyce Sayre of Milan, Missouri, was one of three individuals recognized with the 2002 Outstanding Achievement Award.



"Going once, going twice, SOLD!" The National FFA Alumni auction raised more than \$70,000 for WLC, collegiate and agriculture teacher scholarships. This Chevy truck was the big-ticket item of the event.



Foundation Sponsors



The National FFA Foundation serves as a source of financial support for the National FFA Organization and agricultural education. Persons, businesses and groups who made monetary contributions to the foundation were recognized for their generous support. Whether sponsoring specific

programs or making general donations, these sponsors play a vital role in the success of FFA and agricultural education and contribute to the legacy that comes with 75 years of excellence. Corporate and personal gifts fund awards, scholarships and degree programs. These contributions, by

more than 1,700 sponsors, are seen as an investment in the future. Sponsors understand they are making a difference in the lives of students who are already beginning to embrace the leadership and career skills learned through FFA as they rise to be leaders in the agricultural industry.

Distinguished Service Citations

The National FFA Organization presented the Distinguished Service Citation to three companies who have spent years providing opportunities for FFA members and agricultural education students to achieve success. Representatives from IMC Global, Inc., Lake Forest, Ill., Publishers Press, Inc., Shepherdsville, Ky., and the USDA Farm Service Agency accepted the honor on behalf of their organizations during an onstage ceremony held at the 75th National FFA Convention.

IMC Global, Inc. has been a sponsor of the National FFA Foundation for 46 years. The company is currently demonstrating support for FFA members through the Environmental and Natural Resources Proficiency Award Program and scholarships for students from the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences. IMC Global was one of the first companies to make a \$100,000 commitment to the National FFA Center capital campaign. Through their support, this company helps FFA members realize their dreams and achieve success.

Publishers Press, Inc. has been instrumental in providing an outstanding setting for the National FFA Environmental



Nick Simon was pleased to accept the Distinguished Service Citation on behalf of his company, Publishers Press.

and Natural Resources CDE. Each year, they provide numerous employees, facilities and financial support to assure that everything necessary for conducting the highest quality event is available. In addition, the company provides in-kind printing services for the National FFA Foundation annual report and Proceedings. We celebrate partners such as Publishers Press, Inc. who dedicate valuable resources to student success.

The USDA Farm Service Agency continues to bridge relationships between FFA and vital agricultural agencies. For 19 years, the agency has sponsored the Stars Over America Award Program on the state and local

levels and the Stars recognition video. Committed to creating student career success, the agency provides valuable insight to members through participation in the FFA National Agricultural Career Show®. We congratulate partners such as the USDA Farm Service Agency who demonstrate the importance of relationships in creating excellence.

The Distinguished Service Citation is the highest award presented to an organization, agency, business or other group by the National FFA Organization. A limited number of citations are awarded annually. The award recognizes outstanding contributions made to agricultural education and FFA.

PHOTO BY ED ZURIGA

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Products Group
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Company, Inc.
Syngenta Seeds, Inc.

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Weasler Engineering
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15 Year

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QUEST Filters/CARQUEST
Gaskets
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* Retiring Member 2003

** New Member 2003

FFA National Agricultural Career Show[®]



The FFA National Agricultural Career Show, has always been a favorite convention attraction for FFA members. At the 37th annual career show, the nearly 350 exhibitors included agribusiness firms, universities, agricultural associations, fundraisers, commodity groups, breed associations, military branches, FFA programs, auto/truck dealers and farm equipment manufacturers. A highlight of this year's career show was the FFA museum. The museum featured the 50th FFA anniversary time capsule, photos, FFA jackets and other memorabilia. Other exhibits included the agriscience fair, hall of states and agri-entrepreneur displays. The career show also included a variety of interesting attractions ranging from rock climbing a giant corn cob to an "Ag Idol" karaoke booth and sumo wrestling to military fitness challenges. FFA members learned about exciting careers and opportunities in the agricultural industry through the displays and information available at this year's career show.



Up, up and away! FFA members scaled a giant corn cob and had fun while learning about the agricultural industry.



Career show exhibitors designed interactive booths to catch the interest of members and guests. Here, an FFA member's autograph joins thousands of others on a large map of the United States.

Hall of States

Alabama Association
Alaska Association
Arizona Association
Arkansas Association
California Association
Connecticut Association
Delaware Association
Florida Association
Georgia Association
Hawaii Association
Idaho Association
Illinois Association
Indiana Association
Iowa Association
Kansas Association

Kentucky Association
Louisiana Association
Maryland Association
Massachusetts Association
Michigan Association
Mississippi Association
Missouri Association
Montana Association
Nebraska Association
New Hampshire Association
New Jersey Association
New Mexico Association
New York Association
North Carolina Association
North Dakota Association

Ohio Association
Pennsylvania Association
Puerto Rico Association
Rhode Island Association
South Carolina Association
South Dakota Association
Tennessee Association
Texas Association
Vermont Association
Virginia Association
West Virginia Association
Wisconsin Association
Wyoming Association



Exhibitors

- AGCO
AgEdNet.com
Agribusiness Industry Network
Agricultural Consortium of Texas
Abilene Christian, Angelo State, Prairie View A&M, Sam Houston State, Southwest Texas State, Sul Ross State, Tarleton State, Texas A&M, Texas A&M-commerce, Texas A&M-Kingsville, Texas Tech, West Texas A&M
Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity
American Angus Association
American Association for Vocational Instructional Materials (AAVIM)
American Belgian Blue Breeders
American Blonde d'Aquitaine Association
American Dairy Goat Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American National Cattlewomen Foundation, Inc.
American Paint Horse Association
American Quarter Horse Youth Association
American Shorthorn Association
American Simmental Association
American Tractor Pullers Associations
American Veterinary Medical Association
Americorps * NCCC
Animal Agriculture Alliance
Animal Health Publication
Applied Technologies
Aquacenter, Inc.
Aquatic Eco Systems
Archer Daniels Midland Co
Army National Guard
ASSIST/Dominican Republic Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
Atlas Greenhouse Systems
Auburn University
Bekaert Wire
Berne Apparel
Black Hawk College
Blue Freedom Farm Market
Briggs & Stratton Corporation
Burley Tobacco Growers
BWI Companies, Inc.
California Polytechnic State University
Carhartt, Inc.
CARQUEST Corporation
Carry-on Trailer, Inc.
Case IH
Caterpillar - Think Big
Cave City Tourist & Convention Center
Ceres International Women's Fraternity
Champion Fruit Company
Chevron Texaco
Chevy Trucks
Christian Kropf, Inc.
CHS Cooperatives
Clemson University
Clover Publishing
CNH Capital
Colorado State University
Cornell University
Crosman Airguns
Dee Zee Manufacturing
Delaware State University
Delaware Valley College
Delmar Thomson Learning
Depco Inc.
Diversified Fund Raisers
Dodge
Dordt College
Dow AgroSciences
DTN (Data Transmission Network)
DuPont
Durango Boot
Eastern Kentucky University
Equine Industry Program/University of Louisville
Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education FCAE
Farm Safety 4 Just Kids
Farm Works Software
Farm World Newspapers
Farmers for Christ, International
- FarmHouse Fraternity
Fastlane Publications
Fellowship of Christian Farmers International
Ferrum College
Firestone Agricultural Tire Company
Florida Farm Bureau Marketing Division
Florida Fruit Association, Inc.
Ford Trucks
Fundamentals Co., Inc.
GBC Customized Calendars
Georgia Agriculture and Ag Education Consortium
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Fort Valley State University, Georgia FFA, University of Georgia College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences
Georgia Boot
Glory Be Collectibles
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
Graduate Study at Purdue University
Greater Louisville Inc., The Metro Chamber of Commerce
Hanson Aggregates Midwest, Inc.
Haywood Community College
Hobar Publications/Finney Company
Hobart Welders
Hormel Foods Corporation
Horticopia Inc.
Hummert International
Illinois Central College
Indiana Soy Products
Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Board
Instructional Materials Lab—University of Missouri
Instructional Materials Service—Texas A&M University
International Greenhouse Company
International Truck and Engine Corp.
Interstate Publishers, Inc.
Iowa FFA Foundation, Inc.
Iowa State University College of Agriculture
Iowa Western Livestock Judging Contest
JobHog.net
John Deere
Johnson and Wales University
Kansas State University
Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Companies
Kentucky Soybean Association
Kentucky State University
Keystone Steel & Wire Company
Kosair Charities
Kraft Foods
Lake Land College
Langdon Barber Groves, Inc
Lehi Valley Trading Co.
Lexington Convention & Visitors Bureau
Licensure in Education for Agricultural Professionals (LEAP)
Lincoln Electric Company
Linn State Technical College
Longwood Gardens
Louisiana State University
Ludy Greenhouse Manufacturers
Maple Grove Distributing, Inc.
Mason County Fiscal Court
Michelin North America
Michigan State University
Mississippi State University
Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association
Missouri Welding Institute
Monsanto Company
Morehead State University
Morton Salt
MTD Products, Inc./Cub Cadet
Murray State University
NAPA AUTO PARTS
Nashville Auto-Diesel College
National 4-H Council
National AgrAbility Program
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Alliance of Independent Crop
- Consultants
National Antique Tractor Pullers Association
National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE)
National Association of Farm Broadcasters
National Bison Association
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Cutting Horse Association
National FFA Agriscience Fair
National FFA Alumni Association
National FFA Organization Programs
National High School Rodeo Association
National Junior Swine Association
National Peer Helpers Association
National Pork Board
National Rifle Association of America
National Safety Council
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Tractor Pullers Championships
National Wild Turkey Federation
Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture
Nebraska Consortium
University of Nebraska, Northeast Community College, Southeast Community College, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, Western Nebraska Community College
New Holland North America
New Mexico State University
North American Limousin Foundation
North American Salt Co.
North Carolina A & T State University
North Carolina State University
North Dakota State College of Science
Northeast Iowa Community College
Northerner Boots
Northwest Missouri State University
Nu-Way Distributors
Ohio Agricultural Technical Institute
Ohio Corn Marketing Program
Ohio Curriculum Materials Service
Oklahoma Curriculum & Instructional Materials Center
Oklahoma Panhandle State University
Oklahoma State University
Oregon State University
Owen Community College
Pee Jay's Fresh Fruit
Pennsylvania State University
Philmont Scout Randi BSA
Pioneer
Preston Farms Popcorn Company
Progressive Agriculture Foundation
Project Food, Land & People
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Purdue University Safety
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Society of American Florists
Society of American Foresters
Southern Arkansas University
Southern Heritage Fundraising
Southwest Missouri State University - Collegiate FFA
Sports Turf Managers' Association
Stone Manufacturing & Supply Company
Stuppy Greenhouse Manufacturing Company
Sundowner Trailers
SUNY Cobleskill
Superior Growers Supply
Tendersticks, L.L.C.
Texas Instruments
Texas State Technical College
The American Phytopathological Society
the caplen company
- The Davey Tree Expert Company
Associated Landscape Contractors of America
The Fraternity of Alpha Zeta
The Globe Program
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
The Humane Society of the United States
The Ohio State University
The Ohio State University Dept. of Food, Ag. & Biol. Engr.
The Ohio State University Dept. of Human & Community Resource Dev.
The Ohio State University School of Natural Resources.
The University of Arizona
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U.S. Army Recruiting Command
U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc.
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Marine Corps
U.S. Navy Recruiting Command
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University of Arkansas
University of Arkansas Dept. of Crop, Soil & Environmental Sciences
University of California - Davis
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Idaho
University of Illinois
University of Kentucky
University of Kentucky Distance Learning Programs
University of Minnesota—Twin Cities
University of Missouri—Columbia
University of Northwestern Ohio
University of Puerto Rico—Mayaguez Campus
University of Tennessee—Knoxville
University of Wisconsin—Madison
University of Wisconsin—River Falls
USDA Agricultural Research Service - Information Staff
USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service
USDA Economic Research Service
USDA Farm Service Agency
USDA Foreign Agricultural Service
USDA Forest Service
USDA Marketing and Regulatory Programs
USDA National Agricultural Library
USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service /CENSUS
USDA National Animal Disease Center
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA Office of Inspector General
USDA Risk Management Agency
USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service
Venturing Division, Boy Scouts of America
Vidalia Sweet Onions for Education Program
Virginia Tech
Visual Impact Imaging
Ward's Natural Science
Western Illinois University
Western Kentucky University
Winchester Ammunition-Olin Corporation
WIX Filters Products Division of Dana Corporation
World Neighbors
Wrangler
WYO Tech
Yavapai College - Agribusiness
Zeecraft Tech

Courtesy Corps



PHOTO BY WALES HUNTER

A special breed of FFA member went beyond the call of duty to serve convention-goers as part of the Courtesy Corps. From stuffing envelopes to passing out programs, these individuals with the yellow armbands were a picture of “living to serve.”

Living to serve... Go no further than the 75th National FFA Convention Courtesy Corps to find FFA members who truly embody the FFA motto. FFA members volunteered their time as courtesy corps, making invaluable contributions at convention to ensure a positive experience for all attendees. To serve as courtesy corps, members submitted an application and designated their desired work hours. These members are a perfect example of the FFA motto in action, and their service plays a valuable part in the success of national convention. Courtesy corps members play a variety of roles including helping at the arena stage, working in the awards office and assisting in the newsroom. “It’s awesome to know I am a part of something this big,” said Jami Lee Graham of the Nelson County FFA Chapter in Bardstown, Ky. All courtesy corps members were recognized with a certificate of appreciation and an official courtesy corps pin.

Alabama: Billingsley FFA, Pell City High School FFA, Wetumpka FFA

Arkansas: Blytheville High School FFA, Fountain Lake FFA, Lake Hamilton FFA

Arizona: Higley FFA, Kofa FFA, Mesquite FFA, Mountain View FFA

California: Delano FFA

Connecticut: Lyman Hall FFA

Delaware: Caesar Rodney FFA, Dover FFA Chapter, Sussex Central FFA

Florida: Bunnell FFA, J.M. Tate High School FFA, Kennedy FFA, Lake Butler FFA, New Smyrna Beach FFA, Sebring Senior FFA, South Dade High School FFA, South Lake High School FFA, Taylor Senior FFA

Georgia: Etowah High School FFA

Iowa: Cascade FFA, Columbus High School FFA, DeWitt Central FFA, Iowa State University-Collegiate FFA, Manson Northwest Webster FFA

Idaho: Bonners Ferry FFA, Kendrick FFA

Illinois: Georgetown-RidgeFarm FFA, Liberty FFA, Minooka FFA, Tri-Point FFA, Windsor FFA

Indiana: Carroll HS FFA, Clinton Prairie FFA, Indian Creek High School FFA, North Newton FFA, South Ripley FFA, Woodlan FFA

Kansas: Chapman FFA, Goessel FFA, Hanover High School FFA, Hiawatha FFA, Neodesha FFA

Kentucky: Apollo High School FFA, Butler County FFA, Carroll County FFA, Central Hardin, Christian FFA, Green County FFA, Jackson County FFA, John Hardin FFA, Johnson Central FFA, Larue County FFA, Lincoln County FFA, Madison Southern FFA, Mason County FFA, Metcalfe County HS FFA, Nelson County High School FFA, Ohio County FFA, Ryle FFA, Woodford County FFA

Louisiana: Bogalusa FFA, Fifth Ward Jr FFA, Fontainebleau FFA, Franklinton FFA, Loranger FFA, Mt. Hermon FFA, Pearl River High School FFA, Raceland Middle FFA, Zachary FFA

Minnesota: Ag and Food Science Academy, Butterfield-Odin FFA, Lanesboro FFA, Perham FFA, Sibley East FFA

Missouri: Carl Junction FFA, Couch FFA, Gallatin FFA, Greenfield FFA, Higginsville, Kelly-Benton FFA, Koshkonong FFA, Meadville FFA, Nevada FFA, Odessa FFA, Schuyler R-1 FFA, Sikeston Career & Technology Center, Smithville R-II High School FFA, Union FFA, Walnut Grove FFA, Willard FFA

Mississippi: Enterprise-Lincoln County FFA

Montana: Judith Gap FFA

North Carolina: Central Cabarrus FFA

North Dakota: Beulah FFA, Bottineau FFA, Gackle-Streeter FFA

Nebraska: Blair FFA, Hartington FFA, Loup City FFA

New Hampshire: Alvirne FFA, Seacoast School of Technology FFA

New Jersey: Cumberland Regional FFA, Penns Grove FFA

New Mexico: Artesia FFA, Las Cruces FFA

Ohio: Amanda-Clearcreek HS FFA, Edgewood FFA, Fairbanks HS FFA, Old Fort FFA, River View FFA, Talawanda FFA, Vantage Career Center FFA, Warren FFA

Oklahoma: Altus FFA, Cashion FFA, Elk City High School FFA, Jenks FFA, Sapulpa FFA, Stillwater FFA, Tecumseh FFA

Oregon: Perrydale FFA

Pennsylvania: Big Spring FFA, Cumberland Valley FFA, Northern Lebanon FFA

South Carolina: Edisto High School FFA, Manning FFA

South Dakota: Gettysburg High School FFA, Newell FFA

Tennessee: Bolivar Central FFA, Hendersonville FFA, Lincoln County FFA, Mark Twain FFA

Texas: Aledo FFA, Aubrey FFA, Bland High School FFA, Bremond FFA, Bryan FFA, Celeste High School FFA, Columbus FFA, Commerce FFA, Cotton Center FFA, Desoto FFA, Era FFA, Franklin FFA, Frisco FFA, Garland FFA, Glen Rose FFA, Goldburg FFA, Granger FFA, Greenville FFA, Humble FFA, Huntsville FFA, Idalou FFA, Iola FFA, Ira FFA, Killeen FFA, Kingwood FFA, Kirbyville High School FFA, Leon FFA, Lone Oak FFA, Mabank FFA, Mansfield FFA, McKinney High School FFA, Northwest High School FFA, Peaster FFA, Plano East FFA, Quinlan FFA, Roscoe FFA, Schulenburg FFA, Sealy FFA, Sinton FFA, Snyder FFA, Spring Branch FFA, Tulosa-Midway FFA, Weatherford FFA, Weimar FFA

Virginia: Blacksburg High School FFA, Essex FFA, Signal Knob Middle School FFA

Washington: Bridgeport FFA, Eastmont FFA, Evergreen FFA, Stanwood FFA

Wisconsin: Slinger FFA, Stoughton FFA

Official Delegates



PHOTO BY ED ZURIGA

In a united effort, the national officers and staff call to order another year of unforgettable memories and experiences. The delegate assembly was sponsored by the City of Louisville as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

This year a new delegate process, which closely follows the procedures of the United States Congress committee hearings, was unveiled. The process began this summer at the State Presidents' Conference in Washington, D.C. State leaders discussed and selected nine issues that would come before the entire delegate body.

Arriving early the week of convention, 475 delegates from around the nation met to conduct official business for the National FFA Organization. Delegates split into their respective committees, heard testimonies and then shared their findings with the entire delegation. The group then voted on the recommendations of the nine issues and forwarded them to the National FFA Board of Directors, which will review them in January 2003.

Delegates discussed issues pertaining to the number of career development event (CDE) teams that may compete nation-

ally per state and official FFA dress policy. Other issues ranged from realigning the regions for the national FFA officer elections to creating more opportunities for short-term enrollment agricultural education students.

Alabama: Crystal Bradley, Gaston; Ashleigh Butts, Leroy; Brett Crow, Danville; Toni Deason, Woodland; Devin Dotson, Red Bay; Christopher Edmiston, Jacksonville; Cody Eiland, Euaula; Daniel Ganus, Leroy; Jennifer Himburg, Ariton; Alyson Johnson, Geraldine; Christopher Randolph Jr., Jacksonville; Grace Smith, Billingsley; Shanice Wilson, Billingsly; Amy Wise, Hartford

Alaska: Coltan Bohman, Palmer; Calvin Kenley, Palmer

Arizona: Patrick Bray, Tolleson; Jess Gillum, Peoria; Brian Hogue, Wilcox; Holly Schindler, Buckeye; Ray Woodbury, Millennium

Arkansas: Carmen Albright, Ozark; Caroline Carpenter, Cabot; Cody Comeaux, Centerpoint; Amanda Cooper, Melbourne; Corey Davis, Clinton; Jameson Deen, Searcy; Kristin Glass, Taylor; Jessica Groves, Lewisville; Tory Hodges, Alpena; Amy Howell, Camden-Fairview; Brent

Johnson, Quitman; Preston Johnson, Lonoke; Jake Smith, Melbourne; Allisyn Woodrow, Cabot

California: Mark Aguiar, Tulare; Jeff Alves, Galt; Denita Arens, Biggs; Tyler Blagg; Thomas Bottoms, Escalon; Megan Brownell, Santa Maria-Righetti; Luke Browning, Grass Valley; Melissa Burgess, Ripon; Melody Carter, Holtville; Kimberly Chism, Lemoore; Amber Cleaver, Bakersfield; Mindy Clisso, San Marcos; Ashley Day, Tollhouse-Sierra; Audrey Denney, Bradley; John Diaz, Central; Anne Diener, Riverdale; Molly Fagundes, Atwater; Gino Farinelli, Escalon; Kelly Forsythe, Mariposa; Amanda Gilson, Visalia-Redwood; Marcus Hollan, Mariposa; Megan Jacobsen, Fresno-Washington; Anastacia Kesley, Fresno-Central; Austin Large, Fresno-Central; Bianca Lee, Fallbrook; Elizabeth Leonardi, Ferndale; Danielle Lester, Dinuba; Gary Maye, Lucerne Valley; Tiffany McIntosh, Nicolaus-East Nicolaus; Jim Myers, Paso Robles; Christina Nijskens, Ceres; Natalie Phipps, Fresno-Central; Gabriel Ponce, Santa Maria; Luis Ramierz, Santa Ynez; Lindsey Rank, Etna; Katie Robertson, Galt; Becky Roland; Colette Rose, Santa Maria-Righetti; Alissa Sarvinski, Ferndale; Elissa Shipp, Norco; Brandon Souza, Hanford;

Ginger Thirlaway, Grass Valley-Bear River; Sean Thompson, Lenmoore; Krystle Ward, Shingle Springs-Ponderosa; Jacob Wenger, Modesto; Brittany Westbrook, Firebaugh; Trista White, Lemoore; Janelle Williams, Bakersfield



Colorado: Robby Adams, Platte Calley; Kyle Carbaugh, Greeley West; Kaki Little, Weld- Central; Brandon Mason, Merino; Jake Michal, Flagler

Connecticut: Rebecca Cabral, Mattabeset; Becky Cleary, Woodbury; Stephen Russell, Housatonic; Fred Scoville, Housatonic Valley

Delaware: Jimmy Powell; Jonathan Snow, Smyrna; Meredith Stevenson, Sussex Central

Florida: Kelly Aue; Shannon Davis, Durant; Erica Der, Plant City; Rudy Espinoza, Miami; Jorge Guevara, New Smyrna Beach; Emily Hand, Bounstown; Blake Iverson, Baker County Sr.; Stacy Revels; Justin Sharpless, Lake Wales; Michele Sutton, Ponce de Leon; Arden Tilghman, South Lake; Sorrell Vickers, South Manatee



PHOTO BY KELLY ROGERS

Official delegates shared their thoughts and ideas during Wednesday's business session.

Georgia: John Bramblett, Jefferson; Brandy Butler, ECI; Jamie Dodd, Dade Co.; Brian Elrick, Southeast Bulloch; Lori Gilbert, Miller Co.; Sabrina Griffin, Brantley; Katie Hearn, Apalachee; Alex Hicks, North Hall; Catrina Kennedy, Claxton; Rachael McCall, Wilcox; Nathan McLeod, Jeff Davis; Ian McMullan, Lumpkin County; Katie Murray; Kristi Smith, Madison; Trisha Stephens, Tift Co.; Ciff Tippens, Clinch; Alex Tolbert, Jackson Co.; Julie Townley, North Hall; Andrew Warnock, Bleckley; Ashley Whiddon, Perry

Hawaii: Cherie-Lee Kuoha-Jose, Waiange; Jameson Ramelb, Leilehua

Idaho: Mindy Jenkins; Casey Johnson; Cody Park, Rigby; Kimi Povey; Christine Schmid

Illinois: Emilee Bocker, Eastland; Melissa Bramlett, Pope County; Brian Dallam, Franklin Center; Drew DeRiemacker, Geneseo; Bruce Frank, Athens; Curtis Fry, Cisne; Whitney Hand, Marissa; Jay Kelley; Kenan Peters, Chicago HS for Ag Science; Brian Peterson, Oregon; Chad Pilcher, PaxtonBuckley; Matt Shriver, Unity; Nathan Unsworth, Alexis; Meagan Wells, Cisne; Rebecca Yandell

Indiana: Jeremy Armstrong, Switzerland County; Kyle Culp, Belmont; Amber Ebbert, Tri High; Tristan Emery, Mt. Vernon; Kara Kohlhausen, Rensselaer; Ben Leu, Prairie; Alicia Lowery; Amanda Vore, Hamilton Southeastern

Iowa: Toni Carlson, Linn Marr; Cassie Ehrman, Benton Community; Thomas Meierotto, Central-Lee; Erik Oberbroeckling, Tri Star; Betsy Ratashak, Murray; Robert Rudolphi, Williamsburg; Matt Thome, St. Ansgar; Kathy Wuebker, Rockwell City-Lytton

Kansas: Kim Clark, Holton; Sandy Dillon, Atwood; Erin Heinen, Downs; Jacob Lauer, Holcomb; Charles (Dan) Miller, Winfield; Craig Pringle, Winfield

Kentucky: Robert Alexander, Christian County; Chad Anglin, Garrard County; Logan Beyke, Daviess County; Jay Campbell, Logan County; Stephanie Dones, Nelson County; Holly Gilpin, Green County; Lindsey Mayse, Henry County; Julie Murphy, Montgomery County; Randall Riffe, East Carter; Sara Riggs, Jessamine County; Adam Wadlington, Lyon County; David Wilson, Jackson County; Gregory Wilson, Calloway County

Louisiana: Matthew Babcock; J.D. Collinsworth; Bryan Crowson; C.C. Dubois; Jacob Dufrene; Jeffery Guidry, Ceau Chene; Danielle Hebert; Ty Istre, Sulphur; Kelly Kline; Ashlee Thomas

Maine: Micaela Hotham, Presque; Heidi Libby, Presque Isle

Maryland: Beth Brooks, Queen Anne's; Larry Riggleman Jr., Clear Spring; Jessica Jager, Harford Tech

Massachusetts: Melanie Boucher, Bristol; Linda Burke, Essex; Timothy Roy, Cape Cod Tech

Michigan: Luke Gentz, Centreville; Laura Hamlin, Webberville; Royce Humm, Breckenridge; Alysa Isley, Blissfield; Sam Scarborough, Stephenson; Scott Smalley, Ubyly

Minnesota: Jillian Becker, Kimball; Jenny Brown, Lake Park-Audubon; Beth Lauwagie, GFW Pioneer Express; Dawn Luhmann, Rushford-Peterson; Kristie Ploehn, Jackson County Central; Suzie Rethemeier, Perham; Eric Sawatzke, Howard-Waverly-Winsted; Kristyna Schultz, Litchfield; Rachel Wulf, Morris Area

Mississippi: David Busby, Ackerman; Bryan Collins; Meredith McCurdy, South Panola; Crystal Palmer, Pine Grove; Jason Rogers, Independence

Missouri: Serena Ehlers, El Dorado Springs; Aaron Hampton, Hartville; Sarah Hodges, Salem; Jamie Lile, Stafford; Sarah Loehr, St. Clair; Ashley Lyon, Norborne; Lee Magruder, Clopton; Adam McGee, Purdy; Kacie Nelson, Macon; Garrett Rives, Woodland; Kim Robinson, Doniphan; Heather Shauck, Eldon; Austin Swafford, Savannah; David Swaters, Lakeland

Montana: Travis Brown, Huntley Project; Marie Franko, Cascade; Lacey Hunter, Stevensville; Jodie Johnston

Nebraska: Mark Bloss, Pawnee City; Chris Hansen, Medicine Valley; Jared Hartman, Laurel-Concord; Kori Kock, Logan View; Josh Oltmans, Lawrence-Nelson; Sarah Placke, St. Paul; Ryan Windhorst, Syracuse

Nevada: Carl Sarman III, Silver Sage; Morgan Tucker, Diamond Mountain

New Hampshire: Mandy Cook, Seacoast; Kerri Rosato, Alvirine; Scott Schultz, Coe-Brown

New Jersey: Catherine Bell, Cumberland; Brian Dalbow, Penns Grove; Robert Gioia, Jr., Penns Grove; Jennifur Wilson, North Burlington

New Mexico: Elisa French; Stuart Joy, Artesia; Savannah Kenney; Roxanne Kidd; Shaline Lopez, Corona; Nicci McDonald

New York: Emily Dano, Schohaire; Joshua Miller, Schoharie; Jackie Ploetz, Cuba Rushford; Lena Smith, Clymer; Amber Twentymen, Tully

North Carolina: Marcus Cleveland, Croatan; Daniel Correll, Spring Creek; Allison Corriher, South Rowan; Haley Hampton, Smoky Mountain; Ashley Harrell, East Carteret; Camber Howard, Bandys; Caroline Long, North Davidson; Jessica McLain, Eastern Randolph; Christine McPherson, West Columbus; Bobbi Nordan, South Johnston; Jennifer Peters, Bartlette; Angie Richardson, Eastern Randolph; Justin Wade, West Carteret

North Dakota: Christy Behm, Des Lacs/Burlington; Noah Hall, Berthold; Heather Misk, Hillsboro; Nathan Popiel, Beach; Elizabeth Rood, Wahpeton; Kevin Teigen, Rugby

Ohio: Nicolas Arnold, Warren; Karen Blankenship, Lynchburg-Clay; Kisha Bodey, Monroeville; Rob Brokaw, Morgan; Rebekah Dannemiller, Ross; Bethany Frew, Carrollton; Ashley Greenbaum, Marysville; Brad Guckian, Preble Shawnee; Cara Lawson, Ripley; Ashley Lepper, Geona; Abby Pound, Northridge; Cris Sprague, Warren; Joy Stroller, Wayne Trace; Jill Tyson, Hillsdale; Marlene von Stein, Cory-Rawson; Kimberly Watson, John Glenn

Oklahoma: Kelly Barnes, Webbers Falls; Victoria Bowden, Atoka; Lara Bridenstine, Ripley; Adam Chace, Stroud; Jacob Farquhar, Altus; Abby Jo Fischer, Chattanooga; Isaac Fisher, Chattanooga; Colby Haggard, Elk City; Josh Hawkins, Midway; Jonathan Holloway, Chattanooga; Julie Horton, Cement; Eric Money, Calera; Tyler Norvell, Amber-Pocasset; Cody Pearce, Quinton; Natasha Potter, Merritt; Katie Rose, Durant; Jordan Russell, Freedom; Brian Sapp, Wellston; Branden Sapp, Wellston; Tracy Smith, Guthrie

Oregon: Matt Deboodt, Crook County; Elias Eiguren, Jordan Valley; Lauren Farnen, Lakeview; Catie Owens, Baker; Ben Sherrett, Stanfield; Tia Warren, Hermiston

Pennsylvania: Andrew Allwine, Bermudian; David Bittner, Brothers Valley; Drew Cowden, H.G. Parkinson; Emily Grove, Shippensburg; Jonathan Lauver, Middleburg; Timothy Leshner, Mahantank; Anthony Seymore, Bermudian; Mary Strasbaugh, Cumberland Valley

Puerto Rico: Sherryl Calvo, Utuado; Glays Cuevas, Utuado; Eladio Gonzalez, Angeles; Christian Hernandez, Botijas

Rhode Island: Cheri Beavais, Ponaganset; Kevin Siniscalchi, EWG

South Carolina: Bryan Armstrong, Laurens; Alex Gleason, Calhoun Falls; Christopher Moss, Wahalla; Nic Stratton, Lexington; Carrie Trebil, Manning; Joshua Waters, Gilbert

South Dakota: Ryan Brunner, Newell; Jared Knock, Willow Lake; Mary Kurtz, Elkton; Sarah Stratmeyer, Lennox; Jamie Swan, Newell

Tennessee: Ashley Baker, Dyersburg; Pamela Bartholomew, Riverside; Will

Bird; Melissa Burninston, Johnson County; Hannah Collier, White County; Travis Crisp; Michael Foster; Rachael Klamer, Munford; Julie Maynor, Walker Valley; Rachel Paschall, Dresden; Clint Sanders; Allie Shrum, Beech

Utah: Kara Lang, UT0025; Stanley Rose, Manila; Tanya Selman, Bear River; Tamra Watson, UT0026; Shay Wells, Diamond Mountain

Vermont: Adam Donnelly, Vergennes Union; Danielle Welch, Middlebury



Delegates showed respect for the American flag during the Pledge of Allegiance.

Texas: Lindsay Allen, Alvin; Melissa Arhelger, Fredricksburg; Laura Ashorn, Brenham; Coy Baldwin, Leon; Jared Birkhead, Rockdale; Cari Brinlee, Howe; Brison Bursey, Quanah; Kim Chaney, White Deer; Michelle Clayton, Bowie; Cye Cooper, Olney; Nick Dow, East Chambers; Raymond Earwood, Freer; Brandt Edwards, Hamilton; Stacy Fox, Springtown; Kati Gilliam, Quanah; Jerrod Hancock, Abilene; Joy Holland, James Madison; Dancesy Hopping, Memphis; Dustin Hunter, Commerce; Catilyn Jenkins, McAllen; Jacklyn Jones, Bloomington; Jacinda Judah, Snyder; Jerod Justice, Athens; Jessica Kempen, Somerset; Kara Kliesing, Elkins; Tyler Koch, Henderson; Mollie Larrison, Cleburne; Katie Leigh, James Madison; Ryan LeNorman, Huntsville; Lauren Martinez, Pecos; Jessica McCann, Harmony; Jacob Milligan, Van; Megan Morasch, Livingston; Zachary Morris, New Home; Ashley Nehring, Anson; Justin Praslicka, Waxahachie; Keith Price, Mansfield; Meggan Pridemore, North Lamar; Lindsey Rakowitz, Pleasanton; Brady Rasco, Lockney; Tobin Redwine, Lazbuddie; Shannon Redwine, Lazbuddie; Sara Shook, Mary Carroll; Charles Spiegel, Midlothian; Travis Sullivan, Natalia; Morgan Thompson, Chapel Hill; Chad Williams, Fairfield; Justin Yancey, Willis; Drew Young, Nacogdoches

Virginia: Jared Burner, Luray; Forest Clark, Bluestone; Beth Craddock, Chatham; Jordan Liskey, Turner Ashby; Abram McConnell, Holston; Katie O'Neil, Atlee; Derek Ritenour, Central; Laura Shoemaker; Wendy Slusher, Fort Defiance; Josh Stevens

Washington: Dustin Hurter, Sumner; Ric Ibarra; Melissa Nuusbaum; Per Pettersson; Angie Veldhuizen, Enumclaw; Marissa Wilkie

West Virginia: Charlie Bennett, Ripley; Nona Hunt, Roane County; Kaela Kuhn, Hundred; Eden Ritchie, Mineral County; Laura Workman, Roane; Jessica Workman, Elkins

Wisconsin: Tony Brey, Southern Door; Peggy Dierickx, Monticello; Brooke Erdman, Augusta; Larissa Fildes, Colby; Nicole Franzen, Sheboygan Falls; April Gnadt, Kiel; Ron Henningfeld, East Troy; Laura Hoffelt, Bruce; Jeanna James, Darlington; Amanda Levzow, Pardeeville; Jackie Mundt, Pittsville; Chris Ritscher, Cochrane-Fountain City; Matthew Schleusner, Barron; Michael Stranz, Oconto Falls; Amber Jo Swenor, Bowler

Wyoming: J. Trevor Bekken; Stacia Berry; Troy Siddle



Committee Reports



Review Policy for official FFA dress enforcement.

- a. Clarify ladies section of Official FFA Dress in FFA Manual.
 - b. Designate an official pin for the Discovery FFA Degree.
- original idea from submissions by California FFA state delegate committee and Jonathon LaPointe, Louisiana.

Denita Arens, CA
Kelly Aue, FL
Christy Behm, ND
David Bittner, PA
Melissa Bramlett, IL
Melissa Burgess, CA
Ashleigh Butts, AL
Toni Carlson, IA
Amber Cleaver, CA
Marcus Clevelan, NC
Hannah Collier, TN
Beth Craddock, VA
Drew DeRiemac, IL
StephaniDones, KY
Jacob Dufrene, LA
Brandt Edwards, TX
Tristan Emery, IN
Lauren Farnen, OR
Lori Gilbert, GA
Alex Gleason, SC
Eladio Gonzalez, PR
Erin Heinen, KS
Amy Howell, AR
Lacey Hunter, MT
Dustin Hunter, TX
Dustin Hurter, WA
Jeanna James, WI
Catilyn Jenkins, TX
Kara Kliensing, TX
Tyler Koch, TX
DanielleLester, CA
Kaki Little, CO
Dawn Luhmann, MN
Gary Maye, CA
Adam McGee, MO
Nathan McLeod, GA
Helen McMullan, GA
Christop Moss, SC
Kacie Nelson, MO
Natalie Phipps, CA
Kimi Povey, ID
Meggan Pridemor, TX
Jameson Ramelb, HI
Larry Rigglema, MD
Chris Ritscher, WI
Jason Rogers, MS
Katie Rose, OK
Jordan Russell, OK
Troy Siddle, WY
Sarah Stratmey, SD
Joy Stroller, OH
Jill Tyson, OH
Adam Wadlingt, KY
Ryan Windhors, NE

Ray Woodbury, AZ
Allisyn Woodrow, AR
Laura Workman, WV

Whereas, the Organization strongly encourages members to wear correct official dress.

Whereas, official dress is not clearly specified in the *Official FFA Manual*.

Whereas, the Organization recognizes those junior high members for their achievements through the use of the Discovery FFA Degree.

Be it resolved that the National FFA Delegate Committee on Official Dress and Enforcement recommends the following:

1. The *Official FFA Manual* must be revised to include the specific recommendations below.
2. To amend the first paragraph of the National FFA Constitution in Article VIII.

The following support leads this committee to believe these recommendations are needed:

The FFA manual for dress code should read: Female members are to wear a black skirt at least knee length or longer, even across the bottom, with a slit no longer than two inches above the knee. This excludes the kick pleat. Also, skirts should not be made of leather, lace or vinyl. Female members shall wear a white collared blouse, black dress shoes with a closed heel and toe, black nylon hosiery and an official FFA jacket zipped to the top. Females may wear black slacks for traveling and outdoor activities such as career development events and camping.

Official dress for male members should be black dress slacks (no denim), white collared shirt, official FFA tie, black shoes, black socks and an official FFA jacket zipped to the top.

Article VIII Section C of the National FFA Constitution should be amended at the beginning to read: "Discovery FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official Discovery FFA Degree emblem pin"... then follow with what is currently written for the Greenhand and remaining FFA degrees.

Respectfully submitted on this 30th day of October by:

Committee Chair: Jason Rogers, MS
Committee Vice Chair: David Bittner, PA
Committee Secretary: Christy Behm, ND

Action on Committee Recommendation: Passed

Committee Reports

Utilize more resources for promotion of FFA in national media.



Logan Beyke, KY
Will Bird, TN
Kisha Bodey, OH
Megan Brownell, CA
Brison Burse, TX
David Busby, MS
Rebecca Cabral, CT
Drew Cowden, PA
Glays Cuevas, PR
Brian Dalbow, NJ
Jameson Deen, AR
Sandy Dillon, KS
Devin Dotson, AL
Serena Ehlers, MO
Jeffery Guidry, LA
Colby Haggard, OK
Ron Henningf, WI
Alex Hicks, GA
Joy Holland, TX
Preston Johnson, AR
Casey Johnson, ID
Jodie Johnston, MT
Jacklyn Jones, TX
Jay Kelley, IL
Savannah Kenney, NM
Anastasi Kesley, CA
Kaela Kuhn, WV
Ryan LeNorman, TX
Ashley Lepper, OH
Ben Leu, IN
Abram McConnel, VA
Jessica McLain, NC
Jake Michal, CO
Eric Money, OK
Zachary Morris, TX
Katie Murray, GA
Kristie Ploehn, MN
ChristopRandolph, AL
Lindsey Rank, CA
Katie Robertso, CA
Becky Roland, CA
Robert Rudolphi, IA
Branden Sapp, OK
Justin Sharples, FL
Scott Smalley, MI
Michele Sutton, FL
Jamie Swan, SD
Nathan Unsworth, IL
Krystle Ward, CA
Tia Warren, OR
Shay Wells, UT
Marissa Wilkie, WA
David Wilson, KY
Drew Young, TX

- original idea from submissions by Sierra Blanton, Georgia and Terry Almand, Georgia.

Whereas, we the members of the national committee for the promotion of the FFA in the national media, after hearing testimony from FFA members, the committee realizes that the utilization of the national media to the promotion of the FFA is of high priority.

Whereas, this being a very broad and prominent issue, we as a committee with restricted resources and time feel that we can not effectively cover all avenues of this issue in our time frame.

Whereas, we the committee feel this issue could better be handled by a task force to further pursue media promotion based upon human and financial resources of the National FFA Organization.

Be it resolved that the National FFA Delegate Committee on Utilizing more Resources for Promotion of FFA in National Media recommends the following:

1. Create a task force appointed by National FFA staff to pursue media efforts to promote the National FFA Organization.

The following programs and services would be impacted by these committee recommendations:

1. Educate current supporters of the National FFA Organization on ways that they can promote their products at FFA activities. Activities could include national FFA convention as well as state conventions.
2. Develop a national media theme and educate and train FFA members to properly utilize promotional opportunities for the FFA. Ways to educate could include having MP3 files on the national website for local members to download and distribute. Also, to create a step-by-step guide book for chapters to follow while promoting the national FFA theme.
3. 1. Those in charge of internet promotion purchase banner ads on relevant sites that will hotlink to the national website. 2. Develop a section for parents on the national website that will allow parents to access information about leadership skills offered to students through the FFA. 3. MP3 and oral promotions from national FFA officers, celebrities, political figures, etc., be made available to FFA members for use in their promotion of the organization.
4. The following new sections be added to *New Horizons* magazine: 1. Personal FFA Experiences: A section with stories from past members, or people who's lives have been influenced or affected by the FFA. 2. Where are they now?: A section devoted to catching up with past national officers that will tell about their experiences (careers, travels, etc.) since their term as a national officer. 3. What do ya think about us?: A section offering positive comments given to the FFA by people in the public eye. 4. Are ya up to it? A page listing challenges for FFA members/officer teams to complete before the next issue comes out. When the next issue comes out, print stories sent in by members who fulfilled the challenge, along with the next months challenge. REGARDING THE NEW HORIZONS MAGAZINE, we recommend that the New Horizons magazine be translated into Spanish so we can better reach our members in Puerto Rico.
5. Encourage new and current sponsors to display the FFA symbol on the package of their product and in advertisements for their product. Encourage states to advertise their chief state products using FFA members (i.e.: Wisconsin State Officers eat Wisconsin Cheese)

Respectfully submitted on this 30th day of October by:
Committee Chair Serena Ehlers, MO
Committee Vice Chair Rob Rudolphi, IA
Committee Secretary: Jamie Swan, SD; Katie Murray, GA



PHOTO BY SAM HAREL

Between press releases, media advisories and radio interviews, national staff and interns worked hard to gain coverage of the convention.

Action on Committee Recommendation: Passed

Committee Reports



Describe the role of FFA in the promotion and development of agricultural industry.

What should be the role of FFA in the promotion and development of the agricultural industry?

- original idea from submission by Jennifer Rainey, Kansas

Andrew Allwine, PA
Bryan Armstrong, SC
Matthew Babcock, LA
Kelly Barnes, OK
Cheri Beavais, RI
Karen Blankens, OH
Thomas Bottoms, CA
Brandy Butler, GA
Jay Campbell, KY
Kyle Carbaugh, CO
Caroline Carpenite, AR
Kim Clark, KS
Forest Clark, VA
Mindy Clisso, CA
Daniel Correll, NC
Emily Dano, NY
Peggy Dierickx, WI
Nick Dow, TX
C.C. Dubois, LA
Elias Eiguren, OR
Cody Eiland, AL
Molly Fagundes, CA
Stacy Fox, TX
Bethany Frew, OH
Chris Hansen, NE
Jennifer Himburg, AL
Brian Hogue, AZ
Dancey Hopping, TX
Nona Hunt, WV
Blake Iverson, FL
Megan Jacobsen, CA
Stuart Joy, NM
Catrina Kennedy, GA
Jared Knock, SD
Kara Kohlhage, IN
Ashley Lyon, MO
Lindsey Mayse, KY
Jessica McCann, TX
Heather Misk, ND
Jackie Mundt, WI
Erik Oberbroe, IA
Brian Peterson, IL
Chad Pilcher, IL
Tobin Redwine, TX
Garrett Rives, MO
Clint Sanders, TN
Brian Sapp, OK
Alissa Sarvinsk, CA
Eric Sawatzke, MN
Matthew Schleusn, WI
Jonathan Snow, DE
Brandon Souza, CA
Trisha Stephens, GA
Tamra Watson, UT

Whereas, FFA is a national youth organization, built around agricultural education.

Whereas, in response to the question of the role of FFA in the promotion and development of the agricultural industry.

Be it resolved that the National FFA Delegate Committee on describing the role of FFA in the promotion and development of the agricultural industry recommends the following:

1. That the FFA utilizes the current programs such as Food for America, PALS, SAEs and various other programs to promote and support the agricultural industry.
2. To insert agricultural industry development into the national chapter award.
3. The FFA develops a new program for middle school students that promotes the agricultural industry and makes them aware of how agriculture affects and benefits them.

The following programs and services would be impacted by these committee recommendations:

1. Provide necessary materials, provide necessary incentives, provide guidelines for initiation of programs at the local level. Gain assistance from national, state and local alumni organizations. Promote at convention, state officer workshops and press releases. Develop a reference for promoting the agricultural industry for use on the state and local levels.
2. Have chapters educate the community publicly about the agricultural industry.

Respectfully submitted on this 30th day of October by:

Committee Chair: Brian Hogue, AZ
Committee Vice Chair: Matthew Schleusner, WI
Committee Secretary: Jennifer Himbrug, AL

Action on Committee Recommendation: Passed



FFA advisors are critical to the success of a local chapter and its members. Being an agriculture teacher can be a lot of fun!

PHOTO BY KELLY ROGERS

Committee Reports

Change the regional alignment for the election of national FFA officers.



Lindsay Allen, TX
Jeff Alves, CA
Emilee Bocker, IL
John Bramblet, GA
Travis Brown, MT
Linda Burke, MA
Jared Burner, VA
Sherryl Calvo, PR
Cody Comeaux, AR
Brett Crow, AL
Kyle Culp, IN
Shannon Davis, FL
Toni Deason, AL
Michael Foster, TN
Holly Gilpin, KY
Kristin Glass, AR
Laura Hamlin, MI
Jerrod Hancock, TX
Emily Hand, FL
Whitney Hand, IL
Josh Hawkins, OK
JonathanHolloway, OK
Camber Howard, NC
Kelly Kline, LA
Mary Kurtz, SD
Kara Lang, UT
Jamie Lile, MO
Rachael McCall, GA
Meredith McCurdy, MS
Tiffany McIntosh, CA
Ashley Nehring, TX
Bobbi Nordan, NC
Josh Oltmans, NE
Catie Owens, OR
Abby Pound, OH
Keith Price, TX
Lindsey Rakowitz, TX
Betsy Ratashak, IA
Suzie Rethemei, MN
Holly Schindle, AZ
Fred Scoville, CT
Elissa Shipp, CA
Wendy Slusher, VA
Michael Stranz, WI
Mary Strasbau, PA
Amber Jo Swenor, WI
Kevin Teigen, ND
Morgan Thompson, TX
Morgan Tucker, NV
Angie Veldhuiz, WA
Marlene Von Stei, OH
Joshua Waters, SC
Jacob Wenger, CA
Brittany Westbroo, CA
Jessica Workman, WV

- original idea from submission by California FFA state delegate

Whereas, national officer selection plays an important part in our organization.

Whereas, national officers represent members throughout our country.

Whereas, Public Law and the National FFA Constitution and Bylaws specify four regions to be used in the selection of national officers.

Be it resolved that the National FFA Delegate Committee on National Officer Regional Alignment recommends the following:

1. To realign the four national officer regions while maintaining geographic coherence, so that the number of associations in each is approximately equal.



PHOTO BY ED ZURGA

Julie Tyson was thrilled to hear her name called as the eastern region vice president.

The following support leads this committee to believe these recommendations are needed:

We felt there was a change needed in the regional alignment so that each association's national officer candidate has an approximately equal number of candidates against which to compete. Currently, the national officer candidates from regions with more associations potentially experience greater competition. Furthermore, regions with fewer associations have less chance of yielding multiple national officers.

The following programs and services would be impacted by these committee recommendations:

This proposal would potentially affect the composition of the national officer team, the national officer nominating committee and of the National FFA Board.

Respectfully submitted on this 30th day of October by:

Committee Chair: Lindsay Allen, TX
Committee Vice Chair: Jonathan Holloway, OK
Committee Secretary: Holly Schlinder, AZ

Action on Committee Recommendation: Passed

Committee Reports



Create more opportunities for short-term enrollment of agricultural education students.

- original idea from ag teacher comments collected and submitted by National FFA Officers.

Robert Alexande, KY
Laura Ashorn, TX
Pamela Bartholo, TN
Catherin Bell, NJ
Mark Bloss, NE
Crystal Bradley, AL
Tony Brey, WI
Rob Brokaw, OH
Bryan Crowson, LA
Jamie Dodd, GA
Christop Edmiston, AL
Rudy Espinoza, FL
Elisa French, NM
Amanda Gilson, CA
Ashley Greenbau, OH
Marcus Hollan, CA
Brent Johnson, AR
Jerod Justice, TX
Calvin Kenley, AK
Elizabet Leonardi, CA
Amanda Lezvow, WI
Heidi Libby, ME
Alicia Lowery, IN
Lee Magruder, MO
Charles Miller, KS
Christin Nijskens, CA
Melissa Nuusbaum, WA
Cody Park, ID
Cody Pearce, OK
Kenan Peters, IL
Jennifer Peters, NC
Gabriel Ponce, CA
Nathan Popiel, ND
Natasha Potter, OK
Randall Riffe, KY
Eden Ritchie, WV
Carl Sarman I, NV
Sam Scarboro, MI
Kristyna Schultz, MN
Scott Schultz, NH
Sara Shook, TX
Allie Shrum, TN
Kristi Smith, GA
Lena Smith, NY
Charles Spiegel, TX
Josh Stevens, VA
Meredith Stevenso, DE
Travis Sullivan, TX
Carrie Trebil, SC
Janelle Williams, CA
Kathy Wuebker, IA
Rebecca Yandell, IL

Whereas, the FFA turns over about half of its membership annually it is estimated that as many as 200,000 members of the 465, 000 are short term members.

Whereas, all FFA chapters have short-term members.

Whereas, short-term members are limited in time to complete the same number of opportunities as long-term students.

Be it resolved that the National FFA Delegate Committee on short-term student opportunities recommends the following:

1. National FFA provide support for advisors in reference to short-term students including a workshop at national convention, adding a section on the LPS CD and other published resources.
2. Revise FFA degree promotional materials to emphasize degrees attainable in two years at the local level.
3. Promote having a greenhand quiz on the state level.
4. FFA membership eligibility of independent study and home school students is at the discretion of the local FFA advisor and school officials.

The following support leads this committee to believe these recommendations are needed:

By informing agriculture teachers of all the opportunities that short-term membership has to offer will provide teachers with the tools to assist short-term students to achieve their highest possible potential.

Current promotional materials/handbooks are focused on a four year program and may not clearly state the opportunities for a person in a short-term program.

By promoting a greenhand quiz, equal opportunities are available for all greenhands without discriminating grade levels.

Nontraditional programs give those students that didn't have an agriculture opportunity due to homeschooling or other reasons for short-term enrollment, with the opportunity to expand their experiences through agriculture classes. The advisors and school board members will have final say on what's thought and if that program is available.

The following programs and services would be impacted by these committee recommendations:

Add a workshop cost for national convention and promotional material cost.

Promotional material changes and editorial costs.

State cost would be incurred to create and implement contests.

Membership would increase and many short term students would be transformed into long-term students.

Respectfully submitted on this 30th day of October by:

Committee Chair:	Cody Park, ID
Committee Vice Chair:	Dan Miller, KS
Committee Secretary:	Meredith Stevenson, DE

Action on Committee Recommendation: Passed

Committee Reports

Clarify the role of FFA in the global economy.



Jared Birkhead, TX
Melissa Burninst, TN
Melody Carter, CA
Becky Cleary, CT
Bryan Collins, MS
Mandy Cook, NH
Amanda Cooper, AR
Allison Corriher, NC
Travis Crisp, TN
Rebekah Dannemil, OH
Ashley Day, CA
Erica Der, FL
Anne Diener, CA
Raymond Earwood, TX
Amber Ebbert, IN
Abby Jo Fischer, OK
Bruce Frank, IL
Nicole Franzen, WI
Luke Gentz, MI
April Gnadt, WI
Brad Guckian, OH
Jorge Guevara, FL
Jared Hartman, NE
Ty Istre, LA
Cherie-LKuoha-Jo, HI
Molli Larrison, TX
Jonathan Lauver, PA
Beth Lauwagie, MN
Shaline Lopez, NM
Joshua Miller, NY
Jacob Milligan, TX
Tyler Norvell, OK
Katie O'Neil, VA
Justin Praslick, TX
Derek Ritenour, VA
Christin Schmid, ID
Heather Shauck, MO
Kevin Siniscal, RI
Nic Stratton, SC
Matt Thome, IA
Sean Thompson, CA
Ciff Tippens, GA
Andrew Warnock, GA
Gregory Wilson, KY
Amy Wise, AL

What direction should be set in terms of purchasing of imported supplies, partnering with foreign organizations, etc.?

- original idea from student comments collected and submitted by National FFA Officers.

Whereas, the official FFA jacket is not always available to members in a timely fashion.

Whereas, the price of a domestically produced and manufactured jacket is expected to rise.

Be it resolved that the National FFA Delegate Committee on Clarifying the role of the FFA in the Global Economy recommends the following:

1. The committee has unanimously determined that the official FFA jacket should be manufactured in the location that will ensure the lowest price to FFA members.
2. The committee has unanimously determined that the corduroy used in the official FFA jacket shall be produced in the United States of domestic raw materials.
3. The committee has unanimously determined that FFA members should retain the option of purchasing an American-made jacket even if a higher price is necessary.
4. The committee has unanimously determined that the number of official FFA jackets produced overseas shall be determined either by excess quantity demanded during peak periods, or by a predetermined percentage of total jacket orders.
5. The committee has unanimously determined that any manufacturer of the official FFA jacket shall adhere to the same standards of quality and ethical labor practices that are required by the United States government.
6. The committee has unanimously determined that the personalized lettering of the official FFA jackets should be done in the United States if it is cost effective.

The following support leads this committee to believe these recommendations are needed:

It has been determined that jacket price affects jacket sales which in turn affects participation in official FFA activities. Many members who are unable to afford a jacket choose not to participate due to their lack of a jacket. An increase in price will deter new FFA members from purchasing the official FFA jacket.

The FFA was founded on the beliefs of the American agriculturist. It is the desire of the members, at present, to continue to uphold these principles by supporting the American agriculture industry. This ideal is reflected by the use of United States cotton in the official FFA jacket and the belief that the FFA jacket, a symbol of our organization and American agriculture, should be made of domestic products.

Many members have strong sentiments concerning domestic production of the official FFA jacket. They are willing to pay a higher price for a jacket produced and manufactured entirely in the United States. Members want the FFA to be able to fulfill this niche market.

Members do not want to wait an excessive amount of time to receive their jackets during peak periods. Moving production overseas during these periods or solely based on the quantity demanded at all times will ensure that members receive their jackets in a more timely fashion.

“Members do not want the official FFA jacket to be manufactured using labor practices that the United States does not condone. Lower quality standards in other countries are unacceptable in the construction of the FFA jackets. Integrity and high quality in the production and manufacture of the FFA jacket must be maintained at all times, in all locations.”

The following programs and services would be impacted by these committee recommendations:

Our recommendation could possibly, but not necessarily, affect the manufacturing company in Van Wert, Ohio, by causing a possible reduction or elimination of their business. This company could possibly be put out of business if FFA jackets are manufactured entirely overseas. This will result in the loss of jobs in Van Wert, Ohio.

Respectfully submitted on this 30th day of October by:

Committee Chair: Luke Gentz, MI
Committee Vice Chair: Tyler Istre, LA
Committee Secretary: Christine Schmid, ID

Action on Committee Recommendation: Passed

Committee Reports



Establish policy for wearing lapel pins on FFA jackets.

- original idea from submission by California FFA state delegate committee.

Robby Adams, CO
Mark Aguiar, CA
Chad Anglin, KY
Charlie Bennett, WV
Victoria Bowden, OK
Lara Bridenst, OK
Cari Brinlee, TX
Beth Brooks, MD
Jenny Brown, MN
Luke Browning, CA
Kim Chaney, TX
Michelle Clayton, TX
J.D. Collinsw, LA
Cye Cooper, TX
Corey Davis, AR
Matt Deboodt, OR
John Diaz, CA
Brian Elrick, GA
Brooke Erdman, WI
Curtis Fry, IL
Robert Gioia, J, NJ
Emily Grove, PA
Katie Hearn, GA
Christia Hernande, PR
Micaela Hotham, ME
Royce Humm, MI
Rachael Klamer, TN
Kori Kock, NE
Bianca Lee, CA
Jordan Liskey, VA
Rachel Paschall, TN
Per Petters, WA
Luis Ramierz, CA
Kim Robinson, MO
Elizabet Rood, ND
Jake Smith, AR
Cris Sprague, OH
David Swaters, MO
Sorrrell Vickers, FL
Amanda Vore, IN
Justin Wade, NC
Kimberly Watson, OH
Chad Williams, TX
Shanice Wilson, AL

Whereas, the committee recognizes the importance of pride in the FFA jacket.

Whereas, the committee also understands the importance in each members' individual pride.

Be it resolved that the National FFA Delegate Committee on establishing policy for wearing lapel pins on FFA jackets recommends the following:

1. Allow members to wear one object of official activity paraphernalia on the jacket for the duration of that activity and at no other time and allow one other official FFA pin to be worn at all times.

The following support leads this committee to believe these recommendations are needed:

Examples of official activity paraphernalia might include official convention buttons, delegate buttons, officer candidate buttons, chorus and band pins, career pins, stickers or patches.

The following programs and services would be impacted by these committee recommendations:

Changes would need to be made in the *Official FFA Manual* to include suggested policy.

Respectfully submitted on this 30th day of October by:

Committee Chair:	Jordan Liskey, VA
Committee Vice Chair:	Royce Humm, MI
Committee Secretary:	Rachael Klamer, TN

Action on Committee Recommendation: Passed



PHOTO BY WALES HUNTER

Committee Reports

Change how the number of teams that compete in national CDEs is determined. One team minimum, up to three based on percent of membership populations.



Carmen Albright, AR
Jeremy Armstrong, IN
Nicolas Arnold, OH
Coy Baldwin, TX
Jillian Becker, MN
Stacia Berry, WY
Ryan Brunner, SD
Kimberly Chism, CA
Brian Dallam, IL
Audrey Denney, CA
Adam Donnelly, VT
Gino Farinelli, CA
Larissa Fildes, WI
Marie Franko, MT
Kati Gilliam, TX
Jess Gillum, AZ
Noah Hall, ND
Haley Hampton, NC
Ashley Harrell, NC
Danielle Hebert, LA
Julie Horton, OK
Ric Ibarra, WA
Jessica Jager, MD
Jacinda Judah, TX
Roxanne Kidd, NM
Austin Large, CA
Katie Leigh, TX
Timothy Leshner, PA
Sarah Loehr, MO
Julie Maynor, TN
Thomas Meierotto, IA
Julie Murphy, KY
Crystal Palmer, MS
Sarah Placke, NE
Jimmy Powell, DE
Craig Pringle, KS
Shannon Redwine, TX
Stacy Revels, FL
Stanley Rose, UT
Timothy Roy, MA
Stephen Russell, CT
Ben Sherrett, OR
Laura Shoemaker, VA
Grace Smith, AL
Tracy Smith, OK
Austin Swafford, MO
Ginger Thirlaway, CA
Alex Tolbert, GA
Amber Twentyman, NY
Meagan Wells, IL
Ashley Whiddon, GA
Jennifeur Wilson, NJ
Justin Yancey, TX

- original idea from submission by Texas FFA state delegate committee.

Whereas, membership statistics were presented to the committee, as opposed to participation statistics. Therefore, more information would be necessary to make a decision favoring change. More information concerning individual career development events and their coordination would be needed as well.

Whereas, accurate participation documentation over the span of several years would be necessary in order to make an informed change to rules or format of National FFA Career Development Events.

Whereas, specific action to be taken is not clear at this time. At this time, we cannot change the CDE format based on the statistics provided and research conducted.

Whereas, this proposal is unfair to all members of the organization. Quantity does not automatically equal quality. Smaller states would lose their status of equality and may be subject to domination by the number of teams from larger states. This situation would occur using any of the alternate methods suggested to date for determining the number of teams certified to compete.

Whereas, there are many unanswered questions regarding the logistical and economical feasibility. We do not know whether or not we will have the space, time, money, volunteers and convention facilities to accommodate the additional participants. This will also place an additional strain on sponsors of career development events and the National FFA Foundation.

Be it resolved that the National FFA Delegate Committee on Changing how the number of teams that compete in national CDEs is determined; one team minimum, up to three based on percent of membership population recommends the following:

1. Due to the overwhelming opposition of this proposition, we recommend no change to the current system for CDE participation on the national level.

The following support leads this committee to believe these recommendations are needed:

Due to confusion regarding methods by which number of teams would be determined, many delegates were not comfortable making a decision for a change of this magnitude without further research and information.

Sponsorship required for each of the 23 CDEs ranges from \$30,000-50,000 at this time. In addition to hard costs for each event, this total also includes medals, plaques and funds for student scholarships ranging from \$5,000-10,000 per event. This total does not include donations of facilities and staff by local and state-based businesses and associations. Without these behind the scenes contributions, hard costs would be even greater. Increasing participants in any CDE would increase costs.

Effects on staff and facilities needed would increase tremendously.

With each state sending only one team to national events, they are on equal footing with all other states. The majority of delegates serving on this committee felt that it would be unfair for any one state to send more than one team or contestant to a particular event.

The following programs and services would be impacted by these committee recommendations:

No programs or services will be impacted at this time.

Committee Chair	Amber Twentyman, NY
Committee Vice Chair	Tracy Smith, OK
Committee Secretary	Stacy Revels, FL

Action on Committee Recommendation: Passed

Committee Reports



Require proficiency awards to be maintained for at least five years and not change from year to year.

- original idea from submission by Texas FFA state delegate committee.

Melissa Arhelger, TX
Ashley Baker, TN
J. Trev Bekken, WY
Tyler Blagg, CA
Coltan Bohman, AK
Melanie Boucher, MA
Patrick Bray, AZ
Adam Chace, OK
Cassie Ehrman, IA
Jacob Farquhar, OK
Isaac Fisher, OK
Kelly Forsythe, CA
Daniel Ganus, AL
Sabrina Griffin, GA
Jessica Groves, AR
Aaron Hampton, MO
Tory Hodges, AR
Sarah Hodges, MO
Laura Hoffelt, WI
Alysa Isley, MI
Mindy Jenkins, ID
Alyson Johnson, AL
Jessica Kempen, TX
Jacob Lauer, KS
Cara Lawson, OH
Caroline Long, NC
Lauren Martinez, TX
Brandon Mason, CO
Nicci McDonald, NM
Christin McPherso, NC
Megan Morasch, TX
Jim Myers, CA
Jackie Ploetz, NY
Brady Rasco, TX
Angie Richards, NC
Sara Riggs, KY
Kerri Rosato, NH
Colette Rose, CA
Tanya Selman, UT
Anthony Seymore, PA
Matt Shriver, IL
Ashlee Thomas, LA
Arden Tilghman, FL
Julie Townley, GA
Danielle Welch, VT
Trista White, CA
Rachel Wulf, MN

Whereas, proficiency awards recognize excellence in supervised agricultural experience.

Whereas, the current evaluation process is sufficient for reviewing the proficiency areas.

Whereas, the current structure for proficiency awards has proven adequate.

Whereas, the committee seeks to ensure the well-being of all stakeholders in the National FFA Organization.

Be it therefore resolved that the National FFA Delegate Committee on proficiency awards recommends the following:

1. There should be no action taken at this time concerning the proficiency awards system and its structure.

The following support leads this committee to believe these recommendations are needed:

The current structure has proven adequate for years. Currently, the five-year evaluation process allows for sufficient review of adding/deleting/changing proficiency award areas.

We feel that students have not been negatively impacted by the current system. There are 37 award areas to adequately accommodate the various supervised agricultural experience programs.

We as a committee do not feel that we are fully qualified to make decisions regarding the financial undertakings of the National FFA Organization and the National FFA Foundation.

The following programs and services would be impacted by these committee recommendations:

No additional programs or services will be impacted by this recommendation.

Respectfully submitted on this 30th day of October by:

Committee Chair:	Kerri Rosato, NH
Committee Vice Chair:	Jacob Lauer, KS
Committee Secretary:	Angie Richardson, NC

Action on Committee Recommendation: Passed

Committee Reports

Program of Activities



The POA Committee recommends the following:

Awards and Degrees

- Continued support for Local Program Success staff at National FFA. States really appreciate what LPS Specialists do.
- Promote and publicize awards and degrees more actively.
- Align Agriscience regulations with USDA or other national research programs.
- Encourage more use of Discovery FFA Degree.

Chapter Programs and Activities

- Actively promote PALS and Food For America as programs for chapters.
- Continue splitting national officers up to different states with one officer in Washington, D.C., for National FFA Week. Create a bigger celebration for the week, and consider having activities that are consistent nationwide.
- Increase student input in National FFA theme selection. When the theme is narrowed to two or three ideas, consider taking them to a cross-section of FFA members to get their feedback. Open up theme idea generation to members through *FFA New Horizons* or the website.
- Create a more effective help packet for FFA advisors implementing online rosters that shows help in a page-by-page format. Consider a one-step implementation process directly from paper to online rosters.

Communications and Public Relations

- Have the National FFA Board of Directors create principles that will guide our diversity initiatives in publications.
- Keep the LPS CD-ROM coming.
- Introduce a set number of new ideas each year based in awards, activities, and programs in a multiple year (3-5) process to prevent an overwhelmed feeling for new teachers.
- Have students submit pictures for FFA website.
- Find a fresher mix of articles in *FFA New Horizons* for all ages of FFA members. Make it look like a magazine directed to an older youth audience to create stronger appeal.

- Provide more useful tools and resources for teachers through *Making a Difference*.
- Reevaluate the purpose and philosophy behind each FFA publication in order to continue serving each audience effectively.
- Establish continuity and consistency in the FFA website.

Leadership and Personal Development

- Changes in curriculum for leadership programs are very positive, and we look forward to seeing future progress.
- International opportunities, WLC, ALD, MFE, EDGE, SPC, BLAST Off and NLCSO but please consider these recommendations and pass them on to National FFA Center staff.

Marketing and Merchandising

- Catalog format and constant improvements in merchandise are excellent.
- Use the same models every year for the catalog – they were especially stunning this year!

National FFA Convention

- Bring back the laser light show.
- Ensure that the entire 75th year is celebrated to its fullest potential through the 76th National FFA Convention.

Respectfully Submitted,
National Program of Activities Committee
Dane White, Chair
Robin Niehaus, Secretary
Elio Chiarelli Jr.
Amber Haugland
Abbie Kammerzell
Barrett Keene



PHOTO BY KELLY ROGERS

FFA members enjoyed the dances, which are ever-popular events.

Committee Reports



Auditing

The auditing committee met with Marion Fletcher, National FFA Treasurer. The committee members reviewed the draft audit and Mr. Fletcher answered any questions that arose. The audit is being completed using generally accepted accounting procedures. It was stated that the final audit would be available in the next several months. The impact of the stock markets and the downturn in the economy did have a negative impact on the assets and receipts of the organization, but overall the National FFA Organization is in very healthy financial standing.

The committee makes no recommendations.

Respectfully submitted:

Dane White, Chair

Robin Niehaus, Secretary

Elio Chiarelli Jr.

Amber Haugland

Abbie Kammerzell

Barrett Keene



Get your gear for our 75th year! A huge selection of FFA merchandise was available in the shopping mall.

PHOTO BY KELLY ROGERS

Committee Reports



PHOTO BY WALES HUNTER

The nominating committee had a tough job to do and spent long days reviewing the candidates and discussing the new national officer team...

Nominating

We, the nominating committee, have given careful and deliberate consideration to all applicants running for a national office. The committee nominates the following slate of candidates to the delegates at the 75th National FFA Convention to serve as national officers for the year 2002-2003.

Central Region Vice President: J.J. Jones, Kansas

Eastern Region Vice President: Julie Tyson, Ohio

Southern Region Vice President: Joel McKie, Georgia

Western Region Vice President: Dustin Clark, Texas

National Secretary: Seth Heinert, Wyoming

National President: Tim Hammerich, California

Respectfully submitted:

Christy Windham (Chair), Mississippi

Bryan Dodson (Vice-Chair), California

Lindsey Calhoun, Ohio

Joseph Bo Dotson, Georgia

Mike Haynes, South Carolina

Kolbyn Joy, New Mexico

Andrew Klein, Wisconsin

Stefan Knudsen, Iowa

Tasha Schmidt, North Carolina



PHOTO BY WALES HUNTER

...however, they still managed to cut loose and have some fun while building lifelong friendships and memories!



2002-2003 National FFA Officer Team



Tim Hammerich

President
2865 Fulton Road,
Fulton, CA 95439
Voicemail: 317-802-4341
E-mail:
thammerich@ffa.org

Age: 20

Chapter: Santa Rosa-Elsie Allen FFA Chapter

Enterprise: Breeding and market swine, meat ducks and pumpkins

State FFA Office: 2000-2001 California FFA President

FFA Awards: Star chapter farmer, star greenhand, state proficiency finalist in specialty crops

High School Activities: Varsity soccer, Spanish club, drama club, varsity basketball

College and Major: California State University—Chico, sophomore, agricultural education and agricultural science

College Activities: School of Agriculture ambassador, Aggie bible study

Career Goal: Agricultural education teacher



Seth Heinert

Secretary
964 Mona Road
Alva, WY 82711
Voicemail: 317-802-4346
E-mail: sheinert@ffa.org

Age: 21

Chapter: Devils Tower FFA Chapter

Enterprise: Beef, swine and equine placement; farm/ranch improvement

State FFA Office: 2000-2001 Wyoming FFA Sentinel

FFA Awards: National FFA Chorus, star chapter farmer, second high sales team, silver state prepared public speaking, star greenhand.

High School Activities: FFA, musical entertainment, government, youth group, chorus, basketball, golf, 4-H, cowboy poetry shows, National Honor Society

College and Major: University of Wyoming, junior, animal science/agribusiness

College Activities: Student government, livestock judging, Block and Bridle Club, Campus Ventures, Ag Theme House, Phi Theta Kappa

Career Goal: Foreign agricultural education and relief



Julie Tyson

Eastern Region Vice
President
1864 County Road 655
Ashland, OH 44805
Voicemail: 317-802-4343
E-mail: jtyson@ffa.org

Age: 19

Chapter: Hillsdale FFA Chapter

Enterprise: Job placement, swine production, sheep production and home improvement

State FFA Office: 2000-2001 Ohio FFA Vice President

FFA Awards: Second place national extemporaneous public speaking CDE, first place state job interview CDE, seventh place individual national agricultural sales CDE

High School Activities: National Honor Society vice president, Hillsdale flag corps captain, academic challenge captain, Ashland County junior fair queen, junior fair board member, 4-H club president, 4-H awareness team

College and Major: The Ohio State University, sophomore, agribusiness and applied economics

College Activities: College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Ambassador; Member of Ohio Staters Inc.; Agricultural Education Society (recruitment chair for Scarlet and Gray Ag Day)

Career Goal: Organizational communications, human resource management or public relations



J.J. Jones

Central Region Vice
President
Rt. 2 Box 6A, Ludell, KS
67744
Voicemail: 317-802-4342
E-mail: jjones@ffa.org

Age: 21

Chapter: Atwood FFA Chapter

Enterprise: Beef production, fruit and vegetable production

State FFA Office: 2000-2001 Kansas FFA president

FFA Awards: State beef proficiency award winner, National FFA chorus, 1999 Young Farmer's Speech Contest extemporaneous winner, chapter star in agribusiness

High School Activities: Consort show choir, director of church choir, National Honor Society, creative arts club, Obert scholar

College and Major: Kansas State University, junior, animal science and industry

College Activities: American Royal Student ambassador, Acacia fraternity, K-State college of agriculture REPS/ambassadors, Block and Bridle Club, Little American Royal Committee

Career Goal: Beef cattle consultant and public policy advisor on agricultural issues



Dustin A.G. Clark

Western Region Vice
President
303 Redmond Dr.,
College Station, TX
77840
Voicemail: 317-802-4345
E-mail: dclark@ffa.org

Age: 20

Chapter: Waxahachie FFA Chapter

Enterprise: Registered breeding beef; corn crop, cotton crop and wheat crop, show steers and show heifers

State FFA Office: 2000-2001 Texas FFA first vice president

FFA Awards: State finalist for star greenhand, star chapter farmer, star lonestar, American degree

High School Activities: Varsity basketball, church youth group, varsity baseball, National Honor Society

College and Major: Texas A & M University, sophomore, agricultural economics

College Activities: Student Senate, Aggie R.E.P.S., College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Student Council, intramural athletics

Career Goal: To have an active role in shaping policy for American agriculture through agri-business or ag law.



Joel McKie

Southern Region Vice
President
783 Mockingbird Road,
Abbeville, GA 31001
Voicemail: 317-802-4344
E-mail: jmckie@ffa.org

Age: 19

Chapter: Wilcox County FFA Chapter

Enterprise: Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production Placement and Beef Production Entrepreneurship

State FFA Office: 2000-2001 Georgia FFA President

FFA Awards: State winner fiber and/or oil crop production placement proficiency (and national finalist), third place state extemporaneous speaking, chapter star greenhand

High School Activities: Debate team, one-act play cast, 4-H, student government association, national Beta Club association, newspaper staff

College and Major: Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC), sophomore, agribusiness

College Activities: Student government association—freshman class president, ABAC ambassador—parliamentarian, Baptist student union, collegiate FFA, SGA academic affairs committee

Career Goal: Corporate agricultural law or public service